

HITCHMOUGH'S BLACK COUNTRY PUBS



BILSTON

(INC. BRADLEY, ETTINGSHALL, MILLFIELD, PARKFIELD, PRIESTFIELD)

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INTRODUCTION

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

About fifty years ago, realising that things were changing, pubs being demolished and altered, Tony started to collect information from any sources available. Around that time the Black Country Bugle first appeared; he found the contents and letters engaging.

He visited the archives of the Black Country boroughs. Trade directories were an invaluable source for licensees' names, enabling him to build up lists. Censuses, church registers and licensing registers, also were consulted, where available. Newspaper articles provided many items of human interest (eg. inquests, crimes, civic matters, industrial relations), which would be of value not only to a pub historian, but to local and social historians and genealogists alike.

Technology has enabled the entire archive to be released digitally, rather than sections as magazine articles or as a book. The files contain information about every pub that has been found to exist in each of the districts within the Black Country (new pubs are being discovered even now). All files are available for free download by anyone interested.

Thanks go to the people such as Keith Hodgkins, Denis Harper and Robert Walker, and the many others, who have allowed their own photographs to be used and provided additional information. In 2010 Tony was asked by the relatives of the late John V. Richards to sort through his own archive of material, in order to redistribute it to appropriate groups. This was very useful in confirming, and providing new, information. He was also asked to disseminate information gathered by Jim Laws, Wolverhampton CAMRA's pub preservation officer/pub historian.

Tony felt proud in 2020 when the British Library decided that Hitchmough's Black Country Pubs should be saved for the future, and started to archive the website. So Tony's legacy is preserved.

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

With the assistance of Gavin, the work continues.

Janet Parker (Mrs.Hitchmough)
January 2024

hbcpinfo@yahoo.com



Hitchmough

DISTRICTS

The districts covered by the CDs were generally based on the modern places created in the 1970s, ie, Sandwell, Dudley, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

These are then subdivided into the old townships which had existed for many years previous, and are as follows.

SANDWELL

Oldbury (inc. Causeway Green, Langley, Oakham, Rounds Green, Tividale)

Rowley Regis (inc. Blackheath, Cradley Heath, Old Hill, Whiteheath)

Smethwick (inc. Bearwood, Londonderry, Warley)

Tipton (inc. Burnt Tree, Dudley Port, Great Bridge, Horseley Heath, Ocker Hill, Princes End, Toll End)

Wednesbury (inc. Kings Hill, Mesty Croft, Wood Green)

West Bromwich (inc. Golds Green, Greets Green, Hill Top, Lyndon)

DUDLEY

Brierley Hill (inc. Brockmoor, Pensnett, Quarry Bank, Round Oak)

Dudley (inc. Harts Hill, Kates Hill, Priory, Woodside)

Halesowen (inc. Cockshed, Colley Gate, Cradley, Hasbury, Lapal)

Kingswinford (inc. Himley, Wall Heath)

Netherton (inc. Darby End, Dudley Wood, Saltwells, Windmill End)

Sedgley (inc. Coseley, The Gornals, Woodsetton)

Stourbridge (inc. Amblecote, Lye, Oldswinford, Pedmore, Wollaston, Wollescote, Wordsley)

WALSALL & WOLVERHAMPTON

Bilston (inc. Bradley, Ettingshall, Millfield, Parkfield, Priestfield)

Darlaston (inc. Bentley, Cock Heath, Moxley, Wood's Bank)

Walsall (inc. Bloxwich, Leamore, Palfrey, Pelsall, Rushall, Shelfield, Walsall Wood)

Wednesfield (inc. Ashmore Park, Fallings Park, Heath Town, Moseley Village, Park Village, Wood End)

Willenhall (inc. Little London, New Invention, Portobello, Short Heath, Spring Bank)

Wolverhampton (inc. Blakenhall, Codsall, Oxley, Penn, Tettenhall, Whitmore Reans)

UPDATES

We are currently working on Edition 4 of the files. Our website states which file will be coming next. Due to the information we now have available, each file takes months to produce, so please be patient. The Edition 4 files are a big advance and much more thorough, so hopefully worth waiting for.

If you have an interest in a particular pub or licensee, we may be able to supply additional information as we regularly come across collateral.

If anyone is able to provide extra, relevant information and / or pictures, about any of the pubs and people contained within this work, we would be grateful to hear from you, initially by e-mail at

hbcinfo@yahoo.com

BOOKMARKS

Clicking on the Bookmarks in the panel on the left will take you to the chosen location.

If your computer uses Windows, Bookmarks with a + (a plus sign) on the left hand side have submenus and clicking on the plus sign (which will change to a minus sign) will reveal the contents. Clicking on the minus sign will hide the contents of the submenu.

If your computer uses Apple, clicking on the right pointing arrow to the left of the Bookmark will display the submenu; it will turn to a downward pointing arrow which when clicked will hide the submenu.

For more information please consult the Adobe Acrobat Reader help system.

ACORN

Bridge Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Beckett [1818] – [1822]

ACORN

7, (5), (3), Pinfold Street, (High Street), BILSTON

OWNERS

Ralph Gough, gentleman, Gorsebrook Street, Wolverhampton
David Morris, ironworks manager, Highfield House, Bradley
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. [1965]

LICENSEES

George Edwards [1828] – [1851]
Thomas Johnson [1861] – **1862**;
Jane Price (**1862** – [1863]
James Price [1863] – [1865]
Thomas Price [] – **1868**;
Edward Flowers (**1868** – []
Samuel Lane [1869]
David Morris [1871] – **1890**;
Richard John Hibell (**1890**);
William Watkins (**1890** – **1892**);
Alfred Newton (**1892**);
David Wootton (**1892** – **1893**);
Sarah Shaw (**1893** – **1895**);
Mrs. Sarah Ann Whitehouse (**1895** – **1896**);
William Millington (**1896** – **1907**);
Alfred Newton (**1907**);
Charles Smith (**1907** – **1918**);
Mrs. Ellen Harper (**1918** – **1920**);
James Thomas Cadman (**1920** – **1926**);
Albert Edward Jones (**1926** – [1940]

TO BE LET, that old established **PUBLIC**
HOUSE, known as the "Acorn Inn," Bilston. The above has
been successfully carried on for upwards of thirty years by the pre-
sent proprietor, who is now retiring from business. Two Clubs
are attached to the House. The Brewing Plant and Fixtures to be
taken to at a valuation, and the Stock can be reduced to suit the
convenience of the party who takes to the business.—For further
particulars apply to Mr. JABEZ MORRELL, Auctioneer, Bilston.

1860

NOTES

3, Pinfold Street [1858]
5, Pinfold Street [1861], [1865], [1871]
7, Pinfold Street [1901], [1921], [1939]

It had a beerhouse license.

George Edwards = George Edward

1841 Census

Pinfold Street

- [1] George Edward (53), publican;
- [2] Kathrine Edward (60), born Staffordshire;
- [3] George Edward (27), joiner, born Staffordshire;
- [4] Ann Taylor (17), f.s., born Staffordshire;
- [5] Mary Johns (26), f.s., born Staffordshire;

Birmingham Journal 29/3/1845

“On Monday night last, a man named Enoch Chambers stole a sovereign from the ACORN, in High Street, Bilston. Three sovereigns were placed upon the table, to settle a bet, and Chambers, watching his opportunity, ran off with one of them. He afterwards sent the money to the station-house, and had since been taken into custody.”

Birmingham Journal 3/3/1849 - Died

“On the 22nd ult, aged 81 years, Catherine, the much respected and beloved wife of Mr. *G. Edwards*, of the ACORN INN, Bilston.”

1851 Census

Pinfold Street

- [1] *George Edwards* (62), widower, victualler, born Broseley, Shropshire;
- [2] *Ann Conser* (33), house servant, born Bilston;
- [3] *Harriet Woodward* (18), house servant, born Swadlincote, Derbyshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 15/8/1860 - Advert

“To be Let, that old established Public House, known as the ACORN INN, Bilston.

The above has been successfully carried on for upwards of thirty years by the present proprietor, who is now retiring from business. Two Clubs are attached to the House. The Brewing Plant and Fixtures to be taken to at a valuation, and the Stock can be reduced to suit the convenience of the party who takes to the business.

For further particulars apply to Mr. Jabez Morrell, Auctioneer, Bilston.”

1861 Census

5, Pinfold Street

- [1] *Thomas Johnson* (47), innkeeper, born West Bromwich;
- [2] *Martha Johnson* (49), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Amy Johnson* (15), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] *Thomas W. Johnson* (13), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] *Martha Johnson* (11), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] *Richard F. Johnson* (8), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] *Jane Foster* (55), sister-in-law, unmarried, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 17/1/1862

“On Friday last an inquest was held at the ACORN INN, Pinfold Street, Bilston, before Mr. W. H. Phillips, on the body of John Jones, aged twelve years, of the before-mentioned street, who received severe injuries on the 8th instant, from a fall of coal, whilst employed in one of Messrs. Dodd and Southall’s pits, in the Lunt. The deceased lingered till Monday last, when he expired. The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/6/1862

“At Bilston Police Court, on Friday, the following intermediate transfers were made.....

ACORN, *Thomas Johnson* to *Jane Price*, retail brewer.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/9/1863

“The meeting for the renewing and granting of licenses was held on Friday, at Bilston police office.....

The following is a list of those who had been proceeded against and fined in the past year.....

James Price, of the ACORN, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/9/1863

“The adjourned licensing meeting for the Bilston division of the county was held on Friday.....

Licenses suspended at the annual licensing meeting were now renewed to the following houses, the landlords being cautioned to conduct them more creditably for the future.....

ANCHOR [sic], Bilston, kept by *James Price*.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/12/1863

“Yesterday, at the Petty Sessions, Mrs. *Price*, the landlady of the ACORN INN, Pinfold Street, Bilston, was summoned for selling ale during prohibited hours on Sunday morning last.

Sergeant Harrison stated that on the day in question, at twenty minutes past twelve, he visited the defendant’s house in company with Police-constable Chatfield, and proceeding into the loft discovered three men drinking, and a quart jug containing ale, which had been secreted in a hole in the wall.

Mr. B. Jackson appeared for the defence, and said that the men were present to clean out defendant’s pig-stye, and that she had rewarded them with ale in consequence.

Superintendent M’Crea informed the Bench that complaints had been frequently made by members of the congregation of a neighbouring chapel, who had been annoyed by the noise and conduct of the frequenters of the ACORN.

The Bench said they would give the defendant the benefit of the doubt which certainly existed, and dismissed the case on payment of costs.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 24/12/1863

“Mrs. *Price*, of the ACORN INN, Pinfold Street, Bilston, for allowing men to drink in her house on Sunday last, was cautioned, and ordered to pay costs.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 10/9/1864

“Yesterday the magistrates sat in Special Sessions, for the consideration of the applications for the renewal of old and the granting of new licenses to victuallers.....

The following houses and their landlords had been complained against and fined during the year.....

James Price, ACORN INN, Pinfold Street.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 28/8/1869

“The annual licensing meeting for the Bilston division took place yesterday, at the Police Court.....

The following is the list of the licensed victuallers who have been fined during the year.....

Permitting Drunkenness *Samuel Lane*, ACORN INN, Pinfold Street, Bilston, 10s and costs.”

David Morris = David Morriss

1871 Census

5, Pinfold Street – ACORN INN

[1] *David Morris* (32), innkeeper, born Llanfyllin, Montgomeryshire;

[2] *Emma Morris* (43), wife, born Moxton, Oxfordshire;

[3] *Mary Morris* (24), general servant, born Llanfyllin, Montgomeryshire:

David Morris, beer retailer, Pinfold Street [1872]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/1/1875

“On December 26th the Loyal United Brothers, No.72, held their 35th anniversary at the ACORN INN, Pinfold Street, Bilston. Between thirty and forty sat down to an excellent dinner (provided by host *Morris*), consisting of the old English fare of roast beef, boiled mutton, and plum-puddings.....

The health of the host and hostess was drunk with musical honours, and ably responded to by Brother *D. Morris*.

The toasts of ‘The Town and Trade of Bilston’ and ‘The Township Commissioners’ were duly proposed and responded to. The evening was enlivened with songs and recitations from various members. The sick brothers and widows were not forgotten, as to each on a good dinner was sent.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/11/1880 - Correspondence

“..... answers to questions.....

ACORN, Bilston. – For any dramatic performance, amateur or otherwise, for admission to which payment is in any way made, a license from the magistrates must be obtained.”

1881 Census

Pinfold Street – ACORN INN

[1] *David Morriss* (42), licensed victualler and warehouse man, born Llanfyllin, Montgomeryshire;

[2] *Emma Morriss* (52), wife, born Balscott, Oxfordshire;

[3] *Gertrude Collins* (24), niece, born Dublin;

[4] *Mary Hill* (30), domestic servant, born Tipton;

Evening Express 18/8/1881

“At a meeting of the Providence Lodge, No.1446 of the NUO of Free Gardeners, Wolverhampton District, at the ACORN, on Tuesday last, the Rev. W. Prosser and Dr. J. Cameron were initiated as honorary members. After the reading of the inauguration address Mr. Prosser said he wished them to regard him in future not merely as an honorary member, but as a brother Gardener in every sense of the term. Dr. Cameron congratulated the members on the progress they had made during the past few months, and referred to the relationship that exists between medical men and such societies, remarking that, of all the officers concerned in the management of friendly societies, the surgeon is by far the most important, and their success or failure, to a very great extent, depended upon him.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 12/8/1882 - Advert

“Bilston Horticultural Society.

The Second Exhibition of Flowers, Fruits, and Vegetables, will be held in the grounds of Dr. Totherick, between Wellington Street and Wolverhampton Street, kindly placed at the disposal of the committee, on Tuesday and Wednesday, August 22 and 23.

Upwards of £50 in Prizes. Special Prizes for Cottagers.

The Warwickshire Bee Keepers Association will Exhibit their Tent of Working Bees.

The Splendid Military Band of the Walsall Rifle Corps is Engaged.....

On the First Day of the Exhibition a Luncheon will be provided on the Show Ground at 2.30pm, to which Ladies and Gentlemen Friends of the Society are cordially invited by the Committee. Tickets, 2s 6d each, may be had from the Purveyor, Mr. *D. Morris*, ACORN INN, Pinfold Street, Bilston; the Hon. Secretary, or any member of the Committee.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 8/11/1884

“On Monday afternoon, W. H. Phillips. District coroner, held an inquest at the ACORN INN, Pinfold Street, Bilston, on the body of Benjamin Caddick, aged two months. During the evidence it transpired that the child was taken by its mother to bed on the Thursday night previous in its apparent good health, but, on awaking early the next morning, found it dead by her side. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 25/4/1885

“On Wednesday night, the members of the Bilston and Ettingshall Industrial Co-operative Society held their 40th quarterly meeting at the ACORN INN, Bilston A dividend of 1s 6d in the £ was declared to the members on their purchases. The Society have also added a pony and trap this quarter for the delivery of the members goods.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 5/9/1885

“On Thursday evening the members of the Royal Antidiluvian Order of Buffaloes assembled at the ACORN INN, Pinfold Street, Bilston, for the purpose of partaking of a Dinner, catered in first-class style by the host, Mr. *David Morris*. A goodly number sat down at table, and after justice had been done to the good things provided, the cloth was removed and Bro. Shaw voted to the chair, Bro. Skinner occupying the vice-chair. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts were given, and the evening spent in an enjoyable manner.”

Leigh Chronicle 1/1/1886

“At Wednesbury Police Court on Tuesday, David Manns [sic], of the ACORN INN, Bilston, was fined 20s and costs for being on licensed premises during prohibited hours. It was stated that the defendant was found on the premises of the RAILWAY INN, James Bridge, after closing hours.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 15/4/1887

"The third annual dinner of the Acorn Lodge of the Royal Antidelvian Order of Buffaloes was held at the ACORN INN, Pinfold Street, Bilston, last (Thursday) evening. A company numbering about 25 brethren sat down to the excellent and substantial repast supplied by host *Morris*, and which was served up in a manner that reflected great credit upon the resources of this well-known establishment....."

Birmingham Daily Post 15/4/1889 - Advert

To be Let or Sold, the ACORN INN, Pinfold Street, Bilston.
Apply, on the premises."

TO be Let or Sold, The Acorn Inn, Pinfold Street, Bilston.→
Apply, on the premises.

1891 Census

Pinfold Street – ACORN INN

- [1] *William Watkins* (27), licensed victualler, born Monmouthshire;
- [2] *Margaret Watkins* (28), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *Gertrude F. Watkins* (4 months), daughter, born Bilston:

The Era 6/10/1894 - Advert

"Wanted, Monday next, by Harry Sansom, Funny Comedian, and Miss Birdie, Skirt, Skipping-rope and Song and Dance.
Wire, ACORN INN, Bilston."

WANTED, Monday next, by Harry Sansom,
Funny Comedian, and Miss Birdie, Skirt, Skipping-
rope and Song and Dance. Wire, Acorn Inn, Bilston.

1901 Census

7, Pinfold Street – ACORN INN

- [1] *William Millington* (31), licensed victualler, born Bloxwich;
- [2] *Louisa Emma Millington* (38), wife, born Worcester;
- [3] *Lawrence Edwin Winwood* (6), nephew, born Worcester:

1911 Census

Pinfold Street – ACORN INN

- [1] *Charles Smith* (62), licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *Elizabeth Smith* (50), wife, married 29 years, born Sedgley;
- [3] *Agnes Smith* (28), daughter, domestic, born Sedgley;
- [4] *Mary Smith* (26), daughter, domestic, born Bilston;
- [5] *Charles Smith* (23), son, motor body builder, born Bilston;
- [6] *Margaret Smith* (20), daughter, born Bilston;
- [7] *John Smith* (17), son, carpenter, born Bilston:

1921 Census

7, Pinfold Street

- [1] *James Thomas Cadman* (42), born Rough Hills, Bilston;
- [2] *Florence Gertrude Cadman* (31), wife, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *Kathleen Mary Cadman* (8), daughter, school, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] *Elsie May Shutt* (28), sister-in-law, unmarried, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] *Joseph Shutt* (33), brother-in-law, widower, born Wolverhampton:

Dudley Chronicle 7/10/1926

"At a Transfer Sessions at the Bilston Police Court on Friday.....

Albert Edward Jones, ACORN INN, Pinfold Street, asked for a music license for the smoke-room of the inn. He stated the building was one of the old-time music halls of Bilston. There were some old customers who liked music, and they kept asking him why he did not get a music license. The application was refused."

1939 Register

7, Pinfold Street (4 of 5)

[1] Leslie A. Jones, date of birth 14/12/1921, inspector (aircraft aid), single;

[2] *Albert E. Jones*, dob 12/1/1891, licensed victualler, married;

[3] Sarah Jones, dob 28/11/1894, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[4] Stanley Jones, dob 3/8/1920, toolmaker (machinist), single;

[1966]

Closed

It was demolished c.1970.

ADMIRAL NELSON

Ettingshall Lane, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Benjamin Butler [1828] – [1842]

NOTES

1841 Census

Ettingshall Lane

[1] *Benjamin Butler* (70), coal miner, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Roda Butler* (45), born Staffordshire;

[3] *Harriet Butler* (15), born Staffordshire;

[4] *Isaiah Butler* (11), born Staffordshire:

ALE HOUSE ROCK

146, Oxford Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

David Parsons

LICENSEES

David Parsons **(2015 – [2016])**

NOTES

It opened on 24th June 2015.

David Parsons was married to Andrea.
See also TAMEBRIDGE, Tipton.

www.pubsgalore.co.uk 18/8/2018

“Housed in a part (I assume its own club room) of a post-war expanded printing works. Austere, with a little exterior ‘art’ and a patio, the entrance is easily missed. The interior is a single room, in purple and white mainly, with a few pictures and a stage at one end. The TVs were not on at our last visit and the music was a mixed (there was no band on). Service is always friendly here, but there was nobody in at this visit. Beer has usual tap stuff but over the period the place has been open the number of real ales has dwindled – from 4 to 1 (and that was Proper Job). Often pop in when that way.”

www.pubsgalore.co.uk 9/12/2018

“Strange place this, housed in part of a former works, and the bar looking more like a club than a pub. Still, the staid furniture is tidy enough and the seasonal decorations have probably livened things up a bit. The stage area can be found on the other side of the entrance. Having two banks of four handpumps seems rather optimistic, but I found three real ales on: Wainwright, Wye Valley HPA and Holden’s Golden Glow (£2.80, and in excellent shape). Fairly quiet when I stopped by, but the locals and the lady behind the counter were all very friendly.”

[2023]



2016



2023

ANGEL

28, Hall Fold, (28, Hall Street), (22, Pipes Meadow), (Angel Fold), BILSTON

OWNERS

Thomas William Bowen, pawnbroker, West Street, Bilston

John William Hall, gentleman, Bilston

LICENSEES

John Bowen [1818] – [1831]

Thomas Bowen [1832] – [1861]

James Elkington (1857 – [1865])

George Lavender [1866]

John Frogatt (1866);

John Richards (1866 – 1875);

Spencer Cooke Tippetts (1875 – 1876);

John Smith (1876 – 18__);

Thomas Crowder (18__ – [];

John Crowder [];

Francis Fletcher [1881] – 1882;

Charles Calloway (1882 – 188__);

John Bellis (188__ – 1884);

Albert C Clarke (1884 – 1886);

Thomas Price (1886 – [];

Thomas Tetley [] – 188__);

Edwin Burgess (188__ – 1892);

NOTES

Hall Fold [1818], [1841], [1846], [1871], [1874], [1884], [1891]

Hall Street [1822], [1828], [1830], [1833], [1849], [1850], [1851], [1858], [1860], [1862]

Angel Fold [1841]

Pipes Meadow [1851]

28, Hall Fold [1861], [1881]

28, Hall Street [1865]

22, Pipes Meadow [1873]

It was situated near to the Great Western Railway Station.

[Was this at the corner of Hall Street and Pipes Meadow?]

Freeman's Black Country Folk 'An Early Bilston Artist'

".....These men had an Artists' Club which met for some years at the ANGEL INN, where all things of their craft were freely discussed in a genial atmosphere."

John Bowen was also a brassfounder. [1818]

He was also described as a grocer.

TO THE INHABITANTS OF BILSTON.
THE REV. GEORGE FISK,
RECTOR OF DARLASTON.
HAVING been waited upon by several respectable inhabitants of Bilston, requesting that he would allow his name to be used as a Candidate for the Incumbency of St. Leonard's Chapel, in Bilston, which is expected soon to become vacant by the resignation of the Rev. William Leigh, and Mr. Fisk having consented to accept of the appointment in case he should be chosen—those householders who believe that Mr. Fisk, from his high attainments and piety, is a fit and proper person to be appointed their future Minister, are earnestly entreated to promote the election of that Rev. Gentleman by their votes and interest.
Committee Room, Angel Inn, Bilston,
August 5, 1835.
1835

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 29/3/1819 - Advert

"Freehold in Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by R. Corbett, on Tuesday the 6th Day of April next, at the House of *John Bowen*, the ANGEL, in Bilston, in the County of Stafford, precisely at Six o'Clock in the Afternoon....."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/2/1831 - Advert

"The SHAKESPEARE INN, Bilston.

To be Sold by Private Treaty, the above newly-erected and substantially built Inn, which is just completed.....

To view the Premises apply to Mr. *John Bowen*, at the ANGEL INN, Bilston, who is authorised, as is also R. Corbett, of Bilston, Auctioneer, to treat for the same."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 15/7/1835 - Died

"On the 8th instant, Mr. *John Bowen*, formerly of the ANGEL INN, Bilston, in his 64th year. A truly honest and upright man."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/7/1836 - Died

"On the 22nd instant, in the 63rd year of her age, after a lingering illness which she very patiently endured, Mary, widow of the late Mr. *John Bowen*, of Bilston, whom she survived only twelve months and fourteen days. She was deservedly esteemed by all who knew her."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 6/2/1832 - Advert

"Freehold Buildings and Land, New Town, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Richard Corbett, on Tuesday the 14th day of February, 1832, at the house of Mr. *Thomas Bowen*, the ANGEL INN, in Bilston, in the county of Stafford, at five o'clock in the afternoon....."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/2/1833 - Advert

"Union Chapel, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett, at the ANGEL INN, Bilston, in the County of Stafford, on Thursday, the 21st day of March, 1833, at Four o'Clock in the afternoon precisely, by direction of the Mortgagee having the power of Sale, and subject to conditions which will be then read.

All that Meeting House or Chapel, situate in Union Street, Bilston, with two large School Rooms adjoining; all of which have been substantially built within four years, and are now in the occupation of a Society of Baptists, and of Mr. White, a Schoolmaster....."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/8/1835 - Advert

"To the Inhabitants of Bilston. The Rev. George Fisk, Rector of Darlaston.

Having been waited upon by several respectable inhabitants of Bilston, requesting that he would allow his name to be used as a Candidate for the Incumbency of St. Leonard's Chapel, in Bilston, which is expected soon to become vacant by the resignation of the Rev. William Leigh, and Mr. Fisk having consented to accept of the appointment in case he should be chosen – those householders who believe that Mr. Fisk, from his high attainments and piety, is a fit and proper person to be appointed their future Minister, are earnestly entreated to promote the election of that Rev. Gentleman by their votes and interest.

Committee Room, ANGEL INN, Bilston, August 5, 1835."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/8/1840

"The Riot at Bilston.....

David Jones, was charged with stealing a knife, the property of *Thomas Bowen*. Mr. *Bowen*, who is a licensed victualler, was one of the parties who supplied the dinner. On the irruption of the mob into the tent many articles were broken and some taken away. The prisoner, who was out on the evening of the disturbance till eleven o'clock, had shown a knife belonging to Mr. *Bowen* to the woman with whom he lodged, and afterwards put it in his box. On this becoming known he was apprehended. He said he had had it given to him, and that the person who gave it him had more knives and forks, and a carving knife and fork. Committed.

Elisha Mason was charged with stealing four waiters and a fork, also the property of Mr. *Bowen*. The prisoner was seen when the crowd was in the tent in the portion of it allotted to Mr. *Bowen*, with the waiters under his arm. He was told by a woman named Goodread that they were Mr. *Bowen's* property, and she requested him to give them to

her. He refused, and said he would take them safe home, and went away with them. The prisoner afterwards went into a retail brewer's, in Oxford Street, the keeper of which, named Holmes, suspecting the waiters were stolen, took him into custody, and afterwards delivered him and the property into the hands of Fellows the constable. The prisoner told Holmes that he had had the things given him in the Market Place.

The prisoner, in reply to the charge, said he went into the tent to look after one of the band to go home together, when a man, who looked like a waiter, asked him to carry the things to Mr. *Bowen's*. When at Holmes's some man asked him to sell them, but he refused as they were not his own, adding that they belonged to some man up at the booth, but he had forgotten his name. The man then had him took to. Committed."

Staffordshire Gazette 24/10/1840

"Staffordshire Michaelmas Sessions.....

David Jones, 19, pleaded guilty to stealing a knife, the property of *Thomas Bowen*. The prosecutor stated that on the day of the robbery there had been a public dinner in the market place, part of which he had supplied; that in the evening a dreadful riot took place, in consequence of which the numerous party assembled at the festive board were compelled to beat a hasty retreat, leaving their property to the tender mercies of the riotous mob. The knife in question was afterwards found in the possession of the prisoner. To be imprisoned in the house of correction for two calendar months.

Elisha Mason was charged with stealing on the 7th of August, four iron trays, the property of *Thomas Bowen*, landlord of the ANGEL, Bilston. From the evidence it appeared that on the day in question, there was a grand Conservative dinner at Bilston, part of the materials of which were supplied by the prosecutor. A tumultuous riot ensued, the rioters broke in upon the entertainment, and dispersed the guests. In the confusion which ensued, the prisoner was seen carrying off four trays. A female who was removing the things to Mr. *Bowen's* house desired Mason to give the trays to her which he refused, and said that he would see them safe home. He subsequently saw a constable to whom he represented that a stranger had given him the trays. For the prisoner it was contended that he in common with other neighbours was assisting to return Mr. *Bowen's* property, and that he was not actuated by any felonious motive.

Several witnesses, one of them a juror, gave the prisoner an excellent character.

He was found guilty, but the jury recommended him to mercy in consideration of the good character he had received. The court ordered the prisoner to be kept to hard labour in the house of correction for one month; three days thereof to be in solitary confinement."

1841 Census

Angel Fold

- [1] *Thomas Bowen* (40), publican, born Staffordshire;
- [2] *Eliza Bowen* (30), born Staffordshire;
- [3] *Mary Bowen* (8), born Staffordshire;
- [4] *Louisa Bowen* (5), born Staffordshire;
- [5] *Emma Bowen* (3), born Staffordshire;
- [6] *Jane Lloyd* (21), born Staffordshire;
- [7] *Elizabeth Howell* (13), born Staffordshire;
- [8] *Maria Pickin* (12), born Staffordshire;

Wolverhampton Chronicle 15/2/1843 - Advert

"Bilston Turnpike Roads.

Notice is hereby given, that the General Annual Meeting of the Trustees of these Roads will be held at the ANGEL INN, in Bilston, on Tuesday, the 14th day of March next, at one o'clock in the afternoon, at which meeting the accounts of the receipts and expenditure relating to these roads for the year ending the 31st of December, 1842, will be audited by the trustees.

John Willim, Clerk to the Trustees. Bilston, February 13, 1843."

Thomas Bowen was also a shopkeeper. [1845], [1849]

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/2/1845 - Advert

"Bilston Banking Company. Persons of whom the Company or Partnership consists.....

Thomas Bowen, Bilston, Victualler."

BILSTON TURNPIKE ROADS
NOTICE is hereby given, that the **GENERAL ANNUAL MEETING** of the Trustees of these Roads will be held at the ANGEL INN, in BILSTON, on **TUESDAY, the 14th day of MARCH** next, at one o'clock in the afternoon, at which meeting the accounts of the receipts and expenditure relating to these roads for the year ending the 31st of December, 1842, will be audited by the trustees.
JOHN WILLIM,
Clerk to the Trustees.
Bilston, February 13, 1843.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 16/4/1845

“Bilston Police. Friday, April 11.....

Mr. *Thomas Bowen*, of the ANGEL INN, at Bilston, complained of the conduct of Thomas Irons, a tailor, of Bilston, on Wednesday last, and on several previous occasions. From the evidence of the complainant it appeared that the defendant was in his house drinking on Wednesday night last, and, from information which had been conveyed to him by his servant of the defendant's very improper and disgusting conduct in the tap room, he went to remonstrate with him, when the defendant heaped the most vile abuse upon the complainant, and occasioned a great confusion in his house, in consequence of which Mr. *Bowen* was compelled to send for the peace officers, who immediately came, and on the defendant being taken away, he openly threatened Mr. *Bowen* to make him remember it as long as he lived. The complainant also instanced other occasions in which the defendant had pointedly insulted and threatened him; the complainant consequently claimed the protection of the Bench, and that the defendant might be ordered to find a surety for his future behaviour.

Philip Davis, a miner, said he was at the complainant's on Wednesday night, and that the defendant took the liberty of drinking his ale; he afterwards drew on one side, near the window of the tap room, and personally replenished the liquid contents of the jug. He then prevailed upon one Isaac Handerton to drink out of the jug. Mr. *Bowen* came in and remonstrated with the defendant, who abused him with the most vile and unmanly language.

Sarah Owen and Isaac Handerton respectively corroborated parts of this statement.

The defendant, in answer, said he was so drunk he did not recollect anything that he did, and that the complainant's ale was sufficient to make any one drunk who had much of it. He also said that if he was forgiven he would not enter his house again so long as he lived.

Mr. Baldwin told the defendant that he made a very lame excuse, and he must find a surety to be bound with him in £20 for his good conduct for twelve months. The court would have ordered him to find two sureties, only they thought he would not be able to get two persons to be bound for him.

In default of finding a surety he was committed for two months.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 16/3/1846 - Advert

“To Brass, Bell, and Maslin Founders and Others.

An old-established Bell, Maslin, Weight, Lock-Case, Candlestick, Pendant, Knob, and general Brassfoundry Establishment, at Bilston, in the county of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett, on Friday next the 20th day of March, at the ANGEL INN, Hall Fold, Bilston aforesaid, at five o'clock in the afternoon (unless sooner disposed of by private treaty, of which due notice will be given), subject to conditions then to be read.

All those extensive, newly-erected, and substantially-built Premises, now in full work as a Brassfoundry in its various departments, lately carried on by Mr. William Bowen, deceased, but now by his Executors, situate on the north side of the great Holyhead Road, at Mount Pleasant, in Bilston aforesaid, together with the very valuable Goodwill of the Business, with speedy Possession of the same.....

To view the Establishment and patterns, &c, apply to Mr. Henry Lester, upon the premises; and to treat for the purchase by Contract, apply to Mr. *Thomas Bowen*, Hall Street, Mr. John Bowen, near the KINGS ARMS, Church Street, the Executors; or to the Auctioneer, all of Bilston.”

AND

Birmingham Journal 28/11/1846 - Advert

“Walsall, Staffordshire. Valuable Limestone Works.

To be Sold by Auction, by H. Farrington, on Tuesday, the 8th day of December next, at the GEORGE HOTEL, Walsall, in the county of Stafford, at Five o'clock in the afternoon (by order of the Trustees for Sale appointed under and by virtue of the will of the late Mr. William Bowen, of Bilston, in the said county, Brassfounder, deceased).....

For further particulars, apply to Mr. *Thomas Bowen*, at the ANGEL INN, or Mr. John Bowen, at the Public Office, in Bilston; or to Richard Jesson, Esq, Solicitor, or the Auctioneer, both of Walsall aforesaid.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/6/1846 - Advert

“To be Sold, a Finger Organ, in a Mahogany Case, suitable for a church or chapel, full compass, and containing the following Stops: Stop, Dispasen, Open Dispason, Principal, Fifteenth, Sesquialtra, three Ranks, and Flute.

Apply to Mr. *T. Bowen*, ANGEL, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/9/1847 - Advert

“Bilston Turnpike Tolls.

Notice is hereby given, that the tolls arising at the several Toll Gates and Bars upon the Turnpike Roads leading to and from Bilston, in the county of Stafford, will be Let by Auction, at the house of Mr. *Thomas Bowen*, the ANGEL INN, in Bilston aforesaid, on Tuesday, the 12th day of October next, between the hours of one and three in the afternoon, for the term of one year, commencing the first day of January next, in the manner directed by the Acts passed in the third and fourth years of the reign of his Majesty King George the Fourth, ‘for regulating Turnpike Roads,’ which tolls were let on lease, the last year, in the several lots and at the sums hereinafter mentioned, clear of the expenses of collecting them, and will be put up in such lots and at such sums respectively as the trustees then present shall think fit.

Whoever happen to be the best bidders must at the same time pay one month in advance of the rent at which such tolls may be let, and give security with sufficient sureties to the satisfaction of the trustees of the said turnpike roads, for payment of the rest of the money monthly.

Lot I. New Gate, £542 0s 0d.

Lot II. Bilston Bridge, High Street, and Cold Lanes Gates, and Bilston Bar, £708 0s 0d.

Lot III. Catchems Corner and Parkfield Gates, and Ettingshall Lane Bar, and Ettingshall Side Bar, £214 0s 0d.

Lot IV. Gibbet Lane Gate, £652 0s 0d.

John Willim, Clerk to the Trustees. Bilston, September 6, 1847.”

Birmingham Journal 29/7/1848 - Advert

“Wanted, a Man of honest, sober, and industrious habits, as Brewer. He will also be required to make himself generally useful.

Apply to Mr. *Thomas Bowen*, ANGEL, Bilston.”

Birmingham Journal 26/1/1850

“An inquest was held on Wednesday, at the house of Mr. *Thomas Bowen*, ANGEL INN, Hall Fold, Bilston, on the body of Samuel Carpenter, a butty miner, aged 22 years, who was killed in consequence of a quantity of rock falling on him from the roof of the pit, on the 21st inst. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned. Deceased was to have been married on Monday next.”

Thomas Bowen was also a grocer and provision dealer. [1851]

1851 Census

Pipes Meadow

[1] *Thomas Bowen* (50), victualler, born Bilston;

[2] *Eliza Bowen* (39), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Mary S. Bowen* (17), daughter, born Bilston;

[4] *Louisa E. Bowen* (14), daughter, born Bilston;

[5] *Emma A. Bowen* (12), daughter, born Bilston;

[6] *Eliza J. Bowen* (9), daughter, born Bilston;

[7] *Thomas William Bowen* (5), son, born Bilston;

[8] *Henry John Bowen* (3), son, born Bilston;

[9] *Helen Bowen* (under 1 month), daughter, born Bilston;

[10] *Elizabeth Howell* (21), house servant, born Lichfield;

[11] *Lucinda Swatman* (15), house servant, born Birmingham;

[12] *Jane Marston* (14), house servant, born Willenhall:

Staffordshire Advertiser 17/9/1853 - Deaths

“On the 9th instant, at Penn, near Wolverhampton, accidentally drowned, Henry John, second son of Mr. *Thomas Bowen*, of the ANGEL INN, Bilston, aged 5 years.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 28/1/1854

“On Thursday evening, Lord Ingestre attended a meeting at the ANGEL INN, Bilston. There were about 150 persons present, and after the meeting had been addressed by the Chairman, the Rev. H. S. Fletcher and Mr. Waterhouse, Lord Ingestre rose and proceeded to remark upon the charge reiterated against him after repeated denials, that he was a Protectionist, and referred to a gentleman present.

Mr. Gettings rose and complained that the noble lord was resorting to personalities.

Lord Ingestre then referred to other charges made against him, and stated his opinions on Church-rates, war, and other subjects. Before resuming his seat he invited questions, and Mr. Gettings interrogated the noble candidate at considerable length on a variety of subjects, amidst various manifestations of opinions on the part of the audience. The meeting was then addressed by Mr. Underhill; after which Mr. Bowen proposed and Mr. Aston, of Moxley, seconded a motion, approving of Lord Ingestre as a candidate.

Mr. Gettings proposed an amendment, pledging the meeting to oppose the noble lord's return, which was seconded by Mr. Rose. On a show of hands being taken, the Chairman expressed a doubt on which side the majority lay, but Lord Ingestre said he was in a minority, which, however, the day of election would not confirm. The meeting then separated.”

[Lord Ingestre stood for MP for South Staffordshire but was not elected.]

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/3/1856

“The following gentlemen were elected as churchwardens for Bilston for the ensuing year on Monday last..... St. Mary's Mr. *Thomas Bowen*, of Hall Street (who had previously served the office).”

Staffordshire Advertiser 25/4/1857

“On Tuesday last, St. Mary's, Bilston, presented an unusual aspect of gaiety and rejoicing. As a mark of respect to Mr. *Thomas Bowen*, one of the churchwardens, and who has also for several years past discharged gratuitously the duties of organist, the marriage of his eldest daughter with Mr. T. H. Tomkys, of Darlaston, was celebrated with ‘musical honours.’ Mr. Salaridge presided at the organ, and the marriage anthem was performed by a full and very efficient choir. A number of the female pupils of the Sabbath School, festively attired in white, strewed flowers in the path of the happy pair as they left the church. The large number of persons who assembled to witness the ceremony observed the utmost decorum.”

Saint James's Chronicle 16/2/1858

“On Friday, at the ANGEL INN, Bilston, an inquest was held upon the body of Francis Bould, aged 27, who was killed at the Great Western Railway station at Bilston, and his corpse dreadfully mutilated by his being run over by the mid-day express from London, on Wednesday last.

The principal witness was a policeman upon the line named Andrew Morris, who was standing near the deceased just before his death. Morris stated that Bould was a goods shunter, and as such had the care of a horse, which, just at the time that the London express was due, ran away. A goods train was passing at the time. When the goods train had gone by Bould ran across the line to stop his horse, when he was knocked down by the express train and killed instantly.

The driver of the express stated that he did not see the deceased until he was within eight yards of him; that he sounded his whistle, and stopped his train as soon as possible.

The coroner asked the policeman if he should have reported the deceased, even if no accident had happened, for crossing the line when a train was due. Witness replied that he should not. The coroner said that he ought to do so; and if he did not he ought to be dismissed from the company's service. He had frequently observed the danger to which railway servants exposed themselves by crossing in front of approaching trains, but they ought not to be allowed to do so. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 24/2/1858 - Advert

“Bilston District Banking Company. Persons of whom the Company or Partnership consist.....

Thomas Bowen, Bilston, victualler, Executor of the late John Bowen (deceased), Bilston, gentleman.

Thomas Bowen, Bilston, victualler.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/6/1858

"On Thursday last an adjourned inquest was held at the ANGEL INN, Bilston, on Samuel Stokes, of Bradley, and late in the employ of Messrs. Rose and Co., ironmasters, who was found lying dead on the line of the Great Western Railway, between Wednesbury and Bilston, at daylight on Thursday the 17th inst, but there not being any further evidence to prove by which train he was killed, or how he got on the line, the jury returned, by direction of the Deputy-Coroner, W. H. Phillips, Esq, an open verdict of Found Dead.

It, however, transpired in the course of the enquiry that Stokes was in the constant habit of boasting how he could cheat the Railway Companies, and also that he was the same man who, in November last, was fined by the Magistrates at the Bilston Petty Sessions, on the prosecution of the Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton Company, for riding in a superior class carriage to the one he was entitled to use; and at the time he met his death there is little doubt that he was committing a fraud on the Great Western Railway Company, for on searching his pockets a third-class ticket from Birmingham to Hockley was found, together with three pence only in money, which ticket was issued to him for a train leaving Snow Hill Station shortly after nine o'clock on Wednesday evening, and it is supposed that when the speed of the train was slackened on approaching Bilston Station, he took the opportunity of jumping the steps on off side of the carriage, and was immediately knocked down by an up goods train which was passing."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/12/1859 - Deaths

"On the 17th instant, in the 49th year of her age, to the great grief of her sorrowing family, Eliza, the affectionate and beloved wife of Mr. *Thomas Bowen*, late of the ANGEL INN, Bilston."

James Elkington = James Elkinton

Birmingham Journal 26/9/1857 - Advert

"THREE TUNS, Wolverhampton. To Innkeepers and Others.

Mr. John Senior will Sell by Auction, on Monday next, September 28, upon the above Premises (in consequence of Mr. *Elkington*, the Landlord, having taken the ANGEL INN, Bilston).

The Household Furniture, Beds, Bedding; large Bagatelle Table, with massive pillars, balls, cues, and markers, complete, with top to form table (lately cost £26); painted Partition of large Dining Room, inch panel, equal to new; fifteen excellent Acre Casks, from 36 to 400 gallons; 120 gallons of old Ale, in prime condition; sixteen-bushel Mash Tub, two Coolers, with lead piping, Working and other Tubs, 120-gallon Copper, with fixings, one fifty ditto, nearly new, Malt Crusher, Bean Mill, four-pull Beer Machine, with lead piping through Cellar, Spirit Fountain, and Casks grained oak, Elbow Seats, with leather cushions, round Bar and Parlour, nearly equal to new, seats round Tap Room, large Lamp, stained glass, and Sign in front of house; Cow Ties, Stable Articles, and other numerous Effects.

The Coppers, Barrels, and Brewing Utensils are in excellent condition, and well worthy the attention of the Trade. Catalogues may be obtained on the Premises, or of the Auctioneer, Wolverhampton."

James Elkington, beer retailer and provision dealer, Hall Street. [1861]

1861 Census

28, Hall Fold – ANGEL INN

- [1] *James Elkington* (48), publican and grocer, born Ruby [Rugby?], Warwickshire;
- [2] Hannah Elkington (50), wife, born Shipton on Stone, Worcestershire;
- [3] Jane E. Elkington (25), daughter, born Southam, Warwickshire;
- [4] William Elkington (23), son, manager of nail works, born Southam, Warwickshire;
- [5] Frederick Elkington (15), son, scholar, born Southam, Warwickshire;
- [6] Maria Elkington (13), daughter, scholar, born Southam, Warwickshire;
- [7] Henry J. Elkington (11), son, scholar, born Southam, Warwickshire;
- [8] John C. Lees (24), visitor, pawnbroker, born Wolverhampton;
- [9] Isabella A. Hackforth (24), visitor, born Southam, Warwickshire;
- [10] Mary Weaver (15), general servant, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/8/1861 - Marriages

“On the 27th instant, at SS Peter and Paul’s Church, Aston, by the Rev. George Peake, Vicar, Mr. John Oliver Lee, of this town, to Jane Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Mr. *James Elkington*, of Hall Street, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/9/1862

“The Annual Licensing Meeting. This meeting was held in the Police Court on Friday last.....

Mr. Whitehouse then applied on behalf of Mr. John Rogers, hairdresser, news agent, and collector of assessed taxes, for a license to premises he is erecting by PIPE HALL. Mr. Whitehouse remarked that he was well aware that the Bench were of opinion that the number of public houses in Bilston was sufficiently great already; but his client had expended £700 in the purchase of the ground and the erection of a house, which would provide accommodation for the important class of the community, commercial travellers, which he declared was afforded by no public house in Bilston. Mr. Underhill, who opposed on behalf of Mr. *Elkington*, of the ANGEL, argued that the best proof that no such house was wanted, was that neither the railway company nor Mr. Pugh had used the license for PIPE HALL. The application was refused.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/12/1862

“At Bilston Police Court, yesterday, before the Stipendiary, a man, named Joseph Davies, was charged with having killed a pig with the intention of stealing it, the property of Mr. *Elkington*, of the ANGEL INN public house, Pipers Meadow, Bilston.

It appears that the pig in question, which was about 30lbs in weight, was safe in the sty at the rear of Mr. *Elkington*’s premises, on Friday night last, in company with several other young pigs. About nine o’clock that night a young man, named Hezelstine, was in a yard adjoining Mr. *Elkington*’s, when his attention was attracted to the squealing of a pig, and on looking over the wall he saw the prisoner near Mr. *Elkington*’s sty killing one of the pigs by knocking it on the head with a stone. As soon as the prisoner saw that his movements were being watched, he threw down the pig and endeavoured to make his escape. He was, however, too closely followed by Hezelstine, who caught him in Queen Street and held him safe until the appearance of a policeman, when he gave him into custody. There being some doubt as to the prisoner’s felonious intention, he was committed to take his trial at the Sessions.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/1/1863

“Staffordshire Epiphany Sessions.....

Joseph Davies, 40, engineer, was indicted for killing a pig, the property of *James Elkington*, at Bilston, on the 26th December, with the intention to steal it. Mr. Andrews appeared to prosecute.

The pig in question, which was 30lbs in weight, was in the prosecutor’s sty, and at about eleven o’clock at night a young man named Thomas Heseltine, who was in the adjoining yard, heard a commotion amongst the young porkers, looked over the wall, and saw a man in the sty sticking one of the pigs. The young man was knocked down, but got up again, saw the prisoner running away, pursued and caught him after a chase of a quarter of a mile. The pig’s skull had been fractured evidently with a stone which lay close to it, and the head was produced in Court by the police, to enable the jury, if so disposed, to make a post mortem examination for themselves. A bag was found close to it.

The jury found the prisoner guilty, and he pleaded guilty to having been convicted of felony in December, 1857.

The noble Chairman said if he committed any other offence he would receive a very severe sentence, but he should have one more chance, and sentenced him to nine months’ imprisonment.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/9/1863

“The meeting for the renewing and granting of licenses was held on Friday, at Bilston police office.....

Mr. Waterhouse, solicitor, of Bilston, made an application for a license to be granted to Mr. George [sic] Rodgers, landlord of the GREAT WESTERN INN, Market Street.....

Mr. J. E. Underhill, of Wolverhampton, opposed on behalf of Mr. *Elkington*, of the ANGEL INN, and stated that his client’s house was of much easier access than the applicant’s, being directly opposite to the station.

Mr. Rodgers, in answer to the Bench, guaranteed that in a very short time he would be in a position to give accommodation for at least six horses and conveyances, and with this understanding, and also taking into consideration the applicant’s previous good character, the application was granted.”

James Elkington was described as also being a shopkeeper. [1864], [1865]

Birmingham Daily Post 22/8/1864 - Advert

“The ANGEL INN, Bilston.

To be Let, this old-established and well-frequented Old-Licensed House. The Stock, Fixtures, &c, to be taken by valuation.

Apply to Aston and Sollom, Auctioneers, Darlington Street, Wolverhampton.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 7/9/1864 - Advert

“The ANGEL INN, Bilston.

To be Disposed Of by Valuation, the Possession, Licenses, Fixtures, and Stock-in-Trade of the above old-established and well-frequented Old-Licensed House, with Grocer’s Shop adjoining, and now doing a good business. Coming-in about £300. Satisfactory reasons can be given why the present tenant is leaving.

Apply to Aston and Sollom, Auctioneers, Wolverhampton.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/8/1865 - Advert

“Tuesday, 12 September. Bilston. The ANGEL INN, Hall Street.

Messrs. Aston and Sollom will Sell by Auction, by order of Mr. *James Elkington*, on Tuesday, September 12th, 1865, the whole of the capital Ale Casks from 60 to 300 gallons, excellent Brewing Utensils, three Coppers, Malt Crusher, Beer Machine, stock of Ale, a portion of the Household Furniture and Public House Effects, upon the premises as above.

Catalogues to be had from the Auctioneers.

Sale at half-past eleven am.”

James Elkington – see also THREE TUNS, Castle Street, Wolverhampton.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/8/1866

“*George Lavender*, landlord of the ANGEL INN, Bilston, was yesterday brought up before the Stipendiary, upon a warrant, at Wolverhampton, charged with an indecent assault upon his domestic servant, Charlotte Blower. The evidence showed that defendant came to her while she was engaged in her duties in his bed room, and acted indecently to her. She sought refuge in her own room, whither he followed her, repeating his misconduct. He was fined £5, and costs £1 1s.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 25/8/1866

“*George Lavender*, landlord of the ANGEL INN, Bilston, having neglected to answer a summons was brought up on a warrant and find £5 and costs £1 1s, for an indecent assault upon his maid-servant, Charlotte Blower, who said he committed the offence first in his own bedroom, which she was cleaning, and following her to her own room repeated it there.”

John Frogatt = John Froggitt

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1866

“The annual meeting for the renewal of existing licenses, and for receiving applications for fresh ones, was held at the Police Court, on Friday.....

At the commencement of the proceedings, the Superintendent of Police presented the following report.

Bilston Division, August 31, 1866.

‘I beg to submit to the Magistrates the attached list of licensed victuallers who have been complained against during the year. Twenty-five have been convicted, and three have paid costs; one had been convicted three times, and five convicted twice. This is a large increase on last year’s list; but I think it has arisen from the police being more particular in reporting cases of permitting drunkenness – as it was found to be an evil rather on the increase. I believe it has caused landlords to be more careful in supplying drink to persons intoxicated.’

H. McCrea, Superintendent.

Black List.....

John Frogatt, ANGEL INN, Hallfields, Bilston left over until the adjourned licensing meeting on the 28th of September.”

Birmingham Daily Post 11/10/1866 - Advert

“ANGEL INN, Bilston. Re *John Froggitt*.

Sale of Furniture, Fixtures, 2 Bagatelle Tables, Effects, &c.

Mr. C. Butters will Sell by Auction, by order of the Assignee, This Day (Thursday), October 11, on the above premises.

The whole of the above, including the Shop and other Fixtures, Tea Canisters, Scales, Arks, Gas-fittings, Steps and Bar, Bagatelle Table, 12ft long, two pockets, slate bed, with cues, cue rack, and nine balls, complete; one smaller ditto, Eight-day Clock, Corner Cupboards, Tables, Windsor Chairs, Arm ditto, five-pull Beer-machine, with piping and taps, complete; serving Counters, Measures, and the whole of the contents of Parlour, Smoke and Tap Rooms, four Bed Rooms, Brewhouse, including superior Brewing Plant, copper Boiler, iron ditto, &c; Malt Room, Cellars, &c.

Sale to commence in the Morning at Eleven o'clock. No Reserve. Cash at the fall of the hammer.

Auction Offices, Hanley, Longton, and Kids Grove.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 30/11/1867

“E. Brittle of Bilston will make a match to fight W. Atkins of Walsall at catch weight, for £10 or £15 a side; or J. Dakin of Willenhall or Bunker of Wolverhampton. A match can be made any night next week at *J. Richards*’s, the ANGEL INN, Bilston.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 1/2/1868

“The one-arm man of Bilston will make a match to fight the one-arm man of Wolverhampton, or the one-arm man of Oldbury, for £10 a side, at catch weight. A deposit forwarded to *Bells Life*, and articles to Mr. *J. Richards*, ANGEL INN, Bilston, will ensure a match.”

1871 Census

Hall Fold – ANGEL INN

[1] *John Richards* (35), innkeeper employing one man, born Bilston;

[2] *Maria Richards* (33), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Clara Richards* (10), daughter, born Bilston;

[4] *Sarah Ann Richards* (8), daughter, born Bilston;

[5] *Alice Richards* (4), daughter, born Bilston;

[6] *Amelia Richards* (2), daughter, born Bilston;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/6/1871 - Correspondence

“To the Editor of the *Daily Gazette*.

Sir. Under the head ‘Willenhall,’ your reporter was in error in stating that Thomas Richards, publican, Bilston, was fined 10s and costs for causing some obstruction in the footpath on the Willenhall Road. It should have read Thomas Rogers, SHAKESPEARE INN, Bilston. Myself and *John Richards*, of the ANGEL INN, Bilston, never having kept any dogs, we should wish it to be fully stated in your tomorrow’s paper that neither I, Thomas Richards, nor *John Richards*, innkeepers, of Bilston, had anything to do with the case.

Yours truly, Thomas Richards, RED LION INN, Dudley Street. *John Richards*, ANGEL INN, Hall Street. Bilston, May 30.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 8/2/1873

“J. Davies will run Yardley of Darlaston 100 yards level, or take two yards of Owen of Darlaston in 100; or the like distance of Crook of Bilston, for £5 a side. Money ready at Mr. *J. Richards*’s, ANGEL INN, Bilston.”

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.....

Richards’s, ANGEL INN, Bilston.....

Betting and gambling strictly prohibited. No one allowed to run unless in proper costume.”

Birmingham Mail 15/11/876

“Local Failures..... *Spencer Cooke Tippetts*, 231, Park Road, Aston, late of the ANGEL INN, Bilston, has filed his petition for liquidation, with liabilities estimated at £700, and assets not yet ascertained.”

London Gazette 17/11/1876

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1869. In the County Court of Warwickshire, holden at Birmingham.

In the Matter of Proceedings for Liquidation by Arrangement or Composition with Creditors, instituted by *Spencer Cooke Tippetts*, of Park-road, Aston, in the county of Warwick, out of business, late of the ANGEL INN, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler.

Notice is hereby given, that a First General Meeting of the creditors of the above-named person has been summoned to be held at the offices of Mr. Joseph E. Sheldon, 51, High-street, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, on the 7th day of December, 1876, at three o’clock in the afternoon precisely.

Dated this 15th day of November, 1876.

Joseph E. Sheldon, 51, High-street, Wednesbury, Solicitor for the said Debtor.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/10/1879

“W. H. Phillips, Esq, coroner, held an inquest at the ANGEL INN, Halls Fold, Bilston, on Monday, on the body of Edward Hodgkiss, aged 64, a labourer in the employ of the Township Commissioners. On the morning of Wednesday, the 20th September, the deceased was working on the highway at Priestfield, Ettingshall, when he was knocked down by a cart driven by Mr. Hilch, a poulterer, of Darlaston. The wheel of the cart passed over his chest, severely injuring him. Mr. Hancox, surgeon, attended the unfortunate man, who died on Saturday last. No blame was attached to Mr. Hilch, and a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

1881 Census

28, Hall Fold – ANGEL INN

[1] *Francis Fletcher* (34), shearer (iron works) and publican, born Bilston;

[2] *Edith C. Fletcher* (34), wife, born Manchester;

[3] *Thomas Fletcher* (13), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[4] *Frank Fletcher* (9), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[5] *Gertrude M. Fletcher* (7), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[6] *Bernard T. Fletcher* (6), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[7] *Charles A. Fletcher* (6), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[8] *Harry Fletcher* (6), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[9] *Betsy Bridge* (15), general servant, born Bilston;

[10] *George Hamilton* (48), lodger, comedian, born London:

Darlaston Weekly Times 17/6/1882 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale at the ANGEL INN, Hall Fold, Hall Street, Bilston.

Messrs. Payton and Hill are instructed by Mr. *Francis Fletcher*, who is retiring from the business, to Sell by Auction, on Tuesday June 20, 1882, upon the above premises, the Licenses, Goodwill and Possession of that Old Established spacious house and premises, together with the Brewing Plant, Public House Fixtures, and effects, consisting of six 56-gallon barrels, and several small ditto, Mash Tub, Ale Vats and Coolers, and lead conducting pipe to cellar, wrought iron Boilers and Underwork, capital Malt Crusher, patent lever 4-pull Beer Machine, with Taps, and about 140 feet of new Lead Piping; Tap Table, Spirit Barrels with Taps, cross leg Drinking Tables, Windsor Chairs, six strong Smoke Room ditto, mahogany centre Table, oblong and other Tables, fine toned 7 octave Cottage Pianoforte, in Walnut case, nearly new (by Bishop, of London); Side Board, Prints, Chimney Glasses, Sewing Machine (by Wheeler and Wilson); also in Grocers Shop, Panel Counter, Flour Bin, sets of Flour and other Scales and Weights, six Tea Canisters, Shelving, &c, &c.

Sale to commence at 11 o'clock.

Auctioneers Offices, Broad Street and Hartshorne Street, Bilston.”

Charles Calloway = Charles Callaway

Darlaston Weekly Times 13/1/1883 - Advert

“ANGEL INN, Halls Fold, Bilston.

A Select Dancing Party will meet in the Large Room at the above Inn, every Monday and Saturday during the Season.

An Efficient Band will be in attendance. Principal Violin, Mr. Foster. Second Violin, Mr. Fletcher.

Admission, Gentlemen 6d, Ladies 3d. Dancing to commence at 7-30.

Chas. Callaway, Proprietor.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 13/1/1883

“Lovers of the curious in nature would be interested in seeing a unique pigeon belonging to Mr. Merryman, at the ANGEL INN, Hall Fold, Bilston. The bird, which is a beautiful specimen of the ‘tumbler,’ is perfectly marked in red, white, and blue, a combination rarely, if ever, seen.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 8/3/1884

“At Bilston Police Court on Tuesday, Joseph Dean (24), miner, of Greencroft, was charged with committing a violent assault on John Smith, of Coseley Row.

Prosecutor, whose face was disfigured badly, stated that he was in the ANGEL INN, Hall Fold, on Sunday afternoon, when prisoner and two others came in and commenced ‘chaffing’ about a young woman. He tried to quieten the prisoner, when the latter took up the poker, and threatened him with it. The landlord ordered the prisoner out, and he went away. Shortly after, the prosecutor left the house, when prisoner picked up a piece of brick (produced) and threw it in his face. He afterwards had to be attended by Dr. Smith.

Mr. C. Carlile, a theatrical gentleman, who was staying at the house, gave evidence that prisoner hid behind the house, and obtained the brick from a stack near.

A woman who was passing stated that as the prisoner came out of the house she heard him say he would wait for and murder prosecutor.

Mr. *Bellis*, the landlord, deposed that prisoner was so quarrelsome that he was ordered out, although he was quite sober.

Dr. Smith stated that the cartilage of the prosecutor’s nose was cut through, and it had to be sewn up. It was a severe wound, such as might have been inflicted with a blunt instrument thrown with considerable force.

Prisoner, who was continually talking while in the dock, said he was a Volunteer, and prosecutor and his companions were chaffing him, and stole his hat. He went outside and simply threw a little piece of coal, because he was aggravated at the cruel treatment they had subjected him to.

The Bench said the assault was most dastardly, and fined prisoner 10s and costs, and ordered him to pay all medical charges.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 21/6/1884

“On Saturday night, the officers and brothers of the No.35 Lodge of the United Independent Order of Loyal Caledonian Cords Sick and Dividend Society attended at the house of Brother *A. C. Clarke*, the ANGEL INN, Hall Street, Bilston, to open a new lodge. Several members were enrolled, and the new lodge will be No.384 of the Order.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/7/1884

“The Caledonian Cords.

On Friday evening a representative meeting of the various Cork Lodges in the Midland Counties was held at the ANGEL INN, Hall Street, Bilston. A deputation from the Executive Council of Birmingham was also present. The meeting was convened for the purpose of discussing certain grievances complained of by the various lodges in the Midland Counties, also a proposal to secede from the Birmingham district and form a separate Executive Council for the Midland Counties.....”

Darlaston Weekly Times 20/9/1884 - Advert

“Mr. T. Skidmore will Offer for Sale by Auction, at the GREAT WESTERN INN, Bilston, on Thursday September 25th, 1884 Copyhold Property at Bilston.

Lot 1. All that valuable Old-Licensed Public House called the ANGEL INN, situate in Hall Fold, Bilston, in the occupation of Mr. *Clarke*.

Also the Three-Store Dwelling House adjoining in the occupation of Mr. Shelley.

Also the Nine Dwelling Houses at the back of the said ANGEL INN.....”

The Stage 14/11/1884 - Advert

“Heavies, Character and Old Women.

Miss Fanny Reynolds, at liberty November 17th.

Address, ANGEL HOTEL, Bilston, Staffordshire.”

1891 Census

Hall Fold – ANGEL INN

[1] Edwin Burgess (50), licensed victualler, born Macclesfield;

[2] Mary Burgess (50), wife, born Coventry;

[3] Rosa Mary L. Burgess (17), daughter, born Crewe;

[4] Robert Burgess (15), son, born Stafford;

[5] Frank Isaac Burgess (12), son, born Stafford;

[6] Henrietta Burgess (9), daughter, born Stafford:

The license was not taken out by the owner on 26th August 1892.

FINGER ORGAN.

TO be SOLD, a FINGER ORGAN, in a Mahogany Case, suitable for a church or chapel, full compass, and containing the following Stops:—Stop Diapason. Open Diapason, Principal, Fifteenth, Sesquialtra, three Ranks, and Flute.

☞ Apply to Mr. T. BOWEN, Angel, Bilston.

BILSTON TURNPIKE TOLLS.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the tolls arising at the several Toll Gates and Bars upon the Turnpike Roads leading to and from Bilston, in the county of Stafford, will be LET BY AUCTION, at the house of THOMAS BOWEN, the ANGEL INN, in BILSTON aforesaid, on TUESDAY, the 12th day of OCTOBER NEXT, between the hours of one and three in the afternoon, for the term of one year, commencing the first day of January next, in the manner directed by the Acts passed in the third and fourth years of the reign of his Majesty King George the Fourth, "for regulating Turnpike Roads," which tolls were let on lease, the last year, in the several lots and at the sums hereinafter mentioned, clear of the expenses of collecting them, and will be put up in such lots and at such sums respectively as the trustees then present shall think fit.

Whoever happen to be the best bidders must at the same time pay one month in advance of the rent at which such tolls may be let, and give security with sufficient sureties to the satisfaction of the trustees of the said turnpike roads, for payment of the rest of the money monthly.

	£	s.	d.
Lor I.—New Gate	542	0	0
Lor II.—Bilston Bridge, High-street, and Cold Lanes Gates, and Bilston Bar ...	708	0	0
Lor III.—Catchem's Corner and Park-field Gates, and Ettingshall Lane Bar, and Ettingshall Side Bar	214	0	0
Lor IV.—Gibbet Lane Gate	652	0	0

JOHN WILLIM,

Clerk to the Trustees.

Bilston, September 6, 1847.

1847

BREWER.

WANTED, a MAN of honest, sober, and industrious habits, as BREWER. He will also be required to make himself generally useful.—Apply to Mr. Thomas Bowen, Angel, Bilston.

1848

THREE TUNS, WOLVERHAMPTON.

TO INNKEEPERS AND OTHERS.

MR. JOHN SENIOR will SELL by AUCTION, on MONDAY NEXT, September 28, upon the above Premises, (in consequence of Mr. Elkington, the Landlord, having taken the Angel Inn, Bilston)—the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, Beds, Bedding; large Bagatelle Table, with massive pillars, balls, cues, and markers, complete, with top to form table, (lately cost £26.) painted Partition of large Dining Room, inch panel, equal to new; fifteen excellent Acre Casks, from 36 to 400 gallons; 120 gallons of old Ale, in prime condition; sixteen-bushel Mash Tub, two Coolers, with lead piping, Working and other Tubs, 120-gallon Copper, with fixings, one fifty ditto, nearly new, Malt Crusher, Bean Mill, four-pull Beer Machine, with lead piping through Cellar, Spirit Fountain, and Casks grained oak, Elbow Seats, with leather cushions, round Bar and Parlour, nearly equal to new, seats round Tap Room, large Lamp, stained glass, and Sign in front of house; Cow Ties, Stable Articles, and other numerous Effects.

The Coppers, Barrels, and Brewing Utensils are in excellent condition, and well worthy the attention of the Trade. Catalogues may be obtained on the Premises, or of the Auctioneer, Wolverhampton.

1857

THE ANGEL INN, BILSTON.—To be LET, this old-established and well-frequented OLD-LICENSED HOUSE The Stock, Fixtures, &c. to be taken by valuation.—Apply to Aston and Sollom, Auctioneers, Darlington Street, Wolverhampton.

THE ANGEL INN, BILSTON.

TO be DISPOSED OF by Valuation, the POSSESSION, LICENSES, FIXTURES, and STOCK-IN-TRADE of the above old-established and well-frequented Old-Licensed HOUSE, with Grocer's Shop adjoining, and now doing a good business. Coming-in about £300. Satisfactory reasons can be given why the present tenant is leaving.—Apply to ASTON and SOLLUM, Auctioneers, Wolverhampton.

1864

TUESDAY, 12th SEPTEMBER.

BILSTON.

THE ANGEL INN, HALL STREET.

MESSRS. ASTON and SOLLUM will SELL by AUCTION, by order of Mr. James Elkington, on Tuesday, September 12th, 1865, the whole of the capital ALE CASKS from 60 to 300 gallons, excellent BREWING UTENSILS, three COPPERS, MALT CRUSHER, BEER MACHINE, stock of ALE, a portion of the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE and PUBLIC HOUSE EFFECTS, upon the premises as above.

Catalogues to be had from the AUCTIONEERS.—Sale at half-past eleven a.m.

1865

ANGEL INN,

BILSTON.

RE JOHN FROGGITT,

SALE OF FURNITURE, FIXTURES, 2 BAGATELLE TABLES, EFFECTS, &c.

MR. C. BUTTERS will SELL by AUCTION, by order of the Assignee, THIS DAY (Thursday), October 11, on the above premises—the whole of the above, including the Shop and other Fixtures, Tea Canisters, Scales, Arks, Gas-fittings, Stoves and B.R. BAGATELLE TABLE, 12 ft long, two pockets, slate bed, with cues, cue rack, and nine balls, complete; one smaller ditto; Eight-day Clock, Corner Cupboards, Tables, Windsor Chairs, Arm ditto, five-pull Beer machine, with piping and taps, complete; serving Counters, Measures, and the whole of the contents of Parlour, Smoke and Tap Rooms, four Bed Rooms, Brewhouse, including superior Brewing Plant, copper Boiler, iron ditto, &c.; Malt Room, Cellars, &c.

Sale to commence in the Morning at Eleven o'clock. No reserve. Cash at the fall of the hammer.

Auction Offices—Hanley, Longton, and Kidsgrove.

1866

Unreserved Sale at the

ANGEL INN, HALL FOLD, HALL STREET, BILSTON.

MESSRS. PAYTON & HILL are instructed by Mr. Francis Fletcher, who is retiring from the business, TO SELL BY AUCTION, on TUESDAY JUNE, 20, 1882, upon the above premises the LICENSES, GOODWILL AND POSSESSION of that Old Established spacious house and premises, together with the

BREWING PLANT, PUBLIC HOUSE FIXTURES, and effects,

consisting of six 56 gallon barrels, and several small ditto, Mash Tub, Ale Vats and Coolers, and lead conducting pipe to cellar, wrought iron Boilers and Underwork, capital Malt Crusher, patent lever 4-pull Beer Machine, with Taps, and about 140 feet of new Lead Piping; Tap Table, Spirit Barrels with Taps, cross leg Drinking Tables, Windsor Chairs, six strong Smoke Room ditto, mahogany centre Table, oblong and other Tables, fine toned 7 octave Cottage Pianoforte, in Walnut case, nearly new (by Bishop, of London); Side Board, Prints, Chimney Glasses, Sewing Machine (by Wheeler and Wilson); also in GROCERS SHOP, Panel Counter, Flour Bin, sets of Flour and other Scales and Weights, six Tea Canisters, Shelving, &c., &c.

Sale to commence at 11 o'clock.

Auctioneers' Offices, Broad Street and Hartshorne Street, Bilston.

1882

ANGEL INN, HALL'S FOLD, BILSTON.

A SELECT DANCING PARTY

Will meet in the Large Room at the above Inn, EVERY MONDAY & SATURDAY

During the Season.

AN EFFICIENT BAND will be in attendance. PRINCIPAL VIOLIN ... MR. FOSTER. SECOND VIOLIN ... MR. FLETCHER. Admission, Gentlemen 6d. Ladies 3d.

Dancing to commence at 7-30.

CHAS. CALLAWAY, PROPRIETOR.

1883

ANGEL

400, Bilston Road, (6, Wolverhampton Road), (Wellington Road), (Gibbett Lane) / Ward Street, Priestfield, (New Village), BILSTON

OWNERS

John Walker, factor, Birmingham
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1921]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.
Bahadur Singh Shergill

LICENSEES

Mrs. Sarah Walker [1841] – [1858]
Edward Walker [1861] – [1870]
Mrs. Mary Pyatt [1871] – **1881**;
John Northwood **(1881 – 1883)**;
Samuel Webb **(1883 – 1897)**;
George Howard Willetts **(1897 – 1900)**;
Leighton Scriven **(1900 – 1916)**;
Charles Hulse **(1916 – 1921)**;
John Mason **(1921 – 1931)**;
Thomas Picken **(1931 – [1940]**
A S Chopra [1983]
J Kainth [1988]
Bahadur Singh Shergill [1995] – [2019]



2007

NOTES

Wolverhampton Road [1845], [1851], [1854], [1861], [1881], [1892], [1901], [1916], [1921], [1940], [1983]
New Village [1858]
Gibbett Lane [1871]
Wellington Road [1873]
Bilston Road [1871], [1872], [1873]
6, Wolverhampton Road (West) [1921]
400, Bilston Road [2005]

1841 Census

Priestfields

- [1] Sarah Walker (55), publican, born Staffordshire;
- [2] Catharine Walker (25), born Staffordshire;
- [3] Edward Walker (20), carpenter, born Staffordshire;
- [4] Elizabeth Walker (15), born Staffordshire;
- [5] William Walker (10), born Staffordshire;

1851 Census

Wolverhampton Road

- [1] Sarah Walker (64), widow, innkeeper, born Leicestershire;
- [2] Edward Walker (32), son, carpenter, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] Elizabeth Walker (28), daughter, home, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] William Walker (22), son, factor's clerk, born Wolverhampton;

Staffordshire Advertiser 17/5/1851

“An inquest was held on Monday last at the ANGEL INN, Wolverhampton Road, Bilston, before G. Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, on the body of a male child, which was found on Saturday buried in a pit bank, at the back of the Gibbett Lane Gate. T. Dickinson, Esq, surgeon, stated that he had examined the body, which was that of a full grown male child; but from its decomposed state he was unable to say whether or not it had been born alive. The jury returned a verdict of Found Dead.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/4/1857

“An inquest was held at the ANGEL INN, Priestfield, on Monday last, before W. H. Phillips, Esq, deputy coroner, upon the body of Thomas Price, aged 39, who had been missing since February last, and whose body was found a few days since in a pool of water between Priestfield and Portobello. From the evidence adduced it appeared that the deceased was last seen alive about nine at night on the 9th of February last. He was then intoxicated, and was going in the direction of his home, on his way to which place he would have had to pass the pool of water in question. There were no marks of violence or injuries discovered upon his person. His watch and other property were found in his pockets. His wife, and several other witnesses, were examined, but there did not appear to be any suspicious circumstances connected with his death. The Jury therefore returned a verdict of Accidentally Drowned.”

1861 Census

Wolverhampton Road

- [1] Edward Walker (42), unmarried, victualler, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] Elizabeth Walker (37), sister, born Wolverhampton:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/1/1871

“At the Wolverhampton County Court, yesterday, before Mr. Skinner, Judge, William Ashcroft, auctioneer, of Snow Hill sued *Mary Pyatt*, of the ANGEL INN, Gibbett Lane, for £7 19s 3d. Mr. Stirk appeared for the plaintiff, and said the defendant employed the plaintiff to get a customer for the FREEMASONS ARMS, in the Old Horse Fair, Wolverhampton, and a considerable sum had been expended in advertisements. The Judge gave a verdict of £3 15s 6d, as the value of the advertisements, and the time and labour expended in correspondence.”

1871 Census

Bilston Road

- [1] Mary Pyatt (50), widow, publican, born Willenhall;
- [2] Elizabeth Pyatt (19), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] Mary Pyatt (17), daughter, born Wolverhampton:

Mary Pyatt – see also FREEMASONS ARMS, Horse Fair, Wolverhampton, and BIRD IN HAND, New Street, Wolverhampton.

1881 Census

Wolverhampton Road – ANGEL INN

- [1] John Northwood (67), licensed victualler, born Staffordshire;
- [2] Sarah Northwood (50), wife, born Kinton, Herefordshire;
- [3] Ann Griffiths (64), sister, widow, assists in house, born Staffordshire:

Evening Express 1/12/1881 - Advert

“To be Let, the ANGEL INN, Priestfield; a free old-licensed house.
Apply on the premises.”

TO be Let, the Angel Inn, Priestfield; a free old-licensed house.—Apply on the premises.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 9/9/1889 - Advert

“Found, a Liver-coloured Spaniel Dog, with white feet.
Apply, S. Webb, ANGEL INN, Priestfields

FOUND, a Liver-coloured Spaniel Dog, with white feet.—Apply, S. Webb, Angel Inn, Priestfields.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 11/9/1889 - Advert

“Lost, Black Curly Retriever Dog, answers to Rover; reward given.
Apply, J. Webb, ANGEL INN Priestfields.”

LOST, Black Curly Retriever Dog, answers to Rover; reward given.—Apply, J. Webb, Angel Inn, Priestfields.

Walsall Advertiser 31/12/1889 - Advert

"Monday, 13th January, 1890, at Six for Seven, at the ANGEL INN, Priestfields, Wolverhampton.
Sale by Auction, of Seven Copyhold Dwelling Houses, situate in the neighbourhood of Gibbett Lane, Priestfields, on the main road leading from Wolverhampton to Bilston.
Solicitor, Mr. T. H. Bayley, 29. King Street, Wolverhampton."
[The properties sold for £305.]

1891 Census

Wolverhampton Road – ANGEL INN

- [1] Samuel Webb (39), innkeeper, aerated water manufacturer, born Tipton;
- [2] Emma Webb (36), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] Minnie Webb (17), daughter, born Great Bridge;
- [4] Edith Webb (4), daughter, born Bilston:

Samuel Webb was also a mineral water manufacturer. [1892]

Bridgnorth Journal 19/11/1898

"The body of the young man named Thomas Stanley, who for over a week had been missing from his home in St. Matthew Street, Wolverhampton, was found on Sunday afternoon. For some days search had been made for him by Police-constable Needham and others, but despite diligent inquiries by his friends, no trace could be found of him till Sunday.

On Friday and Saturday, several attempts were made to descend a disused pit shaft, 70 yards deep, at Moseley Village, down which it was thought deceased had thrown himself. The shaft, however, was full of foul air, and it was not considered safe to venture down. A labourer, named Charles Ollis, of Willenhall Road, expressed his determination of seeing for himself whether Stanley was there or not, and he was let down by rope. This nearly cost him his life, for on being drawn to the surface he was unconscious. While he was making his descent, a conversation was maintained with him and the people on the bank, in order to that they might know he was all right, but presently Ollis ceased talking, and he was quickly drawn up the shaft again, insensible, as above stated. Brandy was administered to him, and he revived. It having been made clear that Stanley was not in this pit, the search was for a time abandoned, but on Sunday a jacket and muffler, identified as belonging to Stanley were found near a pit shaft, 40 yards deep, at Stowheath, between Bilston and Wolverhampton, and half a mile from the other pit. About noon Ollis again proffered his services and was let down. At the bottom he found the body of deceased, literally smashed, and having secured it to a rope it was drawn up to the surface. It presented a sickening sight, and was placed in some sacking and removed to the ANGEL INN, Priestfield, to await an inquest. The top of the shaft is barricaded, and everything points to the theory that deceased has committed suicide, although his parents know of nothing which should have led him to have taken his own life. It is stated that he had a comfortable home, and was in a fairly good situation at a works at Monmore Green.

Further inquiries go to show that the deceased was only 24 years of age, and he is spoken of as having been a very quiet, unassuming young fellow until recently, and as having worked steadily as one of the employees at Messrs. Bayliss, Jones, and Bayliss's works, Cable Street, Monmore Green. The cause of his change of manner lately is reported to be a love affair. The finding of the body created a great sensation in the Moseley Village, Willenhall Road, and Priestfield districts, and thousands of people visited the locality of the pit from which Stanley's corpse was recovered."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 16/11/1898 - Correspondence

"The Recent Suicide in Wolverhampton: An Appeal.

Sir. No doubt many of your readers have read of the painful suicide of the late Thomas Stanley and of the bravery of Charles Hollis in risking his own life to recover the body. He lost several days work in endeavouring to do so, and has received no recompense. The parents of the deceased, not being in a position to reward him, might I appeal through your columns on his behalf? There is a subscription opened at Mr. G. Willett's, ANGEL INN, Priestfield, where already donations have been received.

Hoping the public will generously respond, and thanking you in anticipation.

I remain, yours truly, Samuel Smith. Smiths Building, Priestfield. November 15th, 1898."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 22/11/1898

“Mr. W. H. Phillips, coroner, Wolverhampton, has offered to head a subscription for Charles Hallis, of Willenhall Road, Wolverhampton, who went down a disused pit shaft at Stow Heath a few days ago and recovered the dead body of a young man named Stanley, who had committed suicide.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/12/1898

“The sum of £1 15s 9d has been collected by Mr. *George Willetts*, ANGEL INN, Priestfield, for the reward of Mr. Charles Hollis, who courageously recovered the body of T. H. Stanley from a coal mine on November 19, 1898.”

Pride of Priestfield Sick and Benefit Society held its first annual dinner here in July 1899.

Birmingham Weekly Post 24/2/1900

“Mr. T. A. Stokes, county coroner, held an inquest at the ANGEL INN, Priestfield, Bilston, on Tuesday, on the body of Ellen Edwards (23), who lived with an invalid aunt. On Saturday deceased appeared to be bright and cheerful, but on Sunday was found hanging by a cord in an outhouse. It was stated that she was in trouble. The jury found that deceased committed Suicide whilst Temporarily Insane.”

1901 Census

Wolverhampton Road – ANGEL INN

- [1] *Leighton Scriven* (43), licensed victualler, born Brierley Hill;
- [2] Elizabeth Scriven (40), wife, born Wednesfield;
- [3] Elizabeth Lewis (62), mother, widow, living on means, born Birmingham:

1911 Census

Wolverhampton Road – ANGEL INN

- [1] *Leighton Scriven* (53), licensed victualler, born Brierley Hill;
- [2] Elizabeth Scriven (50), wife, married 10 years, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] Elizabeth Lewis (77), mother, widow, born Birmingham:

Charles Hulse was fined £1 and costs, on 5th May 1916, for selling beer exceeding measure called for.

Charles Hulse – see also MOXLEY ARMS, Darlaston.

1921 Census

6, Wolverhampton Road (West)

- [1] *John Mason* (49), manager public house, born Walsall;
- [2] Rachel J. Mason (44), wife, manageress public house, born Walsall;
- [3] Winifred A. Mason (16), daughter, at home help, born Walsall;
- [4] Edna M. Mason (14), daughter, school, born Walsall;
- [5] John H. Mason (12), son, school, born Walsall:

Birmingham Daily Post 17/8/1951

“The application of a carpenter, aged 20, to be reinstated in his work with an Ettingshall building firm was granted yesterday by Birmingham Reinstatement Committee, and the applicant was awarded compensation. Brian B. Porter, a married man with one child, of the ANGEL INN, Priestfield Road, Wolverhampton, started work for Biddulph and Thrift Ltd, in January 1949, as carpenter-improver. In July of the same year he was called up for the Army. He was discharged in July this year. On applying for his job in person and by letter, he was informed that there was no vacancy.

Mr. Biddulph, a partner in the firm, told the committee that recently many carpenters had been laid off owing to lack of work. A contract for 50 flats was held up for lack of materials. He could not take Porter back now, although he would probably be able to do so in the future.

The committee announced that Porter would have to be reinstated and paid compensation at the rate of £6 10s a week. Allowing for money he had earned in another job, that would amount to £22.”

Lichfield Mercury 27/6/1952

“On Friday evening of last week players and members of the Bulls Head Inn Darts Club, Fradley, had a most enjoyable outing to the ANGEL INN, Priestfield, Wolverhampton. The chairman (Mr. H. Elson) had engaged artistes for the trip. They were Myra (pianist), Tom Harris (conjurer) and Ron Jones (tenor). Refreshments on the bus were in the capable hands of the host and hostess, Mr. A. Jillings and Miss Jacqueline Jillings. On returning to the Bulls Head Inn Mr. Elson thanked the artistes, the secretary and the committee for the success of the outing.”

Express & Star 14/1/2017

“Officers surrounded the ANGEL INN on Bilston Road, Bilston, where around 55 Villa supporters had gathered for pre-match drinks. A total of 35 fans were issued with dispersal orders and escorted to the nearby Priestfield metro station where they were put on a tram back to Birmingham despite having tickets for the game. Midland Metro said it had handed Tram 24 over to West Midlands Police and that it was out of service for a period for this afternoon. Inspector James Merchant confirmed there had been no fighting but police were concerned that the size of the group could have lead to an outbreak of disorder. About 30 police officers, some with dogs, took part in the operation between 3pm and 5pm.”

Express & Star 2/8/2019

“Wolves’ latest signings have taken in the sights of Wolverhampton with a stop off at a city pub. While the rest of the squad claimed victory in the Europa League, the new additions were getting a rousing Black Country welcome in their new homes. The old gold and black signed Jesus Vallejo on a season-long loan from Real Madrid, followed by a potential £20 million deal for AC Milan striker Patrick Cutrone. And both took to the ANGEL INN in Bilston to meet their fans and watch Wolves’ victory.

Nuno Espirito Santo’s side claimed a 4-1 triumph over Northern Ireland team Crusaders, winning the Europa League tie 6-1 on aggregate. The new signings visited the Bilston Road pub for a meal during the match, which they closely watched. Staff at the pub were notified around 30 minutes before the pair arrived.

Owner Bahada Shergill said, ‘They stayed for a meal and for the end of the match. We spoke to them afterwards and had a chat. I’m a big Wolves fan and it was a bit of a shock. It’s absolutely brilliant – quite a big thing and the customers enjoyed taking photographs and talking with them. And they enjoyed the match quite a bit.’

The signings sat at a table with Wolves legend Steve Bull while they were watching the match, at around 8pm on Thursday.

‘They were completely friendly, even with the customers,’ he said. ‘People were going over to ask them for photographs and autographs and they didn’t say ‘no’ once. I’m going to actually get the photograph framed.’

Mr. Shergill said the pair were going to make a ‘good impact’ on the team this season. ‘I think they will do brilliantly – Wolves did well last season, so things will only get bigger and better. It’s a big thing – we’ve never had anyone from Wolves come before, but the majority in here are Wolves supporters.’”

[2023]



2023

BALL COURT

1, Stafford Street / Church Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Mrs. Fanny Eyre, Elmswood, Penn Road, Wolverhampton

LICENSEES

Thomas Johnson [1842]
Henry James Lester [1849] – [1852]
Mrs. Amelia Walleth [1854]
John Walleth [1854] – [1860]
George Reay [1861]
James Colclough [1862] – [1862]
Charles Tizard [] – **1863**;
Charles Smith (**1863** – [])
John Smith [1864] – [1871]
Reuben Lawrence [1872] – **1874**;
Mrs. Ann Lawrence (**1874** – **1875**);
Ann Rogers (**1875** – **1876**);
William Jones (**1876** – **1877**);
John Jones (**1877**);
Thomas Prime (**1877** – **1884**);
Walter Ray Campbell (**1884** – **1886**);
John Gardiner (**1886** – **1888**);
William Edwards (**1888** – **1889**);
Thomas Jones (**1889** – **1890**);

EXCELLENT PUBLIC HOUSE,
The BALL COURT, Stafford-street, Bilston.
TO be disposed of, the Licence, Good-will, and valuable Possession of the above well-accustomed Public House, known by the sign of the **BALL COURT**, in Stafford-street, Bilston, to which is attached a good and respectable club; together with the Fixtures and part of the Brewing Vessels and other effects. The premises consist of six sleeping-rooms, club-room, two parlours, bar, tap-room, three cellars, entire yard, good brewhouse, malt-room, stable, a fives-court, skittle alley, piggeries, cistern, and good well of water, held at the rent of £35 per annum. The coming-in will not exceed £50.
For further particulars apply on the premises (if by letter, post paid).

1837

TO BE LET,
And may be entered upon immediately,
THAT old-established and well-accustomed **PUBLIC HOUSE**, known by the sign of "the Ball Court," situated in Stafford-street, Bilston. The fixtures, &c. to be taken at a fair valuation.—For further particulars apply to Mr. THOMAS JOHNSON, on the premises.

1842

NOTES

Wolverhampton Express and Star 5/12/1881

"Bilston Fifty Years Ago from a 1827 directory.....

The dignity of the law was then deposited in the parish constable and his deputy, and well on the whole they sustained it until 1829, when the 'new policemen' were created by Sir Robert Peel's Act, the first gaol for the town being the building now known as the BALL COURT INN, Stafford Street."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 18/9/1837 - Advert

"Excellent Public House, the BALL COURT, Stafford Street, Bilston.

To be disposed of, the License, Goodwill, and valuable Possession of the above well-accustomed Public House, known by the sign of the BALL COURT, in Stafford Street, Bilston, to which is attached a good and respectable club; together with the Fixtures and part of the Brewing Vessels and other effects. The premises consist of six sleeping-rooms, club-room, two parlours, bar, tap-room, three cellars, entire yard, good brewhouse, malt-room, stable, a fives-court, skittle alley, piggeries, cistern, and good well of water, held at the rent of £35 per annum. The coming-in will not exceed £50.

For further particulars apply on the premises (if by letter, post paid)."

Northern Star and Leeds General Advertiser 3/7/1841

“Wolverhampton and Bilston. The cause of Chartism is springing freely forward here. The Wolverhampton friends have engaged Mr. Candy, whose indefatigable exertions as a lecturer are doing much. He addressed a numerous meeting at Brigg’s Coffee House, Wolverhampton, on Wednesday, and an open air meeting in the BALLS COURT, Bilston, on Thursday. The Bilston Committee wish to impress upon their Wolverhampton, Darlaston, and Wednesbury friends the necessity of appointing persons to raise subscriptions towards paying Mr. Candy’s engagement. We sincerely hope that all who are favourable to the principles of the People’s Charter will give their mite.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/12/1842 - Advert

“To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately.

That old-established and well-accustomed Public House, known by the sign of the BALL COURT, situated in Stafford Street, Bilston. The fixtures, &c, to be taken at a fair valuation.

For further particulars apply to Mr. *Thomas Johnson*, on the premises.”

Henry James Lester = Henry James Lister

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/8/1849

“An inquest was held on Wednesday last at the house of *Henry James Lester*, Stafford Street, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of a newly born female child, which had been found on a pit bank in Riley’s field, about nine o’clock that morning, by Mary Ann Shinton, a single woman, who stated in her evidence that as she was walking along a footpath in the field she saw a child wrapped in some dirty calico lying on the pit bank. She lifted up one of its legs, and found that it was a newly born female child, apparently dead. She immediately made an alarm and sent to the police station, Bilston. She had not any suspicion who the mother of the infant was.

Inspector Thompson deposed that on going to the spot where the child was found he examined the body, but could not detect any bruises or marks of violence upon it. He afterwards made every inquiry in his power to discover the mother of the infant, but had not succeeded, nor had he any suspicion who the mother was.

Mr. T. H. Dickenson, surgeon, described the appearances which presented themselves on a post mortem examination of the body, and gave it as his opinion that the child was born alive; but having stated that he did not open the head, nor examine the stomach or intestines, the coroner adjourned the inquiry until Monday for the production of further evidence.

On Monday last the investigation was resumed, when Mr. Dickenson stated that he had examined the stomach and intestines of the child. The former was empty and the intestines only contained meconium, which was natural to all newly born infants. He was of opinion that the deceased had not taken any food. He believed that deceased’s death was caused by suffocation, but could not say positively that such was the case.

The jury returned a verdict to the effect that the child was found dead, but by what means it came to its death there was not sufficient evidence to show.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 14/9/1850 - Notice

“To the Owners of Property, Rate Payers, and other persons having power to vote in the Election of Persons to Act as Commissioners under the Bilston Improvement Act, 1850.

We the undersigned being two of the Overseers of the Poor of the Township of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, do hereby give notice, that we have appointed Tuesday, the twenty-fourth day of September instant, to take the Election of Persons to act as Commissioners for the ensuing year under the Bilston Improvement Act, 1850. And we further give notice, that we have fixed the BALL COURT Yard, Stafford Street, in the said Township of Bilston, as the place for the Election of the said Commissioners under the said Act; and that we shall proceed to take the Election of the said Commissioners at the said BALL COURT Yard, Stafford Street, in the said Township of Bilston, at the hour of nine o’clock in the forenoon of the said Tuesday, the twenty-fourth of September instant.

Dated this thirteenth day of September, 1850.

Joseph Spencer. Jabez Morrell. Overseers of the Poor of the Township of Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/4/1852 - Advert

“The BALL COURT INN at Bilston.

To be Let, the above excellent Old Licensed House and Premises, doing a good business, and situate in the most populous part of Bilston. The Stock and Fixtures to be taken by valuation, and immediate possession can be given. Apply to Mr. *Lister*, on the premises; or to W. Aston, Auctioneer and Public House Agent, Queen Street, Wolverhampton.”

Amelia Wallett = Amelia Wallet

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/10/1853

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Charles Lyth, 21, for obtaining by false pretences from *Amelia Wallett*, at Bilston, a quantity of bread, butter, tea, and other articles, to the amount of 4s 10½d, with intent to defraud *John Wallett* of the same, to be imprisoned six months. At the last Midsummer Sessions he was sentenced to two months’ imprisonment for stealing a handkerchief, and about two days after his discharge was committed for trial on the present charge.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/8/1854

“The annual meeting of Magistrates for granting and renewing publican’s licenses in the parish of Bilston and Sedgley was held on Friday last, in the Bilston Police Court.....

There were eleven applications for new licenses which were disposed of as follows.....

An application made by Mr. Underhill, for a license to the GOOD FELLOWS ARMS, Bilston, in the occupation of Mr. T. Brooks, which was opposed by Mrs. *Amelia Wallet*, occupying the BALL COURT, an adjoining house, was refused.”

John Wallett = John Wallet = John Willett

Birmingham Journal 22/9/1855

“*John Wallett*, of the BALL COURT, Stafford Street, Bilston, was fined £5, for carrying passengers in a cart. proceeding at a greater rate than four miles an hour, not having a license to do so.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/9/1855

“*John Willett*, proprietor of the BALL COURT INN, Stafford Street, Bilston, appeared on an information, issued at the instance of the Board of Inland Revenue, charging him with keeping a stage carriage without a license. Mr. Dance appeared in support of the information, and Mr. Bartlett was for the defence.

Mr. Dance explained that, according to the Act under which the information was laid, a stage carriage was a vehicle in which persons were conveyed at a rate exceeding four miles an hour, each party so conveyed being charged a separate fare.

George Palmer was then called, and from his statement it appeared that the defendant advertised an excursion to Sutton Park for the 31st July, the fare being 6s, including refreshments, or 3s exclusive of refreshments. Witness, on the previous evening, went to defendant, purchased a 3s ticket for the excursion, and was duly ready next morning for the ‘start,’ but experienced some difficulty in ‘getting off,’ and eventually had to place himself in a cart with five others. It was, however, drawn by a ‘capital horse,’ and they went at the rate of six miles an hour into Walsall, where witness quitted the vehicle.

It was contended, in defence, that the vehicle in which the witness rode did not belong to the defendant, and that it had not been hired by him, but was the conveyance of a private party, and the driver of the cart was called in support of the statement.

The Magistrates said, however, that there must be a conviction in the case, but mitigated the penalty to one-fourth, £5.”

1861 Census

1, Stafford Street

[1] George Reay (46), publican, born Great Haywood, Staffordshire;

[2] Ann Reay (41), wife, born Stone, Staffordshire;

[3] Mary Ann Kent (18), step-daughter, scholar, born Chebsey, Staffordshire;

[4] Josiah Kent (12), step-son, scholar, born Chebsey, Staffordshire;

[5] Eliza Kent (5), step-daughter, scholar, born Wolverhampton:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 25/9/1861 - Advert

“Death Makes a Change.

By Altree and Son. To Be Let, that old-licensed business premises, the BALL COURT INN, Bilston, doing a good in and out-door trade. The house contains eleven rooms, an American bowling alley, three cellars, brewhouse, malt room, two large yards, stables, piggeries, kitchen, garden, &c. Rent £25; part let off. In-coming, £200.

Apply on the premises, or to Messrs. Altree and Son, Publicans Valuers, 1, Bromsgrove Street, Smithfield, Birmingham.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/3/1862 - Advert

“To be Let, with immediate possession, in the centre of the flourishing town of Bilston, and old-established Public House, with American bowl-alley attached, together with the steam engine, boiler, horses, carts, &c, which have been used by Mr. Barnfield, of Moxley, in carrying on the business of a ginger beer manufacturer. The present proprietor being about to leave England is the reason for parting with the same. The purchaser will at once be introduced to a first-rate connection for the ensuing season.

To treat for the same, apply to Mr. *Jas. Colclough*, BALL COURT INN, Bilston; or to Messrs. Hill and Son, Auctioneers, Longton.”

Birmingham Journal 26/4/1862 - Advert

“Valuable Old-Licensed Inn, the BALL COURT INN, Stafford Street, Church Street, Bilston, near Railway Station. By Gilbert and Son. To be Disposed Of, this well-known Inn, in the centre of the town, with an excellent trade. The Premises comprise a large Yard, with Piggeries, Stabling, a covered Bowling Alley, large Club Room, numerous Bed Rooms, &c.

Attached to it is a Ginger Beer Manufactory, with Engine, &c, complete, now transacting a lucrative trade.

The rent of the whole Premises is only £25. Valuation about £300.

Apply to Gilbert and son, Auctioneers, Ann Street, Birmingham.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 17/5/1862 - Advert

“Household Furniture, Brewing Vessels, Public House Fixtures, Horse Cart, One-Horse Steam Engine and Boiler, Ginger Beer Making and Bottling Machines, Stock of Glass Bottles, Ale, Porter, Spirits, American Bowling Alley, and all other Effects.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Hill and Son, on Monday, May 19th, and following day if necessary, on the premises of Mr. *J. Colclough*, BALL COURT INN, Stafford Street, Bilston.

The Furniture comprises French and iron bedsteads, mattresses, feather beds, bedding, painted washstands and dressing tables, toilet ware, toilet glasses, chests of drawers, chairs, tables, forms, variety of kitchen requisites, excellent brewing vessels, light cart, pony, one-horse steam engine and boiler, ginger beer making and bottling machines, stock of ale and spirits, American bowling alley, and a variety of other Effects.

Sale each day at one o'clock.

Auction Offices, Longton, and Sutherland Cottage.”

Charles Tizard – see also LION, Coseley Street, EXCHANGE VAULTS, and FORESTERS ARMS.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/12/1868

"Yesterday, at Bilston Police Court, before I. Spooner, Esq, *John Smith*, landlord of the BALL COURT INN, Stafford Street; Evan Griffiths, BRICKMAKERS [sic] ARMS, Greencroft Street; and John Lloyd, SWAN INN, Swan Bank, were charged, for that they being ale house keepers, did knowingly suffer gaming in their houses. Mr. Young, of the Oxford Circuit, instructed by Mr. Bowen, appeared on behalf of the defendants. The case against *John Smith* was heard first.

Police-sergeant Chatfield stated that at between seven and eight o'clock on the evening of Saturday, the 7th November, he visited the bowling alley of *John Smith*, in company with Police-constable Moffatt. When he went in, there were about ten or twelve persons (men and boys) there. Four of them were bowling, and the landlord was present with a book in his hand, taking down the number of pins that each bowler knocked over. When they had done bowling the two losers paid the defendant twopence each, and he then gave the winners a brass 'cheque' each, similar to the one produced, which would entitle the holders to two penny worth of liquor in the defendant's house, or a cigar.

Cross-examined by Mr. Young: He was in the house about half an hour, and saw four or five games. He was known well there as a Bilston police officer, and notwithstanding his presence the defendant continued to superintend the bowling and to carry on the transactions with the cheques during the whole time he was there. He believed that the defendant's house had been well conducted; but he could not go so far as to say that it was as well conducted as any in the town. There had been no complaint made respecting it. There had been a bowling alley at the house for about six months. It was one of the first opened in Bilston, and they had been only recently introduced into the town. He had heard that the defendant was under the impression that his allowing the bowling for cheques was not illegal.

No other witness was called on the part of the prosecution, and Mr. Young, on behalf of the defendant, said that, as he had intimated at the commencement, he did not intend to plead 'not guilty' to the charge; but he was anxious that Mr. Spooner should have the facts in reference to the case brought before him, because it appeared to him to be very different to that class of cases where offences were committed rather in defiance than in ignorance of the law. There was no doubt that the defendant had committed the offence, but there was also no doubt that he did so under the impression that what was taking place in his house was not illegal, but on the contrary was a legal act. The law had been clearly laid down that bowling 'for money, or money's worth' was alike illegal, but the question in the present case, was whether, under the circumstances, the defendant was a person against whom anything like a severe penalty should be inflicted. There was no doubt, although they had not got at that in a strictly legal form, that it had come to the knowledge of the police-officer that the defendant had been acting under a wrong impression in the matter, before he visited the house. Bowling alleys had only been recently introduced into Bilston, and that probably might somewhat account for the ignorance of the law relating to them; but he was sure that after receiving this legal notice, as it were, of the illegality of such transactions as referred to, they should hear of no more offences of that character. Mr. Spooner said there had been no previous complaint against the defendant, and he should impose a fine of 1s and costs. That kind of thing must be put a stop to, however, and if it was continued the utmost penalty must be inflicted. Mr. Young observed that the cases as against the other two defendants were exactly similar.

Chief-Superintendent McCrea, in reply to Mr. Spooner, said he had received numerous complaints recently from the parents of boys who visited these bowling saloons.

The two defendants, Griffiths and Smith [sic], pleaded guilty, and the same penalty was imposed on each as in the previous case; but Mr. Spooner observed that he was empowered at once to fine them £10, and he was sure he should not hesitate if another case came before him, because, as had been shown, so much mischief was done by that kind of thing, and especially to boys."

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 12/12/1868

"*John Smith*, landlord of the BALL COURT INN, Stafford Street; Evan Griffiths, BRICKMAKERS [sic] ARMS, Greencroft Street; and John Lloyd, SWAN INN, Swan Bank, were all fined 1s and costs for permitting gaming in their houses."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/5/1869

"Yesterday, at the Police Court, before Mr. I. Spooner (Stipendiary).....

John Smith, of the BALL COURT INN, Stafford Street, was charged with having permitted skittle playing in his house. Police-constable Cockerell proved having seen several men playing at defendant's house, and heard them betting with checks, which represented 2d. Defendant was fined 40s and costs."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/8/1869

"The annual licensing meeting for the Bilston division took place yesterday, at the Police Court.....

The following is the list of the licensed victuallers who have been fined during the year.....

Allowing Gambling *John Smith*, BALL COURT, Stafford Street, Bilston, 1s and costs, and another offence, £5 and costs.

The licenses of the following publicans were suspended until the adjourned licensing meeting.....

John Smith, BALL COURT, Bilston."

1871 Census

1, Stafford Street

[1] *John Smith* (60), victualler employing 1 man, born Bilston;

[2] *Elizabeth Smith* (57), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Charles Smith* (24), son, professor of music, born Bilston;

[4] *Margaret Smith* (19), daughter, victualler's assistant, born Bilston;

[5] *Lucy Smith* (17), daughter, victualler's assistant, born Bilston;

[6] *Teresa Smith* (15), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[7] *Albert Berry* (21), nephew, upholsterer, born Birmingham;

[8] *Patrick Cunane* (31), brewer, born Mayo, Ireland;

[9] *Sarah Jones* (18), general servant, born Portobello:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/4/1871 - Advert

"The BALL COURT INN, one of the best-paying Old-licensed Inns in the Midland Counties. Brews 16 bushels weekly; also large Spirit Trade. Excellent House for Family. Large Yard, suitable for Cab Proprietor or Coal Merchant. Valuation about £120. Rent £25. Present Proprietor retiring from Business.

Apply, Bayley and Roberts, Auctioneers, Walsall."

Midland Examiner 16/1/1875

"A young man named William Worton was brought up in custody charged with having been drunk and assaulting Police-constable Wiley.

The constable stated that on the previous Saturday night, at 10 o'clock, he was sent for to the BALL COURT INN, Stafford Street, Bilston. On going to that place he saw the prisoner, who was stripped to the shirt, and was fighting with another man. He was bleeding from the nose, and was like a madman. At the request of the landlady, witness proceeded to put him out of the house, but as soon as witness took hold of him he (prisoner) struck him on the mouth. Police-constable Smith came to his assistance, and they got the prisoner to the station.

Ann Lawrence, the landlady of the house, was then charged with permitting drunkenness in her house.

Police-constable Wiley repeated his evidence, and said that when he went into the house the landlady told him that the prisoner was the cause of all the mischief. He had never known anything wrong of the house before.

Police-constable Smith gave corroborative evidence.

Mr. Fellows, who appeared for Mrs. *Lawrence*, said that the prisoner and another man entered the house, and, walking steadily, he appeared to be quite sober. No drink was supplied to him except by the customers in the room, but after he had been there a short time he became very disorderly, and it was then apparent that he was not sober. The waiter ordered him to leave the house, but he refused, and continued his ill-behaviour, and a policeman was then sent for. The landlady gave evidence to this effect.

John Howell also made a similar statement. According to his evidence he is a paddler by trade, but fills up his time with assisting the landlady of the inn, having adopted Longfellow's 'Psalm of Life' so far that he has 'learned to labour and to wait.' In addition to waiting, however, he had a musical talent, and was a source of pleasure to the song-loving customers. Accordingly, on the night in question, he was called upon for a song, and he appeared on the stage, and favoured the company with a display of his vocal powers. The harmony, however, led to discord, for the prisoner and some other men commenced a dance, and a general disturbance took place.

Mr. Spooner said he had no doubt that the men got drunk in the house. It was a most serious offence, and every one must know the intense, cruel mischief caused by drink. He should fine the defendant £5 and costs, but, in consideration of the previous good character of the house, he would not endorse the license.

David Howell was then charged with assaulting Susannah Worton, wife of the prisoner in the first case. She said she accompanied her husband to the house on the night in question, and when she suggested to her husband that it was time to return home, the defendant David Howell struck her and threw her down.

Rosannah Birks corroborated the woman's statement.

Mr. Fellows, for the defendant, denied that any such assault was committed, as was alleged by the complainant, and called a witness to prove that that was so.

In this case the Stipendiary ordered the defendant to pay the costs.

With reference to the charges against Worton, he was fined 10s 6d for the drunkenness, and 20s for the assault on the policeman, with the alternative of three weeks' residence at Stafford."

Birmingham Daily Post 28/8/1875

"Yesterday, there was an annual licensing meeting for the Bilston Petty Sessional Division.....

Chief-superintendent McCrea presented the 'black list.' The licensed victuallers who had been fined during the year were.....

Ann Lawrence, BALL COURT, permitting drunkenness, £5 and costs.....

All the old licenses would be renewed, excepting those of holders who had been convicted. Their applications would be deferred until the adjourned licensing day."

[Renewed with a caution at the adjourned brewster sessions.]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 17/6/1876 - Advert

"Bilston, Staffordshire. To be Disposed Of, in consequence of ill-health, that well-known Old-Licensed Public House, known as the BALL COURT INN; immediate possession may be had. Apply on the Premises."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 21/10/1879 - Advert

"Quadrille Party every Tuesday evening at Mr. *Prime's* BALL COURT, Stafford Street, Bilston. Admission 3d."

QUADRILLE Party every Tuesday evening at Mr. Prime's Ball Court, Stafford-street, Bilston. Admission 3d.

1881 Census

1, Stafford Street – BALL COURT INN

[1] *Thomas Prime* (61), licensed victualler, born Birmingham;

[2] *Sarah Prime* (55), wife, born Brewood;

[3] *Alice Rawson* (14), general servant, born Bilston;

[4] *William G. Tench* (13), nephew, scholar, born Tettenhall;

[5] *Alfred I. Leache* (31), lodger, general agent, born Birmingham;

[6] *Charles Crilley* (38), lodger, tinner, born Bristol:

Darlaston Weekly Times 30/12/1882 - Advert

"BALL COURT INN Music Hall, Stafford Street, Bilston, open every Saturday and Monday Evening.

Proprietor, Mr. *Thomas Prime*.

Engagement of the Brothers Franks, the Favourite Negro Artistes, in New Songs, Dances, and Sketches.

Come and See the real and original Runaway Jack.

Look Out for the great Champion Clog Contest.

Mr. *Thomas Prime* intends giving a Massive Silver Medal, to be danced for. The winner of the same will be entitled to the title of Champion, open to all Comers.

Due Notice of the Contest will be given in future Advertisements.

Splendid Home Brewed Christmas Ale now on tap. Don't forget Saturdays and Mondays."

Thomas Prime – see also BELL, Wood Street.

Darlaston Weekly Times 22/3/1884 - Advert

"To Let, with immediate possession, Old Licensed Public House, known as the BALL COURT INN, Stafford Street, Bilston. The house contains Bar, Smoke Room, Tap Room, Kitchen, Six Bed Rooms, Club Room; also a large Concert Room, capital premises. Incoming at Valuation.

Apply, John Skidmore, Auctioneer and Valuer, Lichfield Street, Bilston."

Darlaston Weekly Times 12/4/1884 - Advert

“Sale by Messrs Payton and Hill. Under Bill of Sale and Rent.

Sale at the BALL COURT INN, License and Possession, Stafford Street, Bilston, on Tuesday Next, April 15th, 1884. Messrs. Payton and Hill will Sell by Auction, the whole of the Public House Fixtures, and Effects, Excellent Brewing Plant, Household Furniture, and other Effects, comprising 5-pull beer machine, with piping and taps; large mash tub, ale cooling vats, receiving vat in cellar, copper bottom sieves, 200-gallon wrought iron brewing boiler, with underwork and brickwork; spirit barrels, range of shelving, large concert room, about 30ft by 16ft with wood top and front, and three windows; wood shed covering marble ally, twelve back rail and other benches, nine tables, 5 Spanish fowl, bedsteads, mattresses, beds, chairs, sofas, pictures, jugs, glasses, clocks, &c. Auctioneers Offices, 1, High Street, Bilston.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 20/9/1884

“*Walter Ray Campbell*, BALL COURT INN, Stafford Street, Bilston, was charged with having George Caswell drunk on his premises on Tuesday evening, at 7-40, he having called on his way home from Willenhall Wake. Fined 5s and costs.

George Caswell was charged with being drunk as above. Fined 2s 6d and costs.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 4/7/1885 - Advert

“New Theatre Royal, Bilston.

Second appearance of the Excelsior Dramatic Club, held at the BALL COURT INN, Stafford Street, Bilston, under the superintendence of Mr. *W. Campbell*.....”

Sporting Life 30/11/1889 - Advert

“Victoria Grounds, Rough Hills, Wolverhampton.

Mr. *Thomas Jones*, of the BALL COURT INN, Bilston, will give £10 to be run for in an All-England 145 Foot Handicap on Saturdays, December 7 and 14. Entrance (6d each) to be made not later than Tuesday next, December 3 (Wednesday’s post in time). All entries to be made to Mr. *Jones*, BALL COURT INN, Bilston, or to the grounds. NB. Fair play, and no favour.”

Sporting Life 7/12/1889 - Advert

“Wolverhampton and District, Victoria Grounds, Rough Hills.

Mr. *T. Jones* – of the BALL COURT INN, Bilston – 145 Yards £10 Pedestrian Handicap has closed with a good entry and will start this day (Saturday), when there will be some close and interesting sport. First heat at half-past two pm.”

Sporting Life 22/1/1890

“Wolverhampton and District, Victoria Recreation Grounds.

Only a moderate company of spectators assembled at these grounds on Saturday last, the occasion being a 300 yards pedestrian handicap, start and finish same day, promoted by Mr. *T. Jones*, of the BALL COURT INN, Bilston. The weather in the morning was very miserable, dark clouds looming in the distance, which threatened every minute to part, and deluge poor Mother Earth with their rainy tears. Towards noon, however, prospects were brightened by the feeble rays of the sun, but to make matters more lively a boisterous wind sprang up, and played such howling tunes around the stand, that it threatened every minute to give way. Despite this the proceedings were satisfactorily got through. Seventy-seven pedes entered their names for the handicap, and were drawn into seven heats, and besides the usual prize money special prizes were offered for the fastest time, which was won by Ben Burns, of Darlaston, who, it will be remembered, ran second to Jackson in the final of the £100 handicap at Powderhall Grounds, Edinburgh. Not only did he win the special prize, but the handicap as well.....

It was getting dark when the men turned out for the final, which ended thus – Burns, first; Bradley, second; Earley, third; Smith, fourth; Shakespeare, 0; Nede, 0; Rowley, 0. Won by three quarters of a yard; a yard and a half between second and third, and one yard third and fourth; the others close up. Mr. J. Green was pistol-firer, and Mr. *T. Jones* was referee and timekeeper.”

Nottingham Evening Post 8/8/1890

“A Betting Publican Trapped by the Police.

By the Wolverhampton stipendiary, today, *Thomas Jones*, landlord of the BALL COURT INN, Bilston, was fined £44 0s 8d, including costs, for permitting his house to be used for the purposes of betting on horse races. Pc Dealey, a sharp officer attached to the neighbouring Handsworth Division, went to the defendant's house in disguise on four different dates. On each occasion he saw between 30 and 40 persons making bets with the landlord. He also made three bets himself, and afterwards received the money he had won.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 9/8/1890

“Yesterday, at the Wolverhampton Police Court – before Mr. Neville, the stipendiary – *Thomas Jones*, landlord of the BALL COURT INN, Stafford Street, Bilston, was summoned for permitting his licensed premises to be used for the purpose of betting on July 1, 2, 3, and 15. Mr. H. Pratt appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. A. Whitehouse for the defence.

Evidence was given by Police-constable Daley, of Handsworth, that he visited the house on the 1st ult and saw a man write ‘Theodore 2.5, 2s, J. Darby,’ on a piece of paper, wrap up the money in the paper, and hand it to Robert Bevan. During the dinner hour thirty or forty persons, chiefly working men, entered the house and made bets. At night the landlord hung up the last edition of the *Sporting Chronicle*, and asked several men what was coming to them. Being told, he handed them money. The officer stated that a similar state of things prevailed on the 2nd, 3rd, and 15th ult, on which occasion he made bets.

Police-constable Reynolds, of Smethwick, said he visited defendant's house on the 15th ult, and gave Bevan slips of paper with ‘Morian’ and True Blue II’ written on them, and 2s. He saw Police-constable Daley give 2s to Bevan, who handed them and other bets to the defendant. When Daley left the house the defendant asked who he was, and said, ‘I think he is a D. If you get ketched it means ruination to a man. If there is one policeman I will swear my life away, but if there is two I will give in in a minute.’

The Stipendiary said there was no doubt the house was kept for the purpose of betting, and defendant and Bevan kept a regular gaming house. The one solitary thing in defendant's favour was that he had not been fined before. In this instance he would be fined £10 and costs in each case, and the license would be endorsed. The fines and costs amounted to £44 5s 8d.”

The license renewal was refused at the General Annual Licensing Meeting on 22nd August 1890.

Birmingham Daily Post 23/8/1890

“The licensing sessions for Bilston division were held yesterday, before Messrs. S. Loveridge, H. H. Ward, F. A. Homer, and J. L. Gibbons.....

Chief-Superintendent Longden reported that there were in the division 206 fully-licensed houses, 150 beerhouses to sell on, 38 beerhouses to sell off, 6 refreshment houses, 6 grocers licenses; total 406. There had been fifty-eight transfers since the last annual licensing meeting. During the year three licensed victuallers and four beerhouse keepers had been proceeded against for offences against their licenses – one licensed victualler convicted and two dismissed, three beerhouse keepers convicted and one dismissed.....

The first application for renewal was that by *Thomas Jones*, of the BALL COURT INN, Stafford Street, Bilston. Chief-Superintendent Longden objected to the license. Inspector Harrison deposed that he was at the Wolverhampton Petty Sessions on the 8th August, when *Jones* was fined £10 and costs on each on four summonses charging him with permitting betting, and the license endorsed. Mr. Waterhouse, of Sedgley, appeared on behalf of the owner, Mrs. Eyre, of Wolverhampton, who let the house to *Jones*. Until the informations in the betting case were laid she did not know but that the house was conducted in a proper manner. Mrs. Eyre had since had made arrangements to let the house to the South Staffordshire Brewery Company. He applied that the license might be renewed to *Jones* as a matter of form while arrangements were being made for a transfer. Mr. Longden said the owner of the house was quite aware of what was carried on, as she went to the house to collect the rent. Mr. Waterhouse said the law never intended to punish the owner of the property unless the owner was in fault. In this case the owner was not in fault.

Mr. Loveridge: Mr. Longden says she knew. It is a bad case for the owner of the property, but Mr. Longden objects altogether to the renewal of the license. I do not think we can grant it.”

TO the OWNERS of PROPERTY, RATE-PAYERS, and other persons having power to vote in the ELECTION of PERSONS to ACT as COMMISSIONERS under the BILSTON IMPROVEMENT ACT, 1850.

We the undersigned being two of the Overseers of the Poor of the Township of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, do hereby give notice, that we have appointed Tuesday, the twenty-fourth day of September instant, to take the Election of Persons to act as Commissioners for the ensuing year under the "Bilston Improvement Act, 1850." And we further give notice, that we have fixed the Ball Court-yard, Stafford-street, in the said Township of Bilston, as the place for the Election of the said Commissioners under the said Act; and that we shall proceed to take the Election of the said Commissioners at the said Ball Court-yard, Stafford-street, in the said Township of Bilston, at the hour of nine o'clock in the forenoon of the said Tuesday, the twenty-fourth of September instant.

Dated this thirteenth day of September, 1850.

JOSEPH SPENCER,
JABEZ MORRELL,

Overseers of the Poor of the Township of Bilston.

1850

THE BALL COURT, INN AT BILSTON.

TO BE LET, the above excellent OLD LICENSED HOUSE and PREMISES, doing a good business, and situate in the most populous part at Bilston. The Stock and Fixtures to be taken by valuation, and immediate possession can be given.

Apply to Mr. LISTER, on the premises; or to W. ASTON, Auctioneer and Public House Agent, Queen-street, Wolverhampton.

1852

DEATH MAKES A CHANGE.

BY ALTREE and SON.—TO BE LET, that old-licensed business premises, the BALL COURT INN, Bilston, doing a good in and out-door trade. The house contains eleven rooms, an American bowling alley, three cellars, brew-house, malt room, two large yards, stables, piggeries, kitchen, garden, &c. Rent, £25; part let off. In-coming, £200.—Apply on the premises, or to Messrs. ALTREE and Son, 'Publicans' Valuers, 1, Bromsgrove-street, Smithfield, Birmingham.

1861

TO BE LET, with immediate possession, in the centre of the flourishing town of BILSTON, an old-established PUBLIC-HOUSE, with American bowli-alley attached, together with the steam engine, boiler, horses, carts, &c., which have been used by Mr. Barnfield, of Moxley, in carrying on the business of a ginger beer manufacturer. The present proprietor being about to leave England is the reason for parting with the same. The purchaser will at once be introduced to a first-rate connection for the ensuing season.—To treat for the same, apply to Mr. JAS COLCLOUGH, Ball Court Inn, Bilston; or to Messrs. HILL and SON, Auctioneers, Longton.

VALUABLE OLD-LICENSED INN, "THE BALL COURT INN,"
STAFFORD STREET, CHURCH STREET, BILSTON, near
Railway Station.

BY GILBERT and SON.—TO BE DISPOSED OF, this well known INN, in the centre of the town, with an excellent trade. The Premises comprise a large Yard, with Piggeries, Stabling, a covered Bowling Alley, large Club Room, numerous Bed Rooms, &c.

Attached to it is a GINGER BEER MANUFACTORY, with Engine, &c., complete, now transacting a lucrative trade. The rent of the whole Premises is only £25. Valuation about £300.

Apply to Gilbert and Son, Auctioneers, Ann Street, Birmingham.

1862

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, BREWING VESSELS, PUBLIC-HOUSE FIXTURES, HORSE, CART, ONE-HORSE STEAM ENGINE and BOILER, GINGER BEER MAKING and BOTTLING MACHINES, Stock of GLASS BOTTLES, ALE, PORTER, SPIRITS, AMERICAN BOWLING ALLEY, and all other Effects.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by Messrs. HILL and SON, on Monday, May 19th, and following day if necessary, on the premises of Mr. J. Colclough, BALL COURT INN, STAFFORD-STREET, BILSTON.

The Furniture comprises French and iron bedsteads, mattresses, feather beds, bedding, painted washstands and dressing tables, toilet ware, toilet glasses, chests of drawers, chairs, tables, forms, variety of kitchen requisites, excellent brewing vessels, light cart, pony, one-horse steam engine and boiler, ginger beer making and bottling machines, stock of ale and spirits, American bowling alley, and a variety of other Effects.

Sale each day at one o'clock.

Auction Offices, Longton, and Sutherland Cottage.

1862

THE BALL COURT INN, one of the best-paying Old-licensed Inns in the Midland Counties. Brews 16 bushels weekly; also large Spirit Trade. Excellent House for Family. Large Yard, suitable for Oak Proprietor or Coal Merchant. Valuation about £120. Rent £25. Present Proprietor retiring from Business.—Apply, Bayley and Roberts, Auctioneers, Walsall.

1871

BILSTON, STAFFORDSHIRE.—To be DISPOSED OF, in consequence of ill-health, that well-known OLD-LICENSED PUBLIC-HOUSE, known as the Ball Court Inn; immediate possession may be had.—Apply on the Premises.

1876

BALL COURT INN MUSIC HALL, STAFFORD-ST., BILSTON, OPEN EVERY SATURDAY & MONDAY EVENING.

Proprietor ... MR. THOS. PRIME.
Engagement of the BROTHERS FRANKS,
The Favourite Negro Artistes, in New
Songs, Dances, and Sketches.
Come and See the real and original
RUNAWAY JACK.

Look Out for the great CHAMPION CLOG
CONTEST.

Mr Thomas Prime intends giving a Massive Silver Medal, to be danced for. The winner of the same will be entitled to the title of Champion, open to all Comers.

Due Notice of the Contest will be given in future Advertisements.

Splendid Home Brewed Christmas Ale now on tap. Don't forget Saturdays and Mondays.

1882

TO LET, with immediate possession, OLD LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE, known as the "BALL COURT INN," Stafford Street, Bilston. The house contains Bar, Smoke Room, Tap Room, Kitchen, Six Bed Rooms, CLUB ROOM; also large CONCERT ROOM, capital premises. Incoming at Valuation.—Apply, John Skidmore, Auctioneer and Valuer, Lichfield Street, Bilston.

VICTORIA GROUNDS, ROUGH HILLS, WOLVERHAMPTON.

Mr. Thomas Jones, of the Ball Court Inn, Bilston, will give £10 to be run for in an All-England 145 Foot Handicap on Saturdays, December 7 and 14. Entrance (6d. each) to be made not later than Tuesday next, December 3 (Wednesday's post in time). All entries to be made to Mr. Jones, Ball Court Inn, Bilston, or to the grounds. N.B.—Fair play, and no favour.

1889

SALE BY MESSRS PAYTON & HILL.

Under Bill of Sale and Rent.

**SALE AT THE BALL COURT INN,
LICENSE & POSSESSION,
STAFFORD STREET, BILSTON,
ON TUESDAY NEXT, APRIL 15th, 1884.**

MESSRS. PAYTON & HILL will SELL by AUCTION, the whole of the PUBLIC HOUSE FIXTURES, and Effects, EXCELLENT BREWING PLANT, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,

and other Effects.

Comprising 5-pull beer machine, with piping and taps; large mash tub, ale cooling vats, receiving vat in cellar, copper bottom sieves, 10 ale barrels, various sizes; seven round tubs, 200-gal. wrought iron brewing boiler, with underwork and brickwork; spirit barrels, range of shelving, large concert room, about 30ft. by 16ft. with wood top and end front, and three windows; wood shed covering marble ally, twelve back rail and other benches, nine tables, 5 Spanish fowl, bedsteads, mattresses, beds, chairs, sofas, pictures, jugs, glasses, clocks, &c.

Auctioneers' Offices, 1, High Street, Bilston.

1884

BALLOON

2, (83), High Street / Pinfold Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Henry Willcock
Frederick Warren, pork butcher, High Street, Bilston
The Breweries' Investment Cooperative Ltd., Bilston
Showells Brewery Co. Ltd.
Ind Coope and Allsopp (leased)
Ansells Ltd. [1965]
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

LICENSEES

Richard Savage [1791]
Benjamin Willetts [1818] – [1839]
Mrs. Jemima Willetts [1841] – [1849]
William Darbey [1851] – [1852]
Henry Plant **(1853 – [])**
Richard Sale [1861] – [1870]
Mrs. Mary Sale [1871] – **(1878);**
Ellen Hannah Crump **(1878 – 1880);**
Henry Willcock **(1880 – 1882);**
Robert Lowe [1881] manager
Benjamin More [1882] manager
Robert Alfred Willcock and Henry Willcock **(1882);**
Robert Hunt **(1882 – 1885);**
Joseph Linforth **(1885 – 1894);**
John James Green **(1894);**
Joseph Bennett **(1894 – 1895);**
Alfred Walters **(1895 – 1925);**
Robert Joseph Broderick **(1925);**
Elijah Stott **(1925 – 1939);**
David Adamson **(1939 – [1940])**
Samuel John Bolton []

NOTES

83, High Street [1864], [1865], [1868], [1896], [1904]
2, High Street [1908], [1912], [1916], [1932], [1940], [1980]

AIR BALLOON [1818], [1826], [1827], [1830]
BALLOON TAVERN [1856]

It had a six day license.

Richard Savage, victualler, BALLOON, Bilston. [1791]



Ex Pub 2007

Wines and Spirits for Christmas.

H. PLANT AND SONS,
WHOLESALE
WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS,
Market Place, Bilston,

Supply Wines and Spirits, well matured, to Families and the Trade at very reasonable prices.

Wholesale and Family orders may be left at any of the following Branch Establishments :—

THE BALLOON, High Street, Bilston ;

- " ROYAL GEORGE, Church Street, Bilston ;
- " MALT SHOVEL, Oxford Street, Bilston ;
- " WAGGON AND HORSES, Oxford Street, Bilston ;
- " PIED BULL, Snow Hill, Wolverhampton ;
- " SHAKESPEARE, Horseley Fields, Wolverhampton ;
- " LORD RAGLAN, Brickkiln Street, " "
- " KING'S HEAD, Market Place, Willenhall ;
- " MALT SHOVEL, Upper High Street, Wednesbury ;
- " BULLS HEAD, High Street, Princes End.

H. P. & S. Will be glad to forward to the Trade, in bond or duty paid, samples or prices.

Benjamin Willetts = Benjamin Willets

Benjamin Willetts was also a carrier to Birmingham (Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday). [1818]

He was a carrier to Birmingham, Tipton, Wednesbury, Albrighton, Newport, Market Drayton, Whitchurch, Chester and Liverpool, every Tuesday and Friday. [1833]

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/8/1826

"A correspondent informs us that the Bilston Female Society, denominated 'The Third Loyal Lodge of Social Sisters' (very nearly allied in constitution to the Odd Fellows), commemorated the fourth anniversary of its institution on Tuesday se'nnight, at the sign of the AIR BALLOON, at Bilston. About half-past ten in the morning the members assembled to attend Divine Service, and marched in procession to Wednesbury church, three miles distant from Bilston, where a very appropriate Sermon was preached by the Rev. Mr. Clarkson.....

The object of this society is to raise a fund for their mutual support in sickness, old age, or otherwise."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 20/10/1830 - Advert

"Sale Without Reserve of Freehold Building & Land, New Town, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett, (Without Reserve), at the AIR BALLOON INN, High Street, Bilston, in the County of Stafford, on Thursday, the 4th day of November, 1830, at Five o'clock in the Afternoon, under the Direction of the Devises in Trust for Sale, appointed by the Will of Mr. Benjamin Willetts, late of Bilston, Yeoman, deceased....."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/11/1834 - Advert

"Copyhold Buildings in Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett, at the House of *Benjamin Willetts*, known by the sign of the BALLOON INN, in Bilston, in the county of Stafford, on Monday, the 24th day of November instant, at five o'clock in the afternoon, by order of the Assignees of the Estate and Effects of West Hartell, late of Bilston aforesaid, Varnish-maker, who was discharged as an Insolvent Debtor, from the Fleet Prison, in the city of London....."

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/8/1835

"Staffordshire Summer Assizes.....

Thomas Owen was indicted for stealing two reams of paper, the property of *Benjamin Willetts*. Mr. Corbett conducted the prosecution. The evidence was short and conclusive. The prisoner was seen to take the paper out of a cart in the yard of Mr. *Willetts*, who keeps a public house, at Bilston, and is a carrier, late on Monday night last; and he was in the act of handing it over the wall to a companion outside, when he was taken into custody. The prisoner said if he did it he was drunk at the time. The Judge said that was no excuse. Guilty. To be imprisoned two months, to hard labour."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/8/1835 - Married

"On the 13th instant, at the Collegiate Church in this town, Mr. *Benjamin Willets* to Mrs. *Jemima Beech*, both of Bilston."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/7/1837

"Dominico Pucetti, an Italian image vender, was charged with maliciously cutting and stabbing Richard Middleton, at Bilston, on the 4th of July instant.

The prosecutor, who lives at the Deepfields, in Sedgley, stated that he was at the BALLOON public house, in Bilston, on the evening of the day named, when the prisoner came in with some images for sale; he asked 4d for one of them, and then drank a glass of the ale belonging to the company with which prosecutor was drinking; after that one of the images was broken, and the prisoner threw an image at him; witness set about him with his fists, and gave him some clumsy thumps, he also told the prisoner he wished he (the prisoner) was bigger, that they might see which was the best man. The prisoner replied, 'I'll soon be man enough for you;' and went into the passage. In a minute or two he came in, and, making a bellowing noise, rushed on the prosecutor, who held up his arm to keep him off, and the prisoner's knife 'went right through it, and cut it clean open.' Afterwards prosecutor felt a very heavy blow on his breast, and he knocked the prisoner across the table on his back. In the course of the struggle the prosecutor said he was also stabbed on the breast and in the belly. While the prisoner was lying on his back, he saw a knife in his hand, which was taken from him by Benjamin Tildesley.

Benjamin Tildesley, agent for the Birmingham canal, said he was at the BALLOON, and hearing a noise he went from the room in which he was sitting to see what was the matter, and saw the prisoner and Middleton fighting. He separated them; Middleton sat down, and the prisoner went out. Witness then returned to the room in which he had been before. Soon afterwards he heard the prisoner in the passage, and on going there saw him, and he asked witness something respecting a constable, which he could not understand; then the prisoner ran into the kitchen, and witness followed him; when he got in the prisoner was lying with his back against a table. Witness saw a knife in his hand, and fastening him by the arm, took it from him. Middleton said, 'He's stabbed me.'

Charles Phipps, of Great Bridge, said he was at work with the prosecutor, and went with him into the BALLOON. The prisoner came in, having with him three small images, which he placed on the table, and asked the company to buy them; he sat himself down alongside witness, who asked him if he would take a little ale and porter. Prisoner said, 'No, he was fresh; he had had enough.' He was about falling asleep, when witness roused him, and asked him if he knew French. He replied in the affirmative, and witness told him in that language he had better go home and go to bed. He assented to witness's advice, took up his images, and was going away. He had got as far as the outside of the door, when the prosecutor said, 'I wish I had bought one of the images for my granddaughter,' and sent his lad to call the prisoner in again; the prisoner returned, and in placing his images on the table one fell off, and was broken. The prisoner then picked up a glass of ale and porter and drank it. As soon as he had done that he snatched up one of the images, and threw it at the face of the prosecutor; it hit him on the head and broke to pieces. The prisoner ran out of doors, and prosecutor went after him with part of the broken image, and threw it at him. Prosecutor returned to his seat in the house, and sat down; the prisoner followed him, and threw one of the remaining images him; it cut prosecutor's face, and broke the window. The prisoner was about to run away, when the prosecutor followed him, and a scuffle ensued. They were parted, and prosecutor again returned to his seat. The prisoner then went down a passage towards the back door, and in three or four minutes afterwards witness heard a roaring noise, and the landlady of the house cried out, 'Good God, he's got a knife!' Prisoner rushed into the kitchen, and witness saw him make several jobs at the prosecutor's body with the knife, and afterwards saw the prosecutor bleeding dreadfully. Witness then sent for a constable, and the prisoner was taken into custody.

Great pains were taken by the Magistrate, the Rev. J. Clare, to make the prisoner, who was but imperfectly acquainted with English, understand the nature of the charge, and the evidence by which it was supported, and this kindness appeared to be very thankfully received. By the advice of some persons around him, the prisoner declined saying anything in his defence in the present stage of the case, though from what he had previously mentioned, his defence appeared to be that some of the company had broken his images. He was then committed for trial."

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/7/1837

"Staffordshire Assizes.....

Dominico Puccetti, a foreigner, was convicted of assaulting and stabbing Richard Middleton, at Bilston, on the 4th instant. Mr. Corbett appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Lee for the defence.

The prosecutor and party were at the BALLOON public house, at Bilston, on the 4th instant, when the prisoner went in with some images for sale. Whilst there, one of his images was broken, and the prisoner threw part of it at the prosecutor's head, a scuffle ensued, when the prisoner drew out a French spring knife, and stabbed the prosecutor in the right arm, the left breast, and below the left ribs. The prosecutor received considerable injuries. The prisoner was found guilty, and sentenced to one year's imprisonment in the common gaol."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/11/1837

"John Wheeler was charged with embezzling £1 7s, the property of Mr. *Benjamin Willetts*, of the BALLOON INN, Bilston. The prosecutor stated that he was a publican and carrier, and that about sixteen months ago the prisoner was in his service, and in the habit of receiving money for him. He gave the prisoner a bill for £1 7s which he was to receive from Mr. T. H. Carpenter, of Birmingham. On being asked for the money, the prisoner said he was to call on Mr. Carpenter for it next quarter day, and had never handed it over.

George Freeman, clerk to Mr. Carpenter, proved that he saw Mr. Carpenter pay the money in July, 1836, and produced the bill, which bore the prisoner's receipt.

Committed."

[At Staffordshire Quarter Sessions John Wheeler pleaded guilty and was sentenced to three months.]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/6/1839 - Advert

“Votes for the Southern Division of the County of Stafford.

Freehold and Copyhold Buildings and Land in Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett, on Tuesday, the 25th day of June, 1839, at five o'clock in the afternoon, at the house of Mr. *B. Willetts*, the BALLOON INN, in Bilston, in the county of Stafford, in the following or such other lots as may be agreed upon, and subject to the conditions which will be then read.....”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 2/9/1839 - Advert

“Wanted, a respectable young Woman as Barmaid; she must well understand her business. A good character will be required.

Apply (if by letter, post paid) at the BALLOON INN, Bilston.”

WANTED a respectable young Woman as Bar-maid; she must well understand her business. A good character will be required.—Apply (if by letter, post paid) at the BALLOON INN, Bilston.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 2/9/1839 - Advert

“To be disposed of by private Contract, a very excellent Carrying Business between Birmingham and Bilston, which has been conducted successfully by the present Proprietors, Mr. *Benjamin Willetts* and his Father, for upwards of sixty years.

Application to be made (if by letter, post paid) to Mr. *Benjamin Willetts*, BALLOON INN, Bilston.”

Benjamin Willetts died in the 1st quarter of 1840.

Jemima Willetts = Jemima Willets

Wolverhampton Chronicle 10/3/1841 - Advert

“Freehold and Leasehold Property at Bilston and Ladymoor.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Walker and Page, on Tuesday the 16th day of March, 1841, at the house of Mrs. *Willetts*, called the BALLOON INN, at Bilston, at six o'clock in the evening.....”

1841 Census

High Street

[1] *Jemima Willets* (40), publican, born Staffordshire;

[2] George Willets (11), born Staffordshire;

[3] Ann Jones (30), f.s., born Staffordshire:

Birmingham Journal 13/6/1846

“At Bilston Police Court, on Tuesday last, Mr. William Willetts, of Mill Lane, file-cutter, appeared before the Bench to prefer a charge against Mr. Thomas Griffiths, a respectable man carrying on business as a pork butcher, for assaulting him. It appeared that on the 4th of June both parties were at the BALLON public house, about ten o'clock at night. Mr. Willetts was going into the parlour, and was met by Mr. Griffiths, who asked him a question about something unpleasant that had passed. He then struck him and knocked him down, and struck him twice while on the floor. Two witnesses were called to prove the assault.

Mr. Griffiths, in defence, said he did strike him, but the reason of it was, that he had that day been to Birmingham, where he was told that Willetts had been calling him a thief and a rogue behind his back, through some little gambling they had together. He was bowling with him and beat him fairly, and when he heard of what had been said of him behind his back, he became irritated, and said he would strike him. The Bench fined him 5s and costs.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/8/1847 - Advert

“A Freehold Vote for South Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Private Contract, all those three Dwelling Houses, and a large School-room, formerly in the occupation of the Rev J. Cooper, situate in Wallbrook Street, Coseley. The building is nearly new, and replete with every convenience.

For particulars apply to Mr. A. Cooper, Farley Street, West Bromwich; Mr. Joseph Lester, Wallbrook Street, next door to the premises; or to Mrs. *Willetts*, BALLOON INN, Bilston.

The greater part of the purchase money may remain upon security of the building, should it be required.”

Birmingham Journal 11/11/1848

“On Monday evening last, about nine o’clock, as Inspector Thompson was going his rounds, he was assaulted by about twenty persons near the BALLOON INN, in High Street, Bilston, who knocked him down and beat and kicked him in the most brutal manner. One fellow is in custody on the charge, and as the other parties are well known, we trust they will quickly be brought to justice.”

Jemima Willetts, widow, married William Darbey, widower, gentleman, on 4th June 1849.

William Darbey = William Darby

1851 Census

High Street

- [1] William Darbey (58), victualler, born Gornall;
- [2] Jemima Darbey (55), wife, born Willenhall;
- [3] Mary Ann Robinson (17), niece, barmaid, born Bilston;
- [4] Sarah Hayway (15), house maid, born Wellington, Shropshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/9/1852 - Advert

“The BALLOON INN, Bilston.

To be Let, with immediate possession, in consequence of the present proprietor retiring from business, the above old-established Public House, situated in High Street, Bilston, and now doing a good trade.

For particulars, and to treat, apply to Mr. *Darbey*, on the premises.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/9/1852

“The annual licensing day for the division of Seisdon North was held at the Public Office, Bilston Street, Wolverhampton, on Thursday last.....

There were about forty applications for new [spirit] licenses, of which eight were granted.....

Mr. Hayes applied, on behalf of Mr. Hollingsworth, for a license to a house, which the applicant had rebuilt at an expense of about £2,000, opposite the Market Place, in Bilston, and near the site of the intended Town Hall. Mr. Hayes handed in a testimonial signed by many respectable inhabitants, and observed that Mr. Hollingsworth was one of the oldest and most respectable inhabitants of Bilston, and he believed was well known to several of the Magistrates.

Mr. Whitehouse said he opposed on behalf of Mr. Holland, a much older resident than Mr. Hollingsworth. By a plan which he would put in, prepared by Mr. Bidlake, the Magistrates would almost be led to suppose that every person in Bilston was a friend of John Barleycorn, for there were, between the top of the street in question and the KINGS ARMS, thirteen beershops, and no less than thirty-one houses which had obtained spirit licenses. (Mr. Hayes observed that Mr. Whitehouse had forgotten to state that Bilston was almost one street.) Mr. Whitehouse admitted that it had been called an overgrown village. There were now, he added, two licensed public houses in the same street unoccupied – the BALLOON and the GOLDEN CUP.

Mr. Underhill opposed for Mr. Price, who keeps a public house about 150 yards from Mr. Hollingsworth’s.

The Magistrates, after some consideration, granted the application. Some conversation ensued as to whether the necessary notices had been given in the form prescribed by law, but the Magistrates were ultimately satisfied that the Act had been complied with.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/3/1856

“Staffordshire Adjourned Sessions.....

Edward Jones, 26, miner, was indicted for stealing from the person of Henry Jackson, at Bilston, a silver watch and 5s, his property. Mr. Davis appeared for the prosecution. The alleged robbery took place in the BALLOON public house, Bilston, but in consequence of the drunken state in which the prosecutor was at the time, there appeared to be a doubt whether the articles were stolen or taken for safety, with the intention of returning them. The jury took this view of the case, and acquitted the prisoner, accompanying their verdict with an expression of their opinion that the prosecutor ought not to be allowed his expenses. The prisoner, who was discharged, was told by the Chairman that he was well-known in gaol, having been twice previously tried in that Court and acquitted.”

Birmingham Journal 9/8/1856

"John Dunn was charged with assaulting Thomas Wright, a butcher, on the 12th of April. It appeared that the complainant and his brother were returning from Bilston Market, and arriving near the BALLOON TAVERN, the defendant, who was in company with another man, without any provocation whatever, knocked him down, kicked, and beat him. The charge was clearly established, and the defendant fined 40s and costs, or in default two months' imprisonment."

Birmingham Daily Post 8/12/1858

"Levi Hale was yesterday charged, at Bilston Petty Sessions, with stealing eight pigeons, the property of John Hartill. The prosecutor lives at Upper Gornal, and kept the birds in a nail shop. He had sixteen in all, and the half were stolen on Sunday fortnight last. William Morgan deposed that he bought the eight pigeons, now produced by him and identified, a fortnight ago last Monday, for 6s 6d, from the prisoner and another, in the BALLOON public house. The prisoner pleaded guilty, and was committed for a month, with hard labour."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/1/1859

"Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Michael Bill, 43, miner, and Benjamin Crowther, 24, stoker, were indicted for uttering three counterfeit half-crowns, at Bilston, well knowing the same to be false and counterfeit. The prisoners went to the BULL AND MOUTH public house, in High Street, Bilston, and while they were there Crowther offered a bad half-crown in payment for three-pennyworth of gin. He was told that it was bad, upon which he began to abuse the landlord, and after some time was turned out of the shop. While the altercation was going on the prisoner walked away. A short time before their visit to the BULL AND MOUTH they had been at the BALLOON public house, where Crowther offered a bad shilling in payment for drink, but it was refused. When the prisoners left they were watched, and Bill was heard to say to Crowther, with an oath, 'Go and try Masters's,' that being the name of the person who formerly kept the BULL AND MOUTH. On the following day the prisoners went to the WAGGON AND HORSES, at Sedgley, and Crowther called for a pint of ale, for which he tendered half-a-crown, which the niece of the landlady said was bad. The landlady, however, whose sight was defective, consented to take it, but the course of the day she sent her niece to a neighbour's shop to make some purchases, giving her the half-crown in question, when the opinion of the niece that it was counterfeit was confirmed. Within an hour of leaving the WAGGON AND HORSES, the prisoners went to the BRIDGE INN, at the same place, where for some drink they offered another bad half-crown, but it was not discovered to be bad until the evening of the same day. The men having got clear away, Bill went on the evening of the same day to a provision shop in the same place, and there attempted to pass a bad shilling. On being told that it was bad, he said that he was nearly blind (which appeared to be true), and that it had been given to him in his wages. He promised to bring the person who gave him the coin, but having once left with the shilling in his possession, he never returned. On the 18th of the same month, Crowther and the other prisoner were at the MOXLEY TAVERN, Bilston, where one of them offered a bad shilling in payment for a glass of gin. The police were by this time on their track, and shortly afterwards they were apprehended.

Mr. Motteram dissected the evidence in detail for the purpose of showing that it was not conclusive against the prisoners, but the Jury returned a verdict of guilty. Bill was sentenced to six months, and Crowther to twelve months hard labour."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/8/1860 - Advert

"*Richard Sale* (late H. Plant & Co.), Wine and Spirit Merchant, High Street, Bilston.
Robert Manders and Co.'s Dublin Extra Stout in Cask and Bottle."

Birmingham Daily Post 8/8/1860

"Yesterday, at Bilston Petty Sessions, before the Revds. G. H. Fisher and H. S. Fletcher, a number of beerhouse keepers were summoned for permitting gambling in their respective houses, or otherwise improperly conducting their respective businesses. The prosecutions were instituted by the police, and Major M'Knight, the deputy chief constable, was present to watch the proceedings. The solicitor for the police was Mr. Bayley, of Wednesbury; and for the defendants, Mr. Bartlett, of Wolverhampton.....

Richard Sale, a licensed victualler, was fined 5s and costs, for an offence against his license."

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/11/1860

“Richard Sale, of the BALLOON public house, High Street, Bilston, was summoned for keeping a disorderly house. This was the second offence within twelve months. He was fined 5s and costs.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/1/1861

“Thomas Price, a pugilist, of Bilston, was charged with stealing a dog, the property of George Simkins, of Coseley. The complainant deposed that a few nights ago he was in the BALLOON public house, Bilston Street, when the defendant stole from him a small dog that he had taught to perform playful antics. On his way from the house he was knocked down and robbed of 11s 3d, and he believed that the defendant was the man who knocked him down. The defendant said that he gave the complainant a glass of brandy for the dog, and brought three witnesses who swore that this was so. The complainant said it was not likely he should have sold the dog for that, because just before it was stolen the landlord of the BALLOON offered him 5s for the animal. The Magistrates said they did not believe the defendant, and must fine him 5s as the value of the dog, and 10s costs.”

1861 Census

83, High Street

[1] Richard Sale (42), licensed victualler;

[2] Mary Sale (50), wife;

[3] Ellen H. Clump (29), step-daughter;

[4] Mary Jane Ann Sale (18), daughter;

[5] Emily C. Sale (15), daughter;

[6] Alice Muriel Sale (10);

[7] Edward Curran (24), servant;

[8] Ellen Blaney, servant:

[Much of this entry is obliterated.]

Birmingham Daily Post 15/4/1861 - Advert

“To be Disposed Of, a 500 Gallon Ale Cask, in good condition.
Apply to Richard Sale, Wine Merchant, 83, High Street, Bilston.”

TO be DISPOSED OF, a 500 Gallon ALE CASK, in good condition.—Apply to Richard Sale, Wine Merchant, 83, High Street, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 28/1/1864 - Advert

“Wanted, a steady Man, as Brewer and Porter.
Apply to Richard Sale, Wine Merchant, Bilston.”

WANTED, a steady Man, as BREWER and PORTER.—Apply to Richard Sale, Wine Merchant, Bilston.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/2/1864

“The committee of management of the Wolverhampton Orphan Asylum report increased subscriptions from.....
Mr. R. Sale, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/8/1864 - Advert

“To Farmers. On Sale, a few hogsheads of Strong Old Ale, suitable for harvest, 9d per gallon.
Apply to Richard Sale, Wine Merchant, Bilston.”

**TO FARMERS.
ON SALE a few hogsheads of STRONG OLD ALE, suitable for harvest, 9d. per gallon.—Apply to RICHARD SALE, Wine Merchant, Bilston.**

Birmingham Daily Post 7/10/1864 - Advert

“To Publicans. Wanted, a few 140-Gallon Ale Casks, in good condition.
Apply, stating price, Richard Sale, Wine Merchant, High Street, Bilston.”

TO PUBLICANS.—WANTED, a few 140-Gallon ALE CASKS, in good condition.—Apply, stating price, Richard Sale, Wine Merchant, High Street, Bilston.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/6/1865

“The following tenders for the supply of the articles names for the next quarter were accepted by the Board of Guardians of the Wolverhampton Union.....
Wine (port) 14s per gallon, (sherry) 12s per gallon, gin 11s, brandy 22s, Mr. R. Sale.”

Birmingham Daily Post 24/12/1866 - Advert

“Wanted, in a Wine and Spirit Vaults, a respectable Female, from 25 to 30 years of age. Unexceptionable references required.
Apply, Richard Sale, 83, High Street, Bilston.”

WANTED, in a Wine and Spirit Vaults, a respectable FEMALE from 25 to 30 years of age. Unexceptionable references required.—Apply, Richard Sale, 83, High Street, Bilston.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/4/1868

“At the Police Court, yesterday, a man named John Beach, boatman, Bilston, was charged with stealing two pairs of boots, value 7s 6d, belonging to Phoebe Carpenter, of Lanes Field, Sedgley. On Saturday, the 18th instant, the prosecutor went to the BALLOON public house in High Street, Bilston, at between nine and ten o’clock, to regale herself, and while there she put two pairs of boots upon the table. They were afterwards missed, and from information obtained, the prisoner was taken into custody by additional Constable Dunstan on the charge of stealing them. The Magistrates committed the prisoner to take his trial at the Sessions.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 4/7/1868

“Staffordshire Midsummer Sessions.....

John Beach, on bail, was convicted of stealing two pairs of boots, the property of Phoebe Carpenter, at Bilston, and, having been convicted before, was sentenced to six weeks’ imprisonment. Mr. Wilson appeared to prosecute.

On the evening of the 19th of April the prosecutor was having something to drink in a public house with the prisoner, with whom she was acquainted, when he took up two pairs of boots which she had put on a bench and went away with them.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/6/1868

“Wolverhampton Poor Law Guardians.....

The Board then proceeded to the making of the contracts for the ensuing quarter. The following tenders were accepted Wines and spirits, Mr. *Richard Sale*, Bilston. French brandy, 20s; London gin, 11s 9d; port wine, 11s 6d and 10s 6d; and sherry, 10s, all per gallon.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/10/1868

“West Staffordshire Election. Mr. Walter Williams’s Speech.

To the Editor of the *Daily Post*.

Sir. The letter in this day’s *Post* from Mr. Walter Williams has taken not only myself but numerous others by surprise. The eulogy of Mr. Meynell Ingram, by Mr. Williams, was to the effect that whatever he took in hand he always did well, whether in the field as a sportsman, or in the handling of a cock or a dog. Upon hearing this stated, I remarked they were strange qualifications for a representative of the people in the House of Parliament. You will please make what use you think well of this.

Yours, respectfully, *Richard Sale*, 83, High Street. Bilston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/1/1869 - Advert

“Wanted, a stout Youth, to assist in Brewing, and to make himself useful. In-doors.

Apply, *Richard Sale*, 83, High Street, Bilston.”

WANTED, a stout YOUTH, to assist in Brewing, and to make himself useful. In-doors.—Apply, *Richard Sale*, 83, High Street, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 6/1/1870 - Advert

“Wanted, immediately, a respectable Female, not under 25, as Barmaid. Strict inquiry as to character and ability. Shop Counter Trade.

Apply, personally, *Richard Sale*, 83, High Street, Bilston.”

WANTED, immediately, a respectable Female, not under 25, as BARMAID. Strict inquiry as to character and ability. Shop Counter Trade.—Apply, personally, *Richard Sale*, 83, High Street, Bilston.

Richard Sale died in the 2nd quarter of 1870.

1871 Census

83, High Street – BALOON INN

[1] *Mary Sale* (59), widow, innkeeper, born Newport, Shropshire;

[2] *Ellen H. Sale* (36), daughter, born West Bromwich;

[3] *Emily C. Sale* (24), daughter, born Wolverhampton;

[4] *Albert E. Jackson* (17), nephew, clerk in iron works, born Newport, Shropshire;

[5] *Annie Painter* (28), servant, born Ackleton, Shropshire;

[6] *Louisa Piper* (21), servant, born Sutton, Shropshire;

Birmingham Daily Post 31/8/1872

“Bilston Division Annual Licensing Sessions.....

The application of Mr. Fellows, on behalf of Mrs. *Sale*, of the BALLOON, High Street, for the privilege of opening an hour earlier to supply coffee to the working men who frequented her house was refused.”

Mary Sale died on 27th July 1878.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 31/8/1878

“Bilston Annual Licensing Sessions.....

The following is the list of licensed victuallers and beerhouse keepers who had been summoned during the year for offences against the Licensing Act Licensed victuallers.....

Mary Sale, BALLOON INN, High Street, Bilston, permitting drunkenness, 8th January, 1878, paid costs.”

AND

Wolverhampton Express and Star 21/9/1878

“The Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

The persons who had been convicted during the last twelve months for offences against their licenses, the renewals of which were withheld until today, now appeared before the Bench, and there being no further complaint as to the conduct of their houses in the interval the magistrates granted the renewals.”

A seven day license was granted on 19th September 1879.

1881 Census

83, High Street – BALLOON INN

[1] *Robert Lowe* (35), manager of vaults, born Brewood;

[2] *Eliza Lowe* (26), wife, born Glascwm, Radnorshire;

[3] *Helen Harley* (18), wife's sister, barmaid, born Glascwm, Radnorshire;

[4] *Robert Lowe* (1), son, born Wolverhampton;

[5] *Ernest Lowe* (1 month), son, born Bilston;

[6] *Caroline Ellum* (17), domestic servant, born Wolverhampton:

Evening Star 7/2/1882

“*Henry Willcock*, proprietor of the BALLOON INN, High Street, Bilston, was charged with harbouring a policeman, and unlawfully supplying him with beer at ten minutes past one on Wednesday morning, the 25th ult.

It appeared that the house was managed by a man named *Benjamin More*, who committed the offence complained of. The case was not fully gone into, Mr. Chief Superintendent Longdon intimating that he would be satisfied with a fine.

A fine of 20s and costs was imposed.”

Henry Willcock died in 1882.

Darlaston Weekly Times 4/8/1883

“The monthly meeting of the Bilston Night Watch Committee was held at the BALLOON INN, on Wednesday evening.....

The treasurer's report showed that the society was gradually improving in finances, the balance in hand being £8 11s 9d, against £6 2s 7d in the corresponding month of last year, after paying extraordinary expenditure for watchman's boots and printing. The watchmen's report showed that during the month 18 places of business had been left open or unfastened.....”

Darlaston Weekly Times 15/12/1883 - Advert

“Wines and Spirits for Christmas.

H. Plant and Sons, Wholesale Wine and Spirit Merchants, Market Place, Bilston, supply Wines and Spirits, well matured, to Families and the Trade at very reasonable prices.

Wholesale and Family orders may be left at any of the following Branch Establishments.....

BALLOON, High Street, Bilston.....

H. P. & S. will be glad to forward to the Trade, in bond or duty paid, samples or prices.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 26/1/1884

“The name of Mr. *Henry Plant*, spirit merchant, has been known in Bilston for more than thirty years, he having entered upon the occupancy of the BALLOON, INN, High Street, some thirty-one years ago. He afterwards held many other houses in Bilston, Wolverhampton, and Walsall, and, aided by his sons, carried on an extensive business. For the past few years Mr. Plant, from ill health, has taken no active part in business, but lived quietly at Westbourne, Pennfields, where he died on Sunday morning in his 69th year. Although a thorough businessman, Mr. Plant took no interest in politics, and held what might be termed broad views in reference to public matters. He leaves nine sons and two daughters to mourn the loss of a father who was always kind. His remains were interred in the family vault at Lapley Church, on Thursday. The body was carried to the grave by the deceased’s six sons, and was followed by the managers of the various houses belonging to the firm.”

Joseph Linforth = Joseph Lineforth

Wolverhampton Express and Star 14/2/1889 - Advert

“Lost, on Monday, a small black-and-tan Terrier Bitch; finder rewarded.
BALLOON INN, Bilston.”

LOST, on Monday, a small black-and tan Terrier Bitch; finder rewarded.—Balloon Inn, Bilston.

1891 Census

83, High Street – BALLOON INN

- [1] *Joseph Linforth* (37), widower, public house manager, born Philadelphia, America (British subject);
- [2] *Angela Linforth* (20), sister, barmaid, born Willenhall;
- [3] *Mary T. Linforth* (11), daughter, scholar, born Wednesfield;
- [4] *Agnes M. Linforth* (7), daughter, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] *Cecilia Linforth* (4), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [6] *Annie Dyke* (19), domestic servant, born Moseley Village:

1901 Census

2, High Street – BALLOON INN

- [1] *Alfred Walters* (57), licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *Ann Elizabeth Walters* (43), wife, born Birmingham;
- [3] *Edith Walters* (16), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] *Nellie Walters* (13), daughter, born Heath Town;
- [5] *Harriet Chew* (67), mother-in-law, widow, born Coventry;
- [6] *Annie Delany* (19), domestic servant, born Bilston:

1911 Census

2, High Street

- [1] *Alfred Walters* (67), licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *Elizabeth Walters* (51), wife, married 29 years, born Birmingham;
- [3] *Arthur Walters* (28), son, butcher, born Bilston;
- [4] *Edith Walters* (26), daughter, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 27/5/1911 - Advert

“Wanted, strong willing Girl about 17.
Apply, BALLOON INN, High Street, Bilson.”

WANTED. strong willing Girl about 17 –
Apply. Balloon Inn, High-st., Bilston.

1921 Census

2, High Street

- [1] *Alfred Walters* (77), licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *Ann Elizabeth Walters* (63), wife, assistant, born Birmingham;
- [3] *Nellie Walters* (33), daughter, assistant, born Heath Town;
- [4] *Lucy Ford* (21), domestic servant, born Sedgley:

1939 Register

2, High Street (3 of 4)

[1] David Adamson, date of birth 11/10/1901, toolmaker, married;

[2] Edna W. Adamson, dob 25/5/1903, licensee, married;

[3] John Adamson, dob 9/2/1931, at school, single;

AND

2, High Street (2 of 3)

[1] Alice Neal, dob 8/8/1906, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[2] Jean B. (Neal) Edwards, dob 30/1/1932, at school, single;

Birmingham Daily Post 26/1/1945 - Advert

"National Cash Register for Sale £70 as new. Rings to 9/11½.
BALLOON INN, High Street, Bilston."

NATIONAL Cash Register for Sale £70 as
new Rings to 9/11½—Balloon Inn High
St. Bilston

Samuel John Bolton died in 1982.

It closed in June 1987.

The premises became a burger bar, and later a fish and chip shop.

TO be disposed of by private Contract, a very excellent
CARRYING BUSINESS between Birmingham and
Bilston, which has been conducted successfully by the pre-
sent Proprietors, Mr. Benjamin Willetts and his Father,
for upwards of sixty years.

Application to be made (if by letter, post paid) to Mr.
Benjamin Willetts, Balloon Inn, Bilston.

THE BALLOON INN, BILSTON.

TO BE LET, with immediate possession, in conse-
quence of the present proprietor retiring from busi-
ness, the above old-established PUBLIC HOUSE,
situated in High-street, Bilston, and now doing a good
trade.—For particulars, and to treat, apply to Mr.
DANBY, on the premises.

1839

RICHARD SALE,
(Late H. Plant & Co.),
WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANT,
HIGH-STREET, BILSTON.
ROBERT MANDERS AND CO'S DUBLIN EXTRA STOUT
IN CASK AND BOTTLE.

1860

BANKFIELD

Bankfield Road, BILSTON

OWNERS

Milestone Carvery, Marstons plc



2017

LICENSEES

Craig Shein **(2020 – [2022])**

NOTES

It opened on 9th October 2017 as WHITE RABBIT

Sign Board 2017

“The WHITE RABBIT Carvery.

A Warm Welcome. Our name was chosen from local accounts in the 18th Century which stated that local miners were said to be haunted by an evil spirit causing great danger at the mines for the workers. The leader who was deeply troubled by this instigated a ceremony to ask for protection and guidance from the White Rabbit, a symbolic white Witch figure who protected the miners and banished the evil spirit for good.”

Express & Star 27/5/2018

“The HOP POLE INN, next to Bilston’s market, will be demolished under a proposal by Wolverhampton council. Cabinet member for city economy, Councillor John Reynolds, said, ‘We are delighted to have reached this agreement with Marston’s over the HOP POLE INN. It will enable the land to be better utilised for the benefit of the town and, in particular, the outdoor market. It is part of the wider regeneration of the area to deliver new homes, new jobs and more investment. It demonstrates our commitment to Bilston and ensures it will continue to be a thriving area’ Marston’s recently opened the WHITE RABBIT pub in Bilston Urban Village.”

Express & Star 18/1/2019

“A Black Country pub enthusiast is celebrating stopping off at an incredible 21,000 boozers over an astonishing 35-year journey. Peter Hill started a charity pub crawl back in 1984 when Banks’s Brewery released a map of 300 pubs. Yet since then, he said it had ‘slightly spiralled out of control’ having visited thousands of taverns across the entire UK. Part of the Black Country Ale Tairsters, father-of-two Peter is the only member to have visited the full 21,000 – but is often joined by fellow members on his travels. During each visit he collects a menu, makes a note of the decor, gets a book signed by the landlord, and asks them for £1 for charity. He then files away the information in what has now become 204 lever arch files in his home. Peter, age 62, said, ‘I’ve taken about 80,000 photos, collected menus, postcards – they’re all at home on my shelves. They’re spilling out the one room though and starting on the landing now.’ Asked how he feels to have reached such a milestone – with the 21,000th pub being the WHITE RABBIT in Bilston – he joked, ‘Well, every thousand pubs is another 10 lever arch files I’ve got to make. I’ve done 308,000 miles round the UK – I love it, absolutely love it.’

Peter has raised £30,000 for charity just by collecting £1 from the landlord each time he visits a new pub.

‘It costs me all my money, this project,’ he added, ‘We used to just take a plastic bag and sleep outside the pub or in a field but ever since the *Sun* brought out the £9.50 holidays I do that instead. People call me Mr. Sun Holidays as I’ve had 105 so far. It gets me somewhere to sleep at least! My next one is in March down in Devon. I do it every weekend, I never miss one.’ The retired engineer lives in West Bromwich with partner Dawn Taylor, who he admitted ‘doesn’t drink.’ ‘She might occasionally come with me – she’ll go round the town or city and I’ll go to the pubs and then we’ll meet up for tea and stay in a hotel,’ he said. His two children get involved too – 25-year-old Jodee recently drove her father to a pub in Northern Ireland and son Wade, age 27, drove him to Kent.

‘I love unusual pubs. The beer is not my hobby. My hobby is pubs. I just love finding new places.’”

Express & Star 23/6/2021

“A Bilston pub has reopened with a new name and a new direction to be at the heart of the local community. The BANKFIELD INN was previously the WHITE RABBIT. The pub on Bankfield Road was built four years ago by Wolverhampton-based pubs group Marston’s and originally opened in October 2017. General manager *Craig Shein*, who has been at the pub since January 2020, said it was very nice to be back open again after so long with a new concept. The WHITE RABBIT had been closed since November last year. ‘The change of name was put out at that time and no one was upset by the change. The BANKFIELD INN reflects the area and being part of a community. We hope that people will come in and see what we have to offer,’ said Mr. *Shein*. He said Marston’s had made a substantial investment in the refurbishment. ‘It has a great new look and feel. We are going to be a real community pub with more activities,’ added Mr. *Shein*, who head a team of 16 full and part-time staff. The refurbishment has added new features including a revamped bar area, new lounge and restyled garden area. ‘We now have seven internal and one 85in TV outside and we’ll be showing the Euros matches,’ said Mr. *Shein*.....”

[2023]



2023

BARLEY MOW

179, (84), Oxford Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Mrs. Dean, widow, Upper Dean Street, Birmingham
Robert Burtles, whip manufacturer
Edward Jones, beerhouse keeper, Bilston
Richard Sidney Wilson, maltster, Ackleton
Emily Lashford, brewer, Willenhall
Truman, Hanbury, Buxton and Co. Ltd.

LICENSEES

Rebecca Jones [1851] – **1862**)
Abraham Lunn [1865] – **1873**);
Mary Lunn (**1873 – 1876**);
Joseph Morris (**1876 – 1881**);
George Price (**1881 – 1886**);
Edward Jones (**1886 – 1897**);
Joseph William Garratt (**1897 – 1900**);
Cornelius Southan (**1900**);
William Huband (**1900 – 1903**);
Thomas Cook (**1903 – 1910**);
Mrs. Sarah Hughes (**1910 – 1921**);
Alfred Henry Shaw (**1921 – 1923**);
Bert Weare (**1923 – 1927**);
Daniel Evans (**1927 – 1932**);
William Randall (**1932 – 1934**);
Thomas Dimmock (**1934 – []**)
Richard Dimmock [1939] – [1940]

NOTES

84, Oxford Street [1858], [1861], [1862], [1865], [1871], [1873], [1881], [1891], [1896]
179, Oxford Street [1901], [1904], [1911], [1921], [1939], [1940]

It had a beerhouse license.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/7/1845

“George Jones, Thomas Jones, Elias Cartwright, and Joseph Cartwright were each charged by Thomas Turner with assaulting and beating at the BARLEY MOW public house, in Bilston, on the 19th instant. Mr. Shipman appeared for the complainant, and proved the case against all the defendants, except Thomas Jones, who was discharged, and the others were convicted in 2s 6d each and costs.”

1851 Census

Oxford Street

- [1] Rebecca Jones (52), widow, retail brewer, born Darlaston;
- [2] Samuel Tate (19), son, puddler at iron works, born Bilston;
- [3] Eliza Jones (12), daughter, assistant at home, born Bilston:

R. Jones, beerhouse, 84, Oxford Street. [1858]

THE BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1861, NOTICE OF ADJUDICATION AND FIRST MEETING OF CREDITORS.

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF STAFFORDSHIRE,
HOLDEN AT WOLVERHAMPTON.

REBECCA JONES, now and for nine weeks last past residing at the Green, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, widow, out of business; previously and for fifteen years at the Barley Mow, Oxford-street, Bilston, in the said county of Stafford, Retail Brewer and Dealer in Tobacco, having been adjudged bankrupt under a petition of adjudication of bankruptcy, filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton, is hereby required to surrender herself to the Registrar of the said Court, at the FIRST MEETING of Creditors to be held before the said Registrar on the 6th day of OCTOBER, 1862, at twelve o'clock at noon precisely, at the COURT HOUSE, QUEEN-STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON.

Mr. C. G. BROWN, of Wolverhampton, is the Official Assignee, and Mr. RICHARD ADAMS, of Wolverhampton, is the Solicitor acting in the Bankruptcy.

1862

1861 Census

84, Oxford Street – Beer House

- [1] Rebecca Jones (62), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;
- [2] Eliza Jones (22), daughter, born Walsall;
- [3] Benjamin Pitcher (30), lodger, labourer at brick yard, born Tamworth:

Rebecca Jones, retailer of beer, 84, Oxford Street. [1862]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 10/9/1862 - Notice

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1861. Notice of Adjudication and First Meeting of Creditors.

In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton.

Rebecca Jones, now and for nine weeks last past residing at the Green, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, widow, out of business; previously and for fifteen years at the BARLEY MOW, Oxford Street, Bilston, in the said county of Stafford, Retail Brewer and Dealer in Tobacco, having been adjudged bankrupt under a petition of adjudication of bankruptcy, filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton, is hereby required to surrender herself to the Registrar of the said Court, at the First Meeting of Creditors to be held before the said Registrar, on the 6th day of October, 1862, at twelve o'clock at noon precisely, at the Court House, Queen Street, Wolverhampton. Mr. C. G. Brown, of Wolverhampton, is the Official Assignee, and Mr. Richard Adams, of Wolverhampton, is the Solicitor acting in the Bankruptcy.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/11/1862

“Local Bankruptcy Cases.....

Rebecca Jones, retail brewer, of Oxford Street, Bilston, supported by Mr. Langman, and unopposed. Order of discharge granted.”

Abraham Lunn, beer retailer, 84, Oxford Street. [1865]

1871 Census

84, Oxford Street

- [1] Abraham Lunn (57), publican, born Darlaston;
- [2] Mary Lunn (55), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] Abraham Lunn (31), son, journeyman caster, born Darlaston;
- [4] Amelia Lunn (25), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [5] Emma Lunn (21), daughter, born Darlaston:

Abraham Lunn died in the 1st quarter of 1873.

1881 Census

84, Oxford Street – BARLEY MOW

- [1] Joseph Morris (35), ironworker puddler and publican, born Sedgley;
- [2] Amelia Morris (36), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] Amelia Morris (5), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] Emily F. Morris (4), daughter, scholar, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 23/8/1890

“At Bilston Police Court, yesterday, *Edward Jones*, landlord of the BARLEY MOW beerhouse, Oxford Street, was charged with selling beer during prohibited hours. Mr. R. Tildesley defended.

Police-constable Moss deposed to seeing a woman named Mary Skitt leave the side door of the BARLEY MOW. Shortly afterwards the landlady came out and followed Skitt. Witness caught her, and found concealed under her apron a half-gallon bottle of beer, which she said she was going to give to Mrs. Skitt, her washerwoman. In the public house were two women and five men with drink before them on the table. The landlady said that the beer was in payment for the work Skitt had done in waiting on the guests at supper.

The Bench said it was a case of grave suspicion, but the defendant would be let off on payment of costs.”

1891 Census

84, Oxford Street – BARLEY MOW INN

- [1] *Edward Jones* (37), iron worker, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Mary Ann Jones* (34), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Thomas W. Jones* (14), son, bedstead maker, born Bilston;
- [4] *Florence Jones* (12), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] *Edward Jones* (10), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] *Blanche H. Jones* (8), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] *George Jones* (6), son, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [8] *Elizabeth Jones* (4), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [9] *Harriet Jones* (2), daughter, born Bilston;
- [10] *Minnie Jones* (1), daughter, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 10/7/1894

“Mr. A. B. Smith (deputy-coroner) held an inquest at the BARLEY MOW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, yesterday afternoon, touching the death of *George Jones* (9), whose parents reside at the inn mentioned.

The evidence showed that the boy was bathing in the canal when he got beyond his depth, and was drowned.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.

Some discussion took place as to the want of public baths in the town, and the coroner was requested to write on the question to the Township Commissioners.”

Edward Jones, beer retailer, 84, Oxford Street. [1896]

Dudley Herald 15/1/1898 - Advert

“To Brewers, Licensed Victuallers, Capitalists & others.

Important Sale of Fully-licensed Properties in Walsall, Bilston, Moxley, and Tipton.

To be Sold by Auction by Messrs. Bill & Son, on Monday the 24th day of January, 1898 at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, at Six for Seven o'clock in the evening....

Lot 2. All that newly-erected Freehold Beerhouse known as the BARLEY MOW, situate in Oxford Street, Bilston, now let to a most respectable tenant at the very low rental of £30 per annum. The property has been recently re-built, has modern fittings throughout, and there is also a paved yard, with gateway entrance, and a compact little brewery at the rear. An excellent trade is carried on which is growing every week, and the property must commend itself to brewers.”

1901 Census

179, Oxford Street – BARLEY MOW

- [1] *William Huband* (27), publican, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Mary Huband* (28), wife, born Bilston:

Thomas Cook, beer retailer, 179, Oxford Street. [1904]

1911 Census

179, Oxford Street – BARLEY MOW

- [1] *Sarah Hughes* (47), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Tipton;
- [2] *Lillian May Hughes* (21), daughter, helper, born Woodsetton;
- [3] *Elsie Adelaide Hughes* (16), daughter, helper, born Woodsetton;
- [4] *Gertrude Eva Hughes* (14), daughter, helper, born Woodsetton;
- [5] *George Harold Hughes* (12), son, born Woodsetton;
- [6] *Alfred Hughes* (9), son, born Woodsetton:

County Express 19/7/1913 - Advert

“Highly Important Announcement of Sale by Auction of Fourteen Freehold Fully-Licensed and On-Beerhouse Properties, in and around Coseley, Bilston, Darlaston, Sedgley, and Tipton.

Alfred W. Dando & Co. have received instructions to Sell by Auction, at the STAR AND GARTER HOTEL, Wolverhampton, on Tuesday, July 22nd, 1913, at 6.30 for 7 o'clock in the Evening precisely, subject to Conditions of Sale then to be produced, as follows.....

Lot 1. The SWAN INN, Darkhouse Lane, Deepfields, Coseley (fully-licensed), as occupied by Mr. Davies, together with the Two Dwelling Houses adjoining, being Nos.10 and 16, Darkhouse Lane.

Lot 2. The PAINTERS ARMS INN, Avenue Road, Coseley (fully-licensed), as occupied by Mr. Davies.

Lot 3. The RED LION INN, Castle Street, Coseley (Beerhouse-on), with large area of Land, as occupied by Mr. John Groves.

Lot 4. The IVY HOUSE INN, Ivy House Lane, Coseley (fully-licensed) as occupied by Mr. Cahill or his under-tenant, together with the Dwelling House, Numbered 23, Ivy House Lane, occupying a large area of land.

Lot 5. The SUMMER HOUSE INN, School Street, Roseville, Coseley (Beerhouse-on), as let to Mr. G. W. Davies.

Lot 6. The ROLLING MILL INN, Millfield Road, Bilston (Beerhouse-on), extending to and fronting Union Street, with large area of Land, as occupied by Mr. Eli Cresswell.

Lot 6a. Union Street. Two Unnumbered Dwelling Houses adjoining the above, with large walled-in Yard and Outbuildings, as let to John Beaton and David Lloyd.

Lot 7. The BARLEY MOW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston (Beerhouse-on), as occupied by Mrs. *Sarah Hughes*.

Lot 8. The CALIFORNIA INN, Hatton Street, Bradley, near Bilston(Beerhouse-on), as occupied by Mr. John Morgan, with the Five Dwelling Houses, being No.38, California Street, and Nos.1 to 7 (odd numbers), at the rear of same.

Lot 9. The PRINCE OF WALES, Walsall Road, between Darlaston and Wednesbury (Beerhouse-on), as occupied by Mr. Thomas Burfoot.

Lot 10. The NEW INN, The Green (opposite Horton Street), Darlaston (6-day Licence Beerhouse-on), as occupied by Mrs. Snape.

Lot 11. The MINERS ARMS INN, Ruiton Street, Lower Gornal (fully-licensed), as let to Mr. Enoch Smart.

Lot 11a. Nos.90 and 91, Ruiton Street, Lower Gornal. Two Excellent Cottages adjoining the above, with pleasant Gardens and the usual Outbuildings.

Lot 12. The SHAKESPEARE INN, Kent Street, Upper Gornal (fully-licensed), as occupied by Mr. Isaac Smart.

Lot 13. The CABIN INN, Kent Street, Upper Gornal (Beerhouse-on), as occupied by Mr. Joshua Bradley.

Lot 14. The BOAT INN, Boat Row, off Park Lane West, Tipton (fully-licensed), as occupied by Mr. John Johnson, with the Dwelling House, No.14 adjoining.

Auctioneers' Notes: The foregoing 14 Licensed Houses, 6 of which are Fully-licensed and 8 On-Beerhouses, form as a whole, one of the most important lots of Licensed Properties brought under the hammer in the district within recent years. They have been carefully acquired from time to time, and are situate in well-populated localities, for the most part within easy distance of the largest works in Staffordshire.

The Houses are held either on short tenancies or under management, and in most cases possession may be had of the goodwill of the various businesses upon completion of the purchases; a fine opportunity therefore presents itself to Brewers wishing to increase their barrelage, or to private individuals desiring to embark in the trade. The Houses as a whole are in good order, commodious, well arranged, and doing genuine trades.

Further detailed particulars may be obtained from of Messrs. Hall, Pratt and Pritchard, Solicitors, Bilston; or the Auctioneers, Dudley.”

Sarah Hughes was also a brewer. [1914]

Birmingham Daily Post 8/5/1915 - Advert

“Under A Deed Of Assignment.

Re Richard Sidney Wilson, trading as R. S. Wilson & Son.

Preliminary Announcement Of Sale By Auction of Eleven Freehold, Fully-Licensed and On-Beerhouse Properties, Brewery Premises & Dwelling Houses in and around Darlaston, Sedgley, Coseley, Bilston, Tipton, Ackleton, and Bridgnorth.

Alfred W. Dando & Co. have received instructions from R. H. Jonson, Esq. (Messrs. Muras and Co., Chartered Accountants, Wolverhampton), the Trustees as above, to Sell by Auction early in June, the following Properties.

The PRINCE OF WALES INN, Walsall Road, between Darlaston and Wednesbury (Beerhouse-On).

The MINERS ARMS INN, Ruiton Street, Lower Gornal (Fully Licensed), and Two Cottages.

The SWAN INN, Darkhouse Lane, Deepfields, Coseley (Fully Licensed), and Two Dwelling Houses.

The BARLEY MOW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston (Beerhouse-On).

The ROLLING MILL INN, Millfield Road, Bilston (Beerhouse-On), and Two Cottages.

The CALIFORNIA INN, Hatton Street, Bradley, near Bilston (Beerhouse-On), and five Dwelling Houses.

The BOAT INN, Boat Row, off Park Lane West, Tipton (Fully Licensed).

The RED LION INN, Castle Street, Coseley, (Beerhouse-On).

The SUMMER HOUSE INN, School Street, Roseville, Coseley (Beerhouse-On).

The CABIN INN, Kent Street, Upper Gornal (Beerhouse-On).

The Folly Inn, Ackleton, 5½ miles from Bridgnorth and Albrighton, and about 10 miles from Wolverhampton (Beerhouse-On), with Cottage Residence.

The Castle Brewery, Bridgnorth, with Fixed Plant.

Further particulars will appear in future announcements.

Auctioneer's Offices, 193, Wolverhampton Street, Dudley. (Tele.56).”

Catalogue for Auction on 2/6/1915

“Under a Deed of Assignment. Re Richard Sidney Wilson, trading as R. S. Wilson & Son.

Highly Important Announcement of Sale by Auction of Eleven Freehold Fully Licensed and On-Beerhouse Properties, Brewery Premises and Dwelling Houses.....

The following Eleven Licensed Houses, Three of which are Fully-Licensed and Eight On-Beerhouses, together with the Brewery, form as a whole, one of the most important lots of Licensed Properties brought under the hammer in the district within recent years. They have been carefully acquired from time to time and are situated in well populated localities, for the most part within easy distance of some of the largest works in Staffordshire, and as they are being offered by direction of the Trustee under a Deed of Assignment, a fine opportunity presents itself to Brewers wishing to increase their barrelage or to private individuals desiring to embark in the trade, of acquiring houses which as a whole are in good order, commodious, well arranged, doing genuine trades, and possession of which may be obtained in most cases upon completion and otherwise at early dates afterwards.....

Lot 4. The BARLEY MOW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston (Beerhouse-On).

As let on short tenancy at a rental of £36 0s 0d per annum. The capital modern, compact, well-frequented Home-Brewing Public House and Premises situate on the main road with a large passing traffic, and containing spacious Vaults with outdoor department 20' x 14', Smoke Room at back with side entrance, Club Room 16' 6" x 10' 6", Living Kitchen, Two Bedrooms and outer Wash-house, together with two-floor Brewery, large Yard and the usual Outbuildings.”

Birmingham Daily Post 4/6/1915

“At Wolverhampton on Wednesday Messrs. W. Dando and Co. of Dudley offered for sale a number of licensed houses in the Black Country, and the lots disposed of realised a total of £6,835.....

The BARLEY MOW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, an on-beerhouse, let at £36 per annum, was knocked down at £665.”

Walsall Observer 27/3/1920

“Damages of £75 were awarded against John Henry Harvey, wool merchant, living in apartments at 65, Jessel Road, Walsall, in an action for breach of promise brought by Elsie Adelaide Hughes, daughter of the licensee of the BARLEY MOW, Oxford Street, Bilston, and head before Mr. Justice Sankey at Birmingham Assizes on Monday. It was stated that plaintiff, who is 25 years old, made the acquaintance of Harvey in 1911. In 1913, she told the judge, he asked her to keep company with him, and four years later he bought her an engagement ring. She accepted his proposal of marriage if he could get a house, and in August, 1918, they went to inspect some licensed premises at Wednesbury.

In October last year plaintiff heard a license had been taken out for Harvey’s marriage with another girl, and when she taxed him with it he denied that he was going to marry the young woman. He refused her offer to return the presents he had given her, and the next information she had was that he was married, after which, in an interview, he expressed regret for the way in which he had treated her.

Harvey denied that he was ever engaged to the plaintiff, or that he asked her to marry him. The ring he had given to her was only for a present, and he had never seen it on her engagement finger.

Questioned regarding a letter he sent to the plaintiff, in which he used the phrase ‘One who will be true to you,’ he declared he was half drunk when that was written.

Mr. Justice Sankey, giving judgement, said he did not believe the defendant, who, he thought, told lies in the witness box. It was ridiculous for a young man to go into Court and say he had never asked the plaintiff to be his wife, when they saw such letters and had evidence of such conduct.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 9/6/1987

“A 100-year-old secret home brew is bringing cheer again to the Black Country real ale drinkers. The Sarah Hughes Brewery in Bilston Street, Sedgley, has re-opened after closing 29 years ago, and is brewing to an original recipe. The brewery, part of the BEACON HOTEL, has been in the *Hughes* family for three generations since 1921. *Sarah Hughes* took it over after moving from the BARLEY MOW in Bilston, and brought her old recipe for Dark Ruby Mild beer – and her ten children – with her.....”

1921 Census

179, Oxford Street

[1] *Alfred Henry Shaw* (38), beerhouse keeper, born Moxley;

[2] *Alice Shaw* (45), wife, household duties, born Wolverhampton:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/1/1932

“At Bilston yesterday, *Daniel Evans*, licensee of the BARLEY MOW INN, Oxford Street, was fined £7 with £5 10s special costs, for supplying beer during non-permitted hours; Lydia Evans, his wife, £4 for aiding and abetting; and Harriet Richards, 106, Oxford Street, 40s for taking away the beer.

It was stated that at a quarter past one on Christmas morning, Richards went for the beer from a lodging house.

It was urged in defence that the beer was ordered by a man named George Taylor at 10.45 on Christmas Eve. He joined a party at the lodging house, and about one o’clock in the morning Richards was asked to fetch it. It was submitted on behalf of Harriet Richards that she acted quite innocently.”

1939 Register

179, Oxford Street

[1] *Richard Dimmock*, date of birth 12/4/1877, publican, married;

[2] *Annie Dimmock*, dob 16/4/1876, domestic duties, married;

[3] *Mary Dimmock*, dob 22/7/1907, chambermaid, waitress, single;

[4] *Kenneth Dimmock*, dob 8/9/1918, carpenter’s joiner, coffin maker, single:

Teams from here took part in the Bilston Crib League. [1946]

To Brewers, Licensed Victuallers, Capitalists & others
Important Sale of Fully-licensed Properties in
Walsall, Bilston, Moxley, and Tipton.

To be Sold by Auction by
MESSRS BILL & SON, on MONDAY, the
24th day of January, 1898 at the **GRAND**
HOTEL, BIRMINGHAM, at Six for Seven o'clock
in the evening subject to conditions which will be
read at the time of sale.

Lot 1.—The very valuable Freehold Fully-licensed
PUBLIC-HOUSE known as The Rose and Crown,
situate at Moxley, on the main road from Wolver-
hampton to Birmingham, together with the bowling
green and small model brewery at the rear, now for
the last 10 years in the occupation of Mr Archer. The
property, which is in a splendid state of repair, is
fairly worth a rental of £60, and must rapidly increase
in value. Together with the dwelling-house adjoining,
let at weekly rentals producing £10 8s. per
annum. The Rose and Crown is a well-known
calling house, does a large trade all the year round,
and altogether forms a most desirable property.

Lot 2.—All that newly-erected Freehold **BEER-**
HOUSE known as The Barley Mow, situate in
Oxford Street, Bilston, now let to a most respectable
tenant at the very low rental of £30 per annum. The
property has been recently re-built, has modern
fittings throughout, and there is also a paved yard,
with gateway entrance, and a compact little brewery
at the rear. An excellent trade is carried on which
is growing every week, and the property must com-
mend itself to brewers.

Lot 3.—The Freehold Fully-licensed **PUBLIC-**
HOUSE known as The Boat Inn, situate near the
canal side, in Boat Row, Tipton, now in the occu-
pation of Mr Smith at an annual rental of £22 10s.,
together with cottage adjoining, producing at a
weekly rental £6 18s. 8d. per annum. The whole
property thus producing £29 8s. 8d. per annum.

Lot 4.—All that well-accustomed Freehold Fully-
licensed **PUBLIC-HOUSE** known as The Peacock
Inn, situate in Lower Russell Street, Walsall, now let
to Mr Edgar Evans, at the very inadequate rental of
£30, together with Four Retail Shops adjoining, being
numbered 14, 15, 16, and 17, in Russell Street, and
producing together a gross annual rental of £48 2s.,
and also the large yard, with stabling and black-
smith's shop at the rear, producing a further rental
of £11 per annum, the whole property thus producing
a gross annual rental of £59 2s. There is sufficient
land at the rear to build 15 to 20 houses thereon.

For further particulars apply to the Auctioneers,
Cherry Street, Birmingham: or to Messrs Hall, Son,
and Pratt, solicitors, Bilston.

HIGHLY-IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT OF SALE BY
AUCTION OF
ELEVEN FREEHOLD FULLY-LICENSED AND
ON-BEERHOUSE PROPERTIES,
BREWERY PREMISES & DWELLING HOUSES
in and around
DARLSTON, SEDGLEY, COSELEY, BILSTON, TIPTON,
ACKLETON, AND BRIDGNORTH.

ALFRED W. DANDO & CO. have received instruc-
tions from R. H. Johnston, Esq. (Messrs. Muras and
Co., Chartered Accountants, Wolverhampton), the Trustee as
above, to Sell by Auction, at the Star and Garter Hotel,
Wolverhampton, on WEDNESDAY, June 2, 1915, at Seven
o'clock in the Evening precisely, subject to Conditions of Sale
then to be produced, as follows:—

Lot 1.
"THE PRINCE OF WALES INN," WALSALL ROAD,
between Darlaston and Wednesbury (Beerhouse-On).

Lot 2.
"THE MINERS' ARMS INN," RUITON STREET,
LOWER GORNAL (Fully Licensed), together with the Two
COTTAGES adjoining.

Lot 3.
"THE SWAN INN," DARKHOUSE LANE, DEEPFIELDS
COSELEY (Fully Licensed), and Two DWELLING HOUSES
adjoining.

Lot 4.
"THE BARLEY MOW INN," OXFORD STREET,
BILSTON (Beerhouse-On).

Lot 5.
"THE ROLLING MILL INN," MILLFIELD ROAD,
BILSTON (Beerhouse-On), and Two COTTAGES adjoining.

Lot 6.
"THE CALIFORNIA INN," HATTON STREET,
BRADLEY near Bilston (Beerhouse-On), and Five DWEL-
LING HOUSES.

Lot 7.
"THE BOAT INN," BOAT ROW, off Park Lane West,
TIPTON (Fully Licensed).

Lot 8.
"THE RED LION INN," CASTLE STREET, COSELEY
(Beerhouse-On).

Lot 9.
"THE SUMMER HOUSE INN," SCHOOL STREET,
ROSEVILLE, COSELEY (Beerhouse-On).

Lot 10.
"THE CABIN INN," KENT STREET, UPPER GORNAL
(Beerhouse-On).

Lot 11.
"THE FOLLY INN," ACKLETON (Beerhouse-On), situate
five and a half miles from Bridgnorth and Albrighton, and
about ten miles from Wolverhampton.

Lot 12.
An Excellent COTTAGE RESIDENCE, adjoining the above,
as let to Mr. Davies.

Lot 13.
THE CASTLE BREWERY, BRIDGNORTH, together with
the whole of the FIXED PLANT.

Further particulars may be obtained—as to Lot 1, of Messrs.
Slater and Co., Solicitors, Darlaston; as to Lots 2, 3, and 7,
of Messrs. W. A. and H. M. Foster, Solicitors, Wolverhampton;
as to Lot 12, of Messrs. Tildesley and Harris, Solicitors,
Widenedale; and as to the whole of the Lots of Messrs. Hall,
Pratt, and Pritchard, Solicitors, Bilston; or of the Auctioneers,
Dudley.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT OF SALE BY AUCTION

— of —

**ELEVEN Freehold Fully Licensed and
On-Beerhouse Properties, : : : :
Brewery Premises and Dwelling Houses**

IN AND AROUND

DARLASTON
SEDGLEY
COSELEY
BILSTON

TIPTON
ACKLETON
and
BRIDGNORTH

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION BY

Alfred W. Dando & Co.

AT THE

STAR & GARTER HOTEL, WOLVERHAMPTON

:: :: On WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2nd, 1915, :: ::

At 6.30 for 7 o'clock in the Evening precisely, subject
to Conditions of Sale then to be produced.

TRUSTEE:

R. H. JOHNSTON, Esq.
(Messrs. MURAS & Co.),
Chartered Accountants,
Wolverhampton.

**Auctioneers' Offices,
193, Wolverhampton St.,
DUDLEY.**

SOLICITORS:

Messrs. HALL, PRATT & PRITCHARD,
Bilston;

Messrs. SLATER & Co.,
Darlaston;

Messrs. W. A. & H. M. FOSTER,
Wolverhampton;

Messrs. TILDESLEY & HARRIS,
Willenhall.

**The "Barley Mow" Inn,
Oxford Street, Bilston**

(Beerhouse-On).

As let on short tenancy at a rental of **£36 : 0s. : 0d.** per annum. The capital modern, compact, well-frequented Home-Brewing Public-House and Premises situate on the main road with a large passing traffic, and containing spacious Vaults with outdoor department 20' x 14', Smoke-Room at back with side entrance, Club Room 16' 6" x 10' 6", Living Kitchen, Two Bedrooms and outer Wash-house, together with two-floor Brewery, large Yard and the usual Outbuildings.

BARLEY MOW

14, Union Street, (Miller Street), (Mill Street (Lane)), BILSTON

OWNERS

Edwin Hickman, stone mason and quarry master, The Quarry, Bilston

LICENSEES

William Wilkes [1818]
Richard Hickin [1822] – [1830]
Richard Lee [1833] – [1834]
John North [1835]
James Taylor [1841] – [1842]
David Cooksey [1850] – [1854]
Joseph Johnson [1858]
Ann Johnson [1861]
John Davis [] – **1865**);
Edward Hall (**1865 – 1866**);
John Cadman (**1866 – 1891**):

NOTES

Mill Lane [1818], [1822], [1850]
Mill Street [1830]
High Street [1854]
14, Union Street [1861]
Miller Street [1867]
Coseley Street [1891]

OLD BARLEY MOW [1833], [1834]

Birmingham Journal 13/7/1850

“Within the last few days the police have managed to apprehend another gang of thieves with which Bilston township has been troubled for some time past. The names of those in custody are Richard Fieldhouse, Edward Austin, William Hughes, John Leth, and Francis Jennings, and they were to have been brought up yesterday for committal. The evidence to be brought against them by Inspector Thompson would serve to convict them of having broken into Mr. Banks’s office, at Ettingshall, on the night of the 21st June, when they carried off two coats, and also having entered Mr. Vernon’s Tommy-shop the same night, as well as on a previous occasion, when they stole about ten pounds of tobacco, a flitch of bacon, a number of waistcoats, and several pairs of shoes. They would also be committed for stealing two sucking pigs, on the night of Saturday last, from the premises of Mr. *David Cooksey*, the BARLEY MOW public house, Mill Lane.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 24/7/1850

“Staffordshire Adjourned Sessions.....

Edward Austin, 19, and John Lyth, 16, were indicted for breaking and entering the shop of Thomas William Vernon, at Bilston, and stealing a pair of boots and shoes They were both found guilty, and a previous conviction was then proved against Austin.

The prisoners Austin and Lyth were then indicted, together with Richard Fieldhouse, for breaking and entering the counting house of William Banks, at Sedgley, and stealing six keys and two coats The three prisoners were found guilty.

The prisoners Fieldhouse and Austin were again arraigned, together with Thomas Childer, charged with stealing two sucking pigs, the property of *David Cooksey*, at Bilston. *David Cooksey*, the prosecutor, deposed that the pigs were taken from the sty at the back of his house, on the night of the 6th of July; and Francis Jennings, the witness in the former case [as also was William Hughes], proved that the three prisoners came to the hovel where he slept on the morning of the 7th of July, and that after some conversation together, Fieldhouse went out and brought a small sucking pig back, which they boiled in a pot he borrowed from a person named Berger, and of which they all partook. The prisoner Childer skinned the pig after it was boiled, and buried the skin and bones under a heap of ashes, where they were discovered by inspector Thompson, and in an adjoining hovel that officer also found the prisoners on the morning of the 8th of July. Childer, in his defence, said that although he eat some of the pig when boiled, he had no knowledge of where it came from. The three prisoners were found guilty, and a former conviction was proved against Childer.

Another charge of breaking into a shop on the night of the 21st of June was not proceeded with.

Austin and Childer were sentenced to be transported for ten years; Fieldhouse to six calendar months' imprisonment for the first, and a further six months' imprisonment for the second offence; and Lyth to six months' imprisonment."

1851 Census

Union Street

- [1] *David Cooksey* (32), publican, born Tipton;
- [2] *Harriet Cooksey* (29), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Martha Cooksey* (8), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] *Ann Cooksey* (6), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] *Emma Cooksey* (3), daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] *David Cooksey* (1), son, born Bilston;
- [7] *Sarah Cooksey* (2 months), daughter, born Bilston;
- [8] *Mary Ann Perry* (15), house servant, born West Bromwich;
- [9] *Sarah Gough* (12), house servant, born Shropshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 15/2/1854

"An inquest was held on Thursday, at the BARLEY MOW, Union Street, Bilston, by W. H. Phillips, Esq, deputy coroner, on the bodies of John Powis and Samuel Edgcock, who were killed on the previous morning by falling out of the skip when descending a pit at Capponfield Colliery. They were both about fifteen years old. Another boy was much injured, and is not expected to recover. The inquest was adjourned."

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/2/1854

"On Monday last an adjourned inquest was held before W. H. Phillips, Esq, deputy coroner, at the BARLEY MOW INN, Bilston, on the bodies of John Powis, Samuel Edgcock, and William Bailiss, three boys, who lost their lives in consequence of being thrown down a coalpit at Capponfields Ironworks, through the neglect of the engineer in 'shorting' without the proper signal being given to him. The jury returned a verdict of Manslaughter against Thomas Martin, the engineer."

AND

Staffordshire Sentinel 18/3/1854

"Staffordshire Lent Assizes.....

Thomas Martin, aged 17, engineer, was charged with causing, by culpable negligence, the deaths of Samuel Edgcock and John Powels, on the 8th of February last, and of William Baylis on the 11th of February. The first, a mere lad, was in charge of the engine at the pits of Messrs. Bagnall, near Wolverhampton. In this case the evidence showed that there were three pits; each pit had a bell and clapper to give signals to the engineman. The sound of all the bells was precisely the same, and the prisoner, on the two occasions mentioned in the indictment, mistook the pit from which the signal was given, and by moving the engine, caused the deaths of three lads. The jury thought that, considering the imperfect nature of the signals, the prisoner could scarcely be deemed guilty of culpably negligence, and returned a verdict of not guilty."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 20/9/1854

“On Friday last, before the Rev. G. H. Fisher, John Smith, a bricklayer from Birchills, was fined £3 for an indecent and aggravated assault on Mrs. *Cooksey*, landlady of the BARLEY MOW public house, High Street, Bilston, on the previous evening. Prisoner entered the taproom, and called for some drink, which was brought to him by the prosecutrix, with whom he attempted to take improper liberties. She resisted him, when he assaulted her violently, and taking her in his arms, put her on the fire.”

Joseph Johnson – see also CROSS GUNS, Hartshorn Street.

1861 Census

14, Union Street – BARLEY MOW

[1] *Joseph Johnson* (40), brass caster, born Swindon, Staffordshire;

[2] *Ann Johnson* (38), wife, public beer shop, born Bilston;

[3] *Thomas Johnson* (13), son, born Bilston;

[4] *Ann Maria Johnson* (11), daughter, born Bilston;

[5] *Joseph Johnson* (10), son, born Wordsley;

[6] *Henry Johnson* (8), son, born Wordsley;

[7] *Elizabeth Johnson* (7), daughter, born Wordsley;

[8] *Sarah Johnson* (5), daughter, born Wordsley;

[9] *Fanney Johnson* (3), daughter, born Bilston;

[10] *Martha Johnson* (6 months), daughter, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 23/8/1890

“The licensing sessions for Bilston division were held yesterday.....

It was agreed that the case of the BARLEY MOW, Union Street, the license of which was objected to on the ground of non-usage for a number of years, should stand over to the adjourned licensing sessions.”

License renewal refused at Licensing Meeting 21st August 1891.

Birmingham Daily Post 22/8/1891

“Bilston licensing sessions were held yesterday The Bench refused to grant a certificate of renewal to *John Cadman* for a license to the BARLEY MOW INN, Coseley Street. It was stated that the house was demolished ten years ago through mining operations.”

BARREL

21, (2), Chell Street, Bradley, (Brierley), (Daisy Bank), BILSTON

OWNERS

Jonathan Chell Wright
Elizabeth Ann Wright

LICENSEES

Jonathan Chell Wright [1873] – **1877**);
Elizabeth Ann Wright (**1877 – 1879**);
Walter Henry Wheeler (**1879 – 1882**);
George Thomas Simkin (**1882 – 1884**);
Alfred Job (**1884 – 1887**);
Harriet Job (**1887 – 1888**);
William Henry Hemming (**1888**);
Thomas Paul (**1888 – 1907**);
George Hassell (**1907 – 1908**);
Edward William Garbett (**1908**):

NOTES

[This pub was strictly in Sedgley, but is included here due to it being situated at Bradley.]

21, Chell Street [1901]
2, Chell Street [1904]

It had a six days ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Jonathan Chell Wright died on 21st August 1876.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 14/4/1877

“At Bilston the Bench transferred the following licenses Beerhouses.....
From the executors of *Jonathan Chell Wright* to *Elizabeth Wright*, Bradley.”

1881 Census

20+21 Chell Street - uninhabited

George Thomas Simkin = George Thomas Simpkin

George Thomas Simkin was also a safe maker.

Darlaston Weekly Times 20/12/1884

“The following transfers of licenses were made.....
BARREL, Bradley, from the executors of *George Thomas Simpkin* to *Alfred Job*.”

1891 Census

20+21 Chell Street

- [1] *Thomas Paul* (51), beer seller, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Eliza Paul* (38), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *Thomas Paul* (26), son, iron worker, born Sedgley;
- [4] *Florence Paul* (23), daughter, general servant, born Sedgley;
- [5] *James Paul* (21), son, iron worker, born Sedgley;
- [6] *Elizabeth A. Paul* (14), daughter, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [7] *Sampson Paul* (8), son, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [8] *Sarah A. Paul* (2), daughter, born Bilston;
- [9] *Selina Paul* (3 months), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [10] *Alexander Paul* (22), son, iron worker, born Sedgley;

Thomas Paul, beer retailer, 2, Chell Street, Bradley. [1896], [1904]

1901 Census

21, Chell Street

- [1] *Thomas Paul* (61), beerhouse keeper, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Eliza Paul* (49), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *Sampson Paul* (18), son, iron worker, puddler, born Sedgley;
- [4] *Sarah Ann Paul* (12), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [5] *Selina Paul* (10), daughter, born Sedgley;

Thomas Paul – see also BRITISH OAK, Wesley Street, and ROYAL OAK, Hill Street.

It was referred to the Compensation Authority in February 1908.

The license was refused by the Compensation Authority on 18th June 1908.

Lichfield Mercury 26/6/1908

“The principal meeting of the members of the Staffordshire Licensing Committee was held at the Shirehall, Stafford. There was a full attendance of the members of the committee, Lord Hatherton presiding. The business before the committee was that of hearing and determining applications for the renewal of licenses in those cases which had been referred to the committee by the justices in petty sessions for compensation. The list contained forty public houses. There was a large attendance of barristers and solicitors, but in none of the cases were any objections raised to the reports of the justices concerning the houses referred, and the committee refused to renew the licenses in each of the forty cases which came before them. The following are the houses, the licenses of which were refused.....
BARREL INN, Chell Street, Daisy Bank, Coseley, ante-1869 beerhouse (six days only).”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/6/1908 - Notice

“The Licensing Act 1904. County Of Stafford.

Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Compensation Authority for the above area, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on the 18th day of June, 1908, to refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below, All Persons Claiming to be Interested in the said Premises for the purpose of the payment of Compensation under the said Act (other than the Licensee and the Registered Owner of the said Premises) are required to send to the Compensation Authority Notice of their Claims before the 20th day of July, 1908, for the purpose of enabling the Compensation Authority to ascertain in manner provided by the Licensing Rules 1904, the Persons entitled to Compensation under the said Act in respect of the said Premises.....

BARREL, Chell Street, Daisy Bank, Coseley. Beerhouse, ante 1869 (six days only). Licensee, *Edward William Garbett*. Registered Owners, Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Limited.”

Compensation of £260 was paid on 30th November 1908.

Lichfield Mercury 8/1/1909

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

The Licensing Committee presented a report for the year 1908. They stated that the number of licenses referred from sixteen divisions and boroughs in the county was seventy-four, and the committee, having regard to the limited funds at their disposal, decided to proceed upon forty only.....

The committee went in great detail into all the figures submitted to them upon which the persons interested claimed compensation, and heard, upon oath, evidence put forward by the claimants.

The amounts awarded as compensation were as follows.....

BARREL, Chell Street, Daisy Bank, Coseley, £260.”

BARREL VAULTS

71, (40), Church Street, (High Street), BILSTON

OWNERS

William Bath

Thomas Lewis, iron merchant, Pennfields, Wolverhampton

William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1904], [1910]

LICENSEES

Mrs. Susannah Holford [1818] – [1830]

Benjamin Goodreid [1833] – [1835]

William Bath [1835] – [1842]

William Smith [1841] – [1842]

John Cardall [] – **1851**);

Samuel Blews (**1851** – []

Henry Harding [] – **1857**);

Edward Peters (**1857** – [1858]

Thomas Lewis []

Joseph Lawrence [1860] – [1861]

Charles Nadin [1866]

John C Siddens [1866]

Arthur Wright [1870]

Joseph Butler [1873] – **1873**);

John Harriman (**1873** – **1880**);

George Millard (**1880** – **1881**);

Edward Bolewell (**1881**);

William Edwards (**1881** – **1886**);

Samuel Mason (**1886**);

William Morris (**1886** – **1895**);

Frederick William Plant (**1895** – **1906**);

William Edwin Carter (**1906**);

Sarah Gough (**1906** – **1909**);

Frederick William Plant (**1909**);

Thomas Davies (**1909** – **1910**);

NOTES

40, Church Street [1861], [1866], [1871], [1881], [1891]

71, Church Street [1901], [1908]

It was originally the MALT SHOVEL.

BOARD [1851], [1858], [1864], [1866], [1870], [1873], [1881]

LOT II.—That old established Public House, known by the sign of the MALT-SHOVEL, nearly opposite the Market-place, Church-street, Bilston aforesaid, together with the Outbuildings and Appurtenances belonging thereto, now occupied by Mrs. Susannah Holford, as tenant at will; and also a small Tenement, nearly adjoining the same, occupied by Mary Colbourne, producing together thirty-two pounds ten shillings per annum.

These Premises possess advantages seldom to be met within a market town, being situate at the corner of a street; they may be converted into a regular Inn, or any wholesale and retail establishment requiring a carriage way to the back premises.

1830

WINE AND SPIRIT VAULTS, LIQUOR SHOP, &c.
In a first-rate situation, near the Market Place, Church-street, Bilston, Staffordshire.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY RICHARD CORBETT,

On Friday the 1st day of May, 1835, at five o'clock in the afternoon, at the King's Arms Inn, Bilston aforesaid, subject to conditions then to be read (unless the same is previously disposed of by private contract, of which due notice will be given).

ALL that substantially built MESSUAGE, TENEMENT, or DWELLING-HOUSE, with the outbuildings and appurtenances thereto belonging, situate in Church-street, near the Market-place, in the town of Bilston, and now in the occupation of Mr. William Bath, Wine and Liquor Merchant; comprising, on the basement, very extensive wine, spirit, and ale vaults, in which is a well affording an excellent supply of good water. There are on the ground floor a very commodious retail shop, with two large sash windows, a large dining room, an entrance hall with handsome staircase, a breakfast room, a good kitchen, in which is a back staircase to the bed rooms, a detached brewhouse, a large warehouse, and other outbuildings and appurtenances. On the chamber floor are four excellent bed rooms and large drawing room, handsomely fitted up. In the upper story is a very comfortable bed room for servants, &c.

The above premises are in the most desirable part of the town for business, in which the wine and liquor trade has been advantageously carried on for the last thirty-five years, and are held under lease, nearly four years of which are unexpired, at the yearly rent of eighty pounds, and which lease may at the option of the purchaser be made determinable at the expiration of twelve months.

Notice in writing to be delivered within one month from the actual sale, and surrender thereof to the purchaser.

To view the premises apply to the occupier; and for further particulars and to treat for the same, apply to the Rev. W. LEIGH, Mr. J. WILLIM, JUN. solicitor, or to the AUCTIONEER, all of Bilston.

1835

Wolverhampton Chronicle 11/4/1860

“Bilston Charities.....

.....Your committee have not found any entry or document bearing on this, but the house in question is in Price’s History of Bilston said to have been late the SHOVELS public house, and occupied by *Susannah Holford*, and then (viz in 1833) rebuilt by Mr. *William Bath*, and your sub-committee believe it to be the house in High Street late occupied by Mr. *Thomas Lewis*, and now used as a spirit shop.”

Susannah Holford = Susanna Holford

Susanna Holford, victualler, MALT SHOVEL, Church Street. [1818]

S. Holford, MALT SHOVEL, Church Street. [1822]

Susannah Holford, MALT SHOVEL, Church Street. [1828]

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 8/11/1830 - Advert

“Important and Desirable Investments, in Bilston, Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Auction, by R. Corbett, at the house of Mr. William Taylor, the SPREAD EAGLE INN, in Bilston, in the county of Stafford, on Thursday the 25th day of November, 1830, at five o’clock in the afternoon.....

Lot II. That old established Public House, known by the sign of the MALT SHOVEL, nearly opposite the Market Place, Church Street, Bilston aforesaid, together with the Outbuildings and Appurtenances belonging thereto, now occupied by Mrs. *Susannah Holford*, as tenant at will; and also a small Tenement, nearly adjoining the same, occupied by Mary Colbourne, producing together thirty-two pounds ten shillings per annum.

These Premises possess advantages seldom to be met within a market town, being situate at the corner of a street; they may be converted into a regular Inn, or any wholesale and retail establishment requiring a carriage way to the back premises.”

Benjamin Goodreid = Benjamin Goodbred

Benjamin Goodbred, victualler, MALT SHOVEL, Church Street. [1833]

Benjamin Goodreid, MALT SHOVEL (OLD), Church Street. [1834]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/4/1835 - Advert

“Wine and Spirit Vaults, Liquor Shop, &c, in a first-rate situation, near the Market Place, Church Street, Bilston, Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett, on Friday the 1st day of May, 1835, at five o’clock in the afternoon, at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston aforesaid, subject to conditions then to be read (unless the same is previously disposed of by private contract, of which due notice will be given).

All that substantially built Messuage, Tenement, or Dwelling House, with the outbuildings and appurtenances thereto belonging, situate in Church Street, near the Market Place, in the town of Bilston, and now in the occupation of Mr. *William Bath*, Wine and Liquor Merchant; comprising, on the basement, very extensive wine, spirit, and ale vaults, in which is a well affording an excellent supply of good water. There are on the ground floor a very commodious retail shop, with two large sash windows, a large dining room, an entrance hall with handsome staircase, a breakfast room, a good kitchen, in which is a back staircase to the bed rooms, a detached brewhouse, a large warehouse, and other outbuildings and appurtenances. On the chamber floor are four excellent bed rooms and large drawing room, handsomely fitted up. In the upper story is a very comfortable bed room for servants, &c.

The above premises are in the most desirable part of the town for business, in which the wine and liquor trade has been advantageously carried on for the last thirty-five years, and are held under lease, nearly four years of which are unexpired, at the yearly rent of eighty pounds, and which lease may at the option of the purchaser be made determinable at the expiration of twelve months.

Notice in writing to be delivered with one month from the actual sale, and surrender thereof to the purchaser.

To view the premises apply to the occupier; and for further particulars and to treat for the same, apply to the Rev. W. Leigh, Mr. J. Willim, solicitor, or to the Auctioneer, all of Bilston.”

1841 Census

Church Street

- [1] *William Bath* (50), wine merchant;
- [2] *Charlotte Bath* (35), born Staffordshire;
- [3] *William Bath* (11), born Staffordshire;
- [4] *Rosabella Bath* (9), born Staffordshire;
- [5] *Charlotte Bath* (7), born Staffordshire;
- [6] *Helen Bath* (6), born Staffordshire;
- [7] *Sarah Bath* (4), born Staffordshire;
- [8] *Charles Bath* (9 months), born Staffordshire;
- [9] *Mary Williams* (20), f.s., born Staffordshire;
- [10] *Elizabeth London* (35), f.s.;
- [11] *Mary Goodread* (15), f.s.;
- [12] *Mary Chetter* (14), f.s., born Staffordshire;
- [13] *Drusella Drew* (20), f.s., born Staffordshire:

William Bath, MALT SHOVEL, Church Street. [1842]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 7/11/1842 - Advert

"Bilston, Staffordshire. To Wine and Spirit Merchants and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett, on Monday the 14th of November next, at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, at six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be read.

All those old-established, substantially-built, and modernly fitted-up Wine and Spirit Vaults, with genteel House and convenient back Premises attached thereto, being the very best situation in the town of Bilston, possessing a corner situation nearly opposite the Market Place, in Church Street, and now in the occupation of Mr. *William Bath*, with which will be included the Goodwill of the Business, and possession of the property at any time that may be agreed upon, not exceeding Lady Day next.

The above premises have recently been re-built in a most substantial manner, and are superiorly fitted-up with marble chimney-pieces, cornices, bells, gas and water fittings, water-closet, soft water cistern, &c, &c, regardless of expense.

To persons desirous of entering upon the Wine and Spirit Trade this is an opportunity that seldom occurs.

The premises, which are of the first-rate order both as to situation and stability of erection, may at a very moderate expense be altered for any other wholesale or retail business.

The purchaser will be expected to take to the Casks and Shop Fixtures, &c, at a fair valuation.

To view the property apply on the premises; and for further particulars at the offices of Messrs. Manby and Hawkesford, of Wolverhampton, Solicitors, &c; or of the Auctioneer, New Town, Bilston.:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/11/1842 - Died

"On the 31st ult, at Bilston, after a few days' illness, *Charlotte*, wife of Mr. *William Bath*, wine merchant, of that town, aged 38, deservedly respected and deeply regretted, leaving a family of seven children, one of them an infant."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 25/1/1843 - Advert

"Bankrupt's Stock, at Bilston. To Wine and Liquor Dealers, Publicans, Brokers, and others.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett, on the premises, by direction of the assignee, on Thursday and Friday, the 2nd and 3rd days of February, 1843.

All the genteel modern Household Furniture, Bedding, Linen, Floor and Bedside Carpets, brilliant large Chimney Glass, fine toned Pianoforte, a beautiful mahogany winged Wardrobe, handsome bronzed Gas Chandeliers, set of Spanish wood Dining Tables, Pedestal Sideboard, Kitchen and Culinary Utensils; the superior Shop Fixtures, Liquor Fountain, Iron Chest, &c; the Stock of Wines, Cordials, Porter, Cider, and other miscellaneous property and effects, of Mr. *William Bath*, wine and liquor merchant, Church Street, Bilston, a bankrupt.

The Household Furniture comprises seven very good iron post tent and tester bedsteads, in chintz, moreen, and dimity clothing, feather beds, bolsters, and pillows, sheets, blankets, and counterpanes, mahogany and oak chests of drawers, a beautiful Spanish wood winged wardrobe, an excellent set of Spanish wood sliding dining tables, mahogany sofa in damask cover, Brussels and other floor, bedside, and stair carpets, handsome mahogany pedestal sideboard, mahogany, imitation of rosewood, and painted chairs, a brilliant chimney glass, in burnished gold frame,

plate 46 inches by 28 inches, mahogany loo, pillar, dressing, and wash tables, a fine toned London made pianoforte, with additional keys, the usual assortment of bedroom, kitchen, and culinary utensils, &c.

The Stock, &c comprise about 65 gallons of good port wine, 23 gallons of brown sherry, 7 gallons of Marsala, 9 gallons of raspberry brandy, 19 gallons of rum shrub, 4 gallons of peppermint, 5 dozen bottles of port wine, 10 bottles of prime Burgundy, 50 gallons of cider and perry, the superior liquor-shop fixtures, two seven-tap liquor fountains, a large quantity of excellent neatly painted liquor casks, from 12 to 150 gallons each, an excellent counter with metal top, a capital iron chest, with two iron drawers, a stove and piping, three iron screen seats, three very handsome and well executed window and shop signs, with burnished gold letters, show glasses, measures, and other miscellaneous effects, catalogues of which are in circulation, and may be had on the premises, and at Mr. Christie's, official assignee, District Bankruptcy Court, Waterloo Street, Birmingham, or at the Offices of the Auctioneer, New Town, Bilston.

NB. The stock, shop fixtures, &c will be sold on the first day, and the bedroom, drawing and dining room furniture, on the second.

The sale to commence each day at ten am and at two pm."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/4/1843 - Advert

"Bilston, Staffordshire. To Wine and Spirit Merchants and others.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett, by direction of the assignees of Mr. *William Bath*, a bankrupt, on Friday, the 12th of May, 1843, at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, at five o'clock in the afternoon.....

Lot I. All that newly erected and substantially built Messuage or Dwelling House, consisting of extensive store vaults, kitchen, and soft water cistern on the basement; sitting room, hall, kitchen, butler's and common pantries on the ground floor; a large drawing room, five excellent bed rooms, and dressing closets on the upper stories; and also a stable, gig house, and other outbuildings in the enclosed back yards.

The house and wine and spirit vaults are well fitted up, regardless of expense, with marble chimney pieces, cornices, bells, water closet, gas and water pipes, soft water cistern in roof, &c.

Together with those old established Wine and Spirit Vaults in front, which have been recently and modernly fitted up, situate in Church Street, nearly opposite the Market Place, and commanding a corner position, with side entrances.

The premises are extremely well adapted for the wine and spirit trade, and were lately in the occupation of the bankrupt, with which will be sold the bankrupt's interest in the Excise Licenses granted to him for the said premises.

To persons desirous of entering upon the wine and spirit trade, an opportunity presents itself that seldom occurs, or the premises, which are of the first-rate order both as regards situation and stability of erection, may, at a very moderate expense, be altered for any other wholesale or retail business requiring spacious accommodation."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/7/1851 - Advert

"To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, a well-accustomed Spirit Vault, near the Market Place, Church Street, Bilston, and now in the occupation of *John Cardall*. The above business has been carried on with great success for the last thirty years, and the premises are calculated to do a first-rate business. Rent and coming-in very moderate.

For further particulars and to treat for the same apply on the premises."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 10/12/1851

"On Monday last special sessions for transferring victuallers' licenses.....

John Cardall, sign of BOARD, Bilston, to *Samuel Blews*, same place, hosier."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/5/1854 - Advert

"To Publicans and Others.

To be Let, with immediate possession, that excellent Beerhouse the MALT SHOVEL, in High Street, Bilston, the present proprietor leaving the town in consequence of other engagements. Stock and Fixtures to be taken to. Coming-in about £70.

For further particulars apply on the premises."

Staffordshire Advertiser 28/11/1857

“*Edward Peters*, beerhouse keeper, Bilston, was fined 5s and costs, amounting altogether to 14s 6d, for keeping open his house for the sale of beer after twelve o’clock on Saturday night.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 28/8/1858

“*Edward Peters*, spirit dealer, Bilston, was fined 20s and costs for allowing drunkenness and disorderly conduct in his establishment.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/9/1858

“The annual licensing meeting for Bilston and its neighbourhood was held on Friday last.....

The following licenses were withheld until the adjourned licensing day for further consideration of the Magistrates, in consequence of the respective applicants having been convicted of offences against their license during the past year.....

Edward Peters, BOAR [sic], Church Street, Bilston.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/10/1858

“Bilston Adjourned Licensing Day.....

Mr. *E. Peters*, High Street, whose license had been suspended, had it renewed.”

1861 Census

40, Church Street

[1] *Joseph Lawrence* (36), spirit merchant, born Willenhall;

[2] *Mary Lawrence* (25), wife, born Coseley;

[3] *Catherine Palmer* (26), niece, barmaid, born Willenhall;

[4] *Catherine Howell* (13), house servant, born Bilston:

Joseph Lawrence – see also SWAN, Willenhall.

Birmingham Daily Post 29/8/1866

“*John Colcott Siddons*, licensed victualler, of the BOARD INN, Church Street, was yesterday fined 40s and costs, for permitting drunkenness in his house on Saturday last.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/8/1866

“Mr. *John Collett Siddons*, landlord of the BOARD INN, Church Street, Bilston, was fined 20s and costs for permitting drunkenness in his house.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1866

“The annual meeting for the renewal of existing licenses, and for receiving applications for fresh ones, was held at the Police Court, on Friday.....

At the commencement of the proceedings, the Superintendent of Police presented the following report.

Bilston Division, August 31, 1866.

‘I beg to submit to the Magistrates the attached list of licensed victuallers who have been complained against during the year. Twenty-five have been convicted, and three have paid costs; one had been convicted three times, and five convicted twice. This is a large increase on last year’s list; but I think it has arisen from the police being more particular in reporting cases of permitting drunkenness – as it was found to be an evil rather on the increase. I believe it has caused landlords to be more careful in supplying drink to persons intoxicated.’

H. McCrea, Superintendent.

Black List.....

Charles Nadin, BOARD, Church Street, Bilston left over until the adjourned licensing meeting on the 28th of September.

John C. Siddons, BOARD, Church Street, Bilston left over until the adjourned licensing meeting on the 28th of September.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/6/1866 - Advert

“Wine and Spirit Trade.

To be Disposed Of, immediately, in consequence of the death of the late Proprietor, Mr. *C. Nadin*, the well-known Wine and Spirit Vaults, No.40, Church Street, Bilston, now doing an excellent trade.

For particulars, apply upon the Premises, Bilston.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/7/1870

“For harbouring prostitutes *Arthur Wright*, proprietor of liquor vaults, in Church Street, Bilston was fined £5 and costs. Police-constable Chaplin proved seeing eight women go into the vaults on the 1st inst, and come out accompanied by young men. He had been previously cautioned by the police.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 27/8/1870

“The annual sessions for the renewal of existing and the granting of new licenses to licensed victuallers and beersellers in Bilston and Sedgley, was held yesterday at the Police Court, Bilston.....

All the applications for renewal of licenses were granted except the following, who had been fined for various offences during the year, and whose applications for renewal were adjourned until the adjourned licensing day, November 30 Licensed Victuallers.....

Arthur Wright, BOARD, Church Street.”

[Renewed at the adjourned licensing meeting.]

1871 Census

40, Church Street - wine and spirit vaults - uninhabited

Birmingham Daily Post 22/1/1873

“Singular Action for the Recovery of Money Lent.

This was an action tried at Wolverhampton by a Jury in which Mary Ann Jones, domestic servant, of Darlaston, sought to recover from *Joseph Butler*, licensed victualler, of Bilston, £36 money lent and interest due thereon. Mr. Young (instructed by Mr. Slater) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Ebsworth, of Wednesbury, for the defendant.

Mr. Young, in opening the case, stated that it was founded upon the following agreement, by which the defendant had traded upon the credulity of a young servant girl: ‘An agreement made the 4th day of February, 1870, between Mary Ann Jones on the one part, and *Joseph Butler* on the other part. Whereas, by an agreement dated 15th March last, made between the said Mary Ann Jones and *Joseph Butler*, it was agreed that the said Mary Ann Jones should lend to the said *Joseph Butler* £100 on interest thereon at the rate of £2 10s per cent per annum, with a proviso that the same should not be repayable until the said Mary Ann Jones should give to the said *Joseph Butler* twelve calendar months’ notice in writing of her requiring repayment of the sum. Now, in consideration of the said agreement, and the waiver of the said proviso, the said Mary Ann Jones and *Joseph Butler*, mutually agree with each other, in lieu of the said proviso, the said principal sum of £100, and interest for the aforesaid, shall be payable only by instalments of £10 yearly by four equal quarterly instalments of £2 10s, each on the 25th March, 24th June, 29th September, and 25th December in every year, until the whole of the said principal and interest be paid. The first quarterly instalment to begin and be made of the 25th March next.’ The agreement was signed by the plaintiff and defendant, and Mr. John Ebsworth, solicitor, as witness. On the back of the agreement two receipts were signed by the plaintiff, purporting to plaintiff having received two sums of £20 respectively, on June 14, 1870, and August 12, 1871.

Mary Ann Jones deposed that she had been a domestic servant in the defendant’s employ for nearly fourteen years. She left his service a fortnight before Christmas, 1871. Witness was entitled to certain property, and in March 1869, she went to Shrewsbury to receive her share, which amounted to £160. The defendant accompanied her. Witness received £150, and subsequently an additional £10. On the following day defendant remarked that he ‘would go with witness to deposit her money in the bank.’ The defendant requested witness to meet him at Wednesbury, ‘to go to a lawyer.’ Witness enquired, ‘What is the use of going to a lawyer?’ Defendant replied, ‘To get a pennyworth of sure.’ Defendant met witness at Wednesbury station, and conducted her to a public house, where he told witness to wait there while he went to see if the lawyer was at home. Witness handed the defendant the £100 before he went to the lawyer’s, on defendant’s request, who explained that he was going to deposit it in the bank. The defendant returned about an hour afterwards, and witness accompanied him to the offices of Mr. Ebsworth.

The defendant said to Mr. Ebsworth, ‘This is Mary Ann Jones.’ Mr. Ebsworth enquired if she could write her name. Witness replied in the affirmative. Mr. Ebsworth then requested witness to sign her name to a paper that was lying on the table. Witness paid Mr. Ebsworth half-sovereign. She returned to the public house. The defendant, however,

remained with Mr. Ebsworth. The paper which she had signed was not read over to her. Witness brought the document that she had signed home, and locked it in her box. She saw the paper about a week before she left the employ of the defendant's brother-in-law. Witness subsequently found that a nail had been knocked in the lock of her box, and the document taken out. She had not seen the paper since. The defendant had previously, on several occasions, informed her that her money was perfectly safe, being deposited in the bank, and that she would receive for interest 5 per cent.

On a second occasion, witness went with the defendant to Mr. Ebsworth's office at Wednesbury. Mr. *Butler* had requested her previously to take the paper she had in her possession. He left witness nearly half-an-hour in a trap that they had travelled in before the defendant asked witness to walk into Mr. Ebsworth's office. A sum of £2 10s was lying on the table, which defendant told her was the interest due. Witness signed a paper, which she thought was the original document. On that occasion she enquired whether her money was perfectly safe; to which defendant replied 'that it was safe in the bank.'

Cross-examined, the plaintiff stated that she could read printed letters but not writing. The defendant did not produce the second agreement at the Wednesbury station, nor did the defendant's daughter sign the paper for her. The defendant never gave her £20, neither on the first nor second occasion, as alleged. She received a copy of the first agreement, but not of the second.

Mr. Ebsworth here applied for an adjournment, on the ground that he could not be a witness and an advocate. The case, however, was resumed on Mr. Young assuming that Mr. Ebsworth had given evidence to the effect that he had read the documents at the time the plaintiff signed them, and handed copies of the documents to her.

Mr. Ebsworth then addressed the Jury for the defence.

The defendant was then examined, and stated the first and second agreements at the time the plaintiff signed them were read over to her. On the plaintiff signing the first document he paid her £20, and a second £20 in the refreshment room at Wednesbury Railway Station. He paid her the money on her own request. At the time of the first agreement defendant held a farm, and carried on the butchering business. Witness asked the plaintiff to lend him some money because he did not want to thrash-out his wheat. Defendant denied that he ever alluded to the plaintiff depositing her money in a bank. The plaintiff had offered to lend him the money without going to a lawyer. This he refused to accede to, remarking that he should like everything to be made safe. Under cross-examination the defendant admitted that the plaintiff had purchased the clothes for his children, though he had often remonstrated with her. At the time that he borrowed the money he possessed plenty of property, but required some ready money. Witness repudiated that he suggested the lending of the money, but admitted having proposed the £2 10s per cent interest.

Harvin Amelia Butler, daughter of the defendant, stated that she recollected her father paying the plaintiff £20. This was at Pleck. The plaintiff wrote the receipt, and signed it. Witness had seen the plaintiff write letters to her own sister. Her father counted the money on the table, and the plaintiff recounted it.

George Woodhead, formerly an apprentice to Mr. *Butler*, said that he remembered the defendant paying the plaintiff £20 at the Wednesbury Station, in the ladies waiting room. The plaintiff fetched the pen and ink out of the refreshment room.

Mr. Young then replied, reviewing the evidence at some length.

The Judge, in summing up, said the Jury must consider, first, whether the defendant had paid sums of £20 each on two separate occasions; and secondly, whether the defendant had received two receipts representing these two payments, and signed by the plaintiff.

The Jury, after retiring to consider their verdict, found as follows, 'We find a verdict for the plaintiff, and that the £20 was not paid in either case.'

The case concluded at about eight o'clock, after lasting nine hours."

Birmingham Mail 21/4/1874

"At Bilston Police Court this morning, before Mr. Spooner, Stipendiary Magistrate, Sidney Wright, of the OLD BOARS HEAD, Bilston, was charged with allowing liquor to be consumed on his premises after hours. Defendant had invited a neighbouring licensed victualler named *Harriman* and his wife to the house, and a policeman found them at the bar with the liquor before them at half-past eleven at night. Mr. Spooner ruled that although friends could be legally entertained in a private room, they could not be at the public bar. He imposed a penalty of 20s and costs, without endorsement.

Mr. and Mrs. *Harriman*, charged with unlawfully being in the house, consented to pay the costs, the magistrate saying he had no doubt as to their being liable to a penalty."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 20/7/1878

“A man named Horns, of Dudley Street, was charged by Mr. *J. Harriman*, the landlord of the BARREL spirit vaults, Church Street, with refusing to leave his house, and using obscene language to his barmaid. He was ordered to pay 10s and costs.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 21/9/1878

“The Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

Attention was then directed to the complaints made by Chief-superintendent McCrea at the annual licensing sessions respecting the performance of music at certain public houses in Bilston on each week day evening.....

Mr. R. A. Willcock said he appeared on behalf of Mr. *John Harriman*, of the BARREL INN, Church Street, Bilston, who produced a memorial signed by three members of the Board of Commissioners, and a number of professional men and tradesmen in the locality, testifying to the decorous manner in which he conducted his establishment. Mr. Loveridge remarked that the chief cause of complaint was the fact of music being played in the public houses every night during the week except Sunday, and he and his brother magistrates had received a letter from the Board of Commissioners on the same subject. They hoped, however, there would be no further cause of complaint License renewed.”

Birmingham Daily Post 8/10/1878 - Advert

“Pianist (good) Wanted, Monday.

Apply, People’s Music Hall, BARREL SPIRIT VAULTS, Bilston.”

PIANIST (good) Wanted, Monday.—Apply, People’s Music Hall, Barrel Spirit Vaults, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 14/11/1879 - Advert

“BARREL SPIRIT VAULTS, Market Place, Bilston. One of the best known corner vaults in the town. Long lease. In-coming about £900.

Apply, Roderick and Son, Birmingham.”

BARREL Spirit Vaults, Market Place, Bilston. One of the best known corner vaults in the town. Long lease. In-coming about £900.—Apply, Roderick and Son, Birmingham.

John Harriman – see also OLD BOARS HEAD.

Evening Express 2/2/1881 - Advert

“General Servant (good) Wanted, with good character.

Apply at BARREL SPIRIT VAULTS, Bilston.”

GENERAL Servant (good) Wanted, with good character — Apply at Barrel Spirit Vaults Bilston.

1881 Census

40, Church Street – BARRELL

[1] *George Millard* (36), publican, born Eversholt, Bedfordshire;

[2] *Elizabeth Millard* (34), wife, born London;

[3] *Laura Millard* (8), daughter, scholar, born Walsall;

[4] *Mary Skeldon* (21), general servant, born Coseley:

George Millard – see also LION and SPREAD EAGLE.

Edward Bolewell = Edward Bolwell

Birmingham Daily Post 24/12/1881

“At Bilston Police Court, yesterday, the following licenses were fully transferred.....

Edward Bolwell, BOARD INN, Church Street, to *William Edwards*, licensed victualler.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 1/9/1883 - Advert

“Great Western Railway Company.

The Committee of the Wolverhampton and District Licensed Victuallers Incorporated Society have made arrangements with the above Company to run a Special Express Train to London (International Fisheries Exhibition).....

Tickets may be had from any of the undermentioned.....

William Edwards, BARREL INN, Church Street, Bilston.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 26/1/1884

“On Tuesday evening, Frank, the son of Mr. *W. Edwards*, the BARREL INN, Bilston, swallowed a half penny, but, thanks to the prompt attention of Dr. Larkin, no serious results are anticipated.”

1891 Census

40, Church Street

- [1] *William Morris* (37), licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *Mary A. E. Morris* (34), wife, born Much Wenlock;
- [3] *Annie Morris* (7), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] *William C. Morris* (3), son, born Bilston;
- [5] *Leonard Morris* (7 weeks), son, born Bilston;
- [6] *Elizabeth Tonks* (20), domestic servant, born Coseley:

William Morris – see also STAG.

1901 Census

71, Church Street

- [1] *William E. Carter* (28), manager public house, born Tettenhall;
- [2] *Fanny Carter* (30), wife, born Wombourne;
- [3] *Edith Carter* (5), daughter, born Bilston:

Staffordshire Advertiser 13/2/1909

“Bilston annual licensing sessions were held on the 5th inst.....

An application was made for an ‘off’ license at Green Lanes, and it was supported by a memorial from 160 residents of the locality. The application was granted on condition that the owners surrendered the license of the BARREL INN, Church Street.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 12/2/1910

“The Annual Licensing Sessions were held yesterday.....

An application was made by William Cave for an off license for premises at Green Lanes, and it was opposed by several owners. It was pointed out that it was granted last year, but not confirmed at Stafford. An offer was made by the owners to surrender the BARREL VAULTS, Church Street, if the new licence was granted. The application was granted on condition that Messrs. Butler, brewers, gave up two houses.”

The license was surrendered on the granting of an off beer license in Green Lanes, Bilston.

The house closed on 2nd May 1910.

**BILSTON, STAFFORDSHIRE.
TO WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS
AND OTHERS.**

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, by RICHD. CORBETT.
On Monday the 14th of November next, at the King's Arms Inn, Bilston, at six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be read—all those old-established, substantially-built, and modernly fitted-up Wine and Spirit Vaults, with genteel House and convenient back Premises attached thereto, being the very best situation in the town of Bilston, possessing a corner situation nearly opposite the Market-place, in Church-street, and now in the occupation of Mr. William Bath, with which will be included the Goodwill of the Business, and possession of the property at any time that may be agreed upon, not exceeding Lady-day next.

The above premises have been recently re-built in a most substantial manner, and are superiorly fitted-up with marble chimney-pieces, cornices, bells, gas and water-fittings, water-closet, soft water cistern, &c. &c. regardless of expense.

To persons desirous of entering upon the Wine and Spirit Trade this is an opportunity that seldom occurs.

The premises, which are of the first-rate order both as to situation and stability of erection, may at a very moderate expense be altered for any other wholesale or retail business.

The purchaser will be expected to take to the Casks and Shop Fixtures, &c. at a fair valuation.

To view the property apply on the premises; and for further particulars at the offices of Messrs. Manby and Hawkesford, of Wolverhampton, Solicitors, &c.; or of the Auctioneer, New Town, Bilston.

1842

**BANKRUPT'S STOCK, AT BILSTON.
To Wine and Liquor Dealers, Publicans, Brokers,
and others.**

**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY RICHARD CORBETT.**

On the premises, by direction of the assignee, on Thursday and Friday, the 2d and 3d days of February, 1843.

ALL the genteel modern **HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE**, Bedding, Linen, Floor and Bedside Carpets, brilliant large Chimney Glass, fine toned Pianoforte, a beautiful mahogany winged Wardrobe, handsome bronzed Gas Chandeliers, set of Spanish wood Dining Tables, Pedestal Sideboard, Kitchen and Culinary Utensils; the superior **SHOP FIXTURES**, Liquor Fountains, Iron Chest, &c.; the **STOCK of WINES, CORDIALS, PORTER, CIDER**, and other miscellaneous property and effects, of Mr. William Bath, wine and liquor merchant, Church-street, Bilston, a bankrupt.

The Household Furniture comprises seven very good iron post tent and tester bedsteads, in chints, moreen, and dimity clothing, feather beds, bolsters, and pillows, sheets, blankets, and counterpanes, mahogany and oak chests of drawers, a beautiful Spanish wood winged wardrobe, an excellent set of Spanish wood sliding dining tables, mahogany sofa in damask cover, Brussels and other floor, bedside, and stair carpets, handsome mahogany pedestal sideboard, mahogany, imitation of rosewood, and painted chairs, a brilliant chimney glass, in burnished gold frame, plate 46 inches by 28 inches, mahogany loo, pillar, dressing, and wash tables, a fine toned London made pianoforte, with additional keys, the usual assortment of bedroom, kitchen, and culinary utensils, &c.

The Stock, &c. comprise about 65 gallons of good port wine, 23 gallons of brown sherry, 7 gallons of Marsala, 9 gallons of raspberry brandy, 19 gallons of rum, 4 gallons of peppermint, 5 dozen bottles of port wine, 10 bottles of prime Burgundy, 50 gallons of cider, 50 gallons of porter, and about 2 dozen bottles of cider and perry, the superior liquor-shop fixtures, two seven-tap liquor fountains, a large quantity of excellent neatly painted liquor casks, from 12 to 150 gallons each, an excellent counter with metal top, a capital iron chest, with two iron drawers, a stove and piping, three iron screen seats, three very handsome and well executed window and shop signs, with burnished gold letters, show glasses, measures, and other miscellaneous effects, catalogues of which are in circulation, and may be had on the premises, and at Mr. Christie's, official assignee, District Bankruptcy Court, Waterloo-street, Birmingham, or at the offices of the Auctioneer, New Town, Bilston.

The stock, shop fixtures, &c. will be sold on the first day, and the bed-room, drawing and dining room furniture, on the second.

The sale to commence each day at ten a.m. and at two p.m.

1843

BILSTON, STAFFORDSHIRE.

To Wine and Spirit Merchants and others.

**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY RICHARD CORBETT,**

By direction of the assignee of Mr. William Bath, a bankrupt, on Friday, the 12th of May, 1843, at the King's Arms Inn, Bilston, at five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be produced—

LOT I.—ALL that newly erected and substantially built MESSUAGE or DWELLING-HOUSE, consisting of extensive store vaults, kitchen, and soft water cistern, on the basement; sitting room, hall, kitchen, butler's and common pantries on the ground floor; a large drawing room, five excellent bed rooms, and dressing closets on the upper stories; and also a stable, gig house, and other outbuildings in the enclosed back yards.

The house and wine and spirit vaults are well fitted up, regardless of expense, with marble chimney pieces, cornices, bells, water closet, gas and water pipes, soft water cistern in roof, &c.

Together with those old established WINE and SPIRIT VAULTS in front, which have been recently and modernly fitted up, situate in Church-street, nearly opposite the Market-place, and commanding a corner position, with side entrances.

The premises are extremely well adapted for the wine and spirit trade, and were lately in the occupation of the bankrupt, with which will be sold the bankrupt's interest in the Excise Licenses granted to him for the said premises.

To persons desirous of entering upon the wine and spirit trade, an opportunity presents itself that seldom occurs, or the premises, which are of the first-rate order both as regards situation and stability of erection, may, at a very moderate expense, be altered for any other wholesale or retail business requiring spacious accommodation.

1843

TO be LET, and may be entered upon immediately, a well-accustomed SPIRIT VAULT, near the Market-place, Church street, Bilston, and now in the occupation of John Cardall. The above business has been carried on with great success for the last thirty years, and the premises are calculated to do a first rate business. Rent and coming in very moderate.—For further particulars and to treat for the same apply on the premises.

1851

TO PUBLICANS AND OTHERS.

TO BE LET, with immediate possession, that excellent Beerhouse the "MALT SHOVEL," in High-street, Bilston, the present proprietor leaving the town in consequence of other engagements. Stock and Fixtures to be taken to. Coming in about £70.—For further particulars apply on the premises.

1854

BARREL

4, Mill Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Amelia Radford
Robert Radford
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1965]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Robert Radford [1861] – **1885**;
George Price [1881] manager
Edmund Roderick (**1885 – 1887**);
George Price (**1887 – 1898**);
Mrs. Elizabeth Price (**1898 – 1934**);
Mrs. Sarah Harriet Walker (**1934 – [1940]**)
Edmunds []
D Lancey [1976]
Anne Mary Tyler []



1987

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

1861 Census

Mill Street

- [1] Robert Radford (36), ale dealer, born Colton, Staffordshire;
- [2] Amelia Radford (35), wife, born Brood, Staffordshire;
- [3] Lucy Whitehouse (17), house servant, born Bilston:

Robert Radford, beer retailer, Mill Street. [1865]

1871 Census

Mill Street

- [1] Robert Radford (46), licensed retail brewer, born Staffordshire;
- [2] Amelia Radford (45), wife, born Brewood;
- [3] Ann Hill (42), sister, born Colton, Staffordshire;
- [4] Henry Radford (17), nephew, brewer's assistant, born Wolverhampton:

Birmingham Daily Post 30/8/1873

"Yesterday the annual licensing meeting for Bilston and the neighbourhood was held in the Petty Sessions Court..... The proceedings opened by Chief Superintendent McCrea presenting his annual 'black list.' In doing so he remarked that it only indicated eleven offenders, whilst a twelvemonth ago there were twenty-nine. This comparison, he considered, was the clearest substantiation of the beneficial operation of the recent Licensing Act. The names of the offending beerhouse keepers were.....

Robert Radford, BARREL INN, Bilston.....

The committee stated that the licenses of all the persons contained in the 'list' would be suspended until the adjourned licensing sessions, to be held on the 26th proximo."

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1873

“Bilston Adjourned Annual Licensing Sessions were held yesterday.....

The undermentioned beerhouse licenses were renewed.....

Robert Radford, BARREL INN, Bilston.....

All the above applicants had been convicted during the past two years, and the Bench cautioned them.”

Evening Express 17/1/1881

“This (Monday) morning an inquest was held at the BARREL INN, Mill Street, Bilston, before W. H. Phillips, Esq, coroner, touching the death of a man named John Dudley, whose body was found in an arm of the Birmingham Canal, at Millfields, on Friday morning.

Mrs. Emma Dudley, wife of the deceased, said he was a miner by trade, but had recently been employed as a labourer at the Millfields Ironworks. She had heard him say that he crossed the canal going to and coming from his work. He went out on the morning of his death about five o’clock, and she sent his breakfast as usual, but never saw him again alive. She had no reason to blame anyone for his death; the bruises on his legs were caused by old sores.

John Horne, a boat unloader, working at Millfields Ironworks, said he knew the deceased, whose duty it was to go to the works before the rest of the men and light the fires. On Friday morning, in consequence of a boy bringing deceased’s breakfast, he (witness) went in search of him. Not finding him, and suspecting that something had happened to him, witness dragged in the canal for him with a boat shaft, and found his body near a half empty boat. Deceased, who was quite dead, was in the habit of crossing the arm of the canal by the boats, although it was only about 20 yards further to go round. Friday morning was foggy, and the canal was not within call of either house or cabin boat. Witness believed deceased came to his death by accident.

The jury, after hearing the evidence, brought in a verdict of Found Dead.”

1881 Census

Mill Street – BARREL INN

- [1] *George Price* (34), public house manager, born Droitwich;
- [2] *Elizabeth Price* (32), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Harriet Price* (12), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] *Elizabeth Price* (8), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] *Minnie Price* (2), daughter, born Bilston:

Darlaston Weekly Times 24/1/1885

“An inquest was held on Thursday afternoon, at the BARREL INN, Mill Street, Bilston, by W. H. Phillips, Esq, touching the death of a little child named Ambrose Bowen, five weeks old, son of Samuel Bowen, miner, Mill Lane, Mill Street, who was found dead in bed on Tuesday morning. The mother, Mary Jane Bowen, deposed that, on the morning in question, she awoke about five o’clock and saw that the child was alive and well. She went to sleep again and woke about nine o’clock, when she found the child dead. Dr. Mathie was sent for. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned by the jury.”

1891 Census

Mill Street – Public House

- [1] *George Price* (43), publican, born Droitwich;
- [2] *Elizabeth Price* (41), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Harriet Price* (21), daughter, dressmaker, born Bilston;
- [4] *Elizabeth Price* (17), daughter, boot stitcher, born Bilston;
- [5] *Minie Price* (12), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] *George Price* (8), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] *Arthur Price* (6), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [8] *Ernest Price* (3), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [9] *baby Price* (4 days), daughter, born Bilston;
- [10] *Sarah Douglas* (45), relative, married, charwoman, born Droitwich:

George Price brewed his own beer.

1898 Probate

“*George Price* of the BARREL INN, Mill Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 13 April 1898. Administration Lichfield 24 June to *Elizabeth Price*, widow. Effects £110.”

1901 Census

4, Mill Street

- [1] *Elizabeth Price* (52), widow, publican, born Bilston;
- [2] *Minnie Price* (22), daughter, born Bilston;
- [3] *George Price* (17), son, engine cleaner, born Bilston;
- [4] *Arthur Price* (16), son, iron pipe worker, born Bilston:

Mrs. Elizabeth Price, beer retailer, Mill Street. [1904]

1911 Census

4, Mill Street

- [1] *Elizabeth Price* (62), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Bilston;
- [2] *Arthur Price* (25), son, blacksmith's striker, born Bilston:

Mrs. Elizabeth Price, beer retailer, 4, Mill Street. [1912]

1921 Census

4, Mill Street.

- [1] *Elizabeth Price* (73), widow, innkeeper, born Bilston:

Elizabeth Price died in the 3rd quarter of 1934.

Sarah Harriet Walker was married to *Charles Henry Walker* – see ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, Oxford Street, and BROWN LION, Oxford Street.

1939 Register

Mill Street – BARREL INN

- [1] *Sarah H. Walker*, date of birth 12/8/1869, licensed victualler, widowed;
- [2] *Bertram R. Wilkes*, dob 28/11/1905, barman, married;
- [3] *Phyllis Wilkes*, dob 18/8/1906, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [4] *Janet (Wilkes) Harrison*, dob 20/5/1933, at school, single:

Sarah Harriet Walker – see also PHEASANT.

[1983]

London Gazette 18/7/1984

“*Anne Mary Tyler* (also known as *Anne Mary Carby*), of 5 Park Terrace, Rookery Road, Hansdworth, Birmingham, unemployed, lately residing and carrying on business at the BARREL INN, 4 Mill Street, Bilston, both in the metropolitan county of West Midlands as a Publican.

Court - Birmingham.

Date of First Meeting - 17th August 1984, 10.30am.

Place - The Official Receiver's Office, Commercial Union House, 22 Martineau Square, Birmingham B2 4UP.

Date of Public Examination - 28th November 1984. 10.15am.

Place - The Court House, Corner of Corporation Street and Newton Street, 4 Newton Street, Birmingham B4 6PY.”

Closed

It was demolished in 1987.

BARREL

47, (25), Temple Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Samuel Lane, blacksmith, Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton
Mrs. Theodosia Torr, wife of licensee
John Pritchard, The Brewery, Darlaston
William Butler and Co. Ltd.
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Thomas Holmes [1849] – [1859]
Mrs. Mary Ann Holmes [] – **1860**;
Edmund Holmes **(1860 – 1863)**;
Samuel Lane **(1863 – 1866)**;
John Murphy **(1866 – [1867]**
John Venton [1868]
Joseph Shale [1871] – **1881**;
Mary Shale **(1881 – 1885)**;
Job Ecclestone Jnr. **(1885)**;
William Waldron **(1885)**;
Richard Kinsey **(1885 – 1886)**;
Thomas Pyatt **(1886 – 1887)**;
John Henry Pitt **(1887 – 1891)**;
Samuel Salt **(1891)**;
William Bowater Flavell **(1891 – 1893)**;
Joseph Torr **(1893 – 1909)**;
Edward Richards **(1909)**;
William Wood Duley **(1909 – 1913)**;
William Butler Slater **(1913 – 1914)**;
Alfred Dean **(1914 – 1915)**;
Joseph Blakemore **(1915 – 1927)**;
Frank William Roberts **(1927 – 1933)**;
Jesse Hart **(1933 – 1936)**;
William Porter **(1936 – [1940]**

TO SADDLERS, COLLAR AND HARNESS MAKERS.
A Capital BUSINESS, with a first-rate Connection in the above Trade, to be **DISPOSED OF**, immediately, in Oxford Street, Bilston. Quite a safe investment. Satisfactory reasons will be given for leaving. – Apply to Mr. Holmes, the Barrel, Temple Street, Bilston.

1856

FREEHOLD PROPERTY,
IN GOZZARD STREET, BILSTON.
WILLIAM P. TOMKYS, Sen., will **SELL** by AUCTION, on **TUESDAY, May 10, 1859**, at the Barrel Inn, Temple Street, Bilston, by order of the Administrators of the late Thomas Holmes, deceased, at Seven o'clock in the evening precisely, subject to conditions to be then and there produced—all those Six valuable **FREEHOLD MESSUAGES or DWELLING HOUSES**, with Yard and Out-buildings, together with the **JAPANNER'S SHOP** at back of the same, situate in Gozzard Street, Bilston aforesaid, and now in the occupation of Enoch Fellows, Pearse, Roberts, Wilkes, Neachill, and others, producing an annual rental of £64. the site containing 620 square yards or thereabouts.
For further particulars, apply to the Auctioneer, 27, Wellington Street, Bilston.

1859

AT THE BARREL INN, TEMPLE STREET,
BILSTON.
MESSRS. WHITEHEAD and CADDICK will **SELL** by AUCTION, on Thursday next, October the 11th, 1860, the whole of the useful **FURNITURE, BREWING UTENSILS, ALE CASKS, &c.**, under a distress for taxes.
Sale to commence at eleven o'clock.
Auctioneers' Offices, Lichfield-street, Bilston.

1860

NOTES

25, Temple Street [1861], [1862], [1868], [1871], [1881], [1896]
47, Temple Street [1912], [1921], [1939], [1940]

BARRELL [1864], [1865], [1901]

It had a beerhouse license.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/8/1849

“Annual meeting of Magistrates for granting and renewing victuallers licenses for Seisdon North.....

Applications for fresh licenses The statements in support of the application were almost uniformly to the effect that the applicant had for many years kept a beershop without complaint, and that the premises were suitable for a public house, which was much required in the neighbourhood. Licenses were granted to the following persons.....

Thomas Holmes, Temple Street, Bilston.”

Thomas Holmes, victualler, BARREL INN, and mill screw manufacturer, Temple Street. [1851]

1851 Census

Temple Street

[1] *Thomas Holmes* (63), engineer employing 6 men, born Worsley, Lancashire;

[2] *Mary Holmes* (38), wife, born Lapley, Staffordshire;

[3] *Thomas Holmes* (15), son, engineer, born Bilston;

[4] *Edmund Holmes* (14), son, born Bilston;

[5] *Joseph Holmes* (8), son, born Bilston;

[6] *John Holmes* (6), son, born Bilston;

[7] *Mary Jane Holmes* (3), daughter, born Bilston;

[8] *Charles Worrall* (24), servant, born Wemsnorthard, Shropshire;

[9] *Ann Barnes* (20), servant, born Bilston;

[10] *Mary Fegan* (19), servant, born Ireland;

[11] *Thomas Mosley* (19), apprentice, born Bilston:

Thomas Holmes was also a mill screw manufacturer and engineer. [1851], [1854]

Staffordshire Advertiser 26/7/1851

“An inquest was held on Friday at the BARREL INN, Temple Street, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, on the body of Samuel Groom, thirteen years of age. On Wednesday the deceased was sent for water to a basin in the Walsall canal, when he overbalanced himself and fell in; on being taken out he was quite dead. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/6/1854

“An adjourned inquest was held yesterday (Tuesday), before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, at the BARREL INN, Temple Street, Bilston, on the body of Patrick Kelly, a miner, whose death had taken place under rather peculiar circumstances. It appeared that some short time since the deceased returned from his work and complained of having a kench in his side. He, however, so far recovered as to be enabled to resume his employment; but on Sunday morning, the 11th instant, he became so ill that he could not get up, and he continued very ill until Thursday last, when he expired.

The person with whom the deceased lodged, Richard Roberts, perceiving that the deceased was in a dangerous state, went once or twice to the house of Mr. Johnson, the relieving officer for Bilston, to obtain a note for the deceased, so that he might have a surgeon, but was told that Mr. Johnson was not at home, and that he could not have one without his being at home. He, however, succeeded in seeing the relieving officer on Thursday morning last, when a note was given to him, but before the arrival of Mr. Hancox, surgeon, the deceased had unfortunately expired. The wife of Roberts stated at the inquest that she went to Mr. Johnson’s house on Wednesday morning last, and told him that she had come for a note for a man named Roberts, who had called the night before, when he replied that he had not seen Roberts, and that if Roberts said he had been there he told a lie. The witness, in reply to a further question, stated that the person for whom the note was wanted worked in the pits, to which Mr. Johnson replied that he must go to the pits for a note, as he should not grant one. It was also given in evidence that deceased had taken antimony wine, Venice turpentine, and castor oil whilst he was ill.

A post mortem examination of the body had since been made by Mr. Hancox, surgeon, who gave it as his opinion that the death of the deceased was caused by inflammation of the stomach and intestines, accelerated by something of an irritating character given or taken during life. He could not say that the deceased’s life would have been spared had he received proper medical treatment during life, but it was highly important that he should have been seen by the medical officer of the union or some other surgeon. He was of opinion that the administration of Venice turpentine and antimony wine would produce the appearances which the stomach presented.

The Jury returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased died from inflammation of the stomach and intestines, and that his death was accelerated by the innocent administration of antimony wine and Venice turpentine; the jury also expressing a strong opinion upon the conduct of Mr. Johnson, the relieving officer.”

Birmingham Journal 27/9/1856 - Advert

“To Saddlers, Collar and Harness Makers.

A Capital Business, with a first-rate Connection in the above Trade, to be Disposed Of, immediately, in Oxford Street, Bilston. Quite a safe investment. Satisfactory reasons will be given for leaving.

Apply to Mr. *Holmes*, the BARREL, Temple Street, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/5/1858

“On Sunday morning, between eight and nine o’clock, Bridget Donnelly, the wife of an Irish labourer, and lodging at a house in Temple Street, Bilston, was seen to turn out with a child five weeks old in her arms, for the purpose of begging. Between two and three o’clock in the afternoon she returned to her lodgings and stated that the child died shortly after leaving home that morning. From the fact of the child being somewhat discoloured about its neck, when it was taken back dead, Mr. Hancox, surgeon, was called in by the police to look at the deceased. Mr. Hancox stated that he could not, without a post mortem examination, account for the child’s death. He considered that it was a case calling for a Coroner’s inquest. Yesterday, an inquest was commenced at the house of Mr. *Holmes*, the BARREL INN, Bilston, on the body of the deceased, but adjourned.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/5/1858

“An inquest, to inquire into the death of a child five weeks old, was held by adjournment on Thursday, at the BARREL public house, Temple Street, Bilston, before Mr. W. H. Phillips, deputy coroner. The mother of the child, Bridget Donnelly, left her lodgings on Sunday morning, taking her child with her, for the purpose of begging. She returned in the evening, when the child, which she carried in her arms, was dead. A post mortem examination had been made by Mr. Hancox, who, at the adjourned inquest, stated that from the congested condition of the lungs and other appearances he had arrived at the conclusion that death was the result of suffocation. The mother of the child was examined, but she could not account for the death in any way whatever. There being no evidence to show that the slightest violence had been used, the jury returned a verdict of Died from Suffocation from Unknown Causes.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/10/1858

“On Saturday last, an inquest was held before G. H. Hincliffe, Esq. (for Mr. Phillips), at Mr. *T. Holmes*’s, the BARREL INN, Bilston, on the body of a fine young man, only twenty-one years of age, named William Wild. The evidence went to show that deceased worked for Messrs. Bagnall, in their stone pit at Willenhall. On the preceding Wednesday he was ‘holing’ some stone previous to its being taken down, and he had been desired to put ‘sprags,’ or props, to it as he went on. However, he neglected to take this necessary step, and the consequence was that, after he had been at work about a quarter of an hour, two hundredweight of stone fell from the roof, and falling upon him, he was so much injured on his head and other parts of his body that he died on the following day. The place where he was at work was a yard and half wide, and the doggy had told him to put up the props, there being plenty of timber in the pit. The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 6/4/1859 - Deaths

“On the 1st instant, of an attack of gout, in the 71st year of his age, Mr. *Thomas Holmes*, of the BARREL INN, Temple Street, Bilston.”

Birmingham Journal 30/4/1859 - Advert

“Freehold Property, in Gozzard Street, Bilston.

William P. Tomkys, Sen., will Sell by Auction, on Tuesday, May 10, 1859, at the BARREL INN, Temple Street, Bilston, by order of the Administrators of the late *Thomas Holmes*, deceased, at Seven o’clock in the evening precisely, subject to conditions to be then and there produced.

All those Six valuable Freehold Messuages or Dwelling Houses, with Yard and Out-buildings, together with the Japanner’s Shop at back of the same, situate in Gozzard Street, Bilston aforesaid, and now in the occupation of Enoch Fellowes, Pearse, Roberts, Wilkes, Neachill, and others, producing an annual rental of £64, the site containing 620 square yards or thereabouts.

For further particulars, apply to the Auctioneer, 27, Wellington Street, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/10/1859

“Yesterday, at Bilston Police Court, before the Rev. H. S. Fletcher and H. Ward, Esq, Sarah Hazeldine and Jane Richards were charged with assaulting Moses Baggott, a brickmaker, living at Moxley, and stealing from him the sum of £4 4s 6d. It appeared from the evidence of the prosecutor that about eight o’clock on Friday evening last he was at the BARREL public house, in Bilston, where he met the prisoners, and Hazeldine having been an old servant of his father he treated her and her companion to some drink. They remained there together until about ten o’clock, when the prosecutor left to go home. Before he left, the woman Hazeldine told him to be careful of his money, and advised him to put it in his stocking, which he accordingly did. On his road home, as he was passing the Bilston gas works, he was suddenly attacked from behind by the two prisoners and a man whom he did not know. Richards put her hand over his mouth, while the man held him, and Hazeldine took his money, amounting to £4 4s 6d. Richard Groves, the landlord of the MALT SHOVEL public house, proved that between seven and eight o’clock on the morning after the robbery the two prisoners came to his house for some rum and coffee, and that Richards had at that time a couple of sovereigns in her hand. Both prisoners were committed for trial.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/10/1859

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Sarah Hazledine, 45, Jane Richards, 21, and George Bentley, were indicted for having stolen from the person of Moses Baggott, at Bilston, a purse containing £4 4s 6d. The prosecutor deposed that on the evening of the 30th of September he was at the BARREL public house, Bilston, and offered Hazledine some drink, she having been an old servant to his father. The woman seeing he had some money advised him to place it in his stocking before starting from the house. He adopted her suggestion. When passing the Gasworks at Bilston the male prisoner suddenly caught hold of his arms, Richards put her hand upon his mouth, and Hazledine took the money from his stocking. They then threw him down and made off. The Jury found the prisoners guilty, and they were each sentenced to six months’ imprisonment.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/8/1860

“On Saturday an inquest was held at the BARREL, in Temple Street, Bilston, before W. H. Phillips, Esq, Deputy Coroner, on the body of John Dolan, aged 17. From the evidence of James Dorothy, it appeared that on Wednesday last the deceased was at work with him in a pit at the bottom of Fiery Holes Colliery, when witness sent him to fetch a crowbar from another part of the pit. The deceased, however, went with his candle into an old road, where the ventilation was defective, and to which he had not been sent. Witness went in search of the deceased, and on passing the old road, he was met by the ‘windy sulphur.’ Passing into the old road, he found the boy lying shockingly burnt and quite dead. It was shown that the errand upon which the deceased had been sent did not necessitate his going into danger, and a verdict of Accidental Death was recorded.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 10/10/1860 - Advert

“At the BARREL INN, Temple Street, Bilston.

Messrs. Whitehead and Caddick will Sell by Auction, on Thursday next, October the 11th, 1860.

The whole of the useful Furniture, Brewing Utensils, Ale Casks, &c, under a distress for taxes.

Sale to commence at eleven o’clock.

Auctioneers Offices, Lichfield Street, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 6/3/1861

“On Friday last T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, held an inquest at the BARREL INN, Bilston, on the body of John Dunn, a child aged two years and five months. The deceased’s clothes took fire in his father’s house, on the previous Tuesday week, in the absence of the mother, who had gone out on business, and he was badly burnt. Mr. Hancox, surgeon, attended him until Wednesday last when he expired. The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Edmund Holmes = Edmund Homes = Edward Holmes

1861 Census

25, Temple Street

- [1] Mary Ann Holmes (48), widow, born Wheaton Aston, Staffordshire
- [2] Edmund Holmes (24), son, mechanical draughtsman and publican, born Bilston;
- [3] John Holmes (17), son, engineer, born Bilston;
- [4] Mary J. Holmes (13), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] Ellen Holmes (8), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] Eliza Sansom (24), cousin, barmaid, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/11/1861

“On Monday last T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, held an inquest at the BARREL INN, Temple Street, Bilston, on the body of Mary Griffin, aged about three years, who had died from scalds received under the following circumstances. On the 13th instant the deceased was in the kitchen of her father’s house, in Temple Street, playing with a younger child, and while her father was stooping down lacing her boots, she pulled a tea kettle of boiling water off the hob by the side of the fire upon her, and she was scalded dreadfully upon her stomach. Her wounds were dressed, and on the following day Mr. Larkin, surgeon, attended her, and continued his services up to her death, which took place on Friday last, from the effects of the scalds. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the evidence.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/8/1863

“Yesterday, an inquest was held at the BARREL INN, Temple Street, Bilston, before Mr. T. M. Phillips, on the body of a boy named Thomas Beebee, aged nine years. The child’s parents live in Temple Street and on Tuesday night, at about nine o’clock, he was playing in Oxford Street, near to the entrance of Temple Street, when a cart, that was being driven apparently from the Wolverhampton races, and was tolerably well filled with passengers, knocked him down, and passing over his neck occasioned injuries from which he died in about ten minutes afterwards. His parents had been from home, but returned in time to see their child expire. Who were the occupants of the cart has not yet transpired. The Jury found that the deceased was killed by a cart passing over him, but by whom the cart was driven was unknown.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/6/1864

“At the Police Court, on Tuesday, before Mr. Isaac Spooner, Stipendiary, *Samuel Lane*, BARREL INN, Temple Street, Bilston, was, on the information of Police-constable Barratt, fined 40s and costs, for keeping his house open during illegal hours on Sunday last.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/9/1864

“Bilston Annual Licensing Meeting.....

During the year the police had summoned before the Bench 32 publicans for various offences against their licenses, and out of that number the following, who were the worst of the lot, were suspended until the adjourned licensing day, on the 22nd inst.....

Samuel Lane, of the BARREL, Temple Street; had been summoned twice and fined once.”

Birmingham Daily Post 24/9/1864

“Bilston Adjourned Licensing Day.....

All the licensed victuallers whose licenses had been suspended a fortnight ago were yesterday renewed.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/8/1865

“Annual Licensing Meeting for the Bilston Division.....

The ‘black list’ handed in by the police contained the names of fourteen publicans who had been fined for offences against their license.....

Samuel Lane, Bilston.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 7/10/1865

"Bilston Adjourned Licensing Meeting.....

The following, whose names had been placed on the 'black list,' had their licenses renewed.....

S. Lane, BARREL, Temple Street."

Birmingham Daily Post 2/12/1865 - Advert

"This is to Certify that I will not be responsible for any Debt my wife, Ann Lane, may contract after this date.

December 1, 1865. *Samuel Lane*, Temple Street, Bilston."

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that I will not be responsible for any DEBT my wife, ANN LANE, may contract after this date.— December 1, 1865.
SAMUEL LANE, Temple Street, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 6/12/1865 - Advert

"Notice.

I, Ann Lane, the Wife of *Samuel Lane*, of Temple Street, Bilston, Certify that I Never Contracted any Debts without the knowledge of my Husband, not having left my Home, nor do I intend to do so.

Bilston, December 4, 1865."

NOTICE.
I, ANN LANE, the Wife of SAMUEL LANE, of Temple Street, Bilston, Certify that I NEVER CONTRACTED any DEBTS without the knowledge of my Husband, not having left my Home, nor do I intend to do so.
Bilston, December 4, 1865.

Birmingham Daily Post 7/12/1865 - Advert

"The whole Property of the late *Thomas Holmes* on Sale, on reasonable terms.

Apply, *Samuel Lane*, Temple Street, Bilston."

THE whole PROPERTY of the late Thomas Holmes on SALE, on reasonable terms.—Apply, Samuel Lane, Temple Street, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 26/12/1865 - Advert

"To be Let, a Liquor Shop, BARREL INN, Temple Street, Bilston. Capital Premises. Stock at valuation. £35 per annum.

Samuel Lane, Temple Street, Bilston."

TO be LET, a LIQUOR SHOP: "BARREL INN," Temple Street, Bilston. Capital Premises. Stock at valuation. £35. per annum.
—Samuel Lane, Temple Street, Bilston.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/1/1866

"On Friday, at Bilston Police Court.....

The following persons were summoned before the Bench and fined for offences against their licenses.....

Samuel Lane, licensed victualler, of Temple Street, was fined 10s and costs, for keeping his house open after twelve o'clock on Saturday night last."

Birmingham Daily Post 7/3/1866 - Advert

"To be Let, a Liquor Shop, BARREL INN, Temple Street, Bilston. £35 per annum. Long premises. Stock at valuation."

TO be LET, a LIQUOR SHOP, Barrel Inn, Temple Street, Bilston. £35. per annum. Long Premises. Stock at valuation.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1866

"The annual meeting for the renewal of existing licenses, and for receiving applications for fresh ones, was held at the Police Court, on Friday.....

At the commencement of the proceedings, the Superintendent of Police presented the following report.

Bilston Division, August 31, 1866.

'I beg to submit to the Magistrates the attached list of licensed victuallers who have been complained against during the year. Twenty-five have been convicted, and three have paid costs; one had been convicted three times, and five convicted twice. This is a large increase on last year's list; but I think it has arisen from the police being more particular in reporting cases of permitting drunkenness – as it was found to be an evil rather on the increase. I believe it has caused landlords to be more careful in supplying drink to persons intoxicated.'

H. McCrea, Superintendent.

Black List.....

Samuel Lane, BARREL, Temple Street, Bilston left over until the adjourned licensing meeting on the 28th of September."

Samuel Lane, widower, engineer, married Theodosia Lane, spinster, on 2nd November 1880.

Theodosia Lane was the daughter of James Lane – see GLOBE, Ash Street, Bradley.

Shrewsbury Free Press 8/9/1866

“On Tuesday, at the Bilston Petty Sessions, before the Stipendiary, *John Murphy*, licensed victualler, of the BARREL INN, Temple Street, was fined 1s and costs for a first offence of permitting drunkenness in his house, on the 25th ult.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/9/1867

“Bilston Adjourned Licensing Meeting.....

The license to the BARREL INN, Temple Street, kept by Mr. *John Murphy*, was taken away.”

The license of *John Murphy* was suspended altogether in 1867, “having been so many times fined.” It was renewed in October 1867.

John Venton, beer retailer, 25, Temple Street. [1868]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/9/1868

“On Friday, at Bilston Police Court, Joseph Dutton was charged with stealing a saw, value 5s, belonging to Samuel Riley. A few days since a sale took place at the beerhouse known as the BARREL, in Temple Street, and the prisoner was engaged to assist there. The saw produced was sold to the prosecutor, but the prisoner was observed to carry it outside the house, and put it in a van, and afterwards to take it away under his jacket. The theft soon became known, and the stolen saw was found in the house in which the prisoner lived.

The prisoner made a very weak defence, and was sentenced to twenty-one days’ imprisonment.”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/9/1869 - Advert

“To be Let, the BARREL INN, Temple Street, Bilston; a good roomy House, with large Premises, and convenient Yard, capable of doing a Wholesale and Retail Brewing Business. The Premises may be had on Lease if required, at a very moderate rent.

Apply to *Samuel Lane*, Lloyd Street, Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 28/5/1870

“An inquest was held at the BARREL INN, Temple Street, by Mr. W. H. Phillips, on the body of Norris Best (52), tinplate worker, Temple Street, who committed suicide by cutting his throat on Wednesday morning last.

Benjamin Shaler stated that he knew the deceased, who had been lodging at his aunt’s, in the same street. He used to drink very freely, and used to have what deceased called ‘blue devils’ after it. In consequence of some drunken fit he had had on Monday night last, the deceased went to witness’s house for the night. During the time he was in the house he seemed very strange, and was always thinking that someone was going to ‘stick’ him. On the Tuesday morning witness was wakened by hearing what he thought was the deceased vomiting. He rose up, and found that he (deceased) had cut his throat. He called for help, and then went for a doctor; but before one could come the deceased had died.

Mary Ann Shaler stated that the deceased used to lodge with her. He had not worked since his father’s death, when he had about £125 left him, which he squandered in drink. After he had been drinking he used to be very violent. On Monday last he went to bed as usual, but after he had been there some time he called to her, and said that Dick and Harry (two persons who used to lodge with witness) wanted to fight him. She told him they did not want to do anything of the kind. Soon after she was awakened by hearing the deceased rushing about the house as if he was mad and tried to get to witness, who shut herself up in her room. He said he had got the ‘blue devils,’ and that the devil had been trying to put his heart out and dig his eyes out. Witness afterwards locked him up in the house and went for help. When she came back deceased said, ‘The show is over; you can go to bed.’ Deceased slept at the BARREL INN, on the Tuesday night, because she was frightened to have him in the house.

Other corroborative evidence having been given, the jury returned a verdict that deceased committed Suicide whilst in a state of Temporary Insanity’.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 27/8/1870

"The annual sessions for the renewal of existing and the granting of new licenses to licensed victuallers and beersellers in Bilston and Sedgley, was held yesterday at the Police Court, Bilston.....

There were six applications for new licensed victuallers' licenses.....

Mr. J. Fellows, on behalf of *Joseph Shale*, sought a license for the BARREL beerhouse, Temple Street. Mr. Townsend opposed the application, which was refused."

1871 Census

25, Temple Street

[1] *Joseph Shale* (55), retail brewer, born Bilston;

[2] *Mary Shale* (54), wife, born Bilston;

[3] John H. Shale (30), son, brewer, born Bilston;

[4] Benjamin F. Shale (28), son, carpenter, born Bilston;

[5] Sarah Shale (25), daughter, dressmaker, born Bilston;

[6] Thomas Shale (22), son, blacksmith, born Bilston;

[7] Mary S. Shale (16), daughter, born Bilston;

[8] Elizabeth Shale (10), daughter, scholar, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 20/1/1873 - Advert

"To be Sold by Private Contract, two Houses, situated in Beckett Street, Coal Lanes, Bilston.

Apply to *Joseph Shale*, BARREL INN, Temple Street, Bilston."

TWO to be Sold by Private Contract, two Houses, situated in Beckett Street, Coal Lanes, Bilston.—Apply to *Joseph Shale*, Barrel Inn, Temple Street, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 28/1/1873

"An inquest was held on Saturday, at the BARREL INN, Temple Street, before Mr. Phillips, respecting the death of Henry, aged five months, the illegitimate son of Mary Ann Hodgkiss, of Temple Street.

Emma Wedge, Temple Street, deposed that the deceased child had been under her care since he was four days old. For this she had received 3s a week. Mary Ann Hodgkiss, with whom she had formerly lived as servant, gave the child into her charge, and, until Friday, deceased appeared to enjoy good health. On that morning the child was seized with convulsions, and suddenly died. The deceased child was the first which she had ever received any remuneration for nursing.

Sarah Wedge, of Temple Street, deposed that she had frequently visited the child during the time that Webb had nursed it. She considered that Webb had always behaved kindly, and treated the deceased child carefully. The child had never been subject to fits.

The Coroner said that if the Jury felt satisfied that the child had been subject to no ill-treatment, they must return a verdict accordingly. In such cases as the present it was always more satisfactory to himself, to have a post mortem examination. Although no suspicious circumstances had been brought to light, if any of the Jury had the slightest doubt on their minds, he should recommend such an examination. The Jury, however, considering there was no cause for suspicion, returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes."

Birmingham Daily Post 5/11/1873

"An inquest was held yesterday, at the BARREL INN, Temple Street, Bilston, before Mr. W. H. Phillips, coroner, on the body of an old tailor, named John Knight, late of Temple Street, who, on Saturday last, was killed by the shaft of a cart striking him on the left side while crossing the Water Glade Bridge, Willenhall. A verdict of Accidental Death was recorded."

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/4/1875

"The following have been nominated to fill the eight vacancies for Bilston parish at the Board of Guardians.....

Joseph Shale, innkeeper, Temple Street."

[*Joseph Shale* was not elected.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/9/1875

“The annual election of Township Commissioners for Bilston took place yesterday. There were four vacancies to be filled up, and the retiring members *Joseph Shale* offered themselves for re-election. In addition to the above, fifteen new candidates entered the field, but only nine, in addition to the retiring members, went to the poll. For the past week the election was the chief topic in Bilston, and meetings have been held, more especially in support of the candidates who were supported by the Temperance party. The latter people took up the matter warmly, and at one of the meetings it was intimated that the old Board was not composed of respectable persons, and further urged that publicans had no right to have a hand in the government of the town of Bilston.....”

[*Joseph Shale* was elected.]

Staffordshire Advertiser 31/3/1877

“Bilston Guardians of the Poor. The following are nominated *Joseph Shale*, Temple Street.”

[*Joseph Shale* was elected.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/5/1877

“An inquest was held yesterday afternoon, at the BARREL INN, Temple Street, by Mr. W. H. Phillips (District Coroner), upon the body of William Bird (29), miner, of Temple Street, Bilston, who died on the 14th inst from injuries sustained by a mass of coal falling upon him in Messrs. Grocutt and Sons colliery, Moxley, where he was employed.

Evidence was given by William Kennedy, who said he was a miner employed by Messrs. Grocutt and Sons, and up to the time of the accident he had worked with the deceased. He remembered the evening of the 14th inst. After leaving work Bird passed him in the workings. Witness asked him where he was going. He replied, to fetch his pipe, that he had forgotten. Deceased went about ten yards, when witness heard a noise of falling coal. He shouted, but obtained no answer. He gave an alarm, and assistance came. It was discovered that a large mass of coal had fallen, and deceased was under it. He was got out, and witness was with him till he died, about two hours afterwards. Bird did not attribute blame to anyone but himself.

It was stated that the mine had since been inspected by Mr. Scott, the Assistant Government Inspector of Mines, who did not appear to attach any blame to either the proprietors or the managers of the colliery.

The jury did not think it necessary to have an adjournment for the attendance of Mr. Scott, and returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

Deceased has left a widow and two children.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/9/1877

“The annual licensing sessions for the Bilston division were held at the Public Office, Bilston, yesterday.....

Joseph Shale, beerhouse keeper, applied for a full license to the BARREL beehouse, Temple Street, Bilston.

Mr. Waterhouse, who supported the application, said the house now kept by Mr. *Shale* was formerly a licensed house for many years, but ten years ago, in consequence of the misconduct of the then occupier it was taken away. The present applicant soon afterwards entered the house, and for eight years he had conducted it as a beerhouse in a very respectable manner. The house was frequently used for inquests, and a note from the Coroner was handed in to the effect that he had always found the house convenient and quiet when he had held his courts there. Applicant was a member of the Township Commissioners, and was a fit person to have charge of a licensed house in the locality of Temple Street, where, owing to the rough nature of the population, it was doubly necessary that a publican should be of good character.

Applicant, being sworn, gave evidence similar to the above statement.

In reply to Mr. R. A. Willcock, who opposed on behalf of two licensed victuallers resident in the locality, he said there were two licensed houses and four or five beerhouses in Temple Street, which was 500 or 600 yards long. He also stated that the annual value of the house was £28.

Mr. Willcock contended that this ruined the application, as the annual value required by the Act was £30.

Mr. Waterhouse argued that, as the house was rented at £36 a year, when in the enjoyment of a full license that sum should be regarded as the annual value.

Mr. Willcock also urged that the license was not required in the neighbourhood.

After a very brief consultation the magistrates unanimously refused the application.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 27/3/1879

“Nomination for the Board of Guardians Bilston.....

Joseph Shale, innkeeper, Temple Street.”

[*Joseph Shale* was elected.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 13/4/1880

“The following gentlemen have been elected to represent the township of Bilston as Guardians in the Wolverhampton Union *Joseph Shale*.”

Joseph Shale died on 24th January 1881.

Birmingham Daily Post 25/1/1881

“Yesterday, Mr. *Joseph Shale*, landlord of the BARREL INN, Temple Street, Bilston, died after a protracted illness. The deceased had been a member of the Township Commissioners for eight years, and he was also a member of the Wolverhampton Board of Guardians.”

Joseph Shale – see also OLD BROWN JUG.

1881 Census

25, Temple Street – BARREL INN

[1] *Mary Shale* (64), widow, publican, born Bilston;

[2] *John Shale* (40), son, brewer, born Bilston;

[3] *Benjamin Shale* (38), son, carpenter, born Bilston;

[4] *Thomas Shale* (32), son, brass founder, born Bilston;

[5] *Mary Shale* (25), daughter, born Bilston;

[6] *Elizabeth Shale* (21), daughter, born Bilston;

[7] *William Williams* (7), grand-son, scholar, born Bilston

[8] *Catherine White* (14), general servant, born Bilston:

Darlaston Weekly Times 21/2/1885 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale at the BARREL INN, Temple Street, Bilston.

Messrs. J. Morrell & Sons are instructed (by the Creditors of *Mary Shale*) to Sell by Auction, at the above Inn, on Tuesday next, February 24th 1885, the whole of

The Public House Fittings and Fixtures. Jug and Glass Shelving, Tap Tables, Drinking Tables, Benches, Fixed Seating, Capital 5-pull Lever Beer Machine, Measures, Jugs and Glasses, Club Room Fittings.

The Capital Brewing Plant. Capital Mash Tubs, large Wood Coolers, oval coolers, round Tube, capital Copper Boilers, iron Boilers, Sieves, sixteen Ale Barrels, 36, 60, 80, 100, 120 and 200 gallons.

The Household Furniture. Windsor and polished Chairs, deal and other Tables, mahogany-frame Sofa, Prints and Engravings, kitchen Utensils, seven sets iron Bedsteads, straw Mattresses, two feather Beds, flock Beds, toilet Tables, toilet Glasses, painted Chest of Drawers, two capital painted Wardrobes, two mahogany-case eight-day Clocks, Fender and Fire Irons, and other effects as detailed in catalogues.

Sale at 11am Prompt.

Auction and Valuation Offices, Swan Bank, Bilston.”

Job Ecclestone – *Job Eccleston*

Wolverhampton Express and Star 10/4/1885

“At Bilston Court, this morning, a charge of permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises was preferred against *Job Eccleston*, landlord of the BARRELL INN, Temple Street. The date of the alleged offence was Saturday last. It was shown that although a drunken man was in the house, he had only just entered, and the landlord had refused to fill him. The case was therefore dismissed.

A second charge of committing a similar offence was preferred against *Ecclestone*, the date being Thursday night, the 2nd April. It was stated that a man and a woman, named *Isaiah* and *Ellen Cooper*, were drunk in the house, along with a large company of men and women. The magistrates inflicted a fine of 20s and the costs. *Isaiah Cooper* was fined 5s and the costs, for drunkenness in the house, and a warrant was issued for the apprehension of *Ellen Cooper*.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 10/7/1885

“John Ireland, Temple Street, Bilston, was fined 10s and costs, or 21 days’ imprisonment, for refusing to quit the BARREL INN, Bilston; and Catherine Whalin, Temple Street, was also fined 10s and costs, or 21 days’ imprisonment, for assaulting Ireland.”

1891 Census

25, Temple Street – BARREL INN

- [1] *Samuel Salt* (29), innkeeper and brewer, born Tipton;
- [2] *Margaret Salt* (34), wife, born Runcorn, Cheshire;
- [3] *Mary Ann Salt* (1), daughter, born Walsall;
- [4] *Jane Grinsell* (16), domestic servant, born Bilston:

AND

26, Temple Street

- [1] *Samuel Lane* (70), living on his means, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Theodosia Lane* (30), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] *Sylvana Lane* (9), daughter, scholar, born Hagley;
- [4] *Daisy Lane* (6), daughter, scholar, born Tettenhall:

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/8/1891

“John Knight, labourer, Bradley, charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of Thomas [sic] *Salt*, landlord of the BARREL INN, Temple Street, and assaulting Police-constable Owen, who was called to eject him therefrom, was sentenced to a month’s imprisonment for each offence.”

Samuel Lane died in the 2nd quarter of 1892.

Joseph Torr, beer retailer, 25, Temple Street. [1896]

Theodosia Lane married *Joseph Torr* in the 1st quarter of 1897.

1901 Census

Temple Street – BARRELL INN

- [1] *Joseph Torr* (34), beerhouse keeper, born Silverdale, Staffordshire;
- [2] *Theodosia Torr* (40), wife, born Bradley;
- [3] *Sylvania S. Lane* (19), step-daughter, domestic servant, born Hagley;
- [4] *Daisy Lane* (16), step-daughter, domestic servant, born Tettenhall:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 30/5/1901

“Strange Death at Bilston. Remarkable Medical Testimony.

Mr. T. A. Stokes, coroner, held an inquest at the BARREL INN, Temple Street, Bilston, this (Thursday) morning, relative to the death of John Maley, aged 21 years, of 51, Temple Street, who died suddenly on Monday morning. Thomas Maley, a brother, 23 years of age, said he and deceased were coming from Wolverhampton at 12.30am on Sunday, the 19th, and when just getting into Wellington Road, Bilston, deceased shouted, ‘Hi up, Tom,’ and, turning round, he saw a man emerge from a gateway and come towards them. The man tried to get hold of witness, but he ran away, his brother having gone first. The man ran after them several yards, and shouted something witness could not understand. They then went home, where his brother complained of feeling ill. When he got up on Sunday morning deceased looked very wild, and stumbled about like a drunken man. They sent for a doctor, who said he was suffering from a severe cold, and he attended him until death at 3.30 on Monday afternoon last.

Dr. S. A. Smith, who had made a post mortem examination, said the body was almost like a skeleton, being very thin and emaciated. There was a large bed sore on the back, and one on each of the hips. There was an entire absence of fat under the skin. The brain was anaemic, both lungs diseased, and also the left kidney. In his opinion death was due to pneumonia and pleurisy. There was no brain mischief, and there were no signs of violence to accelerate death. A verdict in accordance with the medical evidence was returned.”

1911 Census

Temple Street – BARREL INN

- [1] *William Wood Duley* (35), licensee of beerhouse, born Darlaston;
[2] *Annie Elizabeth Duley* (36), wife, married 6 years, born Darlaston:

William W. Duley, beer retailer, 47, Temple Street. [1912]

1921 Census

47, Temple Street

- [1] *Joseph Blakemore* (45), pot welder, out of work, and beerhouse keeper, born Bilston;
[2] *Joseph Blakemore* (23), son, pot welder, out of work, born Bilston;
[3] *Mary A. Blakemore* (43), wife, housewife, born Bilston;
[4] *Mary Blakemore* (21), daughter-in-law, housewife, born Bilston;
[5] *John Thomas Cooper* (25), son-in-law, pot welder, born Bilston;
[6] *Mary Cooper* (21), daughter, housewife, born Bilston;
[7] *Susannah Blakemore* (17), daughter, at home, born Bilston;
[8] *Sidney Blakemore* (7), son, school, born Bilston;
[9] *Sarah Blakemore* (5), daughter, school, born Bilston;
[10] *John Thomas Blakemore* (1), son, born Bilston;
[11] *Joseph Blakemore* (11 months), grand-son, born Bilston;
[12] *Alfred Cooper* (1), grand-son, born Bilston:

Bilston & Willenhall Times 14/3/1925

“Joseph Yates, 63, Temple Street, Bilston, was charged with being on enclosed premises for an unlawful purpose. The evidence of PSs Nutt and Bates was to the effect that the premises of the BARREL INN, at the corner of Temple Street, were securely fastened shortly after 10 o’clock on Saturday night last, and about 11.50 the defendant was seen climbing over the folding gates at the back of the premises.

The defendant admitted being on the premises, but denied that he was there for an unlawful purpose. He said he was locked in while he was in the lavatory. He stood near the gate talking to a number of customers of the inn, but he had no witnesses to call.

The Stipendiary told the defendant he had had the opportunity of calling witnesses, and had refused to do so. He had come to the conclusion that the defendant was concealing himself on the premises, and was satisfied that if he had not been disturbed by the police he would have tried to get into the inn.

Defendant was sent to gaol for a month with hard labour.”

Dudley Chronicle 1/3/1928 - Advert

“For Sale, Sow, also Store Pigs, cheap.
Apply BARREL INN, Temple Street, Bilston.”

FOR SALE. Sow, also Store Pigs, cheap.—
Apply Barrel Inn, Temple St., Bilston.

Bilston and Willenhall Times 20/10/1928

“At the Bilston Police Court, yesterday, *Frank Roberts*, licensee of the BARREL INN, Temple Street, Bilston was summoned for allowing a child under 14 to be in the bar, and *Jane Pitt*, Warwick Street, was summoned for causing the child to be there.

It was alleged that at 8.50 on the night of October 13th the female defendant was seen sitting in the taproom nursing a three-year old child. When spoken to, *Roberts* said he did not know the child was there.

Supt. Young said he had no desire to press the charge. He had brought the case as a warning to others. There was no doubt there was a practice of taking children into public houses, and it should be stopped.

Each defendant was fined 10s.”

Jesse Hart – see also SADDLE AND STIRRUPS.

1939 Register

47, Temple Street – BARREL INN

- [1] William Porter, date of birth 8/11/1884, publican, married;
- [2] Emma Porter, dob 21/7/1888, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] Edward Porter, dob 8/8/1917, iron work, sheet mill, single;
- [4] Florence A. (Porter) Guy, dob 29/6/1923, brass polisher, single;

TO be LET, the BARREL INN, Temple Street, Bilston; a good roomy House, with large Premises, and convenient Yard, capable of doing a Wholesale and Retail Brewing Business. The Premises may be had on Lease if required, at a very moderate rent. — Apply to Samuel Lane, Lloyd Street, Whitmore Reana, Wolverhampton.

1869

Unreserved Sale at the BARREL INN, TEMPLE STREET, BILSTON.

MESSRS. J. MORRELL & SONS are instructed (by the Creditors of Mary Shale) to SELL by AUCTION, at the above Inn, on Tuesday next, Feb. 24th 1885, the whole of the

PUBLIC HOUSE FITTINGS & FIXTURES

Jug and Glass Shelving, Tap Tables, Drinking Tables, Benches, Fixed Seating, Capital 5-pull Lever Beer Machine, Measures, Jugs and Glasses, Club Room Fittings, the

CAPITAL BREWING PLANT,

Capital Mash Tubs, large Wood Coolers, oval coolers, round Tubs, capital Copper Boilers, iron Boilers, Sieves, sixteen Ale Barrels, 36, 60, 80 100, 120 and 200 gallons.

THE HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,

Windsor and polished Chairs, deal and other Tables, mahogany-frame Sofa, Prints and Engravings, kitchen Utensils, seven sets iron Bedsteads, straw Mattresses, two feather Beds, flock Beds, toilet Tables, toilet Glasses, painted Chest of Drawers, two capital painted Wardrobes, two mahogany-case eight-day Clocks, Fender and Fire-Irons, and other effects as detailed in catalogues.

SALE AT 11 A.M. PROMPT.

Auction and Valuation Offices, Swan Bank, Bilston

1885

BEEHIVE

Shambos Lane, Highfields Bridge, Bradley, (Highfields), BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Mrs. Phoebe Light [1851] – [1862]
George Leadbetter [1864] – **1868**;
John Light **(1868 – []**

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

1851 Census

Highfields

- [1] *Phoebe Light* (55), licensed victualler, born Tipton;
- [2] Thursanah Sheppard (20), born Wellington, Shropshire;
- [3] Mary Maria Sheppard (6 months), born Wellington, Shropshire;
- [4] Eliza Rawson (17), house servant, born Dawley, Shropshire:

Birmingham Journal 17/1/1852

“An inquest was held on Wednesday, by Thomas Moss Phillips, Esq, at the house of Mrs. *Phoebe Light*, BEE HIVE INN, Highfields, in the parish of Sedgley, on the body of Sophia Jones, ten months old, daughter of David Jones, of Highfields, who died at four o'clock on the morning of the 11th instant, from injuries received on the 26th of December last, by her clothes taking fire. The accident occurred during the absence of her mother, who left the child alone while she went to a neighbour's house, some distance off. The child was observed enveloped in flames by Joseph Oakley, of Highfields, who extinguished them as soon as possible.”

Birmingham Journal 20/8/1859

“On Wednesday evening, a female about 60 years of age, carrying a basket and a bundle, was seen walking along the side of the Birmingham Canal, near to Highfield Bridge, when suddenly she was observed by a woman named Mary Wardle to jump into the water. The assistance of several persons from Messrs. Rose's timber yard was immediately secured, and by means of a boat shaft they succeeded in extricating the poor woman, but in a few minutes after she had been taken to the BEEHIVE, a public house adjoining Highfield Bridge, life was found to be extinct. She has been identified as Elizabeth Powis, the wife of a collier residing at the Rookery, in the parish of Sedgley. The poor woman has been insane for some time, and recently told her husband if she did not kill herself the devil would.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 23/11/1859 - Advert

“Staffordshire. Highfields, in the Parish of Sedgley. Freehold Houses and Land.

C. Round will Sell by Auction, on Tuesday, the 6th day of December, 1859, at the house of Mrs. *Light*, the BEEHIVE INN, Highfields aforesaid, at six o'clock in the evening....”

1861 Census

Shambos Lane – BEE HIVE INN

- [1] *Phoebe Light* (64), widow, victualler, born Staffordshire;
- [2] *Mary Elizabeth Shepard* (24), servant, born Wellington, Shropshire;
- [3] *John Light* (44), lodger, blacksmith, born Sedgley;
- [4] *Ruth Light* (49), wife, born Sedgley;
- [5] *Frances Light* (19), son, blacksmith, born Sedgley;
- [6] *John Light* (14), son, fitter, born Sedgley;

Mrs. *Phoebe Light*, beer retailer, Highfields. [1868] ?

George Leadbetter = George Leadbeater

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 9/4/1864 - Advert

"Wanted, to Purchase a Second-hand Patent Fan, 2ft high.

Apply to Mr. *George Leadbeater*, BEEHIVE INN, Highfields, Bilston."

WANTED, to Purchase a Second-hand PATENT FAN, 2 ft. high.—Apply to Mr. George Leadbeater, Beehive Inn, Highfields, Bilston.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 6/6/1868 - Advert

"Eligible Messuages and Premises, at Highfields, Sedgley, and Hall Fields, Bilston, in the County of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. H. W. Greader, at the House of Mr. *John Light*, the BEEHIVE INN, Highfields, in the parish of Sedgley, in the county of Stafford, on Friday, the 19th day of June, at Six o'clock in the evening.....

Lot 1. All that Old-established Public House, known by the sign of the BEEHIVE INN, situate fronting the road leading from Ladymoor to Bradley, and near the Canal Bridge at Highfields, in the said parish of Sedgley, now in the occupation of *John Light*.

Also all that other Messuage or Dwelling House, adjoining on one side to a Messuage and Premises belonging to Mr. Francis Light, and fronting the said road, leading from Ladymoor to Bradley, now in the occupation of *Mary Higgins*.

Also those Two Messuages and Premises, Plot of Land, or Garden Ground, and Iron Foundry, situate in the rear of the before-mentioned Dwelling Houses, and now or late in the occupation of *George Leadbeater* and others."

Closed

ELIGIBLE MESSUAGES AND PREMISES,
At HIGHFIELDS, SEDGLEY, and HALL FIELDS, BILSTON,
In the County of STAFFORD.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION.
BY Mr. H. W. GREADER, at the house of Mr. *John Light*, the Beehive Inn, Highfields, in the parish of Sedgley, in the county of Stafford, on FRIDAY, the 19th day of June, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be read.
Lot 1.—All that Old-established PUBLIC-HOUSE, known by the sign of "THE BEEHIVE INN," situate fronting the road leading from Ladymoor to Bradley, and near the Canal Bridge at Highfields, in the said parish of Sedgley, now in the occupation of *John Light*.
Also all that other MESSAGE or DWELLING HOUSE, adjoining on one side to a Messuage and Premises belonging to Mr. Francis Light, and fronting the said road, leading from Ladymoor to Bradley, now in the occupation of *Mary Higgins*.
Also those Two MESSUAGES and PREMISES, Plot of LAND or Garden Ground, and IRON-FOUNDRY, situate in the rear of the before-mentioned Dwelling Houses, and now or late in the occupation of *George Leadbetter* and others.
Lot 2.—All that small Plot of LAND situate at Hallfields aforesaid, on the other side of the said road leading from Ladymoor to Bradley, with the Building standing thereon, and now untenanted.
Lot 3.—All that PUBLIC HOUSE, known by the sign of the "RAILWAY TAVERN," situate at Hallfields, in the township of Bilston aforesaid, with Yard, Stabling, and Out-buildings thereto belonging now in the occupation of Mrs. Holloway, at the annual rental of £18.
To view the Premises, apply to the respective tenants, and for further particulars at the Offices of Messrs. Mason and Holmes, Solicitors, Bilston; or to the Auctioneers, Willenhall.

BELL

Wolverhampton Street, (Wolverhampton Road), Shift End, BILSTON

OWNERS

Richard Atkins, licensed victualler, Bilston

LICENSEES

James Atherton [1828] – [1830]
Thomas Purslow [1833] – [1835]
Thomas Smith [1841] – [1842]
John Smith [1845] – [1850]
Mrs. Jane Smith [1851] – [1861]
James Smith [1862]
Thomas Baker [] – **1866**;
Joseph Baker* **(1866 – [])**
Joseph Barker* [1868] – **1873**;
Ephraim William Hyde **(1873 – 1874)**;
James Lawley **(1874 – 1876)**;
Alfred Lambden **(1876 – [])**

NOTES

BLUE BELL [1828], [1830], [1835], [1841], [1842], [1851], [1854], [1858], [1862], [1864], [1876]
BELL [1845], [1850], [1851], [1870], [1873]

1841 Census

Wolverhampton Street

- [1] John Smith (50), publican;
- [2] Jane Smith (50), born Staffordshire;
- [3] Charlotte Larkin (30), f.s., born Staffordshire;
- [4] Ann Lloyd (15), f.s., born Staffordshire;

John Smith was also a fruiterer. [1845], [1849], [1850]

Staffordshire Advertiser 11/8/1849

“A little boy named John Thomas Downs met with his death, on Wednesday, from drowning. The lad had been playing in a field at Shift End, Bilston, with some other children during the evening. He was missed about 9 o’clock, when the bellman was sent round the town; at 10 a woman brought the bellman a belt which she said she had found in the field, and which, upon enquiries, proved to be the one deceased had worn. Enquiries were then made of some children who had been playing with him, when one of them took the bellman to the pond, and said that another boy had pushed him in. The body was found in the pond, and the inquest was fixed to be holden yesterday, at the BELL, Shift End.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/8/1849

“On Friday last an inquest was held at the BELL INN, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of John Thomas Downs, four years of age, the son of a labourer, who, as we stated in our last number, was drowned in an old pit near Rileys field, on Wednesday evening. The pit was not deep, but there was water at the bottom, and the boy was found in it about ten o’clock by George Davis, a miner, who descended the pit in search of the body. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

MESSRS. ALTREE and SON have received instructions from the Executors of the late Mrs. Smith to DISPOSE OF by PRIVATE TREATY, the LICENSES and POSSESSION, FIXTURES, STOCK, &c., of “THE BELL INN,” Wolverhampton-street, Bilston. Has been successfully carried on by the late Proprietress for thirty-six years.—Apply at 159, Horsley-fields, Wolverhampton. Established 1840.

BELL INN, BILSTON.
MESSRS. ALTREE and SON have received instructions from the Executors of the late Mrs. Smith to SELL by AUCTION, about Lady-day next, the LICENSES, POSSESSION, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, STOCK, &c. Particulars in due course, and at the AUCTIONEERS', 159, Horsley-fields, Wolverhampton.

“BELL INN,”
WOLVERHAMPTON STREET, BILSTON.
MESSRS. ALTREE and SON will SELL by AUCTION (by order of the Executors of the late Mrs. Smith) —the LICENSES and POSSESSION of the above Old-licensed PREMISES, which was successfully carried on by the deceased upwards of thirty-six years; also all the capital HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, PUBLIC HOUSE FIXTURES and FITTINGS, two copper and three iron Boilers, twelve-bushel Mash and other Tubs, pair of Vats, lead Piping and brass Tap, twenty well-seasoned Ale Casks, oval Coolers, Ale Machine, Patent Malt Crusher, 100 bushels of Malt, pocket and tumps of Hops, stock of Ale, Porter, Spirits, &c.; useful Tradesman's Cart, light spring Trap, set of Harness, Saddle and Bridle, bright bay Horse, rising seven, 15; hands high, sound, and quiet to ride or drive; two-knife Chaff Machine, stone and wood Stable, wood Sheddling, and numerous Effects; which will be SOLD without reserve, on TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY, the 1st and 2nd days of April next, commencing at half-past Ten o'clock each morning. The Licenses and Possession will be offered the first day, at Twelve.
Book catalogues at the Place of Sale; Journal Office, Birmingham; Auctioneers Office, and the Auctioneers, 159, Horsley Fields, Wolverhampton.

1862

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/12/1849

“On Friday last an inquest was held at the BELL INN, Bilston, before W. W. Ward Esq, officiating for T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of Edward Williams, miner at the Riding Field Colliery, in the parish of Sedgley, who was killed on the previous Tuesday, about six o’clock in the morning, by falling down the mouth of the pit. From the evidence adduced it appeared that deceased ought to have descended with a skip then going down, and that in his hurry to do so, he fell to the bottom, a distance of about eighty yards. He was quite dead when taken up ten minutes after the occurrence of the accident. One of his feet was severed from his body, his leg broken, and the back part of his head much bruised. No blame could be attached to any one except deceased. He has left a wife and four young children. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

1851 Census

Wolverhampton Street

- [1] *Jane Smith* (59), widow, victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] Hannah Merricks (18), house servant, born Tettenhall;
- [3] S. Leakin (36), born Bilston;
- [4] Eliza Leakin (34), born Bilston;
- [5] Mary Leakin (10), born Scotland;
- [6] William Leakin (3), born Wednesbury:

1861 Census

Wolverhampton Street – BELL Public House

- [1] *Jane Smith* (73), widow, licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] Ann Robins (19), servant, born Bilston:

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/2/1862 - Deaths

“On the 20th ultimo, at the BELL INN, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, Mrs. *Jane Smith*, aged 75 years, sincerely regretted by all who knew her.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/2/1862 - Advert

“Messrs. Altree and Son have received instructions from the Executors of the late Mrs. *Smith* to Dispose Of by Private Treaty, the Licenses and Possession, Fixtures, Stock, &c, of the BELL INN, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston. Has been successfully carried on by the late Proprietress for thirty-six years. Apply at 159, Horsley Fields, Wolverhampton. Established 1840.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/3/1862 - Advert

“BELL INN, Bilston.

Messrs. Altree and Son have received instructions from the Executors of the late Mrs. *Smith* to Sell by Auction, about Lady-day next, the Licenses, Possession, Household Furniture, Stock, &c. Particulars in due course, and at the Auctioneers, 159, Horsley Fields, Wolverhampton.”

Birmingham Journal 29/3/1862 - Advert

“BELL INN, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston.

Messrs. Altree and Son will Sell by Auction (by order of the Executors of the late Mrs. *Smith*).

The Licenses and Possession of the above Old-licensed Premises, which was successfully carried on by the deceased upwards of thirty-six years; also all the capital Household Furniture, Public House Fixtures and Fittings, two copper and three iron Boilers, twelve-bushel Mash and other Tubs, pair of Vats, lead Piping and brass Tap, twenty well-seasoned Ale Casks, oval Coolers, Ale Machine, Patent Malt Crusher, 100 bushels of Malt, pocket and tumps of Hops, stock of Ale, Porter, Spirits, &c; useful Tradesman’s Cart, light spring Trap, set of Harness, Saddle and Bridle, bright bay Horse, rising seven, 15½ hands high, sound, and quiet to ride or drive; two-knife Chaff Machine, stone and wood Stable, wood Shedding, and numerous Effects; which will be Sold without reserve, on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 1st and 2nd days of April next, commencing at half-past Ten o’clock each morning. The Licenses and Possession will be offered the first day, at Twelve.

Book catalogues at the Place of Sale; *Journal* Office, Birmingham; *Chronicle* Office, and the Auctioneers, 159, Horsley Fields, Wolverhampton.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 9/6/1866

“Yesterday, at Bilston Police Court, the following licenses were transferred.....
BELL, Shift End, *T. Baker* to *J. Baker*.”

* possibly the same person

Midland Examiner 22/4/1876

“An inquest on the body of an old man named Edwards, who was discovered dead on a piece of waste land at Friezland, last Friday, was held at the BLUE BELL INN, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, before the Coroner, W. M. Phillips, Esq, on Monday. There was some formal evidence, after the hearing of which, the Jury returned a verdict of Died from the effects of Exposure and Old Age.”

London Gazette 27/6/1876

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

In the Matter of Proceedings for Liquidation by Arrangement or Composition with Creditors, instituted by *Ephraim Hyde*, residing in Frost-street, New Village, in the township of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Coal Dealer, formerly carrying on business at Wolverhampton-street, Bilston aforesaid, as a Licensed Victualler, and also formerly carrying on business in Wolverhampton-street, Bilston aforesaid, in partnership with Charles Mayfield, as Colliery Proprietors, under the style of Hyde and Mayfield.

Notice is hereby given, that a Second General Meeting of the creditors of the above-named person has been summoned to be held at the office of Mr. J. E. Fellows, Solicitor, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, on the 5th day of July, 1876, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 24th day of June 1876.

Jno. E. Fellows, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, Solicitor for the said *Ephraim Hyde*.”

The license was abandoned pre 1903.

BELL

11, (7), Wood Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Major George Cox, brewer, Broad Street, Bilston
John Rolinson and Son Ltd. (leased from 1909)
Harmer and Co. Ltd. (leased)

LICENSEES

Thomas Fletcher [1848]
J Smith [1852]
Thomas Westwood [1852] – [1854]
Joseph Mills [1860]
Thomas Riley [1861] – [1865]
Thomas Rogers [1866] – [1868]
Emily Gregory [1871]
John Kenton [1873] – **1874**;
Thomas Prime **(1874 – 1877)**;
Elizabeth Baxter **(1877)**;
Thomas Cockayne **(1877 – 1898)**;
George Fox **(1898 – 1899)**;
Henry Colbourn Rollason **(1899)**;
Joseph Ragley **(1899 – 1901)**;
George Smith [1901]
Mrs. Fanny Smith **(1901 – 1918)**;

NOTES

7, Wood Street [1861], [1865], [1871], [1891]
11, Wood Street [1904], [1911], [1912]

It had a beerhouse license.

Staffordshire Advertiser 17/6/1848

“At Bilston Public Office on Tuesday.....

Charles Griffiths, Andrew Howell, and Thomas Chidlow, were ordered to find bail for six months, for having assaulted *Thomas Fletcher*, landlord of the BELL INN, Bilston.”

SALE TO-MORROW, AT THE BLUE BELL, WOOD-STREET, BILSTON. TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, BY W. ASHCROFT,

On Thursday, April 15, 1852, on the above named premises,

THE whole of the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, FIXTURES, STOCK of ALE, CASKS, and BREWING UTENSILS, comprising strong tables, screens, benching round the rooms, wood partitions, glazed, mahogany dining table, hair seated chairs and wash stand, eight-day clock in mahogany case, Windsor chairs, tap tables, cupboards, pewter measures, oak chest of drawers, chest bedsteads, excellent feather bed, mattress, and large dressing glass; two capital vats, nine feet by three feet, twenty feet one and a half inch lead piping, large tap, thirty-seven feet one inch lead piping, three taps, excellent copper wire hop sieve and sixteen bushel mash tub, copper strainer and tap, three sixty gallon casks, nearly new, seventy gallons old ale, sixty gallon iron furnace and under work, iron frame for bowling alley, butcher's windlass, with strong framework and rope, windlass and bucket for well, two sheds, containing 1,300 feet of excellent boarding, wall plates, rafters, twenty-four strong posts and tar cloth cover, water casks, and a variety of other articles, the property of Mr. J. Smith.

Further particulars appear in catalogues, which may be had at the AUCTIONEER's office, Snowhill, Wolverhampton.

 The sale to commence at eleven o'clock in the morning.

TO be DISPOSED OF, Thirty-one Acres of MINES and MINERALS of the place called "Burrow's Farm," Bromley, in the parish of Kingwinford, and now in the possession of Thomas Hancock.—For further particulars, apply to William Westwood, Gostey Bank, near Brierley Hill, or to Thomas Westwood, Bell Inn, Wood Street, Bilston.

1852

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/4/1852 - Advert

“Sale Tomorrow, at the BLUE BELL, Wood Street, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by W. Ashcroft, on Thursday. April 15, 1852, on the above named premises.

The whole of the Household Furniture, Fixtures, Stock of Ale, Casks, and Brewing Utensils, comprising strong tables, screens, benching round the rooms, wood partitions, glazed, mahogany dining table, hair seated chairs and wash stand, eight-day clock in mahogany case, Windsor chairs, tap tables, cupboards, pewter measures, oak chest of drawers, chest bedsteads, excellent feather bed, mattress, and large dressing glass; two capital vats, nine feet by three feet, twenty feet one and a half inch lead piping, large tap, thirty-seven feet one inch lead piping, three taps, excellent copper wire hop sieve and sixteen bushel mash tub, copper strainer and tap, three sixty gallon casks, nearly new, seventy gallons old ale, sixty gallon iron furnace and under work, iron frame for bowling alley, butcher's windlass, with strong framework and rope, windlass and bucket for well, two sheds, containing 1,200 feet of excellent boarding, wall plates, rafters, twenty-four strong posts and tar cloth cover, water casks, and a variety of other articles, the property of Mr. *J. Smith*.

Further particulars appear in catalogues, which may be had at the Auctioneer's office, Snowhill, Wolverhampton.

The sale to commence at eleven o'clock in the morning.”

Birmingham Journal 30/10/1852 - Advert

“To be Disposed Of, Thirty-one Acres of Mines and Minerals of the place called ‘Burrow's Farm,’ Bromley, in the parish of Kingswinford, and now in the possession of Thomas Hancox.

For further particulars, apply to William Westwood, Gostey Bank, near Brierley Hill; or to *Thomas Westwood*, BELL INN, Wood Street, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/4/1854

“*Thomas Westwood*, landlord of the BELL INN, Bilston, was summoned for permitting gambling in his house on Monday evening. It was proved that some men were playing at dominoes for drink on the evening in question.

Mr. Shipman, who appeared for the defendant, contended that, as by the decision of the Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Queens Bench two years ago, dominoes were declared a lawful game, the present charge must be dismissed.

Mr. Bowen, the Magistrates Clerk, said that the decision alluded to by Mr. Shipman only applied to cases where no money or moneys worth was being played for. Mr. Shipman contended that, even adopting this view of the question, unless a large quantity of drink was being played for, the game could not be considered otherwise than harmless.

The Magistrate said that as the game was proved to have been played for drink, the defendant had rendered himself amenable to the law, but as it was his first offence, he simply ordered him to pay the expenses, cautioning him to be more careful in future.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 8/8/1860 - Advert

“To be Let, with immediate possession, the BELL INN, Wood Street, Bilston, an old-established public house, now in the occupation of Mr. *Joseph Mills*; a rare opportunity for any one commencing business. Fixtures, &c, at valuation can be reduced to about £60. Rent, £20 per annum. Satisfactory reasons given for leaving.

Apply to Mr. R. Heseletine, Auctioneer and Valuer, Church Street, Bilston; or to Mr. *Mills*, on the premises.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/9/1860 - Advert

“Bilston. To be Let, with immediate possession, the old-established public house near the Great Western Railway Station, known as the BELL INN, Wood Street, Bilston. No goodwill. Fixtures at valuation.

Apply to Mr. R. Heseletine, Auctioneer and Valuer, Bilston.

NB. The above premises are being put in thorough repair.”

1861 Census

7, Wood Street

[1] *Thomas Riley* (52), builder and publican, born Bilston;

[2] *Hannah Riley* (50), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Rebecca Riley* (19), daughter, born West Bromwich;

[4] *Timothy Riley* (11), son, scholar, born West Bromwich:

Thomas Riley, retailer of beer, Wood Street. [1862]

Birmingham Journal 2/4/1864 - Married

“On the 27th ult, at Sedgley Parish Church, Mr. J. Siddons, grocer, of Bilston, to Rebecca, third daughter of Mr. *Thomas Riley*, of the BELL INN, Wood Street.”

Thomas Riley, joiner, builder, funeral carriage proprietor, and beer retailer, 7, Wood Street. [1865]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/10/1866

“Yesterday, at Bilston Police Court, before I. Spooner, Esq, a woman named Harriet Beach was brought up in custody charged with stealing a sovereign, the property of *Thomas Rogers*, a beerhouse keeper living in Bilston. The prisoner was employed as servant in the house, and on Thursday, the 25th instant, the prosecutor put a bag, containing £18 10s, into a drawer, but found soon afterwards that a sovereign had been taken away. Having his suspicions aroused, he made inquiries respecting the prisoner, and found that she had purchased some articles, tendering a sovereign in payment, and he gave her into custody. The girl pleaded guilty to the charge, and was sentenced to six weeks’ imprisonment, with hard labour.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/11/1866

“Harriet Beach pleaded guilty to stealing a sovereign from her master, *Thomas Rogers*, beerhouse keeper, Bilston, and was sentenced to six weeks’ imprisonment. *Rogers* had placed £18 10s in a bag in a cupboard, and soon after missed a sovereign. Upon inquiry he found that the prisoner had changed a sovereign at a linen-draper’s, and he gave her into custody.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 5/10/1867

“Sim Webb of Kates Hill and W. Cooper of Dudley. These men continue to make good their deposits to Mr. Challingworth, the stakeholder, for their 120 yards match, for £10 a side, on Oct 14.

Tom Rogers of Bilston will run either W. Cooper of Dudley or Sim Webb of Kates Hill 120 yards, for £10 a side, or will stake £10 in the match between the two of 120 yards, on Oct 14, the winner to take the £30, provided they will give him (*Rogers*) a yard start. Money ready at *Rogers*’s, the BELL INN, Wood Street, Bilston.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/12/1867

“At Bilston Police Court yesterday.....

Thomas Rodgers, a publican, of Wood Street, Bilston, was fined 5s and costs, for permitting drunkenness in his house during unlawful hours. The offence was proved by Sergeant Harrison.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 25/4/1868

“A novice of Bilston will walk Young Mace of Walsall, fair heel and toe, one mile level, for £5 a side. Money ready at *T. Rogers*’s, BELL INN, Wood Street, Bilston.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/12/1868

“Yesterday *Thomas Rogers*, landlord of the BELL beerhouse, Wood Street, Bilston, was fined 40s and costs, for having kept his house open for the sale of liquors, during unlawful hours.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/12/1868

“At Bilston Police Court, yesterday, before I. Spooner, Esq, *Thomas Rogers*, landlord of a beerhouse in Wood Street, known as the BELL, was summoned by Chief Superintendent McCrea for keeping open his house during prohibited hours. Mr. Fellows appeared on behalf of the defendant.

Police-constable Moffatt stated that on the night of Sunday, the 6th inst, he went to the defendant’s house at between eleven and twelve o’clock, and on taking down one of the window shutters he saw three men besides the defendant playing at cards. He afterwards knocked at the door, and was admitted into the house by *Rogers*; but on his asking where the men were, the defendant replied that there were no men there, and he also denied that there had been any card playing going on. Witness afterwards found the three men he had seen, secreted in the pantry, and one of them said, ‘Moffatt, have a glass of ale and say nothing about it.’ The landlord, too, asked him to take no notice of the affair, and offered him 5s, which he took; but he gave it up to the sergeant on duty at the station as soon as he arrived there. He saw some cards on the counter when he went into the house, and also a jug containing ale.

Cross-examined by Mr. Fellows: He did not say to the landlord, 'You may as well give me two or three shillings, as let the matter go before the Magistrates;' nor did he keep the 5s until he heard that defendant had reported him for taking it as a bribe.

Mr. Fellows, in reply to the charge, said the defence he had to set up was a simple one; and after hearing the evidence he should call, Mr. Spooner would say it was also a very truthful one. Having stated that the men found in the defendant's house, by Moffatt, went there simply to look at some 'running pumps' (racing shoes), he contended that no ale was drawn for them, no cards were used, that the men ran into the pantry when they heard the officer coming because they were afraid their presence alone might get the defendant into trouble, and that the 5s was given to Moffatt after he had asked for it and promised to take no notice of the affair in consideration of the gift. Witnesses were called in support of this statement, but Mr. Spooner, after hearing their evidence, characterised it as perfectly useless, and imposed a fine of 30s and costs. The 5s taken by Moffatt he ordered to be at once restored to the defendant."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/8/1869

"The annual licensing meeting for the Bilston division took place yesterday, at the Police Court.....

The following beerhouse keepers had been fined during the past five years.....

For keeping open during prohibited hours *Thomas Rogers*, BELL, Wood Street, 5s and costs, and another occasion, 40s and costs."

1871 Census

7, Wood Street – BELL INN

[1] *Emily Gregory* (30), widow, innkeeper, born Sedgley;

[2] *Georgina Gregory* (2), daughter, born Bilston;

[3] *Charles Gregory* (22), lodger, coal miner, born Stoke, Somersetshire;

[4] *Harriet Gregory* (19), wife, born Sedgley;

[5] *Ann Gregory* (6 months), daughter, born Bilston:

Midland Counties Evening Express 26/2/1875

"*Thomas Prime*, beerhouse keeper, Wood Street, was summoned for permitting drunkenness on his premises. Mr. Bowen appeared for the defendant.

Inspector Harrison said that he visited the defendant's house on the 8th inst, about half-past seven o'clock in the evening, and found a man drunk with a pint jug three parts full of ale before him.

Police-constable Smith said that he saw the man alluded to at four o'clock on the same afternoon in Wood Street. He was then drunk, and wanted to go into the defendant's house, but witness told him that if he did so he would get both the landlord and himself into trouble. Witness afterwards went into the house with the inspector, and saw the man sitting there drunk, with beer before him.

For the defence, it was contended that the man said to be drunk had not been two minutes in the house when the police officers entered, that he came from his lodgings on the opposite side of the street in consequence of a row there, and that he was not supplied with any drink. The ale upon the table was said to belong to another man.

The defendant was fined 20s and costs, the conviction not to be endorsed upon his license."

Birmingham Daily Post 28/8/1875

"Yesterday, there was an annual licensing meeting for the Bilston Petty Sessional Division.....

Chief-superintendent McCrea presented the 'black list.' The beerhouse keepers who had been fined during the year were.....

Thomas Prime, BELL INN, permitting drunkenness, £1 and costs.....

All the old licenses would be renewed, excepting those of holders who had been convicted. Their applications would be deferred until the adjourned licensing day."

[Renewed with a caution at the adjourned brewster sessions.]

Thomas Prime – see also BALL COURT.

1881 Census

Wood Street – BELL INN

- [1] *Thomas Cockayne* (41), beer seller, born Bilston;
- [2] *Mary Jane Cockayne* (42), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Harriet Palmer* (17), servant, born Bilston:

1891 Census

7, Wood Street

- [1] *Thomas Cockayne* (51), beer retailer, born Bilston;
- [2] *Mary J. Cockayne* (52), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Alice Riley* (15), domestic servant, born Tipton:

Thomas Cockayne, beer retailer, Wood Street. [1896]

1901 Census

Wood Street – BELL INN

- [1] *George Smith* (30), licensed victualler and labourer at brewery, born Bilston;
- [2] *Francis Smith* (28), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Florence Beckett* (16), sister-in-law, barmaid, born Bilston:

Mrs. Fanny Smith, beer retailer, 11, Wood Street. [1904], [1912]

1911 Census

11, Wood Street

- [1] *George Smith* (41), drayman, born Bilston;
- [2] *Fanny Smith* (38), wife, married 15 years, carrying on trade at home, born Bilston;
- [3] *May Smith* (12), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] *Violet Smith* (8), daughter, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 9/2/1918

“At Bilston Licensing Sessions, yesterday.....

An application for proposed alterations to the BELL INN, Wood Street, Bilston, was refused, and the house is to be scheduled for compensation.”

License refused by Compensation Authority on 12th October 1918.

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/10/1918

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

Mr. A. J. Glover, of Wednesbury, applied on behalf of the owner, Major George Cox, for the renewal of the licence of the BELL INN, Bilston, an ante-'69 beerhouse. Evidence as to the trade, about four barrels a week, exclusive of bottled goods and mineral waters, was given by the owner and Mrs. *Smith*, the licensee. The committee decided to refuse the renewal, but granted £300 compensation. This figure, Mr. Glover said, would be agreeable, it being the sum recommended by the local licensing justices.”

Compensation of £300 was paid on 21st December 1918.

TO BE LET, with immediate possession, the
BELL INN, Wood-street, Bilston, an old-established public house, now in the occupation of Mr. Joseph Mills; a rare opportunity for any one commencing business. Fixtures, &c., at valuation can be reduced to about £60. Rent, £20 per annum. Satisfactory reasons given for leaving.—Apply to Mr. R. HESELTINE, Auctioneer and Valuer, Church-street, Bilston; or to Mr. MILLS, on the premises.

BILSTON.

TO BE LET, with immediate possession, the
old-established public house near the Great Western Railway Station, known as the BELL INN, Wood-street, Bilston. No goodwill. Fixtures at valuation.—Apply to Mr. R. HESELTINE, Auctioneer and Valuer, Bilston. N.B.—The above premises are being put in thorough repair.

BIG COAL

Pinfold Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Phoebe Thompson [1818]
John Lawley [1822] – [1835]

NOTES

Birmingham Chronicle 29/4/1824

“An inquest was held at Bilston, on the 20th inst, upon the body of Thomas Turley, a pudler, who had been drinking at the BIG COAL public house on the preceding Saturday night, and got up in a state of intoxication to go out at the back door, against which the landlord cautioned him, as there was an open well near it. He, however, did go out, and his wife, who was waiting in the house, followed him; almost instantaneously Turley staggered and fell backwards into the well, and his wife, who caught hold of the bottom of his trousers, was, in endeavouring to save him, pulled in after him, but fortunately with her feet foremost. The well was six yards deep, and had two and a half feet of water in it, and they remained in the situation described a quarter of an hour before any person came to their assistance, when the woman was taken out but little hurt, and in about half an hour afterwards the body of Turley was got out lifeless, his head and shoulders being under water during the time. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

BIRD IN HAND

102, (37), High Street / Coseley Road, BILSTON

OWNERS

Charlotte Cadman
Joseph Parker
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1904], [1921]

LICENSEES

Edward Fawzbrook [1818]
William Grayer [1818] – [1822]
William Nagington [1828] – [1830]
Mrs. Ann Grayer [1833] – [1837]
Richard Boothby [1839]
Joseph Whitehouse [1841] – [1842]
Joseph Fletcher [1845] – **1852**;
Mrs. Charlotte Fletcher **(1852 – [])**
James Cadman [1858] – [1865]
Mrs. Charlotte Cadman [1868] – **1890**;
Joseph Millington **(1890)**;
John Thomas Chew **(1890 – 1892)**;
Ann Grayer [1892]
Joseph Parker **(1892 – 1903)**;
Harry Nuttall [1901]
William Charles Cole **(1903 – 1922)**;
Enos Graham Elesmore **(1922 – 1927)**;
Arthur Wakelam **(1927 – 1929)**;
Arthur Frank Collins **(1929 – [1946])**
Eric Page [1950s]
William Thomas Davis [1961]



c1930s

NOTES

37, High Street [1858], [1861], [1862], [1864], [1865], [1868], [1870], [1871], [1872], [1873], [1874], [1881], [1891], [1892], [1896], [1900]
102, High Street [1901], [1908], [1911], [1916], [1932], [1939], [1940]

OLD BIRD IN HAND [1818], [1828], [1830], [1834], [1835], [1842], [1845], [1849], [1851], [1870], [1874]
BIRD IN HAND [1818], [1852], [1860], [1862], [1903]
PHEASANT [1873]

It had a six day license.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 5/3/1827 - Advert

"First-rate Public House in Bilston.

Richard Corbett, New Town, Bilston, Auctioneer, has on Sale by Treaty, the Licenses, Good-will, and immediate Possession, if required, of that well established and good accustomed Public House, the BIRD IN HAND, High Street, Bilston, of which a lease of seven, fourteen, or twenty-one years will be given at a moderate rent.

The Stock and Fixtures, which are of excellent quality (with or without any part of the Household Furniture) to be taken at a fair valuation.

The above House and Premises comprise four large cellars of sufficient capacity to store 10,000 gallons, a detached small-beer cellar and pantry, two parlours, two kitchens, and a bar, a large club-room, three bed-rooms, brewhouse, stable, and an entire back yard, and has the advantage of a pump of excellent water, which is rarely possessed by any Public House in Bilston.

So desirable a situation seldom presents itself, nor would this but for the recent engagements of the present proprietor in the Freestone Quarry and Stone Masonry businesses, and the subsequent indisposition of his wife."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/2/1830 - Advert

"Very Desirable Public House, at Bilston, Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett, on the Premises, on Tuesday, the 2nd of march, 1830, at Five o'Clock in the Afternoon (unless sooner disposed of by Private Treaty, of which due Notice will be given).

The Lease (eighteen Years of which are unexpired), Licenses, Goodwill, and Immediate Possession, of that well-known, old-established, and good-accustomed Public House, the BIRD IN HAND, situate near the Turnpike, High Street, Bilston aforesaid, enjoying a good Run of Ready Money Business, and at which assemble several extensive Clubs or Societies, and now carried on by Mr. *William Nagington*, who, in Consequence of other Engagements, is declining the Public Business.

The Purchaser to take to the Stock, Brewing Utensils, Barrels, Fixtures, &c, at a fair Valuation."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 12/7/1830 - Advert

"Whereas a Commission of Bankrupt is awarded and issued forth against *William Nagington*, of the township of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Victualler, dealer and chapman, and he being declared a bankrupt, is hereby required to surrender himself to the Commissioners in the said commission named, of the major part of them, on the twenty-second and twenty-third days of July inst and on the twenty-fourth day of August next, at the Stork Tavern, in the Square, in Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, at one o'clock in the afternoon on each day, and make a full discovery and disclosure of his estate and effects; when and where the creditors are to come prepared to prove their debts, and at the second sitting to chuse Assignees, and at the last sitting the said bankrupt is required to finish his examination, and the creditors are to assent to or dissent from the allowance of his certificate. All persons indebted to the said bankrupt, or that have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to whom the Commissioners shall appoint, but give notice to Messrs. Jessopp and Scarman, Furnivals Inn, London, or to Thomas Goode, Solicitor, Dudley."

WHEREAS a Commission of Bankrupt is awarded and issued forth against **WILLIAM NAGINGTON**, of the township of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Victualler, dealer and chapman, and he being declared a bankrupt, is hereby required to surrender himself to the Commissioners in the said commission named, or the major part of them, on the twenty-second and twenty-third days of July inst. and on the twenty-fourth day of August next, at the Stork Tavern, in the Square, in Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, at one o'clock in the afternoon on each day, and make a full discovery and disclosure of his estate and effects; when and where the creditors are to come prepared to prove their debts, and at the second sitting to chuse Assignees, and at the last sitting the said bankrupt is required to finish his examination, and the creditors are to assent to or dissent from the allowance of his certificate. All persons indebted to the said bankrupt, or that have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to whom the Commissioners shall appoint, but give notice to Messrs. Jessopp and Scarman, Furnival's Inn, London, or to
THOMAS GOODE,
Solicitor, Dudley.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 26/7/1830 - Advert

"To Innkeepers, Publicans, Brokers, and Others.

To be Sold by Auction by R. Corbett, on the premises, on Wednesday and Thursday next, July 28 and 29 (by order of the Assignees), all the Stock of Ale, Cider, Spiritous Liquors, Hops, excellent iron-bound Ale Barrels, Brewing Utensils, neat Gig and Harness, Household Furniture, and other effects of Mr. *William Nagington*, Publican, &c, at the BIRD IN HAND Public House, High Street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford (a bankrupt).

The sale to commence at ten and two each day.

Wednesday's Sale comprises 33 excellent iron-bound ale barrels of various sizes, from 30 to 580 gallons each, about 1,000 gallons of ale and cider, a four-pull beer machine nearly new, about three pockets of hops, two large copper furnaces, one iron boiler, a twenty-strike and smaller mashing tubs, coolers, working and gathering tubs, pair of capital vats, with pipes and taps, about 50 dozen of stone and glass bottles, the usual brewing, cellar, and bar utensils, a quantity of gin, rum, brandy, and other spiritous liquors, a neat gig and harness, and sundry miscellaneous effects used in the public business.

Thursday's Sale consists of four-post and tent bedsteads with hangings, prime feather bed, bolsters, and pillows, mattresses, sheets, blankets, counterpanes, and bedquilts, hand, bed, and table linen, mahogany and oak dining, dressing, pillar, and drinking tables, twelve stout forms or benches, mahogany bureau and bookcase, chests of drawers, buffet, oak, ash, Windsor, and chamber chairs, an eight-day clock in handsome mahogany case, pictures, looking glasses, wash-stands, wire and iron fenders, fire-irons, &c, including the usual parlour, kitchen, and bedroom furniture, cooking and culinary utensils, and other effects usually found in a respectable public house.

Particulars are given in catalogues now in circulation, and to be had at the place of sale, and at the office of the Auctioneer, New Town, Bilston."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 9/8/1830 - Advert

"Freehold Land, New Town, Bilston.

To be peremptorily Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett, on the 12th day of August, 1830, at five o'clock in the afternoon, at the BLUE BOAR INN, Oxford Street, Bilston aforesaid (by order of the Assignees of *William Nagington*, a bankrupt), three Lots of Freehold Building Land, fronting to Temple Street, in New Town, Bilston aforesaid, as described in handbills. Also a Seat or Pew, being No.17 in the North Aisle of St. Leonard's Church, in Bilston aforesaid.

Further particulars may be had of the Auctioneer, in Bilston, or at the office of Thomas Goode, Solicitor, in Dudley."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 13/12/1830 - Advert

"The Creditors who have proved their debts under a Commission of Bankrupt against *William Nagington*, of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Victualler, may receive the first dividend (of two shillings and sixpence in the pound) on application at the office of Thomas Goode, Solicitor, Dudley."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 13/6/1831 - Advert

"The Creditors who have proved their debts under a Commission of Bankrupt against *William Nagington*, of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Victualler, may receive a further and final dividend of 5s 2d in the pound on their respective debts, on application at the office of Thomas Goode, Solicitor, Dudley."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 29/5/1837 - Advert

"Buildings and Building Land, in Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by R. Corbett, at the house of Mrs. *Ann Grayer*, known as the BIRD IN HAND Public House, High Street, Bilston, on Thursday the 15th day of June, 1837, at five o'clock in the afternoon...."

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/11/1839

"A charge was preferred against *Richard Boothby* of Bilston, landlord of the OLD BIRD IN HAND, for allowing tippling during divine service on the 3rd of November. It appeared that the parties found there by the constables were travellers, and that they had demanded refreshment; and the constables admitting they had no knowledge of them, the case was dismissed."

Northern Star and Leeds General Advertiser 6/4/1841

“Chartist Intelligence.....

A public meeting was held in the large room of the BIRD IN HAND INN, Bilston, on Monday last, to which Mr. George White was invited. Several friends from Wolverhampton attended and assisted in the business. At five o'clock the room was well filled, when the business commenced by Mr. Mogg, of Wolverhampton, being unanimously called to the chair. He said that the present meeting was called for the purpose of forming a National Charter Association in the important and populous town of Bilston. The time had now arrived when it became the imperative duty of all real Chartists to organise. He, therefore, hoped that the men and women of Bilston would do their duty.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 10/10/1849

“On Tuesday T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, held an inquest at the BIRD IN HAND, on the body of Joseph Wootton, a boy about fourteen, employed in a pit in the Birmingham Fields, Bilston, belonging to Mr. Abbott, and who died on the previous Sunday, from the severe injuries he received in an explosion of sulphur in an old gate road of the pit on the 5th of September last. It appeared that Wootton and two other boys went along the gate road contrary to the directions of the doggy, and Wootton put a lighted candle into the end of an iron pipe lying by the side of the road, when an explosion instantly took place, and the deceased and one of the other boys were very much burned. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Journal 16/2/1850

“On Saturday last, a melancholy accident took place at Mr. Geo. Jones’s furnaces, near Bilston, in consequence of water belonging to the tuyere of one of the puddling furnaces being suddenly generated into steam, and an explosion thus ensuing. Three men were so badly injured that they died on that or the following day, namely, Edward Whittingham, aged 47, the furnace keeper, a puddler named John Willington, 35 years of age, and another, whose name we were unable to learn. T. M. Phillips, Esq, held an inquest on Monday, at the BIRD IN HAND, High Street, when a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

1851 Census

High Street

- [1] *Joseph Fletcher* (50), miner and victualler, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Charlotte Fletcher* (34), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] *Ann Fletcher* (12), daughter, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [4] *Eliza Fletcher* (10), daughter, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [5] *Sophia Fletcher* (3), daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] *William Fletcher* (1), son, born Bilston;
- [7] *Ann Solomon* (27), house servant, born France, British subject;
- [8] *Sarah Webb* (12), house servant, born Windmill End:

Staffordshire Advertiser 26/7/1851

“An inquest was held at the BIRD IN HAND, Bilston, on Friday week, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, upon the body of Ann Cooksey, a girl between seven and eight years old. It appeared that on the Wednesday previous she was playing with some other children upon the bank of an engine pit, when she accidentally fell down, and on being drawn out, was found quite dead, both her thighs being broken, and her scalp cut through at the back of the head by the force of the fall. A verdict of Found Drowned was returned.”

Joseph Fletcher died in the 4th quarter of 1852.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/12/1852

“On Monday last, the following transfers of licenses took place.....

From the executors of the late *Joseph Fletcher*, to his widow, *Charlotte Fletcher*, Bilston.”

Charlotte Fletcher married *James Cadman* on 25th November 1853.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/2/1855

“On Thursday night, Morris Goodhall, aged 60, a carter, residing in Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, and who had been suffering from diseased action of the bowels for several days previously, after taking a pill from a box he had purchased in the market, retired to bed. Shortly afterwards he was very sick, could not swallow, and appearing to be in a dying state, a surgeon was sent for, but life was extinct before he could reach the house. An inquest was held on the body at the BIRD IN HAND on Saturday, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, when, it appearing from a post mortem examination which had been made by Mr. Cooper, surgeon, that deceased had died from apoplexy of the brain, death having been accelerated by the diseased condition of the heart, a verdict to that effect was returned.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 20/3/1861

“On Wednesday last Mr. Phillips, coroner, held an inquest at the BIRD IN HAND, Bilston, on the body of Sarah Ann Painter, banksgirl, aged 18 years, who was, previous to her death, employed at a coal pit at Millfields, the property of Mr. Thomas Johnson, and who was killed under the following circumstances. On Monday she was gathering coal and slack about twelve yards from the mouth of the pit, as was her duty, whilst the banksman was emptying a skip of slack fifteen yards from the same spot. As soon as he had emptied it he took it towards the pit and when about three yards distant a full skip came up the shaft. He went towards it, and was in the act of putting the ‘waggon’ over the pit when the deceased pushed the empty skip on to the rails and up to the pit’s mouth, and before the banksman had time to finish what he was doing she fell with the empty skip down the pit, sustaining severe injuries on the head, and was killed. She had no business to push the skip as she did, and had been cautioned not to approach the pit’s mouth. Under these circumstances the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 20/3/1861

“Staffordshire Spring Assizes.....

Thomas Froggart (on bail) was charged with feloniously cutting and wounding his step-brother, George Hickenbottom, at Bilston, on the 3rd of October. Dr. Hill prosecuted.

George Hickenbottom, miner, Bilston, said that he was at the BIRD IN HAND public house, Bilston, on the 3rd of October. The prisoner was there. During the course of the day prisoner’s wife went and abused him about paying for some ale. The prisoner threatened to knock her head through the screen. He struck her, and his brother-in-law, David Hughes, who was present, interfered, and dealt the prisoner a blow on the neck. Prosecutor then got between them, and in the scuffle he was stabbed on the neck and under the left ear. Prosecutor believed it was an accident, for the prisoner was eating his dinner with a knife, and he happened to have it in his hand when the scuffle commenced. His Lordship said if that were so there was no charge against the prisoner. Dr. Hill observed that that supposition did not appear on the face of the depositions. By the direction of the Judge the prisoner was acquitted.”

1861 Census

37, High Street

[1] James Cadman (52), coal miner and victualler, born Bilston;

[2] Charlotte Cadman (43), wife, born Bilston;

[3] William Cadman (12), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[4] Alice Cadman (20), daughter, born Bilston;

[5] Louisa Cadman (14), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[6] Sophia Cadman (13), daughter, scholar, born Bilston:

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 2/8/1862

“On Tuesday last the members of the Midland Unity of Odd Fellows met at the house of Mr. *Cadman*, BIRD IN HAND INN, Bilston, to celebrate their annual anniversary. At about eleven o’clock they marched in procession (headed by the excellent band of Messrs. Humphries) to the Baptist Chapel, Wood Street, where an excellent sermon was preached to them by the Rev. W. Jackson, the resident minister. The dinner, which had been prepared by ‘mine host’ *Cadman*, was of an excellent description. Mr. J. Lester, NG, was called to the chair, and Mr. Hudson, VG, to the vice-chair. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts were given. The vocal powers of Messrs. Davies, Jones, and Humphries added much to the harmony of the evening, together with the band, which at intervals played some very popular airs, reflecting much credit on their leader, Mr. R. R. Humphries. The annual report was read by the secretary, showing the good condition of the funds.

The society of Loyal Britons held their annual meeting at the above house on the previous day, which passed off very pleasantly.”

James Cadman died in the 2nd quarter of 1867.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/2/1868

“At the Police Court, yesterday, *Charlotte Cadman*, landlady of the BIRD IN HAND, High Street, Bilston, was charged, on the information of Mr. Allcorn, supervisor of Inland Revenue, with having, on the 31st of January, brewed a quantity of malt without entering the particulars of the same in her brewer’s entry paper. In answer to the charge the defendant stated that the malt which she brewed on the 31st of January had been intended for a previous day, but was not brewed, and upon brewing it on the day in question she forgot to make the entry. The Magistrates, however, fined her in the mitigated penalty of £50, and informed her that the full penalty to which she had, by her negligence, made herself liable was £200.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/2/1870

“An inquest was held at the BIRD IN HAND, High Street, Bilston, on Wednesday last, by Mr. W. H. Phillips, deputy coroner for the borough, on the body of Thomas Bowers, who, on Wednesday week last, set fire to his clothes while lighting sticks in the fire. He died on Sunday last. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and recommended that a safeguard should be put before the fire.”

1871 Census

37, High Street – BIRD IN HAND

[1] *Charlotte Cadman* (53), widow, licensed victualler employing one assistant, born Bilston;

[2] *William Fletcher* (21), son, innkeeper, born Bilston;

[3] *Charlotte Jeavons* (5), grand-daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[4] *Amelia Griffiths* (19), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 16/2/1876

“An inquest was held yesterday, at the BIRD IN HAND, High Street, Bilston, touching the death of John Smith, 22, a collier, lately residing in High Street. The deceased was employed at the Quarry Colliery, belonging to Mr. Edward Hickman, and whilst at work there on Saturday last he was killed by a fall of roof. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Midland Examiner 26/8/1876

“About five o’clock on Saturday morning Police-constable Samuel Ray discovered that a man had been drowned in the canal near to Bilston Road Bridge. He obtained assistance, and having brought the body to the bank removed it to the NAVIGATION INN, Bilston Road. The body was subsequently identified as that of Hugh Lavery, a process and summons server, living at 183, Walsall Street. Deceased was 47 years of age, and was many years ago a policeman in the county force.

An inquest was held on the body on Monday, before the Borough Coroner (W. H. Phillips, Esq).

Police-constable S. Ray identified the body of the deceased. On Saturday morning, about five o’clock, witness was called up, and on going to the Monmore Green canal bridge he saw the body of the deceased taken out of the water. There was no mark of injury upon the body. The spot where the body was found was close to the road, and was very dangerous, as there was no lamp near, and the road to the canal was quite open from the highway. Witness had known three persons to fall in the water at that particular place during the last two years.

Mrs. *Cadman*, landlady of the BIRD IN HAND, Bilston, said the deceased was at her house several times on Friday. He last came between ten and eleven o’clock on Friday night, and was so far intoxicated that she refused to supply him with any more drink, and at last insisted on his leaving.

Joseph Mills, of Bilston, said he saw the deceased in the house of last witness at a quarter to eleven o’clock on Friday night. He offered to accompany him home, but deceased refused his assistance, and witness eventually left him in the house. Deceased while in the house paid for half a pint of ale for another man.

Evidence having been given to the fact that deceased had been a man of intemperate habits, and also that there was no probability that he had been injured by anyone, the jury returned a verdict of Accidentally Drowned, and also expressed a wish that the attention of the Borough Surveyor should be called to the dangerous state of the opening from the road to the canal at Monmore Green Bridge.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 10/11/1880

“An inquest was held this afternoon, at the BIRD IN HAND, High Street, Bilston, touching the death of a child four years old, named Edith Fanny Webb, who was knocked down by a horse belonging to Mr. H. W. Larkin, surgeon, on Monday afternoon.

Albert Webb, father of the child, said deceased was in good health at the time of the accident. After she was brought home he saw that the child was injured on the right side of her forehead.

Margaret Durkin said she saw the accident, about ten minutes to two on the Monday afternoon. She was near the GREYHOUND INN, and heard the noise of a horse and trap rushing by, and looking round she saw the gig come in contact with a ginger beer cart, which upset the gig. The horse then got free, and rushed away again. She saw no one in charge of it. Some one turned the horse back near the Primitive Methodist Chapel and it then turned on to the causeway, knocked down the deceased, and then trod on it. Mr. Hollis picked up the child, and she carried it home. It was unconscious.

Mr. Hollis, grocer, said on Monday afternoon he heard a scream, and, looking through the window of his shop, he saw the horse, which he knew to be the property of Dr. Larkin, knock the child down.

Richard Sullivan said he stopped the horse, which then turned back, ran against the child, and knocked it down. Mr. Larkin afterwards came up and asked him to take the horse to the stable.

George Herbert Hopkiss said he was a groom to Mr. H. W. Larkin, surgeon. He entered his service on Saturday night last. On Monday morning he harnessed the mare, and accompanied Mr. Larkin on his rounds as a surgeon. On their return Mr. Larkin got out of the gig at the surgery, and sent him with the mare to the stable, which is situate at the back of PIPE HALL HOTEL. He (the groom), on reaching the yard, got out to unlock the door, and whilst doing so he heard a scuttle of the mare and gig, and looking round saw that she had run away with the gig. There was a rush of steam just then from a passing train, and he attributed the accident to that.

Mr. H. W. Larkin said he had had the mare about five months, but only driven about five or six weeks. He had experienced no difficulty with the mare. She had never run away before while in harness. He told the groom to take the horse and gig to the gig house, and watched him turn up into the yard. A few minutes after he heard of the horse running sway.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1881 Census

37, High Street – BIRD IN HAND

- [1] *Charlotte Cadman* (63), widow, publican, born Bilston;
- [2] *Simeon Rock* (47), son-in-law, iron roller employing 5 men and 6 boys, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Ann Rock* (42), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] *Charlotte Rock* (21), grand-daughter, waitress, born Bilston;
- [5] *Charlotte Jeavons* (16), grand-daughter, waitress, born Bloxwich;
- [6] *Sophia Hammond* (33), daughter, married, grocer's wife, born Bilston;
- [7] *William Hammond* (12), grand-son, scholar, born Willenhall;
- [8] *Albert Hammond* (8), grand-son, scholar born United States of America;
- [9] *Thomas E. Hammond* (2), grand-son, born United States of America:

Evening Express 4/8/1881

“On Monday the members of the Friends of Harmony and Providence Lodges of the United Order of Free Gardeners, after parading some of the streets of Bilston, attended Divine service at St. Luke's Church in that town, where the Rev. W. Prosser (vicar) officiated. In a sermon addressed to the members, the Vicar spoke in appreciatory terms of the Order; and at the conclusion of the service the members returned to the BIRD IN HAND INN, High Street, where a capital dinner was provided by the hostess Mrs. *Cadman*. After dinner the chair was taken by Brother J. Evans, and the vice-chair by Brother Enoch Jones, and the usual toasts were heartily drunk.”

A seven day license was granted on 28th September 1883.

Charlotte Cadman died on 5th February 1890.

Joseph Millington was the sole executor of *Charlotte Cadman*. He was her nephew.

Walsall Observer 15/3/1890 - Advert

“By Messrs. T. Skidmore & Son. To Brewers And Others.

Valuable Copyhold Properties, situate in the Manors of Stowheath and Sedgley, in the County of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Thomas Skidmore and Son, at the BIRD IN HAND, Bilston in the said County of Stafford, on Monday, the 31st day of March, 1890, at Six o'clock in the Evening.....

Lot 1. The Full-licensed and Old-established Public House, known as the BIRD IN HAND, situate at Bilston aforesaid, and on the main road from Bilston to Goldthorn Hill, until recently and for many years past in the occupation of the late Mrs. *Cadman*. This House, which has an excellent situation, is well appointed, and contains Tap Room, Bar, Smoke Room, Two Kitchens, and Cellars, spacious Club Room, and Four Bedrooms, a retired Yard in the rear, containing Brewhouse, Malt Room, Stable, Cow-house, Dairy, and Hop Room. Early possession can be given.

Also all those Four Messuages, situate in Coseley Street, Bilston aforesaid, adjoining at the back of the last-mentioned property, one of which fronts the said street, and is numbered 64, and the remaining three form Court No.14 at the rear. The Houses, which are in a very good state of repair, are all let to respectable tenants, at rentals producing £31 4s 0d per annum.”

1891 Census

37, High Street – BIRD IN HAND

- [1] *John T. Chew* (25), licensed victualler, born Birmingham;
- [2] *Emma Chew* (27), wife, born St. Johns, New Brunswick;
- [3] *Sidney Chew* (3), son, born Bilston;
- [4] *Harry Chew* (1), son, born Bilston;
- [5] *Susan A. Johnson* (16), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Weekly Post 17/2/1900

“Mr. T. A. Stokes held an inquest at the BIRD IN HAND INN, Bilston, on Saturday afternoon on the body of Edward Chirm (39), labourer, of No.1 Court, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, who was fatally injured at the Bilston Stone Quarry on Wednesday afternoon. Mr. Pickering (Government inspector of mines) attended.

The evidence showed that some men were removing clay when the roof gave way, and the deceased was buried. Evert effort was made to extricate him, but when dug out he was found to be dead.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

1901 Census

102, High Street

- [1] *Harry Nuttall* (28), plumber and publican, born Rushall;
- [2] *Mina Nuttall* (29), wife, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *Sarah Brooks* (22) domestic servant, born Bilston;
- [4] *Edith Barker* (18), visitor, domestic housemaid, born Bilston:

Harry Nuttall – see also DOG AND PARTRIDGE, Broad Street, SEVEN STARS, High Street, HEN AND CHICKENS, George Street, and UNION MILL, Manor Road.

1911 Census

102, High Street

- [1] *William Charles Cole* (46), public house, manager, born Bath;
- [2] *Martha Edith Cole* (36), wife, married 8 years, born Kingswinford;
- [3] *Dorothy Maud Cole* (6), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] *William Cole* (4), son, born Bilston;
- [5] *Oswald Walter Cole* (2), son, born Bilston;
- [6] *Jane Bull* (17), domestic servant, born Bilston:

1921 Census

High Street – BIRD IN HAND

- [1] William Charles Cole (56), licensed manager, born Bath;
- [2] Elizabeth Cole (26), wife, home duties, born Bilston;
- [3] William Cole (14), son, steelworks labourer, born Bilston;
- [4] Oswald Walter Cole (12), son, school, born Bilston;
- [5] George Frederick Cole (3), son, born Bilston;
- [6] Joseph Thomas Cole (2), son, born Bilston;
- [7] Dorothy Maud Cole (16), daughter, home duties, born Bilston;
- [8] Edith Mary Cole (3 months), daughter, born Bilston;

1939 Register

102, High Street (4 of 5)

- [1] Arthur F. Collins, date of birth 3/4/1880, licensed victualler, married;
- [2] Daisy Collins, dob 16/4/1884, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] Arthur F. Collins, dob 16/10/1918, ordinance surveyor, single;
- [4] Howard V. Collins, dob 16/3/1920, plumber, single;

Bilston and Willenhall Times 18/5/1946

“For selling intoxicants without a license at a dance at Bilston Town Hall on April 23rd, *Arthur Frank Collins*, licensee of the BIRD IN HAND, High Street, Bilston, was at Bilston, on Friday, fined £5, with £1 12s special costs. A summons against Mrs. Collins for aiding and abetting was dismissed.

Superintendent S. Cresswell explained that Mr. *Collins* had made many applications for occasional licenses at dances, and had carried on his public house in an exemplary manner since 1929. On the date in question PS Lovatt went to the Town Hall, and on asking to see the Justice’s license Mrs. Collins explained that they could not find it. Later Mr. *Collins* was seen, and he said that on the previous Sunday night he discovered that no license had been obtained for the Tuesday night, although they had one for the previous night.

Mr. F. M. Slater, for the defence, said that both Mr. and Mrs. *Collins* regretted the offence, which was due entirely to an oversight.”

Black Country Bugle 5/4/2001 - Letter from Peter Morrey

This claims that *Arthur* and *Daisy Collins* were tenants from 1945 to 1955.

Black Country Bugle 26/4/2001

Letter from Marie Thompson

“Many years ago when I was about 8/9 years old, my parents Tom and Daisy Bailey used the pub regularly. My dad used the bar and my mom sat with me in the children’s room with the other mothers. One of my great pleasures was to go out to the back yard and scratch the pigs and, being naughty with the other children, would make the geese squawk.....”

Eric Page was married to *Rose*.

Tipton Herald 5/1/1957

“A number of men who gave assistance to police having trouble with two ‘drunks’ outside a Bilston public house were thanked by Chief Inspector P. R. James, at a special court last Saturday.

The chief inspector said crowds were often hostile to the police, but it was not so in this case.

Before the court were two labourers, Peter Donovan (30) and James Campbell (23), both of 2, Fraser Street, Bilston, said by Chief Inspector James to have caused a considerable disturbance outside the BIRD IN HAND INN, High Street, late the previous night. Each was fined £2 for being drunk and disorderly, and Donovan was also fined £10, with two months’ imprisonment in default, for assaulting PC Alan Dowling in the execution of his duty.

Describing it as an entirely unprovoked assault Chief Inspector James said Dowling was not in a position to defend himself because he was occupied in dealing with Campbell.

PC Dowling gave evidence that he and PC Heseltine were called to High Street at about 10.15pm and found a large crowd outside the BIRD IN HAND watching several men fighting. Campbell was violent and would not stop

fighting, so they went to arrest him. While they were attempting to put him in the police car Donovan tried to help his friend and struck Dowling on the left side of his head, causing him to fall and injure his right thumb. In court, Donovan denied the assault and said he was trying to help the police by separating the fighting men. Admitting he had had about 10 to 12 pints of beer as well as some whisky, he said it had 'knocked him about'."

Staffordshire Sentinel 3/6/1961 - Notice

"The Licensing Act, 1953. Notice of Principal Meeting County of Stafford.

Notice is Hereby Given that the Principal Meeting to be held pursuant to the Licensing Rules, 1910, by the Compensation Authority for the above area, will be held in the Shire Hall, Stafford, on Wednesday the 21st day of June, 1961, at 11 o'clock am.

And Notice is Hereby Also Given, that the Compensation Authority will at the Meeting be prepared to hear, with reference to the renewal of the licenses of the premises specified in the subjoined list, all those persons to whom under the Licensing Act, 1953, they are bound to give an opportunity of being heard; that is to say, the persons interested in any licensed premises in question and, unless it appears to the Compensation Authority unnecessary, any other persons appearing to them to be interested in the question of the renewal of the license of those premises (including the Justices of the Licensing District). List of Licensed Premises.....

BIRD IN HAND, High Street, Bilston. Full License. Licensee, *William Thomas Davis*."

Staffordshire Sentinel 1/7/1961 - Notice

"The Licensing Act, 1953. County of Stafford.

Notice is Hereby Given that the Compensation Authority for the above area, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on the 21st day of June, 1961, to refuse the Renew of the Licenses of the premises specified below, all persons claiming to be interested in the said premises for the purpose of payment of the compensation under the said Act (other than the Licensees and the Registered Owners of the said Premises) are required to send to the Compensation Authority notice of their claims before the 22nd day of July, 1961, for the purpose of enabling the Compensation Authority to ascertain in the manner provided by the Licensing Rules, 1910, the persons entitled to compensation under the said Act in respect of the said premises.....

BIRD IN HAND, High Street, Bilston. Full License. Licensee, *William Thomas Davis*. Registered Owners, W. Butler & Co. Ltd."

It closed c.1970.

It was demolished c.1983.

First-rate Public House in Bilston.

RICHARD CORBETT, New Town, Bilston, Auctioneer, has on Sale by Treaty, the Licenses, Good-will, and immediate Possession, if required, of that well established and good accustomed Public House, the BIRD-IN-HAND, High-street, Bilston, of which a lease of seven, fourteen, or twenty-one years will be given at a moderate rent.

The Stock and Fixtures, which are of excellent quality (with or without any part of the Household Furniture) to be taken at a fair valuation.

The above House and Premises comprise four large cellars of sufficient capacity to store 10,000 gallons, a detached small-beer cellar and pantry, two parlours, two kitchens, and a bar, a large club-room, three bed-rooms, brewhouse, stable, and an entire back yard, and has the advantage of a pump of excellent water, which is rarely possessed by any Public House in Bilston.

So desirable a situation seldom presents itself, nor would this but for the recent engagements of the present proprietor in the Freestone Quarry and Stone Masonry businesses, and the subsequent indisposition of his wife.

1827

VERY DESIRABLE PUBLIC-HOUSE, *At Bilston, Staffordshire.*

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, BY RICHARD CORBETT,

On the Premises,

On TUESDAY, the 2nd of MARCH, 1830, at Five o'Clock in the Afternoon, (unless sooner disposed of by Private Treaty, of which due Notice will be given):—

THE LEASE (eighteen Years of which are unexpired), LICENCES, GOOD-WILL, and IMMEDIATE POSSESSION, of that well-known, and established, and good-accustomed PUBLIC-HOUSE, the BIRD-IN-HAND, situate near the Turnpike, HIGH-STREET, BILSTON aforesaid, enjoying a good Run of Ready Money Business, and at which assemble several extensive Clubs or Societies, and now carried on by Mr. WILLIAM NAGINGTON, who, in Consequence of other Engagements, is declining the Publican Business.

The Purchaser to take to the Stock, Brewing Utensils, Barrels, Fixtures, &c. at a fair Valuation.

1830

**TO INNKEEPERS,
PUBLICANS, BROKERS, AND OTHERS.**

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by R. CORBETT, on the premises, on Wednesday and Thursday next, July 23 and 24 (by order of the Assignees), all the Stock of Ale, Cider, Spirituous Liquors, Hops, excellent iron-bound Ale Barrels, Brewing Utensils, neat Gig and Harness, Household Furniture, and other effects of Mr. William Nagington, Publican, &c. at the Bird-in-hand Public House, High-street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford (a bankrupt). The sale to commence at ten and two each day.

WEDNESDAY'S SALE

Comprises 33 excellent iron-bound ale barrels of various sizes, from 30 to 550 gallons each, about 1000 gallons of ale and cider, a four-pull beer machine nearly new, about three pockets of hops, two large copper furnaces, one iron boiler, a twenty-strike and smaller mashing tubs, coolers, working and gathering tubs, pair of capital vats, with pipes and taps, about 50 dozen of stone and glass bottles, the usual brewing, cellar, and bar utensils, a quantity of gin, rum, brandy, and other spirituous liquors, a neat gig and harness, and sundry miscellaneous effects used in the public business.

THURSDAY'S SALE

Consists of four-post and tent bedsteads with hangings, prime feather bed, bolsters, and pillows, mattresses, sheets, blankets, counterpanes, and bedquilts, hand, bed, and table linen, mahogany and oak dining, dressing, pillar, and drinking tables, twelve stout forms or benches, mahogany bureau and bookcase, chests of drawers, buffet, oak, ash, Windsor, and chamber chairs, an eight-day clock in handsome mahogany case, pictures, looking glasses, wash-stands, wire and iron fenders, fire-irons, &c. including the usual parlour, kitchen, and bed-room furniture, cooking and culinary utensils, and other effects usually found in a respectable public house.

Particulars are given in catalogues now in circulation, and to be had at the place of sale, and at the office of the Auctioneer, New Town, Bilston.

**FREEHOLD LAND,
NEW TOWN, BILSTON.**

TO be peremptorily SOLD by AUCTION, by RICHARD CORBETT, on the 12th day of August, 1830, at five o'clock in the afternoon, at the Blue Boar Inn, Oxford-street, Bilston aforesaid (by order of the Assignees of William Nagington, a bankrupt), three Lots of Freehold Building Land, fronting to Temple-street, in New Town, Bilston aforesaid, as described in handbills. Also a Seat or Pew, being No. 17 in the North Aisle of St. Leonard's Church, in Bilston aforesaid.

Further particulars may be had of the Auctioneer, in Bilston, or at the office of Thomas Goode, Solicitor, in Dudley.

THE Creditors who have proved their debts under a Commission of Bankrupt against WILLIAM NAGINGTON, of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Victualler, may receive the first dividend (of two shillings and sixpence in the pound) on application at the office of

THOMAS GOODE,
Solicitor, Dudley.

1830

THE Creditors who have proved their debts under a Commission of Bankrupt against WILLIAM NAGINGTON, of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Victualler, may receive a further and final dividend of 5s. 2d. in the pound on their respective debts, on application at the office of Thomas Goode, Solicitor, Dudley.

1831

BY MESSRS. T. SKIDMORE & SON.

TO BREWERS AND OTHERS.

**VALUABLE
COPYHOLD PROPERTIES,
SITUATE IN THE
MANORS OF STOWHEATH AND SEDGLEY,
In the County of Stafford.**

**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, BY
MESSRS. THOMAS SKIDMORE AND
SON,** at the "BIRD IN HAND," BILSTON, in the said County of Stafford, on MONDAY, the 31st day of March, 1890, at Six o'clock in the Evening (subject to conditions incorporating the common form conditions of the Birmingham Law Society)—

Lot 1.

The Full-licensed and Old-established PUBLIC-HOUSE, known as the "Bird in Hand," situate at Bilston aforesaid, and on the main road from Bilston to Goldthorn Hill, until recently and for many years past in the occupation of the late Mrs. Cadman. This House, which has an excellent situation, is well appointed, and contains Tap Room, Bar, Smoke Room, Two Kitchens, and Cellars, spacious Club Room, and Four Bedrooms, a retired yard in the rear, containing Brewhouse, Malt Room, Stable, Cow-house, Dairy, and Hop Room. Early possession can be given.

Also all those FOUR MESSUAGES, situate in Coseley Street, Bilston aforesaid, adjoining at the back of the last-mentioned property, one of which fronts the said street, and is numbered 64, and the remaining three form Court No. 14 at the rear. The Houses, which are in a very good state of repair, are all let to respectable tenants, at rentals producing £31 4s. 0d. per annum.

Lot 2.

An Old-licensed PUBLIC-HOUSE, known as "The Swan," situate in Swan Row, Broad Lanes, Bilston aforesaid, in the occupation of Mr. Enoch Smith as an annual tenant, at £18 per annum. The House is capable of doing a very extensive trade, and contains Tap Room, Bar, Two Kitchens, Cellars, Brewhouse, Four Bedrooms, and an Attic.

Also all those SIX PRIVATE DWELLING-HOUSES, adjoining the last-mentioned, numbered respectively 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18, forming Swan Row, producing an annual rental of £48 19s. 4d.. These Houses are in very good repair, and have pigstyes and brewhouses to each.

Also a DWELLING-HOUSE, being No. 60, Moor Street, Broad Lanes, Bilston aforesaid, now and for many years past in the occupation of Edward Rogers at a weekly rental, producing £5 12s. 8d. per annum.

The total aggregate rental of this Lot is £72 12s. 0d. per annum.

For further particulars apply to the Auctioneers, 1 and 2, Bilston Street, Wolverhampton; or to

S. PEARMAN SMITH & SONS,
Solicitors, Walsall.

1890

BIRD IN HAND

42, Hill Street, (44, Hall Street), (Hall Green), (Hallfields), Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

Simon Talbot, bricklayer, Ardwick, Manchester
John Roberts, charter master, Bilston
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. [1921]

LICENSEES

Thomas Bagbey [1861]
James Smith [1871] – **1885**;
Sarah Smith **(1885)**;
Thomas Hampton **(1885 – 1891)**;
John Emanuel Roberts **(1891 – 1893)**;
Henry Moreton **(1893)**;
Mrs. Mary Jane Lucas **(1893 – 1905)**;
George William Lucas **(1905 – 1907)**;
Mary Jane Lucas **(1907 – 1909)**;
Arthur Fieldhouse **(1909 – 1910)**;
Elizabeth Davies **(1910)**;
Arthur Fellows **(1910 – 1912)**;
John Thomas Reynolds **(1912 – 1915)**;
Mrs. Annie Ada Reynolds **(1915 – 1934)**;
Arthur Samuel Caddick **(1934 – 1935)**;
Albert Owen **(1935 – [1940])**
John William Stockton [] – **1994**
Roy Fox **(1995 – [])**
Keith Frank Thomas []



2000

NOTES

44, Hall Street [1861], [1871], [1881], [1891]
42, Hill Street [1904], [1912], [1921], [1940]

It had a beerhouse license.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/4/1843

“The following inquisitions have been held before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner.....

On the 30th, at the BIRD IN HAND, Hall Green, on Timothy Wilkes, a miner, who had been killed by a fall of coal while at work. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

1861 Census

44, Hall Street – BIRD IN HAND

- [1] Thomas Bagbey (72), publican, born Warwickshire;
- [2] Elizabeth Bagbey (66), wife, born Staffordshire;
- [3] Elizabeth Rowland (36), daughter, born Staffordshire;
- [4] John Rowland (12), grand-son, born Staffordshire;
- [5] John Stoker (34), visitor, carpenter, born Staffordshire;
- [6] Henry Stoker (5), visitor, born Staffordshire;

1871 Census

44, Hall Street – BIRD IN HAND

- [1] James Smith (44), publican, born Lapworth, Warwickshire;
- [2] Sarah Smith (47), wife, born Solihull;
- [3] Alfred Smith (12), son, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [4] Alice Smith (9), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [5] Elizabeth Lear (20), general servant, born Bilston:

1881 Census

44, Hall Street – BIRD IN HAND

- [1] James Smith (55), beer seller, born Lapworth, Warwickshire;
- [2] Sarah Smith (57), wife, born Solihull;
- [3] Alfred Smith (22), son, millman, ironworks, born Bilston;
- [4] Alice Smith (19), daughter, born Bilston:

James Smith died on 18th August 1885.

TO Let, in consequence of death of Proprietor, Bird-in-Hand Beerhouse, Hall-street Bradley; not changed hands for 17 years; rent, £18 per annum; compact brewing plant, in good working order; incoming about £55.—Apply, Payton and Hill, auctioneers, Bilston, or upon the premises.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 29/9/1885 - Advert

“To Let, in consequence of death of Proprietor, BIRD IN HAND Beerhouse, Hall Street, Bradley; not changed hands for 17 years; rent, £18 per annum; compact brewing plant, in good working order; incoming about £55. Apply, Payton and Hill, auctioneers, Bilston, or upon the premises.”

Thomas Hampton = Thomas Hampson

Birmingham Daily Post 17/1/1891

“At Bilston Police Court, yesterday, *Thomas Hampson* (29), landlord of the BIRD IN HAND, Bradley, was fined 40s and the costs for being drunk on his own premises on the 19th ult.”

1891 Census

44, Hall Street – BIRD IN HAND

- [1] John E. Roberts (22), coal miner and publican, born Bilston;
- [2] Louisa Roberts (22), wife, born Sheffield;
- [3] Alice Smith (16), domestic servant, born Sedgley:

1901 Census

Hill Street – BIRD IN HAND

- [1] George Lucas (44), safe manufacturer, born Moseley, Warwickshire;
- [2] Mary J. Lucas (44), wife, beerhouse keeper, born Bradley;
- [3] Thomas J. Lucas (19), son, safe maker, born Bradley;
- [4] Fred Lucas (14), son, safe maker's apprentice, born Bradley;
- [5] Sarah A. Lucas (22), daughter, born Bradley;
- [6] Martha Stanford (15), domestic servant, born Bradley:

Mrs. Mary Jane Lucas, beer retailer, 42, Hill Street, Bradley. [1904]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 14/12/1909 - Advert

“Home-Brewing Beerhouse to Let, doing good trade; newly decorated in and out; good plant, new barrels, &c; good reason for leaving.

A. Fieldhouse, BIRD IN HAND INN, Hill Street, Bradley.”

HOME-BREWING Beerhouse to Let, doing good trade, newly decorated in and out; good plant, new barrels, &c.; good reason for leaving.—*A. Fieldhouse*, Bird-in-Hand Inn, Hill-st., Bradley.

Birmingham Mail 14/1/1910

“At Bilston today, *Arthur Fieldhouse*, licensee of the BIRD IN HAND, Hill Street, Bradley, was committed to take his trial at the Assizes upon a charge of attempting to discharge a loaded revolver at his brother, Thomas Fieldhouse, licensee of the SYDNEY VILLIAGE INN, Wright Street, Bradley. Twelve months ago prisoner’s widowed mother died, leaving an estate, and prisoner, being dissatisfied with his share, took to drinking rather heavily. Shortly after midnight on Tuesday last prisoner, it was alleged, scaled the wall at the rear of his brother’s premises, entered the house, and endeavoured to extract a promise from his brother, threatening, if it were not given, he would settle it by having his brother’s life. As he levelled the revolver, however, prosecutor’s wife knocked his hand down, and after a struggle the weapon was taken from him. He then snatched up a poker, but prosecutor’s wife clung to him and held him while her husband called in assistance.”

Staffordshire Sentinel 8/3/1910

“Staffordshire Assizes.

Arthur Fieldhouse (28), publican, was charged with having committed an assault upon his brother, Thomas Fieldhouse, and his wife, at Coseley, on January 12th. On the advice of Mr. R. J. Lawrence, who defended, prisoner pleaded guilty.

Mr. V. G. Milward, prosecuting counsel, said that prisoner was a license holder, and he had been indulging very heavily in drink. At the time of the occurrence he was suffering very much from drink, and went to the house of the prosecutor, where there was a struggle with the brother and his wife. There was an assault, but the brother had no desire to press the case.

For the prisoner, Mr. Lawrence said that *Fieldhouse* had a very good character. Some years ago he had served in Thorneycroft’s Horse in South Africa. Prisoner went to the house with a loaded revolver, but it was obviously a silly, drunken freak in an utterly absurd drunken frenzy. There was a struggle, but the prisoner refrained during the assault from firing the weapon.

Having regard to the appeal made for prisoner, the Judge said he would bind him over in £50 to come up for judgement if called upon.”

1911 Census

Hill Street – BIRD IN HAND

- [1] *Arthur Fellows* (33), enameller, born Bilston;
- [2] *Louisa Fellows* (31), wife, married 11 years, born Bilston;
- [3] *John William Arthur Fellows* (9), son, school, born Bilston;
- [4] *Sydney Joseph Fellows* (8), son, school, born Bilston;
- [5] *Percy Cyril Fellows* (5), son, born Bilston;
- [6] *Wilfred Norris Fellows* (2), son, born Bilston;
- [7] *Elsie Louisa Fellows* (2 months), daughter, born Bilston;
- [8] *Jemima Lewis* (24), boarder, boot machinist, born Bilston;
- [9] *Leslie Lewis* (1), born Bilston;
- [10] *Amanda Broome* (17), domestic servant, born Tividale:

John T. Reynolds, beer retailer, 42, Hill Street. [1912]

John Thomas Reynolds and *Annie Ada Reynolds* were the parents of *Ron Reynolds* – see HORSE AND JOCKEY, Robert Wynd, Sedgley.

John Thomas Reynolds and *Annie Ada Reynolds* were the grand-parents of *Paul Reynolds* – see HORSE AND JOCKEY, Robert Wynd, Sedgley.

John Thomas Reynolds and *Annie Ada Reynolds* were the grand-parents of *Mark Reynolds* – see HOP VAULT, Stourbridge.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 30/10/1912 - Advert

“For Sale, big fine Badger, 10 months old.

Apply, BIRD IN HAND INN, Hill Street, Bradley.”

FOR Sale, big fine Badger, 10 months old.—
Apply, Bird-in-Hand Inn, Hill-st., Bradley.

Birmingham Mail 23/2/1915

“At Bilston, yesterday, a Coroner’s jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death in the case of *John Thomas Reynolds* (42), licensee of the BIRD IN HAND, Bradley, who was killed at the Red Grove Colliery of Messrs. J. and F. Davies. It was stated that *Reynolds* was also a miner, and on Saturday, while at work in the colliery, there was a fall, which brought down two tons of rock. *Reynolds* was buried and killed almost instantly, and his son, who was working near, was injured. The place was well timbered, and had been examined.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/2/1915

“Accidental Death was the verdict returned yesterday at Bilston on *John Thomas Reynolds*, aged 42, licensee of the BIRD IN HAND INN, Bradley, who was killed at the Red Frame Colliery on Saturday by a fall of rock. A son of the deceased only just escaped probably the same fate, being protected by a tub.”

AND

Lichfield Mercury 26/2/1915

“A fall of earth and coal occurred on Saturday in the Red Frame Colliery, Great Bridge Road, near Bradley, and worked by Messrs. J. and F. Davies, and resulted in the death of *John Thomas Reynolds*, aged 46, landlord of the BIRD IN HAND INN, Bradley. The body was recovered from the debris after much trouble. Another miner was injured, but was able to go home.”

Annie Ada Reynolds was known as Ada.

1921 Census

42, Hill Street

- [1] Ada Reynolds (49), manageress of licensed house, born Bradley;
- [2] James Loach (26), son-in-law, moulder, born Bradley;
- [3] Abigail Loach (24), daughter, born Bradley;
- [4] Hilda Loach (2), grand-daughter, born Bradley;
- [5] James Wilfred Loach (2 months), grand-son, born Bradley;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/2/1936

“The Superintendent, referring to the fact that a surrounding wall had still to be built at the BIRD IN HAND, Bradley, plans for the reconstruction of which were passed two years ago, the chairman told a representative of the brewery company, ‘We don’t pass these plans in a spirit of light-heartedness to while away the time. We expect them to be carried out, and this is treating the Court with great disrespect.’

Renewal of the license was adjourned for a month, the chairman remarking that unless something very definite was done in the meantime the owners might find themselves in a difficulty.

The Bench refused an application for permission to apply at the adjourned sessions for an alteration of licensing hours from 10am to 2pm, to 10.30am to 2.30pm, and from 6pm to 10pm, to 6pm to 10.30pm.”

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.....

An application for the removal of the full license of the ROLLING MILL INN, Highfields, Bradley, to the BIRD IN HAND INN, Bradley, Bilston, the latter being a beerhouse, was refused.”

1939 Register

Hill Street – BIRD IN HAND

- [1] Albert Owen, date of birth 20/1/1900, public house manager, married;
- [2] Elsie Owen, dob 3/2/1903, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] Elizabeth May (Moody) Griffiths, dob 14/6/1916, public house bar general, single;
- [4] John Bagby, dob 7/2/1876, steel works labourer, married;
- [5] Amy Bagby, dob 3/4/1880, nut and bolt worker, married;

A team from here took part in the Bradley Darts League, First Division. [1946]

John Stockton died on 26th September 1994.

London Gazette 2/3/1998

“Keith Frank Thomas carrying on business as the ANGEL Public House, Wednesfield, WHITE ROSE Public House, Temple Street, Bilston, BIRD IN HAND, Hill Street, Bradley, SHEPHERDS COTTAGE, Princes End, Tipton, HORSELEY TAVERN, Dudley Port, COTTAGE SPRING, Alexandra Road, Tipton Date of Filing Petition, 26th January 1998.....”

It closed in July 2000.

It was demolished in October 2001.

Housing was built on the site.

BIRD IN HAND

34, (170), Oxford Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Richard Smith, fishmonger, Bilston

Joseph Smith, fishmonger, Oxford Street, Bilston

Harold Smith, fishmonger, Oxford Street, Bilston

LICENSEES

John Firm [1851] – [1865]

A Wood [1867]

Isaiah Sheldon [1868]

Alfred Ward []

Ellen Hawkswood [1871]

Leah Baggot [] – **1873**);

Thomas Jones (**1873 – 1878**);

William Raybould (**1878 – 1879**);

Isaiah Kinsey (**1879 – 1897**);

Sarah Ann Kinsey (**1897 – 1913**):

NOTES

170, Oxford Street [1861], [1871], [1881], [1891]

34, Oxford Street [1901], [1904], [1911]

It had a beerhouse license.

1851 Census

Oxford Street

[1] *John Firm* (33), publican, born Darlaston;

[2] Sarah Firm (29), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Lydia Firm (7), daughter, born Darlaston;

[4] Joseph Firm (5), son, born Darlaston;

[5] Elizabeth Firm (1), daughter, born Darlaston;

[6] Sarah Firm (14), servant, born Darlaston:

1861 Census

170, Oxford Street – BIRD IN HAND

[1] *John Firm* (41), victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] Sarah Firm (39), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Lidia Firm (17), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[4] Joseph Firm (15), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[5] Elizabeth Firm (11), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[6] Enoch Firm (8), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[7] Enoch Smith (40), lodger, mine borer, born Darlaston:

John Firm, beer retailer, 170, Oxford Street. [1858], [1865]

John Firm, retailer of beer, 170, Oxford Street. [1862]

Staffordshire Advertiser 21/5/1864

“At Bilston, on Tuesday, the following publicans and beerhouse keepers were fined as under for offences against their licenses.....

John Firm, beerhouse keeper, Oxford Street, £5 and costs for having his house open for the sale of ale on Sunday morning last.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 5/10/1867

“G. Lowe will fight Charley Patchet of Wolverhampton at catch weight, for £5 or £10 a side, in six weeks from signing articles. Money ready at Mr. *A. Wood*’s, BIRD IN HAND INN, Oxford Street, Bilston.”

Isaiah Sheldon, beer retailer, 170, Oxford Street. [1868]

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 28/8/1869

“The annual licensing meeting for the Bilston division took place yesterday, at the Police Court.....

The following beerhouse keepers had been fined during the past five years.....

Permitting Drunkenness *Alfred Ward*, BIRD IN HAND, Oxford Street, 5s and costs.”

1871 Census

170, Oxford Street

[1] *Ellen Hawkwood* (48), widow, innkeeper, born Sedgley;

[2] *Thomas Hawkwood* (23), son, currier, born Wolverhampton;

[3] *Harry Hawkwood* (17), son, labourer, iron foundry, born Bilston;

[4] *Thirza Hawkwood* (25), domestic servant, born Wolverhampton;

[5] *Abraham Gough* (33), lodger, engineer in iron works, born Sedgley:

Ellen Hawkwood – see also GREEN MAN, Oxford Street.

Birmingham Daily Post 11/12/1871

“The following notice has been circulated throughout South Staffordshire.

‘This is to certify that all miners in South Staffordshire give notice to their employers to begin work at seven o’clock and leave work at five o’clock. Signed, *Joseph Jevons*, Upper Gornal, miner; *Richard Porter*, Upper Gornal, miner; *Isaac Taylor*, Summerhill, miner; *William Moors*, Tipton, miner; *Joseph Limeman*, Summerhill, miner.’

On Saturday a meeting of miners was held at the BIRD IN HAND, Bilston, Mr. *John Powers* presiding. After a lengthy discussion, in which it was argued that the miners ought to have the same privileges for recreation and self-improvement as the men in other trades, a resolution was adopted expressing the determination of the meeting to abide by the above notice for the nine hours a day. It was decided to appoint a committee for the purpose of making arrangements for carrying the movement into effect. It was also agreed to hold a public meeting on the first of January, at which the iron and coal masters would be invited to attend and discuss with the men the advisability of conceding the reduction in the hours of labour. The committee were empowered to take steps for raising the funds required to urge on the agitation. It was the opinion of all the men that once the shorter hours were granted, that differences now existing between the bondsmen and pikemen, and other classes of miners, in respect of their working hours, would in a little time become regulated.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 13/12/1871

“A meeting of miners employed at the various collieries in the neighbourhood of Bilston was held on Monday night at the BIRD IN HAND, Oxford Street, for the purpose of considering the best means to be taken for securing the advantages of the nine hours’ system. Mr. *Rowley* presided, and there was a good attendance. The men resolved to apply to their employers for the adoption of the system as soon as possible. 0The Rev. H. R. Sandford, one of Her Majesty’s Inspectors of Schools, having heard of the meeting, attended, and expressed himself desirous of addressing the men at some future time on the question of education. He said that when the men had obtained a reduction in the hours of labour they would have more time to gain knowledge, and so improve their minds. It was especially desirable that the young people engaged in mining operations should be educated, and he urged those parents who were present to do their utmost to give their children the benefit of education. The miners were a class who, unfortunately, had been neglected as regarded their education, but he trusted, when the hours of their labour had been reduced, they would make the best use of their extra time in improving their minds (applause).”

1881 Census

170, Oxford Street

- [1] *Isaiah Kinsey* (48), coal miner, born Bilston;
- [2] *Sarah A. Kinsey* (47), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *William Kinsey* (25), son, brass worker, born Bilston;
- [4] *Sarah A. Gilbert* (13), general servant, born Darlaston:

Darlaston Weekly Times 29/4/1882

“Enoch Kinsey, of Railway Street, was charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of *Isiah Kinsey*, BIRD IN HAND, Oxford Street, Bilston, on Saturday night. Defendant was instrumental in creating a disturbance, when he was requested to leave. Complainant took hold of him to put him out, when he assaulted the complainant. In the progress of the case the complainant, evidently wishing to screen the defendant, drew upon him a severe reproof from the bench.

PC Jackson detailed the occurrence, stating a great crowd had collected, and that defendant was very drunk and violent.

Several previous convictions being recorded, defendant was fined 10s and costs, or 14 days’ hard labour for refusing to quit, and for the assaults 5s and costs, or 7 days’.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 23/10/1886

“The anniversary dinner of the Thriving Plant Lodge of the N. U. O. Free Gardeners No.1517, Bilston, Walsall, and Cannock district, was held on Monday last, at the lodge house, BIRD IN HAND INN, Oxford Street, Bilston. There was a good assembly of members present, including the district officers. The meeting was quite a success in every respect, the members without exception thoroughly enjoying themselves with the excellent repast laid before them by the worthy host, Mr. *Isaiah Kinsey* A vote of thanks to the Host and Hostess, and Chairman, brought a very enjoyable evening to a close.”

1891 Census

170, Oxford Street – BIRD IN HAND

- [1] *Isaiah Kinsey* (58), publican, born Bilston;
- [2] *Sarah Ann Kinsey* (57), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *William Davies* (13), grand-son, scholar, born Bilston:

Sarah Kinsey was convicted on 29th August 1893 for permitting drunkenness.

Isaiah Kinsey, beer retailer, 170, Oxford Street. [1896]

1897 Probate

“*Isaiah Kinsey* of Bilston, Staffordshire, beerhouse keeper, died 1 March 1897. Probate Lichfield 19 March to *William Kinsey*, brass bedstead manufacturer, and *Richard Davies*, stock-taker in ironworks. Effects £269 15s 7d.”

1901 Census

34, Oxford Street

- [1] *Sarah A. Kinsey* (66), widow, publican, born Bilston;
- [2] *William Davis* (23), grand-son, brewer, born Bilston;
- [3] *Mary Howell* (17), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Mrs. *Sarah Ann Kinsey*, beer retailer, 34, Oxford Street. [1904]

1911 Census

34, Oxford Street – BIRD IN HAND INN

- [1] Sarah Ann Kinsey (76), widow, beer retailer, beerhouse keeper, born Bilston;
- [2] Richard Davies (54), boarder, store keeper, cycle makers, born Bilston;
- [3] Martha Davies (53), daughter, married 34 years, born Bilston;
- [4] Albert Davies (29), grand-son, cycle free wheel fitter, born Bilston;
- [5] Isaiah Davies (12), grand-son, school, born Bilston;
- [6] Lilian Davies (12), visitor, school, born Bilston;
- [7] William Parker (1), visitor, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 18/11/1912 - Advert

“Wednesday, November 20th, 1912.

Edwin Hill and Son will offer for Sale by Auction, at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, on the above date, the under-mentioned Freehold and Copyhold Properties, including an Ante-’69 Beerhouse, situate at Bilston and Daisy Bank.....

Lot 7. A Free Home-Brewing Ante-1869 Beerhouse, known as the BIRD IN HAND, Oxford Street, Bilston. Net annual rental, £23. Also the Retail Shop adjoining, gross annual rental £15 12s; and Four Cottages at the rear, producing on weekly tenancies £26 gross per annum. The above is Copyhold to the Manor of Stowheath.”

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.....

BIRD IN HAND, Bilston. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *Sarah Ann Kinsey*.”

License renewal refused by Compensation Authority on 24th July 1913.

Staffordshire Advertiser 26/7/1913

“The principal meeting of the Staffordshire Licensing Compensation Authority was held at the Shirehall, Stafford, on Thursday.....

Seven houses were scheduled in Bilson division.....

BIRD IN HAND, Bilston, ante 1869 beerhouse.....

Renewal was formally applied for and refused.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 16/8/1913 - Notice

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

Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Compensation Authority for the above area, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on the 24th day of July, 1913, to Refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below, all Persons Claiming to be Interested in the said Premises for the purpose of the Payment of Compensation under the said Act (other than the Licensee and the Registered Owner of the said Premises) are required to send to the Compensation Authority Notice of their Claims before the 7th day of September, 1913, for the purpose of enabling the Compensation Authority to ascertain in manner provided by the Licensing Rules, 1910, the Persons entitled to Compensation under the said Act, in respect of the said Premises.....

BIRD IN HAND, Bilston. Beerhouse ante 1869. Licencee, *Sarah Ann Kinsey*. Registered Owner, Harold Smith.”

Compensation of £300 was paid on 24th December 1913.

Birmingham Daily Post 7/1/1914

"The annual report of the County Licensing Committee.....

At the principal meeting of the compensation authority the committee refused to renew 31 licenses. At the supplemental meeting the committee went in great detail into all the figures submitted to them upon which the persons interested claimed compensation, and heard evidence put forward by the claimants. The committee consider that the amounts of compensation agreed upon were satisfactory, both from the point of view of the parties interested and the Compensation Fund. In the following 27 cases the committee fixed the compensation.....

BIRD IN HAND, Bilston, £300."

TO be Let, and may be entered upon immediately—all that well-known Old-licensed PUBLIC-HOUSE, known by the sign of the "Bird in Hand Inn," situate at Rodom, between Sedgley and Coaley, now in the occupation of Mrs. Smallman. The house is doing a thriving trade, and which may be considerably increased by a person of energy and respectability. The in-coming about £200. Rent low. The present Proprietor retiring from business, having successfully carried it on for thirty-five years. There are two Lodges held at the house.—For further particulars and to treat apply to Mr. Jabez Bywater, Auctioneer, Prince's End.

1870

OXFORD-STREET AND STONE-STREET, BILSTON.

Lot 7.—A FREE HOME-BREWING ANTE-1869 BREWHOUSE, known as the "Bird-in-Hand," Oxford-street, Bilston. Net annual rental, £13. Also the **RETAIL SHOP** adjoining, gross annual rental £15 12s.; and **FOUR COTTAGES** at the rear, producing on weekly tenancies £26 gross per annum. The above is Copyhold of the Manor of Stowheath.

1912

BLACK BOY

15, Coseley Road, (15, (12), Coseley Street), (Coseley Row), BILSTON

OWNERS

Mary Williams, widow, Union Street, Bilston

Edwin Hickman, stone quarry master, Union Street, Bilston

Thomas Billingham, innkeeper, Union Inn, Coseley Street, Bilston

LICENSEES

Joseph Bell [1864] – **1867**);

Jeremiah Sankey (**1867** – [1870]

Mrs. Mary Williams (**1870** – **1871**);

Thomas Rowbotham (**1871** – **1880**);

Mrs. Rosannah Rowbotham (**1880** – **1906**);

Betsy Rowbotham (**1906** – **1910**);

William Darby (**1910** – **1917**);

William Henry Haynes (**1917** – **1920**);

NOTES

Coseley Row

Coseley Street [1866], [1868], 1869, [1881], [1893]

12, Coseley Street [1871], [1896]

15, Coseley Street [1901], [1911]

15, Coseley Road [1904], [1912]

It had an ante '69 beerhouse license.

Joseph Bell, beer retailer, Coseley Street. [1864], [1865]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/10/1864 - Advert

“Freehold Old-Licensed Public House, at Catchems Corner, Sedgley.

Mr. Jabez Morrell will Sell by Auction on Tuesday, the 1st day of November, 1864, at the house of Mr. *Joseph Bell*, called the BLACK BOY INN, Coseley Street, Bilston, at Six o'clock in the Evening.....”

Staffordshire Advertiser 24/10/1868

“Staffordshire October Sessions.....

George Rotheram, 22, moulder, was indicted for stealing from the person of *Jeremiah Sankey* a silver watch, his property, at Whittington. The prosecutor, a Bilston publican, was at Lichfield races on the 27th ult, and while returning from the course was standing in a crowd of persons assembled round a card-thrower, when his watch was stolen from him as he was stooping down. Prisoner was in the crowd near the prosecutor, and a witness deposed to seeing him cut the watchchain with a pair of plyers, take the watch, and run off. The jury acquitted the prisoner.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/4/1869

“Yesterday at Bilston Police Court, before Mr. I. Spooner (Stipendiary), *Jeremiah Sankey*, of the BLACK BOY public house, Coseley Road, was fined £5 and costs, for having permitted drunkenness in his house on the morning of the 13th inst. Police-constables Hughes and Johnson visited the defendant's house, and found a number of men intoxicated there.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/8/1869

"The annual licensing meeting for the Bilston division took place yesterday, at the Police Court.....
The following is the list of the licensed victuallers who have been fined during the year.....
Permitting Drunkenness *Jeremiah Sankey*, BLACK BOY, Coseley Street, Bilston, £5 and costs.
The following beerhouse keepers had been fined during the past five years.....
For keeping open during prohibited hours *Jeremiah Sankey*, Coseley Street, 20s and costs, and another occasion, £5 and costs.
Permitting Drunkenness *Jeremiah Sankey*, Coseley Street, 20s and costs.
The licenses of the following publicans were suspended until the adjourned licensing meeting.....
Jeremiah Sankey, BLACK BOY, Bilston."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 25/9/1869

"The adjourned licensing meeting for Bilston was held at the Police Court.....
The following persons had their licenses refused for not having conducted their houses properly.....
Jeremiah Sankey, BLACK BOY, Coseley Street."

London Gazette 1/2/1870

"*Jeremiah Sankey*, of the BLACK BOY INN, Coseley-street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, of no occupation, formerly of the BLACK BOY INN, Coseley-street, Bilston aforesaid, Licensed Victualler, adjudicated bankrupt on the 1st day of November, 1869. An Order of Discharge was granted by the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton, on the 27th day of January, 1870."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 27/8/1870

"The annual sessions for the renewal of existing and the granting of new licenses to licensed victuallers and beersellers in Bilston and Sedgley, was held yesterday at the Police Court, Bilston.....
There were six applications for new licensed victuallers' licenses The following were refused.....
Mrs. *Williams*, the BLACK BOY, Coseley Street."

Birmingham Daily Post 1/10/1870

"The adjourned Bilston licensing meeting was held yesterday.....
The Bench granted a beerhouse license to the BLACK BOY, Coseley Street, to be kept by Mrs. *Williams*."
AND

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 1/10/1870

"The adjourned Bilston licensing sessions took place yesterday.....
Mary Williams applied for a license to sell on the premises at the BLACK BOY, Coseley [sic], the house having formerly been a licensed one. The application was granted."

1871 Census

12, Coseley Street – BLACK BOY

- [1] *Thomas Rowbotham* (44), publican and farmer of 27 acres, born Upper Penn;
- [2] *Rosehannah Rowbotham* (40), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Betsy Rowbotham* (19), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] *Thomas Rowbotham* (15), son, assists on farm, born Upper Penn;
- [5] *Caroline Inskip* (17), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 30/8/1873

"Yesterday the annual licensing meeting for Bilston and the neighbourhood was held in the Petty Sessions Court.....
The proceedings opened by Chief Superintendent McCrea presenting his annual 'black list.' In doing so he remarked that it only indicated eleven offenders, whilst a twelvemonth ago there were twenty-nine. This comparison, he considered, was the clearest substantiation of the beneficial operation of the recent Licensing Act.....
Applications were then considered.....
A wine license was asked for a beerhouse in Coseley Street, in the occupation of *Thomas Rowbotham*; but the application was found to be invalid, inasmuch as the annual rental was inadequate to the requirements of the Licensing Act."

Birmingham Daily Post 29/8/1874

“Bilston Annual Licensing Meeting.....

Thomas Robotham desired a wine and spirit license for the BLACK BOY, Coseley Street, Bilston. Five years back the license the house then possessed had been forfeited by misconduct on the part of the then resident tenant. Refused.”

Thomas Rowbotham died on 30th April 1880.

Thomas Rowbotham – see also CHURCH, Millfields Road.

1881 Census

Coseley Street – BLACK BOY

- [1] *Rosannah Rowbotham* (49), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Bilston;
- [2] *Betsy Rowbotham* (29), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *Thomas Rowbotham* (25), son, farmer of 28 acres, born Penn;
- [4] *Annie Proberts* (14), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 15/6/1885

“Mr. W. H. Phillips, district coroner, this (Monday) morning held, at the BLACK BOY INN, Coseley Street, Bilston, an adjourned inquiry respecting the death of John Thomas Jones, infant son of Sarah and Thomas Jones, of Coseley Street. Mr. Griffiths, surgeon, stated that he had made a post mortem examination of the body, and had found that death was the result of natural causes. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with this testimony.”

1891 Census

Coseley Street – BLACK BOY

- [1] *Rosanna Rowbotham* (59), widow, beer seller/retailer, born Bilston:
- [2] *Betsy Rowbotham* (37), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *Thomas Rowbotham* (35), son, brewer, born Penn;
- [4] *Sarah Proberts* (18), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 22/8/1891

“Bilston licensing sessions were held yesterday There were applications by.....

Rosannah Rowbotham, Coseley Street, Bilston, for a full license. Refused.”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/12/1893

“An inquest was held yesterday afternoon, at the BLACK BOY INN, Coseley Street, Bilston, on the body of William Hancox (30), blast-furnace labourer, who resided with his married sister, Charlotte Collins, at No.13 Court, Coseley Street.

The evidence showed that deceased had been out of employment for about fourteen months, and, in consequence, he was greatly depressed, and had once or twice expressed a wish that he was dead. On Saturday night the deceased man returned to his sister's home under the influence of drink, and retired to his bedroom at about two o'clock on Sunday morning. Five minutes later he called to his sister, who found him in bed, holding a bottle in his hand, from which he had drunk some aconite liniment. His sister administered salt and water to him and he vomited, but died upon the arrival of Mr. John Mathie, surgeon, who stated that fifteen drops of the poison would kill a person.

Dr. Kennedy informed the jury that he supplied the liniment some time ago to the deceased's sister. The sister was recalled, and stated that the bottle had formerly contained intoxicants, and was kept in her bedroom.

A verdict was returned that deceased drank the liniment, which caused his death, but that there was not sufficient evidence to show whether he took it accidentally or not.”

Mrs. Rosannah Rowbotham, beer retailer, 12, Coseley Street. [1896]

1901 Census

15, Coseley Street

[1] Roseanna Robotham (69), widow, publican and brewer, born Bilston;

[2] Betsey Robotham (46), daughter, born Wolverhampton;

[3] Sarah Probert (27), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Mrs. Rosannah Rowbotham, beer retailer, 15, Coseley Road. [1904]

1905 Probate

“Rosanna Rowbotham of the BLACK BOY INN, Coseley Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, widow, died 1 November 1905. Probate Lichfield 30 November to *Betsy Rowbotham*, spinster. Effects £2,059 13s 4d.”

William Darby = William Darbey

1911 Census

15, Coseley Street – BLACK BOY

[1] William Darbey (47), beerhouse keeper, born Bilston;

[2] Emma Darbey (43), wife, married 22 years, house duties, born Bilston;

[3] Joseph William Darbey (21), son, ironworker, tin plate goods, born Bilston;

[4] Arthur Darbey (19), son, school teacher at Penn Schools, born Bilston;

[5] Alice May Darbey (16), daughter, milliner, born Bilston;

[6] Sarah Lamb (17), servant, general house work, born Sedgley:

William Darbey, beer retailer, 15, Coseley Road. [1912]

Staffordshire Advertiser 26/7/1919

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

Five licenses were referred from the Bilston Division, but in only one case, the BLACK BOY, Coseley Street, an ante-'69 beerhouse, was the decision of the justices below opposed. Mr. Graham Milward appeared for the owner, Mr. Thomas Billingham, and Mr. Ward, for the tenant, *William H. Haynes*. Supt. Robotham stated that the house was referred on the ground of redundancy. Within 500 yards there were 23 fully-licensed houses, eight beerhouses on and two off. Speaking generally, witness said the house was the worst in the immediate neighbourhood.

Mr. Milward said the owner, Mr. Billingham, was very anxious to retain the house for his son, who had been serving in the war. The house, which had been excellently conducted, was only about 120 yards from a large steelworks. A memorial in favour of the retention of the license had been signed by 404 persons, including nine members of the Bilston Urban District Council.

Mr. A. Tomlins, auctioneer and valuer, stated that the house was in fair structural condition and the accommodation was above the average. Several other witnesses were called by Mr. Milward, it being stated that there was a preference for home-brewed beer in the locality.

The Bench decided to refer the license.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/11/1919

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

The following cases have been referred to the Inland Revenue Commissioners to decide the amount of compensation payable.... BLACK BOY, Coseley Street, Bilston, ante 1869 beerhouse, owned by Mr. T. Billingham.”

Compensation of £905 was paid on 24th December 1920.

The license was extinguished on 31st December 1920.

Demolished

The site was occupied by Hazeldine Coaches [1986]

BLACK HORSE

43, High Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Richard Thompson, engineer, Wellington Street, Bilston
Emma Thompson, Wellington Street, Bilston
The Urban District Council of Bilston

LICENSEES

Ezekiel Morris [1818] – [1834]
Joseph Morris [1835]
Paul Glover [1841] – [1842]
John Ward [1845] – [1850]
John Moore [1849] – [1858]
Noah Halford [1861] – **1866**);
Thomas Halford (**1866 – 1876**);
Eli Smith (**1876**);
Alfred Joseph Townsend (**1876 – 1878**);
Elijah Price (**1878**);
William Henry Jones (**1878 – 1879**);
Elizabeth Hatton Ramsey (**1879 – 1881**);
William Henry Jones (**1881**);
James Lawley (**1881 – 1882**);
Richard Johnson (**1882 – 1886**);
Mary Ann Richards (**1886**);
Thomas Stanton (**1886 – 1887**);
Patrick Brady (**1887**);
Thomas Fox (**1887 – 1890**);
George Gilbert (**1890 – 1891**);
Arthur Hand (**1891 – 1892**);
Lewis Haynes (**1892 – 1893**);
Alice Mann (**1893 – 1895**);
John Whittle (**1895**);
Mark Robinson (**1895 – 1896**);
George Hassell (**1896 – 1903**);
Charles Pain [1904]

NOTES

Ezekiel Morris was also a horse dealer. [1818]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 7/9/1818 - Advert

“Stolen or Strayed out of a Field at Ettingshall, near Bilston, on Saturday Night the 29th of August, 1818, a Bay Horse, about 15 Hands high, with a long Tail, four white Legs, and a Blaze down the Face, which turns towards one Side; he is Saddle-marked on the left Side. Whoever will give such Information as will lead to the Recovery of the said Horse, shall be handsomely rewarded for their Trouble, on bringing him to the Sign of the BLACK HORSE, Bilston; but if stolen, a Reward of Five Pounds will be given upon the Conviction of the Offender.”

STOLEN or STRAYED out of a Field at Ettingshall, near Bilston, on Saturday Night the 29th of August, 1818, a BAY HORSE, about 15 Hands high, with a long Tail, four white Legs, and a Blaze down the Face, which turns towards one Side; he is Saddle-marked on the left Side. Whoever will give such Information as will lead to the Recovery of the said Horse, shall be handsomely rewarded for their Trouble, on bringing him to the Sign of the Black Horse, Bilston; but if stolen, a Reward of FIVE POUNDS will be given upon the Conviction of the Offender.

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/8/1823

“Committed to our county gaol.....

John Nunnerly, for stealing at Bilston, a brown mare, the property of *Ezekiel Morris*.”

1841 Census

High Street

[1] *Paul Glover* (55), publican;

[2] *Ann Glover* (45);

[3] *Sarah Glover* (2), born Staffordshire;

[4] *Ann Everall* (14);

[5] *Elenor Everall* (10):

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/4/1843 - Advert

“To Publicans.

To be Let, with immediate possession, that well accustomed Public House the BLACK HORSE INN, top of High-street, Bilston, situate in a densely populated neighbourhood; rent and payments moderate, and the coming-in easy, as the stock is being reduced.

The Stock and fixtures to be taken to at a valuation.

For particulars and to treat apply on the premises.”

TO PUBLICANS.
TO be LET, with immediate possession, that well accustomed PUBLIC-HOUSE the BLACK HORSE INN, top of High-street, Bilston, situate in a densely populated neighbourhood; rent and payments moderate, and the coming-in easy, as the stock is being reduced. The Stock and fixtures to be taken to at a valuation. For particulars and to treat apply on the premises.

Staffordshire Advertiser 12/9/1846

“Bilston Public Office.....

William Bayliss was charge by George Brown with stealing one sovereign out of his pocket, on Thursday afternoon, the 3rd inst, at Bilston. It appeared that the prosecutor and prisoner were together on the day in question, and bet a quart of ale bout some blast furnaces. Some time afterwards the prosecutor lay down in a field, and went to sleep, having one sovereign and 4s in silver in his pocket. When he awoke the prisoner was going away from him. The prosecutor followed him into Bilston, and the prisoner went into the BLACK HORSE INN, and had some ale. When the prosecutor got to the prisoner, he (prosecutor) told him that he had robbed him of a sovereign, which he denied, but afterwards gave the sovereign to a man named Clayton, who then gave it to the prosecutor, and the prosecutor gave it the police officer, Roe, who took the prisoner into custody.

The prisoner, after being cautioned, said that he went to his house and fetched a sovereign and a shilling, to pay for some ale for Clayton, and as the prosecutor charged him with robbing him, he gave him the sovereign to say nothing about it.

The Bench committed the prisoner for trial at the sessions.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/10/1846

“Staffordshire Michaelmas Sessions To be imprisoned twelve months.....

William Baylis, for stealing a sovereign, the property of George Bowen, at Bilston.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 12/3/1848

“Collins and Badger. We are informed that these parties have agreed to draw their stakes; and we are requested to send Collins’s money to his backer, Mr. William Thorney, at the BLACK HORSE, High Street, Bilston, and Badger’s to Mr. John Chapman, at the BARLEY MOW, Pipers Row, Wolverhampton. This we shall do on Tuesday, unless we hear to the contrary by that morning’s post.”

John Moore = John Moor

Staffordshire Advertiser 4/8/1849

"*John Moore*, landlord of the BLACK HORSE, Bilston, charged with keeping his house open after 12 o'clock on Saturday night last, was ordered to pay the costs of the information."

1851 Census

High Street

[1] *John Moor* (49), blacksmith and innkeeper, born Hartlebury, Worcestershire;

[2] *Sarah Moor* (52), wife, born Cheston, Shropshire;

[3] *Margaret Hughes* (18), house servant, born Bilston:

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/9/1857

"Bilston Licensing Meeting.....

The license of *John Moore*, BLACK HORSE, was suspended till the 22nd September, in consequence of his having been convicted during the year for permitting disorderly conduct in his house, after having been cautioned last year for a similar offence."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/12/1857

"During the night of Wednesday last, a small pig, weighing about 40lbs, was stolen from the stable of Mr. *Moore*, of the BLACK HORSE INN, Bilston. The pig taken was the finest of four locked up in the stable for security."

Birmingham Journal 23/10/1858

"On Monday night last, between twelve and one o'clock, Mr. *John Moore*, the landlord of the BLACK HORSE, High Street, Bilston, was knocked down on the highway at Broad Lanes, by two men, and robbed. His leg was broken by the fall. He lay for some time on the road till his groans attracted the attention of some casual passers-by, by whom he was conveyed to an adjoining house."

Birmingham Daily Post 30/5/1859

"Bilston Police Court.....

Joseph Inglesbee was brought up on a warrant, charged with assaulting and robbing *John Moore*, formerly landlord of the BLACK HORSE INN, Bilston, but now residing at Stourbridge. Mr. *Moore* stated that on the 18th of October last, returning from Stourbridge to Bilston, he stopped at the Deepfields Station, and called at the BOAT INN. The prisoner and some other persons were there, and he gave them a quart of ale, having some brandy for himself. He afterwards set out homewards, but was overtaken by Inglesbee and two or three others. Inglesbee knocked him over a low fence, by which his leg was broken, and said, 'Let us have his money;' the others said, 'No, come away; he says his leg is broken.' Inglesbee replied that he should take his (prosecutor's) hat, and did so. Mr. *Moore* was afterwards found by a man who had also been at the BOAT, who procured assistance, and had him removed home. This person was examined for the defence, and stated that Inglesbee and he left the inn together, he following Mr. *Moore*, and Inglesbee going home in a contrary direction. He also stated that Mr. *Moore* was very much intoxicated, and that when asked how his leg had been broken, he replied that he did not know. The Bench considered the evidence against the prisoner insufficient, and discharged him."

1861 Census

43, High Street

[1] *Noah Halford* (26), victualler, born Bilston:

[2] *Harriet Halford* (18), wife, born Bilston:

[3] *Margaret Bilk* (17), servant, born Bilston:

Harriet Halford was the daughter of Thomas Tomes – see HIMLEY ARMS.

Birmingham Daily Post 22/6/1865 - Advert

"Found, on the 1st instant, a young Brown Greyhound Dog. The owner may have him by paying all expenses. If not claimed by Monday next, will be sold to pay expenses. Apply, BLACK HORSE, High Street, Bilston."

FOUND, on the 1st instant, a young Brown GREY-
HOUND DOG. The owner may have him by paying all expenses.
If not claimed by Monday next, will be sold to pay expenses.—Apply,
Black Horse, High Street, Bilston.

Noah Halford – see also GREAT WESTERN, Ash Street.

Thomas Halford was the brother of Noah Halford.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1866

“The annual meeting for the renewal of existing licenses, and for receiving applications for fresh ones, was held at the Police Court, on Friday.....

At the commencement of the proceedings, the Superintendent of Police presented the following report.

Bilston Division, August 31, 1866.

‘I beg to submit to the Magistrates the attached list of licensed victuallers who have been complained against during the year. Twenty-five have been convicted, and three have paid costs; one had been convicted three times, and five convicted twice. This is a large increase on last year’s list; but I think it has arisen from the police being more particular in reporting cases of permitting drunkenness – as it was found to be an evil rather on the increase. I believe it has caused landlords to be more careful in supplying drink to persons intoxicated.’

H. McCrea, Superintendent.

Black List.....

Thomas Halford, BLACK HORSE, High Street, Bilston License renewed.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 27/2/1869 - Deaths

“On the 22nd inst, aged 1 year and 9 months, Dora Phoebe, youngest daughter of Thomas and Rebecca Halford, BLACK HORSE INN, High Street, Bilston; deeply regretted.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 25/9/1869

“Fanny Conway, of Hartshorne Street, was charged with having threatened William Perry, alias ‘The Tipton Slasher,’ who some time ago held the belt as being the champion prizefighter of England. He stated that he was drinking at the BLACK HORSE, High Street, Bilston, with defendant, who picked up a jug and threatened to throw it at him. He said that he was afraid that she would do him some bodily injury. The Bench bound her over to keep the peace towards complainant.”

1871 Census

43, High Street – BLACK HORSE

[1] Thomas Halford (40), licensed victualler, born Bilston;

[2] Rebecca Halford (42), wife, born Tipton;

[3] Jemima Halford (8), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[4] William J. Halford (5), son, scholar, born Can Lane;

[5] Thomas Halford (2), son, born Bilston;

[6] Mary Ann Astins (20), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Thomas Halford died in the 1st quarter of 1875.

Rebecca Halford married Eli Smith in the 3rd quarter of 1875.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 4/12/1875

“Eli Smith, licensed victualler BLACK HORSE public house, High Street, Bilston, was summoned for permitting drunkenness in his house. Police-constable Wade entered the defendant’s house on Wednesday night, and found the defendant drunk and quarrelling with his wife, to whom he had been married but a short time. Before the officer entered, the defendant had, it was said, been beating his wife. He was fined 40s and costs, the conviction being endorsed upon his license.”

London Gazette 28/8/1877

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

In the Matter of Proceedings for Liquidation by Arrangement or Composition with Creditors, instituted by *Alfred Joseph Townsend*, of the BLACK HORSE, High-street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler.

Notice is hereby given, that a First General Meeting of the creditors of the above-named person has been summoned to be held at the offices of Mr. Joseph Stokes, of 1, Priory-street, Dudley, in the county of Worcester, Solicitor, on the 7th day of September, 1877, at twelve o'clock at noon precisely.

Dated this 23rd day of August, 1877.

Jos. Stokes, 1, Priory-street, Dudley, Solicitor for the said Debtor.”

Birmingham Daily Post 18/10/1877 - Advert

“In Liquidation. Re *A. J. Townsend*.

Important Sale of the valuable Goodwill and Possession of that old-established and well-known Full-Licensed House, the BLACK HORSE INN, High Street, Bilston.

W. J. Seal is instructed by the Trustee to Sell by Auction, upon the Premises, on Monday Next, October 22 at 3 for 4 o'clock prompt.

The valuable Goodwill and Possession of this capital House, occupying a most commanding and important corner position upon the main road to Wolverhampton. The Premises are compact and held at a very low rental. The valuation of Fixtures, &c, will be very low, and offers an unusual opportunity of securing, with attention, a capital business house.

For particulars, apply to Mr. Stokes, Solicitor, Dudley; William George Dixon, 46 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, Trustee; or to the Auctioneer's Offices, 11, Union Street, Birmingham.”

London Gazette 23/12/1879

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

A Dividend is intended to be declared in the matter of *Alfred Joseph Townsend*, of the BLACK HORSE INN, High-street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, adjudicated bankrupt on the 24th day of September, 1877. Creditors who have not proved their debts by the 6th day of January, 1880, will be excluded.

Dated this 15th day of December, 1879. Wm. Geo. Dixon, Trustee.”

1881 Census

43, High Street – BLACK HORSE

[1] Helena Jones (20), daughter, barmaid, born Bilston;

[2] Sarah Harris (16), domestic servant, born Coseley:

Evening Star 24/2/1882

“Richard Kinsey and William Waldron, of Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, were charged with being drunk on licensed premises. Mr. Fellows, of Bilston, defended and pleaded guilty. Police-constable Moss stated that about 12.20 on the evening of Saturday, the 11th inst, he was on duty with Police-constable Bentley in High Street, and saw the defendants come out of the BLACK HORSE, kept by *James Lawley*, drunk, and in company with their wives. Each defendant was fined 20s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 8/10/1890

“At Bilston Police Court, yesterday, *Thomas Fox*, 90, Ruiton Street, Lower Gornal, applied for a transfer to himself of the license of the CHAPEL HOUSE INN, Ruiton, from Mary Cartwright. Chief-superintendent Longden opposed the application, stating that some time ago, when *Fox* kept the BLACK HORSE INN, Bilston, that house was very badly conducted. The application was refused.”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/12/1894

“At Bilston Police Court, yesterday, *Alice Mann*, the landlady of the BLACK HORSE, High Street, Bilston, was summoned for permitting drunkenness. Mr. A. Whitehouse prosecuted, and Mr. A. Willcock defended.

The evidence showed that two constables found three drunken persons in her house, but defendant denied in the box any knowledge of the people being the worse for drink, and in cross-examination she said she did not think she could tell when a person was drunk. A fine of £5 was imposed, and two of the persons alleged to have been drunk on the occasion were each fined 10s and the costs.”

1901 Census

High Street

- [1] George Hassell (50), colliery engine driver and publican, born Sedgley;
- [2] Mary Ann Hassell (50), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] Gertrude Hassell (24), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [4] George Hassell (22), son, railway engine driver, born Sedgley;
- [5] Mary Ann Hassell (19), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [6] Edith Hassell (17), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [7] Amelia Hassell (15), daughter, born Sedgley;

Closed

The license was removed to the STAR INN, beerhouse, Lichfield Street, in 1903.

The house was pulled down in 1903.

In Liquidation. —Re A. J. Townsend. —Important Sale of the valuable GOODWILL and POSSESSION of that old-established and well-known FULL-LICENSED HOUSE, "THE BLACK HORSE" High Street, Bilston.

W. J. SEAL is instructed by the Trustee to Sell by Auction, upon the Premises, on **MONDAY NEXT, October 22** at 3 for 4 o'clock prompt—the valuable **GOODWILL and POSSESSION** of this capital House, occupying a most commanding and important corner position upon the main road to Wolverhampton. The Premises are compact and held at a very low rental. The valuation of Fixtures, &c., will be very low, and offers an unusual opportunity of securing, with attention, a capital business house.

For particulars, apply to **Mr. Stokes, Solicitor, Dudley**; **William George Dixon, 43, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, Trustee**; or to the Auctioneer's Offices, **11, Union Street, Birmingham.**

BLACK SWAN

Swan Bank, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Joseph Hill [1818]

NOTES

Joseph Hill was also a bricklayer. [1818]

BLANKMAKERS ARMS

26, (55), Green Croft, (Green Acres), BILSTON

OWNERS

Evan Griffiths
William Halford
Joseph Whitehouse and Co., brewers, Talbot Brewery, Smethwick
Showells Brewery Co. Ltd. [1921]
Ind Coope and Allsopp (leased)

LICENSEES

Silas Caddick [1851] – [1859]
William Parker [1860] – **1864**;
Evan Griffiths (**1864 – 1881**);
Sarah Griffiths (**1881 – 1884**);
William Halford (**1884 – 1885**);
William Hartshorne (**1885 – 1887**);
Charles Henry Smith (**1887**);
John Francis Anderson (**1887**);
Thomas Wilkinson (**1887 – 1888**);
Thomas Alfred Holt (**1888 – 1890**);
William Edwin Cole (**1890 – 1891**);
Alfred Newton (**1891 – 1892**);
Henry Tertius Hodgkiss (**1892 – 1897**);
Albert Smith (**1897 – 1898**);
Alfred Richardson (**1898**);
Henry Insley (**1898 – 1899**);
Ogbert Charles Hackett (**1899 – 1900**);
John Henry Pitt (**1900 – 1902**);
Henry Tertius Hodgkiss (**1902 – 1909**);
John Bowen (**1909 – 1911**);
Henry Insley (**1911 – 1912**);
Benjamin Oldfield (**1912 – 1916**);
Henry Tertius Hodgkiss (**1916 – 1922**);
Albert Ernest Cranswick (**1922 – 1923**);
Harry Howell (**1923 – 1926**);
Mrs. Emily Jane (Batchford) Alger (**1926 – [1940]**)

NOTES

55, Green Croft [1862], [1873], [1874], [1881], [1891], [1896]
55, Green Acres [1892]
26, Green Croft [1901], [1904], [1908], [1911], [1921], [1932], [1939], [1940]

BLANK TRAY MAKERS ARMS [1860]

It was known locally as "The Blank".

TO JAPANNERS.

TO BE SOLD, a bargain, on account of the present owner having no further use for them, two excellent JAPAN STOVES, doors 12 feet by 12 feet, with racks, &c. complete. They have not been in use more than a few months — For particulars and to treat apply to Mr. SILAS CADDICK, Blank Makers' Arms, Green Croft, Bilston.

1854

BILSTON.

TO BLANK TRAY MANUFACTURERS & OTHERS.
TO be LET, and may be entered upon immediately, the BLANK TRAY SHOPPING, &c., lately occupied by Mr. Silas Caddick, deceased, in Greencroft, Bilston. The Tools, Stamps, &c., at a fair valuation. Rental moderate.— For further particulars, apply to W. P. Tomkys, sen., 27, Wellington Street, Bilston. 3938

BILSTON.

TO INNKEEPERS, BLANK-TRAY MAKERS, AND THE PUBLIC.
TO be LET, and may be entered on immediately, (in consequence of the death of the Proprietor,) that old-established HOUSE, known as the "BLANK-MAKERS ARMS INN," situate in Greencroft, Bilston, either with or without the Blank-maker's Shopping in the rear thereof. Rental and incoming payments very moderate.
For further information, apply to W. P. Tomkys, sen., Auctioneer, 27, Wellington Street, Bilston.

1859

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/5/1849

“An inquest was held on Monday last, at the BLANKMAKERS ARMS, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of Edward Upton, about 40 years of age, who on Saturday morning last, about six o’clock, was coming up a stone pit in Lester’s field, in a skip with Thomas Lines, another miner, and when the skip was about half way up the engine stopped, and the skip remained stationary for a few minutes. It then went on, and just as it was starting Upton put his shoulder and hands to the side of the shaft, for the purpose of pushing the skip from the side, but, as the skip moved easier than he expected he slipped off it, and fell to the bottom of the pit, a distance of about 60 yards, by which one of his arms and one of his legs were broken, and he was also very much bruised. He was found to be quite dead. Lines, the other man, stated that he had a very narrow escape with his own life. He did not consider there was any blame to be attached to the engineer, who was a steady man. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 25/9/1850

“Suspected Murder at Bilston.

Yesterday (Tuesday) an inquest was held at the BLANK TRAY MAKERS ARMS, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of Edward Bateman, about twenty-four years of age, a blank tray maker, who was found lying across one of the wooden stays in a pit near to Mr. Lester’s water engine, belonging to the New Road Colliery, at the top of Green Croft, about half-past one o’clock on Sunday morning, quite dead.

It appeared that the deceased had been drinking on Saturday night at two public houses, the last at which he called being the FOX. The deceased left that house a little after twelve o’clock, in company with Joseph Bennett (an acquaintance), William Lloyd and his wife, Thomas Carrier, John Bennett and John Hughes. They were all ‘fresh.’ When they had nearly reached the Market Place the deceased had a quarrel with a man in the street, and struck him on the body with some weapon which afterwards turned out to be a poker. Joseph Bennett said to the deceased, ‘Don’t strike the man,’ but he struck the man another blow on the arm and then ran up Homers Fold, which leads to Caddick’s gardens. When in the middle of the fold he ran with great violence against a wooden stump, placed there to prevent carts passing, and Joseph Bennett heard something fall upon the stones which sounded like iron. The deceased picked it up and ran on. Several persons who had been present when the deceased struck the man said, ‘That’s a poker,’ and immediately ran after the deceased. Joseph Bennett followed them, and when he got to Caddick’s gardens he heard the men ask a woman of the name of Rosannah Dolemen if she had seen a man. She replied that she had, and that he had gone up the gardens (which leads in the direction of Mr. Lester’s engine pit, at the top of Green Croft). The men, according to the evidence of Joseph Bennett, did not go as far as Lester’s pit. After they had looked for the deceased some time they came into Mr. Barrett’s garden, and one of them said to Bennett, ‘You are one of the b—— that were along with the other’ (meaning the deceased), and instantly struck him with his fist upon his face, knocked him down, and kicked him several times. Bennett called out, ‘Murder,’ and they ran away. He was afterwards met by Isaac Tomkinson, a special constable on duty in Crown Street, from whose evidence it appeared that Bennett came from the direction of Caddick’s gardens with a great deal of blood upon his face, and a cut across his nose. At Bennett’s request Tomkinson went up to Caddick’s gardens to see if he could ascertain the names of the men who had beaten him, but as he (Tomkinson) did not see any one there he went on and overtook William Alltree, who went with him to Lester’s water engine, where Alltree shouted, ‘John Bennett’ several times, saying that he had gone in that direction, and being very drunk he was afraid he would lie down, but no one answered. Tomkinson also stated that a boy of the name of Jesse Page, who was lying in the ash hole asleep, was aroused, and in reply to questions, said he had heard some fighting near the spot, that he saw several men run away, that some ran towards the gardens and the others towards the new road. He (Tomkinson) then turned away, and hearing a rumbling noise in the pit shaft asked the boy if there was any one at work, and he replied, ‘No,’ adding that he dared say it was a man who had been there drunk and had gone away again. (This man, it appears, was afterwards found drunk and asleep on the slack.) The boy then shouted down the pit, ‘Holloa,’ when Tomkinson heard a groan, and also shouted down, ‘Holloa,’ as loud as he could. Hearing another groan he went to the house of Edward Davis, the engineer, and called him up. He afterwards went to the police station, and reported what had taken place to inspector Thompson, who sent an officer to the pit. The engineer (who was not sober) was shortly afterwards let down the pit, and when he had descended about ninety-four yards, he said, ‘I’ve got him; he is dead enough.’ He shortly afterwards brought Bateman up quite dead, with severe cuts upon his head and cheek, and otherwise dreadfully bruised upon various parts of his body. The deceased was found lying across the stay. The pit is partially covered.

The boy Jesse Page, on being examined, denied that he had heard any quarrelling during the night, but said that he was awoke, about a quarter of an hour before Tomkinson came, by the noise of a man running, that he got up and watched him go by the engine house, and near a pit on the right of the pit in question, and across the Wolverhampton and Bilston road.

Enoch Brooks proved that on Sunday morning, about half-past six, he found the poker which had previously been seen in the possession of the deceased, but which belonged to the FOX public house, on the circle of the pit near to the part which is partially covered over. The deceased was in the habit of passing the pit in question in going from Bilston to Wolverhampton, and knew the situation of it. The pit is about 130 yards deep, but there is a scaffold about 94 yards down, on which the deceased was found.

There being no evidence to show by what means the deceased got into the pit, the coroner adjourned the inquest to afford time for the collection of further evidence.

The investigation (which occupied several hours) appeared to excite great interest in the neighbourhood."

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/10/1850

"On Friday, the adjourned inquest on the body of Edward Bateman, found dead in Mr. Lister's engine pit at the top of Green Croft, was held before T. M. Phillips, Esq, at the BLANK TRAY MAKERS ARMS. Rosannah Doleman and Maria Small gave corroborative evidence as to seeing a number of men running after a man through Homers Fold towards Green Croft on the night in question. John Owen was recalled, and said he was sure it was not Joseph Bennett whom he saw beaten in Caddick's garden on the occasion alluded to. He saw the man that was beaten get up and walk in the direction of Homers Fold. Mr. T. W. Dickenson, who had made a post mortem examination of the body, gave it as his opinion that the death of the deceased was caused by the lacerations, fractures, and contusions which he had found on his body. The coroner further adjourned the inquiry till Tuesday morning, the 8th of October."

1851 Census

Greencroft

- [1] *Silas Caddick* (51), blank tray maker employing 5 men and 5 boys and beershop keeper, born Bilston;
- [2] *Sarah Caddick* (51), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Eliza Caddick* (22), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] *Thomas Caddick* (20), son, blank maker, born Bilston;
- [5] *Sarah Caddick* (12), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] *David Caddick* (8), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] *Eliza Caddick* (2), daughter, born Bilston:

Staffordshire Advertiser 28/8/1852

"Thursday last was the general annual licensing day of the division of Seisdon North, when there were about forty applications for new [spirit] licenses The successful applicants for new licenses were.....

Silas Caddick, Greencroft, Bilston."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/10/1854 - Advert

"To Japanners.

To be Sold, a bargain, on account of the present owner having no further use for them, two excellent Japan Stoves, doors 12 feet by 12 feet, with racks, &c, complete. They have not been in use more than a few months.

For particulars and to treat apply to Mr. *Silas Caddick*, BLANK MAKERS ARMS, Green Croft, Bilston."

Birmingham Daily Post 9/3/1859

"About four o'clock on Monday afternoon, as a cart, driven by a man named Thomas Pinfield, and in which were other two men, was proceeding along Church Street, Bilston, a girl named Jane Williams attempted to pass in front with a child in her arms. Pinfield is said to have been partially intoxicated, and sitting with his back to the horse, conversing with his companions. A by-stander, however, succeeded in directing his attention to the danger in which the girl Williams was, and for a moment he held the animal in. The girl, however, lost her presence of mind, and the screams of some women having set the horse off, she was knocked down, the child was flung out of her arms, and the wheel passed over her face, crushing her under jaw in a frightful manner. The infant had one of its feet injured by the wheel, but is not considered in danger."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 11/3/1859

“An inquest was held yesterday, at the BLANKMAKERS ARMS, Greencroft, before W. H. Phillips, Esq, Deputy Coroner, on the body of Jane Williams, the girl killed on Monday afternoon, in Church Street, by being run over by a cart. The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Silas Caddick died in the 1st quarter of 1859.

Birmingham Journal 3/12/1859 - Adverts

“Bilston. To Blank Tray Manufacturers & Others.

To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, the Blank Tray Shopping, &c, lately occupied by Mr. *Silas Caddick*, deceased, in Greencroft, Bilston. The Tools, Stamps, &c, at a fair valuation. Rental moderate.

For further particulars, apply to W. P. Tomkys, sen, 27, Wellington Street, Bilston.”

AND

“Bilston. To Innkeepers, Blank-Tray Makers, and the Public.

To be Let, and may be entered on immediately (in consequence of the death of the Proprietor), that old-established House, known as the BLANK MAKERS ARMS INN, situate in Greencroft, Bilston, either with or without the Blank-maker’s Shopping in the rear thereof. Rental and in-coming payments very moderate.

For further information, apply to W. P. Tomkys, sen, Auctioneer, 27, Wellington Street, Bilston.”

Sarah Caddick, 21, spinster, married *Evan Griffiths*, 21, bachelor, on 9th April 1860.

1861 Census

55, Green Croft – BLANK MAKERS ARMS

[1] *William Parker* (40), publican, born Bilston;

[2] *Hannah Parker* (39), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Sarah Parker* (16), daughter, born Bilston;

[4] *George Parker* (12), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[5] *Eliza Clemson* (34), visitor, born Bilston:

William Parker, retailer of beer, 55, Green Croft. [1862]

William Parker – see also MOXLEY ARMS, Darlaston.

Evan Griffiths = *Evan Griffith*

Wolverhampton Chronicle 20/9/1865

“On Monday, an inquest was held at the BLANKMAKERS ARMS, Bilston, before W. H. Phillips, Esq, deputy coroner, on the body of a boy, aged twelve, named John Allen, whose parents live at Green Croft. The evidence showed that at a little after four o’clock on Saturday afternoon the deceased, without previously ascertaining its depth, went to bathe in a brick-pit, in which there was nine feet of water, and he was drowned. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/12/1868

“Yesterday, at Bilston Police Court, before I. Spooner, Esq, John Smith, landlord of the BALL COURT INN, Stafford Street; *Evan Griffiths*, BRICKMAKERS [sic] ARMS, Greencroft Street; and John Lloyd, SWAN INN, Swan Bank, were charged, for that they being ale house keepers, did knowingly suffer gaming in their houses. Mr. Young, of the Oxford Circuit, instructed by Mr. Bowen, appeared on behalf of the defendants. The case against John Smith was heard first.

Police-sergeant Chatfield stated that at between seven and eight o’clock on the evening of Saturday, the 7th November, he visited the bowling alley of John Smith, in company with Police-constable Moffatt. When he went in, there were about ten or twelve persons (men and boys) there. Four of them were bowling, and the landlord was present with a book in his hand, taking down the number of pins that each bowler knocked over. When they had done bowling the two losers paid the defendant twopence each, and he then gave the winners a brass ‘cheque’ each, similar to the one produced, which would entitle the holders to two penny worth of liquor in the defendant’s house, or a cigar.

Cross-examined by Mr. Young: He was in the house about half an hour, and saw four or five games. He was known well there as a Bilston police officer, and notwithstanding his presence the defendant continued to superintend the bowling and to carry on the transactions with the cheques during the whole time he was there. He believed that the defendant's house had been well conducted; but he could not go so far as to say that it was as well conducted as any in the town. There had been no complaint made respecting it. There had been a bowling alley at the house for about six months. It was one of the first opened in Bilston, and they had been only recently introduced into the town. He had heard that the defendant was under the impression that his allowing the bowling for cheques was not illegal.

No other witness was called on the part of the prosecution, and Mr. Young, on behalf of the defendant, said that, as he had intimated at the commencement, he did not intend to plead 'not guilty' to the charge; but he was anxious that Mr. Spooner should have the facts in reference to the case brought before him, because it appeared to him to be very different to that class of cases where offences were committed rather in defiance than in ignorance of the law. There was no doubt that the defendant had committed the offence, but there was also no doubt that he did so under the impression that what was taking place in his house was not illegal, but on the contrary was a legal act. The law had been clearly laid down that bowling 'for money, or money's worth' was alike illegal, but the question in the present case, was whether, under the circumstances, the defendant was a person against whom anything like a severe penalty should be inflicted. There was no doubt, although they had not got at that in a strictly legal form, that it had come to the knowledge of the police-officer that the defendant had been acting under a wrong impression in the matter, before he visited the house. Bowling alleys had only been recently introduced into Bilston, and that probably might somewhat account for the ignorance of the law relating to them; but he was sure that after receiving this legal notice, as it were, of the illegality of such transactions as referred to, they should hear of no more offences of that character. Mr. Spooner said there had been no previous complaint against the defendant, and he should impose a fine of 1s and costs. That kind of thing must be put a stop to, however, and if it was continued the utmost penalty must be inflicted. Mr. Young observed that the cases as against the other two defendants were exactly similar.

Chief-Superintendent McCrea, in reply to Mr. Spooner, said he had received numerous complaints recently from the parents of boys who visited these bowling saloons.

The two defendants, *Griffiths* and Smith [sic], pleaded guilty, and the same penalty was imposed on each as in the previous case; but Mr. Spooner observed that he was empowered at once to fine them £10, and he was sure he should not hesitate if another case came before him, because, as had been shown, so much mischief was done by that kind of thing, and especially to boys."

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 12/12/1868

"John Smith, landlord of the BALL COURT INN, Stafford Street; *Evan Griffiths*, BRICKMAKERS [sic] ARMS, Greencroft Street; and John Lloyd, SWAN INN, Swan Bank, were all fined 1s and costs for permitting gaming in their houses."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/8/1869

"The annual licensing meeting for the Bilston division took place yesterday, at the Police Court.....

The following is the list of the licensed victuallers who have been fined during the year.....

Allowing Gambling *Evan Griffiths*, BRICKMAKERS [sic] ARMS, Green Croft, 1s and costs."

1871 Census

55, Greencroft – BLANKMAKERS ARMS and shopping

[1] *Evan Griffiths* (31), licensed victualler, born Bilston;

[2] *Sarah Griffiths* (31), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Sarah Griffiths* (10), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[4] *Evan Griffiths* (8), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[5] *Charles Henry Griffiths* (4), son, scholar, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 25/10/1879

"On Thursday, at the BLANKMAKERS ARMS, Green Croft, Bilston, W. H. Phillips, Esq, district coroner, opened an inquest concerning the death of Mary Ann Lloyd, a single woman, 21 years of age, lately living in Green Croft, who died on Monday evening under peculiar circumstances.

May Lloyd, widow, said the deceased was her daughter. She had never had a child, but she was pregnant at the time of her death, and had been so for about eight months. During that period her health had been generally good, but on Monday last she complained of illness, and remained at home instead of going to work as usual at the factory. She was sick and vomited a great deal and had several fits, and Dr. Larkin was fetched and saw her twice that day, and his assistant also saw her. Deceased became unconscious at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, and did not recover consciousness up to nine o'clock, when she died. Witness could not in any way account for the sudden illness of the deceased.

Sarah Hayward, a neighbour, said she was called in to see the deceased on Monday morning, and was with her during the day and present when she died. Deceased vomited violently and repeatedly had fits. Witness did not know what was the cause of the sudden illness of deceased. She had at times seen her distressed and crying, and she believed it was owing to the girl's sweetheart having gone away.

The Coroner thought that seeing how mysterious the case was it would be better that a post mortem examination should be made, and he therefore adjourned the enquiry for that purpose until the following day.

On the inquest being resumed, Dr. H. W. Larkin was examined. He said he first saw the deceased between ten and eleven o'clock on Monday morning, and learned that she had then just rallied from a fit. He saw her again during the day, and she was then unconscious, and he was informed that she had vomited the medicine that he had sent her. At the request of the Coroner he had made a post mortem examination of the body, in conjunction with Mr. Clendinnen. There were no outwards marks of violence. Internally he found the stomach was very red and inflamed at the cardiac end, and neither that organ nor the intestines contained any fluid or solid matter besides blood and bile. The other viscera were slightly congested, and in the gravid uterus he saw signs of inflammation during life. They opened the head and examined the brain. The pia mater was congested and soft and friable, and the upper portion of the spinal column was much congested. He attributed the redness and emptiness of the stomach to the severe vomiting, together with the convulsions, and the coma from which the deceased died, arose from uremic blood poisoning, a condition which sometimes occurred in advanced pregnancy and during and after childbirth. There was nothing whatever to show that any noxious drug had been taken by the deceased, and he was perfectly satisfied that death had resulted from Natural Causes.

The jury returned a verdict in accordance with Dr. Larkin's evidence."

1881 Probate

"The Will of *Evan Griffiths*, late of Green Croft, Bilston, in the County of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, who died 20 November 1880 at Green Croft, was proved at Lichfield on 11 January by Silas Caddick of Church Street, Bilston, Butcher, and *Sarah Griffiths* of Green Croft, Widow, the Relict, two of the Executors. Personal Estate under £600."

1881 Census

55, Green Croft – BLANK MAKERS ARMS

- [1] *Sarah Griffiths* (40), widow, publican, born Bilston;
- [2] *Sarah H. Griffiths* (20), daughter, born Bilston;
- [3] *Charles H. Griffiths* (14), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] *Elizabeth Caddick* (18), domestic servant, born Bilston;
- [5] *Sarah Haywood* (61), visitor, widow, born Wellington, Shropshire:

Darlaston Weekly Times 14/6/1884

"On Saturday, a dinner was given by Mr. Silas Caddick, of Bilston, to about fifty of his relatives, in celebration of his fiftieth birthday, at the BLANKMAKERS ARMS INN, Greencroft. Much praise is due to the host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. *William Halford*, for the admirable manner in which the dinner was prepared, everything being of a superior quality. After dinner, the health of the donor was proposed by Mr. Daniel Caddick (who occupied the chair), and drunk with enthusiasm. Several other toasts followed, including the health of the host and hostess. During the evening, songs were given by Miss Griffiths and others, and the playing of the National Anthem brought a pleasant gathering to a close."

Darlaston Weekly Times 28/11/1885 - Advert

“The BLANK MAKERS ARMS INN, Greencroft, Bilston.

Spacious New Assembly Rooms. Proprietor, *Wm. Hartshorne* (late *Griffiths*).

The public are respectfully informed that the above Assembly Rooms are now open, and are replete with every convenience and comfort, the house having been re-constructed at considerable cost, now presents a cheerful aspect – strikingly in contrast to its antiquated appearance prior to alterations.

The Proprietor, who will be glad to see all the old friends – and a great many new ones – herewith informs them that it is his intention to keep a thoroughly respectable house, to produce a glass of best ale, Brewed on the premises from malt and hops only – Not to be Excelled; to supply the very Best Wines, Spirits, and Cigars of the various good brands, always in stock, at cash prices.

First Class Pianist on Monday, Saturday, and Tuesday Evenings, thus offering to amateur singers the services of first-class accompanists.

Private Smoke Room for Commercial Gentlemen.”

Birmingham Daily Post 11/6/1890

“Bankruptcy Proceedings.....

A meeting of the creditors of *Thomas Alfred Holt*, formerly of the BLANKMAKERS ARMS, Greencroft, Bilston, and now of 37, Wellington Street, Bilston, was held at the office of the Official Receiver, Wolverhampton, yesterday. The liabilities were set down at £116 16s 2d, and the assets as nil. The debtor took the BLANKMAKERS ARMS in 1888, paying £168 for the goodwill. The house was subsequently sold to a firm of brewers. He received notice to quit by March last, and he had been unable to obtain anything for the goodwill. He estimated his loss on the transaction at £78 6s 1d. The creditors refused to accept a composition of 2s 6s in the pound, and the matter was left in the hands of the Official Receiver.”

1891 Census

55, Green Croft

[1] *William E. Cole* (45), licensed victualler, born Sedgley;

[2] *Harriett Cole* (47), wife, waitress, born Bilston;

[3] *Benjamin J. Cole* (23), son, fishmonger, born Bilston;

[4] *Emma Cross* (4), visitor, born Walsall;

[5] *Emma Oakley* (15), domestic servant, born Bloxwich:

William Edwin Cole – see also OLD MERMAID and ROYAL ARTILLERY.

Birmingham Daily Post 21/9/1892 - Advert

“Pianist and Vocalist (as). Situation Wanted; to live in; good character; used to bar business; age 22.

Address, T. S., BLANKMAKERS ARMS, Greencroft, Bilston.”

PIANIST and Vocalist (as).—Situation Wanted ; to live in ; good character ; used to bar business ; age 22.—Address, T. S., Blank-makers Arms, Greencroft, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/6/1894 - Advert

“Important Sale of Freehold Public House Property at Bilston.

Messrs. Thomas Howell and Co. are instructed to Sell by Auction, at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, on Thursday Next, June 14, punctually at Seven o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions incorporating those of the Birmingham Law Society, the undermentioned Desirable Properties.

Lot 1. All that Exceedingly-valuable Full-Licensed Inn and Premises, known as the CASTLE, advantageously situated at the corner of Church Street and Wood Street, Bilston, in the occupation of Mr. John Fowler.

The central position of this House must always command an extensive and lucrative trade.

Lot 2. All that Roomy and Convenient Full-Licensed Inn, known at the BLANKMAKERS ARMS, Greencroft, near Church Street, Bilston, in the occupation of Mr. *Henry T. Hodgkiss*.

This House is situated in a good business locality, and the Premises include an extensive range of Shopping.

For further particulars, apply to Messrs. William Shakespeare and Co., Solicitors, Oldbury; or to the Auctioneers, 112, Colmore Row, Birmingham.”

Henry Hodgkiss, beer retailer, 55, Green Croft. [1896]

Henry Tertius Hodgkiss – see also CROWN AND ANCHOR, Oxford Street, LEOPARD, Church Street, ROYAL OAK, High Street, GATE, WHITE HART and SEVEN STARS.

Sporting Life 13/1/1900

“Birmingham and District Licensed Victuallers’ Billiard League.

The following are the entries and starts for the third billiard tournament, open to the beer and wine trade, promoted by Messrs. Burroughes and Watts.....

A. Hackett, BLANK MAKERS ARMS, Bilston, 60.”

1901 Census

26, Greencroft

- [1] *John H. Pitt* (47), publican, born Dudley;
- [2] *Lydia Pitt* (46), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Albert E. Pitt* (17), son, railway clerk, born Bilston;
- [4] *Elsie J. Pitt* (10), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] *Florence L. G. Pitt* (7), daughter, born Wolverhampton:

John Henry Pitt – see also RING OF BELLS, New Street, Wolverhampton.

1911 Census

26, Greencroft – BLANKMAKERS ARMS

- [1] *John Bowen* (46), licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *Elizabeth Bowen* (45), wife, married 23 years, born Brockmoor;
- [3] *Harriet Bowen* (22), daughter, assists in business, born Bilston;
- [4] *Harold Bowen* (17), son, motor making, wheels, born Bilston;
- [5] *Ida Bowen* (11), daughter, school, born Bilston;
- [6] *Gladys Emberton* (5), niece, school, born Wednesbury:

Benjamin Oldfield – see also HEN AND CHICKENS, George Street, and OLD BOARS HEAD.

1921 Census

26, Greencroft

- [1] *Henry Tertius Hodgkiss* (54), license holder, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Ellen Eliza Hodgkiss* (35), wife, born Reading, Berkshire;
- [3] *George Manning*, hairdresser, born Reading, Berkshire;
- [4] *Norris Haynes* (25), boarder, painter, born Bilston:

Emily Jane Batchford married Robert Spencer Alger on 19th April 1927.

1939 Register

26, Green Croft (4 of 5)

- [1] *Emily J. Alger*, date of birth 9/8/1888, innkeeper, married;
- [2] *Robert S. Alger*, dob 24/2/1901, fitter, aircraft, married;
- [3] *Gordon W. Batchford*, dob 6/8/1913, railway goods porter, heavy work, single;
- [4] *Cyril G. Batchford*, dob 2/5/1919, fitter, aircraft, single;

Evening Despatch 15/3/1939

“A Bulldog puppy was judged best in show at the BLANKMAKERS ARMS, Bilston, by Mr. Campbell. The dog, owned by Mr. Wedge, was prominently placed during the course of the show.....”

A team from here took part in the Bilston Charity Darts League. [1946]

A team from here took part in the Bilston Crib League, Section B. [1946]

It was the winter training headquarters of Bilston Town FC. [c.1950]

Evening Despatch 16/1/1953

“Cross-Country Club Plans.....

Bilston Town A.C.: Fast and slow packs, BLANKMAKERS ARMS (3).”

Closed

Birmingham Weekly Mercury 5/4/1964

“In many parts of Britain the local factory has its complement in the local public house.....

The Midland counties have, or have had, a number of rarer occupational signs, such as the MINE BORERS ARMS, Darlaston, and the BLANKMAKERS ARMS, Bilston (both de-licensed) Two more which have been de-licensed, the JAPANNERS ARMS, Wolverhampton, and the SHINGLERS ARMS, Dudley.”

It was demolished c.1965.

THE BLANK MAKERS ARMS INN, GREENCROFT, BILSTON.

SPACIOUS NEW ASSEMBLY ROOMS

Proprietor .. Wm. HARTSHORNE,
(Late Griffiths).

The public are respectfully informed that the above Assembly Rooms are now open, and are replete with every convenience and comfort, the house having been re-constructed at considerable cost, now presents a cheerful aspect - strikingly in contrast to its antiquated appearance prior to alterations.

The Proprietor, who will be glad to see all the old friends—and a great many new ones—herewith informs them that it is his intention to keep a thoroughly respectable house, to produce a glass of best ale, Brewed on the premises from malt and hops only—Not to be Excelled; to supply the very Best Wines, Spirits, and Cigars of the various good brands, always in stock, at cash prices.

First Class PIANIST on Monday, Saturday, and Tuesday Evenings, thus offering to amateur singers the services of first-class accompanists.

Private Smoke Room for Commercial Gen. & Men

1885

IMPORTANT SALE OF FREEHOLD PUBLIC-HOUSE PROPERTY AT BILSTON.

MESSRS. THOMAS HOWELL and CO.
are instructed to SELL by AUCTION, at the Pipe Hall Hotel, Bilston, on THURSDAY NEXT, June 14, punctually at Seven o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions incorporating those of the Birmingham Law Society—the undermentioned Desirable

PROPERTIES.

Lot 1.—All that Exceedingly-valuable FULL-LICENSED INN and PREMISES, known as “THE CASTLE,” advantageously situated at the corner of Church Street and Wood Street, Bilston, in the occupation of Mr. John Fowler.

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For further particulars, apply to Messrs. William Shakespeare and Co., Solicitors, Oldbury; or to the Auctioneers, 112, Colmore Row, Birmingham.

1894

BLUE BALL

BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Joseph Lawrence [1879]

BLUE BOAR

209, (98), Oxford Street, (Oxford Road), New Town, BILSTON

OWNERS

James Hateley Francis
B Woolley, ironfounder, Hill Top, West Bromwich
James Wilkinson, spirit merchant, Walsall
Mitchell and Co., Smethwick
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1921]

LICENSEES

Mrs. Yardley [1791]
Joseph Hateley [1799] – [1804]
Charles Gallimore [1805] – **1817**
Thomas Cockayne [1818]
James Hateley Francis [1822] – [1835]
William Powell [1841] – [1842]
John Shaw Walker [1844]
Joseph Hateley [1845] – [1847]
John Smith [1849] – [1850]
Richard Oldacre [1850] – **1851**;
John Cartwright (**1851 – 1852**);
Henry Male (**1852 – 1858**)
Alfred Hammond [1860] – [1862]
David Riley [1864] – [1870]
William Tonks [1871] – [1872]
Mrs. Sarah Tonks [1873] – **1875**;
George Bolton (**1875 – 1888**);
John Edwin Payne (**1888 – 1890**);
Paul William Harvey (**1890**);
Mrs. Ann (Tasker) Foster (**1890 – 1911**);
William Edward Hazlehurst (**1911 – 1920**);
Thomas William Moses (**1920 – 1929**);
Isaac William Sharman (**1929 – 1933**);
William Thomas Perrins (**1933 – 1940**)
John Coleclough []

NOTES

New Town [1818]
Oxford Road [1822]
98, Oxford Street [1858], [1861], [1862], [1864], [1865], [1868], [1870], [1872], [1873], [1874], [1891], [1892], [1896]
209, Oxford Street [1904], [1908], [1901], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1921], [1932], [1939], [1940]

It was also known as the BLUE PIG.

The cellar was cut into the coal-face.

Bilston Turnpike Tolls to be Let.
NOTICE is hereby given, that the Tolls arising at the several Toll Gates or Turnpikes upon the Turnpike Road leading from High Bullen, in Wednesbury, to the further End of Darlaston Lane, next the Portway, and from thence through Bilston, to the further End of Gibbet Lane, and several other Roads leading to and from Bilston, in the County of Stafford, will be LET by AUCTION, for one whole Year, at the House of Joseph Hateley, the Blue Boar Inn, in Bilston aforesaid, on Tuesday the 26th Day of November, 1799, at Four o'Clock in the Afternoon of the same Day, in the Manner directed by the Act passed in the 13th Year of the Reign of his present Majesty King George the Third, "for regulating the Turnpike Roads;" which Tolls were let on Lease the last Year for the under mentioned Sums, clear of the Expences of collecting them, and will be put up at those Sums respectively. Whoever happens to be the best Bidder must, at the same Time, give Security, with sufficient Sureties, to the Satisfaction of the Trustees of the said Turnpike Roads, for the Payment of the Rent agreed for, and at such Times as they shall direct.

Cock Heath Gate	—	—	—	£262	0	0
Bilston Bridge, Duck Lane, and Cold Lands Gates	—	—	—	207	0	0
Gibbet Lane and Catchem's Corner Gates, and Fighting Cocks and Ettingshall Bars	—	—	—	436	0	0

By Order of the Trustees,
JOHN WILLIAM,
Clerk and Treasurer.

1799

Turnpike Road from Wednesbury, through Bilston, to the further End of Gibbet-Lane, and several other Roads leading to and from Bilston, in the County of Stafford.

THE next General Meeting of the Trustees will be held at the Blue Boar Inn, in Bilston, To-morrow, the 17th Day of March inst. at One o'Clock in the Afternoon.

JOHN WILLIAM,
Clerk to the Trustees.

Bilston, March 16, 1801.

1801

Widow Yardley, victualler, BLUE BOAR, Bilston. [1791]

Joseph Hately = Joseph Hateley

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/10/1799 - Advert

"Bilston Turnpike Tolls to be Let.

Notice is hereby given, that the Tolls arising at the several Toll Gates or Turnpikes upon the Turnpike Road leading from High Bullen, in Wednesbury, to the further End of Darlaston Lane, next the Portway, and from thence through Bilston, to the further End of Gibbet Lane, and several other Roads leading to and from Bilston, in the County of Stafford, will be Let by Auction, for one whole Year at the House of *Joseph Hately*, the BLUE BOAR INN, in Bilston aforesaid, on Tuesday the 26th Day of November, 1799, at Four o'Clock in the Afternoon of the same Day, in the Manner directed by the Act passed in the 13th Year of the Reign of his present Majesty King George the Third, 'for regulating the Turnpike Roads;' which Tolls were let on Lease the last Year for the under-mentioned Sums, clear of the Expenses of collecting them, and will be put up at those Sums respectively. Whoever happens to be the best Bidder must, at the same Time, give Security, with sufficient Sureties, to the Satisfaction of the Trustees of the said Turnpike Roads, for the Payment of the Rent agreed for, and at such Times as they shall direct.

Cock Heath Gate, £262.

Bilston Bridge, Duck Lane, and Cold Lands Gate, £207.

Gibbet Lane and Catchems Corner Gates, and Fighting Cocks and Ettingshall Bars, £436.

By Order of the Trustees, John Willim, Clerk and Treasurer."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 16/3/1801 - Advert

"Turnpike Road from Wednesbury, through Bilston, to the further End of Gibbet Lane, and several other Roads leading to and from Bilston, in the County of Stafford.

The next General Meeting of the Trustees will be held at the BLUE BOAR INN, in Bilston, Tomorrow, the 17th Day of March inst, at One o'Clock in the Afternoon.

John Willim, Clerk to the Trustees. Bilston, March 16, 1801."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 21/5/1804 - Advert

"To be Sold by Auction, by Randle Walker, on the Premises, near Mr. *Hateley's*, the BLUE BOAR, in Bilston, in the County of Stafford, on Thursday the 24th Day of May, 1804, a Quantity of Implements of Husbandry and Farming Stock....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 2/12/1805 - Advert

"Bilston and Wednesbury Turnpike Tolls.

Notice is hereby given, that the Tolls arising at the several Toll Gates upon the Turnpike Road leading from Wednesbury, through Bilston, to the further End of Gibbet Lane, and several other Roads leading to and from Bilston, in the County of Stafford, will be Let by Auction for one whole Year, commencing the 1st Day of January next, at the next Meeting of the Trustees, to be holden at the House of *Charles Gallimore*, the BLUE BOAR INN, in Bilston aforesaid....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 16/6/1806 - Advert

"Stolen or Strayed, out of a Close adjoining Bradley Lodge, near Bilston, early on Thursday Morning last, a Bay Mare, about seven Years old, fifteen Hands and a Half high, a small Star on the Forehead, black Mane and Tail, several Saddle Marks on the near Side, a Splint outside the off Leg, puffed on the Extremity of the Gambrels, and was lately kicked by another Horse under the off Stifle Joint, which is not yet well. If stolen, whoever will cause the Offender of Offenders to be apprehended and convicted, shall receive a Reward of Ten Guineas. If strayed, whoever will bring the above Mare to Mr. *Charles Gallimore*, BLUE BOAR, Bilston, shall be handsomely rewarded, and all Expenses paid."

STOLEN or STRAYED, out of a Close adjoining Bradley Lodge, near Bilston, early on Thursday Morning last, a BAY MARE, about seven Years old, fifteen Hands and a Half high, a small Star on the Forehead, black Mane and Tail, several Saddle Marks on the near Side, a Splint outside the off Leg before, puffed on the Extremity of the Gambrels, and was lately kicked by another Horse under the off Stifle Joint, which is not yet well. If stolen, whoever will cause the Offender or Offenders to be apprehended and convicted, shall receive a Reward of TEN GUINEAS. If strayed, whoever will bring the above Mare to Mr. Charles Gallimore, Blue Boar, Bilston, shall be handsomely rewarded, and all Expenses paid.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 30/11/1807 - Advert

"Stolen or Strayed, out of a Piece of Ground in the Manor of Bradley, near Bilston, in the County of Stafford, a dark Bay Poney Mare, about 10 Hands high, aged; has a white Blaze down the Forehead, and one white Leg behind. Whoever will bring her to Mr. *Charles Gallimore's*, BLUE PIG INN, in Bilston, or Mr. Joseph Hately's, TALBOT INN, Wednesbury, shall be handsomely rewarded for their Trouble, and all Expenses paid."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 5/11/1810 - Advert

"To Timber Dealers, Builders, and Others.

To be disposed of by private Contract, the very extensive Building Trade, the Stock of excellent unconverted and converted Building Timber and other Materials, belonging to Mr. *Charles Gallimore*, near the BLUE BOAR, Bilston, who wishes to decline the Business, having other Concerns to attend to, with a convenient House, extensive Shopping, Offices, and double Sawpits in an entire Yard, which are to be let to any one who wishes to enter into the aforesaid lucrative Concern, it now being central, and fully employed by the adjoining Collieries, Furnaces, &c, where every Material in the above Business (with Labour) is much consumed. The present Stock is now very considerable, and should any Person be desirous of engaging with the present Proprietor, and the Stock too extensive, he will have no Objection of reducing it.

Further Particulars may be known by applying to Mr. *Charles Gallimore*, the BLUE BOAR, Bilston, or of Messrs. T. and J. Bateman, Surveyors and Auctioneers, Duddeston Street, Birmingham.

NB. If more convenient to the Purchaser, he may be accommodated with a Mine of Clay and Brick Yard."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 4/10/1813 - Advert

"Screw Manufactory and Iron Forge.

To be Sold by Auction, by R. Walker, Tomorrow (Tuesday), the 5th of October, at the BLUE BOAR, in Bilston, at Five o'clock in the Afternoon (subject to the Conditions which will be then read)....

Mr. *Charles Gallimore*, jun, of the BLUE BOAR aforesaid, will shew the Premises; and further Information respecting the same may be had at the Office of Mr. John Willim, Solicitor, in Bilston."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 27/11/1815 - Advert

"Bilston Turnpike Tolls.

Notice is hereby given, that the Tolls arising at the Toll Gates upon the Turnpike Roads leading from Wednesbury, through Bilston, to the further End of Gibbet Lane, and several other Roads leading to and from Bilston, in the County of Stafford, called or known by the Names of Bilston Bridge, Cold Lanes, and High Street Gates, situate in the Township of Bilston, will be Let by Auction to the best Bidder, for one whole Year, commencing the first Day of January next, at the House of *Charles Gallimore*, the BLUE BOAR, in Bilston....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/4/1817 - Advert

"To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett (by Direction of the Assignees of Messrs. Rushbury, Bankrupts) on Friday next, the 2nd Day of May, at Three o'Clock in the Afternoon, at the House of Mr. *Charles Gallimore*, the BLUE BOAR INN, New Town, Bilston, in the County of Stafford, subject to Conditions then to be produced.

All the Estate, Right and Interest (late of the above-mentioned Bankrupts, but now of their Assignees) of, in, and to a certain Colliery and Ironstone Work, called the New Friezland Colliery, situate near Bilston aforesaid; and also of, in and to all Engines, Gins, Pits, Implements, and Utensils, now being in and upon the said Colliery....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 4/8/1817 - Advert

"Notice.

All Persons having Demands on *Charles Gallimore*, late of the BLUE BOAR INN, Bilston, but now of Perry Barr, are requested to transmit the same to him that they may be examined and discharged. All Persons standing indebted to the said *C. Gallimore* are requested to pay the same to him forthwith at the BLUE BOAR, in Bilston, where he will attend on Monday each Week for that Purpose, till the 1st Day of September next, otherwise they will be sued for the same without further Notice.

Perry Barr, August 4, 1817

Thomas Cockayne = Thomas Cockeyne

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 8/8/1825 - Advert

"Taken Up on Monday last, at Bilston, a Chestnut Horse, of the nag kind. Any person having lost the same may have him again, on describing his marks and paying all expenses, by applying to *James Hateley Francis*, BLUE BOAR INN, Bilston. August 8, 1825."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 23/1/1833 - Advert

"Dinner to Francis Holyoake, Esq.

The Committee for conducting the Election of F. Holyoake, Esq, as one of the Members for this Borough, beg to inform their Friends who feel interested in the cause he came forward to support, that they intend Dining together on Friday, the 25th day of January instant, at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston.

Dinner on the Table at Four o'Clock precisely.

Tickets, 3s 6d (exclusive of Wine) to be had at the KINGS ARMS, the CASTLE, and the BLUE BOAR INNS, Bilston; where early applications are requested to be made.

S. S. Briscoe, Esq, President. Mr. John Mason, Vice-President."

[Francis Holyoake was elected as Conservative Member of Parliament for Stafford in 1835, and shortly afterwards was created a baronet. In May 1835 he took the Chiltern Hundreds in order to sit for South Staffordshire. He retired from Parliament at the 1837 election. Wikipedia.]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 31/8/1835 - Advert

"To be Sold by Auction, by J. Gilbert, on Tuesday the 15th day of September, 1835, at five o'clock in the afternoon, at the BLUE BOAR INN, New Town, Bilston.

Six well-built Houses, which have lately undergone a thorough repair, situate in Bridge Street, Bilston, now in the occupation of Mr. Berry and others, and producing a rental of £55 per annum.

To view the premises apply to Mr. *Francis*, BLUE BOAR INN, and for further particulars to Mr. Stuart, Solicitor, both of Bilston, or to the Auctioneer, 120, Bordesley Street, Birmingham."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/9/1835 - Advert

"Excellent Freehold Investments, at Bilston and Wednesbury, Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Auction, by R. Corbett (by directions of the devisees in trust for sale), on Monday, the 14th of September 1835, at five o'clock in the afternoon, at the BLUE BOAR INN, New Town, Bilston, aforesaid, subject to conditions then to be read.

Lot I. The above named Old Established Travellers Inn and tap-house, situate at the corner of a street at the entrance of the populous town of Bilston, on the great road from London to Holyhead; and comprises extensive ale and wine vaults, a large tap-room and parlour to the front, a large back parlour, bar, and kitchen, with convenient bed-rooms over the whole, a commodious brewhouse with store-room over it, a large larder, an extensive enclosed yard with well of water, suitable stabling for eight horses, sheds, piggeries, outbuildings, and other conveniences; now in the occupation of Mr. *J. H. Francis*, as tenant at will. And also two small Dwelling Houses with their appurtenances, adjoining the stables, and fronting to Lester Street, now in the occupation of Thomas Parkes and John Williams."

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/7/1837

"Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

John Neil was charged with stealing three pounds and upwards in silver coin, from the person of Cornelius Westwood. The prisoner was an Irishman, who, it appeared, was strolling about with a fiddle. The prosecutor met with him a short distance from Bilston, and listening to his tale of distress, treated him with some ale. The prisoner afterwards followed him to the BLUE PIG, at Bilston, where the prosecutor got change for a £5 note, and treated him with more ale, and the prisoner said rum also; but this the prosecutor denied – stating that he never treated men – only the ladies with rum. The prosecutor being wearied with working all the previous night, and a long walk during the day, fell asleep, when the prisoner returned his kindness by picking his pocket; and was caught in the act by the ostler at the public house. The constable searched him and found £1 17s 6d on his person. The prisoner cross-examined the witnesses with considerable acuteness, and set up a strange rambling defence, saying he was 'mythered' with the ale; which, he was sure, 'had a great deal of combustible material in it,' and did not know what he did. Guilty. To be imprisoned 12 calendar months, and kept to hard labour."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 1/10/1838 - Advert

"To be Sold by Auction, by J. Gilbert, on Thursday next, October 4, at the BLUE BOAR INN, Bilston, a variety of Liquor Shop Fittings, sundry Household Furniture, Sow and Pigs, and other Effects, the property of the late Mr. *J. H. Francis*, sold in consequence of reducing the establishment.

Particulars will appear in catalogues, to be had this present Monday at the place of sale."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 8/10/1838 - Advert

"To be Sold by Auction, by J. Gilbert, this present Monday, October 8, at the BLUE BOAR INN, New Town, Bilston, a quantity of Spirit Shop Fittings, mahogany and oak dining and drinking tables, ale casks, carts, harness, sow and pigs, and a variety of other effects, the property of the late Mr. *J. H. Francis*; sold in consequence of a reduction of the establishment.

Sale to commence at ten o'clock. Particulars in catalogues may be had at the place of sale.

At three o'clock in the afternoon will be offered, at the BLUE BOAR INN, twenty Pockets of Worcester Hops, growth of 1837; also 123 dozen Bottles of excellent Port and Sherry Wines, in lots suitable to purchasers, the property of a bankrupt, and consigned by the Assignees for positive sale."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 7/1/1839 - Advert

"Two Sovereigns Reward.

Any person having found the Will of the late *J. H. Francis*, and will restore it to J. Gilbert, 95, Bartholomew Street, will receive the above Reward."

TWO SOVEREIGNS REWARD.
ANY person having found the **WILL** of the late **J. H. FRANCIS**, and will restore it to **J. Gilbert, 95, Bartholomew-street**, will receive the above **Reward**.

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/4/1839

"On Sunday, the 21st instant, James Cope had been drinking at the BLUE BOAR INN, Bilston, and in returning home late in the evening went across a coal pit field, and fell into an old pit, where he remained until Wednesday, and was then brought up a corpse."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 10/7/1839 - Advert

"Freehold Investments. An Excellent Travellers Inn, at Bilston, and first-rate Mercer's and Druggist's Shops, near the Market Place, Wednesbury, Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett (by direction of the trustees for sale under the will of Mr. *James H. Francis*, late of Bilston, deceased), on Monday next, the 15th day of July, at the BLUE BOAR INN, New Town, Bilston aforesaid, at five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be read, and in the following or such other lots as may be desired by the company present.

Lot I. All that the above named old established and well accustomed Travellers Inn and Tap House, situated at the corner of a street at the south entrance of the populous town of Bilston aforesaid, on the line of the great road from London to Holyhead, and known at the BLUE BOAR INN, which was carried on by the late proprietor till his death, and comprises extensive cellars, a commodious tap room, large and small parlours, kitchen, and bar, with convenient bed rooms over the whole, a brewhouse and a malt room over it, stabling for eight horses, sheds, piggeries, and other outbuildings, a spacious back yard, with a well of water and other conveniences; and also two small Tenements, with their appurtenances, adjoining the stabling and fronting to Lester Street, now or lately occupied by Thomas Cooper and Robert Gettings.

Lot II. All that first-rate recently and substantially built Mercer's and Draper's Shop, with genteel House and Premises, situate near the Market Place in the town of Wednesbury.....

Lot III. The adjoining suitably built Chemist's and Druggist's Shop, with a well fitted up House and Premises.....

Lot IV. A Pew in Bilston Church.

Lot V. A pew in Willenhall Church."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 14/10/1839 - Advert

"Sale at the BLUE BOAR, INN, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by J. Gilbert, on Thursday next, October 17, all the Household Furniture, Brewing Utensils, and other effects belonging to the late Mr. *J. H. Francis*.

Catalogues may be had at the place of sale, and of J. Gilbert, Mogul Inn, Bartholomew Street, Birmingham."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/11/1842 - Advert

“The BLUE BOAR Public House, at Bilston.

To be Let, with immediate possession, the above old-established and well-accustomed House, now doing an excellent ready money trade.

The Premises, which are replete with every convenience, and lately put into thorough repair, consist of a large and well fitted up bar, smoke room, dining room, and chambers, large tap room, convenient brewhouse, and capital cellaring. Attached is a spacious yard, with stabling, piggeries, &c.

The present proprietor is disposing of the premises and business in consequence of engagements at a distance.

The fixtures and public house furniture only to be taken by valuation.

For particulars apply upon the premises, or to William Aston, Auctioneer and Valuer. Offices, North Street, Wolverhampton.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/12/1843 - Advert

“To be Let, with immediate possession.

The old-licensed Public House, known by the sign of the BLUE BOAR INN, situated at Bilston, in the county of Stafford. This is an opportunity which rarely offers itself to persons desirous of embarking in the above business, the house lying by the road side leading from Birmingham to Wolverhampton, and is surrounded by both coal and iron works in full operation.

Rent moderate, and the coming-in about £60.

For particulars, apply to Mr. H. Pitt, Coal Master, Lea Brook, Wednesbury, Staffordshire.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/1/1844 - Advert

“BLUE BOAR INN, Bilston.

John Shaw Walker begs most respectfully to inform his friends and the public that he has taken to the above Inn, and trusts, in adding to their comfort, by selling a superior article, to merit a portion of their favours.

The Bradford Street Brewery, Walsall, is still carried on by him, but the lease expiring in November next, it is to be let.

January 29, 1844.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/4/1844

“Inquests before T. M. Phillips, Esq, Coroner.....

On Thursday last, at the BLUE BOAR INN, Bilston, on the body of Robert Wilson, a labourer, aged 25 years. The deceased was employed at the works of Mr. Parsons, the Brook Furnaces, Bilston, to tend and empty the waggon which conveyed up an incline railway the coal, cokes, and ironstone, to feed the furnaces; and while following his daily avocation, on the 23rd instant, the chain, which connects the waggon with an engine, broke, and the waggon began to run backwards. The deceased, in his fright, jumped from it to the ground, and fell into the pit in which the fly wheel works, and was thrown between the wheel and the wall of the pit (a space of only about six inches), and in an instant crushed to death. To prevent accidents of this description, an implement termed a ‘tail’ is fixed at the back of the waggon, and forms a sort of scotch when the chain breaks, but on this occasion the force, in consequence of the waggon being heavily laden, was so great as to break the ‘tail’ and the death of the deceased was the result. Several witnesses were examined, and, from their testimony, it appeared no person was to be criminally blamed in reference to the death of the unfortunate man, although they stated that the chain had frequently broken. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death but accompanied it with an expression of their opinion that the chain was unsafe, and that there was a great want of care on the part of the principals and agents of the works.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 11/12/1844 - Advert

“BLUE BOAR INN, Bilston.

To be Let, with possession at the end of January, 1845, the above Inn, doing a good trade, and parted with on account of the proprietor having other engagements. Rent moderate, and coming-in low.

Apply as above, or to Mr. Henry Pitt, Lea Brook, Wednesbury.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/3/1845 - Advert

“Wanted a steady active Young Man, as Brewer and Ostler.

Apply to Mr. *Joseph Hateley*, BLUE BOAR, Bilston.”

WANTED a steady active Young Man, as
BREWER and OSTLER.—Apply to Mr.
JOSEPH HATELEY, Blue Boar, Bilston.

Birmingham Journal 25/7/1846

“On Tuesday evening last, an inquest was held at the house of Mr. *Joseph Hateley*, BLUE BOAR, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, Coroner, upon the body of Abel Peace, a child fifteen weeks old. It appeared that on Sunday afternoon last, the father of the child gave it, in mistake for Godfrey’s Cordial, a spoonful of eye-water, which had been given him at the Birmingham Eye Infirmary for another of his children. He took it out of the cupboard, where there were two bottles, one containing Godfrey’s Cordial, and did not discover his mistake until it was too late. The little sufferer lingered until half-past two on Monday afternoon, when it died. Mr. Hancox, surgeon, who was called in to attend the child, said the bottle contained extract of opium. The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 6/1/1847

“On Thursday an inquest was held at the house of Mr. *Joseph Hateley*, the BLUE BOAR INN, Bilston, before G. Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, upon the body of John Norton, who was found dead in an engine house at Bilston. It appeared from the evidence that the deceased was 66 years old, and on Tuesday night week, about a quarter past twelve, was found by a person named Matthews in an engine house in Mr. Baldwin’s colliery, quite dead. He was in the habit of going to sleep in the place. A post mortem examination of the body was made by Mr. Cooper, surgeon, and his evidence went to show that the deceased died from apoplexy. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical testimony.”

Birmingham Journal 25/11/1848

“On Saturday afternoon last, a boy named William Abberley, about twelve or fourteen years of age, was at work in a coal pit at Waterloo, in the parish of Wednesbury, when about ten or fifteen tons of coal suddenly fell from the roof upon him, by which his right leg and left arm were broken, and his head dreadfully fractured. His death must have been instantaneous. There had previously been a slip of coal near the place where deceased was at work, and a prop had been placed under the spot where the coal fell, which appeared to be, only a minute before the accident, quite safe. An inquest was held on Tuesday, at the BLUE BOAR INN, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, when a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

John Smith was also a brassfounder. [1849], [1850]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 11/4/1849

“On Thursday last an inquest was held before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, at the BLUE BOAR, Bilston, on the body of Luke Burke, about eighteen years of age, who on the previous Tuesday evening was coming up a shaft with two other men at Mr. Vernon’s colliery at Mill Lane, when the skip caught the side of the pit about six yards from the top, and the deceased fell to the bottom – about sixty yards. He was killed on the spot. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/5/1849

“On Monday last T. M. Phillips, Esq, held an inquest at the BLUE BOAR, Bilston, on the body of Aaron Haywood, nineteen years of age, who was killed on Friday last in a stone pit at Riley’s field, in this parish. Whilst in the act of drawing a tree from under the roof of the workings a large quantity of clod suddenly fell in upon him, struck his head, knocked him down, and partly covered him. On the clod being removed, it was found that his head was dreadfully fractured. He breathed once or twice, and then expired. One of the witnesses examined at the inquest stated that he had cautioned the deceased several times not to remove a tree without putting another in before he did so. Haywood had been a miner for many years. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 15/8/1849 - Advert

“Sale of Crops of Wheat and Oats, on Bradley Lodge Estate, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. G. Brown, at the BLUE BOAR INN, New Town, Bilston, on Friday the 17th of August, 1849, at four o’clock in the afternoon. The following Lots.

Lot I. About 1¾ acres of Wheat.

Lot II. Ditto 1½ acres ditto and Oats

Lot III. Ditto 8½ acres of Oats.

Lot IV. Ditto 4¼ acres of ditto.

Lot V. Ditto 6½ acres of ditto.

For further particulars apply to the Auctioneer, Oxford Street, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/12/1850

“At Bilston Petty Sessions, on Tuesday, two men, named Thomas Elks and Thomas Dutton, were brought before the Bench, under the following circumstances. The first-named prisoner had been brewer in the service of Mr. *Richard Oldacre*, licensed victualler, of the BLUE PIG, and on the afternoon of Friday last his master left him in charge of the house for several hours, in consequence of being called from home on business. On returning in the evening he found Elks groping about the ale cellar in a state of intoxication, unable to give an intelligible answer as to what he had been about, and Mr. *Oldacre* had further the mortification to discover, on going into the spirit cellar, that one cask of French brandy and another of gin were running to waste on the floor, in consequence of the taps being turned on. The prisoner Dutton had apparently been a companion in the carousal, as he was met staggering out of the brewhouse. On further examination being made, a bottle of sherry and a quantity of gin were found concealed in the brewhouse, and Mr. *Oldacre* considered himself justified in giving Elks into the custody of the police. It was also determined to search Dutton’s house, at Moxley, and the result was his apprehension on the charge of stealing two bottles of brandy and a bottle of gin, which were found concealed in a box. They were both committed to take their trial at the sessions.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 4/1/1851

“Staffordshire Epiphany Sessions.....

Thomas Elks and Thomas Dutton were indicted for stealing a bottle of sherry wine, two quarts of brandy, a quart of gin, three glass bottles, and a stone bottle, the property of *Richard Oldacre*, at Bilston. Mr. Cook Evans conducted the prosecution; Mr. C. G. Dawson defended the prisoner Dutton; Elks was undefended.

The leading facts elucidated by the evidence were that the prisoner Elks was employed by the prosecutor, the landlord of the BLUE BOAR, Bilston, as brewer; and that Dutton occasionally assisted as gardener. On the afternoon of the 6th of December the prosecutor left home, and returned about six o’clock in the evening, when he called for Elks to take care of his horse. From information he received, he proceeded to the ale cellar, when he observed Dutton going from the cellar into the top brewhouse; upon getting to the cellar, he found Elks in a state of extreme intoxication, attempting to tun some ale; and the taps of both a brandy and a gin cask were left half-turned in the spirit cellar, the spirits running upon the cellar floor. A few minutes afterwards the prosecutor discovered a bottle of sherry wine, and a pint cup three-parts full of gin concealed under a mash tub in the top brewhouse, where Dutton was going when seen by the prosecutor. Elks was then taken into custody; and the prosecutor, accompanied by police-officer Reuben Billett, proceeded to the house of Dutton, about half-a-mile distant. Dutton, who was at home, denied the charge, and stated that he had not any spirits in the house; but upon a box upstairs belonging to the prisoner being searched, four bottles were found, two of them containing brandy and the other two being filled with gin. The bottles were produced, and the prosecutor stated that the three glass bottles were similar to porter bottles which had been in his possession; and that the stone bottle was similar in form, and bore the same name, as several others which he had at home. The case was further proved by two sisters, named Buttery, one of whom deposed that she passed through Dutton’s bedroom on the afternoon of the 6th ult, when the box lid was open, at which time there were no bottles in the box. On cross-examination, it was deposed by Eliza Buttery, who lodged with the prisoner Dutton, that when the prisoner returned home on the evening of the 6th of December, she saw no bottles.

Mr. Dawson addressed the jury on behalf of the prisoner Dutton, and contended that there was no direct proof that the bottles found at his house were the property of the prosecutor.

The learned Chairman then summed up the evidence, and in the course of his remarks, observed that there did not appear to be any case against Elks, for although he was very drunk, there was no proof that he either put the articles in the top brewhouse, or had anything to do with the transaction.

The jury, after a short consultation, returned a verdict of guilty against Dutton, but acquitted Elks. Dutton was sentenced to be imprisoned to hard labour for six months.”

1851 Census

Oxford Street

- [1] *Richard Oldacre* (35), victualler, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Mary Oldacre* (32), wife, domestic, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Caroline Oldacre* (11), daughter, assistant at home, born West Bromwich;
- [4] *Ann Oldacre* (9), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *William Oldacre* (6), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Joseph Oldacre* (9 months), son, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Emma Cartwright* (18), general servant, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/4/1851

“At a Special Sessions of County Justices, held on Monday last, the 28th instant, for transferring victuallers’ licenses, the following licenses were transferred.....

Richard Oldacre, of the BLUE PIG, Bilston, to *John Cartwright*, of Stourbridge.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 24/9/1851 - Advert

“BLUE PIG, Bilston.

To be Sold by Private Treaty, the above well built and good accustomed Public House, situate in Oxford Street, Bilston, in which an excellent business has for many years been carried on, and which is now occupied by *John Cartwright*, at a low rental of £45 per annum.

Also four convenient and genteel Dwelling Houses, adjoining the above, and now let to respectable tenants, at the rental of £28 per annum.

For further particulars and to treat, apply to Mr. Willim, solicitor, Bilston.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/12/1851

“An inquest was held on Wednesday at the house of Mr. *John Cartwright*, BLUE PIG, Oxford Street, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, on the body of William Jones, a miner, aged 50, residing in Jacksons Square. On Saturday night last the deceased was found lying in the road at Moorcroft in a helpless state of drunkenness, by a man named Cooper, who took him to his house and allowed him to sit by the fire all night. On Cooper coming down stairs on the following morning he found the deceased dead in the chair. Verdict, Found Dead.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/4/1852

“At an adjourned special sessions for the transfer of victuallers’ licenses, within the division of Seisdon North..... BLUE PIG, Bilston, from *John Cartwright* to *Henry Male*, of Kingswinford, boatman.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 26/6/1852

“On Monday last, the following inquests were held before W. W. Ward, Esq, acting for T. M. Phillips, Esq.....

At the BLUE BOAR, Oxford Street, Bilston, on the body of Samuel Palin, a miner, who was killed by a fall of rock, in a coal-pit at the Fireholes. Verdict according to the circumstance.”

Birmingham Journal 17/7/1852

“On Saturday, an inquest was held at the BLUE BOAR, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, Coroner, on the body of John Owen, aged twenty-five, a labourer on the railway now in course of construction. It appeared that during the dinner-hour on the previous day, the deceased and some of his companions went to bathe in the canal at Hallfields, when, getting beyond his depth, he was drowned, in spite of the efforts made by his comrades to save him. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/10/1852

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Stephen Cooper, 24, was indicted for stealing from the person of James Friar, at the parish of Wednesbury, 7s 6d, his property. The prosecutor said he had been at the BLUE PIG, at Bilston, on August 10, and was returning towards Westbromwich, at night, when the prisoner and another man joined him. After walking with him some distance, the prisoner put his hand in his pocket and abstracted 7s 6d. In reply to questions by the Chairman, the prosecutor said he was not drunk, but had had drink. The prisoner made a statement denying the charge, and asserted that the prosecutor was so drunk as to be unable to take care of himself. The jury found the prisoner guilty, and he was sentenced to two months’ imprisonment.”

AND

“Patrick Crosby and Patrick Rooney were arraigned on a charge of assaulting and wounding William Hooke, at Bilston, to which they pleaded not guilty. The prisoners were undefended.

Mr. Corbet conducted the prosecution, and briefly stated the case, from which and the prosecutor’s evidence, the following facts appeared.

On the 11th September, the prosecutor, a boatman of Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, brought his boat up the canal, at Bilston, and at half-past eleven o’clock at night, with seven other persons, he went to the BLUE BOAR public house. After a time the landlord desired them to leave the house, with which request they all complied. The prisoners were also present at the time, but not a word was exchanged with them. Immediately on leaving the house, the prosecutor

returned to light his pipe, and whilst stooping to pick up a piece of lighted paper, dropped by another person, the prisoner Rooney pushed him. A woman then called to Rooney to go home, and the prosecutor said to him 'Go home, man, with your wife;' to which he replied in some very foul language, and immediately afterwards, whilst the prosecutor was lighting his pipe, Rooney struck him in the mouth, and Crosby knocked him down on the floor. About twenty other Irishmen then rushed round him whilst on the ground, and commenced kicking him on the head and body until he was rescued by the landlord and others and placed in the parlour, into which place the prisoners rushed and again struck him. They were then ejected, but almost as quickly they burst open the door, knocked the prosecutor down, and then dragged him by the hair into the street, where the prisoners and others kicked him on the head and body. He after a while succeeded in getting up and ran down the street, when the prisoner Crosby shouted out 'Kick his b——y English skull in,' when he was immediately thrown down and became insensible from a blow on the head.

Henry Male, the landlord of the BLUE BOAR, and Ann Dalton, his servant, corroborated the prosecutor's statement. Mr. Hancox, surgeon, of Bilston, proved the injuries sustained by the prosecutor, which had caused congestion of the brain, and placed him in danger of his life.

The prisoners were both found guilty, and sentenced to six calendar months' imprisonment to hard labour."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 25/10/1854

"On Thursday last a girl, named Lucy Peak, who was employed in Riley's field to carry pikes and beer for the workmen, accidentally fell down a pit in the field. An inquest was held on the following day at the BLUE BOAR, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, when a verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

Staffordshire Sentinel 4/4/1857

"At Bilston Police Court on Tuesday, before J. Leigh, Esq, Thomas Westwood, a tinker, was charged with assaulting Mr. *Henry Male*, landlord of the BLUE BOAR INN, and tearing his coat. On Saturday night the defendant entered the complainant's house, and commenced making a disturbance. Mr. *Male* endeavoured to eject him, and in doing so was assaulted, and had his coat torn to atoms. The magistrate fined the fellow for assault 5s and costs, and for the damage to the coat £1 and costs, or in default, one month's imprisonment."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/1/1860

"About four o'clock on Saturday afternoon, as a workman was descending a water shaft in Blackwell's Field, Bilston, he observed blood and brains and fragments of clothing on its sides. On dragging the bottom, the body of an old man named Timothy Bailey, who had been missing since Tuesday, was discovered. The deceased was what is termed a 'rodney,' and had doubtless stumbled in the dark into the pit, the mouth of which is said to be insufficiently protected. The body was removed to the BLUE PIG public house, to await an inquest."

[At the inquest it was stated that the shaft was well protected, the deceased having got in through an opening only 2½ feet wide, and an open verdict was returned. Messrs. Blackwell covered the cost of the burial.]

Birmingham Daily Post 24/1/1860 - Advert

"Bilston. To Cabinet Makers, Brokers and Others.

Jabez Morrell will Sell by Auction, This Day (Tuesday), at the BLUE BOAR INN, Oxford Street, Bilston.

A quantity of Household Furniture, Cabinet Makers Timber, and other Effects, seized and sold under an execution from the Sheriff of Staffordshire (late the Property of Mr. Thos. Phillips, Cabinet Maker, Bilston aforesaid), and removed for the convenience of sale to the above Premises....."

Birmingham Daily Post 19/3/1860

"An inquest was held at the BLUE BOAR INN, Bilston, before the Deputy Coroner, on Friday afternoon, on the body of Edward Dyke, a boy seven years of age, who accidentally fell down a pit at Moorcroft, whilst at play, on the 10th instant, and died from the effects of the fall on the 14th. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/6/1860

"A tremendous explosion occurred at Messrs. Blackwell's furnaces, Bilston, on Wednesday evening, killing one man and severely injuring one or two others. The accident occurred while a number of the men were engaged in casting, and the violence of the thunderstorm, which was then raging, had driven almost all the other workmen to places of shelter. A portion of the boiler was projected with great force in the opposite quarter from the furnaces, ploughing into a cinder heap, and killing a man who was standing upon the heap, and whose body has not been identified. He

is, however, believed to have been employed as a striker at some other works in the neighbourhood. He is bruised about the temple, and had bled a good deal, apparently from the mouth and nostrils. His boots were torn from his feet, but the feet were not injured. In one of his pockets was found a small whistle. He appears to have been about twenty-one years of age. A man named Ball, a fitter, who was near him, had his leg broken. The fireman, who was quite close to the boiler, and two other workmen were slightly injured. A second portion was blown through the engine-house, which is almost in ruins, and fell near to two men a good way off, but injuring neither. A horse standing on a high bank overlooking the canal was knocked into the water, but got out without assistance and without serious injury.

An inquest upon the body of the deceased man, who up to the time of the inquiry had not been identified, was held before W. H. Phillips, Esq, deputy coroner, at the BLUE BOAR public house, Oxford Street, Bilston, on Friday morning last.

The first witness examined was William Edwards, an engineer employed at Messrs. Blackwell's, who said that on Wednesday afternoon last, about half-past four o'clock, he was beside his boiler, which is 150 yards from the one that exploded. The incline engine and the boiler were worked by a person named Clamp. Witness heard an explosion at that boiler at the time before mentioned, and saw a large portion of the boiler go through the air. It was blown about 130 yards. At the same moment he saw the body of a man blown into the air, and in the same direction as the larger portion of the boiler. The man's body was blown 100 yards. Witness at once went to the place where the body fell. It was in some water, near to the coke hearth. At one time witness thought the body of the man was blown thirty yards into the air. The man was a stranger.

Patrick Hill, fireman at the boiler referred to, said Robert Clamp was the day engine-man and Joseph Cox the night man. About five o'clock on Wednesday afternoon he was firing at the boiler. The waggons had come down from the furnaces, so he left the fire holes open, and was standing beside the boiler. The boiler blew up, and he became insensible. Had seen Clamp in the engine-house about ten minutes before the boiler exploded. The boiler 'ran out,' and he had to stand on two bricks to fire. The boiler adjoining the one that exploded was standing, and being repaired.

Joseph Cox said he worked an engine at Messrs. Blackwell's, and had been an engineer ten years. The engine in question was used for drawing the mine up to the furnaces. Witness worked the engine on Tuesday night, and gave it up to Robert Clamp on the following morning. It had leaked a little for eight or nine days, in places over the fire. Witness continued working it, and had no difficulty with it. The boiler was worked at a pressure of about 40lbs to the inch. There was an indicator in the engine-house, and it appeared in good order. Never had occasion to make any complaints about the boiler to any one. Jones was the head engineer, and he visited the place every day. Witness had seen the indicator register a pressure of 53lbs. The leakage was on the right hand side of the boiler as you stood in the ash-hole. Never heard Clamp make any complaints.

Samuel Clamp, an engineer, employed to work the blast engine, about fifty yards from the incline engine, where his brother worked, deposed that the last time he saw his brother was about half-past four o'clock on the Wednesday afternoon. He was then going towards his own engine from the fitting shop. Witness called him, and he came to him, but they had not spoken three words before the explosion happened. Had never heard him make any complaint about the boiler, beyond saying that it ran out a little. Witness worked the incline engine with the same boiler for about a year and a half, and last worked it about six months ago. The guage at that time showed a pressure of 60lbs, but it would work easily at 40lbs. When the steam was at 60lbs by the guage the steam would begin to blow off at the steam clack 'tremendous.' It would begin to blow at 50lbs. Witness was there twice on Wednesday, and the pressure was the same as usual. At one time that day the pressure was at 50lbs. Witness could not see whether the steam was blowing off immediately before the explosion took place or not.

Mr. Wright: Whilst you worked the engine did you observe any leakage over the fire at any time? – Witness: Yes.

Mr. Wright: Did you observe from what part of the boiler the leakage came; the right hand side or the left hand side?

– Witness: Sometimes in one place and sometimes in another. When it used to leak we used to have the boiler chaps to mend it.

Mr. Wright: You state that when you worked the engine you worked it at 60lbs, and yet it would work easily at 40lbs. Do you mean that it would get up to 60lbs? – Witness: If the engine stood a bit. If the men were not ready the steam would get up to that pressure, but it would then blow off, and would not get any higher than 60lbs.

Peter Morris, a furnaceman, stated that he was about fifty yards from the boiler when the explosion occurred. About a minute before it exploded witness looked at it, and saw the steam blowing off at both ends of the boiler. The engine had then been standing somewhere about half an hour. A portion of the boiler was projected about a hundred yards. Robert Clamp deposed that he was an engineer, and lived at Bilston. Had had the entire charge of this engine about six months, and worked it on the Wednesday. Witness had not steam sufficient to drive the engine all the day. This

was partly caused through the boiler wanting cleaning. Had worked it last to draw some mine up about ten minutes before the explosion happened. He then left his engine to go across to the fitting shop. The steam was not then blowing off; it was low. Witness was absent about five minutes, and during that time the boiler exploded. Witness had filled the boiler, as he usually did, for his butt, and the ball just touched the boiler at the time he left. Had never had occasion to make any complaints about the boiler. Had worked an engine before this more than five years ago. Mr. Edwin Thomas Wright, engineer, Wolverhampton, deposed that he had that morning examined the boiler which exploded. He examined the seating and also several pieces that had been blown away. It was a boiler about 31 feet long and about 5 feet in diameter; a plain cylindrical boiler. The principal portion of the boiler, the hinder part, about 25 feet in length, was about one hundred yards from its seating. It had been blown backwards, and lay upon the coke hearth. The front end of the boiler was blown in an exactly opposite direction about a hundred or hundred and fifty yards away, and the third piece, which was the portion over the fire, was about fifty yards on one side. Witness carefully examined the different parts of the boiler, and saw no reason to believe there had been a deficiency of water. He observed the boiler was wanting repair over the fire, where there was a leakage. It had been mended several times in that place with rivets, where cracks had formed and rivets had been driven in to stop them. The rent seemed to have commenced in the joint over the fire, running in the direction of the length of the boiler, and had then opened itself, tearing open the transverse joint. The steam valve which witness saw was two inches and three quarters in diameter, and he was informed there was another of the same size which could not be found. Witness considered these valves should have been larger, although they were of common size. The boiler was not in good working order. Some of the underneath plates near the fire were of inferior iron, and witness believed that facilitated the explosion. Several of the plates over the fire had been in very indifferent condition at their edges in the line of rivets. There were several joints over the fire which witness considered were not able to bear heavy pressure. Looking at the plates now he would not consider them safe at a pressure of 60lbs. The boiler had every appearance of being a strong boiler, the plates being of ordinary thickness. The person whose duty it was to examine the boiler would not have been likely to have discovered any imperfection in the quality of the iron. There were some defects that could not be seen, and others that doubtless were seen. Witness considered the cause of the explosion was excess of pressure, which in its weakened condition the boiler could not bear. He was also much disposed to think, notwithstanding the evidence that the clacks were not blowing violently, that there was some excess of pressure, and he also thought it quite possible that the boiler had been weakened by previous excess of pressure. Witness would not attach any blame to any person, for although the boiler seemed to want repair, yet it was no worse than a great number of boilers were usually found. One boiler out of every three would be found in as bad a condition as regards leakage and defective edges as this one was.

William Kinfoil, a boiler maker, employed at Messrs. Blackwell's works, said he was engaged on Wednesday in repairing the boiler adjoining the one that exploded on Wednesday. Witness took out the plug and ran the water into the ash-hole. This would cause the presence of the water spoken of by the last witness. The boiler was not leaking more than usual. Witness told the fireman to shut down the dampers at dinner time, as the steam was blowing off. This was at dinner time. The portion of the plates which witness saw near the office was free from scurf, and of a blue colour. This comprised the end plates and the crown. There was one part of the inside 'as blue as could be.' Philip Fellows, engineer, living in Oxford Street, Bilston, said he heard of the explosion, and went to the works about a quarter of an hour after it occurred. He examined the different portions of the boiler, and from the appearance of the long portion he was of opinion that there was water there at the time, on account of the scurf not being removed. The firing end seemed to have had no water, as the scurf was all off and the plates and rivets were very blue. Witness believed there had been water at one end, but one end must have been lower than the other. The plates must have been red-hot to have produced this appearance.

The Coroner, in summing up, pointed out to the Jury that it was shown no complaints had been made either to the head engineer or to the proprietors of the works of the defective condition of the boiler, and therefore they could not make any person culpable.

The Jury, after a brief deliberation, found a verdict of Accidental Death, and they accompanied that verdict with a suggestion that the head engineer should observe greater caution in having the boilers repaired whenever they displayed signs of leakage. Clamp, the engineer, was also cautioned by the Coroner."

Birmingham Journal 24/11/1860 - Advert

"Found, a very large and exceedingly fine Dog, a cross between a Bull and a Mastiff, of a light brown colour, young and playful. Any person having lost the above Dog may hear of him at the BLUE BOAR, Bilston. If not claimed he will be sold after this notice."

FOUND, a very large and exceedingly fine DOG,
a cross between a Bull and Mastiff, of a light brown colour,
young and playful. Any person having lost the above Dog may hear
of him at the Blue Boar, Bilston. If not claimed he will be sold after
this notice.

1861 Census

98, Oxford Street – BLUE BOAR

- [1] Alfred Hammond (38), publican, born Albrighton;
- [2] Mary Hammond (38), wife, born Albrighton;
- [3] Elizabeth Hammond (14), daughter, scholar, born Madeley, Shropshire;
- [4] Lucy Hammond (12), daughter, scholar, born Albrighton;
- [5] Emma Hammond (6), daughter, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [6] Emma Thomas (29), wife's sister, cook, born Albrighton;
- [7] Mary Killkelly (25), visitor, dairymaid, born County Galway, Ireland;
- [8] Robert Wagstaff (38), lodger, widower, saddler, born Nuneaton:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/2/1862 - Advert

"Monday Next, March 3rd. The BLUE BOAR INN, Bilston.

Household Furniture, Fixtures, Copper and Iron Furnaces, Ale Casks, &c. By Messrs. Aston and Sollom.

To be Sold by Auction, on Monday next, March 3, 1862 (under a Bill of Sale), the following Effects, on the Premises of the BLUE BOAR INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, now in the occupation of Mr. *Hammond*, comprising capital five-pull Beer Machine, mahogany Tables, Chairs, and the bar Fittings, Glass and Earthenware, tap room and parlour Furniture, the contents of five bed rooms, Gas Fittings, Copper Furnace and Fittings, 200 gallons; a 200 gallon wrought iron Furnace, deal Vats and Frames, Mash Tub, 25 bushels; and the usual Brewing Effects; twenty-four Ale Casks, from 50 to 200 gallons; about 400 gallons of Ale, the stock of Wines and Spirits, and other Effects.

Particulars in catalogues may be had at the offices of the Auctioneers, 66½, Darlington Street, Wolverhampton, and at the place of sale.

The sale to commence at eleven o'clock in the morning."

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/5/1862 - Advert

"1862. For This Season. Open to Trot any Travelling Stallion in Great Britain.

Champion, the property of W. Yeomans and Brothers, Pennymore Hay, near the Four Ashes, Wolverhampton, will serve Mares this season. He was bred by Mr. Charles Groom, Snape Abbey, Suffolk. At £3 3s each Mare, and 5s the Groom, the Groom's fee to be paid at the time of serving, and the remainder at Midsummer next.

Champion as a trotter stands unrivalled in England, and for colour, temper, symmetry, constitution, and actions, is not to be surpassed. He is a splendid and well-bred horse; stands 16 hands high; colour, a rich bay; perfectly sound; he has proved himself sure, and his colts are universally popular.....

On Wednesday Champion will be at the BLUE PIG, Bilston, from nine till ten; at the GIFFARDS ARMS, Cock Street, Wolverhampton, from twelve till four; at the TALBOT INN, Digbeth, Walsall, stop all night....."

David Riley = David Ryley

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/8/1868

"On Friday an inquest was held at the BLUE PIG INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, before W. H. Phillips, Esq, Deputy Coroner, touching the death of Henry Lloyd, a child four months old. The deceased child, it appeared, was put to bed by its mother on the previous afternoon at about a quarter to three, and four hours afterwards it was found lying on its face dead. The Jury returned a verdict of Accidentally Suffocated."

Staffordshire Advertiser 12/12/1868

"James Bust was charged with having assaulted Sidney Ryley and stolen a jug, the property of *David Ryley*, landlord of the BLUE BOAR INN, Oxford Street, Bilston. On Saturday last, about eleven o'clock, the prisoner and another man came into prosecutor's house, but shortly after they were gone the jug was missed. Prisoner was followed by Sidney Ryley and Police-constable Davies, and the jug was found in his possession. On attempting to take him into custody he struck Ryley several times, and was also about to assault the officer, when the latter knocked him down and severely injured his head. Mr. Spooner discharged the prisoner, thinking that the blow he had received was sufficient punishment."

1871 Census

98, Oxford Street

- [1] William Tonks (40), general dealer of coal, born Wellington, Shropshire;
- [2] Sarah Tonks (40), wife, born Wellington, Shropshire;
- [3] Henry Tonks (21), son, coal miner, born Walsall;
- [4] Lizzie J. Tonks (12), daughter, born Tipton;
- [5] Keziah Tonks (6), daughter, born Ocker Hill;
- [6] Thomas Harris (20), son-in-law, coal miner, born West Bromwich;
- [7] Elizabeth Harris (18), wife, born Walsall:

Birmingham Daily Post 9/1/1875 - Advert

“Preliminary Announcement. Bilston, Staffordshire.

Will Shortly be offered for Sale by Public Auction, that Old-licensed Inn, called the BLUR BOAR, in Oxford Street, Bilston, at present in the occupation of Mrs. *Sarah Tonks*, and doing a good trade; with the Cellaring, Granary, compact Brewery, Malt Room, Stabling, and usual Out-offices, with the four small Tenements adjoining.

A valuable seam of thick Coal and other measures lie under the property and pass with it.

Possession may be had at Midsummer next.

Further particulars may be obtained from Messrs. Lewis and Co., Solicitors, Walsall.”

George Bolton = George Boulton

Sporting Life 6/10/1877

“Lea Brook Recreation Grounds, Wednesbury.....

Mr. James Harding begs respectfully to inform his friends and lovers of the canine species that he will give £13 to be run for in a 200 yards all-England dog handicap on Saturdays, October 13 and 20, first prize, £10; second, £2; third, £1. Entrance, 1s each. Entries to close on Monday, October 8 (Tuesday morning's post in time). No acceptance. Entries to be made to Mr. Harding, at the grounds; Mr. Holding, RED LION INN, Walsall; Mr. Brindley, COCK INN, Willenhall; Mr. G. Dudley, CROWN TUBE WORKS INN, Wednesbury; Mr. *Bolton*, BLUE PIG INN, Bilston; and Mr. J. Dudley, TRAVELLERS REST, Pinfold Street, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/12/1877 - Advert

“General Servant (good) Wanted. Two in family. Must have good character.

Apply, BLUE BOAR, Oxford Street, Bilston.”

GENERAL Servant (good) Wanted. Two in family. Must have good character.—Apply, Blue Boar, Oxford Street, Bilston.

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/12/1877

“On Monday evening, shortly after half-past eight, a woman named Hitchins, wife of John Hitchins, poulterer, Darlaston, fell from a spring cart in which she was riding along the road leading from Bilston to Darlaston. She was picked up and removed to the BLUE BOAR, Oxford Street, Bilston, and Mr. Handy, surgeon, of Catherines Cross, Darlaston, was fetched, but his services were useless, life being already extinct. Deceased was about 35 years of age. A coroner's jury which sat on Wednesday and returned a verdict of Accidental Death, called attention to the dangerous character of the road in question.”

1881 Census

Oxford Street – BLUE BOAR

- [1] George Boulton (45), licensed victualler, born Amesbury, Gloucestershire;
- [2] Anne Boulton (42), wife, born Bishops Nympton, Devon;
- [3] Lavina Parkes (21), general servant, born Wednesbury;

Darlaston Weekly Times 17/2/1883

“At Bilston Police Court, on Tuesday, Edward Whalen, of Temple Street, was charged with an assault on John Uniack, of Oxford Street, near the BLUE BOAR INN, Oxford Street, on the 17th of December, 1882.

Defendant and several other persons were drinking at the BLUE BOAR INN, and were treating a blind fiddler to drink, in consideration of his playing a few lively airs. While the music was progressing, Uniack came in, and in the middle of an Irish air called ‘Larry O’Gaff,’ stopped the fiddler, and asked him to drink. This sudden stoppage of the music, by a bystander, was stated to be equivalent to a gentle reminder that those who were enjoying the harmony had not ‘paid the piper,’ and the party were much incensed thereat. Uniack shortly after left the house, and was followed by Whelan and a number of female companions, who have already been dealt with for the offence, and considerably maltreated for his want of knowledge of the custom of his associates.

When summoned, Whalen disappeared, and had to be arrested on a warrant.

A fine of 10s and costs was imposed.”

Birmingham Daily Post 10/9/1884

“A miner, named John Degwell, of Blue Lane, Walsall, was charged at the Police Court, yesterday, with stealing money belonging to *George Bolton*, of the BLUE BOAR INN, Oxford Street, Bilston.

Mrs. *Bolton* said that on Saturday the prisoner stepped into the BLUE BOAR to light his pipe. As he was going out again she left the bar and went into another room. Returning a minute or two afterwards she missed a tray which had been left on a shelf near where the prisoner had been standing, containing gold and silver to the value of £14. She ran to the door, and in the distance, towards Moxley, she saw the prisoner running. She afterwards found the tray in another part of the room, but there was only £6 left on it.

The prisoner was remanded for further enquiries.”

AND

Darlaston Weekly Times 20/9/1884

“John Degville appeared on the charge of stealing £8 from *George Boulton*, of the BLUE BOAR INN....

The Bench considered that the time within which the robbery had been committed was not accounted for. Prisoner was committed for trial, and reserved his defence. Bail was accepted in a surety of £52.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 15/10/1884

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions Acquitted.....

John Degville, on bail, charged with stealing £8 on the 6th September last, at Bilston, the moneys of *George Boulton*.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 20/5/1885

“Wolverhampton Fishing Club. Established 1877. By kind permission of Lord Hatherton; J. Deyken, Esq.

This Club owns Best Water in Midlands River, Trout Stream, and well-stocked Ponds.

For Tickets, apply BLUE BOAR HOTEL, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 13/7/1885 - Advert

“Fishing! Fishing!! The Best in the Midlands. River, Trout Stream, and Ponds.

For day and season tickets apply to T. Gretton, 21, Park Street, Walsall; BLUE BOAR HOTEL, Bilston; GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Daisy Bank; Bowen’s, grocer, Bradley; Shakespeare’s Fishing Tackle Shop, Berry Street, Wolverhampton.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 24/10/1885

“Kate Thomson and Fanny Thomson, Free Street, Bilston, were charged with assaulting Catherine Bloderick, of Wolverhampton Street, on the 3rd of October, at the BLUE BOAR, Oxford Street.

Witnesses were brought forward on both sides, but the case appeared so complicated that the Bench dismissed the charge against Fanny Thomson, but on consideration of Kate Thomson having appeared in Court several times before, and the case being stronger against her, a fine of 5s and costs was inflicted, or fourteen days in default of payment.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/2/1886

“Staffordshire Assizes.....

Joseph Fletcher (23), miner, John Thompson (20), labourer, and John Ireland (20), ironworker, were indicted for robbery from the person, accompanied by violence, at Bilston, on the 2nd ult. Mr. Brindley prosecuted; the prisoners were undefended.

The prosecutor was Samuel Harper, labourer, and he alleged that on the evening of the date named he had been at the BLUE BOAR INN, Bilston, and after leaving that place, was on his way home, when he was overtaken by three men, who informed him, with oaths, that they wanted his money or his life. He was knocked down, kicked, and seized by the throat; after which one of his assailants took a copy of the *Birmingham Daily Post* and a handkerchief from his pocket. He did not recognize and could not identify any of the three men, who after robbing him ran away. Three women who were passing along the street, and who witnessed the attack upon the prosecutor, were called as witnesses, and they swore positively to the prisoners as the men who assaulted and robbed Harper.

The prisoners, while protesting their innocence, expressed regret that ‘such a thing should have occurred,’ and said that it would be a warning to them, and promised it should not occur again.

The jury found the prisoners guilty, and his Lordship sentenced them to imprisonment, with hard labour, for twelve calendar months, and also to receive eighteen strokes with a birch rod.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/9/1887 - Advert

“Old-Licensed Public House, Oxford Street, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Watkins & Powell, at the GEORGE HOTEL, Walsall, on Monday, the 3rd day of October, 1887, at 7 o'clock in the evening precisely (subject to conditions embodying the Common Form Conditions of the Birmingham Law Society).

The Old-licensed Freehold Public House, known as the BLUE BOAR INN, situate in Oxford Street, Moxley Road, Bilston, in the occupation of Mr. *George Boulton*, together with the Two Messuages adjoining, being Nos.2 and 3, Bradley Street, in the occupation of Mr. James Jefferies, and one void; and also the Two Cottages at the rear, being Nos.11 and 12, Leicester Street, occupied by Messrs. Barker and Riley.

The BLUE BOAR, which is situate on the main road from Bilston to Moxley, and is a Free House, comprises large Liquor Vaults, Smoke Room, Sitting Room, Kitchen, two good Cellars, two Liquor Cellars, Club Room, three Chambers, Brewhouse Stabling, enclosed Yard, and very extensive Out-buildings; and is situate in the midst of a large coal and iron district.

The Property is Freehold, and contains 655 square yards.

The whole of the Property is let to Mr. *Boulton*, at a rental of £60 per annum.

Possession may be had on completion of the purchase. A large portion of the purchase money may remain on mortgage, at 4 per cent interest.

For further particulars, apply to the Auctioneers, Bridge Street, Walsall; to the Tenant; or to Messrs. Marlow, Potter, and Marten, Solicitors, Walsall.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 29/1/1889 - Advert

“General Wanted, at once, not under 20; good wages.

Apply, BLUE BOAR, Oxford Street, Bilston.”

GENERAL Wanted, at once, not under 20; good wages.
—Apply, Blue Bear, Oxford st., Bilston.

1891 Census

98, Oxford Street – BOARS HEAD INN

[1] Ann Foster (47), widow, public house manageress, born Oldbury;

[2] Arthur J. Foster (20), son, steam engine fitter, born Oldbury;

[3] Florence E. Foster (14), daughter, scholar, born Smethwick;

[4] Thomas Foster (11), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[5] Phoebe Bonner (29), general servant, born Tipton:

1901 Census

209, Oxford Street – BLUE BOAR

[1] Ann Foster (54), widow, manageress of tavern, born Oldbury;

[2] Arthur J. Foster (29), son, steam engine fitter, born Oldbury;

[3] Annie Foster (26), daughter, born Oldbury;

[4] Thomas Foster (21), son, hairdresser, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 1/1/1903

"Yesterday a man whose identity has not yet been established committed suicide in a most determined manner. Shortly before four o'clock in the afternoon a man was passing the Dairy Farm Colliery, Lower Bradley, near Bilston, when he saw another man, apparently a miner, walking about the pit bank. Suddenly the man climbed the fence which guards the mouth of the pit, and after shouting 'Good-bye,' leaped down the shaft, which is 170 yards deep.

An alarm was raised, and a search was made for the body, which was found at the bottom of the shaft, terribly mangled. It was brought to the surface, when it was seen that the head was battered in, and the body almost beyond recognition. The remains were removed to the BLUE BOAR INN, Oxford Street, to await an inquiry. At present the man, who is about 35 years old, is unknown, and the only clue the police have as to his identification is that he was usually known as Dudley Jim."

County Advertiser 10/1/1903

"Mr. T. A. Stokes held an inquest at the BLUE BOAR INN, Bilston, on the body of John Moore (35), a miner, of the Minorities, Dudley, who committed suicide on Wednesday by jumping down a pit shaft at Bradley, under circumstances reported at the time.

Ellen Moore identified the body as that of her husband, and said she last saw him alive on the 25th ult. He had often referred to persons committing suicide, but said he should not end his life in such a manner.

Alfred Thomas, a banksman employed at the Dairy Farm Colliery, Lower Bradley, said he saw the deceased on the pit bank on the 31st ult, and a little later noticed he was climbing over the fence surrounding the pit mouth. Witness shouted, 'For goodness sake, don't jump down there!' and ran to prevent him. Before he could get to him the deceased said, 'Good-bye,' and jumped down the shaft.

The jury returned a verdict that the deceased Committed Suicide whilst Temporarily Insane."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 2/11/1909

"Mr. T. A. Stokes, County Coroner, conducted an inquiry on Monday evening, at the BLUE BOAR INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, into the circumstances attending the death of James Thompson, 59, an ostler, of 205, Oxford Street, Bilston.

Betsy Thompson, the widow, said her husband left home on Friday evening to resume his work after tea, apparently in his usual health. She did not see him again alive.

John Jeffries, a carpenter, of Moxley Road, said that about 6.30 on Friday evening last he found the deceased lying outside his cottage. Witness procured assistance, and took the man into the cottage. He was dead.

Dr. John Wells, MRCS, deposed to making a post mortem examination, which revealed extensive heart affection. He attributed death to heart failure.

A verdict of Natural Causes was returned by the jury."

1911 Census

Oxford Street – BLUE BOAR

[1] Ann Foster (60), widow, licensee, public house, born Oldbury;

[2] Annie Foster (35), daughter, helper, born Oldbury;

[3] Thomas Foster (30), son, hairdresser, born Oldbury;

[4] Elizabeth Evans (23), servant, born Bilston:

William Edward Hazlehurst = William Henry Hazlehurst

1921 Census

209, Oxford Street

[1] Thomas William Moses (38), manager licensed house, born Kingwater, Cumberland;

[2] Mary Moses (48), wife, home duties, born Stafford;

[3] Ivy Williamson (20), step-daughter, clerk, employment exchange, born Aston, Staffordshire;

[4] Irene Moses (3), daughter, born Birmingham;

[5] Emily Greaves (28), domestic servant, born Bilston;

[6] Nellie Reece (44), visitor, barmaid, born West Bromwich:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/12/1934

"The condition of Mornington Fisher, aged 12, of the BLUE BOAR INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, who was admitted to the Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton, on Saturday, was stated to be improved yesterday. The boy is reported to have found a live cartridge, to which he applied a lighted match. The cartridge exploded and he lost the thumb and two fingers from his left hand."

1939 Register

209, Oxford Street (2 of 3)

[1] William T. Perrins, date of birth 28/8/1897, motor mechanic and licensee, married;

[2] Lilian Perrins, dob 17/5/1892, domestic duties, married;

John Coleclough was married to Freda

It was demolished c.1965.

ODYSSEY was built on the site.

STOLEN or STRAYED, out of a Piece of Ground in the Manor of Bradley, near Bilston, in the County of Stafford, a dark BAY PONEY MARE, about 10 Hands high, aged; has a white Blaze down the Forehead, and one white Leg behind. Whoever will bring her to Mr. Charles Gallimore's, Blue Pig Inn, in Bilston, or Mr. Joseph Hateley's, Talbot Inn, in Wednesbury, shall be handsomely rewarded for their Trouble, and all Expenses paid.

1807

TAKEN UP on Monday last, at Bilston, a CHESNUT HORSE, of the nag kind. Any person having lost the same may have him again, on describing his marks and paying all expences, by applying to James Hateley Francis, Blue Boar Inn, Bilston. August 8, 1825.

1825

EXCELLENT FREEHOLD INVESTMENTS, At Bilston and Wednesbury, Staffordshire.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, BY R. CORBETT.

(By directions of the devisees in trust for sale.)
On Monday, the 14th of September 1835, at five o'clock in the afternoon, at the Blue Boar Inn, New-town, Bilston, aforesaid, subject to conditions then to be read,

LOT 1.

THE above named Old Established TRAVELLERS' INN and tap-house, situate at the corner of a street at the entrance of the populous town of Bilston, on the great road from London to Holyhead; and comprises extensive ale and wine vaults, a large tap-room and parlour to the front, a large back parlour, bar, and kitchen, with convenient bed-rooms over the whole, a commodious brewhouse with store-room over it, a large larder, an extensive enclosed yard with well of water, suitable stabling for eight horses, sheds, piggeries, outbuildings, and other conveniences; now in the occupation of Mr. J. H. Francis, as tenant at will. And also two small DWELLING HOUSES with their appurtenances, adjoining the stables, and fronting to Lester-street, now in the occupations of Thomas Parkes and John Williams.

1835

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by J. GILBERT, on Thursday next, October 4, at the Blue Boar Inn, Bilston, a variety of Liquor Shop Fittings, sundry Household Furniture, Sow and Pigs, and other Effects, the property of the late Mr. J. H. Francis, sold in consequence of reducing the establishment.

Particulars will appear in catalogues, to be had this present Monday at the place of sale.

1838

TO TIMBER DEALERS, BUILDERS, AND OTHERS.

TO be disposed of by private Contract, the very extensive Building Trade, the Stock of excellent unconverted and converted Building Timber and other Materials, belonging to Mr. Charles Gallimore, near the Blue Boar, Bilston, who wishes to decline the Business, having other Concerns to attend to, with a convenient House, extensive Shopping, Offices, and double Sawpits in an entire Yard, which are to be let to any one who wishes to enter into the aforesaid lucrative Concern, it now being central, and fully employed by the adjoining Collieries, Furnaces &c. where every Material in the above Business (with Labour) is much consumed. The present Stock is now very considerable, and should any Person be desirous of engaging with the present Proprietor, and the Stock too extensive, he will have no objection of reducing it.—Further Particulars may be known by applying to Mr. Charles Gallimore, the Blue Boar, Bilston, or of Messrs. T. and J. Bateman, Surveyors and Auctioneers, Duddelston-street, Birmingham.

N. B. If more convenient to the Purchaser, he may be accommodated with a Mine of Clay and Brick Yard.

1810

NOTICE.

ALL Persons having Demands on CHARLES GALLIMORE, late of the Blue Boar Inn, Bilston, but now of Perry Barr, are requested to transmit the same to him that they may be examined and discharged. All Persons standing indebted to the said C. Gallimore are requested to pay the same to him forthwith at the Blue Boar, in Bilston, where he will attend on Monday in each Week for that Purpose, till the 1st Day of September next, otherwise they will be sued for the same without further Notice.

Perry Barr, August 4, 1817.

1817

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by J. GILBERT, this present Monday, October 8, at the Blue Boar Inn, New Town, Bilston, a quantity of Spirit Shop FITTINGS, mahogany and oak dining and drinking tables, ale casks, carts, harness, sow and pigs, and a variety of other effects, the property of the late Mr. J. H. Francis; sold in consequence of a reduction of the establishment.

Sale to commence at ten o'clock.—Particulars in catalogues may be had at the place of sale.

At three o'clock in the afternoon will be offered, at the Blue Boar Inn, twenty Pockets of Worcester Hops, growth of 1837; also 123 dozen Bottles of excellent Port and Sherry Wines, in lots suitable to purchasers, the property of a bankrupt, and consigned by the Assignees for positive sale.

FREEHOLD INVESTMENTS.

An Excellent Travellers' Inn, at Bilston, and first-rate Mercer's and Druggist's Shops, near the Market-place, Wednesbury, Staffordshire.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, BY RICHARD CORBETT,

(By direction of the trustees for sale under the will of Mr. James H. Francis, late of Bilston, deceased), on Monday next, the 15th day of July, at the Blue Boar Inn, New Town, Bilston aforesaid, at five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be read, and in the following or such other lots as may be desired by the company present—

LOT I.

ALL that the above named old established and well accustomed TRAVELLERS' INN and TAP HOUSE, situated at the corner of a street at the south entrance of the populous town of Bilston aforesaid, on the line of the great road from London to Holyhead, and known as THE BLUE BOAR INN, which was carried on by the late proprietor till his death, and comprises extensive cellars, a commodious tap room, large and small parlours, kitchen, and bar, with convenient bed rooms over the whole, a brewhouse and a malt room over it, stabling for eight horses, sheds, piggeries, and other out-buildings, a spacious back yard, with a well of water and other conveniences; and also two small TENEMENTS, with their appurtenances, adjoining the stabling and fronting to Lester-street, now or lately occupied by Thomas Cooper and Robert Gettings.

SALE AT THE BLUE BOAR INN, BILSTON.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by J. GILBERT, on Thursday next, October 17, all the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, Brewing Utensils, and other effects belonging to the late Mr. J. H. Francis.

Catalogues may be had at the place of sale, and of J. Gilbert, Mogul Inn, Bartholomew-street, Birmingham.

1839

"THE BLUE BOAR" PUBLIC HOUSE, AT BILSTON.

TO BE LET, with immediate possession, the above old-established and well-accustomed HOUSE, now doing an excellent ready money trade.

The Premises, which are replete with every convenience, and lately put into thorough repair, consist of a large and well fitted up bar, smoke room, dining room, and chambers, large tap room, convenient brewhouse, and capital cellaring. Attached is a spacious yard, with stabling, piggeries, &c.

The present proprietor is disposing of the premises and business in consequence of engagements at a distance.

The fixtures and public-house furniture only to be taken by valuation.

For particulars apply upon the premises, or to WILLIAM ASTON,

Auctioneer and Valuer.

Offices—North-street, Wolverhampton.

1842

TO BE LET,

With immediate possession,

THE old licensed PUBLIC-HOUSE, known by the sign of the Blue Boar Inn, situated at Bilston, in the county of Stafford. This is an opportunity which rarely offers itself to persons desirous of embarking in the above business, the house lying by the road side leading from Birmingham to Wolverhampton, and is surrounded by both coal and iron works in full operation.

Rent moderate, and the coming-in about £60.

For particulars, apply to Mr. H. PITT, Coal Master, Lea Brook, Wednesbury, Staffordshire.

1843

BLUE BOAR INN, BILSTON.

JOHN SHAW WALKER begs most respectfully to inform his friends and the public that he has taken to the above INN, and trusts, in adding to their comfort, by selling a superior article, to merit a portion of their favours.

The Bradford-street Brewery, Walsall, is still carried on by him, but the lease expiring in November next, it is to be let.

January 29, 1844.

BLUE BOAR INN, BILSTON.

TO be LET, with possession at the end of January, 1845, the above INN, doing a good trade, and parted with on account of the proprietor having other engagements. Rent moderate, and coming in low.—Apply as above, or to Mr. HENRY PITT, Lea Brook, Wednesbury.

1844

BLUE FIG, BILSTON.

TO be SOLD by PRIVATE TREATY, the above well built and good accustomed PUBLIC HOUSE, situate in Oxford-street, Bilston, in which an excellent business has for many years been carried on, and which is now occupied by John Cartwright, at a low rental of 45*l.* per annum.

Also four convenient and genteel DWELLING-HOUSES, adjoining the above, now let to respectable tenants, at the rental of 28*l.* per annum.

For further particulars and to treat, apply to Mr. WILLIAM, solicitor, Bilston.

1851

MONDAY NEXT, MARCH 3RD.

THE BLUE BOAR INN, BILSTON.

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, FIXTURES, COPPER AND IRON FURNACES, ALE CASKS, &c.

BY Messrs. ASTON and SOLLUM.—To be SOLD by AUCTION, on Monday next, March 3, 1862 (under a Bill of Sale, the following EFFECTS, on the Premises of the BLUE BOAR INN, OXFORD-STREET, BILSTON, now in the occupation of Mr. Hammond, comprising capital five-pull Beer Machine, mahogany Tables, Chairs, and the bar Fittings, Glass and Earthenware, tap room and parlour Furniture, the contents of five bed rooms, Gas Fittings, Copper Furnace and Fittings, 200 gallons; a 200 gallon wrought iron Furnace, deal Vats and Frames, Mash Tub, 25 bushels; and the usual Brewing Effects; twenty-four Ale Casks, from 50 to 200 gallons; about 400 gallons of Ale, the stock of Wines and Spirits, and other Effects.

Particulars in catalogues may be had at the offices of the AUCTIONEERS, 66½, Darlington-street, Wolverhampton, and at the place of sale.

The sale to commence at eleven o'clock in the morning.

1862

FISHING! Fishing!!—The Best in the Midlands.—River, Trout Stream, and Ponds.—For day and season tickets apply to T. Gretton, 21, Park-st., Walsall; Blue Boar Hotel, Bilston; Great Western Hotel, Daisy Bank; Bowen's, grocer, Bradley; Shakespeare's Fishing Tackle Shop, Berry-st., Wolverhampton.

1885

Old-Licensed PUBLIC-HOUSE, Oxford Street, Bilston.—To be Sold by Auction,

BY Messrs WATKINS & POWELL, at the George Hotel, Walsall, on MONDAY, the 3rd day of October, 1887, at 7 o'clock in the evening precisely (subject to conditions embodying the Common Form Conditions of the Birmingham Law Society)—the Old-licensed FREEHOLD PUBLIC-HOUSE, known as the "BLUE BOAR" Inn, situate in Oxford Street, Moxley Road, Bilston, in the occupation of Mr. George Boulton, together with the Two MESSUAGES adjoining, being Nos. 2 and 3, Bradley Street, in the occupation of Mr. James Jeffries, and one void; and also the Two COTTAGES at the rear, being Nos. 11 and 12, Leicester Street, occupied by Messrs. Barker and Riley.

The Blue Boar, which is situate on the main road from Bilston to Moxley, and is a Free House, comprises large Liquor Vaults, Smoke Room, Sitting Room, Kitchen, two good Cellars, two Liquor Cellars, Club Room, three Chambers, Brewhouse, Stabling, enclosed Yard, and very extensive Out-buildings; and is situate in the midst of a large coal and iron district.

The Property is Freehold, and contains 655 square yards.

The whole of the Property is let to Mr. Boulton, at a rental of £60. per annum.

Possession may be had on completion of the purchase. A large portion of the purchase-money may remain on mortgage, at 4 per cent interest.

For further particulars, apply to the Auctioneers, Bridge Street, Walsall; to the Tenant; or to Messrs. Marlow, Potter, and Marten, Solicitors, Walsall.

1887

BOARD

49, (29), Church Street / Green Croft, BILSTON

OWNERS

Alexander Perry Law, gentleman, Wellington Road, Bilston
Bass, Ratcliff and Gretton Ltd.
Samuel Woodhall, brewers, West Bromwich [1921]
J. A. and A. Thompson Ltd., maltsters, Oldbury
William Butler and Co. Ltd.

LICENSEES

Montague Taylor [1841] – 1852);
Mrs. Elizabeth Taylor (1852 – 1874);
Richard Newman and James Probert (1874 – 1875);
James Taylor (1875);
Spencer Downing (1875 – 187_);
Henry Taylor (187_ – 1880);
William Riley Taylor (1880);
Henry Taylor (1880 – 1883);
Sarah Ann Taylor (1883 – 1888);
James Tate (1888 – 1891);
Joseph Dunn (1891);
William Millard Whitehouse (1891 – 1892);
William Henry Jennings (1892 – 1893);
David Benton (1893 – 1920);
Alexander Hadley (1920 – 1928);
Walter Howard Umbers (1928 – 1931);
William Henry Watson (1931 – 1935);
Thomas Frederick Dudley (1935 – 1938);
George Henry Breakwell (1938 – 1939);
Edward Cyril Pleydell (1939 – [1940])

NOTES

29, Church Street [1858], [1861], [1865], [1868], [1871], [1872], [1881], [1891], [1896], [1904]
49, Church Street [1901], [1908], [1911], [1916], [1921], [1932], [1939], [1940]

HOLE IN THE WALL [1834], [1858], [1891], [1896]

It was known locally as the "Hole In The Wall"

Wolverhampton Chronicle 20/5/1834 - Advert

"Wanted, by the Bilston Anti-Truck Committee, a few Members to complete the society, and to supply the place of the seceders. No one need apply unless he possesses the requisite qualifications, which are a small stock of commonsense, a smaller capital, and has nothing else to do. Also wanted, ten or a dozen thorough-bred informers, to whom constant work and good wages will be insured.

For further particulars apply at the Aesculapius or at the HOLE IN THE WALL, Bilston, where every information will be given and gladly received. NB. No entrance money is required, but an advance will afterwards be called for, which will be repaid with a bonus when sufficient funds are obtained."

WANTED, by the Bilston Anti-Truck Committee, a few Members to complete the society, and to supply the place of the seceders. No one need apply unless he possesses the requisite qualifications, which are—a small stock of common sense, a smaller capital, and has nothing else to do. Also wanted, ten or a dozen thorough-bred informers, to whom constant work and good wages will be insured.—For further particulars apply at the Aesculapius, or at the Hole-in-the-Wall, Bilston, where every information will be given and gladly received.

N.B.—No entrance money is required, but an advance will afterwards be called for, which will be repaid with a bonus when sufficient funds are obtained.

1834

THE BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1869.
IN THE COUNTY COURT OF STAFFORDSHIRE HOLDEN
AT WOLVERHAMPTON.

IN the Matter of a Special Resolution for Liquidation by Arrangement of the affairs of JAMES HAMMOND, of Park Lane, Tipton, Mining Engineer; JOHN MOSS, of Dudley Street, Bilston, Furniture Dealer; and WILLIAM RILEY TAYLOR, of No. 112, Church Street, Bilston, Surveyor, all in the county of Stafford, and lately trading in Co-partnership at Lester Street, Bilston aforesaid, as Bedstead Makers, under the Style or Firm of the "Atlas Iron Foundry and Bedstead Company." The Creditors of the abovenamed James Hammond, John Moss, and William Riley Taylor, trading as the "Atlas Iron Foundry and Bedstead Company," who have not already proved their Debts, are required, on or before Wednesday, the 25th day of February, 1880, to send their names and addresses, and the particulars of their Debts or Claims, to Walter Newton Fisher, of No. 4, Waterloo Street, Birmingham, Public Accountant, Trustee under the Liquidation, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of the Dividend proposed to be declared.—Dated this 28th day of January, 1880.

WALTER NEWTON FISHER, Trustee.
W. SHAKESPEAR, Oldbury, Solicitor to the Trustee.

1880

1841 Census

Church Street

- [1] *Montague Taylor* (40), wine merchant, born Staffordshire;
- [2] *Elizabeth Taylor* (35), born Staffordshire;
- [3] *Montague Taylor* (20), s.h., born Staffordshire;
- [4] *Eliza Taylor* (15), born Staffordshire;
- [5] *Sarah Taylor* (10), born Staffordshire;
- [6] *Jane Taylor* (5), born Staffordshire;
- [7] *James Taylor* (5), born Staffordshire;
- [8] *Mary Taylor* (2), born Staffordshire;
- [9] *Elizabeth Parkes* (20), f.s., born Staffordshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/9/1845

“South Staffordshire Junction Railway.

Two lines of Railway having been submitted to the public, connecting the Mineral Districts of South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire with the Midland Railway at or near Alrewas, we the undersigned Merchants, Coal and Iron Masters, Manufacturers, Traders, Agriculturists, and other inhabitants, residing at the boroughs of Wolverhampton, Walsall, and Dudley, at the towns of Wednesbury, Darlaston Bilston, Willenhall, Tipton, West Bromwich, and other places in these districts, also at the city of Lichfield, and its neighbourhood, do hereby express our opinion that the projected South Staffordshire Junction Railway, which will communicate with the Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton Railways, at Dudley, and at Wolverhampton, and with the Grand Junction Railway, and also with the intended Shrewsbury, Wolverhampton, and South Staffordshire Junction Railway, at one Grand Central Station in the town of Wolverhampton, where all the Railways will meet, is the line best calculated to serve the important Mining, Manufacturing, Trading, and Agricultural Interests of the districts and places enumerated, and we promise to it our strenuous support.....

Montague Taylor, wine merchant, Bilston.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 18/5/1846 - Married

“On Wednesday last, at the Wesleyan Chapel, Wolverhampton, Mr. John Holland, draper, to Sarah, second daughter of Mr. *Montague Taylor*, wine merchant, both of Bilston.”

1851 Census

Church Street

- [1] *Montague Taylor* (53), wine and spirit merchant, born Rowley;
- [2] *Elizabeth Taylor* (48), wife, born Rowley;
- [3] *Eliza Anne Taylor* (27), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] *Jane Taylor* (19), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] *James Taylor* (17), son, born Bilston;
- [6] *John Taylor* (14), son, born Bilston;
- [7] *Mary Taylor* (12), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [8] *Alfred Taylor* (9), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [9] *Emma Taylor* (5), daughter, born Bilston;
- [10] *Montague Taylor* (30), visitor, born Bilston;
- [11] *Catherine Beck* (24), shopmaid, born Oldbury;
- [12] *Mary Hale* (23), housemaid, born West Bromwich:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/4/1852 - Died

“April 10, aged 54, Mr. *Montague Taylor*, wine merchant, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/6/1852

“The following transfers of victuallers licenses took place.....

The late *Montague Taylor*, wine and spirit merchant, Bilston, to his widow, *Elizabeth Taylor*.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/6/1855 - Marriages

“At the Wesleyan chapel, Bilston, on the 6th instant, by the Rev. Mr. Smallwood, the Rev. Thomas Dickson Crothers, of Sheffield, to Jane, daughter of the late Mr. *Montague Taylor*, of Bilston.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/9/1855 - Marriages

“On the 5th inst, at the Wesleyan chapel, Wolverhampton, by the Rev. T. Capp, William Tait, jeweller, of Nottingham, to Eliza Anne, daughter of the late Mr. *Montague Taylor*, wine merchant, of Bilston.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 24/10/1857

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Ann Bickerton, 31, was indicted for uttering and putting off at Bilston three counterfeit sovereigns, well knowing the same to be false and counterfeit. Mr. Davis conducted the prosecution, but no counsel appeared for the prisoner. Elizabeth Ralph, servant to Mrs. *Elizabeth Taylor*, stated that her mistress kept a wine and spirit vaults at Bilston. On the morning of the 30th of August, the prisoner called and purchased some liquor, tendering in payment a £5 note, and receiving the change. She (witness) then went to serve another customer, and the prisoner immediately afterwards returned a sovereign saying she did not like it. She (witness) then gave her two half-sovereigns, and on subsequently looking at the sovereign she was quite certain it was not the one she had given the prisoner.

Owen Smith, police officer, said he was sent for to *Taylor's* vaults to receive a counterfeit sovereign. On the 10th of September he had the prisoner in custody; and the last witness selected her from among a number of other persons as the person who had passed the counterfeit sovereign.

Henry John Holland, son of a grocer at Willenhall, stated that between three and four o'clock in the afternoon of the 10th of September, the prisoner came to his father's shop and purchased articles to the amount of 4s 11d, which she paid for with a £5 note. He gave her the change from the cash box, taking out all the gold, when she asked him to wrap the goods up in paper. He had to go to the end of the shop for paper, and on his return the prisoner threw a sovereign on the counter, saying she did not like it, as it had a flaw on it. He returned the sovereign to the cash box, and gave her change in silver.

Thomas Holland, father of the last witness, stated that he examined the cash box on the night of the 9th of September, and was quite satisfied that the gold in it was good. On going into the shop after the prisoner had left he saw a counterfeit sovereign in the cash box.

Emma Bradshaw, landlady of the TALBOT spirit vaults, at Bilston, was the next witness. She stated that about six o'clock in the afternoon of the 10th of September the prisoner came into the shop and asked for two half-pints of rum, for which she produced two bottles, and for which she paid with a £5 note. She (witness) gave her four sovereigns and eighteen shillings in silver in change for the note and rum, and as soon as she had served another customer the prisoner put a sovereign on the counter, and said she did not like the ring of it; to which she (witness) said, 'I should think not; I did not give you this.' She then had her detained, and gave her into custody.

Mr. Lithgoe was called, and after examining the three sovereigns which were produced, he stated that they were counterfeit, and had all been made from the same die.

The prisoner gave a general denial to the charge; but the jury returned a verdict of guilty.

The Chairman, in sentencing the prisoner to two years' imprisonment, told her that hers was one of the worst, and at the same time most ingenious, cases of the kind which had come before the Court.”

[A solicitor subsequently arrived for the defence, saying he had been sent to the wrong court, amongst other issues. The Chairman pointed out that the prisoner did not mention that she was to be defended. Eventually it was ruled that the conviction was sound.]

E. Taylor, vaults, 29, Church Street. [1858]

1861 Census

29, Church Street

- [1] *Elizabeth Taylor* (58), widow, wine merchant, born Brades;
- [2] *James Taylor* (27), son, wine merchant's assistant, born Bilston;
- [3] *John Taylor* (24), son, wine merchant's assistant, born Bilston;
- [4] *Mary Taylor* (22), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] *Emma Taylor* (15), daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] *Jane Lockett* (27), barmaid, born Saredon, Staffordshire;
- [7] *Matilda Lockett* (22), barmaid, born Calf Heath, Staffordshire;
- [8] *Harriet Chattin* (19), house servant, born Lea Brook:

Elizabeth Taylor, wine and spirit and ale and porter merchant, 29, Church Street. [1865]

Birmingham Journal 16/1/1869 - Died

"On the 10th inst, aged 23 years, *Emma*, youngest daughter of the late *Montague Taylor*, of Bilston."

1871 Census

29, Church Street

- [1] *Elizabeth Taylor* (68), wine and spirit merchant employing 6 assistants, born Oldbury;
- [2] *John Taylor* (34), son, wine and spirit agent, born Bilston;
- [3] *Mary Taylor* (32), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] *Emily Burgham* (25), barmaid, born Bradley;
- [5] *Betsey Tranter* (26), domestic servant, born Bilston;
- [6] *Ellen Ralph* (30), barmaid, born Bilston:

Elizabeth Taylor died in the 4th quarter of 1874.

Birmingham Daily Post 4/1/1875

"License Transfers Alehouses.....

BOARD, Church Street, from *Elizabeth Taylor*, deceased, to *Richard Newman* and *James Probert*, her executors."

Midland Examiner 1/1/1876

"Transfer of Licenses wine and spirit vaults, Church Street, from the executors of *Elizabeth Taylor* to *James Taylor*."

1881 Census

29, Church Street.

- [1] *William Riley Taylor* (42), civil engineer and spirit merchant, born Bilston;
- [2] *Sarah Ann Taylor* (36), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Marian Taylor* (18), daughter, assistant, born Bilston;
- [4] *William Henry Taylor* (15), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] *Eleanor Phoebe Taylor* (10), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] *Florence Emily Taylor* (6), daughter, born Bilston;
- [7] *Frederick Jon Taylor* (3), son, born Bilston;
- [8] *Mary Roberts* (18), domestic housemaid, born Dudley:

London Gazette 23/3/1883

"The Bankruptcy Act, 1869. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton.

In the Matter of a Bankruptcy Petition against *William Riley Taylor*, of No.29 and 30, Church-street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, Architect, and Surveyor, and lately carrying on business at the same place under the firm of *Taylor and Minifie*, as a Flour Dealer.

Upon the hearing of this Petition this day, and upon proof satisfactory to the Court of the debt of the Petitioner, and of the trading, and of the act of the Bankruptcy alleged to have been committed by the said *William Riley Taylor* having been given, it is ordered that the said *William Riley Taylor* be, and he is hereby, adjudged bankrupt.

Given under the Seal of the Court this 20th day of March, 1883, by the Court, *Fras. Sanders*, Registrar.

The First General Meeting of the creditors of the said *William Riley Taylor* is hereby summoned to be held at this Court, on the 12th day of April, 1883, 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."

1891 Census

29, Church Street – HOLE IN THE WALL

- [1] William Edwards (40), barman, born Redditch;
- [2] Sarah A. Edwards (37), wife, born Toll End, Tipton;
- [3] William J. Edwards (20), son, barman, born Wordsley;
- [4] Francis Edwards (13), son, born West Bromwich;
- [5] Rowland Richards (14), step-son, born Moxley;
- [6] Thomas Richards (8), step-son, scholar, born Bilston;

Birmingham Daily Post 23/4/1891

"Yesterday, at Wolverhampton, before the Stipendiary Magistrate (Mr. Neville), *James Tate*, residing at Dunstall House, Wolverhampton, and the licensee of the HOLE IN THE WALL INN, Church Street, Bilston, appeared to answer six charges of permitting his house to be used in contravention of the Betting Act, on March 28, 30, and 31, and April 1, 2, and 3. The prosecution was conducted, on behalf of the police, by Mr. Pratt (Hall, Son, and Pratt), Bilston; and Mr. R. A. Willcock defended.

Mr. Pratt stated that the defendant was not a resident on the licensed premises, the business being conducted for him by a manager named Edwards. Some time ago it came to the knowledge of the chief superintendent of police at Bilston that betting was going on in the house, and he gave instructions with a view to ascertain whether the report which had reached him was correct. Two boys, named Head and Ellis, the sons of policemen were selected to go to the house. On the first day Head went alone to the house, sat down, called for a glass of beer, and then went up to Edwards, who was known as the landlord, and told him he wanted to make a bet. Edwards gave him a piece of paper from a number of similar pieces kept behind the counter, and on this Head wrote the name of the horse he wished to back. He then gave Edwards the paper and 1s, and Edwards put the paper on one side and the money in his pocket. The same procedure happened on each of the days, the bets sometimes being made with Edwards or his wife, or with a man named Jones, and on each occasion the name of the horse was written on a piece of paper and put behind the bar.

The man Jones was fined in that Court in August last for permitting his licensed premises to be used in contravention of the Betting Act, and since then he had frequented the defendant's house to continue his betting operations. When Jones was there he received the money, and in his absence the bets were made with Edwards or his wife.

The Stipendiary: Jones is a bookmaker? Mr. Pratt said that was so, and defendant's premises were used to make his book, and the money won was paid by Jones or Edwards.

George Henry Head and Charles Ernest Ellis, two boys about 15 years of age, then gave evidence of attending the house, and related in detail the bets that were made, Ellis handing to the magistrate copies of the papers with the bets given to Edwards, his wife or Jones.

The witnesses were not cross-examined, and Mr. Willcock, for the defence, said that Mr. *Tate* had no knowledge of what was taking place in the house. He was a highly respected resident of Wolverhampton, and had carried on business for over twenty years as a licensed victualler in that town in a manner which had gained for him the esteem of all who knew him. Although possessing, when in business, a seven days' license, he only opened his house six days a week, and he was always anxious to carry on his business strictly in accordance with the law. He had only had the HOLE IN THE WALL INN two years, and he very much regretted what had taken place. As soon as he learned what had taken place at the Bilston house he discharged Edwards. Under the circumstances he asked the magistrates to deal with the cases leniently as possible.

The defendant having given evidence, the Stipendiary commented upon the injury that was done by allowing boys to frequent a house for the purposes of betting. Although the defendant did not know of the manner in which the house was being conducted, he was responsible for the acts of his manager, and a fine of £4 would be imposed in each case, without costs."

Birmingham Daily Post 22/8/1891

“Bilston licensing sessions were held yesterday Mr. T. Dallow applied for the renewal of the license of the HOLE IN THE WALL INN, Church Street, Bilston, to *Joseph Dunn*. Inspector Harrison and Police-constable Tytherleigh deposed to visiting the applicant’s house and finding Mrs. *Dunn* and *Dunn* himself the worse for beer. Mr. Burton, solicitor to Messrs. Bass Limited, asked that the matter should be adjourned if the Bench decided adversely to the application. The adjournment was granted.”

William Millard Whitehouse – see also ROYAL ARTILLERY and RED LION, Dudley Street.

1901 Census

49, Church Street

- [1] *David Benton* (43), innkeeper, born West Bromwich;
- [2] *Mary Benton* (42), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *Sarah Ann Benton* (20), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [4] *Hennrietta Benton* (18), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [5] *Mary Benton* (10), daughter, born West Bromwich:

Birmingham Daily Post 24/6/1901

“Mr. A. B. Smith (Deputy-Coroner) held an inquest at the BOARD INN, Bilston, on Saturday, touching the death of Rachel Barber (57), who died suddenly at her residence in Wood Street, on the previous day. The information received by the police was to the effect that the deceased had been acting as housekeeper for James Bignall, a blacksmith. Enquiries showed that the woman had been married twice if not thrice.

Clara Lewis, a widow, of 33, Thompson Street, Bilston, deposed that the deceased was her mother. Witness’s father’s name was Andrew Bill. She did not know the Christian name of her mother’s husband Barber, nor could she say whether Barber was alive or not, but she knew that her mother went through a form of marriage with James Bignall. The deceased, however, must have married the man Barber, as that was her proper name. On the 14th inst, when witness saw the deceased, she complained of a pain at her heart. She always said that Bignall treated her kindly, and there was no reason to suppose that she had poisoned herself.

James Bignall stated that deceased had lived with him for twelve years. About thirty years ago witness went through a form of marriage with the deceased, and they lived together for about eight years, when she left him. The deceased was not a widow when he married her. The former husband was named George Barber, and he was a bricklayer. Witness could not say whether Barber was alive, as the last he heard of him was about thirty years ago.

A son of the last witness deposed to finding the deceased lying dead in the house, and the medical evidence going to show that death had resulted from heart failure, a verdict to that effect was returned.”

1911 Census

49, Church Street

- [1] *David Benton* (53), publican, born West Bromwich;
- [2] *Maria Benton* (52), wife, married 5 years, assisting in business, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *Mary Benton* (20), daughter, assisting in business, born West Bromwich:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 14/11/1912 - Advert

“Respectable Girl Wanted, 18 to 20; live in or out.
Mrs. Benton, BOARD INN, Church Street, Bilston.”

RESPECTABLE Girl Wanted, 18 to 20; live in or out.—*Mrs. Benton, Board Inn, Church-st., Bilston.*

David Benton weighed 20 stones.

He died on 15th September 1920.

1920 Probate

“*David Benton* of the BOARD INN, Church Street, Bilston Staffordshire, died 15 September 1920. Administration Lichfield 19 October to Ann Maria Benton, widow. Effects £532 2s 11d.”

South Staffordshire Times 30/10/1920

“At a recent smoking concert at the BOARD INN, Bilston, under the presidency of Mr. C. J. Underwood (a former G.W.R. agent in the town) presentations were made to Mr. T. Moss (late goods agent), and Mr. T. Lewis (correspondence clerk) upon their retirement.....”

1921 Census

Church Street – BOARD INN

- [1] *Alexander Hadley* (46), publican, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Lillian G. Hadley* (32), wife, born Stourport;
- [3] *Alexander Benjamin Hadley* (12), son, school, born Netherton;
- [4] *Miriam Nixon* (18), visitor, barmaid, born Brettle Lane;
- [5] *Joe Harry Payne* (30), boarder, turner, out of work, born Church Gresley, Derbyshire:

A music license was granted on 5th February 1928.

1939 Register

49, Church Street

- [1] *Edward C. Pleydell*, date of birth 14/2/1890, publican (engineer, gear specialist, retired), married;
- [2] *Nellie Pleydell*, dob 8/7/1888, unpaid domestic duties and bar, married;
- [3] *Vera M. (Constable) Matthews*, dob 28/4/1914, clerk, furnishing stores, single;
- [4] *Hilda R. (Constable) Carter*, dob 30/8/1916, bar general, single:

Edward Cyril Pleydell – see also BROWN JUG, Willenhall, and CROWN, Bank Street, Bilston.

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/4/1946

“Col. A. F. Nicholson (chairman) presided at a meeting of the County Licensing Confirmation Committee at Stafford, on Wednesday.....

Removal orders in respect of three Bilston full licenses – the BROWN JUG INN, Temple Street, to premises proposed to be erected on the Birmingham-Wolverhampton new road at Lanesfield, Coseley; the BOARD INN, Church Street, to premises to be built in Bunkers Hill Lane; and the ROLLING MILL INN, Highfields, Bradley, to premises to be erected at the junction of Great Bridge Road and Bull Lane, Moxley –were approved by the committee.”

Closed

It was demolished in October 1959.

Its site was marked on a map of the area in 1960, as the BROAD INN.

BOAT

23, Ettingshall Lane, (7, Ettingshall Road), (Millfields Road), Ettingshall, BILSTON

OWNERS

Messrs. Aston and Sullivan, auctioneers, Wolverhampton
Herbert Merchant, officer, Priestfield
Henry Clark
The Old Lion Brewery Co., Tipton
Peter Walker and Son, brewer, 140, Park Lane West, Tipton
Frederick Smith Ltd. [1921]
William Butler and Co. Ltd.
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

T Wood [1857]
William Devney [1871] – **1874**;
Henry Clark **(1874 – 1891)**;
Isaac Morris **(1891 – 1898)**;
William Jones **(1898 – 1899)**;
Thomas Gilks **(1899 – 1903)**;
Mrs. Harriet Gilks **(1903 – 1909)**;
Thomas Pugh **(1909 – 1915)**;
Albert Chambers **(1915 – 1918)**;
Catherine Chambers **(1918 – 1925)**;
Arthur Perks **(1925 – 1929)**;
Arthur Haines **(1929 – 1932)**;
John Francis Burton **(1932 – [1954])**

NOTES

23, Ettingshall Lane [1871], [1881]
7, Ettingshall Road [1901], [1911], [1921], [1939], [1940]
Millfields Road [1904]

It had a beerhouse license.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/11/1857 - Advert

“Sale Tomorrow. BOAT INN, Ettingshall Lane Bridge.

Mr. W. Ashcroft will Sell by Auction, on Thursday next, November 5, 1857, a portion of the excellent Household Furniture, Fixtures, Gas Appendages, four-pull Beer Machine complete, 25 bushels of good Malt, small quantity of Hops, three Iron Furnaces, all the Brewing Utensils, capital Ale Barrels, and numerous effects of Mr. T. Wood, who is leaving the house.

Sale to commence at eleven o'clock am.”

SALE TOMORROW.
BOAT INN, ETTINGSBALL-LANE BRIDGE.
MR. W. ASHCROFT will SELL by AUCTION,
on Thursday next, November 5, 1857, a portion of the excel-
lent HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, Fixtures, Gas Appendages, four-
pull Beer Machine complete, 25 bushels of good Malt, small quantity
of Hops, three Iron Furnaces, all the Brewing Utensils, capital Ale
Barrels, and numerous effects of Mr. T. Wood, who is leaving the
house.
Sale to commence at eleven o'clock a.m.

1871 Census

23, Ettingshall Lane – BOAT INN

- [1] William Devney (54), coal miner employing 1 man and publican, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] Mary A. Devney (42), wife, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] Ann Devney (17), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] Caroline Devney (15), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] Selena Devney (13), daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] William Devney (11), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] Joseph Devney (9), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [8] Isaac Devney (7), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [9] Samuel B. Devney (5), son, scholar, born Bilston:

William Devney was convicted on 3rd October 1873 for permitting gaming.
He was also convicted on 24th July 1874 for keeping open during prohibited hours.

Henry Clark = Henry Clarke

1881 Census

23, Ettingshall Lane – BOAT INN

- [1] Henry Clarke (37), beer seller, born Ruabon, Denbighshire;
- [2] Harriet Clarke (36), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] Sarah Ann Shorthouse (23), domestic servant, born Sedgley;
- [4] Emma Shorthouse (21), visitor, servant, born Sedgley:

Darlaston Weekly Times 12/8/1882

“The anniversary of the Passion Flower Lodge of the Wolverhampton and Willenhall district Free Gardeners has just been celebrated at the BOAT INN, Ettingshall. A large number of members and their friends sat down to a capital spread, served up in admirable style by the host, Mr. *Henry Clark*, the hostess also beautifully decorating the room for the occasion. After dinner Bro. Joseph Turley was voted to the chair, and Bro. Charles Flavel to the vice-chair. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts were drunk to the accompaniment of musical honours. The toast of the host and hostess was well received and responded to, and in proposing the toast of the evening, the Passion Flower Lodge, the Chairman spoke of the very satisfactory, prosperous, and financial condition of the Lodge. A very pleasant evening was spent.”

Birmingham Daily Post 10/10/1884

“Yesterday Mr. W. H. Phillips, coroner, held an inquest at the BOAT INN, Ettingshall, concerning the death of Thomas Brierwood (15), a porter, employed by the London and North-Western Railway Company, who was killed at Ettingshall Station on Tuesday night.

Charles William Bird, the station-master, deposed that the deceased assisted him to attend to 5.44 down train, and that they saw it leave for Wolverhampton. The deceased then jumped from the platform, and attempted to cross the line. Witness saw by the signals that the up express was coming, and shouted to the deceased to get out of the way. The warning, however, came too late, for the deceased was knocked down. It was no part of deceased's duty to cross the line.

John Brookes, the driver of the express train, stated that he was travelling at the rate of thirty-five miles an hour. He blew the whistle before reaching Ettingshall Station. He did not see the deceased, but hearing an alarm from his stoker he stopped the engine.

The Coroner suggested that as the down train discharged its passengers at about the same time as the express was due, someone should be told off to warn the public of danger.

Inspector Prime, who represented the company, said that the suggestion would be forwarded the proper quarter. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1891 Census

Ettingshall Lane

- [1] Henry Clarke (47), publican, born Rhosymmer, Denbighshire;
- [2] Harriet Clarke (46), wife, born Lanesfield;
- [3] Emma M. Vann (32), sister-in-law, domestic servant, born Sedgley;
- [4] David Shorthouse (39), brother-in-law, brewer, born Sedgley;
- [5] Arthur B. Flavell (12), nephew, scholar, born Sedgley;

1901 Census

7, Ettingshall Road

- [1] Thomas Gilks (59), tavern keeper, born Tipton;
- [2] Harriet Gilks (56), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] Hannah Gilks (20), daughter, born Priestfield;
- [4] Samuel Stephens (18), boarder, labourer, ironworks, born Priestfield;
- [5] Richard Stephens (14), boarder, labourer, ironworks, born Warrington;
- [6] Mary Stephens (12), adopted, born Warrington;

1903 Probate

"*Thomas Gilks* of the BOAT INN, Ettingshall Road, Wolverhampton, died 6 September 1903. Probate Lichfield 2 October to *Harriett Gilks*, widow, and *Henry Clarke*, gentleman. Effects £70 2s

Mrs. *Harriet Gilks*, beer retailer, Millfields Road. [1904]

1911 Census

7, Ettingshall Road

- [1] Thomas Pugh (26), beer retailer, born Ettingshall;
- [2] Georgina Harriet Pugh (26), wife, married 1 year, born Monmore Green;
- [3] John Henry Pugh (18), brother, boatman, born Ettingshall;

1921 Census

7, Ettingshall Road – BOAT INN

- [1] Catherine Chambers (64), widow, innkeeper, tenant, born Princes End;
- [2] Florrie Burton (23), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] George Wilfred Burton (26), son-in-law, hydraulic crane worker, steel works, born Ettingshall;
- [4] Colin Raymond Burton (1), grand-son, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] Albert Chambers (19), grand-son, iron worker, nut and bolt works, born Wolverhampton;
- [6] Florrie Chambers (17), grand-daughter, hand pressing machine shop, enamel works, born Wolverhampton;
- [7] Alfred Crofts (53), brother, labourer for tube welder, born Princes End;

1939 Register

7, Ettingshall Road

- [1] John F. Burton, date of birth 18/4/1889, die sinker, drop forging trade, married;
- [2] Elizabeth L. Burton, dob 3/6/1889, unpaid domestic duties, married;

Evening Despatch 5/1/1954 - Deaths

"On January 3rd at the BOAT INN, Ettingshall, near Wolverhampton, *John Francis Burton*, beloved husband of *Lilian* (late of the Globe Inn, Blews Street, Birmingham). Cremation, Perry Barr, 4pm Thursday."

[1964]

BOAT

Wolverhampton Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Tomkinson [1818]
Thomas Tomkinson [1818]
Mercy Lee [1822]

NOTES

John Tomkinson = John Tompkinson

John Tomkinson was also a brass furnace manufacturer. [1818]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 8/6/1818 - Advert

"To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Corbett, at the BULLS HEAD INN, in Bilston, on Wednesday the 17th Day of June, 1818, at Four o'Clock in the Afternoon, subject to such Conditions as will be then and there produced.

A Copyhold Messuage or Dwelling House, adjoining to the Turnpike in Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, now used as a Public House, and called the BOAT, in the Occupation of *Thomas Tomkinson*, as Tenant from Year to Year, at the low yearly Rent of £24 with Stable, Hogsties, and inclosed Yard thereto belonging; also a Copyhold small Tenement and Piece of Land adjoining the said Public House, in the Occupation of Thomas Granger, with the Mines of Coal under all the said Premises.

The Piece of Land has a good Front to Wolverhampton Street, on which may be erected several Houses, and there are already sunk on the Land two Pits or Shafts, by which the Remainder of the Coal may be gotten.

For further Particulars apply to the Auctioneer; or Messrs. Spurrier and Ingleby, Solicitors, Birmingham."

TO be SOLD by Auction, by Mr. CORBETT, at the Bull's Head Inn, in Bilston, on Wednesday the 17th Day of June, 1818, at Four o'Clock in the Afternoon, subject to such Conditions as will be then and there produced;—a Copyhold Messuage or Dwelling House, adjoining to the Turnpike in Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, now used as a Public House, and called the BOAT, in the Occupation of Thomas Tomkinson, as Tenant from Year to Year, at the low yearly Rent of 24l. with Stable, Hogsties, and inclosed Yard thereto belonging; also a Copyhold small Tenement and Piece of Land adjoining the said Public House, in the Occupation of Thomas Granger, with the Mines of Coal under all the said Premises.

The Piece of Land has a good Front to Wolverhampton Street, on which may be erected several Houses, and there are already sunk on the Land two Pits or Shafts, by which the Remainder of the Coal may be gotten.

For further Particulars apply to the Auctioneer; or Messrs. Spurrier and Ingleby, Solicitors, Birmingham.

BOATBUILDERS ARMS

167, (79), Oxford Street / Chapel Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Edward Brereton, gentleman, Cock Street, Darlaston

Amelia Hooper, spinster, Darlaston

John Pritchard and Son, brewer, Darlaston

LICENSEES

James Weare [1861] – [1862]

Bridget Weare [1863] – [1865]

Joseph Taylor [1865]

John Thomas [1868] – **1883**;

Richard Jones **(1883 – 1884)**;

Thomas Talbot **(1884 – 1890)**;

Thomas Webb Green **(1890 – 1896)**;

Edward Pritchard **(1896 – 1897)**;

Benjamin Talbot **(1897)**;

Arthur Edward Devereaux **(1897 – 1898)**;

Edward Jones **(1898 – 1900)**;

Ernest Lawley **(1900 – 1905)**;

Fanny Lawley [1901]

Ernest Dean **(1905 – 1907)**;

Henry Flavell **(1907 – 1911)**;

Albert Davis **(1911 – 1913)**;

NOTES

79, Oxford Street [1861], [1862], [1865], [1868], [1871], [1881], [1891], [1896]

167, Oxford Street [1901], [1904], [1911], [1912]

BOAT [1865]

It had a beerhouse license.

James Weare = James Wear

1861 Census

79, Oxford Street – Beerhouse

[1] *James Wear* (47), labourer, coal, born Ireland;

[2] *Bridget Wear* (48), wife, born Ireland;

[3] *Thomas Coppart* (18), lodger, coal miner, born Ireland;

[4] *Martin Brayan* (23), lodger, labourer, born Ireland:

James Weare, retailer of beer, 79, Oxford Street. [1862]

Bridget Weare = Bridget Weir

Birmingham Daily Gazette 13/5/1863

“*Bridget Weir*, beerhouse keeper, Oxford Street, was summoned for suffering disorderly conduct in her house. Police-constable Fieldhouse said that at half-past ten on Sunday night he found a mob outside, and twenty or thirty Irishmen inside the house, where a fight had been going on. Police-constable Leek stated that the defendant took him on one side, and offered him a bribe to look over the matter. The accused was fined 2s 6d and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/3/1864

“At Bilston Police Court on Tuesday, before the Stipendiary, Mr. Isaac Spooner.....
Bridget Weir, beerhouse keeper, of Oxford Street, was fined 40s and costs for keeping her house open after the proper hours.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 25/6/1864

“Yesterday, *Bridget Weare*, beerhouse keeper, of Oxford Street, was fined, at Bilston Police Court, 20s and costs for allowing a cesspit to overflow and become a nuisance to her neighbours. Notice to remove the nuisance had been served upon her on the 13th of May, but it remained on Monday last, and was removed next day by order of the Commissioners. For the defence it was said that defendant had at first thought that other houses had contributed to the contents of the pit, that no one contributor was liable, and that if so the landlord was the party liable. She also had to pay 10s 6d costs, for allowing two pig-washtubs to become a nuisance to her neighbours.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/6/1864

“*Bridget Weare*, a beerhouse keeper, in Oxford Street, Bilston, was summoned at the instance of the Town Surveyor, for neglecting to remove a nuisance from her premises, after being required to do so. Mr. Fellows appeared on behalf of the Township Commissioners, and Mr. Ward, of Wolverhampton, was for the defendant. It was stated that in the beginning of May last, the Inspector of Nuisances found that a cesspool at the rear of defendant's premises was filled to overflowing, and dangerous to the health of the inhabitants in that locality. He, therefore, in accordance with his duty served the defendant with a notice to have the cesspool emptied within a certain period; she neglected, however, to comply with the requirements of the notice, and the nuisance was removed by the officers of the Commissioners, at a cost of 18s. This amount the Bench ordered the defendant to pay, together with a fine of 20s, and costs of the Court. She was also summoned on a second charge of permitting a quantity of pig-wash, in a very bad state, to remain on the premises, endangering the health of the neighbourhood, but as it appeared that the wash had been removed since the summons was served, the case was withdrawn on payment of costs.”

Bridget Weare, beer retailer, 79, Oxford Street. [1865]

Joseph Taylor = *Joseph Tayler*

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/10/1865

“On Tuesday, at Bilston Police Court, before Mr. Isaac Spooner, *Joseph Taylor*, of the BOAT, Oxford Street, was charged with allowing disorderly conduct in his house on Saturday night last. The house was visited by Police-constables Chaplin and Fairbank, when they found a number of lads in the house challenging each other to fight. There was a great disturbance in the house and a large crowd outside. This being the first offence he was only fined 1s and costs, but he was cautioned that for the next offence he would be fined £10.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/8/1869

“The annual licensing meeting for the Bilston division took place yesterday, at the Police Court.....
The following beerhouse keepers had been fined during the past five years.....
Permitting Drunkenness *Joseph Tayler*, BOAT, Oxford Street, 1s and costs.”

John Thomas, beer retailer, 79, Oxford Street. [1868]

1871 Census

79, Oxford Street

- [1] *John Thomas* (38), boatbuilder employing 2 men and publican, born Newtown, Montgomeryshire;
- [2] *Mary A. Thomas* (35), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Mary J. Thomas* (12), daughter, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [4] *Margeret Thomas* (8), daughter, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [5] *Lavinia Thomas* (5), daughter, scholar, born Sedgley;

1881 Census

79, Oxford Street – BOAT BUILDERS ARMS

- [1] *John Thomas* (48), boat builder, born Newtown, Montgomeryshire;
- [2] *Mary A. Thomas* (45), wife, born Norwich;
- [3] *Mary J. Thomas* (22), daughter, general servant, born Bilston;
- [4] *Margaret Thomas* (18), daughter, general servant, born Bilston;
- [5] *Lavinia Thomas* (14), daughter, dressmaker, born Bilston:

1891 Census

79, Oxford Street

- [1] *Thomas W. Green* (47), publican and packer in bedstead works, born Bilston;
- [2] *S. A. Green* (57), wife, born Balscott, Oxfordshire;
- [3] *S. Rogers* (27), female, visitor, born Oswestry:

Thomas Green, beer retailer, 79, Oxford Street. [1896]

1901 Census

167, Oxford Street – BOATBUILDERS ARMS

- [1] *Ernest Lawley* (23), butcher, born Bridgnorth;
- [2] *Fanny Lawley* (22), wife, publican, born Willenhall;
- [3] *Ethel Edwards* (17), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Ernest Lawley, beer retailer, 167, Oxford Street. [1904]

Ernest Dean was fined 10s and costs, on 21st December 1906, for selling liquor to a drunken person.

Evening Despatch 4/12/1910

“*Henry Flavell*, licensee of the BOATBUILDERS ARMS, Oxford Street, Bilston, was fined £2 and costs by the Bilston Magistrates on Friday for selling drink during prohibited hours on Sunday, November 20.

At 11.20pm Police-sergeant Evans and Police-constable Baker were attracted to the house by the sound of voices. Climbing on to a wall, the officers were able to see into a room, where defendant was with two men, Ernest Bassett and George Phillips. Phillips was supplied with a glass of stout and a jug of ale, and paid for them.

Mr. R. Tildesley, who defended, said Phillips was a guest of the defendant during the evening because it was the eve of defendant’s birthday. Bassett was invited to remain to supper because his wife was in the house assisting to nurse a sick child.

Flavell was also ordered to pay costs in respect of a summons for permitting drunkenness.

For being on the premises during prohibited hours Bassett and Phillips, and the latter’s wife, were ordered to pay costs, but the summons against Phillips for being drunk on the licensed premises was withdrawn.”

1911 Census

167, Oxford Street – BOAT BUILDERS ARMS

- [1] *Henry Flavell* (34), beerhouse keeper, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Emily Flavell* (34), wife, married 10 years, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *Henry Flavell* (6), son, born Bilston;
- [4] *Alexander Flavell* (3), son, born Bilston:

Albert Davis, beer retailer, 167, Oxford Street. [1912]

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.....

BOAT BUILDERS ARMS. Beerhouse, Bilston, ante 1869. Licensee, *Albert Davis*."

License renewal refused by Compensation Authority on 24th July 1913.

Staffordshire Advertiser 26/7/1913

"The principal meeting of the Staffordshire Licensing Compensation Authority was held at the Shirehall, Stafford, on Thursday.....

Seven houses were scheduled in Bilston division.....

BOAT BUILDERS ARMS, Bilston, ante 1869 beerhouse.....

Renewal was formally applied for and refused."

Staffordshire Advertiser 16/8/1913 - Notice

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

Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Compensation Authority for the above area, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on the 24th day of July, 1913, to Refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below, all Persons Claiming to be Interested in the said Premises for the purpose of the Payment of Compensation under the said Act (other than the Licensee and the Registered Owner of the said Premises) are required to send to the Compensation Authority Notice of their Claims before the 7th day of September, 1913, for the purpose of enabling the Compensation Authority to ascertain in manner provided by the Licensing Rules, 1910, the Persons entitled to Compensation under the said Act, in respect of the said Premises.....

BOAT BUILDERS ARMS, Bilston. Beerhouse ante 1869. Licencee, *Albert Davis*. Registered Owner, J. Pritchard and Son."

Compensation of £450 was paid on 24th December 1913.

The license was extinguished on 31st December 1913.

Birmingham Daily Post 7/1/1914

"The annual report of the County Licensing Committee.....

At the principal meeting of the compensation authority the committee refused to renew 31 licenses. At the supplemental meeting the committee went in great detail into all the figures submitted to them upon which the persons interested claimed compensation, and heard evidence put forward by the claimants. The committee consider that the amounts of compensation agreed upon were satisfactory, both from the point of view of the parties interested and the Compensation Fund. In the following 27 cases the committee fixed the compensation.....

BOAT BUILDERS ARMS, Bilston, £450."

Demolished

BOROUGH ARMS

Bunkers Hill Lane, BILSTON

OWNERS

William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1967]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.
Punch Taverns [2005]

LICENSEES

Louis G 'Lou' Southall [1985] – [1991]
Lascelles Codner [1995]
Lynn Carol Boyce [2004]
Ashley Barker [2005]



2007

NOTES

Birmingham Daily Post 21/9/1957

“A golden key was used by Bilston’s Deputy Mayor, Coun. W. H. Sandland, when he formally opened a new public house, the BOROUGH ARMS INN, in Bunkers Hill Lane, Bilston, yesterday.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/12/1957

“The annual general meeting of W. Butler & Co. Limited will be held on December 30 at Wolverhampton. The following is an extract from the circulated statement of the Chairman and Managing Director, Mr. F. J. Yardley..... The policy of dealing with uneconomic licensed houses has been continued during the year. In all, sixteen have been closed, twelve of those being in respect of the following new houses opened during the year.....

BOROUGH ARMS, Bilston.

These have played their part well in the increased sales of draught beer and wines and spirits.....”

A team from here took part in the *Sports Argus* Inn-Quiz. [1979]

Sandwell Evening Mail 11/7/1985

“Cheers! *Lou* and Sue *Southall* toast their the prize-winning Bilston pub which has come up trumps for the second year running in a brewery competition. For successive years the BOROUGH ARMS has won the ‘best kept cellar’ contest for pubs in the west region of the Midlands. Tenants *Lou* and Sue will celebrate their success with a prize of a week’s holiday at a Crest hotel of their choice. Judges from Bass Mitchells and Butlers raised their glasses to the Bilston pub after making random visits during licensing hours to tenanted houses in the area.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 7/8/1987

“A thief has raided the home of a Walsall family who are on holiday in Spain – and used their car to carry away his haul. The raider broke into the house at Willenhall and searched rooms and then took the Ford Sierra from the garage, and drove to Connaught Road, Bilston, where he abandoned the vehicle. Detective Inspector Stewart Grogan, of Willenhall CID, said the thief then switched to a yellow Ford Escort which he stole from the car park of the BOROUGH ARMS pub in Bunkers Hill Road, at about 5.45pm last night. The second car was later found abandoned in Clarence Road, Bilston. Det. Insp. Grogan said it was thought the thief had got away with a radio, jewellery, and other property from the house, but until the family returned from holiday it was impossible to say exactly what had gone. Police are looking for a man described as white, aged about 20, tall and slim, with blond hair, and wearing a black bomber-type jacket.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 8/3/1991

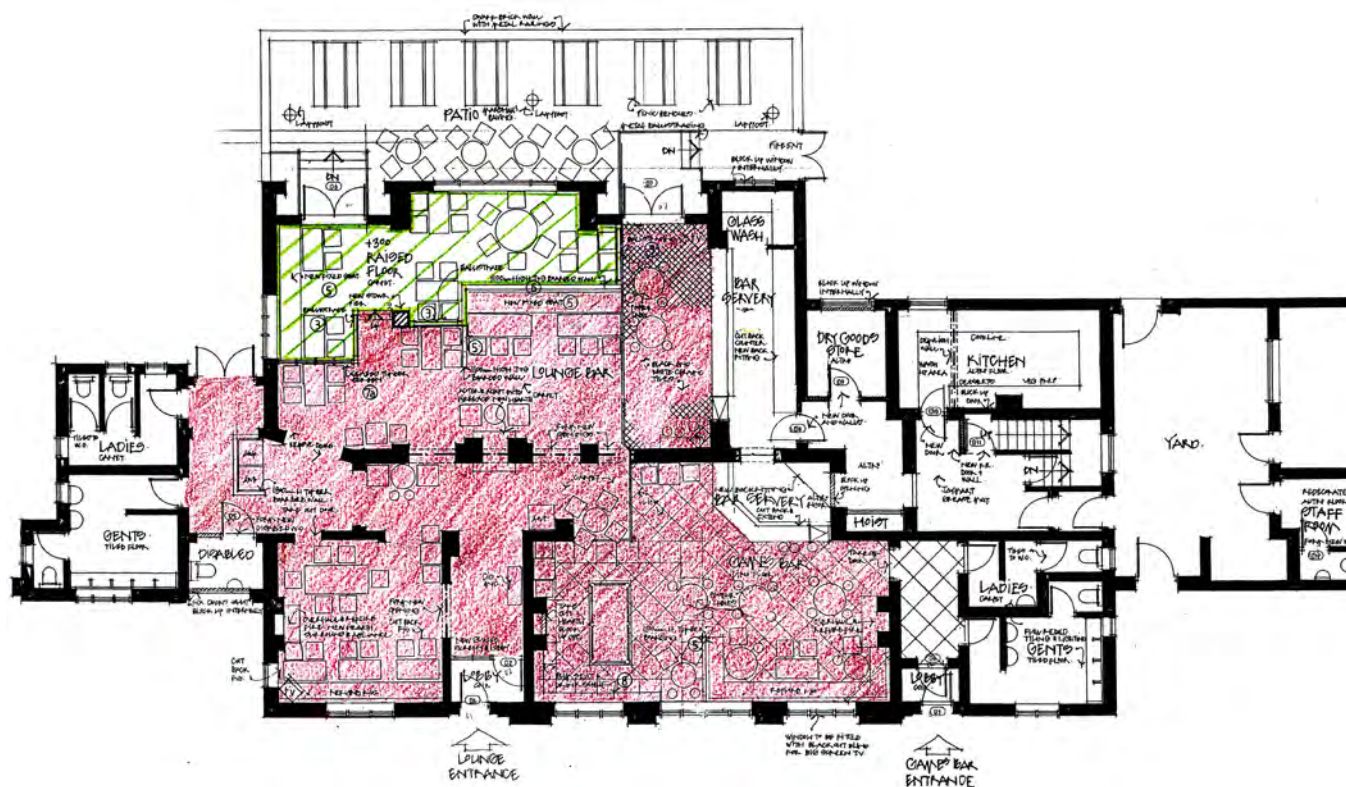
"A head-on collision in Neachells Lane, Wednesfield, led to Mr. *Louis Southall*, 49, of the BOROUGH ARMS public house, Bunkers Hill, Bilston, in a BMW, suffering spinal injuries. He was detained in hospital. Father and son Mr. Jack and Mr. John Benton, aged 41 and 17, in the other car, a Ford Consul, were discharged after treatment."

Alterations were applied for in 1999.

[2005]

Closed [2007]

It was demolished in January 2009.



Plan 1999

BRADLEY FIELD HOUSE

John Street, (Shropshire Row), (Lower) Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

John Smith
William Heath, beerhouse keeper, Golds Green, West Bromwich

LICENSEES

John Smith [1864] – **1876**);
Edwin Heath (**1876 – 1877**):

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 31/12/1864

“R. Nock (alias Snapper) will fight any of the following men at catch weight, for £5 or £10 a side: T. Westwood, R. Ball, T. Merriott, R. Stokes (all of Wednesbury), or S. Taft of Coseley. A match can be made any night next week by calling at *J. Smith's*, BRADLEY FIELDS INN, Shropshire Row, near Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1866

“The annual meeting for the renewal of existing licenses, and for receiving applications for fresh ones, was held at the Police Court, on Friday.....

Application was made by Mr. Best on behalf of *John Smith*, an innkeeper, living in John Street, Bradley. Mr. Thurstans opposed on behalf of Mr. Nott, the occupier of the MERMAID. The application was refused.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 6/7/1867

“J. Hayward of Bilston will fight Young Pittam at 9st, for £10 to £15 a side, in two months. If this does not suit, Hayward will fight J. Dolphin at 9st 3lb, for £15 a side; or W. Hazeldine of the same place at catch weight. First come first served. Money ready any night next week at Mr. *J. Smith's*, BRINDLEY [sic] FIELD INN, Salop Street, Bilston.”

1871 Census

John Street

- [1] *John Smith* (42), publican, born Penkridge;
- [2] Rosannah Smith (42), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Rosannah Smith (19), daughter, dressmaker, born Bilston;
- [4] Priscilla Smith (13), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] Isaac Smith (10), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] John Smith (7), son, born Bilston;
- [7] William Ashton (24), boarder, refiner of iron, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 30/8/1873

“Yesterday the annual licensing meeting for Bilston and the neighbourhood was held in the Petty Sessions Court..... The proceedings opened by Chief Superintendent McCrea presenting his annual ‘black list.’ In doing so he remarked that it only indicated eleven offenders, whilst a twelvemonth ago there were twenty-nine. This comparison, he considered, was the clearest substantiation of the beneficial operation of the recent Licensing Act. The names of the offending beerhouse keepers were.....

Joseph [sic] *Smith*, HALL-FIELDS INN, Bradley.....

The committee stated that the licenses of all the persons contained in the ‘list’ would be suspended until the adjourned licensing sessions, to be held on the 26th proximo.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1873

“Bilston Adjourned Annual Licensing Sessions were held yesterday.....

The undermentioned beerhouse licenses were renewed.....

John Smith, HALL FIELDS INN, Bradley.....

All the above applicants had been convicted during the past two years, and the Bench cautioned them.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/10/1875

“At Wolverhampton County Court, today, before A. Martineau, Esq, (Judge), Mr. Thorne (of the firm Thorne, Smith and Thorne) mentioned to his Honour a case in which a High Bailiff (Mr. Curtis) had thought it desirable to summons two men named *John Smith*, beerhouse keeper, and Job Dolphin, licensed victualler, of Shropshire Row, Bilston, for having threatened and assaulted a bailiff named Samuel Potts, whilst in the execution of his duty.

Mr. Thorne apologised to his Honour for troubling him with the matter, because as the offence was to all intents and purposes a criminal one, it ought, in his opinion, to be adjudicated upon by a magistrate. The chief bailiff was, however, to some extent prohibited from taking this course, as one learned magistrate on the Wolverhampton Bench had, on two or three occasions when cases of this kind been taken before him, not only expressed his disinclination to deal with them, but had stated distinctly that the Judge of the County Court was the proper person before whom such cases should be taken. He (Mr. Thorne) might state that the complainant Potts was not a regular officer of the Court, but had been specially engaged in this matter by the High Bailiff to levy an execution on the goods of the defendant *Smith*, for a sum of £23 2s 8d, at the suit of Mr. Whitehouse, brewer, of Tipton. Since the assault was committed both *Smith* and Dalton [sic] had expressed to the High Bailiff their regret for what they did, and under these circumstances Mr. Curtis had no desire to press the case against them. On behalf of the High Bailiff, he (Mr. Thorne) would suggest, if it met with his Honour’s approval, that an apology from the men should be accepted, together with payment of a nominal sum, say 5s each, as a fine, and the costs of those proceedings, including his (Mr. Thorne’s) fee.

His Honour expressed his desire to hear the particulars of the case, and the complainant, Samuel Potts, was then sworn. He said he went to *Smith*’s house, on Friday, he first saw the daughter. Afterwards *Smith* himself came in, to whom he stated his business, and exhibited to him his authority. After looking at it, *Smith* said there was some mistake, and he would go and see Mr. Whitehouse (the plaintiff in the suit) about it. He then went away and returned in about three hours, between six and seven in the evening. He then commenced to threaten him (Potts), and said if he did not go away he had a gun upstairs, and he would fetch it downstairs and shoot him. He went to fetch the gun, but did not bring it, because he said the door of the room was locked where it was. He, however, threatened to knock his (Potts’s) brains out if he did not go away, and sent to some works close at hand for some men to come and help him turn him out. He continued his threats to such an extent, and became so violent in his conduct, that witness became frightened, and he called in a policeman to protect him. After the policeman came *Smith* was quiet for a bit, but when the policeman went away he again began to threaten him. About midnight the other defendant, Dolphin, who is a neighbour of *Smith*’s, came into the house and asked witness to let him look at his authority, pretending that if he would do so, and it was alright, he would pay him the money. Witness, however, doubted what he said, and refused to produce his authority. He did afterwards show it to the policeman, when he came in a little later, and when the policeman was handing it him back again, Dolphin tried to snatch it from him. The policeman then left, and the two men again commenced to threaten him to get him to go out. As he refused to leave, *Smith* went and opened the door, and then Dolphin, who is a tall, powerful man, seized hold of him and threw him, or pushed him, out of the house.

The Judge said the offence was a very serious one, and one which he could not allow to be compromised in the way suggested.

Mr. Barrow, on behalf of the defendants, said they acted under a mistaken notion, and now desired, through him, to express their deep contrition for what they had done.

His Honour said what made the matter worse in regard to Dolphin – by whom it appeared the actual assault was committed – was that he had no business to interfere in the matter at all. They had both committed an offence of a very grave character, and as the officers of that Court had a right to be protected in the execution of their duty, he should order that the defendant Dolphin pay a fine of £2 and costs, and *Smith* £1 and costs. His Honour at the same time expressed his concurrence with Mr. Thorne that cases of this character, the offence being a criminal one, should be dealt with by a criminal tribunal, such as Magistrates Court, for although a magistrate himself as well as a County Court judge, still he was not so well acquainted with the criminal law as those who daily administer it.”

John Smith – see also ROYAL EXCHANGE, Salop Street.

The license was taken away in 1877.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/9/1877

“The annual licensing sessions for the Bilston division were held at the Public Office, Bilston, yesterday.....

The black list was as follows Beersellers.....

Edwin Heath, BRADLEY FIELD INN, Bradley, two convictions for permitting drunkenness, 20s and costs and 10s and costs.....

The whole of the licenses in the ‘black list,’ it was stated, would be held over until the adjourned sessions, and in the cases of *Edwin Heath* Mr. H. Ward said the bench had very serious thoughts about withholding the licenses.”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/9/1877

“Bilston Adjourned Licensing Sessions were held yesterday.....

The magistrates refused to renew the license of Thomas [sic] *Heath*, of the BRADLEY FIELDS INN, who had been twice convicted in the year, but whose license had not been endorsed.”

Staffordshire Sentinel 18/10/1877

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Heath v The Licensing Justices of Bilston.

For two years prior to the last Licensing Sessions, *Heath* has been the keeper of the BRADLEY FIELDS INN, Bilston, an old-licensed beerhouse, but on the occasion referred to the Magistrates refused to renew the license because *Heath* had been twice convicted during the twelve months for permitting drunkenness. In neither cases, however, were the licenses endorsed, and it was endeavoured to be shown that the justices were not right in refusing the renewal.

Mr. Plumptre pointed out that the reason for the refusal was because the appellant had failed to show good character. PC Pearson, who lives in the vicinity of the house, said several complaints had been made about the way it was conducted.

The Court confirmed the justices’ decision.”

BREWER AND BAKER

Bridge Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Watson [1802]

NOTES

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 12/4/1802 - Advert

"Copyhold Premises.

To be Sold by Auction, by F. Pool, on Thursday the 22nd day of April, 1802, at the House of George Rushbery, the Sign of the BULLS HEAD, in Bilston, between the Hours of Four and Six o'clock in the Afternoon.....

Lot IV. A Public House, with Brewhouse, Pigstie, and Garden, situate in Bridge Street, Bilston, aforesaid, known by the Sign of the BREWER AND BAKER, and now in the Possession of *John Watson*."

COPYHOLD PREMISES.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by F. POOL, on Thursday the 22d Day of April, 1802, at the House of George Rushbery, the Sign of the Bull's Head, in Bilston, between the Hours of Four and Six o'Clock in the Afternoon, subject to such Conditions as will be then produced;

LOT I. A good new-built Dwelling House, situate in Duck Lane, in Bilston, now in the Possession of William Price.

LOT II. Four Dwelling Houses and a Piece or Plot of Land adjoining, well adapted for the Erection of two Dwelling Houses thereon. These Premises are situated in Quarry Lane, in Bilston aforesaid, and now in the Possession of Edward Fellows, Alexander Jones, Mary Morris, and Job Langstone.

LOT III. Three Dwelling Houses and a Piece of Garden Ground adjoining, situate in Wolverhampton-street, and now in the Possession of John Morris, William Ellerton, and John Wedge.

LOT IV. A Public House, with Brewhouse, Pigstie, and Garden, situate in Bridge-street, Bilston aforesaid, known by the Sign of the Brewer and Baker, and now in the Possession of John Watson.

LOT V. A Piece of Land adjoining Middle Field Lane, in Bilston aforesaid, containing three Roods, or thereabouts, called Port Piece, under which is a good Mine of Coal, now in the Possession of Mrs. Bickley, or her Under-tenant.

LOT VI. A Piece of Land and Gardens, with four Dwelling Houses, and other Buildings thereon erected, containing 2A. 2R. 0P. or thereabouts. The Coal Mine under 0A. 2R. 14P. of this Lot, is reserved. The Premises are situate in the Centre of the Town of Bilston aforesaid, nearly adjoining the Street, formerly the Sign of the Golden Cup, but now in the Possession of Richard Poolton, Tin Plate-worker, and others.

The Premises may be viewed, and further Particulars known, by applying to Mr. Edward Woolley, in Stafford-street, in Bilston aforesaid.

BRICKLAYERS ARMS

Green Croft, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Shayshut [1818] – [1822]

NOTES

John Shayshut = John Shayshutt

John Shayshut was also a bricklayer. [1818]

BRICKLAYERS ARMS

Wood Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Shayshutt [1827]

NOTES

Palladium 1/5/1825

“Loyal Orange Institution. Meetings to be held during the week commencing on Monday, May 2, 1825..... No.236, Bilstone, Staffordshire, BRICKLAYERS ARMS, Wood Street.”

Palladium 4/9/1825

“Loyal Orange Institution. Meetings to be held during the ensuing week..... Tuesday..... No.236, Bilstone, Staffordshire, BRICKLAYERS ARMS.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 5/2/1827 - Advert

“Five Pounds Reward.

Lost between Bilston and Wednesbury, on Friday afternoon, the 26th January, about five o'clock, a small Iron Box, containing two £5 Notes of the Dudley Old Bank, and eight £1 Notes, together with a small Memorandum. Whoever has found the same, and will bring it to Mr. *Shayshutt's*, BRICKLAYERS ARMS, Wood Street, Bilston, or to Mr. Wood, No.22, Holloway Head, Birmingham, shall receive a reward of Five Pounds. Bilston, January 27, 1827.”

FIVE POUNDS REWARD.

LOST between Bilston and Wednesbury, on Friday afternoon, the 26th of January, about five o'clock, a small *IRON BOX*, containing two £5 Notes of the Dudley Old Bank, and eight £1 Notes, together with a small Memorandum.

Whoever has found the same, and will bring it to Mr. Shayshutt's, Bricklayer's Arms, Wood-street, Bilston, or to Mr. Wood, No. 22, Holloway-head, Birmingham, shall receive a reward of *FIVE POUNDS*.

Bilston, Jan. 27, 1827.

BRICKMAKERS ARMS

Green Croft, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Thomas Parker [c.1864]

NOTES

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/9/1864

“Yesterday the magistrates sat in Special Sessions, for the consideration of the applications for the renewal of old and the granting of new licenses to victuallers.....

The following houses and their landlords had been complained against and fined during the year.....

Thomas Parker, BRICKMAKERS ARMS, Greencroft.”

BRIDGE

10, Coseley Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

James Richard Abbott [1860] – [1861]

NOTES

James Richard Abbott was also a millwright. [1860]

1861 Census

10, Coseley Street

[1] *Richard Abbott* (40), carpenter, joiner and engineer, born Bilston;

[2] *Nouri Abbott* (41), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Thomas M. Abbott* (17), son, professor of music, born Bilston;

[4] *Henrietta M. Abbott* (14), daughter, born Bilston;

[5] *Elizabeth N. Abbott* (4), daughter, born Bilston:

[I have included this because it seems to apply to James Richard.]

BRIDGE

4, (9), Ettingshall Road, (Ettingshall Lane), Rough Hills, Ettingshall, BILSTON

OWNERS

Samuel Burrows
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1921]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

James Abbott [1851] – [1852]
H Hyde [] – **1860**;
Thomas Pennington **(1860 – 1862)**
Alfred Wood **(1862)**;
John Vickers **(1862 – [1865])**
Samuel Barrows [] – **1865**;
Edward Jones **(1865 – [])**
William Devney [] – **1868**;
Samuel Burrows **(1868 – 1874)**;
Joseph Burrows **(1874 – 1880)**;
Samuel Burrows **(1880 – 188_)**;
William Hall **(188_ – 1881)**;
Henrietta Abrahams **(1881 – 1882)**;
Frederick Hadyn Jolley **(1882 – 1883)**;
Henrietta Abrahams **(1883)**;
Charles Preston **(1883 – 1884)**;
Jeremiah Skidmore **(1884 – 1885)**;
John Short **(1885)**;
John Summers **(1885 – 1887)**;
Edwin Slater **(1887 – 1888)**;
Eliza Tranter **(1888)**;
John James Green **(1888 – 1894)**;
Samuel Burrows [1892] ?
Richard Bates **(1894 – 1898)**;
Mrs. Lucy Bates **(1898 – 1900)**;
John Davies **(1900 – 1905)**;
Richard Daniel Davis **(1905 – 1922)**;
Mrs. Emma Davis **(1922 – [1940])**
Thomas Challenor [1968]

NOTES

Ettingshall Lane [1862], [1865], [1868], [1870]
9, Ettingshall Lane [1881]
4, Ettingshall Road [1911], [1921], [1940]

SALE TO-MORROW (TUESDAY), MAY 13th.
"BRIDGE INN," ETTINGSHALL LANE,
NEAR WOLVERHAMPTON.
MR. W. ASHCROFT will **SELL** by **AUCTION**,
TO-MORROW (Tuesday), May 13th, 1862, the **LICENSES** and
POSSESSION of the above important Roadside INN; also all the ex-
cellent **HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE**, **BREWING PLANT**, 60-gallon
Ale Barrels, Iron and Copper Furnaces, two capital Mash Tubs, Vats,
large Lead Pipe, four-pull Beer Machine, four pockets of good HOPS,
Gas Appendages, Earthenware, China, Glass, Wheelbarrow, four
large Water Butts, and other effects of Mr. A. Wood, who is
leaving.
Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.

THOMAS PENNINGTON, of Bridge Inn, Ettingshall-lane,
Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, having
been adjudged Bankrupt under a Petition for Adjudication of
Bankruptcy (in forma pauperis) filed in the County Court of
Staffordshire, holden at Stafford, on the twenty-fourth day of
May, 1862, is hereby required to surrender himself to Mr.
GEORGE SPILSBURY, the Registrar of the said Court, at the first
Meeting of Creditors, to be held before the said Registrar, on
Wednesday, the eleventh day of June, 1862, at eleven o'clock
in the forenoon precisely, at the COUNTY COURT OFFICE, BANK-
PASSAGE, STAFFORD.

1862

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18th, 1863.
— — —
**VALUABLE FREEHOLD AND COPYHOLD INN,
MESSUAGES,
BUILDING LAND AND PREMISES,
SITUATE AT ETTINGSHALL LANE, BILSTON, AND
CATCHEM'S CORNER, SEDGLEY.**

MESSRS. MORRELL and GRIFFITHS will
SELL by **AUCTION**, by order of the Representatives of the
late proprietors, on Friday, the 18th day of December, 1863, at six
o'clock in the evening, at the **BRIDGE INN, ETTINGSHALL
LANE** (on the premises), subject to such conditions of sale as will
be then and there produced, and in the following or such other lots
as may be then determined, the following valuable **FREEHOLD
and COPYHOLD PROPERTIES**, viz. :—

LOT 1.—All that old licensed and well accustomed **MESSUAGE
or PUBLIC HOUSE**, known by the name of the "Bridge Inn," and
adjoining the Canal Bridge, situate in and fronting Ettingshall
Lane, in the township of Bil-ton, in the county of Stafford, with
the Outbuildings and Appurtenances thereto belonging, formerly in
the occupation of Mr. James Abbott, deceased, but now of Mr.
John Vickers, at the low rental of £23 per annum. The Public
House contains front tap room, front kitchen (including the porch
and screen therein), billiard room, well fitted up with seating,
and divided from the bar by a partition of wood and glass; good cel-
laring, large brewhouse, with malt room extending over same; two
sleeping rooms, large club room, extending over front tap room
and billiard room; piggeries, two-stall stable, storehouse and large
room (formerly used as a workshop), extending over stable and
storehouse.

The whole of the premises are well and substantially built, and
fitted up with every requisite convenience for an Inn. The situa-
tion is good, being in the immediate neighbourhood of extensive
iron works and collieries. The pump is in good repair and produces
an excellent supply of water. The total contents (including the site
of the buildings) are 690 square yards or thereabouts.

This lot is Copyhold of Inheritance, within the manor of Stow-
heath, but with special facilities for enfranchisement.

1863

1851 Census

Ettingshall Lane

- [1] James Abbotts (57), master carpenter employing 1 man, born Wemm, Shropshire;
- [2] Isabella Abbotts (53), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] George Abbotts (17), son, carpenter, born Bilston;
- [4] Sophia Abbotts (10), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] Catherine Abbotts (8), daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] Samuel Cornfield (29), son-in-law, singler, born Lanesfield;
- [7] Lucy Cornfield (25), daughter, born Bilston;
- [8] Isabella Cornfield (3), daughter, born Bilston;
- [9] Mary Ann Cornfield (1), daughter, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/9/1852

“The annual licensing day for the division of Seisdon North was held at the Public Office, Bilston Street, Wolverhampton, on Thursday last.....

There were about forty applications for new [spirit] licenses, of which eight were granted.....

Mr. Underhill applied on behalf of Mr. *James Abbott*, of Ettingshall New Village, but the license was not granted in consequence of the necessary notices not having been properly given.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/1/1859

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Michael Bill, 43, miner, and Benjamin Crowther, 24, stoker, were indicted for uttering three counterfeit half-crowns, at Bilston, well knowing the same to be false and counterfeit. The prisoners went to the BULL AND MOUTH public house, in High Street, Bilston, and while they were there Crowther offered a bad half-crown in payment for three-pennyworth of gin. He was told that it was bad, upon which he began to abuse the landlord, and after some time was turned out of the shop. While the altercation was going on the prisoner walked away. A short time before their visit to the BULL AND MOUTH they had been at the BALLOON public house, where Crowther offered a bad shilling in payment for drink, but it was refused. When the prisoners left they were watched, and Bill was heard to sat to Crowther, with an oath, ‘Go and try Masters’s,’ that being the name of the person who formerly kept the BULL AND MOUTH. On the following day the prisoners went to the WAGGON AND HORSES, at Sedgley, and Crowther called for a pint of ale, for which he tendered half-a-crown, which the niece of the landlady said was bad. The landlady, however, whose sight was defective, consented to take it, but the course of the day she sent her niece to a neighbour’s shop to make some purchases, giving her the half-crown in question, when the opinion of the niece that it was counterfeit was confirmed. Within an hour of leaving the WAGGON AND HORSES, the prisoners went to the BRIDGE INN, at the same place, where for some drink they offered another bad half-crown, but it was not discovered to be bad until the evening of the same day. The men having got clear away, Bill went on the evening of the same day to a provision shop in the same place, and there attempted to pass a bad shilling. On being told that it was bad, he said that he was nearly blind (which appeared to be true), and that it had been given to him in his wages. He promised to bring the person who gave him the coin, but having once left with the shilling in his possession, he never returned. On the 18th of the same month, Crowther and the other prisoner were at the MOXLEY TAVERN, Bilston, where one of them offered a bad shilling in payment for a glass of gin. The police were by this time on their track, and shortly afterwards they were apprehended.

Mr. Motteram dissected the evidence in detail for the purpose of showing that it was not conclusive against the prisoners, but the Jury returned a verdict of guilty. Bill was sentenced to six months, and Crowther to twelve months hard labour.”

1861 Census

Ettingshall Lane

- [1] *Thomas Pennington* (31), licensed victualler, born Hawley, Staffordshire;
- [2] *Emma Pennington* (35), wife, born Hawley, Staffordshire;
- [3] *Harriet Green* (20), house servant, born Parkfield, Staffordshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/12/1861

“Staffordshire Winter Assizes.....

Daniel Kyte, 25, pump maker, and Josiah Jackson, 24, joiner, were indicted for uttering two forged notes, at Sedgley, on the 23rd of September. Mr. Hill prosecuted, and Mr. Kenealy appeared in defence.

Mr. Hill opened the case by stating the facts as deposed by the following witnesses.

Mr. Baker, UNION MILLS INN, Catchems Corner, proved that the two prisoners, with a third man, and John Wedge, called at his house, on the 23rd of September. A note (Macclesfield Bank) was given him by his servant, and he took the change into the bar, and offered it to Wedge, whom he knew, but Wedge pointed to Jackson. Witness gave Jackson the change, and Jackson wrote the name ‘Williams’ upon it. The note also bore the name of Wedge.

John Wedge, Catchems Corner, said he saw the two prisoners in the street on the afternoon of the 23rd of September, one of whom he knew personally, and they asked him to get change for a £5 note on a distant (Macclesfield) bank. They told him it was good, and he took it to the house of a grocer named Eadie, but Eadie refused to change it. Witness then went home, and the prisoners followed him, and Kyte asked him to go and have something to drink. He went with them to Mr. Tippers’s, the BULLS HEAD, and a third man, who now joined the prisoners, offered the note again, but Mr. Tippers refused to change it. They then went to Mr. Baker’s, the UNION MILLS public house, but they did not stay there many minutes. Witness and the two prisoners next went to a foot race, at Sedgley, and when they returned they went to the ROYAL OAK. While there, Jackson offered another note, but the landlord would not change it. The next place they visited was *Pennington’s*, the BRIDGE INN, going afterwards to Owen’s, the ROYAL OAK, again. On the way Jackson asked what sort of house Tippers’s was, and made inquiries about the ‘strong box.’ In consequence of other conversation witness asked what had become of the first note they showed him, and they told him they had ‘passed’ it at Baker’s. In the course of this conversation Jackson placed a second note in witness’s hands, and witness told him he should keep it till he ascertained that the first was a good one. When this was told to Kyte and the third man, Kyte threatened to kill him. Witness said that unless he killed him outright he should appear against him. Kyte, Jackson, and the other man then attacked witness, and he became insensible. When he recovered himself he found his money gone – about £30 or £40. They did not, however, take the note he had just received from Jackson. This note was subsequently given to the police.

Cross-examined by Mr. Kenealy: The robbery took place in the ROYAL OAK INN. They did not offer witness any money to change the note; they told him that if he wanted a sovereign out of it he could have it, but he took no notice of them. When the first note was presented at the BULLS HEAD INN it had witness’s name upon it; it had been written in order to assist him in passing it.

By the Judge: The third man joined the two prisoners after they had been to Tippers’s.

Thomas Pennington, Bridge Street, proved that early in the afternoon of the 23rd, the prisoner Jackson offered him what he represented to be a £5 note. He considered it to be a bad one, and he told Jackson he didn’t like the look of it. Wedge was with Jackson when this occurred, and they were afterwards joined by Kyte and another man.

Cross-examined by Mr. Kenealy: Wedge seemed as anxious to change the note as the other man; he said he wanted 10s out of it.

William Vickers, WHITE HART INN, Bilston Street, Wolverhampton, proved that on the morning of the 23rd September, the two prisoners and a third man called at his house. The third man showed several notes in a handkerchief, and the prisoners asked witness to change them. They told him that if he offered £12 for three of them, they thought the man would take it. He was a simple man, they said, and wanted to spend his money, and subsequently they told witness that this third man had got the notes from his ‘woman,’ who ‘took’ them from a farmer. He had no money in the house, and he gave them no change.

Superintendent M’Crea produced the two notes – the one passed to Mr. Baker, and the other retained by Wedge.

Detective-officer Stokes proved having apprehended the prisoners in Park Street, Birmingham. A third man, named Brown, was apprehended, but the Magistrates discharged him. The prisoners told him they were aware the police were after them, and they could have got away if they desired.

In defence Mr. Kenealy alleged that the two prisoners were the victims of the third man, who had succeeded in making his escape. He pointed to different parts of the evidence to support this view, and especially to that of the witness Vickers.

The Judge returned a verdict of guilty, and the prisoners were each sentenced to ten years’ penal servitude.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 12/1/1862

“J. Turner of Bilston will run Edwards or Bromley (both of Longton), 100 yards, for £10 a side. Either party wishing for a match can be on by sending an answer to this paper and a deposit. To run on a turnpike road in one month from the first deposit. Turner’s money ready at the BRIDGE INN, *Thomas Pennington*’s, Ettingshall Lane, near Wolverhampton.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/5/1862 - Advert

“Sale Tomorrow (Tuesday), May 13th. BRIDGE INN, Ettingshall Lane, near Wolverhampton.

Mr. W. Ashcroft will Sell by Auction, Tomorrow (Tuesday), May 13th, 1862, the Licenses and Possession of the above important Roadside Inn; also all the excellent Household Furniture, Brewing Pant, 60-gallon Ale Barrels, Iron and Copper Furnaces, two capital Mash Tubs, Vats, large Lead Pipe, four-pull Beer Machine, four pockets of good Hops, Gas Appendages, Earthenware, China, Glass, Wheelbarrow, four large Water Butts, and other effects of Mr. *A. Wood*, who is leaving.

Sale to commence at Eleven o’clock.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 31/5/1862

“The following petitioned the Court in forma pauperum, and were adjudicated bankrupt.....

Pennington, publican, Ettingshall; debts, £309.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 31/5/1862 - Notice

“*Thomas Pennington*, of BRIDGE INN, Ettingshall Lane, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, having been adjudged Bankrupt under a Petition for Adjudication of Bankruptcy (in forma pauperis) filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Stafford, on the twenty-fourth day of May, 1862, is hereby required to surrender himself to Mr. George Spilsbury, the Registrar of the said Court, at the first Meeting of Creditors, to be held before the said Registrar, on Wednesday, the eleventh day of June, 1862, at eleven o’clock in the forenoon precisely, at the County Court Office, Bank Passage, Stafford.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 26/7/1862

“The last examination of *Thomas Pennington*, beerhouse keeper, Ettingshall Lane, Bilston, was adjourned in consequence of his not having filed his statement of accounts as required by the Act.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 22/8/1862

“In re *Thomas Pennington*, licensed victualler, Ettingshall Lane, near Bilston. The hearing was adjourned from last Court, and the meeting was now adjourned until the 23rd of September, the expenses of the former adjournment not having been paid.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/8/1862

“Bankrupts.....

Thomas Pennington, licensed victualler, Ettingshall Lane, Bilston, applied for his order of discharge, unopposed. As he was not prepared to pay the stamp fee and the expense of advertisement the case was adjourned.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/10/1862

“Bankruptcy Cases at the Stafford County Court.....

In the matter of *Thomas Pennington*, victualler, of Ettingshall Lane, near Bilston, these bankrupts did not appear, and a memorandum to that effect was ordered to be made, and the authorities looked into with a view to make an example of them.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/6/1862

“At Bilston Police Court, on Friday, the following intermediate transfers were made.....

BRIDGE, Ettingshall, *Alfred Wood* to *John Vickers*, retail brewer.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/12/1863 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold and Copyhold Inn, Messuages, Building Land and Premises, situate at Ettingshall Lane, Bilston, and Catchems Corner, Sedgley.

Messrs. Morrell and Griffiths will Sell by Auction, on Friday, the 18th day of December, 1863, at six o'clock....

Lot 1. All that old licensed and well accustomed Messuage or Public House, known by the name of the BRIDGE INN, and adjoining the Canal Bridge, situate in and fronting Ettingshall Lane, in the township of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, with the Outbuildings and Appurtenances thereto belonging, formerly in the occupation of Mr. *James Abbott*, deceased, but now of Mr. *John Vickers*, at the low rental of £23 per annum. The Public House contains front tap room, front kitchen (including the porch and screen therein), billiard room, well fitted up with seating, and divided from the bar by a partition of wood and glass; good cellaring, large brewhouse, with malt room extending over the same; two sleeping rooms, large club room, extending over front tap room and billiard room; piggeries, two-stall stable, storehouse and large room (formerly used as a workshop), extending over stable and storehouse.

The whole of the premises are well and substantially built, and fitted up with every requisite convenience for an inn. The situation is good, being in the immediate neighbourhood of extensive ironworks and collieries. The pump is in good repair and produces an excellent supply of water. The total contents (including the site of the buildings) are 690 square yards or thereabouts.

This lot is Copyhold of Inheritance, within the manor of Stowheath, but with special facilities for enfranchisement.”

London Gazette 31/12/1869

“*John Vickers*, now residing at Ettingshall-lane, near the BRIDGE INN, in the township of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, formerly of the BRIDGE INN, Ettingshall-lane aforesaid, and previously of the BULLS HEAD INN, High-street, Bilston aforesaid, Licensed Victualler, and a Coker, having been adjudged bankrupt under a Petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy, filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton, on the 29th day of December, 1869, is hereby required to surrender himself to Charles Gallimore Brown, Esq., Registrar of the said Court at the first meeting of Creditors, to be held before the said Registrar, on the 15th day of January next, at twelve o'clock, at noon precisely, at the said Court.

Charles Gallimore Brown, Esq., of Wolverhampton is the Official Assignee, and A. E. Greenway, Esq., of Wolverhampton, is the Solicitor acting in the bankruptcy.”

William Devney was also a shopkeeper. [1868], [1870]

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 17/10/1868

“J. Green of Wolverhampton will run H. Thomas of the same place 100 yards, if he will give a yard start, or run Foster of Sedgley the like distance, with three yards start, for £10 a side. Money ready at Mr. *Burrows's* BRIDGE INN, Ettingshall.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 16/1/1869

“R. Guest of New Village will run R. Fullard of Wolverhampton, for £5 or £10 a side, if he will give four yards start in 100, or he will run Walker of Willenhall the like distance level; or Wedge of Willenhall 100 yards, with three yards start, for £5 a side. Either of the above can make a match any night next week, at Mr. *S. Burrows's*, BRIDGE INN, Ettingshall.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/6/1869

“On Monday night, Richard Guest, of the New Village, Bilston, a young man, only 21 years of age, committed suicide by shooting himself with a pistol. Shortly before six o'clock yesterday morning two youths entered a stable at the back of the BRIDGE INN, Ettingshall, to take out a horse to begin work at a pit. Close to the door they found the man Guest, quite dead. He was on his knees, leaning his head back against the wall, as if he had first knelt down, and then fallen backwards. His right hand was resting on his breast, and held tightly a small pocket pistol, which was pointed towards his face, and seemed to have been recently fired. There was a terrible wound in the palate of the mouth, which leads to the inference that the pistol was placed in the mouth before it was discharged, and that the contents passed upwards into the head. Whether, judging from the position of the body, Guest knelt to pray before he shot himself or not, will, no doubt, remain a mystery. Powder, caps and bullets – of a very rough kind, probably made by himself – were found in his waistcoat pocket. His relatives cannot even suggest any circumstance which throws light on the cause of the suicide. He always seemed a steady, quiet fellow, and was in the employ of Messrs. Wright and North, Monmore Green Ironworks, Wolverhampton.”

Birmingham Daily Post 10/7/1869

"The adjourned inquest upon the body of Richard Guest, of the New Village, Bilston, who shot himself, under circumstances already reported in the *Daily Post*, was held on Thursday, at the BRIDGE INN, Ettingshall.

Mr. G. W. Malin, surgeon, assistant to Mr. H. D. Best, said that the opinion he had formed of the cause of the deceased's death was that it was the result of laceration of the brain by a pistol shot. There was no other injury on the body but that in the head, and he considered the deceased inflicted the wound himself.

A girl, named Margaret Vickers, deposed that she saw Guest walking in Priestfield, on the Sunday before his death, with a small pistol in his hand.

Henry Clark, a puddler, said that Guest had seemed very strange in his manner for some time. Only two days before he shot himself, witness and deceased met at the public house where the inquest was held. Guest said, 'I don't think I shall ever wash myself again, but will leave the dirt on to keep me warm, this warm weather.' During work hours he would sometimes drop his tools and walk out of the works, and when spoken to, occasionally turned his eyes up in a curious manner.

As the police had not been able to find where the deceased bought the pistol, the Coroner offered to again adjourn the inquest for inquiries to be made in that direction. The Jury were, however, satisfied that Guest shot himself, and that he did so whilst in a temporary state of insanity, and they returned a verdict to that effect."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/8/1869

"The annual licensing meeting for the Bilston division took place yesterday, at the Police Court.....

The following is the list of the licensed victuallers who have been fined during the year.....

Refusing to Admit Police *Samuel Burrows*, BRIDGE, Ettingshall, 2s 6d and costs."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 2/4/1870

"*S. Burrows* of the BRIDGE INN, Ettingshall, will match his dog Lion to run the best of 21 courses, 60 yards law, against Potts's white dog Billy, if he will allow two dead rabbits; or he will match his bitch Lark on the same conditions, for £10 or £15 a side. Money ready as above."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 5/11/1870

"Mount Pleasant Grounds, Coseley.....

Burrows's brown and white bitch Mary Ann of Ettingshall and Hughes's brown dog Spring of Gornal run their 200 yards match, for £10 a side, on Nov 28. The stakes are to be made into £5 a side this evening (Saturday) at Mr. *Burrows's*, the BRIDGE INN, Ettingshall."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 3/12/1870

"Mount Pleasant Grounds, Coseley.....

The match between *Burrows's* Mary Ann of Ettingshall and Hughes's Spring of Gornal to run 200 yards, for £15 a side giving or taking two yards and a half to the pound, drew a large number of the sporting community from Manchester and Sheffield to the grounds. Mary Ann was first in the scale, and her weight stood at 19lb, whilst Spring pulled down 19½lb; Mary Ann therefore received a yard and nine inches start. The betting opened at 6 to 4 on Spring, at which price a good sum was invested. At 3 o'clock the dogs were on their marks, and sent away to a good start. A capital race ensued for 100 yards, when Mary Ann went to the front, and won by five yards, evidently to the great surprise of the Manchester and Gornal party."

1871 Census

9, Ettingshall Lane – BRIDGE INN

[1] *Samuel Burrows* (37), coal master employing 6 men and 3 boys, born Sedgley;

[2] *Sarah Burrows* (29), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Ann Elwell* (23), servant, born Bilston:

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 9/9/1871

"Albion Grounds, Dudley Road, Wolverhampton.....

W. Turner of Wolverhampton has matched his red dog Spring to run F. Smith's brindled dog Prince of Heath Town the best of 11 courses, for £10 a side, at the above grounds, on Monday, Sept 25; the first rabbit to be dropped at 3 o'clock. Mr. *Burrows*, of the BRIDGE INN, Ettingshall, is stakeholder, and Mr. S. Powis, referee."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 14/9/1872

“G. Guest of Ettingshall will run R. Poxton of Wednesday one mile round the Lea Brook grounds, Wednesbury, for £10 or £15 a side, if he will allow him 20 yards start. Money ready any time at Mr. *Burrows's*, BRIDGE INN, Ettingshall.”

AND

“J. Lewis is not satisfied with Potter's Fan defeating Rose on Monday last. Rose will give Fan one dead rabbit in the best of 19 courses, or two in 21 courses, for £15 or £25 a side. A match can be made by calling at Mr. *Sam Burrows's*, BRIDGE INN, Ettingshall.”

Yorkshire Post 5/3/1874

“Yesterday a coroner's inquisition was opened at the BRIDGE INN, Ettingshall Lane, near Wolverhampton, on the body of a widow, named Ellen Davies (67), who was found strangled in bed on the previous morning in her dwelling house in that neighbourhood. Chief-superintendent McCrea watched the proceedings on behalf of the police.

The evidence adduced showed that the dead body lay across an apology for a bed, her feet wide apart, and her hands clenched as if endeavouring to free her throat from a murderous grasp. Blood had exuded from her mouth, and on the throat were discolourations as of extreme pressure, and also nail marks. A drawer was wide open, and a purse lay unfastened in it. On the window sill upstairs were traces of pit mound soil corresponding in appearance with other footprints on the rail used as a ladder. No door fastenings had been broken; but only the front room was inhabited in consequence of the ruinous condition of the house. It transpired that some time back a girl named Derricott, residing in the adjoining town of Bilston, was convicted of stealing a Post Office order from the deceased. Chief-Superintendent McCrea deposed that he had examined the deceased, who lay across her bed in a diagonal position, presenting all the appearances of having been strangled. The furniture, excepting the drawer previously referred to, did not seem to have been disturbed. The clasp of the purse was broken off, and had not at present been found. As to the means of egress, the chief-superintendent's testimony was corroborative of the preceding explanation. He believed there had been only one murderer. That morning witness had had the deceased's apparel examined, and in the pocket of the dress which she is supposed to have worn on Monday 2s 4½d was discovered, and some other articles, including a letter from a niece in Nottingham, dated July, 1873, and 6d in another dress pocket. It is alleged, said the chief-superintendent, that the deceased had some further money in her possession; but it cannot be found now.

Mr. Hancox, surgeon, practicing at Bilston, stated the result of a post mortem examination of the body of the deceased. He arrived at the conclusion that death was owing to strangulation caused by violent compression of the throat; and he believed she had been grasped violently by the lower jaw with one hand, and that afterwards the other was employed in grasping the throat till death ensued.

The inquiry was adjourned for a fortnight. At present the perpetrator of the murder is not in custody, nor are suspicions directed against any one in particular.”

Birmingham Mail 18/3/1874

“This morning the adjourned inquest of the body of Ellen Davis, who, on the morning of the 2nd inst, was found murdered in her cottage at Ettingshall, was held before Mr. Phillips, coroner. The accused man, Thomas Matthews, was present in the room, and Mr. Barrow, solicitor, appeared on his behalf.

Joseph Wooley, of Nottingham, nephew of the deceased, said, among other things, that deceased had always been an eccentric woman, and in the habit of finding fault. She had told him there were two persons in the habit of passing her house who had made improper overtures to her, and she would rather see the devil than either of them.

Inspector Ordish said that the articles found in the deceased's room were undisturbed. He found a sovereign in one of the drawers. Could trace where a person had entered and left by the upstairs window. He and Superintendent McCrea arrested prisoner, who protested his entire innocence.

Thomas Lewis, deceased's neighbour, said that on the 1st inst he saw a man at the back of deceased's house. He had seen the man pulling at Mrs. Davis's door at night, and the man asked if he was watching him. That man was the milkman in the village, but he could not recognise the other man.

Eleanor Johnson said that in December deceased informed her that Matthews had been at her house at night and insulted her, and she must leave the house or something would happen. Had made similar complaints on other occasions. Had seen deceased repulsing prisoner from the door at night. On the day after the murder saw a mark on prisoner's face.

Ann Garbett said deceased had many times told her she would be murdered, having been so often interfered with at night by Matthews. She spoke particularly of one occasion when prisoner attempted to enter the house.

Caroline Simmons had seen the prisoner come out of deceased's house at eight o'clock at night eight weeks ago. William Cope said that at the end of last summer he saw deceased endeavouring to prevent prisoner from entering her house.

Witnesses were called who proved that prisoner was at the VINE public house at nine o'clock; that at eleven a fearful scream was heard near deceased's house, and half an hour afterwards accused returned home, and said to a young woman, 'Oh, my God, how you've frightened me.'

Other witnesses showed that prisoner had ineffectually asked deceased to marry him.

A boy named Sheldon said he slept on the night of the murder with Matthew's, who went to bed at nine o'clock, saying he was poorly.

The inquest was adjourned for a month."

[At the adjourned inquest a verdict was returned of wilful murder against some person or persons unknown.]

Birmingham Daily Post 3/4/1874

"Yesterday, at Bilston Police Court, before Messrs. M. Ironmonger and Ward, the dairyman, Thomas Matthews, was brought up on remand, charged with the murder of Ellen Davis, who was strangled in bed on the 2nd ult, at her house in Ettingshall Lane. Mr. Barrow again appeared for the prisoner.

Chief-superintendent McCrea stated that although he was prepared to adduce some further circumstances bearing on the case, yet, considering their light character, the prosecution must fall. He applied, however, for the costs of the enquiries that had been instituted. The Magistrates' Clerk (Mr. Hall) explained that the Bench might make a provisional order, which would have to be ratified at the Quarter Sessions. (It was understood that this course would be adopted.)

Mr. Ironmonger remarked that the enquiry had been, to say the least, of a very painful kind. Though the evidence already forthcoming had been in certain respects somewhat strong, yet it had not been sufficient to warrant Matthew's committal. Under these circumstances the only course open was to discharge the prisoner.

Mr. Barrow intimated that his client would be always willing and ready to answer any charge that might be brought against him.

The prisoner was then liberated, and on gaining the public streets a crowd of persons clustered round him, but there was no demonstration."

Midland Examiner 6/5/1876

"On Monday, an inquest was held at the BRIDGE INN, Ettingshall, before Mr. W. H. Phillips, deputy-coroner for the county, respecting the death of Mr. John Fenn, charter master, whose body was found in the canal at Ettingshall, on Saturday last. The evidence went to show that on the day named the deceased had been to Wolverhampton, where he drew upwards of £11 for the purpose of paying wages. He had several glasses of rum and peppermint with a man named James Gough, who afterwards left him, and the deceased went in the direction of his home at Ettingshall. He took the road passing over the Rough Hills railway bridge, which crosses the canal, the road being private property. As the bridge is not fenced, it is supposed that he fell into the water. His body was found in shallow water, his head being under his hands. As there was no evidence to show how the deceased got into the water, the jury returned a verdict of Found Drowned, and at the same time strongly recommended the railway company to prosecute all persons trespassing by passing over the bridge."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/9/1877

"The annual licensing sessions for the Bilston division were held at the Public Office, Bilston, yesterday.....

The black list was as follows Licensed Victuallers....

Joseph Burrows, BRIDGE INN, Ettingshall.....

None of these persons had their license endorsed.

The whole of the licenses in the 'black list,' it was stated, would be held over until the adjourned sessions."

[Renewed with a caution at the adjourned licensing sessions.]

Samuel Burrows – see also TURKS HEAD.

Evening Express 26/1/1881

"Ettingshall Conservative Association, Inaugural Dinner.

The first annual dinner in connection with the above association was held at the BRIDGE INN, Ettingshall, yesterday (Tuesday) evening. The chair was occupied by Councillor Owen and there were upwards of 60 members present....."

1881 Census

9, Ettingshall Lane – BRIDGE INN

[1] William Hall (67), licensed victualler, born Birmingham;

[2] Ann Hall (50), wife, born Birmingham;

[3] Ann S. Morris (18), domestic servant, born West Bromwich:

Evening Express 13/5/1881

“An interesting ceremony took place on Monday evening last at a meeting of Court Foresters Glory, 3968, of the AOF, Greets Green and Wednesbury district, held at the BRIDGE INN, Ettingshall, a purse of £30, raised by the members of the court and order, and by a special performance in the Bilston Theatre Royal, kindly lent for the purpose by Mr. Walter Edwin, being presented to Bro. George Chilton, a member of the court, who has had the misfortune partially to lose his sight. Mr. James Goodwin, CR, presided, and after remarks from the secretary (Mr. J. Trevitt) and the treasurer (Mr. R. Booth, PCR), Mr. T. Taylor, district secretary, made the presentation in a few suitable words.....”

Evening Express 11/10/1881 - Advert

“To Let, the BRIDGE INN, Ettingshall, a free, old-licensed house, with lease, having a lock-up yard, with stabling, &c, and all in good repair, surrounded by extensive works, and other advantages; present occupier wishes to retire from business.”

TO Let, the Bridge Inn, Ettingshall, a free, old-licensed house, with lease, having a lock-up yard, with stabling, &c., and all in good repair, surrounded by extensive works, and other advantages; present occupier wishes to retire from business.

Evening Express 14/12/1881 - Advert

“To be Sung for, fat Goose, on Saturday Evening, the 17th inst, at the BRIDGE INN, Ettingshall Road, Ettingshall. Singers names must be sent in by Friday next.”

TO be Sung for, fat Goose, on Saturday Evening, 17th inst. at the Bridge Inn, Ettingshall-road, Ettingshall. Singers names must be sent in by Friday next.

Evening Express 15/12/1881 - Advert

“Wanted, Pianist, at once.

Apply, BRIDGE INN, Ettingshall Road, Ettingshall.”

WANTED, Pianist, at once.—Apply, Bridge Inn, Ettingshall-road, Ettingshall. 4337

Birmingham Daily Post 24/12/1881

“At the Bilston Police Court, yesterday, the following licenses were fully transferred.....

William Hall, Ettingshall, to Henrietta Abraham, widow, 32, Sherlock Street, Birmingham.”

Birmingham Daily Post 1/4/1882 - Advert

“To Let, with immediate possession, Full-licensed Inn, surrounded with ironworks.

Apply, BRIDGE INN, Ettingshall, Wolverhampton.”

TO Let, with immediate possession, Full-licensed Inn, surrounded with ironworks.—Apply, Bridge Inn, Ettingshall, Wolverhampton.

Walsall Observer 23/12/1882

“A petition has been filed in the Walsall Bankruptcy Court on behalf of *Frederick Hadyn Jolley*, of Spout Lane, out of business, and lately of the BRIDGE INN, Ettingshall, near Wolverhampton, victualler, and formerly of Caldmore (Walsall), and Pelsall, commission agent.

The liabilities are estimated at £263, assets not yet ascertained.

Mr. A. Baker, Bridge Street, is the solicitor acting in the matter.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 10/11/1883

“The twenty-first anniversary of Court Foresters Glory, of the Ancient Order of Foresters, was held on Saturday, at the BRIDGE INN, Ettingshall. The Rev. J. Seddon, vicar, took the chair, and Bro. Wedge the vice-chair. The Chairman spoke in warm terms of friendly societies, and contrasted the position of their members, their habits of thrift and perseverance, with those who had no thought of tomorrow. ‘Court Foresters Glory’ was proposed by PDCR J. Taylor, who bore testimony to the intelligence and perseverance displayed by the secretary. The secretary, Mr. S. Meese, gave a financial resume of the last ten years, and urged the members to greater activity. The Court had 89 members, and a capital of £582 8s 10d invested at 4 per cent.....”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 3/6/1885

“In the Queen’s Bench Division of the High Court of Justice, on Tuesday, before Lord Coleridge and Mr. Justice Mathew, an appeal was heard in an action tried some time past in the Wolverhampton Court, before his Honour Judge Griffiths, wherein Enoch Hill, and Sarah, his wife, who reside in America, and Edwin Holland, of Coopers Bank, near Dudley, farmer, were plaintiffs, and *Jeremiah Skidmore*, of Bilston, licensed victualler, the defendant. Mr. F. A. Bosanquet, QC, and Mr. S. P. Hickey (instructed by Mr. Robert Willcock, of Queen Street) appeared for the plaintiffs; and Mr. R. T. Reid, QC, and Mr. Acland (instructed by Mr. Rowland Tildesley, of Willenhall) for the defendant.

The case was of some interest with reference to the operation of the Statute of Limitations on Settles Estates. In 1861 one Jacob Brereton, late of Salop Street, Bilston, by his will devised two houses in Bilston to his widow (who died soon after) for life, and then on trust as to one moiety undivided for a daughter, free from the control of her husband, and as to the other moiety for a son of the testator. The daughter married, and in 1863 her husband, with a power of attorney from the brother, but without any evidence of her assent, leased the two houses for ten years at a ‘peppercorn’ rent with a premium of £50, which was paid to the husband, and with which he and his wife went to America together, and remained there many years. The trustee thought that the sister and brother were acting together through the husband, and had a right to do so, and he did not, therefore, interfere. The lessee remained in possession till 1876. Then someone got into possession who let to the present defendant *Skidmore*. The husband of the daughter, with his wife, and the trustee for the brother, brought this action to recover the property, and they were met by the Statute of Limitations – that is, as altered by Lord Cairns’s Act of 1874 by substituting a period of 12 years for 20 – and it was contended that this period of 12 years had elapsed since 1873, when the lease expired..... After a protracted argument, which last more than half a day, the Court came to a conclusion in favour of the plaintiffs, and dismissed the appeal with costs.....”

Gloucester Citizen 9/6/1885

“Soon after six o’clock on Monday morning, several workmen were walking along the towing-path of the Birmingham Canal, in the locality of Ettingshall Road, Wolverhampton, when they saw a woman struggling in the water. When drawn out with a rope she was almost unconscious, but indicated that her child was in the water. Soon afterwards the passage of a barge brought to the surface the dead body of a little girl. The woman was taken to the Wolverhampton Hospital, and proved to be Ann Jones (45), charwoman, wife of John Jones, carter, of 51, Cobden Lane, Blakenhall. The little girl – whose body was removed to the BRIDGE INN, Ettingshall – was named Edith, and was four years of age. The woman told the nurse who attended her in the hospital that she did what she had done ‘through trouble.’ Her husband states that his wife is the mother of a grown-up family, most of whom have turned out well, but that one of the sons proved an exception to the rule, and had recently left home unexpectedly, and without leaving any identification as to his whereabouts. Brooding over her domestic troubles the mother became depressed, and threatened on Sunday last to destroy herself. On the morning of the occurrence she left home at four o’clock, and took with her their youngest daughter. It is also stated that she was seen to pass along the Dudley Road about an hour afterwards, carrying the child in her arms, and crying.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 15/6/1885

“The inquiry into the circumstances attending the death of the child Edith Jones, aged four years, daughter of James and Ann Jones, of Cobden Lane, Blakenhall, was resumed by Mr. W. H. Phillips, coroner, at the BRIDGE INN, Ettingshall, this (Monday) morning.

Thomas Townsend, boatman, living at Bradley, deposed that he did not know either the deceased or her mother, but early on the morning of the 8th inst, whilst proceeding with his boat along the canal at Ettingshall, saw a woman walk from the side of the water.

Thomas Griffiths, ganger, of Deepfields, said that at 20 minutes to six on the morning in question he was in charge of a canal boat at Ettingshall when he saw a woman standing near an old engine not far from the water. She had a child in her arms, and witness saw her turn round in the direction of Ettingshall. When he first saw her she was almost fifteen yards from the towing path.

Joseph Smith, labourer, Deepfields, who was with the last witness at the time named, gave corroborative evidence. Mr. C. A. Newnham, surgeon, stated that on the 10th instant he made a post mortem examination of the body, which presented no external marks of violence. All the organs of the body were perfectly healthy. From the appearances witness was of opinion that death arose from asphyxia.

Inspector Harrison said the witness Smith pointed out to him the spot where he saw the woman standing, and which was eleven yards from the canal, and thirty yards from where she was got out of the water. The depth of the canal

in the middle was 5ft 4in, and at the side 2ft 3in. The towing path was 15 feet wide, and was not in a dangerous condition.

Mr. J. W. Batterham, house surgeon at the Wolverhampton Hospital, said the woman Ann Jones, mother of the dead child, was admitted into the institution early on Monday last. She presented the appearance of having been taken from the water, and was practically insensible. She was suffering from immersion, and witness found during the day she had inflammation of the lungs. In the course of a few hours she became conscious, and during the afternoon witness asked her how she came to do such a thing as to get into the water, in reply to which she said, 'It is all through trouble.' Her condition afterwards became more serious, her heart being affected as well as her lungs, and at times she was delirious. She died about six o'clock on Sunday morning from inflammation of the lungs.

Jemima Rollins, wife of John Rollins, of Hednesford, spoke to visiting Mrs. Jones, who was her sister, at the Hospital, on Wednesday, when she appeared sensible and asked if her child was buried. Her husband (James Jones), her daughter Mary, and her son William were present. To the latter she remarked, 'It is your fault that I came here. I should not have done it if it had not been for you.'

Police-constable Moss deposed that he was placed in charge of the woman Ann Jones, at the Hospital, on Monday. Early in the afternoon her husband and others came to see her. Witness cautioned her in the usual manner; and then, addressing her husband, she said, 'I don't blame you, for it is my son who has caused this. They have all left us in our old age to work for ourselves. I wish I had begged from door to door with my child, before I had put her in the water.' During her delirium on Friday night she said, 'The trial is over now, I'm all right.' She appeared to be troubled over household matters.'

This completed the evidence, and the Coroner, having briefly summed up the evidence, the jury, after a short deliberation, returned a verdict of Wilful Murder against the mother, Ann Jones."

Nottingham Journal 2/7/1887

"The Bankruptcy Act, 1883 Receiving Orders.....

Charles Preston, of Bradley, near Bilston, Staffordshire, licensed victualler."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 19/7/1887

"Bankruptcy Proceedings.....

Charles Preston, coal dealer and publican, NAVIGATION INN, Bradley, appeared at the Wolverhampton Bankruptcy Court, yesterday, on his public examination. He was represented by Mr. Rhodes.

The liabilities were £575, and the assets £152, leaving a deficiency of £423.

The debtor acquired the NAVIGATION INN in October 1880, he having previously been a keymaker, at Willenhall. The lease of those premises he assigned the following year by way of mortgage to secure £200, which he borrowed to enable him to pay on the fixtures and fittings at the BRIDGE INN, Ettingshall, which he took in that year. In 1885 the BRIDGE INN was disposed of, as the debtor asserted, at a loss of £167. He had also carried on the businesses of a pig dealer and coal dealer. Finding his affairs becoming complicated the debtor called a meeting of his creditors on the 14th June, when he offered to hand over to them his estate. This, however, they declined to accept, and a receiving order was made.

The examination was adjourned until the 23rd August."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 24/8/1887

"Bankruptcy Proceedings.....

Charles Preston, publican, of the NAVIGATION INN, Salop Street, Bradley, appeared at the Wolverhampton Bankruptcy Court, yesterday, for his adjourned examination. He was represented by Mr. R. R. Rhodes.

Certain documents not having yet been filed, the examination was further adjourned."

1891 Census

Rough Hills – BRIDGE INN

[1] *John James Green* (29), publican, born St. John, London;

[2] *Kate Green* (23), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Norah Green* (2), daughter, born Bilston;

[4] *Elizabeth Haywood* (21), domestic servant, born Bilston;

[5] *Alice Ireland* (13), lodger, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 14/2/1893

“The enquiry was resumed, before Mr. A. B. Smith (deputy coroner), at the BRIDGE INN, Ettingshall, yesterday, touching the death of Annie Thompson (52), married woman, of Parkfield Road, Ettingshall, whose body was found in the Birmingham Canal under suspicious circumstances on Tuesday last. The woman, it appeared, had occasionally given way to drinking, and on Monday week she left home with between £3 and £4 in her pocket, which was missing when the body was examined. There was also a cut on the woman’s head. The husband now stated that he had not yet found the missing money.

Mr. Ashley Smith, surgeon, Bilston, who had made a post mortem examination, gave it as his opinion that the woman had not been subjected to ill-treatment, and that death had resulted from drowning. He also recommended that all bodies found in the neighbourhood should be removed to the mortuary instead of to public houses, and the Coroner promised to consider the matter.

Evidence was given that, when last seen alive, the woman had had some drink, and she expressed her intention to ‘do her worst’ that night.

A verdict was returned that the deceased Committed Suicide whilst in a State of Unsound Mind.”

The Era 5/5/1900

“There was a brief stay of the Royal train at the Low Level Station of the Great Western Railway Company at Wolverhampton on Friday, 27th ult, on the Queen’s return from Ireland. During the stopping, the Town Clerk (Mr. Horatio Brevitt) availed himself of the opportunity afforded him of handing to Her Majesty, on behalf of Norah Lilliam Green (aged ten years), of Coleman Street, in that town, a medallion of the Queen, which was cut in 1887 (Jubilee year) out of a piece of fire-clay coal by Mr. Thomas Biggs, a colliery employee, resident at Ettingshall, near Wolverhampton, and by him presented to the parents of little Miss Green. The latter, who has, it appears, for some time been very anxious to give something to the Queen, is a daughter of the late Mr. *John James Green*, who will be better remembered as ‘Paddy Doyle.’ He was a partner in the then well-known and extremely popular pair of Irish comedians, Dermott and Doyle, who made such a striking success in the pantomime of Dick Whittington, produced at the present Star Theatre, Bilston Street, Wolverhampton, in December, 1885, under the proprietorship of Dermott’s brother, the famous comic singer, Mr. G. H. Macdermott. On retiring from the stage, Mr. *Green* took the BRIDGE HOTEL, Ettingshall.”

Richard Bates died on 29th January 1898.

Richard Bates – see also BULLS HEAD, Ettingshall.

Lucy Bates – see also BULLS HEAD, Ettingshall.

John Davies = John Davis

1911 Census

4, Ettingshall Road

[1] *Richard Daniel Davis* (42), hotel manager, born Dudley;

[2] *Emily Davis* (37), wife, married 17 years, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Elsie May Davis* (15), daughter, born Wednesbury;

Evening Despatch 11/1/1913

“A verdict of Found Drowned was returned at the inquest on John Shinton, aged forty-six, an ironworker, formerly of Station Street, Darlaston, and Wellington Road, Walsall, whose body was recovered from the canal near Millfields Bridge at Ettingshall on Tuesday morning.

A puddler, named Benjamin Southall, of 34, Bilston Street, Sedgley, said he saw deceased in the BRIDGE TAVERN, Ettingshall, shortly before eleven o’clock on Monday night, and he wanted witness to take him into the Mars Ironworks. Witness replied that he could not. He did not know what deceased wanted to go there for.

It was stated that about five months ago deceased lost his wife, and it seemed to trouble him very much.

Rosannah Jones, of 91, Station Street, Darlaston, said Shinton lodged at her house for about a month before Christmas, but in consequence of his drinking habits and neglecting his work, she advised him to find other lodgings. He pawned his clothes, and sold his bedstead to a pawnbroker. Witness said she had known deceased for some time, and he was always very quiet and sober, but since his wife’s death he had gone the wrong way.”

1921 Census

4, Ettingshall Road – BRIDGE

- [1] *Richard Daniel Davis* (52), licensed victualler, born Dudley;
- [2] *Emma Davis* (48), wife, assistant, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Elsie May Davis* (25), daughter, home duties, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Martha Lyndon* (78), mother, widow, born Wednesbury:

1939 Register

Ettingshall Road – BRIDGE INN

- [1] *Emma Davis*, date of birth 26/3/1873, licensed victualler, widowed:

Birmingham Daily Post 27/11/1968

“Fire badly damaged the smokersroom of the BRIDGE INN, Ettingshall Road, Wolverhampton, early yesterday. The licensee, Mr. *Thomas Challenor* and his family were awakened by smoke and escaped in their night clothes.”

Closed

BRITANNIA

13, Church Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Thomas Garratt [1867]

James Fellows [1868] – [1870]

NOTES

Birmingham Daily Post 21/8/1868 - Advert

“Bilston. To be Let, at Michaelmas next, the BRITANNIA INN, Church Street, with handsome and commodious Liquor Shop, possessing every convenience for business. Apply on the Premises to Mr. *James Fellows*.”

BILSTON.—To be LET, at Michaelmas next, “THE BRITANNIA INN,” Church Street, with handsome and commodious Liquor Shop, possessing every convenience for business.—Apply on the Premises to Mr. James Fellows.

Check COCK, Church Street.

BRITANNIA

51, (54), (63), Hall Green Street / Wootton Square, Hall Green, (Upper) Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

Isaac White

Joseph Kelsall, fish salesman, Liverpool

Atkinsons Ltd. (acquired in 1897)

William Butler & Co. Ltd. (leased from 24th December 1912 to November 1919)

William Butler & Co. Ltd. (acquired in November 1919) [1922]

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

Holdens Brewery (acquired in September 1979)

LICENSEES

Isaac White [1828] – **1846**;

James Halford **(1846 – [1870])**

Thomas Henry Cross [1870] – **1887**;

Jemima Cross **(1887 – 1889)**;

David Morris **(1889)**;

Richard Jones **(1889 – 1890)**;

Edwin McKean **(1890 – 1898)**;

Edmund Harris **(1898 – 1909)**;

Richard Weaver **(1909 – 1910)**;

Elijah Pountney **(1910 – 1913)**;

James Albiston **(1913 – 1915)**;

William Brown Snr. **(1915 – [1916])**

William Brown Jnr. [1920] – **1938**;

Mrs. Annie Brown **(1938 – [1940])**

Jack Brown [1950s]

Frank Poole [1960s]

Raymond Gordon Lunt [1978]

Thomas 'Tommy' Poulton [1979] – **1989**;

Anthony Gary 'Tony' Kear **(1989 – [1990])**

Mrs. Helen Kear [] – **1992**;

Roger Brookin **(1992 – [1995])**

Vanessa Jane Stevens [2000]

Simon Paul Green **(2001 – [])**

Annette Lisseman [2005]



2000

NOTES

[This pub was strictly in Sedgley, but is included here due to it being situated at Bradley.]

63, Hall Green Street [1871]

54, Hall Green Street [1891], [1901]

51, Hall Green Street [1921], [1939]

It was known locally as "Brownies".

It was the headquarters of Bradley United FC.

1841 Census

Hall Green

[1] *Isaac White* (50), innkeeper, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Sarah White* (45), born Staffordshire;

[3] *Mary White* (26), born Staffordshire;

[4] *George White* (24), born Staffordshire;

[5] *John White* (14), born Staffordshire;

[6] *Sarah White* (3), born Staffordshire:

Birmingham Journal 7/6/1845

“On Wednesday, at Wolverhampton Police Court, Mr. Bolton made application on behalf of the inhabitants of Brierley Village, in the parish of Sedgley, to have Thomas Clemson, a surveyor, discharged. It will be remembered that Clemson was brought up on an information laid by Mr. Swindell, a respectable inhabitant, about three weeks ago, for using his own team, and also upon three other informations, and was fined £15 and costs. This he had since paid, and he now wished to be dismissed. The Bench offering no objection, Mr. Robert Mitchell proposed Mr. *Isaac White*, victualler, who was accordingly appointed in his stead.”

Birmingham Journal 2/8/1845

“On Monday last Lodge 25 of the Loyal Britons held their annual dinner. They assembled at Host *White*’s, BRITANNIA INN, Hall Green, Sedgley, and proceeded in procession to St. Mary’s Church, where they attended divine service, and heard an impressive and eloquent discourse from the Rev. J. B. Owen. They afterwards returned to their lodge house, and dined together. After the cloth was drawn the usual loyal toasts were drank, including ‘The bishop and clergy of the diocese,’ ‘The Rev. J. B. Owen,’ and many others of a like character. In the evening the members separated to their respective homes, highly delighted with the proceedings of the day.”

Birmingham Journal 25/4/1846 - Died

“On the 16th inst, aged 59, Mr. *Isaac White*, of Hall Green, Bilston.”

Birmingham Journal 2/5/1846 - Advert

“Freehold Inn, Provision and Butcher’s Shops. Malthouse, Small Tenements, &c, &c, at Hall Green and the Gaol Hole, in the Parish of Sedgley, in the County of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett (by direction of the Devises in Trust for Sale, acting under the will of Mr. *Isaac White*, deceased), on Thursday Next, May 7th, 1846, at the BRITANNIA INN, Hall Green, near Bradley, at Five o’clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then and there to be produced, in the following or such other Lot or Lots as may be agreed upon at the time of sale.

Lot 1. All that aforesaid old-established and well-accustomed Inn, known as the BRITANNIA INN, with the Provision Shop forming part thereof, heretofore carried on by the late Mr. *Isaac White*, consisting of three Cellars, two Parlours, Provision Shop, Tap Room, Cooking Kitchen, Pantry, and Brewhouse, having a very commodious Club or Lodge Room, and suitable Bed Rooms, together with the adjoining Butcher’s Shop and Slaughterhouse, occupied by Joseph White; and also a small Tenement in the rear of the said Inn, and forming part thereof, occupied by William Geary; and likewise another small Tenement and Appurtenances at the back, occupied by William Harper. These Premises possess an area in front, inclosed by iron palisades, an entire back Yard, having a well of excellent water, Piggery, Wash Cistern, and other Appurtenances thereto belonging. There are three large Lodges or Friendly Societies held at the above Inn. The Purchaser will be entitled to early Possession of the Inn and Provision Shop, together with the Licenses and Goodwill of the business, and have the option to taking to the Lead Pumps, Furnaces, Fixtures, Stock-in-Trade, Furniture, &c, thereon at a fair valuation.

Lot 2. All those Four other adjoining Dwelling Houses, fronting the road from Bradley to Highfields.....

Lot 3. All those Four other newly-erected Tenements in the rear of Lot 2.....

Lot 4. Also all that other convenient Messuage, Tenement, or Dwelling House, with Brewhouse, and other Outbuildings, situate at the Gaol Hole, Sedgley, heretofore the property of and occupied by Mr. John Cox, but now in the care of Mr. George White, together with a convenient Malthouse, with Stable and Appurtenances thereto belonging. There is an area in front of the house, inclosed by a brick wall, and also a suitable Garden in the rear thereof.

NB. A part of the purchase money of any of the above Lots may (if desired) remain on mortgage of the Premises. All Persons having any claim or demand against the Estate of the said Mr. *Isaac White*, deceased, are requested to send particulars thereof to Mr. Henry Wootton, of Pothouse Bridge Timber Wharf, Bilston, Agent and Acting Executor; and Persons who stand indebted to the said Estate, are requested forthwith to pay their respective Debts to the said Mr. H. Wootton.

To view the Property, apply on the respective Premises; and for further particulars, to Mr. Samuel Smith, Solicitor, Walsall, or to the Auctioneer, New Town, Bilston.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 13/5/1846 - Advert

“To Publicans and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by R. Corbett (by direction of the executors) on Tuesday, the 19th day of May, 1846.

All the useful Household Furniture, Stock of iron-bound Ale Barrels, Ale, Hops, Mashing and other Tubs, copper and iron Furnaces, lead Pumps, public house Fixtures, and other miscellaneous property and effects, of the late Mr. *Isaac White*, of the BRITANNIA INN, Hall Green, Bradley, near Bilston, in the county of Stafford, deceased, particulars of which are given in catalogues now in circulation, and may be had on the premises, or at the offices of the Auctioneer, New Town, Bilston.

All persons having any Claim or Demand against the estate of the late Mr. *Isaac White*, deceased, are requested to send particulars thereof to Mr. Henry Wootton, at Pothouse Bridge Timber Wharf, Bilston, agent and acting executor; and persons who stand indebted to the estate are requested forthwith to pay their respective debts to the said Mr. H. Wootton.

To be Sold by Private Treaty, a convenient Messuage or Dwelling House, with Malthouse, Stable, and all other outbuildings and appurtenances to the same belonging, situate at the Gaol Hole, near Sedgley, now in the care of George White (son of the deceased).

To view the property apply on the premises; and to treat for the purchase, to Mr. Samuel Smith, solicitor, Walsall; Mr. Wootton as above-named; or to the Auctioneer, New Town, Bilston.”

AND

Birmingham Journal 24/10/1846 - Advert

“Malthouse, and Small Genteel Residence, at the Gaol Hole, near Sedgley, Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Auction, by R. Corbett (by directions of the Devises in Trust acting under the will of Mr. *Isaac White*, late of the BRITANNIA INN, Hall Green, Bradley, near Bilston, deceased) on Friday next, the 30th day of October, at the BULLS HEAD INN, Catchems Corner, near Bilston, at Five o’clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then and there to be produced.

All that convenient small Malthouse, and also the neat and substantial Dwelling House near adjoining, together with the Brewhouse, Stable, two Gardens, Out-buildings, and appurtenances to the same belonging, situated at the Gaol Hole, near Sedgley aforesaid, lately the property of and occupied by Mr. John Cox, but now in the care of George White.

To view the Property, apply on the Premises; and for further particulars, to Mr. S. Smith, Solicitor, Walsall; Mr. Henry Wootton, Pothouse Bridge, Bilston; or to the Auctioneer, New Town, Bilston.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 13/6/1846

“At a Special Sessions, held at the Public Office, Wolverhampton, on Wednesday last.....

A license was granted to *James Halford*, of Hall Green, in the parish of Sedgley, for a house lately in the occupation of *Isaac White*, deceased.”

Birmingham Journal 4/7/1846

“At Bilston Police Court, on Tuesday, John and Martin Walters appeared before the Bench to prefer a charge against William Cording, for neglecting to pay £2 8s 6d as contribution to a benefit society. The defendant did not appear. By the evidence it was shown that the two complainants were stewards of the No.3 Lodge of Loyal Britons, held at the house of *James Halford*, BRITANNIA INN, Hall Green. The lodge was enrolled according to act of Parliament, and the defendant had been a member some years. He had passed the chairs, but for the last year and a half had not paid any money. He had never given notice to leave the society, nor had he mentioned his intention of doing so. An order for payment was made.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 20/10/1847 - Advert

“Freehold Messuage, at Hall Green, near Bradley.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Walker and Page, on Friday, the 29th day of October, 1847, at six o'clock in the evening, at the house of Mr. *Halford*, known by the sign of the BRITANNIA INN, at Hall Green aforesaid, subject to conditions then to be produced and read.

All that Freehold Messuage or Dwelling House, with brewhouse, private yard, outbuildings, garden, and appurtenances thereto belonging, situate near Hall Green, at Bradley, in the county of Stafford, at the back of the BRITANNIA INN aforesaid.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 23/2/1848

“An inquest was held on Saturday last, at the BRITANNIA INN, at Hall Green, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of Richard Holmes, about 65 years of age, a sawdust seller, who had been found drowned in an arm of the Birmingham canal, at the Deepfields, on the previous Sunday morning. It appeared that the old man was seen on Saturday evening, very tipsy, going in the direction of a bridge over the canal leading from the Deepfields to Highfields. This bridge, it was stated by several witnesses, is in a dangerous state, and it is supposed that the deceased accidentally fell into the water. He was then on his way home. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 8/3/1848

“On Friday last an adjourned inquest was held at the BRITANNIA INN, at Hall Green, Bilston, before W. Ward, Esq, Coroner, on the body of Charles Spinks, about 54 years of age, whose death had been caused by injuries received from a fall of coal at the Graveland Old Colliery, in the parish of Rowley. A piece of coal found on the body of the deceased was nine or ten cwt. He was not under the coal more than a minute, when he was taken out by four fellow-workmen. He was afterwards removed to his house at Hall Green, Bilston, where he died on the following Tuesday from the injury he had received. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/7/1850 - Advert

“Freehold Messuages, Land, and Premises, at Hall Green Bradley, near Bilston, Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. John Amphlett, at the house of Mr. *James Halford*, known by the sign of the BRITANNIA, at Hall Green aforesaid, on Thursday, the 15th day of August, 1850.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 13/11/1850

“Thomas Morris was charged with stealing a jacket and a cap, the property of Isaiah Hodgkiss, son of Robert Hodgkiss, miner, near Shropshire Row, Bilston, with whom he lodged. He was seen to go into the house on the previous Monday evening with another man. They went in at the back door. Shortly afterwards, on the return of the wife of Robert Hodgkiss, she found the back door locked. Her husband, who is blind, and has been unable to work for many years, came down stairs and let her in. She lighted a candle and went into the prisoner's bed room. He was not there nor in the house. She then missed a jacket and the cap produced, belonging to her son Isaiah. She had locked and bolted the front door when she went out, but found it unfastened when she returned.

Charles Buck, police officer, of Bilston, proved that he apprehended the prisoner on Monday night, at the BRITANNIA, Hall Green, where he was wearing the cap, but on being charged stated that he knew nothing about the jacket.

In his defence prisoner now stated that he was not in the house after about one o'clock in the afternoon on Monday. He was committed for trial.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/1/1851

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Not True Bills Thomas Morris, stealing at Bilston.”

1851 Census

Hallgreen

[1] *James Halford* (36), licensed victualler, born Sedgley;

[2] *Deborah Halford* (36), wife, born Sedgley;

[3] *Mary Halford* (11), daughter, scholar, born Sedgley;

[4] *Jemima Halford* (7), daughter, scholar, born Sedgley;

[5] *Sarah Philpot* (20), servant, born Shropshire:

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/8/1851

“On Monday the lodge No.21, Loyal Britons, celebrated their anniversary at the house of Mr. *Halford*, sign of BRITANNIA, Hall Green, Bilston. W. H. Harper, Esq, surgeon, in the chair. An excellent dinner was provided, and the festivities were kept up until a late hour.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 15/6/1853

“An inquest was held on Thursday, at the BRITANNIA INN, Bradley, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of a boy named John Gozzard, who was killed on the 6th instant. He and several other children were playing on the railroad, pushing an empty truck along the line, when the deceased, falling under the wheel, it passed over his head. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/9/1855

“T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, held an inquest on Thursday, at the BRITANNIA INN, Hall Fields, on the body of Francis Williams, a waggoner, in the employ of Messrs. Rose and Son, of Moor Croft, Bilston. On Tuesday deceased was sent with a waggon and horses to Tipton for a piston. The horses and waggon came home at night with the piston, unaccompanied by deceased. Some men went in search of him, and found him in Bull Lane, lying on his face on the road, quite dead, with his neck broken and chest crushed. It was supposed that in passing under the bridge of the Great Western Railway, the horses had been frightened by the passage of a train, that deceased had been knocked down by them, run over, and killed. The jury returned an Open Verdict.”

Deborah Halford died in the 2nd quarter of 1859.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/8/1860 - Advert

“Freehold Premises at Hall Green, Bradley, in the parish of Sedgley, in the county of Stafford. To be Sold by Auction, at the house of Mr. *James Halford*, the BRITANNIA INN, at Hall Green aforesaid, on Monday, the 6th day of August, 1860, at six for seven o’clock in the afternoon.....”

1861 Census

Hall Green

[1] *James Halford* (46), widower, licensed victualler, born Sedgley;

[2] *Mary Halford* (21), daughter, born Sedgley;

[3] *Jemima Halford* (17), daughter, born Sedgley;

[4] *Harriet Haynes* (24), servant, born Much Wenlock, Shropshire;

Wolverhampton Chronicle 24/2/1864 - Advert

“Freehold Cottages, or Tenements, at Highfields, and Brierley, in the Parish of Sedgley, Staffordshire. Mr. George Bayley will Sell by Auction, at the House of Mr. *James Halford*, the BRITANNIA INN, Hall Green, in the Parish of Sedgley aforesaid, on Monday, the 29th day of February, 1864.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/6/1864

“On Monday evening the body of a little boy was found in an arm of the Birmingham Canal, near the Barbers Field Colliery. The body was subsequently identified as the illegitimate child of a young woman named Jane Price, residing at Bradley. It was conveyed to the BRITANNIA INN to await the Coroner’s inquest. It is supposed that the child was playing near the canal, when it tumbled into the water and was drowned.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/7/1867

“Yesterday, at Bilston Police Court, David Blinn, a member of lodge 21 of Loyal Britons, BRITANNIA INN, Hall Fields, was summoned by Thomas Bennett, for non-payment of club money. The bench declined to interfere, but defendant promised to pay the money to the treasurer by instalments.”

James Halford died in the 2nd quarter of 1869.

Jemima Halford married *Thomas Henry Cross* in the 3rd quarter of 1869.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/3/1870 - Advert

“Staffordshire. Freehold Dwelling Houses and Premises, at Hall Green, near Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Charles Round (by order of the Mortgagees), at the House of Mr. *Thomas Henry Cross*, the BRITANNIA INN, Hall Green, near Bilston, on Tuesday next, March 15.....”

1871 Census

63, Hall Green Street – BRITANNIA INN

[1] *Thomas Henry Cross* (31), licensed victualler, born Bilston;

[2] *Jemima Cross* (27), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Eliza Pugh* (34), domestic servant, born Dudley;

[4] *Thomas Lloyd* (43), general servant, born Whittington, Shropshire:

Staffordshire Advertiser 21/10/1876

“*Samuel Perry*, 20, puddler, was indicted for inflicting grievous bodily harm upon *Joseph Davis*, at Sedgley.

Mr. Haden Corser was for the prosecution.

It appeared that the prisoner and the prosecutor, who is also a puddler, quarrelled at the BRITANNIA public house, at Daisy Bank, on the evening of the 8th of July, and went out into a field near the public house, where they fought together. The prosecutor alleged that in the fourth round the prisoner knocked him down and fell upon him, and then seizing him by the under lip with his teeth, bit a piece out of it. *Mr. Gilbert*, assistant to *Mr. Larkin*, surgeon, Bilston, said the prosecutor came to him the same night to have his lip dressed. The wound was a lacerated one, and a piece of the lip had been wholly removed.

In his defence the prisoner denied that he had bitten the prosecutor, and alleged that the wound was caused by a blow upon the chin which had the effect of causing the prosecutor to bite his own lip. Two witnesses were called and gave evidence which went to show that the wound was caused as stated by the prisoner, and the jury returned a verdict of not guilty.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/1/1877

“*William Clark* (23), ironworker, Providence Road, Coseley, was brought up in custody charged with being drunk and refusing to quit the BRITANNIA public house at Bradley on the 30th ult.

Prisoner was drunk, and when requested to leave refused, and created a disturbance.

He was fined 10s and costs for being drunk, and ordered to find sureties for his good behaviour on the charge of refusing to quit.

Mr. Fellows, solicitor, appeared on behalf of *Mr. Cross*, the landlord of the BRITANNIA.”

1881 Census

63, Hall Green Street – BRITANNIA INN

[1] *Thomas Henry Cross* (41), victualler, born Bilston;

[2] *Jemima Cross* (37), wife, born Sedgley;

[3] *Margaret Bryan* (23), general servant, born Dudley:

1891 Census

54, Hall Green Street

[1] *Edwin McKean* (26), licensed victualler and grocer, born Bradley;

[2] *Annie McKean* (27), wife, grocer, born Bradley;

[3] *Hilda Mable McKean* (1), daughter, born Bradley;

[4] *Sarah Turner* (18), domestic servant, born Bradley:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/9/1895

“An inquest was held at the BRITANNIA INN, Bradley, yesterday afternoon, by Mr. A. B. Smith (Deputy-Coroner), touching the death of James Johnson (9), son of a puddler. The deceased, with two other boys, went for a walk on Sunday afternoon to a wharf on the Birmingham Canal at Spring Vale, and whilst there the deceased and another boy went on to a coal ‘tipper,’ when it overturned and threw both boys into the canal at a spot 16ft deep. A blast furnaceman named Abel Hopkins, of Broad Lanes, who was on his way to work on the other side of the canal, saw the accident, and divesting himself of his coat and waistcoat jumped into the canal. After swimming a distance of 60 yards he rescued one boy, and then, after diving four times, found the body of the deceased. His brother, Alexander Hopkins, then arrived, and recovered the body. The two men tried to restore animation, but life was extinct.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and expressed an opinion that the bravery of Hopkins should receive due recognition. Hopkins rescued another boy from drowning some time ago.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 14/11/1898

“At the BRITANNIA INN, Hall Green, Bradley, Mr. W. H. Phillips (district coroner) held an inquiry this (Monday) afternoon touching the death of Mary Ann Thomas, aged 53, a widow, who was found dead in bed by her daughter (a married woman) on Friday morning last.

Sarah Ann Baugh deposed that deceased was her mother, and lived with witness at 13, Allens Row, Daisy Bank, Bradley. The deceased was a widow. Deceased took supper with witness on Thursday evening, which consisted of dry toast and a half a pint of ale. Witness slept with her husband in the same room, and was surprised to find her mother dead on the Friday morning. The deceased was very stout and had been so for years.

Dr. F. E. Tomlinson testified that he had made a post mortem examination of the body. He attributed death to natural causes.

The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical testimony.”

1901 Census

54, Hall Green Street

[1] *Edmund Harris* (37), public house manager, born Bradley;

[2] *Eliza Harris* (30), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Ernest Harris* (8), son, born Bilston;

[4] *Elsie Harris* (4), daughter, born Bilston;

[5] *Minnie Harris* (3), daughter, born Bradley;

[6] *Edith Fellows* (16), domestic servant, born Bilston:

County Advertiser 10/9/1904

“A few weeks ago we gave some interesting particulars of the ‘Crooked House,’ or ‘Siden House,’ as it is variously known in this district. It is a popular place of resort by pleasure parties, especially from Wolverhampton and the neighbourhood. How the pleasure of one of these parties was interrupted by a brawl which ended fatally was told on Friday last, when Mr. A. B. Smith (deputy county coroner) held an inquest at the BRITANNIA INN, Bradley, touching the death of Sarah Jane Bradley (27), wife of Thomas G. Bradley, a bricklayer’s labourer, of Allens Row, Bradley.

The husband of the deceased said his wife on August 24th went for a trip around the Crooked House and neighbourhood, and returned about 9.30pm. Next morning she showed him a large bruise on her body, and also told him that there had been a disturbance in the brake in which she had travelled. The passengers were all women with the exception of driver and guard. Deceased added that she got over the side of the brake on to the wheel, but she forgot what occurred afterwards. When she came to herself she journeyed home by tram. She alleged that some of the women were drunk, and that one woman struck her.

Mary Turner stated that the deceased was her niece, and she went with her on an excursion to the Crooked House. There was a large jar of beer in the brake. Near the Wolverhampton Orphanage Mary Ann Hadley, who was sitting opposite to witness, got up and struck witness on the left jaw. Deceased got up to protect her, and was struck by Hadley. She got over the side of the brake, and afterwards went home.

Mr. John Wells, surgeon, said he was called to deceased about 6pm on the 30th ult. She was then semi-unconscious. Witness then heard of the brake incident, and examined her body. There was a large bruise on her left hip, but the skin was not broken. There were also slight bruises on the left arm. He thought it possible that the deceased might be suffering from a fracture of the skull.

Sarah Ann Cooper, wife of an ironworker, said she was one of the party. When near the Wolverhampton Orphanage Mary Ann Hadley woke up and said, 'I have got it in for you, for your son and son-in-law,' and struck Mrs. Turner on the left jaw. Deceased got up and put her arm round Mrs. Turner's neck, and Hadley struck the deceased. Hadley was not struck in return. They had a whip-round before they started, and they had another whip at the Crooked House. Deceased had some port wine with her in a bottle and witness had some of it.

Dr. Wells, who had made, during an adjournment, a post mortem examination, said he found an abscess on the woman's brain and a fissured fracture of the skull, but there was no external mark of violence. He attributed death to the abscess and fracture, which might have been caused by an accident. Had deceased fallen upon her shoulder that might have caused the fracture.

The Coroner recommended the jury to return an open verdict. The evidence, he said, had been very conflicting, and there would be considerable difficulty in fixing culpability on anyone, supposing there was any. The jury agreed with the coroner. Mrs. Hadley was told by the Coroner that, in his opinion, she was morally the cause of the woman's death, and he disallowed her expenses."

Edmund Harris – see also *THREE FISHES*, Darlaston.

1911 Census

Hall Green Street – BRITANNIA INN

[1] *Elijah Pountney* (37), managing public house, born Highfields, Coseley;

[2] *Alice G. Pountney* (36), wife, married 11 years, born Wallbrook, Coseley:

Elijah Pountney – see also *PHEASANT*.

He murdered his wife *Alice Gertude* in 1922.

Walsall Observer 5/12/1914

"'If the skin had been removed it would have been a natural skeleton,' was the description given by a veterinary surgeon of a horse which led to a prosecution at the Guildhall, on Monday. The animal had been purchased by *James Albiston*, of the BRITANNIA INN, Hall Green Street, Bradley, from Harry Smith, of 4, Day Street, Walsall, on November 19, the price paid for the horse, a spring cart, and a set of harness being £9, and Smith was now summoned for obtaining the amount by false pretences. Mr. H. A. Tucker appeared for the complainant, and Mr. F. A. Platt defended.

Mr. Tucker stated that complainant saw the complete turn-out advertised for sale at £9 10s. The reason given for selling was that room was required, and a three months' trial was offered. Prosecutor wanted a horse and cart to start his son in business, and the son went over to see the animal at the SEVEN STARS INN, Stafford Street, defendant stating that it was a good horse and a good puller. He said he wanted to sell it because, owing to rheumatism, he was unable to follow his trade as a greengrocer. Two days later (the 19th) prosecutor went to the SEVEN STARS to see the animal, and defendant repeated what he had said before. Neither prosecutor nor his son knew much about horses, but defendant agreeing to give a written warranty, prosecutor decided to buy the horse. The warranty given by the defendant was as follows, 'Mr. Smith sells to Mr. *Albiston* one cob, set of harness, and spring cart, for the sum of £9. I, Mr. Smith, warrant the cob sound in wind, eyes, and limb, and a good puller. If the cob is not as above stated, I also agree to take it back at the end of one month and return the purchase money, free of charge for use.' The money was paid in cash, and the horse taken back to Bradley. It went fairly well to Darlaston, but there showed signs of weakness, and fell on its knees, although the cart was empty. They managed to get it home by pushing it up hills. Prosecutor thought the animal wanted feeding, and when he got it to the stable he fed it well. The following Sunday the horse was seen by a friend, who told him it was quite useless, and advised that it should be taken back to the defendant. Accordingly, prosecutor sent his son back with the horse the following Tuesday, November 24, and on the way the animal fell down three times, although the cart was empty. The prosecutor met his son in Walsall, and together they went to see the defendant, who adopted a curious attitude. He did not reiterate that the horse was sound, but he declined to return the money. In the presence of the son, defendant said to a friend, 'Fancy me buying that back again.' To the prosecutor he said afterwards, 'I will send for it when I am willing to have it back.' Prosecutor replied that he wanted his money back according to the terms of the warranty. He was afraid to take the animal back to Bradley lest he should be summoned; he stabled it, and then reported the matter to the police. The following day, when it was taken to the police station, it fell down again, and Mr. Paley, who was called in, said it was in such a terrible condition that it was simply cruelty to keep it alive. It was therefore destroyed the same evening. Mr. Tucker explained that the ground on which the proceedings were taken were that in the first place

defendant said he was selling the horse because he was unable to follow his trade as a greengrocer, though he had not followed that business, at any rate, in recent years. Detective Burrell would state that as far as he knew the defendant was a horse dealer. In the second place, prosecutor relied upon the defendant's specific statement as to the soundness of the horse. He submitted that the defendant must have known that statement to be untrue.

The Clerk (Mr. S. E. Loxton): How many hundreds of cases do you get in which a man says a horse is the most perfect that ever trod in shoes? The action would lie for breach of warranty.

Mr. Tucker contended that in such a case there could also be a prosecution for false pretences.

Evidence in support of Mr. Tucker's statement was given by the prosecutor and his son, Frederick Albister, both denying in cross-examination that the horse was trotted up and down the street before it was purchased.

Questioned by the Clerk, prosecutor said the cart was not a good one, but the harness was fairly good.

The Clerk: You can't get much for £9.

Prosecutor said it was a horse he wanted; he was not particular about the cart or harness. He added that he knew nothing about horses.

The Clerk: But you know the difference between a clothes horse and one you can use. This is described as one you can't use.

In reply to Mr. Platt, the witness said he would be satisfied if he got his money back.

The Clerk: You won't get it here, you know?

Prosecutor added that if he had known the defendant was a horse dealer, he would have had nothing to do with him.

Mr. A. E. Paley (veterinary surgeon) said the animal was an old bay mare, and he should say it was at least thirty years old. Its condition was the worst he had ever seen in his life. If the skin had been removed it would have been a natural skeleton. It had great difficulty even in walking out of the stable. It dragged its legs, and its knees were injured, evidently as a result of frequent falls. In his opinion it must have been in that condition – which was due to senile decay – for some months. It was totally unfit to walk, much less to work. On his advice it was slaughtered at once. Witness produced the animal's bottom jaw bone, showing that most of the molar teeth had dropped out. He said it was the oldest mouth he had ever seen, and it would be impossible for the horse to properly masticate its food.

Detective-sergeant Burrell stated that the defendant was a horse dealer, but he lived at a greengrocer's shop.

Mr. Platt submitted that the case was not one for criminal proceedings, and that complainant should have brought an action in the County Court. He also denied that defendant represented himself as a greengrocer.

After some legal argument, the Bench announced that the case had not been made out.

The Clerk said that did not mean the case was dismissed, but simply there was not sufficient evidence under the statute to send the case for trial at the Quarter Sessions."

William Brown kept a parrot in the outdoor and Mrs. Dina Brown always kept a joint of pork in the smoke room, from which you could help yourself.

South Staffordshire Times 11/12/1920

"There was a large and representative gathering at the first annual dinner held in connection with the Bradley Allotments Association on Thursday Evening last at the BRITANNIA INN, Bradley (Councillor *W. Brown*). The table and chairs were prettily decorated. The catering reflected the highest credit upon the host and hostess, and their busy staff of waitresses performed their duties to the entire satisfaction of the company....."

1921 Census

51, Hall Green Street

[1] *William Brown* (48), millwright, born Darlaston;

[2] *Annie Brown* (51), wife, housewife, born Kinver;

[3] *Elizabeth Brown* (19), daughter, barmaid, born Bradley;

[4] *Violet Paul* (19), servant, born Bradley;

A Buffaloes Lodge was based here. [1920s]

South Staffordshire Times 7/10/1922

“Mr. Wright, on behalf of Messrs. Butlers, brewers, Wolverhampton, for permission for structural alterations....
With regard to the BRITANNIA, Bradley, Mr. Wright said this was an old house, and the walls were giving way. The architect was of the opinion that the only practical way of dealing with it was to rebuild it. Plans had been submitted. The drinking facilities would be greatly increased.
The Chairman said that as an entirely new place was contemplated, they thought the application must be made at the next general Licensing Sessions.”

South Staffordshire Times 10/2/1923

“Bilston Licensing Sessions.....

Mr. C. M. Wright submitted plans of extensive alterations at the BRITANNIA INN, Hall Green Street, Bradley. He said that the house was at present in a very precarious condition, at one time there were fears that it would collapse, because of the heavy vibration which took place near it. It had now become absolutely necessary to do something to make it safe and suitable. The architect had suggested that the only business-like way in which to do this was practically rebuild it. They were not trying to make it into a larger house, or to afford more drinking accommodation. The room would be increased by 33 superficial feet only. The club room, which was now upstairs, was downstairs in the new plan. This would be a great convenience to those who used it.
Permission to make the alterations was granted.”

South Staffordshire Times 9/2/1924

“Bilston Licensing.....

Plans for the re-building of the BRITANNIA, Hall Green Street, Bradley, which were passed at the adjourned Sessions had been carried out and the premises occupied.”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 14/11/1925

“A well-attended and representative smoking concert, in connection with Coseley and District Friendly Society, was held at the BRITANNIA INN, Bradley, on Friday week, for the presentation of the Mobberly Shield to the BRITANNIA INN, the winner for 1925, the amount raised being £86.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/6/1926

“Feeding the Children.....

One of the stark facts about the Midland coalfields at the moment is that thousands of children come down to bare tables in the morning and have to wait for their first meal of the day until the group feeding stations open at noon or thereabouts. The relieving organisations are doing everything they can with the funds at their disposal. The wonderful shifts they are making with inadequate means to cope with all the demands made upon them constitute one of the most gallant stories of the coal stoppage. They are doing truly admirable work. But they do not possess funds enough to do all that should be done. They need more money, and they are looking to readers of the *Birmingham Gazette* for aid.

Subscriptions.....

W. Brown, BRITANNIA INN, Bradley, near Bilston, 7s.”

A music license was granted on 2nd March 1928.

It was the headquarters of Britannia Pigeon Flying Club. [1937]

1938 Probate

“*William Brown* of BRITANNIA INN, Hall Green Street, Bradley, near Bilston, Staffordshire, died 28 January 1938 at the Connaught Nursing Home, Wolverhampton. Probate Birmingham 29 March to *Annie Brown*, widow, and *Elisabeth Weekes* (wife of *Arthur Weekes*). Effects £1,690 15s 6d.”

William Brown – see also BRITISH OAK, Wesley Street.

1939 Register

Hallgreen Street – BRITANNIA INN

[1] *Annie Brown*, date of birth 3/12/1870, licensed victualler, widowed:

Bilston and Willenhall Times 8/6/1946

"A social was held at the BRITANNIA INN, Bradley, Bilston, on Monday night to mark the conclusion of the first season of the Bradley Cribbage League, which has been a most successful one. Mr. P. Fellows presided....."

Bilston and Willenhall Times 25/11/1946

"Darts. Bradley League First Division: BRITANNIA have won the league for the third season in succession, although this season has been a close run thing, as the championship was not decided until the last match was played....."

Frank Poole – see also RED LION, Dudley Street.
He was married to Violet.

It was the headquarters of Hazeldine Anglers Association. [1965], [1971]

Birmingham Daily Post 29/11/1969

"Two MPs, Mr. Bob Edwards and Mr. John Horner, with other Labour Party representatives are to discuss local and national problems over a meal of fish and chips at a 'talk-in' organised by the Bilston East Ward Labour Party, at the BRITANNIA INN, Hall Green Street, Bradley, this evening."

Birmingham Mail 11/5/1978 - Notice

"The Licensing Act, 1964. Notice of Principal Meeting. West Midlands Metropolitan County.

Notice is Hereby Given that the Principal Meeting to be held pursuant to the Licensing Rules, 1910, by the Compensation Authority for the above area, will be held at the Council Chambers, Council House, Smethwick, Warley, on the 7th day of July, 1978, at 3pm.

And notice is hereby also given that the Compensation Authority will at the meeting be prepared to hear, with reference to the renewal of the licenses of the several premises specified in the subjoined list, all those persons to whom, under the Licensing Act, 1964, they are bound to give an opportunity of being heard; that is to say, the persons interested in any licensed premises in question and, unless it appears to the Compensation Authority unnecessary, any other persons appearing to them to be interested in the question of the renewal of the license of those premises (including the justices of the licensing district).

List of Licensed Premises.....

BRITANNIA, Hall Green Street, Bradley, Bilston. Intoxicating liquor of all descriptions. Licensee, *Raymond Gordon Lunt*."

Sandwell Evening Mail 4/11/1978

"For sale – a boozer's dream home. For Mitchells and Butlers have put a place on the market that has a few good pints in its favour – an old pub that can no longer get a license. It is up for sale to be converted into a home – or any other use it can be put to. Magistrates took away the license of the BRITANNIA in Hall Green Street, Bradley, when they decided there were enough pubs in the area already. The pub has a snug, a lounge, large bar, six bedrooms and a bathroom. It is one of seven West Midland pubs being sold by private treaty by Birmingham Estate Agent Edwards Bigwood and Bewlay. A spokesman for the agents said, 'We are selling them off for any use that anyone can put them to, subject of course to permission by the local planning authorities. And Mitchells and Butlers are hoping the pub will be a real barrel of fun for the new owner.'"

'History of Holdens Brewery' by John Richards

"M. & B. delicensed the pub but it was sold to Holdens and reopened by them in June 1979."

Plans for alterations were approved on 20th November 1981.

Anthony Gary Kear was married to *Helen*.

Sandwell Evening Mail 5/3/1990

“Students at a Black Country college are learning all about what their right arms are for as part of a course aimed at finding pub managers of the future. The BRITANNIA INN at Hall Green Road, Bradley, in Bilston, has turned into a classroom with a difference for students from Bilston Community College. And, for the next week, they will be learning all about the licensed trade, from book-keeping and marketing, to developing a friendly outgoing personality. Mr. Mike Potts, tutor of the British Institute of Innkeeping induction course, said today, ‘There is a large skill shortage in the pub manager and bar staff area and this course is designed to help people into the trade without first going to a brewery. Students will learn about retail, marketing, licensing law, and how to keep books. They also need to be outgoing because one of the reasons why people go into a pub is because of the atmosphere.’ Mr. Potts said Bilston was one of only two colleges in the West Midlands which provided such a course.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 5/10/1990

“A man plunged 20ft to his death through the upstairs window of a Bilston pub today. The man, whom police are waiting to identify, was found by a motorist on the car park of the BRITANNIA INN pub in Hall Green Street, at about 1am.

Supt. John Carrington, of Wednesfield police said, ‘The indications are that it is the licensee who has fallen through the window for some reason which we are presently trying to determine. He was certified dead at the scene by a police surgeon and a post mortem was later carried out at Wednesfield police station, which established the cause of death as being multiple injuries.

The middle-aged man is understood to have been alone in the pub, which belongs to the local Holdens Brewery, at the time of the accident. The pub was closed today.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 6/10/1990

“A man who plunged 20ft to his death through an upstairs window of a Bilston pub has been identified as the licensee, Mr. *Anthony Gary Kear*. Police said he had run the BRITANNIA INN, Hall Green Street, since September 1989.”

Birmingham News 18/6/1992

“Pick-n-Apple Folk Club: Sponsored 12 hour sing-a-round in aid of Acorns Children’s Hospice. The BRITANNIA pub, Hall Green Street, Bradley Bilston, from 11am to 11pm, June 21.”

Birmingham Weekly Mercury 26/5/1996 - Advert

“Function Room Available for any occasion, warm and cheerful atmosphere. Also a full catering service available for 100 people if required.

Live Entertainments every Tuesday, Friday and Sunday with Kenny Haywood Free and Easy. BRITANNIA INN, Hall Green Street, Bradley, Bilston.”

It closed on 30th October 2005.

It was converted into housing. [2010]

FREEHOLD INN, PROVISION AND BUTCHER'S SHOPS.

MALTHOUSE, SMALL TENEMENTS, &c., &c.,
At HALL GREEN and the GAOL HOLE, in the Parish of
Sedgley, in the County of Stafford.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by RICHARD CORBETT, (by direction of the Devises in Trust for Sale, acting under the will of Mr. Isaac White, deceased,) on **THURSDAY NEXT, May 7th, 1846,** at the Britannia Inn, Hall Green, near Bradley, at Five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then and there to be produced, in the following or such other Lot or Lots as may be agreed upon at the time of sale:—

Lot 1.—All that the aforesaid old-established and well-accustomed INN, known as "THE BRITANNIA INN," with the Provision Shop forming part thereof, heretofore carried on by the late Mr. Isaac White, consisting of three Cellars, two Parlours, Provision Shop, Tap Room, Cooking Kitchen, Pantry, and Brewhouse, having a very commodious Club or Lodge Room, and suitable Bed Rooms, together with the adjoining BUTCHER'S SHOP and Slaughter-house, occupied by Joseph White; and also a small TENEMENT in the rear of the said Inn, and forming part thereof, occupied by William Geary; and likewise another small TENEMENT and Appurtenances at the back, occupied by William Harper. These Premises possess an area in front, inclosed by iron palisades, an entire back Yard, having a well of excellent water, Piggery, Wash Cistern, and other Appurtenances thereto belonging. There are three large Lodges or Friendly Societies held at the above Inn. The Purchaser will be entitled to early Possession of the Inn and Provision Shop, together with the Licenses and Goodwill of the business, and have the option of taking to the Lead Pumps, Furnaces, Fixtures, Stock-in-Trade, Furniture, &c., thereon at a fair valuation.

Lot 2.—All those Four other adjoining DWELLING HOUSES, fronting the road from Bradley to Highfields, occupied by Thomas Birch, Joseph Shaw, John Fielding, and William Cox, at rents amounting to £23. 8s. per year, together with a convenient back Yard, in which is a well of clear water, Stable, Piggery, Outbuildings, and Appurtenances thereto belonging. Three of these Houses have been recently erected.

Lot 3.—All those Four other newly-erected TENEMENTS, in the rear of Lot 2, fronting to the road leading from Hall Green towards Brierley, together with an inclosed back Yard, Brewhouse, Outbuilding, and Appurtenances to the same belonging, in the respective occupations of Joseph Evans, Zachariah Fellows, William Walker, and Josiah Evans, at rents amounting to £20. 16s. per annum.

Lot 4.—Also all that other convenient MESSUAGE, Tenement, or Dwelling House, with Brewhouse and other Outbuildings, situated at the Gaol Hole, near Sedgley, heretofore the property of and occupied by Mr. John Cox, but now in the care of Mr. George White, together with a convenient MALTHOUSE, with Stable and Appurtenances thereto belonging. There is an area in front of the house, inclosed by a brick wall, and also a suitable Garden in the rear thereof.

N.B.—A part of the purchase money of any of the above Lots may (if desired,) remain on mortgage of the Premises.

All Persons having any claim or demand against the Estate of the said Mr. Isaac White, deceased, are requested to send particulars thereof to Mr. Henry Wootton, of Pothouse Bridge Timber Wharf, Bilston, Agent and Acting Executor; and Persons who stand indebted to the said Estate, are requested forthwith to pay their respective Debts to the said Mr. H. Wootton.

To view the Property, apply on the respective Premises; and for further particulars, to Mr. Samuel Smith, Solicitor, Walsall; or to the Auctioneer, New Town, Bilston.

1846

TO PUBLICANS AND OTHERS. TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, BY R. CORBETT, (By direction of the executors,) on Tuesday, the 19th day of May, 1846.

ALL the useful HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, A Stock of iron-bound Ale Barrels, Ale, Hops, Mash-ing and other Tubs, copper and iron Furnaces, lead Pumps, public-house Fixtures, and other miscellaneous property and effects, of the late Mr. Isaac White, of the "Britannia Inn," Hall Green, Bradley, near Bilston, in the county of Stafford, deceased, particulars of which are given in catalogues now in circulation, and may be had on the premises, or at the offices of the Auctioneer, New Town, Bilston.

☞ All persons having any Claim or Demand against the estate of the late Mr. ISAAC WHITE, deceased, are requested to send particulars thereof to Mr. HENRY WOOTTON, at Pothouse Bridge Timber Wharf, Bilston, agent and acting executor; and persons who stand indebted to the estate are requested forthwith to pay their respective debts to the said Mr. H. Wootton.

To be Sold by Private Treaty, a convenient MESSUAGE or DWELLING-HOUSE, with Malthouse, Stable, and all other outbuildings and appurtenances to the same belonging, situate at the Gaol Hole, near Sedgley, now in the care of George White (son of the deceased).

••• To view the property apply on the premises; and to treat for the purchase, to Mr. SAMUEL SMITH, solicitor, Walsall; Mr. WOOTTON, as abovenamed; or to the AUCTIONEER, New Town, Bilston.

MALTHOUSE AND SMALL GENTEEL RESIDENCE, At the GAOL HOLE, near Sedgley, Staffordshire.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by R. CORBETT, (by directions of the Devises in Trust acting under the will of Mr. Isaac White, late of the Britannia Inn, Hall Green, Bradley, near Bilston, deceased,) on **FRIDAY NEXT, the 30th day of October,** at the Bull's Head Inn, Catchem's Corner, near Bilston, at Five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then and there to be produced—all that convenient small MALTHOUSE, and also the neat and substantial DWELLING HOUSE near adjoining, together with Brewhouse, Stable, two Gardens, Outbuildings, and appurtenances to the same belonging, situated at the Gaol Hole, near Sedgley aforesaid, lately the property of and occupied by Mr. John Cox, but now in the care of George White.

To view the Property, apply on the Premises; and for further particulars, to Mr. S. Smith, Solicitor, Walsall; Mr. Henry Wootton, Pothouse Bridge, Bilston; or to the Auctioneer, New Town, Bilston.

1846

FUNCTION ROOM AVAILABLE

FOR ANY OCCASION,
WARM AND CHEERFUL
ATMOSPHERE. ALSO A
FULL CATERING SERVICE
AVAILABLE FOR 100
PEOPLE IF REQUIRED.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENTS

EVERY TUES, FRI & SUN
WITH KENNY HAYWOOD
FREE & EASY.

BRITANNIA INN.

HALL GREEN STREET,
BRADLEY, BILSTON,
WV14 8TH.

01902 493908

1996

BRITANNIA INN

Bradley, Bilston

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

Jason & Lisa Welcome You

FREE FUNCTION ROOM AVAILABLE

*Xmas Parties, Weddings,
Celebrations etc.....*

Dates still available in December

Call For Details

01902 493908

2003

The Britannia Inn

**HALL GREEN STREET, BRADLEY,
BILSTON TEL: (01902) 493908**

Licensee, Roger M.J. Brookin

Holdens Traditional Ales
Mild - Bitter

SATELLITE T.V.

Live Entertainment
Four Nights a Week

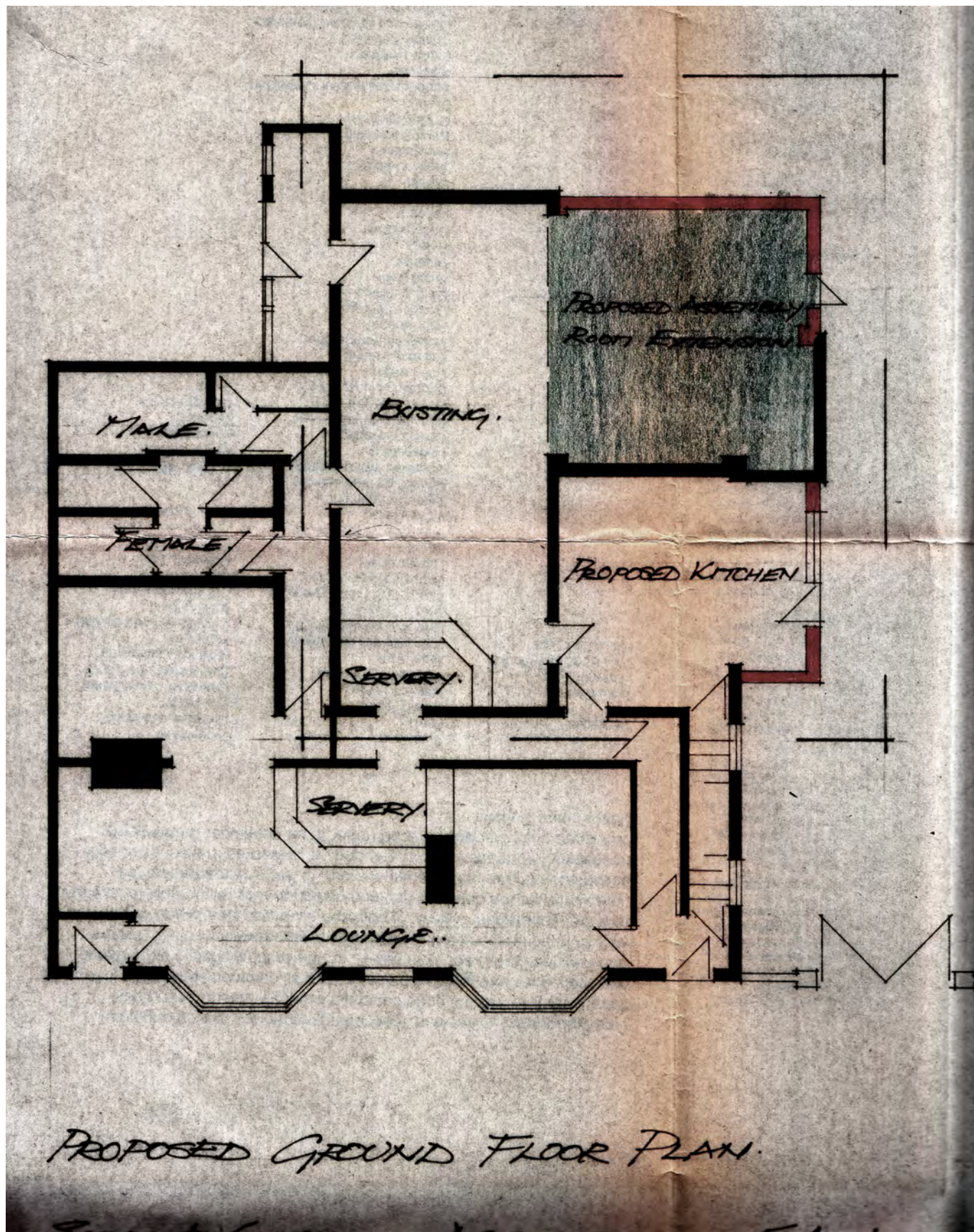
WITH A 12 O'CLOCK BAR

HOME COOKED FOOD AVAILABLE ON
LUNCH TIMES & ON ENTERTAINMENT
EVENINGS

***Function Room available for hire on
Saturday nights***

Normal Opening Times
Large Car Parking Facilities

1997



Plan 1981

BRITANNIA

137, (64), Oxford Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

James Price

David Hart, money lender, St. James Square, Wolverhampton

Richard Andrew Harper, Hall Park Brewery, Bilston

Elizabeth Leaver, Waterloo Road, Wolverhampton

LICENSEES

Thomas Hogan [1860] – [1862]

James Price [1868] – **1873**;

Jane Price **(1873 – 1889)**;

Joseph Jackson **(1889 – 1891)**;

Edwin John Baker **(1891 – 1892)**;

George Burrows **(1892 – 1894)**;

John Norton **(1894 – 1897)**;

George Samuel Holder **(1897 – 1900)**;

William Hardwick **(1900 – 1908)**;

Sarah Hardwick [1901]

NOTES

64, Oxford Street [1861], [1871], [1881], [1891]

137, Oxford Street [1901], [1904]

ERIN-GO-BRAGH [1860]

HIBERNIAN TAVERN [1861]

It had a ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/11/1860

“*Thomas Hogan*, the occupier of the ERIN-GO-BRAGH beerhouse, Oxford Street, Bilston, was fined 10s and costs for opening his house on Sunday forenoon.”

1861 Census

64, Oxford Street – HIBERNIAN TAVERN

[1] *Thomas Hogan* (55), publican, born Ireland;

[2] *Bridget Hogan* (55), wife, born Ireland;

[3] *Michael Hogan* (21), son, brewer, born Ireland;

[4] *John Hogan* (20), son, labourer, born Ireland;

[5] *Edward Hogan* (18), son, labourer, born Ireland;

[6] *Patrick Hogan* (16), son, no employment, born Ireland;

[7] *Michael M. Andrew* (30), lodger, coal miner, born Ireland;

[8] *Ellen M. Andrew* (60), lodger, widow, born Ireland:

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/4/1862

"A boiler explosion, the most fatal in its results of any of that too frequent class of accidents we ever remember, occurred on Tuesday morning last, at the Millfield Iron Works of Mr. Thomas Rose, situated at Priestfield, near Bilston. No less than twenty-six lives have been already sacrificed, a considerable number of persons seriously injured, and property to the amount of some thousands of pounds destroyed.....

Thomas Hogan, labourer and beerhouse keeper, Oxford Street, Bilston, is going on favourably.....

With regard to the cause of the accident further enquiry must take place before any positive opinion can be formed."

[For further on the boiler explosion see under KINGS ARMS.]

James Price, beer retailer, 64, Oxford Street. [1868]

1871 Census

64, Oxford Street

- [1] *James Price* (66), publican, born Bilston;
- [2] *Susan Price* (53), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Jane Price* (28), daughter, no occupation, born Bilston;
- [4] *Charlotte Price* (14), daughter, scholar, born Wolverhampton:

James Price died in 1873.

1881 Census

64, Oxford Street – BRITANNIA

- [1] *Susan J. Price* (63), widow, beer retailer, born Bilston;
 - [2] *Charlotte S. L. Price* (22), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
 - [3] *Kate Hill* (19), domestic servant, born Bilston:
- [It appears that *Susan J.* was licensee *Jane.*]

Birmingham Daily Post 16/10/1890 - Advert

"To Let, BRITANNIA INN, Oxford Street, Bilston; brewing 12 bushels weekly. In-coming about £150.

Apply on Premises."

TO Let, Britannia Inn, Oxford Street, Bilston; brewing 12 bushels weekly. In-coming about £150.—Apply on Premises.

1891 Census

64, Oxford Street – BRITANNIA INN

- [1] *Edwin J. Baker* (49), beerhouse keeper, born Worcester;
- [2] *Elizabeth Baker* (49), wife, born Stoke on Trent;
- [3] *Alice Baker* (17), daughter, born Dudley;
- [4] *Charles Gwillam* (49), lodger, baker, born Worcester:

John Norton, beer retailer, 64, Oxford Street. [1896]

1901 Census

137, Oxford Street – BRITANNIA INN

- [1] *William Hardwick* (57), blacksmith, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] *Sarah Hardwick* (57), wife, publican, born Wyrley;
- [3] *Mary A. Hardwick* (22), daughter, born Walsall;
- [4] *Ernest W. Hardwick* (19), son, blacksmith's striker, born West Bromwich;
- [5] *Edwin B. Hardwick* (16), son, engine fitter's labourer, born Ettingshall;
- [6] *Harry S. Hardwick* (13), son, errand boy, born Ettingshall;
- [7] *Henry C. Arblaster* (57), brother-in-law, widower, blacksmith's striker, born Pelsall:

William Hardwick, beer retailer, 137, Oxford Street. [1904]

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/3/1908

“Bilston Licensing Business.....

The BRITANNIA INN, Oxford Street, was ordered to be referred for closing and compensation.”

License refused by Compensation Authority on 18th June 1908.

Lichfield Mercury 26/6/1908

“The principal meeting of the members of the Staffordshire Licensing Committee was held at the Shirehall, Stafford. There was a full attendance of the members of the committee, Lord Hatherton presiding. The business before the committee was that of hearing and determining applications for the renewal of licenses in those cases which had been referred to the committee by the justices in petty sessions for compensation. The list contained forty public houses. There was a large attendance of barristers and solicitors, but in none of the cases were any objections raised to the reports of the justices concerning the houses referred, and the committee refused to renew the licenses in each of the forty cases which came before them. The following are the houses, the licenses of which were refused.....

BRITANNIA INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, ante-1869 beerhouse.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/6/1908 - Notice

“The Licensing Act 1904. County Of Stafford.

Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Compensation Authority for the above area, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on the 18th day of June, 1908, to refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below, All Persons Claiming to be Interested in the said Premises for the purpose of the payment of Compensation under the said Act (other than the Licensee and the Registered Owner of the said Premises) are required to send to the Compensation Authority Notice of their Claims before the 20th day of July, 1908, for the purpose of enabling the Compensation Authority to ascertain in manner provided by the Licensing Rules 1904, the Persons entitled to Compensation under the said Act in respect of the said Premises.....

BRITANNIA, Oxford Street, Bilston. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *William Harwich*. Registered Owners, Richard Andrew Harper.”

Compensation of £425 was paid on 30th November 1908.

Lichfield Mercury 8/1/1909

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

The Licensing Committee presented a report for the year 1908. They stated that the number of licenses referred from sixteen divisions and boroughs in the county was seventy-four, and the committee, having regard to the limited funds at their disposal, decided to proceed upon forty only.....

The committee went in great detail into all the figures submitted to them upon which the persons interested claimed compensation, and heard, upon oath, evidence put forward by the claimants.

The amounts awarded as compensation were as follows.....

BRITANNIA, Oxford Street, Bilston, £425.”

BRITANNIA

20, (177), Oxford Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

William Riley, builder, James Street, Bilston

George Riley

Phoebe Riley

Charlotte Elizabeth Marsh, 231 Dudley Road, Wolverhampton

Major George Cox, brewer, Broad Street, Bilston

LICENSEES

Ann Williams [1871]

Edward Griffiths [] – **1872**);

William Poole (**1872 – 1873**);

Charlotte Hale (**1873 – 1875**);

Selina Benton (**1875 – 1876**);

James Preece (**1876 – 1877**);

Joseph Keay (**1877 – 1878**);

Simeon Stanley (**1878 – 1879**);

Harriet ? (**1879 – 1880**);

Thomas Rogers (**1880**);

George Robottom (**1880**);

Benjamin Burdett (**1880 – 1881**);

Thomas Samuel Ratcliffe (**1881 – 1882**);

Reuben Stokes (**1882 – 1883**);

Sophia Rowley (**1883 – 1884**);

Samuel 'Sam' Hughes (**1884 – 1886**);

William Edwards (**1886**);

Job Eccleston (**1886 – 1887**);

John Forrester (**1887**);

Frederick Reginald Mellen (**1887 – 1888**);

Frederick Clark (**1888 – 1892**);

William John Davies (**1892 – 1896**);

Alfred Tennant (**1896 – 1905**);

George Henry Evans (**1905**);

Joseph Hadley (**1905 – 1908**);

Emily Hodgkiss (**1908**);

NOTES

177, Oxford Street [1871], [1881], [1891], [1896]

20, Oxford Street [1901], [1904]

It was formerly the ROYAL GEORGE.

It had a beerhouse license.

1871 Census

177, Oxford Street

[1] Ann Williams (38), beerhouse keeper, born North Wales;

[2] Elizabeth Williams (16), daughter, born Bilston;

[3] John Williams (61), lodger, widower, born Broseley, Shropshire:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/9/1877

"The annual licensing sessions for the Bilston division were held at the Public Office, Bilston, yesterday.....

Joseph Keay, beerhouse keeper, Oxford Street, made personal application for a wine license Refused."

Midland Examiner 10/8/1878

"Simeon Stanley, landlord of the ROYAL GEORGE beerhouse, Oxford Street, Bilston, was summoned for permitting drunkenness.

Police-constable Farnell stated that at a quarter-past ten o'clock on Saturday night last, whilst in Oxford Street, opposite defendant's house, he heard a great noise there and cursing and swearing. He entered the house in company with Police-constable Downey, and in a room saw several persons the worse for drink. One man was very drunk. Witness called defendant's attention to the state of things, and he said the man who was very drunk had only been in the house twenty minutes, to which the man made answer and said he had been there an hour.

Mr. Spooner: How many people were in the room?

Witness: Thirty I should think, sir.

Police-constable Downey gave corroborative evidence.

Defendant pleaded that he did not know the man referred to was drunk as his (defendant's) son had supplied the man with his beer.

Mr. Spooner, on hearing that the defendant had only kept the house seven weeks, remarked that he had begun to transgress the law early, and inflicted a fine of 10s and costs. Next time, he said, defendant would be much harder dealt with."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 31/8/1878

"Bilston Annual Licensing Sessions.....

The following is the list of licensed victuallers and beerhouse keepers who had been summoned during the year for offences against the Licensing Act Beerhouse keepers.....

Simeon Stanley, ROYAL GEORGE, Oxford Street, permitting drunkenness, 6th August, 1878, fined 10s and costs."

AND

Wolverhampton Express and Star 21/9/1878

"The Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

The persons who had been convicted during the last twelve months for offences against their licenses, the renewals of which were withheld until today, now appeared before the Bench, and there being no further complaint as to the conduct of their houses in the interval the magistrates granted the renewals."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 28/10/1879 - Advert

"Pianist, two nights per week. One who can sing preferred.

Apply, ROYAL GEORGE, Oxford Street, Bilston."

PIANIST, two nights per week. One who can sing preferred.
—Apply, Royal George, Oxford-street, Bil-ton.

1881 Census

177, Oxford Street

[1] Benjamin Burdett (44), brass dresser, born Kenilworth, Warwickshire;

[2] Eliza Burdett (46), wife, born Kenilworth, Warwickshire;

[3] James Burdett (19), son, ironworker (labourer), born Kenilworth, Warwickshire;

[4] Francis Burdett (17), son, brass dresser, born Kenilworth, Warwickshire;

[5] Sarah A. Burdett (11), daughter, born Kenilworth, Warwickshire;

[6] Emma J. Burdett (8), daughter, born Kenilworth, Warwickshire:

Evening Express 13/5/1881

"*Benjamin Burdett*, landlord of the ROYAL GEORGE beerhouse, Oxford Street, was summoned for having his house open for the sale of beer during prohibited hours on Sunday, the 1st inst.

A woman named Helen Hartshorne was seen leaving the house at about 20 minutes past 10 o'clock on the night of the day in question by Police-constables Jackson and Moss, with a gallon bottle half full of ale.

A fine of 20s and costs was imposed."

Birmingham Daily Post 24/12/1881

"At the Bilston Police Court, yesterday, the following licenses were fully transferred.....

Benjamin Burdett, ROYAL GEORGE, Oxford Street, to *Thomas Samuel Ratcliffe*, grocer."

Sporting Life 10/1/1885

"Birmingham and District. Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury.

Mr. S. Burrows' Bell, of the TURKS HEAD, Bilston, and Mr. *S. Hughes*' Sep, of the ROYAL GEORGE, Oxford Street, Bilston, are matched to course the best of twenty-one rabbits, for £20, Bell to receive two dead rabbits. Day of race to be fixed. Mr. John Dudley, TRAVELLERS REST INN, Darlaston, referee."

Sporting Life 11/2/1885

"Birmingham and District. Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury.

On Monday last, the long impending rabbit coursing engagement was decided between Mr. T. Hughes's Bell, of Sedgley, and Mr. *S. Hughes*'s Sep, of the ROYAL GEORGE INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, who were matched to gather the best of twenty-one rabbits, 60 yards law, for £10 a side, Bell being allowed two dead rabbits. Both dogs had had a splendid preparation, and reflected great credit on their trainers. Little was known respecting the abilities of Bell. Sep, however, is the recognised champion, and has up to the present been a demon at this business. Consequently their meeting created a vast amount of interest, and this, combined with most charming weather, induced a tolerably large number to assemble, the stands and other places being well filled....."

[Sep won by killing 11 to 5. Score 11-7.]

Sporting Life 12/1/1886

"*Sam Hughes*, of the ROYAL GEORGE INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, and R. Magness, of the same town, have signed articles to run 100 yards, for £10 a-side, on Monday, March 15. Mr. J. Harding to be stakeholder and starter, and Mr. J. Dudley referee. To be on the mark at 2pm."

Sporting Life 17/7/1886

"Mr. *S. Hughes*. This well-known Bilston penciller wishes to inform his pedestrian and dog-racing friends that he has removed from the ROYAL GEORGE INN, to more commodious premises, the RED COW INN, Bilston, where he will be glad to receive a call from old and new friends."

Frederick Reginald Mellen = Frederick Reginald Mellon

Frederick Clark = Frederick Clarke

Rugby Advertiser 5/10/1889

"We learn that Mrs. *Clarke*, wife of Mr. *F. Clarke*, who for many years kept the old Hen and Chickens in Sheep Street, and who, on leaving Rugby, took the ROYAL GEORGE INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, died suddenly on Wednesday morning. Mrs. *Clarke* had been unwell for some time, but on going to bed on Tuesday night last appeared no worse. She seemed to be in her usual state when her husband awoke the following morning at four o'clock, but on awaking again at seven o'clock he found her dead."

1891 Census

177, Oxford Street – ROYAL GEORGE

[1] *Frederick Clark* (64), widower, beerhouse keeper, born Long Buckby, Northamptonshire;

[2] *Frederick Charles Clark* (24), son, joiner, born Rugby:

William John Davies, beer retailer, 177, Oxford Street. [1896]

1901 Census

20, Oxford Street

[1] *Alfred Tennant* (36), beerhouse keeper, born Bilston;

[2] *Alice Tennant* (34), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Annie Edwards* (23), domestic servant, born Wolverhampton:

Alfred Tennant, beer retailer, 20, Oxford Street. [1904]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/2/1907

“According to the report of Police-Superintendent Spendlove read at the annual brewster sessions for the Bilston Petty Sessional Division yesterday, there are 356 licenses of all kinds within the division, or one to every 174 of the population.

The Clerk (Mr. Pratt) said the Bench had decided to recommend the following eleven houses on the ground of redundancy to be referred for compensation, and the cases would be adjourned to the adjourned meeting, and in the meantime notices would be given to the owner.....

BRITANNIA INN, Oxford Street.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/6/1907

“County Licensing Compensation Authority.

The principal meeting of the County Compensation Authority under the Licensing Act, 1904, was held at the Shire Hall, Stafford on Tuesday.....

BRITANNIA, Oxford Street, Bilston, beer license, *Joseph Hadley* (licensee).....

Mr. R. A. Willcock (Wolverhampton) formally applied for the provisional renewal of the license, and Superintendent Spendlove gave evidence as to redundancy and structural unsuitability. Renewal refused.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/7/1907

“A supplemental meeting of the County Licensing Compensation Authority was held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, on Wednesday and Thursday, to consider the amount of compensation to be awarded in the case of licenses the renewal of which was refused at the principal meeting.....

In cases where the amount of compensation approved by the committee was not accepted by the parties concerned, these were referred to the Inland Revenue Commissioners to determine the sum to be awarded.....

BRITANNIA, Oxford Street, Bilston (owner M. G. Cox), referred to Inland Revenue Commissioners.”

Lichfield Mercury 8/1/1909

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

The Licensing Committee presented a report for the year 1908.....

The Commissioners of Inland Revenue gave their decisions in the cases referred to them last year.....

BRITANNIA, Bilston, £750.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/7/1908

“The hearing was resumed of the action in which Phoebe Riley and Charlotte Elizabeth Marsh, of Wolverhampton, trustees under the will of George Riley, deceased, sued Major George Cox, brewer, Bilston, the claim being for a share of the compensation money paid in respect of a licensed house. Mr. Young, KC (instructed by Mr. W. A. Foster, Wolverhampton) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. McCardie (instructed by Willcock and Taylor, Wolverhampton) for the defendant.

At the first hearing it was stated for the plaintiff that the house was scheduled for compensation in 1907. On February 23 defendant visited the plaintiff, and offered to buy the house and a bit of land at the rear for £137. Asked about the compensation money defendant said whatever compensation money he got should be divided equally between them. On that understanding she agreed to sell for £137, £10 being for the land. The defendant emphatically denied having made the promise.....

The jury found for the plaintiff, and his Lordship gave judgement accordingly, making a declaration that plaintiff was entitled to half the compensation money received.

On the application of Mr. McCardie stay was granted.”

BRITANNIA

50, Temple Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

John Griffiths
Charlotte Griffiths

LICENSEES

John Griffiths [1851] – [1868]
Charlotte Griffiths [1871] – **1874**);
Frederick Jones (**1874 – 1877**);
Thomas Marston (**1877**):

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/8/1851

“On Tuesday, the 29th ult, the Tradesman’s Society held their first annual feast-day at the house of Mr. *John Griffiths*, BRITANNIA, Temple Street, Bilston. The above society has only been established about six months, and as a proof of its success now numbers upwards of 50 members. The dinner was well and creditably served.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/8/1854

“The annual meeting of Magistrates for granting and renewing publican’s licenses in the parish of Bilston and Sedgley was held on Friday last, in the Bilston Police Court.

There were eleven applications for new licenses which were disposed of as follows.....

Mr. Underhill made an application on behalf of Mr. *John Griffiths* of the BRITANNIA, Temple Street, Bilston, where he said there were only three old licensed houses to a population of 4,500. Mr. Loxdale remarked that it was a very shameful population. The land had been given for making a good wide street, and they had crammed it so full of small houses as to be quite a nuisance. Refused.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1855

“The Annual Licensing Meeting for Bilston, Sedgley, Gornal, and the adjoining places took place on Friday last, at the Police Office, Bilston.....

Mr. J. Underhill applied for a license, on behalf of *John Griffiths*, of the BRITANNIA INN, Temple Street, Bilston. He said that there were two public houses in the neighbourhood, but one of them was 70 yards and the other 120 yards distant; one of them was situate in Oxford Street, the landlord of which had signed *Griffiths*’s testimonial. Three clubs held their meetings at the applicant’s house, and, the neighbourhood being thickly populated, a license to the house would afford considerable accommodation. The application was not opposed. Refused.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/9/1856

“The Annual Licensing Meeting at Bilston.....

Mr. Hayes applied for a license for Mr. *John Griffiths*, of Temple Street, Bilston, mentioning several facts which went to show the good character of his client; stating that *Griffiths* had become the owner of the house through his own industry, and that his certificate was respectably signed; that his house and premises were excellent; and that two clubs held their meetings at his house. The application was refused.”

Birmingham Journal 5/9/1857

“The annual licensing meeting for Bilston and its neighbourhood was held on Friday.....

Mr. Hayes, on behalf of Mr. *John Griffiths*, of Temple Street, Bilston, applied for a license. The Bench refused to grant the license, Mr. Loxdale remarking that there was a swarm of public houses in the neighbourhood.”

Birmingham Journal 3/3/1860

“In Bilston on Tuesday, during the heavy gale of wind, considerable excitement was caused in Temple Street, by a rumour that the house of Mr. *J. Griffiths*, BRITANNIA INN, was partially blown down, and that some of the family were buried in the ruins. However, the facts proved to be as follows. A chimney was blown down upon the roof with such force as to break the rafters and bearers, and these forcing their way through the ceiling over a bed chamber and club room, a considerable amount of damage was done to the whole premises. That the inmates escaped seems almost miraculous.”

1861 Census

50, Temple Street

[1] *John Griffiths* (51), japanner, provision dealer and beer seller, born Bilston;

[2] *Charlotte Griffiths* (49), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *John Griffiths* (14), son, born Bilston;

[4] *Ann Horton* (25), general servant, born Bilston;

[5] *Jane Owen* (32), general servant, born Bilston;

[6] *George Riley* (27), lodger, carpenter, born Bilston;

[7] *Phebe Riley* (26), wife, born Bilston;

[8] *Elizabeth Riley* (9 months), daughter, born Bilston:

John Griffiths, retailer of beer, 50, Temple Street. [1862]

John Griffiths, beer retailer, 50, Temple Street. [1865], [1868]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/8/1869

“The annual licensing meeting for the Bilston division took place yesterday, at the Police Court.....

The following beerhouse keepers had been fined during the past five years.....

Allowing Gaming *John Griffiths*, BRITANNIA, Temple Street, 10s and costs.”

John Griffiths died in the 3rd quarter of 1869.

1871 Census

50, Temple Street

[1] *Charlotte Griffiths* (59), widow, innkeeper and provision shop, born Bilston;

[2] *John Griffiths* (24), son, no occupation, born Bilston;

[3] *Sarah A. Harris* (17), general servant, born Bilston:

Charlotte Griffiths died in the 3rd quarter of 1874.

Birmingham Weekly Post 7/7/1877

“Attempted Murder by a Lunatic.

On Tuesday, a respectably connected man, named *John Griffiths*, aged 31, was brought before Mr. Moses Ironmonger, sitting as magistrate at Petty Sessions at Bilston, charged with attempting to murder *John Lewis*, at Priestfield. The accused was very excited, and had his hands tied together at his back. Evidently *Griffiths* was not master of his actions.

Chief Superintendent *McCrea* remarked that he had brought up *Griffiths* merely to obtain a remand, and proposed to give only enough evidence to permit of compliance with the request. In the interval the prisoner's mental state could be ascertained.

Policeman *Wade*, stationed at Ettingshall, deposed: This morning I was called to the prisoner at about a quarter-past two. I found him, with nothing on but his shirt, in the bed room of *John Lewis*, landlord of the GOLDEN FLEECE

beerhouse, Ettingshall. I found John Lewis lying in a helpless state on the room floor, in a pool of blood. I took the prisoner into custody, charged with attempting to murder Lewis.....

[John Griffiths was remanded for a week.]

The prisoner is the son of parents, now dead, who owned the BRITANNIA INN, Temple Street, Bilston, and other house property there. For many years they kept that inn, and likewise a provision shop. As a boy he was subject to fits. Growing into manhood he showed a liking for whisky, and often surreptitiously obtained it. Symptoms of lunacy then developed themselves, and he was placed as a pauper lunatic in Stafford Asylum, the cost being repaid to the Guardians by his sister, Mrs. Riley, wife of Mr. Riley, of the HEN AND CHICKENS, New Village. By-and-by he was removed from Stafford to Burntwood. Possessing, with Mrs. Riley, an interest in the property left by the parents in Temple Street, some gossips had hinted, with disagreeable plainness, that Griffiths was being kept in an asylum for motives originating in his right to share in the property; and Mrs. Riley, who has always been kind to him, sensitive of such allegations, applied to the surgeons at Burntwood that her brother might be released in her care, and he came out on the 16th April last. A few times previously during the three or four years he had been under restraint he had been temporarily released; but he had always got at the whisky, and had had to be sent back. Mr. Jennings, relieving officer for Bilston, therefore declined all responsibility touching his release on this occasion. Mrs. Riley could not have Griffiths at her home, for it was an old-licensed house, and the tempting spirit would be too near to him. Beer has no attractions for him; and as her friend Mrs. Lewis, wife of the landlord of the GOLDEN FLEECE, was ready to take him as a lodger, he was placed in her custody.....”

[Further on the attempted murder under GOLDEN FLEECE.]

Sporting Life 19/12/1874

“The East End Christmas Investigator on the principal events of the forthcoming year.

Head Office, Mr. E. Jones, 30, Quai Du Bassin, Boulogne-sur-Mer.

Branch Office, 64, Portland Street, Stepney, London.

The success of our Christmas Investigator each succeeding year is too well known to need comment. We have issued 30,000 at One Shilling each, for which application should be made at once to Mr. E. Jones, 64, Portland Street, Stepney, enclosing stamped directed envelope, or in person to any of his well-known agents.....

F. Jones, BRITANNIA INN, Temple Street, Bilston, Staffordshire....

An extra stamped addressed envelope should always be enclosed when sending for Investigators through post, so that result of profits may be known; and orders for Investigators cannot be receive later than twelve o'clock on Monday, December 21.”

[This publication appears to be to do with horse racing.]

Frederick Jones was convicted on 28th January 1876 for permitting gaming at cards.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 23/9/1876

“The adjourned licensing session for the Bilston licensing division was held at the Bilston Police Court yesterday.....

After the holders of the following licenses had been cautioned their licenses were renewed.....

Frederick Jones, BRITANNIA beerhouse, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/9/1877

“The annual licensing sessions for the Bilston division were held at the Public Office, Bilston, yesterday.....

The black list was as follows Beersellers.....

Frederick Jones, BRITANNIA INN, Temple Street, permitting gambling, 40s and costs. In January 1876, *Jones* was fined £5 and costs for a like offence.....

The whole of the licenses in the ‘black list,’ it was stated, would be held over until the adjourned sessions, and in the cases of *Frederick Jones* Mr. H. Ward said the bench had very serious thoughts about withholding the licenses.”

AND

Cannock Chase Examiner 7/9/1877

“Annual Licensing Session at Bilston.....

The renewal of the license of *Frederick Jones*, BRITANNIA INN, Temple Street, was objected to on the grounds of having been twice convicted since January 1876 In the case of *Frederick Jones*, of the BRITANNIA, Mr. Ward said the Bench would consider whether they would not take the license away. Mr. Fellowes, on behalf of Mr. *Martin*, the present occupier of the house, asked for a temporary transfer for a week, which was granted.”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/9/1877

“Bilston Adjourned Licensing Sessions were held yesterday.....

An application, made by Mr. J. Fellows, for a renewal of the license to the BRITANNIA beerhouse, Temple Street, was refused.”

The license was taken away in 1877.

BRITANNIA

54, Wolverhampton Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Jeremiah France [1861]

William Hickman [1870] – [1871]

NOTES

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license,

Wolverhampton Chronicle 7/1/1857 - Advert

“A Rare Opportunity. By W. P. Tomkys.

To Be Let, with immediate possession, that noted Beershop, the BRITANNIA, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, with extensive yard and outoffices. Coming-in low.

Apply on the premises, or to the Auctioneer, Oxford Street, Bilston.”

A RARE OPPORTUNITY.
BY W. P. TOMKYS.—TO BE LET, with immediate possession, that noted BEERSHOP, “The Britannia,” Wolverhampton-street, Bilston, with extensive yard and outoffices. Coming-in low.—Apply on the premises, or to the AUCTIONEER, Oxford-street, Bilston.

1861 Census

Wolverhampton Street – BRITANNIA INN

[1] Jeremiah France (43), sinker, born North Wales;

[2] Mary France (41), wife, born Felton, Shropshire;

[3] Lidia France (16), daughter, born Bilston;

[4] Margat France (11), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[5] Hannah France (6), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[6] Mary France (4), daughter, scholar, born Bilston:

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 27/8/1870

“The annual sessions for the renewal of existing and the granting of new licenses to licensed victuallers and beersellers in Bilston and Sedgley, was held yesterday at the Police Court, Bilston.....

All the applications for renewal of licenses were granted except the following, who had been fined for various offences during the year, and whose applications for renewal were adjourned until the adjourned licensing day, November 30 Beerhouse Keepers.....

William Hickman, BRITANNIA, Wolverhampton Street.”

[Renewed at the adjourned licensing meeting.]

1871 Census

54, Wolverhampton Street – Public House

[1] William Hickman (61), iron founder's labourer, born Bilston;

[2] Ellen Hickman (58), wife, born Madeley Wood, Shropshire;

[3] Ellen Hickman (20), daughter, dressmaker, born Bilston:

BRITISH OAK

39, Wesley Street, (Batmans Hill), Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

Elizabeth Bumford
John Elliman, licensed victualler, Princes End, Tipton
William Butler and Co. Ltd.
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

John Tennant [1865]
Thomas Paul [] - 1871);
Sampson Paul (1871 - 1874);
John Bumford (1874 - 1883);
Edward Roberts (1883 - 1884)
John Lowe (1884 - 1890);
Mrs. Betsy Jeavons (1890 - 1893);
Sarah A Jeavons [1891]
Mrs. Elizabeth Ann (Turner) Bunch (1893 - 1903);
James Casey (1903 - 1906);
Francis Mayeur (1906 - 1908);
William Brown (1908 - 1915);
Philip Blundell (1915 - 1919);
Henry Brown (1919 - 1923);
Albert Ward (1923 - 1924);
Joseph Edwin Turton (1924 - 1934);
Mrs. Mary Jane Turton (1934 - [1940]
Joe Turton [1956]

BEEERHOUSE (corner), populous neighbourhood, near collieries and large ironworks; enclosed premises, stable, loft, malt room, pigsty, shed, skittle alley; excellent brewing plant, perfectly arranged. Rent low. Illness sole cause. Genuine. Valuation. Investigation invited.—British Oak, Wesley Street, Bradley, near Bilston.

1884

NOTES

[This pub was strictly in Sedgley, but is included here due to it being situated at Bradley.]

It had a beerhouse license.

It was known locally as "Turton's".

John Tennant died in the 3rd quarter of 1865.

Birmingham Journal 12/5/1866 - Advert

"Monday Next, May 14, 1866.

The BRITISH OAK INN, Batmans Hill, near Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Charles Round.

Sixteen Sweet Ale Casks, 120-Gallon wrought iron Boiler, Ale Vats, 4-pull Ale Machine, ditto 5-pull, eight-day Clock, Drinking Tables, Malt Crusher, Hop Press, Feather Beds, Bedsteads, and a large quantity of other Effects, late belonging to Mr. John Tennant, deceased.

Sale to commence at half-past Ten o'clock in the morning.

For catalogues, apply to the Auctioneer, Owen Street and Bloomfield, Tipton."

MONDAY NEXT, MAY 14, 1866.
THE BRITISH OAK INN,
BATMAN'S HILL, near BILSTON.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION.
BY CHARLES ROUND—Sixteen Sweet ALE CASKS,
120-Gallon wrought iron Boiler, Ale Vats, 4-pull Ale Machine,
ditto 5-pull, eight-day Clock, Drinking Tables, Malt Crusher, Hop
Press, Feather Beds, Bedsteads, and a large quantity of other Effects,
late belonging to Mr. John Tennant, deceased.
Sale to commence at half-past Ten o'clock in the morning.
For catalogues, apply to the Auctioneer, Owen Street and Bloom-
field, Tipton.

John Tennant's widow, Elizabeth, married *John Bumford* in the 2nd quarter of 1866.

1871 Census

39, Wesley Street

- [1] *Thomas Paul* (30), iron shingler, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Hannah Paul* (27), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] *Thomas Paul* (6), son, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [4] *Florance Paul* (3), son, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [5] *Alexander Paul* (2), son, born Sedgley;
- [6] *James Paul* (1), son, born Sedgley;
- [7] *Elizabeth Jukes* (17), general servant, born Dudley;

Thomas Paul – see also ROYAL OAK, Hill Street, and BARREL, Chell Street.

1881 Census

39, Wesley Street

- [1] *John Bumford* (56), beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Elizabeth Bumford* (55), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Thomas Bumford* (26), son, iron worker, born Darlaston;
- [4] *John Bumford* (24), son, iron worker, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Joseph Bumford* (20), son, iron worker, born Darlaston;
- [6] *James Bumford* (19), son, labourer, born Darlaston;
- [7] *Alfred Bumford* (16), son, painter, born Darlaston;
- [8] *John T. Bumford* (11), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [9] *Elizabeth Bennet* (16), domestic servant, born Dudley;

London Gazette 19/5/1882

“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 Bumford*, of the BRITISH OAK, Wesley-street, Bradley, near Bilston, in the parish of Sedgley, in the county of Stafford, Beerseller.

Notice is hereby given, that a First General Meeting of the creditors of the above-named person has been summoned to be held at the GLOBE HOTEL, Mount Pleasant, Bilston on the 3rd day of June, 1882, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 13th day of May, 1882.

Jno. E. Fellows, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, Solicitor for the said Debtor.”

Dudley and District News 20/5/1882

“At Dudley County Court, on Monday, the following petitions in liquidation were filed.....

John Bumford, of the BRITISH OAK, Wesley Street, Bradley, beerseller; liabilities £200.

Mr. J. E. Fellows, of Bilston, is the solicitor acting for the debtor.”

John Bumford – see also VICTORIA, Wesley Street.

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1884 - Advert

“Beerhouse (corner), populous neighbourhood, near collieries and large ironworks; enclosed premises, stable, loft, malt room, pigsty, shed, skittle alley; excellent brewing plant, perfectly arranged. Rent low. Illness sole cause. Genuine. Valuation. Investigation invited.

BRITISH OAK, Wesley Street, Bradley, near Bilston.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 9/5/1885

“William Barnbroke, Bradley, was charged with refusing to quit licensed premises, and assaulting James Tennant, Bradley.

Elah Lowe, wife of *John Lowe*, landlord of the BRITISH OAK INN, Wesley Street, Bradley, gave evidence as to the assault taking place in her house, on the previous Tuesday night, and also said that she ordered the defendant to leave the house, which he refused to do. A mass of the most conflictory evidence was brought forward for the prosecution, and Mr. Rowland Tildesley appeared for the defence.

Thomas Barnbroke, brother to the last defendant, and Robert Martin, Bradley, were also charged with refusing to quit the house.

The charges were dismissed.”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/5/1885 - Advert

“Pianist (Female) Wanted. Free-and-Easy. Live in-doors.
Apply to BRITISH OAK, Wesley Street, Bradley, near Bilston.”

PIANIST (Female) Wanted. Free-and-Easy. Live in-doors.—
Apply to British Oak, Wesley Street, Bradley, near Bilston.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 25/5/1889 - Advert

“Wanted, General Servant, for public house; good character.
Apply, BRITISH OAK, Wesley Street, Bradley, near Bilston.”

WANTED, General Servant, for public house; good character. — Apply, British Oak, Wesley-st., Bradley, near Bilston.

Betsy Jeavons = Betsey Jeavons

1891 Census

39, Wesley Street

- [1] Thomas Jeavons (48), stone dresser, born Coseley;
- [2] Betsey Jeavons (41), wife, born Coseley;
- [3] William Jeavons (18), son, blacksmith's striker, born Coseley;
- [4] Sarah A. Jeavons (17), daughter, publican, born Coseley;
- [5] James Jeavons (13), son, scholar, born Coseley;
- [6] Edward G. Jeavons (12), son, scholar, born Princes End;
- [7] Mary J. P. Jeavons (9), daughter, scholar, born Princes End;

Betsy Jeavons – see also OLD BUSH, Cross Street, and SWAN, Bank Street.

Elizabeth Ann Turner married James Bunch on 18th April 1894.

1901 Census

39, Wesley Street

- [1] Elizabeth A. Bunch (67), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire;
- [2] Maria Barnes (29), domestic servant, born Great Bridge;
- [3] Eva Blakesley (17), visitor, dressmaker, born Sedgley;

James Casey, beer retailer, 39, Wesley Street, Bradley. [1904]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/2/1906

“An interesting sequel to a rat-killing match was heard yesterday at the Dudley County Court, when *James Casey*, landlord of the BRITISH OAK, Bradley, near Bilston, sued William Williamson to recover £6, money deposited with the latter as stakeholder in a match for £5 a-side. *Casey* matched his dog against one belonging to a man named Ledsham, of Willenhall, to kill sixteen rats in the quickest time. The match, however, did not come off, because it was alleged that *Casey* did not turn up at the stipulated time, and, therefore, forfeited the stakes, which were paid over by the stakeholder to Ledsham. His Honour found for the defendant and advised the parties as sportsmen to shake hands and have the match over again.”

1911 Census

Wesley Street – BRITISH OAK INN

- [1] William Brown (37), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;
- [2] Annie Brown (41), wife, married 16 years, born Kinver;
- [3] Ennie Brown (13), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] Lizzie Brown (9), daughter, born Bradley:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 30/10/1912

“Football. Priestfield v Bradley.

Mr. *W. Brown*, BRITISH OAK, Bradley, writes on behalf of Bradley United FC as follows.

‘As to the match which should have been played at Priestfield on Saturday, October 26, and was not, this was not owing to the visitors not turning up, as the home team did not turn up at the time fixed for the kick-off. Only five of the home side were at headquarters, and no nets were up. Therefore, I don’t see why the blame should be laid on the visitors.’”

William Brown – see also BRITANNIA, Hall Green Street.

Henry Brown, beer retailer, 39 Wesley Street, Bradley, Bilston. [1921]

1921 Census

39, Wesley Street

- [1] Henry Brown (43), cogger down, out of work, born Darlaston;
- [2] Mary Jane Brown (38), wife, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] Doris Brown (3), daughter, born Bradley:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 1/4/1931

“*Gazette Insurance* practical help given under the *Gazette* plan of free insurance.....

Mr. *Joseph Turton*, BRITISH OAK, Wesley Street, Bradley, Bilston.

Accident to reader – broken arm. Newsagent: Mr. Russell, Hill Street, Bradley.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/12/1931

“A boy named Frederick Turton, aged 11, of the BRITISH OAK INN, Bradley, near Bilson, was drowned during the fog at Walsall yesterday. He had accompanied a brother, Joseph Turton, aged about 23, who had charge of an empty boat on the canal at Birchills, Walsall, and was missed from the boat about 6.30 am. After dragging, the body was found in one of the locks.”

Joseph Edwin Turton died in the 3rd quarter of 1934.

1939 Register

39, Wesley Street

- [1] Mary J. Turton, date of birth 31/10/1872, beerhouse keeper, widowed;
- [2] Joseph W. Turton, dob 21/6/1904, canal boatman, married;
- [3] Brenda (Brookhouse) Caddick, dob 14/7/1926, school, single;
- [4] Jack Turton, dob 19/11/1918, cost and wages clerk, single:

A team from here took part in the Bradley Crib League. [1946]

A team from here took part in the Bradley Darts League, First Division. [1946]

It had a successful darts team in the 1950s, which won the Midland Open Championship in 1956. The team featured Frank Wall who later won the News of the World Championship.

It was granted a full license in February 1957.

Birmingham Mail 10/6/1971 - Advert

“Bricklayer required, West Bromwich area, good rates of pay.

Apply site agent Pargas Construction Ltd., BRITISH OAK, Wesley Street, Brierley Lane, Bilston.”

Birmingham Mail 12/8/1971 - Advert

“Bricklaying Gang Required, good rates of pay, only fast, clean trowels need apply to the BRITISH OAK, Wesley Street, Bilston.”

BROWN COW

Oxford Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Jane Lander [1851]

BROWN JUG

11, (6), Temple Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

William Fowler, butcher, Brook Terrace, Bilston
George Meese Jnr.
Mercy Meese
George Meese
William Butler and Co. Ltd.

LICENSEES

David Thompson [1841] – **1863**;
Thomas Pritchard (**1863** – [1865]
John Fowler [1866]
Edwin Vale [] – **1868**);
John Vale (**1868** – []
Mrs. Jane Veal [1868] – [1870]
Joseph Bunce [1871] – [1874];
Joseph Johnson [];
John Roberts [];
John O'Grady [1881] – **1882**;
Bennet Tarbuck (**1882**);
John Hartill (**1882**);
Elizabeth Griffiths (**1882** – **1883**);
William Fowler (**1883** – **1886**);
William Henry Veal (**1886**);
George Meese Snr. (**1886** – **1888**);
C Carpenter (**1888** – []
George Meese Jnr. [1891] – **1912**);
Mrs. Mercy Meese (**1912** – **1922**);
George Meese (**1922** – **1928**);
John Thomas Shelley (**1928** – **1931**);
Walter Smith (**1931** – **1933**);
Abraham Betts (**1933** – **1938**);
Leonard Betts (**1938** – [1940]

NOTES

6, Temple Street [1861], [1868], [1870], [1873], [1874], [1891], [1892], [1896]
11, Temple Street [1901], [1904], [1908], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1932], [1939], [1940]

THE BROWN JUG INN, TEMPLE STREET, BILSTON.

TO BE LET, in consequence of the Proprietor being about to retire from the trade, the above-mentioned old-licensed INN, with LIQUOR SHOP attached.

The House comprises liquor shop, tap room, smoke room, large brewhouse, fitted with copper boilers, vats, with piping to cellaring, &c.; two good cellars, malt room, store room, four bed rooms, and club room.

The Stock, Fixtures, Brewing and other Utensils to be taken to by valuation in the usual way.

For particulars apply to Mr. SAMUEL BAKER, Auctioneer, Bilston.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1883.

SALE AT THE BROWN JUG INN, TEMPLE STREET, BILSTON.

MR. SAMUEL BAKER will SELL by AUCTION, to-morrow, Thursday, September 17, 1883, by direction of the executors of the late Mr. David Thompson, deceased, the capital **HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE**, including 6 mahogany chairs, sofa, easy chair, invalid's chair, 6 cane-seated chairs, 40 Windsor ditto, 2 mahogany dining tables, 2 excellent mahogany chests of drawers, mahogany 4-post and other bedsteads, mattresses, prime feather beds, sheet, blankets, &c., large clothes chests, wash-stand, 2 capital 8-day clocks, in mahogany cases, Dutch clock, breakfast, with folding doors, a variety of kitchen requisites, &c., &c.; Sykes's hydrometer for testing the strength of spirits, with thermometer and other instruments in mahogany case; also, a malt mill, two sows (in pig), 8 store pigs, 6 fowls, light cart, hand-cart, 3 horse racks, patent iron pig trough, set gig harness in good condition, about 1 cwt. old lead, oven grate, sham register ditto, 2 room ditto, about 7 gallons sherry wine, about 250 gallons of ale, and other minor effects.

The goodwill and possession of a well-stocked kitchen garden, with brick-built summer arbour, &c., situate at the "Lant."

Sale to commence at 11 o'clock in the morning.

Catalogues may be had at the Auctioneer's offices, No. 17, Church-street, near the Post Office, Bilston.

1863

1841 Census

Temple Street

- [1] *David Thompson* (30), publican, born Staffordshire;
- [2] *Anne Thompson* (30), born Staffordshire;
- [3] *Rachel Thompson* (11), born Staffordshire;
- [4] *Richard Thompson* (8), born Staffordshire;
- [5] *John Thompson* (6), born Staffordshire;
- [6] *Cornelius Thompson* (4), born Staffordshire;
- [7] *David Thompson* (2), born Staffordshire;
- [8] *Betsy Thompson* (2 weeks), born Staffordshire;
- [9] *Sarah Perry* (24), f.s.:

David Thompson, retailer of beer, Temple Street. [1842]

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/1/1847

“George Wilson was charged by Messrs. Sparrow with stealing two shovels, on the 12th inst. The prisoner went into a hovel where the shovels had been placed the night before for safety, and took them away, and on the night of the 12th instant went into the BROWN JUG beershop, at Bilston, and offered to sell them for 2s. He was suspected, and the police being sent for he was taken into custody. He made no defence and was committed for trial at the Sessions.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 13/3/1847

“Staffordshire Adjourned Epiphany Sessions To be imprisoned one calendar month.....

George Wilson (pleaded guilty), for stealing two iron shovels, the property of *William Hanbury Sparrow*, and partner, at Wolverhampton.”

David Thompson, beer retailer, Temple Street. [1849], [1850]

1851 Census

Temple Street

- [1] *David Thompson* (47), common snuffers maker employing 1 man and 2 boys, born Bilston;
- [2] *Ann Thompson* (46), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Rachael Thompson* (21), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] *John Thompson* (16), son, born Bilston;
- [5] *Cornelius Thompson* (14), son, born Bilston;
- [6] *Betsy Thompson* (11), daughter, born Bilston;
- [7] *Ann Thompson* (6), daughter, born Bilston;
- [8] *Jane Davies* (21), servant, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/9/1852

“The annual licensing day for the division of Seisdon North was held at the Public Office, Bilston Street, Wolverhampton, on Thursday last.....

There were about forty applications for new [spirit] licenses, of which eight were granted.....

On the application of Mr. Underhill a license was granted to Mr. *David Thompson*, for a house in Temple Street, Bilston, which, it was stated, was in the centre of the street, there being at present only two public houses in the same street, one at the top and the other at the bottom.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 17/5/1857

“Mr. Thos. Cottis of Westbromwich will shoot a match with Mr. Wisedell of Bilston, for £5 or £10 a side, guns $\frac{3}{4}$ -bore, 2oz of shot, 21 yards rise, 60 boundary, 11 birds each, to find and trap against each other. Money ready at Mr. *Thompson*’s, BROWN JUG INN, Temple Street, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 24/3/1858

“W. H. Phillips Esq, deputy coroner, held an inquest at the BROWN JUG INN, Temple Street, on Friday last, on the body of John Edwards, a banksman. The unfortunate man had lost his life by falling down the shaft of a pit at which he was employed. No person witnessed the accident, and therefore the circumstances under which it occurred did not appear. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Ann Thompson died in the 2nd quarter of 1861.

1861 Census

6, Temple Street

- [1] *David Thompson* (57), widower, publican, born Bilston;
- [2] Cornelius Thompson (23), son, iron founder, born Bilston;
- [3] Ann Thompson (17), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] Harriet J. Moore (14), servant, born Manchester:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/6/1863 - Advert

“The BROWN JUG INN, Temple Street, Bilston.

To be Let, in consequence of the Proprietor being about to retire from the trade, the above-mentioned old-licensed Inn, with Liquor Shop attached.

The House comprises liquor shop, tap room, smoke room, large brewhouse, fitted with copper boilers, vats, with piping to cellaring, &c, two good cellars, malt room, store room, four bed rooms, and club room.

The Stock, Fixtures, Brewing and other Utensils to be taken to by valuation in the usual way.

For particulars apply to Mr. Samuel Baker, Auctioneer, Bilston.”

David Thompson died in the 3rd quarter of 1863.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 16/9/1863 - Advert

“Thursday, September 17, 1863. Sale at the BROWN JUG INN, Temple Street, Bilston.

Mr. Samuel Baker will Sell by Auction, tomorrow, Thursday, September 17, 1863, by direction of the executors of the late Mr. *David Thompson*, deceased, the capital Household Furniture, including 6 mahogany chairs, sofa, easy chair, invalid's chair, 6 cane-seated chairs, 40 Windsor ditto, 2 mahogany dining tables, 2 excellent mahogany chests of drawers, mahogany 4-post and other bedsteads, mattresses, prime feather beds, sheets, blankets, &c, large clothes chests, wash-stand, 2 capital 8-day clocks, in mahogany cases, Dutch clock, beaufet, with folding doors, a variety of kitchen requisites, &c, &c; Sykes's hydrometer for testing the strength of sprits, with thermometer and other instruments in mahogany case; also, a malt mill, two sows (in pig), 8 store pigs, 6 fowls, light cart, hand-cart, 3 horse racks, patent iron pig trough, set gig harness in good condition, about 1cwt old lead, oven grate, sham register ditto, 2 room ditto, about 7 gallons sherry wine, about 250 gallons of ale, and other minor effects.

The goodwill and possession of a well stoked kitchen garden, with brick-built summer arbour, &c, situate at the 'Lunt.'

Sale to commence at 11 o'clock in the morning.

Catalogues may be had at the Auctioneer's offices, No.17, Church Street, near the Post Office, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/9/1863 - Advert

“Temple Street, Bilston. Old-Licensed House.

To be Sold by Private Contract, by direction of the Executors of the late Mr. *David Thompson*, the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the BROWN JUG INN, situate as above; together with the Brewing Plant, Liquor Shop Fittings, and other Public House Effects, Stock, &c, &c.

The house, which has liquor shop attached, is well situated in a populous neighbourhood; has been successfully carried on by the late proprietor for a number of years, has every convenience for the trade, the rental is low, and the incoming will be moderate.

For further particulars, apply at the Offices of Mr. Samuel Baker, Auctioneer, 17, Church Street, near the Post Office, Bilston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 5/5/1864

“On Tuesday, at the Bilston Petty Sessions, before the Stipendiary, Mr. Isaac Spooner, *Thomas Pritchard*, landlord of the BROWN JUG public house, Temple Street, in that town, was charged by Mr. Allcorn, Supervisor of Excise, with having, on the 22nd of March last, entered in his entry paper that he was about to brew ten bushels of malt, when, in fact, he brewed upwards of fifteen bushels five gallons, an increase upon the quantity entered of 57¼ per cent. Mr. Allcorn himself detected the offence, and proved the case. When, on the 22nd of March, Mr. Allcorn drew the attention of the defendant to the nature of the entry, *Pritchard* said that it was correct, but yesterday he told the Stipendiary that his servant had, by mistake, placed the extra quantity of malt in the mash tub. The Stipendiary said a false entry had been made, and the defendant was liable to a penalty of £200. The lowest sum he could fine him was £50, which he must pay.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/9/1864

“Yesterday the magistrates sat in Special Sessions, for the consideration of the applications for the renewal of old and the granting of new licenses to victuallers.....

The following houses and their landlords had been complained against and fined during the year.....

Thomas Pritchard, BROWN JUG, Temple Street.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/2/1865 - Advert

“OLD BROWN JUG, Temple Street, Bilston.

To be Disposed of, the Licenses and Goodwill of the above well-accustomed and snug Liquor Shop, with Public House, situate in a dense population, in Temple Street, Bilston, and stands unrivalled for business purposes.

The Brewing Plant, Fixtures, &c, which are first-class, to be taken to by valuation.

Apply to John G. Wright, Auctioneer and Publicans Valuer, King Street, Dudley.”

Birmingham Journal 4/3/1865 - Advert

“BROWN JUG Liquor Vaults, Temple Street, Bilston.

To be Disposed of, the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the above-named very desirable and well-accustomed snug Liquor and Wine Vaults, situate in Temple Street, Bilston, in a dense population, and well situated for business, which has only changed hands once for many years.

Apply to John G. Wright, Auctioneer and Publicans Valuer, &c, King Street, Dudley.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/4/1865 - Advert

“Bilston. BROWN JUG, Temple Street.

To be Disposed of, the Possession of the BROWN JUG INN and Liquor Shop, Temple Street, Bilston, situate in a very populous neighbourhood, and capable of doing an extensive in and out-door business.

The Brewing Plant and Fixtures to be taken to by valuation.

Apply to John G. Wright, Auctioneer and Valuer, Dudley.”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/6/1865 - Advert

“To be Disposed of, the BROWN JUG INN and Spirit Vaults, Temple Street, Bilston.

Apply upon the Premises.”

TO be DISPOSED OF, the BROWN JUG INN and SPIRIT VAULTS, Temple Street, Bilston. Apply upon the Premises.

Birmingham Daily Post 27/7/1865 - Advert

“To be Disposed of, by Fair Valuation, the Licenses and Possession of the BROWN JUG INN and Spirit Vaults, Temple Street, Bilston.

For particulars, apply to J. G. Wright, King Street, Dudley; or upon the Premises.”

TO be DISPOSED OF by FAIR VALUATION, the LICENSES and POSSESSION of the BROWN JUG INN and SPIRIT VAULTS, Temple Street, Bilston. - For particulars, apply to J. G. Wright, King Street, Dudley; or upon the Premises.

Birmingham Daily Post 16/8/1865 - Advert

“To be Disposed of, the BROWN JUG INN and Spirit Vault, Temple Street, Bilston. Coming-in about £100.

For further particulars, apply to J. G. Wright, King Street, Dudley; or upon the Premises.”

TO be DISPOSED OF, the BROWN JUG INN and SPIRIT VAULT, Temple Street, Bilston. Coming-in about £100. - For further particulars, apply to J. G. Wright, King Street, Dudley; or upon the Premises.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 19/8/1865 - Advert

“To be Disposed of, the BROWN JUG INN and Spirit Vault, Temple Street, Bilston. Coming-in can be reduced to £90.

For further particulars, apply to J. G. Wright, King Street, Dudley; or upon the Premises.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/5/1866

"*John Fowler*, landlord of the BROWN JUG, Temple Street, was summoned for selling ale after twelve o'clock on Saturday night. A policeman proved that he met a woman coming away from defendant's house, after twelve o'clock on Saturday night, with a jug containing ale. Defendant said the ale was sold to the woman before twelve o'clock, and he allowed her to leave it there until she went in search of her husband. Mr. Spooner said such excuses as that could not be allowed, and fined defendant 1s and costs."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1866

"The annual meeting for the renewal of existing licenses, and for receiving applications for fresh ones, was held at the Police Court on Friday, when the Magistrates present were – The Revs. J. Y. Rooker, and W. Lewis, and J. Perks, H. D. Best, A. Sparrow, H. Ward, and W. Hatton, Esqs. At the commencement of the proceedings, the superintendent of Police presented the following report:–

Bilston Division, August 31st, 1866.

'I beg to submit to the Magistrates the attached list of licensed victuallers who have been complained about during the year. Twenty-five have been convicted, and three have paid costs; one had been convicted three times and five twice. This is a large increase on last year's list; but I think it has arisen from the police being more particular in reporting cases of permitting drunkenness – as it was found to be an evil rather on the increase. I believe it has caused landlords to be more careful in supplying drink to persons intoxicated.'

H. McCrea, Superintendent.

Black List.....

John Fowler, BROWN JUG, Temple Street, Bilston License renewed."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/9/1866 - Advert

"Bilston. Sale of Valuable Freehold Property, in Temple Street.

Mr. Thomas Richards will Offer for Sale by Auction, on Thursday, the 20th day of September, 1866 (by order of the Trustees for Sale under the will of the late Mr. *David Thompson*), at the house of Mr. *John Fowler*, the BROWN JUG INN, Temple Street, Bilston, at six o'clock in the evening....."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/10/1866 - Advert

"The BROWN JUG INN, Temple Street, Bilston.

To be Disposed of, and may be entered upon immediately, the above well-known Inn and Liquor Vaults, well situate in a populous neighbourhood, and now doing a good in and out-door trade.

The house contains well-fitted up liquor shop, smoke room, tap room, good cellaring, with out road into yard; bagatelle room, four bedrooms, large kitchen and brewhouse, well fitted up for brewing, cooking &c, malt room, and other appurtenances.

Most satisfactory reasons can be given for leaving, and the in-coming will not exceed £140.

Apply Samuel Baker, Auctioneer and Valuer, Church Street, Bilston."

Birmingham Daily Post 6/7/1867 - Advert

"Bilston. The BROWN JUG, Temple Street.

This capital Old-licensed House is now for Sale. Stock and Brewing Plant at a fair valuation. Proprietor having taken to other premises. In-coming low.

Apply Samuel Baker, Auctioneer, Bilston."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 8/2/1868

"Yesterday, at Bilston Police Court, the following transfer of licenses were granted.....

From the executors of *Edwin Vale* to *John Vale*, the BROWN JUG."

John Vale was the son of *Edwin*.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/8/1869

"The annual licensing meeting for the Bilston division took place yesterday, at the Police Court.....

The following is the list of the licensed victuallers who have been fined during the year.....

Permitting Drunkenness *Jane Veal*, BROWN JUG, Temple Street, 5s and costs."

Birmingham Daily Post 28/9/1869 - Advert

“To be Disposed of, the Licenses and Possession of the BROWN JUG, Temple Street, Bilston, the Proprietor having other engagements occupying the whole of his time. Stock and Fixtures at a valuation.
Apply to Mr. Samuel Baker, Auctioneer, Bilston.”

TO be DISPOSED OF, the LICENSES and POSSESSION of the “BROWN JUG,” Temple Street, Bilston, the Proprietor having other engagements occupying the whole of his time. Stock and Fixtures at a valuation.—Apply to Mr. Samuel Baker, Auctioneer, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 26/11/1870 - Advert

“Old-Licensed Public-house.

To be Let, with immediate Possession, the NEW BROWN JUG, Temple Street, Bilston, near the Railway Station, and large Ironworks. Rent Low. In-coming moderate.
Apply on the Premises; or to Thomas Skidmore, Valuer, Wolverhampton.”

1871 Census

6, Temple Street – BROWN JUG INN

- [1] Joseph Bunce (34), merchant roller iron and licensed victualler, born Coseley;
- [2] Elizabeth Bunce (33), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Harriet Bunce (12), daughter, general servant, born Bilston;
- [4] William Bunce (8), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] Joseph Bunce (6), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] Alfred Bunce (4), son, born Bilston;
- [7] Horace Bunce (2), son, born Bilston;
- [8] Mary Gasser (73), mother, widow, born Darlaston;
- [9] Betty Johnson (20), general servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 29/5/1878 - Advert

“House (Old-licensed) to Let, in a good neighbourhood. Rent low.
For particulars, apply, NEW BROWN JUG, Temple Street, Bilston.”

HOUSE (Old licensed) to Let, in a good neighbourhood. Rent low.—For particulars, apply, New Brown Jug, Temple Street, Bilston.

1881 Census

6, Temple Street - uninhabited

Evening Express 29/7/1881

“John O’Grady, landlord of the BROWN JUG public house, Temple Street, Bilston, was charged with having, on the 23rd inst, permitted drunkenness on his premises.

Police-constable stated that at 10.30pm the night in question he went into the defendant’s house, and found a man named James Welsh drunk, with a pint jug before him, half full of beer. The defendant’s wife, when questioned by witness, admitted that the man was drunk.

The Bench imposed a fine of 20s and costs.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 14/7/1883

“William Fowler, butcher, Church Street, and owner of the BROWN JUG INN, Temple Street, Bilston, was charged with selling liquor during prohibited hours.

Sergeant O’Brien stated that at a quarter to four o’clock on Sunday afternoon, he saw a woman named Ann Yardley, in Brook Street, carrying a bottle of ale (produced). He interrogated her, and she then took him to the BROWN JUG, where the daughter of the defendant acknowledged having sold the ale, and expressed sorrow. The Sergeant stated that several complaints had been received as to how the house was conducted.

As it was a first offence, defendant was fined 20s and costs.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 4/4/1885

“An inquest was opened by Mr. W. H. Phillips, coroner, at the NEW BROWN JUG, Temple Street, Bilston, on Thursday, over the body of John Thomas Jordens, of 14 Court, Temple Street, Bilston, aged seven years and eight months, who was found dead in bed by his parents on the morning of the 1st inst. The inquiry was adjourned till the 9th inst, at 4pm, at same place, for post mortem.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 14/4/1885

“This (Tuesday) afternoon, W. H. Phillips, Esq, coroner, held an inquest at the NEW BROWN JUG, Temple Street, Bilston, as to the cause of death of Peter Thomas, Dagherly, ten weeks old, son of Peter Dagherly, miner, 17 Court, Temple Street, Bilston. The mother deposed that on Saturday night the child was quite well when she went to sleep, but on awaking in the morning, about half-past five, it was found to be dead. The jury returned a verdict of Death from Suffocation.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 22/5/1885

“This (Friday) morning, at the BROWN JUG INN, Temple Street, Bilston, Mr. W. H. Phillips, coroner, held an inquest touching the death of John Tomes (25), miner, of 18 Court, Temple Street, Bilston, who was killed in a coal pit at the Gospel Oak Colliery, Princes End, on Wednesday.

John Poulton, chartermaster of the pit under Messrs. Grazebrook and Aston, said he was down the pit with deceased, who was working as a loader. The roof, which was a strong clad one, gave way and fell upon deceased, fracturing his head, and causing almost instantaneous death.

Mr. W. H. Pickering, assistant inspector of mines, stated that he visited the pit on Thursday and found the accident due to two ‘slips,’ and a weight which must have come on at the back, causing the roof to fall. There was sufficient timber, and no rules had been broken.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 15/8/1885 - Advert

“Bilston. BROWN JUG, Temple Street, full licensed, free.
Josiah Parkes, auctioneer and valuer, Wood Street, Willenhall.”

BILSTON.—Brown Jug, Temple-street, full licensed,
free.—Josiah Parkes, auctioneer and valuer, Wood-
st., Willenhall.

Birmingham Daily Post 13/1/1886

“An inquest was held at the BROWN JUG INN, Temple Street, yesterday, touching the death of William George Slaney (3½), son of George Slaney, blacksmith, of Temple Street. On Friday evening deceased drank boiling water from the spout of a kettle. He was so badly injured that medical assistance was of no avail, and he died on Sunday. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 24/4/1886 - Advert

“BROWN JUG INN, Temple Street, Bilston.

W. H. Veal begs to inform the Inhabitants of Bilston, that he has taken to the above Inn, and trusts by selling Spirits and Ale, of the finest quality, to merit a share of their support.

Best Ale in own jugs at 5d per quart.”

1891 Census

6, Temple Street – BROWN JUG

[1] George Meese (29), publican and blacksmith, born Bilston;

[2] Mercy Meese (30), wife, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/9/1898

“Yesterday, at Bilston, Isaac Barson (22), a professional boxer and runner, was fined 40s and costs for refusing to quit the BROWN JUG INN, Temple Street, Bilston, and 20s and costs for striking Albert Draissey in the face.”

1901 Census

11, Temple Street

[1] George Meese (38), publican, born Bradley;

[2] Mercy Meese (38), wife, born Wolverhampton;

[3] Alice Meese (15), daughter, born Bilston;

[4] George Meese (9), son, born Bilston:

Mrs. Mercy Meese was a brewer.

1911 Census

11, Temple Street

- [1] George Meese (49), blacksmith, born Bradley;
- [2] Mercy Meese (50), wife, married 26 years, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] George Meese (19), son, publican and brewer, born Bilston:

George Meese died in the 4th quarter of 1911.

1921 Census

11, Temple Street

- [1] Mercy Meese (59), widow, licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] Edith Hinds (19), adopted daughter, home duties, born Stratford on Avon:

Mercy Meese died in the 1st quarter of 1922.

Removal of the license to new premises in Birmingham New Road, Coseley, was approved on 4th February 1938 by Bilston Magistrates.

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.....

Mr. J. F. Bourke appeared to support an application for the removal of the full license of the BROWN JUG INN, Temple Street, Bilston, to premises proposed to be erected on the Birmingham-Wolverhampton new road at Lanesfield.

The application was opposed by Mr. Kenneth Wood on behalf of the owner of the ROOKERY TAVERN, a beerhouse in Wood Street, Lanesfield, Coseley.

Mr. Bourke said extensive development was taking place within a quarter mile radius of the proposed house, and at present there were no full license within a quarter of a mile. If the application were approved his clients were prepared to surrender two licenses apart from the BROWN JUG.

Stating the grounds for opposition, Mr. Wood said his client had been the owner and licensee of the ROOKERY TAVERN for 13 years, and last year he spent over £1,300 on improving the property. The trade of the ROOKERY TAVERN was 13 barrels and 34 dozen bottles of stout per week, in addition to other bottled goods.

After evidence in support of the application had been given, the Chairman said the committee had come to the conclusion that the application was premature and, in consequence, the order would not be confirmed.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/4/1939

“An adjourned meeting of the Staffordshire County Licensing Confirmation Committee was held on Tuesday at the Shirehall, Stafford, when consideration was given to the confirmation of license removal orders granted earlier in the year by local licensing justices.....

The committee refused to confirm the removal of the full license of the BROWN JUG INN, Temple Street, Bilston, to premises proposed to be erected on the west side of the Birmingham new road, Lanesfield, Coseley.”

1939 Register

11, Temple Street – BROWN JUG

- [1] Leonard Betts, date of birth 15/5/1907, licensee at public house, married;
- [2] Jane E. Betts, dob 30/8/1907, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] Leonard Betts, dob 02/7/1931, at school, single:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/2/1940

“At Bilston Brewster Sessions yesterday.....

An application for the removal of the license of the BROWN JUG INN, Temple Street, Bilston, to premises proposed to be erected in the Birmingham new road at Lanesfield, Coseley, was acceded to.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/4/1940

"Meeting of the Staffordshire Licensing Committee, held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, on Thursday.....

There were eight applications for the confirmation of orders made by local licensing justices.....

Confirmation was sought of an order granted by the Bilston Justices for the removal of the full license of the BROWN JUG INN, Temple Street, Bilston, to premises proposed to be erected on the west side of the Birmingham New Road, Lanesfield, Coseley.

Mr. A. J. Long, KC, with Mr. J. F. Bourke appeared for the applicant, and Mr. Kenneth Wood represented William Thomas Bayliss, owner and licensee of the ROOKERY TAVEN, Coseley, who opposed the application.

Mr. Long said the owners concerned with the application were Messrs. Butlers Brewery, Wolverhampton. Application for the removal of the license was first made in 1938, when the Bilston Justices made an order which, however, was not confirmed. Last year the application was repeated, and a grant was made by the Justices, but again it was not confirmed. On that occasion the Chairman of the confirming authority said the Bench were of opinion that the development of the area concerned had not been as rapid as anticipated, and that the applicant should wait another year. For a third time, said Mr. Long, the Bilston Justices had granted an order for the removal of the license, and he submitted that the merits of the case were such that the grant should now be confirmed.

Counsel spoke of further housing development in the area concerned since the application was last before the committee, and said that within a circle of a quarter of a mile radius of the site of the proposed new licensed house there were only one on beer license – that owned by Mr. Bayliss – and an off beer license known as the Hope Cottage. Within the same radius there were now 431 houses. Residents complained they had to walk a long way to get their drink, and that the ROOKERY TAVERN was often over-crowded. There was, he submitted a real demand for the proposed house.

After evidence had been called in support of the application, Mr. Wood contended that there had been little housing development since the application was last before the committee, and therefore the position had not changed.

Bayliss gave evidence as to his trade at the ROOKERY TAVERN, and said he would describe it as a 'good beer-drinking district.' He thought that at some future date there would be a need for a house such as that proposed on the main road, but the war had postponed the arrival of that time.

The committee refused the application."

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/4/1946

"Col. A. F. Nicholson (chairman) presided at a meeting of the County Licensing Confirmation Committee at Stafford, on Wednesday.....

Removal orders in respect of three Bilston full licenses – the BROWN JUG INN, Temple Street, to premises proposed to be erected on the Birmingham-Wolverhampton new road at Lanesfield, Coseley; the BOARD INN, Church Street, to premises to be built in Bunkers Hill Lane; and the ROLLING MILL INN, Highfields, Bradley, to premises to be erected at the junction of Great Bridge Road and Bull Lane, Moxley –were approved by the committee."

Closed

Demolished

TEMPLE-STREET, BILSTON.

OLD-LICENSED HOUSE.

TO be SOLD by PRIVATE CONTRACT, by direction of the Executors of the late Mr. David Thompson, the LICENSES, GOODWILL, and POSSESSION of the BROWN JUG INN, situate as above; together with the BREWING PLANT, LIQUOR SHOP, FITTINGS, and other PUBLIC-HOUSE EFFECTS, STOCK, &c., &c.

The house, which has liquor shop attached, is well situated in a populous neighbourhood; has been successfully carried on by the late proprietor for a number of years, has every convenience for the trade, the rental is low, and the incoming will be moderate.

For further particulars, apply at the Offices of Mr. SAMUEL BAKER, Auctioneer, 17, Church-street, near the Post Office, Bilston.

1863

**OLD BROWN JUG,
TEMPLE STREET, BILSTON.**
TO be DISPOSED OF, the LICENSES, and GOODWILL of the above well-accustomed and snug LIQUOR SHOP, with PUBLIC-HOUSE, situate in a dense population, in Temple Street, Bilston, and stands unrivalled for business purposes. The Brewing Plant, Fixtures, &c., which are first-class, to be taken to by valuation.
Apply to John G. Wright, Auctioneer and Publicans' Valuer, King Street, Dudley.

**"BROWN JUG" LIQUOR VAULTS,
TEMPLE STREET, BILSTON.**
TO be DISPOSED OF, the LICENSES, GOOD- WILL, and POSSESSION of the above-named, very desirable and well-accustomed snug LIQUOR and WINE VAULTS, situate in Temple Street, Bilston, in a dense population, and well situated for business, which has only changed hands once for many years.
Apply to John G. Wright, Auctioneer and Publicans' Valuer, &c., King Street, Dudley.

BILSTON.

BROWN JUG, TEMPLE STREET.

TO be DISPOSED OF, the POSSESSION of the BROWN JUG INN and LIQUOR SHOP, Temple Street, Bilston, situate in a very populous neighbourhood, and capable of doing an extensive in and out-door business. The Brewing Plant and Fixtures to be taken to by valuation.
Apply to John G. Wright, Auctioneer and Valuer, Dudley.

1865

TO be DISPOSED OF, the BROWN JUG INN and SPIRIT VAULT, Temple Street, Bilston. Coming-in can be reduced to £90.—For further particulars, apply to J. G. Wright, King Street, Dudley, or upon the Premises.

1865

BILSTON.—The "BROWN JUG," Temple Street.—This capital Old-licensed HOUSE is now for SALE, Stock and Brewing Plant at a fair valuation. Proprietor having taken to other premises. In-coming low.—Apply, Samuel Baker, Auctioneer, Bilston.

1867

OLD-LICENSED Public-house.—To be LET, with immediate Possession, the New BROWN JUG, Temple Street, Bilston, near the Railway Station, and large ironworks. Rent low. In-coming moderate.—Apply on the Premises; or to Thomas Skidmore, Valuer, Wolverhampton.

1870

B_{BROWN} **J**_{JUG} **I**_{INN,}
Temple Street, Bilston.

W. H. V_{EAL}

Begs to inform the Inhabitants of Bilston, that he has taken to the above Inn, and trusts by selling

SPIRITS AND ALE,

Of the finest quality, to merit a share of their support,

Best ALE in own jugs at 5d, per quart.

1886

BROWN LION

19, (18), Cross Street, Hallfields, Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

James Thompson, 18, Cross Street, Bilston
Noah Halford
William Halford, shoe salesman, Hall Street, Bilston
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. [1918]

LICENSEES

Joseph Townsend [1871] – **1874**);
William Price (**1874 – 1877**);
George Titley (**1877 – 1884**);
Mary Titley (**1884 – 1894**);
William George (**1894 – 1912**);
Henry George (**1912 – 1915**);
William George (**1915 – 1916**);
Samuel Harrison (**1916 – 1917**);
William Alfred Burns (**1917 – 1918**);
Enoch Burns (**1918**);

In Liquidation,
TO be Disposed of, by Private Contract, the
LICENSES, GOODWILL, FIXTURES, STOCK IN TRADE,
and immediate POSSESSION of THE BROWN LION INN, Cross
Street, Bradley, near Bilston.
For particulars, apply to Mr. Charles Barrow, Solicitor, 48, Queen
Street, Wolverhampton.

1874

NOTES

18, Cross Street [1871], [1881]
19, Cross Street [1904], [1911], [1912]

It had a beerhouse license.

Joseph Townsend = Joseph Townend = Joseph Townshend

Birmingham Daily Post 28/2/1871 - Married

“On the 26th inst, at St. Mary’s Church, Bilston, Staffordshire (by the Rev. Henry Snepp), Mr. *Joseph Townsend* of the BROWN LION, Bradley, only son of Mr. Joseph Townsend, late of the WHITE LION, Bradley, to Miss Elizabeth Gregory, youngest daughter of Mr. James Gregory, of the Elephant Vaults, Llanidloes.”

1871 Census

18, Cross Street – BROWN LION

- [1] *Joseph Townsend* (33), beer retailer, born Bilston;
- [2] Elizabeth Townsend (19), wife, born Canterbury, Kent;
- [3] Emily Bailey (18), general servant, born Bilston;
- [4] Jane A. Gregory (23), visitor, waitress at hotel, born Ramsgate, Kent;

Shrewsbury Chronicle 29/3/1872 - Deaths

“19th instant, aged 20, at the BROWN LION, Bradley, Mrs. Townend, daughter of Mr. J. Gregory, Elephant Vaults, Llanidloes.”

London Gazette 20/3/1874

"The Bankruptcy Act, 1869. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton.

In the Matter of Proceedings for Liquidation by Arrangement or Composition with Creditors, instituted by *Joseph Townshend*, of the BROWN LION INN, Cross-street, Bradley, in the county of Stafford, Publican.

Notice is hereby given, that a First General Meeting of the creditors of the above-named person has been summoned to be held at the offices of Mr. Charles Barrow, Solicitor, 48, Queen-street, Wolverhampton, on the 4th day of April, 1874, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 16th day of March, 1874.

Charles Barrow, 48, Queen-street, Wolverhampton, Attorney for the said Debtor."

Birmingham Daily Post 7/9/1874 - Advert

"In Liquidation.

To be Disposed of, by Private Contract, the Licenses, Goodwill, Fixtures, Stock-in-Trade, and immediate Possession of the BROWN LION INN, Cross Street, Bradley, near Bilston.

For particulars, apply to Mr. Charles Barrow, Solicitor, 48, Queen Street, Wolverhampton."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 2/10/1875

"A final meeting of the creditors of *Joseph Townshend*, late of the BROWN LION INN, Cross Street, Bradley, licensed victualler, was held at the offices of Mr. Charles Barrow, solicitor; Mr. Samuel Salt, of Dudley, maltster, in the chair. The accounts, as presented to the meeting on behalf of the trustee, were passed, and a dividend of 3s 8d in the pound declared, and the trustee was released from his duties. Mr. Barrow was entrusted with the registration of the resolutions."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 3/2/1876

"A few months ago a number of working men met together at the BROWN LION INN (Mr. *Price*'s), Cross Street, Bradley, for the purpose of considering the desirability of starting a new benefit society. They formed themselves into a lodge and joined the United Order of Free Gardeners in the Bilston District. The lodge has prospered, and at a meeting held on Monday night it was found that the number of members had very much increased, and the accounts were all found to be correct. The majority of the members are young men."

Birmingham Daily Post 11/2/1876 - Advert

"Wanted, a Piano Player, for a Beerhouse, to play Monday and Saturday evenings.

Apply to *Wm. Price*, BROWN LION INN, Cross Street, Bradley

WANTED, a Piano Player, for a Beerhouse, to play Monday and Saturday evenings—Apply to *Wm. Price*, Brown Lion Inn, Cross Street, Bradley.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 3/8/1876

"On Monday the annual dinner of the members of the United Order of Free Gardeners' Lodges of the Bilston, Walsall, and Cannock district, was held at the BROWN LION INN, Cross Street, Bradley, Bilston, when a goodly number sat down to the good things provided. After the cloth was drawn, Bro. C. Titley was voted to the chair....."

1881 Census

18, Cross Street – BROWN LION

[1] *George Titley* (47), publican, born Bilston;

[2] *Mary Titley* (43), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Sarah A. Titley* (18), daughter, born Bilston:

Darlaston Weekly Times 23/9/1882

"The anniversary feast in connection with Lodge No.1241, of the National United Order of Free Gardeners, was held at Mr. *G. Titley*'s, BROWN LION INN, Cross Street, Bradley, on Saturday last, when an ample repast was served up in excellent style by the host and hostess, and to which about 45 members did good justice....."

George Titley died on 14th May 1884.

Darlaston Weekly Times 24/5/1884

“On Wednesday morning, Mr. *George Titley*, landlord of the BROWN LION INN, Bradley, died very suddenly. Mr. *Titley* had been suffering from rheumatic gout for some time, but no apprehensions were entertained that his end was so near. Whilst in bed on Wednesday morning he had a severe attack of illness, and though assistance was at once procured, it was of no avail. The deceased, who was forty years of age, was well known and highly respected in Bradley, where he has resided from boyhood.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 31/5/1884

“An enquiry was held as to the death of *George Titley*, roll turner and innkeeper of the BROWN LION INN, Bradley, which took place on Wednesday morning, the 21st inst.

Mary Titley, widow of the deceased, said that her husband had had very poor health, and had suffered from rheumatism and gout in his hands and feet. He had not been laid up, but had been very ill for the last year. His club doctor was Dr. Larkin, but previous to his death he had been attended by Mr. Wells. She was present when her husband died at half-past four on Wednesday morning. She awoke and asked him if he was any better, and he replied that he was not, and if the pain in his stomach did not cease he should go mad.

Charles Titley, brother of the deceased, deposed to seeing Mr. *Titley* alive on Tuesday night, when he said he was better of his rheumatism, but his stomach and sides were very bad. From his knowledge of the state of his brother's health, he was satisfied he had died from natural causes.

Joseph Clarke, half-brother to the deceased, gave evidence to a similar effect, and the Jury returned a verdict that death resulted from Natural Causes.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 28/9/1885

“The anniversary in connection with the National United Order of Free Gardeners, Who Would Have Thought It Lodge, 1241, was held at Mrs. *Titley's*, BROWN LION INN, Cross Street, Bradley, on Saturday, when 38 members sat down to an excellent dinner. The chair was occupied by Brother Baldwin, DM. The statement read by Bro. Joseph Clark, the secretary, showed the lodge to be in a satisfactory condition. An excellent programme of songs, &c, was gone through.”

1891 Census

18, Cross Street – BROWN LION INN

[1] Mary Titley (55), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Sedgley;

[2] Sarah Martin (86), relative, widow, birth place not known:

1901 Census

Cross Street

[1] William George (59), publican, born Montgomeryshire;

[2] Caroline George (60), wife, born Willenhall;

[3] Henry George (26), son, ironworker, puddler, born Bradley:

William George, beer retailer, 19, Cross Street. [1904], [1912]

Tipton Herald 6/3/1909

“At Bilston Petty Sessions before Mr. R. W. Lewis and Dr. S. Ashley Smith, Mary Ann Hadley (50), a small shopkeeper, of Leigh Street, Bradley, near Coseley, was charged with using threats towards Jane Webb, and with assaulting William Webb, the latter's husband.

It was alleged that on the 20th inst, Mrs. Hadley went to the BROWN LION INN, Cross Street, where Webb was visiting, and after a few words she struck him in the mouth. She was turned out of the house, and she then went to Webb's house and threatened Mrs. Webb with a brick, and also to throw at her a lamp which was on the table. She afterwards stayed on the doorstep for Mr. Webb, and when he was passing she struck him on the head with a poker. PC Lewis (Bradley), in reply to the magistrates, said the defendant was a dangerous woman, and a terror to that end of Bradley. She was continually getting drunk, and was then very vicious.

The magistrates bound the woman over for six months for the threats, and ordered her to pay costs; and for the assault, they committed her for a month without the option.”

1911 Census

19, Cross Street

[1] William George (69), public house keeper, born Montgomeryshire;

[2] Caroline George (73), wife, married 16 years, born Bilston;

[3] Richardo Henry George (34), son, under hand shearer, born Bilston:

License refused by Compensation Authority on 3rd July 1918.

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.....

BROWN LION, Cross Street, Bradley, Bilston. Beerhouse (ante 1869) License. Licensee, *Enoch Burns*. Registered Owner, Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries Ltd.”

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.....

BROWN LION, Bradley, Bilston, £750.”

Compensation of £750 was paid on 21st December 1918.

South Staffordshire Times 25/9/1920 - Advert

“Sale By Auction, at 6.30pm for 7pm promptly.

J. Southwick and Son have received instructions from the executors, and others, to submit for sale by auction at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, the following Valuable Freehold Properties, including Three commodious De-licensed Dwelling Houses and Premises.....

Lot 3. The Valuable Dwelling House and Premises formerly the BROWN LION INN (now de-licensed), and being No.19, Cross Street, Bradley.

These premises could also easily be converted into two capital Dwelling Houses at very small cost.”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 11/10/1924 - Advert

“Tuesday Next, October 14th, 1924, at 7 o'clock in the Evening.

Important Sale of Freehold Properties and Land, and de-licensed houses, at Bradley and Priestfields, which Cyril H. Green, FNAA, has been instructed to submit for Sale By Auction, at the PIPEHALL HOTEL, Bilston, on the above Date, subject to conditions of sale to be then read, the under-mentioned Properties.....

Lot 7. Freehold Dwelling House, situate and known as the BROWN LION INN (now de-licensed), 19, Cross Street, Bradley. Nett rental, £16 18s per annum.”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 18/10/1924

“Mr. Cyril H. Green, FNAA, auctioneer, Bilston, conducted a successful sale of freehold properties, de-licensed houses, and land, situate in Bilston, Priestfields, and Bradley, at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, on Tuesday evening..... One house in Cross Street, Bradley, formerly the BROWN LION, £152.”

BROWN LION

165, (78), Oxford Street (Oxford Road) / Chapel Street, New Town, BILSTON

OWNERS

Henry Walker, auctioneer, Wolverhampton
Dr. Hancox, Bilston
Miss M A and E Hancox, Bilston
William Butler & Co. Ltd. [1904], [1953]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Esther Brown [1818]
George Perry [1822] – [1830]
John Perry [1833]
George Perry [1834] – **1840**)
William Turley [1840]
George Brown [1841] – [1842]
Simeon Corbett [] – **1845**);
Richard Cope (**1845** – [1846]
Enoch Fellows [1847] – [1848]
Mrs. Jane Lander [1849] – **1850**);
Benjamin Lowe (**1850** – []
Joseph Plant [1851] – [1861]
William Brown and Co. [1862] – [1862]
William Brown [1862] – **1863**);
J Brown (**1863** – []
George Brown and Co. [1864] – [1865]
George Brown [] – **1864**);
Thomas Lloyd Roberts (**1864** – []
Thomas L Pemberton [] – **1866**);
Stephen Golby (**1866** – []
W Jeffery [] – **1871**);
William Williams (**1871** – **1881**);
John Lacey (**1881** – **1888**);
Thomas Smith (**1888**);
Harriet Smith (**1888** – **1889**);
John McNulty (**1889** – **1890**);
John Hand (**1890** – **1892**);
Benjamin Slim (**1892** – **1893**);
Charles Askew (**1893** – **1894**);
Lucretia Fanny Ward (**1894**);
William Bennett (**1894**);
Arthur Augustus Geaves (**1894** – **1895**);
William John Lawrence (**1895**);
Thomas Marshall (**1895** – **1898**);
Edward Monk (**1898** – **1899**);
Evan Jones (**1899** – **1900**);
Frederick William Plant (**1900**);
Benjamin Mobberley (**1900** – **1901**);
Thomas Hollins (**1901** – **1906**);

TO BE LET,

With possession at Christmas next,

ALL that old-established and well accustomed
PUBLIC HOUSE, known by the sign of the
BROWN LION INN, situate in the New Town, Bilston.

The fixtures, &c. required to be taken by the incoming tenant, will not exceed 200*l*.

Application to be made to Mr. **WILLIAM BROWN**, maltster, Bilston.

1837

PUBLIC HOUSE TO LET.

TO be LET, and may be entered upon immediately, that old-established and well-accustomed **PUBLIC HOUSE**, "**THE BROWN LION**," situate in Oxford Street, Bilston. The Fixtures and Stock to be taken at a fair valuation. The present Proprietor leaving solely on account of other engagements.—For particulars, apply to Mr. S. Corbett, on the premises.

1845

UNRESERVED SALE AT THE BROWN LION PUBLIC HOUSE, NEW TOWN, BILSTON, STAFFORDSHIRE.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by R. CORBETT, on the above Premises, on **TUESDAY NEXT**, the 22nd day of December—the whole of the excellent Iron-bound **ALE BARRELS**, Twenty Strike **MASH TUB**, pair of stout 2-inch Working **VATS**, with Lead Pipe and Taps complete; Cooling, Working, and other **TUBS**; Two 150-Gallon **COPPER FURNACES**, with large Brass Taps and fixings; complete Five-pull **BEER MACHINE**, with extra Piping. The Stock of Prime **ALE** and **LIQUORS**, Screens, Cupboards, Grates, Water and Gas Fittings, large Sign and Post, and other **PUBLIC HOUSE FIXTURES**; together with Three **STORE PIGS**, **HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE** and **EFFECTS**, belonging to Mr. Richard Cope, of the Brown Lion aforesaid.

The Sale to commence at Ten o'clock in the morning, with the Fixtures, Stock-in-Trade, and the Pigs: and at Two o'clock in the afternoon, with the Household Furniture.

Catalogues are in circulation, and may be had at the Place of Sale; and at the Auctioneer's, New Inn, Bilston.

1846

SALE OF HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE AND OTHER EFFECTS, BROWN LION, Oxford Street, BILSTON.

MR. R. HESELTINE is instructed to SELL by AUCTION, on **TUESDAY NEXT**—all the **HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE**, **BREWING UTENSILS**, five-pull **Beer Machine**, **Ale** and **Porter Casks**, **Strong CART**, two pockets of **HOPS**, and other Effects, the property of Mr. Joseph Plant, who is retiring from business.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.

Catalogues may be had of the Auctioneer, at his Offices, Midland Counties Auction Rooms, Bilston.

1860

Mrs. Ellen Hollins **(1906 – 1924);**
Charles Henry Walker **(1924 – 1934);**
Ernest Carden **(1934 – [1940]**
Mrs. Harriet Walker []
Jack Hughes []

NOTES

Oxford Road [1828]

78, Oxford Street [1858], [1861], [1862], [1864], [1865], [1871], [1874], [1881], [1891], [1892], [1896], [1904]

165, Oxford Street [1908], [1911], [1916], [1921], [1932], [1939], [1940]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 4/10/1824 - Advert

"Desirable Freehold, at New Town, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by R. Corbett (by order of the Executors of the late Mr. J. Woodhouse), Tomorrow (Tuesday), October, 5, at five o'clock in the afternoon, at the house of Mr. *G. Perry*, the BROWN LION INN, New Town, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, subject to conditions then to be read....."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/2/1834 - Advert

"Leasehold Premises, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett (by order of the Representatives of the late Mr. Peter Banks, deceased), at the house of Mr. *George Perry*, the BROWN LION INN, New Town, Bilston, on Friday, the 14th of February, 1834, at five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to condition then to be read....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 11/7/1836 - Advert

"Valuable Land, containing excellent Mines of Coal, Ironstone, &c and Messuages at Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett, by direction of the Devises in Trust for sale, under the will of the late Isaac Beckett, Esq, deceased, on Thursday the 14th day of July inst, at the house of Mr. *George Perry*, the BROWN LION INN, New Town, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, at six o'clock in the afternoon....."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/6/1837 - Advert

"To be Let, with possession at Christmas next, all that old-established and well accustomed Public House, known by the sign of the BROWN LION INN, situate in the New Town, Bilston.

The fixtures, &c required to be taken by the in-coming tenant, will not exceed £200.

Application to be made to Mr. William Brown, maltster, Bilston."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/12/1837

"Wolverhampton Public Office.....

George Hill was charged with stealing from the person of Charles Cummins four sovereigns and some silver. The prosecutor is the captain of a canal boat, and lives at Dymock, Gloucestershire. On Thursday he was at the BROWN LION public house, at Bilston, and fell asleep, and the prisoner, who sat by him, was seen to take the prosecutor's purse out of his pocket. The prisoner, on being apprehended, offered to make good two of the sovereigns. Committed."

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/1/1838

"Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

George Hill, a boatman, with a countenance of peculiar ferocity, which would not have given the lie to a more serious charge, was indicted for stealing a purse, containing four sovereigns and nine shillings, from the person of Charles Cummins, his master, at Bilston. Mr. Kempson appeared for the prosecution.

The prisoner, who received a very bad character, had helped himself to the purse of his master whilst asleep in a public house.

Guilty. Six calendar months hard labour."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/8/1839

“An influential and highly respectable meeting of gentlemen and operatives took place at the BROWN LION INN, New Town, Bilston, on Friday evening, for the purpose of establishing an Operative Conservative Association for that town and neighbourhood. William Baldwin, Esq, of Bonverreaux Ironworks, being called to the chair, a series of resolutions, embracing the whole of the necessary preliminaries for the establishment of an Association, were proposed, and unanimously adopted by the meeting. A committee was afterwards formed to fix upon the laws by which the Association should be governed, and also to carry the various resolutions that had been passed into effect. Deputations from the Wolverhampton, Sedgley, and West Bromwich Associations attended, to render their assistance in furthering the praiseworthy object their Bilston friends have in view. In the course of the evening, a vote of thanks was given to the deputations for their attendance, and Mr. Page, of Wolverhampton, being called upon, delivered an energetic address on the importance and necessity of union in the ranks of Conservatives, and spoke at some length on the beneficial results likely to accrue to the cause of Conservatism by the establishment of associations, where the operatives of England would have an opportunity of forming a just estimate of the merits of the political principals of all parties. Afterwards nearly the whole of the company gave in their names as members of the Association, then fairly established in Bilston. Thanks having been voted to the chairman, part of the company retired, expressing themselves greatly gratified at the favourable auspices under which the Association had been formed, and at the prospect of its future success.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 11/4/1840

“Staffordshire Easter Sessions.....

James Perry, aged 56, was indicted for stealing ten dozen tea caddies, and other articles, the property of Job Hickman Lester and Sarah Smith, at Bilston. Mr. Godson and Mr. Yardley appeared for the prosecution. The prisoner was undefended.

Elizabeth Atkins, a young woman in the employ of the prosecutors, saw the prisoner on the 25th March, take several dozens of tea caddies out of a little room adjoining the warehouse, and take them into the packing room across the street. She thought it strange, and told Fanny Riley.

Fanny Riley saw the prisoner about six o'clock in the evening of the 25th of last month; she saw him in the packing room, packing a large basket of tea caddies. She asked him why he packed them that night, and he replied that it was a basket that had been forgotten. She went away.

Richard Pendrill, a japanner, in the employ of Messrs. Lester and Smith, remembered assisting the prisoner to carry a large basket from the packing room to the BROWN LION, kept by the prisoner's brother. He did not know what it contained.

John Tobias Lester, son of the prosecutor, went to the BROWN LION in consequence of information he had received, and found the basket in question. Whilst in the house the prisoner came in, and he (witness) asked him what brought the basket there, and he said it was packed for Gill, of Manchester. He (witness) said there was no order for such an article. He had them taken back, and counted twelve dozens of tea caddies. There was no direction on the basket.

Job Hickman Lester carried on business with Sarah Smith, his aunt. On seeing the prisoner after the robbery, he (witness) said he was very sorry to see him in that situation. Prisoner replied, 'I have robbed the best of masters; I'll be ruled by you in any thing.' He (witness) replied, 'I cannot rule you in any thing,' and added, 'It's a bad business; to what amount do you think you have robbed me?' He said, 'About £200.' Witness asked him how long it was since he commenced robbing him, and he replied about two years ago.

He was found guilty; sentence deferred.

The same prisoner was tried, the next morning, on a second indictment, charging him with stealing a number of japanned waiters, from the same parties. The evidence was nearly the same as in the former case.

He was found guilty; and sentenced to be imprisoned, for the first offence, seven days, and for the second, to be transported for seven years.”

Staffordshire Gazette 29/8/1840 - Marriages

“On the 20th inst, at St. George's, Birmingham, Mr. *William Turley*, of the BROWN LION INN, Bilston, to Mary Ann Brown, second daughter of Mr. Edward Brown, wine and spirit merchant, of the same place.”

Staffordshire Gazette 26/8/1841 - Deaths

“Aug 21, of consumption, at the house of his father, at Cosley, near Bilston, aged 35, Mr. *William Turley*, late landlord of the BROWN LION INN, Bilston.”

1841 Census

Oxford Street

[1] George Brown (30), victualler, born Staffordshire;

[2] Harriet Brown (30);

[3] Ann Evans (20), f.s., born Staffordshire;

[4] John Hughes (60), m.s.:

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 6/2/1842

“Simcox, of West Bromwich, will match his dog Burke against Stanford’s, of Fullards End, dog Toss, from £10 to £25 a side. The money is ready at Mr. *G. Brown*’s BROWN LION INN, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/3/1843

“The following inquisitions have been held before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner.

On the 25th, at the BROWN LION, Bilston, on Catherine Bott, who had died through her clothes taking fire. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Journal 19/7/1845 - Advert

“Public House to Let.

To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, that old-established and well-accustomed Public House, the BROWN LION, situate in Oxford Street, Bilston. The Fixtures and Stock to be taken at a fair valuation. The present Proprietor leaving solely on account of other engagements.

For particulars, apply to Mr. *S. Corbett*, on the premises.”

Birmingham Journal 19/12/1846

“John Durken was charged with being drunk, and fighting at the BROWN LION, Oxford Street, on Sunday morning last, and was fined 5s. William Guest, charged with rescuing a man named Durken from the custody of the police, on Sunday, and was ordered to find sureties.”

Birmingham Journal 19/12/1846 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale at the BROWN LION Public House, New Town, Bilston, Staffordshire

To be Sold by Auction, by R. Corbett, on the above Premises, on Tuesday Next, the 22nd day of December.

The whole of the excellent Iron-bound Ale Barrels, Twenty Strike Mash Tub, pair of stout 2-inch Working Vats, with Lead Pipe and Taps complete; Cooling, Working, and other Tubs; Two 150-Gallon Copper Furnaces, with large Brass Taps and fixings; complete Five-pull Beer Machine, with extra Piping. The Stock of Prime Ale and Liquors, Screens, Cupboards, Grates, Water and Gas Fittings, large Sign and Post, and other Public House Fixtures; together with Three Store Pigs, Household Furniture and Effects belonging to Mr. *Richard Cope*, of the BROWN LION aforesaid.

The Sale to commence at Ten o’clock in the morning, with the Fixtures, Stock-in-Trade, and the Pigs; and at Two o’clock in the afternoon, with the Household Furniture.

Catalogues are in circulation, and may be had at the Place of Sale; and at the Auctioneer’s, NEW INN, Bilston.”

Enoch Fellows = Enoch Fellowes

Wolverhampton Chronicle 6/1/1847

“On Tuesday, at the Bilston police court, Mr. *Enoch Fellows*, who has just taken to the BROWN LION INN, Bilston, and Mr. James Higgins, who has just taken to the DUKE OF YORK, near Monmore Green, made application to the Bench for permission to sell ale and spirituous liquors in their respective houses until the special sessions for granting transfers of licenses, to be held on the 8th of January inst, at Wolverhampton. Their applications were granted.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 28/8/1847

“Wolverhampton Public Office.....

John Frazer, a respectable looking man, about 40 years of age, residing at Walsall, was charged with committing a rape upon the person of Maria Smallman, on Sunday, the 27th June, at the BROWN LION, Bilston. The prosecutrix, a servant girl, about 18 years of age, detailed the particulars of the offence. She was cross-examined by Mr. Fleetwood on behalf of the prisoner, but did not vary in her testimony.

Susannah Fellows, wife of Mr. *Enoch Fellows*, corroborated portions of the prosecutrix's evidence, and deposed, that upon her speaking to the prisoner upon the subject, he denied having hurt the girl, and rushed out of the house.

Some inquiries were made by the Bench as to the time which had elapsed since the commission of the offence and the apprehension of the prisoner; and police officer Thompson, who took him into custody, said this arose from the difficulty of finding out the prisoner's name and residence. As there were other witnesses to examine, the case was then adjourned to Friday.

The warrant for apprehending the prisoner, who is understood to be a person travelling with goods, was obtained the 2nd of August.”

AND

“On Friday (yesterday) before John Leigh, Esq, John Frazer, charged with committing a rape upon Maria Smallman, was committed for trial at the assizes. The mother of the prosecutrix and a constable named John Nash gave evidence strengthening the case against the prisoner, for whose appearance the Bench refused to accept bail.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 4/9/1847

“Committed to Stafford County Gaol. For the Assizes.....

John Fraser, charged with a rape, at Bilston.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/3/1848

“Staffordshire Spring Assizes.....

Not True Bills against John Fraser, charged with a criminal assault on Maria Smallman, at Bilston.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/11/1847

“A charge against *Enoch Fellows*, the landlord of the BROWN LION INN, Bilston, for knowingly and wilfully allowing persons to become drunk in his house on Sunday morning, the 31st of October, was dismissed on a technical objection raised by Mr. Fleetwood.”

AND

Birmingham Journal 6/11/1847

“On Tuesday, at Bilston Public Office, before Wm. Baldwin, Esq, and John Foster, Esq, *Enoch Fellows*, landlord of the BROWN LION, was charged with wilfully permitting drunken and disorderly persons to be in his house, contrary to the tenor of his license. Before the charge was entered into, Mr. Fleetwood took an objection which had been considered fatal in several instances, namely, that Mr. *Fellows* was not in possession of a license, having delivered it up to the Excise on the 10th ult, from whom he had not received a fresh one, and the Court were therefore not in a position to prove, by its production, the purport of the defendant's license. Mr. Baldwin said he hoped the public press would take notice of this, as it was a state of things which ought not to exist, and, as in the present instance, gave an opportunity for evading the law, which might be taken advantage of continually. The charge should be considered by the Bench as dismissed, but they would hear the circumstances under which it had been brought forward.

Inspector Thompson was then sworn, and it appeared that he had gone to the BROWN LION about two o'clock on Sunday morning last, in consequence of a great disturbance which was going on, when he found numbers of persons sprawling about on the floor, and lying on the seats, in a beastly state of intoxication. He endeavoured to get them out, and had so far succeeded, but they were allowed to enter the bar, and the landlady having given them whatever liquor they required, they again laid themselves down on the floor. Mr. Thompson tried to clear another room of the incapables which it contained, but finding the landlord did not give any assistance, he left the house and came out to the street, which he cleared of the drunken persons staggering about. Every Sunday morning he found it almost impossible for the police to clear the house, and it generally took an officer two hours to do so.

Mr. Baldwin said that although Mr. *Fellows* had escaped a penalty for such a disgraceful state of things, yet the Bench would take care that all such matters should be brought before the Magistrates on licensing day, when they would no doubt be considered and dealt with in a proper way.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/6/1848

“Bankrupts *Enoch Fellows*, Bilston, licensed victualler, July 11, August 1, at the Birmingham District Court of Bankruptcy; official assignee, Mr. Whitmore, Birmingham.”

Birmingham Journal 15/7/1848

“Bankruptcy Court.....

In re *Enoch Fellowes*, of Bilston, victualler and japanner.

This was a meeting for the choice of trade assignees, who were appointed on the nomination of Mr. Bowen.”

Birmingham Journal 26/8/1848

“Bankruptcy Court.....

In re *Enoch Fellowes*, of Bilston, victualler.

Last examination unopposed. Solicitor, Mr. Bowen, of Stafford.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 4/9/1848

“Bankrupts Certificates to be Granted (unless cause be shown to the contrary on the day mentioned).....

Sept 21. *Enoch Fellowes*, Bilston, Wolverhampton, Staffordshire, licensed victualler, and blank tray-maker and japanner.”

Birmingham Journal 23/9/1848

“Bankruptcy Court.....

In re *Enoch Fellowes*, of Bilston, victualler.

The bankrupt obtained his certificate without opposition. Solicitor, Mr. Bowen.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 11/9/1850

“On Saturday last an inquest was held at the BROWN LION, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of Michael Mahon, twenty years of age, a collier, who was killed on the previous Saturday by a large quantity of coal falling upon him whilst he was loading a skip in a pit at Willingworth Field. It appeared that his neck, left arm, and right thigh were broken by the fall of the coal. The place where Mahon had been working was about four yards wide, and the roof was about six feet high. The coal was considered safe, but he had neglected to prop the roof. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 11/1/1851

“A fatal accident occurred, on Tuesday afternoon, to a poor fellow named Joseph Wright, a miner, aged 22 years. The deceased was at work in a pit in Messrs. Sparrow's field, when a quantity of stone fell upon him, which dislocated his neck. The deceased has left a widow and two children. The inquest was held on Thursday at the BROWN LION, Oxford Street, Bilston, and adjourned till Wednesday next, in order to communicate with the Secretary of State.”

1851 Census

Oxford Street

[1] *Joseph Plant* (52), victualler, born Norbury, Staffordshire;

[2] *Margaret Plant* (48), wife, born Donnington, Shropshire;

[3] *Ann Hawkins* (22), daughter, married, born Newport, Shropshire;

[4] *Mary Lovatt* (15), servant, born Newport, Shropshire:

Staffordshire Advertiser 17/5/1851

“Mr. *Joseph Plant*, landlord of the BROWN LION, Oxford Street, Bilston, was charged before the magistrates on Friday with assaulting *Letitia Sutton*. The complainant stated that on Monday night she went to the defendant's house to look for her husband, when he denied his being there. After waiting for his return until two o'clock in the morning, she again went to the defendant's house, and there saw her husband in the tap room with several prostitutes. She asked him if he was coming home, when Mr. *Plant* took her by her shoulders, pushed her through the passage, and struck her a violent blow, which threw her on her face on the foot-path. Her forehead was badly cut, and she bled profusely. A witness named *Danks* confirmed her statement. The defendant stated that two men were about to

fight in his tap room, and he interfered to prevent them doing so, and in the struggle pushed her, when she fell over some men's feet who were standing in the passage. The bench were of opinion that Mr. *Plant* had used unnecessary violence towards the complainant, and ordered him to give her ten shillings and pay the costs."

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/7/1851

"An inquest was held at the BROWN LION, Oxford Street, Bilston, on Monday evening last, by W. W. Ward, Esq. (for T. M. Phillips, Esq.), coroner, on the body of Jane Sheldon, 50 years of age, widow; and again by adjournment on the 2nd instant. It appeared from the evidence that the deceased was taken ill on Sunday, the 22nd of June, and Mr. Hancox, surgeon for the Bradley district of the Wolverhampton Union, attended her up to the evening of the 27th, and she died about twelve o'clock that night. The deceased being very poor, and receiving relief from the cholera fund, it was reported by the persons who attended her during her illness that she died from want of food and proper nourishment. This rumour spreading rapidly through the town, caused the inquiry. The assertion, however, was contradicted by Mr. Harper, surgeon, of Bilston, who made a post mortem examination of the body. He stated that she died of pleurisy, and not from want of food. A verdict to that effect was returned."

Staffordshire Advertiser 12/7/1851

"Isaac Fellows and Joseph Broggen, were charged, at Bilston Public Office, on Tuesday, with stealing a violin, the property of James Mar. It appeared that the prosecutor was engaged to play the violin at the house of Mr. *Plant*, BROWN LION, Oxford Street. While so occupied on the night of the 27th of May last, he was called to wait on some customers in the parlour, and he went, leaving his violin in the kitchen where the prisoners were sitting. On his return he found they were gone; the violin also had disappeared. A few days ago he ascertained that the instrument was pledged at the shop of Mr. Hyam, pawnbroker, of Wolverhampton. Mr. Hyam produced the violin, and identified the prisoner Broggen as being the person who pledged it at his shop on the 28th of May. The evidence not being conclusive against Fellows, he was discharged. Broggen was committed to the sessions."

[At the Staffordshire Adjourned Sessions, in July 1851, Joseph Bragger was charged with stealing a violin and bow at Bilston, the property of Thomas Marghar. He was found guilty and sentenced to one month's imprisonment.]

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/9/1851

"The adjourned annual meeting of the magistrates, acting in the division of Seisdon North, to reconsider applications for victuallers' licenses, was held on Monday last.....

The license of *Joseph Plant*, of the BROWN LION, Bilston, which had been suspended, was after a suitable admonition from the bench, renewed."

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/1/1853

"On Tuesday last, Mr. Phillips held two inquests at the BROWN LION, New Town, Bilson – the first on the body Amos Robinson, a butty on the colliery of Wm. Baldwin and Co., Bilston, who was killed on Saturday last in a pit at Baldwin's Fields, by the falling upon him of a large quantity of coal, whilst he was engaged 'picking.' The coal was insufficiently propped by deceased himself, who it was thought was the only person to blame.

T. Wynn, the government inspector of mines, was present, watching the proceedings. Having learnt that the ground bailiff of the colliery had not been in the pit in question for a week previously to the accident, Mr. Wynn questioned him upon the subject, when the bailiff pleaded the experience of the deceased as a reason why he had not been in the pit more recently. Mr. Wynn then gave a general caution as to a mistaken notion which seemed to pervade the minds of the South Staffordshire colliers that ground bailiffs had no right to interfere between the workmen and the butties, but only to watch the conduct of the butties with reference to the interests of the proprietors. The inspector said that he held this opinion to be a most erroneous one, and it must be dispelled. It was as much the duty of the bailiff to watch the interests of the men as to watch those of the proprietors. Did he (the bailiff) consider that this was his duty! The bailiff acknowledge that it was. Mr. Wynn then added that everybody who read reports upon mining in South Staffordshire must know that the neglect of duty on the part of the bailiff, to which he had referred, was the common complaint of every scientific man who had written upon the operations of this district. The fall of coal took place on Saturday afternoon, yet the body of the deceased could not be dug out before Sunday night, when it presented every evidence that death had been occasioned by suffocation. Verdict, Accidental Death.

The subject of the next inquest was Jonathon Tonks, aged sixty, a miner upon the same estate, who, at two o'clock on Sunday morning, was proceeding to the pit in which Robinson lay buried, to assist in his extrication, and fell into an open disused pit which lay in that portion of the field over which he would pass, in a direct line from his own house. He had lost the sight of one eye, and his daughter said that he left his home to go to the pit at one o'clock on Sunday morning, quite sober; but Joseph Kitson, an engineer upon the same colliery, deposed that deceased was

intoxicated when he passed the engine an hour afterwards. The disused pit lay between the engine and the pit of the accident, upon the bank of which latter there was a beacon fire that, in the darkness of the night, might have obscured the already imperfect vision of the deceased. He was missed on Sunday afternoon, when that course was taken which seems first resorted to on such occasions. A lighted lanthorn was procured and let down into the old pits. The one in which the deceased was found was within 1½ yard of a cart track, and was protected only by a circling embankment, under three feet high, of stones and loose rubbish. It was given in evidence that upon this colliery there were at least twenty old pits uncovered and unfenced. The deceased was found with his skull forced in and his left arm, broken.

The jury returned a verdict of Found Dead, accompanied with a remonstrance on the unprotected state of the pits on this colliery of Baldwin and Co.

Mr. Wynn was present, and put questions to the witnesses during the inquiry.

It is earnestly to be hoped that proprietors of collieries will at length bestir themselves, and not permit their property to remain in such a state as constantly to endanger human life. Frequently it is said, as indeed was the case in this instance, that the pits are not in the high road of the colliery; but men, it is well-known, will go the nearest road to the their places of work."

Birmingham Journal 13/12/1856

"On Tuesday last, an inquest was held at the BROWN LION, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of John Murphy, twenty years of age, whose death was occasioned from his having, on the 5th instant, been severely injured by a fall of coal in Mr. Baldwin's pit. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/7/1860

"On Sunday night, a box kept in the bed room of Mr. *Joseph Plant*, the landlord of the BROWN LION, Bilston, was broken open, and about £6 stolen. Suspicions have fallen upon an army recruit who was quartered at the BROWN LION, but who absconded immediately after the offence was discovered to have been committed."

Birmingham Journal 10/11/1860 - Advert

"Sale of Household Furniture and other Effects, BROWN LION, Oxford Street, Bilston.

Mr. R. Heseltine is instructed to Sell by Auction, on Tuesday Next.

All the Household Furniture, Brewing Utensils, five-pull Beer Machine, Ale and Porter Casks, Strong Cart, two pockets of Hops, and other Effects, the property of Mr. *Joseph Plant*, who is retiring from business.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.

Catalogues may be had of the Auctioneer, at his Offices, Midland Counties Auction Rooms, Bilston."

1861 Census

78, Oxford Street - BROWN LION INN - uninhabited

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/11/1861

"T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, held an inquest at the BROWN LION INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, on Monday last, touching the death of Elizabeth Middleton, a child five years old. The circumstances of this case were exactly the same as those of most of the accidents of this kind. The child was left alone in her father's house whilst her mother went to a shop on an errand, and in her absence the deceased's pinafore by some means took fire, and she was badly burnt. Mr. Hancox, surgeon, attended her, but she died on Friday night. The Jury returned a verdict in accordance with the evidence."

Staffordshire Advertiser 4/1/1862

"Martin Toole, assistant to the landlord of the BROWN LION INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, was fined 20s and costs for an assault on John White. Complainant, it appeared, took an active, and, on Monday night, in the inn above named, a noisy part in local politics, 'chaffing' the company with respect to their opinions on matters that divide men in Bilston, and giving them advice with respect to the payment of rates, which led to the services of Martin Toole being called in to his expulsion. It was proved, however, to the satisfaction of the worthy stipendiary, that Toole acted with unnecessary violence, and hence the penalty. Upon the conclusion of the case, Mr. Gettings, in allusion to a recent conviction for stealing water, contended that, by the Local Improvement Act, the whole of the penalty ought to go to the Township Commissioners. Mr. Partridge differed with Mr. Gettings, but would grant him a case upon the point if he had any desire to carry the matter further. The subject then dropped."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/3/1862 - Advert

“Sale of Freehold Property, at Gozzard Street and John Street, Bilston.

Mr. George Brown will Sell by Auction, at the House of Messrs. W. Brown and Co., the BROWN LION INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, on Tuesday, the 11th day of March, 1862, at six o'clock in the evening.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/4/1862

“An inquest was held on Thursday last at the BROWN LION INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, before Mr. T. M. Phillips, coroner, on the body of John, aged six years, the child of Mrs. Phoebe Legg, of Freeth Street, who died on the previous Tuesday, from the effects of burns received on the 21st inst. It appeared that at the time the child's clothes took fire its mother was drinking at a beerhouse in Oxford Street. The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and the coroner severely reprimanded the mother.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/4/1862

“Mr. *W. Brown*, landlord of the BROWN LION INN, Oxford Street, was charged before J. N. Bagnall and H. Ward, Esqs, at Bilston Police Court, on Friday, with allowing disorderly conduct in his house on the 27th ult. Mr. Motteram, of Birmingham, appeared in defence.

It was proved by Sergeant Heath and Sergeant Harrison, that on the day named at the house of the defendant fourteen people were there, of whom five or six were intoxicated; two were stripped, as though for fighting. In defence it was contended that the two were not stripped for fighting, but with a view to try each other coats on. It was also shown that the landlord was not at home and that strict orders had been given to the servants to prevent disorderly conduct, a circumstance, Mr. Motteram argued, which would discharge his client from all liability. The Magistrates, however, were determined to inflict a penalty, and fined the defendant 5s and costs. On the application of Mr. Motteram a case was granted on the point raised in defence.”

AND

“In another part of our impression will be found a report of proceedings taken before the magistrates, on Tuesday last, against Mr. *Wm. Brown*, of the BROWN LION INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, for permitting drunkenness and disorderly conduct in his house on the 27th ult. The paragraph is substantially the same as what appeared in our *Midland Counties Express* of Saturday last, and Mr. *Brown* has desired us to state that the conviction was not for permitting disorderly conduct, but for having a number of drunken people on his premises, and that on this point he intends going on with the case granted by the magistrates.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/5/1862

“On the complaint of Mr. *Brown*, the landlord of the BROWN LION INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, two Irishmen, named John Henry and John O'Hara, were fined at the Police court yesterday in the penalty of 10s and costs, for drunkenness and fighting at Mr. *Brown's* house.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/5/1863

“Yesterday the Magistrates sitting in Bilston Petty Sessions were occupied a long while in hearing cross-summonses, which appeared to excite much local interest. The proceedings arose out of some squabbling that had taken place in a public house in Oxford Street, kept by *George* and *William Brown*, butchers. The principal defendant was a neighbour of the *Browns*, named John Yardley, who was defended by Mr. Jackson, whilst Mr. Fellows appeared for the other side. Summonses were first obtained by the *Browns* against Yardley, for being disorderly in their public house, and for assaulting them. Yardley then summoned *George Brown* and one Patrick Clines, for assaulting him. The evidence revealed that Yardley had evinced a quarrelsome disposition, and that several fights had ensued. For assaulting *William Brown*, Yardley was fined on one summons 2s 6d and costs, and upon the other 20s and costs; and for assaulting *George Brown*, 10s and costs, or in default twenty-one days' imprisonment in each of the last two cases.”

Birmingham Daily Post 8/8/1864 - Advert

“Wanted, a Man, to Brew, and make himself generally useful. Must have good testimonials.

Apply at the BROWN LION, New Town, Bilston.”

WANTED, a MAN, to Brew and make himself generally useful. Must have good testimonials.—Apply at the Brown Lion, New Town, Bilston.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/10/1864 - Advert

“Wanted a Man Servant; preference given to one who can Brew.

Apply, BROWN LION, Oxford Street, Bilston.”

WANTED a Man Servant; preference given to one who can Brew.—Apply, Brown Lion, Oxford-street, Bilston.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 5/11/1864 - Advert

"Wanted, a general Girl Servant.
Apply, BROWN LION INN, Oxford Street, Bilston."

WANTED, a general GIRL SERVANT.—Apply, Brown Lion Inn, Oxford Street, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/11/1864 - Advert

"Wanted a Girl, accustomed to serve in Liquor Vaults.
Apply, BROWN LION INN, Oxford Street, Bilston."

WANTED, a GIRL, accustomed to serve in Liquor Vaults.—
Apply. Brown Lion Inn, Oxford Street, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 28/12/1864 - Advert

"Wanted, a Man, to make himself useful, and to assist in Brewing.
Apply, BROWN LION INN, Oxford Street, Bilston."

WANTED, a MAN, to make himself useful, and to assist
in Brewing. — Apply. Brown Lion Inn, Oxford Street,
Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 2/3/1865 - Advert

"To be Let, the BROWN LION HOTEL and Liquor Vaults, Oxford Street, Bilston.
Apply to the Proprietor."

TO be LET, the BROWN LION HOTEL and LIQUOR VAULTS,
Oxford Street, Bilston.—Apply to the Proprietor.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/1/1866 - Advert

"To Innkeepers, Brewers, and Others.
To be Let, with immediate possession, that well-accustomed and old-established Inn and Spirit Vaults, known as the BROWN LION INN, situate in Oxford Street, Bilston. Incoming, Stock, and Furniture about £300.
Apply to Mr. J. E. Fellows, Solicitor, Bilston"

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/2/1866

"A man named Kean was charged on remand with an assault on Police-constable Bradbury, at Bilston. Mr. Travis was for the prosecution, and Mr. Bartlett for defendant.

The evidence showed that at midnight on Saturday, the 27th ult, a number of drunken men came out of the BROWN LION INN, at Bilston, and met another party of men who had just before turned out of another public house called the WAGGON AND HORSES, and were conducting themselves so as to create a disturbance. The officer Bradbury had been trying to persuade them to go home, when he was attacked by a man named Gavon, and another man. After they had assaulted him the two men ran away. The officer followed them, when the men turned round, knocked him down and kicked him, and he was also set upon by some of the other men who had just before come out of the public house, who beat him most terribly; in the words of Mr. Spooner, who saw the officer on the Tuesday following the assault, his face was beaten to a jelly. He got away from them, and meeting with Police-constable Curtis, the two went in search of Bradbury's assailants. They met Kean, who Bradbury recognised as a prominent actor in the recent scene, but inasmuch as he was surrounded by several others the officers wisely refrained from attempting his apprehension, and simply advised him to go home, intending to summon him on the following day. He went away in the direction of his home, and the police shortly afterwards followed; upon seeing them Kean challenged the two to fight, and became very abusive. The police then attempted to take him into custody, but he resisted, and the mob again coming up there was a second attack upon the police, in which stones were freely thrown, and it was only by the determined use of their staves that the two officers succeeded in getting their prisoner to the police station. For the defendant witnesses were called to prove that he took no part whatever in the assault on the police, but their evidence failed.

Mr. Spooner characterised the affair as a disgrace to the town in which it occurred. He justified the conduct of the police as to the use of their staves to prevent the rescue of their prisoner and to defend themselves against the fury of the mob, and said that but for the fact spoken to by Superintendent M'Crea that Kean was usually of a quiet disposition and had previously borne a good character he should have passed upon him the severest sentence the law allowed; as it was he must pay a fine of £5 and costs, or go to prison for two months."

Stephen Golby = Stephen Goldsby

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1866

"The annual meeting for the renewal of existing licenses, and for receiving applications for fresh ones, was held at the Police Court, on Friday.....

At the commencement of the proceedings, the Superintendent of Police presented the following report.

Bilston Division, August 31, 1866.

'I beg to submit to the Magistrates the attached list of licensed victuallers who have been complained against during the year. Twenty-five have been convicted, and three have paid costs; one had been convicted three times, and five convicted twice. This is a large increase on last year's list; but I think it has arisen from the police being more particular in reporting cases of permitting drunkenness – as it was found to be an evil rather on the increase. I believe it has caused landlords to be more careful in supplying drink to persons intoxicated.'

H. McCrea, Superintendent.

Black List.....

Stephen Golby, BROWN LION, Oxford Street, Bilston License renewed."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 20/11/1869 - Advert

"Wanted, as thorough Brewer and Waiter, a sober, steady, active, married Man, of genuine character. Wages 21s.

Personal application, Wednesday next, at BROWN LION, Oxford Street, Bilston."

WANTED, as thorough BREWER and Waiter, a sober, steady active, married Man, of genuine character. Wages 21s. — Personal application, Wednesday next, at Brown Lion, Oxford Street, Bilston.

1871 Census

78, Oxford Street

- [1] William Williams (43), victualler, born Hednesford;
- [2] Louisa Williams (35), wife, born Austrey, Warwickshire;
- [3] Arthur Williams (13), son, scholar, born Melton, Leicestershire;
- [4] William Williams (12), son, scholar, born Austrey, Warwickshire;
- [5] Frank Williams (10), son, scholar, born Brackley, Northamptonshire;
- [6] Amy Williams (7), daughter, scholar, born Brackley, Northamptonshire;
- [7] Ellen Williams (2), daughter, born Brackley, Northamptonshire;
- [8] Mary Williams (10 months), daughter, born Brackley, Northamptonshire;
- [9] Hannah Smith (14), general servant, born Hardwick, Oxfordshire;

William Williams was also a veterinary surgeon. [1872]

Staffordshire Advertiser 28/12/1872

"John Malee and his wife were severally fined 10s and costs for assaulting Mr. William Williams, landlord of the BROWN LION, Oxford Street. They went into the house drunk, were ordered out, but refused to leave, and assaulted the landlord when he tried to remove them."

Staffordshire Advertiser 26/4/1873

"On Monday evening an inquest was held at the BROWN LION INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, on the body of William Price, collier, of Free Street, Bilston. Deceased was working at a pit at Rocket Colliery belonging to the Earl of Dudley. Between eight and nine o'clock on Friday morning week, he was at work by the side of a man named Benjamin Garbett, and was forcing a dresser into the coal, when a quantity of coal fell on him, and at once killed him. Deceased has left a wife and three children, who are said to be wholly unprovided for. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

Midland Examiner 14/11/1874

"On Wednesday afternoon an inquest was held at the BROWN LION INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, to inquire into the death of Ann Marr, 40, who died from the effects of spirits of salts taken three months ago. It appears that the woman was the wife of a boilermaker, and was of intemperate habits. Fourteen weeks ago whilst she was intoxicated she took a bottle containing spirits of salts out of the cupboard, and after drinking the contents of the bottle she called her husband and said, 'See, I have done it.' He did not think much of what took place then, not being aware that the liquid would injure her. She commenced vomiting shortly afterwards, and as she continued to get worse Dr. Hancox was called in fourteen days after the liquid had been taken. All medical efforts were unavailing, and she died on Saturday last. The inquiry was adjourned in order that a post mortem examination on the body might be made."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 18/11/1874

“An adjourned inquest was held at Bilston yesterday, on the body of Ann Marr, who died from the effects of a dose of spirits of salts, taken by her in August last. The surgeon’s post mortem examination showed that the coats of the stomach were completely destroyed, and the pylorus so contracted as scarcely to admit a particle of food, death resulting from starvation. A verdict to that effect was returned.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 2/12/1876

“An inquest was held at the BROWN LION INN, Oxford Street, yesterday before W. H Phillips, Esq, deputy district coroner, touching the death of Richard Parkes, aged 17, lately residing in Free Street, Bilston. Deceased was employed as a hooker-on at the Walbutts Colliery, Bilston, belonging to Messrs. Bradley, and about 8.30am on Tuesday, whilst he was at work at the bottom of the shaft, a brick falling down the pit struck him on the head, killing him instantly. Mr Fellows appeared to watch the proceedings on behalf of Mr. Frogatt, the chartermaster at the pit. Henry Marr, a boy who was working with the deceased at the time of the accident, said it occurred whilst he was waiting for the descent of a skip which was about three yards from the bottom. Deceased was doing wrong by standing where he did, as there was an ‘inset’ for him to stand in. Witness did not see where the brick fell from which struck deceased.

Henry Stokes, who, on the morning of the accident, was acting for the regular banksman, said there was only an empty tub in descent when it occurred. He had since examined the top of the shaft and found that one or two bricks had gone. The shaft was straight, and looked safe except where the bricks were missing. Had there been a ‘curb’ at the top of the shaft the bricks would not have fallen.

Questioned by Mr. Fellows, witness said there was one brick now loose and two had gone. The remainder were well mortared.

The Chartermaster was also examined, and he agreed with the Coroner that it would be better to have a curb round the top of the shaft.

A verdict of Accidental Death was recorded.”

London Gazette 14/5/1878

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

In the Matter of Proceedings for Liquidation by Arrangement or Composition with Creditors, instituted by *William Williams*, of the BROWN LION INN, Oxford-street, Bilston, 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 PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, on the 27th day of May, 1878, at eleven o’clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 9th day of May, 1878.

Wm. Bowen, Bilston, Solicitor for the said Debtor.”

1881 Census

78, Oxford Street – BROWN LION

- [1] *William Williams* (50), licensed victualler, born Hednesford;
- [2] *Louisa Williams* (45), wife, born Austrey, Warwickshire;
- [3] *Arthur Faulkner Williams* (23), son, painter, born Melton Mowbray;
- [4] *Mary H. Williams* (10), daughter, scholar, born Brackley, Northamptonshire;
- [5] *Ada Williams* (6), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] *Gertrude Williams* (3), daughter, born Bilston;
- [7] *Mary Jane Stubbs* (22), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 12/8/1881 - Advert

“BROWN LION INN, Oxford Street, Bilston.

To Let, spacious Liquor Vaults, commands corner position; surrounded with factories, ironworks, collieries, &c. Entirely Free. Has been in present occupier’s possession eleven years. Good reason given for leaving. Immediate possession. In-coming £150.

Apply upon the Premises.”

BROWN Lion Inn, Oxford Street, Bilston.—To Let, spacious Liquor Vaults, commands corner position; surrounded with factories, ironworks, collieries, &c. Entirely free. Has been in present occupier's possession eleven years. Good reason given for leaving. Immediate possession. In-coming £150.—Apply upon the Premises.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 16/9/1881 - Advert

“Tuesday, September 20th, 1881. Important Unreserved Sale at the BROWN LION INN, Oxford Street, Bilston. Messrs. J. Morrell and Son are favoured with instructions to Sell by Auction, upon the Premises as above, on Tuesday Next, September 20th, 1881, the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the old-established Business, the spirit vault and public house fittings, household furniture, two excellent pianofortes, capital brewing plant, and other effects, as detailed in catalogues to be had free on application to the Auctioneers. Sale at 11am. Auction and Valuation Offices, Swan Bank, Bilston.”

John Lacey = John Lacy

Birmingham Daily Post 24/12/1881

“At the Bilston Police Court, yesterday, the following licenses were fully transferred.....
William Williams, BROWN LION, Oxford Street, to *John Lacy*, agent, Wednesfield.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/1/1882

“On Friday, at Bilston Police Court, *John Lacy*, landlord of the BROWN LION INN, Oxford Street, was charged with permitting drunkenness on the 16th inst.

Inspector Gasson deposed that he saw a man, named Nockton, coming out of the house on the day in question, and warned the defendant not to give him any more beer, but the defendant took no notice of his warning, and the inspector on again visiting the house saw Nockton with some beer before him. He was then drunk.

The defence was that Nockton did not receive enough ale to render him incapable.

Defendant was fined 20s and costs, and his license endorsed.”

[*John Lacey's* fine was increased, by the Convicting Justices, from 20s to £3 and ordered that the record of conviction should be removed from the register.]

Wednesbury Herald 12/8/1882

“The adjourned inquest on the body of an old woman named Harriet Fletcher, of Lower Bradley, who died from the effects of injuries received from falling down a pit in Bradley Lodge Colliery, on Tuesday last, was held at the BROWN LION INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, on Tuesday morning.

W. Grew (re-called), in reply to Mr. J. P. Baker, Her Majesty's Inspector of Mines for the district, said he was the first person who got to the pit after the deceased fell down. The chains round the shaft were in the same state on the day in question as they were on Saturday last, when the inspector examined the spot. Witness put in the new staples, but they were only put in the place of the old ones. The bottom chain was not so slack as nearly to touch the ground, and the chains were as tight as now.

Mr. Sheldon, of Wednesbury, who watched the case on behalf of Mr. H. Piggott, asked witness if there were not other fencing besides the chains. The witness replied that there were several iron plates against the chain. Deceased could not fall into the pit without turning back again. He considered the pit to be securely fenced. He believed she fell down backwards, but was not sure. In reply to Mr. W. Bowen, solicitor, who represented deceased's husband, witness said he was employed by Mr. Piggott, the proprietor of the pit, and had married his niece.

Mr. J. P. Baker, mines inspector, said he found the fences composed of various materials, chains, bottoms of skips reared up against the posts and chains, part of a pair of shafts, and one or two iron plates. Supposing the fences to be exactly as he found them, he did not consider the pit to be securely fenced. Children might go between the chains on that side and easily fall in. Even if an adult leaned or sat on the chains he might fall down. He did not consider the pit securely fenced according to Act of Parliament, because the materials were of a removable character.

Samuel Kempson, a youth, of Ocker Hill, said he saw the woman fall down the pit. He was going from Bilston home, and followed the deceased who walked steadily along, and not as though she had been drinking. She left the road to cut off a corner. As she was going by the pit she made a dead stop. After passing the pit about a couple of yards she turned back, and tried to lay hold of the top chain, but missing it, she fell over into the pit head first.

In reply to Mr. Sheldon, witness said the plate upon which deceased was taken home was taken from the same side of the pit as that over which she fell.

The jury returned the following verdict: That the deceased, Harriet Fletcher, died from the effects of falling down a pit shaft, but the evidence was insufficient to say whether she was sober at the time. Appended to the verdict was the following recommendation: The jury wish the mining inspector of the district to see that the pit in question is fenced satisfactorily, and called the attention of the surveyor of the highway to the fact that the coalfield in question should be well fenced from the public road.”

Evening Star 7/12/1882

“An inquest was held on Wednesday evening, at the BROWN LION INN, Bilston, before Mr. Thorneycroft, deputy coroner, on the body of Edward Gough, a cripple, aged 78, of Chapel Street, who died on the 4th instant from injuries received by falling on the fire on the 16th of November.

Ann Hetherington, the woman who usually attended the house to perform the domestic offices, said when she went into the house at twelve o'clock on the day in question deceased was leaning on a chair and his clothes were burning. She raised an alarm, and the deceased's son, who was in bed, came down and saw to the injuries being dressed. Deceased was badly burned about the abdomen and lower parts of the back.

Mary Bailey, a neighbour, said she dressed the burns the day deceased met with the accident, and had continued to do so ever since. She did this under the direction of Dr. Hancox, who was sent for the following day. The burns were of a very serious character. Deceased had seemed to be sinking some time before the accident.

Dr. Hancox said from the moment the accident happened there was no hope that the man would recover, as the injuries were of an unusually severe kind. Death resulted from exhaustion, consequent on the injuries.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 21/4/1883

“John Shine, of Nolans Yard, Oxford Street, Bilston, a well-known character, was charged with stealing 1s 9d, the money of *John Lacy*, of the BROWN LION INN, Oxford Street, on Sunday evening.

The evidence showed that the prisoner entered the smoke room, in which was another young man, and commenced drinking. The young man called for drink, value 3d, tendering a florin in payment to the landlady. A child was sent into the room with 1s 9d change, and upon the prisoner's representation, gave him the 1s 9d change. The mistake was discovered, and then the prisoner refused to give the change up, alleging that it was his own.

PC Johnson arrested the prisoner, on whom the money was found. Mrs. *Lacy* wished to withdraw the charge, but the Bench declined to allow it, and sent the prisoner for trial at the assizes.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 28/4/1883

“At the Staffordshire Assizes, on Tuesday, John Shine, of Nowlans Yard, Oxford Street, was sent to hard labour for 6 weeks, for stealing 1s 9d, the property of Mrs. *Lacy*, the BROWN LION INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, on Sunday evening, the 13th inst.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 2/2/1884

“Sarah Foy, Oxford Street, Bilston, was charged by PC Farnol with being drunk and also with assaulting the police. On Monday evening, the prisoner was found in Oxford Street drunk, and as a man who was passing came near her, she struck the man on the temple. Farnol took her into custody, and she then kicked the officer and a man named Richards, who helped him, with her clogs, and had to be carried to the station.

Prisoner urged that she only had ‘four pints in the BROWN LION, and she was mad.’

The Stipendiary said the prisoner was too well known to merit mercy, and sentenced her to six weeks' hard labour.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 6/9/1884

“On Thursday afternoon, E. B. Thorneycroft, Esq, deputy coroner, held an inquest at the BROWN LION INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, on the body of William Tunney (68), basket maker, 16, Hare Street, who died very suddenly early the same morning. Mrs. Tunney, wife of the deceased, said that at 4am on Thursday her husband, who had been a healthy man, awoke, and complained of a pain in his back. He rapidly grew much worse, and seemed to be in a fit. Mr. Gilbert, surgeon, was summoned, but before he arrived Tunney was dead, expiring about 6-30. A woman named Mary Ann Thomas gave evidence to the same effect as the first witness, and the jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 15/8/1885

“On Monday last, W. H. Phillips, Esq, coroner, held an inquest at the BROWN LION, Oxford Street, touching the death of George Cooper, aged one year and five months, living with his parents at 20, Free Street, Bilston. The particulars of the case are of a melancholy nature. It appeared from the evidence given at the inquiry that the deceased child was left in the kitchen by its mother, Mary Ann Cooper, about ten minutes past eleven on the morning of Saturday last. On the mother returning five minutes later she found the little one head downwards in a pan mug containing from six to eight quarts of water. Dr. Gilbert was called in, but death had been immediate. After hearing the evidence of one or two witnesses, the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 23/12/1885 - Advert

"Wanted, good General Servant.

Apply, BROWN LION INN, Oxford Street, Bilston."

WANTED, good General Servant.—Apply, Brown Lion Inn, Oxford-st., Bilston.

Darlaston Weekly Times 6/11/1886

"An inquest was held at the BROWN LION INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, on Thursday afternoon, on the body of James Hart, of No.1 court, Temple Street, Bilston. The body was found in an arm of the Birmingham Canal, at Spring Vale, on Tuesday evening the 2nd inst, by James Hart, the lad's uncle. It is supposed that when the lad was taking supper to the Steel Works at Spring Vale, he walked into the canal. The Jury found an open verdict of Found Drowned."

John Lacey – see also ROYAL TIGER, Wednesfield.

Thomas Smith died in April 1888.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 17/5/1889

"At Bilston Court, today, before Mr. B. Whitehouse and Mr. C. Wells, *Harriet Smith*, landlady of the BROWN LION, Oxford Street, Bilston, was charged with permitting drunkenness on her premises. Mr. R. Tildesley defended. Sergeant White and Police-constable Moss visited defendant's premises about ten o'clock on Saturday, the 4th inst, and there found a man, named John Powis, with a jug containing beer in front of him. When he saw them he tried to walk towards them, but was so drunk that he fell back in his seat. He then, in the presence of the police officers, drank some beer from the jug. Sergeant White accused the landlady of supplying Powis with ale while he was drunk, and she replied, 'Yes, but I have stopped the tap on him a good bit ago.'

The defence was that Powis had been drinking before at Monmore Green, and that he had come to the BROWN LION and had some more, but as he appeared to be getting intoxicated was turned out. In a short time he went back again, but was not supplied with any more beer. The jug of beer that the officers saw Powis drink from belonged to some women who were drinking in the house.

Defendant was ordered to pay the costs."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 18/7/1889 - Advert

"Harpist Wanted.

Apply, BROWN LION, Oxford Street, Bilston."

HARPIST Wanted.—Apply, Brown Lion, Oxford-st., Bilston.

John Hands = John Hand

1891 Census

78, Oxford Street – BROWN LION

[1] *John Hand* (57), innkeeper, born Ireland;

[2] *Mary Ann Hand* (57), wife, born Ludlow;

[3] *Arthur Hand* (21), son, steel smelter, born Wolverhampton;

[4] *Martin H. Hand* (18), son, engineer at steelworks, born Wolverhampton;

[5] *Mary F. Hayward* (26), daughter, widow, born Wolverhampton;

[6] *Mary Hayward* (3), grand-daughter, born Wolverhampton;

[7] *Kate Carney* (26), general servant, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 12/5/1891

"Mr. W. H. Phillips (coroner) held an inquest, at the BROWN LION INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, yesterday, touching the death of *Jane Abbotts* (66), of Hancox's Yard. The deceased resided with her son, and she was last seen alive about 10.40 on Saturday night. She was then sitting by the side of the fire at her house alone, while in the fender was a tin bottle containing paraffin oil. About twenty minutes past twelve o'clock, on her son returning home, he found the house full of smoke, and raised an alarm. A neighbour, named *William Henry Bennett*, entered the room, and found the deceased lying on the floor with her clothes burning. There was a fire in the grate, and the paraffin-lamp was on the table with the wick hanging out of it. It is supposed that the woman was feeding the lamp with oil, when by some means it ignited, and set fire to her clothing. The body was terribly scorched. A verdict was returned that the deceased met her death by burning, but that there was no evidence to show how her clothes caught fire."

Birmingham Daily Post 9/12/1893

“At the Wolverhampton Police Court, yesterday, *Charles Askew*, of the BROWN LION INN, Bilston, was fined 1s and the costs for selling spirits below the recognised strength. The case was before the Court some time ago and was dismissed, but on an appeal by Mr. Morris, the inspector under the Food and Drugs Act, the Queen’s Bench remitted it for re-hearing. It transpired that a notice was hung up in the room where the sale took place stating that the spirits were diluted according to the new excise regulations, and it was now held that this statement was misleading, as there are no new excise regulations.”

Birmingham Daily Post 24/10/1894

“Mr. Neville (stipendiary) was occupied for a long time yesterday, at the Bilston Police Court, in hearing cases arising out of a raid on public houses in Bilston, Willenhall, and the neighbourhood.....

William Bennett, late of the BROWN LION INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his premises, and, further, with selling to an intoxicated person. After hearing the evidence, the Stipendiary dismissed the cases.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/11/1898

“At the BROWN LION INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, this (Tuesday) afternoon, Mr. W. H. Phillips (Borough Coroner) held an inquest on the body of Maud Lawrence, a child aged three weeks, who died suddenly on Sunday morning. The evidence showed that on Saturday night the child was taken to bed, and was fed at six o’clock on Sunday morning. An hour later the mother, on waking up, found the child dead by her side. The deceased had been subject to convulsions from her birth. The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

London Gazette 30/3/1900

“*Thomas Marshall* the CROWN INN Bank-street Bradley near Bilston in the county of Stafford, lately residing at Garibaldi-street, Darlaston, in the said county, and formerly at the BROWN LION INN, Oxford-street, Bilston, in the said county, Licensed Victualler. Date of Order, March 28th, 1900.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/7/1900

“*Thomas Marshall*, Bank Street, Bradley, near Bilston, lately Darlaston, licensed victualler. First and final dividend, 10s in the pound; payable July 31st, at the Official Receiver’s, 30, Lichfield Street, Wolverhampton.”

1901 Census

Oxford Street – BROWN LION

- [1] *Thomas Hollins* (57), licensed victualler, born Leigh, Staffordshire;
- [2] *Ellen Hollins* (55), wife, born Lindridge, Worcestershire;
- [3] *Edith A. Hollins* (22), daughter, barmaid, born Brierley Hill;
- [4] *Ellen Hollins* (18), daughter, confectioner’s assistant, born Brierley Hill;
- [5] *Nellie Owen* (19), visitor, born Brownhills:

1906 Probate

“*Thomas Hollins*, of the BROWN LION INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 12 October 1906 at the Queen Victoria nursing home, Wolverhampton. Probate Lichfield 2 November to *Ellen Hollins*, widow. Effects £324.”

The license was granted to *Ellen Hollins* on 11th January 1907.

1911 Census

165, Oxford Street – BROWN LION

- [1] *Ellen Hollins* (65), widow, licensed victualler, born Lindridge, Worcestershire;
- [2] *Harold James Hollins* (35), son, barman, born Brownhills;
- [3] *Alice Evans* (17), housemaid, born Bilston:

1921 Census

165, Oxford Street

- [1] Ellen Hollins (76), widow, manageress licensed house, born Lindridge, Worcestershire;
- [2] Harold Hollins (46), son, barman, born Brierley Hill;
- [3] Patrick McHale (48), son-in-law, steel worker, Alfred Hickman Ltd, Bilston, born Bilston;
- [4] Ellen McHale (38), daughter, barmaid, born Brierley Hill;
- [5] Kathleen McHale (14), grand-daughter, school, born Bilston;
- [6] May McHale (13), grand-daughter, school, born Bilston;

1934 Probate

“*Charles Henry Walker*, otherwise Charles Henery Walker, of the BROWN LION INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 9 August 1934. Probate Birmingham 1 December to Sarah Harriett Walker, widow. Effects £909 0s 10d.”

Charles Henry Walker – see also ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, Oxford Street.

1939 Register

165, Oxford Street

- [1] Ernest Carden, date of birth 11/11/1892, licensed victualler (tenant), married;
- [2] Dora A. Carden, dob 12/9/1893, housewife, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] Grace Carden, dob 7/4/1917, bar assistant and general, single;

A team from here took part in the Butlers (Bilston) Darts League. [1946]

Jack Hughes was married to Maude.

Closed

Demolished

TO INNKEEPERS, BREWERS, AND OTHERS.—To be LET, with immediate possession, that well-accustomed and old-established INN and SPIRIT VAULTS, known as the “Brown Lion Inn,” situate in Oxford-street, Bilston. Incoming, Stock, and Furniture about £300.—Apply to Mr. J. E. FELLOWS, Solicitor, Bilston.

1866

TUESDAY, September 20th, 1881.—Important UNRESERVED SALE at the BROWN LION INN, OXFORD-STREET, BILSTON.

MESSRS. J. MORRELL and SON are favoured with instructions to SELL by AUCTION, upon the Premises as above, on TUESDAY NEXT, September 20th, 1881, the LICENSES, GOODWILL, and POSSESSION of the old-established Business, the spirit vault and public house fittings, household furniture, two excellent pianofortes, capital brewing plant, and other effects, as detailed in catalogues to be had free on application to the AUCTIONEERS.

Sale at 11 a.m.

Auction and Valuation Offices, Swan Bank, Bilston.

1881

BULL AND MOUTH

41, (20), (23), High Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Francis Adie, grocer, High Street, Bilston
Charles Adie, Tunbridge Wells
Francis Adie
Walter Showell and Co.
Joseph Chadwick
Mary Ann Stanley, widow, Church Hill, Wednesbury
Eley's Stafford Brewery Ltd. [1912]
William Cook Kettle, Wolverhampton

LICENSEES

J Perry [1822]
George Adderley [1828] – [1835]
Abraham Price [1841] – [1842]
Elizabeth Teadstill (1845 – 1849)
John Teadstill [1845] – (1849);
Henry Plant (1849 – 1851)
William George Masters (1851);
Mrs. Ann Masters (1851 – [1860])
Edwin John Jones [1861] – (1872);
Margaret Ann Jones (1872 – 1878);
Francis Adie (1878 – 1890);
George Greaves Smith Griffiths (1890);
Miss Edith Hickman (1890 – 1892);
Edward Probert (1892 – 1896);
William Probert (1896 – 1900);
George Bills (1900 – 1903);
Albert Heath (1903 – 1904);
Henry James Burrows (1904 – 1905);
George Maddox (1905 – 1913);
Matthew Rhodes (1913 – 1922);
Alfred Dyoss (1922 – 1923);
Joseph Lovatt (1923 – 1924);
Sidney Arthur (1924 – 1925);
Annie Whittaker (1925 – 1929);

NOTES

20, High Street [1858], [1861], [1864], [1865], [1868], [1870], [1871], [1872], [1873], [1874], [1881], [1883], [1884], [1891], [1892], [1892], [1896], [1900]
23, High Street [1862]
41, High Street [1901], [1908], [1911], [1916], [1921]

It had a beerhouse license.

TO BE LET,
With immediate possession,
THAT well known and old established PUBLIC-HOUSE "THE BULL AND MOUTH," with three societies attached, situate in High-street, Bilston.
For further particulars apply to the present occupier, who is leaving on account of other engagements.

1840

WHEREAS a petition of ABRAHAM PRICE, of the Bull and Mouth Inn, High-street, in the parish of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, licensed victualler and miner, having been filed in the Birmingham District Court of Bankruptcy, and the interim order for protection from process having been given to the said Abraham Price, under the provisions of an Act of Parliament passed in the Parliament holden in the fifth and sixth years of the reign of her present Majesty, intituled "An Act for the relief of Insolvent Debtors;" the said Abraham Price is hereby required to appear in court before EDMUND ROBERT DANIEL, Esquire, a commissioner acting in the prosecution of debts in bankruptcy in the said District Court, on the tenth day of APRIL next, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely, at the Birmingham District Court of Bankruptcy at Birmingham, for the purpose of being then and there examined touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said Act.

All persons indebted to the said Abraham Price, or that have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to THOMAS BITTLESTONE, the official assignee nominated in that behalf by a commissioner so acting.

JOHN POWELL, insolvent's attorney,
24, Moor-street, Birmingham.

In the matter of the petition of ABRAHAM PRICE, of the Bull and Mouth Inn, High-street, in the parish of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, licensed victualler and miner.

NOTICE is hereby given, that EDMUND ROBERT DANIEL, Esquire, the Commissioner acting in the matter of this petition, will proceed to make a final order thereon at the Birmingham District Court of Bankruptcy, at Birmingham, on THURSDAY, the twenty-seventh day of APRIL, 1843, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely, unless cause be then and there shown to the contrary.

JOHN POWELL,
Attorney, 24, Moor-street, Birmingham.

1843

George Adderley, retailer of beer, High Street. [1835]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/10/1840 - Advert

“To be Let, with immediate possession.

That well-known and old-established Public House, the BULL AND MOUTH, with three societies attached, situate in High Street, Bilston.

For further particulars apply to the present occupier, who is leaving on account of other engagements.”

1841 Census

High Street

[1] Abraham Price (30), victualler, born Staffordshire;

[2] Jane Price (30), born Staffordshire;

[3] Mary Ann Price (12), born Staffordshire;

[4] Benjamin Price (6), born Staffordshire;

[5] Elizabeth Price (4), born Staffordshire;

[6] Sophia Brinley (11), f.s., born Staffordshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 15/3/1843 - Notice

“Whereas a petition of *Abraham Price*, of the BULL AND MOUTH INN, High Street, in the parish of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, licensed victualler and miner, having been filed in the Birmingham District Court of Bankruptcy, and the interim order for protection from process having been given to the said *Abraham Price*, under the provisions of an Act of Parliament passed in the Parliament holden in the fifth and sixth years of the reign of her present Majesty, intituled ‘An Act for the relief of Insolvent Debtors;’ the said *Abraham Price* is hereby required to appear in court before Edmund Robert Daniell, Esquire, a commissioner acting in the prosecution of fiats in bankruptcy in the said District Court, on the tenth day of April next, at eleven o’clock in the forenoon precisely, at the Birmingham District Court of Bankruptcy at Birmingham, for the purpose of being then and there examined touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said Act.

All persons indebted to the said *Abraham Price*, or that have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Thomas Bittlestone, the official assignee nominated in that behalf by a commissioner so acting.

John Powell, insolvent’s attorney, 24, Moor Street, Birmingham.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/4/1843 - Notice

“In the matter of the petition of *Abraham Price*, of the BULL AND MOUTH INN, High Street, in the parish of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, licensed victualler and miner.

Notice is hereby given, that Edmund Robert Daniel, Esquire, the Commissioner acting in the matter of this petition, will proceed to make a final order thereon at the Birmingham District Court of Bankruptcy, at Birmingham, on Thursday, the twenty-seventh day of April, 1843, at eleven o’clock in the forenoon precisely, unless cause be then and there shown to the contrary.

John Powell, Attorney, 24, Moor Street, Birmingham.”

John Teadstill = John Treadstill

John Teadstill died in 1845.

John Teadstill – see also WHITE SWAN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, and TALBOT, Market Place, Wednesbury.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 6/6/1849

“Transfer of Innkeepers’ Licenses. The following licenses have been transferred by the Magistrates within the last few days.....

BULL AND MOUTH, Bilston, from *John Treadstill* to *Henry Plant*, miner.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/12/1849 - Notice

“Whereas a Petition of *Elizabeth Teadstill*, widow of the late *John Teadstill*, at present and for seven months now last past residing at Bilston, in the county of Stafford, in lodgings, out of business, and for four years previously thereto residing at the sign of the BULL AND MOUTH, in High Street, Bilston aforesaid, carrying on there the trade of a licensed victualler, an insolvent debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, at Wolverhampton, and an interim order for protection from process having been given to the said *Elizabeth Teadstill*, under the provisions of the statutes in that case made and provided, the said *Elizabeth Teadstill* is hereby required to appear in Court before Nathaniel Richard Clarke, Esquire, Serjeant-at-Law, the Judge acting in the matter of the said Petition, on the eleventh day of December, 1849, at twelve o'clock at noon, at the Court House, Queen Street, Wolverhampton aforesaid, for her First Examination touching her 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 *Elizabeth Teadstill*, or who have any of her effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Charles Gallimore Brown, Esquire, official assignee, acting in the matter of the said petition, at his office, in Queen Street, Wolverhampton aforesaid.

J. W. Fleetwood, Solicitor, Wolverhampton. 4th day of December, 1849.”

Birmingham Journal 19/1/1850

“Wolverhampton County Court.....

The following cases of insolvency were heard.....

The final orders of *Elizabeth Teadstill* were granted.”

Birmingham Journal 28/12/1850 - Advert

“This is to Certify that Henry Plant and Joseph Lawley, miners, Bilston, have, on Friday, December 20th, dissolved partnership.

(Signed) *Henry Plant*, BULL AND MOUTH INN.”

THIS is to CERTIFY that HENRY PLANT
and JOSEPH LAWLEY, MINERS, Bilston, have, on
FRIDAY, December 20th, DISSOLVED PARTNERSHIP.
(Signed) HENRY PLANT,
Bull and Mouth Inn.

1851 Census

High Street

[1] *Henry Plant* (29), licensed victualler, born Great Bridge;

[2] *Jane Plant* (19), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Eliza Plant* (18), sister, born West Bromwich;

[4] *Ann Endley* (26), house servant, born Dudley;

Staffordshire Advertiser 25/10/1851

“At the County Petty Sessions, held on Monday last, the following transfers of victuallers’ licenses took place.....

William George Masters, BULL AND MOUTH, High Street, Bilston, to his mother, *Ann Masters*, widow.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 20/9/1854

“*Jeremiah Geary* was on Tuesday brought up at the Police Court, Bilston, on a warrant issued in July, 1853, for assisting to demolish a chandelier, at the house of Mrs. *Masters*, the BULL AND MOUTH, High Street. It appeared that on the night of the 26th of July, 1853, a party of blackguards got up a fight in the house, when some of them wielded a bench with such effect that the glass and a quantity of other property, to the amount of £10, was destroyed. The prisoner, who had absconded, was proved to have taken an active part in the riot, and the Bench ordered him to pay £1 5s 6d, which included his share of the damage.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/1/1859

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Michael Bill, 43, miner, and *Benjamin Crowther*, 24, stoker, were indicted for uttering three counterfeit half-crowns, at Bilston, well knowing the same to be false and counterfeit. The prisoners went to the BULL AND MOUTH public house, in High Street, Bilston, and while they were there Crowther offered a bad half-crown in payment for three-pennyworth of gin. He was told that it was bad, upon which he began to abuse the landlord, and after some time was turned out of the shop. While the altercation was going on the prisoner walked away. A short time before their visit to the BULL AND MOUTH they had been at the BALLOON public house, where Crowther offered a bad shilling in payment for drink, but it was refused. When the prisoners left they were watched, and Bill was heard to

sat to Crowther, with an oath, 'Go and try *Masters's*,' that being the name of the person who formerly kept the BULL AND MOUTH. On the following day the prisoners went to the WAGGON AND HORSES, at Sedgley, and Crowther called for a pint of ale, for which he tendered half-a-crown, which the niece of the landlady said was bad. The landlady, however, whose sight was defective, consented to take it, but the course of the day she sent her niece to a neighbour's shop to make some purchases, giving her the half-crown in question, when the opinion of the niece that it was counterfeit was confirmed. Within an hour of leaving the WAGGON AND HORSES, the prisoners went to the BRIDGE INN, at the same place, where for some drink they offered another bad half-crown, but it was not discovered to be bad until the evening of the same day. The men having got clear away, Bill went on the evening of the same day to a provision shop in the same place, and there attempted to pass a bad shilling. On being told that it was bad, he said that he was nearly blind (which appeared to be true), and that it had been given to him in his wages. He promised to bring the person who gave him the coin, but having once left with the shilling in his possession, he never returned. On the 18th of the same month, Crowther and the other prisoner were at the MOXLEY TAVERN, Bilston, where one of them offered a bad shilling in payment for a glass of gin. The police were by this time on their track, and shortly afterwards they were apprehended.

Mr. Motteram dissected the evidence in detail for the purpose of showing that it was not conclusive against the prisoners, but the Jury returned a verdict of guilty. Bill was sentenced to six months, and Crowther to twelve months hard labour."

1861 Census

20, High Street

- [1] Edwin Jones (43), wine and spirit merchant, born London;
- [2] Ann Jones (32), wife, born Bexley, Kent;
- [3] Edwin Jones (11), son, born London;
- [4] William Jones (9), son, born London;
- [5] Ann Jones (5), daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] Walter Jones (6 months), son, born Bilston;
- [7] Rachel Nailor (14), servant, born Bilston:

1871 Census

20, High Street

- [1] Edwin J. Jones (54), wine and spirit dealer, born London;
- [2] Margaret Jones (42), wife, born Bexley, Kent;
- [3] William Jones (19), son, assistant to above, born Bilston;
- [4] Ann Jones (14), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] Walter Jones (10), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] Robert Jones (8), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] Amelia E. Jones (6), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [8] Ellen A. Jones (5), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [9] Bella Jones (2), daughter, born Bilston;
- [10] Elizabeth Baker (17), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Edwin John Jones was also a maltster and hop merchant. [1873]

Birmingham Daily Post 20/2/1873

"At Bilston Police Court on Tuesday, Moses Green was charged with cutting and wounding Joseph Davies, ironworker, of Cold Lane. Mr. Bowen defended.

It appeared that the prosecutor, the prisoner, and several companions had been drinking together at the BULL AND MOUTH INN. Whilst there a dispute arose, and the prosecutor offered to give Green a shilling if he would fight him. Both went out of the house and commenced fighting in the streets. A few minutes afterwards, whilst they were fighting, the prisoner drew his penknife, rushed at Davies, and stabbed him in the left ear, and successively on the left cheek and on the right side. The bystanders attempted to take the knife off the prisoner, and in doing so the prisoner was cut on the thigh and on the finger. The prisoner was committed to the Sessions."

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/3/1873

“Staffordshire Spring Assizes.....

Moses Green, 18, striker, was indicted for feloniously wounding Joseph Davis, on the 16th of February, at Bilston, with intent to do him some grievous bodily harm.....

His Lordship, in summing up the case, commented on the demoralising influence of boys and girls spending their Sunday evenings in public houses, and pointed out that though there should have been no antecedent malice, if the prisoner kept the knife in his hand during the fight with the intention of using it, in point of law he was guilty of the offence with which he was charged.

The jury, after a short deliberation, returned a verdict of not guilty.

The learned Judge told the prisoner that the jury had taken a very lenient view of the case, and advised him in future to keep out of public houses altogether.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/1/1881

“The Terrific Gale and Snowstorm.....

Amongst the cases treated at the General Hospital during the day were the following.....

Francis Adie (56), licensed victualler, 20, High Street, Bilston, broken leg.”

1881 Census

20, High Street

[1] Walter B. Jones (20), step-son, grocer's assistant, unemployed, born Bilston;

[2] *Margaret Ann Jones* (24), step-daughter, manageress, public house, born Bilston;

[3] Ellen A. Jones (15), step-daughter, scholar, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 16/5/1881 - Advert

“Capitalists and Others.

Manufacturing Business to Let, at once, doing a good profitable trade in an article of daily consumption. Previous knowledge not required. Capital about £400.

Apply, by letter, *Francis Adie*, Grocers Valuer, 20, High Street, Bilston.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 30/12/1882

“The annual distribution of Mr. John Mason's Charity to the poor of Bilston took place on Saturday and Christmas Day. On Saturday morning, Messrs. W. Bishop, E. J. Jones, J. Harding, and S. Shaw (grocers) were busy supplying the demands of some 250 poor persons, who, armed with the necessary ticket, applied for, and received ½lb of black tea, 2lbs of loaf sugar, value 2s 6d, wherewith to cheer their Christmas. On Monday Mr. *F. Adie*, of the BULL AND MOUTH TAVERN, served another 250 poor persons with a Christmas dinner, consisting of 1lb of roast beef (part of the Christmas shows of Messrs. Caddick, Bennett, Jones, and Hilton), potatoes, 1lb plum pudding, and a quart of good old ale. In the work of distributing the gifts, Mr. *Adie* was ably assisted by Messrs. M. H. Pursall and E. Keay, in whose hands the charity has so long been left, Inspector Harrison rendering valuable and efficient service. That the gifts were appreciated would be apparent to the most indifferent outsider, and that some such charity is even more largely needed, is apparent from the statement of those who personally visited the homes, if they could be called such, being in many instances mere hovels, but little removed from pigstyes in comfort and appearance. Heart-rendering tales were told of hunger, cold, want, and misery, and these too, not by the cant of hypocrisy, which can assume a degree of misery incompatible with the known position of those who plead most strongly, but by genuine poverty, whatever may have been its original cause. Into these causes the donor wisely never enters, preferring the one fact of unquestionable distress and extreme misery. In many houses, inmates were without beds, or bed-clothing, no fire was perceptible, and the necessary writing connected with the gift had to be done by the aid of a borrowed rushlight. In several dwellings, Christmas found the occupants in the last stage of extreme misery, such as only a personal view of, can give an adequate idea, houses without windows, fire, bedding, or the bare necessities of life, sickness striving with want for the mastery, and general desolation and misery within a stone's throw of the brilliantly lighted shops, or the well filled larders of the better class. That a large field for charity exists in our very midst is unquestionable, that so few there are to minister to the pressing wants of their less fortunate brethren is greatly regretted.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/6/1883 - Advert

"Messrs. J. Morrell & Son are instructed by order of the Mortgagees to offer for Sale by Auction Tomorrow, June 26, at 6 for 7 in the evening, at the house of Mr. *F. Adie*, BULL AND MOUTH INN, High Street, Bilston.....

The Extensive Premises, No.21, High Street, Bilston, now in the occupation of Mr. W. Iorns, grocer and tea dealer..... A Valuable Wine and Spirit Vaults, adjoining, having a commanding frontage to, and being No.20, in High Street, known as the BULL AND MOUTH INN, with the Dwelling House, Cellars, Brewhouse, enclosed Yard, &c, as at present occupied by Mr. *F. Adie*.

Another Retail Shop, with Plate-glass Front, being No.19, High Street, at the corner of Smith Street.....

The Property in its entirety forms a very compact and valuable lot. It is situate in the main business street of the town, and affords an opportunity rarely met with by anyone requiring a sound investment."

Darlaston Weekly Times 22/12/1883

"By the kindness of John Mason, Esq, no less than 500 of the poorer population of Bilston will have their Christmas Day brightened this year by a good dinner. Mr. *Adie*, BULL AND MOUTH, will supply on Christmas morning, 250 poor creatures with a dinner, consisting of 1lb roast beef, 1lb plum pudding, a quart of good ale, and the necessary vegetables. On the same day there will be supplied to 250 persons, a half lb tea, and 2lbs sugar each, by the following grocers: Messrs. S. Shaw, W. Bishop, J. Harding, and E. J. Jones."

Darlaston Weekly Times 29/12/1883

"On Christmas day by the kindness of John Mason, Esq, a dinner was given to 250 poor persons, and it was served out by Mr. *Adie*, BULL AND MOUTH, High Street. The necessary services were rendered by Messrs. M. H. Purcell, and R. Keay, by whom the intentions of the donor are annually carried out with much earnestness. There were also present Messrs. J. Bishop, G. Earl, W. Scott and Dr. Larkin. Not only were dinners provided, but a second 250 poor persons received groceries equivalent in value to the dinner. The proceedings were carried out with the greatest heartiness, the poor people evidently appreciated the boon conferred upon them, while those present rendered whatever aid they could to their less fortunate brethren, so as to brighten up what might otherwise have been a very cheerless Christmas."

Darlaston Weekly Times 15/5/1886

"The Bilston and District Bakers Association.

At a meeting of bakers, held on Tuesday evening, the thirteenth instant, at the house of Mr. *Adie*, BULL AND MOUTH, High Street, they formed themselves into the above association. There was a good muster, considering the weather, and it is to be hoped that at their next meeting, which will be held on Thursday next, the nineteenth instant, at eight pm, the committee hope that all the bakers in the town and district will endeavour to be present."

Birmingham Daily Post 8/3/1887 - Advert

"Grocery and Provision Trade to be Disposed of.

Fixtures and fittings about £35, or at valuation.

Stock, including above, about £200. In the best position in Wednesbury. Net rent £28.

Apply, *Francis Adie*, Grocers Valuer, 20, High Street, Bilston."

GROCERY and Provision Trade to be Disposed of.—Fixtures and fittings about £35, or at a valuation. Stock, including above, about £200. In the best position in Wednesbury. Net rent £28.—Apply, *Francis Adie*, Grocers' Valuer, 20, High St., Bilston.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 15/3/1889

"A man named Benjamin Bamford (29), of Workhouse Fold, Bilston, was matched to take part in a boxing contest, and while in the BULL AND MOUTH INN on the 2nd inst was very talkative as to his sporting proclivities,, which aroused the interest of one of the company named William Wilcox, of 22, Foundry Street, Sedgley, and several of his companions. Four of the company left to go home, including the above-mentioned two, and after reaching Bamford's house the boxing affair cropped up again. Wilcox challenged Bamford there and then. Bamford, who thought 'three to one was too much for any mon,' picked up a formidable-looking poker, 36 inches in length, and weighing about 3lbs, and struck Wilcox on the head.

Mr. Whitehouse, the presiding magistrate, thought it was a very serious offence, but owing to the provocation would deal leniently with the defendant by imposing a fine of 10s and costs."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 23/8/1889 - Advert

"Bargain. A first-class Tricycle for £4.

Apply, Joe Holberry, BULL AND MOUTH, High Street, Bilston."

BARGAIN.—A first-class Tricycle for £4.—Apply, Joe Holberry, Bull and Mouth, High-street, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 14/12/1889

“The following deeds of assignment have been registered during the past week.....

Francis Adie, victualler, appraiser, and valuer, the BULL AND MOUTH INN, High Street, Bilston, and Sedgley. Deed of assignment for the benefit of creditors, dated 6th December, and filed 12th December, under which Mr. George E. Hunt, of Birmingham, wine and spirit merchant, is trustee. The unsecured liabilities are £231 15s 10d, and estimated net assets £357 11s 6d. Creditors fully secured, £1,473.”

1891 Census

20, High Street – BULL AND MOUTH

[1] *Edith Hickman* (30), unmarried, manageress for public house, born Tipton;

[2] *Henry Hickman* (68), father, retired farmer, born Gospel End;

[3] *Ann Hickman* (67), mother, born Leominster:

Birmingham Daily Post 2/4/1892 - Advert

“To be Sold by Auction, at the Property Mart, 6, Temple Row West, Birmingham, on Tuesday Next, April 5.....

(By order of the Mortgagees.) A valuable Freehold Full-Licensed Public House, known as the BULL AND MOUTH, being No.20, in High Street, one of the principal thoroughfares and best business parts of the town of Bilston, late in possession of the owner, but now of the mortgagees, and considered worth a rent of £35.....

Possession of the BULL AND MOUTH will be given to the purchaser, and all the Public House Fixtures belonging to the mortgagee will be included in the Sale.”

Sporting Life 27/9/1900

“Professor Cullis, who is at present touring the Black Country, on Tuesday night provided an excellent boxing entertainment at his commodious pavilion, situate on the Wake Grounds, Brierley Hill, between Bonny Ike, of Bilston, and W. ‘Binkey’ Wilkes, of Bradley, who were matched to box for endurance at catch-weight, for £25, and a purse of £5 added by Professor Cullis. Mr. Joe Martin, the well-know Bradley sportsman, on behalf of Wilkes staking £15 to £10.

Of the two Bonny Ike is much the better known, having been successful both as a ped and a boxer He was in splendid condition, being trained by *Billy Proberts*, from the BULL AND MOUTH INN, Bilston.

Wilkes is much the heavier man, hence the odds; however, he carried a lot of superfluous flesh and was not nearly in condition.....”

[Ike won in three rounds.]

1901 Census

41, High Street

[1] *George Bills* (26), publican, born Birmingham;

[2] *Ann M. Bills* (22), wife, born Willenhall;

[3] *Gladys L. Bills* (3 months), daughter, born Bilston;

[4] *Matilda Mould* (26), domestic servant, born Bradley;

[5] *Clara Mould* (11), nursemaid, born Bradley:

Sporting Life 20/4/1901

“Pedestrianism. Victoria Grounds, Rough Hills, Wolverhampton.

These grounds will be occupied on Saturdays, April 27 and May 4, with Messrs. *G. Bills* and W. Probert’s £7 10s 130 Yards All England Handicap, for which entries of 1s each may be sent to Mr. *G. Bills*, BULL AND MOUTH, Bilston; Mr. G. Allen, MINERS ARMS, Tipton; Mr. W. Probert’s, Hartshorn Street, Bilston; Mr. Tom Jones, Compton House, Bilston; or to the grounds. Entries close on Tuesday, April 23, Wednesday morning’s post in time. First heat each day at 4.30.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/4/1903

“Bankruptcy Proceedings.....

Re *George Bills*, licensed victualler, High Street, Bilston.

This debtor underwent his public examination at the Wolverhampton County Court yesterday, before Mr. Registrar Kettle.

In reply to Mr. S. W. Page, the debtor stated that until June, 1900, he had worked for his father, a fishmonger. He then took to the BULL AND MOUTH public house, High Street, Bilston. He had no capital or furniture, and his father lent him £30 to take to the stock and fixtures. He had been betting and gambling for four or five years. He had attended race meetings, and had lost in expenses about £20. His failure was attributed to bad trade and illness. He was allowed to pass.”

1911 Census

41, High Street

[1] *George Maddox* (36), publican, born Bilston;

[2] *Sarah Ann Maddox* (36), wife, married 12 years, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 12/9/1912 - Advert

“Fully-Licensed Inn to be Let, the BULL AND MOUTH, High Street, Bilston; inclusive rental; ingoing by deposit. Apply, Eley’s Stafford Brewery Ltd, Stafford.”

FULLY-LICENSED Inn to be Let, the Bull and Mouth, High-street, Bilston; inclusive rental; ingoing by deposit. — Apply, Eley’s Stafford Brewery, Ltd., Stafford.

1921 Census

41, High Street

[1] *Matthew Rhodes* (61), widower, licensed victualler, born Bilston;

[2] *Maud Rhodes* (31), daughter, home duties, born Bilston;

[3] *Victor Rhodes* (29), son, butcher, born Bilston;

[4] *Lily Rhodes* (27), daughter, born Bilston;

[5] *Edwin Rhodes* (26), son, wheelwright, born Bilston;

[6] *Percy Rhodes* (24), son, assistant in bar, born Bilston;

[7] *Winnie Rhodes* (19), daughter, born Bilston:

1922 Probate

“*Matthew Rhodes* of the BULL AND MOUTH INN, High Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 29 January 1922. Probate Lichfield 1 March to *Stephen John Rhodes*, miller’s clerk, and *Maud Elsie Rhodes*, spinster. Effects £599 15s 6d.”

Matthew Rhodes – see also ORANGE TREE, VINE, John Street, and HEN AND CHICKENS, George Street.

Application for the removal of this license to the OLDE WHITE ROSE INN was granted on 8th February 1929. It was confirmed at Stafford on 13th April 1929.

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/4/1929

“County Licensing Committee.....

Mr. F. L. Steward, of Wolverhampton, applied on behalf of *Charles James Webb* for the removal of the full license of the BULL AND MOUTH, Bilston, to premises known as the WHITE ROSE INN, Bilston. He explained that the WHITE ROSE had a full license for six days only, whilst the BULL AND MOUTH held a seven day license. Both houses had come into the same ownership of combined companies, Messrs. Eley’s (Stafford) Brewery Co. and Messrs. W. Butler & Co. Ltd. Many years ago a seven day license was attached to the WHITE ROSE, but the former owner voluntarily surrendered his right to sell on Sundays. The brewery company felt that if the application were granted, not only would the licenses of the district be reduced, but it would be a public convenience, because the WHITE ROSE was situated in the centre of the town, and in a very prominent position, and would be open on Sundays.

Replying to the Chairman, Mr. Steward said the BULL AND MOUTH was not so good structurally as the WHITE ROSE, which was nearly opposite the Town Hall, Bilston.

The committee confirmed the decision of the local justices, and granted the application.”

It closed on 13th April 1929.
The premises became Jones Seed Shop.

Demolished

4th day of December, 1849.

WHEREAS a Petition of ELIZABETH TEADSTILL, widow of the late John Teadstill, at present and for seven months now last past residing at Bilston, in the county of Stafford, in lodgings, out of business, and for four years previously thereto residing at the sign of the Bull and Mouth, in High street, Bilston aforesaid, carrying on there the trade of a licensed victualler, an insolvent debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, at Wolverhampton, and an interim order for protection from process having been given to the said Elizabeth Teadstill, under the provisions of the statutes in that case made and provided, the said Elizabeth Teadstill is hereby required to appear in Court before NATHANIEL RICHARD CLARKE, Esquire, Serjeant at-Law, the Judge acting in the matter of the said Petition, on the ELEVENTH day of DECEMBER, 1849, at twelve o'clock at noon, at the COURT HOUSE, QUEEN-STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON aforesaid, for her FIRST EXAMINATION touching her 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 Elizabeth Teadstill, or who have any of her effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to CHARLES GALLIMORE BROWN, Esquire, official assignee, acting in the matter of the said petition, at his office, in Queen-street, Wolverhampton aforesaid.

J. W. FLEETWOOD,
Solicitor, Wolverhampton.

1849

CAPITALISTS and Others.—Manufacturing Business to Let, at once, doing a good profitable trade in an article of daily consumption. Previous knowledge not required. Capital about £400.—Apply, by letter, Francis Adie, Grocers' Valuer, 20, High Street, Bilston.

1881

TO MORROW (Tuesday), June 26.—Sale of Valuable FREEHOLD SHOPS, SPIRIT VAULTS, and BUSINESS PREMISES, situate High Street, Bilston.

MESSRS. J. MORRELL & SON are instructed by order of the Mortgagees to offer for Sale by Auction TO-MORROW (Tuesday), June 26, at 6 for 7 in the evening, at the house of Mr. F. Adie, the Bull and Mouth Inn, High Street, Bilston, subject to conditions of sale incorporating the common form conditions of the Birmingham Law Society, the following important FREEHOLD PROPERTY, viz.:—The Extensive PREMISES, No. 21, High Street, Bilston, now in the occupation of Mr. W. Iorns, grocer and tea dealer. The Premises include a large retail Shop, having a plate-glass front to High Street, a convenient Dwelling House attached, good Cellar in the basement, several two-storey Warehouses and Stores, with enclosed Yard extending to Smith Street. A Valuable WINE and SPIRIT VAULTS, adjoining, having a commanding frontage to, and being No. 20, in High Street, known as the "BULL AND MOUTH INN," with the DWELLING HOUSE, Cellars, Brewhouse, enclosed Yard, &c., as at present occupied by Mr. F. Adie; another RETAIL Shop, with Plate-glass Front, being No. 19, High Street aforesaid, at the corner of Smith Street, with excellent Cellaring, now in the occupation of Mr. J. Matthew. Also, the DWELLING HOUSE now used as a Warehouse, together with Two COTTAGES fronting to Smith Street, in the occupation of Paul Davis and William Davis. The Property has a frontage to High Street of 53 feet, and to Smith Street of 109 feet, and produces a rental of £106. per annum.

The Property in its entirety forms a very compact and valuable lot. It is situate in the main business street of the town, and affords an opportunity rarely met with by anyone requiring a sound investment.

For further particulars, apply to Mr. Edwin Jacques, Solicitor, Temple Chambers, 18, Temple Row, Birmingham; or the Auctioneers, Swan Bank, Buxton.

1883

"THE BULL AND MOUTH,"

being No. 20, in High Street, one of the principal thoroughfares and best business parts of the town of Bilston, late in possession of the owner, but now of the mortgagees, and considered worth a rent of £35.; also the Capital RETAIL SHOP, No. 21, in High Street (adjoining), let to Mr. Iorns, Grocer and Provision Dealer, at a rent of £40.; and also the RETAIL SHOP, No. 19, in High Street, let to Mr. Matthew, Bootmaker, at a rent of £12.; and Two HOUSES, Nos. 5 and 6, in Smith Street, now or recently let at rents amounting to £12. 7s.

The total annual rental as above is £105. 7s., and the Property has a long frontage, and occupies a prominent corner position.

Possession of the Bull and Mouth will be given to the purchaser, and all the Public-house fixtures belonging to the mortgagee will be included in the Sale.

1892

BULLS HEAD

28, (70), (54), High Street / Dudley Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

John Caddick, gentleman, Handsworth
John Thomas Hunt
William Summers, coal agent, Dawley, Shropshire
Henry Plant and Co. [1896]
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1904], [1921]

LICENSEES

William Lewis [1764] – **1779**;
Amos Parkes **(1779 – [1780])**
Mrs. Mary Parkes [1782] – [1783]
Thomas Lea [1791] – [1799]
George Rushbury **(1798 – [1815])**
John Batte [1817] – [1820]
Phineas Bullock [1822] – [1842]
Mrs. Hannah Caddick [1848] – [1854]
Miss Elizabeth Caddick [1856] – [1861]
Edward Ward [1861] – [1862]
John Vickers [1864] – [1865]
William Adkins [1864] – [1865]
John Vickers [1865] – **1866**;
David Richards **(1866 – [1870])**
Benjamin S Ford [1871]
Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Sale [1872] – **1873**;
Benjamin Samuel Ford **(1873 – 1874)**;
John Thomas Hunt **(1874 – 1877)**;
William Walker **(1877 – 1878)**;
John Thomas Hunt **(1878 – 1882)**;
Samuel Thomas **(1882 – 1883)**;
John Dickins **(1883)**;
John Guest **(1883 – 1884)**;
Job Ecclestone **(1884 – 1885)**;
John Higgins **(1885)**;
Francis Adams **(1885 – 1889)**;
Alfred Newton **(1889 – 1890)**;
Hezekiah Harris **(1890 – 1908)**;
George Lewis Rogers **(1908 – 1909)**;
Luke Corkindale **(1909 – 1916)**;
Laura Corkindale **(1916 – 1921)**;
Luke Corkindale **(1921 – 1928)**;
Samuel Farrington **(1928 – 1932)**;
Thomas Wilde **(1932 – [1940])**
Arthur Samuel Chambers [1953]

WHereas two young Beagle HOUNDS, about half grown, who answer to the Names of **YOUNKER** and **CROWNER**; **YOUNKER** being a tam'd Dog, a white Blaze in his Face, white at the Tip of his Tail, and his Feet something white; **CROWNER** is a black and white tam'd Dog, his Ears of a tan Colour, white Legs, and a brown and white Tail; were, on Sunday Evening the 7th of this Instant October, stole from the House of Mr. William Lewis, at the Bull's Head, in Bilston, in the County of Stafford; Notice is hereby given, that a Reward of Five Guineas will be given to any one who will give Information of the Person or Persons concerned therein, so as such Offender or Offenders may be convicted thereof, to be paid on such Conviction by Mr. Mufchamp Jevon, of Tipton; and in case more than one Person were concerned in such Offence, if any one of them will impeach his Accomplice or Accomplices therein, he shall receive the same Reward, and a free Pardon.

1764

NOTES

70, High Street [1861], [1862], [1871], [1881], [1891]

54, High Street [1900]

28, High Street [1901], [1911], [1916], [1921], [1932], [1939], [1940]

NEW BULLS HEAD [1818]

OLD BULLS HEAD [1849], [1858], [1860], [1864], [1865], [1873], [1896], [1908], [1932], [1940]

BULLS HEAD [1862], [1868]

Inland Revenue Office [1861], [1868]

Excise Office [1862]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 29/10/1764 - Advert

"Whereas two young Beagle Hounds, about half grown, who answer to the Names of Younker and Crowner; Younker being a tam'd Dog, a white Blast in his Face, white at the Tip of his Tail, and his Feet something white; Crowner is a black and white tam'd Dog, his Ears of a tan Colour, white Legs, and a brown and white Tail; were, on Sunday Evening the 7th of this Instant October, stole from the House of Mr. *William Lewis*, at the BULLS HEAD, in Bilston, in the County of Stafford; Notice is hereby given, that a Reward of Five Guineas will be given to any one who will give Information of the Person or Persons concerned therein, so as such Offender or Offenders may be convicted thereof, to be paid on such Conviction, by Mr. Muschamp Jevon, of Tipton; and in case more than one Person were concerned in such Offence, if any one of them will impeach his Accomplice or Accomplices therein, he shall receive the same Reward, and a free Pardon."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/6/1771 - Advert

"Wanted, a Man to act in the Capacity of a Gardener, and to take Care of two Horses.
Enquire of *William Lewis*, of the BULLS HEAD in Bilstone, or of the Printer of this Paper."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 27/4/1772 - Advert

"To Cover this Season, at 15s a Mare, and 1s the Groom, the famous Yorkshire Bay Colt Young Sportsman..... This Colt, for Size, Strength, Beauty, Action, Movement, and Colour, may challenge any Horse in the Kingdom..... Sportsman will be at the NEW BULLS HEAD in Bilston every Monday Night."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 2/11/1778 - Advert

"Bilston Annual Assembly will be held at the NEW BULLS HEAD INN, on Monday the 9th of November Instant. Tickets at 2s 6d each, to be had at the Bar of the Inn.
Note, A Pack of Harriers will go out on Thursday Morning the 12th instant; and an Ordinary provided at the said Inn."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 22/11/1779 - Advert

"To be Sold, by Order of the Assignees of *William Lewis*, a Bankrupt, on Monday, the 6th Day of December next, and four following Days (Wednesday excepted) at the NEW BULLS HEAD, Bilston.
All the entire Neat Household Furniture, Plate, Linen, and China of the said Bankrupt; consisting of Bedsteads, with Moreen, Check, and other Hangings; excellent Feather Beds, Blankets, Quilts, Chairs, Tables, Bureau, Chest of Drawers, Pier and Swing Glasses; two Clocks in Oak Cases, and a Larum ditto; and good Kitchen Furniture; two large Copper Furnaces, and one smaller ditto, suitable mashing Tubs, and other Brewing Utensils, and a large Quantity of Hogsheads, Half Hogsheads, and smaller Barrels; two Bags of good Hops, and two or three Gross of Glass Bottles.
Likewise a very good Post-Chaise, almost New, and three good Chaise Horses, and Harness for four Horses compleat; a set of Wheels, new bound, a Quantity of Wheat and Hay, at Bilston, and a Rick at Sedgley; and all Sorts of Implements of Husbandry.
The Sale to begin each Day at Ten o'Clock in the Morning, and Two in the Afternoon.
NB. The Goods may be viewed at any Time before the Sale.
Catalogues may be had next Week at the above House, and at Mr. Kent's, Auctioneer, Wolverhampton."
AND

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 20/12/1779 - Advert

"Bilston, 18th December 1779.

All Persons who stand indebted to the Estate and Effects of *William Lewis*, late of the NEW BULLS HEAD INN, Bilston, in the County of Stafford, a Bankrupt, are hereby required forthwith to pay their respective Debts to Mr. William Bickley, one of the Assignees, or to Mr. Willim, Attorney, both of Bilston aforesaid; otherwise Actions at Law will be brought for the Recovery thereof."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 29/11/1779 - Advert

"Bilston, November 20, 1779.

Amos Parkes respectfully informs the Public, That having taken the NEW BULLS HEAD, in Bilston, lately occupied by Mr. *William Lewis*, he proposes to fit up the same in a neat and genteel Manner, for the Reception of Travellers; of which further Notice will be given in a future Paper."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/1/1780 - Advert

"NEW BULLS HEAD INN, Bilston. January 10, 1780.

Amos Parkes acquaints the Public, That he has taken and entered upon the above Inn, which he has fitted up in a neat and genteel Manner, and begs Leave to assure them that he shall constantly endeavour to oblige his Customers, supplying them with the best Wines, and all other Kinds of Liquors; and hopes that by civil Treatment and a strict Attention to his Duty, he shall merit the Support and Encouragement of the Public in general, and his Friends in particular."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 24/7/1780 - Advert

"Lost, betwixt Uttoxeter and Bilston, A Bellows for Bagpipes, about a Month since. Any Person that can give Information or bring it to the NEW BULLS HEAD, Bilston, or the White Hart in Uttoxeter, shall receive Five Shillings Reward and reasonable Satisfaction.

Bilston, July 16th, 1780."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 13/11/1780 - Advert

"Bilston Annual Dancing Assembly will be held at the NEW BULLS HEAD INN, This Evening the 13th November Inst. Tickets at 2s 6d each to be had at the Bar of the House.

A Pack of Hounds will go out on Wednesday Morning."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 23/7/1781 - Advert

"An Advertisement having appeared in the *Birmingham Gazette*, of the 16th Instant, setting forth that Bilston Wake would be held upon Sunday the 29th Inst, *Amos Parkes*, respectfully informs the Public, That a good Band of Music will be engaged at the NEW BULLS HEAD, upon Monday the 30th, to accommodate such Ladies and Gentlemen as chuse then and there to Dance."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 22/7/1782 - Advert

"Bilston Annual Dancing Assembly will be held at the NEW BULLS HEAD INN, on the 29th of July Instant (being the Wake Monday); and on Tuesday Morning will be a Public Breakfast on the Bowling Green at the said inn.

Tickets for the Ball to be had at the Bar."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 18/11/1782 - Advert

"Turnpike Tolls to be Let.

Notice is hereby given, that the Tolls arising at the Toll Gates upon the Turnpike Road leading from High Bullen, in Wednesbury, to the further End of Darlaston Lane, next the Portway, and from thence, through Bilston, to the further End of Gibbet Lane, and several other Roads leading to and from Bilston, in the County of Stafford, will be Let by Auction (either together or separately), to the best Bidder, at the House of *Mary Parkes*, known by the Name of the NEW BULLS HEAD INN, situate in Bilston aforesaid, on Monday the 9th Day of December next, between the Hours of two and five in the Afternoon of the same Day, in the Manner directed by the Act passed in the Thirteenth Year of the Reign of his Majesty King George the Third, 'for regulating the Turnpike Roads,' which Tolls produced the last Year, the Sums of £409 13s 2d Farthing, above the Expenses of collecting them, and will be put up at that Sum, if let together, and if let separately, will be put up at the respective Sums produced at each Gate, as hereafter mentioned. Whoever happens to be the best Bidder or Bidders, must, at the same Time, give Security, with sufficient

Sureties, to the Satisfaction of the Trustees of the said Turnpike Roads, for Payment of the Rent or Rents agreed for, and at such Times as they shall direct.

Production of each Gate from the 29th of October, 1781, to the 29th of October, 1782, clear of the Expenses of collecting the same.

Cock Heath Gate, £93 0s ³/₄d.

Bilston Bridge, £33 8s 0d.

Gibbet Lane £183 1s 10d.

Cold Lanes, £25 12s 9d.

Duck Lane, £20 11s 8¹/₂d.

Windmill, £9 18s 8d.

Catchems Corner, £44 0s 2d.

John Willim, Clerk to the Trustees of the said Turnpike Roads.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 7/7/1783 - Advert

“NEW BULLS HEAD INN, Bilston.

To be Let, and may be entered on at Michaelmas next (with or without Seventeen Acres of very good Land) All the above Inn, which consists of a large and commodious Messuage or Dwelling House, with exceeding good and large Cellaring, and other convenient Out-buildings; and also a large and compleat Bowling Green, together with very good Stabling; which Premises are all situate in Bilston aforesaid.

Further Particulars may be had by applying to Mrs. Tomkys, or Joseph Purcivall, both of Bilston.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 21/7/1783 - Advert

“Bilston Annual Dancing Assembly will be held at the NEW BULLS HEAD, on the 28th of July Instant, being the Wake Monday.

A good Band of Music will be provided.

Tickets, at 2s 6d each, to be had at the Bar of the House.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 15/9/1783 - Advert

“To be Sold by Auction, on the Premises, by Francis Pool, on Tuesday the 23rd Day of September, 1783, Part of the neat and useful Household Furniture, Brewing Vessels, &c, of Mrs. *Parkes*, at the NEW BULLS HEAD INN, in Bilston, in the County of Stafford, who is going to retire from the Public Business; consisting of good Hogshead Copper Furnace, Hogshead Back, oval fourteen Strike Mash Tub, New, with many other Mash and other Tubs, of different Sizes; large Quantity of exceeding good Barrels, nearly new, which hold from 20 to 120 Gallons each; Oak Dining and other Tables, several large Oak Presses and Cupboards, with folding Doors, large Quantity of Chairs of different Sorts, large Mahogany Board, with Bulls Head painted on each Side, properly gilt and ornamented, Quantity of Glass Bottles, with Variety of good Kitchen Furniture, and many other Articles.

The Sale begins at Half-past Nine o'Clock in the morning.

NB. Two Half Hogsheads of exceeding good Cyder, and a Quantity of Gin, to be Sold by private Contract; apply a the said Inn.”

Thomas Lea, innkeeper, BULLS HEAD, Bilston. [1791]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 31/10/1796 - Advert

“Mr. Banks respectfully informs the Gentlemen of Bilstone and its Environs, that he intends to begin a Course of twelve Lectures in Experimental Philosophy, at Mr. *Lea*'s, the BULLS HEAD INN, in Bilstone, on Thursday the 3rd of November, at half past Six in the Evening.

A Subscriber pays one Guinea for 18 Tickets, 12 of which admit a Gentleman or Lady, and six a Lady only. A single Lecture 2s 6d each Person.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 11/2/1799 - Advert

“Capital Inn.

To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, a capital Inn, called and known by the Name of the NEW BULLS HEAD, situate in the Center of the populous Town of Bilston, and now in the Possession of Mr. *Thomas Lea*. The Stock and Goods to be taken at a Valuation. The Premises consist of four capital Cellars, and Wine Vault, three good Parlours, Bar, Tap Room, Pantry, Cooking Kitchen, Larder, and a spacious Club Room, well attended by four good Clubs, six good Lodging Rooms, Store Room, large and convenient Brewhouse, with convenient Store Room over the same, and Lead Pipe to convey the Liquor into the Cellars; a good Pump well supplied with excellent Water; three Stables, Pigsties, Garden, and many other Conveniences, all entire.

The Household Goods are all in good Condition, and in general very modern; Copper and Brewing Tubs, good and in prime Condition, the Barrels exceeding capital, and contain from 600 Gallons to Hogsheads, Half Hogsheads, and other Casks.

The London, Birmingham, Salop, Liverpool, Manchester, and other Coaches, pass the Door almost every Hour. Such a Situation is rare to be found, and has not been offered to let for a Century past.

All Persons who have any Claim or Demand upon the said Mr. *Lea*, are desired to send Particulars thereof immediately to Mr. Mason.

Bilston, February 8, 1799.”

George Rushbury = George Rushbery

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/1/1799 - Advert

“CROWN AND ANCHOR INN and Hotel, Bilston.

George Rushbury, gratefully sensible of the Favours conferred upon him, by a generous Public, at the OLD BULLS HEAD, returns his most sincere Thanks for the same, and respectfully informs the Gentry, Travellers, and Public at large, that he has taken and entered upon the above Inn (formerly the NEW BULLS HEAD, situate at the lower Part of the Town, leading to Birmingham) which he has fitted up in a neat and elegant Style for their Reception, and where he will use his utmost Endeavours to render their Accommodation both pleasant and satisfactory.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 29/12/1800 - Advert

“Bilston Christmas Ball will be held at the NEW BULLS HEAD INN, Tomorrow (Tuesday) the 30th of December, 1800.”

BILSTON CHRISTMAS BALL will be held at
the New Bull's Head Inn, To morrow (Tuesday)
the 30th of December, 1800.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 12/4/1802 - Advert

“Copyhold Premises.

To be Sold by Auction, by F. Pool, on Thursday the 22nd day of April, 1802, at the House of *George Rushbery*, the Sign of the BULLS HEAD, in Bilston.....”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 23/7/1804 - Advert

“Mines of Coal and Ironstone to be let.

At the House of Mr. *George Rushbury*, commonly called the NEW BULLS HEAD INN, in Bilston.....”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 5/11/1804 - Advert

“Bilston and Wednesbury Turnpike Tolls.

Notice is hereby given, that the Tolls arising at the several Toll Gates upon the Turnpike Road leading from Wednesbury, through Bilston, to the further End of Gibbet Lane, and several other Roads leading to and from Bilston, in the County of Stafford, will be Let by Auction for one whole Year, commencing the 1st Day of January next, at the House of *George Rushbury*, the NEW BULLS HEAD INN, in Bilston aforesaid, on Tuesday the 20th Day of November, 1804, at Three o'Clock in the Afternoon, in the Manner directed by the Act passed in the 13th Year of the Reign of his present Majesty King George the Third, 'For regulating the Turnpike Roads;' which Tolls were let on Lease, the last Year, for the Sum of £984 clear of the Expenses of collecting them, and will be put up at that Sum.

Whoever happens to be the best Bidder, must at the same Time, give Security, with sufficient Sureties, to the Satisfaction of the Trustees of the said Turnpike Roads, for the Payment of the Rent agreed for, and at such Times as they shall direct, and make a Deposit of £5 per Cent on the whole Rent.

By Order of the Trustees, John Willim, Clerk and Treasurer. Bilston, October 22, 1804.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 24/11/1806 - Advert

"Freehold and Copyhold Buildings and Land, at Bilston and Tipton.

To be Sold by Auction, by J. Moreton, at the Dwelling House of *George Rushbury*, known by the Name or Sign of the BULLS HEAD INN, in Bilston, in the County of Stafford....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/11/1808 - Advert

"The First Bilston Card and Dancing Assembly will be held at the NEW BULLS HEAD INN, on Thursday next, the 1st of December."

THE FIRST BILSTON CARD and DANCING ASSEMBLY will be held at the New Bull's Head Inn, on Thursday next, the 1st of December.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 5/10/1812 - Advert

"Bilston and Wednesbury Turnpike Tolls.

Notice is hereby given, that the Tolls arising at the several Toll Gates upon the Turnpike Road leading from Wednesbury, through Bilston, to the further End of Gibbet Lane, and several other Roads leading to and from Bilston, in the County of Stafford, will be Let by Auction, for one whole Year, commencing the first Day of January next, at the House of *George Rushbury*, the NEW BULLS HEAD INN, in Bilston aforesaid....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 29/3/1813 - Advert

"Wanted immediately by *George Rushbury*, BULLS HEAD INN, Bilston, a plain Cook, who perfectly understands her Business.

No one need apply who cannot bring a good Character from her last Place.

Wages will be no Object."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 4/10/1813 - Advert

"At a Meeting held at the BULLS HEAD INN, Bilston, September 14, 1813, in Order to consider of the Propriety of establishing an Institution for the Purpose of providing effectual and permanent Relief for the Widows and Families of that useful Class of our fellow Men, who are so continually exposed to Danger, and frequently are killed by Accidents in the Pits, Samuel Fereday, Esq, being unanimously called to the Chair, it was Resolved that it appears to this Meeting that such an Institution as the one now proposed is highly necessary and Expedient. Resolved, that the Proprietors of Coal, Ironstone, and other Mines in this Neighbourhood, as well as the Public at large, be requested to lend their Assistance to promote the Object of this Institution....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 2/10/1815 - Advert

"To be Sold by Auction Tomorrow, the 3rd Day of October, at Two o'Clock in the Afternoon, at Mr. *G. Rushbury*'s, the BULLS HEAD INN, Bilston, about 1600 Bushels of Malt....."

George Rushbury – see also ROYAL GEORGE, Church Street.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 20/1/1817 - Advert

"To be disposed of, the Lease, Licenses, Goodwill, and immediate Possession of an old established Inn and Public House, in full Business, the BULLS HEAD INN, Bilston, the present Proprietor declining on Account of other Engagements.

The above will be found an Opportunity that seldom offers, being one of the completest Inns on a small Scale, and in the greatest Thoroughfare on the North Road, and makes up from twelve to 20 Beds per Night, with Stabling for twenty Horses, excellent Cellaring, and one of the greatest Draughts of Ale in the Country; Rent low, and the Whole to be taken at fair Valuation.

For Particulars apply on the Spot, or to S. Bloore, Auctioneer, Colmore Row, Birmingham."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 14/4/1817 - Advert

"To be Sold by Auction, Tomorrow and Wednesday, the 15th and 16th of April inst, the Lease, License, and Goodwill, with immediate Possession, of that valuable Inn and Tavern, known by the Name of the NEW BULLS HEAD INN, Bilston, in the County of Stafford, with the Whole of the Household Furniture; consisting of Mahogany and other Bedsteads, clothed with Chintz, Feather Beds, Hair and Straw Mattresses, Dressing Tables, Wash-hand Stands, Dressing Glasses, Sheets, Blankets, and Coverlets, Dining, Card, and Pembroke Tables, Sofas, Chairs, Sideboards, Carpets, Clock and Case, a five-motion Beer Machine, &c. The Whole has been lately purchased new, regardless of Expense; with all the prime Stock of old Ale, choice Wines, Liquors, Brewing Utensils, Fixtures, &c, which will be sold without Reserve.

Sale to commence at Half-past Ten, and continue without Intermission until each Day's Sale is ended."

John Batte = John Battie = John Battee

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 3/11/1817 - Advert

"To be Sold by Auction on Friday the 14th Day of November, at the House of *John Battie*, known by the Name or Sign of the NEW BULLS HEAD INN, in Bilston, in the County of Stafford....."

John Batte, NEW BULLS HEAD, High Street. [1818]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 17/4/1820 - Advert

"Important and Lucrative Inn, Bilston, Staffordshire, where there are upwards of thirty Stage Coaches stop daily, neat Household Furniture, excellent well-seasoned store and other Casks, Utensils, and numerous Effects, also the Goodwill, Licenses, and immediate Possession of the House and Trade therewith connected.

By J. P. Tregent. To be Sold by Auction, on the Premises, this present Monday and Tomorrow, April 17 and 18, all the appropriate Household Furniture, Fixtures, Brewing Vessels, Utensils, Stock in Trade, and Effects, and the Goodwill and Licenses of that well-known old-established Inn, the NEW BULLS HEAD, situated in that flourishing Town, Bilston, being surrounded by Coal and Iron Works, and on the immediate Posting Road from London to Holyhead, now in the Tenure of Mr. *Battee*, who is retiring from the said Line of Business.

Particulars appear in Catalogues.

The Sale to commence each Day at Ten o'clock in the morning, subject to the usual Conditions.

For further Information, apply on the Premises, or to Mr. Tregent, Auctioneer, Snow Hill, Birmingham, who has a small, compact low-rented Public House to let."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 5/12/1881

"Bilston Fifty Years Ago from a 1827 directory.....

In 1827 the workhouse was still at the back of the OLD BULLS HEAD, High Street, but a new one was in course of erection in Workhouse Fold, during the overseership of Adam Hill and Montague Taylor."

Phineas Bullock was also a glazier and painter. [1833]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/7/1835 - Advert

"Most Desirable Land and Building. To be Sold by Private Treaty, situated in Bilston.....

The moiety or half-part of that commodious and well-established Inn, the NEW BULLS HEAD, with an under-tenement adjoining, extensive outbuildings, yard, &c, in the occupation of Mr. *Phineas Bullock*."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 23/3/1836 - Advert

"To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately.

All that well-established Public House, called the NEW BULLS HEAD INN, situated in High Street, Bilston, together with the stables and buildings thereto belonging, and either with or without a large Malthouse, the whole of which is now, and for several years past, has been in the occupation of Mr. *Phineas Bullock*.

The above property has three large clubs attached, is carrying on an extensive business, for which it is well-adapted, and is situated in the centre of a very thickly populated district, surrounded by coal and iron works.

The stock and fixtures to be taken at a fair valuation.

For rent and other particulars apply to Mr. John Bullock, High Street; to Mr. *Phineas Bullock*, on the premises; or to Mr. Richard Corbett, New Town, all of Bilston."

1841 Census

High Street

- [1] *Phineas Bullock* (60), coal master, born Staffordshire;
- [2] *Phineas Bullock* (33), glazier, born Staffordshire;
- [3] *Mary Bullock* (20), born Staffordshire;
- [4] *Sarah Bullock* (18), born Staffordshire;
- [5] *Elizabeth Bullock* (15), born Staffordshire;

Wolverhampton Chronicle 25/8/1841

“The general annual licensing meeting was held on Friday.....

The following is a list of the new licenses granted.....

Phineas Bullock, in lieu of the BULLS HEAD, High Street, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 8/9/1841 - Advert

“BULLS HEAD INN, Bilston.

To be Let, and may be entered upon at Michaelmas, the BULLS HEAD INN, High Street, Bilston, now in full business, and in the occupation of Mr. *Phineas Bullock*, who is removing to a new house near Priestfields.

The premises comprise extensive cellaring, a large tap room and parlour to the front, kitchen, bar, and small parlour at the back, a large club room, and seven convenient bed rooms. There is an enclosed back yard, with brewhouse, stabling, larder, and other suitable out-buildings.

The incoming tenant will have the option to take either a part or none of the stock, fixtures, brewing utensils, &c.

To view the premises apply to Mr. *Bullock*; and for further particulars to Richard Corbett, auctioneer, &c, New Town, Bilston.”

Phineas Bullock died in the 3rd quarter of 1842.

Phineas Bullock, son of *Phineas Bullock* – see NEW BULLS HEAD, Wellington Road.

Birmingham Journal 17/6/1848

“At the Wednesbury Public Office, on Tuesday, before John Leigh, Esq, Stipendiary Magistrate, and James Bagnall, Esq, a case of some importance to lodges and friendly societies came on for hearing. Joseph Johnson, landlord of the HAND AND BOTTLE, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, was summoned by Frederick Atkins, Joseph Fellows, and Thomas Worton, as trustees of a Lodge of Good Fellows, formerly held at his house, on a charge of refusing to deliver up to them certain boxes, desks, money, &c, which had been entrusted to him as landlord of the house.

It appeared that about three months back the lodge had been removed to the house of *Hannah Caddick*, the BULLS HEAD, owing to the members being afraid that the room in which they met would fall in, as it had actually done since they shifted. A special meeting of the members had been held for the purpose of considering the removal, and every step taken in connection with the matter which the rules required, they having been certified by Mr. Tidd Pratt, and the lodge enrolled according to Act of Parliament. The cheque-book of the lodge lay in one of the desks which defendant had refused to give up, and they were consequently unable to draw any money from the bank or get a new book.

In defence, Mr. Johnson said that the whole affair had been managed very quietly, so that those members who were against the removal should know nothing of it, or at least had received so very short notice of the special meeting, as to render it inconvenient for them to attend. This was denied by the trustee who appeared for the lodge, but as the defendant said he should be able to bring forward proof, if the case was adjourned, Mr. Leigh complied with a request made for that purpose, and ordered the parties to be in attendance next Tuesday at Bilston.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 24/6/1848

“Bilston Public Office, on Tuesday last.....

Joseph Johnson, landlord of the HAND AND BOTTLE, who had refused to give up the property he held belonging to No.3 Lodge of Good Fellows, consented to give up the same upon the members of the lodge paying him £4 for the rent of the room in which they had held their meetings.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/6/1850 - Advert

"Honour all Men, Love the Brotherhood, Fear God, Honour the King.

Grand Protestant Association of Loyal Orangemen of Great Britain.

By command of the most Worshipful Grand Master, the Right Hon. the Earl of Enniskillen.

I Hereby Give Notice that the Grand Lodge will be held in St. Mary's School, Oxford Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, on Tuesday, July 2, at twelve o'clock at noon precisely, for the transaction of the Annual Business of the Order in this Kingdom.

The Grand Committee will assemble on the previous afternoon, at four o'clock, for the transaction of preliminary business.

There will be a Banquet in the Evening of Tuesday, at six o'clock, at which the Most Worshipful the Grand Master is expected to preside also, to take place at the BULLS HEAD INN, High Street.

Clergymen and Gentlemen who support Protestant principles are cordially invited to join the Orangemen at this Banquet. Those who determine to do so are requested to communicate their intention to me on the preceding day; if by letter, addressed to me at the BULLS HEAD INN, Bilston.

Thomas Gibson, Grand Secretary. Chowbent, near Manchester, June 19, 1950."

1851 Census

High Street

[1] *Hannah Caddick* (60), licensed victualler, born Bilston;

[2] *Elizabeth Caddick* (33), daughter, born Bilston;

[3] *Hellen Caddick* (31), daughter, born Bilston;

[4] *William Henry Caddick* (21), son, born Bilston;

[5] *Selina Reece* (20), house servant, born Ashley North Gloucester;

[6] *Mary Allen* (18), house servant, born Bentley Hay, Staffordshire;

[7] *George Thomas* (22), house servant, born Shrewsbury:

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/7/1851

"The No.3 lodge of Good Fellows celebrated their anniversary on Monday last, at the house of Mrs. *Hannah Caddick*, OLD BULLS HEAD, High Street, Bilston, when ninety members sat down to an elegant dinner, served in the best style of the worthy hostess. The Rev. R. J. Heafield, vicar of St. Luke's, presided, supported by J. Dickenson, Esq, surgeon. The usual loyal toasts were given, and an excellent address delivered to the members by the rev. chairman. The utmost good feeling prevailed, and the festivities of the evening were closed by a merry dance."

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/8/1851

"On Tuesday last, the Midland Unity Lodge of Odd Fellows, to the number of 120, celebrated their anniversary at the house of Mrs. *Hannah Caddick*, OLD BULLS HEAD, High Street, Bilston. After attending divine service at the Primitive Methodist Chapel, they perambulated the town, headed by an excellent brass band, after which they returned to the lodge room, where an excellent dinner was prepared for them by the respected hostess, and to which ample justice was done. The day proved one of real enjoyment to all."

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/11/1851

"An inquest was held on Saturday last, at the sign of the OLD BULLS HEAD, High Street, Bilston, on the body of John Williams, a miner, aged 34, who died on the previous day from injuries received through a quantity of coal falling on him whilst at work in a pit belonging to Benjamin Gibbons, Esq. The inquest was adjourned to Wednesday last when a verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/5/1852

"On Monday last, a meeting of the shareholders in the Bilston Gas Light and Coke Company was held at the BULLS HEAD INN, High Street, to determine upon making another call upon the shareholders The additional outlay proposed by the directors, in accordance with the report and estimate of the manager of the works, was unanimously sanctioned by the shareholders. It is intended to provide a new gas holder, to lay down larger mains in two or three of the principal streets in the town, and to extend the mains to Catchems Corner, Ettingshall New Village, and Bradley. The improvement cannot fail to afford considerable satisfaction to the inhabitants of the township. A call of 14s 6d per share, payable July 1st, was ordered to be made, which would give £2,900, a sum it was believed sufficient for the extension of the works."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 6/11/1854 - Advert

"Desirable Freehold Property. Commanding First-Rate Situations for an Extensive Business, in the populous town of Bilston, being in the centre of the South Staffordshire Coal and Iron Works.

To be Sold by Auction, by Fallows and Smith, at the house of Mrs. *Caddick*, the BULLS HEAD, Bilston, Tomorrow....."

Hannah Caddick died on 3rd July 1855.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/9/1856 - Advert

"Valuable Freehold Property, at Bradley, near Bilston, with the Mines and Minerals under the same.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. S. Powell, at the house of Miss *Caddick*, the OLD BULLS HEAD INN, High Street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, on Tuesday next....."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/12/1857

"The Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of the Bilston Gas Light and Coke Company will be held at the house of Miss *Caddick*, the BULLS HEAD INN, High Street, Bilston, on Monday, January the 4th, 1858, at twelve o'clock at noon.

Job Smith Lester, Clerk to the Company. Bilston Gas Works, December 18, 1857."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/1/1861 - Advert

"High Street, Bilston. To be Let, with immediate possession, if required, that old-established full-licensed Inn and Liquor Vaults, the OLD BULLS HEAD INN, with extensive Yard, Stabling, Gig-house, and Out-buildings. The House consists of Bar, Liquor Shop, Back Parlour, Front Kitchen, large Club Room, and Sitting Room, five Bedrooms, several Club and Revenue Offices. This long-established and well-known House has for many years commanded a good in and out-door trade. Stock and Fixtures to be taken to at a fair valuation.

Apply on the Premises, or to Mr. John Caddick."

1861 Census

70, High Street

[1] Edward Ward (39), victualler, born Wentnor, Shropshire;

[2] Mary Ward (36), wife, born Clun, Shropshire;

[3] George Ward (12), son, born Wentnor, Shropshire;

[4] Mary A. Speed (18), servant, born Dudley;

[5] Margaret Trow (16), servant, born France:

Birmingham Daily Post 19/8/1863

"At Bilston Police Court yesterday.....

Samuel Guest, a well-known character, for creating a disturbance at the BULLS HEAD, High Street, was ordered to find sureties, or in default one month's imprisonment."

Birmingham Daily Post 27/11/1863 - Advert

"Wanted, a steady Young Man, to assist in Brewing and to make himself generally useful.

Apply, BULLS HEAD, High Street, Bilston."

WANTED, a steady Young MAN, to assist in Brewing and to make himself generally useful.—Apply, Bull's Head, High Street, Bilston.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/9/1864

"Yesterday the magistrates sat in Special Sessions, for the consideration of the applications for the renewal of old and the granting of new licenses to victuallers.....

The following houses and their landlords had been complained against and fined during the year.....

J. Vickers, BULLS HEAD, High Street."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/12/1865

"*John Vickers*, of the BULLS HEAD, High Street, was yesterday fined £5 and costs, at Bilston Police Court, for allowing drunkenness in his house, on Monday night week. When Police-sergeant Harrison visited the house he found thirty or forty men there, and one of them was so drunk that he could not walk."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1866

“The annual meeting for the renewal of existing licenses, and for receiving applications for fresh ones, was held at the Police Court, on Friday.....

At the commencement of the proceedings, the Superintendent of Police presented the following report.

Bilston Division, August 31, 1866.

‘I beg to submit to the Magistrates the attached list of licensed victuallers who have been complained against during the year. Twenty-five have been convicted, and three have paid costs; one had been convicted three times, and five convicted twice. This is a large increase on last year’s list; but I think it has arisen from the police being more particular in reporting cases of permitting drunkenness – as it was found to be an evil rather on the increase. I believe it has caused landlords to be more careful in supplying drink to persons intoxicated.’

H. McCrea, Superintendent.

Black List.....

John Vickers, BULLS HEAD, High Street, Bilston License renewed.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 22/10/1866 - Advert

“Bilston. Sale Tomorrow (Tuesday), at the OLD BULLS HEAD, High Street, Bilston, of Household Furniture, Brewing Plant, Store Casks, and Liquor Shop Fittings; comprising the Furniture of four Bed Chambers and Sitting Room, Parlour and Tap Room Tables and Benches, Gas Fittings, Pewter-top Counters, Shelving, stone and wood Liquor Casks, 6-pull Ale Engine, Pewter Measures, Liquor Fountain, Cupboard, Kitchen Utensils, Mash Tub, lead-lined Coolers, Malt Crusher, sound and sweet 300, 400, and 600 gallon Ale Store Casks, Half Hogsheads and Hogsheads, Gathering Tub, Brewing Utensils, Round Tubs, and other Public House Effects.

Lot 1. The Goodwill and Possession of this excellent Spirit Vaults, one of the oldest and best, in the principal street of Bilston.

By John Gray, Tomorrow (Tuesday), October 23rd, upon the Premises, in High Street, close to Dudley Street.

Sale to commence at Ten o’clock in the morning.

Catalogues may be had of the Auctioneer, 35½, Cannon Street, Birmingham.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/8/1868 - Advert

“To be Let, the BULLS HEAD INN, Bilston, the Inland Revenue Office, which is doing a good business. Rent and incoming moderate. Stock and Fixtures taken to at valuation.

Apply on the Premises.”

TO BE LET, the BULL'S HEAD INN,
BILSTON, the Inland Revenue Office, which is doing a
good business. Rent and incoming moderate. Stock and
Fixtures taken to at valuation.—Apply on the Premises.

London Gazette 31/12/1869

“*John Vickers*, now residing at Ettingshall-lane, near the BRIDGE INN, in the township of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, formerly of the BRIDGE INN, Ettingshall-lane aforesaid, and previously of the BULLS HEAD INN, High-street, Bilston aforesaid, Licensed Victualler, and a Coker, having been adjudged bankrupt under a Petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy, filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton, on the 29th day of December, 1869, is hereby required to surrender himself to Charles Gallimore Brown, Esq., Registrar of the said Court at the first meeting of Creditors, to be held before the said Registrar, on the 15th day of January next, at twelve o’clock, at noon precisely, at the said Court.

Charles Gallimore Brown, Esq., of Wolverhampton is the Official Assignee, and A. E. Greenway, Esq., of Wolverhampton, is the Solicitor acting in the bankruptcy.”

David Richards was also an inland revenue officer. [1870]

David Richards – see also TURKS HEAD.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/9/1870

“An inquest was held on Monday at the BULLS HEAD, High Street, Bilston, by the Coroner, on the body of Ralph Grice, collier, aged 67. Deceased went down a pit belonging to Philip Williams, Coseley, on Friday night, for the purpose of pumping, and at half-past three the next morning another collier named Turner went down the pit and found deceased lying down, with a quantity of clods upon him, by the fall of which he had apparently been killed. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and strongly recommended that no one should be left in a pit alone at night.”

1871 Census

70, High Street – BULLS HEAD

[1] Benjamin S. Ford (28), formerly grocer, licensed victualler employing 3 assistants, born Cradley, Herefordshire;

[2] Alice M. Ford (20), wife, born Wolverhampton;

[3] Harry R. S. Ford (2 months), son, born Bilston;

[4] Annie Lemon (20), barmaid, born Cubley, Derbyshire;

[5] Thomas Fletcher (25), man servant, born Sedgley;

[6] Ellen Dunn (18), domestic servant, born Sedgley;

[7] William Hall (18), domestic servant, born Bloxwich:

Birmingham Daily Post 11/7/1872

“An adjourned meeting of the newly-formed Chartermasters’ Association was held on Tuesday night, at the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston, and there was a large attendance. Mr. S. Bayley, of Walsall, presided.

With reference to the conference of mine agents and chartermasters, which, according to the programme fixed on Friday, should have taken place at an earlier hour, it was stated that the several mine agents of the district had been seen on the subject, and had expressed an opinion that, bearing in mind the different conditions upon which the charters were fixed in various parts of the district, no united action on their part could possibly arise from a conference with the association, and that therefore the better course would be for each agent to deal separately with the chartermasters associated with him. Under these circumstances no conference had taken place. Attention was given to the subject of the increased advantages requisite to compensate the chartermasters for the concessions granted to the men, but in the end it was deemed advisable to defer the further consideration of the subject until a future meeting. A decided opinion was expressed, however, that the advance of one-ninth was not sufficient, it being merely an advance of the same extent as that granted to the men, while the chartermasters were deprived of one hour’s work per day from which to gain a profit. The idea that the association was animated by a spirit antagonistic to the men’s interest, was strongly deprecated.

About 100 members were enrolled, and a subscription of £1 from each of the local associations towards the funds of the central association received. Meetings were then fixed for Thursday evening, at the BULLS HEAD INN, Bilston; the CASTLE INN, Willenhall; and the COMMERCIAL INN, Walsall; and for Friday evening, at the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston.”

Benjamin Samuel Ford was also an inland revenue officer. [1873]

Cannock Chase Examiner 1/8/1874

“Staffordshire Summer Assizes *Hunt v Ford*. Mr. Huddleston, QC, and Mr. Young for the plaintiff; and Mr. Staveley Hill, QC, and Mr. J. O. Griffiths for the defendants.

This action was brought to recover possession of the BULLS HEAD INN, Bilston. After the hearing of the evidence, and arguments by the learned counsel, a verdict for the plaintiff was agreed to, subject to arrangements as to the fittings in the house; possession to be given up in a fortnight, and each party to pay their own costs.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 18/3/1876

“Staffordshire Lent Assizes *Hunt and Another v Caddick and Mason*.

This was an action by *John Thomas Hunt* and Edward Phillips to recover damages for an alleged breach of contract on the part of defendants, John Caddick and John Mason, of Bilston. Mr. Matthews, QC, with Mr. Jelfe, were counsel for the plaintiffs; Mr. A. S. Hill, QC, MP, and Mr. Young, appeared for the defendant Mason, and Mr. Powell, QC, with whom was Mr. J. Underhill, for Caddick.

In opening the case, Mr. Matthews said the defendant Caddick was formerly the owner of a public house called the BULLS HEAD, at Bilston, and the other defendant acted as his solicitor. In 1873 the BULLS HEAD, then in the occupation of a man named *Ford*, was offered for sale, and the sale was attended by many persons, including the plaintiffs to this action. The bidding soon reached £900, and then flagged, and Phillips complained that no date had been given as that on which the buyer of the property could take possession. A consultation took place between the auctioneer and Caddick, after which, on Caddick’s instruction, the auctioneer announced that possession would be given on the 25th March, 1874. Thereupon the bidding ran up until at the last the house was knocked down to Phillips for £1,050. In pursuance of the undertaking given by him, Caddick took steps to get *Ford* out of the house by the following Lady-day, which was then six months distant. He served a notice to quit upon *Ford*, but the latter returned the document, alleging that Caddick had no right to give such notice, as the tenancy commenced at

Christmas, and could only be cancelled by a notice terminating at that period, and that, as it was then too late for a notice terminating at the ensuing Christmas, he could not be made to leave until Christmas 1874. In the meanwhile Phillips engaged in a colliery transaction, and not caring to keep the public house he sold his bargain to *Hunt*, who had been the landlord of the OLD BOAR, at Bilston. *Hunt* paid Phillips his deposit, and afterwards went to Mr. Mason and told him this, and asked him to prepare the assignment from Phillips to him, which Mason did. He (the learned counsel) contended that Mason ought to have told *Hunt* that he was acting for Caddick, and therefore could not act for him in this matter, or else he ought to have explained that the house could not be transferred until Lady-day. Mason did neither, and on the 4th December the purchase was completed. *Hunt* went to a great deal of expense in the matter, but in consequence of *Ford's* determination to remain he could not enter into possession until Lady-day. On Mason's instructions proceedings were taken by *Hunt* for the ejection of *Ford*, which came on in the summer of 1874, but *Hunt* was not able to enter into possession until the following September. The present action was therefore brought for damages for non-fulfilment of contract. Caddick was bound by the agreement to deliver up possession of the house in March.

A short argument on legal points took place between the learned counsel and his Lordship, after which the Court adjourned until this (Saturday) morning."

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 25/3/1876

".....The delay in getting possession had occasioned him great pecuniary loss and trouble. Between the 25th of March and the 11th of August, 1874, if he had remained at the OLD BOARS HEAD he should have been taking on an average £25 to £30 per week, and his business at the BULLS HEAD was rather better than the one at the BOARS HEAD. Between the 25th of March and the 11th of August he was doing nothing, and had to pay for a private house at the rate of £20 per annum.....

The Judge ruled that there was no case to go to the jury. There was nothing to justify the allegation that Caddick or his agent stated at the sale that which he knew to be untrue, for there was no reasonable ground for believing that *Ford* would not go out on the 25th of March, whatever he (*Ford*) might have in his mind at the time. The representation that possession should be given up on the 25th of March meant that Caddick would deal with his tenant in such a way that the purchaser would be legally entitled to possession at that date. It did not mean that he would give manual and actual possession. He gave notice to the tenant to leave, and that was all he could do, and when *Ford* refused to leave he took care to let Mr. Mason know, Mason acting for the purchaser. Therefore it was clear that as against Caddick no action could lie. The case against Mason was of a different nature, and it alleged that he had so acted as to be liable to reimburse *Hunt* for his loss. It was not till October, two months after the sale, that he was retained to act for *Hunt*. It was said that at that time he knew *Ford* had made a claim to remain longer in the house, and had not informed *Hunt* of it. But there was no evidence that *Ford's* claim was not altogether without foundation; and there was no evidence that Mason did not make the necessary inquiries. If, having heard *Ford* say he would not go out of the house, *Hunt* had said he would not complete the purchase, Mr. Caddick would have compelled him to complete. No damage had therefore arisen from Mr. Mason not having given notice to *Hunt* of *Ford's* claim. His Lordship then nonsuited the plaintiff, and said he was anxious that no more should be heard of the case."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 15/4/1876

"The Failure of Mr. *John Thomas Hunt*, of Bilston.

A meeting of the creditors of *John Thomas Hunt*, of the BULLS HEAD INN, Bilston, was held at PIPE HALL HOTEL, on the 8th instant. There was a very fair attendance of creditors. Mr. Kidney, from the office of Messrs. Duignan, Lewis and Williams, Walsall, represented Mr. Edward Phillips, who was joint plaintiff in the action *Hunt v Caddick and Mason*, heard at the last Stafford assizes, and who holds a bill of sale for £250; Mr. M. H. Pursall represented Mr. John Mason, Mr. John Caddick, and several other large creditors; Mr. Dale appeared for Mr. William Bowen, debtor's solicitor.

Mr. J. E. Fellows, solicitor, was called to the chair, and read the report of Mr. Bridgewater, accountant, of Wolverhampton, from which it appeared that *Hunt's* liabilities amounted to £2,200, or thereabouts, whilst his assets, which consisted of his furniture and stock, according to the valuation of Mr. George Clay, amounted to £140. Upon the chairman asking what proposition *Hunt* had to make, he was informed that the debtor had no offer whatever to make; he left himself entirely in the hands of his creditors. After the debtor had been called into the room, and severely cross-examined by Mr. Kidney as to the removal of some furniture and stock-in-trade, and also as to several creditors which he had set down, whose debts it was asserted were fictitious, it was arranged to wind the estate up in liquidation.

Mr. J. E. Fellows, Mr. Hughes, Wednesbury, and Mr. W. Bowen were appointed a committee of inspection, and Mr. Bridgewater trustee. Mr. Bowen was entrusted with the filing of the resolution.

Mr. Phillips still retains possession of the BULLS HEAD INN, under his bill of sale. On Thursday, at the Wolverhampton County Court, an application was made by Mr. Kidney, on behalf of Messrs. Duignan, Lewis and Williams, to restrain Mr. Bridgewater, the receiver, from carrying on the business at the BULLS HEAD INN. The receiver gave his undertaking not to continue any sales until the legality of Mr. Phillips's bill of sale was determined. An interim order of injunction has been granted by the registrar against Mr. Phillips's bill of sale, on the application of the receiver, and such order is enlarged till the 24th inst, when the legality of the same is to be argued before the court."

Staffordshire Advertiser 13/5/1876

"The Judge of the Wolverhampton County Court, Mr. A. Martineau, has given his decision in favour of the defendant in the case of *Hunt v Phillips*, thus declaring that the latter is entitled to enforce his rights under the bill of sale he holds against Mr. *Hunt*'s property in the BULLS HEAD INN, Bilston."

Birmingham Mail 3/8/1876

"Warwickshire Assizes.....

Robert Campion Neale, commission agent, surrendered to his bail, and was charged with forging and uttering an order. Mr. Etherington Smith prosecuted, and Mr. Harris defended.

In November last Mr. Myers, cigar and tobacco merchant, Dale End, advertised in the *Daily Post* for a pushing young man to solicit orders, and defendant was engaged at ten per cent commission remuneration. On the 20th November prisoner gave Mr. Myers an order purporting to be signed by *John Hunt*, of the BULLS HEAD, Bilston, for 205 boxes of cigars, his commission upon that order amounting to £7 3s. The order turned out to be a forgery, but the evidence did not prove that the prisoner had been guilty of that offence. On his behalf, it was urged that he had been very active in pushing his master's business, and as *Hunt* was an old friend he had ordered the goods to be sent to him, believing he would accept them and pay for them. The jury found him guilty of uttering the document, but recommended him to mercy on account of his previous good character. He was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment."

London Gazette 26/10/1877

"The Bankruptcy Act, 1869. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton.

In the Matter of Proceedings for Liquidation by Arrangement or Composition with Creditors, instituted by *John Thomas Hunt*, formerly of the OLD BULLS HEAD, High-street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, but now out of business, and residing in lodgings at No.42, Saint Johns-square, Wolverhampton aforesaid. Notice is hereby given, that a First General Meeting of the creditors of the above-named person has been summoned to be held at the TALBOT HOTEL, King-street, Wolverhampton aforesaid, on the 10th day of November, 1877, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 22nd day of October, 1877."

Birmingham Daily Post 11/10/1877 - Advert

"Old-Licensed Public House, OLD BULLS HEAD, High Street, Bilston.

Lease, Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession.

To Spirit Merchants, Brewers, Publicans, and Others. On Monday Next, October 15.

Mr. J. Burkitt has received instructions to Sell by Auction, at the OLD BULLS HEAD, High Street, Bilston, at 6 for 7 o'clock in the evening, and subject to conditions of sale to be then read.

The Valuable Goodwill, Licenses, and Fourteen Years Lease of that old-established Old-licensed Public House, called the OLD BULLS HEAD, High Street, Bilston.

The House contains large and well fitted-up Spirit Vault, Smoke Room, Kitchen with Cooking Range, Billiard Room, Bagatelle Room, Sitting Room, seven large Bed Rooms, five capital Cellars; also Brewhouse, with Malt Room over, Stabling for six horses, Coach-house, Piggeries, Coal House, small Cottage (let off at 3s per week), Yard, Quoit Ground, and Out-buildings. The House is one of the oldest licensed houses in the town, is situate in the main thoroughfare, and is now doing a good in and out door trade. Rent £75 per annum.

The Purchaser will be required to take to the Fixtures, Brewing Plant, Billiard and Bagatelle Tables, Stock, and Effects, at a fair valuation.

Further particulars may be obtained at the Offices of the Auctioneer, 53, Queen Street, Wolverhampton."

Midland Examiner 16/2/1878 - Advert

"Old-Licensed Public House, OLD BULLS HEAD, High Street, Bilston, Staffordshire.

To Spirit Merchants, Brewers, Publicans, and Others.

Mr. J. Burkitt will Sell by Auction, on the premises, High Street, Bilston, on Monday, the 18th day of February, 1878, at Six o'clock in the Evening precisely, and subject to conditions of sale to be then produced and read, the following valuable Property.

All that Old-established and Licensed Public House, called the OLD BULLS HEAD, High Street, Bilston. The house contains large and well-fitted up spirit vault, smoke-room, kitchen, with cooking range; billiard-room, bagatelle-room, sitting-room, six large bedrooms, five capital cellars, also brewhouse, with malt-room over, stabling for six horses, coach-house, piggeries, coalhouse, yard, quoit ground, and outbuildings, and also a Cottage at the rear of the above.

The OLD BULLS HEAD is one of the oldest licensed houses in Bilston, is situate in the main thoroughfare, and is now doing a good in and out door trade.

The purchaser will be required to take to the fixtures, brewing plant, billiard and bagatelle tables, stock, and effects, at a valuation.

The property is copyhold of the Manor of Stowheath, and will be sold subject to a mortgage for £900 at 5 per cent, but all interest thereon will be paid up to the date of completion.

Further particulars may be obtained at the offices of the Auctioneer, 53, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, or from Messrs. Paddock and Sons, solicitors, Hanley."

FAST Bay Pony, 13 hands, age five years; also, a splendid Skeleton Dennet Gig, in first-class condition.—Apply, C. C. Nathan, Wolverhampton; or Old Bull's Head, High Street, Bilston, where it can be seen.

Birmingham Daily Post 26/7/1878 - Advert

"Fast Bay Pony, 13 hands, age five years; also, a splendid Skeleton Dennet Gig, in first-class condition.

Apply, C. C. Nathan, Wolverhampton; or OLD BULLS HEAD, High Street, Bilston, where it can be seen."

Birmingham Daily Post 3/8/1878

"From last night's *London Gazette* Liquidations by Arrangement.....

John T. Hunt, Bilston, licensed victualler's assistant."

Birmingham Daily Post 7/9/1878

"A meeting of the creditors of *John Thomas Hunt*, in lodgings at No.27, Dudley Street, Bilston, a licensed victualler's assistant, formerly of the OLD BULLS HEAD, High Street, Bilston, was held yesterday, at the office of Mr. A. B. East, the debtor's solicitor, Cherry Street, Birmingham. The statement of affairs showed unsecured creditors, £1,409 18s 9d; creditors fully secured, £10 5s; value of security, £25; creditors partly secured, £925; value of security, £900. Assets, book debts, £110 19s 3d, estimated to produce £10; surplus from creditors fully secured, £14 15s. The creditors agreed to accept a composition of 1s in the pound, payable in a month, to be secured to the satisfaction of the chairman."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/4/1880

"Yesterday evening, at the BULLS HEAD INN, Bilston, Mr. H. Brevitt, Deputy Coroner, resumed an inquest touching the death of Catherine Corley, aged 7 years, daughter of Michael Corley, of Smith Street, Bilston.

The evidence previously given showed that deceased went to bed apparently well at about half-past seven o'clock on Friday night, the 2nd inst, after having some bread and butter and tea. She did not at the time complain of illness, but at about half-past nine o'clock the same night she was taken ill and vomited, besides being very much purged. No doctor was sent for, and early the following morning she was taken worse, and died shortly afterwards before the medical gentleman arrived.

Messrs. Cameron and Smith, surgeons, who had made a post mortem examination, being unable to say that the child had died from natural causes, the stomach was ordered to be sent to Mr. Jones, the county analyst, for him to make an analysis of it. The inquiry was adjourned until yesterday.

Mr. Jones now stated that he had made a careful analysis of the stomach which had been forwarded to him, but failed to discover any poisonous substance or any indications that poison had been taken.

Ann Corley, the mother of the child, said that deceased had tea out of the same teapot as the rest of the family, and the bread and butter were the same. About two and a half hours afterwards she was taken sick. The vomit was watery, but there was nothing particular about it. Since the death of deceased another child had been seized in a similar manner, but recovered. The house in which they dwelt had two bedrooms. Eleven persons resided in the house – herself, her husband, and nine children, and on the night when the child was taken ill six of the children,

herself, and her husband slept in one room. The eldest daughter sleeping in the room was twenty-four years of age. One boy was sleeping in the other room, and two other sons were at work. They had lived in this house for twelve months, and had slept during that time in the manner mentioned. The rent was 2s 2d per week, and was collected by a Mr. Wedge for the landlady, a widow. None of the family were in a sick club.

Inspector Cooke stated that he had made inquiries, but had not been able to obtain any evidence to throw light on the death of the deceased.

Mr. Cameron, surgeon, recalled, said since the last enquiry he had given the matter further consideration, and he had come to the conclusion that death was due to asphyxia arising from arrest of the circulation of the lungs whilst the deceased was in a state of collapse, and that the collapse had resulted from an attack of so-called British cholera. He had come to this conclusion, having seen another member of the family affected similarly to the deceased. In answer to the Coroner, witness said he had never known a case of English cholera prove fatal in a day, but a weakly subject might die in that time. He did not see deceased during life. He would not say that death was not due to suppressed scarlet fever, the two diseases being sometimes mistaken for each other.

Mr. S. J. Smith, surgeon, was also recalled, and said that, notwithstanding that no poison had been found in the stomach, he was of opinion that death was the result of irritant poison. Death might, however, have been due to the so-called English cholera, but certainly not to suppressed scarlet fever. In the latter case he should have expected convulsions. Over-crowding might have caused blood poisoning, and this would produce sickness and purging. The state of the house was sufficient to produce a good many diseases, including so-called English cholera.

Inspector Cooke who had been sent during the inquiry by the Coroner to measure the rooms, said the room in which the eight persons had slept was 11ft 5in by 12ft and 6ft 10in high, and the other one 14ft 7in long, 7ft 9in wide, and 9ft high. The second room was entered from the first. In the first room were two beds, and in the second a quantity of rags.

The Coroner then summed up at length, and referred to the unsatisfactory character of the medical evidence owing to the two surgeons who had made the post mortem examination disagreeing as to the cause of death. With regard to the dwelling he should certainly call the attention of the police to its overcrowded state, and request them to take the necessary measures to put down the nuisance.

The jury, after a quarter of an hour's consultation, returned an open verdict that the child died during a state of collapse, but that there was no evidence to show the cause of the collapse."

Birmingham Daily Post 28/10/1880 - Advert

"Moxley. Capital Beerhouse to Let, the SPREAD EAGLE; near to large Ironworks and collieries, situate on the main road, Moxley. Rent £30. In-coming under £100.

Apply, Mr. *J. T. Hunt*, Auctioneer and Hotel Valuer, OLD BULLS HEAD HOTEL and Sale Rooms, High Street and Dudley Street, Bilston."

1881 Census

70, High Street – BULLS HEAD

[1] *John Hunt* (42), licensed victualler and auctioneer, born Macclesfield;

[2] *Elizabeth Hunt* (38), wife, born Hanley, Staffordshire;

[3] *Lizzie M. Hunt* (16), daughter, barmaid, born Stockport;

[4] *Sarah Hallett* (16), domestic servant, born Sedgley;

Wolverhampton Express and Star 7/10/1881 - Advert

"To Professionals. To be Sold, cheap, a large quantity of gentleman's Stage Dresses, including pads; also a small Drop Scene and Back Scene, with roller and fittings, complete.

Apply, *J. T. Hunt*, BULLS HEAD INN, Bilston."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 29/11/1881 - Advert

"For Sale, a splendid Walnut Drawing Room Suite, almost new; also, two very good Cottage Pianofortes, in walnut; also, Bedroom Furniture, &c.

Apply, BULLS HEAD HOTEL, Bilston."

FOR Sale, a splendid Walnut Drawing Room Suite, almost new; also, two very good Cottage Pianofortes, in walnut; also, Bedroom Furniture, &c.—Apply, Bull's Head Hotel, Bilston.

John Thomas Hunt – see also OLD BOARS HEAD.

Leamington Spa Courier 3/2/1883

"The first annual show of poultry, pigeons, rabbits, and cage birds in connection with the Leamington Ornithological and Homing Society took place at the Royal Music Hall, Bath Street, on Saturday and Monday, and was a considerable success.....

Rabbits Silver Grey Very Highly Commended W. J. Dickins, BULLS HEAD, Bilston."

Darlaston Weekly Times 6/10/1883

"*John Guest*, BULLS HEAD INN, High Street, Bilston, was charged by PS O'Brien with selling liquor on licensed premises without a license. On Tuesday, PS O'Brien went into the house, and was supplied by the defendant, who, in reply to questions, admitted that the late landlord had left the house, and that he had not had the license transferred to him.

Mr. Turvey, manager for Messrs. Chester, owners of the house, said the matter had arisen out of a mistake, the firm being under the impression that the transfer had been completed, as the matter had been for some time in the hands of the magistrates clerk, but there was a difficulty in the way of getting a magistrate's signature to the papers.

Mr. Hall pointed out that the matter had occurred before in one of the defendant's houses, but the summons had been withdrawn.

Chief Superintendent Longden expressed his willingness to withdraw the summons on payment of costs. The Bench, however, imposed a fine of 10s and costs."

Darlaston Weekly Times 9/2/1884

"Monthly meeting of the Bilston Night Watch Committee.....

Letters were read from Mr. *John Guest*, of the BULLS HEAD INN, and Mr. J. G. Nayler, warmly thanking the night watchmen through the committee for the care of the premises, the former of which had been inadvertently left open with no one in charge. In the case of Mr. Nayler, what might have been a serious fire was prevented by the timely action of the watchman and PC Jackson. The feeling of the committee was that the letters showed the necessity of maintaining the institution, the funds of which showed a fair balance in hand."

Birmingham Daily Post 30/8/1884

"The Bilston annual Brewster Sessions took place yesterday.....

After consulting for a short time, the Bench decided to renew all the old licenses, with the exception of the following, whose holders have been fined during the past year, and who will have to apply again at the adjourned meeting on the 26th prox.....

OLD BULLS HEAD, Bilston."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1884

"Yesterday Bilston adjourned Brewster Sessions was held.....

Chief Superintendent Longden presented the list of publicans who had been convicted during the year. The Bench, after severely cautioning the persons in question, agreed to renew the licenses."

Darlaston Weekly Times 20/9/1884

"Henry Nicholas was charged with stealing a florin and half a pint of whisky from Mr. *J. Guest*, BULLS HEAD public house, Bilston. Mrs. *Guest* said that on Friday last defendant had entered her house, and had been supplied with some beer. Complainant had left the bar for a little, and when she came back the whisky tap was leaking. Suspecting something wrong she sent a boy to see what prisoner had in his jug, and found a half pint of whisky there. She also missed a 2s piece, and prisoner was given into custody on the charges of the thefts. Remanded for a week."

AND

Darlaston Weekly Times 27/9/1884

"Henry Nicholas was charged with stealing half a pint of whisky from Mr. *J. Guest*, BULLS HEAD INN, Bilston, and further with stealing a florin from the same inn.

Prisoner, when the offence was proved, said, in a quiet, confident tone, 'Well, I'm the son of an emperor, sir, and I'm sorry that this has occurred.' Further he said, 'If you let me go, I'll go back to my own country, Russia, and give England no more trouble, I belong to royalty, sir.'

The Bench, classing the robbery as a barefaced one, sentenced the prisoner to 21 days' hard labour."

John Guest – see also WHITE LION, Millfields Road.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 9/7/1885 - Advert

“Wanted, a steady, respectable Girl, not under 20.
Apply, BULLS HEAD, Bilston.”

WANTED, a steady, respectable Girl, not under 20.—
Apply, Bull's Head, Bilston. 10274

Darlaston Weekly Times 9/10/1886

“The monthly meeting of the Bilston Watch Committee was held on Wednesday night at the BULLS HEAD INN, High Street.....

The Chairman intimated that the balance in hand amounted to £14 12s 7d. The books of the night watchmen were examined by the Chairman, who intimated that during the past month in 36 cases houses and business premises had been found open or insecure.....”

1891 Census

70, High Street – BULLS HEAD

- [1] *Hezekiah Harris* (29), licensed victualler, born Bromsgrove;
- [2] *Francis E. Harris* (28), wife, born Bromsgrove;
- [3] *Francis L. Harris* (1), son, born Bromsgrove;
- [4] *Martha Bath* (16), domestic servant, born Kidderminster:

1901 Census

28, High Street

- [1] *Hezekiah Harris* (39), licensed victualler, born Bromsgrove;
- [2] *Frances Ellen Harris* (38), wife, born Bromsgrove;
- [3] *Francis Leonard Harris* (11), son, born Bromsgrove;
- [4] *Oscar Bertie Harris* (8), son, born Bilston;
- [5] *Elsie Dora Harris* (6), daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] *Florence Nellie Harris* (3), daughter, born Bilston;
- [7] *Florence Elizabeth Bence* (20), barmaid, born Bath:

1911 Census

28, High Street

- [1] *Luke Corkindale* (26), manager public house, born Bilston;
- [2] *Laura Corkindale* (28), wife, married 7 years, assistant in the business, born Bilston;
- [3] *Joseph Corkindale* (7), son, born Bilston;
- [4] *Mary Corkindale* (6), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] *Lawrence Corkindale* (5), son, born Bilston;
- [6] *Patience Cox* (17), domestic servant, born Bilston:

1921 Census

28, High Street

- [1] *Luke Corkindale* (37), licensed victualler, manager, born Bilston;
- [2] *Laura Corkindale* (38), wife, manageress, born Bilston;
- [3] *Joseph Corkindale* (17), son, shop assistant, clothier's, born Bilston;
- [4] *Marie Corkindale* (16), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] *Lawrence Corkindale* (15), son, mill hand, steel works, born Bilston:

A music license was granted on 6th July 1928.

Samuel Farrington – see also WAGGON AND HORSES, Oxford Street.

1939 Register

28, High Street

- [1] Thomas Wilde, date of birth 18/1/1882, licensed victualler, married;
- [2] Sarah E. Wilde, dob 1/4/1886, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] Richard W. Wilde, dob 20/4/1911, bricklayer, single;
- [4] Thomas Wilde, dob 10/9/1916, joiner, single;
- [5] Evlyn G. (Wilde) Williams, dob 27/6/1919, unpaid domestic duties, single;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/6/1953

"Arthur Samuel Chambers (38), licensee of the OLD BULLS HEAD INN, High Street, Bilston, was fined £10 at Stafford Quarter Sessions yesterday on each of four counts of permitting the bar to be used for betting."

Closed

It was demolished.

WAnted, a Man to act in the Capacity of a Gardener, and to take Care of two Horses. Enquire of William Lewis, of the Bull's-Head in Bilstone, or of the Printer of this Paper.

1771

BILSTON ANNUAL ASSEMBLY,

WILL be held at the New Bull's-Head Inn, on Monday the 9th of November Instant. Tickets at 2s. 6d. each, to be had at the Bar of the Inn.

Note, A Pack of HARRIERS will go out on Thursday Morning the 12th Instant; and an Ordinary provided at the said Inn.

1778

TO be SOLD, by Order of the Assignees

of WILLIAM LEWIS, a Bankrupt, on Monday, the 6th Day of December next, and four following Days, (Wednesday excepted) at the New Bull's-Head, Bilston:

All the entire Neat Household Furniture, Plate, Linen, and China of the said Bankrupt; consisting of Bedsteads, with Moreen, Check, and other Hangings; excellent Feather Beds, Blankets, Quilts, Chairs, Tables, Bureau, Chest of Drawers, Pier and Swing Glasses; two Clocks in Oak Cases, and a Larum ditto; and good Kitchen Furniture; two large Copper Furnaces, and one smaller ditto, suitable mashing Tubs, and other Brewing Utensils, and a large Quantity of Hogheads, Half Hogheads, and smaller Barrels; two Bags of good Hops, and two or three Grogs of Glass Bottles. --- Likewise a very good Post-Chaise, almost New, and three good Chaise Horses, and Harness for four Horses complete; a set of Wheels, new bound, an exceeding good Milking Cow, and Sow and Pigs; a Quantity of Wheat and Hay, at Bilston, and a Rick at Sedgley; and all Sorts of Implements of Husbandry. -- The Sale to begin each Day at Ten o'Clock in the Morning, and Two in the Afternoon.

N. B. The Goods may be viewed at any Time before the Sale. --- Catalogues may be had next Week at the above House, and at Mr. Kent's, Auctioneer, Wolverhampton.

Bilston, 18th Dec. 1779

ALL Persons who stand indebted to the Estate and Effects of William Lewis, late of the New Bull's Head Inn, Bilston, in the County of Stafford, a Bankrupt, are hereby required forthwith to pay their respective Debts to Mr. William Bickley, one of the Assignees, or to Mr. William, Attorney, both of Bilston aforesaid; otherwise Actions at Law will be brought for the Recovery thereof.

1779

BILSTON, November 20, 1779.

AMOS PARKES respectfully informs the Public, That having taken the NEW BULL's HEAD, in BILSTON, lately occupied by Mr. William Lewis, he proposes to fit up the same in a neat and genteel Manner, for the Reception of Travellers; of which further Notice will be given in a future Paper.

1779

NEW BULL's HEAD INN, BILSTON.

JANUARY 10, 1780.

AMOS PARKES acquaints the Public, That he has taken and entered upon the above INN, which he has fitted up in a neat and genteel Manner, and begs Leave to assure them that he shall constantly endeavour to oblige his Customers, supplying them with the best Wines, and all other Kinds of Liquors; and hopes that by civil Treatment and a strict Attention to his Duty, he shall merit the Support and Encouragement of the Public in general, and his Friends in particular.

LOST, betwixt Uttoxeter and Bilston, A Bellows for Bagpipes, about a Month since. Any Person that can give Information or bring it to the new Bull's Head, Bilston, or the White Hart in Uttoxeter, shall receive Five Shillings Reward and reasonable Satisfaction. --- Bilston, July 16th, 1780.

BILSTON ANNUAL DANCING ASSEMBLY will be held at the New Bull's Head Inn, THIS EVENING the 13th Nov. Inst. Tickets at 2s. 6d. each to be had at the Bar of the House.

A Pack of Hounds will go out on Wednesday Morning.

1780

BILSTON, JULY 21, 1781.

AN Advertisement having appeared in the BIRMINGHAM GAZETTE, of the 16th Instant, setting forth, that Bilston Wake would be held upon Sunday the 29th Inst. AMOS PARKES, respectfully informs the Public, That a good BAND OF MUSIC will be engaged at the New Bull's-Head, upon Monday the 30th, to accommodate such Ladies and Gentlemen as chuse then and there to DANCE.

1781

BILSTON ANNUAL DANCING ASSEMBLY will be held at the New Bull's-Head Inn, on the 29th of July Instant, (being the Wake Monday); and on Tuesday Morning will be a **PUBLIC BREAKFAST** on the Bowling-Green at the said Inn. Tickets for the Ball to be had at the Bar.

TURNPIKE TOLLS to be LET.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Tolls arising at the Toll Gates upon the Turnpike Road leading from High-Bullen, in Wednesbury, to the further End of Darlaston-Lane, next the Portway, and from thence, through Bilston, to the further End of Gibbet-Lane, and several other Roads leading to and from Bilston, in the County of Stafford, will be Let by Auction (either together or separately), to the best Bidder, at the House of Mary Parkes, known by the Name of the New Bull's-Head Inn, situate in Bilston aforesaid, on Monday the 9th Day of December next, between the Hours of two and five in the Afternoon of the same Day, in the Manner directed by the Act passed in the Thirteenth Year of the Reign of his Majesty King George the Third, "for regulating the Turnpike Roads," which Tolls produced the last Year, the Sums of 409l. 13s. 2d. Farthing, above the Expences of collecting them, and will be put up at that Sum, if let together, and if let separately, will be put up at the respective Sums produced at each Gate, as hereafter mentioned. Whoever happens to be the best Bidder or Bidders, must, at the same Time, give Security, with sufficient Sureties, to the Satisfaction of the Trustees of the said Turnpike Roads, for Payment of the Rent, or Rents agreed for, and at such Times as they shall direct.

Production of each Gate from the 29th of October, 1781, to the 29th of October, 1782, clear of the Expences of collecting the same

	l.	s.	d.
Cock Heath Gate	-	-	93 0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bilston Bridge	-	-	33 8 0
Gibbet-Lane	-	-	183 1 10
Cold-Lanes	-	-	25 12 9
Duck-Lane	-	-	20 11 8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Windmill	-	-	9 18 8
Catchem's Corner	-	-	44 0 2

£. 409 13 2 $\frac{1}{2}$

JOHN WILLIM,

Clerk to the Trustees of the said Turnpike Roads.

1782

NEW BULL'S-HEAD INN, BILSTON.

TO be LET, and may be entered on at Michaelmas next (with or without Seventeen Acres of very good Land) All the above INN, which consists of a large and commodious Messuage or Dwelling-House, with exceeding good and large Cellaring, and other convenient Out-buildings; and also a large and compleat Bowling-Green, together with very good Stabling; which Premises are all situate in Bilston aforesaid.—Further Particulars may be had by applying to Mrs. Tomkys, or Joseph Purcivall, both of Bilston.

1783

BILSTON-ANNUAL DANCING ASSEMBLY will be held at the New Bull's Head, on the 28th of July Instant, being the WAKE MONDAY. —A good Band of Music will be provided.—Tickets, at 2. 6d. each, to be had at the Bar of the House.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, on the Premises, by FRANCIS POOL, on Tuesday the 23d Day of September, 1783, Part of the neat and useful HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, Brewing Vessels, &c. of Mrs. Parkes, at the New Bull's-Head Inn, in BILSTON, in the County of STAFFORD, who is going to retire from the PUBLIC BUSINESS; consisting of good Hoghead Copper Furnace, Hoghead Back, oval fourteen Strike Mash Tub, &c., with many other Mash and other Tubs, of different Sizes; large Quantity of exceeding good Barrels, nearly new, which held from 20 to 120 Gallons each; Oak Dining and other Tables, several large Oak Presses and Cupboards, with folding Doors, large Quantity of Chairs of different Sorts, large Mahogany Board, with Bull's-Head painted on each Side, properly gilt and ornamented, Quantity of Glass Bottles, with Variety of good Kitchen Furniture, and many other Articles.—The Sale begins at Half past Nine o'Clock in the Morning.—N. B. Two Half Hogheads of exceeding good Cyder, and a Quantity of Gin, to be Sold by private Contract; apply at the said Inn.

1783

PHILOSOPHY.

MR. BANKS respectfully informs the Gentlemen of Bilstone and its Environs, that he intends to begin a Course of twelve Lectures in Experimental Philosophy, at Mr. Lea's, the Bull's Head Inn, in Bilstone, on Thursday the 3d of November, at Half past Six in the Evening.

A Subscriber pays one Guinea for 12 Tickets, 12 of which admit a Gentleman or Lady, and six a Lady only. A single Lecture 2s. 6d. each Person.

1796

CAPITAL INN.

TO be LET, and may be entered upon immediately, a capital Inn, called and known by the Name of the New Bull's Head, situate in the Center of the populous Town of Bilston, and now in the Possession of Mr. Thomas Lea. The Stock and Goods to be taken at a Valuation. The Premises consist of four capital Cellars, and Wine Vault, three good Parlours, Bar, Tap Room, Pantry, Cooking Kitchen, Larder, and a spacious Club Room, well attended by four good Clubs, six good Lodging Rooms, Store Room, large and convenient Brewhouse, with convenient Store Room over the same, and Lead Pipe to convey the Liquor into the Cellars; a good Pump well supplied with excellent Water; three Stables, Pigsties, Garden, and many other Conveniences, all entire.

The Household Goods are all in good Condition, and in general very modern; Copper and Brewing Tubs, good and in prime Condition, the Barrels exceeding capital, and contain from 600 Gallons to Hogheads, Half Hogheads, and other Casks.—The London, Birmingham, Salop, Liverpool, Manchester, and other Coaches, pass by the Door almost every Hour. Such a Situation is rare to be found, and has not been offered to let for a Century past.

All Persons who have any Claim or Demand upon the said Mr. Lea, are desired to send the Particulars thereof immediately to Mr. Mason.

Bilston, February 8, 1799.

1799

Crown and Anchor Inn and Hotel, Bilston.

GEORGE RUSHBURY, gratefully sensible of the Favours conferred upon him, by a generous Public, at the Old Bull's Head, returns his most sincere Thanks for the same, and respectfully informs the Gentry, Travellers, and Public at large, that he has taken and entered upon the above Inn (formerly the New Bull's Head, situate at the lower Part of the Town, leading to Birmingham) which he has fitted up in a neat and elegant Style for their Reception, and where he will use his utmost Endeavours to render their Accommodation both pleasant and satisfactory.

1799

**BILSTON AND WEDNESBURY
TURNPIKE TOLLS.**

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Tolls arising at the several Toll Gates upon the Turnpike Road leading from Wednesbury, through Bilston, to the further End of Gibbet Lane, and several other Roads leading to and from Bilston, in the County of Stafford, will be LET by AUCTION for one whole Year, commencing the 1st Day of January next, at the House of George Rushbury, the New Bull's Head Inn, in Bilston aforesaid, on Tuesday the 20th Day of November, 1804, at Three o'Clock in the Afternoon, in the Manner directed by the Act passed in the 13th Year of the Reign of his present Majesty King George the Third, "For regulating the Turnpike Roads;" which Tolls were let on Lease, the last Year, for the Sum of 984l. clear of the Expences of collecting them, and will be put up at that Sum.

Whoever happens to be the best Bidder must at the same Time give Security, with sufficient Sureties, to the Satisfaction of the Trustees of the said Turnpike Roads, for the Payment of the Rent agreed for, and at such Times as they shall direct, and make a Deposit of 5l. per Cent. on the whole Rent.

By Order of the Trustees,
JOHN WILLIM,
Clerk and Treasurer.

Bilston, October 22, 1804.

1804

WANTED immediately by **GEORGE RUSHBURY**, Bull's Head Inn, Bilston, a plain Cook, who perfectly understands her Business.—No one need apply who cannot bring a good Character from her last Place.—Wages will be no Object.

1813

TO be disposed of, the Lease, Licences, Good-will, and immediate Possession of an old established Inn and Public House, in full Business, the **BULL'S HEAD INN**, Bilston, the present Proprietor declining on Account of other Engagements. The above will be found an Opportunity that seldom offers, being one of the completest Inns on a small Scale, and in the greatest Thoroughfare on the North Road, and makes up from twelve to 20 Beds per Night, with Stabling for twenty Horses, excellent Cellaring, and one of the greatest Draughts of Ale in the Country; Rent low, and the Whole to be taken at fair Valuation.

For Particulars apply on the Spot, or to **S. Bloore**, Auctioneer, Colmore Row, Birmingham.

BYS. BLOORE.—To be SOLD by AUCTION, To-morrow and Wednesday, the 15th and 16th of April inst. the Lease, Licence, and Good-will, with immediate Possession, of that valuable Inn and Tavern, known by the Name of the **NEW BULL'S HEAD INN**, Bilston, in the County of Stafford, with the Whole of the Household Furniture; consisting of Mahogany and other Bedsteads, clothed with Chintz, Feather Beds, Hair and Straw Mattresses, Dressing Tables, Wash-hand Stands, Dressing Glasses, Sheets, Blankets, and Coverlets, Dining, Card, and Pembroke Tables, Sofas, Chairs, Sideboards, Carpets, Clock and Case, a five-motion Beer Machine, &c. The Whole has been lately purchased new, regardless of Expence; with all the prime Stock of old Ale, choice Wines, Liquors, Brewing Utensils, Fixtures, &c. which will be sold without Reserve.

Sale to commence at Half past Ten, and continue without Intermission until each Day's Sale is ended.

1817

**IMPORTANT AND LUCRATIVE INN,
BILSTON, STAFFORDSHIRE,**

Where there are upwards of thirty Stage Coaches stop daily, neat Household Furniture, excellent well seasoned store and other Casks, Utensils, and numerous Effects, also the Good-will, Licences, and immediate Possession of the House and Trade therewith connected.

BY J. P. TREGENT.—To be SOLD by AUCTION, on the Premises, this present Monday and To-morrow, April 17 and 18, all the appropriate Household Furniture, Fixtures, Brewing Vessels, Utensils, Stock in Trade, and Effects, and the Good-will and Licences of that well known old established Inn, the **NEW BULL'S HEAD**, situated in that flourishing Town, Bilston, being surrounded by Coal and Iron Works, and on the immediate Posting Road from London to Holyhead, now in the Tenure of Mr. Battee, who is retiring from the said Line of Business. Particulars appear in Catalogues.

The Sale to commence each Day at Ten o'Clock in the Morning, subject to the usual Conditions.

For further Information apply on the Premises, or to **Mr. Tregent**, Auctioneer, Snow Hill, Birmingham, who has a small, compact, low-rented Public House to let.

1820

TO BE LET,

And may be entered upon immediately,

ALL that well-established PUBLIC HOUSE, called the NEW BULL'S HEAD INN, situated in High-street, Bilston, together with the stables and buildings thereto belonging, and either with or without a large Malthouse, the whole of which is now, and for several years past has been, in the occupation of Mr. Phineas Bullock.

The above property has three large clubs attached, is carrying on an extensive business, for which it is well adapted, and is situated in the centre of a very thickly populated district, surrounded by coal and iron works.—The stock and fixtures to be taken at a fair valuation.

For rent and other particulars apply to Mr. JOHN BULLOCK, High-street; to Mr. PHINEAS BULLOCK, on the premises; or to Mr. RICHARD CORBETT, New Town, all of Bilston.

1836

BULL'S HEAD INN, BILSTON.

TO BE LET, and may be entered upon at Michaelmas, THE BULL'S HEAD INN, HIGH-STREET, BILSTON, now in full business, and in the occupation of Mr. Phineas Bullock, who is removing to a new house near Priestfields.

The premises comprise extensive cellaring, a large tap room and parlour to the front, kitchen, bar, and small parlour at the back, a large club room, and seven convenient bed rooms. There is an enclosed back yard, with brewhouse, stabling, larder, and other suitable out-buildings.

The incoming tenant will have the option to take either a part or none of the stock, fixtures, brewing utensils, &c.

To view the premises apply to Mr. BULLOCK; and for further particulars to RICHARD CORBETT, auctioneer, &c. New Town, Bilston.

1841

"Honour all Men, Love the Brotherhood, Fear God Honour the King."

GRAND PROTESTANT ASSOCIATION OF LOYAL ORANGEMEN OF GREAT BRITAIN.

By command of the most Worshipful Grand Master, the Right Hon. the Earl of Enniskillen.

I HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that the GRAND LODGE will be held in St. MARY'S SCHOOL, OXFORD STREET, BILSTON, Staffordshire, on TUESDAY, JULY 2, at twelve o'clock at noon precisely, for the transaction of the Annual Business of the Order in this Kingdom.

The GRAND COMMITTEE will assemble on the previous afternoon, at four o'clock, for the transaction of preliminary business.

There will be a BANQUET in the Evening of TUESDAY, at six o'clock, at which the Most Worshipful the GRAND MASTER is expected to preside also, to take place at the BULL'S HEAD INN, High-street.

Clergymen and Gentlemen who support Protestant principles are cordially invited to join the Orangemen at this Banquet. Those who determine to do so are requested to communicate their intention to me on the preceding day; if by letter, addressed to me at the Bull's Head Inn, Bilston.

THOMAS GIBSON, Grand Secretary.

Chowbent, near Manchester,
June 19, 1850.

1850

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the SHAREHOLDERS of the BILSTON GAS LIGHT and COKE COMPANY will be held at the house of Miss Caddick, the BULL'S HEAD INN, HIGH-STREET, BILSTON, on MONDAY, JANUARY the 4th, 1855, at twelve o'clock at noon.

JOB SMITH LESTER, Clerk to the Company.

Bilston Gas Works, December 18, 1857.

HIGH-STREET, BILSTON.

TO BE LET, with immediate possession, if required, that old-established, full-licensed INN and LIQUOR VAULTS, the "Old Bull's Head Inn," with extensive Yard, Stabling, Gig-house, and Out-buildings. The House consists of Bar, Liquor Shop, Back Parlour, Front Kitchen, large Club Room, and Sitting Room, five Bedrooms, several Club and Revenue Offices. This long-established and well-known House has for many years commanded a good in and out-door trade. Stock and Fixtures to be taken to at a fair valuation.—Apply on the Premises, or to Mr. JOHN CADDICK.

1861

BILSTON.

SALE TO-MORROW (TUESDAY),

At the OLD BULL'S HEAD, HIGH STREET, BILSTON, OF

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, BREWING PLANT, STORE CASKS, AND LIQUOR SHOP FITTINGS;

Comprising the FURNITURE of four Bed Chambers and Sitting Room, Parlour and Tap Room Tables and Benches, Gas Fittings, Pewter-top Counters, Shelving, stone and wood Liquor Casks, 6-pail ALE ENGINE, Pewter Measures, Liquor Fountain, Cupboard, Kitchen Utensils, Mash Tub, lead-lined Coolers, Malt Crusher, sound and sweet 300, 400, and 600 gallon Ale Store Casks, Half Hogsheads and Hogsheads, Gathering Tub, Brewing Utensils, Round Tabs, and other Public-house Effects.

LOT 1.—The GOODWILL and POSSESSION of this excellent Spirit Vaults—one of the oldest and best, in the principal street of Bilston.

BY JOHN GRAY, TO-MORROW (TUESDAY), October 23rd, upon the Premises, in High Street, close to Dudley Street.

Sale to commence at Ten o'clock in the morning.

Catalogues may be had of the Auctioneer, 35, Cannon Street, Birmingham.

1866

Old-licensed PUBLIC-HOUSE, Old Bull's Head, High Street, Bilston.—Lease, Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession.—To Spirit Merchants, Brewers, Publicans, and Others.—On MONDAY NEXT, October 15.

MR. J. BURKITT has received instructions to Sell by Auction, at the Old Bull's Head, High Street, Bilston, at 6 for 7 o'clock in the evening, and subject to conditions of sale to be then read—the Valuable GOODWILL, LICENSES, and Fourteen Years' LEASE of that old-established Old-licensed PUBLIC-HOUSE, called the "OLD BULL'S HEAD," High Street, Bilston. The House contains large and well-fitted-up Spirit Vault, Smoke Room, Kitchen with Cooking Range, Billiard Room, Bagatelle Room, Sitting Room, seven large Bed Rooms, five capital Cellars; also, Brewhouse with Malt Room over, Stabling for six horses, Coach-house, Piggeries, Coal House, small Cottage (let off at 3s. per week), Yard, Quoit Ground, and Out-buildings. The House is one of the oldest licensed houses in the town, is situated in the main thoroughfare, and is now doing a good in and out door trade. Rent £75. per annum.

The Purchaser will be required to take to the Fixtures, Brewing Plant, Billiard and Bagatelle Tables, Stock, and Effects at a fair valuation.

Further particulars may be obtained at the Offices of the Auctioneer, 53, Queen Street, Wolverhampton.

1877

OLD-LICENSED PUBLIC-HOUSE, OLD BULL'S HEAD, HIGH-STREET, BILSTON, STAFFORDSHIRE.—To Spirit Merchants, Brewers, Publicans, and Others.

MR. J. BURKITT will SELL by AUCTION, on the premises, HIGH STREET, BILSTON, on Monday, the 18th day of February, 1878, at Six o'clock in the Evening precisely, and subject to conditions of sale to be then produced and read, the following valuable PROPERTY, namely:—

All that Old-established and Licensed PUBLIC-HOUSE, called the Old Bull's Head, High-street, Bilston. The house contains large and well-filled up spirit vault, smoke-room, kitchen, with cooking range; billiard-room, bagatelle-room, sitting-room, six large bedrooms, five capital cellars, also brew-house, with maltroom over, stabling for six horses, coachhouse, piggeries, coalhouse, yard, quoit ground, and outbuildings, and also a Cottage at the rear of the above.

The Old Bull's Head is one of the oldest licensed houses in Bilston, is situate in the main thoroughfare, and is now doing a good in and out door trade.

The purchaser will be required to take to the fixtures, brewing plant, billiard and bagatelle tables, stock, and effects, at a valuation.

The property is copyhold of the Manor of Stowheath, and will be sold subject to a mortgage for £900 at 5 per cent., but all interest thereon will be paid up to the date of completion.

Further particulars may be obtained at the offices of the Auctioneer, 53, Queen-street, Wolverhampton, or from Messrs. Paddock and Sons, solicitors, Hanley.

1878

TO MALSTERS, PUBLICANS, BREWERS, and Others.

Important Sale of VALUABLE FREEHOLD OLD LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE and Premises, THE BULL'S HEAD INN, situate the Corner of JOHN STREET, and CHELL STREET, HALL GREEN, BRADLEY, in the parish of Sedgley.

MESSRS. J. MORRELL & SON are favoured with instructions from Mrs. A. Stokes, to offer for SALE BY AUCTION, on Tuesday, October 17th, 1882, upon the premises, at Six for Seven in the evening, subject to conditions then to be read, which will incorporate the Common Form Conditions of the Birmingham Law Association.

All that Valuable Freehold Old Licensed corner Inn, called the Bull's Head Inn, having a frontage of 63 ft. to John Street, and of 36 ft. 2 in. to Chell Street, Hall Green, aforesaid, containing large and commodious tap room, 14 ft. x 18 ft., well arranged smoke room, 14 ft. x 13 ft. 6 in., bar parlour, commodious kitchen, fitted with two cupboards, parlour 14 ft. x 15 ft., large brewhouse, 16 ft. 6 in. x 14 ft. 6 in., with malt room over; stable, larder, coalhouse, piggeries, and other outhouses, well paved and drained yard, large and commodious club room, 23 ft. 6 in. x 13 ft.; four good sleeping rooms, and three capital cellars.

The Property is well spouted round, supplied with hard and soft water, and is in a capital state of repair.

The Property is very substantially erection, it having been built regardless of expense.

For further particulars apply to

MR. W. BACHE.

Solicitor, Westbromwich;

Or to the Auctioneers, Swan Bank, Bilston.

1882

BULLS HEAD

24, John Street / Chell Street, Bradley, (Hall Green), (Daisy Bank), **BILSTON**

OWNERS

Alice Stokes

Charles Lathe, pawnbroker, Bradley, Bilston
Plant's Brewery Ltd., Netherton and Dudley
Ansells Brewery Ltd. [1956], [1957]

LICENSEES

Isaac Stokes [1860] – **1866**);
Mrs. Alice Stokes (**1866 – 1883**);
John Chadwick (**1883 – 1885**);
Thomas Southall (**1885 – 1887**);
Thomas Hinkinson* (**1887 – 1890**);
Charles Jefferies (**1890**);
Thomas Hinkinson* (**1890 – 1892**);
Arthur Shorthouse (**1892**);
James Hinley [1892]
Ezekiel Davies (**1892 – 1895**);
Ann Badger (**1895 – 1896**);
Thomas Davies [1896]
Samuel Bright Oliver (**1896 – 1898**);
Ellen Oliver (**1898**);
Edwin McKean (**1898 – 1901**);
Frank Albert Stanford (**1901 – 1929**);
Albert Henry Davis (**1929 – 1930**);
John Garvey (**1930 – 1933**);
Philip Edward Whitehouse (**1933**);
Samuel Paul (**1933 – 1938**);
Edward George Yeoman (**1938 – [1945]**)
Martha Jane Yeoman [1957]

NOTES

[This pub was strictly in Sedgley, but is included here due to it being situated at Bradley.]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/11/1860

“At Bilston petty sessions yesterday.....

William Dicks and John Conway were charged with stealing fowls, the property of *Isaac Stokes*, at Bradley. The fowls were stolen on Sunday night, and the son of the prosecutor, having been attracted by a noise to his bed room window, saw two men run away. Information of the facts were given to the police, and police-constable Harrison apprehended the prisoners, and found their boots to correspond with some peculiar marks impressed on a pit mound by the boots of two men who were traced from the prosecutor's premises to that spot. The prisoners were remanded till tomorrow, at Wolverhampton, for further evidence.”

AND

NOTICE.

ALL Parties having any CLAIMS upon the Estate of the late Mr. ISAAC STOKES, of Daisy Bank, will please send in the same to the Bull's Head Inn, Bradley Street, Bilston.

NOTICE.

RE ISAAC STOKES, DECEASED.

ALL Persons having any CLAIMS or DEMANDS against the Estate of ISAAC STOKES, late of Hall Green, in the parish of Sedgley, in the county of Stafford, Innkeeper and Ironfounder, deceased, are requested forthwith to send in particulars of such claims or demands to us, at our Offices, situate in High Street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, in order that the same may be examined, and, if correct, discharged. And all persons indebted to the said Estate are desired to pay the amount of their respective debts to us without delay.

Dated this 8th day of December, 1866.

MASON and HOLMES, Solicitors to the Estate.

1866

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/11/1860

“Wolverhampton Police Court.....

William Dicks and John Conway were brought up, on remand from Bilston, charged with having stolen five fowls from the premises of *Isaac Stokes*, ironfounder and innkeeper, at Hall Fields. The facts, as they were laid before the Bilston Bench on Tuesday, were briefly reported in our last, but some additional evidence was given today.

The fowls, it appeared, were kept in a coal shed, which was locked on Sunday night. Early on the following morning the prosecutor was awakened by the barking of his dogs, when he heard footsteps on his premises, and called up his step-son, who on going to his bedroom window saw two men running away. On examining the premises below it was found that the fowls had been stolen, and footmarks were traced by police-officer Harrison 100 yards from the prosecutor's premises in the direction of Dicks's house. On the prisoners being apprehended their boots, the nails in which were peculiarly arranged, were found to correspond with some footsteps under the wall which separates the prosecutor's premises from the road, and in Dicks's pocket was a feather resembling the plumage of the neck of one of Mr. *Stokes*'s fowls.

The prisoners were proved to have been together in Mr. R. Sale's spirit shop at Bilston shortly after the commission of the robbery. They said nothing in defence, and were committed for trial at the next Sessions.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/1/1861

“Staffordshire Epiphany Sessions.....

James Conway, 29, and William Dix, 35, puddlers, were indicted for stealing five fowls, the property of *Isaac Stokes*, at Sedgley.....

Mr. Kenealy addressed the jury for the defence, commenting upon the paucity of real evidence against the prisoners, and the jury returned a verdict of not guilty.”

1861 Census

Highfields

- [1] *Isaac Stokes* (39), ironfounder and publican employing 12 men, 4 boys and 2 girls, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Alice Stokes* (39), wife, born Wednesfield;
- [3] *John Stokes* (10), son, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [4] *Fanny Stokes* (7), daughter, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [5] *Isaac Stokes* (6), son, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [6] *Whitmore Stokes* (2), son, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [7] *Alice Stokes* (1), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [8] *Charles Lathe* (22), nephew, iron moulder, born Penn;
- [9] *Sarah Cooper* (16), servant, born Sedgley;
- [10] *William Harper* (11), apprentice iron moulder, born Sedgley;

Isaac Stokes died in the 4th quarter of 1866.

Birmingham Daily Post 29/10/1866 - Advert

“Notice. All Parties having any Claims upon the Estate of the late Mr. *Isaac Stokes* of Daisy Bank, will please send in the same to the BULLS HEAD INN, Bradley Street [sic], Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/12/1866 - Notice

“Notice. Re *Isaac Stokes*, Deceased.

All Persons having any Claims or Demands against the Estate of *Isaac Stokes*, late of Hall Green, in the parish of Sedgley, in the county of Stafford, Innkeeper and Ironfounder, deceased, are requested forthwith to send in particulars of such claims or demands to us, at our Offices, situate in High Street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, in order that the same may be examined, and, if correct, discharged. And all persons indebted to the said Estate are desired to pay the amount of their respective debts to us without delay.

Dated this 8th day of December, 1866. Mason and Holmes, Solicitors to the Estate.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/12/1866

“At Bilston Police Court, yesterday, the following licenses were transferred.....

Executors of *Isaac Stokes*, Sedgley, to *Alice Stokes*.”

1871 Census

24, John Street

- [1] Alice Stokes (50), widow, victualler, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] John Stokes (20), son, carter, born Sedgley;
- [3] Fanny Stokes (17), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [4] Whitmore Stokes (12), son, born Sedgley;
- [5] Alice Stokes (11), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [6] Charles Dent (26), visitor, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Mary Dent (30), visitor, born Wolverhampton:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 19/10/1876

“The Bradley Park Cricket Club season was brought to a close on Saturday last. The members met at the BULLS HEAD, kept by Mrs. *Alice Stokes*, who provided a splendid spread, which was done full justice to by the members. After the cloth was drawn songs, sentiments, and speechifying were the order of the evening, with the able assistance of Mr. Job Walters, who presided at the harmonium. The worthy captain of the club, Mr. A. Bywater, presided, the vice-chair being filled by Mr. J. Mason. In the course of the evening the Chairman congratulated the members on their great success during the season, they having played 24 matches, winning 18 and losing only six, and he also spoke of the efficient manner in which the club had been carried on by the able assistance of Messrs. J. F. Baker and J. Mason. After spending a most enjoyable evening, the proceedings were brought to a close by a vote of thanks to the hostess for the able manner in which she had prepared the feast.”

Evening Express 23/2/1881

“Yesterday (Tuesday) afternoon an inquest was held before W. H. Phillips, Esq, coroner, at the BULLS HEAD INN, Daisy Bank, relative to the death of a child named Sarah Jane Highfield, who died suddenly on Sunday morning. The child was taken to bed apparently in good health on the previous night, but when the mother woke next morning she found the child in convulsions. The husband went for a doctor, but death occurred in a few moments. A verdict of Died from Natural Causes was returned.”

1881 Census

24, John Street

- [1] Alice Stokes (60), widow, born Daisy Bank;
- [2] Fanny Stokes (26), daughter, born Daisy Bank;
- [3] William Stokes (22), moulder, born Daisy Bank;
- [4] Hannah Hand (19), domestic servant, born Daisy Bank:

Darlaston Weekly Times 7/10/1882 - Advert

“To Maltsters, Publicans, Brewers, and Others.

Important Sale of Valuable Freehold Old Licensed Public House and Premises, the BULLS HEAD INN, situate the Corner of John Street and Chell Street, Hall Green Bradley, in the parish of Sedgley.

Messrs. J. Morrell & Son are favoured with instructions from Mrs. *A. Stokes*, to offer for Sale by Auction, on Tuesday, October 17th, 1882, upon the premises, at Six for Seven in the evening, subject to conditions then to be read, which will incorporate the Common Form Conditions of the Birmingham Law Association.

All that Valuable Freehold Old Licensed corner Inn, called the BULLS HEAD INN, having a frontage of 63ft to John Street, and of 36ft 2in to Chell Street, Hall Green, aforesaid, containing large and commodious tap room, 14ft x 18ft, well-arranged smoke room, 14ft x 13ft 6in, bar parlour, commodious kitchen, fitted with two cupboards, parlour, 14ft x 15ft, large brewhouse, 16ft 6in x 14ft 6in, with malt room over; stable, larder, coal house, piggeries, and other outhouses, well paved and drained yard, large and commodious club room, 33ft 6in x 13ft; four good sleeping rooms, and three capital cellars.

The Property is well spouted round, supplied with hard and soft water, and is in a capital state of repair.

The Property is very substantially erected, it having been built regardless of expense.

For further particulars apply to Mr. Bache, Solicitor, Westbromwich; or to the Auctioneers, Swan Bank, Bilston.”

[This advert is repeated for sale by auction on 24th July 1883.]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 18/9/1885

“Re *Alice Stokes*. This bankrupt carried on business as a licensed victualler at Hall Green, Daisy Bank, the business having belonged to her late husband. That business she gave up three years ago, subsequently living on the rents of properties in Ash Street, Daisy Bank, which were heavily mortgaged. She was an illiterate, and her son, who had carried on business as a draper, had induced her to become bond for him, but he was now in prison for false pretences. Her liabilities were £566 10s, of which £463 had been brought upon her by her son’s bankruptcy. The examination was passed.”

* possibly the same person

Wolverhampton Express and Star 5/1/1889

“On Friday afternoon the Deputy Coroner, Mr. E. Thorneycroft, held an adjourned inquest at the BULLS HEAD, John Street, Daisy Bank, on the body of a man who was found on the morning of the 27th ult, lying on the Great Western Railway. The inquiry was adjourned from the previous Friday, in the hope that the body might be identified. John Mills, master plasterer, of 20, Birmingham Street, Dudley, said that he saw the body on Tuesday and Wednesday, and identified it as that of Thomas Percy (65). Sixteen years ago deceased resided at Dudley. When his wife died he broke up his home and had since then been a rover. He used to work in Liverpool a great deal in his younger days. Witness worked in the same shop with him as a plasterer about 21 years ago. At Dudley afterwards, about the year 1870, the master died, and the deceased, witness, and a man named Reuben Taylor went into partnership. Deceased had to leave the firm a few years afterwards owing to his drinking habits. Witness had assisted him many times with lodgings and food. Deceased had a son who was forced to leave him owing to his drinking.

Reuben Taylor, plasterer, of 63, King Street, Dudley, said that deceased was formerly a partner with himself and Mills. He last saw him alive about two months ago, when he was round the town begging. He was given to drink, and left the firm on that account. Deceased was a teetotaler for ten years, but broke his pledge.

Richard Green, miner, Daisy Street, Daisy Bank, said that he saw deceased come out of the WHITE HORSE INN, Daisy Bank, on the 27th ult, about twelve o’clock. He appeared to have been begging there.

The jury returned a verdict of Found Dead, but how he met with his death there was no evidence to show. The jury commended Police-constable Tytherleigh for the energetic manner in which he had got the body identified. The Deputy Coroner said that his action was very satisfactory indeed.”

1891 Census

24, John Street

[1] *Thomas Hinkinson* (53), licensed victualler, born West Bromwich;

[2] *Mary Hinkinson* (53), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Jane Valentine* (16), domestic servant, born Walsall:

Thomas Hinkinson died on 8th January 1892.

1897 Probate

“*Samuel Bright Oliver* of the BULLS HEAD INN, Daisy Bank, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 24 November 1897. Probate Lichfield 22 December to *Ellen Oliver*, widow. Effects £280 6s.”

London Gazette 23/8/1901

“*Edwin McKean*, late of the BULLS HEAD INN, Bradley, near Bilston, in the county of Stafford, but now of 16, Ash-street, Bradley, aforesaid, lately Licensed Victualler, now out of business.”

1901 Census

24, John Street

[1] *Frank Stanford* (29), publican, born Princes End;

[2] *Phoebe Stanford* (24), wife, born Moseley, Staffordshire;

[3] *Frank Albert Stanford* (2), son, born Darlaston:

1911 Census

24, John Street

- [1] *Frank Albert Stanford* (39), licensed victualler, born Tipton;
- [2] *Phoebe Elizabeth Stanford* (34), wife, married 16 years, born Moxley;
- [3] *Frank Albert Stanford* (14), son, clerk, electric works, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Constance Muriel Elizabeth Stanford* (8), daughter, school, born Bradley;

Frank Albert Stanford was fined £2 and costs, on 5th May 1916, for selling beer exceeding measure called for.

1921 Census

24, John Street

- [1] *Frank A. Stanford* (49), licensed victualler, born Princes End;
- [2] *Phoebe E. Stanford* (45), wife, assistant, born Moxley;
- [3] *Frank A. Stanford* (25), son, switchgear draughtsman, electric construction, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Constance M. E. Stanford* (18), daughter, packer, out of work, born Bradley;
- [5] *Mary Ann Stanford* (26), daughter-in-law, home duties, born Coseley;

Bradley Scottish Jazz Band was founded here in 1930.

1939 Register

John Street – BULLS HEAD (4 of 5)

- [1] *Edward G. Yeoman*, date of birth 24/2/1887, licensee, married;
- [2] *Martha Jane Yeoman*, dob 27/11/1891, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] *Geoffrey W. A. Hodley*, dob 16/6/1910, fitting aero engineer, married;
- [4] *Florence M. Hodley*, dob 27/2/1912, unpaid domestic duties, married;

1945 Probate

“*Edward George Yeoman* of the BULLS HEAD INN, John Street, Bradley, near Bilston, Staffordshire, died 18 July 1945. Probate Birmingham 21 December to *Martha Jane Yeoman*, widow. Effects £681 0s 6d.”

A team from here were champions of the Bradley Crib League, Section A. [1946]

A team from here took part in the Bradley Darts League, First Division. [1946]

Tipton Herald 24/3/1956

“Bilston Licensing Justices on Friday of last week refused to sanction a new public house at Lower Gornal after the brewery company had declined to close two of their houses at Bradley.

The application by Ansells Brewery Limited was for a full license in respect of a new house to be erected at the junction of Ellowes Road and Park Road, Lower Gornal. When the matter was originally before the justices a fortnight ago the brewery company offered to close the BULLS HEAD INN, John Street, Bradley, and pay £1,000 cash to make up the difference between the value of the license of the BULLS HEAD and the proposed new house. The Bench then announced that the application would be granted on the condition that the company closed the SIDNEY VILLAGE INN, Wright Street, Bradley, in addition to the BULLS HEAD, and the hearing was adjourned to allow Mr. Ernest Brown (for the applicants) to consult the brewery company.

Mr. Brown, on Friday last, said his instructions were that the SIDNEY VILLAGE could not be offered by the brewery company in addition to the BULLS HEAD. Mr. G. W. Cornwell, assistant managing director of Ansells Brewery Limited, said that to comply with the justices' request would make the provision of the new house an uneconomical proposition. The District Licensing Valuer, he said, had estimated the value of the BULLS HEAD license at £4,850, which was £1,000 less than the estimated value of the license of the proposed new house. The SIDNEY VILLAGE license was valued at £4,500, though the company's own estimate was £5,000. The company estimated the proposed new house would cost in the region of £29,000, as they did not want to build a shoddy place. ‘But to have to surrender two licenses, which really means we are called upon to give another £4,000, becomes the last straw, and makes it totally uneconomic for us to proceed,’ said Mr. Cornwell.

Questioned about the possibility of closing another house in place of the SIDNEY VILLAGE, Mr. Cornwell said that the company could not afford to, because all their houses in the Bilston area were good trading houses.

The justices retired to reconsider the application, and on their return the Chairman announced it would be refused.”

Walsall Observer 18/1/1957 - Notice

"Licensing Act, 1953.

To the Clerk to the Licensing Justices of the Aldridge and Rushall Division of the County of Stafford; the Chief Constable for the County of Stafford; the Clerk to the Rating Authority for the Urban District of Aldridge in the County of Stafford; *Martha Jane Yeoman* the Licensee; Ansells Brewery Limited of Aston Brewery, Birmingham; Grigg and Brettell Limited of Aston Brewery, Birmingham; and to all others whom it may concern.

I, James Constantine, of 84, Beeches Drive, Erdington in the City of Birmingham, Licensing Superintendent, do hereby give notice that it is my intention to apply at the First Session of the General Annual Licensing Meeting for the Aldridge and Rushall Division of the County of Stafford, to be holden at the Court House, Aldridge, on Monday, the 4th day of February, 1957, at the hour of 10-30 o'clock in the forenoon for the Provisional Grant to me of an Order sanctioning the Removal of the Justices License now in force and held by the said *Martha Jane Yeoman*, in pursuance of which the said *Martha Jane Yeoman* holds an Excise License to sell by Retail at the licensed premises situate at John Street, Daisy Bank, Coseley in the said County of Stafford, and known by the sign of the BULLS HEAD, any intoxicating liquor which may be sold under a Publican's License for consumption either on or off the premises, from such premises to a certain House and premises proposed to be erected upon land situate at the Eastern corner of the junction of Barns Lane and Kings Road in the Parish of Rushall in the County of Stafford.

And I hereby give further notice that Ansells Brewery Limited of Aston Brewery, Birmingham, are the Owners of the said premises known as the BULLS HEAD, John Street, Daisy Bank, Coseley aforesaid, and that Grigg and Brettell Limited, of Aston Brewery, Birmingham, are the Owners of the said land situate at the corner of Barns Lane and Kings Road, Rushall aforesaid.

Given under my hand this 10th day of January, 1957. James Constantine."

It closed in 1959.

Demolished

LICENSING ACT, 1953.

TO The Clerk to the Licensing Justices of the Aldridge and Rushall Division of the County of Stafford;
The Chief Constable for the County of Stafford;
The Clerk to the Rating Authority for the Urban District of Aldridge in the County of Stafford;
Martha Jane Yeoman the Licensee;
Ansells Brewery Limited of Aston Brewery, Birmingham, 6;
Grigg and Brettell Limited of Aston Brewery, Birmingham, 6;
And to all others whom it may concern.

I, JAMES CONSTANTINE, of 84, Beeches Drive, Erdington in the City of Birmingham, Licensing Superintendent, **DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE** that it is my intention to apply at the First Session of the General Annual Licensing Meeting for the Aldridge and Rushall Division of the County of Stafford, to be holden at The Court House, Aldridge, on Monday, the 4th day of February, 1957, at the hour of 10-30 o'clock in the forenoon for the Provisional Grant to me of an Order sanctioning the Removal of the Justices' License now in force and held by the said *Martha Jane Yeoman*, in pursuance of which the said *Martha Jane Yeoman* holds an Excise License to sell by Retail at the licensed premises situate at John Street, Daisy Bank, Coseley in the said County of Stafford, and known by the sign of "The Bulls Head" any intoxicating liquor which may be sold under a Publican's License for consumption either on or off the premises, from such premises to a certain House and premises proposed to be erected upon land situate at the Eastern corner of the junction of Barns Lane and Kings Road in the Parish of Rushall in the County of Stafford.

AND I HEREBY GIVE FURTHER NOTICE that Ansells Brewery Limited of Aston Brewery, Birmingham 6 are the Owners of the said premises known as "The Bulls Head," John Street, Daisy Bank, Coseley aforesaid and that Grigg & Brettell Limited of Aston Brewery, Birmingham 6 are the Owners of the said land situate at the corner of Barns Lane and Kings Road Rushall aforesaid.

GIVEN under my hand this 10th day of January, 1957.

JAMES CONSTANTINE.

BULLS HEAD

153, (67), (101), (55), Millfields Road, (Parkfield Road), (Mill Street), (Union Street), (Ettingshall Lane), (Catchems Corner), Ettingshall, BILSTON

OWNERS

William Pratt, gentleman, Crown Street (acquired 14th August 1883)
Henry Clarke, licensed victualler, Boat Inn, Ettingshall
William Butler & Co Ltd. [1920], [1921]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.
Courage Ltd. [1978]
Heritage Inns, Derby [2004]

LICENSEES

Thomas Carter [1828] – [1830]
Thomas Underhill [1833] – [1835]
William Morgan [1841] – **1852**;
Joseph Tipper **(1852 – [1865])**
Samuel Burrows [1868] – **1868**;
Joseph Onions **(1868 – 1870)**
John Preston [1871] – **1879**;
Mrs. Mary Ann Preston **(1879 – 1880)**;
John Robinson **(1880 – 1885)**;
Thomas Hampton **(1885 – 1887)**;
Richard Bates **(1887 – 1898)**;
Mrs. Lucy Bates **(1898 – 1919)**;
Arthur Wakelam **(1919 – 1927)**;
Thomas Lester **(1927 – [1940])**
Tony Stelling [1985]
B Stelling [1988] – [1989]
Keith Davies []
Kevin Southall [1995]
Robert Michael Cooper [2004]



1921



1997

NOTES

Catchems Corner [1828], [1830], [1841], [1850], [1851], [1854], [1862], [1865]
Ettingshall Lane [1833], [1851], [1861]
Parkfield Road [1873]
Mill Street [1871], [1874], [1881], [1886]
Union Street [1891]
55, Millfields Road [1901]
101, Millfields Road [1911]
67, Millfields Road [1931]
153, Millfields Road [1982]

OLD BULLS HEAD [1851]



Black Country Bugle

'Recognise Your Black Country Ale House'

"Situated at the end of the notorious Hell Lane, it is right in the heart of the heavy engineering belt, between Bilston and Wolverhampton. Years ago it was used as a gathering place for thirsty ironworkers and colliers, who eagerly sought liquid refreshment and an escape after the sweat and toil of a long shift Today it is still a happy meeting place for local workers....."

Black Country Bugle (April 1994)

'Some Warlocks, Witches and Wizards of Old Hell Lane' by Ian Bott

".....and the BULLS HEAD where Trilly Riley got up bull baits and badger hunts....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 14/4/1828 - Died

"On the 3rd ult, in the 41st year of her age, Sophia, wife of Mr. *Thomas Carter*, of the BULLS HEAD, Catchems End, near Bilston."

1841 Census

Ettingshall Lane

- [1] *William Morgan* (25), publican, born Staffordshire;
- [2] *Sarah Morgan* (25), born Staffordshire;
- [3] *Ellen Horton* (4), born Staffordshire;
- [4] *Sarah Perry* (65), born Staffordshire;
- [5] *Harriet Lees* (15), f.s., born Staffordshire;
- [6] *John Heath* (60), m.s.:

William Morgan was also a maltster. [1845], [1849], [1850], [1851]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 20/11/1844

"An inquest was held on Friday, the 1st instant, and by adjournment on Friday, the 8th instant, at the house of *William Morgan*, at Catchem's Corner, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of *George Wickstead*, a young man about nineteen years of age, whose death occurred under the following circumstances.

The deceased was engaged with other persons in navigating a canal boat belonging to Mr. Robinson, and was standing on the cabin as it was going into a basin at Rough Hills Stop. Just as the boat was going in, and was in some measure across the canal, a boat belonging to Mr. Sturland came up, and although the men were called to stop, they went forward, and Sturland's boat struck the end of Robinson's boat, in consequence of which the deceased was thrown off the cabin into the canal, and drowned. The jury, after a minute inquiry, returned a verdict of Manslaughter against *James Hill*, the driver of the horse attached to Sturland's boat, and also against *William Riley*, the steerer, and the parties were both committed by the coroner for trial."

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 25/12/1844

"Staffordshire Winter Assizes.....

William Riley and *James Hill* were charged with the manslaughter of *George Wickstead*, on the 31st of November, at the parish of Wolverhampton.

The evidence showed that the prisoners are boatmen, and had charge of a boat on the Birmingham canal, on the 31st of November. The prisoner *Riley* acted as steerer, and *James Hill* was driving the horse. When the prisoners boat came to Rough Hills Top, it came in contact with another boat, in consequence of which the deceased, *George Wickstead*, who was on the cabin, and endeavoured to prevent any collision, was thrown off, and fell into the canal, where the water is sixteen feet deep. The deceased was got out in about twenty minutes afterwards, but was quite dead. Several witnesses attributed the occurrence to the carelessness and negligence of the prisoners.

The prisoner *Riley* in his defence said he could not see the boat of the deceased in consequence of the wind blowing his boat cloth up. *Hill* said he endeavoured to prevent the boats striking each other by checking his horse.

The jury acquitted the prisoners."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/2//1845 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Property, at Ettingshall, near Sedgley, in the county of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. William Parkes, on Monday, the 17th day of February, 1845, at the house of Mr. *William Morgan*, the BULLS HEAD INN, Catchems Corner, in Ettingshall aforesaid, at five o'clock in the afternoon.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/4/1845

“The following inquisitions have been held before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner.....

On the 22nd ult, at the BULLS HEAD, Catchems Corner, on the body of Catherine Love, a girl about seventeen years of age, whose death was caused by her clothes catching fire. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Journal 28/2/1846

“At Bilston Police Court, on Saturday last, Joseph Bott appeared before John Foster, Esq, to prefer a charge against Edward Arnold, for stealing £1 7s, his property. The evidence, which was very lengthy, showed that the prosecutor was a labourer, living in the parish of Sedgley, and worked with the prisoner, whom he had known about six months. On the previous day (Friday) he went with him to the BULLS HEAD public house, at Catchems Corner, between two and three o'clock in the afternoon. After some time he fell asleep, having in his possession a tobacco-box, containing a sovereign and seven or eight shillings. The prisoner was sitting next to him, and during the time Bott was asleep he took the box from his pocket, and abstracted the money. A person named Edmunds was in the house at the time, and observed the transaction. On the prosecutor awaking, he discovered his loss, and immediately made it known, upon which Edmunds told him that he had seen the prisoner at his pocket. Information was immediately given to a constable, and he was followed, and taken into custody, but denied taking the money. He was then searched, and 7s in silver was found upon him, which he acknowledged taking, but the sovereign was not forthcoming. He was then conveyed to the station, and identified by Edmunds as the person who was at the prosecutor's pocket, and on his being further searched, the sovereign was found hid in the lining of his jacket. He was committed to the sessions.”

AND

Birmingham Journal 14/3/1846

“Staffordshire Adjourned Epiphany Sessions.....

Edward Arnold was indicted for stealing one sovereign and 7s, the property of Joseph Bott, at Bilston. The Jury returned a verdict of guilty, and the prisoner was sentenced to two months imprisonment.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/10/1846

“An inquest was held on Wednesday last, at the BULLS HEAD, Catchems Corner, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of Philip Jones, a child about eight years old, the son of William Jones, a miner living at Rough Hills. The deceased was a very healthy child, and it appeared was with his father on Sunday afternoon at the public house at which the inquest was holden. He was allowed to drink two glasses of gin and peppermint, and immediately became tipsy. He went home and became sick. He afterwards fell asleep, and on waking went into fits, which continued with scarcely any intermission until his death, which took place, notwithstanding medical aid, at about two o'clock on Monday morning. Mr. Hodgkins, surgeon, who attended the deceased, stated that he found him in strong convulsions, and that his opinion he died from having taken the gin and peppermint. Verdict accordingly.”

Birmingham Journal 17/10/1846

“On Thursday last, an inquest was held at the house of Mr. *William Morgan*, BULLS HEAD, Catchems Corner, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, Coroner, and a respectable Jury, upon the body of George Neath, a boy eleven years old, who was killed in a pit. It appears that on Wednesday last he was at work in an ironstone pit, in the Cockshuts Colliery, when a sudden fall of the mine buried him underneath. He was immediately released, when it was found that several of his bones were fractured. When rescued, he was alive, but only survived about five minutes. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/1/1848

“On Thursday, an inquest was held by G. Hinchliffe, Esq, at the BULLS HEAD, Catchems Corner, on Richard Wedge, a miner, 32 years of age, who was burnt by an explosion of sulphur, while at work in an iron stone pit, at Sandy Gay colliery, about seven weeks ago, and lingered from that time until Sunday last, when he died from the injuries received. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 11/1/1851

"Inquests before T. M. Phillips, Esq, Coroner.....

On Wednesday, at the BULLS HEAD, Ettingshall, Bilston, on the body of Mary Cape, aged three years, who died on Tuesday. It appeared that the deceased was left alone in the house, on the 27th ult, when she began to play with the fire; her grand-mother, who was upstairs, hearing screams, immediately ran down stairs, and found her in flames. She lingered until Tuesday last. Verdict, Accidental Death."

1851 Census

Ettingshall Lane

- [1] William Morgan (38), innkeeper, born Willenhall;
- [2] Sarah Morgan (38), wife, born Willenhall;
- [3] John Perry (36), lodger, malster, born Willenhall;
- [4] Mary O'Connor (22), general servant, born Ireland:

Staffordshire Advertiser 13/3/1852

"Thomas Fellows, a butty miner, residing at Catchem, was, on Tuesday, committed to the assizes for stealing five fowls, the property of Mr. *W. Morgan*, BULLS HEAD INN, on the 23rd ult. It appeared that on the night in question, Mr. *Morgan* and a few friends were sitting in the parlour, when a neighbour ran in and told him there was a noise in the fowl-pen. He immediately went out in the yard, when the prisoner rushed out of the fowl-pen, and escaped over the wall. On examining the place, five fowls were found dead. The prisoner, who was well known to Mr. *Morgan*, managed to keep out of the way until Tuesday morning last, when he was apprehended by police-constable Roe. Mr. Shipman, of Wolverhampton, defended the prisoner."

AND

"Staffordshire Lent Assizes.....

Thomas Fellows was indicted for stealing on the 2nd February, 1852, at Bilston, four fowls, the property of *William Morgan*. Mr. Corbett prosecuted; Mr. Dawson defended the prisoner.

The prosecutor said that on the night of the 2nd February his attention was drawn to a noise in the fowl-house, and on going there, he found prisoner in the place, and four of the fowls were killed.

Mr. John Marson also spoke to the identity of the prisoner.

Mr. Dawson addressed the jury, and contended that the identity of the prisoner was not satisfactorily proved; he had a brother who was much like him, and might have been mistaken for him.

The prisoner received a good character from a party called on his behalf. The jury found him guilty, but recommended him to mercy on account of the character he had received. He was sentenced to be imprisoned for 12 months."

Birmingham Journal 10/4/1852

"At Bilston Public Office, on Tuesday.....

J. Fellows, miner, of Parkfields, was fined 40s and costs (16s 6d), for assaulting Fanny Williams, servant to Mr. *W. Morgan*, landlord of the BULLS HEAD, Catchem. This man and his brother (who was convicted at the last Assizes for robbing Mr. *Morgan*'s hen roost), have been a source of great annoyance to that individual and his family for a considerable time past, and it is hoped this will put a stop to it."

Birmingham Journal 29/5/1852 - Advert

"To Brewers, Publicans, and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by John Mason, on Tuesday Next, June 1st, upon the Premises of Mr. *William Morgan*, BULLS HEAD INN, Catchems Corner, near Bilston, who is declining the Public Business, part of the useful Household Furniture, Brewing Vessels, and other Effects.

The Household Furniture comprises Chairs, Tables, Chimney and Dressing Glasses, handsome mahogany Chests of Drawers, mahogany Beaufet, eight-day Clock, Tent Bedsteads, Feather Beds, China and Glass, capital five-pull Beer Machine, home-cured Bacon, &c.

The Brewing Utensils consist of thirty excellent iron-bound Ale Casks, from 56 to 400 gallons each, twenty-six bushel Mash Tub, Vats, Coolers, copper Wort Pump (new), copper Boiler, upwards of two hundred gallons, with large tap, complete, 120 gallon copper Boiler.

Useful Chestnut Mare, five years old, steady in harness, Gig, Set of Harness, light Spring Cart and Harness, four and a half inch wheel Cart, with Coke Boards, Sack Weighing Machine, &c.

Full particulars will appear in catalogues, which are now ready."

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/12/1855

“On Friday, Mr. Phillips, coroner, held an inquest at the BULLS HEAD, Ettingshall, on the body of Isaac Walters, aged 55, a miner. Deceased was engaged at a coal-pit in the neighbourhood on the previous Tuesday. He and Benjamin Walters got into a skip for the purpose of being drawn up. The skip had ascended the shaft about fourteen yards, when one of the tackling chains which connected the skip with the main slipped off, and the side of the skip where deceased was standing lowered a little and jerked him out. The deceased, who had sustained fracture of the leg and other injuries, was conveyed home, where amputation of the leg was performed, but he died shortly afterwards. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Ipswich Journal 25/4/1857

“On Tuesday, at the BULLS HEAD INN, Ettingshall, an inquest was held before W. H. Phillips, Esq, deputy coroner, on the bodies of Rachel Elizabeth Davies, one month old, the illegitimate child of Lucy Davies; and Catherine Stones, six months old, daughter of Jane Stones, the wife of a miner, and sister to the mother of the other child. It appeared that the mother of each of the deceased children, being busy washing, gave some laudanum to their infants to induce sleep, and the children slept as desired; but their mothers were unable to arouse them, and they died on the same night.

Thomas Hudson, an assistant in Mr. Webb’s shop, stated that he recollected Sarah Jones coming to the shop, and hearing Mr. Webb, who served her with some laudanum, tell her she must be careful how she used that article, for it was deadly poison; and in reply to a question Mrs. Jones said she had got some ‘squills’ at home with which she should mix the laudanum.

The jury returned the verdict that the deceased children died from the effects of laudanum innocently administered by their mothers, they at the time believing it to be laudanum and squills.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/9/1857

“On Thursday, the workmen employed at the Ettingshall Lodge Colliery, in connection with the Parkfield Iron Company, were entertained at dinner at Mr. *Tipper*’s, the BULLS HEAD INN, Ettingshall, at the expense of Messrs. Dimmack and Marten, the proprietors of the works, in commemoration of the completion of the arduous and difficult undertaking of draining the mines of Sandy Gay and the neighbourhood, which, at considerable cost and labour, and, we are happy to add, without loss of life or limb, has been accomplished in the most satisfactory manner.....”

AND

Birmingham Journal 5/9/1857

“On Thursday week, a dinner was given by the Parkfield Iron Company to their workmen in Sandy Hay Colliery, the property of the company, to commemorate the draining of the water from the mines, a work which had been repeatedly but vainly attempted during the last twenty years. The drainage was completed on the previous Tuesday, the water being drawn out for a considerable depth, and the sump of the water pit thoroughly cleansed, by which any measure of mine in the colliery may be obtained, and the neighbours relieved of the inconvenience of the superabundant water. The repast was provided at Mr. *Joseph Tipper*’s, the BULLS HEAD INN.....”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 30/5/1858

“Mark Tipper will run Richard Proberbs of Catchem Corner 100 yards, for £5 a side, if Proberbs will give him three yards at the coming-in; or he will run Richard Savage of the same place the same distance, for the same sum. Money ready any night next week, at the BULLS HEAD INN, Catchem Corner.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 8/6/1859

“John Morris, a tall gentlemanly-looking elderly man, was brought up in custody before the sitting Magistrates, at the Petty Sessions, on Friday, charged with obtaining a quantity of liquor, with intent to cheat and defraud *Joseph Tipper*, the landlord of the BULLS HEAD, Catchems Corner.

Mrs. *Tipper* deposed that the prisoner came into her husband’s house, on the previous evening, and called for a glass of brandy and water, and a paper of tobacco, which were supplied to him, and he partook of them, but upon being called upon to pay he began to sing a song. He kept on singing until Mrs. *Tipper*, becoming somewhat irritated, insisted upon payment, and he then said he had got no money, but as a pledge offered to give her a bunch of keys, which he affirmed were skeleton keys. The prisoner further told Mrs. *Tipper* that she need not be afraid, as he was the clerk to the Walsall magistrates, and also the son of a magistrate. Mrs. *Tipper* then told him that if he was the son of a magistrate, she would see what the Bilston Magistrates would say to him, upon which he became very abusive, and used bad language.

In answer to the charge, the prisoner, with a smile, said he really was not aware that the Magistrates had any jurisdiction in the matter, as it did not amount to a case of false pretences; and further, that when he went into the house he told the landlady he had no money. The Magistrates took an opposite view of the case, and ordered the prisoner to find sureties for his future good behaviour, or in default to be committed to prison for fourteen days. The prisoner, still preserving his suavity of manners, thanked the Bench and resumed his seat in the dock. There can be little doubt but that the fellow is an impostor, as a draft begging letter was found upon him when searched at the police station.”

1861 Census

Ettingshall Lane

[1] Joseph Tipper (57), victualler, born Sedgley;

[2] Jemmima Tipper (52), wife, born Sedgley;

[3] Joseph W. H. Tipper (12), son, born Bilston;

[4] Sarah Parkes (22), servant, born Sedgley:

Birmingham Daily Post 11/10/1861

“On Tuesday last an inquest was held before Mr. T. M. Phillips, at the house of *Joseph Tipper*, Catchems Corner, on the body of John Potts, a banksman, 43 years of age, who was killed by falling down a pit belonging to Mr. Jones, at Sedgley. A person named John Penn was on the pit bank at the time of the accident, and he saw the deceased push a skip up to the mouth of the pit. The skip ran into the pit and the banksman fell in with it, a depth of 150 yards. In the course of twenty minutes the dead body of the unfortunate man was brought up dreadfully cut and bruised. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/12/1861

“Staffordshire Winter Assizes.....

Daniel Kyte, 25, pump maker, and Josiah Jackson, 24, joiner, were indicted for uttering two forged notes, at Sedgley, on the 23rd of September. Mr. Hill prosecuted, and Mr. Kenealy appeared in defence.

Mr. Hill opened the case by stating the facts as deposed by the following witnesses.

Mr. Baker, UNION MILLS INN, Catchems Corner, proved that the two prisoners, with a third man, and John Wedge, called at his house, on the 23rd of September. A note (Macclesfield Bank) was given him by his servant, and he took the change into the bar, and offered it to Wedge, whom he knew, but Wedge pointed to Jackson. Witness gave Jackson the change, and Jackson wrote the name ‘Williams’ upon it. The note also bore the name of Wedge.

John Wedge, Catchems Corner, said he saw the two prisoners in the street on the afternoon of the 23rd of September, one of whom he knew personally, and they asked him to get change for a £5 note on a distant (Macclesfield) bank. They told him it was good, and he took it to the house of a grocer named Eadie, but Eadie refused to change it. Witness then went home, and the prisoners followed him, and Kyte asked him to go and have something to drink. He went with them to Mr. *Tippers*’s, the BULLS HEAD, and a third man, who now joined the prisoners, offered the note again, but Mr. *Tippers* refused to change it. They then went to Mr. Baker’s, the UNION MILLS public house, but they did not stay there many minutes. Witness and the two prisoners next went to a foot race, at Sedgley, and when they returned they went to the ROYAL OAK. While there, Jackson offered another note, but the landlord would not change it. The next place they visited was Pennington’s, the BRIDGE INN, going afterwards to Owen’s, the ROYAL OAK, again. On the way Jackson asked what sort of house *Tippers*’s was, and made inquiries about the ‘strong box.’ In consequence of other conversation witness asked what had become of the first note they showed him, and they told him they had ‘passed’ it at Baker’s. In the course of this conversation Jackson placed a second note in witness’s hands, and witness told him he should keep it till he ascertained that the first was a good one. When this was told to Kyte and the third man, Kyte threatened to kill him. Witness said that unless he killed him outright he should appear against him. Kyte, Jackson, and the other man then attacked witness, and he became insensible. When he recovered himself he found his money gone – about £30 or £40. They did not, however, take the note he had just received from Jackson. This note was subsequently given to the police.

Cross-examined by Mr. Kenealy: The robbery took place in the ROYAL OAK INN. They did not offer witness any money to change the note; they told him that if he wanted a sovereign out of it he could have it, but he took no notice of them. When the first note was presented at the BULLS HEAD INN it had witness’s name upon it; it had been written in order to assist him in passing it.

By the Judge: The third man joined the two prisoners after they had been to *Tippers*’s.

Thomas Pennington, Bridge Street, proved that early in the afternoon of the 23rd, the prisoner Jackson offered him what he represented to be a £5 note. He considered it to be a bad one, and he told Jackson he didn't like the look of it. Wedge was with Jackson when this occurred, and they were afterwards joined by Kyte and another man. Cross-examined by Mr. Kenealy: Wedge seemed as anxious to change the note as the other man; he said he wanted 10s out of it.

William Vickers, WHITE HART INN, Bilston Street, Wolverhampton, proved that on the morning of the 23rd September, the two prisoners and a third man called at his house. The third man showed several notes in a handkerchief, and the prisoners asked witness to change them. They told him that if he offered £12 for three of them, they thought the man would take it. He was a simple man, they said, and wanted to spend his money, and subsequently they told witness that this third man had got the notes from his 'woman,' who 'took' them from a farmer. He had no money in the house, and he gave them no change.

Superintendent M'Crea produced the two notes – the one passed to Mr. Baker, and the other retained by Wedge.

Detective-officer Stokes proved having apprehended the prisoners in Park Street, Birmingham. A third man, named Brown, was apprehended, but the Magistrates discharged him. The prisoners told him they were aware the police were after them, and they could have got away if they desired.

In defence Mr. Kenealy alleged that the two prisoners were the victims of the third man, who had succeeded in making his escape. He pointed to different parts of the evidence to support this view, and especially to that of the witness Vickers.

The Judge returned a verdict of guilty, and the prisoners were each sentenced to ten years' penal servitude."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/7/1863

"On Monday night, the house of Mr. *Joseph Tipper*, the BULLS HEAD, Ettingshall, was entered, and about £20 in cash and seven old silver watches were carried off by the thieves. The entry was effected between half-past eleven at night and half-past three yesterday morning, by breaking a pane of glass in the bed-room window and undoing the fastening."

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/8/1863

"Two men, named respectively John Whitehouse and John Crutchley, were yesterday charged with breaking into the house of *Joseph Tipper*, landlord of the BULLS HEAD INN, Ettingshall. A few nights since, some thieves, taking advantage of the fact that a woman's club feast was being held in the house, had got in through a back window; had, from a chest in the bedroom, stolen about £20; and had then made their escape. The prisoners were seen lurking in the neighbourhood about the time of the robbery; but as the evidence against them was only circumstantial, they were now ordered to find sureties to answer the charge if called upon."

Birmingham Daily Post 14/8/1869

"*Joseph Onions*, BULLS HEAD, Ettingshall, was fined 20s and costs, for permitting drunkenness on Tuesday last."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/8/1869

"The annual licensing meeting for the Bilston division took place yesterday, at the Police Court.....

The following is the list of the licensed victuallers who have been fined during the year.....

Permitting Drunkenness *J. Onions*, BULLS HEAD, Catcham, Bilston, 20s and costs."

Birmingham Daily Post 16/4/1870 - Advert

"Wanted, one Breaker-Down, and two Ketchers, for Plate Mill. Regular employment, and liberal salary given. Pay weekly. None need apply only steady workmen.

References to be made to *Joseph Onions*, BULLS HEAD INN, Ettingshall, near Bilston."

Joseph Onions was married to Mary.

WANTED, one BREAKER-DOWN, and two Ketchers, for Plate Mill. Regular employment, and liberal salary given. Pay weekly. None need apply only steady workmen.—References to be made to *Joseph Onions*, Bull's Head Inn, Ettingshall, near Bilston.

Glasgow Herald 4/8/1870

“Two Elopements from the Black Country.

Elopements are rare in the Black Country, but one directly from Bilston, and another connected with that town have just come to light. In the first case, the injured husband has called in the law to aid him in baffling the deep wiles of love by which he had been wronged. The interesting part of the elopement is that the amorous pair are both married people with families. The man is 30 years of age, and has a wife and one or two children; the woman is 39 years of age, has an appearance decidedly not buxom-like, and is mother of, amongst other children, a ‘grown-up’ daughter. James Sheldon, master bricklayer, of Gospel End, and Mrs. *Onions*, wife of *Joseph Onions*, wire drawer, of Bradley, would have been, but for a prompt capture, now on their way to America. Some time ago Mr. *Onions* was landlord of the BULLS HEAD INN, Ettingshall. Sheldon, with his men, was then engaged at Millfields Ironworks, and took his meals at *Onions*’s house. This lasted for several years, and daily visitation at the BULLS HEAD resulted, of course, in Sheldon becoming acquainted with Mrs. *Onions*. He was also upon intimate terms with Mr. *Onions*, and the two frequently went out together in a trap. Mr. *Onions* gave up the public house, and retired to a private house at Bradley, where Sheldon continued to visit them. Three weeks ago Sheldon suddenly left his home, and went to Liverpool, and was there joined, a week later, by Mrs. *Onions*, who took with her a quantity of her husband’s jewellery. At Liverpool, Sheldon fell in – whether by accident or otherwise we don’t know – with another Bilston man who had left his own wife and run away with a neighbour’s. He was Mr. Abraham Hazledine, who at one time kept the CROWN INN, Hallfields (near Bilston), but has of late been residing in Warrington. The destination of Hazledine and his would-be wife, and of Sheldon and his would-be wife, was America; and to the ticket office the four went and bought passages for New York. Sheldon gave the names of ‘James Jones and Mrs. Jones,’ and Hazledine’s tickets were made out to ‘Mr. and Mrs. Smith.’ The vessel that was to take them did not start for a day or two, and the fugitives determined to go to Queenstown and join the ship there, probably because they were afraid to remain in Liverpool, so near to their homes.

When Mr. *Joseph Onions* returned to his house on the evening of the 21st of July, he was surprised to find that his house was minus his wife. For some time he could learn nothing tending to show what had become of her; but ultimately he received information which led him to go to Liverpool, and he there found that she and her adopted husband had gone to Queenstown. Thither he hastened, and discovered that the two had taken apartments at the lodging house of Alfred Bridges, Lynch’s Quay. *Onions* invoked the aid of the police, who entered their bed room at eleven o’clock at night, and arrested them both upon a charge of stealing jewellery. They were brought before the Queenstown Magistrates and remanded to Bilston.

By this time the injured wife of Hazledine had reached Queenstown, and having discovered the retreat of her faithless husband and his new love, demanded he should immediately return home. Hazledine, however, objected to this settlement of the matter, for he had an arrangement of his own to propose. He said that if she would release him from his marriage engagement he would give her £100 down, and would settle some property upon her. To this proposal Mrs. Hazledine agreed, and, after it had been carried out, went back to Warrington contented, leaving her husband to pursue his new course of life without interruption.

Sheldon and his proposed wife, however, were brought back to Bilston, and at the police court there, before the stipendiary (Mr. I. Spooner) were charged with stealing a watch, three gold chains, and other things, belonging to Mr. *Joseph Onions*. Ultimately the stipendiary consented to take bail, in two sureties of £100, and the prisoner himself in £200. *Birmingham Post*.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 11/8/1870

“At the Wolverhampton Police Court, yesterday, before the Stipendiary, James Sheldon, master bricklayer, of Gospel End, was charged, on remand, with having stolen a quantity of jewellery and other articles, belonging to *Joseph Onions*, wire-roller, of Bradley. Mr. Fellows appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. A. Young, of the Oxford Circuit (instructed by Mr. John William Hall), was for the defence.

Mr. Fellows said that he had made most careful inquiries into the case. The Stipendiary: If I may interrupt you, I would remark that I think you might fairly withdraw from the case – I suppose that is what you were about to say – for it is a material question whether or not Sheldon knew anything about the robbery.

Mr. Fellows: Inquiries which I have made show me quite clearly that she (Mrs. *Onions*) took the things without his knowledge; and feeling that I have no hope of sustaining the prosecution, I beg to withdraw it.

The Stipendiary: It is a case which a man often gets into who runs away with another man’s wife. I think you may fairly withdraw from it. From what is before me, I don’t see how you can possibly succeed in bringing the charge home to him. Mr. Fellows: I withdraw from the prosecution. The parties then left the Court.

We understand that Mrs. *Onions* has returned to her husband and her family.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/8/1870

“An inquest was held on Monday last at the BULLS HEAD INN, Catchem, near Bilston, by the Deputy Coroner, Mr. W. H. Phillips, on the body of William Beeman (15), Rough Hills, who was killed while working in the Wolverhampton Old Colliery, on the 5th inst, by a brick falling down the shaft and striking him on the head. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1871 Census

Mill Street

- [1] *John Preston* (49), publican, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] *Mary Preston* (49), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] *Joseph Preston* (15), son, coal miner, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] *Mary Preston* (13), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] *Sarah A. Preston* (12), daughter, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [6] *Richard Preston* (10), son, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [7] *Samuel Preston* (7), son, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [8] *James Tranter* (18), boarder, coal miner, born Sedgley:

John Preston was married to *Mary Ann*.
He died on 14th April 1879.

1881 Census

Mill Street – BULLS HEAD

- [1] *John Robinson* (26), unmarried, licensed victualler, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Rhoda Robinson* (18), sister, unmarried, born Sedgley;
- [3] *Patsey McAnealy* (31), boarder, roller in iron works, born Wolverhampton:

Darlaston Weekly Times 2/10/1886

“John Waly, William Harris and Samuel Hough were charged with being drunk and disorderly at the BULLS HEAD, Mill Street, Bilston, on the 25th ult.

PC Leadbetter said he was called in by the landlord of the BULLS HEAD to remove the defendants on Saturday night. They had had no drink in the house. They left the house, but returned several times and created a disturbance. Fined 2s 6d each.”

Richard Bates = Richard Bate

Smethwick Telephone 18/4/1891

“Knights of Labour.....

On Saturday evening, the 4th inst, a farewell meeting was held at the BULLS HEAD INN, Ettingshall, by the members of LA 1001, upon the occasion of their removal to other premises. About 35 members and friends sat down to an excellent supper, which was got up in first-class style by the host, Mr. *R. Bates*. After partaking of the things that had been provided, a meeting was held, presided over by the master workmen, who, after giving a few words of advice to the members, called upon Bro. Y. Butler to propose ‘Success to the order of Knights of Labour,’ which he did in an excellent and telling speech. This was seconded by Bro. Rew, and responded to by the DM, Mr. Dean, who spoke of the duties of individual members, and gave some very excellent advice. Songs were given at intervals by various members and friends. Votes of thanks to the host and hostess, and response thereto by the former, brought a very enjoyable evening to a close.”

1891 Census

Union Street – BULLS HEAD

- [1] *Richard Bates* (37), licensed victualler, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] *Lucy Bates* (38), wife, born Bedford;
- [3] *George Bates* (13), son, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] *Richard Bates* (11), son, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] *Isabella Bates* (9), daughter, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [6] *William Hicks* (9), son-in-law, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [7] *William Bates* (7), son, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [8] *Harry Bates* (4), son, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [9] *Richard Bates* (77), grand-father, lives on his own means, born Lilleshall, Shropshire:

Leek Times 21/11/1891

“Staffordshire Patent Record Patents Granted and Specifications Published.....

8775. *R. Bates*, BULLS HEAD INN, Ettingshall, near Wolverhampton. Casks.”

County Advertiser 11/11/1893

“On Saturday night last a large attendance of members of the Tin-plate and Tin-sheet Makers Association assembled at the BULLS HEAD, Ettingshall.....”

1898 Probate

“*Richard Bates* of the BULLS HEAD INN, Ettingshall, near Wolverhampton, licensed victualler, died 29 January 1898. Probate London 17 March to Thomas Jones, tube-worker, and William Webberley, wine and spirit merchant. Effects £569 19s 11d.”

Richard Bates – see also BRIDGE, Ettingshall.

1901 Census

55, Millfields Road

- [1] *Lucy Bates* (46), widow, licensed victualler, born Bedford;
- [2] *Richard Bates* (21), step-son, barman, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *William E. Hicks* (19), son, railway clerk, born Newstead, Nottinghamshire;
- [4] *Isabella Bates* (19), step-daughter, barmaid, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] *William Bates* (17), step-son, brass filer, born Wolverhampton;
- [6] *Harry Bates* (14), step-son, office boy, born Wolverhampton;
- [7] *Florence E. Bates* (24), daughter-in-law, milliner, born Blymhill, Staffordshire;
- [8] *Mary A. Ward* (6), grand-daughter, born Willenhall;
- [9] *Elizabeth Sutton* (20), domestic servant, born Wolverhampton:

The Stage 2/5/1901 - Advert

“Mr. G. Bates, Mus. Dir., Composer and Arrange. At Lib. Seaside, Tour, or Perm. PO, Tibshelf, Derbyshire. Perm, BULLS HEAD HOTEL, Ettingshall Road, Wolverhampton.”

M R. G. B A T E S,
Mus. Dir., Composer and Arrange. At Lib.
Seaside, Tour, or Perm. P.O., Tibshelf, Derby-
shire. Perm., Bull's Head Hotel, Ettingshall Rd.,
Wolverhampton.

1911 Census

101, Millfields Road – BULLS HEAD

- [1] *Lucy Bates* (57), widow, licensed victualler, born Bedford;
- [2] *Harry Bates* (24), son, engineer's pattern maker, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *Elizabeth Sutton* (30), niece, barmaid, born Sedgley:

Lucy Bates – see also BRIDGE, Ettingshall.

South Staffordshire Times 3/1/1920

“Application was made for permission to effect alterations to the BULLS HEAD, Ettingshall Lane (Messrs. W. Butler and Co.). Mr. C. N. Wright, who made the application, said it would have the effect of making the house more convenient. It was not an enlargement, but a re-arrangement.

Superintendent Tucker said he had viewed the premises and thought it would be a desirable reconstruction from the point of view of police supervision.

The Bench approved the plan.”

South Staffordshire Times 7/2/1920

“Bilston Licensing Sessions....

During the past year plans had been passed for the reconstruction or alteration of the undermentioned houses.

LIMERICK INN, Gornal Wood; BUSH INN, Gornal Wood; 10, Cinder Road, Gornal Wood; and the WOOD CROSS INN, Cinderhill; THREE CUPS INN, Lanesfield; CASTLE INN, Bilston; BULLS HEAD INN, Ettingshall.

The reconstruction or alterations in the case of the LIMERICK INN, BUSH INN, 10, Cinder Road, and WOOD CROSS INN, were in hand, but in the case of the other houses had not commenced In the case of the reconstruction of the THREE CUPS and CASTLE INN the contracts had been made in each for reconstruction.”

1921 Census

Millfields – BULLS HEAD

[1] *Arthur Wakelam* (42), manager of public house, born Coseley:

[2] *Sarah Elizabeth Wakelam* (42), wife, manager's assistant, born Coseley:

[3] *Arthur Rhodes Wakelam* (16), son, sheet metal worker, born Coseley:

[4] *Thomas Hedley Wakelam* (13), son, school, born Coseley:

[5] *Mary Wakelam* (9), daughter, school, born Coseley:

[6] *Edith Ann Nichols* (21), general servant, born Coseley:

Arthur Wakelam was granted a music license on 25th July 1924.

Thomas Lester was granted a music license on 4th February 1927.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/10/1933

“As a result of observations kept upon the BULLS HEAD licensed house, Millfields Road, Ettingshall, on nine days between 12 August and 14 October, the licensee of the inn, *Thomas Lester*, was charged at Bilston Police Court yesterday with permitting the premises to be used for betting purposes.

Benjamin Micklewright, Hargreaves Street, Wolverhampton, was charged with aiding and abetting and with using the bar for betting purposes, and *William Charles Seale*, 4A, Rough Hills, Wolverhampton, and *Joseph Beach*, 4, Victoria Terrace, Priestfield, were summoned for aiding and abetting *Lester*.

The premises were raided on 14 October by the police and in *Micklewright's* possession were found 17 betting slips, a paying-out slip, £6 12s, of which £2 15s represented his wages. When charged *Micklewright* said he had no explanation to make. He must admit that he had taken the bets. He had always tried to do it on the sly on the premises.

Lester was fined £10, with £4 4s 9d costs; *Micklewright* £50, with £4 4s 9d costs; and *Seale* and *Beach*, who were in the bar, were ordered to pay the costs, 4s.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/11/1933

“A Kings Bench Divisional Court yesterday granted an ex parte application on behalf of *Thomas Lester*, of the BULLS HEAD INN, Ettingshall, near Bilston, for a rule to the magistrates of Bilston to show cause why a conviction recorded against him should not be quashed.

It was stated that *Lester* was fined £10 on a charge of permitting his premises to be used for the purposes of betting. In such a case, it was a condition precedent to the prosecution that the accused should be given the opportunity of electing whether he would be tried by a jury. He was not given such opportunity, and the contention was that the conviction was void as a result.

A similar application on the same grounds on behalf of Benjamin Micklewright, of Hargrave Street, Wolverhampton, (fined £50 for, it was alleged, using the BULLS HEAD INN for betting) was also granted.”

[The convictions were quashed by the Kings Bench Divisional Court in March 1934.]

[They were again summoned at Bilston Police Court in April 1934 for the same offences. Their defence contended that they couldn't be tried again when the case had already been adjudicated upon. The magistrates, after consultation, were unanimous in their opinion that they could not reopen the case.]

1939 Register

Millfields Road – BULLS HEAD

[1] *Thomas Lester*, date of birth 3/5/1888, licensee, publican, married;

[2] *Sarah Lester*, dob 10/11/1888, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Ada (Hadley) Horseman*, dob 10/10/1921, bar general, single;

[4] *Irene (Lester) (Martin) Kingdon*, dob 5/6/1925, school, single:

Thomas Lester – see also THREE HORSESHOES, Witton Lane, West Bromwich.

It was the headquarters of the Ettingshall (Pigeon) Flying Club. [1968]

Birmingham Daily Post 7/9/1977

“Thousands of Midland drinkers will be forced to change their drinking habits next year – because of a Government report. Three major breweries are to swop 437 pubs – leaving drinkers to choose between their favourite public house or their favourite beer. The deal was announced yesterday by Ansells, owned by Allied Breweries, Mitchells and Butlers, owned by Bass Charrington, and Courage. The move, involving public houses valued at £11,000,000, was prompted by a Monopolies Commission report seven years ago which claimed that breweries had too much of a stranglehold in certain towns and cities Tenants and managers are being given the opportunity to stay on new terms or change to another establishment. Managers can also opt for voluntary redundancy.....

M & B tenanted houses transferred to Courage.....

BULLS HEAD, Millfield Road, Ettingshall.”

Plans for alterations were approved on 4th July 1978.

Sandwell Evening Mail 6/6/1985

“Black Country beer drinkers Keith Davis, Roy Leggard and Brian Bailey like their ale so much that they are camping outside their favourite pub. The trio of tipplers from Bilston have pitched their tent just yards from the bar of the BULLS HEAD in Millfield Road, Ettingshall, Wolverhampton. Mrs. Berni Stelling, wife of licensee *Tony*, said, ‘They have all got the week off work and decided to set up camp outside the pub. A lot of the regulars say they are crazy, but they are doing it because they like the beer so much.

Tony Stelling, right, and his wife Berni, left, are pictured serving drinks to the happy campers, left to right, Brian, Roy and Keith.”

It had its own netball team, which played in the Wolverhampton and District League. [1988]

Birmingham Mail 16/12/1988

“Gig Guide Sunday.....

The Rhythm Method (BULLS HEAD, Ettingshall, Wolverhampton).”

Keith Davies was married to Joyce.
See also WILLIAM BUTLER.

Stafford Post 12/10/1995 - Advert

“BULLS HEAD, Ettingshall Road, Bilston.
Thursday and Saturday Night Entertainment.
Sound Master Disco Kicking Down with Ska Reggae 60s-90s Chart and Dance 8pm till late.”

[2003]

Closed [2006]

It was gutted in an arson attack in September 2006.

It was sold at auction for £151,000 on 5th March 2007.

It was demolished in 2013.



TO BREWERS, PUBLICANS, AND OTHERS.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY JOHN MASON, on TUESDAY NEXT,
June 1st, upon the Premises of Mr. William Morgan, Bull's
Head Inn, Catchem's Corner, near Bilston, who is declining the Public
Business—Part of the useful HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, BREW-
ING VESSELS, and other EFFECTS.
The HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE comprises Chairs, Tables, Chim-
ney and Dressing Glasses, handsome mahogany Chests of Drawers,
mahogany Bedstead, eight-day Clock, Tent Bedsteads, Feather Beds,
China and Glass, capital five-pull Beer Machine, home-cured Bacon, &c.
The BREWING UTENSILS consist of thirty excellent iron-bound
Ale Casks, from 56 to 400 gallons each, twenty-six bushel Mash Tub,
Vats, Coolers, copper Wort Pump, (new,) copper Boiler, upwards of
two hundred gallons, with large tap, complete, 120 gallon copper Boiler.
Useful Chesnut MARE, five years old, steady in harness, GIG, Set
of Harness, light Spring Cart and Harness, four and a half inch wheel
cart, with Coke Boards, Sack Weighing Machine, &c.
Full particulars will appear in catalogues, which are now ready.

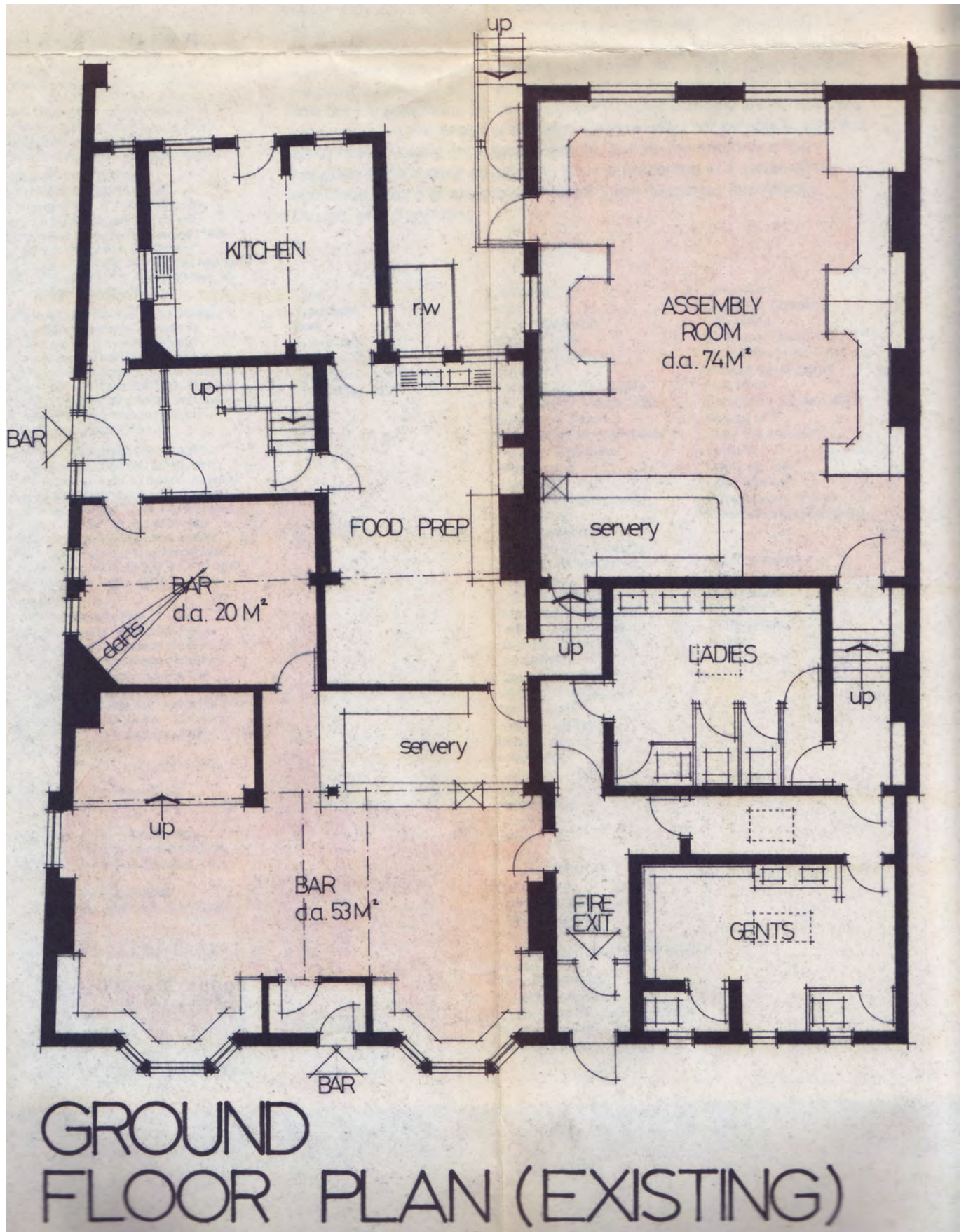
1852



1985



2011



Plan 1978

BUSH

High Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Hopkins [1818] – [1835]

NOTES

HOLLY BUSH [1818]

BUSH [1822], [1834]

It had a beerhouse license.

John Hopkins, retailer of beer, High Street. [1835]

BUSH

Lichfield Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Thomas Cooper [1818]

CAFÉ METRO

46, Church Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

NOTES

[2014]

It was situated opposite the Town Hall.

The function room at the rear was used for beer festivals.

The pub operated from the backroom, accessed from the end of the side street/alley. [2023]

[2023]

IT'S BACK

CAFÉ METRO BAR

46 Church Street, Bilston, WV14 0AH

(In the back room!)

SPRINGFEST

2018

Thursday:

Sedgley Morris

Men 7pm

Friday:

80's Classics

Until late

Saturday:

Tame the Dolphin

(Local Band)

6pm

RANGE OF ALES, CIDERS & Mini Gin Bar

Food Available

3rd - 6th May

OPEN THURS FROM 5PM & FRI/SAT FROM 11AM

If there's any ale left we shall be open on the Sunday!



2018

CAFÉ METRO

(in the back room!)

2019

46 Church Street, Bilston, WV14 0AH

01902 498 888

OCTOBERFEST

REAL ALES & CIDERS

Mini Gin Bar

Food Available

3rd - 6th October

THURS 5pm

FRI/SAT 11am

SUN 12pm

Thu 3rd

Fri 4th

Sat 5th

Sun 6th

The Peas

7.30pm

(When 80's & 90's pop gets a makeover!)

The Mike Davids Band

8pm

(Rock blues with a dash of brass!)

The Guvnors

8pm

(Blues rock revue)

Jade & JP

5.30pm

(Popular local acoustic duo)

2019

CALIFORNIA

36, Hatton Street, (12, John Street), (Shropshire Row), Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

James Fellows, blankmaker, Pool Street, Wolverhampton
Charles Showell, brewer, Birmingham
The Brewers' Investment Cooperative Ltd.
Walter Showell and Sons, Walsall
Richard Sidney Wilson, maltster, Ackleton [1915]
John Downing, Black Horse Brewery, Dudley
William Butler Ltd. (acquired in January 1923)

**CALIFORNIA TAP-HOUSE,
SHROPSHIRE ROW, BILSTON.**
BY Mr. F. ALTREE.—To be LET, with immediate possession, the above commodious and BUSINESS PREMISES, surrounded by large Ironworks, Mines, &c.; the present brewing per week eight bushels, which may be doubled by a young persevering couple. Rent and coming-in low.—Apply to Mr. F. Altree, Auctioneer, Publicans Valuer and General Agent, Bilston.—Established 1840.

1856

LICENSEES

Isaac Brereton [1855]
George Cooper [1861] – **1887**);
Salter Durnall (**1887 – 1895**);
Samuel Clark (**1895**);
Alfred Haynes (**1895 – 1896**);
Charles Henry Parsons (**1896 – 1897**);
George Robinson (**1897 – 1898**);
Walter Francis (**1898**);
Joseph Challenger (**1898 – 1911**);
Lydia Challenger (**1911 – 1912**);
John Morgan (**1912 – 1913**);
William Charles Palmer (**1913 – 1915**);
Daniel Corbett (**1915 – 1922**);
Alfred Henry Hale (**1922 – [1946]**)
Lavender [1951]

UNRESERVED SALE,
At the CALIFORNIA TAP HOUSE, John Street, Shropshire Row, BILSTON.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY Mr. F. ALTREE, on MONDAY NEXT, the 16th day of February—the **LICENSES, POSSESSION, FIXTURES, Fittings, BREWING PLANT, and HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE**; comprising four-pull Ale Machine, Tap Table, metal top; eight-day Dial, French Bagatelle Board, oblong and other Tables, mahogany corner Cupboard, Oil Paintings, five 120 and nine 60-gallon Ale Casks, pair of Vats, with massive Lead Piping and Brass Taps; Mash and other Tubs, Coolers, tump of Hops, 1856, stock of Ale, &c., the property of the late Mr. Round, deceased.
Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock in the morning.
Frederick Altree, Auctioneer, Publican's Valuer, and Land Surveyor, Bilston.

1857

NOTES

12, John Street [1861], [1881], [1891]
36, Hatton Street [1911], [1921], [1939], [1940], [1946]

It had a beerhouse license.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1855

“The Annual Licensing Meeting for Bilston, Sedgley, Gornal, and the adjoining places took place on Friday last, at the Police Office, Bilston.....

Mr. C. G. Brown applied for a license in behalf of *Isaac Brereton*, occupier of the CALIFORNIA HOUSE, California, Bilston, observing that the neighbourhood in which the house was situate was a very populous one, and the population was still increasing. Three or four streets had already been formed, and there was not a single public house in the place, although it promised soon to become an important part of the town. The house, which was an excellent one, was situate close to the works of Messrs. Higgins and Rose, and those of Messrs. Baldwin; which rendered a public house with a spirit license necessary. The testimonial was very respectably signed.

Mr. Loxdale observed that there was already one public house to every twenty-six inhabitants of the town.

Mr. Brown said he did not doubt that public houses were pretty thick where they were not wanted. If a person in the neighbourhood for which he applied were taken ill, there was no possibility of obtaining quickly that which was considered the best antidote – brandy.

Mr. Loxdale said Mr. White's shop, where Dr. Macann's Mixture was sold, could be reached in five minutes. (Laughter.)

Mr. Brown said it was a long way off. He added that the house had been used as a beershop, and no complaints made against it.

The Magistrates considered a license unnecessary, and refused to grant the application."

Birmingham Journal 22/11/1856 - Advert

"CALIFORNIA TAP HOUSE, Shropshire Row, Bilston.

To be Let, with immediate possession, the above commodious and Business Premises, surrounded by large Ironworks, Mines, &c; the present brewing per week eight bushels, which may be doubled by a young persevering couple. Rent and coming-in low.

Apply to Mr. F. Atree, Auctioneer, Publicans Valuer and General Agent, Bilston."

Birmingham Journal 14/2/1857 - Advert

"Unreserved Sale, at the CALIFORNIA TAP HOUSE, John Street, Shropshire Row, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. F. Atree, on Monday Next, the 16th day of February.

The Licenses, Possession, Fixtures, Fittings, Brewing Plant, and Household Furniture; comprising four-pull Ale Machine, Tap Table, metal top; eight-day Dial, French Bagatelle Board, oblong and other Tables, mahogany corner Cupboard, Oil Paintings, five 120 and nine 60-gallon Ale Casks, pair of Vats, with massive Lead Piping and Brass Taps; Mash and other Tubs, Coolers, tump of Hops, 1856, stock of Ale, &c, the property of the late Mr. *Round*, deceased.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock in the morning.

Frederick Atree, Auctioneer, Publicans Valuer, and Land Surveyor, Bilston."

1861 Census

12, John Street

[1] George Cooper (39), publican, born Stourbridge;

[2] Rachael Cooper (38), wife, born Dudley Port;

[3] Eliza Cooke (19), niece, servant, born Birmingham;

[4] Simon Blewitt (80), father-in-law, born Aston:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/9/1861

"Annual meeting for the renewal and granting of spirit licenses.....

Applications for new licenses.....

George Cooper, landlord of a house in Shropshire Row, Bilston, applied that it might be licensed. He was supported by Mr. Waterhouse. Adjourned for the inspection of the house by the Magistrates."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/9/1864

"Yesterday the magistrates sat in Special Sessions, for the consideration of the applications for the renewal of old and the granting of new licenses to victuallers.....

Mr. H. Underhill appeared on behalf of Mr. *George Cooper*, CALIFORNIA TAP HOUSE, John Street, Bradley, for a license to that house. The application was unopposed, and the Bench deferred their decision until the adjourned licensing day."

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/9/1864

"Bilston Annual Licensing Meeting.....

CALIFORNIA TAP HOUSE, Bradley.

Mr. H. Underhill applied on behalf of *George Cooper*, who keeps a beerhouse in John Street, Bradley. After referring to the fact that the applicant had kept the house for nine years without complaint against him, and that the house was situate in a populous neighbourhood, where the nearest licensed house was 200 yards distant from this, Mr. Underhill also called attention to the fact that his client carried on a large business as a brewer, as a guarantee that he would do his best to conduct the house to their satisfaction Adjourned for a fortnight."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/9/1864

"Bilston Adjourned Licensing Day.....

Mr. J. E. Underhill applied on behalf of Mr. *George Cooper*, for a license to a beerhouse kept by him, in John Street, Shropshire Row, Bradley. The application was made two years ago, and there was no doubt as to the commodiousness of the house, or the good character of the applicant.

The Bench said that they did not consider that another public house was required in the neighbourhood, and refused the application."

Birmingham Daily Post 26/8/1865

"Yesterday, the annual licensing meeting for the Bilston division of the county of Stafford was held.....

Mr. Underhill applied on behalf of *George Cooper*, for a license to a house in Barbor's Field, near to Messrs. Thompson and Hatton's works. Mr. *Cooper* had kept the house for ten years without there being any complaint against him; and the principal residents of the neighbourhood had recommended that the application should be granted. Mr. Thurstans opposed on behalf of Mr. Knott, who kept a house seventy yards away. Application refused."

George Cooper, beer retailer, John Street, Bradley. [1865]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/4/1868 - Advert

"To Publicans. John Street, Bradley, Bilston.

To be Let, a compact and desirable Beerhouse, situate as above, and known as the CALIFORNIA TAP HOUSE, doing a good in and out-door trade. Stock and Effects at valuation. The proprietor is retiring from the business.

Apply on the Premises, or to James Taylor, Auctioneer, Russell Street, Wednesbury."

TO Publicans.—John Street, Bradley, Bilston.—To be Let, a compact and desirable BEERHOUSE, situate as above, and known as "The California Tap House," doing a good in and out-door trade. Stock and Effects at valuation. The proprietor is retiring from the business.—Apply on the Premises, or to James Taylor, Auctioneer, Russell Street, Wednesbury.

1871 Census

John Street

[1] *George Cooper* (49), retail brewer, born Stourbridge;

[2] *Rachel Cooper* (47), wife, born Dudley Port;

[3] *Eliza Cook* (29), niece, barmaid, born Birmingham:

Staffordshire Advertiser 31/8/1872

"Bilston Annual Licensing Meeting.....

The following applications for new licenses were granted.....

A wine license to *George Cooper*, CALIFORNIA INN, Bradley."

Birmingham Daily Post 26/2/1874 - Advert

"Wanted, Man, used to a Horse, and assist in Brewing.

Apply, CALIFORNIA INN, John Street, Bradley, Bilston."

WANTED, Man, used to a Horse, and assist in Brewing.—Apply, California Inn, John Street, Bradley, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 10/3/1874 - Advert

"Servant-Girl (respectable) Wanted, used to a Public-house. Closed on Sundays.

Apply, CALIFORNIA INN, John Street, Bradley, Bilston."

SERVANT-GIRL (respectable) Wanted, used to a Public-house. Closed on Sundays.—Apply, California Inn, John Street, Bradley, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 31/3/1875 - Advert

"For Sale, brown Horse, 15 hands, 8 years old; quiet to ride and drive. Warranted sound and free from vice.

Apply, CALIFORNIA INN, John Street, Bradley, Bilston."

FOR Sale, brown Horse, 15 hands, 8 years old; quiet to ride and drive. Warranted sound and free from vice.—Apply, California Inn, John Street, Bradley, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 24/4/1875 - Advert

"Business or Pleasure Traps, and silver-plated Harness.

Apply, CALIFORNIA INN, John Street, Bradley, Bilston."

BUSINESS or Pleasure Traps, and silver-plated Harness.—Apply, California Inn, John Street, Bradley, Bilston.

Dudley Herald 30/8/1879

"Swine fever having broken out amongst some pigs kept by Mr. *George Cooper*, CALIFORNIAN INN, Bradley, and by Mr. Thomas Fieldhouse, SIDNEY VILLAGE INN, Bradley, two of the animals have been slaughtered by order of the veterinary inspector. Mr. *Cooper* had a remaining pig killed that the infection should not spread to neighbouring styres."

1881 Census

12, John Street

- [1] George Cooper (59), publican, born Stourbridge;
- [2] Rachel Cooper (58), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] Eliza Cooke (39), niece, barmaid, born Birmingham;
- [4] Martha Crutchinton (21), general servant, born Sedgley;

Evening Express 12/12/1881

"The annual general meeting of the Bradley Tin-plate Works Sick and Burial Society was held on Saturday last, at the CALIFORNIA INN, Bradley. The statement of accounts showed income, £101 17s 5d; expenditure, £26 0s 7d; leaving a balance of £75 16s 10d to be divided among the members, equal to £1 9s 9d each. The President (Mr. A. Harper) congratulated the members on the healthy state of the society, and said he trusted the object of the society would commend itself to all their fellow workmen. Votes of thanks and confidence were given to the secretary, Mr. Levi Turley, the treasurer, Mr. John Guttridge, and the other officers of the club, who were all unanimously re-elected for the ensuing year."

Darlaston Weekly Times 2/1/1886

"The annual meeting of the Bradley Iron and Tin Plate Works Sick and Burial Society was held at the CALIFORNIA INN, Bradley, on Christmas Eve. The Secretary, Mr. Levi Turley, read the report, which stated that £264 17s 5d had been paid in, and disbursements for sickness, death, &c had been £134 17s 6d, so that a very satisfactory dividend had been realised. Mr. Joseph Parker was re-elected president, Mr. Salter Durnall treasurer, and Mr. Edwin Darbey secretary. Mr. Parker stated that it was a very useful society. Some who had passed away had paid in a nominal sum, yet their representatives had received £10 each, and he hoped that prosperity would still attend the society. Votes of thanks were given to all past officers, and the rest of the evening was spent in singing and recitations."

Birmingham Daily Post 17/4/1886 - Advert

"To be Sold, one of the best Beer and Wine Licensed Houses in the Midland Counties, together with six small Houses, all in good repair; not changed hands this last thirty years; retiring from the business. Apply, CALIFORNIA INN, John Street, Bradley, Bilston."

TO be Sold, one of the best Beer and Wine Licensed Houses in the Midland Counties, together with six small Houses, all in good repair; not changed hands this last thirty years; retiring from the business—Apply, California Inn, John Street, Bradley, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 12/2/1890 - Advert

"For Sale, a first-class Euphonium, B flat and C perfect; also first-class E flat circular fine-tone Bombardon; also small Engine and Boiler, complete. S. Durnall, CALIFORNIA INN, Bradley, Bilston."

FOR Sale, a first-class Euphonium, B flat and C perfect; also first-class E flat circular fine-tone Bombardon; also small Engine and Boiler, complete.—S. Durnall, California Inn, Bradley, Bilston.

1891 Census

12, John Street – CALIFORNIA INN

- [1] Salter Durnall (46), innkeeper, born Walsall;
- [2] Martha Durnall (44), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Oliver Durnall (22), son, shingler, ironworks, born Bilston;
- [4] Emily Durnall (20), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] Salter Durnall (18), son, shingler, ironworks, born Bilston;
- [6] Bernard J. Durnall (16), son, shingler, ironworks, born Bilston;
- [7] Arthur L. Durnall (11), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [8] Martha Durnall (8), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [9] Gertrude K. Durnall (6), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [10] Ada Durnall (4), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

Staffordshire Advertiser 28/3/1896

"*Alfred Haynes*, of the CALIFORNIA INN, Bradley, was charged with allowing gaming on his licensed premises. A policeman disguised himself and visited the house, when he saw gambling. The defendant was fined 20s and costs."

Birmingham Daily Post 16/4/1898 - Advert

“To Brewers, Publicans, and Others.

Three Freehold Licensed Houses, Wolverhampton, Wednesbury, and Bilston, for Sale, with Possession.

Thomas J. Barnett & Son, are instructed to offer for Sale by Auction, on Wednesday Evening, April 27, 1898, at half-past Six o'clock prompt time, at the Auction Mart, 25, Darlington Street, Wolverhampton, subject to conditions of sale, the following Licensed Houses and Properties adjoining.....

Lot 3. The Old-established Freehold Licensed Beerhouse, known as the CALIFORNIA INN, situate fronting to Hatton Street, Bradley, with enclosed Yard and Wash-house at the rear, and a gateway at the side; and also a Two-storey Dwelling House adjoining another at the rear thereof, and Four Two-storey Houses, with Out-offices, in the Yard at the back. The Houses are let to weekly tenants, and produce a gross rental of £37 1s per annum. Possession of the Beerhouse may be had on completion of purchase.....

NB. Purchasers of the above Houses will be required to take to, at valuation in the usual way, the Public House Fixtures, Fittings, Licenses, and Effects, as per Schedules, which may be seen on application to the Auctioneers.”

Tokens were issued by *J. Challinger*. [sic]

1901 Census

Hatton Street – CALIFORNIA INN

[1] *Joseph Challenger* (51), publican, born Coseley;

[2] *Lydia Challenger* (54), wife, born Tipton;

[3] *James Challenger* (27), son, roller of sheets in iron works, born Tipton;

[4] *Joseph Challenger* (23), son, labourer in iron works, born Tipton;

[5] *Hannah Challenger* (19), daughter, domestic servant, born Bradley;

[6] *George Challenger* (14), son, school, born Bradley:

1911 Probate

“*Joseph Challenger*, of Hatton Street, Bradley, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 22 January 1911. Probate Lichfield 18 March to *Lydia Challenger*, widow. Effects £59 7s 6d.”

1911 Census

36, Hatton Street – CALIFORNIA INN

[1] *Lydia Challenger* (64), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Tipton;

[2] *James Challenger* (37), son, iron worker, born Toll End;

[3] *Hannah Challenger* (29), daughter, born Bradley;

[4] *Maria Moss* (14), visitor, born Darlaston:

County Express 19/7/1913 - Advert

“Highly Important Announcement of Sale by Auction of Fourteen Freehold Fully-Licensed and On-Beerhouse Properties, in and around Coseley, Bilston, Darlaston, Sedgley, and Tipton.

Alfred W. Dando & Co. have received instructions to Sell by Auction, at the STAR AND GARTER HOTEL, Wolverhampton, on Tuesday, July 22nd, 1913, at 6.30 for 7 o'clock in the Evening precisely, subject to Conditions of Sale then to be produced, as follows.....

Lot 1. The SWAN INN, Darkhouse Lane, Deepfields, Coseley (fully-licensed), as occupied by Mr. Davies, together with the Two Dwelling Houses adjoining, being Nos.10 and 16, Darkhouse Lane.

Lot 2. The PAINTERS ARMS INN, Avenue Road, Coseley (fully-licensed), as occupied by Mr. Davies.

Lot 3. The RED LION INN, Castle Street, Coseley (Beerhouse-on), with large area of Land, as occupied by Mr. John Groves.

Lot 4. The IVY HOUSE INN, Ivy House Lane, Coseley (fully-licensed) as occupied by Mr. Cahill or his under-tenant, together with the Dwelling House, Numbered 23, Ivy House Lane, occupying a large area of land.

Lot 5. The SUMMER HOUSE INN, School Street, Roseville, Coseley (Beerhouse-on), as let to Mr. G. W. Davies.

Lot 6. The ROLLING MILL INN, Millfield Road, Bilston (Beerhouse-on), extending to and fronting Union Street, with large area of Land, as occupied by Mr. Eli Cresswell.

Lot 6a. Union Street. Two Unnumbered Dwelling Houses adjoining the above, with large walled-in Yard and Outbuildings, as let to John Beaton and David Lloyd.

Lot 7. The BARLEY MOW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston (Beerhouse-on), as occupied by Mrs. Sarah Hughes.

Lot 8. The CALIFORNIA INN, Hatton Street, Bradley, near Bilston(Beerhouse-on), as occupied by Mr. *John Morgan*, with the Five Dwelling Houses, being No.38, California Street, and Nos.1 to 7 (odd numbers), at the rear of same.

Lot 9. The PRINCE OF WALES, Walsall Road, between Darlaston and Wednesbury (Beerhouse-on), as occupied by Mr. Thomas Burfoot.

Lot 10. The NEW INN, The Green (opposite Horton Street), Darlaston (6-day Licence Beerhouse-on), as occupied by Mrs. Snape.

Lot 11. The MINERS ARMS INN, Ruiton Street, Lower Gornal (fully-licensed), as let to Mr. Enoch Smart.

Lot 11a. Nos.90 and 91, Ruiton Street, Lower Gornal. Two Excellent Cottages adjoining the above, with pleasant Gardens and the usual Outbuildings.

Lot 12. The SHAKESPEARE INN, Kent Street, Upper Gornal (fully-licensed), as occupied by Mr. Isaac Smart.

Lot 13. The CABIN INN, Kent Street, Upper Gornal (Beerhouse-on), as occupied by Mr. Joshua Bradley.

Lot 14. The BOAT INN, Boat Row, off Park Lane West, Tipton (fully-licensed), as occupied by Mr. John Johnson, with the Dwelling House, No.14 adjoining.

Auctioneers' Notes: The foregoing 14 Licensed Houses, 6 of which are Fully-licensed and 8 On-Beerhouses, form as a whole, one of the most important lots of Licensed Properties brought under the hammer in the district within recent years. They have been carefully acquired from time to time, and are situate in well-populated localities, for the most part within easy distance of the largest works in Staffordshire.

The Houses are held either on short tenancies or under management, and in most cases possession may be had of the goodwill of the various businesses upon completion of the purchases; a fine opportunity therefore presents itself to Brewers wishing to increase their barrelage, or to private individuals desiring to embark in the trade. The Houses as a whole are in good order, commodious, well arranged, and doing genuine trades.

Further detailed particulars may be obtained from of Messrs. Hall, Pratt and Pritchard, Solicitors, Bilston; or the Auctioneers, Dudley."

Birmingham Daily Post 8/5/1915 - Advert

"Under A Deed Of Assignment.

Re Richard Sidney Wilson, trading as R. S. Wilson & Son.

Preliminary Announcement Of Sale By Auction of Eleven Freehold, Fully-Licensed and On-Beerhouse Properties, Brewery Premises & Dwelling Houses in and around Darlaston, Sedgley, Coseley, Bilston, Tipton, Ackleton, and Bridgnorth.

Alfred W. Dando & Co. have received instructions from R. H. Jonson, Esq. (Messrs. Muras and Co., Chartered Accountants, Wolverhampton), the Trustees as above, to Sell by Auction early in June, the following Properties.

The PRINCE OF WALES INN, Walsall Road, between Darlaston and Wednesbury (Beerhouse-On).

The MINERS ARMS INN, Ruiton Street, Lower Gornal (Fully Licensed), and Two Cottages.

The SWAN INN, Darkhouse Lane, Deepfields, Coseley (Fully Licensed), and Two Dwelling Houses.

The BARLEY MOW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston (Beerhouse-On).

The ROLLING MILL INN, Millfield Road, Bilston (Beerhouse-On), and Two Cottages.

The CALIFORNIA INN, Hatton Street, Bradley, near Bilston (Beerhouse-On), and five Dwelling Houses.

The BOAT INN, Boat Row, off Park Lane West, Tipton (Fully Licensed).

The RED LION INN, Castle Street, Coseley, (Beerhouse-On).

The SUMMER HOUSE INN, School Street, Roseville, Coseley (Beerhouse-On).

The CABIN INN, Kent Street, Upper Gornal (Beerhouse-On).

The Folly Inn, Ackleton, 5½ miles from Bridgnorth and Albrighton, and about 10 miles from Wolverhampton (Beerhouse-On), with Cottage Residence.

The Castle Brewery, Bridgnorth, with Fixed Plant.

Further particulars will appear in future announcements.

Auctioneer's Offices, 193, Wolverhampton Street, Dudley. (Tele.56)."

Catalogue for Auction on 2/6/1915

“Under a Deed of Assignment. Re Richard Sidney Wilson, trading as R. S. Wilson & Son.

Highly Important Announcement of Sale by Auction of Eleven Freehold Fully Licensed and On-Beerhouse Properties, Brewery Premises and Dwelling Houses.....

The following Eleven Licensed Houses, Three of which are Fully-Licensed and Eight On-Beerhouses, together with the Brewery, form as a whole, one of the most important lots of Licensed Properties brought under the hammer in the district within recent years. They have been carefully acquired from time to time and are situated in well populated localities, for the most part within easy distance of some of the largest works in Staffordshire, and as they are being offered by direction of the Trustee under a Deed of Assignment, a fine opportunity presents itself to Brewers wishing to increase their barrelage or to private individuals desiring to embark in the trade, of acquiring houses which as a whole are in good order, commodious, well arranged, doing genuine trades, and possession of which may be obtained in most cases upon completion and otherwise at early dates afterwards.....

Lot 6. The CALIFORNIA INN, Hatton Street, Bradley, near Bilston (Beerhouse-On).

Under Management. The exceedingly well-known and long established Public House situated close to several extensive works, in a thickly populated district and commanding a large trade, the accommodation comprising Entrance Passage, Tap Room front 22' x 11', Bar 10' x 10', Club Room 22' x 11', Private Sitting Room, outer Living Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Wash-house and Cellars together with Two-floor Brewery, large paved Yard and the usual Outbuildings.

Also the Five Freehold Dwelling Houses adjoining thereto, one of which fronts the street and is numbered 38, the others being at rear of same and numbered 1, 3, 5, and 8 respectively as let and together producing the gross annual rental of £34 9s 0d.”

[Bought by J. Downing for £600.]

Birmingham Daily Post 4/6/1915

“At Wolverhampton on Wednesday Messrs. W. Dando and Co. of Dudley offered for sale a number of licensed houses in the Black Country, and the lots disposed of realised a total of £6,835....

The CALIFORNIA INN, Hatton Street, Bradley, near Bilston, an on-beerhouse under management, together with five dwelling houses producing a gross annual rental of £34 9s, fetched £600.”

Daniel Corbett was fined £1 and costs, on 3rd May 1916, for selling beer exceeding the measure called for.

1921 Census

36, Hatton Street

- [1] Daniel Corbett (34), iron worker, born Tipton;
- [2] Mary Jane Corbett (32), wife, house duties, born Wellington, Shropshire;
- [3] Elsie Corbett (14), daughter, school, born Tipton;
- [4] Emily Corbett (12), daughter, school, born Tipton;
- [5] Edith Corbett (10), daughter, school, born Tipton;
- [6] Annie Corbett (8), daughter, school, born Tipton;
- [7] Arthur Corbett (6), son, school, born Bradley;
- [8] Phillis Corbett (3), daughter, born Bradley;
- [9] William Corbett (1), son, born Bradley;

Alfred Hale = Alfred Hales

1939 Register

36, Hatton Street

- [1] Alfred H. Hale, date of birth 17/11/1881, beer retailer, married;
- [2] Rose C. Hale, dob 2/1/1881, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] Sidney Hale, dob 18/2/1907, wood pattern maker, engineer's, heavy work, single;
- [4] James S. Hale, dob 4/4/1921, machine driller, aero, heavy work, single;

A team from here took part in the Bradley Darts League, Second Division. [1946]

1948 Probate

"Rosa Clara, otherwise Rose, Hale, of 36 Hatton Street, Bilston, Staffordshire (wife of *Alfred Henry Hale*) died 30 October 1946. Administration Birmingham 27 August to Sidney Hale, wood pattern maker. Effects £120 19s 8d."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 20/1/1951

"A licensee's wife told Bilston magistrates yesterday that after using £273 from the inn's death and dividend club to pay bills she trudged round for three hours trying to borrow money from relatives to replace it. Ann Elizabeth *Lavender* (34), housewife, of the CALIFORNIA INN, Bradley, treasurer of the club, admitted four charges of fraudulently converting amounts of £1 6s 2d, and asking for 241 other cases to be taken into consideration. *Lavender* was fined £10, and told by Ald. C. A. Pratt, the chairman, that but for domestic circumstances, she would have gone to prison."

TO BREWERS, PUBLICANS, AND OTHERS.

THREE FREEHOLD LICENSED HOUSES, WOLVERHAMPTON, WEDNESBURY, AND BILSTON, FOR SALE, WITH POSSESSION.

THOMAS J. BARNETT & SON are instructed to offer for Sale by Auction, on WEDNESDAY EVENING, April 27, 1898, at half-past six o'clock prompt time, at the Auction Mart, 25, Darlington Street, Wolverhampton, subject to conditions of sale, the following LICENSED HOUSES and PROPERTIES adjoining, viz.:-

MONMORE GREEN, BILSTON ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON.

Lot 1.—The Old-established FREEHOLD FULLY-LICENSED PUBLIC-HOUSE, known as "THE ODDFELLOWS' ARMS," situate fronting the Bilston Road, at Monmore Green, Wolverhampton, with the Yard, Out-houses, and Appurtenances at the rear; and also the adjoining HOUSE and SHOP, being No. 45, Monmore Green, and the Out-offices thereto.

Possession of the Licensed House will be given on the completion of purchase.

**THE CROSS KEYS INN,
EARP'S LANE, WEDNESBURY.**

Lot 2.—The Old-established Three-storey LICENSED BEER-HOUSE, known as the "CROSS KEYS INN," situated amongst a dense population in Earp's Lane, off High Street, in the town of Wednesbury, with the Two-storey DWELLING HOUSE adjoining, and the Yard and Out-offices belonging to both houses at the rear. The small House is occupied by a weekly tenant at a gross rental of £11 14s. per annum, and possession of the Beerhouse will be given on completion of the purchase.

**THE CALIFORNIA INN,
BRADLEY, BILSTON.**

Lot 3.—The Old-established FREEHOLD LICENSED BEER-HOUSE, known as the "CALIFORNIA INN," situate fronting to Hatton Street, Bradley, with enclosed Yard and Wash-house at the rear, and a gateway at the side; and also a Two-storey DWELLING HOUSE adjoining another at the rear thereof, and Four Two-storey HOUSES, with Out-offices, in the Yard at the back. The Houses are let to weekly tenants, and produce a gross rental of £37 1s. per annum. Possession of the Beerhouse may be had on completion of purchase.

N.B.—Purchasers of the above Houses will be required to take to, at a valuation in the usual way, the Public-house Fixtures, Fittings, Licenses, and Effects as per Schedules, which may be seen on application to the Auctioneers.

For further information, apply to Mr. H. C. Owen, Solicitor; or to the Auctioneers, all of Darlington Street, Wolverhampton.

There are other FREEHOLD PROPERTIES for Sale on the same Evening, after the above, which are described in separate announcements.

HIGHLY-IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT OF SALE BY AUCTION OF ELEVEN FREEHOLD FULLY-LICENSED AND ON-BEERHOUSE PROPERTIES, BREWERY PREMISES & DWELLING HOUSES in and around DARLASTON, SEDGLEY, COSELEY, BILSTON, TIPTON, ACKLETON, AND BRIDGNORTH.

ALFRED W. DANDO & CO. have received instructions from R. H. Johnston, Esq. (Messrs. Muras and Co., Chartered Accountants, Wolverhampton), the Trustee as above, to sell by Auction, at the Star and Garter Hotel, Wolverhampton, on WEDNESDAY, June 2, 1915, at Seven o'clock in the Evening precisely, subject to Conditions of Sale then to be produced, as follows:—

Lot 1.

"THE PRINCE OF WALES INN," WALSALL ROAD, between Darlaston and Wednesbury (Beerhouse-On).

Lot 2.

"THE MINERS' ARMS INN," RUITON STREET, LOWER GORNAL (Fully Licensed), together with the Two COTTAGES adjoining.

Lot 3.

"THE SWAN INN," DARKHOUSE LANE, DEEPFIELDS COSELEY (Fully Licensed), and Two DWELLING HOUSES adjoining.

Lot 4.

"THE BARLEY MOW INN," OXFORD STREET, BILSTON (Beerhouse-On).

Lot 5.

"THE ROLLING MILL INN," MILLFIELD ROAD, BILSTON (Beerhouse-On), and Two COTTAGES adjoining.

Lot 6.

"THE CALIFORNIA INN," HATTON STREET, BRADLEY near Bilston (Beerhouse-On), and Five DWELLING HOUSES.

Lot 7.

"THE BOAT INN," BOAT ROW, off Park Lane West, TIPTON (Fully Licensed).

Lot 8.

"THE RED LION INN," CASTLE STREET, COSELEY (Beerhouse-On).

Lot 9.

"THE SUMMER HOUSE INN," SCHOOL STREET, ROSEVILLE, COSELEY (Beerhouse-On).

Lot 10.

"THE CABIN INN," KENT STREET, UPPER GORNAL (Beerhouse-On).

Lot 11.

"THE FOLLY INN," ACKLETON (Beerhouse-On), situate five and a half miles from Bridgnorth and Albrighton, and about ten miles from Wolverhampton.

Lot 12.

An Excellent COTTAGE RESIDENCE, adjoining the above, as lot to Mr. Davies.

Lot 13.

THE CASTLE BREWERY, BRIDGNORTH, together with the whole of the FIXED PLANT.

Further particulars may be obtained—as to Lot 1, of Messrs. Slater and Co., Solicitors, Darlaston; as to Lots 2, 3, and 7, of Messrs. W. A. and H. M. Foster, Solicitors, Wolverhampton; as to Lot 12, of Messrs. Tildesley and Harris, Solicitors, Willehall; and as to the whole of the Lots of Messrs. Hall, Pratt, and Pritchard, Solicitors, Bilston; or of the Auctioneers, Dudley.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT OF SALE BY AUCTION
— of —

*ELEVEN Freehold Fully Licensed and
On-Beerhouse Properties, : : : : :
Brewery Premises and Dwelling Houses*

IN AND ABOUT

DARLSTON	TIPTON
SEDGLEY	ACKLETON
COSELEY	and
BILSTON	BRIDGNORTH

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION BY

Alfred W. Dando & Co.

AT THE

STAR & GARTER HOTEL, WOLVERHAMPTON
:: :: On WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2nd, 1915, :: ::

At 5.30 for 7 o'clock in the Evening precisely, subject
to Conditions of Sale then to be produced.

TRUSTEES:

R. H. JOHNSON, Esq.,
(Messrs. MURK & Co.),
Chartered Accountants,
Wolverhampton.

Auctioneers' Offices,
193, Wolverhampton St.,
DUDLEY.

SOLICITORS:

Messrs. HALL, PHILLIPS & PRITCHARD,
Bilston;

Messrs. SLATER & Co.,
Darlston;

Messrs. W. A. & H. M. POSTER,
Wolverhampton;

Messrs. TILDENLEY & HARRIS,
Willenhall.

Catalogue 1915

The "California" Inn,
HATTON STREET,
Bradley, near Bilston
(Beerhouse-On).

UNDER MANAGEMENT.

The exceedingly well-known and long established Public-
House situate close to several extensive works, in a thickly
populated district and commanding a large trade, the
accommodation comprising Entrance Passage, Tap Room
front 22' x 11', Bar 10' x 10', Club Room 22' x 11', Private
Sitting Room, outer Living Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Wash-
house and Cellars together with Two-floor Brewery, large
paved Yard and the usual Outbuildings.

Also the Five Freehold **DWELLING HOUSES** adjoining
thereto, one of which fronts the street and is numbered 38,
the others being at rear of same and numbered 1, 3, 5, and 8
respectively as let and together producing the gross annual
rental of £34 : 9s. : 0d.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

6, (5), Mount Pleasant, BILSTON

OWNERS

Martha Lee

LICENSEES

Thomas Lee [1851] – [1856]
Edward Griffiths [1861]
Samuel Martin []
Reuben Humphries []
Thomas Lee [1866]
Mrs. Martha Lee [1871] – **1886**):

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, MOUNT PLEASANT, BILSTON.
BY Messrs. ALTREE and SON.—TO BE LET,
at valuation, the above convenient PREMISES, with large
kitchen garden, yard, stabling, piggeries, &c. An excellent business
is done the year through. Rent, only £25 per annum.—Apply,
enclosing stamp, to ALTREE and SON, old-established Valuers,
Bilston.

1859

NOTES

5, Mount Pleasant [1861]
6, Mount Pleasant [1881]

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, MOUNT PLEASANT, BILSTON.
BY ALTREE AND SON.—TO BE LET, the
above well-frequented and noted House of business, with
every convenience, large kitchen garden, stables, piggeries, yard, &c.
Rent, £25. The present proprietor has been in 26 years, and is leaving
in consequence of having taken the White Horse, Shiffnal. Valuation
only required.—Apply to the old-established AUCTIONEERS,
Market-street, Bilston.

1860

It had a beerhouse license.

1851 Census

Mount Pleasant
[1] Thomas Lee (53), retail brewer, born Bedworth, Warwickshire;
[2] Hannah Lee (56), wife, born Bloxwich;
[3] George Owen (9), grand-son, scholar, born Bilston;
[4] Mercy Shayshutt (13), house servant, born Bilston;
[5] Ann Shayshutt (54), visitor, born Bloxwich:

Birmingham Journal 24/3/1857

“Slander at Bilston. *Holmes v Lee*.

This was an action for defamation of character, the plaintiff being a confidential servant to Messrs. Hickman, ironmasters, Bilston, and the defendant landlord of the CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, Bilston. It appeared that in September last the plaintiff was at the house of the defendant, in company with two persons named Enoch Meacham and Thomas Barns, where they had some beer. A person named Hayman also came into the room, and in their presence the defendant stated that he had frequently seen the plaintiff with a horse and cart at twelve at night at the premises of Hickman, taking away the corn, and that he would swear it. A letter was afterwards sent to the defendant by Mr. Bartlett, plaintiff’s solicitor, demanding a retraction and an apology, after which defendant went to Mr. Bartlett’s office, and instead of apologising actually repeated the statement, saying, ‘What I have said about Holmes is true, and my own books and witnesses will prove it.’ Evidence on both sides having been called, the Jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff, damage £2 10s.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 7/9/1859 - Advert

“CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, Mount Pleasant, Bilston.

By Messrs. Altree and Son. To be Let, at valuation, the above convenient Premises, with large kitchen garden, yard, stabling, piggeries, &c. An excellent business is done the year through. Rent, only £25 per annum. Apply, enclosing stamp, to Altree and Son, old-established Valuers, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/2/1860 - Advert

“CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, Mount Pleasant, Bilston.

By Aلتree and Son. To be Let, the above well-frequented and noted House of business, with every convenience, large kitchen garden, stables, piggeries, yard, &c. Rent, £25. The present proprietor had been in 26 years, and is leaving in consequence of having taken the White Horse, Shiffnal. Valuation only required.

Apply to the old-established Auctioneers, Market Street, Bilston.”

1861 Census

5, Mount Pleasant – CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

[1] *Edward Griffiths* (21), beer retailer, born Bilston;

[2] *Sarah Griffiths* (22), wife, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 14/12/1865 - Advert

“Bilston. To be Disposed Of, the Goodwill and Possession of the CAPE OF GOOD HOPE INN, near the Police Court, Bilston. Immediate possession may be had. The Stock, Plant, Fixtures, &c, to be taken to by valuation.

Apply to S. Baker, Auctioneer, Bilston.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 20/12/1865 - Advert

“CAPE OF GOOD HOPE INN, near the Police Court, Bilston.

To be disposed of, by Mr. Samuel Baker, the Stock, Fittings, Brewing Vessels, and Effects, at the above house, possession of which can be had on the 22nd December inst, by Valuation in the usual way.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/10/1866

“Mr. *Thomas Lee*, publican, of Wolverhampton, sued *Reuben Humphries*, late of the CAPE OF GOOD HOPE beershop, Bilston, to recover £8 6s, amount of damage done by him to that house, of which plaintiff is the landlord. The case for the plaintiff, for whom Mr. Bartlett appeared, was that defendant had during his tenancy broken a stone water trough, and done other damage, and in removing fixtures did injury to the amount claimed. The case for the defendant, for whom Mr. Langman appeared, and at whose instance a jury had been summoned to decide the claim, was that he had been most careful in the use of the house, and in the removal of the fixtures, and that the stone trough was old, and was split in the wear and tear. The jury found for the plaintiff, damages £2.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/12/1866 - Advert

“The CAPE OF GOOD HOPE to be Let, Mount Pleasant, Bilston. In-coming about £15.

Apply, S. Baker, Bilston.”

THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE to be LET, Mount Pleasant, Bilston. In-coming about £15.—Apply, S. Baker, Bilston.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/1/1868 - Advert

“To be Let, at Bilston.....

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, Mount Pleasant. Rent £25. Fittings only to take to.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/6/1868 - Deaths

“On the 28th ultimo, at the DUKE OF YORK, Princess Street, Wolverhampton, Mr. *Thomas Lee*, late of the CAPE OF GOOD HOPE INN, Mount Pleasant, Bilston; deeply regretted.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/8/1869

“The annual licensing meeting for the Bilston division took place yesterday, at the Police Court.....

The following beerhouse keepers had been fined during the past five years.....

For keeping open during prohibited hours.....

Samuel Martin, CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, Mount Pleasant, 10s and costs.

R. Humphries, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, 10s and costs.”

1871 Census

Mount Pleasant

[1] *Martha Lee* (38), widow, licensed victualler, born Shropshire:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 15/9/1879

"Yesterday morning, the beerhouse of *Martha Lee*, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, was burglariously entered, and about £1 4s in money taken."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 23/9/1879

"James Morris, locksmith, Orchard Street, Bilston, was charged in custody with having burglariously entered the CAPE OF GOOD HOPE beerhouse, kept by *Martha Lee*, at Mount Pleasant, Bilston, on the morning of the 14th September.

Prosecutrix stated that on the night of the 13th September she closed the house at 11 o'clock, secured the doors and windows, and retired to rest about half an hour later. Early the next morning she heard a noise in the house as of some jugs falling and also of someone trying to enter her bedroom, the door of which was both locked and bolted. She then opened the window and saw someone, without shoes, come from the back of the house. A little later on a tenant came by, and witness sent him to the police station. On the arrival of a police officer it was found that an entrance had been effected through the kitchen window, and that two half-sovereigns and 6s in silver and copper had been carried away.

Police-constable James Johnson stated that when he searched the premises the same morning he found a pair of clogs and a hat. Mrs. Walters deposed that she lived near the prisoner, and had seen him wear the hat produced. He was in the habit of wearing clogs.

Inspector Evans deposed that on the 22nd inst the prisoner, whilst in the cell, and in the presence of his mother, said that he himself committed the burglary, and 'that the devil must have been in him,' or he should not have done it. Prisoner, who admitted in the dock that he alone entered the house, was committed to take his trial at the assizes."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 25/9/1879

"At Bilston Police Court, on Tuesday, James Morris (29), locksmith, of Orchard Street, was charged with burglariously entering the dwelling house of *Martha Lee*, landlady of the CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, Mount Pleasant, on the 14th inst. Prisoner, with another man not in custody, was seen to leave the premises about two o'clock in the morning by the prosecutrix, who was disturbed by the noise. All the booty that was secured was 10d. Morris was apprehended on Saturday last, when he admitted the offence. He was committed to the Assizes."

Birmingham Daily Post 8/11/1879

"Staffordshire Assizes. Yesterday. Pleaded Guilty.....

James Morris (29), locksmith, pleaded guilty to breaking into the dwelling house of *Martha Lee*, at Bilston, on the 14th of September, and stealing £1 10s. He was sent to gaol for six months."

1881 Census

6, Mount Pleasant – beer shop CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

[1] *Martha Lee* (40), widow, publican, born Shropshire;

[2] Catherine Franks (17), domestic servant, born Wolverhampton:

Birmingham Daily Post 18/11/1884

"Yesterday morning *Martha Lee*, landlady of the CAPE OF GOOD HOPE INN, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, was found dead in her room. The deceased had gone to bed at about a quarter to ten on Sunday night. Yesterday morning she appears to have got up to dress, and to have been seized with a fit, in which she died. Deceased has for several weeks past complained of being unwell, and has employed a neighbour to help her in her household duties."

Darlaston Weekly Times 22/11/1884

"*Martha Lee* (55), landlady of the CAPE OF GOOD HOPE INN, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, was on Monday morning found dead in her bedroom under somewhat singular circumstances. It appears deceased was a widow, and had kept the house for a number of years. At about half-past one o'clock on the day in question, a woman visited the house, and being unable to make herself heard, at once gave information to Inspector Harrison, at the police station near, who obtained a ladder and got through the window onto deceased's bedroom, when he discovered her lying upon the floor undressed, with her head near the bedsteads, but quite dead. Dr. Larkin having been called, stated that deceased had been dead some hours.

After the evidence of several witnesses, and also the evidence of Dr. Larkin, who had made a post mortem examination over the deceased, the jury returned a verdict that Mrs. *Lee* had died from Natural Causes."

Birmingham Daily Post 22/2/1886

“At Bilston Police Court, on Friday, application was made by Mr. Plumptre for the renewal of the license of the CAPE OF GOOD HOPE INN, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, to Mr. Matthew J. Blewitt, solicitor, Birmingham, the administrator of the late licensee *Martha Lee*. This house was one of the oldest in Bilston, and no objection had been made to it whilst it was held by Mrs. *Lee*.

Mr. Dallow, on behalf of Mr. Clark, the licensee of the GLOBE INN, which is only next door to the CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, urged that another public house was not required in the neighbourhood. A memorial against the application, signed by the inhabitants of Mount Pleasant, was presented by Mr. Fellows.

Mr. Whitehouse said the Bench sympathised with the mortgagees of the property, but they must refuse the application.”

The license was taken away in 1886. No application for transfer (not required).

BILSTON.—To be DISPOSED OF, the GOODWILL and POSSESSION of the CAPE OF GOOD HOPE INN, near the Police Court, Bilston. Immediate possession may be had. The Stock, Plant, Fixtures, &c., to be taken to by valuation.—Apply to S. Baker, Auctioneer, Bilston.

**CAPE OF GOOD HOPE INN,
NEAR THE POLICE COURT, BILSTON.
TO BE DISPOSED OF,**

**BY Mr. SAMUEL BAKER, the STOCK,
FITTINGS, BREWING VESSELS, and EFFECTS, at
the above house, possession of which can be had on the 22nd
December inst., by Valuation in the usual way.**

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

Wolverhampton Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

James Jenks [1818] – [1822]

Hartshorne [1828] – [1830]

Joseph Lawley []

George Lawley [1850]

Richard Nicholls [1851]

NOTES

James Jenks was also a shopkeeper. [1818]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 20/2/1850 - Advert

“Public House, Buildings, and Land, Bilston.

To be Peremptorily Sold by Auction, by Mr. John Mason, by direction of the mortgagee under a power of sale, on Thursday, the 28th day of February, 1850, at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, at 6 for 7 o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then and there read.

Lot I. A Public House, called the CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, situated in Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, occupied by *George Lawley*; a Dwelling House adjoining thereto, occupied by Jane Ashwood; two Dwelling Houses at the back thereof, in the respective occupations of George Clarke and Thomas Bailey.

Lot II. Three Messuages in Wolverhampton Street aforesaid, contiguous to Lot I, in the respective occupations of William Millard, Richard Jones, and Thomas Evans; a Dwelling House at the back of the said three messuages, and occupied by Samuel Pugh.

For further particulars apply to Mr. Phillips, attorney at law, Wolverhampton.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 21/12/1850 - Notice

“In the County Court of Staffordshire, at Wolverhampton. 19th day of December, 1850.

Whereas, a Petition of *Joseph Lawley*, of Coseley Row, in the township of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Butty Collier and Butty Miner, late residing and carrying on the CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, situate in Wolverhampton Street, in the said township of Bilston, and also working by royalty and as a Butty Miner at Stonefield Colliery Pits, near Bilston aforesaid, and previously thereto residing in Oatmeal Square, in the said township of Bilston, working as a Butty Miner at the said Stonefield Colliery Pits, an Insolvent Debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire at Wolverhampton, and an Interim Order for protection from process having been given to the said *Joseph Lawley*, under the provisions of the statutes in that case made and provided, the said *Joseph Lawley* is hereby required to appear in Court before Nathaniel Richard Clarke, Esquire, Sergeant-at-Law, the Judge acting in the matter of the said petition, on the 3rd day of January, 1851, at twelve o'clock at noon precisely, at the Court House, Queen Street, Wolverhampton aforesaid, for his first Examination touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said statutes; and Notice is hereby given, that the choice of Assignees is to take place at the time so appointed.

All persons indebted to the said *Joseph Lawley*, or who have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Charles Gallimore Brown, Esquire, Official Assignee, acting in the matter of the said petition, at his Office, in Queen Street, Wolverhampton aforesaid.

J. C. Smith, Esq, Solicitor, Wolverhampton.”

PUBLIC HOUSE, BUILDINGS, AND LAND,
Bilston.
To be PEREMPTORILY SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY MR. JOHN MASON,
*By direction of the mortgagee under a power of sale,
on Thursday, the 28th day of February, 1850, at the
King's Arms Inn, Bilston, at 6 for 7 o'clock in the
evening, subject to conditions to be then and there
read.*
Lot I.— A PUBLIC HOUSE, called “THE CAPE OF
GOOD HOPE,” situated in Wolverhampton-
street, Bilston, occupied by George Lawley; a DWELL-
ING HOUSE adjoining thereto, occupied by Jane Ash-
wood; two DWELLING HOUSES at the back thereof,
in the respective occupations of George Clarke and
Thomas Bailey.
Lot II.— Three MESSUAGES in Wolverhampton-street
aforesaid, contiguous to Lot I, in the respective occupa-
tions of William Millard, Richard Jones, and Thomas
Evans; a DWELLING HOUSE at the back of the said
three messuages, and occupied by Samuel Pugh.
For further particulars apply to Mr. PHILLIPS, attorney
at law, Wolverhampton.

Birmingham Journal 28/12/1850 - Advert

“Old-Licensed Public House, the CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston.

By W. Ashcroft. To be Disposed Of, the above desirable Tavern. In-coming about £40; Rent under £20.

The amount of Valuation can be reduced, if required. Satisfactory reasons can be given for leaving.

Apply to W. Ashcroft, Auctioneer, Appraiser, and General Commission Agent, Pipers Row, Wolverhampton, who has several other Public Houses, and an excellent Grocer's Shop to dispose of.”

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF STAFFORD-

SHIRE, AT WOLVERHAMPTON.—19th day of December, 1850.—Whereas, a PETITION of JOSEPH LAWLEY, of Coseley-row, in the township of BILSTON, in the county of Stafford, Butty Collier and Butty Miner, late residing and carrying on the trade or business of a Licensed Victualler, at the sign of the “Cape of Good Hope,” situate in Wolverhampton-street, in the said township of Bilston, and also working by royalty and as a Butty Miner at Stonefield Colliery Pits, near Bilston aforesaid, and previously thereto residing in Oatmeal-square, in the said township of Bilston, working as a Butty Miner at the said Stonefield Colliery Pits, an Insolvent Debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire at Wolverhampton, and an Interim Order for protection from process having been given to the said Joseph Lawley, under the provisions of the statutes in that case made and provided, the said Joseph Lawley is hereby required to appear in Court before NATHANIEL RICHARD CLARKE, Esquire, Sergeant-at-Law, the Judge acting in the matter of the said petition, on the 3rd day of January, 1851, at twelve o'clock at noon precisely, at the Court House, Queen-street, Wolverhampton aforesaid, for his first Examination touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said statutes; and Notice is hereby given, that the choice of Assignees is to take place at the time so appointed.

All persons indebted to the said Joseph Lawley, or who have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to CHARLES GALLIMORE BROWN, Esquire, Official Assignee, acting in the matter of the said petition, at his Office, in Queen-street, Wolverhampton aforesaid.

J. C. SMITH, Esq. Solicitor, Wolverhampton.

OLD-LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE.

“THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE,”

WOLVERHAMPTON STREET, BILSTON.

BY W. ASHCROFT.—To be DISPOSED OF, the above desirable Tavern. In-coming about £40; Rent under £20.

The amount of Valuation can be reduced, if required. Satisfactory reasons can be given for leaving.

Apply to W. Ashcroft, Auctioneer, Appraiser, and General Commission Agent, Piper's Row, Wolverhampton, who has several other Public Houses, and an excellent Grocer's Shop to dispose of.

CASTLE

76, (77), Church Street / Wood Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

The Misses Briscoe, ladies, Kingswinford
Silas Caddick, butcher, Wednesfield
Joseph Whitehouse and Co. Ltd., Talbot Brewery, Smethwick
Showells Brewery Ltd.
Ind Coope and Allsopp (leased)
Ansells Ltd.

LICENSEES

Joseph Chamberlain [1818]
Samuel Spencer [1822] – [1845]
Mrs. Sophia Spencer [1849] – [1858]
Edward Satterthwaite [1860] – [1862]
John Slater Lloyd [1864] – **1868**;
William Smith **(1868 – 1875)**;
John Handley [1871]
Daniel John Lovatt **(1875 – 1876)**;
William Brereton **(1876 – 1884)**;
John Fowler **(1884 – 1895)**;
Charles Atkins **(1895 – 1897)**;
Charles Henry Wilson **(1897 – 1899)**;
John Henry Walters **(1899 – 1900)**;
William Alexander Penness (?) **(1900)**;
John Goulcher **(1900 – 1901)**;
Elizabeth Jones **(1901 – 1902)**;
Frederick Russell Haley **(1902 – 1903)**;
John Lester **(1903 – 1904)**;
Albert George Jevons **(1904)**;
Thomas Kelly **(1904 – 1905)**;
Thomas George Cartwright **(1905 – 1907)**;
George Birkenhead **(1907 – 1908)**;
Jesse Harper **(1908 – 1909)**;
Charles David Beynon **(1909 – 1910)**;
George Frank Kirk Wheatley **(1910 – 1911)**;
Thomas Roberts **(1911)**;
Thomas Tranter **(1911 – 1913)**;
William Vaughan **(1913 – 1914)**;
Francis Sheldon **(1914 – 1915)**;
Thomas 'Tom' Roberts **(1915 – 1922)**;
Leonard Woodhall **(1922 – 1923)**;
Sydney Victor Harold Ward **(1923 – [1940]**
Aaron William Myatt [1964]



Ex Pub 2016

NOTES

77, Church Street [1861], [1864], [1865], [1868], [1870], [1871], [1872], [1874], [1881], [1884], [1891], [1892], [1896], [1904]

76, Church Street [1901], [1908], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1932], [1939], [1940]

Auctions were regularly held here.

Samuel Spencer was also a house furnisher. [1834]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 23/3/1836

“Prospectuses of Rose Hill School, near Birmingham, may be obtained by applying to.....
Mr. *Spencer*, CASTLE INN, Bilston.”

Staffordshire Gazette 10/4/1839 - Marriages

“April 3, at the Collegiate church, Wolverhampton, by the Rev. H. S. Fletcher, of Bilston, Mr. John Lester, maltster, of Bilston, to Mary, eldest daughter of Mr. *Samuel Spencer*, of the same place.”

1841 Census

Church Street (South Side)

[1] *Samuel Spencer* (50), innkeeper, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Sophia Spencer* (45), born Staffordshire;

[3] Jane Lane (20), f.s., born Staffordshire;

[4] Harriet Mason (15), f.s., born Staffordshire;

[5] Edward Ellis (20), m.s.:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 15/10/1845 - Died

“On the 13th instant, aged 55, Mr. *Samuel Spencer*, of the CASTLE INN, Bilston, much and deservedly respected.”

Birmingham Journal 23/1/1847

“On Tuesday, at Bilston Police Court, Joseph Ingleby, bailiff to the Court of Requests, brought a charge against Charles Doughty, a miner, for assault. It appeared that the parties happened to meet in the CASTLE Public House, and that some words passed between them regarding a distraint warrant for debt, which the complainant had executed in the house of Doughty. A quarrel ensued, and the complainant having called the other a rogue and thief, they fell to blows, Ingleby coming off the worst; in consequence of which the present complaint was laid. The Magistrate said that, after having insulted the defendant in the manner he appeared to have done, he did not think it justifiable for Ingleby to come and prefer a complaint, and more especially seeing that they had struck one another. He therefore dismissed the case, with costs.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/4/1848 - Notice

“In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton. Fourteenth day of April, 1848.

Whereas, a Petition of Joseph Spencer, at present and for four years last past residing with Mrs. *Spencer*, of the CASTLE INN, Church Street, Bilston, and up to the month of November, 1845, carrying on business in Church Street, Bilston aforesaid, as a tinman, brazier, ironmonger, dealer and chapman, but since out of business, an insolvent debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, at Wolverhampton, and an interim order for protection from process having been given to the said Joseph Spencer, under the provisions of the statutes in that case made and provided, the said Joseph Spencer is hereby required to appear in Court before Mr. Serjeant Clarke, the Judge acting in the matter of the said petition, on the Twenty-fourth day of April next, at nine o'clock in the forenoon precisely, at the Assembly Rooms, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, 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 Joseph Spencer, or who have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Charles Gallimore Brown, Esq, the official assignee nominated in that behalf by the said Court, acting in the matter of the said petition, at the County Court Offices, in Queen Street aforesaid.

Thomas Bolton, Esq, Solicitor, Wolverhampton.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/5/1848

“Staffordshire County Court. Wolverhampton District.....

The following insolvents passed their last examination, and received their final order.....

Joseph Spencer, of Bilston, tinman and brazier, supported by Mr. T. Bolton.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/7/1849

“On Wednesday last an adjourned inquest was held at the GRAND TURK, Wolverhampton, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of John Lewis, a hay and straw dealer, of Albion Street. As mentioned in our paper a fortnight since, the deceased fell off a load of hay and was much injured. He was afterwards removed from the CASTLE INN, Bilston, where the accident occurred, to his own home; he became insensible, and with one short interval remained in that state up to his death, which took place on the Friday following.

Abraham Worthington stated that the deceased, after throwing several trusses off the cart, went too near the outside of the load, when one of the trusses upon which he was standing slipped down, and the deceased fell head first to the ground with it. He believed the deceased was sober when he fell. Edward Evans corroborated this statement.

Mr. W. H. Pope, surgeon, who had made a post mortem examination, gave it as his opinion that the deceased died from a fracture of the skull. Such a fall as described by the witnesses would most likely fracture the skull.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 21/12/1850

“Inquests held before T. M. Phillips, Esq.....

At the CASTLE INN, Bilston, on the 16th instant, by adjournment from the 9th, on the body of Thomas Roberts, miner, who was killed in a pit by a brick falling out of the shaft. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

1851 Census

Church Street

[1] *Sophia Spencer* (55), widow, licensed victualler, born Bilston;

[2] *George Spencer* (19), son, born Bilston;

[3] *Sarah Spencer* (16), daughter, born Bilston;

[4] *Peter Hughes* (26), brewer, born Oswestry, Shropshire;

[5] *Martha Walters* (24), housemaid, born Bilston;

[6] *Mary Taylor* (16), housemaid, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 16/4/1856

“T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, held an inquest at the CASTLE INN, Church Street, Bilston, on Thursday last, on the body of Bridget Reddington. The deceased was a woman of drunken habits, but who enjoyed good health. On the Tuesday previous to the inquest she was taken suddenly ill, and shortly afterwards expired in the arms of a woman with whom she and her husband lodged. It was stated that the deceased was intoxicated on the evening of the Saturday before her death, and that she generally drunk whisky or rum. She had been heard to complain of affection of the heart. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased Died from Natural Causes, but that her death had been accelerated by her drunken habits.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/1/1859 - Advert

“Sale at Bilston, of Freehold Building Land and Buildings, fronting Market Street and Wood Street.

Mr. T. Danks will Sell by Auction, on Tuesday, February 1st, 1859, at the house of Mrs. *Spencer*, CASTLE INN, Bilston, at six o'clock in the evening, in the following or such other lots as may be agreed upon at the time of sale.....”

In the 1861 census *Sophia Spencer* is living with her daughter, *Mary Lester* – see TRUMPET.

Sophia Spencer died in the 1st quarter of 1863.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/4/1860 - Advert

“Messrs. Fereday and Evans will Offer for Sale by Public Auction, on Friday, the 4th day of May, 1860, at the house of Mr. *Edward Satterthwaite*, the CASTLE INN, Church Street, Bilston, at seven o’clock in the evening, and subject to conditions then to be produced and read, the important and very valuable Freehold Business Premises, situate in Church Street, Bilston, in the occupation of Mr. William Satterthwaite, who is carrying on an extensive business as Butcher, Fishmonger, and Poulterer.....”

1861 Census

77, Church Street

[1] *Edward Satterthwaite* (38), licensed victualler, born Kenilworth, Warwickshire;

[2] *Hannah Satterthwaite* (23), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *William Satterthwaite* (2), son, born Bilston;

[4] *Margaret Morris* (21), general servant, born Birmingham;

[5] *Catharine Darkin* (19), nursemaid, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 11/2/1863

“The following are selected from the List of Bankrupts in the *London Gazette* of Friday, February 6.....
Edward Satterthwaite, Bilston, publican, February 23, at 12, Bankrupts Court, Birmingham.”

Birmingham Journal 28/2/1863

“Birmingham Bankruptcy Court..... In re *E. Satterthwaite*, Bilston, publican.

First sitting. No creditor appearing to claim the choice of assignees, the estate was left to the official assignee.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 25/4/1863

“Birmingham Bankruptcy Court..... In re *E. Satterthwaite*, Bilston, publican.

Last examination and discharge. No assignees had been appointed. The balance-sheet showed creditors, £358 6s 2d; assets, £12 14s 9d; deficiency, £345 11s 5d. The bankrupt was discharged.”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/2/1865 - Advert

“Excellent Opportunity.

CASTLE SPIRIT VAULTS, situate in Church Street, Bilston, to be Let (only changed hands once in forty-three years) now doing a large and increasing trade. Premises compact and low-rented. There are two good Clubs to the House. Satisfactory reasons as to disposal. Coming-in about £350.

Apply to Charles Griffiths, Auctioneer and Valuer, Swan Bank, Bilston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/2/1865 - Advert

“To be Let, the CASTLE SPIRIT VAULTS, Church Street, Bilston.

Apply to Charles Griffiths, Auctioneer and Valuer, Swan Bank, Bilston.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/5/1866

“Yesterday, before the Stipendiary, Mr. *John Lloyd*, landlord of the CASTLE INN, Bilston, appeared on a summons charging him with permitting drunkenness in his house on Wednesday last.

Police-constables Harrison and Chaplin proved that they visited the house about half-past twelve, and again about an hour after. On the first occasion they saw three or four men drunk, and the second time they found a man named Lewis lying helplessly drunk, in front of the door, whom they took into custody, and he was subsequently fined. It was elicited that this man, after having been in the house for two hours after eight o’clock, went out and again came in at half-past twelve, drunk, when the landlord refused to sell him any more liquor, but a customer gave him some rum and peppermint, and he drank the liquor of another.

Mr. Langman for the defence contended that the fact of the defendant having refused to serve Lewis showed he had done all he could do to prevent drunkenness.

The Stipendiary said that if the law could not deal with such a state of things it would be useless; and the law required to be enforced, for the drinking in public houses brought more mischief and misery upon this country, and especially upon the people of this district than anything else. It was most disgraceful that a drunken man should be plied with drink in this way. The defendant having been fined but 1s and costs for a similar offence, he should now fine him £5 and costs; and if he came again, he would fine him £10; and if a fourth time, £50.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1866

“The annual meeting for the renewal of existing licenses, and for receiving applications for fresh ones, was held at the Police Court, on Friday.....

At the commencement of the proceedings, the Superintendent of Police presented the following report.

Bilston Division, August 31, 1866.

‘I beg to submit to the Magistrates the attached list of licensed victuallers who have been complained against during the year. Twenty-five have been convicted, and three have paid costs; one had been convicted three times, and five convicted twice. This is a large increase on last year’s list; but I think it has arisen from the police being more particular in reporting cases of permitting drunkenness – as it was found to be an evil rather on the increase. I believe it has caused landlords to be more careful in supplying drink to persons intoxicated.’

H. McCrea, Superintendent.

Black List.....

John S. Lloyd, CASTLE, Church Street, Bilston left over until the adjourned licensing meeting on the 28th of September.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/9/1866

“Yesterday, the Bilston adjourned Licensing Session was held at the Police Court.....

The following licenses were granted.....

John Slater Lloyd, CASTLE INN, Church Street.”

Liverpool Weekly Courier 26/10/1867

“Bankrupts, &c, from the *London Gazette* of Friday, October 18.....

John Slater Lloyd, Church Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, publican and brassfounder, composition of 5s in the pound on or before 28th of March.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/1/1868 - Advert

“To be Let, at Bilston.....

CASTLE INN, Church Street. Rent £40. In-coming under £250.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/1/1868 - Advert

“Sale of Valuable Business Premises in Church Street, Bilston. Tuesday, the 28th day of January, 1868.

Mr. Jabez Morrell will Offer for Sale by Auction, on Tuesday, the 28th of January, 1868, at the CASTLE INN, Church Street, Bilston, at six o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be read.

All that Old-licensed Public House, with Spirit Vaults, and known as the CASTLE INN, situate in Church Street and Wood Street, Bilston, and having frontage to both streets, now in the occupation of Mr. *John Lloyd*, at the low rent of £40 per annum.

The above premises consist of three cellars, commodious spirit vaults with modern plate-glass front, tap room, smoke room, two club rooms, and suitable bedrooms.

At the rear is large Yard, with Brewhouse, Piggery, and other Outbuildings thereto belonging.

The above premises have two business entrances, one fronting Church Street and the other to Wood Street.

Also, all that Double-fronted Shop and Premises, adjoining the above, in the occupation of Mr. Joseph Jackson, grocer and provision merchant, at the low rent of £27 10s 0d per annum.

The last-mentioned premises consist of excellent front shop with modern double-front plate-glass windows, cellaring, sitting room, and numerous sleeping rooms; scullery, large cooking kitchen with store room over. At the rear is a large warehouse, and suitable outbuildings thereto belonging.

The above properties are situated in the best business part of Church Street, are in excellent repair, have recently had upwards of £500 laid out on them in extensions and repairs, and offer an opportunity to capitalists for investment, and persons desirous of obtaining first-class business situations and premises.

The above properties will be offered in one or two lots, as may be determined at the time of sale.

The properties occupy an area of 400 yards or thereabouts, are copyhold of inheritance, and to be enfranchised at a moderate cost.

Three fourths of the purchase money may remain secured on the premises.

Further particulars may be had of Messrs. Brown and Fellows, Solicitors, or the Auctioneer, both of Bilston.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 22/2/1868 - Advert

"To be Disposed Of, the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession, Public House Fixtures, and Effects of the CASTLE INN, Church Street, Bilston. Immediate possession. Apply to S. Baker, Appraiser, Bilston."

Staffordshire Advertiser 24/12/1870

"*William Smith*, of the CASTLE INN, Bilston, was fined £1 and costs for permitting drunkenness in his house on Sunday night. Sergeant Lightfoot found three men drunk and others the worse for drink in defendant's house about half-past eleven on Sunday night."

1871 Census

77, Church Street

- [1] *John Handley* (35), publican, born Derbyshire;
- [2] *Hannah Handley* (33), wife, born Northenden, Cheshire;
- [3] *Joseph William Handley* (9), son, scholar, born Manchester;
- [4] *Sarah Ellen Handley* (7), daughter, scholar, born Manchester;
- [5] *Elizabeth Ann Handley* (1), daughter, born Cradley Heath;
- [6] *Philis Purcal* (16), general servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 20/5/1874

"Yesterday, at the Bilston Police Court, before the Stipendiary (Mr. I. Spooner), *William Smith*, landlord of the CASTLE INN, Church Street, was summoned for having supplied two police officers with spirituous liquors whilst they were on duty. Mr. A. Young (instructed by Mr. Fellows) defended.

Mr. S. Kemp, tailor, of Church Street, stated that about twelve minutes past eleven of Saturday night last, whilst he was standing by his shop door, his attention was directed to two officers in uniform, who were standing opposite the defendant's house. The younger of the policemen entered the house, and witness went to a side window, through which he saw the officer standing at the bar, drinking out of a glass. Shortly afterwards the other officer entered the house. Witness did not trouble to see whether the other had gone into the house for the same purpose as the younger. Cross-examined by Mr. Young: Witness at first denied that he was a spy, but afterwards admitted that he was acting as a spy on the occasion, and added that he thought this was manly because he believed that the officers were breaking the law.

And you think so, especially as you are a teetotaler? (Laughter.) – Not especially as a teetotaler, though I am one. And you go about nearly every Saturday, I believe, on the spy? (Laughter.) – No, sir.

Mr. Young next enquired what object witness had in coming out so late at night. The Stipendiary suggested that, perhaps, he desired a little fresh air. Witness, however, characterised this as absurd.

Mr. Young, again referring to witness as a spy, Mr. Kemp denied that he had ever played the spy before, and added that he should, however, in the future, if he considered that the law was being violated.

Witness said the window was between five and six feet from the ground, and he managed to see the policeman by supporting himself on the ledge with his arms. He had done this out of mere curiosity.

Mr. Spooner: There is a story in *Don Quixote* of what is called impertinent curiosity, which, perhaps, you have not read? – No, sir. (Laughter.)

Mr. Spooner to Chief Superintendent McCrea: Are there any teetotal policemen? – Yes, sir, I believe that there is such a thing. (Laughter.)

Replying to a question of the Stipendiary, Mr. McCrea stated that the two officers had been already punished.

Mr. Spooner said the case would be dismissed on the present evidence. If there were any steps to be taken they would be taken hereafter. When Mr. S. Kemp left the Court he was followed by many persons, and on arriving in the street he was greeted by the assembled crowd with a variety of epithets. But for the precaution adopted by the Stipendiary in sending a policeman to guard him, he would probably have been subjected to a little rough justice."

Wellington Journal 19/8/1876

"On Tuesday evening, Mr. *Daniel John Lovatt* (45), landlord of the CASTLE INN, Church Street, Bilston, died very suddenly. It appears that on the 31st of the last month he was turning a drunken man out of his house, when the man struck the glass door, breaking the glass. Some of the broken glass struck the deceased on one of his hands, inflicting a severe gash. His injuries were attended to by Dr. Hancox, and he has also been under the care of one or two other medical gentlemen. However, mortification set in as the result of the injuries he had received, and, as stated above, he died suddenly on Tuesday."

Dudley Herald 26/8/1876

“The inquest touching the death of *Daniel John Lovatt*, late landlord of the CASTLE INN, Church Street, Bilston, which occurred on 15th inst, under circumstances already reported in our columns, was resumed on Thursday morning, at the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Lichfield Street, before W. H. Phillips, Esq, deputy coroner. Joseph Eldershaw, the man who stands charged with having inflicted the injury which resulted in deceased’s death, was present at the inquiry in the custody of Inspector Harrison.

Joseph Page, a miner, of Temple Street, said that on the night of the 31st July he was passing the door of the deceased’s premises, about half-past eight o’clock, when he heard a disturbance inside. He stood for a few minutes, and then saw the deceased eject Eldershaw, push him to the ground, and kick him somewhere about the body several times. Eldershaw got up to fight with the deceased, and blows were exchanged between them. The accused, who was drunk, was thrown down two or three times by the deceased, the last fall rendering him insensible for several minutes. Deceased returned into the vaults, and when Eldershaw came to himself he said he had lost his hat, and that it was in the vault. He tried to enter the premises again, but he could not open the door, as it appeared to be held at the other side. In the struggle the glass in the door was broken, but witness could not say who broke it.

Samuel Wild, also a miner, swore that he saw deceased push Eldershaw out of the house, and afterwards push him down and kick him two or three times about the body. Eldershaw then got up and struck the deceased, and the deceased knocked him down, the effect of this blow being that the accused was stunned for a second or two. On Eldershaw regaining consciousness, he got up and said he had lost his ‘billycock,’ and, adding that it was inside, went to the door and asked for it. The deceased was then leaning against the door to prevent him from entering, but Eldershaw persisted in his endeavours to get in, although told by the deceased that his hat was not there. A crowd came up, and in the scuffle which ensued the glass in the door was broken. Witness heard the smash, but could not see who broke the glass, or whether it fell inside or out.

Mr. Henry William Larkin, surgeon, practicing at Bilston, said he made a post mortem examination of the body of the deceased on Thursday last. There were no indications of recent external injury beyond a short incised wound on the surface of the little finger of the left hand. The back of the same hand, the whole of the left arm, and the tissues surrounding the neck, showed signs of severe but morbid inflammatory action, terminating in the hand in thecal abscess and sloughing, and in the arm and about the neck in gangrene. He attributed death to traumatic gangrene, originating in the left little finger, and extending along the left hand and arm to the trunk.

The Coroner having summed up the evidence, the jury deliberated about a quarter of an hour, and then brought in a verdict of Manslaughter against Eldershaw.

On this decision being made known to the accused, he said he should like to make a statement, but the Coroner informed him that he could not do so now, as he had refused the opportunity that was offered him at the opening of the inquiry. Eldershaw was then committed to the Assizes and the coroner’s warrant.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 25/11/1876

“Staffordshire and Shropshire Winter Assizes.....

The Grand Jury found no true bill against Joseph Eldershaw, 52, miner, charged with the manslaughter of *Daniel John Lovatt*, on the 31st of July, at the township of Bilston. The prisoner had been also committed upon the coroners inquisition. Mr. Young said he did not purpose to offer any evidence in support of the charge.

His Lordship said the case, which was a peculiar one, had appeared to him a very questionable one, and he was not surprised that, after investigation, the Grand Jury should have thrown out the bill. Personally, he was well satisfied that no evidence had been offered in support of the charge. Under the learned Judge’s directions, the Jury returned a formal verdict of not guilty.”

William Brereton = William Breton

1881 Census

77, Church Street – CASTLE INN

- [1] *William Brereton* (42), licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *Alice Brereton* (44), wife, born Liverpool;
- [3] *William G. Brereton* (16), son, railway booking clerk, born Poplar, Middlesex;
- [4] *Albert E. Brereton* (15), son, assistant in iron sheet mills, born Bow, Middlesex;
- [5] *Henry T. Brereton* (13), son, scholar, born Poplar, Middlesex;
- [6] *Arthur J. Brereton* (11), son, scholar, born Poplar, Middlesex;
- [7] *Alice C. E. Brereton* (8), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [8] *Minnie A. C. Brereton* (4), daughter, born Bilston:

Birmingham Mail 18/4/1884

“Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest today at the West Bromwich Town Hall relative to the death of Robert Ledderth (52), a journeyman tailor, of Wood Street, Bilston, formerly in the employ of Mr. Harper, clothier, Great Bridge, whose body was found shockingly mangled in the tunnel on the Great Western Railway between Swan Village and Wednesbury on Wednesday last. Mr. *William Brereton*, of the CASTLE INN, Bilston, identified the body, and said deceased was a man of sober habits, and in his opinion not at all likely to commit suicide.....”
[The verdict was Accidental Death.]

William Brereton – see also RAILWAY, Station Street, Walsall.

1891 Census

77, Church Street

- [1] *John Fowler* (56), licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *Phoebe Fowler* (23), wife, born York;
- [3] *Ann Fowler* (1), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] *Elizabeth Fowler* (2 months), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] *Frances Andrews* (59), boarder, pianist, born London;
- [6] *Harriet Glover* (22), domestic servant, born Coseley:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/6/1894 - Advert

“Important Sale of Freehold Public House Property at Bilston.

Messrs. Thomas Howell and Co. are instructed to Sell by Auction, at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, on Thursday Next, June 14, punctually at Seven o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions incorporating those of the Birmingham Law Society, the undermentioned Desirable Properties.

Lot 1. All that Exceedingly-valuable Full-Licensed Inn and Premises, known as the CASTLE, advantageously situated at the corner of Church Street and Wood Street, Bilston, in the occupation of Mr. *John Fowler*.

The central position of this House must always command an extensive and lucrative trade.

Lot 2. All that Roomy and Convenient Full-Licensed Inn, known at the BLANKMAKERS ARMS, Greencroft, near Church Street, Bilston, in the occupation of Mr. Henry T. Hodgkiss.

This House is situated in a good business locality, and the Premises include an extensive range of Shopping.

For further particulars, apply to Messrs. William Shakespeare and Co., Solicitors, Oldbury; or to the Auctioneers, 112, Colmore Row, Birmingham.”

Birmingham Daily Post 18/6/1894

“Mr. A. B. Smith, deputy coroner, held an inquest at the CASTLE INN, Bilston, on Friday evening, touching the death of Martha Caddick (4), of 18, Wood Street, Bilston. The child, on the 7th inst, on returning from school, told her mother that she had swallowed a stone. She afterwards became ill, and was medically attended, but died on Thursday.

Dr. Bailey, who had made a post mortem examination, said he found no sign of a stone or of any foreign substance. Inflammation of the stomach and brain existed, and this might have been caused by swallowing a stone or eating indigestible food.

A verdict was returned that the child died from inflammation of the stomach, caused by swallowing a stone.”

John Fowler – see also LEOPARD, Church Street.

Bristol Mercury 1/6/1899 - Advert

"Bilston. Full Licensed House. Tied to a Good Firm; splendid position; main street; near market hall; doing big market trade; must sell; price £200 or close offer.

Wilson, CASTLE INN, Bilston."

BILSTON - FULL LICENSED HOUSE. Tied to a Good Firm; splendid position; main street; near market hall; doing big market trade; must sell; price £200, or close offer.—Wilson, Castle Inn, Bilston.

1901 Census

76, Church Street – CASTLE INN

- [1] *John Goulcher* (22), public house manager, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Edith F. Goulcher* (21), wife, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *William F. Goulcher* (1), son, born Bilston;
- [4] *Florence E. Bennett* (18), domestic servant, born Wolverhampton:

George Birkenhead – see also WELLINGTON, Price Street.

1911 Census

76, Church Street – CASTLE INN

- [1] *Tom Roberts* (33), manager, hotel, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Lily Selina Roberts* (30), wife, married 7 years, assisting in business, born Dudley;
- [3] *Edwin Thomas Roberts* (2), son, born Sedgley;
- [4] *Beatrice Thombs* (23), sister-in-law, single, domestic servant, born Dudley:

South Staffordshire Times 7/2/1920

"Bilston Licensing Sessions....

During the past year plans had been passed for the reconstruction or alteration of the undermentioned houses.

LIMERICK INN, Gornal Wood; BUSH INN, Gornal Wood; 10, Cinder Road, Gornal Wood; and the WOOD CROSS INN, Cinderhill; THREE CUPS INN, Lanesfield; CASTLE INN, Bilston; BULLS HEAD INN, Ettingshall.

The reconstruction or alterations in the case of the LIMERICK INN, BUSH INN, 10, Cinder Road, and WOOD CROSS INN, were in hand, but in the case of the other houses had not commenced In the case of the reconstruction of the THREE CUPS and CASTLE INN the contracts had been made in each for reconstruction."

1921 Census

Church Street – CASTLE INN

- [1] *Thomas Roberts* (42), licensed victualler, born Coseley;
- [2] *L. Selina Roberts* (40), wife, home duties, born Dudley;
- [3] *Edwin Roberts* (12), son, school, born Coseley;
- [4] *Phyllis May Roberts* (3), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] *Clara Haynes* (28), servant, born Bilston:

1939 Register

76, Church Street

- [1] *Sydney V. H. Ward*, date of birth 29/1/1883, licensed victualler, tenant, single;
- [2] *Louise K. Potter*, dob 18/2/1876, housekeeper and barmaid, single:

Aaron William Myatt died in the 2nd quarter of 1964.

Birmingham Daily Post 23/7/1964

"*Aaron William Myatt*, licensee of the CASTLE INN, Church Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, formerly of the RED LION, Parkfields, Staffordshire, £3,778 (£2,890 net)."

Aaron William Myatt see also RED LION, Parkfield Road.

[1966]

It closed c.1975.

It became a shop.

**IN THE COUNTY COURT OF STAFFORDSHIRE,
HOLDEN AT WOLVERHAMPTON.**

Fourteenth day of April, 1848.

WHEREAS a Petition of JOSEPH SPENCER, at present and for four years last past residing with Mrs. Spencer, of the Castle Inn, Church street, Bilston, and up to the month of November, 1845, carrying on business in Church-street, Bilston aforesaid, as a tinsmith, brazier, ironmonger, dealer and chapman, but since out of business, an insolvent debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, at Wolverhampton, and an interim order for protection from process having been given to the said Joseph Spencer, under the provisions of the statutes in that case made and provided, the said Joseph Spencer is hereby required to appear in Court before Mr. Serjeant CLARK, the Judge acting in the matter of the said petition, on the TWENTY-FOURTH day of APRIL next, at nine o'clock in the forenoon precisely, at the ASSEMBLY ROOMS, QUEEN-STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON, 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 Joseph Spencer, or who have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to CHARLES GALLIMORE BROWN, Esq. the official assignee nominated in that behalf by the said Court, acting in the matter of the said petition, at the County Court Offices, in Queen-street aforesaid.

THOMAS BOLTON, Esq.

Solicitor, Wolverhampton.

1848

EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY.

CASTLE SPIRIT VAULTS, situate in Church Street, Bilston, to be LET (only changed hands once in forty-three years) now doing a large and increasing trade. Premises compact and low-rented. There are two good Clubs to the House. Satisfactory reasons as to disposal. Coming-in about £350.—Apply to Charles Griffiths, Auctioneer and Valuer, Swan Bank, Bilston.

TO be LET, the "CASTLE" SPIRIT VAULTS, Church Street, Bilston.—Apply to Charles Griffiths, Auctioneer and Valuer, Swan Bank, Bilston.

1865

**SALE OF VALUABLE BUSINESS PREMISES
IN CHURCH STREET, BILSTON.**

TUESDAY, THE 28TH DAY OF JANUARY, 1868.

MR. JABEZ MORRELL will OFFER for SALE by AUCTION, on Tuesday, the 28th of January, 1868, at the CASTLE INN, CHURCH STREET, BILSTON, at six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be read, all that Old-licensed PUBLIC-HOUSE, with SPIRIT VAULTS, and known as the Castle Inn, situate in Church Street and Wood Street, Bilston, and having a frontage to both streets, now in the occupation of Mr. John Lloyd, at the low rent of £40 per annum.

The above premises consist of three cellars, commodious spirit vaults with modern plate-glass front, tap room, smoke room, two club rooms, and suitable bedrooms.

At the rear is large Yard, with Brewhouse, Piggery, and other Outbuildings thereto belonging.

The above premises have two business entrances, one fronting Church Street and the other to Wood Street.

Also, all that Double-fronted SHOP and PREMISES, adjoining the above, in the occupation of Mr. Joseph Jackson, grocer and provision merchant, at the low rent of £27 10s. 0d. per annum.

The last mentioned premises consist of excellent front shop with modern double-front plate glass windows, cellaring, sitting room, and numerous sleeping rooms; scullery, large cooking kitchen with store room over. At the rear is a large warehouse, and suitable outbuildings thereto belonging.

The above properties are situated in the best business part of Church Street, are in excellent repair, have recently had upwards of £500 laid out on them in extensions and repairs, and offer an opportunity to capitalists for investment, and persons desirous of obtaining first-class business situations and premises.

The above properties will be offered in one or two lots, as may be determined at the time of sale.

The properties occupy an area of 400 yards or thereabouts, are copyhold of inheritance, and to be enfranchised at a moderate cost.

Three fourths of the purchase money may remain secured on the premises.

Further particulars may be had of Messrs. BROWN and FELLOWS, Solicitors, or the AUCTIONEER, both of Bilston.

TO be DISPOSED OF, the LICENSED, GOODWILL, and POSSESSION, PUBLIC-HOUSE FIXTURES, and Effects of the Castle Inn, Church Street, Bilston. Immediate possession.—Apply to S. Baker, Appraiser, Bilston.

1868

**IMPORTANT SALE OF
FREEHOLD PUBLIC-HOUSE PROPERTY
AT BILSTON.**

MESSRS. THOMAS HOWELL and CO. are instructed to SELL by AUCTION, at the Pipe Hall Hotel, Bilston, on THURSDAY NEXT, June 14, punctually at Seven o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions incorporating those of the Birmingham Law Society—the undermentioned Desirable

PROPERTIES.

Lot 1.—All that Exceedingly-valuable FULL-LICENSED INN and PREMISES, known as "THE CASTLE," advantageously situated at the corner of Church Street and Wood Street, Bilston, in the occupation of Mr. John Fowler.

The central position of this House must always command an extensive and lucrative trade.

Lot 2.—All that Roomy and Convenient FULL-LICENSED INN, known as "THE BLANKMAKERS' ARMS," Greencroft, near Church Street, Bilston, in the occupation of Mr. Henry T. Hodgkins.

This House is situated in a good business locality, and the Premises include an extensive range of Shopping.

For further particulars, apply to Messrs. William Shakespeare and Co., Solicitors, Oldbury; or to the Auctioneers, 112, Colmore Row, Birmingham.

1894

CHURCH

2, Millfields Road (Bell Lane) / Little Church Street, (Union Street), BILSTON

OWNERS

William Jeffers, grocer, Ward Street, Ettingshall
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

LICENSEES

Ambrose Hancox [1851] – [1858]
Thomas Rowbotham [] – **1871**;
Walter Giles **(1871 – 1877)**;
Samuel Potts **(1877 – 1879)**;
John Whittle Snr. **(1879 – 1890)**;
John Whittle Jnr. **(1890)**;
Thomas 'Tom' Robinson **(1890 – 1892)**;
Edward Evans **(1892 – 1919)**;
Susan Evans **(1919 – 1924)**;
David Scotto **(1924 – 1932)**;
George Scotto **(1932 – 1934)**;

NOTES

Union Street [1881], [1911]
2, Millfields Road [1911]
Millfields Road [1912]

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

1851 Census

Union Street

- [1] Ambrose Hancox (56), retail brewer, born Bilston;
- [2] Elizabeth Hancox (52), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Sarah Hancox (21), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] Betsey Hancox (12), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

Wolverhampton Chronicle 15/9/1858 - Advert

“Valuable Copyhold and Leasehold Properties, in Bilston.

Mr. George Brown will Sell by Auction, at the house of Mr. Caddick, OLD BULLS HEAD INN, High Street, Bilston, on Monday, the 4th day of October, 1858, subject to conditions to be then and there read.....

Lot 2. All that capital and old-established Copyhold Retail Beershop, known by the sign of the CHURCH, situate in Union Street, Bilston, now or lately in the occupation of Mr. *Ambrose Hancox*, together with the brewhouse, malthouse, piggeries, large yard, and premises belonging thereto, producing the annual rental of £17. There is a good well of water belonging to this lot, in addition to which there is a supply from the Waterworks.”

Thomas Rowbotham – see also BLACK BOY, Coseley Road.

Midland Counties Evening Express 12/2/1875

“*Walter Giles*, landlord of the CHURCH beerhouse, was summoned for permitting drunkenness in his house case dismissed.”

VALUABLE COPYHOLD AND LEASEHOLD PROPERTIES,
IN BILSTON.
MR. GEORGE BROWN will SELL by
AUCTION, at the house of Mr. Caddick, OLD BULL'S
HEAD INN, High-street, BILSTON, on Monday, the 4th day of
October, 1858, subject to conditions to be then and there read :
Lot 1.—All those two capital and substantially erected COPY-
HOLD MESSUAGES, situate in Coseley-street, Bilston, being
numbered 51 and 52, and occupied respectively by Benjamin Dudley
and William Rogers, together with the yard, garden, and premises
belonging thereto, and producing £21 2s. per annum.
This lot comprises, with the site of the buildings, 356 square
yards or thereabouts. There is a good brewhouse attached to
each house, a capital soft water cistern for the use of both
tenants, water taps supplied with water from the waterworks,
and land sufficient for the erection of two small houses.
Lot 2.—All that capital and old-established COPYHOLD
RETAIL BEERSHOP, known by the sign of the “Church,” situate
in Union-street, Bilston, now or lately in the occupation of Mr.
Ambrose Hancox, together with the brewhouse, malthouse, pig-
geries, large yard, and premises belonging thereto, producing the
annual rental of £17. There is a good well of water belonging to
this lot, in addition to which there is a supply from the Waterworks.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/8/1875

“At the Sedgley Police Court, yesterday, before Mr. Isaac Spooner (Stipendiary), Thomas Collins, landlord of the SHAMROCK INN, Temple Street, Bilston, was summoned for adulterating ale, on the 22nd of June. Samuel Toy, assistant to Mr. J. G. Horder, inspector, said that on the day in question he visited the defendant’s house, and was served with two quarts of ale by Mrs. Collins. He told her that he was having the ale for the purpose of being analysed, and sealed it up in her presence. Mrs. Collins told witness that the ale was out of a barrel from a brewery in Bilston. He afterwards took the ale to Mr. Horder. Mr. Horder proved receiving the ale, and forwarded it to Mr. Jones, county analyst, on the 23rd of June. He received, on the 19th ult, a certificate proving that the ale was adulterated with common salt.....

Walter Giles, landlord of the CHURCH INN, Bilston, was charged with a similar offence on the 22nd of June. The ale was adulterated with common salt to the amount of 150.92 grains to the imperial gallon. Defendant said he did not put any salt in his ale. Mr. Spooner said he believed Mr. Jones’s certificate, and the large quantity of salt put in the ale would be bound to make people thirsty, and they would want more. It was a bad case, and defendant would be fined £10 and costs. Defendant begged hard for the fine to be reduced, but Mr. Spooner declined to do so.”

1881 Census

Union Street – CHURCH INN

- [1] *John Whittle* (44), publican, born Princes End;
- [2] *Ann Whittle* (44), wife, born Shifnal;
- [3] *John Whittle* (23), son, puddler, born Princes End;
- [4] *Isaac Whittle* (20), son, underhand roller, born Princes End;
- [5] *Annie Jackson* (8), niece, scholar, born Wednesbury;

Evening Star 9/6/1882

“*John Whittle*, landlord of the CHURCH INN, Bell Lane, Bilston, was charged with keeping his house open during prohibited hours. At 11.20 on the evening of Sunday, the 28th ult, Police-sergeant O’Brien saw three men coming from the house named, and one had a can with some ale in. He went to the house and found fresh froth in the measure. The defence was that the ale had been paid for before the hour for closing, but was drawn after closing time, by the landlord’s son. The landlord was at the time in bed.

As this was the defendant’s first offence, he was only fined 5s and costs.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 10/4/1885

“*John Whittle*, landlord of the CHURCH INN, Union Street, Bilston, was charged with permitting gambling on his premises on Saturday night.

Police-constable Morton, on entering the house, found that sixteen or eighteen young men were engaged in playing a game called ‘bank.’ Cards were spread out on the table, and betting was going on. Witness seized 34 cards and 8d in money, and also caught a young man named Parker.

For the defence, it was shown that the landlord was away from the house on the occasion, and his son was in charge, and he had instructed him neither to permit drunkenness or gambling. Mr. Rhodes argued that the defendant having done all he could to prevent an infraction of the law, was not liable to punishment.

The Bench imposed a fine of £5 and the costs.”

Sporting Life 6/5/1890

“Mr. *Thomas Robinson*. This well-known Midland sportsman has taken the CHURCH INN, Bilston, where he will be only too pleased to shake hands with all his old and new friends, especially his Birmingham pals.”

1891 Census

Union Street – CHURCH INN

- [1] *Thomas Robinson* (30), licensed victualler, born Dudley;
- [2] *Elizabeth Robinson* (33), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Thomas Robinson* (9), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] *Kate Robinson* (7), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] *Elizabeth Robinson* (5), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] *John Robinson* (3), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] *Sarah Hill* (13), domestic servant, born Bilston;

Sporting Life 23/7/1891

“Quoits..... Noticing a challenge in the *Sporting Life* from *Thomas Robinson*, CHURCH INN, Bilston, who states that he wishes to back a novice at 19 yards distance, against any man in England, George Graham, of London, will find a man to play the novice for £50 or £100 a-side, to play under the Association Rules. If Mr. *Robinson* will send articles and a deposit to the *Sporting Life*, they will be attended to.”

Sporting Life 26/9/1891

“Wolverhampton and District. Victoria Grounds, Rough Hills. Mr. T. Jones and Mr. S. Hughes, for £20.

Perhaps no grounds in the Black Country have played a more prominent part in the drama of pedestrianism than the old-established ‘Vic’ and Wednesday night another important pedestrian spin was added to the long list of interesting matches decided here, when two noted sports met to decide a novel kind of match, the two actors being that well known Midland sportsman and supporter of all kinds of outdoor amusements, Mr. S. Hughes, mine host of the RED COW INN, Bridge Street, Bilston, and Mr. Thomas Jones, a well-known local bookmaker of Bilston (late Wolverhampton), who were matched to run the short distance of thirty yards, for £10 a side, Mr. Hughes being allowed four yards start inside. The affair, though only ratified the same week, crated considerable excitement amongst the sporting fraternity. At one time, be it said, Mr. Hughes could fairly well hold his own at this business, many matches and handicaps having fallen to his share. Of late years, however, he has been proprietor of the RED COW INN, Bilston, and scales about 16st, whilst his opponent, Mr. Jones, only scales some 10st 4lb. The latter, too, is not only well known, but has figured in many handicaps and matches. His last appearance was only a few weeks ago, when Mr. Jones met W. Pearson, of Willenhall, in a sixty yards spin, at these grounds, for £50. Jones, however, had to play second fiddle after a slashing spin. Both men were very sanguine, and on disrobing Mr. Hughes presented the appearance of being on the heavy side. However, he and his numerous friends were confident, and odds of 6 to 4 were freely laid on him. Both were very unsteady on their marks, but eventually they were despatched to a good start, and at one time it looked as though Mr. Hughes would land the odds; Jones, however, got up, and won, amidst excitement, on the post. Mr. John Dudley, of Darlaston, was starter, and that well known Bilston sport and backer of Joe Darby (Champion Jumper of the World), Mr. *Tom Robinson* of the CHURCH INN, Bilston, was stakeholder and referee.”

Sporting Life 13/1/1892

“A. Rutter, of Willenhall, will run G. Brindley, of Portobello, 100 or 120 yards, for £10 or £15 a-side, in one month from signing articles; or Rutter will run Ball, of Willenhall, 100 yards level, or take one yard start inside 120 yards, for £10 or £15 a-side. *Sporting Life* to be stakeholder, and appoint referee and starter. A match can be made any time by calling at Mr. *Tom Robinson*’s, the CHURCH INN, Bilston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/10/1894

“Bankruptcy Proceedings..... Re *Thomas Robinson*, licensed victualler, Shale Street, Bilston.

A meeting of the creditors was held at the Official Receiver’s office, Wolverhampton, yesterday.

Liabilities £356 18s 7d, and assets £3 4s 9d.

The debtor was an engine-driver until 1883, when he became tenant of the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Broad Lanes, Bilston, having borrowed £100 from his brother. He left in 1888 owing £1,800, and the creditors agreed to accept a composition of 7s 6d in the pound. The bankrupt afterwards took to the CHURCH INN, High Street, Bilston, and subsequently the PLOUGH INN, High Street, Bilston, but gave up possession to a brewery company, and subsequently filed his petition. His failure was, he said, due to want of capital, bad trade, and bad debts.

The estate was left in the hands of the Official Receiver.”

Thomas Robinson – see also GEORGE AND DRAGON, Broad Lanes, Sedgley, and PLOUGH, High Street, Bilston.

1901 Census

Millfields Road

[1] *Edward Evans* (42), publican, born Sedgley;

[2] *Susan Evans* (42), wife, born Sedgley;

[3] *Florence Evans* (17), daughter, born Bilston;

[4] *Dora Evans* (9), daughter, born Bilston;

[5] *Henry Pinson* (21), boarder, barman, born Bloxwich;

[6] *Mary Sullivan* (17), domestic servant, born Bilston:

County Advertiser 23/5/1903

"The UNICORN INN [Brierley Hill] Air-Gun Club held their second match on Wednesday evening, entertaining the League winners for four years in succession from the CHURCH INN, Bilston. They narrowly defeated the home team by 8 points, after a pleasant and exciting match. The members afterwards sat down to a cold collation, and the rest of the evening was spent musically. The scores were CHURCH INN 342, UNICORN INN, 334."

Boxing 26/11/1910

"Mr. H. Pinson, CHURCH INN, Bilston, wishes, through *Boxing*, to obtain the addresses of Frank Kingston (Willenhall) and Mick Wilson (Walsall) as soon as possible. Mr. Pinson will also give a purse for a contest between 'Cock' Salt (Walsall) and Young Mason."

1911 Census

2, Millfields Road – CHURCH INN

- [1] *Edward Evans* (49), publican and brewer, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Susannah Evans* (50), wife, married 30 years, publican, born Gornal;
- [3] G. Henry Pinson (33), boarder, brewer of beer, born Bloxwich;
- [4] Happy Hapson (16), domestic servant, born Gornal:

Edward Evans, beer retailer, Millfields Road. [1904], [1912]

Edward Evans died in 1919 after slipping in the malt room.

Susan Evans = *Susannah Evans*

Birmingham Daily Gazette 13/3/1920

"New Companies C. F. Dodd and Co. Ltd.

Private company. Capital £5,000. To take over the business of manufacturers of wood fittings of all kinds, coach-built motor bodies perambulators, etc, carried on at Bilston.....

Directors *Susan Evans*, CHURCH INN, High Street, Bilston."

1921 Census

Millfields Road – CHURCH INN

- [1] *Susan Evans* (63), publican, born Gornal;
- [2] Ruby Brown (16), grand-daughter, home duties, born Bilston;
- [3] Oliver Edward Brown (21), grand-son, cabinet maker, born Bilston:

Susan Evans – see also WHITE HORSE, High Street.

George Scotto – see also ROYAL EXCHANGE, Chapel Street.

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/8/1933

"County Licensing Authority.....

Renewal of the following licenses was also refused on the ground of redundancy, and all were referred for compensation, the police evidence being to the effect that the needs of the various localities were better met by other licensed houses.....

CHURCH INN, Bilston, beerhouse, ante 1869."

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/1/1934

"At the supplementary meeting held on October 7, the County Licensing Committee fixed compensation as follows.....

In the case of the CHURCH INN, Bilston, the Committee could not accept the amount of claim submitted by the owners and the matter has been referred to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue for their adjudication."

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/1/1935

“Report of the County Licensing Committee.....

In the case of the CHURCH INN, Bilston, referred to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue for their adjudication in 1933, a sum of £2,250 was awarded.”

License refused by Compensation Authority on 3rd February 1934.

Compensation of £2,250 was paid on 23rd June 1934.

Closed

Demolished

The site was occupied by Hazeldine Coaches [1986]

CLUB HOUSE

90, Church Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Henry Holloway [1871] – [1873]

NOTES

1871 Census

90, Church Street

- [1] *Henry Holloway* (34), tobacconist, born Brinklow, Leicestershire;
- [2] *Hannah Holloway* (27), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Sarah Holloway* (6), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] *Harriet Holloway* (2), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] *Harry Holloway* (1), son, born Bilston;
- [6] *Ann Caswell* (16), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 18/5/1871

“Yesterday, *Henry Holloway*, beerhouse keeper, Bilston, was charged upon remand, before the Stipendiary, that he knowingly and wilfully used a certain room in his house for purposes of betting with persons resorting thereto. Mr. Thurstans, who defended, urged that there was no proof that the defendant had kept his house open for the purposes alleged upon more than one day, and therefore not continually, as the law required. Mr. Spooner overruled the contention, and said that there was no doubt that on the day in question persons went to the defendant’s house for the purposes of betting, well-knowing that bets were received there. The Act was not limited in any way to London, nor to any class of persons, as Mr. Thurstans had previously submitted, but applied to every place and to all kinds of gambling. The Act provided that any person using his house for the purposes of betting should be liable to a penalty not exceeding £100 and costs, or in default six months imprisonment. However, he should impose upon the defendant the smallest fine that the Act would permit, which was £10 and costs.”

London Gazette 7/11/1871

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

In the Matter of Proceedings for Liquidation by Arrangement or Composition with Creditors, instituted by *Henry Holloway*, of No.90, Church-street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Tobacconist, and late a Retailer of Ale and Porter.

Notice is hereby given, that a First General Meeting of the creditors of the above-named person has been summoned to be held at the offices of William Bowen, Solicitor, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, on the 18th day of November, 1871, at two o’clock in the afternoon precisely.

Dated this 1st day of November, 1871.

Wm. Bowen, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, Attorney for the said Debtor.”

The license was abandoned.

COACH AND HORSES

Coseley Row, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Preston [1828] – [1830]

COACH AND HORSES

Wood Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Clempson [1852] – [1853]

H Yates [1855]

John Roberts [1856]

George Pedley [1860]

NOTES

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/12/1852 - Advert

“Copyhold Messuages, Bilston, Staffordshire. To be Sold by Private Contract.

All those four Copyhold Messuages, Tenements, or Dwelling Houses, situate in and fronting to Wood Street, in Bilston, in the county of Stafford, one of which is used as a retail beerhouse, and known by the sign of the COACH AND HORSES, and now in the occupation of *John Clempson*, and the other three are respectively occupied by Samuel Pugh, Richard Ellis, and William Wyld.

The above premises are in good tenantable repair, are desirably situate to insure constant tenants, and produce a rental of £39 16s per annum.

The tenants will show the premises; and further information may be obtained from Mr. John Etheridge, or Mr. Mason, solicitor, both of Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/3/1855 - Advert

“COACH AND HORSES, Bilston.

Mr. Atree has just received instructions to Sell by Auction, on Monday, the 9th day of April, 1855, the Property of Mr. *H. Yates*, who is declining business, upon the premises, the COACH AND HORSES, Wood Street, Bilston.

The Licenses, Possession, Brewing Plant, and all the capital Household Furniture and Effects, consisting of all the machine piping and taps, iron-bound ale casks, mash tub, coolers, screens, drinking and other tables, chairs, bedsteads, beds, kitchen requisites, &c, &c.

Sale to commence at twelve o’clock. Catalogues may be had at the Auctioneer’s, Bilston.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/8/1856

“On Friday, James Ackwood and John Wood were brought before Bilston magistrates on the charge of breaking into the house of Mr. *John Roberts*, the COACH AND HORSES, Wood Street, on the night of the 18th ult, and stealing two pictures therefrom. The prosecutor heard voices in the yard shortly after midnight, and heard some one say, ‘That’s the very way to go about it, and no other.’ Half an hour afterwards he heard some one at the window of a back room, which had been bricked up. He then made an alarm, and the police were instantly on the spot. Upon searching the premises, they found two pictures, which had been taken from the room in question, also a cap and a pair of boots in the yard. They then discovered that some of the bricks had been removed from the window, and a hole made sufficient to admit the body of a man.

Ambrose Causer stated that he gave the prisoner Wood a cap, a few weeks before the burglary, and from certain marks, he believed that now produced (found in the yard) to be the same.

Thomas Page proved having seen Wood wearing the cap just before the transaction.

Sub-inspector Heath apprehended Wood at nine o’clock on the following morning, and charged him with being concerned in the burglary, which he denied. The witness told him to put on his cap, but he could not find one.

Some evidence was given to show that the boots left in the yard belonged to Ackwood, but the magistrates did not deem it sufficiently conclusive, and consequently discharged that prisoner, but they committed Wood for trial at the assizes.”

Birmingham Journal 3/12/1856

“Staffordshire Winter Assizes.....

John Wood, a puddler, was indicted for burglariously breaking and entering the dwelling house of *John Roberts* on the 18th of July last, at the township of Bilston, and stealing two pictures, his property. Mr. Corbett prosecuted. *Roberts* keeps the COACH AND HORSES, at Bilston, and on the night in question he retired to rest about twelve o'clock, after seeing everything properly secured. About one o'clock he was disturbed by a great noise, and on getting up he heard voices in the house. He called up his wife, but could not go out of the house on account of the doors, which were tied fast. He forced one of them open, and on going into the yard, found a cap and a pair of boots lying on the ground. Entrance had evidently been made through the window. On examining his property, the prosecutor missed £6 15s from his bedroom. The pictures were lying in the yard, and also a bandbox. On the following day the prisoner was apprehended and charged with burglary. He had no cap on. In reply to the accusation of the policeman, he said he knew nothing about the burglary.

Ambrose Corser, a witness, said he gave a cap similar to the one found in the prosecutor's yard to the prisoner. The learned Baron said he could see no evidence against the prisoner, and he directed the Jury to return a verdict of not guilty. His Lordship liberated the prisoner with a caution.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/9/1860 - Advert

“Freehold and Copyhold Properties, in Bilston.

Mr. Solomon Powell will Sell by Auction, on Tuesday, the 18th day of September, 1860.....

Lot 3. All that capital Copyhold Messuage, situate in Wood Street, Bilston aforesaid, known as the COACH AND HORSES, in the occupation of Mr. *George Pedley*, and also Three Copyhold Messuages adjoining, the whole producing an annual rental of £39 8s.

These Premises are situate in the centre of the township of Bilston.”

COCK

13, Church Street / Lichfield Street, Swan Bank, BILSTON

OWNERS

Mrs. Ann Law, widow, 2, Osborne Terrace, Wolverhampton

LICENSEES

William Pool [1791] – [1800]
William Tomkys [1818] – [1830]
John Poole [1833]
Miss Maria Tomkys [1834] – **1852**;
William Tomkys **(1852 – [])**
Richard Corbett [] – **1854**;
Francis Hazledine **(1854 – [])**
Thomas Hazledine [] – **1856**;
John Ricketts **(1856 – 1860)**;
Samuel Summerfield **(1860 – [])**
John Law Tomkys [1863] – [1865]
Thomas Jackson [1866]
James Jackson [] – **1866**;
Thomas Smart **(1866)**;
Thomas Garrett **(1866 – [1867])**
T Fellowes [1867]
James Fellowes [] – **1869**;
James Settle **(1869 – [1873])**

ALL Persons who have any Claim or Demand on the Estate of the late WILLIAM POOL, or ELIZABETH POOL, late of the Cock Inn, in Bilston, in the Parish of Wolverhampton, in the County of Stafford, are requested to transmit an Account thereof to Mr. John Pool, at the Cock Inn, aforesaid, or Mr. Baker, Fordhouses, in Order that the same may be liquidated; and all Persons indebted to the said Estate are required to pay their respective Debts to the aforesaid Mr. John Pool or Mr. Baker, or they will be sued for the same without further Notice.

1808

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF STAFFORDSHIRE,
HOLDEN AT WOLVERHAMPTON.
IN the Matter of the Petition of JOHN RICKETTS, now and for upwards of six months last past residing at the Cock Inn, Swan Bank, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler; and previous to, and in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty two, of Lower Rushall-street, Walsall, in the said county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler; and from that time and up to July, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six, of Ablewell-street, Walsall aforesaid, Licensed Victualler, and occasionally working as a Journeyman Chain Maker, an Insolvent Debtor; notice is hereby given that the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton, acting in the matter of this Petition, will proceed to make a FINAL ORDER thereon, at the said Court, on TUESDAY, the 12th day of JANUARY, 1858, at ten o'clock in the forenoon precisely, unless cause be then and there shown to the contrary.—Dated this 18th day of December, 1857.

JOSEPH EDWARD SHELDON, Attorney, Wednesbury.
C. G. MEOEVAN, High Bailiff.

1857

NOTES

Lichfield Street [1833], [1834], [1835], [1841]
Church Street [1864]

William Pool, victualler, COCK, and huckster, Bilston. [1791]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 29/12/1800 - Advert

“Notice to the Debtors or Creditors of Andrew John Becket, late of Bilston, in the County of Stafford, Japanner. The Creditors of the said Andrew John Becket, are desired to meet Samuel Groucutt, of Bilston aforesaid, Japanner, and John Salter, of Birmingham, in the County of Warwick, Lock-maker (Trustees of the Estate and Effects of the said Andrew John Beckett), on Friday the second Day of January, 1801, at Two o’Clock in the Afternoon, at the House of *William Pool*, known by the Sign of the COCK, in Bilston aforesaid.....”

Aris Birmingham Gazette 9/5/1808 - Advert

“All Persons who have any Claim or Demand on the Estate of *William Pool* or Elizabeth Pool, late of the COCK INN, in Bilston, in the Parish of Wolverhampton, in the County of Stafford, are requested to transmit an Account thereof to Mr. John Pool, at the COCK INN aforesaid, or Mr. Baker, Fordhouses, in Order that the same may be liquidated; and all Persons indebted to the said Estate are required to pay their respective Debts to the aforesaid Mr. John Pool or Mr. Baker, or they will be sued for the same without further notice.”

William Tomkys, bachelor, married Maria Pool, spinster, on 31st October 1799.

1841 Census

Swan Bank

- [1] John Pool (58), huckster, born Staffordshire;
- [2] Maria Tomkys (66), victualler, born Staffordshire;
- [3] Elisabeth Tomkys (25), born Staffordshire;
- [4] Julia Foster (15), servant, born Staffordshire:

Miss Maria Tomkys, beer retailer, Church Street. [1849], [1850]

1851 Census

Church Street

- [1] Maria Tomkys (75), widow, retired victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] John Pool (67), brother, retired grocer, born Bilston;
- [3] Harriet Rogers (15) domestic servant, born Bilston:

Richard Corbett = Richard Corbitt = Richard Corbert

Wolverhampton Chronicle 15/2/1854

“On Tuesday, two men, named William Smith and Daniel Pattison, bricklayers, one of whom had been working on the railway, were charged by *Richard Corbitt*, landlord of the COCK INN, Lichfield Street, Bilston, with obtaining a gallon of ale, by means of a forged note, purporting to be signed by William Barrott, one of the foremen of the bricklayers. Mr. Barrott denied having authorised them in any way to use his name. They were remanded till Thursday, and on that day were committed for trial, by the Rev. G. H. Fisher, and R. D. Gough, Esq, at Willenhall.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/2/1854

“Committed to the County Prison, at Stafford, for trial.....
Daniel Pattison and William Smith, charged with fraud, at Bilston.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 11/3/1854

“Staffordshire Adjourned Sessions.....

Daniel Pattison and William Smith, for obtaining a quart of ale from Mr. *Richard Corbett*, innkeeper, at Bilston, on a false pretence, found guilty, one month's imprisonment.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 23/12/1857 - Advert

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

In the Matter of the Petition of *John Ricketts*, now and for upwards of six months last past residing at the COCK INN, Swan Bank, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler; and previous to, and in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty two, of Lower Rushall Street, Walsall, in the said county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler; and from that time and up to July, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six, of Ablewell Street, Walsall aforesaid, Licensed Victualler, and occasionally working as a Journeyman Chain Maker, an Insolvent Debtor; notice is hereby given that the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton, acting in the matter of this Petition will proceed to make a Final Order thereon, at the said Court, on Tuesday, the 12th day of January, 1858, at ten o'clock in the forenoon precisely, unless cause be then and there shown to the contrary.

Dated this 18th day of December, 1857.

Joseph Edward Sheldon, Attorney, Wednesbury. C. G. Megevan, High Bailiff.”

Birmingham Daily Post 13/1/1858

“At Wolverhampton County Court, yesterday, the following insolvents appeared.....

John Ricketts, licensed victualler, Swan Bank, Bilston, appeared upon his final order, supported by Mr. Sheldon. Order granted.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 10/2/1858

“At Bilston Police Court, on Friday last, John Saise and Mary Ann Saise, man and wife, were charged with stealing glasses, the property of *John Ricketts*, of the COCK INN, Bilston, and Mary Ann Saise was also charged with inducing the daughter of *Ricketts*, a girl about fifteen years old, to rob her parents, for the prisoner’s benefit. The two prisoners had lodged at the COCK INN, and it seemed from the statement of the girl that on one occasion the female prisoner and herself had gone to some pleasure gardens in Bilston together, and that Mrs. Saise spent sixpence and the girl threepence there. Some time after arriving home, Mrs. Saise asked the girl to give her money, threatening, if she did not do so, to tell the girl’s mother that she had spent threepence at the gardens. The girl then gave her money, and repeated the kindness several times after, on one occasion giving her as much as £6, and on another £4. The girl calculated that in the whole she had given £15 to Mrs. Saise. It was admitted that the female prisoner had given the girl presents within the knowledge of her mother. One of these consisted of a cape, which cost 10s, but the girl explained that she had given the woman £4 for it. Mrs. *Ricketts* said she had missed money, and knowing the female prisoner had made her daughter presents, she had charged her child with giving money to Mrs. Saise to purchase them. The glasses were found in the house of the prisoners.

The story of the girl was not corroborated, and the Magistrates therefore refused to commit the prisoners for trial, but ordered them to find sureties to appear at the Sessions to answer the charge if Mr. *Ricketts* felt disposed to prosecute them.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/11/1860 - Advert

“To be Disposed Of, that excellent Old Licensed Public House, the COCK INN, Swan Bank, Bilston, in a very great thoroughfare, and now doing a good business both in Ale and Spirits. The Brewing Plant, Stock, and Fixtures to be taken at a valuation. Rent and Coming-in low.

Apply on the premises.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/2/1861 - Advert

“COCK INN, Swan Bank, Bilston. Tomorrow, Thursday, February 28, 1861.

Mr. John Cassere will Sell by Auction, upon the premises as above, the whole of the Public House Fixtures, Brewing Plant, &c, including Screens, Drinking Tables, Counter, three-pull Beer Machine, Ale Casks, Mash Tub, Coolers, Vats, 100-gallons Copper Furnace, the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession, together with the whole of the Gas Fittings and Piping throughout the premises, and various other Effects, which will be sold without reserve.

Sale to commence punctually at eleven o’clock.

John Cassere, Auctioneer and General Valuer, 51, Snowhill, Wolverhampton.”

London Gazette 8/5/1863

“*John Ricketts*, of the VICTORIA INN Public-house, in Lower Rushall-street, Walsall, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler and Dealer in Tobacco, previously thereto of Park Brook, in the Wolverhampton-road, Walsall aforesaid, and carrying on business there as a Beerhouse Keeper and Dealer in Tobacco, and previously thereto of the COCK INN Public-house, at Swan Bank, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, and carrying on business there as a Licensed Victualler and Dealer in Tobacco, having been adjudged bankrupt under a Petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy, filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall, is hereby required to surrender himself to the Registrar of the said Court, at the first meeting of creditors to be held before the said Registrar, on the 21st day of May instant, at twelve o’clock at noon precisely, at the Court-house, Lichfield-street, Walsall. Mr. F. F. Clarke, of Walsall, is the Official Assignee, and Mr. John Ebsworth, of Wednesbury, is the Solicitor acting in the bankruptcy.”

AND

Walsall Free Press 4/7/1863 - Advert

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

In the matter of *John Ricketts*, of the VICTORIA INN Public House, in Lower Rushall-street, Walsall, in the County of Stafford, Licensed Victualler and Dealer in Tobacco, previously thereto of Park Brook, in the Wolverhampton-road, Walsall aforesaid, and carrying on business there as a Beerhouse Keeper and Dealer in Tobacco, and previously thereto of the COCK INN Public House, at Swan Bank, Bilston, in the County of Stafford, and carrying on business there as a Licensed Victualler and Dealer in Tobacco, a bankrupt.

Whereas, at a Public Sitting of the Court, held this day, the court granted an Order of Discharge to the said bankrupt. Notice is hereby given, that an Order of Discharge will be drawn up and delivered to the bankrupt after the expiration of thirty days from this date, unless, in the meantime, an appeal be duly entered against the Judgment of the said Court. Dated this 20th day of June, 1863.”

AND

London Gazette 14/9/1866

“*John Ricketts*, of the VICTORIA INN Public House, in Lower Rushall-street, Walsall, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler and Dealer in Tobacco, previously thereto of Park Brook, in the Wolverhampton-road, Walsall aforesaid, and carrying on business there as a Beerhouse Keeper and Dealer in Tobacco, and previously thereto, of the COCK INN Public House, at Swan Bank, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, and carrying on business there as a Licensed Victualler and Dealer in Tobacco, adjudicated bankrupt on the 6th day of May, 1863. A Dividend Meeting will be held on the 25th day of September instant, at twelve o’clock at noon precisely.”

John Law Tomkys = *John Law Tomkiss*

Birmingham Journal 20/6/1863 - Advert

“To be Disposed Of, and may be entered upon immediately, the COCK Wine and Spirit Vaults, situate in the most central and commanding business position in the town of Bilston, and within three minutes’ walk of the Great Western Railway Station. The Premises are large and commodious, and the Rent – in which the Shop Fixtures are included – low. For an enterprising man of business this is an opportunity rarely to be met with. For further particulars, and to treat, apply to Mr. *Tomkys*, on the Premises.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 31/10/1863

“At Bilston, on Tuesday, George Stanley, watchmaker, of High Street, was committed for trial on three several charges of illegally pawning watches that had been entrusted to him for repair. In the first case it was proved that he had, on the 1st ult, pawned a gold watch belonging to Mr. *Tomkiss*, the landlord of the COCK liquor vaults, Church Street, with Mr. Lowthine, of the Bull Ring, Birmingham. Mr. *Tomkiss* deposed to having taken the watch to the prisoner for repair on the 30th of August, and made frequent applications for it in vain since. On the 13th instant the prisoner referred him to a Mr. Carter, in Birmingham, who, he said, had the watch to jewel. Prosecutor went to Birmingham and found that no such person as he had been referred to resided in the town. The other cases were pawning a silver watch, the property of Horatio Green, at Michael Emanuel’s, Smallbrook Street, Birmingham, and a watch, the property of Walter Chaplain, baker, of Oxford Street, with Harriet Green, Dale End, Birmingham. Prisoner had been summoned at the instance of Mr. *Tomkiss*, but not obeying the summons, a warrant was issued, and he was arrested on Friday at Wolverhampton. The prisoner, when asked what he had to say to the charge, wept bitterly, and stated that the pressure of domestic affliction betrayed him into the misconduct with which he was charged. One of his children lay dead in the house when he was apprehended, and another now lay there seriously ill.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/1/1864

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

George Stanley, watchmaker, who pleaded guilty to fraudulently converting to his own use a gold watch, the property of *John Law Tomkys*, at Bilston, was sentenced to three years’ penal servitude.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/8/1865

“Annual Licensing Meeting for the Bilston Division.....

The ‘black list’ handed in by the police contained the names of fourteen publicans who had been fined for offences against their license.....

Thomas Jackson, Bilston.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 7/10/1865

“Bilston Adjourned Licensing Meeting.....

The following, whose names had been placed on the ‘black list,’ had their licenses renewed.....

T. Jackson, COCK, Swan Bank.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/3/1866 - Advert

“Bilston. To Publicans, Brokers, and Others.

Mr. Edwards will Sell by Auction, on Friday next, March 23rd, 1866, upon the premises, the COCK INN Wine and Spirit Vaults, No.13, Church Street, Bilston aforesaid, by direction of Mr. *Thomas Jackson* (who is giving up the business and changing his residence), part of the Household Furniture and Effects, comprising French and tent bedsteads, feather beds, washstands, dressing tables, swing glasses, mahogany, oak, and painted chests of drawers, chairs, bedsteps, mahogany stands and other tables, 24 Oil Paintings, in gilt frames; glass cases and stuffed birds, handsome mahogany pillar sideboard, chiffonniere, two office desks, eight-day clock, in mahogany case, fenders, fireirons, and kitchen utensils, &c. Also the capital Casks, Tubs, Hops, &c, consisting of 370, 240, and 200-gallon casks, five iron-bound hogsheads, eight half-hogsheads, four sixty-gallon ditto, 14 quarter barrels and small casks, round six and seven-bushel mash tubs, sixteen round brewing tubs and buckets, a pocket of choice Worcester hops (1865), tump of prime Sussex ditto, and other effects.

Sale to commence in the morning at eleven o'clock.

Catalogues may be had at the place of sale, or the Auctioneer, Stourbridge.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/1/1867

“*Thomas Garrett*, landlord of a public house in Church Street, Bilston, was charged with keeping a disorderly house on the 14th of November, and also with a similar offence on New Year’s Eve. It appeared from the evidence that on the first occasion persons were in the house quarrelling, and on New Year’s Eve there were several questionable characters present.

In each case a fine of £5 and costs were inflicted. The defendant stated his intention of appealing against the conviction.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 7/12/1867

“J. Harris of Bilston will make a match to fight either of the following men at catchweight, for £10 a side, viz, Cooksey or J. Cooley of Bilston, and a match can be made any night next week at *T. Fellowes*’s, the COCK INN, Bilston.”

License renewal refused at Annual Licensing Meeting, 22nd August 1890, since the license had not been taken out for 18 years.

Birmingham Daily Post 23/8/1890

“The licensing sessions for Bilston division were held yesterday, before Messrs. S. Loveridge, H. H. Ward, F. A. Homer, and J. L. Gibbons.....

Mr. R. Tildesley applied on behalf of Mr. J. T. Baker, in reference to the COCK INN, Swan Bank, Bilston. He said the premises in respect of which the application was made had for the last eighteen years been used as the Bilston Post Office. The authorities had since built a new office, leaving the premises vacant. The house was built as a public house many years ago. In 1872 the license was renewed by a man named *Settle* as tenant, and the owner was a Mrs. Law. For some reason or other it was believed that *Settle* had left the country suddenly. Mrs. Law soon afterwards let the premises to Mr. Noakes, the postmaster. The license had never been allowed to lapse, and year after year it had been renewed. Mr. Longden objected to the license on the ground that the house had not been used for the sale of intoxicating liquors for eighteen years. Mr. Loveridge said the Bench could not entertain the application. There were quite sufficient public houses in Bilston without having that.”

TO BE DISPOSED OF, that excellent Old
Licensed PUBLIC HOUSE, the Cock Inn, Swan Bank, Bilston,
in a very great thoroughfare, and now doing a good business both
in Ale and Spirits. The Brewing Plant, Stock, and Fixtures to be
taken at a valuation. Rent and Coming-in low.—Apply on the
premises.

COCK INN, SWAN BANK, BILSTON.

TO-MORROW, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1861.

MR. JOHN CASSERE will **SELL** by **AUCTION**, upon the premises above, the whole of the **PUBLIC HOUSE FIXTURES, BREWING PLANT, &c.**, including **Screens, Drinking Tables, Counter, three-pull Beer Machine, Ale Casks, Mash Tub, Coolers, Vats, 100-gallons Copper Furnace, the LICENSES, GOOD-WILL, and POSSESSION**, together with the whole of the **Gas Fittings and Piping** throughout the premises, and various other **Effects**, which will be sold without reserve.

Sale to commence punctually at eleven o'clock.

JOHN CASSERE, Auctioneer and General Valuer, 51, Snowhill, Wolverhampton.

1861

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF STAFFORD-SHIRE, HOLDEN AT WALSALL.

IN the matter of **JOHN RICKETTS**, of the "Victoria Inn" Public House, in Lower Rushall-street, Walsall, in the County of Stafford, Licensed Victualler and Dealer in Tobacco, previously thereto of Park Brook, in the Wolverhampton-road, Walsall aforesaid, and carrying on business there as a Beerhouse-keeper and dealer in Tobacco, and previously thereto of the "Cock Inn" Public House, at Swan Bank, Bilston, in the County of Stafford, and carrying on business there as a Licensed Victualler and Dealer in Tobacco, a Bankrupt,

Whereas, at a Public Sitting of the Court, held this day, the court granted an Order of Discharge to the said bankrupt. Notice is hereby given, that an Order of Discharge will be drawn up and delivered to the bankrupt after the expiration of thirty days from this date, unless, in the meantime, an appeal be duly entered against the Judgment of the said Court.—Dated this 20th day of June, 1863.

TO be **DISPOSED OF**, and may be entered upon immediately, the **COCK WINE and SPIRIT VAULTS**, situate in the most central and commanding business position in the town of Bilston, and within three minutes' walk of the Great Western Railway Station. The Premises are large and commodious, and the Rent—in which the Shop Fixtures are included—low. For an enterprising man of business this is an opportunity rarely to be met with.—For further particulars, and to treat, apply to Mr. Tomkys, on the Premises.

1863

BILSTON.

TO PUBLICANS, BROKERS, AND OTHERS.

MR EDWARDS will **SELL** by **AUCTION**, on Friday next, March 23rd, 1866, upon the premises, the **COCK INN WINE and SPIRIT VAULTS**, No. 13, **CHURCH-STREET, BILSTON** aforesaid, by direction of Mr. Thomas Jackson (who is giving up the business and changing his residence), part of the **HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE and Effects**, comprising French and tent bedsteads, feather beds, washstands, dressing tables, swing glasses, mahogany, oak, and painted chests of drawers, chairs, bedsteads, mahogany stands and other tables, 24 Oil Paintings, in gilt frames; glass cases and stuffed birds, handsome mahogany pillar sideboard, chiffoniere, two office desks, eight-day clock, in mahogany case, fenders, fireirons, and kitchen utensils, &c. Also the capital **CASKS, TUBS, HOPS, &c.**, consisting of 370, 240, and 200-gallon casks, five iron-bound hogsheds, eight half hogsheds, four sixty-gallon ditto, 14 quarter barrels and small casks, round six and seven-bushel mash tubs, sixteen round brewing tubs and buckets, a pocket of choice Worcester hops (1865), tump of prime Sussex ditto, and other effects.

Sale to commence in the morning at eleven o'clock.

Catalogues may be had at the place of sale, or of the **AUCTIONER**, Stourbridge.

1866

COCK

44, (62), (30), Willenhall Road, (30, Cold Lanes), (Coal Lane), Mount Pleasant, BILSTON

OWNERS

George Marson, gentleman, licensed victualler, Sweetman Street, Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton
Louisa Georgiana Marson, Sweetman Street, Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton
Eley's Stafford Brewery Ltd.
William Butler and Co. Ltd.
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1979]
Enterprise Inns Ltd. [1991]

LICENSEES

Stephen Hill [1818] – [1822]
John Hughes [1834] – [1842]
Edward Mattocks* [1845] – [1854]
Edward Maddox* [1858] – **1860**;
J M Parsons **(1860 – [1861])**
John Whittaker [1861]
John Philip Lewis [1864] – **1870**;
Richard Barnett **(1870 – 1871)**;
Alfred Satterthwaite **(1871 – [1872])**
George Marson [1873] – **1879**;
Samuel Vaughan **(1879 – 1883)**;
Mary Marson **(1883 – 1885)**;
George E Harvey **(1885 – 1892)**;
John Silvester **(1892 – 1898)**;
Samuel Joseph Salt **(1898 – 1901)**;
Thomas Lloyd **(1901 – 1904)**;
William Harper **(1904 – 1905)**;
Albert Edward Ashton **(1905 – 1906)**;
George Davies **(1906 – 1938)**;
Augustus Hutchinson 'Gus' Davies **(1938 – [1940])**
Frederick J Mills [1982] – [1983]
L Chand [1988]
G Chopra [1989]
Baldev Singh [1995]
Amrik Singh Sanghera [2005]



George Davies



1938

NOTES

Cold Lanes [1818], [1860], [1861], [1881]
Coal Lane [1822], [1846], [1858]
Cold Lane [1835]
Cold Lane, Mount Pleasant [1849], [1850]
30, Cold Lanes [1861]
30, Willenhall Road [1891]
62, Willenhall Road [1912], [1932], [1940]
44, Willenhall Road [1990]

It was locally listed.

Edward Mattocks = Edward Maddox

* probably the same person

1851 Census

Cold Lanes

[1] Edward Maddox (51), tailor employing 1 man and innkeeper, born Newport, Shropshire;

[2] Elizabeth Maddox (48), wife, born Bilston;

[3] George Webb (22), lodger, tailor, born Brewwood;

[4] Margaret Heseltine (17), house servant, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/1/1846

"On Monday last an inquest was held by T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, at the COCK, Cold Lane, Bilston, on the body of Joseph Bryan, whose death was caused by a sulphureous explosion, while he was at work at Mr. Riley's new colliery, Bilston. Verdict, Accidental Death."

Birmingham Journal 1/12/1860 - Advert

"COCK INN, Cold Lanes, Bilston. By R. L. Courtney.

To be Let, that well-known Old-licensed convenient Public House, established nearly a century. It comprises Bar, Parlour, Tap Room, large Parlour, four Chambers, two Cellars, Brewhouse, Stable, Piggeries, large Garden, Marble and Bowling Alley, &c, and is doing a fair trade. The Proprietor is leaving, having entered on other engagements. Apply on the Premises; or to the Auctioneer, High Street, West Bromwich."

Birmingham Journal 22/12/1860 - Advert

"Bilston. To Publicans, Brokers, and Others. Unreserved Sale by Auction, at the COCK INN, Cold Lanes. On Monday next, December 24th, 1860, by R. L. Courtney.

Of the Licenses, Goodwill and Possession of the above-named Inn, with the Brewing Plant, comprising two iron Furnaces, Mash Tub, six Coolers, and Round Tubs, fifteen iron-bound Ale Casks, five Screens, Drinking Tables, capital Four-pull Ale Machine, Household Furniture, and other valuable Effects.

Sale to commence punctually at Ten o'clock to a minute, being the property of Mr. J. M. Parsons, who is declining the public business.

NB. The Old-licensed Public House to be Let, and immediate possession may be had. Rent moderate.

Auctioneers Offices and Residence, High Street, West Bromwich."

Birmingham Daily Post 6/3/1861 - Advert

"To be Let, the COCK INN, Willenhall Road, Bilston. The Stock and Fixtures to be taken to at a valuation.

Apply on the Premises."

TO be LET, the "COCK INN," Willenhall Road, Bilston. The Stock and Fixtures to be taken to at a valuation,—Apply on the Premises.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 13/3/1861

"William Wantling, Timothy Ward, Isaiah Wantling, and John Wantling, were brought up charged with conspiring to defraud *John Whittaker*, the landlord of the COCK INN, Cold Lanes, of £5 in money, and about £2 worth of ale. From the statement of Mrs. *Whittaker*, it seems that on the previous night the prisoners and a man named Howells, went into her house and represented themselves to be colliers, working at an adjoining pit. Howells said he was the butty, and pretending that he had to pay the other men their wages, he suddenly discovered that he had not got his purse. He therefore appealed to Mrs. *Whittaker*, and she lent him £5. After the party left the house one of them returned and at different intervals fetched about £2 worth of ale, representing that it was to go to the pit, but when this system of fraud had been going on the whole of the evening some neighbours informed Mrs. *Whittaker* of the character of her visitors, and they were taken into custody; Howells escaped. The magistrates discharged John Wantling, but remanded the other three prisoners till Tuesday, with the view of apprehending Howells, and having the case fully gone into."

1861 Census

30, Cold Lanes – COCK INN

- [1] John Whittaker (31), victualler, born Mobbley, Cheshire;
 - [2] Julia Whittaker (32), wife, born Peover, Cheshire;
 - [3] Mary Jane Whittaker (9), daughter, born Mobbley, Cheshire;
 - [4] Joseph Hewitt Whittaker (6), son, born Mobbley, Cheshire;
 - [5] Sarah Ann Whittaker (3), daughter, born Peover, Cheshire:
- [Mobbley is probably Mobberley.]

Birmingham Daily Post 1/4/1862

“An inquest was held on Friday, at the COCK INN, near Bilston, before Mr. T. M. Phillips, coroner, upon the body of a collier named Thomas Jones, aged 25 years, of Cold Lanes, who was killed on Tuesday last by a fall of coal in one of Mr. Philip Williams’s pits. The deceased had neglected to carry out the instructions of the doggy and ‘sprag’ his work, and a verdict of Accidental Death was therefore returned.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/6/1864

“Yesterday morning Richard Corfield, 32, a miner, living in the Cold Lanes, Bilston, and employed at Messrs. Fowler and Co.’s, of Barbers Field Colliery, lost his life by a fall of coal. The accident took place at about a quarter past eleven o’clock, and upon the removal of the fallen coal Corfield was found to be quite dead. The body was immediately removed to the house of Mr. Lewis, the COCK IN, where it awaits the Coroner’s inquiry.”

[Verdict, Accidental Death.]

Birmingham Daily Post 29/3/1871

“At Bilston Police Court, yesterday, *Richard Barnett*, COCK INN, Willenhall Road, was fined £1 and costs, for keeping his house open during unlawful hours on Sunday.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/4/1871

“At Bilston Police Court, yesterday, five men, named respectively William Wilkinson, George Wardell, William Silvester, David Davies, and Samuel Sargent, were summoned for being upon the premises of *Richard Barnett*, publican, Willenhall Road, Bilston, during improper hours. The offence was proved by Police-constable Davis to have been committed on the 26th ult. The landlord was fined on the 28th for infringing the terms of his license. Defendants were each fined 5s and costs, Mr. Spooner remarking that he hoped this would serve as a warning to others, this being the first case of the kind which had been brought before him at Bilston.”

1871 Census

Willenhall Road – COCK INN

- [1] *Richard Barnett* (37), tin plate worker, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] Maria Barnett (37), wife, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] Ann Barnett (18), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] Mary Ann Barnett (16), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] Joseph Barnett (14), son, tin plate worker, born Wolverhampton;
- [6] William H. Barnett (7), son, scholar, born Birmingham;
- [7] Clara M. Barnett (2), daughter, born Bilston:

George Marson = George Marston

George Marson was also a coal dealer. [1873]

1881 Census

Cold Lanes – COCK INN

- [1] Samuel Vaughan (41), publican, born Wem, Shropshire;
- [2] Sarah Vaughan (37), wife, born Wem, Shropshire;
- [3] Margaret Vaughan (15), daughter, scholar, born Wem, Shropshire;
- [4] Sarah A. Vaughan (14), daughter, scholar, born Wem, Shropshire;
- [5] John Vaughan (10), son, scholar, born Wem, Shropshire;
- [6] Mary Vaughan (8), daughter, scholar, born Wem, Shropshire;
- [7] Edward Vaughan (8), son, scholar, born Wem, Shropshire;
- [8] Andrew Vaughan (6), son, scholar, born Wem, Shropshire;

Darlaston Weekly Times 8/12/1883

“Another was added to the already long list of recent sudden deaths in Bilston, on the 31st ult, when a boy named William Becket (9), who resided with his parents at 26, Cold Lanes, Bilston, was found dead in bed by his mother. An enquiry into the cause of death was held before Mr. W. H. Phillips, district coroner, at the COCK INN, Willenhall Road, on Monday. From the evidence given it appeared that about one o’clock on the previous Friday, the child complained of being ill, and on the suggestion of its mother, went upstairs to bed. About twenty minutes to two, the child called to its mother, and she went upstairs, and found the child insensible. In a few minutes afterwards it died. The enquiry was adjourned until Friday, for a post mortem examination to be made.

On the resumption of the enquiry yesterday, at the GLOBE HOTEL, Mount Pleasant, Dr. Mathie said he had made a post mortem examination, and found that the child had died from capillary bronchitis, consequent upon exposure to cold and damp. He considered that the house in which the parents lived was in a very bad state, and unfit for habitation, as it was cold and damp.

In reply to the coroner, the mother of the deceased said her husband and another child lay ill in the house, and she attributed this to the insanitary condition of the dwelling. There was no closet to the house, and no back door. The house was half a crown a week, but on account of her husband’s illness, the rent had got behind, and she could not leave, because if she did, the landlord would distrain on her goods.

The coroner said it would be only right for the jury to take into consideration the miserable condition of the place, he quite agreed with the doctor, entirely unfit for human habitation. It was a great hardship that a sick man with a wife and family to support should be only receiving five shillings a week from the parish, when half a crown had to be paid as rent.

The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence, and instructed the police to call the attention of the Sanitary Inspector to the house.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 21/3/1885

“Richard Wainwright, of Willenhall Road, Bilston, was fined 1s and costs for being drunk and creating a disturbance at the back of the COCK INN, Willenhall Road, on Monday night. PC Allen proved the case and the Bench inflicted a fine of 1s and costs.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 13/7/1885

“Mr. W. H. Phillips, coroner, held an inquest this (Monday) afternoon at the COCK INN, Willenhall Road, Bilston, touching the death of George Willoughby (10), lately residing with his parents at Willenhall Road, Bilston, and who was killed on Saturday by falling down an old pit shaft at Cold Lanes. Mr. Fellows, solicitor, of Bilston, represented the deceased’s parents, and Mr. W. B. Scott, Government Inspector of Mines, was also present.

The evidence showed that on Saturday morning deceased went with his two brothers into a coalfield in Cold Lanes. Deceased was playing about when his brother heard him shout, and on going to the place saw deceased disappear down an old pit shaft. He raised an alarm, and afterwards Richard Lovatt, miner, of Portobello, went down the pit and recovered the body.

Mr. Scott, in his evidence, said the fence round the pit was not secure for the night time, and he advised that it should be covered over.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and recommended that the pit should be more properly fenced.”

1891 Census

30, Willenhall Road – COCK INN

- [1] George E. Harvey (50), general labourer and publican, born Newport, Shropshire;
- [2] Mary Ann Harvey (49), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] Florence Harvey (10), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] Edna H. Harvey (8), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] Minnie E. Harvey (5), daughter, scholar, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 27/9/1898

“The adjourned licensing sessions for the township of Bilston were held today (Tuesday).....

Mr. Thomas Dallow appeared on behalf of *Samuel Joseph Salt*, to apply for the license of the COCK INN, Willenhall Road, to be transferred to a new house proposed to be erected on a site near to. He said that, whilst the application might be termed a new one, it was not so, as the application was simply for a provisional grant authorising the removal of a license from one place to another. The premises were in a rather bad condition, and would have to be substantially repaired or rebuilt on another piece of land belonging to Miss Marston, the owner. The drinking accommodation would not by any means be increased, and the proposed new site would be 238 yards from the COCK INN.

Mr. Willcock opposed on behalf of the tenant of the GLOBE HOTEL, and Mr. Rowland Tildesley on behalf of a number of inhabitants, a property owner, and also for Mr. Watkiss, a license holder in Queen Street.

Mr. Willcock submitted that there was no need for granting the license. There had been no suggestion on the part of the inhabitants for a new license. It was practically a new license in a new district.

Mr. Tildesley said that in the area which was supposed to be benefited by the proposed erection of a new house there were 106 houses, and 150 people had signed a memorial protesting against the erection.

The Bench refused the application.”

1901 Census

Willenhall Road – COCK INN

- [1] Thomas Lloyd (58), licensed victualler, born Preston Gubbals, Shropshire;
- [2] Harriett Lloyd (54), wife, born Brierley Hill:

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/11/1904

“*Thomas Lloyd*, James Street, Bilston, formerly of the COCK INN, Willenhall Road, Bilston, attended for his examination in bankruptcy. He retired from the county police in 1900 on a pension of £44 a year, and took the COCK INN, together with three fields. He then laid out the latter as a football ground, spending £300, which he borrowed. Bad seasons followed, and he lost money. The owner sold the property, without consulting him, to Myatt’s Brewery Company. He was appointed manager of the house at £2 per week. A short time afterwards his salary was reduced to 30s per week, and subsequently, he stated, he was kicked out of the place, having to leave. The company took over his trade effects for £116, out of which they stopped £39 for rent, £46 for their debt for beer, and other money for costs. He had only £20 for his other creditors, some of whom took proceedings against him. The former owner refused to allow him anything towards the cost of laying out the football ground. The examination was adjourned.”

George Davies was fined £5 and costs, on 3rd April 1908, for permitting drunkenness.

1911 Census

Willenhall Road – COCK INN

- [1] George Davies (40), unmarried, publican, born Bilston;
- [2] Ann Davies (72), mother, widow, assisting in business, born Worfield, Shropshire;
- [3] Elizabeth Reynolds (21), general servant, born Bradley:

1921 Census

Willenhall Road – COCK INN

- [1] George Davies (51), unmarried, publican, born Bilston;
- [2] Jessie Prout (16), niece, barmaid, born Tettenhall;
- [3] Ida Bowen (22), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/6/1937

“In by nine o’clock in the Summer months, and eight o’clock during Winter, was the condition of the probation of three boys who were before the Bilston Juvenile Court yesterday. A 10-year-old boy, and one of 14, pleaded ‘Guilty’ to breaking into the COCK INN, Willenhall Road, Bilston, on 23 May, and stealing biscuits, cigarettes, cigars, potato crisps, bottles of stout, and 2½d in cash, the property of *George Davis*, licensee, to the value of £2 10s 5d. The 10-year-old boy was placed on probation for 12 months. The older lad was concerned with another 14-year-old boy in three charges of breaking into the canteen of Messrs. S. Edge and Sons, Wellington Road, Bilston, and sealing two sums of 5s 5d and one of half-a-crown from the gas meter. They were put on probation for two years. The parents were ordered to pay 31s 6d and 24s costs respectively.”

Demolished and rebuilt in the 1930s.

1939 Register

Willenhall Road – COCK

- [1] *Augustus H. Davies*, date of birth 5/6/1898, licensee, manager, married;
- [2] *Elizabeth A. Davies*, dob 2/9/1907, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [5] *Ernest Jeavons*, dob 2/8/1900, milk salesman, married;
- [6] *Esther G. Jeavons*, dob 26/9/1906, bar general, married:

Black Country Bugle 24/6/1999

“Mr. R. Mills, of Stowlawn Estate, Bilston, kindly supplied a couple more nostalgic snaps.....

The other photograph (taken before 1930) will rekindle memories for old imbibers at the COCK INN, Willenhall Road, Bilston. It seems that a wartime publican was successful in boosting trade here by selling a commodity then in short supply – but only for five minutes before last orders – as Mr. Mills recalls, ‘The man standing in the doorway was a Welshman by the name of *George Davies*, who was manager at the time. When the new COCK INN was built his son *Gus Davies* was manager during the war years. In order to get plenty of customers in during the evening, he used to put cigarettes on sale five minutes before closing time as there was a shortage of cigarettes then.’”

Augustus Hutchinson Davies – see also BRUFORD ARMS, Wolverhampton.

A team from here took part in the Butlers (Bilston) Darts League. [1946]

It was a rock venue in the 1970s.

Birmingham Mail 21/9/1971

“For the first time at the Exhibition, the professionals are making way for local talent in the Exhibition Theatre. Already hundreds of entries from amateur and semi-professional variety acts have been received from all over the Midlands. They will be the stars of a mammoth talent competition, staged daily at the Exhibition Theatre. The first of the eliminating heats was held last night Further heats will be held on September 28 at the COCK INN, Willenhall Road, Bilston.”

Plans were approved for alterations on 22nd March 1979.

Birmingham Mail 1/6/1981

“For the enthusiasts: Birmingham and Wolverhampton branch of the Triumph Owners Club meets every Wednesday, 8.30pm at the COCK INN, Willenhall Road, Bilston. New members welcome.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 9/4/1982

“A pop singer was thrown across the stage by an electric shock from a microphone in a Bilston pub last night. Regulars rushed to revive Mr. Wallace Evans, lead singer with Black Country rock group Wally Alligator and the Crocodiles – as he lay unconscious from the shock for several minutes. The COCK INN, Willenhall Road, licensee Mr. *Frederick Mills*, said the group had just finished one of their regular Thursday night stints. ‘Wally had a mike in his hand when there was a flash and he was thrown across the stage,’ he said.

Mr. Evans, who was celebrating his 29th birthday, was taken by ambulance to the Wolverhampton Royal Hospital. Police say he suffered no ill effects and was allowed back to his Wolverhampton home after a check-up.”

Birmingham Mail 13/11/1995 - Advert

“Rock Night at the COCK INN, Willenhall Road, Bilston.
This Saturday and Every Saturday with Top Rock DJs.
This week featuring Alaska.
The Very Best in Rock Entertainment.”

It was renamed the HUSTLER. [1999], [2005]

It closed in 2006.
It was damaged in an arson attack in 2006.

In 2007 a planning application for demolition of the pub and erection of flats was withdrawn.

In 2012 planning permission was granted for demolition of the pub and construction of a convenience store.

It was demolished in 2013.

Express & Star 16/7/2013

“A derelict pub in Wolverhampton has been flattened to make way for a Tesco convenience store. The site of the old HUSTLER pub, in Willenhall Road, in Bilston, will be transformed by the supermarket giant and will open early next year.....”

A supermarket was built on the site.

Express & Star 28/1/2021

“Plans to build three new homes on the site of a former pub beer garden in Bilston have been given the go-ahead. The land on Poplar Road was previously occupied by the COCK INN, later renamed the HUSTLER, which has since been demolished. A Tesco Express now stands on part of the ground facing Willenhall Road. Mr. Aman Jutla of Darlaston-based DBM Holdings, landlord for the site, has this week been granted permission to build one two-bedroom and two three-bedroom properties on the remaining area of land. In a statement supporting the plans, agent Bruce Jones of DPS Architects in Wolverhampton, said, ‘The small parcel of triangular land to the rear of Tesco Express has been unused since 2004 and is overgrown. It previously formed the rear garden of the HUSTLER pub. The front of the site was redeveloped in 2013 for the convenience store. The site is prone to anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping, so the client is now anxious to see it developed for residential purposes.....”



1999



1995

"COCK INN," COLD LANES, BILSTON.

BY R. L. COURTNEY.—To be LET, that well-known Old-licensed convenient PUBLIC HOUSE, established nearly a century. It comprises Bar, Parlour, Tap Room, large Parlour, four Chambers, two Cellars, Brewhouse, Stable, Piggeries, large Garden, Marble and Bowling Alley, &c., and is doing a fair trade. The Proprietor is leaving, having entered on other engagements.—Apply on the Premises; or to the Auctioneer, High Street, West Bromwich.

BILSTON.

TO PUBLICANS, BROKERS, AND OTHERS.

UNRESERVED SALE BY AUCTION,

At the COCK INN, COLD LANES,

ON MONDAY NEXT, DECEMBER 24th, 1890,

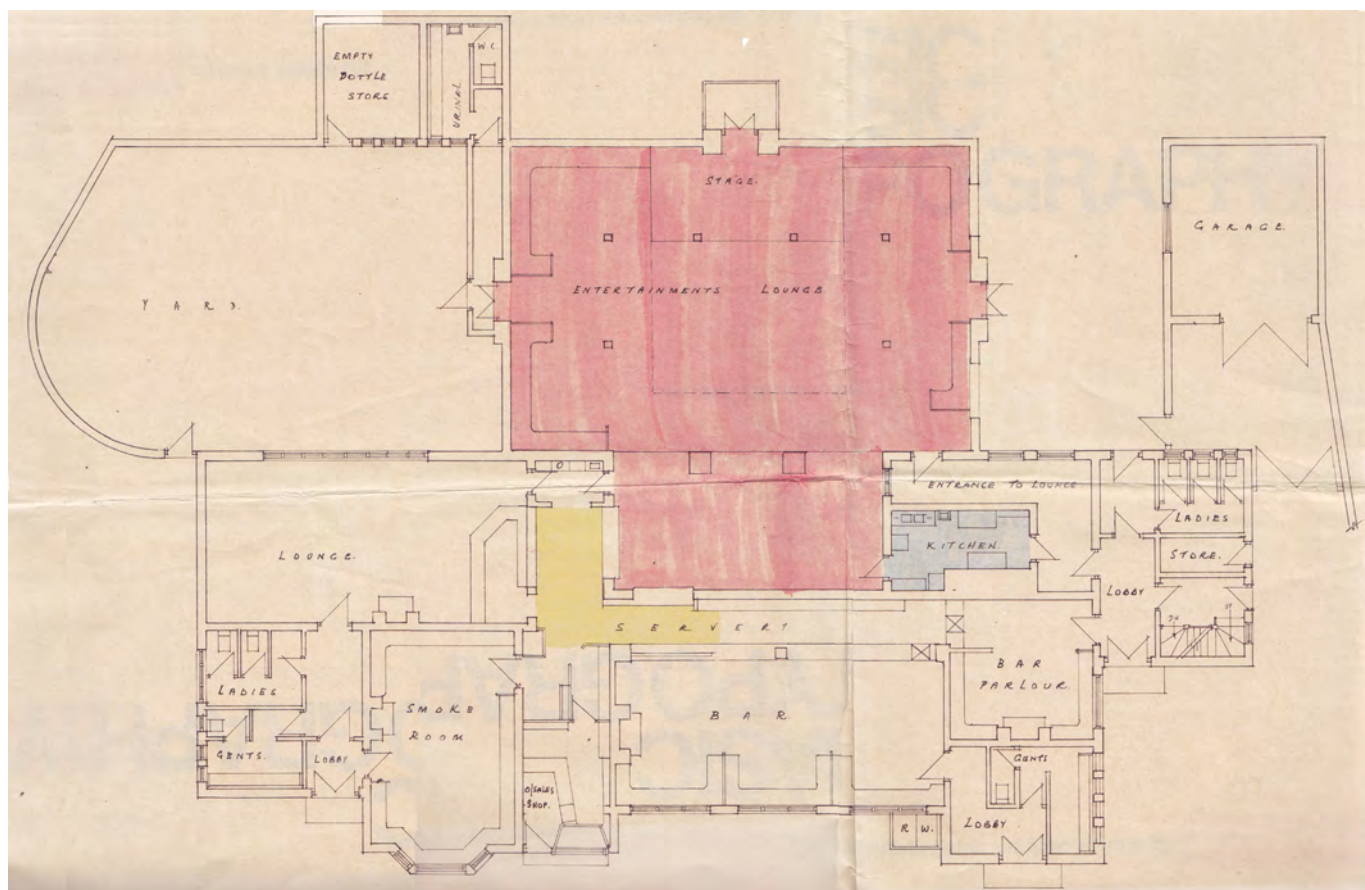
BY R. L. COURTNEY—of the LICENSES, GOODWILL, and POSSESSION of the above-named INN, with the BREWING PLANT, comprising two iron Furnaces, Mash Tub, six Coolers, and Round Tubs, fifteen iron-bound Ale Casks, five Screens, Drinking Tables, capital Four-pull Ale Machine. HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, and other valuable Effects.

Sale to commence punctually at Ten o'clock to a minute, being the property of Mr. J. M. Parsons, who is declining the public business.

N.B.—The Old-licensed PUBLIC HOUSE to be LET, and immediate possession may be had. Rent moderate.

Auctioneer's Offices and Residence, High Street, West Bromwich.

1860



Plan 1979

COMMERCIAL

56, (61), Ash Street / 8, Arthur Street, Highfields, Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

Joseph Chadwick, brewer, 157, Great Charles Street, Birmingham
Sykes Brewery Co. Ltd, brewers, Birmingham
Trent Brewery Co. Ltd, Burton on Trent
South Staffordshire Brewery Co. Ltd, Wolverhampton
J. and J. Yardley and Co. Ltd.
Old Wolverhampton Breweries Ltd.
Frank Myatt Ltd. [1921]

LICENSEES

John Skidmore [1866] – [1886]
Daniel Rowley **(1888 – [1892])**
Henry Jones **(1894 – [])**
Albert Coates [1896] – [1898]
John Skidmore [1900]
Mrs. Caroline Penson [1901] – **1903);**
William Henry Williams **(1903 – 1906);**
Charles Smith **(1906 – 1909);**
Arthur Fullard **(1909);**
Richard Albert Yardley **(1909 – 1912);**
Joseph Edward Turton **(1912 – 1916);**
George Wilfred Haywood Dallow **(1916);**
Alfred Jeavons **(1916 – 1921);**
George Henry Percival **(1921 – 1924);**
Harry Frederick Reynolds **(1924 – 1925);**
Ernest Job Nicholls **(1925);**
Reuben Job Walker **(1925 – 1929);**
Thomas Ryman **(1929 – 1930);**
James Wilkinson **(1930 – 1931);**
Harold Bullock **(1931 – 1932):**

NOTES

[This pub was strictly in Sedgley, but is included here due to it being situated at Bradley.]

61, Ash Street [1871]
Ash Street [1881], [1932]
56, Ash Street [1901], [1921]
Highfields Road [1909]
8, Arthur Street [1911]

COMMERCIAL HOTEL [1932]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1866

“The annual meeting for the renewal of existing licenses, and for receiving applications for fresh ones, was held at the Police Court on Friday.....

An application was made on behalf of *John Skidmore*, keeper of an inn at Highfields, by Mr. Underhill, and after some opposition by Mr. Young, the application was granted.”

1871 Census

61, Ash Street

- [1] *John Skidmore* (48), victualler, born Tipton;
- [2] *Mary Ann Skidmore* (39), wife, born Birmingham;
- [3] *William G. Skidmore* (20), son, roll turner, born Sedgley;
- [4] *Mary Ann Skidmore* (18), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [5] *Rachel E. Skidmore* (17), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [6] *Stephen Skidmore* (14), son, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [7] *Jeremiah Skidmore* (11), son, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [8] *Elizabeth Skidmore* (13), daughter, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [9] *John Skidmore* (10), son, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [10] *David Skidmore* (7), son, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [11] *Joseph Skidmore* (4), son, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [12] *Benjamin Skidmore* (3), son, born Sedgley;
- [13] *Ann Round* (23), domestic servant, born Sedgley;
- [14] *Ann Hale* (20), domestic servant, born Sedgley;

FOR Sale, 35-horse Horizontal ENGINE, with Boiler and Winding Gear complete; also, Two very useful Pit Frames, with Runners, &c.—Apply, Mr. Skidmore, Commercial Inn, High Fields, near Bilston.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 22/4/1871 - Advert

“For Sale, 35-horse Horizontal Engine, with Boiler and Winding Gear complete; also Two very useful Pit Frames, with Runners, &c.

Apply, Mr. *Skidmore*, COMMERCIAL INN, High Fields, near Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 6/10/1909

“The supposed loss of the *Waratah* calls to mind the wreck of the *Strathmore*, an emigrant ship, the survivors of which spent five months on a desert island. Among the latter was Mr. W. G. Skidmore, whose parents at that time lived at the COMMERCIAL INN, Highfields, Coseley. He was mourned as dead by his relatives and friends at Coseley, and great was their joy on receipt of the gratifying intelligence that he was included in the number of passengers and crew who had been saved. The *Strathmore*, a Dundee vessel, sailed from London for Otago, New Zealand, on April 17, 1875, having on board some 50 or 60 passengers and a crew which brought the number to about 90.

Mr. Skidmore last year wrote an account of this romance of the southern ocean for the *Daily Post*, Australia, in the course of which he says that on July 1 the *Strathmore* struck on the Crozets, a reef of rocks in the Indian Ocean, drowning 39 persons – the captain, chief mate, seven sailors, and 30 passengers. He was one of 19 who got into the port lifeboat, and he tells how before they got ashore they had to beat off a large shark with their oars. The first night was spent by the survivors on the rocks, and rain having fallen heavily all night their scanty attire was dripping wet next morning. Better quarters were secured, and a few blankets found in a floating chest came in useful as a protection from the southerly winds.

Albatross were hunted, and were regarded as a great delicacy, particularly as the castaways had had little food since leaving the ship. A watch was set, and it was arranged that two men should watch the lifeboat, gig, and dinghy which had been saved, by night, and all should take their turn. Continuing the narrative, he says: Two American seaman took the first watch, but instead of watching the boats they paid attention to a cask of port wine, and we found them helplessly drunk in the morning, with the cask alongside them canted to the bung, a ship's bucket half full, and more than half gone, and also our three boats. It was a dreadful blow for us when we knew our boats were lost and we knew our lives depended upon what we could get upon the island. Had we not lost our boats we could have picked up wreckage enough to have lasted us for months.

Mr. Skidmore records how several of the company died, and their graves were dug in guano, and states that all endured great hardships from cold and a lack of food, and they had to sleep huddled together for warmth. A small lamp was kept burning night and day as the symbol of the Hope that never dies; it was the sacred fire of the Crozets. Late in August, and again in September, a ship was sighted, but neither landed. Christmas Day was spent on the

island, with penguins for dinner, and Mr. Skidmore remarked that it was to these birds and their eggs that the islanders owed their lives. It was on the afternoon of January 21, 1876, that a sail was sighted to the north-west. The attention of the captain of the ship, which proved to be a whaler, was attracted. Mrs. Wordsworth, the only lady survivor, Mr. Peters, the second mate, several invalids, and one of the crew were taken away that night, and next day the remainder went on board. After being four days aboard the whaler Captain Gifford handed the company over to the Sierra Morena, of Liverpool, and returned to the Crozets. Mr. Skidmore mentions a curious incident that happened to Mrs. Wordsworth. She was sitting by the fire when she said she saw a woman's face and head appear. It was a beautiful face, pale complexion, and dark eyes, with a 'kerchief tied over the head, and under the chin. It smiled kindly to her, and bade her be of good spirits, saying at the time that we should soon be taken away. The curious thing is that Captain Gifford's young wife, who was voyaging with him, when she leaned over the ship to say good-bye to Mrs. Wordsworth, had the face of the vision on the island, even to the 'kerchief tied under the chin."

1881 Census

Ash Street

- [1] John Skidmore (58), licensed victualler, born Tipton;
- [2] Mary A. Skidmore (49), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Thomas Skidmore (26), son, born Sedgley;
- [4] Stephen Skidmore (24), son, born Sedgley;
- [5] Elizabeth Skidmore (23), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [6] Jeremiah Skidmore (21), son, born Sedgley;
- [7] John Skidmore (20), son, born Sedgley;
- [8] David Skidmore (18), son, born Sedgley;
- [9] David Skidmore (78), uncle, gentleman, born Tipton;
- [10] Elizabeth Bamford (22), domestic servant, born Scotland;

FOR Sale, by Private Treaty, the well-known Public House called the "Royal Oak," Salop-street, Bilston. It is surrounded by large ironworks, and in a thickly-populated district. A portion of the purchase money can remain on the freehold.—For further particulars, apply to John Skidmore, Commercial Inn, Highfields, Bilston.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 17/11/1881 - Advert

"For Sale, by Private Treaty, the well-known Public House called the ROYAL OAK, Salop Street, Bilston. It is surrounded by large ironworks, and in a thickly-populated district. A portion of the purchase money can remain on the freehold.

For further particulars, apply to *John Skidmore*, COMMERCIAL INN, Highfields, Bilston."

Darlaston Weekly Times 30/12/1882 - Advert

"To be Let, a Small, Compact, Well Fitted-up Shop, in a commanding thoroughfare, now doing a good trade. Satisfactory reasons for leaving.

Apply, *John Skidmore*, COMMERCIAL INN, Highfields, near Bilston."

Darlaston Weekly Times 7/6/1884

"On Tuesday afternoon, an enquiry was held at the COMMERCIAL INN, before Mr. W. H. Phillips, district coroner, into the circumstances of the death of Thomas Whalley, of 51, Ash Street, Bradley, which took place on Sunday night. It appeared from the evidence that deceased, who was 59 years of age, was found dead on a sofa on Sunday night, by a young woman named Mary Ann Price. A verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned."

Dudley and District News 20/12/1884

"Between five and six o'clock on Saturday evening the body of a man, who has not yet been identified, was found on the Great Western Railway, between Daisy Bank and Coseley. Deceased, who appeared to be about 60 years of age, and, judging from his dress, either a navvy or blast furnaceman, had evidently been knocked down by a passing train. The body was lying across the rails, and was terribly cut and lacerated. It was found by a watchman on the line named Henry Rowe, of Bilston Road, Wolverhampton, and was removed by direction of PC Tytherleigh to the Highfields COMMERCIAL INN, Bradley, where it now lies awaiting an inquest. What the deceased had been doing on the railway is not known. There is no road near, but some repairs had recently been done close to where he was found, and he may have gone with the view of seeking work. The description of the deceased is given as follows: Age about 60 years; height, 5ft 8 or 9in; complexion fresh; hair brown, tinged with grey; clean shaved; and of medium build. Dress: Old, white slop jacket, two old mixture coloured cloth vests, new brown cord trousers, light woollen muffler, brown cloth cap, with band round; and heavy-nailed lace-up boots, with tips on heels and toes. The

man is supposed to belong to Gloucestershire. Should he be recognised, communication should be made with Mr. Chief Superintendent Longden, Bilston.

An inquest on the body was held on Tuesday, at the COMMERCIAL HOTEL, Highfields, Bradley, when the jury returned a verdict of Found Dead.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/11/1886 - Advert

“Staffordshire. Valuable Corner Spirit Vaults, Dwelling Houses, and Shops, at Highfields, near Bilston, and Bloomfield Road, Princes End, Tipton.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Hawkins & Son (by order of the Mortgagee), at the house of Mr. Butler, the ROYAL HOTEL, Princes End, on Tuesday, the 30th day of November, 1886, at 6 o’clock in the evening.....

Lot 1. All that well-built and well-established Licensed Freehold Inn and Dwelling House known as the COMMERCIAL INN, at Highfields aforesaid, comprising commodious Spirit Vaults, Smoke Room, Bar Parlour, Kitchen, Lodge Room, good Chambers, Cellars, modern Brewery, and enclosed Yard; together with the Two Shops and Dwelling Houses adjoining, in the several occupations of Mr. *John Skidmore*, Thomas Fidoe, and one void. Also, a Large Piece of Land in the rear, now used as Gardens. Area of the Lot, 1600 square yards or thereabouts..... The purchaser of Lot 1 will have to take to the Trade Fixtures in and about the Inn and Premises thereto at a valuation in the usual way, an Inventory of which will be produced at the time of Sale.”

Birmingham Daily Post 24/11/1886

“From last night’s *London Gazette*First Meetings and Dates of Public Examinations.....

John Skidmore, the elder, COMMERCIAL INN, Highfields, Sedgley, Staffordshire, licensed victualler.

First meeting, December 2, at 10am, at the Official Receiver’s, Dudley; public examination, December 2, at 11am, at the County Court, Dudley.”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/12/1886

“Bankruptcy Proceedings Re *John Skidmore*, licensed victualler, Highfields, Sedgley.

At the Dudley County Court, yesterday, this bankrupt came up for his public examination before Mr. Registrar Walker. Mr. Jobson, the official receiver, conducted the enquiry, and Mr. Alfred Whitehouse was for the debtor. The liabilities were £884 10s 5d, and the assets £86 4s 2d. The bankrupt had been in business thirty-five years, and he built, bought, and inherited property. The last-named, however, came through his wife’s father, and was mortgaged. He had been mixed up in his son’s and son-in-law’s metal business, and was guarantee for some £300 or £400. The payment of these sums and bad trade had caused his insolvency. The debtor was allowed to pass.”

John Skidmore – see also UNION, Wallbrook, Sedgley, and ROLLING MILL, Bradley, Bilston.

Daniel Rowley = Daniel Rowly

1891 Census

Ash Street

[1] *Daniel Rowly* (39), licensed victualler, born Bradley;

[2] *Mary Rowly* (44), wife, born Coseley;

[3] *Mary A. Owen* (18), step-daughter, born Bradley;

[4] *Clara Rowly* (17), daughter, born Bradley;

[5] *Florence H. Rowly* (14), daughter, born Bradley;

[6] *Gertrude Rowly* (12), daughter, scholar, born Bradley;

Staffordshire Advertiser 21/11/1891

“Joseph Pearce, labourer, Bradley, Bilston, was fined 10s and costs for stealing 6d from the till at the COMMERCIAL INN, Highfields.”

Bradley Quoits Club was based here. [1893]

Birmingham Daily Post 25/8/1894

“Bilston. The annual licensing sessions for this division were held yesterday....

A transfer of the COMMERCIAL HOUSE INN was granted to *Henry Jones*.”

Dudley Herald 22/10/1898

“Coming of Age Celebration at Bradley. On Saturday last about 25 engineers from Messrs. T. Perry and Sons were invited to a supper at the COMMERCIAL HOTEL by Mr. R. Blakesley, of Woodsetton, in commemoration of his 21st birthday. After the removal of the cloth, Mr. T. Smith was voted to the chair, and Mr. W. Rogers to the vice-chair. The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Blakesley for his kindness and generosity in providing so liberally for them, and also to Mr. and Mrs. *Coates* for the able manner in which they had catered. He thought there was a bright and successful future for Mr. Blakesley, for he had always found in him a first-class workman and a thorough gentleman. The rest of the evening was given to harmony, the following contributing: Messrs. R. Blakesley, E. Mason, J. Mason, Caswell, Kelly and Draisey.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 29/12/1898

“A very sudden death occurred at the Ettingshall Ironwork Company’s Works, at Bradley, this morning. It appears that a man named Isaiah Higgs (72), married, of Field Street, Bradley, is employed at those works as a night-watchman. He was at his post last night, and was observed in his lobby at 12.30am, eating. At 4.0am, however, a man named William Smith, observing that the old man was not attending to some fires as usual, went to the lobby and found him apparently asleep. He called out to him, but as he received no answer he went up and was astonished to find that he was dead. Police-constable Hadland, of Bradley, was immediately notified of the occurrence, and the body of the deceased was conveyed home, pending the inquiry by the coroner.”

AND

Wolverhampton Express and Star 30/12/1898

“The circumstances attending the death of Isaiah Higgs, aged 72, of 32, Field Street, who died under conditions reported on Thursday, were investigated by the Coroner at the COMMERCIAL HOTEL, Highfields, Bradley.

Mary Ann Higgs stated that she was the widow of the deceased, who had been employed at the Ettingshall Ironworks as a watchman. She had been married to him for nearly fifty years, and deceased went to work on Wednesday night. She heard of his being found dead on Thursday morning.

William Smith, employed at the Ettingshall Ironworks, stated that just before eleven o’clock on Wednesday night deceased complained of feeling ill, and sent for some brandy. Witness advised him to lie down, and on returning about four o’clock he found Higgs lying dead.

The inquest was adjourned, for the purpose of having a post mortem examination made, until Monday next at eleven o’clock.”

1901 Census

56, Ash Street

[1] *Caroline Penson* (49), widow, licensed victualler, born Brierley Hill;

[2] *Percy Richard Penson* (16), son, draper’s assistant, born Bilston;

[3] *Amie Evans* (22), domestic servant, born Deepfields;

[4] *Mary Elizabeth Roper* (14), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Tipton Herald 28/11/1903

“On Tuesday night Mr. Henry Norman MP was made an honorary member of Court Merry Woodman, of the Ancient Order of Foresters, which assembles at the COMMERCIAL HOTEL, Bradley.....”

Caroline Penson died on 27th December 1903.

Wednesbury Leader 28/1/1906

“The 141st half yearly meeting of the Wolverhampton and Tipton District of the Ancient Order of Foresters took place at the COMMERCIAL INN, Bradley, on Saturday. There were thirty-four delegates present, DCR Farley being in the chair, supported by DSCR Thomas Kempson, J. Barker, (District Secretary).....”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 29/11/1909

“On Saturday evening the members of Court Merry Woodmen 3305 of the Ancient Order of Foresters held a dinner at their Court Room, at the COMMERCIAL HOTEL, Highfield Road, near Bilston, to celebrate the jubilee of their Court.....”

1911 Census

8, Arthur Street – COMMERCIAL HOTEL

- [1] *Richard Alfred Yardley* (43), licensed victualler, born Chetton, Shropshire;
- [2] *Emma Yardley* (37), wife, married 9 years, assisting in business, born Alveley, Shropshire;
- [3] *Alfred Cecil Yardley* (4), son, born Claverley, Shropshire;
- [4] *Selina Millechip* (27), visitor, domestic servant, born Worfield, Shropshire;
- [5] *Thomas Baylis* (21), boarder, grocer's shop assistant, born Tamworth;
- [6] *Mary Baylis* (22), boarder, born Walsall:

Birmingham Mail 9/9/1913

"Following the Wyrley gang postcards threatening that further maiming outrages would be committed, a brown eight-year-old gelding, belonging to Mr. *Joseph Turton*, a publican of Bradley, was found suffering from a deep wound in its off hindquarters. The horse, with others, was turned into a field at Gospel Oak, near Wednesbury, opposite the works of Messrs. Thompson, and when seen last night the animal was in its normal condition. It was attended to by Mr. H. Pickworth, Wednesbury, who put nine stitches into the wound. It was 11 inches long by two inches deep. Mr. Pickering believes that the injury was caused by a sharp instrument. It was the cleanest cut he had ever seen. The injury is of a similar character to that caused recently to two horses at Darlaston. The gelding was found in a field adjoining that into which it was turned."

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/9/1913

"Another maiming outrage was discovered in the Wednesbury district yesterday, a horse being found with a wound eleven inches by two. The injured animal belongs to Mr. G. [sic] *Turton*, of the COMMERCIAL HOTEL, Highfield, Bradley. The veterinary surgeon has no hesitation in stating that the wound was inflicted with a sharp instrument, as in the other cases. Several other horses were in the field, but only the one was injured."

1921 Census

56, Ash Street – COMMERCIAL HOTEL

- [1] *George Henry Percival* (43), publican, hotel manager, born Shelfield, Staffordshire;
- [2] *Mary Annie Percival* (39), wife, hotel manageress, born Bilston;
- [3] *Obadiah Richard Percival* (20), son, butcher, born Bilston;
- [4] *Lilian Maria Percival* (17), daughter, assists in business, born Bilston;
- [5] *Henry James Percival* (15), son, iron worker, born Bilston;
- [6] *Richard Skidmore* (54), wife's step-brother, labourer, born Oldbury:

George Henry Percival – see also RAILWAY, Hill Street.

Bilston & Willenhall Times 29/11/1924

"A case which has created much interest came before Messrs. J. A. Jordan (who presided), C. W. Harris, S. Davies and M. Wilks, at the Bilston Police Court yesterday (Friday), when *Henry Frederick Reynolds*, licensee of the COMMERCIAL INN, Bradley, and his wife *Maria Reynolds*, were summoned for alleged offences against the licensing laws. Mr. Arthur Ward (instructed by Mr. A. C. Skidmore, Wolverhampton) appeared for the defence. The summonses were for selling beer and supplying the same during prohibited hours.

PC Dunn (Bradley) stated that at 11.20pm on the night of the 9th inst he was in Arthur Street, which leads to the back of the premises of the COMMERCIAL INN. One of the double doors was partly open, and he saw a child open it a little wider from the inside and look into the street. She stepped back, and he next saw a man named Baker, who was carrying a stone jar. In company with him witness saw the male defendant, and asked him if he had supplied the man with beer. He answered, 'Yes, he paid for it before ten o'clock. You are not going to do anything are you?' Witness said he should report it, and *Reynolds* added, 'Don't make a case of it. I will give you anything if you won't say anything about it. You know what it means to me with my license.'

Mr. Ward contended that there was no case, 'They have got to prove that the beer was sold after ten o'clock.'

The Magistrates' Clerk (Mr. Pratt): I think there is no proof of sale.

The summons for supplying was taken, and Mr. Ward said *Reynolds* was assisted in the business by his wife. On the Sunday night in question, about half-past eight, Baker went into the bar and had a drink, and in the presence of a number of customers he said he wanted a gallon of 'sixes.' He tended a 10s note – at 8.30 – and received 6s change. Baker did not take the beer away with him then, and the landlady, as had been done on previous occasions, placed

the jar containing the beer by a water butt, near the gates, and this she did before closing time. That which happened, Mr. Ward, contended, did not amount to supplying. He called a number of witnesses who were in the house when the beer was sold, and who saw the jar near the water butt, in support of his contention.

The summons for selling was dismissed, and for supplying *Reynolds* was fined £5. The summons against Mrs. *Reynolds* was dismissed.

Isaac Baker, 4, Arthur Street, Bradley, was summoned for aiding and abetting, and for 'taking away.' As Mr. Ward intimated his intention to appeal the decision in the former case, these summonses were adjourned sine die."

Bilston & Willenhall Times 7/2/1925

"Bilston Brewster Sessions.....

Formal objection by the police to the renewal of the license of four houses. With regard to the COMMERCIAL INN, Bradley, the license was renewed, and the chairman hoped that what had taken place would be a warning to the manager not to make a mistake again....."

Application for the removal of this license to the MOUNT PLEASANT INN, Sedgley, was granted on 9th April 1932. It closed on 9th April 1932.

Lichfield Mercury 15/4/1932

"County Licensing Committee.....

The committee granted an application by Violet Jones for removal of the full license of the COMMERCIAL INN, Bradley, Coseley, to licensed premises at Sedgley, known as the MOUNT PLEASANT TAVERN (a beerhouse)."

TO BE LET, A SMALL, COMPACT, WELL
FITTED-UP SHOP, in a commanding
thoroughfare, now doing a good trade. Satisfactory
reasons for leaving,—Apply, John Skidmore,
Commercial Inn, Highfields, near Bilston.

1882

LOT 1.—All that well-built and well-established LICENSED
FREEHOLD INN and DWELLING HOUSE known as the
"COMMERCIAL INN," at Highfields aforesaid, comprising com-
modious Spirit Vaults, Smoke Room, Bar Parlour, Kitchen, Lodge
Room, good Chambers, Cellars, modern Brewery, and enclosed
Yard; together with the Two SHOPS and DWELLING HOUSES
adjoining, in the several occupations of Mr. John Skidmore, Thomas
Fidoe, and one void.

1886

COOPERS ARMS

Church Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Robert Haynes [1818]

NOTES

Robert Haynes was also a cooper. [1818]

COTTAGE SPRING

Brook Street, New Town, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Isaac Beckett [1853] – [1857]

NOTES

Isaac Beckett = Isaac Becket

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 6/2/1853

“At *Beckett's*, the COTTAGE SPRING, Bilston, on Monday, a silver collar was ratted for by dogs of all weights, when Messrs. Haywood, Stokes and Beckett's dogs contended at 10 rats each. The collar was won by Haywood's dog, killing his number in 53sec. There was also a match between Messrs. Stokes and Tait's dogs, 9½lb each, at seven rats each, for £3 a side, which was won by Tait's dog, killing her rats in 1min 5sec.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/2/1855

“On Tuesday last William Gettings, a respectable looking man, was charged with stealing a brindled bitch, the property of *Isaac Beckett*, of New Town, Bilston. It appeared that on Friday night the dog in question was with a man named Ward, an inhabitant of Oatmeal Yard, who is a servant of the complainant. The dog went up to the prisoner, and on Ward calling it the prisoner took it up and went away with it. It appeared that the defendant made some claim to the dog, for *Beckett*, on reference to an anticipated claim, said he had thrown the bitch claimed into a coal pit. *Beckett* said he gave a man named Titley £4 for the bitch. *Beckett* denied being a dog fancier or that he fought dogs. Titley, on being called, said he bought the bitch for half-a-crown and sold her to *Beckett* for £4. Mr. Jackson, for the defence, called several witnesses, who deposed to the bitch having been bred and reared by the defendant, from whom she was stolen a year and a half ago. The magistrate said it appeared to him that, looking at the fact that the dog was purchased for half-a-crown and the evidence for the defence, that the dog belonged to the defendant. The case was accordingly dismissed, the defendant leaving with the dog in his possession.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/7/1855

“*Isaac Beckett*, landlord of the COTTAGE SPRING public house, Bilston, was summoned for refusing to receive and afford proper accommodation to Frederick Powell, a soldier in her Majesty's Medical Corps. Sergeant Villiers, of the 94th Regiment, stated that his only object in bringing the matter before the Bench was as an example to other innkeepers, as several refusals to receive recruits had recently been made. He was willing the case should be withdrawn, on the defendant paying the expenses. The defendant consented to this, and the case was withdrawn accordingly.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 18/11/1855

“Haywood and Wedge of Bilston are matched to run six score yards, for £10 a side; to come off on Monday, the 26th inst, at the Ball, at Coven. A further deposit of £2 a side must be made at *Beckett's* COTTAGE SPRING, Bilston, on Monday (tomorrow).”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 13/7/1856

“Ambrose Causer of Bilston will run David Gough of Willenhall, from 120 to 440 yards, for £5 or £10 a side; or Thomas Hayward of Bilston six score yards, for £10 a side; or he will give Samuel Wedge two yards start in six score yards, for from £5 to £20 a side. A match can be made any night week, at *Isaac Becket's* COTTAGE SPRING INN, Brook Street, Bilston.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 27/7/1856

“Pigeon Flying.....

Isaac Beckett of Bilston has a young bird, 10 weeks old, that he will fly against any other of the same age, 20 or 30 miles, for £5 or £10 a side. Money ready any night next week at the COTTAGE SPRING, Bilston.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 8/2/1857

“Badger and Couser. The whole of the money, £10 a side, has been made good, and the match comes off tomorrow (Monday), at the Golden Ball, Coven Heath. The men to be at scratch at one o’clock, to go by mutual consent; if no start in thirty minutes, then to go by first pull of handkerchief. Couser finds ropes and stakes. Both men are reported all right, and the men will be glad to see their friends tonight (the 8th inst); Badger at Skidmore’s, the DUKES HEAD, Duke Street, Wolverhampton, and Couser at *J. Beckett’s*, the COTTAGE SPRING, New Town, Bilston.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 15/2/1857

“Badger and Couser. The 140 yards match, for £10 a side, between these men, took place on Monday, at the Golden Ball, Coven Heath, Wolverhampton. The weather was, fortunately, fine, and a good deal of interest was taken in the match. There was a good muster present. Owing to the late frost, the ground, as might be expected, was in a rotten and heavy state. Each man appeared at scratch in good condition, and betting commenced at evens, and ended at 6 to 4 on Causer. They had to go by mutual consent, and after dodging for twenty minutes, a level start was effected. In the first 20 yards Causer was leading by a full yard, and was never caught, gradually widening the gap, and running in a winner by four yards. Causer has received the stakes. Badger attributes his defeat to standing on the case of hot water, and then coming on the cold ground; that he felt his legs affected, and ran the distance with the greatest difficulty. W. Burns of Darlaston officiated as referee.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 22/3/1857

“William Warner of Bilston not being satisfied with his late defeat by Samuel Wedge, is anxious to run him 440 yards, if he will give him five yards start, or he will run John Addison (commonly called Jack the Barber) the same distance level, or he will run Samuel Baggott or Edward Partridge (both of Darlaston) the same distance; either of these matches can be made for £10 a side, to come off in a month after drawing up articles. Money ready any night next week, at *Isaac Beckett’s*, COTTAGE SPRING, Bilston.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 24/5/1857

“Thomas Hayward of Bilston will run Files of Birmingham six score yards, for £10 a side; or Snellhouse of the same place, for £10 a side; or give Osborn (the Sailor Boy) two yards start in 120, for £10 a side; or he will run Littlehales of the same place and give him two yards start, for £5 or £10 a side; or he will run Rock of Wolverhampton six score yards, for £10 or £20, or Paget of the same place, or Alfred Badger of Wolverhampton, for £20 a side; or he will run Bayley of Darlaston six score yards and give him one yard start, for £10 a side, or Jinkes of Darlaston for the same sum. Money ready any night next week, at *Isaac Beckett’s*, COTTAGE SPRING, Bilston, Staffordshire.”

Isaac Beckett – see also OLD HOUSE AT HOME, Temple Street.

COTTAGE SPRING

20, (89), Dudley Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Thomas Millward, out of business, Dudley Street, Bilston
Elizabeth Dangerfield, Westborough, Portland
Mrs. C. H. Reid, Pryse House, St. John's Chapel, Bisham
Alfred A. Millward, 6, St. Georges Terrace, London
Frank Myatt Ltd.
William Butler and Co. Ltd.

LICENSEES

Samuel Harper [1873] – **1878**);
Richard Picken Jones (**1878 – 1884**);
Jesse Skinner (**1884 – 1890**);
Mrs. Alice Skinner (**1890 – 1906**);
Richard Bates (**1906 – 1908**);
Rhoda Attwood (**1908**);
George William Crockett (**1908 – 1909**);
Albert Maddocks (**1909 – 1910**);
Joseph Hadley (**1910 – 1913**);
Emily Hadley [1911]
Elizabeth Baldwin (**1913**):

PICKWICK JUDGE & JURY CLUB.
Held at the
COTTAGE SPRING, DUDLEY STREET,
BILSTON.
Proprietor—**JESSE SKINNER.**
The Members of this the **OLDEST ESTABLISHED**
CLUB in the town, are hereby informed that the
ANNUAL DINNER
Will take place on **Whit-Tuesday**, at 6-0 p.m.
prompt.
Further information to be obtained at the Club
House.

1885

NOTES

89, Dudley Street [1873], [1881], [1891], [1896]
20, Dudley Street [1901], [1904], [1911], [1912]

It had an ante '69 beerhouse license.

It was known locally as "Pretty Polly's".

1881 Census

89, Dudley Street – COTTAGE SPRING INN
[1] Richard P. Jones (29), beer retailer, born Bilston;
[2] Matilda Jones (29), wife, born Bilston;
[3] Arthur J. Jones (6), son, scholar, born Brewood;
[4] John Jones (3), son, born Bilston;
[5] William Jones (1), son, born Bilston;
[6] Maud Millard (16), domestic servant, born Coseley;
[7] John Marion (61), grand-father, widower, locksmith, born Bilston;
[8] Elizabeth Taylor (70), visitor, widow, formerly tailoress, born Bilston:

Darlaston Weekly Times 19/5/1883

“Whitsuntide in the District.....

The members of the Judge and Jury Club held at the COTTAGE SPRING INN, Dudley Street, Bilston, had their outing on Tuesday, when, to the number of 70, they were driven in four of Mr. Whittaker's brakes from the club house to the Crown Hotel, Hodge Bowers, near Coalbrookdale. A sumptuous repast there awaited them, and with appetites sharpened by the splendid ride, full justice was done to it. After this the party went on an exploring tour, and visited the Abbey, the Broseley Pipe Works, and the Gothic Tile Manufactory. Boating on the Severn was also enjoyed, and a happy day was spent in various amusements.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 23/5/1885 - Advert

“Pickwick Judge & Jury Club.

Held at the COTTAGE SPRING, Dudley Street, Bilston. Proprietor, *Jesse Skinner*.

The Members of this, the Oldest Established Club in the town, are hereby informed that the Annual Dinner will take place on Whit-Tuesday, at 6-0pm prompt.

Further information to be obtained at the Club House.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 30/5/1885

“The annual dinner of the Pickwick Judge and Jury Club (the oldest in Bilston) was held at the COTTAGE SPRING, on Tuesday last, when a good number assembled and partook of the excellent catering of Host *Skinner*. After doing justice to the fare, the chairman, Mr. George Jones, gave the usual loyal toasts; Mr. Wilkes ably acted as vice-chairman. After a most enjoyable evening, votes of thanks were passed to the chairman and host.”

Jesse Skinner was married to *Alice*.

He died on 23rd March 1890.

1891 Census

89, Dudley Street – COTTAGE SPRING

- [1] *Alice Skinner* (50), widow, beer retailer, born Coseley;
- [2] *Walter J. Skinner* (14), son, telegraph messenger, born Bilston;
- [3] *Percy A. Skinner* (10), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] *Clara L. Skinner* (23), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [5] *Edith E. Skinner* (18), daughter, born Dudley;
- [6] *Job Skinner* (76), father-in-law, widower, railway pensioner, born Southborough, Kent:

Mrs. *Alice Skinner*, beer retailer, 89, Dudley Street. [1896]

1901 Census

20, Dudley Street – COTTAGE SPRING INN

- [1] *Alice Skinner* (60), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Walter Jesse Skinner* (24), son, bread baker, born Bilston;
- [3] *Clara Louisa Price* (33), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [4] *William Price* (38), son-in-law, blacksmith's striker, born Bromley, Worcestershire;
- [5] *Arthur Sydney Price* (6), grand-son, born Bilston;
- [6] *Jesse Daniel Price* (5), grand-son, born Bilston;
- [7] *Gladys Price* (11 months), grand-daughter, born Bilston:

Mrs. *Alice Skinner*, beer retailer, 20, Dudley Street. [1904]

Staffordshire Advertiser 12/2/1910

“The Annual Licensing Sessions were held yesterday.....

The licences of the COTTAGE SPRING INN, Dudley Street were referred for compensation.”

1911 Census

20, Dudley Street – COTTAGE SPRING INN

[1] Joseph Hadley (51), packing crate maker, publican, born Dudley;

[2] Emily Hadley (50), wife, married 22 years, managing beerhouse, born Wallbrook;

[3] Lucy Wood (5), niece, school, born Wolverhampton;

[4] Emily Beddows (20), domestic servant, born Borsley [Broseley?], Shropshire;

[5] Carry Davies (16), visitor, domestic servant, born Moxley;

Joseph Hadley, beer retailer, 20, Dudley Street. [1912]

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.....

COTTAGE SPRING, Bilston. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *Elizabeth Baldwin*.”

License refused by Compensation Authority on 24th July 1913.

Staffordshire Advertiser 26/7/1913

“The principal meeting of the Staffordshire Licensing Compensation Authority was held at the Shirehall, Stafford, on Thursday..... Seven houses were scheduled in Bilson division.....

COTTAGE SPRING, Bilston, ante 1869 beerhouse.....

Renewal was formally applied for and refused.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 16/8/1913 - Notice

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

Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Compensation Authority for the above area, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on the 24th day of July, 1913, to Refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below, all Persons Claiming to be Interested in the said Premises for the purpose of the Payment of Compensation under the said Act (other than the Licensee and the Registered Owner of the said Premises) are required to send to the Compensation Authority Notice of their Claims before the 7th day of September, 1913, for the purpose of enabling the Compensation Authority to ascertain in manner provided by the Licensing Rules, 1910, the Persons entitled to Compensation under the said Act, in respect of the said Premises.....

COTTAGE SPRING, Bilston. Beerhouse ante 1869. Licencee, *Elizabeth Baldwin*. Registered Owner, W. Butler and Co. Ltd.”

Compensation of £375 was paid on 24th December 1913.

License extinguished 31st December 1913.

Birmingham Daily Post 7/1/1914

“The annual report of the County Licensing Committee.....

At the principal meeting of the compensation authority the committee refused to renew 31 licenses. At the supplemental meeting the committee went in great detail into all the figures submitted to them upon which the persons interested claimed compensation, and heard evidence put forward by the claimants. The committee consider that the amounts of compensation agreed upon were satisfactory, both from the point of view of the parties interested and the Compensation Fund. In the following 27 cases the committee fixed the compensation.....

COTTAGE SPRING, Bilston, £375.”

The premises became a barber's shop.

It was demolished c.1968.

CRICKETERS ARMS

106, (63), Church Street, (High Street), BILSTON

OWNERS

Austin and Co. [1868], [1870]
Richard Austin and Son [1873]
William Cardell, Birmingham
Henry Plant and Sons [1896]
William Butler & Co. Ltd. [1904], [1921]

LICENSEES

Joseph Baker [1861] – [1865]
James Baker [1865]
Thomas Thurstans [] – **1866**;
Richard Austin **(1866 – [])**
Henry Hall [1871]
Richard Austin [1873] – **1874**;
John Austin **(1874 – 1876)**;
Henry Hall **(1876 – 1881)**;
Samuel Fellows **(1881)**;
John Henry Walker **(1881 – 1882)**;
Thomas Henry Smith **(1882 – 1885)**;
Samuel James Underwood **(1885 – 1886)**;
Alfred Brown **(1886 – 1888)**;
Mrs. Eugenie Ann Satterthwaite **(1888 – 1891)**;
James Clarke **(1891 – 1900)**;
Frederick William Plant **(1900)**;
Mrs. Sarah Best (Clark) Kirk **(1900 – 1931)**;
Stephen Cook **(1931 – 1934)**;

NOTES

63, Church Street [1861], [1862], [1864], [1865], [1868], [1870], [1871], [1873], [1879], [1881], [1882], [1885], [1891], [1892], [1896]
106, Church Street [1901], [1908], [1911], [1916], [1921], [1932]

It stood opposite to the LEOPARD.

It had a beerhouse license.

Spirit vaults [1868], [1870]

Birmingham Daily Post 11/9/1860 - Advert

“To be Let, the CRICKETERS ARMS, a very compact Liquor Shop, now doing a good business, and situated in the best part of Bilston. Coming-in about £200.

Apply on the Premises; or to John Prince, Auctioneer, High Street, West Bromwich.”

TO be LET, “THE CRICKETERS’ ARMS,”
a very compact LIQUOR SHOP, now doing a good business,
and situated in the best part of Bilston. Coming-in about £200.—
Apply on the Premises; or to John Prince, Auctioneer, High Street,
West Bromwich.

1861 Census

63, Church Street

[1] Joseph Baker (28), unmarried, licensed victualler, born Bilston;

[2] Mary Baker (24), sister, assistant, born Bilston;

[3] Harriett Smith (30), visitor, born London:

Birmingham Daily Post 21/1/1863 - Advert

“Wanted, a young Person, as Barmaid; age about twenty-three years. First-class references required.

Apply personally, to *Joseph Baker*, CRICKETERS ARMS Vaults, Church Street, Bilston.

NB. Application to be made This Day (Wednesday) and Tomorrow (Thursday) only.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/12/1863 - Advert

“The CRICKETERS ARMS Spirit Vaults, Church Street, Bilston. About thirty yards from the Market Place.

To be Sold by Private Contract, the Lease, Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the above Spirit Vaults, with excellent Smoke Room, Brewhouse, Stable, and other conveniences, now doing a good trade. Satisfactory reasons for leaving can be given. In-coming can be reduced to about £300.

Apply to *Joseph Baker*, Proprietor.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/8/1865 - Advert

“CRICKETERS ARMS, Church Street, Bilston.

To be Let, the Lease, Licenses, and Goodwill of the above old-established Wine and Spirit Vaults, now in the occupation of *James Baker*. In-coming about £250.

Apply as above.”

CRICKETERS' ARMS, Church Street, Bilston.—To be LET, the LEASE, LICENSES, and GOODWILL of the above old-established Wine and Spirit Vaults, now in the occupation of *James Baker*. In-coming about £250.—Apply as above.

Birmingham Daily Post 29/8/1865 - Advert

“To be Sold, the Lease, Licenses, and Goodwill of the CRICKETERS ARMS Spirit Vaults, Church Street, Bilston, only 50 yards from the Market Place, and now in the occupation of *James Baker*. In-coming about £250.

Apply at the above address.”

TO be SOLD, the LEASE, LICENSES, and GOODWILL of the CRICKETERS' ARMS SPIRIT VAULTS, Church Street, Bilston, only fifty yards from the Market Place, and now in the occupation of *James Baker*. In-coming about £250.—Apply as above.

Birmingham Daily Post 4/11/1865

“From last night's *London Gazette*. Bankrupts *J. Baker*, Bilston, publican.”

Birmingham Journal 20/1/1866

“Birmingham Bankruptcy Court.....

In re *Joseph Baker*, Bilston, licensed victualler.

This bankruptcy was annulled by the Court, a composition of 4s in the pound having been paid.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1866

“The annual meeting for the renewal of existing licenses, and for receiving applications for fresh ones, was held at the Police Court, on Friday.....

At the commencement of the proceedings, the Superintendent of Police presented the following report.

Bilston Division, August 31, 1866.

‘I beg to submit to the Magistrates the attached list of licensed victuallers who have been complained against during the year. Twenty-five have been convicted, and three have paid costs; one had been convicted three times, and five convicted twice. This is a large increase on last year's list; but I think it has arisen from the police being more particular in reporting cases of permitting drunkenness – as it was found to be an evil rather on the increase. I believe it has caused landlords to be more careful in supplying drink to persons intoxicated.’

H. McCrea, Superintendent.

Black List.....

Thomas Thurstans, CRICKETERS ARMS, Church Street, Bilston left over until the adjourned licensing meeting on the 28th of September.”

1871 Census

63, Church Street

- [1] *Henry Hall* (35), publican, born Cirencester;
- [2] *Louisa Hall* (30), wife, born Kidderminster;
- [3] *Arthur Hall* (4), son, born Birmingham;
- [4] *George Hall* (2), son, born Bilston;
- [5] *Maria Davis* (16), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Richard Austin and Sons were also wine merchants of Easy Row, Birmingham. They lived in Edgbaston. [1873]

Birmingham Daily Post 5/1/1874

“Bilston Special License Transfer Session.....

CRICKETERS ARMS, Church Street, to Richard Page and T. W. Wilkins, as executors of the late *Richard Austin*.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/12/1878

“Marshall Kennaird (25), 7, Errington Road, Harrow Road, traveller, was charged on remand at Bow Street Police Court, London, yesterday, with embezzling various sums of money, amounting to upwards of £140, received by him on account of his employer, Mr. Geo. Burrell, printer, 2½, Houghton Street, Newcastle Street, Strand. By the terms of a written agreement, it was the prisoner’s duty to travel soliciting orders and receiving moneys on behalf of the prosecutor, after deducting 12½ per cent commission on all orders received. Owing to suspicions raised by a written statement of accounts rendered by prisoner in September last at the end of his journey, an enquiry was made, and it was discovered that he had accounted for less money than he had actually received. Prisoner, when arrested, admitted having taken the money, but said that he had not spent it in waste, having supported a sick father for some time past, and in consequence of the dull state of trade he had not earned so much. *Henry Hall*, licensed victualler, Bilston, produced a receipt for £8 9s 6d, signed by the prisoner. Joseph Raybould, confectioner, Bilston, produced a receipt for £3 11s 6d, also signed by the prisoner, both of which sums were unaccounted for. Several other charges were mentioned against prisoner, who was committed for trial.”

[Marshall Kennard was convicted, and sentenced to 12 months imprisonment.]

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/8/1879

“On Wednesday evening a coroner’s inquest was held on the body of a newly born female infant, the child of Matilda Moore, aged 23, who had been living as a servant at Mr. *Henry Hall*’s, the CRICKETERS ARMS, Church Street, Bilston. On Tuesday she was taxed by her aunt with having been recently confined, and, admitting the fact, Moore said the body would be found in a box in her bedroom. A policeman and a surgeon were sent for. The former took her into custody on a charge of concealment of birth, and she asked the police-constable, ‘Do you think I shall be hung.’ To this he replied, ‘I don’t know.’

Mr. Smith, the surgeon in the case, had no doubt from the result of his examination by the lung test that the child had had a separate existence from the mother, and was of opinion that it had died from suffocation, but could not speak distinctly upon that point.

Thereupon the jury returned a verdict of Found Dead, but how death was caused there was no evidence to show.

She remained in the custody of the police on the charge above named, but under the medical care of Mr. Smith, being in an exceedingly weak condition.”

1881 Census

63, Church Street

- [1] *Henry Hall* (45), licensed victualler, born Cirencester;
- [2] *Louisa A. Hall* (39), wife, born Kidderminster;
- [3] *Arthur Hall* (14), son, railway clerk, born Aston, Warwickshire;
- [4] *Emma Pitt* (20), general servant, born Bradley:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 21/9/1881 - Advert

“Old-Established Liquor Vaults, the CRICKETERS ARMS, Church Street, Bilston, to be Let, with immediate possession.

Apply, Sollom and Barnett, hotel valuers, Wolverhampton.”

OLD-ESTABLISHED Liquor Vaults, the Cricketer's Arms, Church-street, Bilston, to be Let, with immediate possession.—Apply, Sollom and Barnett, hotel valuers, Wolverhampton.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 14/10/1881

“The following transfers were granted.....

CRICKETERS ARMS, Church Street, Bilston, from *Henry Hall* to *Samuel Fellows*, book-keeper, Priestfield.”

Birmingham Daily Post 24/12/1881

“At Bilston Police Court, yesterday, the following licenses were fully transferred.....

Samuel Fellows, CRICKETERS ARMS, Church Street, to *John Henry Watkins*, licensed victualler.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 23/12/1882 - Advert

“CRICKETERS ARMS, *T. H. Smith*, 63, Church Street, Bilston, Wine & Spirit Merchant.

Butler’s Celebrated Ales. Bottled Ales and Stout. Mineral Waters.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 10/3/1883

“A party of friends met together on Wednesday evening at the house of Mr. *T. H. Smith*, the CRICKETERS ARMS INN, High Street, Bilston, when a capital spread was placed on the tables by the host, and done ample justice to by those present. After supper, a convivial gathering was held, the time being occupied by the ‘feast of reason and the flow of soul,’ which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who were present, the host and hostess being warmly thanked for their efforts on behalf of their visitors.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 7/4/1883

“The usual monthly committee meeting of the Bilston Night Watch was held at the CRICKETERS ARMS, High Street, on Wednesday evening.....

The chairman said it was satisfactory to note that the efforts of the Watch Committee were being appreciated by the townspeople, as was evident by the increased subscriptions. There were, however, many who as yet failed to appreciate the benefits they would derive from the system of watching, and it was hoped that these would see their way clear to join an institution which existed solely for the protection and safety of the townspeople.

The watchmen reported that during the month only 5 premises had been found open and insecure, and this was regarded as gratifying, and as being the smallest number ever known since the formation of the society.....”

Darlaston Weekly Times 14/4/1883

“*Thomas Smith*, landlord of the CRICKETERS ARMS, High Street, was summoned for using threats against Mary Ann Anslow, servant in the employ of Mrs. Devenal, also of High Street.

The evidence of complainant was of a most trivial character, she alleging that the defendant, because she turned his little son, aged 4, out of the yard, in which he was in the habit of playing with a son of complainant’s mistress, threatened her, and ran her out of the yard.

Selina Jones, defendant’s servant, gave evidence that nothing like threats were used, and the Stipendiary, in dismissing the case, told the complainant that people in the district were too fond of flying to the law for the settlement of their paltry differences. She must recollect that she could not put the law in motion for such a trivial matter. The law could not be trifled with in that manner, nor could the magistrates be always settling little difference about children and mothers quarrels. If she could not agree with her neighbours she should have nothing to do with them. The case was dismissed, the complainant being ordered to pay the costs.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 26/1/1884

“On Tuesday, the infant child of *Thomas Smith*, CRICKETERS ARMS, Bilston, swallowed a pin, but it came back almost immediately.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 5/5/1883

“Fatal Increase of Small Pox at Bilston.

We regret to record that this loathsome disease had made a further appearance in the town, and has been attended with fatal results, the victim being the daughter of a respectable manufacturer, and one of the teachers in a local school. We hear also that it is rife in more than one quarter. The hospital is established, it is true, and it only remains for strict investigation to take place, into every case, even if it may only turn out to be rumour, and for the people of all grades of society willingly to accede to that perfect isolation which is acknowledged on all hands to be a great preventive of the spread of this dreaded disease. No time should be lost in notifying to the public officials any case that may arise, so that it may be promptly dealt with, and a great amount of suffering prevented.

The proprietor of the CRICKETERS ARMS, Church Street, Bilston (Mr. *Smith*) has been able to contradict, by his personal appearance, the report that had been circulated that he was suffering from an attack of small pox. Mr. *Smith* and his family are in excellent health, and he has had no case of small pox on his premises. To secure the above facts, we took the opportunity of having a conversation with Mr. *Smith*."

Darlaston Weekly Times 1/9/1883 - Advert

"Great Western Railway Company.

The Committee of the Wolverhampton and District Licensed Victuallers Incorporated Society have made arrangements with the above Company to run a Special Express Train to London (International Fisheries Exhibition).....

Tickets may be had from any of the undermentioned.....

T. Smith, CRICKETERS ARMS, Church Street, Bilston."

Darlaston Weekly Times 13/12/1884

"In looking at the results of recent coursing meetings, rabbit ledgers, &c, we are pleased to notice that the reputation of Bilston is still kept up by our townsman Mr. *Smith*, of the CRICKETERS ARMS. In a rabbit ledger at Harding's Grounds a short time ago, the old champion Peppercorn still shewed capital form. After vanquishing his competitors in five rounds he carried off the prize. On another occasion he carried off a prize of £20 as a 'fur catcher' from a well-known Dudley dog of much greater weight. In this instance, out of twenty-one rabbits, in a distance of sixty yards, he managed to secure the first, second, fourth, fifth, sixth, tenth, and eleventh. This is a record, we believe, very seldom beaten. The mettle of Peppercorn seems to have been infused into his son. We notice that on Monday week this dog, quite a puppy, and weighing but sixteen lbs, succeeded in dividing a rabbit ledger at Harding's running grounds."

Darlaston Weekly Times 10/10/1885 - Advert

"CRICKETERS ARMS, 63, Church Street, Bilston.

Samuel James Underwood begs to inform the public that he has succeeded Mr. *Thomas Smith* in the above Business, and takes this opportunity of soliciting their patronage.

With every care and attention to the comforts of his customers and dealing only in the Best Wines, Spirits, Etc, he hopes to merit not only the continued favour of Mr. *Smith*'s supporters, but the custom of a large portion of the general public."

Birmingham Daily Post 11/5/1889 - Advert

"Tuesday, May, 21, 1889. Important Sale of Valuable Full-Licensed Houses, Business Premises, and Messuages, Bilston.

J. Morrell & Sons are favoured with instructions to Offer for Sale by Auction, at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Bilston, on Tuesday, May, 21, 1889, at Six for Seven in the Evening.....

Lot 1. All that Substantially-erected Old-established Inn and Wine and Spirit Vaults, called the CRICKETERS ARMS, situate in Church Street, Bilston, together with the conveniently-arranged Business Premises adjoining the same, being No.64, Church Street, Bilston, with the Outbuildings, Yards, and Premises belonging the same. The Property has a frontage to 29ft 9in to Church Street, and is now let on a fourteen years' lease to Messrs. W. Butler and Co., Brewers, which will expire at the 24th June, 1890, at a rental of £82.

The Premises known as the CRICKETERS ARMS, are conveniently arranged and well adapted for carrying on a large business. The Premises adjoining are now and have been for many years past occupied as a Confectioner's Eating-house and Dining Rooms. This lot is situate in the main business street, in close proximity to the Market Place."

1891 Census

63, Church Street

- [1] William H. Satterthwaite (33), clerk in merchant's office, born Bilston;
- [2] Eugenie A. Satterthwaite (32), wife, public house manager, born Bilston;
- [3] William E. G. Satterthwaite (6), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] Thomas H. Satterthwaite (2), son, born Bilston;
- [5] Hannah Satterthwaite (54), mother, widow, living on her own means, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Florence E. Satterthwaite (25), sister, barmaid, born Bilston;
- [7] Florence P. Salt (14), domestic servant, born Bilston:

James Clarke = James Clark

Sarah Best Clarke = Sarah Best Clark

1901 Census

106, Church Street – CRICKETERS ARMS INN

- [1] Sarah B. Clark (35), widow, licensed victualler's manager, born Sedgley;
- [2] Mary G. Clark (10), daughter, born Tipton;
- [3] Harriet Farmer (20), domestic servant, born Sedgley:

Sarah Best Clarke married William Kirk on 4th April 1901.

1911 Census

106, Church Street

- [1] Sarah Best Kirk (45), public house manageress, born Princes End;
- [2] William Kirk (52), husband, coal dealer, born Ettingshall;
- [3] William Clark (22), son, confectioner, born Bilston:

1921 Census

106, Church Street

- [1] Sarah Best Kirk (56), widow, manageress of public house, born Princes End;
- [2] Mary Gertrude Clark (30), daughter, certified elementary school teacher, born Princes End;
- [3] William Henry Clark (32), master baker, born Bilston;
- [4] Beatrice Clark (29), daughter-in-law, home duties, born Bradley;
- [5] Mary E. Clark (8), grand-daughter, school, born Bilston;
- [6] Kathleen Clark (4), grand-daughter, school, born Bilston;
- [7] James Clark (1), grand-son, born Bilston;
- [8] Sarah J. Benion (16), domestic servant, born Bradley:

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/8/1933

"County Licensing Authority.....

Renewal of the following licenses was also refused on the ground of redundancy, and all were referred for compensation, the police evidence being to the effect that the needs of the various localities were better met by other licensed houses.....

CRICKETERS ARMS, Bilston, alehouse."

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/1/1934

"County Licensing Report.....

At the supplementary meeting held on October 7, the County Licensing Committee fixed compensation as follows.....
CRICKETERS ARMS, Bilston, alehouse, £1,800."

The license was refused by the Compensation Authority on 3rd February 1934.

Compensation of £1,800 was paid on 24th December 1934.

License extinguished 31st December 1934.

WANTED, a young Person, as **BARMAID**; age about twenty-three years. First-class references required.—Apply, personally, to **Joseph Baker**, Cricketers' Arms Vaults, Church Street, Bilston.—**N B.** Application to be made **This Day (Wednesday) and To-morrow (Thursday) only.**

**THE CRICKETERS' ARMS SPIRIT VAULTS,
CHURCH STREET, BILSTON.**

About thirty yards from the Market Place.

TO be **SOLD** by **PRIVATE CONTRACT**, the **LEASE, LICENSES, GOODWILL, and POSSESSION** of the above **SPIRIT VAULTS**, with excellent **Smoke Room, Brew-house, Stable**, and other conveniences, now doing a good trade. Satisfactory reasons for leaving can be given. In-coming can be reduced to about £300.

Apply to **Joseph Baker, Proprietor.**

1863

Cricketers' Arms,



T. H. SMITH,
63, CHURCH STREET,
BILSTON,
WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANT.

BUTLER'S Celebrated ALES.

BOTTLED ALES AND STOUT.
MINERAL WATERS.

1882

CRICKETERS' ARMS. 63, CHURCH STREET, BILSTON.

SAMUEL JAMES UNDERWOOD

Begs to inform the public that he has succeeded **Mr. Thomas Smith** in the above **Business**, and takes this opportunity of soliciting their patronage. With every care and attention to the comforts of his customers and dealing only in the **BEST WINES, SPIRITS, ETC.,** he hopes to merit not only the continued favour of **Mr. Smith's supporters**, but the custom of a large portion of the general public.

1885

TUESDAY, May 21, 1889.—Important Sale of Valuable **FULLY LICENSED HOUSES, BUSINESS PREMISES, and MESSUAGES, Bilston.**

J. MORRELL & SONS are favoured with instructions to Offer for Sale by Auction, at the Great Western Hotel, Bilston, on **TUESDAY, May 21, 1889**, at Six for Seven in the Evening, subject to conditions then to be read, incorporating the common form conditions of the Birmingham Law Society—the following Valuable

COPYHOLD PROPERTIES,

viz:—

Lot 1.—All that Substantially-erected Old-established **INN and WINE and SPIRIT VAULTS**, called the

"CRICKETERS' ARMS,"

situate Church Street, Bilston, together with the conveniently-arranged **BUSINESS PREMISES** adjoining the same, being No. 64, Church Street, Bilston, with the Outbuildings, Yards, and Premises belonging the same. The Property has a frontage of 29ft. 9in. to Church Street, and is now let on a fourteen years lease to Messrs. **W. Butler and Co., Brewers**, which will expire at the 24th June, 1890, at a rental of £82.

The Premises, known as the **"CRICKETERS' ARMS,"** are conveniently arranged and well adapted for carrying on a large business. The Premises adjoining are now and have been for many years past occupied as a Confectioner's Eating-house and Dining Rooms. This lot is situate in the main business street, in close proximity to the Market Place.

Lot 2.—All that Fully-licensed Commanding Corner **PUBLIC-HOUSE and PREMISES**, known as the

"WHITE HORSE,"

Situate High Street, Bilston, with a total frontage of 41ft. 6in., now in the occupation of **S. Butler**; and also the Piece of **LAND** formerly used as a garden, part of which is now used as a yard by the tenant of the White Horse Inn, together with the Stable, Brew-house, and Two **MESSUAGES**, being Nos. 3 and 4, adjoining the said plot of land, one of which is occupied by **Mrs. Brown**, and the other is now used as a warehouse by **Mr. P. Hollis**. Gross annual rental £36. 14s.

Lot 3.—All those Nine **MESSUAGES or DWELLING HOUSES**, situate in the Fold or Yard known as the White Horse Yard, High Street, Bilston, being Nos. 1 and 2 and 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11, with the Outbuildings, Yards, and Premises thereto belonging, together with a large Piece of **LAND** in the rear, available for building purposes, now in the respective occupations of **Summerfield, Parland, Lloyd, Harrison, Galwin, Lewis, York**, and two void. Gross annual rental £55. 12s.

For further particulars, apply to Messrs. **Arnold and Son, Solicitors**, 17A, Temple Row, Birmingham; Messrs. **Cresswell and Roberts, Solicitors**, Dudley; or to the Auctioneers, **Swan Bank, Bilston.**

1889

CROSS

Oxford Street, New Town, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Henry Whittaker [1846]
Edward Crow [1851]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Birmingham Journal 4/7/1846

“On Tuesday, at Bilston Police Court, *Henry Whittaker* was brought before the sitting Magistrates, and charged with keeping his beerhouse open after eleven o’clock on Friday, the 26th of June. It appeared that he kept the sign of the CROSS, in the New Town, Bilston, and on the night in question, four persons were drinking at a quarter to twelve o’clock. He was fined 2s 6d and costs.”

1851 Census

Oxford Street

- [1] *Edward Crow* (39), iron stone miner, born Warwickshire;
- [2] *Sarah Crow* (36), wife, born Polesworth, Warwickshire;
- [3] *Edmund Crow* (20), son, iron stone miner, born Wilnecote, Warwickshire;
- [4] *Mary Ann Crow* (17), daughter, born Polesworth, Warwickshire;
- [5] *Simon Hartill* (22), lodger, iron stone miner, born Tipton;
- [6] *Harriet Crow* (9), visitor, born Polesworth, Warwickshire:

Check GOLDEN CROSS

CROSS GUNS

4, Hartshorn Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Joseph Johnson
Henry James Mills
Samuel Burrows, innkeeper, Bilston
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1911], [1922]

LICENSEES

Joseph Johnson [1866] – **1878**);
Adam Bailey (**1878 – 1880**);
John Higgins (**1880 – 1884**);
Thomas Johnson (**1884 – 1885**);
James Percival (**1885**);
Richard Roberts (**1885 – 1889**);
Henry James Mills (**1889 – 1894**);
Richard Jones (**1894 – 1897**);
Minnie Shorthouse (**1897 – 1898**);
Alfred Pugh (**1898 – 1902**);
James Elledge (**1902 – 1903**);
Joseph Bunting (**1903 – 1904**);
George Jones (**1904 – 1906**);
James Piper (**1906 – 1907**);
Thomas Stafford Maddocks (**1907 – 1908**);
James Thomas Elledge (**1908 – 1911**);
Percy William Griffiths (**1911 – 1923**);
Ernest Langford (**1923 – 1925**);
Beatrice (Langford) Harrison (**1925 – 1931**);
Igal Alfred Sidaway (**1931** – [1943])



NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1866

“The annual meeting for the renewal of existing licenses, and for receiving applications for fresh ones, was held at the Police Court on Friday.....

Mr. Young applied for a license on behalf of *Joseph Johnson*, of the CROSS GUNS INN, Hartshorne Street, Bilston, and, in making the application, said the points the Magistrates had principally to consider were the character of the applicant, the suitability of the house, and the requirements of the neighbourhood. With regard to character, he handed in a testimonial signed by a number of respectable persons – the minister of the parish, the two churchwardens, the overseers of the poor, and also several members of the Board of Commissioners. The house, he added, was suitable in every way for the purpose, and the neighbourhood was much in want of such a place.

The application was rejected.”

[William Jennens (possibly Jennings) (1701–1798), also known as William the Miser, William the Rich, and The Miser of Acton, was a reclusive financier who lived at Acton Place in the village of Acton, Suffolk. He was described as the 'richest commoner in England' when he died unmarried and intestate with a fortune estimated at £2 million, which became the subject of legal wrangles in the Court of Chancery for well over a century until the entire estate had been swallowed by lawyers' fees. This may have been the stimulus for the fictional case of Jarndyce v Jarndyce in Charles Dickens' serialised novel Bleak House. Wikipedia.]

Staffordshire Advertiser 25/5/1867

"At a meeting of claimants to the wealthy estate known as 'The great Jennings property,' held at the CROSS GUNS, Bilston, on Monday night, a committee was formed to take measures for ascertaining the character of the several claims, and raising funds to take counsel's opinion upon them."

Bridgnorth Journal 22/6/1867 - Advert

"Jennings Property. All families having any claim to the above should send a claimant and a copy of the family pedigree to show the committee which will sit on July 1st 1867, at Mr. *Johnson's*, CROSS GUNS, Hartshorne Street, Bilston. The Committee will then make arrangements for further proceedings."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/7/1867

"Meeting of Claimants Upon the Jennens Property.

Yesterday a meeting of the claimants to the Jennens property was held at the CROSS GUNS, Hartshorn Street, Bilston, under the presidency of Mr. Jonas Booth. There was but a small attendance. It was resolved, on the motion of Mr. T. Elliss, that the report of the two gentlemen who were appointed to examine the documents of claimants be received. Mr. Lacey, one of the gentlemen appointed, stated that he thought that claimants ought to have the registers of their respective births and deaths. As long as they could not get the registers they could do no good. There were only about two claimants present who had proofs of registration of the persons claimed through. Mr. Martin differed from Mr. Lacey, and thought that every person who had a claim should give name and address. Every person who had a pedigree ought to be listened to. The meeting being of the same opinion Mr. Ward was called upon. He stated that he thought all documents ought to be examined by the committee. He held a document which he had had for several years. His father and several of his relations had taken some interest in the matter, and he also took an interest in it. He had seen a gentlemen who could probably ascertain the amount of the property. Mr. Martin was of opinion that the greater success would be gained by those present forming themselves into a union....."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/10/1867

"Yesterday evening Mr. George Pratt delivered, at the CROSS GUNS, Hartshorne Street, Bilston, a lecture on the subject of the Jennens Property. The room was filled with members of the Jennens Association, a branch of which has been in existence in Bilston for the past thirty years....."

Joseph Johnson, brassfounder and beer retailer, Hartshorn Street. [1868]

Birmingham Daily Post 29/8/1868

"The annual Licensing Sessions for Bilston district was held yesterday, at the Police Court.....

Mr. Boot applied for a license on behalf of Mr. *Joseph Johnson*, of the CROSS GUNS, Hartshorn Street Refused."

The Sportsman 19/12/1868

"J. Swinnerton, of Shropshire Row, and G. Skidmore, of Sedgley, are matched to shoot at 11 sparrows each, 1½oz shot, 21 yards rise, for £5 a side, on Monday next, December 21, at Mr. *Johnson's*, CROSS GUNS, Bilston."
AND

Birmingham Daily Post 22/12/1868

"Cross Guns Grounds, Bilston. A match for 10 sovs, came off yesterday, between J. Swinerton, of Shropshire Row, and G. Ridmore, of Sedgley, the condition being to shoot at 11 sparrows each, 21 yards rise, 60 yards fall. From the attendance it was evident much interest was taken in the match. Mr. Ridmore led off, and dropping his bird cleverly the odds went at once to him, but his progress was very slow, as he only succeeded in killing four out of his number of birds, although, with one exception, his birds were hit hard, several falling just out of bounds. Mr. Swinerton shot in capital form, bringing down ten out of eleven, and winning easily."

1871 Census

Hartshorne Street

- [1] Joseph Johnson (52), brass caster and publican, born Swindon, Staffordshire;
- [2] Anne Johnson (49), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Thomas Johnson (23), son, brass caster, born Coseley;
- [4] Ann M. Johnson (21), daughter, domestic servant, born Bilston;
- [5] Joseph Johnson (19), son, iron moulder, born Wordsley;
- [6] Henry Johnson (18), son, iron moulder, born Wordsley;
- [7] Elizabeth Johnson (16), daughter, domestic servant, born Wordsley;
- [8] Sarah J. Johnson (14), daughter, domestic servant, born Wordsley;
- [9] Fanny Johnson (13), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [10] Martha Johnson (10), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

Birmingham Daily Post 30/8/1873

"Yesterday the annual licensing meeting for Bilston and the neighbourhood was held in the Petty Sessions Court..... The proceedings opened by Chief Superintendent McCrea presenting his annual 'black list.' In doing so he remarked that it only indicated eleven offenders, whilst a twelvemonth ago there were twenty-nine. This comparison, he considered, was the clearest substantiation of the beneficial operation of the recent Licensing Act. The names of the offending beerhouse keepers were.....

Joseph Johnson, CROSS GUNS, Bilston.....

The committee stated that the licenses of all the persons contained in the 'list' would be suspended until the adjourned licensing sessions, to be held on the 26th proximo."

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1873

"Bilston Adjourned Annual Licensing Sessions were held yesterday.....

The undermentioned beerhouse licenses were renewed.....

Joseph Johnson, CROSS GUNS, Bilston.....

All the above applicants had been convicted during the past two years, and the Bench cautioned them."

Joseph Johnson – see also BARLEY MOW, Union Street.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 17/11/1879 - Advert

"Bilston. To be Let, with immediate possession, capital Beerhouse, the CROSS GUNS INN, Hartshorn Street; licenses, fixtures, and brewing plant at valuation; no stock to be taken to; spacious yard suitable for the coal trade. Apply upon the premises."

BILSTON.—To be Let, with immediate possession, capital Beerhouse, the Cross Guns Inn, Hartshorn-street; licenses, fixtures, and brewing plant at valuation; no stock to be taken to; spacious yard suitable for the coal trade.—Apply upon the premises.

1881 Census

Hartshorne Street

- [1] John Higgins (40), licensed victualler, born Sedgley;
- [2] M. A. Higgins (33), wife, born Moxley;
- [3] Daniel Higgins (8), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] Sarah Higgins (6), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] James Higgins (4), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] Mary Higgins (3), daughter, born Bilston;
- [7] Frederick Higgins (2 months), son, born Bilston;
- [8] M. A. Stokes (22), general servant, born Tipton;

Evening Express 11/11/1881

"On Thursday morning, W. H. Phillips, Esq, district coroner, held an inquest at the CROSS GUNS INN, Hartshorn Street, Bilston, on the body of an unnamed infant child, aged two weeks, son of John Shinton, of the same street. Martha Shinton, the mother, said the child had been healthy till last Monday, when it became unwell. On Tuesday morning her husband got up rather late, and asked her to put his things ready. She put deceased from her arm to do so, and on returning with a lamp about ten minutes afterwards she found the child dead. The child was partly fed from the breast and partly on arrowroot biscuits soaked in water. Martha Millward said the child had every attention paid to it. The jury returned a verdict of Natural Causes."

Darlaston Weekly Times 10/6/1882

“*John Higgins*, landlord of the CROSS GUNS, Hartshorne Street, Bilston, was charged with permitting drunkenness. PC Johnson, Foster, and Comerford stated that at 5-40 on Whit-Monday, they found a man drunk in the kitchen of the house; when the man left, he had to be assisted home. At half-past seven, another visit was paid, and other drunken men were present. Detective Hayward stated that he had visited the house earlier in the day, and had seen a number of men drinking. PC Mainwairing and Inspector Gasson corroborated. Mr. R. A. Willcock defended. The Bench considered that there was not sufficient evidence against the landlord to commit for wilfully and purposely supplying beer to drunken men; but fined the men – F. Higgins, Thomas Tinley, and James Hall – 5s each and costs.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 14/2/1885 - Advert

“To be Let, with Immediate Possession, CROSS GUNS INN, Hartshorne Street, Bilston. Satisfactory reasons to be given for leaving.

Apply John Skidmore, Auctioneer, 7, Lichfield Street, Bilston.”

Birmingham Mail 30/3/1886

“Yesterday, at the CROSS GUNS TAVERN, Hartshorn Street, Bilston, Mr. W. H. Phillips (coroner) held an adjourned inquest concerning the death of Horatio Smith (43), late of 196, Herbert Road, Small Heath, a commercial traveller for Messrs. Hills Bros. and Co., Tower Varnish Works, Long Acre, Birmingham, who died suddenly at Bilston, on the 22nd inst. Dr. E. H. Larkin, of Bilston, who had made a post mortem examination of the body, reported that death was the result of a rupture of the aorta due to natural causes, and a verdict to that effect was accordingly returned.”

1891 Census

Hartshorn Street – CROSS GUNS

- [1] *Henry J. Mills* (30), builder and beerhouse keeper, born Bilston;
- [2] *Emily Mills* (24), wife, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *Eliza Mills* (14), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Richard Jones, beer retailer, Hartshorn Street. [1896]

1901 Census

4, Hartshorne Street

- [1] *Alfred Pugh* (33), publican and boilermaker, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Alice Pugh* (32), wife, born Wombourne;
- [3] *James A. Pugh* (11), son, born Bilston;
- [4] *William F. Pugh* (8), son, born Bilston;
- [5] *Rose Bennett* (19), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Joseph Bunting, beer retailer, 4, Hartshorn Street. [1904]

1911 Census

4, Hartshorn Street – CROSS GUNS

- [1] *James Elledge* (44), licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *Ellen Elledge* (42), wife, married 20 years, born Willenhall;
- [3] *Harold Elledge* (19), son, motor works, body department, born Bilston;
- [4] *Percy Elledge* (8), son, born Bilston:

James Thomas Elledge – see also ROSE AND CROWN, Pearson Street, Wolverhampton.

Percy Griffiths, beer retailer, Hartshorn Street. [1912]

1921 Census

4, Hartshorn Street

[1] Percy William Griffiths (46), licensed victualler, born Kidderminster;

[2] Margaret Annie Griffiths (39), wife, home duties, born Leigh, Worcestershire;

[3] Helena Nancy Griffiths (8), daughter, school, born Bilston;

[4] Margaret Joyce Griffiths (5), daughter, school, born Bilston:

Percy William Griffiths filed for bankruptcy on 7th November 1922.

South Staffordshire Times 9/12/1922

“At Wolverhampton Bankruptcy Court on Wednesday, *Percy William Griffiths*, formerly of the CROSS GUNS INN, Hartshorn Street, Bilston, appeared for public examination in bankruptcy. He was represented by Mr. Ernest Hall, and Mr. A. J. Glover represented the creditors.

Examined by Mr. Sam Wells Page, Official Receiver, debtor said he became tenant of the CROSS GUNS INN just before Easter in 1911, Messrs. Butlers & Co., Wolverhampton, were the owners of the house, and he was tenant. Amongst the terms of the tenancy, were 35s per week, inclusive of rent, rates, taxes and license, but these were altered in September 1920. The premises were then ___ a quarter and he had to pay the rates and taxes, and also for the license. He was under an obligation to purchase his beer and liquor from Messrs. Butler, and they were under an obligation to him to buy back, at a valuation, whatever stock there might be on his leaving. The business was prosperous up to two years ago, but it had gone down ever since. He had suffered from bad trade and rising rates and taxes.

Mr. Page: As a matter of fact you were borrowing money from money-lenders? – Yes.

At the present time you owe money to various money-lenders? – Yes.

Did you in April 1921 purchase a motor car? – Yes.

What did you give for it? – £150.

Had you to spend any money on it? – I had it cleaned, and that cost £50.

Did it cost you anything after that? – £75.

Why did you buy it? – To see if I could retrieve my losses, and for home purposes.

Did it answer that purpose? – Everybody knew it was a bad car, and would not hire it.

Did you afterwards sell the car? – Yes.

For how much? – £115, I think.

Taking all into consideration, you lost close on £200 on it? – Yes.

Have you borrowed money from your mother? – Yes.

I think, with your brother and sister you had a reversionary on your father's estate? – Yes.

Did you borrow from your mother in March 1921? – Yes.

There is a cheque here made payable on your mother's account for £150? – Yes.

Did you have the whole of it? – No, only £50.

What was done with the other £100? – I sent it to my brother in Australia.

On 27th April you had another cheque for £100 made payable to Mr. Davies? – Yes, that was at the time I bought the car.

In June 1921 you had another £150? – Yes.

Why did you borrow that? – To get the car from Daimlers; it cost £75 for repairs.

A great deal of money was spent on the car? – Yes.

On 5th July last you had another £150? – Yes.

What did you have that for? – To help in the business; through losses on the business.

Altogether you had from your mother £550 on account of your own reversion? – Yes.

What do you say is the cause of your failure? – Speculation in the motor car, bad trade, the high cost of living, and being too good natured.

You must have been extravagant? – You may put it in that way.

Have you done anything in betting or gambling? – No.

Have you been sued? – No.

How did you come to file your petition? – Through a Birmingham creditor, who sent in a writ.

Then you have been sued? – Yes.

Debtor was then cross-examined by Mr. Glover as follows.

When you went to Messrs. Butler's house, was the tenancy under a printed agreement? – Yes.

Had you read it? – I expect so.

Did you know that in the agreement there was no goodwill attaching to the tenancy? – No.

Did you sell to Mr. Dailman for £100 what you told him was the goodwill for the premises? – That was an agreement between ourselves.

In August 1922 you gave him a receipt for £100 for the goodwill of the business, the stock and fixtures, to be paid at a valuation? – Yes.

Did you have £100 for the goodwill of the business in two sums, one from his wife and one from himself? – Yes.

Then it turned out that you had no goodwill to sell? – I always thought a tenant could recommend another respectable tenant.

You called it ‘goodwill’ in this instance? – Yes.

Was there any goodwill to sell? – I don’t quite follow you.

When you sold the goodwill you knew what you were selling? – It was agreed between ourselves that I should give notice and he should have the house.

Did he have it? – No; but it was understood between ourselves that he should have it and after a visit to the brewery we both felt satisfied that he would have it.

Did not Mr. Lowe, before you filed your petition, in my presence, tell you that it was expressly stated in your agreement that there could not be any goodwill, and there was none to sell? – That was afterwards.

It was a few days before you filed your petition? – Yes.

I think a few days before you filed your petition you paid Mr. Dailman £5 back, which reduced the amount for goodwill to £95? – Yes.

How long before then was it that you and Mr. Dailman went to Messrs. Butlers? – I could not say exactly; about three weeks or a month to the best of my recollection.

Did you have an interview with Mr. Lowe? – Yes.

Was anything mentioned with regard to goodwill? – No; not then.

Why did you both go and see Mr. Lowe? – To see whether Mr. Dailman was going to have the house.

What did Mr. Lowe say? – We asked him if everything was all right, and he said he did not see anything to stop it.

Nothing was said about goodwill? – No.

There are letters here which show you had been trying to get Mr. Dailman to buy the goodwill of the house? – As arranged between ourselves. It was arranged years before that if I ever came out of the house he should go in.

At one time you wanted as much as £200 for the goodwill and fixtures? – I don’t know.

You were tight for money in August this year? – Yes.

And being in that position, you were out to get money from anybody for any sort of thing? – No.

In June 1922, did you write to Mr. Dailman saying that you had partly made up your mind in regard to your promise to him, and asking if he would be strong enough for £200 for the goodwill, including stock, fixtures, etc? – Yes.

And that would be a living for life? – Yes.

Did you also ask him in a letter to wire ‘yes’ or ‘no’ and advise him to study no one but himself in deal, as there were other people after it? – Yes.

Did that mean Messrs. Butlers? – Yes.

What you wrote was ‘Never mind the firm; you are the first. I am disclosing things to nobody apart from my wife.

Now is your chance. I shall look for a wire.’ – Quite right.

You were out for £200? – No; I always gave him the first opportunity.

Did you know that Messrs. Butlers had a great objection to your sell goodwill at that price? – I did not know that.

You have told the Official Receiver you did no betting, or anything of that sort. Is that quite true? – I might have had a shilling or two on.

Have you been doing a considerable amount of betting? – No.

Will you swear it? – Yes.

Will you swear that within the last six months you have not made a bet exceeding ___? – I will.

What is the highest bet you have made within the last six months? – Five shillings.

How many bets of 5/- have you made during that time? – Not above one a week.

The examination was adjourned.”

London Gazette 20/3/1923

"*Percy William Griffiths*, CROSS GUNS INN, Hartshorn Street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, licensed victualler.

Court – Wolverhampton.

Amount per £ – 3s 5½d.

First or Final, or otherwise – First and Final.

When Payable – March 28, 1923.

Where Payable – Official Receiver's Office, 30 Lichfield Street, Wolverhampton."

1925 Probate

"*Ernest Langford* of the CROSS GUNS INN, Hartshorn Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 2 February 1925. Administration Lichfield 26 February to *Beatrice Langford*, widow. Effects £87."

Beatrice Langford married *Bert Harrison* on 1st June 1929.

1939 Register

4, Hartshorn Street

[1] *Igal Sidaway*, date of birth 22/10/1875, beerhouse keeper, married;

[2] *Amelia Sidaway*, dob 5/3/1876, unpaid domestic duties, married:

1944 Probate

"*Amelia Elizabeth Sidaway* of CROSS GUNS INN, 4 Hartshorne Street, Bilston, Staffordshire (wife of *Igal Alfred Sidaway*) died 5 December 1943. Administration Birmingham 26 January to the said *Igal Alfred Sidaway*, licensed victualler. Effects £634 10s 4d."

Closed

Birmingham Daily Post 8/3/1958 - Advert

"Staffordshire. The Valuable Centrally Situated Freehold Premises, formerly known as the CROSS GUNS, Hartshorne Street, Bilston.

Substantially constructed de-Licensed Inn, with Spacious Yard. Ideally suitable building and transport contractors.

Neale & Alldridge and Foster & Partners have received instructions to offer the above for Sale by Private Treaty.

Auctioneers Offices: 50, Newhall Street, Birmingham 3."

Demolished

JENNING'S PROPERTY.

ALL families having any claim to the above should send a claimant and a copy of the family pedigree to show the committee which will sit on July 1st, 1867.

AT MR. JOHNSON'S,
Cross Guns, Hartshorne Street, Bilston.

The Committee will then make arrangements for further proceedings.

1867

TO BE LET, with Immediate Possession "CROSS GUNS INN," Hartshorne Street-Bilston. Satisfactory reasons to be given for leaving.—Apply John Skidmore, Auctioneer, 7, Lichfield Street, Bilston.

1885

STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE VALUABLE
CENTRALLY SITUATED
FREEHOLD PREMISES
Formerly known as
THE CROSS GUNS.
HARTSHORNE STREET, BILSTON.
Substantially constructed de-Licensed Inn
with Spacious Yard. Ideally suitable
building and transport contractors
NEALE & ALLDRIDGE
AND
FOSTER & PARTNERS
Have received instructions to offer the above
for **SALE BY PRIVATE TREATY.**
Auctioneers' Offices: 50, Newhall Street,
Birmingham 3.

CROSS GUNS

Shropshire Row, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Joseph Guest [1836]
Samuel Mason [1844]

NOTES

Wolverhampton Chronicle 8/6/1836 - Advert

“Freehold House and a Plot of Building Land adjoining, at Shropshire Row, near Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett, at the house of Mr. *Joseph Guest*, the sign of the CROSS GUNS, Shropshire Row aforesaid, on Thursday the 16th day of May, 1836, at six o'clock in the afternoon.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 8/5/1844 - Advert

“Sale of Freehold Property, in Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Richard Corbett, at the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Bilston, on Friday, the 17th day of May, 1844, at six o'clock in the afternoon, subject to such conditions as will be then and there produced, the following substantially-built Freehold Dwelling Houses and Hereditaments, in Bilson.....

Lot I. All that newly-erected and well-built Messuage, Tenement, or Dwelling House, situate in Shropshire Row, in Bilston, in the county of Safford, lately used as a public house, and called the CROSS GUNS, with the yard and outbuildings thereunto belonging, now occupied by *Samuel Mason*.”

SALE OF FREEHOLD PROPERTY.

In Bilston.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, BY RICHARD CORBETT,

At the Spread Eagle Inn, Bilston, on Friday, the 17th day of May, 1844, at six o'clock in the afternoon, subject to such conditions as will be then and there produced:—

THE following substantially-built FREEHOLD DWELLING HOUSES and Hereditaments, in Bilston, in the undermentioned lots:—

Lot I.—All that newly-erected and well-built MESSUAGE, TENEMENT, or DWELLING HOUSE, situate in Shropshire-row, in Bilston, in the county of Stafford, lately used as a public house, and called the Cross Guns, with the yard and outbuildings thereunto belonging, now occupied by Samuel Mason.

Lot II.—All those three newly-erected MESSUAGES, TENEMENTS, or DWELLING HOUSES, situate in Shropshire-row aforesaid, adjoining each other, with the yards, gardens, and appurtenances thereunto respectively belonging, two of which are in the several occupations of Benjamin Adcock and Thomas Wilkes, and the other was lately occupied by the widow Dawes, but is now void.

☞ For further particulars apply to Mr. JOHN WILLIAMS, solicitor, Bilston, or to the AUCTIONEER, New Town, Bilston.

CROSS KEYS

Oxford Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Richard Walker [1858]

NOTES

Staffordshire Advertiser 24/4/1858

“*Richard Walker*, landlord of the CROSS KEYS beerhouse, Oxford Street, Bilston, was charged with harbouring in his house women of bad character on the previous Sunday evening. The police proved the character of the girls who were drinking in the house, and the offence was aggravated by the fact that the defendant was landlord of infamous houses at the back of his own. He was fined £5 and costs.

CROSS KEYS

(Upper) Temple Street / Brook Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

J Beckett [1856]
Tom Rogers [1865] – [1867]

NOTES

Wolverhampton Chronicle 11/4/1849

“On Thursday last an adjourned inquest was held at the BLUE BOAR INN, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of George Hall, a puddler, nineteen years of age, who had died from injuries received while fighting with his cousin, Richard Hall, on the evening of the 15th ult.

From the evidence it appeared that the fight had taken place at the CROSS KEYS, in Temple Street, where the parties had been drinking, and that the deceased had used a good deal of provocation to his antagonist before the latter accepted his challenge to fight.

Mr. Dickenson and Mr. Hancox, the surgeons who made the post mortem examination, proved that death had resulted from the injuries the unfortunate young man had received from fighting.

Evidence at some length having been given, the coroner explained the law applicable to such cases, and a verdict of Manslaughter was returned against Richard Hall as principal, and against the seconds, William Barnett and George Davis, who were committed to take their trial at the assizes.”

[Not Guilty verdicts were returned.]

Birmingham Journal 25/12/1852

“On Wednesday last, an inquest was held at the CROSS KEYS, Temple Street, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, Coroner, on the body of E. Cash, thirty years of age, who died on the previous day, from injuries received by a fall of coal, while at work in one of Mr. Blackwell’s pits, on the 4th inst. After hearing the evidence of his brother, the Jury returned the usual verdict.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 8/6/1856

“John Jones of Bilston will fight J. Roberts or his brother John, at catch weight, for £5 or £10 a side. Money ready at Mr. *Beckett’s*, CROSS KEYS, Brook Street, Bilston, any night next week.”

AND

“W. Warner will run Wedge of Bilston a quarter of a mile, for £5 or £10 a side. Money ready at Mr. *J. Beckett’s* CROSS KEYS, Brook Street, Bilston.”

The Sportsman 28/11/1865

“Sam Bateman, of Wolverhampton, and *Tom Rogers*, of Bilston (late of Daisy Bank).

The 160 yards match for £10 a side between these men came off yesterday, on a level piece of road, near the Four Crosses, Staffordshire. Both men are well known in pedestrian circles. *Rogers*, who has lately become the host of the CROSS KEYS, Temple Street, Bilston, has figured in numerous matches and handicaps; his two last performances being a match, 120 yards, for £20, with Kirkham, of Westbromwich, at Tranter’s Britannia Grounds, Tipton, on which occasion he played second fiddle; he also contended in the Inauguration Handicap, at the same grounds, some two months since. He trained for the present engagement under H. Cooper, of New Invention, and came to the mark in magnificent condition. Sam Bateman, a Wolverhampton pet, is a well-built lad for running, and has figured on some half dozen occasions, his principal matches being a win and a lose with Cooper, of New Invention. He trained under Sam Browning, who saw him safe on the mark, but, although apparently as fine as a star in point of form, there was a lack of that buoyancy of spirit so peculiarly characteristic of his opponent.

The articles stipulated that the men should be on the mark between 2 and 3pm, and shortly after one an extraordinary number of vehicles and pedestrians left the 'Locksmith's Village,' en route for the Four Crosses, an outlandish place, some 2½ miles from Spread Eagle, Staffordshire, and about 9 from Wolverhampton. Here a constable on duty informed the competitors that they could not run at the appointed spot, and a retrograde movement of some half a mile became necessary. The men got on the mark at 3.40pm, fifteen minutes being allowed to effect a start, during which time speculation was carried on with extraordinary energy, first at evens, but the Wolverhampton element being very strongly represented, Bateman ultimately left off with a decided call, and slight odds (11 to 10) were laid. *Rogers'* dashing style of running out, however, speedily had the effect of altering matters, and just prior to the start 5 to 4 was freely laid on him. After much capering they got away to a pretty level start, Bateman, if anything, having a shade the best of it. At fifty yards *Rogers* showed slightly in front, and from this point had his man safe, notwithstanding Bateman's most strenuous exertions, and eventually went in a winner by three yards. Mr. J. Weston, of Wolverhampton, the stakeholder in the match, did the needful as referee."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 17/3/1866

"Britannia Grounds, Tipton.....

G. Brueton of Shropshire Row, Bilston, and T. Holloway of Lady Moor.

The above men were the next to show on the ground to run their 100 yards match, for £5 a side. It will be recollected that the above men appeared at Aston Cross Grounds on Monday, the 5th inst, to run a similar match, when both men started, but Holloway fell before a dozen yards were traversed, and Brueton ran in an easy winner. Holloway's friends not being satisfied, a fresh match, as above, was made. Mr. *T. Rogers* of the CROSS KEYS INN, Bilston, the stakeholder, also acting as referee. Holloway having only slightly cut his knees in the previous match, his friends were sanguine of the result of the present race, and backed him freely at 5 to 4.

After several attempts they got away together, and ran a splendid race the whole distance, finishing in a dead heat. The moment the referee gave his decision he was surrounded by the friends of both men, each claiming a win, and his position was anything but an agreeable one, but he abided by the decision he had given, and ordered the men to run again in 15 minutes. At the expiration of the time they again got on the mark. Betting level. After they had been on the ground attempting to get away without making a start (it was stated to the referee that the men had mutually agreed to go by report of pistol, but of this no notice was given to him, nor had he ordered them so to start) the pistol was fired. Brueton got away, and ran the ground over, Holloway remaining on the mark. Brueton claimed the stakes, but to this the referee gave a deaf ear, and gave the men orders to go again to their marks in five minutes, when the men again got to their positions. The greatest interest was taken in the start, and at last they got away, Brueton with the best of the start, and a well-contested race again took place, Brueton winning by half a yard, amidst tremendous cheers.

Great credit is due to the referee for the way in which he acted on the occasion."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 31/3/1866

"*T. Rogers*, of the CROSS KEYS INN, Temple Street, Bilston, will run H. Lownes of Wolverhampton 100 yards, and give him a yard start, or two in 120 yards, for £10 or £20 a side. Money ready as above."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 26/5/1866

"125 Yards Handicap (All England). Mr. Tranter (the proprietor of the Britannia Grounds, Tipton) will give £5 as a first prize, £2 as second, and 10s as third prize, distance 125 yards in an All England Handicap, to come off on Monday, June 11. Entrance 1s each, no acceptance, to be made on or before Tuesday, June 5, at the grounds, or to *T. Rogers*, CROSS KEYS, Bilston; Tim Thomas, RAILWAY INN, Dudley Port; Danks, BRITISH QUEEN, Wednesbury; Wedge, ALBION INN, Willenhall; or Thompson, ROEBUCK, Brettell Lane. Any one entering falsely will be disqualified. The above is for the benefit of T. Watkinson (better known as Darby Tom), who has been lamed in the coal mines. The proceeds of the above benefit will go towards defraying his expenses to a watering place for the recovery of his strength. We hope he will receive a bumper on this occasion, as he is well deserving of the same, he having hitherto acted as master of the ceremonies of the above grounds, although suffering from lameness in the feet, &c."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 8/9/1866

"*Tom Rogers* of Bilston will run any one within 20 miles of Bilston 100 yards if they will give him two yards start, for £10 up to £25 a side. Money ready at *Rogers'*s, CROSS KEYS, Upper Temple Street, Bilston."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 9/11/1867

“An All England 125 Yards Handicap will come off at the Britannia Grounds, Tipton, on Mondays, November 18 and 25, when a few gentlemen of Princes End will give £5 16s to be run for, being for the benefit of H. Pevions and W. Lem (both of Princes End), who have lost their sight through an accident in the pits. Entries of 1s each may be made at E. Dickens’s, JOLLY COLLIER INN, Princes End; Mr. B. Hawkins’s, Wednesbury; Mr. *Rogers’s*, CROSS KEYS, Bilston; or at the grounds. Entries will close on Monday, November 11. Stamps taken as cash. Any one entering falsely disqualified. Admission to the grounds 6d each.”

CROWN

16, (58), Bank Street, (58, Bilston Street), (Hallfields), (Bradley Bridge), Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

John Hand
Thomas Harris/Harrison, labourer, Coppice, Sedgley
Israel Bailey
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1921]

LICENSEES

Edward Hand [1828] – [1835]
John Hand [1840] – [1854]
Abraham Hazeldine [1855] – **1865**;
William Pitt **(1865 – []**
Joseph Harris []
John Veal [1868] – **1876**;
Israel Bailey **(1876 – 1889)**;
Alfred Birch **(1889)**;
Charles Henry Birch **(1889 – 1890)**;
Lucy Ann Insley **(1890 – 1891)**;
Joseph Parker **(1891 – 1893)**;
Lucy Ann Parker **(1893 – 1896)**;
Henry David Morgan **(1896)**;
Richard Davis **(1896 – 1897)**;
George Harry Share **(1897 – 1898)**;
Thomas Marshall **(1898 – 1900)**;
Elizabeth Marshall **(1900 – []**
Oliver Summers [1901] – **1926**;
Alfred Bert Summers **(1926 – [1940]**
Edward Roland Summers [1939] – [c.1950]
Edward Cyril Pleydell [1960]

To Iron-founders and others.
TO be disposed of by private Contract, a large pair of BELLOWS, 42 inches, with Machinery belonging, fit for foundry purposes or blacksmith's work; six large Boxes used for grate work; also a quantity small Boxes for other purposes, wood and iron Grate and Sad-iron Patterns, wrought iron Ladies, Cupula Plates, &c. and all other tools used in a small foundry.—For particulars apply to John Hand, Crown, Bradley, near Bilston.

1831

NOTES

Hallfields [1841], [1851], [1862]
Bilston Street, Hallfields [1865], [1868], [1876]
58, Bilston Street [1861], [1871], [1881], [1896]
58, Bank Street [1901]
16, Bank Street [1908], [1911], [1912], [1921], [1932], [1939], [1940], [1960]

It had a beerhouse license.

Black Country Bugle Letter from S. J. Smith

“.....with its spittoons and clean sawdust on the floor, and on the bar, baskets of squares of cheese and pieces of bread.....”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 22/8/1831 - Advert

"To Iron-founders and others.

To be disposed of by private Contract, a large pair of Bellows, 42 inches, with Machinery belonging, fit for foundry purposes or blacksmith's work; six large Boxes used for grate work; also a quantity small Boxes for other purposes, wood and iron Grate and Sad-iron Patterns, wrought iron Ladles, Cupola Plates, &c, and all other tools used in a small foundry.

For particulars apply to *John Hand*, CROWN, Bradley, near Bilston."

Edward Hand, retail brewer, Canalside, Bradley. [1833]

Edward Hand, retailer of beer, Bradley Bridge. [1835]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/9/1840

"An adjourned meeting of Magistrates was held on Friday at the Public Office, for the purpose of considering the applications for public house licenses, and new licenses were granted to the following applicants.....

John Hand, Hall Fields, Bilston."

John Hand, beer retailer, Hallfields. [1841]

1841 Census

Hall Fields

[1] *John Hand* (35), victualler, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Caroline Hand* (25), born Staffordshire;

[3] *Sarah Hand* (15), born Staffordshire;

[4] *George Hand* (12), born Staffordshire;

[5] *Jane Hand* (9), born Staffordshire;

[6] *Mary Ann Hand* (7), born Staffordshire;

[7] *John Hand* (5), born Staffordshire;

[8] *Thomas Hand* (4), born Staffordshire;

[9] *William Hand* (2), born Staffordshire;

[10] *Ann Maria Hand* (11 months), born Staffordshire:

Sarah Hand married *Abraham Hazledine* in the 1st quarter of 1846.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 11/2/1846

"On Friday last, an inquest was held at the CROWN, Hall Fields, by T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of *Peter Spooner*, a miner, about twenty-seven years of age, residing in Shropshire Row, Bilston, whose death was caused by a fall of clod, while at work in an ironstone pit, in the Caponfield Colliery. The occurrence, it appeared, was attributable to the deceased having neglected to prop the work. Verdict, Accidental Death."

Birmingham Journal 7/8/1847

"On Monday last, the brothers of the Good Intent Lodge, No.20, Royal Victoria Order of Odd Fellows (Wednesbury district), held their annual festival, at host *John Hand's*, CROWN INN, Hall Fields, near Bilston, when the members sat down to a first-rate dinner, provided for the occasion by the worthy host and hostess in their usual excellent style, which gave universal satisfaction, and obtained the cordial thanks of the members. After the cloth was drawn, the leading officers were called upon to preside, when the healths of her Majesty, Prince Albert, and other usual loyal toasts were drunk. The health of the officers of the order and all brothers in union followed. Mr. James Smith, Grand Master, honoured the lodge with his presence, and assisted in the initiation of several new brothers. The harmony of the company was kept up till a late hour, when the members separated, highly delighted with the proceedings of the day."

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/2/1851

"An inquest was held on Saturday, at the CROWN INN, Hall Fields, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, on the body of *John Hemmingsley*, aged nine years, who was found dead in the canal. There being no evidence to show how the deceased got into the water, the jury returned a verdict of Found Drowned."

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/2/1851

“John Jarman, aged 55, was committed to the sessions on a charge of stealing five silk handkerchiefs, the property of Matthew Mallin, a hawker. It appeared that the prosecutor had been staying at the CROWN INN, at Hall Fields, Bilston, and on Thursday he left his pack in the parlour, while he went to dinner in the bar, during which time the prisoner came in, but was observed to leave rather hastily. An examination of the pack proved the loss of the handkerchiefs. Shortly afterwards the prisoner came back again, and he was given into custody. Police-constable Billett searched the prisoner’s house, and found the handkerchiefs.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/3/1851

“Staffordshire Adjourned Sessions.....

John Jarmin (pleaded guilty), for stealing five silk handkerchiefs, at Sedgley, the property of Matthew Mallin, four months’ imprisonment.”

1851 Census

Hallfields

- [1] *John Hand* (47), colliery agent and victualler, born Enville;
- [2] *Caroline Hand* (32), wife, born Bury St. Edmonds;
- [3] *Jane Hand* (20), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] *John Hand* (16), son, tinman, born Bilston;
- [5] *Thomas Hand* (14), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] *William Hand* (12), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] *Ann M. Hand* (10), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [8] *Alfred Hand* (9), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [9] *Caroline Hand* (7), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [10] *Martha Hand* (5), daughter, scholar, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/9/1852

“The annual licensing day for the division of Seisdon North was held at the Public Office, Bilston Street, Wolverhampton, on Thursday last.....

There were about forty applications for new [spirit] licenses, of which eight were granted.....

An application was made by Mr. H. Underhill, on behalf of Mr. Arthur Wright, for a license to a house situate in Bilston Street, Hallfields, near Bradley, the population of which was stated to be about 4,000. Mr. Whitehouse opposed the application on behalf of Mr. *Hand*, the owner and occupier of the CROWN, observing that not one more house had been built in the locality since Mr. Wright’s application last year. Mr. Underhill replied that Mr. Whitehouse was misinformed. Upwards of twenty houses had been built in the immediate locality. Mr. Wright had a club of 70 persons who met at his house, which was rated at £12 more than Mr. *Hand*’s, and cost between £700 and £800. Mr. Whitehouse said he was informed by Mrs. *Hand* that on one side of Mr. Wright’s house there were only five houses. The Magistrates, after some consideration, granted the application.”

Abraham Hazeldine = *Abraham Hazledine* = *Abraham Haseldine*

Birmingham Journal 3/11/1855 - Advert

“Malt Crushers.

Parties requiring Malt Crushers would do well before purchasing to inspect those made by Richard Thompson, Pot House Bridge Foundry, Bilston, Staffordshire.

They can be seen at work at the following places.....

Mr. *Haseldine*’s, CROWN INN, Hallfields, near Bilston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 10/8/1858

“The No.1 Reformed Tradesman’s Benevolent Society held their annual feat at Mr. *Abraham Hazeldine*’s, CROWN INN, Hall Fields, Bilston. The chair was ably filled by Brother Seale, and the vice-chair by Brother Legg, when upwards of forty members sat down to an excellent dinner, served in the host’s usual good style. The Secretary read the balance sheet, which gave great satisfaction to the members, it being in such a prosperous condition. The customary toasts were proposed and responded to, and the evening was spent in the greatest harmony.”

Birmingham Daily Post 5/8/1859

“The No.1 Reformed Tradesman’s Benevolent Society held their annual feast at Host *Hazledine*’s, CROWN INN, Hallfields, on Monday, when a large number of the members sat down to a dinner of good old English fare. After the cloth was drawn, Mr. Thomas Townsend was voted to the chair, and Mr. Turner to the vice-chair. The chairman addressed the members in a neat speech, enlarging upon the usefulness of sick and death societies. In this district, if it were not for these societies, many a family would have to go to the Union. The secretary’s report for the last twelve months showed that after paying a dividend to each member, there was a favourable balance in the hands of the treasurer, to be added to the reserve fund. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Edward Hands, the secretary, for his valuable services to the society, and the health of the Host and Hostess was drunk.”

1861 Census

58, Bilston Street – CROWN INN

- [1] *Abraham Hazledine* (36), innkeeper and roller, born Walsall;
- [2] *Sarah Hazledine* (38), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] *Thomas Hazledine* (14), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] *Edward Hazledine* (12), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] *Mary Jane Hazledine* (10), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] *Abraham Hazledine* (8), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] *George Hazledine* (3), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [8] *Sarah Hazledine* (6), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [9] *Arthur Hazledine* (2), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [10] *Mary Ann Hand* (27), sister-in-law, general servant, born Bilston:

Staffordshire Advertiser 11/4/1863

“Mr. *Abraham Hazledine*, Bilston, was fined £50 for neglecting to make an entry of a certain brewing, which took place at his house on the 27th of February last. The information was preferred by Mr. A. Allcorn, supervisor of Inland Revenue, who joined with the bench in a recommendation to the Board of Inland Revenue for a further reduction of the penalty. Mr. Hall appeared for the defendant, and observed that it was rather too late in the day to argue against the adage ‘Qui facit per alium facit per se,’ and he would merely remark that the defendant was employed at an ironworks in Wales, and left the control of the business to a servant. The Act under which the information had been laid had long remained dormant, and was only now resuscitated for the purpose of making up to the revenue the loss occasioned by the repeal of the hop duties.”

Glasgow Herald 4/8/1870

“Two Elopements from the Black Country.

Elopements are rare in the Black Country, but one directly from Bilston, and another connected with that town have just come to light. In the first case, the injured husband has called in the law to aid him in baffling the deep wiles of love by which he had been wronged. The interesting part of the elopement is that the amorous pair are both married people with families. The man is 30 years of age, and has a wife and one or two children; the woman is 39 years of age, has an appearance decidedly not buxom-like, and is mother of, amongst other children, a ‘grown-up’ daughter. James Sheldon, master bricklayer, of Gospel End, and Mrs. Onions, wife of Joseph Onions, wire drawer, of Bradley, would have been, but for a prompt capture, now on their way to America. Some time ago Mr. Onions was landlord of the BULLS HEAD INN, Ettingshall. Sheldon, with his men, was then engaged at Millfields Ironworks, and took his meals at Onions’s house. This lasted for several years, and daily visitation at the BULLS HEAD resulted, of course, in Sheldon becoming acquainted with Mrs. Onions. He was also upon intimate terms with Mr. Onions, and the two frequently went out together in a trap. Mr. Onions gave up the public house, and retired to a private house at Bradley, where Sheldon continued to visit them. Three weeks ago Sheldon suddenly left his home, and went to Liverpool, and was there joined, a week later, by Mrs. Onions, who took with her a quantity of her husband’s jewellery. At Liverpool, Sheldon fell in – whether by accident or otherwise we don’t know – with another Bilston man who had left his own wife and run away with a neighbour’s. He was Mr. *Abraham Hazledine*, who at one time kept the CROWN INN, Hallfields (near Bilston), but has of late been residing in Warrington. The destination of *Hazledine* and his would-be wife, and of Sheldon and his would-be wife, was America; and to the ticket office the four went and bought passages for New York. Sheldon gave the names of ‘James Jones and Mrs. Jones,’ and *Hazledine*’s tickets were made out to ‘Mr. and Mrs. Smith.’ The vessel that was to take them did not

start for a day or two, and the fugitives determined to go to Queenstown and join the ship there, probably because they were afraid to remain in Liverpool, so near to their homes.

When Mr. Joseph Onions returned to his house on the evening of the 21st of July, he was surprised to find that his house was minus his wife. For some time he could learn nothing tending to show what had become of her; but ultimately he received information which led him to go to Liverpool, and he there found that she and her adopted husband had gone to Queenstown. Thither he hastened, and discovered that the two had taken apartments at the lodging house of Alfred Bridges, Lynch's Quay. Onions invoked the aid of the police, who entered their bed room at eleven o'clock at night, and arrested them both upon a charge of stealing jewellery. They were brought before the Queenstown Magistrates and remanded to Bilston.

By this time the injured wife of *Hazledine* had reached Queenstown, and having discovered the retreat of her faithless husband and his new love, demanded he should immediately return home. *Hazledine*, however, objected to this settlement of the matter, for he had an arrangement of his own to propose. He said that if she would release him from his marriage engagement he would give her £100 down, and would settle some property upon her. To this proposal Mrs. *Hazledine* agreed, and, after it had been carried out, went back to Warrington contented, leaving her husband to pursue his new course of life without interruption.

Sheldon and his proposed wife, however, were brought back to Bilston, and at the police court there, before the stipendiary (Mr. I. Spooner) were charged with stealing a watch, three gold chains, and other things, belonging to Mr. Joseph Onions. Ultimately the stipendiary consented to take bail, in two sureties of £100, and the prisoner himself in £200. *Birmingham Post*."

[The charge of stealing against James Sheldon was dropped, and Mrs. Onions returned to her husband and family.]

Birmingham Daily Post 16/8/1865 - Advert

"Wanted, by a respectable young Person, a Situation as Barmaid, or to serve in a Spirit Vaults; has had a little experience, and can be well recommended.

Address, W. S., CROWN INN, Hall Fields, Bilston."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 20/9/1865 - Advert

"CROWN INN, Bilston Street, Hallfields, near Bilston.

Mr. Ashcroft will Sell by Auction, on Monday next, September 25th, 1865, all the Genteel Household Furniture, Brewing Plant, capital sixty-gallon ale barrels, mash tub and other tubs, vats, lead pipes, 100-gallon copper boiler, four-pull beer machine, painted spirit casks and tops, pewter measures, mahogany desk, mahogany hair-seated chairs, and tables, birch and other tables, excellent eight-day spring timepiece, sign, shelves, screens, benches, gas meter and appendages, patent malt crusher, 400 feet $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch boards, beams and rafters, fine-bred sow in pig, four capital-bred store pigs, and effects, the property of Mr. *Pitt*, who is leaving.

Sale to commence at 11 o'clock in the morning."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1866

"The annual meeting for the renewal of existing licenses, and for receiving applications for fresh ones, was held at the Police Court, on Friday.....

At the commencement of the proceedings, the Superintendent of Police presented the following report.

Bilston Division, August 31, 1866.

'I beg to submit to the Magistrates the attached list of licensed victuallers who have been complained against during the year. Twenty-five have been convicted, and three have paid costs; one had been convicted three times, and five convicted twice. This is a large increase on last year's list; but I think it has arisen from the police being more particular in reporting cases of permitting drunkenness – as it was found to be an evil rather on the increase. I believe it has caused landlords to be more careful in supplying drink to persons intoxicated.'

H. McCrea, Superintendent.

Black List.....

Joseph Harris, CROWN, Hallfields, Bilston left over until the adjourned licensing meeting on the 28th of September."

John Veal = John Veale

John Veal, spirit vaults, Bilston Street, Hallfields. [1868], [1870], [1872]

1871 Census

58, Bilston Street – CROWN

- [1] John Veal (44), publican, born Willenhall;
- [2] Ann Veal (42), wife, born Willenhall;
- [3] Agness Veal (14), daughter, pupil teacher at St. Martin's, born Willenhall;
- [4] Clara Veal (12), daughter, scholar, born Willenhall;
- [5] John Veal (10), son, scholar, born Willenhall;
- [6] Harry Veal (8), son, scholar, born Willenhall:

Birmingham Daily Post 6/10/1873 - Advert

"Brown Pony for Sale, 5 years old, 12½ hands high; warranted sound, and free from vice.
Apply, *John Veal*, CROWN INN, Hallfields, Bilston."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 25/4/1876

"Wolverhampton County Court. Monday (before A. Martineau, Esq, Judge). *Bailey v Harrison*.

This was an action brought to compel a specific performance of contract on the part of the defendant for the sale and conveyance of certain premises to the plaintiff, which it was alleged he had contacted to sell. The plaintiff is Mr. *Israel Bailey*, who occupies the CROWN INN, Bilston Street, Hallfields, Bilston, and the defendant is Mr. Thomas Harrison, a labourer, residing in a cottage at the back of the CROWN INN. Mr. Young (instructed by Mr. J. W. Hall, Bilston) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Joseph Underhill (instructed by Mr. Green James, Bilston) defended. Mr. Young, at the outset, stated that the defendant in his pleadings imputed fraud on the part of the plaintiff, who he alleged took advantage of his being in a state of intoxication at the time the contract was made, and also of his weakness of mind, and further, that the purchase money agreed upon was an inadequate price. The plaintiff's case was that early in the year 1875 the plaintiff entered into negotiations with the defendant for the purchase of the CROWN INN, and a cottage at the rear of it, situated at Hallfields. The then tenant (Mr. *Veale*), who held a lease on the public house, having intimated his intention of leaving it on the expiration of his lease, the plaintiff agreed to take a six years' lease of the public house, commencing at the expiration of Mr. *Veale*'s lease. This was executed on the 15th of April, 1875. Soon afterwards the defendant had a quarrel with his relatives, who lived near, and he threatened to sell his property, and go to Darlaston. The plaintiff, hearing that defendant was desirous of disposing of his property, offered to become the purchaser, and asked the price of it, and defendant told him it was £330. A short time afterwards the defendant asked £350, an increase of £20 for the property, and the next time they met, defendant told plaintiff that he must spring another £20, making a total of £370. This he consented to do, and ultimately the bargain was struck at that figure. By arrangement they met on the 3rd of last January, at the house of Mr. Edwin Hill, auctioneer, brother-in-law to the plaintiff, who drew up an agreement by which defendant agreed to sell the CROWN public house, and the small cottage at the back of it, for the sum of £370 to the plaintiff. The agreement set forth that the sum of £70 was to be paid on deposit. At the time plaintiff held an IOU, which the defendant had given him for £20, on account of money borrowed to do some repairs to property. Whilst plaintiff and defendant were at Hill's, it was agreed by parol that the £20 should be considered as part of the deposit-money, and that the remaining £50 should not be paid until defendant furnished an abstract of the title to the property to plaintiff's solicitor. The respective solicitors on either side were then instructed with a view to the sale and conveyance of the property to the plaintiff. The defendant, however, declined to sell, alleging that he was intoxicated at the time he was at Hill's when he made the contract, and that undue advantage was taken of him on that occasion. In consequence of that refusal the plaintiff instituted the present proceedings for the specific performance of the contract. Mr. Young, having cited a number of cases bearing on the same issue involved in this case, he called the plaintiff, Mr. *Israel Bailey*, a moulder. He corroborated Mr. Young's statement about the six years' lease on the property being granted to him to commence on the 25th of last March. Under that lease he became the tenant of the CROWN INN, when *Veale* left, at the rent of £30 per year, which was £5 per year more than the last tenant paid. He also spoke to the agreement to purchase, and he consented to give the £370 because the defendant told him that he had been offered £400 for it.

In cross-examination, he said he made no inquiries respecting the mines underneath the property before he agreed to make the purchase, and he denied that he had called attention to the fact that properties in Hall Street and Queen Street were damaged by mining operations. He had never ascertained that there was a fault in the mines underneath the property in question, and therefore the public house could not be injured by mining operations. On the 3rd of January last he went by appointment to defendant's house to go together to Hill's for the agreement to purchase to be drawn up. He was there waiting when defendant came home about six o'clock in the evening from his work.

After defendant had washed himself and had his tea, they – along with Mrs. Harrison (since dead) – went to Hill's. It was Hill who suggested that only £20 should be paid as deposit-money until defendant furnished an abstract of his title. Neither of them had anything to drink until the agreement was signed, and then Hill gave them each a glass of ale. He (plaintiff) denied that defendant was drunk, or even fresh at the time he signed the contract. He also denied that he assisted the defendant home. He accompanied him only about half a mile towards home. Hill had money of his (plaintiff's) in his safe, out of which he was going to pay the defendant the £70.

After giving a great deal of evidence to the forgoing effect, Mr. E. Hill, auctioneer, was next called. He confirmed the plaintiff's evidence as to the signing of the agreement. The defendant signed his name in a legible hand, but the plaintiff, who could not write, only made his mark. He positively denied that defendant was drunk at the time, or that either of them had anything to drink in his house. He suggested that £20 only should be paid as the deposit until the plaintiff's solicitor had been furnished with an abstract of the title. He considered that he acted fairly to both sides, although he was brother-in-law to the plaintiff. The agreement was made out for £70 to be paid as deposit money, although only £20 was paid, as defendant agreed to let the other £50 stand over – he not requiring it particularly – until an abstract of the title was furnished. He denied that he gave defendant any drink to prime him with before he signed the agreement. He got nothing for drawing up the agreement; he did it out of his kindness of heart.

Mr. W. Taylor, the town surveyor of Bilston, was next called, and stated that he had examined the property in question, and calculating the value at ten years' purchase, he considered the public house was worth about £300, and the cottage about £40. The rent of the whole would be a fair interest on the outlay at the price he valued it. This concluded the case for the plaintiff.

Mr. Underhill intimated his intention of reserving his remarks until the close of the defendant's case. He then called Mr. F. Sollom, auctioneer, &c, of Wolverhampton, who said he had also valued the property in question, and he considered £500 a moderate value for it. He had made his calculations on a 15 years' purchase, which, at a rent of £30 per year, would give about 6 per cent on the outlay.

Mr. T. Richards, auctioneer, also of Wolverhampton, stated that he considered the property worth £560. The property was in one of the best positions in that district, being in the very centre of some ironworks and collieries.

Mr. James Williams, a mine agent at Bilston said he had worked in the mines near to the defendant's property. There was a fault under the property in question, and the mines at the back of it were reserved for the safety of St. Martin's church.

The defendant was next called, and after detailing the negotiations which led up to the contract, he stated that on the 3rd of January last, the date on the contract, he and some fellow workmen were drinking all afternoon. They had about four quarts ale each; he was reeling drunk when he got home, where he found plaintiff waiting for him to go to Hill's. Plaintiff hurried him to get himself washed and to have his tea. Previous to that day plaintiff told him several times that the mines would some day be worked and so damage the public house, and on that account he became very much troubled in his mind, as he did not wish to lose the property left him by his mother. Plaintiff, consequently, took advantage of his weakness of mind. On the way to Hill's to sign the contract, plaintiff treated him to a glass of ale, and that made him worse, although he was already drunk. Hill pretended to read the agreement over, but he (defendant) did not understand what was read, and he signed his name, not knowing what he was doing at the time. His wife was the only person he had as a witness, but she had since died. He remembered sitting down in Hill's, but he could recollect scarcely anything that was done. He did not believe that Mr. Hill read over the whole of the agreement. He meant to say that he was reeling drunk when he signed the agreement; he was unwell the next day, and he was unable to work for two or three days afterwards. When it was talked about amongst his neighbours that he was going to sell his property, some of them said it was worth £400 or £500, and that was why he raised the price from £330 to £370. He never agreed to sell the cottage, but only the public house, and the agreement ought to have been confined to the CROWN INN property alone. He always said he should keep the cottage for himself and his wife for a home as long as they lived. Although he talked about going to Darlaston, he intended returning to Hallfields to end his days in the cottage.

Alfred Thomas Pargeter, and his wife, Margaret Pargeter, who reside near to the CROWN INN, and under a brother of the defendant, spoke to the defendant going home drunk on the 3rd of January, and also to plaintiff bringing him home at eleven o'clock at night. They took notice of the date because Mrs. Harrison told them that her husband was so tipsy she was afraid he had been and put his signature to what he knew nothing about.

Job Fletcher, brother-in-law to the defendant, said he and the defendant fell out over the defendant offering to dispose of the property. Defendant had expressed his intention of leaving the property to his (witness's) boy to his (witness's) boy, and he did not like the idea of the defendant selling the property and dissipating the money. They had since become friendly again. Witness detailed a conversation he had with the plaintiff some time ago about the property.

From that conversation he understood that the proposed sale related to the public house only. Witness drew up the lease for plaintiff to become the tenant of the CROWN INN, and he subsequently told the plaintiff he thought he had acted very unfairly towards the defendant by pressing him to sell the property. He had seen the defendant the worse for beer, and it took very little to make him drunk. If he had four quarts in one day he would want carrying home. The plaintiff, on being re-called, in reply to the Judge, denied that the £370 which he agreed to pay the defendant was for the licensed house only; it was for the cottage as well. He positively denied that the defendant was drunk on the 3rd of January when he signed the agreement.

Hill was also re-called, and said he got the particulars of the property, so minutely described in the agreement to purchase, from both the plaintiff and defendant by putting questions to them.

This concluded the evidence for the defendant.

Some discussion then took place between the Judge and the learned counsel, during which it was pointed out that the including of the cottage in the purchase, distinctly denied by the defendant, had raised a fresh point for consideration.

His Honour, in adjourning the case until the 18th of May, gave Mr. Underhill power to amend the statement for the defence as to the contract to sell the public house only, reserving the right to Mr. Young to call evidence on that point at the adjourned hearing."

1881 Census

58, Bilston Street – CROWN INN

[1] *Israel Bailey* (54), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] *Elizabeth Bailey* (62), wife, born Willenhall;

[3] *Eliza Rhone* (19), general servant, born Bilston:

Evening Star 17/1/1882

"On Monday afternoon an inquest was held by H. Brevitt, Esq, deputy coroner, at the CROWN INN, Bilston Street, Hallfields, on the body of Mrs. Elizabeth Bailey (wife of Mr. Isaac Bailey) who died under circumstances already reported. A verdict that deceased died from Natural Causes was returned."

Darlaston Weekly Times 29/7/1882 - Marriage

"On the 22nd inst, at St. Leonard's Church, by the Rev. Charles Lee, vicar, *Israel Bailey*, of the CROWN INN, Bilston Street, Hall Fields, to *Caroline Brywood*, of the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, Hall Street, Hall Fields."

Alfred Birch died on 12th December 1889.

1891 Census

Bilston Street – CROWN INN

[1] *Joseph Parker* (44), licensed victualler, born Bilston;

[2] *Lucy A. Parker* (45), wife, born Bloxwich;

[3] *Harold Insley* (9), step-son, born Walsall;

[4] *Louisa Aston* (20), domestic servant, born Dudley:

Joseph Parker died on 10th August 1893.

Birmingham Daily Post 31/3/1900

"*London Gazette*. Friday. Bankruptcy: Receiving Orders.....

Thomas Marshall, Bank Street, Bradley, near Bilston, lately residing at Darlaston, formerly of Oxford Street, Bilston, licensed victualler."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 20/4/1900

"Re *Thomas Marshall*, CROWN INN, Bank Street, Bradley The liabilities were set down at £152, and the assets at £25. The debtor attributes his position to bad trade and bad debts."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 28/7/1900

"*Thomas Marshall*, Bank Street, Bradley, near Bilston, lately Darlaston, licensed victualler. First and final dividend, 10s in the pound; payable July 31st, at the Official Receiver's, 30, Lichfield Street, Wolverhampton."

Thomas Marshall – see also BROWN LION, Oxford Street.

Birmingham Daily Post 9/5/1900

“At Bilston, yesterday, *Elizabeth Marshall*, landlady of the CROWN INN, Bank Street, Bradley, was summoned for selling intoxicating liquors during prohibited hours, on Sunday, 22nd April. Mr. Turton prosecuted, and Mr. R. A. Willcock defended. The evidence went to show that drinks were served after ten o’clock at night. The defence was that the man who had been served with drink had been invited to supper. Defendant was fined £5 and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 5/7/1900

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Elizabeth Marshall, of the CROWN INN, Bradley, Bilston, appealed against a decision of the justices in the petty sessions convicting her of having allowed the consumption of intoxicating liquors in her licensed house during prohibited hours, on Sunday, April 22. Mr. Plumptre and Mr. Disturnal appeared for the appellant, and Mr. Kettle was for the respondents.

Mr. Plumptre took an objection that the conviction disclosed no offence. The conviction was for allowing intoxicating liquors to be consumed after closing hours, and in order to make it an offence it must be shown that the liquor consumed had been purchased, and there was nothing in the conviction to show that the liquor had been sold. Mr. Kettle urged that the conviction followed the words of the statute which made it an offence for liquor to be consumed on licensed premises during prohibited hours, although the purchase might have taken place before closing time.

The Court reserved their decision on the point raised, a case to be stated, and the appeal was proceeded with.

The evidence of the police, who were watching the house, was to the effect that a man named Jones, who was in the house, paid for two supplies of liquor at a time when the house should have been closed.

The evidence for the appellant was that the man Jones was invited to supper by the landlady, and that he did not pay for any drink in the house.

The appeal was disallowed with costs.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 25/8/1900

“At the annual licensing meeting for Bilston division, Supt. Walters reported that there were 354 licensed houses in the division, which gave one to every 181 of the population. During the year, four licensed victuallers and two beerhouse keepers had been convicted. Compared with the previous 12 months, this was a decrease of one licensed victualler and three beerhouse keepers convicted. Since the last meeting 565 males and 82 females were proceeded against for drunkenness, 548 males and 75 females being convicted. As against last year, this showed an increase of 49 males convicted, and a decrease of four females.

Objections were made, on the ground of convictions, to the renewal of the licenses of.....

Elizabeth Marshall, CROWN INN, Bank Street, Bradley.....

The Chairman said it was gratifying that there had been fewer charges against licensed victuallers, but he was sorry that there had been an increase in the number of persons proceeded against for drunkenness.

Mr. R. A. Willcock referred to the ‘long pull’ question, and said notice of opposition to two license holders with respect to that matter had been served. After the attitude taken on the previous day by the Wolverhampton county magistrates, the Council of the Wolverhampton and District Licensed Victuallers’ Association had decided to take no further action, and the notices of objection would be withdrawn. The licenses to which the police objected were renewed.”

1901 Census

58, Bank Street

[1] Oliver Summers (40), ironworker and publican, born Princes End;

[2] Elizabeth Summers (34), wife, born Coseley;

[3] Charley T. Summers (8), son, born Coseley;

[4] Alfred B. Summers (6), son, born Princes End;

[5] Walter C. Summers (9 months), son, born Princes End;

[6] Martha Grainger (19), barmaid, born Princes End;

[7] Rebecca Dyke (15), domestic servant, born Coseley;

[8] William Round (60), father-in-law, widower, ironworker, puddler, born Coseley;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/12/1904

“The tragic story of a Bilston man’s suicide on the anniversary of his wedding day, as narrated in our columns on Thursday, was retold before the coroner (Mr. Stokes) at the inquest held yesterday at the CROWN INN, Bank Street, Bradley, near Bilston. The deceased was Henry Thomas Brandrick, sixty-six, a groom, of Bank Street. On Monday his wife died, and the bereavement much affected him.

Ellen Ann Hewitt, his niece, who was staying at the house in which the wife lay dead, told how on Tuesday night her uncle retired to bed, wishing her ‘good night.’ Early on Wednesday morning when she came downstairs she found him lying dead face downwards on the hearth, in a pool of blood. A police-officer was called, and he found a blood-stained razor beneath the body, which was cold, the man having been dead probably an hour. Deceased had severed the left artery, and had actually cut his throat from ear to ear. The niece, in reply to the coroner, said that the day of the deed was the forty-first anniversary of the deceased’s wedding day.

The Coroner observed that personally he believed no person committed suicide except under urgent reasons, unless he was insane at the time.

A verdict of Suicide during Temporary Insanity was returned.”

1911 Census

16, Bank Street

[1] *Oliver Summers* (51), publican, born Bilston Street, Princes End;

[2] *Elizabeth Summers* (44), wife, married 21 years, assisting in business, born Coseley;

[3] *Charles Summers* (18), son, ironworker, born Coseley;

[4] *Alfred Summers* (16), son, butcher’s assistant, born Princes End;

[5] *Walter Summers* (10), son, school, born Princes End;

[6] *Roland Summers* (8), son, school, born Bradley:

Elizabeth Summers died in the 4th quarter of 1912.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 29/11/1912

“A meeting of the Bilston District Council on Thursday evening was presided over by Mr. J. A. Jordan, when demolition orders were made in respect of back houses in Homer’s Fold, and at the rear of the CROWN INN, Bank Street, Bradley.”

1921 Census

16, Bank Street

[1] *Oliver Summers* (61), widower, publican, born Coseley;

[2] *Charles Summers* (28), son, married, assistant, born Coseley;

[3] *Madge Summers* (27), daughter-in-law, home duties, born Derbyshire;

[4] *Alfred Summers* (26), son, butcher, born Princes End;

[5] *Walter Summers* (21), son, unemployed, born Princes End;

[6] *Roland Summers* (18), son, hairdresser’s assistant, born Bradley;

[7] *Stewart Summers* (8 months), grand-son, born Bradley:

South Staffordshire Times 26/8/1922

“At Wolverhampton, on Wednesday, William Hollick, 33, Benton Road, Sparkhill; and Thomas O’Brien, 71, Leamington Road, Sparkhill, were charged with stealing £1 by a trick from Charles Summers, CROWN INN, Bradley. Mr. Turton defended.

Detective constable Ballance said that about 1.45pm on Tuesday he was on duty with Detective Charles Aston in the 5s ring at Dunstall Park Racecourse. He saw the two prisoners walking about the ring, and they stopped various people at intervals, and appeared to talk with them in a confidential manner. About 3pm Mr. Summers came up and complained he had been defrauded of £1. And that time O’Brien came by, and prosecutor said, ‘That is the man who had my £1.’ Witness arrested O’Brien, and later apprehended Hollick. When charged they made no reply.

Accused were remanded on bail for seven days.

An application by Mr. Turton for the return of a ‘considerable amount of money’ found on prisoners was granted.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 31/8/1922

“William Hollick, aged 52, costumier, of Benton Road, Sparkhill, and Thomas O’Brien, aged 64, dealer, of Leamington Road, Sparkbrook, were acquitted at Wolverhampton Police Court yesterday of a charge of stealing £1 by a trick from Charles Summers, CROWN INN, Bradley, at Dunstall Park racecourse, on 22 August.”

1926 Probate

“*Oliver Summers*, of the CROWN INN, Bank Street, Bradley, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 3 March 1926. Administration Lichfield 22 May to *Alfred Summers*, licensed victualler, and Walter Summers, butcher. Effects £870 0s 9d.”

1939 Register

16, Bank Street (2 of 3)

[1] *Edward Roland Summers*, date of birth 26/2/1903, publican and hairdresser, married;

[2] *Florence V. Summers*, dob 4/12/1907, unpaid domestic duties, married;

Roland Summers was also a fireman.

A team from here took part in the Bradley Darts League, First Division. [1946]

1960 Probate

“*Nellie Playdell* of the CROWN INN, 16 Bank Street, Bradley, near Bilston, Staffordshire (wife of *Edward Cyril Pleydell*) died 17 March 1960. Probate Birmingham 13 May to the said *Edward Cyril Pleydell*, publican, and *Vera May Matthews*, married woman. Effects £1,441 19s 8d.”

Edward Cyril Pleydell – see also BROWN JUG, Willenhall, and BOARD, Church Street, Bilston.

CROWN

Church Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Spencer [1813]

NOTES

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/5/1813 - Advert

“To be Sold by private Contract, and entered upon immediately, the Lease, Good-will, and License of the CROWN INN, Church Street, Bilston, now in the Possession of Mr. *John Spencer*, who is retiring from the Town. Seventeen Years of the Lease are unexpired, and the House is now in full Business. For further Particulars apply to Mr. *John Spencer*.”

TO be SOLD by private Contract, and entered upon immediately, the Lease, Good-will, and Licence of the CROWN INN, Church Street, Bilston, now in the Possession of Mr. John Spencer, who is retiring from the Town. Seventeen Years of the Lease are unexpired, and the House is now in full Business. For further Particulars apply to Mr. John Spencer.

CROWN

18, Millfields Road, (18, Mill Street), Ettingshall, (Catchem), BILSTON

OWNERS

Thomas Evans, farmer, Wednesfield
Samuel Evans, farmer, Wednesfield
Richard Andrew Harper, brewer, Bilston
R. A. Harper Ltd., Hall Park Brewery, Bilston
Eley's Stafford Brewery Ltd.

LICENSEES

Joseph Maybury [1864] – **1883**;
Edward Dawson (**1883 – 1884**);
Thirza Dawson (**1884 – 1898**);
Elizabeth Thomas (**1898 – 1903**);
Jabez Guy (**1903 – 1909**);
William Edward Leach (**1909 – 1912**);
George Evans (**1912 – 1913**);
Samuel Jones (**1913 – 1915**);
William Cadman (**1915 – 1916**);
Harold William Cave (**1916 – 1923**);
Francis George Yates (**1923 – 1927**);
Robert Rully (**1927 – 1929**);
Francis George Yates (**1929 – 1934**);
Joseph Mason (**1934 – [1940]**)

NOTES

[This pub was strictly in the parish of Sedgley, but is included here due to other pubs in the proximity coming under Bilston.]

18, Mill Street [1871], [1881], [1891], [1901], [1911], [1921]
18, Millfields Road [1939], [1940]

It had an ante '69 beerhouse license.

Joseph Maybury, beer retailer, Ettingshall. [1864], [1865], [1868], [1870]

1871 Census

18, Mill Street

[1] Joseph Maybury (55), publican, born Bilston;
[2] Emma Maybury (55), wife, born Tettenhall:

1881 Census

18, Mill Street – CROWN INN

[1] Joseph Maybury (65), licensed victualler, born Sedgley;
[2] Emma Maybury (66), wife, born Tettenhall:

Joseph Maybury died on 1st November 1883.

Darlaston Weekly Times 3/11/1883

“Walter Bishton and Joseph Dee, carters, were charged by PC Snow with leaving their drays standing unattended for thirty-five minutes, near the CROWN INN, Ettingshall, on Monday.

Chief Superintendent Longden stated that drays often caused a great nuisance in the streets, and the firm refused any assistance in the matter.

Each defendant was ordered to pay 12s 6d.”

1891 Census

18, Mill Street – CROWN INN

[1] *Edward Dawson* (44), beerhouse keeper, born Shrewsbury;

[2] *Thirza Dawson* (48), wife, born Penn;

[3] *Frederick Tolley* (21) step-son, clerk, born Wolverhampton;

[4] *Nellie Tolley* (17), step-daughter, born Wolverhampton;

[5] *Rose Dawson* (8), daughter, scholar, born Wolverhampton;

[6] *Harry Roden* (12), nephew, scholar, born Wolverhampton:

1901 Census

18, Mill Street

[1] *David Thomas* (62), tailor, born North Wales;

[2] *Elizabeth Thomas* (61), wife, born Heath Town:

Jabez Guy, beer retailer, Ettingshall. [1904]

Staffordshire Advertiser 12/2/1910

“The Bilston Annual Licensing Sessions were held yesterday.....

Opposition was raised to the licence of the CROWN INN, Ettingshall. Supt. Pilliner said it was an ante '69 beerhouse, and the buildings were in a bad condition. It appeared that the trade of the house had greatly decreased, and it was stated that of 2s per dozen of bottled beer, the profit of the brewer was 1s and to the tenant 5d. The case was postponed to the adjourned sessions for the owner to submit plans for improvements.”

1911 Census

18, Mill Street – CROWN

[1] *William Leach* (36), beer retailer, born Gospel Oak;

[2] *Emma Leach* (34), wife, married 4 years, assisting in business, born Rounds Green;

[3] *May Leach* (17), sister, domestic servant, born Handsworth;

[4] *William Leach* (3), son, born Hill Top;

[5] *Irene Leach* (1), daughter, born Hill Top:

1921 Census

18, Mill Street

[1] *Harold Cave* (42), beerhouse on proprietor, born Piddington, Northamptonshire;

[2] *Elizabeth Cave* (47), wife, proprietress, born Cradley Heath;

[3] *Geoffrey Cave* (8), son, school, born Irthlingborough, Northamptonshire;

[4] *Grace Alice Cave* (6), daughter, school, born Irthlingborough, Northamptonshire;

[5] *Sybil Cave* (3), daughter, born Ettingshall:

1939 Register

18, Millfields Road – CROWN INN

[1] *Joseph Mason*, date of birth 10/2/1875, publican, married;

[2] *Elizabeth Mason*, dob 14/9/1875, unpaid domestic duties, married:

The license was surrendered in February 1957.

CROWN

Brierley, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Isaac Smithiman [1835]

Elizabeth Smithiman [1841] – [1842]

CROWN AND ANCHOR

129, (60), (59), Oxford Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Joseph Banks
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

LICENSEES

Joseph Banks [1861] – **1878**);
David Smith (**1878 – 1884**);
Thomas Cooke (**1884 – 1890**);
Joseph Maullin (**1890**);
Alfred Wood (**1890 – 1892**);
William Darbey (**1892 – 1895**);
Joel Ashcroft (**1895 – 1896**);
William Harper (**1896 – 1899**);
Henry Tertius Hodgkiss (**1899 – 1900**);
William Painter (**1900**);
Samuel Simkins (**1900 – 1901**);
Julia Simkins [1901] ?
Emily (Challis) Freeman (**1901 – 1902**);
Henry Smith (**1902 – 1903**);
Mary Hill (**1903**);
Charles Carpenter (**1903 – 1904**);
Henry Newman Bates (**1904**);
William Lloyd (**1904 – 1906**);
Horace Wakelam (**1906 – 1907**);

NOTES

60, Oxford Street [1861], [1871], [1881], [1891]
59, Oxford Street [1862]
129, Oxford Street [1920], [1924]

It had a beerhouse license.

1861 Census

60, Oxford Street – CROWN AND CUSHION [sic]
[1] Joseph Banks (40), locksmith, born Bilston;
[2] Sarah Banks (45), wife, born Burslem;
[3] Agnes Fall (4), grand-daughter, born Bradley:

Joseph Banks, retailer of beer, 59, Oxford Street. [1862]
Joseph Banks, beer retailer, 60, Oxford Street. [1865], [1868]

1871 Census

60, Oxford Street

- [1] Joseph Banks (51), brewer, born Willenhall;
- [2] Sarah Banks (56), wife, born Potteries;
- [3] Sarah Fell (7), grand-daughter, scholar, born Birmingham;
- [4] Sarah Fellows (4), niece, scholar, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/5/1871

“*Joseph Banks*, landlord of the CROWN AND ANCHOR, Oxford Street, Bilston, was summoned for permitting drunkenness in his house, on Sunday last. The case was proved, and defendant was fined £3 and costs.”
AND

Birmingham Daily Post 10/5/1871

“At Bilston Petty Sessions, yesterday, *Joseph Banks*, of the CROWN AND ANCHOR public house, was fined £3 and costs, at the instance of policeman Hughes, for having three men drunk in his house on Sunday.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/9/1877

“The annual licensing sessions for the Bilston division were held at the Public Office, Bilston, yesterday.....

The black list was as follows Beersellers.....

Joseph Banks, CROWN AND ANCHOR, Oxford Street, Bilston, open after hours, 20s and costs and license endorsed.....

The whole of the licenses in the ‘black list,’ it was stated, would be held over until the adjourned sessions.”

[Renewed with a caution at the adjourned licensing sessions.]

1881 Census

60, Oxford Street – CROWN AND ANCHOR

- [1] David Smith (43), beerhouse keeper, born Bilston;
- [2] Sarah Smith (36), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Clara Smith (15), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] Emily A. Smith (11), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] Florence A. Smith (8), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] Sarah L. Smith (6), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] Hannah A. P. Smith (3), daughter, born Bilston;
- [8] David W. P. Smith (1), son, born Bilston:

1891 Census

60, Oxford Street – CROWN AND ANCHOR

- [1] Alfred Wood (36), ledger clerk and publican, born Brewwood;
- [2] Deborah Wood (35), wife, born Highley, Shropshire;
- [3] Beatrice A. Wood (11), daughter, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] Alfred J. J. Wood (6), son, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] Hannah Wood (71), mother, widow, living on her own means, born Coven;
- [6] Bridget Commons (14), domestic servant, born Bilston:

William Darbey – see also SWAN BANK TAVERN.

Henry Tertius Hodgkiss – see also LEOPARD, Church Street, ROYAL OAK, High Street, GATE, BLANKMAKERS ARMS, WHITE HART and SEVEN STARS.

1901 Census

Oxford Street – CROWN AND ANCHOR

- [1] Julia Simkins (50), widow, publican, born Bilston;
- [2] John Simkins (18), son, coal miner loader, born Bilston;
- [3] Samuel Simkins (17), son, coal miner loader, born Bilston;
- [4] John W. Bateman (14), nephew, iron plate worker, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] Elias Cartwright (71), father, widower, iron works labourer, born Bilston;
- [6] Louisa Smith (43), sister, married, born Bilston:

Emily Challis married Albert Joseph Freeman on 21st August 1901.

Charles Carpenter, beer retailer, 129, Oxford Street. [1904]

William Lloyd – see also SHAKESPEARE.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/2/1907

“According to the report of Police-Superintendent Spendlove read at the annual brewster sessions for the Bilston Petty Sessional Division yesterday, there are 356 licenses of all kinds within the division, or one to every 174 of the population.

The Clerk (Mr. Pratt) said the Bench had decided to recommend the following eleven houses on the ground of redundancy to be referred for compensation, and the cases would be adjourned to the adjourned meeting, and in the meantime notices would be given to the owner.....

CROWN AND ANCHOR, Oxford Street.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/6/1907

“County Licensing Compensation Authority.

The principal meeting of the County Compensation Authority under the Licensing Act, 1904, was held at the Shire Hall, Stafford on Tuesday.....

CROWN AND ANCHOR, Oxford Street, Bilston, beer license, *Horace Wakelam* (licensee).....

Mr. R. A. Willcock (Wolverhampton) formally applied for the provisional renewal of the license, and Superintendent Spendlove gave evidence as to redundancy and structural unsuitability.

Mr. Thompson (Dudley) appeared for the owner and licensee. It was stated that there were 18 full-licensed and 24 beerhouses within a radius of 500 yards. Renewal refused.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/7/1907

“A supplemental meeting of the County Licensing Compensation Authority was held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, on Wednesday and Thursday, to consider the amount of compensation to be awarded in the case of licenses the renewal of which was refused at the principal meeting.....

CROWN AND ANCHOR, Oxford Street, Bilston (owner Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Limited), £275.”

Compensation of £275 was paid on 12th October 1907.

License extinguished 19th October 1907.

South Staffordshire Times 25/9/1920 - Advert

“Sale By Auction. At 6.30pm for 7pm promptly.

J. Southwick and Son have received instructions from the executors, and others, to submit for sale by auction at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, the following Valuable Freehold Properties, including Three commodious De-licensed Dwelling Houses and Premises.....

Lot 1. The Commodious Freehold Dwelling House and Premises until recently known as the CROWN AND ANCHOR INN (now de-licensed), situate and being No.129 Oxford Street, Bilston. The premises are very suitable and could readily be converted into a Capital Retail Shop.”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 11/10/1924 - Advert

“Tuesday Next, October 14th, 1924, at 7 o’clock in the Evening.

Important Sale of Freehold Properties and Land, and de-licensed houses, at Bradley and Priestfields, which Cyril H. Green, FNAA, has been instructed to submit for Sale By Auction, at the PIPEHALL HOTEL, Bilston, on the above Date, subject to conditions of sale to be then read, the under-mentioned Properties.....

Lot 5. Freehold House, known as the OLD CROWN AND ANCHOR (now de-licensed), No.129 Oxford Street, Bilston. Annual gross rental of £16 5s.”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 18/10/1924

“Mr. Cyril H. Green, FNAA, auctioneer, Bilston, conducted a successful sale of freehold properties, de-licensed houses, and land, situate in Bilston, Priestfields, and Bradley, at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, on Tuesday evening.....

Three storey dwelling, formerly the CROWN AND ANCHOR, Oxford Street, Bilston, £140.”

CROWN AND ANCHOR

Swan Bank, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

NOTES

It stood on the site of the present Wesleyan Chapel.

It was originally Loxdale Hall.

CROWN AND CUSHION

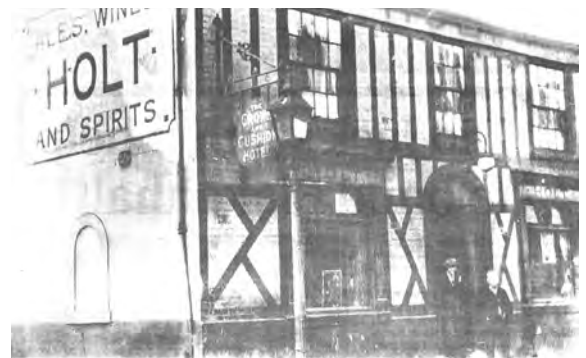
31, (5), Bank Street, (5, Bilston Street) / King Street, Hallfields, Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

Whitmore Lathe,
Messrs Chater and Co, brewers, Wolverhampton
J. and J. Yardley, brewers, Wolverhampton
The Old Wolverhampton Breweries Ltd.
Frank Myatt Ltd. (acquired in 1919)
Holt Brewery Co. Ltd.
Ansells Ltd. [c.1960]
Keilyn Enterprises (Keith and Lyn Garbett)
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. (acquired 1996)
Keilyn Enterprises (Keith and Lyn Garbett) (acquired 1998)
Punch Taverns [2005]

LICENSEES

Arthur Wright [1851] – [1870]
Annie Harris []
Whitmer Lathe [1871] – **1895**);
Thomas Price (**1895 – 1898**);
Mrs. Annie Boulton (**1898 – 1899**);
William Felix Williams (**1899 – [1904]**)
William Toby Williams [] – **1904**);
Mrs. Alice Andrews (**1904 – 1910**);
Mrs. Elizabeth Rice (**1910 – 1913**);
William Burke (**1913 – 1915**);
William Palmer [1916] ?
Herbert Ashley (**1915 – 1916**);
John Preston (**1916**);
Frank Harris (**1916 – 1919**);
James Paul Picken (**1919 – 1922**);
Frank Davies (**1922 – 1924**);
Albert Horace Severn (**1924 – 1925**);
Thomas 'Tom' Fellows (**1925 – [1940]**)
Richard 'Dick' Yeoman [1954]
Elsie Harriet Yeoman [1950s] – [1960s]
S Homer [1988]
R Grashon [1989]
Thomas Firkin [] – **1995**);
Keith and Lyn Garbett (**1995 – []**)
Carole Georgina Brookes [1997] – [1999]
Susan Marklew [2005]



2010

NOTES

Hallfields [1851], [1862]

Bilston Street [1865], [1868]

5, Bilston Street [1861], [1871], [1872], [1881], [1891]

5, Bank Street [c.1901]

31, Bank Street [1904], [1908], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1932], [1939], [1940]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/6/1847 - Married

“On the 25th ult, at West Bromwich Old Church, Mr. *Arthur Wright*, of All Fields, to Miss Matilda Maullin, third daughter of Mr. Thomas Yardley, farmer, late of Earls Wood, Tamworth.”

1851 Census

Hallfields

[1] *Arthur Wright* (27), retail brewer, born Fradley, Staffordshire;

[2] Matilda Wright (23), wife, born Tamworth;

[3] Emma Wright (2), daughter, born Bilston;

[4] Alfred Wright (2 months), son, born Bilston;

[5] John Yardley (17), visitor, butcher, born Tamworth;

[6] Philip Yardley (12), visitor, born Tamworth;

[7] Catherine Corton (35), general servant, born Lichfield:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/9/1852

“The annual licensing day for the division of Seisdon North was held at the Public Office, Bilston Street, Wolverhampton, on Thursday last.....

There were about forty applications for new [spirit] licenses, of which eight were granted.....

An application was made by Mr. H. Underhill, on behalf of Mr. *Arthur Wright*, for a license to a house situate in Bilston Street, Hallfields, near Bradley, the population of which was stated to be about 4,000. Mr. Whitehouse opposed the application on behalf of Mr. Hand, the owner and occupier of the CROWN, observing that not one more house had been built in the locality since Mr. *Wright's* application last year. Mr. Underhill replied that Mr. Whitehouse was misinformed. Upwards of twenty houses had been built in the immediate locality. Mr. *Wright* had a club of 70 persons who met at his house, which was rated at £12 more than Mr. Hand's, and cost between £700 and £800. Mr. Whitehouse said he was informed by Mrs. Hand that on one side of Mr. *Wright's* house there were only five houses. The Magistrates, after some consideration, granted the application.”

Birmingham Journal 6/11/1852 - Advert

“Mr. *Arthur Wright*, CROWN AND CUSHION INN, Hall Fields, Bilston, begs to inform his Friends and the Public, that he has in his possession Two Store Pigs, the length of each from snout to root of tail is 7 feet 6 inches, the height of each 3 feet 6 inches, the age of each 16 months. Mr. *W.* will be happy to show the Pigs to any Gentleman who thinks proper to call.”

Matilda Wright died in the 3rd quarter of 1854.

Birmingham Journal 28/10/1854 - Died

“Lately, after a short illness, aged one year and five months, Thomas Arthur *Wright*, second son of Mr. *Arthur Wright*, of the CROWN AND CUSHION INN, Hall Fields, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/4/1855

“John M'Cure, a boy about twelve years of age, was charged with stealing 2s 6d, the property of *Arthur Wright*, of Hallfields. The prisoner was employed by Mr. Taylor, tobacco-pipe maker, of Bell Street, and was sent with a gross of pipes to Mr. *Wright's*. Mr. *Wright* told him to put the pipes away in a place near the till, and left the room to attend to a customer. On his return the prisoner had gone away, and on looking into the till he missed the half-crown. The prisoner was shortly afterwards taken into custody and the half-crown found in his shoe; he admitted taking it from the till; and that he had been twice whipped for theft. Committed for three months with hard labour.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/1/1858

“Arrangements are being made for establishing a soup kitchen in Bilston town, for the relief of the many persons deprived of their usual means of support by the present depression in trade. The movement was originated by Mr. *Arthur Wright*, of Hall Fields, near Bilston. On Wednesday last there were distributed 190 half-gallons of soup, and 100 penny loaves; and the committee appeal for further help.”

Birmingham Journal 13/2/1858 - Correspondence

“To the Editor of the *Birmingham Journal*.

Sir. Knowing that you are ever ready to assist by the aid of your long-established and valuable paper any laudable or generous object for the benefit of the suffering poor, we, the undersigned, beg you will give publicity to the following. Having long viewed with anxious feelings the dire distress so prevalent in Hall Fields, Bradley, Shropshire Row, and vicinity, where, through the many recent failures of ironmasters, thousands of our fellow-creatures are thrown out of employment, whereby themselves, wives, and children, are reduced to starvation, which at this season of the year makes it still more distressing; we, therefore, have formed a committee at the house of Mr. *Arthur Wright*, wine and spirit vaults, Hall Fields, near Bilston, through whose kindness and exertions this movement originated, where any sum or sums will be thankfully received, the object being to administer relief to the hungry and starving applicants with soup and bread daily. The extent of the distress may be known from the fact that there was distributed on Wednesday last upwards of 150 half-gallons of soup, the supply not being half equal to the requirements of the starving inhabitants around. The committee feel grateful to the public, who have so nobly responded to their calls in behalf of the suffering thousands around them, hoping, as their funds are very low, that a benevolent public will still lend their aid in behalf of a movement so charitable until the sun of prosperity shines more brightly upon the abodes of sorrow and wretchedness. The committee still sit at Mr. *Wright's*, where any subscription or subscriptions will be thankfully received and gratefully acknowledged.

Committee: *Arthur Wright*, Wine Vaults; William Onions, Agent; William Griffiths, Manager; John Preece, Scripture Reader; Peter Pearson, Grocer; all of Hall Fields.

W. Onions, Secretary.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/4/1858

“Messrs. Noah Baker, of Church Street, furniture dealer, John Bishop, of High Street, draper, and *Arthur Wright*, of Hallfields, victualler, have been appointed overseers of Bilston township.”

Birmingham Journal 1/1/1859

“On Christmas Day, Mr. *A. Wright*, of the CROWN AND CUSHION, Hall Fields, invited twenty-four of the poor inhabitants of Bradley Hall Fields, and Salop Row, to dine with him. The senior was ninety, and the junior sixty-eight. The dinner consisted of geese, turkeys, and roast beef, accompanied by plum-pudding and ale, to which all did ample justice.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 25/7/1860 - Advert

“Sale of Freehold Messuages and Premises, situate in Hall Fields, in the Township of Bilston, in the County of Stafford.

John Mason will Sell by Auction (by direction of the Trustees of the Will of the late Mr. John Griffiths, deceased), at the house of Mr. *Arthur Wright*, CROWN AND CUSHION INN, situate in Hall Fields aforesaid, on Thursday, the 2nd day of August, 1860, at six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be read.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 13/3/1861

“Staffordshire Adjourned Sessions..... Henry Wright, 31, writing clerk, was indicted for having embezzled two sums amounting to 10s 6d and 9s 6d respectively, the moneys of John Chapman, at West Bromwich.

The prosecutor is a brewer, at West Bromwich, and in August last he employed the prisoner as a traveller to get orders, and to receive money from the customers. The sums mentioned above were owing by Edward Green, butcher, and Robert Hall, saddler, both of whom swore that they had paid the money to the prisoner in November, and produced the receipts. On being pressed by Mr. Motteram, Green admitted that the prisoner owed him an account, and they exchanged receipts; and Hall said he paid the money down, but then received it back on account of some articles supplied to the prisoner. When taken into custody the prisoner was found in possession of a list of accounts, which Mr. Chapman said showed money which the prisoner admitted having received, and not paid over to him, nor entered into the cash book. The prosecutor stated that he discharged the prisoner on the 4th of December,

on account of his defalcations; but still he had access to the office, and entered money received by him into the cash book as late as the 13th of the same month. After a consultation of nearly an hour, the Jury returned a verdict of not guilty.

The prisoner was then charged with having embezzled the sums of £3 2s 4d and 17s, received from Mr. T. J. Evans, licensed victualler, Birmingham; and £1 3s, received from Mr. A. Culwick, brewer and beerseller, West Bromwich. After hearing the evidence the Jury returned a verdict of guilty.

The same prisoner was then indicted for having obtained by false pretences, at Wolverhampton, on the 14th of December, the sum of £6 from *Arthur Wright*, licensed victualler, Bilston; also from Mr. Edwin Green, butcher, West Bromwich, on the 11th of December, 5s and 10s worth of meat; and from Mr. James Bowen, licensed victualler, Birmingham, 10s, on the 11th of December, with intent to defraud them of the same. The prosecutors were Mr. Chapman's customers, and the prisoner, it was alleged, had obtained the moneys and meat on the representation that he was in Mr. Chapman's employ, whereas he had been discharged on the 4th of December. He had not paid over the sums so received. The prisoner was found guilty, and sentenced to six months' hard labour."

1861 Census

5, Bilston Street – CROWN AND CUSHION

[1] *Arthur Wright* (32), widower, innkeeper, born Fradley, Staffordshire;

[2] *Emma Wright* (12), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[3] *Alfred Wright* (10), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[4] *Isaac Scott* (22), visitor, charcoal refiner, born Abercorn, Monmouthshire;

[5] *Ann Scott* (18), visitor, born Bilston;

[6] *Emma Scott* (5 months), born Madeley, Shropshire;

[7] *James Hasletine* (63), servant, born Witchnor, Staffordshire;

[8] *Hannah Higgs* (16), servant, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/8/1861 - Advert

"Mr. Samuel Baker, Junior, will Sell by Auction (by order of the Mortgagee, with power of sale), at the house of Mr. *Arthur Wright*, the CROWN AND CUSHION INN, Hallfields, Bilston, on Tuesday, the 3rd day of September, 1861, at six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be read, all that desirable Plot or Parcel of Freehold Land situate at Hallfields...."

Windsor and Eton Express 14/6/1862

"The adjourned inquest on the bodies of the seven deceased who were drowned by the breaking in upon them of water from an adjoining pit as they were at work on Friday week last in the Bradley Colliery, the property of Messrs. G. B. Thorneycroft and Co., was held on Tuesday, at the CROWN AND CUSHION INN, Hallfields, near Bilston. The jury, after a prolonged consultation lasting about two hours, returned as the verdict of 13 of the 14 who were empanelled, the following verdict. 'That the death of the seven deceased persons was caused by a rush of water into the pit in which they were working, occasioned by the neglect of John Harvey, senior; but the jury do not consider the evidence sufficient to criminate him.' The proprietor of the pit present (Mr. Kesteven) said that hitherto the ground bailiff had proved himself in every way a trustworthy servant. He and his fellow partners regretted the accident as much as it was possible for any one to regret it. The jury exonerated the proprietors from all blame, and expressed their conviction that generally the colliery was well and carefully worked."

Birmingham Daily Post 8/9/1862 - Advert

"An Opportunity Seldom to be Met With.

To be Disposed Of, that well-known Corner Wine and Spirit Vaults called the TALBOT INN, fronting Oxford Street and Railway Street, Bilston, in the greatest thoroughfare of the district, and within one minute's walk of the Great Western Railway Booking Office, at which Station there are no Refreshment Rooms. Now doing an excellent in and out-door and Counter Trade. Rent moderate. The House has long maintained the reputation of a Business House, having been established upwards of forty years, and changed hands but once for the last twenty-six years. The Premises are replete with every convenience. There is also a Commodious Room, calculated to hold 200 persons, and suitable either for a Saloon or Billiard Room. The Vaults are the largest in the district, and have lately been richly embellished. The Stock, Fixtures and other effects to be taken to at a fair valuation. The reason for the present Proprietor disposing of the Business is his other very pressing engagements.

Apply to Mr. *Arthur Wright*, CROWN AND CUSHION INN, Hallfields, Bilston, Staffordshire."

Birmingham Daily Post 17/2/1863

"The inquest on the bodies of the three men who were killed on the 30th of January, at the Pagett Croft Colliery owing to the pit rope by which they were descending down the shaft having been cut, was re-opened yesterday at the CROWN AND CUSHION, Bradley (the house of the proprietor of the colliery, Mr. *Arthur Wright*), before Mr. T. M. Phillips, the Coroner. Mr. Baker, Government Inspector of Mines, was present, also Mr. Bayley (the solicitor for Mr. *Wright*), and Mr. Serjeant M'Crea. Jeavons, the engine tender of the pit, who had been arrested on suspicion of having cut the rope, was in the room in custody of the police.

Mr. *Arthur Wright* deposed that the deceased Howell and Davis were 'doggies' in his employ. The deceased Kempson was also in his employ, and worked down the pit, as also did the 'doggies,' he thought as a 'lander.' It was the duty of Jeavons, the engine tender, to be at his engine at five o'clock every morning, to get up the steam and examine the rope before sending any men down. It was his duty not to use the rope until, in the event of the defect being discovered, he had shown the defect to the ground-bailiff, and it had been remedied. The ground-bailiff was at the pit at six in the morning. On the morning of the 30th, Ray and another man came to his house and reported that the rope had broken and 'dropped' three men. He went immediately to the pit and sent for surgical aid. The engine-man was at his engine at the time

By Mr. Bayley: Some few days previously to the accident Davis brought to him a quantity of swarf in his hand, showing that the pulleys were 'chafing.' He then complained to Jeavons, who swore, and said he was ready to leave the pit at once. Witness responded that he had better at once return to his work. Jeavons, in cursing, said that it was not more his duty to oil the pulleys than it was that of any one else. Witness could not quiet him until he threatened that if he was not silent he would send for a policeman and give him into custody for stealing coal. It was the duty of the engine tender to oil the pulleys.

By the Inspector: Witness engaged Jeavons, and shortly after engaging him, he took to him, in the engine-house, the pit rules. When he gave them to him Jeavons said he knew what they were; he had had them before.

Thomas Bagaley, a mechanic in the employ of Mr. Thomas Perry, and living in Queens Street, Bradley, deposed that at six o'clock on the morning of the Friday, he was going down the field adjoining the Pagett Croft Colliery, when he heard a noise on the bank as though a skip had been pulled over the pulley. In about fifty yards he met a man, who seemed much distressed, and said a rope was broken and had dropped a 'bantle' of men. Witness then went to the pit with Thomas Shuttleworth. The men there were in great distress, and seemed not to know what to do. Witness told Jeavons to wind the rope off the drum barrel. Jeavons said he could not wind it off unless some one laid hold of the ropes, otherwise they would be locked. Witness instructed him what to do, and he did it promptly. He wound the skip up the 'up-cast' shaft to enable some one to go down the shaft. When that skip was up there were from six to eight rounds of rope on the drum barrel belonging to the rope that had broken. Rather than unwind that length of rope, he advised that men should go down the up-cast shaft. They did so, and were down at the men within ten minutes after witness got to the pit bank. The end of the severed rope passed through his hands, and it looked like a rope that had been fairly broken. On the same morning, however, at about nine o'clock, having heard that it had been cut, he returned to the pit, and was about to examine it when Jeavons, who was on the drum-barrel wall, shouted to him 'not to mess the rope, for it had been cut, and somebody else must see it.' After looking at it he saw one end cut, and the other vassed out. He smelt the rope to ascertain if it was sound and in good condition, and was satisfied from the fresh smell of tar that it had been a sound rope. The hemp, also, was good. The cut end of the rope was bright.

Mr. Bayley was about calling witnesses to further inculcate the engineer, when the Coroner said he did not think it would be well to conclude the inquest at present, inasmuch as the Government having offered a reward, there might perhaps be further evidence forthcoming on a future day. Mr. Bayley said that until such evidence could be obtained, he did not think that he could much strengthen the case.....

John Purshouse, a miner, deposed that when he got to the pit at about seven o'clock on the morning of the 30th ult, he saw the whimsey man (Jeavons) untwisting the end of the rope where it had been severed. Witness told him that he had no business to do that, for some one else would have to see it. Jeavons, however, took no notice of what he said, for he kept on untwisting it, and did so to the extent of nine inches. When he first saw the rope, it appeared to be pretty level at the point where it had subsequently been severed.

Thomas Hawley, rope manufacturer, of Bilston, deposed that he saw the rope on the 31st of January. It was shown to him by Sergeant Harrison. He found two of the strands cut, and the other strand did not show a proper separation of the splice. There were two or three threads uncut in one of the strands that was cut. Three threads would bear the weight of a tackler skip. If two strands had been cut elsewhere than at the splicing, the uncut strand would have borne the weight of the rope. The rope was a good average rope, and was safe at 6cwt. At the full depth of the pit

he should think it unsafe at over 7cwt. It was rather under its strength. It was an inch and a half rope, but ought to have been of 2in diameter. But there was no doubt that a new rope of 1½ inches diameter would lift a weight of five tons.

William Yarnell deposed that he was at the pit on the 29th of January, when in the afternoon the rope was being unwound from the drum. He was near to the rope when the prisoner, alluding to the part that was spliced, said, 'Come away from the rope; that splicing is not safe, if it breaks, they'll say that we cut it.' Witness then went away from the ropes.

The Coroner: Do you know that the Government have offered a reward of £50 for the conviction of the person who cut the rope? – Witness: Yes, I know a reward is out, but I don't know nothing about it. He added that he thought that it was singular that Jeavons should say that; but he told no one that night. On the following morning, however, he did not go down with the first band, and 'the little boy who pitched for him' asked him if he was going down by the rope, and he said, 'No.' He told Benjamin Poole that he thought the rope was not safe to go down on, but the rope drew up three men on the previous night after Jeavons said it was not safe.

The Coroner: I think that something will come out of this matter, if we adjourn the matter for a fortnight. I know you, gentlemen of the Jury, don't care much about your trouble, if you could discover such a piece of villany.

Mr. Bayley said the prisoner would be before the Magistrates on the following day, and he had been remanded till the result of that inquest should be known.

The Coroner: I am governed in my opinion by the opinion of Mr. M'Crea, as well as Mr. Baker. I am satisfied in my own mind that the rope has been cut, and I am equally satisfied that that was the reason this man did not go down the pit. This is the only man who knew anything about it except Jeavons.

Benjamin Poole was then called, and deposed that he was a miner at the pit in question. On the morning of the 30th of January last, when he went to the pit the last witness said, 'Don't go down with that rope, for it is not safe.' Witness enquired, 'How do you know?' Yarnell replied, 'The engineer himself told me.' Yarnell had not spoken to him half a minute before the rope broke. He therefore had no time to warn the deceased before they went down. He wished he had.

Mr. *Wright* was re-called, and deposed that without his permission, or that of the ground bailiff, the engineer had no right to give the key of his engine to any one. His duty was to lock up his engine at about half-past six at night, and not again open it until the next morning.

The prisoner desired that Yarnell might be re-called, as he wished to question him. When they were confronted the prisoner said: When the splice came through your hands a couple or three inches, as you were helping me to unwind it on the 29th of January, in the afternoon, I asked you if the rope was safe with two inches coming out, and you said, 'No, and I will not go down with it.' – Witness: No.

Prisoner: Did you not go into the ash-hole on the morning of the 30th and say, 'If I had been a bit sooner they should not have gone down, for I knew all about it.' – Witness: I did not say so.

The Coroner here adjourned the inquest for a fortnight. The proceedings lasted about four hours."

AND

Walsall Free Press 21/3/1863

"At Stafford Assizes John Jeavons, aged 19, has been tried, charged for the wilful murder of John Davis, John Howell, and James Kempson on the 30th of January last in the township of Bilston.....

The jury, after a brief consultation, acquitted the prisoner, the foreman adding that the jury were unanimously of opinion that the rope had been cut, but that there was not sufficient evidence that it was the act of the prisoner."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 20/7/1864 - Advert

"Tuesday, July 26th, 1864. To Colliery Proprietors, Ironmasters, Chartermasters, and Others.

Important Sale of Colliery Plant, at Page's Croft Colliery, Highfields, in the township of Bilston.

Mr. Thomas Richards will Sell by Auction, upon the above Colliery, on Tuesday, July 26th, 1864, the whole of the valuable Colliery Plant, comprising 12-horse high-pressure winding engine, boiler, 40ft by 3ft; pit frames, pulleys, coke waggon, broad and narrow-wheel carts, excellent winding rope, quite new; skips, rings, air troughs, large quantity of wrought iron rails and sleepers, very useful black cart horse, &c, the property of Mr. *Arthur Wright*, who had no further use for them.

The sale to commence at eleven o'clock in the morning precisely.

Catalogues may be obtained from Mr. *Arthur Wright*, CROWN AND CUSHION INN, Hall Fields; or the Auctioneer, 66, Darlington Street, Wolverhampton."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 24/5/1865 - Advert

"Freehold Property, Hall Fields, Bilston.

Mr. Tunnicliff will Sell by Auction (by order of the Mortgagee), at Mr. *Arthur Wright's*, the CROWN AND CUSHION INN, Hall Fields, Bilston, on Wednesday, the 31st day of May, 1865, at five o'clock in the evening....."

Birmingham Journal 2/9/1865

"The Cape Ironworks, Smethwick, have been purchased by Mr. *Arthur Wright*, of Bilston. It is expected that they will commence working in the course of a fortnight."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 25/10/1865

"Bilston Township Commissioners.....

The Chairman read the resignation of Mr. *Arthur Wright*, who is leaving the district."

Birmingham Daily Post 15/11/1865

"On Saturday last, the re-opening of the Grove Ironworks, Cape, Smethwick, was celebrated at the CAPE INN, by an excellent dinner, that was very generously given by the proprietor of the works, Mr. *Arthur Wright*, late of Hall Fields, Bilston. The dinner was served up in an admirable manner by the host and hostess, and after all the workmen had done ample justice to the good things so liberally provided, they all separated peaceably to their own homes, highly delighted."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/5/1866

"On Saturday, Mr. *Arthur Wright*, of the Grove Ironworks, gave a dinner to his workmen on the occasion of his leaving them The workmen had subscribed together to present him with a testimonial. It was a silver cup, with a box to carry it in. It was for his goodness and kindness to his workmen....."

Birmingham Daily Post 13/9/1866

"A petition for adjudication in bankruptcy was this morning filed, in the District Court of Bankruptcy, Waterloo Street, against Mr. *Arthur Wright*, late of the Grove Ironworks, Smethwick, by Mr. Griffin, as agent for Messrs. Woodward and Son, of Wednesbury, on behalf of a creditor. Mr. *Wright* has suffered very heavy losses by recent failures in the iron trade, and his private debts are few. The liabilities exceed £10,000, and the assets are uncertain."

Birmingham Journal 1/12/1866 - Notice

"Notice is Hereby Given, that an Order of Discharge was, on the 16th day of November, 1866, granted by the Court of Bankruptcy for the Birmingham District, at Birmingham, to *Arthur Wright*, residing at Kirton Place, Smethwick, in the county of Stafford, late of the Grove Works, Smethwick aforesaid, Ironmaster, previously of Hall Fields, near Bilston, in the said county of Stafford, Publican and Coalmaster.

James and Griffin, Solicitors, Birmingham; Agents for Woodward and Son, Solicitors, Wednesbury."

Birmingham Daily Post 10/7/1867 - Advert

"CROWN AND CUSHION INN, Hallfields, Bilston.

This well-known and old-established Inn and Wine and Spirit Vaults, to be Let, and may be entered upon in September next.

For particulars, apply to Mr. *Arthur Wright*, Kirton Place, Smethwick; or to Mr. Richard Heseltine, Auctioneer, Wednesbury."

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/3/1868

"An inquest was held at the CROWN AND CUSHION, Bilston, on Saturday, on the body of Alice Bradbury, an infant. The deceased had been found dead in bed. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Suffocation."

Birmingham Journal 3/10/1868 - Married

"On the 23rd ult, at the Parish Church, Aston (by the Rev. William Edward Best, MA), Carmi, eldest son of Mr. David Rollason, wire manufacturer, of Aston Manor and Bilston, to Emma, only daughter of Mr. *Arthur Wright*, of Hall Fields, Bilston, late of the Grove Ironworks, Smethwick."

Birmingham Daily Post 21/10/1868

“Benjamin Davies, an operative engaged at the Bankfield Ironworks, was charged with stealing 19s, the money of Mr. *A. Wright*, of the CROWN AND CUSHION INN, Hallfields, Bilston. On the evening of Saturday week last the prisoner, when in the prosecutor’s liquor shop, and in the absence of the waiter, opened the till with a skeleton key, and took 19s out of it. He was committed for trial.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/1/1869

“Staffordshire January Sessions.....

Benjamin Davis, 25, puddler, and John Garbett, 33, puddler, were charged with stealing the sum of 19s 1d, the property of *Arthur Wright*, of Bilston. Davis pleaded guilty. The prisoners, who were drinking at the public house of prosecutor, took advantage of the absence of the barmaid to rob the till. A number of house-breaking implements and keys were found in the possession of the prisoner Garbett. The jury found him guilty, and the Chairman sentenced Garbett to ten and Davis to nine months’ imprisonment.”

Birmingham Daily Post 24/4/1869 - Advert

“Sale at the CROWN AND CUSHION INN, Hall Fields, near Bilston.

Joseph Whitehouse has been instructed by Mr. *Arthur Wright*, who is declining the Public Business, to Sell by Public Auction, on Monday Next, April 26.

A Quantity of Furniture, Ale and Wine Casks, excellent 2-Knife Chaff Engine, by Mapplebeck and Lowe; superior-built Float, Set of Gig Harness and Cart Tackle, Carpenter’s Work Bench, two 9ft Wire Jigger Benches, with 1½in. Wrought-iron Shafting, Pinions, &c, complete; lot of Deal Planks, iron Pump, three wood Skips, pair of Trap Springs, patent Axle and Two Wheels, Wheelbarrow, 2-framed Doors, four Lashing Chains, quantity of old Iron, Timber, Tongs, Spanners, Spouting, Hammers and Pikes, 165 new Cast-iron Weights, from 28lb to 2lb; three Oven Doors and Frames, two Ladders, Iron Mangers, and sundry other Effects.

Sale to commence at half-past Two o’clock pm.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/6/1869 - Advert

“Staffordshire. Important Sale of Valuable Freehold Properties and Building Land, at Hall Fields and Daisy Bank, near Bilston; and Moseley Hole, near Wolverhampton.

Joseph Whitehouse had been favoured with instructions from Mr. *Arthur Wright*, to Sell by Public Auction, at the CROWN AND CUSHION INN, Hall Fields, near Bilston, on Tuesday Next, June 15, at Six o’clock in the evening.....”

[7 lots of building land, 17 houses and a shop.]

County Courts Chronicle 1/2/1870 - Notice

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1861. In the Court of Bankruptcy for the Birmingham district.

Arthur Wright, formerly of Kirton Place, Smethwick, ironmaster, afterwards of Hall Fields, near Bilston, wine and spirit merchant, and now of Percy Street, New Town, Wednesbury, all in the county of Stafford, out of business, having been adjudged bankrupt under a petition for adjudication of bankruptcy, filed in the Court of Bankruptcy at Birmingham, on the 24th day of November 1869, a public sitting for the said bankrupt to pass his Last Examination, and make application for an order of discharge, will be held before Owen Davies Tudor, Esq, the registrar appointed by the Lord Chancellor to wind-up the pending business of the said court, on the 9th day of February 1870, at the said court at Birmingham, at eleven o’clock in the forenoon precisely, the day last aforesaid being the day limited for the said bankrupt to surrender. Mr. George Kinnear, Waterloo Street, Birmingham, is the official assignee, and the solicitor acting in the bankruptcy is Joseph Rowlands, 8, Ann Street, Birmingham, agent for J. W. Hall, Solicitor, Bilston.”

[An order of discharge was granted.]

Whitmer Lathe = Whitmore Lathe = Witmer Lathe

1871 Census

5, Bilston Street – CROWN AND CUSHION

- [1] Whitmer Lathe (36), licensed victualler, born Penn;
- [2] Mary A. Lathe (29), wife, born Kingswinford;
- [3] Elizabeth Lathe (9), daughter, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [4] Whitmer Lathe (6), son, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [5] Jane Ferguson (16), general servant, born Kingswinford:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 26/10/1875

“Yesterday (Monday) afternoon an inquest was held at the CROWN AND CUSHION INN, Bilston Street, Hallfields, Bilston, before W. H. Phillips, Esq, deputy coroner, touching the death of Sarah Higgins, two and a half years of age, who was accidentally poisoned, and died on Friday last.

Evidence was adduced by Mrs. Higgins, the mother of the child, to the effect that deceased had been ill with a cold for some time, and had been under the care of Mr. Larkin. Finding the child restless at night, she was persuaded to give it a dose of ‘Mrs. Winslow’s Soothing Syrup,’ which she had in a bottle, bearing Mr. Larkin’s label. She had also sent for some toothache tincture, from the shop of Mr. Powell, for an older child, and on going to the cupboard to get the deceased some of the syrup, she, in mistake, took the bottle with the tincture in, and gave it a draught. Both bottles were alike, and both bore Mr. Larkin’s label. The medicines were also of precisely the same colour. A girl named Taylor, who lives with her mother, gave corroborative evidence, and said she fetched the tincture. The bottle was not labelled poison.

Mr. Larkin was also called, and stated that he had attended the deceased. On Friday he was called in, and found that the child had taken poison. He was unable to save the littler sufferer’s life.

The jury subsequently returned a verdict in accordance with the evidence.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/5/1877 – Advert.

“Valuable Freehold Property, Bilston Street, Hall Fields, near Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Jabez Bywater, at the house of Mr. *W. Lathe*, the CROWN AND CUSHION. INN, Hall Fields, on Tuesday, the 29th day of May inst, at Seven o’clock in the evening punctually.....”

1881 Census

5, Bilston Street – CROWN AND CUSHION

- [1] Whitmer Lathe (50), victualler, innkeeper, born Penn;
- [2] Mary Ann Lathe (40), wife, born Stourbridge;
- [3] Whitmer Lathe (16), son, born Sedgley;
- [4] Sarah Ann Lathe (9), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] Carrie Lathe (8), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] Eliza Hammonds (18), domestic servant, born Sedgley;
- [7] Emma Green (14), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 21/9/1882

“An enquiry was held yesterday, at the CROWN AND CUSHION HOTEL, Bilston Street, Bradley, by Mr. W. H. Phillips, district coroner, into the death of Henry Powell (14), son of Thomas Powell, engineer, Bilston Street, Bradley, who was drowned on Sunday last, whilst bathing in the Birmingham Canal, near the Capponfield Ironworks. It was shown that boys were in the habit of bathing at that part of the canal, and a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 3/4/1886

“On Monday morning, W. H. Phillips, Esq, coroner, held an inquest at the CROWN AND CUSHION, Bilston Street, Bradley, touching the death of Elijah Braggington, nine years of age, late of Bilston Street. The evidence went to show that on Saturday last, deceased was playing round a pool of water at Barber’s Field, with several other boys. As it came on to rain they took shelter under a large cinder. Some of them were still under when one of the lads heard a crack and spoke to the others. They were all getting away as quick as they could when the cinder, which weighed from one to two tons, fell and knocked the deceased backwards, falling across his body killing him instantly. From information received, PC Tytherleigh went to the spot and had deceased extricated. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 25/3/1887

“About thirty of the employees of the Bilston and Willenhall Branches of the Wolverhampton Tramways Company’s system sat down to supper at the CROWN AND CUSHION INN, Bilston Street, on Tuesday night.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 4/7/1890

“An adjourned inquest was held at the CROWN AND CUSHION INN, Bradley, Bilston, on Wednesday, before Mr. W. H. Phillips (coroner), on the body of a boy named Joseph Pursehouse, who had died suddenly. The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

1891 Census

5, Bilston Street – CROWN AND CUSHION

- [1] *Whitmer Lathe* (60), publican, born Penn;
- [2] *Mary Ann Lathe* (48), wife, born Brierley Hill;
- [3] *Sarah A. Lathe* (19), daughter, born Bradley;
- [4] *Carrie Lathe* (18), daughter, born Bradley;
- [5] *Ann McPherson* (57), widow, domestic servant, born Birmingham:

1901 Census

Bank Street – CROWN AND CUSHION

- [1] *William F. Williams* (25), publican, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Lucy Williams* (22), wife, born West Ham, Essex;
- [3] *Minnie L. Williams* (16), sister, born Bilston:

1911 Census

31, Bank Street – CROWN AND CUSHION

- [1] *Alfred Ebenezer Rice* (71), retired brewer, born Princes End;
- [2] *Elizabeth Rice* (60), wife, married 24 years, innkeeper and licensed victualler, born Wolverhampton East;
- [3] *Bertram George Baker* (28), step-son, barman, brewer, born Willenhall;
- [4] *Frederick Rice* (22), son, clerk, tax collection, born Willenhall;
- [5] *Maria Rice* (20), daughter, uncertified elementary teacher, born Wolverhampton East;
- [6] *Alfred Henry Rice* (17), son, iron worker, sealer, born Bushbury;
- [7] *Miriam Bailey* (19), general servant, born Willenhall:

1921 Census

31, Bank Street

- [1] *James Paul Picken* (43), publican, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] *Emma Picken* (40), wife, publican, born Moseley Village;
- [3] *Jack Picken* (20), son, tool setter, born Moseley Village;
- [4] *Anna Rebecca Picken* (15), daughter, home duties, born Moseley Village;
- [5] *Emma Picken* (13), daughter, school, born Moseley Village;
- [6] *Maud Picken* (10), daughter, school, born Moseley Village;
- [7] *Doris Irene Picken* (7), daughter, school, born Bilston;
- [8] *Rose Picken* (5), daughter, school, born Bilston:

Bilston and Willenhall Times 2/6/1928

“The third annual marathon race was run on Whit Monday from the CROWN AND CUSHION HOTEL, Bradley, the distance being 3 miles 350 yards.

This annual event at Bradley is becoming more popular than ever, and great crowds took a considerable interest in it. Mr. *Tom Fellows* was the handicapper and time keeper.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/12/1933

“Athlete 50 Years Wed. Founded Bilston Marathon. Mr. *T. Fellows*.

Mr. *Tom Fellows*, a Bilston licensed victualler, who with Mrs. *Fellows* celebrates his golden wedding on Christmas Day, is still keenly interested in athletics, though he has attained the age of 70. Well-known in sports circles of the Midlands, and much further afield, Mr. *Fellows* was a conspicuous contestant on the track in his younger days, and when his track racing came to a close he turned his attention to marathon races. The two annual events, one at Easter, and the second at Whitsuntide, are a feature at Bradley (Bilston), and arouse the keenest interest, attracting large crowds along the three-and-a-half miles route covered by the contestants.

Mr. *Fellows*, who was born in Market Street, Bilston, was 20 when he married at St. Luke's, Bilston, Emma Fletcher, also a native of Bilston. They had 18 children, 11 daughters, and seven sons. Eight of the daughters, all married, and one son are now living, and Mr. and Mrs. *Fellows* have 50 grand-children and one great grand-child.

Mr. *Fellows* began his running career at 16, on the Robin Hood Ground, Willenhall, winning a quarter-mile handicap. He entered many local contests, and his record included wins at 'Jolly Naylor's,' West Bromwich (120 yards), two successes on the Leabrook Grounds, Wednesbury (120 yards), when he was about 23, and two on the Bilston football ground, some years later. At the age of 35 he gave up track racing and was chosen handicapper for various events in the Black Country district, including those on the Newtown Recreation Grounds, Bilston; Leabrook Grounds, Wednesbury, and Rough Hills, Wolverhampton.

Mr. *Fellows* has been the landlord of various licensed houses in the district, but the running instinct being ever strong, he began organising marathon races. The first three and a half miles course was from the HOLLY BUSH, Penn, to Bilston. Then from the HAND AND KEYS, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, he organised a marathon race each Whitsuntide for eight years.

When Mr. *Fellows* became landlord of the CROWN AND CUSHION, Bradley, about nine years ago, he opened the Bradley sports ground on adjacent land. This was closed about five years ago, the site being required for housing purposes. But for nine years Mr. *Fellows* has never been short of competitors in his open marathon. One old contestant, successful in days past, is a popular resident known as 'Barber the Barber, Bilston.' He is 78, and in the race last Whitsuntide was given 11 minutes start. The youngest competitor was 14.

Mr. *Fellows* claims to have discovered a number of aspirants who have become famous on the track. Amongst those he encouraged was J. T. Holden, who joined in his marathon races, became a member of Tipton Harriers, and eventually an international runner.”

1939 Register

31, Bank Street – CROWN AND CUSHION

[1] *Thomas Fellows*, date of birth 10/10/1863, licensee, married;

[2] *Emma Fellows*, dob 11/1/1868, unpaid domestic duties, married:

A team from here took part in the Bradley Crib League. [1946]

A team from here took part in the Bradley Darts League, Second Division. [1946]

1954 Probate

“*Richard Yeoman* of the CROWN AND CUSHION HOTEL, Bank Street, Bradley, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 2 February 1954. Probate Birmingham 29 March to *Elsie Harriet Yeoman*, widow. Effects £2,613 17s.”

Richard Yeoman – see also SYDNEY VILLAGE INN.

It was demolished in the 1960s.

It was rebuilt on the opposite diagonal corner.

Birmingham Daily Post 24/9/1970

“Mrs. *Elsie Yeomans*, who is retiring from the licensed trade following the closure of the old CROWN AND CUSHION INN, Bank Street, Bradley, where she had officiated for 30 years, is to pull the first pint to mark the opening tomorrow of its successor in Bank Street.”

Black Country Bugle 9/11/2000 - Advertising Feature

“Keilyn Enterprises is a modern day success story, set right here in our own region, with all the parts played by a Black Country family. *Keith* and *Lyn Garbett*, from Bradley and Bilston respectively, have built their own little empire of four fine pubs, from a grass roots beginning. They started it all with Bradley ale-house the CROWN AND CUSHION. The couple originally owned the pub during the early nineteen-nineties, before selling it to Banks’s Brewery in 1996. Though they missed the place, *Keith* and *Lyn* consoled themselves by buying another, the OLD CHAINYARD in the centre of Coseley. Their new acquisition had originally been called the RED LION, at least officially, but locals had always known it better as the ‘OLD CHAINYARD’, a nickname it had taken from the smithy which once stood behind it. The pub’s pseudonym finally became its official title less than ten years ago, when it was transformed from an old-fashioned drinking den to a more open-plan, altogether brighter house. It was at this point that the *Garbetts* took over, and a pub that was finally on the up after so many years as an also-ran became one of Coseley’s best-loved meeting places. *Lyn* and *Keith* performed a similar feat with the RED COW in nearby Edge Street, though most emphasis here was to retain its most appealing, traditional aspects. It remains to this day a typical Black Country boozer, with darts, doms, crib; and of course gray pays.

By now though, *Keith* tell us, the couple had come to realise that they were still very much attached to the CROWN AND CUSHION – in fact they couldn’t bear to see it in someone else’s hands. So, some two years after selling it, they bought it back and added it to what could now be called their own chain of public houses. Team games and entertainment four nights a week are among its major attractions now. The most recent addition has been a little further afield, though still within the borders of the Black Country. The JOLLY CRISPIN in Upper Gornal’s Clarence Street has always been a popular haunt of local ale enthusiasts, but never has it been in such fine form. A grand total of fifty different cask ales from around the country are served up at the CRISPIN each month, with at least nine on offer at any one time. And with food having been added to the list of attractions, the pub is far from short of temptations. So the Keilyn empire now boasts four pubs, each with its own unique, highly individual appeal. But the key to their success couldn’t be simpler. ‘We offer nice, friendly pubs with a warm atmosphere,’ says *Lyn*, ‘and serve a good pint for a good price.’”

Keith and *Lyn Garbett* – see also BARLEY MOW, Pennwood Lane, Wolverhampton, and WHITE LION, Bilston Street, Sedgley.

It was the headquarters of the Bradley [pigeon] Flying Club. [2004]

[2010]

Closed [2011], [2012]

It was damaged by arsonists in July 2012.

Demolished [2013]

MR. ARTHUR WRIGHT, CROWN AND CUSHION
INN, HALL FIELDS, BILSTON, begs to inform his Friends and the Public, that he has in his possession Two STORK PIGS, the length of each from snout to root of tail is 7 feet 6 inches, the height of each 3 feet 6 inches, the age of each 16 months. Mr. W. will be happy to show the Pigs to any Gentleman who thinks proper to call. 4/1

1852

TUESDAY, JULY 26TH, 1864.
TO COLLIERY PROPRIETORS, IRONMASTERS, CHARTER-
MASTERS, AND OTHERS.

IMPORTANT SALE OF COLLIERY PLANT,
AT PAGES CROFT COLLIERY, HIGHFIELDS,
In the township of Bilston.

MR. THOMAS RICHARDS will **SELL** by **AUCTION**, upon the above Colliery, on Tuesday, July 26th, 1864, the whole of the valuable COLLIERY PLANT, comprising 12-horse high-pressure winding engine, boiler, 40ft. by 3ft. ; pit frames, pulleys, coke waggon, broad and narrow-wheel carts, excellent winding rope, quite new ; skips, rings, air troughs, large quantity of wrought iron rails and sleepers, very useful black cart horse, &c., &c., the property of Mr. Arthur Wright, who has no further use for them.

The sale to commence at eleven o'clock in the morning precisely. Catalogues may be obtained from Mr. ARTHUR WRIGHT, Crown and Cushion Inn, Hall Fields ; or the AUCTIONEER, 66, Darlington-street, Wolverhampton.

1864

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that an ORDER of DISCHARGE was, on the 18th day of November, 1866, granted by the Court of Bankruptcy for the Birmingham District, at Birmingham, to ARTHUR WRIGHT, residing at Kirton Place, Smethwick, in the county of Stafford, late of the Grove Works, Smethwick aforesaid, Ironmaster, previously of Hall Fields, near Bilston, in the said county of Stafford, Publican and Coalmaster. JAMES and GRIFFIN, Solicitors, Birmingham; Agents for WOODWARD and SON, Solicitors, Wednesbury.

1866

**"CROWN AND CUSHION INN,"
HALLFIELDS, BILSTON.**

THIS well known and old-established INN and WINE and SPIRIT VAULTS to be LET, and may be entered upon in September next.
For particulars, apply to Mr. Arthur Wright, Kirton Place, Smethwick; or to Mr. Richard Heseltine, Auctioneer, Wednesbury. cl673

1867

**SALE AT THE CROWN AND CUSHION INN,
HALL FIELDS, NEAR BILSTON.**

JOSEPH WHITEHOUSE has been instructed by Mr. Arthur Wright, who is declining the Public Business, to SELL by Public AUCTION, on MONDAY NEXT, April 25—a Quantity of FURNITURE, Ale and Wine CASKS, excellent 2 Knife CHAFF ENGINE, by Mapplebeck and Lowe; superior-built FLOAT, Set of Gig HARNESS and Cart Tackle, Carpenter's Work Bench, two off. Wire Jigger Benches, with 14in. Wrought-iron Shafting, Pinions, &c., complete; lot of Deal Planks, iron Pump, three wood Skips, pair of Trap Springs, patent Axle and two Wheels, Wheelbarrow, 2-framed Doors, four Lashing Chains, quantity of old Iron, Timber, Tongs, Spanners, Spouting, Hammers and Pikes, 165 new Cast-iron Weights, from 28lb. to 2lb.; three Oven Doors and Frames, two Ladders, Iron Mangera, and sundry other Effects.
Sale to commence at half-past Two o'clock p.m.

1869

THE CROWN & CUSHION

BANK STREET,
BRADLEY,
BILSTON
Telephone:
01902 491277



LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**EVERY WEEKEND -
FRIDAY & SATURDAY EVENING
SUNDAY LUNCHTIME**



**Ann, Barry
& Staff
Welcome
Customers
Old & New**

2000

DOG AND PARTRIDGE

47, (38), (65), (23), Broad Street, (Middlefield Lane), BILSTON

OWNERS

Joseph John Bull, beerhouse keeper, Darlaston
Isaiah Martin
Major Cox
John Rolinson and Son Ltd. (leased from 1909)
Harmer and Co. Ltd. (leased)
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. [1965]

LICENSEES

Francis Roper [1851] – **(1855)**;
John Page **(1855 – [])**
Isaac Bradley [] – **(1858)**;
Ambrose Roper **(1858 – [1870])**
John Jackson [1870] – **(1873)**;
Thomas Parker **(1873 – 1875)**;
Isaiah Martin **(1875 – 1898)**;
Major George Cox **(1898)**;
George Burrows **(1898 – 1901)**;
William Thomas Ash **(1901)**;
Major George Cox **(1901 – 1904)**;
Mrs. Rose Waldron [1904]
Henry Herbert Nuttall **(1904 – 1906)**;
Louisa Martin **(1906 – 1907)**;
Joseph Bagley **(1907)**;
Major George Cox **(1907 – 1909)**;
Fred John Burton [1908]
General Greaves Cox **(1909 – 1910)**;
Captain Tideswell Cox **(1910 – 1917)**;
Mrs. Frances Mary Cox **(1917 – 1939)**;
Horace Richard Lowndes **(1939 – [1940])**
Dennis Jones []
Robert Collins [1986]
Steve Bunce [] – **(1989)**
Arthur Collett [1995]
Jane Parker [1997]
Jean Ratcliffe **(1998 – [])**
Satnam Sandhu [2005]

DOG AND PARTRIDGE INN, BROAD-STREET, BILSTON.
TO be SOLD by PRIVATE TREATY, the
LICENSES, GOODWILL and POSSESSION, of the above
Old Established Inn, now doing a good business. The present Proprietor is leaving on account of indisposition. Fixtures and Stock to be taken by valuation.
For particulars, apply to Mr. JOHN MASON, Auctioneer and Public House Agent, Hall-street, Bilston.

1856

BROAD STREET, BILSTON,
DOG AND PARTRIDGE INN.
TO be DISPOSED OF by PRIVATE TREATY,
the LICENSES, GOODWILL, and POSSESSION of the above
OLD-ESTABLISHED INN, now doing a first-rate business.
The present Proprietor is leaving solely on account of other engagements.
The Stock and Fixtures to be taken by valuation.
For particulars, and to treat, apply to Mr. JOHN MASON, Auctioneer and Public House Agent, Willenhall.

1857



1997

NOTES

23, Broad Street [1864], [1865]
65, Broad Street [1873], [1874], [1881], [1892], [1896]
38, Broad Street [1901], [1904], [1908], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1932], [1939], [1940], [1994], [1998]
47, Broad Street [2003]

OLD DOG AND PARTRIDGE [1858], [1861], [1871]

It was known locally as "The Dog and Devil".

1851 Census

Middlefield Lane

[1] Francis Roper (58), victualler, born Broseley, Shropshire;

[2] Sarah Roper (59), wife, born Bilston;

[3] Ambrose Roper (20), son, at home, born Bilston;

[4] Ann Perry (20), domestic servant, born Bradley:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/12/1856 - Advert

"DOG AND PARTRIDGE INN, Broad Street, Bilston.

To be Sold by Private Treaty, the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession, of the above Old Established Inn, now doing a good business. The present Proprietor is leaving on account of indisposition. Fixtures and Stock to be taken by valuation.

For particulars, apply to Mr. John Mason, Auctioneer and Public House Agent, Hall Street, Bilston."

Birmingham Journal 5/9/1857 - Advert

"Broad Street, Bilston, DOG AND PARTRIDGE INN.

To be Disposed Of by Private Treaty, the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the above Old Established Inn, now doing a first-rate business.

The present Proprietor is leaving solely on account of other engagements.

The Stock and Fixtures to be taken by valuation.

For particulars, and to treat, apply to Mr. John Mason, Auctioneer and Public House Agent, Willenhall."

Birmingham Daily Post 4/3/1858

"Isaac Bradley, butty collier, and landlord of the DOG AND PARTRIDGE, Bilston, was yesterday charged by Richard Edwards, miner, with paying him in a public house the sum of 11s 5d as wages for work done. Mr. Bartlett appeared for the prosecutor, and Mr. Waterhouse for the defence.

The complainant stated that he went to the defendant's on the 2nd of February, and asked for his wages, having left his employ. Defendant ordered him to go down to his house that night, and he would pay him. He accordingly went, and after waiting about two hours, the defendant came in, and upon seeing him (complainant) there, he called him outside the house, and paid him 11s 5d. Defendant also asked how much ale he had had on account, when complainant said he had had three pints. Defendant did not stop the money, but told him to pay for the drink.

William Thompson was called as a witness, and stated that he was present with the complainant at the DOG AND PARTRIDGE on the night in question.

Mr. Waterhouse called a witness for the defence, named Thomas Walker, who positively stated that the money was paid to the complainant, at a distance of at least 120 yards from the defendant's house. Mr. Waterhouse thereupon contended that the defendant had neither evaded nor violated the law, the act specifying that wages were not to be paid 'at or within a public house.'

The Bench seemed to question the evidence of defendant's witness, and inflicted a penalty of £5 and costs."

Birmingham Daily Post 21/7/1859

"On Monday morning last, as Thomas Kitson, fifty-eight years of age, a blacksmith, was descending a pit at Caponfield, and when about ten yards from the bottom, he was thrown out of the skip, and his back and one of his thighs broken. He died on the following morning. An inquest was held on the body yesterday, before the Deputy Coroner, at the DOG AND PARTRIDGE, Broad Street, Bilston, and a verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

Ambrose Roper = Ambrose Rooper

1861 Census

Broad Street – DOG AND PARTRIDGE

[1] Ambrose Rooper (30), innkeeper, born Bilston;

[2] Hannah Rooper (30), wife, born Bilston;

[3] Elizabeth S. Rooper (4), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[4] Sarah Owen (16), servant, born Wolverhampton:

Staffordshire Advertiser 4/1/1868

“Staffordshire Epiphany Sessions.....

Thomas Davis v J. Perks and W. Hatton, Esqrs.

The appellant, who keeps a marine store dealer's shop in Coseley Road, Bilston, appealed against the decision of the respondents, convicting him under the ‘Old Metal Dealers’ Act, 1861,’ for having in his possession a quantity of old iron which had been stolen, and which at the time he received it he had reasonable cause for suspecting to be stolen or unlawfully obtained. Mr. Young appeared in support of the conviction, and Dr. Kenealy and Mr. Bosanquet appeared for the appellant.

The evidence given in support of the conviction showed that on the 3rd of December, Police-constable Moffatt searched the premises of the appellant, and found concealed under a heap of old scrap iron a large quantity of boiler plates and a piece of rail, on which were the letters ‘tfields,’ forming the latter part of the word Priestfields. The rail had been stolen from the Priestfield works of Messrs. Ward, who had their rails marked with the word ‘Priestfields.’ The appellant, on being spoken to by the officer, said that some of the boiler plates did not belong to Messrs. Ward, and that he had bought a large quantity of the plates and some scraps from a man named Preston. (Preston was tried in the other Court during the day on the charge of stealing the iron from Messrs. Ward, and was sentenced to twelve months’ imprisonment.) The iron rail was positively identified as the property of Messrs. Ward by Mr. John Parton, a mine agent, who stated that during the 21 years he had been in their employ he had never known a single pound of iron sold off the premises.

Mr. Bosanquet called *Ambrose Roper*, a licensed victualler at Bilston, who stated that he had been employed by the appellant to carry iron to his stores from the premises of Preston, who was a boiler maker, and employed several hands under him. He drew two loads from Preston's, consisting of rivets, scraps, boiler plates, &c.

Mr. Bosanquet elicited from one of the witnesses that some time since there was an extensive sale of old iron at the Millfields Works, and in addressing the Court for the appellant he contended that his client might naturally have supposed that the rail bearing the word ‘tfields’ had come from those works or from the Caponfield works.

The Court affirmed the conviction, with costs.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/4/1868 - Notice

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1861. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton.

Ambrose Roper, of Broad Street, in the township of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, Miner, and Carter for Hire, having been adjudged Bankrupt in Wolverhampton on the 21st day of April, 1868, is hereby required to surrender himself to Charles Gallimore Brown, Esq, a Registrar of the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton, at the First Meeting of Creditors, to be held on the 4th day of May, 1868, at twelve o'clock at noon precisely, at the Court House, Queen Street, Wolverhampton.

J. F. Thurstans, Esq, of Wolverhampton, 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.

Clifton N. Curtis, High Bailiff.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 13/5/1868 - Notice

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1861. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton.

Ambrose Roper, of Broad Street, in the township of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, Miner, and Carter for Hire, having been adjudged Bankrupt in Wolverhampton on the 21st day of April, 1868, 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 Wolverhampton, on the 16th day of June, 1868, 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 J. F. Thurstans, Esq, of Wolverhampton, is the Solicitor acting in the bankruptcy.

Clifton N. Curtis, High Bailiff.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/6/1868

“Wolverhampton County Court Bankrupts.....

Ambrose Roper, Bilston, supported by Mr. Thurstans, unopposed; order of discharge granted.”

John Jackson, beer retailer, Broad Street. [1870]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/7/1870

“An inquest was held yesterday, at the DOG AND PARTRIDGE INN, Broad Street, Bilston, by the Deputy-Coroner (Mr. W. H. Phillips), on the body of Simeon Jackson, a lad aged ten years. Deceased was playing in his uncle’s house, on the 11th inst, in Broad Street, when he accidentally fell into a boiler, containing a quantity of boiling water, and died the next day. He was attended by Mr. Larkin, surgeon, Church Street. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1871 Census

Broad Street – OLD DOG AND PARTRIDGE

- [1] John Jackson (47), publican, born Bilston;
- [2] Sarah Jackson (41), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] John Jackson (18), son, roller’s assistant, born Bilston;
- [4] George T. Jackson (17), son, roller’s assistant, born Bilston;
- [5] William Jackson (16), son, roller’s assistant, born Bilston;
- [6] Sarah A. Jackson (14), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] Clara Jackson (13), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [8] Samuel Jackson (9), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [9] Martha Jackson (8), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [10] Pamler Jackson (7), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [11] Emily Jackson (3), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [12] Jane Mustin (20), domestic servant, born Scotland:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/1/1880

“Staffordshire Assizes.....

Taylor v Martin.

This was an action to recover the value of a horse and cart. Mr. J. Underhill and Mr. Darling were for the plaintiff; Mr. Plumptre and Mr. R. E. Kettle were for the defendant.

The plaintiff, who is a grocer at Hall Fields, Bilston, had a horse, cart, and harness, which a man named Atkiss, then working a small pit in the neighbourhood, wished to buy, offering £14 for the horse, cart, and harness. According to plaintiff the price was so low that he would not take it, but he lent the horse and cart to Atkiss, who was to take care of the horse till he wanted the horse and cart. Atkiss sold up his things at the pit. Plaintiff applied for the horse and cart back, but it turned out they had been sold by Atkiss to defendant, who keeps the DOG AND PARTRIDGE INN at Bilston.

The defence was that a sale by Taylor to Atkiss of the horse and cart had really been effected, and that therefore Atkiss had a right to sell them to defendant.

Witnesses were called who swore that they saw the horse and cart sold by plaintiff for £25, and that the plaintiff complained before the sale to the defendant that he could not get any money from Atkiss for the horse and cart.

Verdict for plaintiff, damages £25.”

1881 Census

65, Broad Street – DOG AND PARTRIDGE

- [1] Isaiah Martin (49), licensed victualler, born Tipton;
- [2] Mary A. Martin (50), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Joseph Martin (19), son, coal miner, born Bilston;
- [4] Selfeaner Smith (20), general servant, born Bilston:

Darlaston Weekly Times 16/9/1882

“On Tuesday evening, September 5th, a most enjoyable spread was partaken of by a number of members of the money club at the DOG AND PARTRIDGE, Broad Street, Bilston, well catered and served by Mr. and Mrs. *Martin* (the host and hostess). Mr. H. Baker occupied the chair, and Mr. Watkin the vice. A number of toasts were given and drunk, and the vocalists readily were at the call of the chairman, aided by the excellent playing on the pianoforte.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 14/7/1883

“The usual supper in connection with the money club held at the house of Mr. *Isiah Martin*, the DOG AND PARTRIDGE INN, Broad Street, Bilston, was held on Tuesday evening. About 21 persons sat down to a good old English spread, put on the tables in Host *Martin*’s well-known style. After the withdrawal of the cloth, Mr. H. Watkiss was chosen to preside, and Mr. T. Beaman took the vice-chair. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts were gone through, in addition to the health of the host and hostess. A harmonious evening was afterwards spent in singing and social enjoyment, interspersed with selections on the pianoforte by Mr. J. Smith.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 1/9/1883 - Advert

“Great Western Railway Company.

The Committee of the Wolverhampton and District Licensed Victuallers Incorporated Society have made arrangements with the above Company to run a Special Express Train to London (International Fisheries Exhibition).....

Tickets may be had from any of the undermentioned.....

Isiah Martin, DOG AND PARTRIDGE, Broad Street, Bilston.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 16/5/1885

“On Tuesday evening, the members of the money club in connection with the DOG AND PARTRIDGE, Broad Street, sat down to a well catered repast, ably served by Mr. *Martin*. The old club had proved a thorough success; and is to be followed by a new one. Mr. Smith ably presided at the pianoforte; vocal members did their part, and a most pleasant evening was spent.”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/4/1891

“The polling for the election of four members on the Board of Township Commissioners for Bilston took place yesterday. An unusually large number of ratepayers had been nominated for the seats, but fifteen retired, leaving five to go to the poll The Gentlemen who went to the poll were.....

Isaiah Martin, licensed Victualler, Broad Street, Bilston.”

[He was not elected.]

1891 Census

65, Broad Street

[1] *Isaiah Martin* (57), licensed victualler, born Tipton;

[2] Mary A. Martin (70), wife, born Bilston;

[3] William Griffiths (12), grand-son, scholar, born Bilston;

[4] Mary A. Lotwick (66), sister, widow, born Tipton;

[5] Mary Lewis (19), domestic servant, born Bilston:

1901 Census

38, Broad Street

[1] *William T. Ash* (27), licensed victualler, born Willenhall;

[2] Rosannah Ash (26), wife, born Portobello;

[3] Percy Ash (1), son, born Portobello;

[4] Annie Richards (17), domestic servant, born Portobello:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/2/1903

“At the Bilston Licensing Sessions yesterday.....

Wine licenses were granted to *Major George Cox*, Broad Street, Bilston.”

Birmingham Mail 26/9/1904

“An extraordinary tale of domestic infidelity was unfolded at the Tipton Police Court today, the defendant being John Thomas [Wilson], who was summoned by his wife for a maintenance order. The parties were married at Handsworth, and had three children. Defendant was now the licensee of the HORSELEY TAVERN, Tipton, but formerly was landlord of the OXFORD INN, Bilston. Whilst at Bilston he became acquainted with *Rose Waldron*, licensee of the DOG AND PARTRIDGE INN, Bilston. Subsequently he told his wife that he loved *Waldron*, and should have nothing more to do with her, adding that he wished she was a corpse. The wife stated that in consequence of his intimacy with the woman she went to reside with a nephew, and her husband took *Rose Waldron* to the HORSELEY TAVERN, where, it was alleged, she still lived with him. Defendant had sent sums of money to his wife amounting to £7. Defendant was ordered to contribute 30s weekly, his wife being allowed the custody of the children.”

Henry Herbert Nuttall – see also BIRD IN HAND, High Street, SEVEN STARS, High Street, HEN AND CHICKENS, George Street, and UNION MILL, Manor Road.

1911 Census

38, Broad Street

- [1] *Captain Tideswell Cox* (29), licensed victualler, born Bewdley;
- [2] *Frances Mary Cox* (26), wife, married 4 years, born Princes End;
- [3] *Gladys Mary Cox* (3), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] *Harriett Wilson* (22), domestic servant, born Bilston:

1921 Census

38, Broad Street

- [1] *Captain Tideswell Cox* (40), licensed victualler, born Bewdley;
- [2] *Frances Mary Cox* (35), wife, born Princes End;
- [3] *Gwladys Mary Cox* (13), daughter, school, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/1/1939

“The visit of two policemen to a Bilston public house at 10.18pm on 19 December had a sequel at Bilston Police Court yesterday, when *Frances Mary Cox*, of the DOG AND PARTRIDGE, Broad Street, was summoned for selling intoxicating liquor during unpermitted hours. Arthur Augustus Howard, of 2, The Crescent, Bilston, and Leo Tart, Holmecroft, Prouds Lane, Bilston, were summoned for consuming after hours, and Mrs. *Cox* was further summoned for aiding and abetting.

Mrs. *Cox* said she served Howard and Tart with a beer at 10 o'clock and told them to drink it quickly. Howard and Tart both denied that they consumed after 10 o'clock.

Mrs. *Cox* was fined £5 and £3 3s costs for aiding and abetting in the consumption. The summons for selling was dismissed. Howard and Tart were each fined £2 with £1 1s costs.”

1939 Register

38, Broad Street (4 of 7)

- [1] *Horace R. Lowndes*, date of birth 4/12/1886, licensed victualler, married;
- [2] *Lizzie Lowndes*, dob 18/3/1887, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] *Bess V. (Lowndes) Jones*, dob 18/12/1913, shop assistant, gentleman's outfitter, single;
- [4] *Betty (Lowndes) Grimes*, dob 22/5/1920, shop assistant, ladies costume, single;

Closed

Demolished circa 1970.

It was rebuilt on the opposite side of the road c.1977.

Express & Star 21/8/2008

“A landlord known for ‘pulling the best glass of beer in Wolverhampton’ has died aged 88.

Dennis Jones was today described as a ‘true gentleman,’ having stood behind the bar of the FORGE HAMMER in Lanesfield for a decade from 1974 to 1984. He also worked at the ROCKET POOL and OLD BUSH in Bradley and the DOG AND PARTRIDGE in Bilston. Mr. *Jones*, of Bamber Close, Bradmore, was married to Pat, who died five-and-a-half years ago. They had five children, David, now 64, Alan, 62, Brenda, 56, Andrew, 53, and Mark, 45.

Daughter Brenda, who lives in Lanesfield, said her father was a well-known member of the community. ‘He was a very quiet man,’ Mrs. Paddock said today. ‘Mum was the bubbly one behind the bar but dad was well-known for pulling the best glass of beer in the city. People would always tell him that. He was a meticulous landlord and a true gentleman.’

Mr. *Jones* died of a heart problem on August 13. He moved into the pub trade aged 51 after working as a tool maker at firms including Villiers and Jone Hawk Engineers.

Mrs. Paddock added, ‘He was a wonderful dad. He never told us what to do – just gave out advice when we needed it. He very rarely raised his voice, because he didn’t need to. He commanded such respect. He was a very amiable person and was very well-read and articulate. He enjoyed working behind the bar and meeting people but I think he moved into the trade for mum really.’ Mrs. Paddock said her father enjoyed gardening and reading. ‘He also loved his animals and was very upset when his dogs and cats passed away,’ she added. Mrs. Paddock had been her father’s full-time carer for two-and-a-half years.

His funeral will take place at Bushbury Crematorium on Wednesday at 2pm.”

Dennis Jones – see also FORGE HAMMER, Lanesfield, OLD BUSH, Bradley, and ROCKET POOL.

Steve Bunce was married to Sue.

See also BLACK COUNTRY ARMS, Walsall.

Express and Star 17/12/1998

“Four men threw rubbish bins through the windows of a Bilston pub early today, following the start of a campaign by the licensee to rid it of what she says is a drug problem.

Jean Ratcliffe, who runs the DOG AND PARTRIDGE, says she has been trying to stamp out the pub’s drug difficulties since she took over in June. At 4.20am today a van pulled on to the pub car park in Broad Street, and four men, dressed in dark clothing, threw full rubbish bins through the windows in the bar.....”

Express & Star 7/8/2019

“Bosses of a Wolverhampton pub which was shut down for three months after a violent brawl have surrendered their licences. Wolverhampton Council’s licensing committee will meet on Monday for a licence review which will decide the fate of the DOG AND PARTRIDGE in Broad Street, Bilston. West Midlands Police applied for the review following a mass brawl at a ‘pool party’ at the pub in the early hours of July 14, which saw officers responding to reports of a machete attack and gunfire. A woman aged in her 30s was hit with what was believed to be a machete and taken to hospital for treatment for head injuries. Police arrested a 36-year-old woman on suspicion of wounding but she was released on police bail pending further enquiries. The pub’s licence was suspended in the aftermath of the incident, pending the licensing committee review hearing. The pub was then ordered to close for three months on July 19 after police applied to magistrates in Dudley. Papers being presented to committee for Monday’s hearing reveal that premises licence holder Mark Coyne gave up his permit on July 26. The designated premises supervisor, Sharon Clare, also relinquished her licence on the same date. But there is still time for the licence to be transferred and so members will meet to decide whether or not it needs to be revoked completely. The police’s application has been supported by both the council’s environmental health and licensing departments. Licensing bosses said the DOG AND PARTRIDGE had been refused permission to host a ‘family fun day’ on the day before the incident due to ongoing noise complaints related to the venue. A report from licensing to committee said, ‘Councillors may conclude from the evidence given within the review application and at the hearing that there is no alternative but to revoke the premises licence.’”

Express & Star 15/6/2021

“A knifewoman who fractured a fellow party-goer’s head with a meat cleaver at a Black Country pub has been jailed for nine years. Karlene Muschette slashed the woman’s face and back and struck her on the head at a beach-themed party at the DOG AND PARTRIDGE pub in Bilston. A gun was also fired when what was supposed to be a family-friendly party turned violent at the Broad Street pub in July 2019. Footage posted on social media showed a fight starting inside the pub during the pool party before trouble spilled outside. Muschette and her 34-year-old victim are believed to have been involved in an online feud for some time before the party, West Midlands Police said. An argument then broke out between two groups following a row between Muschette and the woman.

Initially ice and water bottles were thrown before the situation escalated and Muschette ran towards the woman who shouted ‘leave me alone’ before using a meat cleaver to slash her across the face and again on her back. The woman tried to fight back but Muschette struck her head, resulting in her skull being fractured. Muschette claimed the attack was in response to ongoing harassment over social media. The 38-year-old, of Hartill Street, Willenhall, was found guilty of wounding and sentenced to nine years behind bars at Wolverhampton Crown Court on Friday.

Meanwhile the pub was forced to close after the brawl, before the landlord voluntarily surrendered his licence. Wolverhampton Council said at the time that the pub had held the event despite previously being denied a licence for a family fun day and barbecue.

Detective Constable Craig Bathgate, from West Midlands Police CID, said, ‘This was a complex investigation which involved multiple witness accounts and historical allegations. However, forensic evidence and extensive investigations have ensured that Muschette has been brought to justice for this brutal attack which could have resulted in far worse, and even fatal, injuries. It is right that she has received a significant sentence for her actions.’”

Closed [2023]



2010

THE BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1861.

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF STAFFORDSHIRE,
HOLDEN AT WOLVERHAMPTON.

AMBROSE ROPER, of Broad-street, in the township of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, Miner, and Carter for Hire, having been adjudged Bankrupt in Wolverhampton on the 21st day of April, 1868, is hereby required to surrender himself to CHARLES GALLIMORE BROWN, Esq., a Registrar of the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton, at the FIRST MEETING of CREDITORS, to be held on the 4th day of May, 1868, at twelve o'clock at noon precisely, at the COURT HOUSE, QUEEN STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON.

J. F. THURSTANS, Esq., of Wolverhampton, 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.

CLIFTON N. CURTIS, High Bailiff.

THE BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1861.

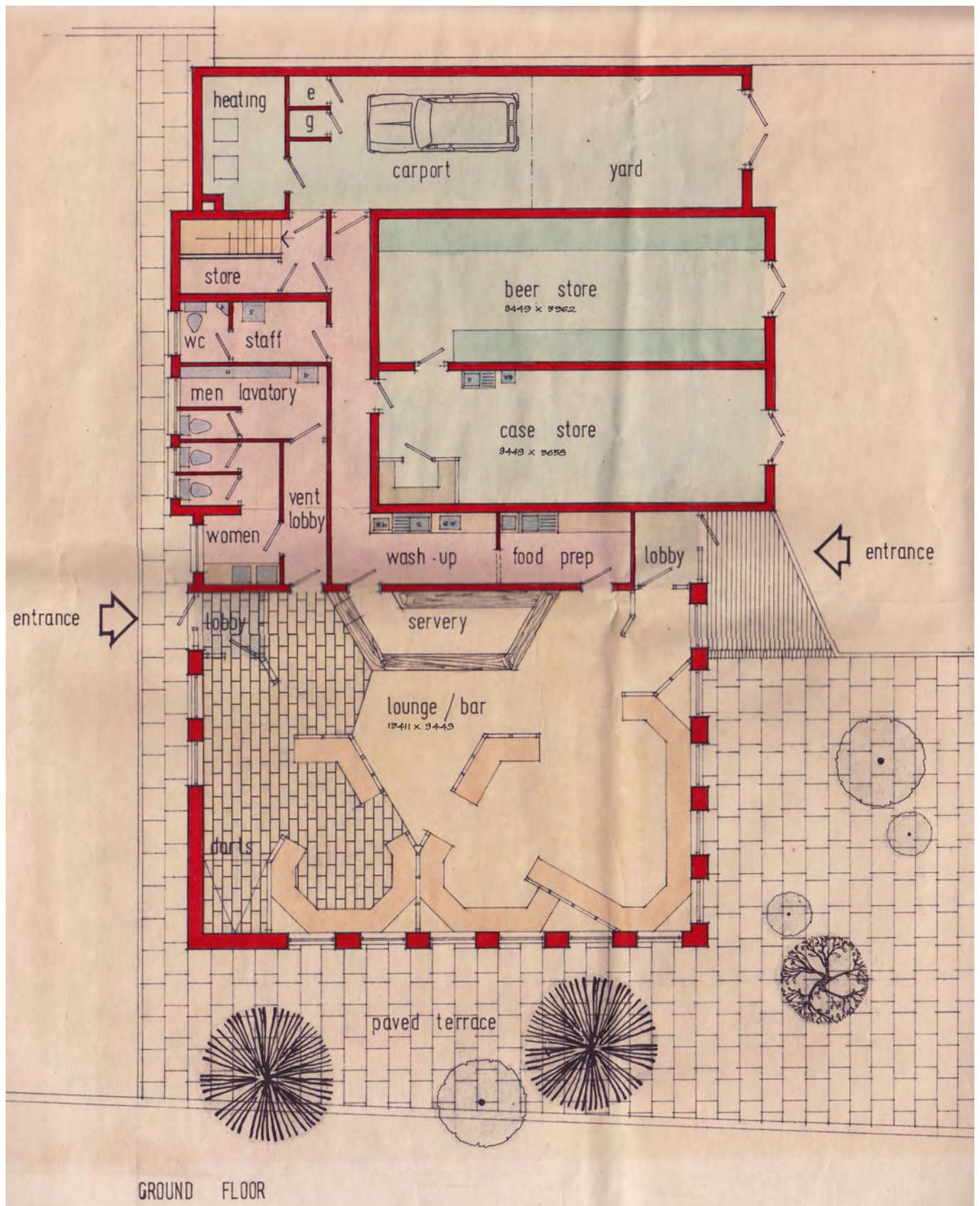
IN THE COUNTY COURT OF STAFFORDSHIRE,
HOLDEN AT WOLVERHAMPTON.

AMBROSE ROPER, of Broad-street, in the township of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, Miner, and Carter for Hire, having been adjudged Bankrupt in Wolverhampton on the 21st day of April, 1868, 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 WOLVERHAMPTON, on the 16th day of June, 1868, 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 J. F. THURSTANS, Esq., of Wolverhampton, is the Solicitor acting in the bankruptcy.

CLIFTON N. CURTIS, High Bailiff.

1868



Plan 1977

DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE

14, (39), Cambridge Street / Duke Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Richard Atkiss
William Butler and Co. Ltd.
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Richard Atkiss [1867] – **1875**);
Thomas Beaman (**1875 – 1886**);
Mrs. Sarah Jane Beaman (**1886 – 1921**);
John Silvester (**1921 – 1923**);
John Henry Marshall (**1923 – 1937**);
Louisa May Marshall (**1937 – 1938**);
Henry Crookes Hibbert (**1938 – [1947]**)

NOTES

39, Cambridge Street [1874], [1881], [1884], [1892], [1896]
14, Cambridge Street [1904], [1908], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1932], [1937], [1939], [1940]

Birmingham Daily Post 31/8/1867

“Yesterday, the annual meeting of Magistrates for the granting of victuallers licenses, in the Bilston Police Division, was held at the Police Court in that town.....

Mr. Fellows (of the firm of Brown and Fellows) sought, on behalf of Mr. *Richard Atkiss*, for a license to the DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE INN, Cambridge Street. The house was, he said, in a new district, in which about fifty or sixty houses had been erected during the last two or three years. There was no licensed house within 200 yards, and there were two new factories, employing about 100 hands, built within sixty yards of it. The application was unopposed Deferred to the adjourned licensing meeting.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/9/1867

“Bilston Adjourned Licensing Meeting.....

The applications for licenses to DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE, Cambridge Street which were adjourned, were refused.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/8/1868

“The annual Licensing Sessions for Bilston district was held yesterday, at the Police Court.....

Mr. Fellows applied for a license to the DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE, Bilston, kept by Mr. *Atkiss* Application refused In the case of *Richard Atkiss*, the Magistrates said, without making any promise, that they would visit the house during the next year.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/8/1869

“The annual licensing meeting for the Bilston division took place yesterday, at the Police Court.....

Applications for a new license.....

Mr. Fellows applied on behalf of *Richard Atkiss*, of the DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE, Cambridge Street, which house was away from any other licensed house, and was said to be needed, and in every way suitable for the requirements of the neighbourhood. There was no opposition. Granted.”

BILSTON TOWN CRICKET CLUB,

SEASON 1883.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Of the above Club, will be held at the
DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE INN, Cambridge
Street, Bilston, on
SATURDAY EVENING, MARCH 10TH.
To commence at 7-30.

Any persons intending to become members are
respectfully requested to attend.

1883

Public Notices.

THE FIRST ANNUAL MEETING of the
MILLMEN'S ASSOCIATION will be held
on SATURDAY EVENING, February 7th, 1885, at the
DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE INN, CAMBRIDGE-
STREET, BILSTON. Chair to be taken at Seven
o'clock prompt.

All Millmen are invited.

1885

Richard Atkiss was also a coal dealer.

1871 Census

Cambridge Street – DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE

- [1] Richard Atkiss (47), publican and coal miner, born Bilston;
- [2] Ann Atkiss (45), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Mary Atkiss (19), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] Eliza Atkiss (17), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] William Atkiss (14), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] Thomas Atkiss (13), son, scholar, born Willenhall;
- [7] Agnes Atkiss (11), daughter, scholar, born Willenhall;
- [8] Abraham Atkiss (9), son, scholar, born Willenhall;
- [9] Frank Atkiss (7), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [10] Martha Atkiss (5), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [11] Mary Lovatt (16), domestic servant, born Willenhall;

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/4/1872

“On Monday the coroner (Mr. W. H. Phillips) held an inquest at the DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE INN, Bilston, touching the death of John Jones, a doggy, employed at Messrs. Thorneycrofts’ colliery, who met with his death under the following circumstances. He was clearing away some coal from the bottom of the shaft, when a skip was lowered and he was so severely crushed that he died. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Midland Examiner 22/5/1875 - Deaths

“On the 20th inst, Mrs. Atkiss, the wife of Richard Atkiss, Cambridge Street Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 21/10/1876

“On Wednesday night, the members of Court Welcome Foresters, No.4723, of the Ancient Order of Foresters, assembled at the Court-house, DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE INN, Cambridge Street, Bilston, for the purpose of presenting a member’s neck ribbon, with the emblem of the Order, to the Rev. C. Lee. There were about 100 members and visitors present, including all the CRs from all the Courts in the town.

Brother Thomas Wright, CR of the Court, made the presentation, and expressed the pleasure it gave him to do so, assuring the rev. gentleman that it was intended as a mark of the esteem and respect with which they regarded him. In reply, the rev. gentleman said he was proud to be associated with their Order, and would consider it to be a duty and a pleasure to help them at any time.

Songs enlivened the proceedings, and a very pleasant evening was spent.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 5/2/1880

“On Tuesday evening the anniversary dinner of the members of Court Welcome Foresters AOF took place at the Courthouse, the DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE INN, Cambridge Street, Bilston. There was a large attendance of members. The dinner was served in excellent style by the worthy host, Mr. Thomas Beaman, and was heartily enjoyed. After the removal of the cloths, Mr. Alfred Akers was voted to the chair, and the hon. member Mr. D. Morris to the vice-chair. The usual loyal toasts having been drunk, the remainder of the evening was devoted to music and singing by various members and friends of the court.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/6/1880

“Yesterday afternoon Mr. W. H. Phillips, coroner, held an inquest at the DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE INN, Bilston, on the body of a man named John Clark, of Leicester, who was killed on the Great Western Railway on Sunday morning. Inspector Ledbrook and Mr. Tinley (stationmaster at Bilston) represented the company.

Bentley Whittaker, a boy, deposed that on Sunday morning, about 9.40, he saw the deceased sitting on the side of the line eating something and drinking out of a soda-water bottle. Deceased afterwards walked across the rails, and witness called out to him that a train was coming. Deceased, however, paid no attention to his warning, but lay down on one of the rails on which the train was running, and witness ran to tell his brother. When he returned he found that the deceased had been killed.

Police-constable Price stated that he assisted to remove the body to the DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE INN. The face was terribly smashed and the body had been pushed by the lifeguard in front of the wheel into the 'six foot.' In his pockets he found a portion of a pork pie and a bottle containing whiskey.

John Pugh, the driver of the 9.35 passenger train from Wolverhampton, stated that as he was approaching Pardoe's Bridge he saw the deceased walking along the 'six foot.' Witness thought he was a platelayer. When about fifteen yards from him the deceased went to down on his hands and knees and placed his head on the rail. Witness blew his whistle, but deceased did not move and the lifeguard struck his head and knocked it off the rail.

Edward Clark, a warehouseman, living in Duke Street, Leicester, stated that the deceased was his brother, a coach trimmer, who had lived in Asylum Street, Leicester. He left home on Saturday morning in search of work. Deceased had been out of work for about twelve months, and his inability to maintain his family had preyed upon his mind. Witness last saw him on Wednesday, and on that occasion and on a previous date when conversing with him he thought the balance of deceased's intellect was upset. Deceased was a sober man, and he left Leicester to go to Birmingham. He was 40 years of age, and left four children.

A verdict was returned that deceased had committed Suicide whilst in a state of Temporary Insanity."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/7/1880

"Mr. W. H. Phillips (Coroner) held an inquiry at the DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE INN, Bilston, yesterday, touching the death of Sarah Ann Watkins, wife of Thomas Watkins, cabinetmaker, who hanged herself on Sunday night. A verdict was returned that deceased committed Suicide whilst in a state of Temporary Insanity."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/7/1880

"On Tuesday night a meeting of the representatives of the tinsplate makers of South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire was held at the DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE INN, Bilston, to consider the proposals of the employers to reduce the wages.

Mr. William Lewis, the general secretary of the Independent Association of Tinsplate Makers, delivered a long address. He said he was going round to the employers with a view to convince them that it would be more honourable to reduce the make than reduce the wages of the men, and out of twenty-two whom he had seen, only one declined to go in for a restriction in the output, and at a meeting of fifty-four manufacturers of tin plates, held on Friday last, it was resolved by a large majority to reduce production (applause). Mr. Spence, at Birmingham, had stated that the legitimate demand for tin plates was 5,000,000 tons per annum, while they were making at the rate of 6,000,000 tons per annum. Therefore the natural remedy for this state of things was to decrease the quantity made. He then advised the men to be firm in resisting any reduction in wages.

Other addresses having been delivered, a resolution was unanimously agreed to that a reduction of wages would assist neither the masters nor the men, and calling upon the operatives employed at the works of Messrs. Bradley, Sparrow, Baldwin, and Broadwater to resist the attempt of the masters to reduce their wages."

Evening Express 10/1/1881

"A meeting of ironworkers was held at the DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE INN, Cambridge Street, Bilston, on Saturday night, to protest against the reduction of 3d per ton which has just taken place in their wages, and to consider the best course to adopt for obtaining better payment.

A workman presided, and explained that the meeting was an adjournment of Monday's gathering. He condemned the calling of the meeting on Tuesday, at which it was decided to give notice to withdraw from the Wages Board. The week which had just passed, he said, had been an anxious one alike to masters and men. Some of the employers had been complaining loudly to their puddlers, and said that if they did not return to work legal proceedings would be taken against them for breach of contract.

A puddler said that the operatives' representative of the Bilston district had promised to attend that meeting, but he was not present. He thought they were being treated unfairly, and said that if their representatives acted towards the men as they would have the operatives believe they did, the masters would not attempt to take such advantage of them.

It was proposed by a workman that notice should be given for the abolition both of the Conciliation Board and of the sliding scale. Another workman seconded the proposition.

Another operative said that he held with doing away with the present sliding scale, but not with the Conciliation and Arbitration Board. He had never derived any benefit in former years from strikes, and the abolition of the Board would lead to almost constant lockouts. This was seconded, the operative remarking that what was wanted was that the men should be paid 1s a ton over the usual allowance per £1 in the selling price of iron, and not 6d as now. The

accountants had two classes of iron to go by – the six highest and the six lowest priced. It was very easy for eleven of the firms, in order to get the men's wages down, to pay the twelfth firm to sell his iron at a lower price than he could make it for. The men had it within their knowledge where one firm had been selling marked iron at £4 2s per ton. This was a lower figure than the pigs for making the iron could be purchased at.

Another puddler said that in Staffordshire, where there was one marked bar firm there were nearly twenty sheet, hoop, and plate mills. The men should be paid upon the basis of those products which were now the staple trades of the district. If the Arbitration Board was done away with their wages would have to be regulated by strikes. As the men did not appear to be satisfied with Mr. Chamberlain, he should suggest that Sir Rupert Kettle be asked to take their case in hand once more (hear, hear).

Another operative said that there were works in South Staffordshire which formerly turned out as many as 1,000 tons of bars per week; but now the output was not ten tons weekly, the firm having commenced to make sheets and plates because they could not sell their bars. It was impossible for the men to be properly paid by any sliding scale, unless it took sheets and plates as its basis. Sheets (singles) were now being sold for £7 10s per ton, and if they were the foundation of the scale the operative would now be getting 8s 6d per ton. He was now only receiving 7s 3d. The commonest of plates were realising £7, and even at that figure the men would receive 1s per ton more than now. Neither T nor angle iron were reckoned in the sliding scale. He moved, as an amendment, that Mr. Capper give a month's notice for a reconsideration of the sliding scale, and that hoops, sheets, and plates be considered as the basis of that scale. This was seconded, and, after much discussion and disorder, was declared by the Chairman to have been carried over the original proposition. The meeting then separated."

1881 Census

39, Cambridge Street – DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE

[1] *Thomas Beaman* (37), innkeeper, born Moxley;

[2] *Sarah J. Beaman* (31), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *William Beaman* (5), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[4] *Maud M. Beaman* (7), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[5] *Mary Sambridge* (19), general servant, born Willenhall:

Evening Express 5/4/1881

"The adjourned inquiry touching the death of Eliza Musty, aged 26 years, a domestic servant, who died suddenly at the residence of Mr. Samuel Waldron, Wellington Street, Bilston, on the night of the 28th ult, was held at the DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE INN, Cambridge Street, Bilston, before H. Brevitt, Esq, deputy coroner. The inquiry had been adjourned for Dr. Smith to make a post mortem examination of the deceased.

Mrs. Waldron, who was called, said during the time deceased had been in her employ her health had been good, and she had only once complained of illness. She saw her alive about twenty minutes to 12 in the dining-room on the night of her death, and she then appeared in good health. She had complained of no illness during the day. At twenty minutes past 12 witness saw her in bed, and asking her what was the matter, deceased replied, 'I am dying.' Dr. Smith said he had made a post mortem examination, and found about twenty stones in the gall-bladder, one of which had got impacted in the gall-duct. The lungs were deeply gorged with blood, and the air tubes full of frothy blood, the heart itself being empty. The cause of death was syncopal asphyxia, arising from shock and loss of blood.

The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes."

Evening Express 21/10/1881

"On Wednesday evening, the anniversary dinner of the Court Welcome Foresters, AOF, was held at the Courthouse, DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE INN, Cambridge Street, Bilston. The dinner was capitally served up by the worthy host, Bro. *T. Beaman*, at which between forty and fifty, including several of the honorary members, sat down. After full justice had been done to the viands, the chair was taken by Bro. R. J. Rogers, and the vice-chair by Bro. T. W. Green, PDCR. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts having been heartily drunk, the Chairman proposed, in suitable terms, the toast of 'The Wolverhampton and Tipton District,' to which Mr. T. W. Green, PDCR, responded. The toast 'Success to Court Welcome Foresters' was responded to by Bro. W. Clews, who stated that the Court had at the present time a capital of £942, of which £800 was invested in Debenture Bonds of the Wolverhampton Corporation, yielding interest at 4 per cent. All the Court funds were in a satisfactory condition, with a large balance in each instance. The Court had been in existence 16 years, during which time it had paid £716 in sick pay. The proceedings were enlivened by some capital singing by Bros. J. Caddick, J. Nash, S. Evans, J. Bignell, J. Spittle, J. Smith, J. Harper, W. Jones, and T. W. Green."

Birmingham Daily Post 6/9/1882

“For the first time during the past twenty years, the annual election of Township Commissioners for Bilston will this year pass over without a poll. There are four vacancies to be filled, caused by the retirement by rotation of Messrs. H. W. Larkin, John Rogers, Stephen B. Cole, and T. Morrell, and the election is fixed for tomorrow. These four gentlemen have been renominated, and twelve new nominations were also sent in. All the new candidates have, however, retired, and the old members will, therefore, tomorrow be declared elected without opposition. The new candidates who retired were.....

T. Beaman, innkeeper, Cambridge Street.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 14/10/1882

“The members and friends of the Bilston Town Cricket Club ended the season, on Saturday evening, by enjoying, at the DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE INN, a most sumptuous spread, well catered and served by Mr. and Mrs. *Beaman*. Upwards of 50 persons partook of the excellent fare.....”

Darlaston Weekly Times 10/3/1883 - Advert

“Bilston Town Cricket Club. Season 1883.

The Annual General Meeting of the above Club, will be held at the DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE INN, Cambridge Street, Bilston, on Saturday Evening, March 10th. To commence at 7-30.

Any persons intending to become members are respectfully requested to attend.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 1/9/1883 - Advert

“Great Western Railway Company.

The Committee of the Wolverhampton and District Licensed Victuallers Incorporated Society have made arrangements with the above Company to run a Special Express Train to London (International Fisheries Exhibition).....

Tickets may be had from any of the undermentioned.....

T. Beaman, DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE, Cambridge Street, Bilston.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 8/12/1883

“.....It is pleasing to notice that Bilston Town Cricket Club is progressing, both in the number of its members, and in its finances..... On Saturday evening, the annual dinner in connection with the club, was held at the DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE INN, Cambridge Street, when most of the members, with a few additional friends, assembled. Mr. *Thomas Beaman*, the host, placed an excellent spread upon the tables, which was graced with choice chrysanthemums, the gift of a member of the club, in addition to the ‘good things’ provided..... In responding to the toast of the ‘Host and Hostess,’ Mr. *T. Beaman* referred with pleasure to the confidence reposed in him, and expressed his intention to do all he could to promote the welfare of the club, and to do all he could for their comfort so long as they honoured him with their patronage.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 15/3/1884

“The Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes appeared, with their full regalia, at the new lodge, DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE (Mr. *Beaman*, landlord), on Tuesday evening last, when a most enjoyable evening was spent by the Bilston members and the visitors.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/6/1884

“The committee appointed to organise a Millmen’s Union for the Midlands met by adjournment on Saturday night, at the DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE INN, Bilston. A set of rules was adopted by which the union receives the name of the South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire Association of Millmen. The preamble states that the vast extent to which machinery has been applied in the sheet-iron industry has tended to increase the quantity of this special class of manufacture to such an alarming degree that necessity arises to create some means by which the evils attendant upon over-production – such as undue fluctuations, low prices (prices that do not yield a fair profit to masters, nor fair wages to the workmen, and both are dissatisfied), and non-uniformity of employment – may be avoided. The scope of the association is stated to consist in guaranteeing the members against those distressing privations consequent upon, and inseparable from, the constantly recurring fluctuations in the market of labour, and also their protection against incursions made by employers.....

The arrangements made as to funds are that each member shall contribute 3d per week, and pay an entrance fee of 1s. The chief provision is that any member advised by the Executive Committee to leave work owing to dispute with employers receives £1 from the funds of the Association per week during the continuance of the dispute. The number of men who will be affected by the new association is estimated at between 700 and 800, for the interests not only of sheet-mill men are taken into account, but those also of the plate mills, merchant mills, guide mills, and hoop mills. It is understood that the collection of funds will commence at the various works on the 28th. The election of officers was completed on Saturday night."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 19/1/1885

"A public meeting of millmen, held under the auspices of the South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire Association of Millmen, took place on Saturday evening, at the DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE INN, Cambridge Street, Bilston. The meeting was very largely attended. The president of the association (Mr. R. Clarke) occupied the chair. The object of the gathering was to condemn the action of certain employers in the recent attempt to make special arrangements with their workmen contrary to the Wages Board regulations, and the following resolutions were carried with enthusiasm. 'That this meeting protests its bitterest indignation and unqualified condemnation at the recent attempt of certain employers of labour, and also of some of the millmen of this district, in making private arrangements to reduce millmen's wages contrary to Rule 2 of the Wages Board, thereby depriving certain other millmen of a fair chance of a livelihood.' The men to whom this resolution referred protested against the resolution being passed, as they considered themselves justified in the action they had taken, and, as they promised not to go to the works again, the meeting afterwards agreed to exonerate them from all blame, but decided to pass the resolution as a protection of the trade in future.

After a spirited discussion on the subject of organisation, and the principles of conciliation and arbitration, the following resolution was unanimously adopted. 'That this meeting considers the time has arrived when decided and united action should be taken against the unjust and cowardly attempt of certain employers to destroy the influence of the Conciliation Board by making special contacts with unprincipled workmen.'

At the close of the meeting several works which had not joined the association expressed their intention to do so at once. The association is now an influential one, and bids fair to become a powerful instrument for the protection of millmen."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 5/2/1885 - Advert

"The First Annual Meeting of the Millmen's Association will be held on Saturday Evening, February 7th, 1885, at the DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE INN, Cambridge Street, Bilston. Chair to be taken at Seven o'clock prompt. All Millmen are invited."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 12/10/1885

"A meeting of trade unionists was held on Saturday night, at the DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE INN, Cambridge Street, Bilston. Mr. R. Clarke, president of the Millmen's Association, occupied the chair, and there was a good attendance. A deputation from the Wolverhampton Trades Council, consisting of Messrs. G. Sale (president), W. F. Mee, and G. R. Cocking (secretary) was present.

Mr. Cocking, addressing the meeting, remarked that the Wolverhampton and Birmingham Chambers of Commerce had, in answering the questions submitted to them by the Royal Commission on Trade, given it as their opinion that the present depression was largely owing (1) to legislative interference with the hours of labour by Factory and Workshop Acts; (2) the rate of wages and hours of labour in Germany, France, Belgium, and all other manufacturing countries being lower and longer than in this country; (3) the influence of trades unions limiting, if not destroying, freedom of contract between masters and men; and (4) the better technical education of the foreign workman. Without wishing to challenge the rights of the masters to give publicly to their views, the Wolverhampton Trades Council felt that it was a duty which they owed to themselves and to the working class generally to give equal publicity to the views entertained by the workman on these important questions – (hear, hear) – and with this object in view the Council intended holding a representative meeting of unionists in Wolverhampton the latter end of the present month.

Addresses were also given in support of the proposal mentioned by Mr. Cocking and in favour of the federation of trades unions by Mr. Baldwin (secretary of the Millmen's Association), Mr. Mee, Mr. Gough (secretary of the Engineers Association), Mr. Sale, and Mr. E. Jones (president of the Engineers Association), and the meeting concluded with the usual votes of thanks."

Birmingham Daily Post 1/2/1886

“The second annual meeting of the South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire Association of Millmen was held on Saturday night, at the DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE INN, Cambridge Street, Bilston, Mr. Joseph Sutherland presiding. The annual report, which was adopted, set forth that the enthusiasm formerly manifested in the association had unfortunately collapsed, and that, had the pledges made at the last annual meeting been faithfully kept, the association would have been a most powerful instrument in protecting millmen against the prevailing evils which had overtaken the trade There was, however, reason for congratulation that the Millmen’s Association still existed; and as new life was about to be infused into it by a large additional membership, there was a probability of its ultimate success.....”

Darlaston Weekly Times 2/10/1886

“John Legan, Hanley, was charged with attempt to defraud the Buffalo Lodge at Bilston.

Thomas Lowe said he was a member of the Buffalo Lodge which was held at the DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE HOTEL, Bilston. On Tuesday night between 8 and 9 o’clock he was at the lodge at the place named, when the prisoner sent up a card and witness was asked to go and see him. He went down and found the prisoner could not give him the necessary signs or pass word. He was consequently refused relief. The presentation of the card was an application for relief. The members of the order were provided with travelling cards which entitled them to relief.

The magistrates said there was some doubt as to the law on the point, and prisoner would have the benefit of that doubt. He would therefore be discharged.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/11/1886

“An inquest was held yesterday at Cambridge Street, Bilston, touching the death of Emily Florence Green, 9, daughter of Enoch Green, stock-fitter, of Cambridge Street. Chief Superintendent Longden attended on behalf of the police.

On the 10th inst the deceased returned home from St. Luke’s Church Schools complaining of a headache, and the same evening she was seized with an illness. She subsequently stated that when at school a boy unwittingly struck her on the head with a stick. The girl gradually got worse, and, after having several fits, she died on Sunday night. The enquiry was adjourned, in order to ascertain whether death resulted from violence or from natural causes.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 24/11/1886

“Yesterday an adjourned inquest was held at the DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE INN, Bilston, upon the body of Emily Florence Green, aged nine, of Cambridge Street, who died on the 14th inst, under rather peculiar circumstances. Mr. S. A. Smith, surgeon, deposed to having made a post mortem examination. There were no external marks of injury, and in his opinion death had resulted from meningitis, which might have arisen naturally from shock to the system. A verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 11/2/1887

“The members of Bilston Town Cricket and Football Club held their first meeting this season, on Thursday evening last, at the DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE INN, Cambridge Street. There was a very good attendance.....”

Darlaston Weekly Times 22/7/1887

“On Saturday next, July 23rd, the members of the A.O.F. Court Welcome Foresters will hold their usual anniversary dinner at the DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE INN, Cambridge Street, Bilston, when it is sincerely hoped that a good muster of members will make it convenient to attend.”

1891 Census

39, Cambridge Street

- [1] *Thomas Beaman* (47), licensed victualler, born Moxley;
- [2] *Sarah J. Beaman* (41), wife, born Moxley;
- [3] *Maude M. Beaman* (17), daughter, barmaid, born Moxley;
- [4] *William R. Beaman* (15), son, engine fitter’s apprentice, born Moxley;
- [5] *Edith H. Beaman* (4), daughter, scholar, born Moxley;
- [6] *Ethel M. Beaman* (2), daughter, born Moxley;
- [7] *Sidney Adkiss* (10), nephew, scholar, born Moxley;
- [8] *Caroline R. Wilson* (20), domestic servant, born Daisy Bank;

Thomas Beaman died in the 4th quarter of 1896.

1901 Census

Cambridge Street – DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE

- [1] Sarah Jane Beaman (51), widow, licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] William Richard Beaman (25), son, engine fitter, born Bilston;
- [3] Charles Henry Beaman (19), son, commercial clerk, born Bilston;
- [4] Edith Helen Beaman (14), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] Edith Mary Akers (22), domestic servant, born Bilston;
- [6] Elizabeth Clark (22), domestic servant, born Moxley;

1911 Census

14, Cambridge Street

- [1] Sarah Jane Beaman (61), widow, licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] William Richard Beaman (35), son, engineer's fitter, born Bilston;
- [3] Charles H. Beaman (29), son, clerk (unemployed at present), born Bilston;
- [4] Edith H. Beaman (24), daughter, teacher of cookery and laundry work, born Bilston;
- [5] Martha Fellows (36), domestic servant (housemaid), born Walsall;
- [6] Gertrude Lacey (20), domestic servant (housemaid), born Bilston;

South Staffordshire Times 31/1/1920

"On Wednesday, at the DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE, the annual meeting of the Bilston Town Bowling Club was held. Mr. J. A. Harper was re-elected president; Mr. E. H. Fellows, vice-president; Mr. A. Bradley, captain; Mr. A. Roper, vice-captain; Mr. H. Preece, secretary and treasurer. The revenue account showed the total receipts to be £362 18s 3d, with a profit of £34 12s 2d. With bank interest this was increased to £55 4s 1d. The excess of assets over liabilities amounts to £122 9s 6d. The club owns the land on which the greens are situated, the pavilion, greenhouses, etc."

1921 Census

14, Cambridge Street – DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE

- [1] Sarah J. Beaman (71), licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] Edith H. Beaman (34), daughter, home duties, born Bilston;
- [3] Amelia Hedge (19), servant, born Willenhall;

1937 Probate

"John Henry Marshall, of DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE, 14 Cambridge Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 17 December 1936. Administration Birmingham 16 January to Louisa May Marshall, widow. Effects £471 6s."

1939 Register

14, Cambridge Street

- [1] Henry C. Hibbert, date of birth 25/5/1887, licensed victualler (retired iron and steel merchant), married;
- [2] Sarah E. Hibbert, dob 18/8/1886, domestic duties, married;

1948 Probate

"Henry Crookes Hibbert, of the DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE HOTEL, Cambridge Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 23 October 1947. Probate Birmingham 5 July to James Stuart Hibbert, draughtsman, and Cyril Vincent Matthews, solicitor. Effects £2,611 17s 7d."

Closed

It was demolished circa 1965.

DUKE OF WELLINGTON

Ettingshall Lane, (Catchems Corner), BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Richard Evans [1828] – [1835]

NOTES

It was known as "The Hell House".

DUKE OF WELLINGTON [1828], [1835]

MARQUIS OF WELLINGTON [1834], [1835]

Ettenshall Lane [1835]

DUKE OF YORK

Wolverhampton Road, (Ettingshall Lane), BILSTON

OWNERS

Mrs. Jane Higgins

LICENSEES

John Smith [1841] – [1842]

James Higgins [1847]

Mrs. Jane Higgins [] – **1849**);

Thomas Lowe (**1849 – 1852**);

Thomas Mann (**1852 – 1857**)

John Southall []

Enoch Evans [1864] – [1865]

NOTES

Bilston Road [1865]

FREEHOLD AND COPYHOLD PROPERTY, OLD
LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE,
And other Premises, in the Township of Bilston.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY MESSRS. WALKER & PAGE,
At the King's Arms Inn, in Bilston, on Monday, the 9th
day of July, 1849, at six o'clock in the evening,
THE following FREEHOLD and COPYHOLD PRO-
PERTIES, subject to such conditions as will be
then read, and in the undermentioned or such other lots
as may be agreed upon at the time of sale :—

MONMORE GREEN.

Lot I.—All that Old Licensed PUBLIC HOUSE, situate fronting to the Holyhead road, at the corner of Ettingshall Lanes, in the liberty of Bilston, occupied by the representatives of the late Mrs. Jane Higgins, and known by the sign of “THE DUKE OF YORK,” and containing three cellars, bar, parlour, tap room, two chambers, malt room, and large club room, brewhouse, large enclosed yard, pump of hard water, large stable, pigsty, and other appurtenances.

And also all those TWO adjoining COTTAGES, also fronting the Holyhead road, in the several occupations of Thomas Tranter and Widow Williams.

1849

Wolverhampton Chronicle 6/1/1847

“On Tuesday, at the Bilston police court, Mr. Enoch Fellows, who has just taken to the BROWN LION INN, Bilston, and Mr. *Jane Higgins*, who has just taken to the DUKE OF YORK, near Monmore Green, made application to the Bench for permission to sell ale and spirituous liquors in their respective houses until the special sessions for granting transfers of licenses, to be held on the 8th of January inst, at Wolverhampton. Their applications were granted.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/6/1849 - Advert

“Freehold and Copyhold Property, Old Licensed Public House, and other Premises, in the Township of Bilston. To be Sold by Action, by Messrs. Walker & Page, at the KINGS ARMS INN, in Bilston, on Monday, the 9th day of July, 1849, at six o'clock in the evening, the following Freehold and Copyhold Properties.....
Monmore Green.

Lot I. All that Old Licensed Public House, situate fronting to the Holyhead road, at the corner of Ettingshall Lanes, in the liberty of Bilston, occupied by the representatives of the late Mrs. *Jane Higgins*, and known by the sign of the DUKE OF YORK, and containing three cellars, bar, parlour, tap room, two chambers, malt room, and large club room, brewhouse, large enclosed yard, pump of hard water, large stable, pigsty, and other appurtenances.

And also all those Two adjoining Cottages, also fronting the Holyhead road, in the several occupations of Thomas Tranter and Widow Williams.....

The above two lots are Copyhold of the Manor of Stowheath.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/8/1849

“At a special sessions, held at the Police Office, on Monday last, the following licenses were transferred.....
DUKE OF YORK, Bilston, from *Jane Higgins*, widow, to Thomas Lowe.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/2/1851

“At Bilston Public Office, on Tuesday last, *Thomas Lowe*, of the DUKE OF YORK, Wolverhampton Road; Thomas Henshaw, of the CROWN AND ANCHOR, Cozeley Row; Richard Talbot, of the CROWN INN, Hall Fields; Isaac Riley, of the ROYAL EXCHANGE; and John Roscoe, of the MOUNT PLEASANT, were fined in sums varying from 10s to 40s and costs, for infringement of their licenses by keeping their houses open beyond the specified hours, or allowing card-playing &c.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/4/1852

“At an adjourned special sessions for the transfer of victuallers’ licenses, within the division of Seisdon North.....
DUKE OF YORK, Ettingshall Lane, from *Thomas Lowe* to *Thomas Mann*, of Mamble Square.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 25/2/1857 - Advert

“To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. S. Powell, at the house of Mr. Bullock, called the NEW BULLS HEAD INN, Wolverhampton Road, Bilston, on Wednesday, the 11th day of March next, at six o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be produced.

All that Old Licensed Public House, situate in the parish of Bilston, at the junction of Ettingshall Lane with the turnpike road leading from Wolverhampton to Bilston, known by the sign of the DUKE OF YORK, and now in the occupation of *Thomas Mann*, at a yearly rental of £25. And also all that Piece of Land adjoining, having a frontage of eight yards and two feet to the said turnpike road, and upon which new houses can be erected.

For further particulars apply to Messrs. Pinchard and Shelton, Solicitors, Wolverhampton; to Mr. Waterhouse, Solicitor, Bilston; or to Mr. Armson, Builder, Coseley.”

London Gazette 8/1/1861

“*John Southall*, late of the DUKE OF YORK TAVERN, Ettingshall-lane, Bilston-road, Bilston, Licensed Victualler. In the Gaol of Stafford.”

Edinburgh Gazette 12/7/1864

“*Enoch Evans*, of the DUKE OF YORK INN, Bilston Road, Bilston, Wolverhampton, Stafford, licensed victualler and retailer of tobacco.”

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by Mr. S. POWELL,
at the house of Mr. BULLOCK, called THE NEW BULL'S
HEAD INN, WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD, BILSTON, on Wed-
nesday, the 11th day of March next, at six o'clock in the evening,
subject to conditions then to be produced.

All that OLD LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE, situate in the
parish of Bilston, at the junction of Ettingshall-lane with the turn-
pike road leading from Wolverhampton to Bilston, known by the
sign of the “Duke of York,” and now in the occupation of Thomas
Mann, at a yearly rental of £25. And also all that Piece of LAND
adjoining, having a frontage of eight yards and two feet to the said
turnpike road, and upon which new houses can be erected.

For further particulars apply to Messrs. PINCHARD and SHELTON,
Solicitors, Wolverhampton; to Mr. WATERHOUSE, Solicitor,
Bilston; or to Mr. ARMSON, Builder, Coseley.

EAGLE

Wolverhampton Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Thomas Deeley [1833] – [1835]

NOTES

Thomas Deeley = Thomas Deely

Thomas Deeley was also a carpenter and pattern maker. [1833]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 15/6/1835 - Advert

“Capital Public House and Liquor Shop.

To be disposed of, the License and Fixtures of that excellent Public House known by the sign of the EAGLE TAVERN, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, now in the occupation of Mr. *Thomas Deely*, who is declining the business on account of ill health. The coming-in may be reduced to £100 if required.

Further particulars may be known on application to Mr. *Deely*, on the premises, or Mr. Jesse Wright, Auctioneer, Dudley.”

CAPITAL PUBLIC HOUSE and LIQUOR SHOP.
TO be disposed of, the Licence and Fixtures of that excellent Public House known by the Sign of the EAGLE TAVERN, Wolverhampton-street, Bilston, now in the occupation of Mr. Thomas Deely, who is declining the business on account of ill health. The coming-in may be reduced to 100l. if required.
Further particulars may be known on application to Mr. Deely, on the premises, or Mr. Jesse Wright, Auctioneer, Dudley.

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE

40, Hill Street, (47, (46), Hall Street), Hallfields, Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

Caroline Brywood
J. and J. Yardley and Co. Ltd.
Millward Brothers, maltsters, Wednesbury
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

LICENSEES

Joseph Brywood [1859] – [1876]
Caroline Brywood [1878] – **1882**);
Arnold Walter Wolverson (**1882 – 1884**);
Thomas Henry Round (**1884**);
William Henry Moreton (**1884**);
William Riley (**1884 – 1888**);
Henry William Cole (**1888 – 1891**);
Adam Bailey (**1891 – 189_**);
Samuel Bright Oliver (**189_ – 1896**);
Thomas Wood (**1896 – 1899**);
Simeon Heath (**1899 – 1900**);
Abraham Wootton (**1900 – 1902**);
Alfred Roberts (**1902**);
Abraham Wootton (**1902 – 1903**);
John Thomas Hinsull (**1903 – 1912**);
Samuel James Plimmer (**1912 – 1913**):

NOTES

46, Hall Street [1861]
47, Hall Street [1871], [1881], [1891]
40, Hill Street [1904], [1911]
Hill Street [1911], [1912]

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/10/1858

“At the Petty Sessions, on Tuesday, Mr. Whitehouse applied for a transfer of the license of the ROYAL OAK, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, to the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, in Hall Fields, and from the tenant of the one house to the tenant of the other. The application was opposed by Mr. Shipman, on behalf of Mr. Millward, who has the reversion of the ROYAL OAK property on the death of his mother, an old woman nearly eighty years of age. The transaction was also opposed by the landlords of the adjoining public houses to that to which it was proposed to transfer the license, and by a person named Fellows, who has a mortgage to the extent of £350 on the property. It was stated on the part of applicant that owing to the effects of mining operations the house had been rendered unfit for an inn, and that the transfer was contemplated for the benefit of the life-renter. Mr. Shipman objected that the transaction was not bona fide, Legge, the tenant of the ROYAL OAK, being only the nominal tenant, not having occupied the premises for four or five years, his client, Millward, having kept up the licence during that period, except for the last year, when payment was forestalled by his mother, with a view to the present application. Mr. Shipman’s objections were sustained, and the transfer refused.”

Joseph Brywood = Joseph Brydwood

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/8/1859

"Yesterday a special sessions was held at the Public Office, Bilston, for the renewal and granting of victuallers' licenses.....

The application of Mr. *Brydwood*, ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, Hallfields, for whom Mr. Bowen appeared, and which was opposed by Mr. Shipman, was refused."

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/8/1859

"The annual meeting of Magistrates for the purpose of the renewal and granting of licenses for the township of Bilston and the neighbourhood was held at the Bilston Police Court on Friday last.....

Mr. Bowen applied for a license for the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE at Hall Fields, occupied by Mr. *Brywood*. Mr. Bowen dwelt at some length upon the requirements of the district, and with respect to the house itself said it was commodious, was provided with ample stabling, and in every way adapted for a licensed house.

Mr. Shipman, who was instructed to oppose the application, said that within half a mile of Mr. *Brywood*'s house there were already two licensed houses, besides a number of beerhouses. The persons for whom Mr. Shipman opposed were Mr. Knight and Mr. Holloway, both of whom occupy licensed houses in the same street as the present applicant. Refused."

1861 Census

46, Hall Street

[1] Joseph Brywood (40), publican and puddler, born Bilston;

[2] Caroline Brywood (39), wife, born Sedgley;

[3] Mary Ann Brywood (18), daughter, born Bilston;

[4] David Brywood (16), son, puddler, born Wolverhampton;

[5] Christiana Brywood (14), daughter, born Sedgley;

[6] John Brywood (3 months), son, born Bilston:

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/5/1863

"T. [sic] *Brywood*, ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, Bradley, Bilston, for allowing playing at bagatelle for ale, was fined 20s and costs."

Birmingham Daily Post 14/11/1863

"Bilston Petty Sessions.....

Henry Rowley, a little lad, was sent, for theft, to prison for three months. His mother, Fanny Rowley, for inciting him to steal, was sentenced to a similar punishment. A few days ago the two went into a public house kept by *Joseph Brywood*. The mother called for ale, and while attracting the attention of the mistress of the house by drinking it at the bar, the son slipped into a back room, and was presently seen walking out of the door with a bundle under his arm. The bundle contained two shirts, which were afterwards found hidden. It was also shown that the lad had stolen a pair of stays from the shop of Mr. Attwood, draper, of Church Street, and that he had been a companion in theft to a lad who was last week sent to prison for stealing meat from the butcher's shop of Mr. Richard Thompson."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 6/5/1865

"On Monday night, a silver watch, and £5 in gold and silver, was stolen from the person of *Joseph Brywood*, Allfield [sic], Bilston, while drunk in the neighbourhood of the Town Hall."

Birmingham Daily Post 11/3/1871 - Advert

"Lost, February 7th, Black Retriever Bitch, nine months old; fore toes tipt with white, and little on breast.

Anyone bringing the same to the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, Hall Street, Hallfields, Bilston, will be Rewarded. Anyone detaining her after this Notice will be Prosecuted."

LOST, February 7th, Black Retriever BITCH, nine months old: fore toes tipt with white, and little on breast. — Anyone bringing the same to the Elephant and Castle, Hall Street, Hallfields, Bilston, will be Rewarded. Anyone detaining her after this Notice will be Prosecuted.

1871 Census

47, Hall Street – ELEPHANT AND CASTLE

[1] Joseph Brywood (48), puddler and publican, born Bilston;

[2] Caroline Brywood (47), wife, born Sedgley:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 13/3/1876

“On Friday night an accident, which might have resulted fatally, happened to Mr. John Fletcher, roller, of Queen Street, Bradley. He was returning from Dudley in company with Mr. *Brywood*, of the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE INN, Bradley, and in getting out of the train he accidentally slipped, falling across the buffers between two carriages, receiving a serious contusion of the left side, and it was with the utmost difficulty that Mr. *Brywood* prevented Mr. Fletcher from falling upon the line. Mr. Larkin, surgeon, was in immediate attendance, and rendered the necessary assistance to Mr. Fletcher’s injuries.”

Joseph *Brywood* was born in 1822.

He married Caroline Hickman on 8th September 1839.

He died in the 4th quarter of 1879.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 31/8/1878

“Bilston Annual Licensing Sessions.....

Mrs. *Caroline Brywood*, ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, Bradley, made a personal application for a wine license. Applicant had kept the house for twenty years The Bench, without retiring, refused the whole of the applications.”

1881 Census

47, Hall Street – ELEPHANT AND CASTLE

[1] *Caroline Brywood* (58), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Sedgley;

[2] Clara D. Smith (12), grand-daughter, scholar, born Bilston:

Darlaston Weekly Times 29/7/1882 - Marriage

“On the 22nd inst, at St. Leonard’s Church, by the Rev. Charles Lee, vicar, Israel Bailey, of the CROWN INN, Bilston Street, Hall Fields, to *Caroline Brywood*, of the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, Hall Street, Hall Fields.”

1891 Census

47, Hall Street – ELEPHANT AND CASTLE

[1] *Henry W. Cole* (39), iron worker shingler and publican, born Bilston;

[2] Maria Cole (41), wife, born Bilston;

[3] George J. Cole (18), son, iron worker cutter down in mill, born Bilston;

[4] Samuel A. Cole (17), son, iron worker cutter down in mill, born Bilston;

[5] Henry W. Cole (14), son, ironworker in sheet mill, born Bilston;

[6] Albert Cole (9), son, born Bilston;

[7] Ernest Cole (4), son, born Bilston;

[8] Alice Cole (15), niece, born Scotland;

[9] Sarah Morris (19), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Thomas Wood issued tokens.

1901 Census

Hill Street

[1] *Abraham Wootton* (25), boiler riveter, born Sedgley;

[2] Alice Wootton (26), wife, born Bilston;

[3] Leah Wootton (5), daughter, born Sedgley;

[4] David Wootton (2), son, born Sedgley;

[5] Sarah Marks (16), domestic servant, born Bilston:

John Thomas Hinsull, beer retailer, 40, Hill Street, Bradley. [1904]

1911 Census

40, Hill Street

- [1] John Thomas Hinsull (48), brewer, born Princes End;
- [2] Eliza Hinsull (46), wife, married 26 years, born Princes End;
- [3] Thomas Sydney Hinsull (22), son, engine fitter, born Bradley;
- [4] John Eger Hinsull (19), son, iron worker, born Bradley;
- [5] Henry Norman Hinsull (15), son, iron worker, born Bradley;
- [6] John Thomas Hinsull (10), son, school, born Bradley;
- [7] Slina Kate Hinsull (7), daughter, school, born Bradley;
- [8] Edith Hinsull (4), daughter, school, born Bradley;
- [9] Florance May Hinsull (2), daughter, born Bradley;
- [10] Ester Page (18), domestic servant, born Bradley;
- [11] Thomas Dolman (36), visitor, iron worker, born Bradley;

Samuel J. Plimmer, beer retailer, Hill Street. [1912]

Staffordshire Advertiser 17/2/1912

"Bilston Annual Licensing Sessions were held on the 9th inst.

The licenses of ELEPHANT AND CASTLE INN, Hill Street were referred to the compensation authority for closing as not being required."

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/6/1912

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

Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Principal Meeting to be held pursuant to the Licensing Rules, 1910, by the Compensation Authority for the above Area, will be held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, at Eleven o'clock am, on Thursday, the 18th Day of July, 1912.

And Notice Is Hereby Also Given, that the Compensation Authority will at the Meeting be prepared to hear, with reference to the Renewal of the Licenses of the several Premises specified in the subjoined list, all those Persons to whom under the Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910, they are bound to give an opportunity of being heard; that is to say, the Persons interested in any Licensed Premises in question, and, unless it appears to the Compensation Authority unnecessary, any other persons appearing to them to be interested in the question of the renewal of the license of those premises (including the Justices of the Licensing District). List of Licensed Premises.....

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, Bradley. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *Samuel J. Plimmer*."

License refused by Compensation Authority on 18th July 1912.

Staffordshire Sentinel 18/7/1912

"The principal meeting of the County Compensation Authority was held in the Shire Hall, Stafford, today..... ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, Bradley agreements had been entered into, and there was no opposition."

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/8/1912 - Notice

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

Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Compensation Authority for the above area, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on the 18th day of July, 1912, to Refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below, all Persons Claiming to be Interested in the said Premises for the purpose of the Payment of Compensation under the said Act (other than the Licensee and the Registered Owner of the said Premises) are required to send to the Compensation Authority Notice of their Claims before the 26th day of August, 1912, for the purpose of enabling the Compensation Authority to ascertain in manner provided by the Licensing Rules, 1910, the Persons entitled to Compensation under the said Act, in respect of the said Premises.....

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, Bradley. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licencee, *Samuel J. Plimmer*. Registered Owner, Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd."

Lichfield Mercury 3/1/1913

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

The County Licensing Committee presented the following report Compensation.....

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, Bradley, Bilston (beerhouse, ante 1869) was referred to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, the committee being unable to approve the amount submitted.”

The license was not renewed in 1913.

Compensation of £255 was paid on 24th December 1913.

Lichfield Mercury 9/1/1914

“The annual report of the County Licensing Committee.....

The Commissioners of Inland Revenue gave their decisions in the two cases referred to them last year.....

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, Bilston, £255.”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 11/10/1924 - Advert

“Tuesday Next, October 14th, 1924, at 7 o’clock in the Evening.

Important Sale of Freehold Properties and Land, and de-licensed houses, at Bradley and Priestfields, which Cyril H. Green, FNAA, has been instructed to submit for Sale By Auction, at the PIPEHALL HOTEL, Bilston, on the above Date, subject to conditions of sale to be then read, the under-mentioned Properties.....

Lot 8. Two Freehold Houses, Nos.40 and 1, back, Hill Street, Bradley, £30 0s 2d in gross annual rentals.

No.40 Hill Street was formerly the licensed premises known as the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE INN (now de-licensed).”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 18/10/1924

“Mr. Cyril H. Green, FNAA, auctioneer, Bilston, conducted a successful sale of freehold properties, de-licensed houses, and land, situate in Bilston, Priestfields, and Bradley, at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, on Tuesday evening.....

Two houses in Hill Street, Bradley, one of which was the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, £245.”

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE

122, (127), Oxford Street / Hare Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

William Butler and Co. Ltd.

LICENSEES

Francis Udall [1851] – **1888**);
William Henry Haynes (**1888 – 1894**);
Nathan Eccleston (**1894 – 1896**);
James McNairnie (**1896 – 1897**);
Charles Henry Parsons (**1897 – 1898**);
Robert Edward Platt (**1898 – 1899**);
Charles Henry Walker (**1899 – 1924**):

LOT 1 (With Vacant Possession).
The Commodious Double-fronted DWELL-
ING HOUSE and PREMISES, until recently
known as the

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE INN
(now de-licensed),

situate and being No. 122 in OXFORD ST.,
BILSTON, formerly in the occupation of Mr.
Albert Ward, but now void.

The Property has a frontage of 26ft. 6in. to
Oxford Street, 8ft. 10in. to Hare Street, and
contains an area of 292 square yards or there-
abouts.

The Premises are very suitable for a Retail
Shop, or could be easily converted into two
good Dwelling Houses, at a small cost.

1924

NOTES

127, Oxford Street [1858], [1861], [1864], [1865], [1871], [1891]

122, Oxford Street [1901], [1911], [1912], [1921], [1924]

It had a beerhouse license.

Francis Udall = Francis Udell

1851 Census

Oxford Street

- [1] *Francis Udall* (33), publican, born Handsworth;
- [2] Maria Udall (31), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] Francis Udall (5 months), son, born Bilston;
- [4] Joseph Taffy (55), visitor, jobbing smith, born Wednesfield;
- [5] Louisa Jones (16), general servant, born Kingswinford;

Francis Udall, beerhouse keeper, 127, Oxford Street. [1858]

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/1/1858

“The annual meeting of the subscribers and the ballot of the Birmingham and Midland Counties Art Union took place on Thursday week, at the rooms of the Society of Artists, Temple Row. The chair was filled by Mr. Edward Everitt. Mr. Hallam read the report. The sum available for the ballot was £275, which the committee had apportioned in the following manner. One prize of £50, one of £30, one of £25, two of £20, three of £15, five of £10, and seven of £5.....

Prize of £5, Mr. *Francis Udall*, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/9/1858

“The annual licensing meeting for Bilston and its neighbourhood was held on Friday last.....

Applications for new licenses.....

Mr. Wells appeared in support of an application on behalf of Mr. *Francis Udall*, for a license to the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, Oxford Street, Bilston, and stated that from the BULL INN, at Moxley, to the QUEENS ARMS, in Oxford Street, there was only one public house with an old license, and there was no opposition by the occupier of that house to the present application.

Mr. Hayes opposed for the occupier of the BROWN LION, and pointed out to the Bench that there were large works in close proximity to the house of the applicant, and the evils which would result by workmen wasting their time in a public house. Application refused.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/8/1859

“Yesterday a special sessions was held at the Public Office, Bilston, for the renewal and granting of victuallers’ licenses.....

Mr. Hayes opposed an application, supported by Mr. Bowen, for a license for the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE beerhouse, in Oxford Street, Bilston, kept by Mr. *F. Udall*, on the ground that there were already seven licensed houses within seven hundred yards of this. Mr. Bagnall said there were now nine licensed houses and thirteen beerhouses in Oxford Street, which the magistrates considered sufficient, and refused the application.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/8/1859

“The annual meeting of Magistrates for the purpose of the renewal and granting of licenses for the township of Bilston and the neighbourhood was held at the Bilston Police Court on Friday last.....

Mr. W. Bowen applied for a license for the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, kept by Mr. *Francis Udall*, Oxford Street, Bilston. Mr. Bowen said the house had been greatly enlarged since the last application was made, and the applicant’s testimonial was both numerous and respectably signed.

Mr. Hayes opposed the application, and stated that there were already seven licensed houses within three hundred yards of the house of the present applicant. The Chairman said there were now nine licensed houses and thirteen beerhouses in Oxford Street, and they therefore considered that neighbourhood was amply provided for. The application was refused.”

Francis Udall, beer retailer, Oxford Street. [1861], [1868]

1861 Census

127, Oxford Street – ELEPHANT AND CASTLE

- [1] *Francis Udall* (43), retail brewer, born Handsworth;
- [2] Maria Udall (41), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] George Udall (20), son, butcher, born West Bromwich;
- [4] John Udall (18), son, stock taker, born West Bromwich;
- [5] Emma Udall (15), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [6] Francis Udall (9), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] Mary A. Udall (7), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [8] Rebecca Udall (5), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [9] Maria Udall (3), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [10] Thomas Udall (10 months), son, born Bilston:

Staffordshire Advertiser 24/8/1861

“At Bilston Police Court, on Tuesday, a man named Benjamin Silvester was charged, before J. N. Bagnall, Esq, and the Rev. H. S. Fletcher, with having stolen 17s from the person of Thomas Morris, at a beerhouse in Oxford Street, kept by *Francis Udall*. In the course of Sunday morning last the parties were drinking at *Udall*’s public house, and while prosecutor was taking some money out of his purse in order to pay for some ale, the prisoner snatched the purse out of his hand and ran away. The circumstances of the case were such that the magistrates did not feel justified in convicting, and the prisoner was bound over to appear if called on.

Udall was then charged with keeping his house open at illegal hours, at the time the robbery just alluded to was said to have taken place, and the magistrates inflicted a penalty of 20s and costs.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/11/1861

“A case of *Francis Udall*, a publican living in Bilston, against Mr. C. Wright, occupier of the QUEENS HOTEL, in the same town, was argued today on an important point raised by Mr. Thurstans, the defendant’s attorney. The plaint was supported by Mr. Claydon.

The facts were simply these. In November, 1857, *Udall*, Wright, and a man named Burgess became sureties for a Mr. Hobdy, who has since left the country, on two promissory notes of £70 and £30. *Udall* was afterwards called upon to fulfil the bond, and he did so, paying the whole, or nearly the whole of the £100. Burgess afterwards undertook to repay his share, and *Udall* now sought to recover £31 12s, the share of the other co-surety.

In defence, Mr. Thurstans argued that defendant was protected by a certificate in Bankruptcy, under the date of January, 1860; the petition, it should be added, was filed in May, 1859. Mr. Claydon argued, first that the certificate afforded no protection whatever, but subsequently he maintained, and it was on this point the case was decided, that the certificate only afforded partial protection. Nearly two-thirds of the £100 were paid by *Udall* before defendant filed his petition, and the Court could consider that money to be the shares of *Udall* and Burgess; the remaining third was paid after defendant’s bankruptcy, therefore defendant was liable. The 52nd section of the Bankruptcy Act would not apply in a case like the present – between surety and co-surety, only between surety and principal, and in support of this he cited the case of ‘Clements and Longman.’ Mr. Thurstans maintained the 117th sec. of the 13 and 14 Vic. provided the debts payable on contingency could be assessed by the Court of Bankruptcy; and the Act further provided that where they were not assessable, the only remedy of the creditor would be to prove his debt, and receive dividends in case the contingency arose, and those dividends should be given without disturbing former dividends, payable to other creditors. Mr. Thurstans further argued that the defendant was only liable at the most for one-third the amount paid after the bankruptcy. His Honour considered that the section of Victoria referred to by Mr. Thurstans was a re-enactment of a section in the case cited by Mr. Claydon. He was, however, of opinion that it was not competent to the plaintiff to appropriate payments he had paid before the bankruptcy in discharge of his own liability only, but he was entitled to prove under the bankruptcy for the defendant’s share of that amount. He should consequently give judgement for a third of the sum paid by plaintiff since defendant’s bankruptcy, which would be £13 15s 8d.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/12/1861

“Yesterday, before W. Partridge, Esq, a vagrant, who gave the name of John Richardson, was committed for twenty-one days’ imprisonment, for having stolen about 4lbs of mutton from the stall of Mr. Udall, Oxford Street, Bilston, last Saturday night.”

Francis Udall, beer retailer, 127 Oxford Street. [1864], [1865]

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 11/2/1865

“G. Lane of Bilston will fight J. Waterhouse of Carr Lane, for £5 or £10 a side six weeks from the first deposit. Money ready at *F. Udell*’s, ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, Bilston.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/10/1865

“On Tuesday, at Bilston Police Court, before Mr. Isaac Spooner, *Francis Udell*, of the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, Oxford Street, was charged with permitting drunkenness in his house on Saturday night last. Police-constable Chaplin visited the house soon after eleven o’clock on the night named, and found three men drunk in the house.

The defendant, having been previously fined for similar offences, was fined £5 and costs.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 28/8/1869

“The annual licensing meeting for the Bilston division took place yesterday, at the Police Court.....

The following beerhouse keepers had been fined during the past five years.....

Permitting Drunkenness *Francis Udall*, ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, Oxford Street, £5 and costs.”

1871 Census

127, Oxford Street

- [1] *Francis Udall* (53), publican, born Handsworth;
- [2] *Maria Udall* (51), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *George Udall* (30), son, butcher, born West Bromwich;
- [4] *Francis Udall* (20), son, butcher, born Bilston;
- [5] *Mary Udall* (18), daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] *Rebecca Udall* (17), daughter, born Bilston;
- [7] *Maria Udall* (13), daughter, born Bilston;
- [8] *Thomas Udall* (10), son, born Bilston;
- [9] *Francis Udall* (4), visitor, born Bilston:

Maria Udall married *Arthur Edward Devereux* on 29th March 1881.

Arthur Edward Devereux – see JAPANNERS ARMS.

1881 Census

Oxford Street – ELEPHANT AND CASTLE

- [1] *Francis Udall* (63), publican, born Handsworth;
- [2] *Maria Udall* (61), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *Francis Udall* (29), son, brewer, born Bilston;
- [4] *Thomas Udall* (20), son, butcher, born Bilston;
- [5] *Kate Wall* (18), domestic servant, born Bilston;
- [6] *Clara Fellows* (21), visitor, domestic servant, born Bilston:

Maria Udall died in the 4th quarter of 1881.

Darlaston Weekly Times 17/1/1885

“On Tuesday afternoon and inquest was held at the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, Oxford Street, Bilston, by Mr. W. H. Phillips, borough coroner, touching the circumstances of the death of *Samuel Malin* (70), bricklayer, found dead at his residence, Hare Street, on Sunday morning, about half-past nine. From the evidence adduced it transpired that deceased had been in the enjoyment of good health, with the exception of complaining about a pain near the heart. A verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned.”

1891 Census

127, Oxford Street – ELEPHANT AND CASTLE

- [1] *William H. Haynes* (50), stationary steam engine maker, born Bilston;
- [2] *Selina Haynes* (48), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Samuel Haynes* (20), son, stationary engine fitter, born Bilston;
- [4] *Frank Haynes* (17), son, iron worker, born Bilston;
- [5] *Moses C. Haynes* (14), son, iron plate worker, born Bilston;
- [6] *Leonard Haynes* (10), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] *Charlotte Haynes* (7), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [8] *Rosannah Flavell* (17), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 27/6/1891

“At Bilston Police Court, yesterday, *Michael Flynn*, of Leicester Street, was sent to gaol for a month for assaulting *William Henry Haynes*, landlord of the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, Oxford Street, who had ordered him to leave the premises.”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/3/1892

“At Bilston Police Court, yesterday, *Michael Flynn*, labourer, Fleece Street, Bilston, was charged with being drunk and assaulting three police officers.

On Saturday night the prisoner created a disturbance in the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE INN, Oxford Street, and after being ejected he assaulted three police officers.

Having been convicted twenty-seven times he was now sent to gaol for two months each on three charges.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/6/1894

“At the Wolverhampton Police Court yesterday *William Henry Haynes*, of the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, Bilston, was summoned for permitting drunkenness. On Sunday evening, May 13, two police officers visited the defendant’s house, and found a Hednesford miner, named Thomas Jefferies, drunk, and the landlord admitted having supplied him with beer.

For the defence it was contended that the man was not intoxicated. The Stipendiary, however, imposed a penalty of £5 and costs.”

Nathan Eccleston, beer retailer, 127, Oxford Street. [1896]

James McNairnie – see also ROYAL GEORGE, Church Street.

Robert Edward Platt = Robert Edward Plack

Dudley Herald 14/5/1898

“Robert Painter (25), of Hall Green Street, Bradley, was charged at Bilston, on Tuesday, with stealing a razor, a strop, a shaving brush, and 25 cigars, the property of *Robert Edward Plack*, landlord of the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, Oxford Street, Bilston.

Prosecutor stated that on the 20th of April he missed the articles mentioned, and prisoner was seen to take them.

PC Boulton deposed to arresting prisoner, who admitted the theft, and now stated that *Plack* made him drunk, and told a lot of men that he was tired of filling, and they were to come and help themselves.

Prisoner was fined 5s and costs, or sentenced to fourteen days’ imprisonment.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 25/10/1898

“William Abbotts (31), of Free Street, Bilston, was charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of *Robert Edward Platt*, at the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE INN, Oxford Street. There was a further charge against the defendant of assaulting the landlord, *Robert Edward Platt*.

Complainant stated that on Friday night, about ten o’clock, defendant was in his house, and a disturbance took place. He requested defendant to leave, whereupon he struck witness and used bad language towards him.

A witness stated that the landlord threw the defendant out of the house without provocation, and that no bad language was used.

The magistrates dismissed the case.”

1901 Census

122, Oxford Street – Beerhouse

[1] *Charles H. Walker* (32), iron moulder and beerhouse keeper, born Bilston;

[2] *Sarah H. Walker* (31), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Harvess Walker* (6), daughter, born Bilston;

[4] *Minnie Walker* (3), daughter, born Bilston;

[5] *Elsie Walker* (5 months), daughter, born Bilston;

[6] *Fanny Phillips* (19), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Charles Walker, beer retailer, 122, Oxford Street. [1904]

1911 Census

122, Oxford Street

[1] *Charles Henry Walker* (44), beerhouse keeper, born Bradley;

[2] *Sarah Harriet Walker* (42), wife, married 18 years, born Bilston;

[3] *Harvin Elizabeth Walker* (16), daughter, born Bilston;

[4] *Minnie Gwendoline Walker* (12), daughter, school, born Bilston;

[5] *Elsie Walker* (10), daughter, school, born Bilston;

[6] *Phylis Walker* (4), daughter, born Bilston:

Charles H. Walker, beer retailer, 122, Oxford Street. [1912]

1921 Census

122, Oxford Street

- [1] Charles H. Walker (53), innkeeper, born Bilston;
- [2] Sarah H. Walker (50), wife, assistant innkeeper, born Bilston;
- [3] Minnie G. Walker (23), daughter, home duties, born Bilston;
- [4] Elsie Walker (20), daughter, book keeper &c, born Bilston;
- [5] Phyllis Walker (14), daughter, general office work, born Bilston:

Charles Henry Walker – see also BROWN LION, Oxford Street.

Sarah Harriet Walker – see BARREL, Mill Street.

South Staffordshire Times 9/2/1924

“Bilston Licensing.....

Plans for erecting new premises on land leading from Fraser Street to Willenhall Road, passed on the 3rd March, 1922, were now completed, and an application for the removal of license of the SAMSON AND LION, Greencroft, Bilston, to these new premises was to be made that day. If granted, an undertaking was given by the owners to surrender the license of the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, Oxford Street, which would close simultaneously with the house in Greencroft.....

Mr. Wright gave particulars of the application for the license of the new premises in Fraser Street. The house to be known as the SAMSON AND LION, he said, satisfied the authorities, and it was necessary to get a final order. The ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, which was surrendered, and the SAMSON AND LION, Greencroft, Bilston, if the licenses were transferred to the new premises, would be closed at two o'clock that day.

The application for transfer of the license of the old SAMSON AND LION to Robert Collins Robson was granted.”

The license was surrendered in 1924, on the Removal of the license from the SAMPSON AND LION, Green Croft, to the SAMPSON AND LION, Newbolt Road.

It closed on 8th February 1924.

Dudley Chronicle 2/10/1924 - Advert

“Belcher and Son have received instructions from Messrs. W. Butler and Co. Ltd., to Sell by Public Auction.....

Lot 1 (with Vacant Possession). The Commodious Double-fronted Dwelling House and Premises, until recently known as the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE INN (now de-licensed), situate and being No.122 in Oxford Street, Bilston, formerly in the occupation of Mr. Albert Ward, but now void.

The property has a frontage of 26ft 6in to Oxford Street, 81ft 10in to Hare Street, and contains an area of 292 square yards or thereabouts.

The Premises are very suitable for a Retail Shop, or could be easily converted into two good Dwelling Houses, at a small cost.”

ELISABETH ARMS

201, Overfield Drive, BILSTON

OWNERS

Harvester Restaurants [1995], [1996]

Sizzling Pub Co. [2007], [2012]



2007

LICENSEES

Kipps and Pountney [1995]

Alison Meredith-White and Andrew White [2004] managers

Maureen Layland [2005]

NOTES

[1992]



2023

It was refurbished in May 2003.

Andrew White was born c.1974.

Birmingham Mail 27/4/1996 - Advert

“A free bottle of wine with this advert.

Your local Harvester is offering a free bottle of wine to every ‘meal for two’ purchased with this voucher. Combine this with our great selection of food and deserts and you’re guaranteed a great time.

The offer is only valid at these participating restaurants.....

ELISABETH ARMS, Overfield Drive, Coseley, West Midlands.

Offer closes 15th May 1996.”

Birmingham Mail 29/6/1996 - Advert

“2 main courses for the price of one with this advert.

Your local Harvester has another great offer for you. Just cut out this ad and when you buy two meals from our restaurant menu, you will receive the cheapest absolutely Free!

Offer only valid at participating restaurants.....

ELISABETH ARMS, Overfield Drive, Coseley, West Midlands.

Offer closes 20/7/96. Not available with any other offer.

Offer available any time except after 5pm Saturdays, and before 4pm Sundays.”

“Harvester Barbecues The Midlands.

Subject to availability, this offer is valid any time except Saturday evenings after 6pm and Bank Holidays until 4th November 1996.”

[2023]

*"a free bottle
of wine with
this advert"*

YOUR local Harvester is offering
a free bottle of wine to every
"meal for two" purchased with
this voucher. Combine this with our great selection of
food and desserts and you're guaranteed a great time.





Old White Horse
South Road, Norton,
Stourbridge,
West Midlands
01384394 258

Elisabeth Arms,
Overfield Drive,
Cosely,
West Midlands
01902 884222

Boldmere,
Boldmere Road,
Sutton Coldfield,
West Midlands
0121 354 3533

The offer is only valid at these participating restaurants. Offer closes 15TH MAY 1996

*"2 main courses for
the price of one
with this advert"*

Your local Harvester has another great offer for you. Just cut out this ad and when you buy two meals from our restaurant menu.

You will receive the cheapest absolutely Free!





Old White Horse South Road, Norton, Stourbridge, West Midlands 01884 394 258	Elisabeth Arms Overfield Drive, Coseley, West Midlands 01902 884 222	Boldmere Boldmere Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands 0121 354 3533
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Offer only valid at participating restaurants. Offer closes 20/7/06. Not available with any other offer. Offer available any time except after 5pm Saturdays, and before 4pm Sundays.

[illegible]

FALCON

Mount Pleasant, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Richard Morgan [1850] – **1853**;
Thomas Manning (**1853** – []

NOTES

VALUABLE PUBLIC-HOUSE, AT BILSTON,
Staffordshire.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY MR. GEORGE BROWN,
Upon the premises, on Friday, the 6th day of May, 1853,
at six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions of sale
to be then and there read.
ALL that Copyhold MESSUAGE and PREMISES,
situate at Mount Pleasant, Bilston aforesaid, and
known as the "Falcon Inn," containing entrance hall, two
large front parlours, bar, back sitting room, with club
room, kitchen, brewhouse, capital cellaring, yard, garden,
stabling, and other outbuildings. To any person wishing
to carry on the public business this is an excellent oppor-
tunity. The premises adjoin the Public Office, at Bil-
ston, and front the Willenhall road, and the situation of
the house of course commands an extensive trade.
For further particulars apply to Mr. T. Bolton,
solicitor, Wolverhampton; Mr. C. G. Brown, solicitor,
Bilston, or to the Auctioneer, Oxford-street, Bilston.

1853

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/9/1850

"The special sessions for granting and renewing victuallers' licenses within the hundred of Seisdon North was held at the Public Office, Wolverhampton, on Thursday The new licenses granted were to.....

Richard Morgan, the FALCON, Mount Pleasant, Bilston."

1851 Census

Mount Pleasant

- [1] *Richard Morgan* (48), coal master and victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *Mary M. Morgan* (44), wife, born Broseley, Shropshire;
- [3] *Emma Morgan* (17), daughter, at home, born Tipton;
- [4] *William Morgan* (14), son, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [5] *Richard H. Morgan* (12), son, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [6] *Anne E. Morgan* (10), daughter, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [7] *Charles James Morgan* (8), son, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [8] *George Thomas Morgan* (5), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [9] *Walter J. Morgan* (3), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [10] *Eunice Jenks* (78), mother-in-law, widow, born Shirecester, Shropshire;
- [11] *Sarah Mills* (17), general servant, born Dudley;

Birmingham Journal 17/1/1852

"On Wednesday, an inquest has held at Mr. *Richard Morgan's*, the FALCON INN, Mount Pleasant, on the body of Emma Lowe, one year and nine months old, daughter of Thomas Lowe, of Peacroft Lane, who was found dead in a pool of water in her father's garden, at eleven o'clock on Sunday morning last, by a woman named Mary Edwards. The deceased, it is supposed, was playing near the pool of water, which was about two feet deep, and accidentally slipped in head foremost."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/5/1853 - Advert

"Valuable Public House at Bilston, Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. George Brown, upon the premises, on Friday, the 6th day of May, 1853, at six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions of sale to be then and there read.

All that Copyhold Messuage and Premises, situate at Mount Pleasant, Bilston aforesaid, and known as the FALCON INN, containing entrance hall, two large front parlours, bar, back sitting room, with club room, kitchen, brewhouse, capital cellaring, yard, garden, stabling, and other outbuildings. To any person wishing to carry on the public business this is an excellent opportunity. The premises adjoin the Public Office, at Bilston, and front the Willenhall road, and the situation of the house of course commands an extensive trade."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/12/1853

"At the Public Office, on the 6th instant, a special sessions was held for transferring licenses..... that of *Richard Morgan*, late of the FALCON, at Bilston, to *Thomas Manning*."

FORESTERS ARMS

12, (6), Walsall Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Alexander Perry Law, gentleman, Bilston

Abraham Lunn, contractor / beerhouse keeper, Bilston

Catherine (Lunn) Hill, 248, Caledonia Road, Wishaw, Scotland

LICENSEES

Charles Tizard [1865]

Samuel Rogers [1871] – **1876**;

Abraham Lunn **(1876 – 1878)**;

George Swift **(1878 – 1893)**;

William Till **(1893 – 1897)**;

Fred Pearson **(1897 – 1908)**;

Harry Howard Wilkes **(1908 – 1911)**;

Walter William Harbach **(1911 – 1923)**;

Mrs. Annie Harris **(1923 – 1933)**;

Arthur Humpage **(1933 – 1934)**;

George Allen **(1934 – [1940])**

LEA BROOK RECREATION GROUNDS, WEDNESBURY.—Mr. J. Harding, the Proprietor, begs to inform his friends and lovers of the sport, that he will give £10 to be run for in a 135 yards Foot Race, on Saturdays, July 31, and August, 7, 1875. First Prize, £8; Second, £1 10s.; Third, 10s. To commence at Three o'clock precisely. Admission to the Grounds 6d. each. Entrance, One Shilling each. Entries to be made to Mr. Harding, at the Grounds; Mr. J. Dudley, Crown Tube Works Inn, Wednesbury; Mr. T. Bickley, White Swan Inn, Brownhills; Mr. Turner, Sun Inn, Commercial-street, Wolverhampton; S. Conlett, White Swan Inn, Darlaston; and Mr. S. Rogers, Foresters' Arms, Bilston. Entries close on Tuesday, July the 28th, or Wednesday Morning's post will be in time.

1875

NOTES

6, Walsall Street [1871], [1891]

12, Walsall Street [1901], [1911], [1921], [1939], [1940]

It was situated behind the town hall.

It was known locally as "My Dears".

It had a beerhouse license.

Charles Tizard, beer retailer, 6, Walsall Street. [1865]

Charles Tizard – see also LION, Coseley Street, EXCHANGE VAULTS, and BALL COURT.

1871 Census

6, Walsall Street – FORRESTERS ARMS

[1] Samuel Rogers (36), locksmith, born Wolverhampton;

[2] Adelaide Rogers (34), wife, born Willenhall;

[3] William Rogers (12), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[4] Samuel Rogers (10), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[5] David Rogers (7), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[6] Henry Rogers (5), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[7] Jesse Rogers (3), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[8] Thomas Rogers (1), son, born Bilston;

[9] James Callow (52), boarder, hatter, born Denton, Lancashire;

[10] Philip Philips (53), lodger, wheelwright, born Wales:

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 27/4/1872

“Royal Oak Grounds, Burnt Tree, Dudley Port.....

Mr. Nuttall will give £10 to be run for in an All England Handicap Foot Race of 135 yards distance, to take place on Mondays, May 6 and 13; first prize £7, second £2, third £1. Entries 1s each, on or before May 1 (Thursday morning's letters taken in), at the grounds, or any of the following places *Rogers's*, FORESTERS ARMS Bilston.”

Midland Examiner 24/7/1875 - Advert

“Lea Brook Recreation Grounds, Wednesbury.

Mr. J. Harding, the Proprietor, begs to inform his friends and lovers of the sport, that he will give £10 to be run for in a 135 yards Foot Race, on Saturdays, July 31, and August 7, 1875. First Prize, £8; Second, £1 10s; Third, 10s. To commence at Three o'clock precisely. Admission to the Grounds 6d each. Entrance One Shilling each. Entries to be made to Mr. Harding, at the Grounds; Mr. J. Dudley, CROWN TUBE WORKS INN, Wednesbury; Mr. T. Bickley, White Swan Inn, Brownhills; Mr. Turner, SUN INN, Commercial Street, Wolverhampton; S. Canlett, WHITE SWAN INN, Darlaston; and Mr. *S. Rogers*, FORESTERS ARMS, Bilston. Entries close on Tuesday, July the 28th, or Wednesday Morning's post will be in time.”

1881 Census

Walsall Street

- [1] *George Swift* (45), publican, born Stourbridge;
- [2] *Eliza Swift* (41), wife, born Brettle Lane;
- [3] *Charles Swift* (19), son, brass worker in brass foundry, born Bilston;
- [4] *George Henry Swift* (14), son, grocer's assistant, born Bilston;
- [5] *Alfred Swift* (11), son, born Bilston;
- [6] *Jane Swift* (9), daughter, born Bilston;
- [7] *Mary Murray* (17), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

Darlaston Weekly Times 4/9/1886

“An inquest was held on Thursday at the FORESTERS ARMS INN, Bilston, touching the death of Jane Smith, a married woman, late of Walsall Street, Bilston. It appeared that on the 14th of August the deceased, who was subject to fits, was found upstairs at her home badly burnt about her back. She was attended by Dr. S. Ashley Smith. On Sunday last she was prematurely confined, and she died on Wednesday. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

1891 Census

6, Walsall Street – FORESTERS ARMS

- [1] *George Swift* (53), publican, born Stourbridge;
- [2] *Eliza Swift* (50), wife, born Brettel Lane;
- [3] *Sarah J. Swift* (19), daughter, general servant, born Bradley:

William Till, beer retailer, Walsall Street. [1896]

1901 Census

12, Walsall Street – FORESTERS ARMS

- [1] *Frederick Pearson* (42), engine fitter and licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *Fanny Pearson* (44), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Frederick Pearson* (18), son, born Bilston;
- [4] *Clarence J. Pearson* (6), son, born Bilston;
- [5] *Thomas Pearson* (5), son, born Bilston;
- [6] *Blanche Pearson* (1), daughter, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 12/4/1901

“At Bilston this (Friday) morning Vincent Henry Knight (33), agent, of Fisher Street, Wolverhampton, was charged with obtaining three patent beer refiners, value 9s, the property of *Fred Pearson*, landlord of the FORESTERS ARMS, Bilston, and patentee of the refiners.

It was stated prisoner waited on prosecutor on the 22nd January, and said he thought he could get some orders for the beer refiners. *Pearson* agreed to give him 6d on each one he sold, and gave him one as a sample. Later in the evening Knight called on him again, saying he had sold three to a publican named Poulton in Oxford Street. He gave him the three refiners, but had not since seen him.

Poulton was called, and said he never gave prisoner any order for refiners.

Police-sergeant Gibbs deposed to arresting prisoner on the 25th ult on another charge. When he charged him he said, ‘These three patents were given to me in lieu of wages. He told me I could do what I liked with them, as he did not want them.’

Prisoner was sentenced to two months’ hard labour.”

Fred Pearson, beer retailer, Walsall Street. [1904]

1911 Census

12, Walsall Street – FORESTERS ARMS

[1] *Walter William Harbach* (32), brass pattern maker, born Willenhall;

[2] *Sarah Ann Harbach* (28), wife, married 2 years, born Wednesbury;

[3] *George Harry Harbach* (1), son, born Willenhall:

Walter William Harbach brewed here. [1916], [1921]

The Stage 18/12/1919 - Advert

“Dis., Joint. Conc. tour, Dec. 20. John and Mrs. A’Beckett (Winfred Hamelin). J. A’B., Char. or Char. Com. Lead. W. H., Juv. or Heavy Lead. T.R., York; next, FORESTERS ARMS., Bilston.”

1921 Census

12, Walsall Street

[1] *Walter William Harbach* (43), beerhouse keeper, born Willenhall;

[2] *Sarah Ann Harbach* (38), wife, home duties, born Wednesbury;

[3] *George Harry Harbach* (11), son, school, born Willenhall;

[4] *Walter John Harbach* (2), son, born Bilston:

South Staffordshire Times 31/3/1923

“On the application of Mr. R. Tildesley, the license of the FORESTERS ARMS INN, Walsall Street, Bilston, was transferred to Mrs. *Annie Harris*, formerly of Bradley.”

Annie Harris was married to Frank.

1939 Register

12, Walsall Street

[1] *George Allen*, date of birth 5/11/1896, licensed victualler, stamping press labourer, married;

[2] *Lydia Allen*, dob 8/6/1901, unpaid domestic duties and bar, married;

[3] *Cyril Allen*, dob 1/3/1933, school, single;

[5] *Hilda (Mould) Vaughan*, dob 9/7/1912, bar general, single:

A team from here took part in the Bilston Crib League, Section B. [1946]

It closed in 1955.

Demolished

FORGE HAMMER

Ettingshall Lane, Spring Vale, (Spring Vale Iron Works), Ettingshall, BILSTON

OWNERS

Henry Fowler, ironmaster, Shifnal
Stephen Thompson

LICENSEES

Ann Hyde [1833] – [1841]
Joseph Hyde [1849] – [1865]
William Ephraim Hyde [1867] – **1873**;
Henry Hyde **(1873 – [1874]**

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS.
ALL persons having a CLAIM or DEMAND upon the estate of the late Mrs. ANN HYDE, of Ettingshall, in the parish of Sedgley, deceased, are requested to send the amount of their respective claims to Mr. FRANCIS WHITEHOUSE, farmer, Rookery Hall, Ettingshall, the executor appointed under her will, that the same may be examined, and if correct discharged. And any persons who stood INDEBTED to the estate of the said Mrs. Ann Hyde, at the time of her decease, are requested to pay their accounts to the said Francis Whitehouse, without further notice.

Ettingshall, March 6, 1848.

1848

NOTES

[This pub was strictly in the parish of Sedgley, but is included here due to other pubs in the proximity coming under Bilston.]

Spring Vale Iron Works [1849], [1850]
Spring Vale [1862]

It had a beerhouse license.

FORGE HAMMER AND SPEEDWELL [1864], [1865], [1872]
FORGE AND HAMMER [1874]

Staffordshire Gazette 20/3/1839

“Staffordshire Lent Assizes.....

William alias John Miles (on bail) was indicted for uttering at Sedgley, on or about the 6th of August last, a £5 forged Bank of England note, with intent to defraud *Ann Hyde*.

Sarah Percival, wife of James Percival, and daughter of the prosecutrix, proved that on the 6th of August last prisoner came to her house, in the usual working dress, and said that Mr. Bentley, of Park Fields Colliery, had sent him for eight quarts of ale, for which he tendered a £5 note, which she got changed at a neighbours, and gave him the difference, £4 15s 6d. Prisoner said he was employed as a pig weigher under Mr. Bentley.

Several other witnesses were examined, and no doubt remained as to the identity of the prisoner, or that of the note. Mr. Bentley proved that he never employed him.

After these facts had been clearly made out, it appeared that there was no proof of the note being a forged one. A clerk from a bank at Stafford having looked at it, said ‘he could not pronounce it a forgery.’

The judge told the jury there was no evidence to convict the prisoner. Verdict, not guilty.”

1841 Census

Lanes Field

- [1] Ann Hyde (50), victualler, born Staffordshire;
- [2] Ann Elizabeth Smith (10), house servant, born Staffordshire;
- [3] Ann Vann (5), born Staffordshire:

Ann Hyde died on 3rd February 1848.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 15/3/1848 - Advert

“Notice to Debtors and Creditors.

All persons having a Claim or Demand upon the estate of the late Mrs. *Ann Hyde*, of Ettingshall, in the parish of Sedgley, deceased, are requested to send the amount of their respective claims to Mr. Francis Whitehouse, farmer, Rookery Hall, Ettingshall, the executor appointed under her will, that the same may be examined, and if correct discharged. And any persons who stood Indebted to the estate of the said Mrs. *Ann Hyde*, at the time of her decease, are requested to pay their accounts to the said Francis Whitehouse, without further notice.

Ettingshall, March 6, 1848.”

Joseph Hyde = Joseph Hide

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/3/1849

“On Saturday last an inquest was held at the FORGE HAMMER public house, at Spring Vale, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of Mary Ann Owen, 11 years of age. Deceased had been sent by her father, who is a stock-taker, to fetch a newspaper from Mr. George Robinson’s, of Spring Vale, a distance of about 300 yards, and not returning in a few minutes (as she was in the habit of doing), he began to fear that she had gone over the canal upon a plank which is placed there for the convenience of Mr. Jones’s workmen, instead of through the works as he desired her, and had fallen into the water. He immediately went to the spot in question, and, after searching the canal, found the deceased. Every means were used to restore life, but in vain. The jury returned a verdict of Accidentally Drowned.”

1851 Census

Spring Vale

- [1] *Joseph Hyde* (48), moulder and brass caster, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Harriot Hyde* (41), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] *Ephraim William Hyde* (20), son, sheet mill man employing one man, born Sedgley;
- [4] *Henry Hyde* (18), son, moulder and brass caster, born Sedgley;
- [5] *Samuel Hyde* (16) son, sheet mill man, born Sedgley;
- [6] *Sarah Ann Hyde* (14), daughter, housemaid, born Sedgley;
- [7] *Josiah Hyde* (8), son, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [8] *Emma Gutridge* (19), house servant, born Sedgley:

Staffordshire Sentinel 30/6/1855

“On Tuesday last, while *Joseph Hyde* was at work in the Spring Vale Ironworks, Sedgley, he was seized with pain in his bowels, and retched violently, but did not vomit. He was taken home, and died in about five minutes after he reached his house, without having been seen by a medical man. An inquest was held on the following day, at the FORGE HAMMER (before T. M. Phillips, Esq), when a verdict of death from Natural Causes was returned. It appeared that deceased had suffered from a pain in his side to which he had applied a ‘poor man’s plaister.’”

1861 Census

Spring Vale – Public House

- [1] *Joseph Hide* (56), publican, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Harriet Hide* (54), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] *Eliza Horton* (21), house servant, born Tipton;
- [4] *William H. Hide* (9), grand-son, scholar, born Sedgley:

Joseph Hyde, retailer of beer, Spring Vale. [1862]

Birmingham Daily Post 2/5/1862 - Died

“On the 30th ult, aged 55 years, *Harriet*, the beloved wife of Mr. *Joseph Hyde*, of Spring Vale, near Wolverhampton; deeply regretted.”

William Ephraim Hyde = Ephraim William Hyde = Ephraim Heyde

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 19/1/1867

“B. Thompson of the Straits, near Gornal, will run T. Jinks of Wolverhampton 120 yards, and give him two yards start, for £25 or £50 a side, at the Britannia Grounds, Tipton. Money ready any night next week at *E. Hyde's*, FORGE HAMMER INN, Ettingshall, near Wolverhampton.”

1871 Census

Spring Vale

- [1] *Ephraim Heyde* (40), victualler, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Elizabeth Heyde* (39), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] *William Henry Heyde* (19), son, born Sedgley;
- [4] *Richard Heyde* (17), son, born Sedgley;
- [5] *Joseph Heyde* (15), son, born Sedgley;
- [6] *George Heyde* (13), son, born Sedgley;
- [7] *Mary H. Heyde* (11), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [8] *Joseph Heyde* (9), son, born Sedgley;
- [9] *Sarah A. Heyde* (6), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [10] *Elizabeth Heyde* (4), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [11] *Mary H. Turner* (16), general servant, born Sedgley;

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/3/1872 - Advert

“To be Sold, pursuant to a Decree of the High Court of Chancery made in the cause of *Lane v Stewart*, with the approbation of the Vice-Chancellor, Sir John Wickens, in 3 lots, by Mr. Francis Sollom, the person appointed by the said Judge, at the SWAN HOTEL, at Wolverhampton, in the county of Stafford, on the 27th day of March, 1872, at four o'clock in the afternoon precisely, valuable Freehold Colliery Land called the Ettingshall Colliery and other property, situate at Ettingshall, in the county of Stafford.....

Lot 3. Comprising a piece of Land adjoining the last lot, containing 2a 2r 19p together with Nine Cottages, one of which is a public house called the FORGE HAMMER AND SPEEDWELL, let at a gross rental of £98 8s.”

County Advertiser 4/7/1874

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

John Horton (23), miner, able to read, and *Thomas Turner* (21), boatman, of no education, were charged with stealing a quantity of iron from the Lanesfield Ironworks, Sedgley, on June 14th, 1874. The Jury acquitted the prisoners. Mr. Kynnersley prosecuted, and Mr. Underhill defended Turner. The other prisoner was undefended.

Prisoners were further charged with stealing sixteen bottles of porter from *Henry Hyde*, of the FORGE AND HAMMER, Bilston. The bottles were all safe in the cellar of the night of the 14th June, but next morning it was found that the place had been broken into and the bottles abstracted. The theft was traced to the prisoners. The counsel for the prisoners said he thought that the matter was merely a drunken joke, but the jury found them guilty. Since 1867 Horton has been seven times convicted. He was now sentenced to seven years' penal servitude; and Turner was sent to gaol for six months.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/9/1877

“The annual licensing sessions for the Bilston division were held at the Public Office, Bilston, yesterday.....

Mr. Waterhouse appeared for *John Davis*, beerhouse keeper, Wood Street, Ettingshall, who allied for a spirit license for his house, known as the ROOKERY TAVERN.....

Mr. Barrow applied on behalf of *Henry Hyde*, occupier of the FOX beerhouse, that the license of a house formerly known as the FORGE HAMMER, which had been taken down by Mr. Stephen Thompson, for the erection of his works, might be transferred to the FOX.....

Some discussions took place as to whether Mr. Stephen Thompson, the owner of the former licensed premises, was willing for the license to be transferred to the FOX, Mr. Barrow stating that he could assure the Bench such was the case, whilst Mr. Waterhouse stated that Mr. Thompson, only a few days ago, had expressed to him a very different opinion Refused.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 1/9/1877

"Bilston Brewster Sessions.....

The applications from Sedgley were by *Henry Hyde*, for a full license to new premises at Ettingshall Lane. Mr. Waterhouse said that some years since there was a full licensed house in the vicinity called the FORGE HAMMER, but that house was now turned into a private house Mr. Barrow (Wolverhampton) applied for the provisional transfer of the license of the FORGE HAMMER, which had not lapsed, to the holder of the FOX public house, which the holder of the FORGE HAMMER was now occupying, but which he was about to enlarge, to make it of sufficient value to be a fully-licensed house. Mr. Barrow put in plans for the proposed building. Mr. Waterhouse opposed Mr. Barrow's application, on the ground that the FOX INN as it stood at present was in perfect ruins, and their Worships were being asked to grant a license to a building that at present was only on paper Refused."

The license was abandoned.

TO BE SOLD, pursuant to a Decree of the High Court of Chancery made in the cause of *Lane v. Stewart*, with the approbation of the Vice-Chancellor, Sir John Wickens, in 3 lots, by Mr. FRANCIS SOLLON, the person appointed by the said Judge, at the SWAN HOTEL, at WOLVERHAMPTON, in the county of Stafford, on the 27th day of March, 1872, at four o'clock in the afternoon precisely, valuable FREEHOLD COLLIERY LAND called the Ettingshall Colliery and other property, situate at Ettingshall, in the county of Stafford.

LOT 1.

Comprising COLLIERY LAND, situate at Spring Vale, Ettingshall, containing 14A. 1R. 29P., with the MINES and MINERALS thereunder, also an old COTTAGE.

LOT 2.

Comprising a piece of LAND at Ettingshall whereon the Lanesfield Ironworks are partly erected, containing 1A. 0R. 2P.

LOT 3.

Comprising a piece of LAND adjoining the last lot, containing 2A. 2R. 19P., together with Nine COTTAGES, one of which is a public-house called the Forge Hammer and Speedwell, let at a gross rental of £98 8s.

The several properties may be viewed by leave of the tenants, and particulars and conditions of sale may be had gratis of Messrs. VIZARD, CROWDER, and ANSTIE, Solicitors, 55, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London; Messrs. LAKE and Co., Solicitors, 10, Newsquare, Lincoln's Inn, London; Messrs. WALKER, TWYFORD, and BELWARD, Solicitors, 5, Southampton-street, Bloomsbury, London; Messrs. HOMER and Co., Solicitors, 5, Philpot-lane, London; Mr. HENRY TUSON, Solicitor, Lichester, Somerset; Mr. W. G. ROGERS, Solicitor, Exeter, Devon; Mr. SOLLON, Auctioneer, Wolverhampton; and at the place of sale.

Dated this 23rd day of February, 1872

H. F. CHURCH, Chief Clerk

FORGE HAMMER

112, (28), Spring Road, (28, Manor Road), (Ettingshall Road), Ettingshall, (Lanesfield), (Spring Vale), BILSTON

OWNERS

Thomas Bantock, gentleman, Wolverhampton
Stephen Thompson and Co. Ltd., Manor Works, Lanesfield
Major George Cox, brewer, Broad Street, Bilston
Harmer and Co. Ltd, brewers, Great Winchester Street, Lye (leased)
Woodhouse Brothers, brewers, Dudley [1921]
John Rolinson and Son Ltd. (leased from 1909)
Julia Hanson and Son Ltd.

LICENSEES

Hartshorne [1836]
Thomas Robinson [1871] – **1874**);
John Robinson (**1874 – 1877**);
Henry Hyde (**1877 – 1878**);
John Proudlove (**1878 – 1879**);
John Lewis (**1879**);
Joseph Smith (**1879 – 1885**);
Jane Wildman (**1885**);
Alfred Thomas Clark (**1885 – 1907**);
John Fellows (**1907 – 1921**);
Harry Vaughan (**1921 – 1929**);
Sidney Waterhouse (**1929 – 1936**);
Ernest George Perkins (**1936 – [1940]**)
Samuel Reynolds [1974]
Dennis Jones (**1974 – 1984**)
Stephen Hoare [1994] – [1995]
John Freeman []
Michael Sims [2005]
Beris Lock [2007]

NOTES

28, Spring Road [1901], [1939]
28, Manor Road [1940]
112, Spring Road [2005]

It was originally the FOX.

It had an ante '69 beerhouse license.



1986



2012

Staffordshire Advertiser 17/12/1836

“On Monday evening, about nine o’clock, the neighbourhood of the FOX public house, at Ettingshall Lane, near Wolverhampton, was suddenly thrown into a frightful state of alarm and confusion by the explosion of a considerable quantity of gunpowder at that house. Though considerable mischief has been done by the blowing down of the house and the damage done to the neighbouring ones, and some very serious injuries having been received, there are none, we understand, which threaten a loss of life. A money club, it appears, was being held in the house, which was kept by a person named *Hartshorne* who is a butty collier, and who has frequently many pounds of gunpowder in the house for use in mining operations. The quantity upon the premises was a 25lb barrel, which had been opened, and a small portion taken from it; it was kept in a cupboard in one of the upper rooms, and the servant girl being required to fetch some in the morning, she had taken it with her hand instead of the scoop, and the spilled grains, the room having not been since swept, formed a train for a little distance in the room, direct to the barrel. The house was completely filled with company, nearly fifty persons being in it, some in the room above and some below, when one of them in the room above, having snuffed the candles with his fingers, flung the burning snuff on the floor; it unfortunately fell on the train, ignited it, and in an instant the powder in the barrel exploded, and the house was a mass of ruins. An attempt, evincing much presence of mind, however fruitless, was made by William Hartshorne, the son of the landlord, to prevent the disaster. Perceiving the flame from the igniting grains of gunpowder to be running towards the cupboard in which the barrel was kept, he made an effort to extinguish the train, but was instantly blown through the roof; and falling upon the top of the adjoining house, he rolled into the lane, very slightly injured. Happily the gunpowder, from not being confined, did not explode with its greatest force, and had only sufficient power to blow off the roof and fling down the walls, which fell almost entirely outwards, and the company, with a few unfortunate exceptions, escaped almost unharmed. The most serious injuries have been sustained by a man named Abraham Holmes, who received a dreadful blow on the chest, which fractured it and drove it in; and by Mr. Saul, whose face and eyes are much burnt, and who is considered likely to lose his sight. Two other persons are likewise seriously injured. *Wolverhampton Chronicle.*”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/11/1846

“On Saturday last an inquest was held before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, at the sign of the FOX, New Frieze Land, Bilston, on the body of Thomas Cokin, a miner, about forty-nine years of age, who was killed by a brick, which had rested on one of the stays of the shaft, falling on his head while descending a pit with other workmen, in a colliery belonging to Mr. Jones, at Bilston, on Friday morning last. The skull of the deceased was fractured, and he died in about three quarters of an hour afterwards. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Thomas Robinson was fined £2 and costs and his license was endorsed for opening during unlawful hours, in June 1871.

Thomas Robinson died in 1874.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/9/1877

“The annual licensing sessions for the Bilston division were held at the Public Office, Bilston, yesterday.....

Mr. Waterhouse appeared for John Davis, beerhouse keeper, Wood Street, Ettingshall, who allied for a spirit license for his house, known as the ROOKERY TAVERN.....

Mr. Barrow opposed on behalf of *Henry Hyde*, occupier of the FOX beerhouse, and applied for the latter that the license of a house formerly known as the FORGE HAMMER, which had been taken down by Mr. Stephen Thompson, for the erection of his works, might be transferred to the FOX. It was admitted that the premises were not suitable, and plans were put in for the erection of new premises. The wife of the applicant said her husband had taken the premises, which included some land, upon a lease at the rate of £47 a year, and was himself going to take down the premises and rebuild them.

Mr. Hatton, after looking at the plans, said that the buildings shown thereon would not be worth the same money when they were erected.

Mr. Barrow reminded the Bench that the application was only for a provisional order, and if the premises were not afterwards erected in accordance with the requirements of the Act of Parliament, the license could be withheld.

Mr. Marshall, surveyor, of Wolverhampton, said that when the premises shown on the plan were erected they would be worth £30 a year. He did not exactly know the locality, and he made his estimate from the probable cost of the building.

Mr. Waterhouse, in opposition to this, urged that the public requirements would be met by granting by the of a license to John Davis, whose house was already erected.

Some discussions took place as to whether Mr. Stephen Thompson, the owner of the former licensed premises, was willing for the license to be transferred to the FOX, Mr. Barrow stating that he could assure the Bench such was the case, whilst Mr. Waterhouse stated that Mr. Thompson, only a few days ago, had expressed to him a very different opinion Refused.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 1/9/1877

“Bilston Brewster Sessions.....

The applications from Sedgley were by *Henry Hyde*, for a full license to new premises at Ettingshall Lane. Mr. Waterhouse said that some years since there was a full licensed house in the vicinity called the FORGE HAMMER, but that house was now turned into a private house Mr. Barrow (Wolverhampton) applied for the provisional transfer of the license of the FORGE HAMMER, which had not lapsed, to the holder of the FOX public house, which the holder of the FORGE HAMMER was now occupying, but which he was about to enlarge, to make it of sufficient value to be a fully-licensed house. Mr. Barrow put in plans for the proposed building. Mr. Waterhouse opposed Mr. Barrow’s application, on the ground that the FOX INN as it stood at present was in perfect ruins, and their Worships were being asked to grant a license to a building that at present was only on paper Refused.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 2/10/1877

“William Rowley, carter, Lanesfield, was charged with having stolen a fowl and six chickens, the property of Mr. *Henry Hyde*, beerhouse keeper, Lanesfield. According to the evidence of the prosecutor he missed his fowl on Sunday night, and he did not see them again until they were found upon the prisoner’s premises by Police-constable Wiley.

The prisoner stated that he found the fowl running about the road. He made inquiries of the neighbours, but could not find the owner.

The magistrates gave the prisoner the benefit of the doubt and dismissed the case.”

Name changed to FORGE HAMMER

Staffordshire Advertiser 31/8/1878

“Bilston Licensing Day.....

The whole of the existing licenses were renewed, and the following applications for new licenses were all refused..... *Henry Hyde*, Spring Vale, for a removal of the lapsed license of the FORGE HAMMER to applicant’s beerhouse.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 3/9/1878

“Annual Licensing Sessions. Bilston.

These sessions were held on Saturday as usual, there were several applications for new licenses.....

Mr. E. F. Fisher, of the Oxford Circuit (instructed by Mr. C. Barrow, Wolverhampton), next applied for a full license for *Henry Hyde*, of the FORGEHAMMER INN, Ettingshall Road. The house had been rebuilt, and the application was for a renewal to the new inn of the license granted to the old one. This was opposed by Mr. Fellows, for Joseph Ward, of the THREE CUPS, Lanesfield. He said this saw a renewal of an application refused last year. There had been no change in the circumstances since then, no new buildings had been erected, and he contended that there was no need for a license. Opposition was also made, through Mr. R. A. Wilcock, by Joseph Preston, BULLS HEAD INN, Catchem, and Mr. B. B. Baker, the OLD ROLLING MILL INN, both of which were in 650 yards of the applicant’s house. There were only fifteen houses between the FORGEHAMMER INN and those of his clients, and only thirty-three houses in the locality. The personal interest of the applicant was consulted before the convenience of the public The Bench refused all the applications without retiring.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 21/9/1878

“The Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

Mr. Stokes applied to the magistrates for them to reconsider an application which was made, but refused, at the annual licensing sessions, when *Henry Hyde*, of the FORGE HAMMER INN, Spring Vale, Bilston, sought to obtain a victualler’s license. Mr. Stokes said if the magistrates would allow the case to be gone into again he could produce evidence which would show the great necessity of the application being granted. It was, however, pointed out that the application was fully heard by a larger number of magistrates present at the annual licensing sessions than were now present, and as the same magistrates were not on the Bench today it would be unfair to reopen the question. The application was therefore refused.”

London Gazette 8/11/1878

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

In the Matter of Proceedings for Liquidation by Arrangement or Composition with Creditors, instituted by *Henry Hyde*, of the FORGE HAMMER, Ettingshall, in the county of Stafford, Publican.

Notice is hereby given, that a First General Meeting of the creditors of the above-named person has been summoned to be held at the offices of Mr. Charles Barrow, Solicitor, 48, Queen-street, Wolverhampton, on the 23rd day of November, 1878, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 5th day of November, 1878.

Charles Barrow, 48, Queen-street, Wolverhampton, Solicitor for the said Debtor.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/11/1878

“A meeting of the creditors of *Henry Hyde*, of the FORGE HAMMER, Ettingshall, was held on Saturday, at the Offices of Mr. Barrow, solicitor, Wolverhampton. Mr. Alma Turner (Tress and Turner) was in the chair. Mr. Barrow appeared for the debtor.

The statement of affairs showed liabilities £713 8s 3d; assets estimated to produce £160. The debtor was examined at considerable length by the chairman and creditors with reference to his transactions with Mr. W. H. Anderson, wine and spirit merchant; and in order to enable him to give further information as to the securities he had given Mr. Anderson the meeting was adjourned for a week.”

Alfred Thomas Clark = Alfred Thomas Clarke

1881 Census

Spring Road – FORGE HAMMER INN

[1] *Alfred Thomas Clark* (23), tin plate worker, born Deepfields;

[2] *Jemima Jane Clark* (24), wife, born Deepfields;

[3] *Selina Maud Clark* (5 months), daughter, born Deepfields;

[4] *Ellen Cope* (18), domestic servant, born Bilston:

[Was *Alfred Thomas Clark* manager here in 1881?]

1891 Census

Spring Road – FORGE HAMMER INN

[1] *Alfred Thomas Clark* (33), licensed victualler, born Deepfields;

[2] *Jemima Jane Clark* (34), wife, born Ettingshall;

[3] *Selina M. Clark* (10), daughter, scholar, born Spring Vale;

[4] *Lizzie Edith Clark* (9), daughter, scholar, born Spring Vale;

[5] *Emma Jane Clark* (6), daughter, scholar, born Spring Vale;

[6] *Sarah Ann Price* (19), domestic servant, born Coseley:

Birmingham Daily Post 19/5/1900

“At a sale by auction, on Wednesday, by Messrs. J. Male and Son, auctioneers, Bilston.....

The FORGE HAMMER INN, Lanesfield, was withdrawn at £2,300.”

1901 Census

28, Spring Road

[1] *Alfred Thomas Clarke* (43), publican, born Sedgley;

[2] *Jemima Jane Clarke* (44), wife, born Sedgley;

[3] *Selina Maud Clarke* (20), born Sedgley;

[4] *Lizzie Edith Clarke* (19), born Sedgley;

[5] *Emmie Jane Clarke* (16), born Sedgley:

Alfred Thomas Clark, beer retailer, Springvale. [1904]

Alfred Thomas Clark and *Jemima Jane Clark* – see also ANCHOR, Coseley, Sedgley.

A billiard license was granted on 11th March 1910.

South Staffordshire Times 28/2/1920 - Advert

“A Highly Important Sale by Auction of Seven Licensed Properties finely situated in the heart of the Black Country – All Freehold.

By Order of Major G. Cox. Esq, with Possession On Completion.

The Ante '69 Beer Houses known as:

The STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT, Darlaston

The FORGE HAMMER, Lanesfield.

The TOWNHALL STORES, Bilston.

The ROYAL EXCHANGE, Bilston.

And Building Land near to the FORGE HAMMER, Lanesfield.

Solicitors: Messrs. Hall, Pratt and Pritchard, Bilston.”

1921 Census

Spring Road – FORGE HAMMER INN

[1] John Fellows (54), publican, born Coseley;

[2] Maria A. Fellows (57), wife, assistant, born Bilston;

[3] Esther Fellows (85), mother, widow, retired, born Bilston;

[4] Florence E. Fellows (25), niece, boot and shoe dealer's assistant, born Bilston;

[5] Annie Wood (15), niece, domestic help, born Manchester:

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, Kingswinford, 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.....

FORGE HAMMER INN, Ettingshall, Bilston, £2,300.”

1939 Register

28, Spring Road (3 of 4)

[1] Ernest G. Perkins, date of birth 26/8/1881, licensee, beerhouse, married;

[2] Ethel Perkins, dob 13/9/1885, general duties of house, married;

[3] Evelyn F. (Perkins) Price, 31/10/1916, driller and presser, single;

Birmingham Weekly Mercury 28/4/1974

“.....In Wolverhampton we find 53-year-old Councillor *Samuel Reynolds* who used to don robes of a different sort. Many years ago, he was a professional boxer – a star of the ring who was once a contender for the world flyweight title and who faced up to the best the world had to offer before and after the war years. After fist fighting, he took to local politics and he told me, ‘If I had my time again I would do the same thing.’

Nowadays, as a publican running the FORGE HAMMER in Spring Road, Lanesfield, Councillor *Reynolds* enjoys a different kind of round.”

Express & Star 21/8/2008

“A landlord known for ‘pulling the best glass of beer in Wolverhampton’ has died aged 88.

Dennis Jones was today described as a ‘true gentleman,’ having stood behind the bar of the FORGE HAMMER in Lanesfield for a decade from 1974 to 1984. He also worked at the ROCKET POOL and OLD BUSH in Bradley and the DOG AND PARTRIDGE in Bilston. Mr. *Jones*, of Bamber Close, Bradmore, was married to Pat, who died five-and-a-half years ago. They had five children, David, now 64, Alan, 62, Brenda, 56, Andrew, 53, and Mark, 45.

Daughter Brenda, who lives in Lanesfield, said her father was a well-known member of the community. ‘He was a very quiet man,’ Mrs. Paddock said today. ‘Mum was the bubbly one behind the bar but dad was well-known for pulling the best glass of beer in the city. People would always tell him that. He was a meticulous landlord and a true gentleman.’

Mr. *Jones* died of a heart problem on August 13. He moved into the pub trade aged 51 after working as a tool maker at firms including Villiers and Jone Hawk Engineers.

Mrs. Paddock added, ‘He was a wonderful dad. He never told us what to do – just gave out advice when we needed it. He very rarely raised his voice, because he didn’t need to. He commanded such respect. He was a very amiable person and was very well-read and articulate. He enjoyed working behind the bar and meeting people but I think he moved into the trade for mum really.’ Mrs. Paddock said her father enjoyed gardening and reading. ‘He also loved his animals and was very upset when his dogs and cats passed away,’ she added. Mrs. Paddock had been her father’s full-time carer for two-and-a-half years.

His funeral will take place at Bushbury Crematorium on Wednesday at 2pm.”

Dennis Jones – see also OLD BUSH, Bradley, ROCKET POOL and DOG AND PARTRIDGE.

John Freeman was married to Jan.

Express and Star 9/8/1999 - Advert

“Single trading area community operation. Bar with games area. Car Park. Purely wet led and games oriented. 3 bedroom private accommodation. Last 12 months wet trade – 120 barrels. Tenancy. Approximate ingoings £2,500.”

It reopened in June 2007 after a £40,000 refurbishment.

[2008]

Express & Star 3/10/2009

“One in three Black Country pubs currently up for sale could be flattened, according to a report from estate agents released today. Birmingham-based Fleurets have 34 pubs currently for sale in the Black Country but at least 10 of those will be wiped off the map when sold. It has almost £8 million worth of pubs on offer, many of which have been up for sale for more than a year. Scores of pubs had disappeared in the region in the last five years, many of them knocked down for housing. With the downturn, a number of pub sites remain empty as redevelopment work has halted until the economy improves.

Fleurets sales associate Andy Tudor today said the pub property market had been harder hit by the recession than other businesses. He said, ‘Licensees needed to cope with the smoking ban first and then the recession landed. Prices of licensed property have fallen quite notably and certain sectors of the market remain very, very difficult – but for the right property we have still been doing brisk business. Around one in three of our sales of pubs are recommended for alternative development.’

Wolverhampton has several pubs on the market, including the FORGE HAMMER in Spring Road, Lanesfield, for £125,000, which is now closed.”

Closed [2009], [2010]

It was converted into a café.

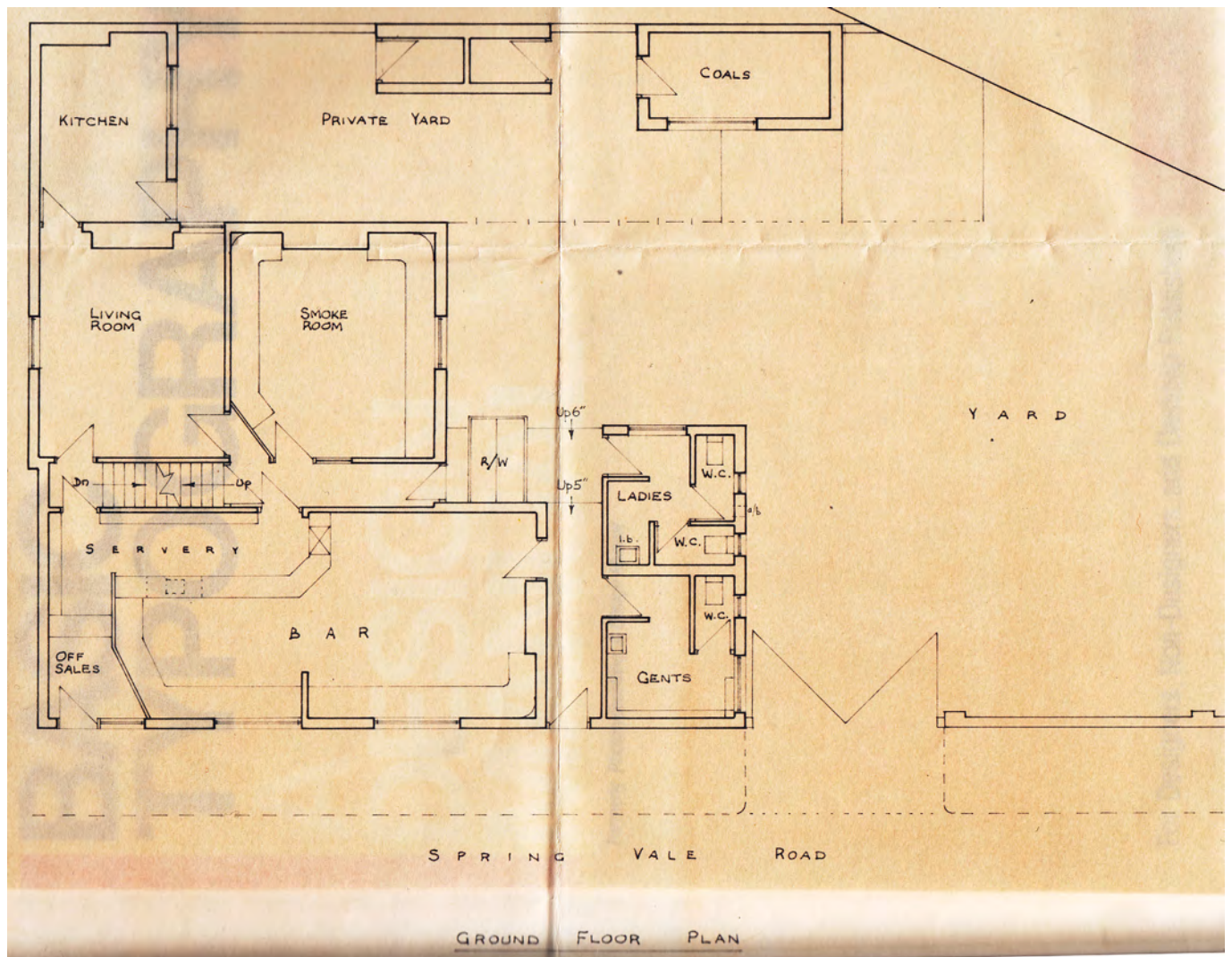
**AT ETTINGSHALL,
LOT 15.
THE “FORGE HAMMER” INN MANOR
ROAD,
(BEERHOUSE-ON).**

1932



Samuel Reynolds





Plan 1970

FOUNTAIN

12, Parliament Street, (Pet Street), Green Croft, BILSTON

OWNERS

Mrs. Martin, widow, Wolverhampton Road, Bilston
Mrs. M J Bent, Belper

LICENSEES

William Homer [1856] – [1861]
George Cockayne [1871] – **1877**;
Charles Cockayne **(1877 – 1879)**;
Richard Wild **(1879 – 1880)**;
Alfred Patrick **(1880)**;
John Roberts **(1880 – 1889)**;
Mary Roberts **(1889)**;
Thomas Bennett **(1889 – 1893)**;
Esther Hughes **(1893 – 1894)**;
George Edge Callear **(1894 – 1895)**;
William Bould **(1895)**;

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 2/3/1856

“J. Hesletine of Bilston has a novice that he will match against any man in the world to run five score yards for £5 or £10 a side. His height is 5 feet 2 inches; weight 11 score 10lb. Money ready any night next week at Mr. *Homer's*, FOUNTAIN INN, Parliament Street, Bilston.”

1861 Census

12, Parliament Street – FOUNTAIN INN
[1] *William Homer* (30), agent and retail brewer, born Dudley;
[2] *Harriot Homer* (30), wife, born Bilston;
[3] *Jane Homer* (4), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
[4] *Frances Cock* (21), general servant, born Bilston;
[5] *William Henry Homer* (59), father, widower, gentleman, born Bilston;
[6] *Mary Bill* (64), widow, mother-in-law, born Bilston:

1871 Census

Parliament Street – FOUNTAIN
[1] *George Cockayne* (55), beerhouse keeper, born Great Haywood, Staffordshire;
[2] *Maria Cockayne* (54), wife, born Staffordshire;
[3] *Charles Cockayne* (20), son, engine fitter, born Bilston;
[4] *Julia Deakin* (16), general servant, born Bilston;
[5] *John Turner* (22), lodger, tinplate worker, born Wednesbury:

George Cockayne died in the 3rd quarter of 1877.

THE BILSTON AMATEUR
EXCELSIOR STRING BAND,
Is now open for Engagements. For Terms, &c.,
Apply to
JOHN ROBERTS, Parliament Street, Bilston.

1883

CHRISTMAS, 1886.
— — —
THE BILSTON EXCELSIOR BRASS AND
REED BAND.
— — —
The above Band will have the pleasure of visiting
their friends during the Christmas Festivities, and
perform selections of appropriate music.
The patronage and support of the generous public
are respectfully solicited.
JOHN ROBERTS, Secretary.
1886

1881 Census

12, Parliament Street

- [1] *John Roberts* (44), coal miner, born Bilston;
- [2] *Mary Roberts* (43), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Joseph Hodgkiss* (70), boarder, widower, coal miner, born Bilston:

Darlaston Weekly Times 2/6/1883 - Advert

"The Bilston Amateur Excelsior String Band is now open for Engagements. For Terms, &c, apply to *John Roberts*, Parliament Street, Bilston."

Darlaston Weekly Times 24/12/1886 - Advert

"Christmas 1886. The Bilston Excelsior Brass and Reed Band.

The above Band will have the pleasure of visiting their friends during the Christmas Festivities, and perform selections of appropriate music.

The patronage and support of the generous public are respectfully solicited.

John Roberts, Secretary."

Darlaston Weekly Times 1/4/1887 - Advert

"The Bilston Excelsior Brass and Reed Band.

This Band may be engaged for Galas, Processions, Excursions, and Concerts, with or without a uniform.

For terms apply to *John Roberts*, Secretary, Parliament Street, Bilston."

John Roberts died on 26th July 1889.

THE BILSTON EXCELSIOR BRASS AND REED BAND.

THIS Band may be engaged for Galas, Processions, Excursions, and Concerts, with or without uniform. —For terms apply to *John Roberts* Secretary, Parliament Street, Bilston.

1891 Census

12, Parliament Street

- [1] *Thomas Bennett* (42), publican and iron moulder, born Tettenhall;
- [2] *Lucy Bennett* (40), wife, waitress, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Thomas Bennett* (7), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] *Joseph Bennett* (3), son, born Bilston;
- [5] *Frederick Bennett* (3 months), son, born Bilston;
- [6] *Alice Bunting* (19), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Sporting Life 8/9/1894

"On Thursday Mr. Sam Hughes, of the FOUNTAIN INN, Bilston, and Mr. Arthur Aston, of the FOX AND GOOSE HOTEL, Penn, near Wolverhampton, ran forty-one yards, Hughes in receipt of six, at Mount Pleasant House, Ormsdale. Mr. C. Adamson, of Bristol, was pistol-firer, and Mr. Tom Jones referee. Any odds were offered on Hughes, who won at leisure, as Mr. Aston stopped after going about five yards. Another match was then made and decided between Hughes and Mr. Harley, of the OAK INN, Penn, on the same terms. Betting 5 to 4 on Hughes, who won easily by three yards."

Birmingham Daily Post 24/10/1894

"Mr. Neville (stipendiary) was occupied for a long time yesterday, at the Bilston Police Court, in hearing cases arising out of a raid on public houses in Bilston, Willenhall, and the neighbourhood.....

Mr. J. E. Underhill applied for an adjournment with regard to *Esther Hughes*, the landlady of the FOUNTAIN INN, Parliament Street, Bilston, with permitting betting on her premises. It was stated that there had not been sufficient information supplied to the defendants. The cases were adjourned to the Wolverhampton Police Court on the 31st inst."

Birmingham Daily Post 1/11/1894

“Several publicans from Bilston were summoned before the Stipendiary at Wolverhampton, yesterday, for offences against the Licensing and Betting Acts.....

Esther Hughes, landlady of the FOUNTAIN INN, Bilston, was fined £11 and £3 costs the offences were proved by police officers imported from Handsworth, who visited the suspected houses in disguise.”

AND

“At the Wolverhampton Police Court, yesterday *Esther Hughes*, landlady of the FOUNTAIN INN, Pet Street, Bilston, was summoned for permitting betting to be carried on on her premises on two separate dates. The cases were proved, and in one case a fine of £10 and the costs was imposed, and in the other 20s and the costs.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 24/8/1895

“Bilston Brewster Sessions.....

The police opposed the renewal of the licenses attached to the NEW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston; the MALT SHOVEL INN, Oxford Street Bilston; the RED LION INN, Bilston, the FOUNTAIN INN, Parliament Street, Bilston; and the ORANGE TREE INN, Ettingshall. Infringement of the licensing laws were the grounds of the objection in each case, with the exception of the ORANGE TREE INN, the landlord of which had been sentenced to two months' imprisonment for assaulting his wife. The whole of the licenses were renewed with the exception of the FOUNTAIN INN, the consideration of which was to be held over until the adjourned licensing sessions.”

The license renewal was refused at the Annual Licensing Meeting on 27th September 1895.

Birmingham Daily Post 28/9/1895

“The adjourned licensing sessions for the district were held at the Public Office, Bilston, yesterday.....

Mr. E. B. Thorneycroft applied for the renewal of the license of the FOUNTAIN INN, Pet Street, Bilston, on behalf of the tenant (Mr. *William Bould*) and Mr. R. Tildesley represented the owners. The application was opposed by Superintendent Walters on the ground that there had been two convictions against the last tenant for betting, and one against the present tenant for permitting drunkenness. The magistrates declined to grant the renewal.”

Closed

Demolished

FOUNTAIN

29, (56), (36), Ward Street, Ettingshall, (Priestfield), BILSTON

OWNERS

William Hyde Snr.
Catherine Esther Taylor
John Large, ironworker, Villiers Street, Blakenhall, Wolverhampton
Eley's Stafford Brewery Ltd.

LICENSEES

Henry Hyde [1861]
William Hyde the Elder [1862] – 1873);
William Hyde the Younger (1873 – 1876);
William Hyde the Elder (1876 – 1877);
William Hyde the Younger (1877 – 1878);
James Taylor (1878 – 1885);
Catherine Esther Taylor (1885 – 1900);
Ellen Higgs (1900 – 1901);
Joseph 'Joe' Large (1901 – 1905);
Richard Bates (1905 – 1906);
William Fellows (1906 – 1908);
James Collins (1908 – 1910);
James Arthur Collins (1910 – 1912);
John Saunders Large (1912 – 1921);
Emma Large (1921 – 1927):

NOTES

36, Ward Street [1881]
56, Ward Street [1891]
29, Ward Street [1901], [1904], [1911], [1921], [1928]

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

William Hyde, retailer of beer, Ettingshall. [1862]
William Hyde, beer retailer, Ward Street. [1865], [1868]

1871 Census

Ward Street

- [1] William Hyde (71), publican, born Bilston;
- [2] Rebecca Hyde (71), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Mary A. Hyde (14), grand-daughter, general servant, born Sedgley;

Sale at the Fountain Inn, Ward Street, near Ettingshall Station, Bilston.—To be Sold by Auction.
BY Mr. GEO. THOMAS, THIS DAY (Tuesday), February 12—the whole of the excellent BREWING PLANT, the property of the late Mr. Hyde, deceased; Malt Crusher, Mash Tub, pair of Vats lined with lead, wrought-iron 140 gallon Boiler, a copper-bottom Sieve, Iron Safe, and a variety of other useful Articles.
A quantity of Sweet Casks, various sizes.
Sale at 11.
Auctioneer's Office, Market Place, Great Bridge.

1878

A substantially erected, brick-built and slate-roofed, double-fronted Property, formerly known as the "FOUNTAIN INN," but now de-licensed, situate and being
Number 29, WARD ST., PRIESTFIELD, containing Entrance Passage, Two Front Sitting Rooms, Sitting Room at Back, Kitchen, Five Rooms on the first floor and Cellar in the basement, together with Yard, having side approach, Stable, with loft over, and the usual Out-buildings, as now in hand.

The foregoing Property can easily be converted into Two Dwelling Houses, and is being sold with the advantage of Vacant Possession upon completion.

1928

Birmingham Mail 18/12/1877

“At Wolverhampton yesterday, at an inquest held on the body of *William Hyde*, moulder, at Priestfield, the wife of the deceased stated that her husband died on Thursday last from injuries sustained while at work eleven weeks ago. He was regularly attended by a local medical man up to his death, and after that occurred Mr. Cresswell, of Wolverhampton, surgeon to the Accidental Assurance Society, in which deceased's life was insured for £1,000, made a post mortem examination without her consent. The coroner said he forbore to make any observations as to this proceeding, which he had not been asked to permit. He should order an independent surgeon to open the body, and if it was found that any attempt had been made to defeat the ends of justice, he should take steps have the matter thoroughly sifted. The inquest was adjourned.”

Birmingham Daily Post 24/12/1877

“Mr. W. H. Phillips, coroner, concluded an adjourned inquest at Priestfield, on, Friday, on the body of *William Hyde* (42), a moulder, and landlord of the FOUNTAIN INN, Priestfield, who, whilst working at the foundry of Mr. A. Hickman, Spring Vale, on the 2nd October, sustained a severe blow over the stomach by the chain of a crane, and died on the 13th inst.

The deceased was attended first by a surgeon, and as he continued to grow worse two physicians were summoned. Mr. Cresswell, of Wolverhampton, examined the deceased twice on behalf of the Railway Passengers Insurance Company, with whom he had assured for £1,000. Later on, as the patient was depressed, he continued to complain of acute pain and of difficulty in swallowing; he was removed to the Wolverhampton hospital, where he stopped for a week, but as he did not recover he was taken home again, where he eventually died.

On the 15th inst Mr. Cresswell, with assistance, made a post mortem examination. On the 18th inst Mr. Vincent Jackson, surgeon, Wolverhampton, made a post mortem examination, by order of the coroner. Mr. Jackson said that the fact of a previous examination having been made very much militated against his being able to arrive at a correct conclusion as to the cause of death. Mr. Jackson was not able to state the immediate cause of death; it appeared to be exhaustion, due apparently to want of food.

The Coroner, in summing up, very much regretted that they had only partially heard that evidence to which as jurymen they were entitled, having been deprived of the remainder through the fact that the body was before their view of it, and before the post mortem examination made on their behalf, mutilated, some parts of it being destroyed. The first examination was most improper, as in cases where an inquest was necessary proper authority ought to be obtained. He had now simply to ask the jury what in their opinion was the cause of the deceased's death, but if they considered that the proper course of justice had been in any way impeded they could remark upon it along with their verdict. He considered it only right that some active measures should be taken to prevent any surgeon acting on behalf of an insurance company from invading the homes of deceased persons, or mutilating their remains so as to prevent a proper legal enquiry. The deceased's friends would have been perfectly justified in treating the invaders as trespassers.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and requested the coroner to send a copy of the evidence and verdict, and the following observations to the Home Secretary: The jury consider a most improper proceeding has taken place in the mutilation of the body of the deceased before they had the view of it; and they consider such improper mutilation most detrimental to the interests of justices, more particularly when it is done by the agent of an insurance company, or any interested person.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/2/1878 - Advert

“Sale at the FOUNTAIN INN, Ward Street, near Ettingshall Station, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Geo. Thomas, This Day (Tuesday), February 12.

The whole of the excellent Brewing Plant, the property of the late Mr. *Hyde*, deceased; Malt Crusher, Mash Tub, pair of Vats lined with lead, wrought-iron 140-gallon Boiler, a copper-bottom Sieve, Iron Safe, and a variety of other useful Articles.

A quantity of Sweet Casks, various sizes.

Sale at 11.

Auctioneer's Offices, Market Place, Great Bridge.”

William Hyde the Younger died in 1878.

1881 Census

36, Ward Street – FOUNTAIN INN

- [1] *James Taylor* (55), coal miner and beerhouse keeper, born Ettingshall;
- [2] *Catherine E. Taylor* (55), wife, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *Phoebe Cooper* (17), domestic servant, born Wallbrook:

James Taylor died in the 2nd quarter of 1885.

1891 Census

56, Ward Street – FOUNTAIN INN

- [1] *Catherine Taylor* (60), widow, licensed victualler, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] *Mary Whitehouse* (70), sister, widow, lives on her own means, born Sedgley:

1901 Census

29, Ward Street

- [1] *Ellen Higgs* (39), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Priestfield;
- [2] *Deborah Steventon* (22), domestic servant, born Ladymoor;
- [3] *Ellen Micklewright* (43), visitor, born Priestfield:

Sporting Life 10/7/1901

“The followers of rabbit coursing, pedestrianism, pigeon shooting, canine racing, &c, will be pleased to hear that Mr. *Joe Large*, of Wolverhampton (late of the Builders Arms Grounds, Wolverhampton), and who is well known throughout the country as a popular rabbit coursing official, is now again in harness as a publican, having taken the FOUNTAIN VAULTS at Priestfield, situated between Wolverhampton and Bilston. It was while at the Wolverhampton Grounds that Mr. *Large* revived canine sport, and we wish him every success in his old role as publican.”

Sporting Life 2/11/1901

“Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury.

This enclosure was fairly well patronised last Thursday to witness the proprietor’s (Mr. Frank Lloyd) All-England Rabbit-coursing Sweepstakes. Conditions: Open for all species, nothing barred, weigh in one yard to the pound, to course the best of three courses, 60 yards law, the deciding course the best of five. A fair company assembled. Ten nominations were obtained, including several of the crack coursing dogs in England, and these were classified into five divisions, and, as some splendid rabbits were provided, spirited wagering ensued over the various trials, which were of an interesting character.....

Mr. John Turner was starter, whilst the evergreen *Joe Large*, mine host of the FOUNTAIN VAULTS, Priestfield, Wolverhampton (appointed by the *Sporting Life*) gave every satisfaction as referee.”

Sporting Life 17/9/1902

“Victoria Grounds, Rough Hills, Wolverhampton.....

Mr. Corbett’s Clara, of Bloxwich, and Mr. Nicholls’ Doubt, of Wednesfield, ran 200 yards, Doubt conceding Clara one yard start, for £10. Both dogs, which are of the small weight class, are winners of handicaps, and their meeting evoked keen interest. Clara was trained and slipped by Mr. *Joe Large*, of the FOUNTAIN INN, Priestfield, Wolverhampton, whilst Tom Gregory, of Walsall, had the handling of Doubt. The latter scaled 12½lb and Clara 11½lb. Doubt was the most fancied, and proved a strong favourite at 6 to 4 on. A capital race ensued for three-quarters of the distance, and then Doubt caught Clara, and finishing in a game manner, finally passed the crease a clever winner by two yards.”

Sporting Life 28/1/1903

“Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury.....

On Monday last Mr. J. Shephard’s Tommy Atkins and Mr. J. Hackett’s Vic, both hailing from the ancient town of Dudley, met to run the best of twenty-one courses, the rabbits being allowed 60 yards law with an interval of 5min between each trial, weigh-in 1 yard to the lb, for £10 a side. Both dogs are well known performers, and their meeting caused keen interest in and round the sporting districts of Dudley, so a capital company of sports of all grades and conditions put in an appearance.

Both dogs received a special preparation for this engagement, Vic being placed in the hands of that experienced canine and pedestrian trainer and pigeon shot, Mr. *Joe Large*, of the FOUNTAIN INN, Priestfield, Wolverhampton; whilst Tommy Atkins was drilled by his owner.....”
[Vic won 11-3.]

Joseph Large, beer retailer, 29, Ward Street. [1904]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 13/12/1909 - Advert

“For Sale, four Six-roomed Houses, situated Hall Park Street, Priestfield; also two Seven-roomed ditto and two Six-roomed Houses, Mars Street, Priestfield. All at valuation, or reasonable offer taken. Good value for investor. Only want seeing.

Apply, *James Collins*, FOUNTAIN INN, Ward Street, Priestfield.”

1911 Census

29, Ward Street – FOUNTAIN INN

- [1] Arthur Collins (28), bricklayer, born, Stafford;
- [2] Hannah Collins (26), wife, married 5 years, born Bilston;
- [3] Dora Collins (7), daughter, school, born Bilston;
- [4] Alice Collins (5), daughter, school, born Bilston;
- [5] Gladys Collins (4), daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] Arthur Collins (10 months), son, born Bilston;
- [7] Florrie Collins (2), daughter, born Bilston;
- [8] Rose Humpage (19), domestic servant, born Bilston:

John Saunders Large was fined £1 and costs, on 5th May 1916, for serving beer exceeding the measure called for.

1921 Probate

“*John Saunders Large* of the FOUNTAIN INN, Ward Street, Priestfield, Wolverhampton, died 29 March 1921. Probate Lichfield 5 July to *Emma Large*, widow, and *Elijah Plant*, cycle brazer. Effects £1,845 16s 4d.”

1921 Census

29, Ward Street – FOUNTAIN

- [1] *Emma Large* (54), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] *Doris Large* (25), daughter, barmaid Theatre Royal, Wolverhampton, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *Edith Large* (18), daughter, home duties, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] *Florence Phillips* (26), daughter, home duties, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] *Thomas Phillips* (29), son-in-law, fitter, iron and steel works, born Wolverhampton;
- [6] *William Grice* (39), boarder, holder-up, engineers, born Oakengates, Shropshire;
- [7] *Betty Phillips* (1), grand-daughter (1), born Priestfield:

Staffordshire Advertiser 28/5/1927

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

Notice is hereby given, that the Principal Meeting to be held pursuant to the Licensing Rules, 1910, by the Compensation Authority for the above Area, will be held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, on Tuesday, the 19th day of July, 1927, at 11 o'clock am.

And Notice is hereby also given, that the Compensation Authority will at the Meeting be prepared to hear, with reference to the Renewal of the Licences of the several Premises specified in the subjoined list, all those Persons to whom under the Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910, they are bound to give an opportunity of being heard; that is to say, the Persons interested in any Licensed Premises in question, and, unless it appears to the Compensation Authority unnecessary, any other persons appearing to them to be interested in the question of the renewal of the license of those premises (including the Justices of the Licensing District).

List of Licensed Premises.....

FOUNTAIN INN, Priestfield, Bilston. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee *Emma Large*.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/7/1927

“.....at the principal meeting of the Staffordshire County Licensing Compensation Authority held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, on Tuesday.....

The licence referral of the FOUNTAIN INN, Priestfield, Bilston, was unopposed by the owner, and was not renewed.”

Compensation was paid in December 1927.

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/1/1928

“Annual report of the County Licensing Committee.....

At the Principal Meeting of the Compensation Authority held on July 19, the Committee refused to renew 13 out of 16 licenses referred to them. At the Supplemental Meeting the Committee fixed the compensation of the undermentioned 12 cases as follows.....

FOUNTAIN INN, Priestfield, beerhouse, ante-1869. £1,550.

In all the before-mentioned cases the money had been apportioned amongst the interested parties, and would be paid on 24th of December instant.”

Dudley Chronicle 26/1/1928

“Notice of Sale by Auction of an Off-Licence and Grocer’s Shop, a Delicensed Property, and a Block of Dwelling House Property at Daisy Bank, Priestfield and Willenhall.

Alfred W. Dando and Co. have received instructions to Sell by Auction at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, on Tuesday, January 31st, 1928, at Seven o’clock in the Evening precisely.....

Lot 2. A substantially erected, brick-built and slate-roofed, double fronted Property, formerly known as the FOUNTAIN INN, but now de-licensed, situate and being No.29, Ward Street, Priestfield, containing Entrance Passage, Two Front Sitting Rooms, Sitting Room at Back, Kitchen, Five Rooms on the first floor and Cellar in the basement, together with Yard, having side approach, Stable, with loft over, and the usual Out-buildings, as now in hand.

The foregoing Property can easily be converted into Two Dwelling Houses, and is being sold with the advantage of Vacant Possession upon completion.”

FOUR HORSE SHOES

Broad Lanes, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Mary Harper [1828] – [1830]

FOX

4, Ash Street, Bradley, (Daisy Bank), (Brierley), BILSTON

OWNERS

Smith, coalmaster, Dudley
Edward Gettings, licensee
Julia Hanson and Sons Ltd. [1910], [1914]

LICENSEES

Benjamin Harrison [1862] – [1863]
A Wood [1863] – [1866]
Alexander Paul [1871] – **1873**;
Samuel Foxon **(1873 – 1874)**;
William Sambrook **(1874 – 1875)**;
Israel Bailey **(1875 – 1876)**;
Edward Gettings **(1876 – 1891)**;
John Ashcroft **(1891 – 1892)**;
Emma Louisa Elliman **(1892 – 1893)**;
Thomas Holdnell **(1893 – 1894)**;
Edward Gettings **(1894 – 1898)**;
Richard Davies **(1898 – 1902)**;
William Henry Hutchinson **(1902 – 1904)**;
Joseph Reynolds **(1904 – 1906)**;
George Norton **(1906 – 1912)**;
Mary Ann Waterhouse **(1912 – 1914)**;
George Maddox **(1914)**;

THE BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1861.
IN THE COUNTY COURT OF WORCESTERSHIRE,
HOLDEN AT DUDLEY.
IN the Matter of BENJAMIN HARRISON, of
Daisy Bank, in the parish of Sedgley, in the county of Stafford,
Publican and Cinder Dealer, Bankrupt.—Whereas at a Public Sitting
of the Court, held this day, the Court granted an Order of Discharge
to the said Bankrupt, Notice is hereby given, that an ORDER of
DISCHARGE will be drawn up and delivered to the said Bankrupt
after the expiration of thirty days from this date, unless, in the mean-
time, an appeal be duly entered against the Judgment of the said
Court.—Dated this Second day of April, 1863.
(Signed) F. H. BOOTT, Messenger.

1863

NOTES

[This pub was strictly in Sedgley, but is included here due to it being situated at Bradley.]

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

London Gazette 2/1/1863

“*Benjamin Harrison*, of Daisy Bank, in the parish of Sedgley, in the county of Stafford, Publican and Cinder Dealer, 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 December, 1862, is hereby required to surrender himself to Thomas Walker, Esq, the Registrar of the said Court, at the first meeting of creditors to be held before the said Registrar, on the 15th day of January instant, at ten o’clock in the forenoon precisely, at the said Court. Thomas Walker, Esq, is the Official Assignee, and Mr. William Cole Maltby, of Dudley, is the Solicitor acting in the bankruptcy.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/4/1863 - Notice

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1861. In the County Court of Worcestershire, holden at Dudley.

In the Matter of *Benjamin Harrison*, of Daisy Bank, in the parish of Sedgley, in the county of Stafford, Publican and Cinder Dealer, Bankrupt.

Whereas at a Public Sitting of the Court held this day, the Court granted an Order of Discharge to the said Bankrupt. Notice is hereby given, that an Order of Discharge will be drawn up and delivered to the said Bankrupt after the expiration of thirty days from this date, unless, in the meantime, an appeal be duly entered against the Judgement of the said Court.

Dated this 2nd day of April, 1863.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/6/1863

“*Benjamin Harrison*, landlord of the FOX beerhouse, Daisy Bank, was yesterday summoned to the Police Court on the charge of having kept his house open during prohibited hours.

Police-constable Hughes said that at half-past eleven o’clock on Wednesday night he found thirteen men in the house, and two or three jugs of ale on the taproom table. The defendant said he had recently had his clock cleaned. The Bench observed that this was a very common complaint amongst innkeepers, whom they would recommend to engage the services of some experienced hands in that calling. The charge, they considered, had been proved, and the defendant would therefore be fined 5s and the costs.”

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

“T. Baker of Coseley and T. Price of Tipton have signed articles to run 100 yards, for £5 a side, on Monday, Dec 7 (Price having given Baker a douceur of ground). £1 a side is down in the hands of Mr. Shepards, the SHINGLERS ARMS, Tipton, who is final stakeholder and referee, and a further deposit of 30s a side is to be made on Monday next, at Mr. *Wood’s*, FOX INN, Daisy Bank. The men to start by mutual consent in twenty minutes, or by first report of a pistol.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 5/11/1864

“T. Rogers of Daisy Bank is surprised that S. Hodgkiss should ask for three yards start, but if he means making a match Rogers will take one yard in 100 or two in 120, for £10 or £25 a side; the race to come off at Aston Cross Grounds in a month from signing articles. A match can be made at *Wood’s*, FOX INN, Daisy Bank.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 28/10/1865

“W. Guicuy of Hall Green will run T. Holloway of Lady Moor 100 yards level, or take two yards of him in 120, for £5 a side. Money ready any night next week at *A. Wood’s*, FOX INN, Daisy Bank.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 30/6/1866

“J. Skeldon of Princes End is surprised S. Hollyhead wanting a start of him, but will take two yards in 100, or he will run Banks of Daisy Bank 100 yards with a yard start, or G. Brueton can be on 100 yards level. Either match for £5 or £10 a side. Money ready at *A. Wood’s*, FOX INN, Daisy Bank.”

1871 Census

4, Ash Street

[1] *Alexander Paul* (33), sheet iron roller, born Sedgley;

[2] *Sarah Paul* (32), wife, born Sedgley;

[3] *William Paul* (8), son, born Sedgley;

[4] *Elizabeth Paul* (6), daughter, born Sedgley;

[5] *Selina Paul* (4), daughter, born Sedgley;

[6] *Hannah J. Paul* (3), daughter, born Sedgley;

[7] *Margrett Paul* (1), daughter, born Sedgley;

[8] *Lucy Stokes* (15), domestic servant, born Sedgley:

Alexander Paul – see also HIMLEY ARMS.

William Sambrook was convicted on 27th January 1874 for permitting drunkenness.
He was convicted again on 16th October 1874 for the same offence.

Birmingham Daily Post 19/10/1874

“At Bilston Police Court, on Friday, before Messrs. W. Hatton and W. H. Rogers.....

William Sandford [sic], landlord of the FOX beerhouse, Daisy Bank, was charged with having had his house open after eleven o'clock at night. On the 28th ult, at fifteen minutes past the hour fixed for closing, Police-constables Parsons and Lawrence found the defendant's house open, and a woman named Mason inside drinking. Mr. Stokes (Dudley), on behalf of the defendant, pleaded that Mason had during the day been charing at the house, and that she was merely having her supper.

The same officers, on Saturday, the 10th inst, saw an intoxicated man enter the house and drink with two other drunken men. In reply to this, Mr. Stokes urged that the man had not been supplied with drink, and was only sharing in the purchase of a customer. The defendant had been previously convicted of a similar offence this year, and he was now fined £2 and costs, and his license ordered to be endorsed.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/8/1875

“Yesterday, there was an annual licensing meeting for the Bilston Petty Sessional Division.....

Chief-superintendent McCrea presented the ‘black list.’ The beerhouse keepers who had been fined during the year were.....

William Sambrook, FOX INN, Bradley, permitting drunkenness twice, £2 and £5 and costs.....

All the old licenses would be renewed, excepting those of holders who had been convicted. Their applications would be deferred until the adjourned licensing day. In the case of the SWAN and the FOX, both at Bradley, special applications for renewal must be made, for most probably the license of each would be revoked.”

Israel Bailey = Israel Bayley

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1875

“Bilston Adjourned Brewster Sessions.....

Mr. Fellows supported the application of Mr. J. [sic] *Bayley*, the FOX, Daisy Bank, who had conducted the business without complaint, but whose predecessor had been twice fined License renewed.”

Edward Gettings = Edward Gittings = Edward Gethings

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/9/1877

“The annual licensing sessions for the Bilston division were held at the Public Office, Bilston, yesterday.....

The black list was as follows Beersellers.....

Edward Gettings, FOX INN, Daisy Bank, Bradley, permitting drunkenness, 20s and costs. There were two convictions during the occupancy of a former landlord....

The whole of the licenses in the ‘black list,’ it was stated, would be held over until the adjourned sessions.”

[Renewed with a caution at the adjourned licensing sessions.]

1881 Census

4, Ash Street

[1] *Edward Gettings* (44), licensed victualler, born Cheshire;

[2] *Mary Gettings* (38), wife, born Ladymore [Ladymoor], Staffordshire;

[3] *Louisa Gettings* (20), daughter, born Daisy Bank;

[4] *Betsy Gettings* (16), daughter, born Daisy Bank;

[5] *Eliza Jane Gettings* (8), daughter, born Daisy Bank;

[6] *Mary Gettings* (6), daughter, born Daisy Bank;

[7] *Edith Gettings* (8 months), daughter, born Daisy Bank:

Darlaston Weekly Times 18/11/1882

“A successful club supper was held on Saturday evening at the FOX INN, Ash Street, Bradley, where a capital spread was placed upon the tables by host *Gethings*, and done ample justice to by those present. After supper, Mr. J. Harris presided, and a good evening's enjoyment was had by all the guests.”

1891 Census

4, Ash Street

- [1] *Edward Gettings* (54), beer seller, born Hollins Wood, Shropshire;
- [2] *Mary Gettings* (48), wife, born Lady Moor;
- [3] *Mary Maria Gettings* (15), daughter, born Daisy Bank;
- [4] *Eda Alice Gettings* (11), daughter, scholar, born Daisy Bank;
- [5] *Richard Davis* (25), lodger, boatman, born Daisy Bank;
- [6] *Edward Davis* (9), grand-son, born Daisy Bank:

Birmingham Daily Post 3/3/1893 - Advert

“Beerhouse, doing good trade. In-going £60. FOX INN, Daisy Bank.
Apply, Mrs. Hanson, Brewer, Dudley.”

BEEHOUSE, doing good trade. In-going £60. For Inn, Daisy Bank.—Apply, Mrs. Hanson, Brewer, Dudley.

Edward Gittings, beer retailer, Ash Street, Bradley. [1896]

Richard Davies = *Richard Davis*

1901 Census

4, Ash Street

- [1] *Richard Davies* (33), boat steerer, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Mary Davies* (25), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] *Violet Davies* (3), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] *Edward Davies* (18), nephew, shoe maker, born Sedgley;
- [5] *Edward Gettings* (64), step-father, widower, living on own means, born Hollingswood, Shropshire:

William Henry Hutchinson, beer retailer, Ash Street, Bradley. [1904]

Staffordshire Sentinel 18/10/1906

“Stafford Quarter Sessions.....

Unita Hamer (58), *Sarah Pedderton* (21), and *Lenora Hamer* (18), hawkers, were indicted with having obtained a dozen bottles of stout, six bottles of beer, six packets of cigarettes, 2oz of tobacco, and one gallon of ale, and £3 2s 6d in money, the property of *George Norton*, of Daisy Bank, Bilston, on the 6th September. Mr. Dorset and Mr. Lawrence appeared for the defence, and Mr. Beynon Harris and Mr. B. C. Brough was for the prosecution.

Theodosia Norton, wife of the landlord of the FOX INN, Daisy Bank, told a story of the visit of the three defendants, who were of the gipsy class, to her house. The old woman said they were employed by ‘their master’ and had taken a field for the purpose of setting up swing boats, shooting galleries, &c, and showing the landlady seven sovereigns, said they wanted to order a quantity of beer for 35 men who were with the show. The landlady undertook to execute the order, and the old lady then asked if they could be supplied with

dinner. They partook of the meal, and the bottled beer and stout, the subject of the charge, were ordered and placed upon the table. It was stated that *Lenora* was to be married, and the elder defendant again spoke up and said that they would want to spend £2 in mineral waters, £5 in liquors, and £5 in beer, and *Lenora* asked the landlady if she would give her the pair of glass slippers which stood on the mantelpiece. At this point a young man came in and complained that the women were enjoying themselves while the men were waiting on the field. The women began to talk to each other about money supposed to be owing by the young women. But the old woman said, ‘No, we got on the spree last night; they all got mixed up as they had not seen each other for 18 years.’ The old woman still holding the £7 in her hand, or putting it on the table with her hand over it, said to the landlady that she wanted some groceries, and asked her to lend her £3 2s 6d, saying, ‘Fetch me the money so that we do not get mixed up.’ (Laughter, in which we learned chairman joined.) The landlady sent her daughter for the money and gave it to the old woman who at once put it in her pocket together with the £7 which the landlady was waiting to receive and which the old lady had held in her hand. The old lady took up some of the bottled beer and said she would be in again in a short time to settle up. There seemed to be a dramatic exit of the prisoners, one going out through one door and the other going through another way. The landlady began to suspect something was wrong, and going to the door saw there were no shows in the field indicated. At the same time she saw prisoners coming out of a side street with a horse and trap. She at once ran and took hold of the horse’s head and asked them where they were going, and told them to give her her money back and pay for the bottled stuff they had taken away. The young man pushed the

landlady from the horse's head, but she at once ran to the back of the trap and taking hold of the old lady, dragged her out of the conveyance, and the young women drove away. During this incident the women threw a quantity of whisky over the landlady and threatened to tell the police that spirits had been fetched to the premises which was only a beerhouse. The whisky was fetched to the house as the old lady said she could not drink beer.

A daughter of the landlady corroborated, and added that when the wedding incident was mentioned the women invited her to the festivities. Later in the evening one of the women came to the house again, and asked for a carpet that had been left and offered some money to square the matter. This was refused, and the matter was in the hands of the police. Some amusement was caused in court by this witness describing that the incident took place before dinner, and in cross-examination it transpired that the gipsies had the dinner that had been prepared for the family. Prisoners were found guilty of stealing, and as there were previous convictions against the old lady she was sent to gaol for three months with hard labour, and the two young women to one month each with hard labour."

1911 Census

4, Ash Street

- [1] George Norton (50), engineer's fitter and turner, born Bradley;
- [2] Theodore Norton (48), wife, married 29 years, licensed victualler, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] Prudence Norton (21), daughter, dressmaking, born Bradley;
- [4] Samuel Norton (17), son, engineer's turner, born Bradley;
- [5] Maud Norton (15), daughter, born Bradley;
- [6] Harry Norton (12), son, school, born Bradley;
- [7] Harold Lane Norton (8), son, school, born Bradley;
- [8] Martha Elizabeth Ryan (24), visitor, daughter, born Princes End;
- [9] Lawrence Norton Ryan (3), visitor, born Bradley;

Staffordshire Advertiser 14/2/1914

"Bilston annual Licensing Sessions.....

STAR INN, Oxford Street; ROYAL OAK INN, High Street; and FOX INN, Ash Street, Daisy Bank; were ordered to be scheduled for closing."

Birmingham Daily Post 6/6/1914 - Notice

"The Licensing (Consolidation) Act 1910. County Of Stafford.

Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Principal Meeting to be held pursuant to the Licensing Rules, 1910, by the Compensation Authority for the above Area, will be held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, at 11.15 o'clock am, on Wednesday, the 29th day of July, 1914.

And Notice Is Hereby Also Given, that the Compensation Authority will at the Meeting be prepared to hear, with reference to the Renewal of the Licenses of the several Premises specified in the subjoined list, all those Persons to whom under the Licensing (Consolidation) Act 1910, they are bound to give an opportunity of being heard; that is to say, the Persons interested in any Licensed Premises in question, and, unless it appears to the Compensation Authority unnecessary, any other persons appearing to them to be interested in the question of the renewal of the license of those premises (including the Justices of the Licensing District).

List of Licensed Premises.....

FOX INN, Ash Street, Daisy Bank, Coseley. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *Mary Ann Waterhouse*."

The license was refused by the Compensation Authority on 29th July 1914.

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/8/1914

"At the Principal Meeting of the Staffordshire Licensing Compensation Authority, held at the Shirehall, Stafford, on Wednesday, 25 licenses which had been referred by justices from petty sessional divisions and boroughs came under review. Of these, no opposition to the refusal of the license was offered by the parties interested in 15 cases, eight which were opposed were refused renewal, and the remaining two were adjourned for evidence of the trade done at each house.....

In the Bilston division the licenses of the following ante-1869 beerhouses were not renewed on the ground of redundancy, there being no opposition.....

FOX INN, Ash Street, Daisy Bank, Coseley.

In the case of the FOX it was stated that £500 compensation had been agreed upon."

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/8/1914

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

Notice is Hereby Given that the Compensation Authority for the above area, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on the 29th day of July, 1914, to Refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below, all Persons Claiming to be Interested in the said Premises for the purpose of the Payment of Compensation under the said Act (other than the Licensee and the Registered Owner of the said Premises) are required to send to the Compensation Authority Notice of their Claims before the 7th day of September, 1914, for the purpose of enabling the Compensation Authority to ascertain in manner provided by the Licensing Rules, 1910, the Persons entitled to Compensation under the said Act, in respect of the said Premises.....

FOX INN, Ash Street, Daisy Bank, Coseley. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *George Maddox*. Registered Owner, Julia Hanson and Sons Limited.”

Compensation of £500 was paid on 28th December 1914.

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/1/1915

“Report of the County Licensing Committee for the year 1914.....

The committee of the Compensation Authority went in great detail into all the figures submitted to them upon which the persons interested claimed compensation, and heard evidence put forward by the claimants. The committee consider that the amounts of compensation agreed upon are satisfactory, both from the point of view of the parties interested and the Compensation Fund.

In the following 18 cases the committee fixed the compensation.....

FOX INN, Ash Street, Daisy Bank, Coseley, beerhouse, ante-1869, £500.

The money has been apportioned amongst the interested parties, and will be paid on the 28th instant.”

FOX

29+30, Bilston Street, Hallfields, Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

Mr. Speak, miner, Darlaston

LICENSEES

George Hill []

Joseph Taylor [1868] – **1881**);

Daniel Ecclestone (**1881 – 1883**):

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license,

Joseph Taylor, beer retailer, Bilston Street, Hallfields. [1868]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/3/1869

“Yesterday, *Joseph Taylor*, of the FOX INN, Bilston, was fined 1s and costs for having kept his house open for the sale of liquors during unlawful hours on Sunday morning.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/8/1869

“The annual licensing meeting for the Bilston division took place yesterday, at the Police Court.....

The following beerhouse keepers had been fined during the past five years.....

Permitting Drunkenness *George Hill*, FOX, Hall Fields, to pay costs.

For keeping open during prohibited hours *Joseph Taylor*, FOX, Bradley, 1s and costs.”

1871 Census

29+30, Bilston Street

[1] *Joseph Taylor* (31), grocer and publican, born Bilston;

[2] *Mezilla Taylor* (29), wife, housewife, born Bilston;

[3] *Alice Taylor* (5), daughter, born Bilston;

[4] *Elizabeth Butler* (12), general servant, born Tipton:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/9/1877

“The annual licensing sessions for the Bilston division were held at the Public Office, Bilston, yesterday.....

The black list was as follows Beersellers.....

Joseph Taylor, FOX INN, Bradley, open in prohibited hours, 40s and costs and license endorsed.....

The whole of the licenses in the ‘black list,’ it was stated, would be held over until the adjourned sessions.”

[Renewed with a caution at the adjourned licensing sessions.]

1881 Census

29+30, Bilston Street – Public House and Grocers Shop

[1] *Joseph Taylor* (40), publican and grocer, born Bilston;

[2] *Mary Taylor* (38), wife, housewife, born Bilston;

[3] *Alice Taylor* (15), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[4] *Rachael Rosthey* (8), visitor, scholar, born Bilston:

Evening Express 10/9/1881

“John Jones (24), carter, 1, John Street, Bilston, was charged with stealing a flitch of bacon, the property of his employer, Mr. Kempson Pratt, grocer, Church Street, Bilston; and *Joseph Taylor* (42), grocer, of Bilston Street, Bradley, was charged with receiving the same knowing it to have been stolen. Mr. Fellows appeared for Jones, and Mr. Sheldon defended *Taylor*.

Charles Jones, assistant to the prosecutors, stated that on Monday last he loaded the defendant's (Jones's) cart, and at that time there was not a flitch of bacon in it.

Alfred James Burn, miner, of Chapel Street, Bilston, stated that on Monday night last he was in company with another man named John Shaw, in Oxford Street, Bilston, when he saw a cart belonging to Mr. Pratt come down the street and stop at William Nash's door. The driver, after looking up and down the street, brought a side of bacon out of the cart, and took it to the back door of Nash's house. About breakfast time the next morning witness was again standing in Oxford Street, when he saw the prisoner *Taylor* and another man drive up the street and then return down the street in the direction of Moxley. Shortly afterwards *Taylor* returned, and pulled up at the WAGGON AND HORSES, kept by *Patrick Clines*. The cart was then taken into Nash's back yard, where witness saw someone put a flitch of bacon into the cart, and the cart was then driven off in the direction of Bradley by the man who accompanied *Taylor*, and another man he had not seen before.

John Shaw, carter, in the employ of the prosecutor, corroborated this evidence.

The case was adjourned till Tuesday next, the defendants being admitted to bail; *Taylor*, himself in £200, and two sureties of £100 each; and Jones, himself in £50, and two sureties of £50 each.”

Birmingham Daily Post 15/9/1881

“Yesterday, at Wolverhampton Police Court, the hearing of the bacon-stealing case, adjourned from Bilston on Tuesday, was resumed. The prisoners *Taylor* and Jones were both committed for trial on Tuesday. At Wolverhampton, yesterday, Thomas Thorne, porter, Stafford Street, Bilston, lately in the employ of Mr. Kempson Pratt, grocer, Church Street, Bilston, was charged with stealing a flitch of bacon from his employer, and *Joseph Taylor*, of the FOX INN, Bradley, was charged with receiving it.

Two assistants in Mr. Pratt's employ gave evidence to the effect that on August 31 the defendant Thorne went out with the delivery van, and during the day left a flitch of bacon, that had not been loaded into the van by the assistants, at a shed belonging to a Mr. Nash, wheelwright, saying that it was for the defendant *Taylor*. The same evening *Taylor* fetched it away from the shed. Further evidence showed that Thorne had done the same thing several times before, and Nash had never supposed that the goods left at his shed were stolen.

Both prisoners were committed for trial to the Stafford Sessions. *Taylor*, who was admitted to heavy bail on Tuesday, was allowed bail on this charge in £100 for himself; and Thorne in £100 for himself, and two sureties in £50 each. The magistrates also granted an application for bail made on behalf of Jones, who was committed on Tuesday. It was fixed at the same amount as Thorne's.”

Staffordshire Sentinel 19/10/1881

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

John Jones, 24, porter, was indicted for stealing, and *Joseph Taylor*, publican and shopkeeper, Bradeley, near Bilston, on bail was charged with receiving, a flitch of bacon, the property of Mr. Kempson Pratt, wholesale grocer, Bilston, on the 5th of September. A verdict of guilty was returned against both prisoners.

There was a second charge against *Taylor* of receiving goods, knowing them to have been stolen; and Thomas Thorns, 23, porter, was charged with stealing a piece of bacon, also the property of Mr. Pratt, which *Taylor* was alleged to have received. Thorns pleaded guilty; and the prosecution did not give evidence. Thorns was sentenced to two days' imprisonment, he having assisted the prosecution; the sentence against the others was deferred.”

Staffordshire Sentinel 20/10/1881

“Staffordshire Autumn Sessions.....

Joseph Taylor, provision dealer, Bilston, and John Jones, a porter, who had been convicted on the previous day, the first-named with receiving, and the other with stealing a side of bacon, were now brought up for judgement.

Jones was sentenced to six calendar months' imprisonment; and *Taylor* to twelve months' imprisonment.

At the request of Mr. Haden Corser, who prosecuted, *Taylor* was also called upon to pay the costs of the prosecution, £30.”

Daniel Ecclestone = Daniel Eccleston

Daniel Ecclestone – see also SWAN, Bradley, and ROYAL OAK, Salop Street.

The license was refused in 1883, it was forfeited on grounds “personal to the licensee.”

FOX

18, Church Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Samuel Simmons

LICENSEES

Henry Reynolds [1791] – [1804]
Mrs. Mary Reynolds [1815] – [1825]
James Gilbert **(1826 – [1830]**
Thomas Hodgins [1829] – [1836]
John Chapman [1837] – [1838]
Mrs. Mary Pratt [1839] – [1842]
James Walter Busst [1845] – [1847]
William Worthington [1848] – [1850]
John Smith [1851] – **1852**;
Henry Slater **(1852 – [1854]**
Mary Salt [] – **1855**);
Edwin Steer **(1855 – [1856]**
Mrs. Eliza Price **(1857 – 1858)**
William Twelves [1860] – [1861]
Joseph Springthorpe [1861]
Thomas Durham [1864] – [1865]
Thomas George Jackson [1868]
William Hayhurst [1869]

NOTES

It was a coaching inn.

Commercial inn [1822], [1835], [1842], [1851], [1854]

Henry Reynolds, victualler, FOX, Bilston. [1791]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 4/2/1793 - Advert

“To be Sold by Auction, by Francis Pool, by Order of the Assignees of Samuel Simmons, a Bankrupt, on Friday the 8th Day of February next, at the House of *Henry Reynolds*, known by the Sign of the FOX, in Bilston, in the County of Stafford, at Three o’Clock in the Afternoon, the following Copyhold Estates, situate in Bilston aforesaid, within the Manor of Stow Heath.

Lot I. All that the said Messuage or Dwelling House, in the Occupation of the said *Henry Reynolds*, with the Out-buildings and Appurtenances, let at the annual Rent of £11 11s.....

Lot V. A Stable, in the Holding of *Henry Reynolds*.....

NB. The above Buildings are adjoining, or nearly adjoining together, and situate near the Church, in a principal Part of the Town.....”

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by FRANCIS POOL, by Order of the Assignees of Samuel Simmons, a Bankrupt, on Friday the 8th Day of February inst. at the House of Henry Reynolds, known by the Sign of the Fox, in Bilston, in the County of Stafford, at Three o’Clock in the Afternoon, the following Copyhold Estates, situate in Bilston aforesaid, within the Manor of Stow Heath.

LOT I. All that the said Messuage or Dwelling House, in the Occupation of the said Henry Reynolds, with the Out-buildings and Appurtenances, let at the annual Rent of 11l.11s.

LOT II. A Dwelling House, in the Occupation of John Green, with the Shops, Out-buildings, and Appurtenances, at the annual Rent of 8l.9s. 6d.

LOT III. A Dwelling House, in the Occupation of William Brueton, with the Shop and Out-buildings belonging, at the annual Rent of 6l. 6s.

LOT IV. A Dwelling House, in the Holding of Henry Sansom, at the annual Rent of 3l. 18s.

LOT V. A Stable, in the Holding of Henry Reynolds.

1793

FOX INN, BILSTON.

M. REYNOLDS, impressed with Gratitude for past Favours, begs Leave to acquaint her Friends and the Public, that she has fitted up good Stables, and every other Accommodation, for the Comfort of Travellers, and trusts, by Attention and Assiduity, to merit their Kindness and Support.

TO be SOLD, a very handsome bay PONY, about thirteen Hands high, and goes fast in all his Paces. The Owner having no further Use for him, is the Cause of his offering him for Sale. Apply at the Fox Inn Stables, Bilston.

1816

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 3/12/1804 - Notice

"The Creditors of William Hill, of Bilston, in the County of Stafford, Glazier and House Painter, are requested to attend at the House of *Henry Reynolds*, the FOX INN, in Bilston aforesaid, on Friday the 7th Day of December, 1804, at Two o'Clock in the Afternoon, when a Statement of the Affairs of the said William Hill will be laid before them, and Proposals made for paying his Debts by Instalments; in the mean Time further Information may be had on Application to Mr. Stuart, Attorney, in Bilston.

Dated this 28th Day of November, 1804."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 15/10/1810 - Advert

"Sale at Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by R. Skynner, at the FOX INN, Church Street, Bilston, this present Monday, the 15th of October, and the following Days, the remaining Part of the valuable Stock of Linen and Woollen Drapery, Mercery, Hosiery, and Haberdashery Goods, belonging to Messrs. Whyte and Graham, Bull Street, Birmingham, Bankrupts; consisting of Irish, Scotch and Home-made Linens, broad Cloths, printed Calicos, Cotton Velvets, Worsted and Cotton Hose, Shawls and Handkerchiefs, worked Muslin Caps and Habit Shirts, with a great Variety of other Goods; Particulars of which may be seen in Catalogues, now ready, and may be had at the Place of Sale.

The Sale will begin each Day at Half past Ten o'Clock in the Morning and Half past Two in the Afternoon."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 8/1/1816 - Advert

"FOX INN, Bilston.

M. Reynolds, impressed with Gratitude for past Favours, begs Leave to acquaint her Friends and the Public, that she has fitted up good Stables, and every other Accommodation, for the Comfort of Travellers, and trusts, by Attention and Assiduity, to merit their Kindness and Support."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 25/11/1816 - Advert

"To be Sold, a very handsome bay Pony, about thirteen Hands high, and goes fast in all his Paces. The Owner having no further Use for him, is the Cause of his offering him for Sale. Apply at the FOX INN Stables, Bilston."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 16/6/1817 - Notice

"The Creditors who have proved their Debts under a Commission of Bankrupt awarded and issued forth against Simon Silvester, of Bilston, in the County of Stafford, Japanner, Dealer and Chapman, are desired to meet the Assignees of the Estate and Effects of the said Bankrupt on the 19th Day of June instant, at Four o'Clock in the Afternoon, at the FOX INN, in Bilston aforesaid, to assent to or dissent from the said Assignees working and carrying on, for the Benefit of the Creditors of the said Bankrupt, Willingsworth Hall Colliery, jointly with the Parties who are entitled to the other Part or Share of the said Colliery, or to the said Assignees selling and disposing of the said Bankrupt's Share and Interest of and in the said Colliery, and to assent to or dissent from the said Assignees receiving from the Bankers or Treasurers of the said Colliery a certain Sum of Money which has been offered to be paid to the said Assignees as the Share of mesne Profits in working the said Colliery due to the Estate of the said Bankrupt; and also to assent to or dissent from the said Assignees commencing, prosecuting or defending any Suit or Suits at Law or in Equity, for Recovery of any Part of the said Bankrupt's Estate and Effects, or to the compounding, submitting to Arbitration, or otherwise agreeing any Matter or Thing relating thereto, and on other special Affairs.

Bilston, June 7, 1817."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 11/8/1817 - Advert

"To be Sold by Auction by R. Corbett, at the House of Mrs. *Reynolds*, the FOX INN, in Bilston, in the County of Stafford, on Friday the 29th Day of August, 1817, between the Hours of Four and Six o'Clock in the Afternoon, subject to such Conditions as will be then produced, and in such Lots as will be specified at the Time of Sale, all those eight Messuages or Tenements....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 5/10/1818 - Advert

"Bilston and Wednesbury Turnpike Tolls.

Notice is hereby given, that the Tolls arising at the several Toll Gates upon the Turnpike Road leading from Wednesbury, through Bilston, to the further End of Gibbet Lane, and several other Roads leading to and from Bilston, in the County of Stafford, will be Let by Auction, at the House of Mrs. *Mary Reynolds*, the FOX INN, in Bilston aforesaid, on Monday the 12th Day of October, 1818, at Four o'Clock in the Afternoon, for the Term of one Year, commencing the first Day of January next, in the Manner directed by the Act passed in the thirteenth Year of the Reign of his present Majesty King George the Third, 'for regulating the Turnpike Roads;' which Tolls were let on Lease the last Year at the under-mentioned Sums, clear of the Expenses of collecting them, and will be put up at those Sums respectively. Whoever happen to be the best Bidder must at the same Time give Security, with sufficient Sureties, to the Satisfaction of the Trustees of the said Turnpike Roads, for the Payment of the Rent agreed for and at such Time as they shall direct, and make a Deposit of one Months' Rent for each Lot.

Lot 1. Cock Heath Gate, £300.

Lot 2. Bilston Bridge, Cold Lanes, and High Street Gates, with Weighing Machine, £400.

Lot 3. Catchems Corner Gate, Ettingshall Lane Bar, Ettingshall Side Bar, and Fighting Cocks Bar, £200.

Lot 4. Gibbet Lane Gate, £394.

By Order of the Trustees, John Willim, Clerk and Treasurer. Bilston, September 14, 1818."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 1/11/1819 - Advert

"Bilston New Road.

Persons of Experience and a competent Skill in Road-making, who are inclined to contract for making and completing a new Road from the North Corner of the Church Yard, in the Township of Bilston, to Priestfields, in the said Township, may see a Plan, Section, and Specification thereof, at the Office of Messrs. Willim and Son, Solicitors, in Bilston, where Tenders, sealed up, must be left on or before Three o'Clock on Friday the 13th Day of November, 1819; and the Persons making such Tenders are required to attend a Meeting of a Committee of the Trustees at the FOX INN, in Bilston, at Four o'Clock the same Day, who will require sufficient Security for the Performance of the Contract to be then entered into.

Bilston, October 27, 1819."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 17/7/1820 - Advert

"Turnpike Road from Wednesbury, through Bilston, to the further End of Gibbet Lane, and several other Roads leading to and from Bilston, in the County of Stafford.

A Special General Meeting of the Trustees will be held at the FOX INN, in Bilston, on Friday the 28th Day of July inst at Eleven o'Clock in the Forenoon, to meet a Deputation of the Parliamentary Commissioners, accompanied by Mr. Telford, and to communicate with them as to the Objects of the new Act respecting the London and Holyhead Roads, and the Nature of the Improvements suggested by Mr. Telford. At the same Time will be taken into Consideration the Propriety of removing Gibbet Lane Turnpike to Priestfields, in the Township of Bilston.

John Willim, Clerk to Trustees."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 11/9/1820 - Advert

"FOX INN, Bilston.

Mary Reynolds respectfully embraces this Opportunity of expressing her grateful Acknowledgments to her numerous Friends and the Public for those Favours which have already been so liberally bestowed upon her, especially during the last five Years she has had the Honour of conducting the above as a Travellers Inn; at the same Time she humbly begs Leave to acquaint the Commercial Gentlemen who please to honour her with their Commands, that she has lately fitted up the House and Stables in a comfortable Style, a lock-up Gig-house, and every other suitable Convenience for their Accommodation, with most excellent Beds, choice Wines, genuine Spirits, and good home-brewed Ale, such as she confidently trusts cannot fail, by Assiduity and Attention, to secure a Continuance of that Patronage and Support which will ever be her Study to merit.

Bilston, September 6, 1820."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 23/4/1821 - Advert

"Turnpike Road from Wednesbury, through Bilston, to the further End of Gibbet Lane, and several other Roads leading to and from Bilston, in the County of Stafford.

The next General Meeting of the Trustees will be held at the FOX INN, in Bilston, Tomorrow (Tuesday) the 24th Day of April, at One o'Clock in the Afternoon precisely, to transact the Business before Dinner and dine at Three. John Willim, Clerk to the Trustees."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 21/3/1825 - Advert

"Coal and Ironstone Mines, near Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction by R. Corbet, on Friday the 25th day of March instant, at the house of Mrs. *Reynolds*, the FOX INN, Bilston, at four in the afternoon, subject to the conditions then and there to be produced....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 16/1/1826 - Advert

"Household Furniture, and other Effects, at the FOX INN, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by J. W. Perkes (under an Execution from the Sheriff of Staffordshire) at the said Inn, in Bilston, Tomorrow (Tuesday) the 17th day of January, and to continue until the whole is disposed of, the valuable Household Furniture, Ale, Wines, Spirits, and other Effects, belonging to Mrs. *Mary Reynolds*; particulars of which will appear in catalogues, which will be distributed."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 30/1/1826

"Bankrupts required to surrender.....

Mary Reynolds, Bilston, Staffordshire, innkeeper."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 27/2/1826 - Advert

"FOX INN, Bilston.

To be peremptorily Sold by Auction (by order and direction of the Assignee of *Mary Reynolds*, a bankrupt), at the said Inn, Tomorrow (Tuesday) the 28th day of February, precisely at four o'clock in the afternoon.

The Licenses Goodwill, and immediate Possession of the above well-known good accustomed House and Travellers Inn, situated in the centre of Bilston, in the county of Stafford.

The above Inn is a desirable opportunity for any person wishing to embark in the public business, and such as is rarely offered to the public.

For further particulars apply to Mr. Smith, Solicitor, Walsall."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 5/6/1826 - Advert

"FOX INN and Commercial House, Bilston.

J. Gilbert begs leave to inform his Friends and the Public, that he has entered upon the above Inn, and assures them and the Commercial Gentlemen, that no attention to general comfort shall be wanting to ensure their patronage and support, which he respectfully solicits.

Excellent Wines and good Stabling."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/7/1826 - Advert

"FOX INN and Commercial House, Bilston.

J. Gilbert having entered upon the above old established house, which has undergone many improvements and been fitted up at considerable expence, begs leave very respectfully to solicit the support of his Friends, the Commercial Gentlemen, and the Public generally, assuring them that his utmost exertions shall be used to promote their comfort and convenience, and to ensure that extensive patronage which the house has for so long a period enjoyed.

J. G. announces to his Friends, that his House Warming will be on the 25th instant, when their company is respectfully solicited.

Tickets may be had at the Bar of the House, at 5s each, including dinner and dessert."

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/7/1826 - Married

"On Tuesday, at St. Martin's Church, Birmingham, Mr. *Gilbert*, land surveyor and auctioneer, of the FOX INN, Bilston, to Miss Parkes of Birmingham."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 3/11/1828 - Advert

"Bilston and Wednesbury Turnpike Tolls.

Notice is hereby given, that the Tolls arising at the Gibbet Lane Toll Gate upon the Turnpike Road leading from Wednesbury, through Bilston, to the further end of Gibbet Lane, and several other Roads leading to and from Bilston, in the county of Stafford, will be Let by Auction, at the house of Mr. *James Gilbert*, the FOX INN, in Bilston aforesaid....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 5/1/1829 - Advert

"That old established Commercial Inn and Liquor Shop, the FOX INN, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by R. Corbett, on the premises, on Friday next, January 9, at five o'clock in the afternoon, the Licenses, Goodwill, and immediate Possession of the above named Commercial Inn and Liquor Shop, the oldest and most lucrative establishment of the kind in the town, which, in consequence of recent expensive alterations and improvements, possesses every convenience as a Travellers Inn, Public House, and Liquor Shop, enjoying a considerable share of in and out-door business.

The purchaser will be expected to take to the stock of ale and liquors, which is low, the barrels, brewing utensils, fixtures, and part of the household furniture, at a fair valuation.

For further particulars apply on the premises; or to the Auctioneer, New Town, Bilston, if by letter, post paid."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 2/11/1829 - Advert

"Bilston Turnpike Tolls.

Notice is hereby given, that the Tolls arising at the several Toll Gates upon the Turnpike Roads leading to and from Bilston, in the county of Stafford, will be Let by Auction, at the house of Mr. *Thomas Hodgins*, the FOX INN, in Bilston, aforesaid....."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/9/1831

"Henry Smith, Esq. (Coroner) gave a dinner, on Thursday last, at the FOX INN, Bilston, to the Constables of the town and neighbourhood. The evening was spent with the greatest conviviality and harmony."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/2/1832 - Advert

"Turnpike Roads, leading to and from Bilston, in the County of Stafford.

Notice is hereby given, that a Special General Meeting of the Trustees of these Roads will be held at the FOX INN, in Bilston aforesaid, on Wednesday, the fifteenth day of February next, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of assenting to or dissenting from the Proprietors of the Grand Junction Railway laying their Railway across the Bilston Turnpike Roads.

Willim and Son, Clerks to the Trustees of the said Turnpike Roads. Bilston, 31st January, 1832."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 3/12/1832 - Advert

"FOX INN, Bilston.

To be disposed of by private Treaty, the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the above truly desirable, highly respectable, and old established Commercial Inn and Liquor Shop, having, in addition to an extensive and old established commercial connection, a great run in the Spirit and Tavern Business, to which is attached several Clubs and other Societies. Part of the Household Furniture, the whole of the Fixtures, Brewing Vessels, and Stock of Ale, Spirits, and Wines, which will be reduced to accommodate a purchaser, to be taken at a fair valuation, and part of the purchase money may remain on approved security.

For further particulars and to treat apply on the premises, to Mr. *Hodgins*, who is leaving in consequence of other engagements; or to J. Gilbert, Auctioneer, Mogul Tavern, Bartholomew Street, Birmingham."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/9/1833 - Advert

"To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, or at Christmas Next, that well-frequented and old-established Commercial House, with Liquor Shop attached, the FOX INN, Bilston.

The above is an opportunity which seldom offers for any person desirous of embarking in the public business, as it is one of the best situations in Bilston, in the centre of the town; the trade of which place, and the surrounding neighbourhood, is in a very flourishing and improving state. The present proprietor is leaving on account of other engagements.

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

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 30/9/1833 - Notice

"Notice is hereby given, that the Partnership heretofore subsisting between us, the undersigned *Thomas Hodgins* and Timothy Bassford, of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Stationers, Booksellers, and Printers, is this day dissolved by mutual consent The business will be carried on by the said T. Bassford."

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 23/10/1833 - Advert

"To the Debtors and Creditors of Bassford and Hodgins.

All Persons to whom the late firm of Bassford and Hodgins are indebted, are desired to send in their Accounts to Mr. *Hodgins*, FOX INN, Bilston; and all Debts owing to the said Parties are requested to be paid to the said Mr. *Hodgins*, immediately.

Bilston, October 22, 1833."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/9/1834 - Advert

"Pointer Dog Lost.

Lost, on Monday last, a black and white Pointer Dog, with cut tail, and answers to the named of 'Don.'

Whoever found him, and will take him to the FOX INN, Bilston, or to the CASTLE INN, Wolverhampton, shall be handsomely rewarded for his trouble; and any one detaining him after this notice will be prosecuted.

September 2, 1834."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/3/1835 - Advert

"Bilston Turnpike Roads.

Notice is Hereby Given that the General Annual Meeting of the Trustees appointed for putting in execution an Act of Parliament, passed in the tenth year of the Reign of his late Majesty King George the Fourth, intituled 'An Act for repairing certain Turnpike Roads leading to and from Bilston, in the county of Stafford,' advertised to be held on the 26th day of February last, was duly adjourned to Thursday the 12th day of March instant, to the FOX INN, in Bilston aforesaid, to one o'clock in the afternoon, when and where the accounts for the last year will be audited, and a report on the state of the roads made.

John Willim and Son, Clerks to the Trustees."

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/8/1836

"A lad about 15 years old, was brought before their worships, charged by Mr. *Thomas Hodgins*, of the FOX INN, Bilston, with being concealed on his premises after the doors were closed. It appeared from the statement of Mr. *Hodgins*, that the prisoner and several other suspicious characters had been to his house late in the evening, and after the doors were closed, having some suspicions that all was not right, he searched the house, and found the prisoner concealed at the end of a passage leading into the back premises. The prisoner said he had come to Bilston wake from Manchester, with his sister and brother, to sell gingerbread; but neither sister nor brother appeared to corroborate this. The magistrates forthwith sent him to Stafford, as a rogue and vagabond, for one month."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 24/7/1837 - Advert

"Copyhold Messuage and Premises, in Cold Lanes, Bilston, in the county of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by R. Adams, this present Monday, July the 24th, at five o'clock in the afternoon, at Mr. *Chapman's*, the FOX INN, in Bilston aforesaid, subject to conditions then and there to be produced....."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 20/9/1837 - Advert

"Bilston Turnpike Tolls.

Notice is hereby given, that the Tolls arising at the several Toll Gates upon the turnpike roads leading to and from Bilston, in the county of Stafford, will be Let by Auction, at the house of Mr. *John Chapman*, the FOX INN, in Bilston, aforesaid....."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 10/10/1838 - Advert

"Bilston Turnpike Tolls.

Notice is hereby given, that the Tolls arising at the several Toll Gates upon the turnpike roads leading to and from Bilston, in the county of Stafford, will be Let by Auction, at the house of Mr. *John Chapman*, the FOX INN, in Bilston, aforesaid....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 26/8/1839 - Advert

"Bilston. To Maltsters, Brewers, and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Newbold, at the FOX INN, Bilston, on Monday the 2nd day of September next.

Forty Pockets of superior Worcester and Sussex Hops, in suitable lots for the convenience of purchasers.

The sale will commence precisely at twelve o'clock, and samples drawn."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 11/9/1839 - Advert

"Bilston. Excellently Situated Inn and Liquor Shop, with Stables and extensive Premises, being a valuable Copyhold Property, with the Licenses, Possession, and an old established Business.

To be Sold by Auction, by E. and C. Robins, at the house of Mrs. *Pratt*, the FOX INN, in Bilston, by direction of the Assignees of Mr. Joseph Best, on Monday, the 16th day of September instant, at four o'clock in the afternoon....."

1841 Census

Church Street

[1] *Mary Pratt* (55), innkeeper, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Fanny Hayward* (25), independent means, born Staffordshire;

[3] *Lucy Hayward* (11 months), born Staffordshire;

[4] *Sarah Morgan* (20), f.s., born Staffordshire;

[5] *Henry Jones* (30), m.s.;

[6] *Richard Backhouse* (25), paint seller:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/9/1841 - Advert

"FOX INN, Tap House, and Liquor Shop, Bilston.

To be Disposed of, the Licenses, Goodwill, and immediate possession of the above named well-arranged old established Travellers Inn, Tap-house, and Liquor Shop.

The stock (which is small), the barrels, brewing utensils, fixtures, and such parts of the household furniture as may be agreed upon, to be taken at a fair valuation.

Mrs. *Pratt*, on the premises, will show the stock, fixtures, and furniture; to treat for the same apply to Richard Corbett, auctioneer, &c, New Town, Bilston."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 31/10/1842 - Adverts

"FOX INN, Bilston.

To be Let, this substantial old-established Commercial House.

For particulars apply to Mrs. Dean, Bristol Road, Edgbaston."

AND

"Unreserved Sale at the FOX INN, Church Street, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett, on the above premises, on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 15th and 16th days of November next.

The Licenses, Goodwill, and immediate Possession of the above Inn, now carried on by Mrs. *Mary Pratt*, who is declining business; and also all the modern useful Household Furniture, iron-bound Ale Barrels, large Copper Furnaces, Cooling Vats, Brewing Utensils, Liquor Shop and Bar Fixtures, Stock of Wines, Liquors, &c, and other miscellaneous property and effects; catalogues of which will be distributed, and may be had after Thursday next the 3rd of November at the place of sale, or at the offices of the Auctioneer, New Town, Bilston.

The sale to commence each day at ten am and at two pm.

The first lot will be the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession, unless previously disposed of by private treaty, which may be effected by applying to the Auctioneer, and the purchaser may or may not take to the Fixtures, Barrels, Brewing Utensils, &c, at a valuation."

FOX INN, BILSTON.
To be LET, this substantial old-established Commercial House.
For particulars apply to Mrs. Dean, Bristol-road, Edgbaston.

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/7/1843

"Insolvent Debtors, to be heard at the Court House, Stafford, on Friday the eleventh day of August next.....

Mary Pratt, late of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, following no business or occupation; previously of the same place, Innholder and Licensed Victualler."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/11/1843

“A court for the relief in insolvent Debtors was held on Monday and Tuesday, in the Shire Hall, Stafford, before John Greathed Harris, Esq, commissioner, when the following cases were heard and disposed of.....
To be imprisoned from the date of vesting order *Mary Pratt*, five calendar months.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 24/4/1852 - Deaths

“On the 16th instant, after a long illness, Mrs. *M. Pratt*, of Tetenhall, late of the FOX INN, Bilston, aged 76 years.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/10/1844

“An inquisition was held at the FOX INN, Bilston, before Thomas Moss Phillips, Esq, Coroner, on the 14th ult, and by adjournment and the 20th ult and 2nd inst, on the body of William Rogers, a miner, whose death was occasioned by falling into a ‘sump.’

From the evidence of John Messenger, George Hodges and others, it appeared that the deceased was employed at Mr. Hickman’s colliery. On the morning of the 14th ult he was descending the shaft of the pit in a skip with other men and boys. The pit is 100 yards deep down to the scaffold, and about 55 yards below the scaffold to the bottom; the part below the scaffold is nearly always full of water, and is called the sump. The scaffold is made of planks; there ought to be five planks, and then the sump would be covered up and safe. About a month previously a piece of ironstone fell out of a skip and broke one of the planks, which fell down the sump, and it had not been replaced. It further appeared that at the scaffold there was not light enough to discern objects clearly, and that parties descending were obliged to leave the skip hastily or the chain and a large piece of iron called the ‘Babby’ might fall upon them. The deceased unfortunately fell through the hole and was drowned. The witnesses represented the hole as very dangerous, and it appeared the ‘doggy,’ George Robson, whose duty it was to see the scaffold made safe had neglected to do so. After Rogers fell through the hole the plank was replaced, and the scaffold made safe.

The jury returned a verdict of Manslaughter against George Robson, and he is committed for trial.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 26/10/1844

“Committed to Stafford County Gaol for the Assizes.....

George Robson, charged with killing and slaying William Rogers, at Bilston.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 14/12/1844

“Staffordshire Winter Assizes.....

George Robson had been indicted for killing and slaying William Rogers, at Bilston, but the Grand Jury ignored the bill. He was brought up and arraigned on the Coroner’s inquisition; but as the Grand Jury had ignored the other bill, Mr. Meteyard, on the part of the prosecution, declined to offer any evidence. A verdict of not guilty was therefore taken, and the prisoner was discharged.”

James Walter Busst was also an accountant and clerk. [1845]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 25/6/1845

“*James Busst*, of the FOX INN, Bilston, complained of Charles Haywood, late in the employment of Mr. Riley, coal master, coming into his house on the 16th instant, and abusing and threatening him, which occasioned complainant to call in the police to execute a warrant which he had obtained against him. The Court directed Haywood to enter into sureties to keep the peace.

The above defendant, together with William Shepherd, Thomas Clough, Thomas Johnson, Thomas Rowley, William Williams, Samuel Johnson, and Edward Perry, were then charged by sub-inspector Thompson with violently assaulting him and other officers on the 16th inst while in the execution of their duty.

Complainant stated that on he and police constable Holbrook going to the FOX to execute the above warrant upon Haywood, he found the house full of company, and in a complete state of uproar. On telling Haywood he had a warrant against him, and requesting him to go peaceably to the police station, he said he should have it read first, but the officer fearing that if he produced it it would be forced out of his hands, declined to do so, and told Haywood he would read it to him at the station house. On his putting his hand upon Haywood’s shoulder, in a quiet and peaceable manner, to induce him to go, the latter commenced an assault upon him in the most determined manner; he then seized Haywood, and with the assistance of his brother officer got him out of the house, and the whole of the company followed them to the door, and in one sweep fell upon them and endeavoured to prevent the officers doing their duty; they were in consequence compelled to send for further assistance from the police station. In the

meantime a great concourse of people had congregated together in the street, and the police received many kicks and blows from the multitude, the most active of whom that could be identified were the defendants Shepherd, Haywood, Thomas Johnson, and Clough; and complainant believed that had it not been for the conduct of Shepherd the affray would have been but comparatively trifling, but instead of this he considered it a mercy that one of them was not killed, the violence of the mob was so great. He could not speak to the rest of the defendants doing any particular act, although they were present.

The complainant's statement was confirmed by the testimony of five other witnesses.

Haywood, Thomas Johnson, Clough, and Shepherd were bound over in £40 each, with two sureties of £20 each, to answer the charge at the next sessions. The other defendants were discharged.

John Fellows, a sinker, was next charged with making an assault upon the police officers while in the act of taking the above defendants to the sessions to be tried, and endeavouring with many others to rescue the defendants from custody. Such was the excitement in the town occasioned by this attack on the police in the public street, that they thought it advisable to send to Wolverhampton for assistance, which having arrived, the prisoners, on being committed, were conveyed to the station at Wolverhampton. The charge against Fellows was clearly made out by witnesses, and the defendant, who was drunk, and almost in a state of nakedness, was committed to the sessions to answer the complaint."

[At Staffordshire Quarter Sessions the five prisoners pleaded guilty and were discharged upon their entering into recognizances to keep the peace for twelve months.]

Birmingham Journal 3/1/1846

"On Wednesday an inquest was held at the FOX INN, Bilston, on the body of Joseph Moore, a pork butcher, about twenty-eight years of age, who died from the effects of eating a large quantity of pork steaks at his breakfast on Tuesday morning. Shortly after his breakfast he was seized with violent pains in his stomach; Mr. Best, surgeon, attended him, and prescribed an emetic, but he expired shortly afterwards, in much agony. He had been a great eater of animal food. The Jury returned a verdict of 'died from the effects of eating a large quantity of indigestible food.'"

Wolverhampton Chronicle 7/1/1846

"An inquest was held on Wednesday last, at the FOX INN, at Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of Phoebe Fereday, a widow, about eighty years of age, who died from injuries received by her clothes catching fire, at the house of her daughter, in Walsall Street, Bilston, on Tuesday afternoon. It appeared that her apron caught the fire as she was passing by, during the temporary absence of her daughter from the room. An alarm was given, and with the assistance of the neighbours the flames were extinguished. Mr. Hodgkins, surgeon, was sent for, and attended the deceased, but she was so badly burnt that she died at about half-past two o'clock on Wednesday morning. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 7/1/1846

"Thomas James and Thomas Jones were charged by sub-inspector Thompson with fighting at the FOX public house, in Bilston, on Tuesday night, the 30th ult; and Thomas Wright was charged with encouraging them.

Complainant stated that late on the night in question his attention was called to a disturbance in the above house, and finding the front door made, he entered by another way, when he found the first two defendants stripped to the skin, and fighting; many persons were standing round and upon the screens enjoying the sport, the landlord, Mr. *Busst*, being one of them. Wright was playing one of the fighters. The first two defendants admitted the statement of the police officer to be true, Wright denied taking the prominent part alleged.

The defendants were severally bound over to keep the peace and be of good behaviour for six months.

The officer declared it to be his intention to summon Mr. *Busst* for suffering such conduct in his house."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/1/1846

"To the Editor of the *Wolverhampton Chronicle*.

Sir, In your paper of last week, under the head 'Bilston Public Office, Friday, January 2,' there is a paragraph stating that two men, named James and Jones, were fighting in my house on the 30th ult and that many persons were standing round and upon the screens, enjoying the sport, I being one of them; and that the officer who made the charge declared it to be his intention to summon me for suffering such conduct in my house. I feel assured that your own reporter did not furnish the statement, but that it was handed to you by some one prejudiced against me. The assertion that I was an abetter of the conduct of the men is untrue, the fact being that, as soon as I heard the disturbance, I sent word to the police by a gentleman who witnessed it. He and four other gentlemen will bear me

out in this, and also in stating that, so far from encouraging the men, I insisted upon their leaving the house, and as they did not do so, I lost no time in sending for the police officers to remove them.

As to the threatened intention of summoning me, I beg to say that I have only heard of it by the report alluded to, and that, should the charge be made, I shall be in a position to prove, beyond the possibility of a doubt, what I have above stated.

Trusting to your impartiality in inserting this contradiction of a falsehood which otherwise might affect my character. I am, sir, Your most obedient servant, *James W. Busst*.

FOX INN, Bilston, January 13, 1846.

(We insert the above with readiness, and much regret that any report in our paper should be incorrect; more especially when alleging improper conduct to any individual.)”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/2/1846

“*James Walter Busst*, of the FOX, Bilston, was summoned on the complaint of the police, for not maintaining good order and rule in his house on Tuesday, the 30th of December last, by unlawfully and knowingly permitting and suffering two persons, named James and Jones, to fight and beat each other, contrary to the tenor of his license. The hearing of the complaint had been more than once adjourned.

It may be remembered that in our paper of the 7th of January we gave an account in the police reports that these two men, James and Jones, and another person named Wright, who seconded one of them, were brought up by the police, before the Bench at Bilston, charged with being found stripped to the skin, and fighting in Mr. *Busst*’s house, in the presence of the landlord and others in his company, late at night on the above date, and each of the men was directed to find a surety for his future good behaviour. On that occasion Mr. Thompson, the sub-inspector of police, declared it to be his intention to summon the landlord for suffering such conduct in his house. It will also be recollected that Mr. *Busst*, the following week, denied, by a letter addressed to the editor of this paper, the correctness of the report. Today, when the case was called on, Mr. Brown, attorney, made an application to the Bench on behalf of Mr. *Busst* (who was unable to attend, by reason of a death and sickness in his family), for the information to be withdrawn on his paying the expenses incurred; he also said that Mr. *Busst* was sorry that such an occurrence should have happened in his house, and he would pledge himself that if anything of the sort happened again he would send for the police, and have the parties secured.

Mr. Baldwin said that, as Mr. *Busst* had thought proper to call in question the accuracy and motives of the reporter of the court, and also the statement of sub-inspector Thompson, the case ought to be heard; and that the hearing had better be adjourned until Mr. *Busst* could attend. But on the Bench asking Mr. Thompson, who was mostly concerned, what his feelings were, he told the Bench that, although the case was quite clear against Mr. *Busst* from the testimony which the witnesses he had summoned would give, yet he had no wish, under the circumstances stated, to press the case.

The Bench then permitted the proceedings to be withdrawn, on the defendant paying all the expenses incurred, amounting to 15s.”

The Evening Chronicle 20/4/1846

“On Thursday evening an inquest was held at the FOX INN, Bilston, before Thomas Moss Phillips, Esq, coroner for that division of Staffordshire, on the bodies of the five men who were killed by the explosion in Messrs. Pemberton’s fire-clay pit, on Wednesday morning. The facts elicited at the inquest corroborate the details given in the account of the accident, which appeared in the *Chronicle* on Friday; but there are several points in the evidence which completely establish the presumption that the explosion was the result of negligence in allowing the deceased (Jones) to go down the pit before it had been proved by the ‘doggy’ or overseer. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, occasioned by an explosion of sulphuric acid gas.”

Derbyshire Advertiser 26/6/1846

“An inquest was held on Thursday last, at the FOX INN, Bilston, on the body of James Chillington, about 14 years of age, who on the previous day was killed under the following rather singular circumstances.

It appeared from the evidence of Joseph Best, a parish constable, that about four o’clock on Wednesday afternoon, he was coming down Messrs. Baldwin’s field, called Bovereux Colliery, Bilston, and heard a crash, the sound of which came from the engine and pits on his right hand. He immediately perceived that the engine was going very fast, and the chain and skip were drawn over the pulley of one of the pits. He hurried forward to render assistance, and then saw Chillington coming from the engine towards him, with a hasty step. The boy looked wild, and on being asked what was the matter replied, ‘When I went down go fire, the engine turned again and drew the skip over the

pulley.' As the boy appeared very much excited, the constable endeavoured to soothe him; but he suddenly started at Best, turned round, extended his arms, and flung himself head foremost into a pit near to which he was standing. Best called for assistance, and the boy was shortly afterwards brought up the pit, but he was then quite dead, having received cuts and bruises upon the head and various parts of the body.

It appeared from the evidence of Richard Davis, a boy who worked at the same colliery, that the deceased, when he found that he could not stop the engine, appeared to be very much frightened, said his father would kill him, and he would go and throw himself down some old pit.

The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the above evidence."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/8/1846

"The following inquests have been held before Thomas Moss Phillips, Esq, coroner.....

On Saturday the 1st instant, at the house of Mr. *Busst*, the FOX INN, Bilston, on the body of Matilda Chancellor, wife of George Chancellor, of Hall Street, Bilston, who on Friday morning, being very drunk, while crossing the street opposite the Post Office, staggered against the fore horses of an omnibus and was run over by one of the wheelers. The driver, it is stated, pulled up as soon as he possibly could. Verdict, Accidental Death."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/11/1846

"An inquest was held on Saturday last, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, at the FOX INN, Bilston, on the body of Isaac Jenks, a youth about eighteen years of age, employed at Mr. Sparrow's rolling mill, Bilston, who, whilst standing by a pair of rolls, was caught by the arm by one of the bands, and pulled into the boxes and spindles. The engine was instantly stopped, and the deceased extricated; he was quite dead. Verdict, Accidental Death."

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/1/1847

"Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Matthew Millington, a lad, was indicted for stealing one dozen of pocket knives, the property of Robert Newman, at Bilston. Mr. Harmer appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Kettle for the defence.

The evidence showed that, on the 21st of December, the prisoner went into the tap-room at the FOX public house, Bilston, where he sold two pocket knives for 6d to William Howell, the ostler. In a short time afterwards, the prosecutor, who is a hawker of hardware, and had a stall in Bilston market, came into the inn, offering knives and other articles for sale. Howell told him he could sell him some knives, and the prosecutor ultimately purchased two knives for 8d, which the witness had just previously purchased. The prosecutor said he soon discovered that the knives, from the marks upon them, formed a portion of those stolen from his stall, with about two dozen others, in the course of the same afternoon.

The defence was that the prisoner had won the knives by gaming at 'a wheel of fortune' in the market.

The Jury returned a verdict of not guilty."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 17/1/1847

"The Bridgnorth Snob will make a match with John Wakefield or Barler of Bilston, for from £5 to £25 a side, at 8st 10lb; or he will fight Joseph Mills of Duck Lane, of the same place, for the like sum, and at the same weight; if neither of these accept, he will fight Tinman Sam of Brook Street, catch weight. The Snob can be found at the FOX, Bilston."

Birmingham Journal 23/1/1847

"An inquest was held on Tuesday last at the FOX INN, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, upon the body of Thomas Whalley, who was burnt to death. The evidence showed that he was 3½ years old, and lived at the house of his father, in Old Meeting Street. On Sunday morning last his clothes caught fire, and being alone he ran into the street, when some persons who were passing at this time went to his assistance and put it out. He was badly burnt, and died about five o'clock on Monday morning. He stated before his death that his pinafore took fire while burning some paper. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.

Another inquest was held on the same day, and at the same house, upon the body of Samuel Parker, a boy five years old, whose clothes caught fire on the 11th of December, at the house of his father, in Cold Lanes. He lingered till about a fortnight ago, when he caught a fever from his sister, which caused his death on Tuesday morning. The Jury returned a verdict of Died from Fever, accelerated by burning."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 24/2/1847

“On Friday last an inquest was held before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, at the FOX INN, Bilston, on the body of Richard Jones, a miner, employed at the Caponfield colliery, who was killed by a fall of coal, while at work, on Tuesday last. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/3/1847

“On Wednesday last, and inquest was held before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, at the OLD CHURCH INN, Wolverhampton, on the body of Mary Ann Baggott, a child about six years of age; and, on the same day, at the FOX INN, Bilston, an inquest was held on Edward Gilbert, a child nearly four years of age. Both accidents occurred in consequence of the clothes of the children catching fire, they having been left without any one to take care of them. Verdicts in each case, Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 23/6/1847 - Advert

“Sale at the FOX INN, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by John Mason, on Tuesday, the 29th day of June, 1847.

Part of the modern and useful Household Furniture, four post, tent, and other bedsteads, mahogany dining and loo tables, fine toned cabinet pianoforte, 6½ octaves, handsome mahogany secretaire, office table desk, eight excellent 120 gallon iron bound and other Ale Barrels, superior single bodied four wheeled Phaeton, excellent four wheeled Dog Trap, Spring Cart, strong store Pig, and other effects, upon the premises, at the FOX INN, the present tenant removing to the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston.

Particulars, in catalogues, are now in circulation, and may be had at the offices of the Auctioneer, Hall Street, Bilston.”

James Walter Busst – see also KINGS ARMS, Church Street.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 15/9/1847

“Bilston Petty Sessions.....

James Jones was charged with stealing £1 7s 6d, the property of George Felton, under the following circumstances. The prosecutor met with the prisoner at the FOX INN, Bilston, about eleven o'clock on Sunday forenoon. Having had some knowledge of him when in Shropshire, and since in this county, the prosecutor treated him with some ale. After they left the FOX, the prisoner, the prosecutor, and a man named Coulston went into the fields, near to Bankfield Works, and lay down. The prosecutor soon fell asleep, the prisoner lying between him and Coulston. Soon afterwards Coulston saw the prisoner put his hand into the waistcoat of the prosecutor and take out his money. He then got up and went away, making some pretence at the time. Coulston awoke the prosecutor, and they pursued the prisoner and accused him of stealing Felton's money. He was afterwards given into custody. The prisoner was committed for trial at the next sessions.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/10/1847

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions Not True Bills against.....

James Jones, charged with stealing £1 7s 6d from the person of George Felton, at Bilston.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 11/12/1847

“Some excitement was exhibited at the Bilston public office, on Tuesday, by the appearance before the magistrates of Samuel Hodgkiss and George Yates, two men residing in that disreputable part of town called ‘the Berry.’ The prisoners were charged by John Williams with robbing him of 5s in the street, on Sunday night.

According to the prosecutor's evidence, he had been drinking a jug or two of ale at the GOLDEN LION public house, Bilston, where the prisoners had also been taking a ‘drop.’ About half-past ten the prosecutor left, and as he was walking home, the prisoners stopped him, and demanded his money, which he refused to give them; Hodgkiss then held him, whilst Yates took the money, threatening, if he made a noise, to murder him. Prosecutor then returned to the GOLDEN LION INN, and afterwards gave the prisoners into custody of the police. They were committed to the Assizes for trial. The prisoners applied to be admitted to bail, and the magistrates ordered them to find two sureties in £25 each, and themselves in £50 each.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/3/1848

“Staffordshire Lent Assizes.....

Samuel Hodgkiss and George Yates were charged with assaulting Joseph Williams, at Bilston, on the 3rd of December last, and stealing from his person four shillings and two sixpences.

It appeared from the testimony of the prosecutor, Edward Thompson, a police officer, and Mrs. *Worthington*, of the FOX INN, Bilston, as they deposed to the facts respectively within their knowledge, that the prosecutor, about nine o'clock on the evening in question, went to the GOLDEN LION, at Bilston. He there met with the prisoners. Hodgkiss went out first, then Williams, and then Yates. Hodgkiss caught hold of Williams, and Yates took his money; after which ‘they both cut up the street as hard as they could go.’ The prisoners were taken, the same night, by the police and the prosecutor, at the FOX INN. Hodgkiss, while going to the police station, stooped, as if tying his shoe, and on being searched a second time at the police station, 7s 6d were found in his left shoe, among which was a bent sixpence identified by the prosecutor.

The Jury found the prisoners guilty, and they were each sentenced to be imprisoned twelve months, with hard labour.”

Birmingham Journal 2/9/1848

“It may be recollected by our readers that some time ago we published an opinion solicited from Mr. Tidd Pratt, as to whether the Friendly Societies Act gave the power to enforce the payment of arrears by members, seeing that by the act of Geo IV the clause empowering the enforcement of arrears was repealed, and either by intention or oversight, that no remedy had been provided in the bill passed in the session of 1846. He gave his opinion that there was no power to recover arrears, and, moreover, that the rules of a friendly society were only binding upon a member so long as he continued to be such, and that there was no power vested in the Magistrates to summon a party for arrears, whether he left the society with or without notice. A case in which this point was involved came on for hearing on Tuesday last, before Mr. Loxdale and Mr. Foster at the Public Office, Bilston, and the result shows the necessity of instant steps being taken by these societies to obtain powers by which the stipulated payments may be rendered compulsory and recoverable by action at law.

Mr. *William Worthington*, landlord of the FOX INN, Bilston, had been a member of the No.3 Lodge of Good Fellows for nearly twenty-one years, and had received only a few weeks relief from its funds during that time; but having taken offence, we believe, at something connected with the shifting of the lodge-room from one house to another, thought proper to leave the Lodge without giving the officers the usual notice. He was accordingly summoned on Tuesday, but the defendant having laid our paper in which Mr. Tidd Pratt’s opinion was contained before the Magistrates, they, as a matter of course, dismissed the case, on the ground that they had no jurisdiction.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/9/1848

“Bilston Public Office on Tuesday.....

Mr. *William Worthington*, of the FOX INN, was charged by John Beaven, president of the No.3 Lodge of Good Fellows, with leaving the society without paying the sum of £1 16s 3½d for contributions and fines. Mr. Bolton, on behalf of the defendant, submitted that the magistrates had no jurisdiction in the case, inasmuch as the Act of Parliament did not give them power to make an order for the recovery of fines and arrears In this view the magistrates concurred, and dismissed the case.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/6/1849

“Bilston Petty Sessions, Tuesday, May 29th, 1849.....

A notorious character, named Thomas Jenks, was charged with committing a violent assault upon Inspector Thompson on Monday night last. It appeared that Jenks went to the FOX public house, where he became very quarrelsome, and assaulted Mr. *Worthington*, the landlord, who immediately sent for the police. Inspector Thompson and police-constable Denny arrived soon afterwards and put him out of the house, when he became very violent, and kicked the inspector in the mouth and bit his thumb nearly through. Fined £5 and costs, or to be committed three months to hard labour.

Jenks was then charged with a similar assault upon Susannah Miles, an old woman upwards of 60 years of age. The old woman stated that on Tuesday night, the 22nd ult, she was going home to her house in the Old Road, accompanied by her daughter and son-in-law, Joseph Pitt, when Jenks and William Smith passed by them. Jenks then turned round and struck Pitt several times, who (according to the old woman’s statement) ran away. Jenks then struck her violently, and gave her two black eyes and bit both her thumbs. Fined 5s and costs, and to find two sureties to keep the peace for six months.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/7/1850

“At Bilston petty sessions, on Tuesday, a fellow named Thomas Jones was committed to take his trial at the assizes, for having burglariously entered the FOX INN, on the 29th of February, and stolen therefrom a chimney glass and barometer, the property of Mr. *William Worthington*, the landlord. It was now proved that on the morning after the robbery he got the loan of half-a-crown upon the stolen property from a miner named Richard Groom, who, having his suspicions, was the means of informing the police of the circumstance. On being sought after, it was found he had absconded, and he was only apprehended a few days back at Ruabon, in North Wales. He was again brought up on Friday, and committed for another burglary perpetrated about the same time, at the house of Thomas Fieldhouse, butty miner, Prouds Lane.”

Birmingham Journal 27/7/1850

“Staffordshire Summer Assizes....

A man named Thomas Jones was indicted for having burglariously entered the house of Thomas Fieldhouse, mine agent, Bilston, during the night of the 27th January, and stealing therefrom two pairs of boots, a bunch of keys, a gun, and other articles. The house was broken into by means of the cellar window, and the evidence connecting the prisoner with the robbery consisted in his having sold and made presents of a portion of the stolen property to some persons in Wolverhampton on the day following. He was not caught until last month, when he was entrapped by being invited into a public house at Bilston; he guessed something to be wrong, and endeavoured to make his escape. He was also indicted for robbing the house of *William Worthington*, of the FOX INN, Bilston, of a looking-glass and barometer, but the Grand Jury ignored the bill. On the first charge, he was sentenced to one year's imprisonment.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/2/1851

“Inquests held before T. M. Phillips, Esq, Coroner....

On Friday, at the FOX INN, Bilston, on the body of Jane Nicholls, aged 13, whose death was caused by falling down a pit, situated in the Lunt, on Saturday last.

It appeared that the deceased was not employed at the pit, but was merely attending to the skip during the temporary absence of one of the bank girls, and on leaning over to draw the skip to the bank, she overbalanced herself, and fell down the shaft. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

London Gazette 21/2/1851

“In the Matter of the Petition of *William Worthington* now lodging at No.49, William-street, and lately at No.13, Dale-end, and at No.37, Summer-lane, all in Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, out of business, previously of the FOX INN, Church-street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, Butty Collier, and Engineer, and formerly of Lichfield-street, Bilston aforesaid, Retail Brewer and Engineer, an Insolvent Debtor.

Notice is hereby given, that the County Court of Warwickshire, at Birmingham, acting in the matter of this Petition, will proceed to make a Final Order thereon, at the said Court, on the 15th day of March next, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely, unless cause be then and there shewn to the contrary.”

1851 Census

Church Street

- [1] *John Smith* (29), innkeeper and brass founder, born Handsworth;
- [2] *Fanny Smith* (30), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Francis Smith* (3), son, born Bilston;
- [4] *Fanny Smith* (2), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] *Frederic Smith* (1), son, born Bilston;
- [6] *Dennis Hale* (28), married, ostler, born Bilston;
- [7] *Emma Ward* (21), chambermaid, born Tipton;
- [8] *Ann Yardley* (18), nursemaid, born Princes End;
- [9] *Mercy Smith* (18), barmaid, born Wolverhampton:

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/11/1851

“An inquest was held on Thursday last, at Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, on the body of William Page, 28 years of age, brewer, in the employ of Mr. *Smith*, of the FOX INN. It appeared from the evidence of Mr. George Barker, assistant to Mr. Bew, chemist, that on Saturday last the deceased was walking in the road near his master’s shop, when he came in contact with a horse and cart, which knocked him down, the off wheel passing over his body. He immediately ran to his assistance, and tried to raise him, when he complained of his neck. He was afterwards taken to his master’s house, when every attention was paid to him by E. Best, Esq, surgeon, but he died on Tuesday.

The lad who was driving the horse at the time was examined, and said he believed the deceased was reading at the time, and slipped off the footpath.

The jury, after a short consultation, returned a verdict of Accidental Death. The Coroner and jury strongly animadverted on the extremely indiscreet and highly reprehensible practice of allowing children to drive through the streets of a densely-populated town.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/9/1853

“Out of the twenty-three applications for new licenses made before the magistrates for the Bilston division, at their annual sitting, ten were granted. In five of these there was no opposition. On the same occasion the renewal of the licenses of the KINGS ARMS, the FOX, and the CROWN in Crown Street, against which houses complaints had been preferred by the police, was withheld, to be considered at the adjourned court on the 16th inst.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/9/1853

“At the Petty Sessions, on Friday.....

The licenses of the KINGS ARMS and FOX INNs, and also the OLD CROWN, in Crown Street, suspended at the late licensing meeting were renewed upon promise of amendment in conducting the respective houses.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/11/1853

“A stranger named Davis, who said that he came from London, was committed on Tuesday last, charged with stealing a fowl, the property of Mr. *Henry Slater*, of the FOX INN, Bilston.”

AND

Birmingham Journal 19/11/1853

“James Davis, a tramp, was on Tuesday charged with stealing a hen belonging to Mr. *Slater*, of the FOX INN, Bilston. Job Kirtland, the ostler, said that, about eight o’clock on the preceding night, he was at work in the stable, when he heard a noise among the fowls in the hen-house. He proceeded up the yard, and found a ladder reared against the wall of the pig-stye, and having procured a light, he ascended to the place where the fowls were kept, and immediately missed a hen which had been doing the maternal to some chickens. He called his master, and then mounted a hay-loft, where he discovered the prisoner, who was lying apparently asleep with the hen, still alive, underneath his head. An officer was sent for, and he was given in charge. The prisoner now protested his innocence, and stated that he had walked a long way; a young man gave him some drink, which, not having eaten anything, had taken effect on him, and he had gone to the loft to sleep. Sub-inspector Heath, however, proved that he was perfectly sober, and the Magistrate committed him to take his trial.”

[At the Staffordshire Sessions James Davis, 26, was sentenced to three months’ imprisonment.]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 8/8/1855

“At Bilston Petty Sessions on Friday last, before J. Loxdale and T. Barker, Esqs, and the Rev. H. S. Fletcher, police officer Mansfield was charged with assaulting David Jones, early on Wednesday morning last. The evidence on behalf of the complaint was to the effect that the complainant, who was in company with his brother and a man named Tart, had some drink in the FOX public house, and afterwards went towards the BALLOON public house. The defendant and two other policemen passed by. Defendant stared very hard at complainant’s brother, and afterwards told complainant and his companions to ‘move on.’ Complainant alleged that he and the other men did go on, but not far enough, as he supposed, to suit the defendant, who then came up and kicked complainant, who thanked him for what he had done. Defendant then said that if complainant’s brother did not go on he would give him something. The policemen and some other men were drinking and dancing in the FOX public house. The defendant cross-examined the complainant and his witness with considerable acuteness, and after making a statement of his case, called police officers Goodall and Smith, whose evidence in substance was that hearing a noise in High Street about half-past two o’clock, they went up and found the complainant and his brother there. They twice requested them to go away but they refused. The officers then went to the station to report that they were going off

duty, and on their way home they found the complainant and others engaged in making a disturbance. The officers again told them to go away. Complainant and his brother were very saucy, and Goodall said if they did not go home he would lock them up. They went. Mansfield did not kick complainant. The Magistrates said the evidence was so conflicting they should dismiss the case. An inquiry would, however, take place, as to whether the police were drinking and dancing in the public house. If it were true it would throw discredit upon the officers; he hoped it might turn out to be untrue.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1855

“The Annual Meeting for Bilston, Sedgley, Gornal, and adjoining places took place on Friday last, at the Police Office, Bilston.....

The following licenses were suspended till the adjourned licensing day, in consequence of complaints against the house..... *Edwin Steer*, FOX INN, Church Street.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 16/4/1856

“Bilston Petty Sessions.....

Edwin Steer, landlord of the FOX INN, was summoned for having on the previous Tuesday allowed persons of disorderly character to remain in his house. The case was proved by Superintendent M’Crea and another officer, who stated that about one o’clock on the morning named they found the spirit shop in the defendant’s occupation almost full of females and males of disreputable character.

Mr Waterhouse, on behalf of the defendant, remarked that his client, as a licensed victualler, was compelled to supply any person with refreshment who called for it, and that he could not be supposed to know the character of his customers.

The Magistrates being aware that the general character of the house was inferior, and that the defendant had been previously convicted for similar offences, inflicted a fine of £5 and costs.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/9/1856

“The Annual Licensing Meeting at Bilston.....

The whole of the old licenses, with one exception, were renewed. Some of the licensed victuallers who had been fined for offences committed during the past year were, however, cautioned as to the future conduct of their houses. The license suspended was that of *Edwin Steer*, of the FOX INN.”

Birmingham Journal 4/10/1856 - Advert

“Favourable Opportunity for a Business Man.

To be Let, and immediate possession may be had, the present Proprietor having entered into other engagements, the FOX COMMERCIAL INN, which is most admirably situated in the centre of the thriving town of Bilston.

The Premises are most convenient and commodious, and comprise a large well-fitted up Liquor Shop, Bar, Bar Parlour, large Tap Room, Cooking Kitchen, comfortable Commercial Room, Smoke Room, seven good-sized Chambers, spacious Cellaring, Brewhouse, with excellent copper Furnaces, Ale Vats, &c, very conveniently fitted up; two Stables, Coach-house, and other Out-buildings.

Rental moderate, and the whole may be taken at a fair valuation.

Another Business may be conveniently carried on upon the Premises.

For further particulars, apply to the Landlord, Mr. *Edwin Steer*; or to R. L. Courtney, Auctioneer, High Street, West Bromwich.”

Birmingham Journal 20/12/1856 - Advert

“FOX INN, Bilston.

The Liquor Shop only to be Let. Coming-in low, and the rent moderate. Fixtures and Stock to be taken at fair valuation.

Apply to Mr. *E. Steer*, on the Premises.”

FOX INN, BILSTON.
THE LIQUOR SHOP only to be LET. Coming-
in low, and the rent moderate. Fixtures and Stock to be taken
at fair valuation.—Apply to Mr. *E. Steer*, on the Premises.

Birmingham Journal 2/5/1857 - Advert

“To be Let, with immediate possession, that noted House of Business, the ODD FELLOWS ARMS, Dudley Street, Wednesbury, brewing twelve bushels per week. Cause of its disposal, the Proprietress having taken to the FOX INN, Bilston.

Apply on the Premises; or to F. Altree, Auctioneer and General Valuer, 73, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/7/1858

"Elijah [sic] *Price*, of the FOX INN, Bilston, an old offender in that way, prosecuted by the police for selling ale after eleven o'clock on Sunday night, was fined £5 and costs."

Staffordshire Advertiser 4/9/1858

"Bilston Annual Licensing Day.....

The license of the FOX INN, Church Street, Bilston, kept by *Eliza Price*, was withdrawn, there having been four convictions against the landlady, and one information during the year In consequence of repeated convictions of Mrs. *Eliza Price*, the FOX INN, Church Street, Bilston, for keeping a disorderly house, the magistrates decided to withdraw the license from that house altogether."

London Gazette 4/1/1859

"Whereas a Petition of *Eliza Price*, now and for about three months and six days last past residing in lodgings at Spring-hill, Essington-wood, in the township of Essington, in the county of Stafford, Widow, out of business, and previously for about sixteen months and fourteen days residing at the FOX INN, Church-street, Bilston, in the said county of Stafford, and then and there carrying on business as a Licensed Victualler and Retailer of Wines, Spirituous Liquors, and Tobacco, an insolvent debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, at the Court-house, Queen-street, Wolverhampton, and an interim order for protection from process having been given to the said *Eliza Price*, under the provisions of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said *Eliza Price* is hereby required to appear before the said Court, on the 24th day of January instant, at ten o'clock in the forenoon precisely, for her first examination touching her 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. Any persons indebted to the said *Eliza Price*, or that have any of her effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. Charles Gallimore Brown, Registrar of the said Court, at his office, in Queen-street, Wolverhampton, the Official Assignee of the estate and effects of the said insolvent."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/1/1859

"Staffordshire County Court, Wolverhampton District Insolvents.....

Eliza Price, formerly occupier of the FOX public house, Bilston, but now in lodgings at Spring Hill, Essington Wood, came up for her first examination, supported by Mr. Dalby, of West Bromwich; Mr. Thurstans and Mr. Flewker opposed, and urged that the Court had no jurisdiction, as the insolvent was residing within the limits of the Walsall district. Another objection raised was that the petition had been attested but not signed by the insolvent's attorney; but this was overruled by the Judge. The insolvent was then examined, and admitted that she had been deprived of her license by the Bilston Magistrates in consequence of repeated complaints by the police of the improper manner in which she had conducted her house. Among other items in the balance sheet the insolvent had entered £150 as having been paid to musicians. After a further examination touching her trading during the past year, his Honour decided to allow the insolvent to pass her first examination, reserving the first objection respecting the jurisdiction of the Court."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 23/2/1859

"At the County Court, on Monday last, the following insolvency cases were heard.....

Eliza Price, widow, of Spring Hill, Essington Wood, obtained her final order, supported by Mr. Dalby, of West Bromwich, Mr. Thurstans, who previously opposed, withdrawing his opposition."

Birmingham Daily Post 30/1/1860 - Advert

"To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, that old-established Commercial Inn, the FOX, Church Street, Bilston. Coming-in about £100.

For particulars, apply on the Premises."

TO be LET, and may be entered upon immediately,
that old-established COMMERCIAL INN, "THE FOX," Church
Street, Bilston. Coming-in about £100.—For particulars, apply on
the Premises.

William Twelves = William Twells

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/9/1860

“Bilston Annual Licensing Day.....

There were ten applications for new licenses, all of which were refused, except that of Mr. *Twells*, for a license for the FOX INN, Bilston, from which the license had been taken away on account of the misconduct of a previous tenant. The consideration of this application was adjourned to the 21st September.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1860

“An application by Mr. Waterhouse for a renewal of the license of the FOX INN, Church Street, Bilston, which was taken away four years since, in consequence of the misconduct of the tenant by whom it was then held, was refused, the Magistrates being of opinion that the present number of licensed houses in Bilston (104) is quite sufficient to meet the requirements of the inhabitants.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/9/1860 - Advert

“Bilston. To be Let, with immediate possession, that well known house of business, the FOX INN, Church Street, Bilston. The premises contain five sleeping rooms, large commercial room, two parlours, bar, tap room, back kitchen, brewhouse, malt room, good cellars, stabling for six horses, with large and convenient yard. To be taken to at valuation.

Apply to Mr. R. Heseltine, Auctioneer and Valuer, Bilston; or on the premises.”

Advert 1861

“*William Twelves*, FOX INN, Church Street, Bilston.

W. T. begs most respectfully to inform his friends and the public generally that he has taken the above house, and hopes by strict attention to comfort, with moderate charges to merit a share of their patronage and support, which shall be his constant study to observe.

Private Sitting-Room for Commercial Gentlemen.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/3/1861

“Mr. Harper, currier, of Bilston; *Joseph Springthorpe*, landlord of the FOX beerhouse, Church Street, Bilston, and Mary Ann Springthorpe, wife of the latter, were charged with obstructing Messrs. Bywater and Perry, bailiffs connected with the Wolverhampton County Court, in the execution of their duty. Mr. Bartlett appeared to prosecute, and Mr. Langman defended.

The bailiffs had gone to the house of *Springthorpe* to levy an execution at the suit of a Mr. Smith for £11, for malt supplied to *Springthorpe*. Harper had sublet the house to *Springthorpe*, and had put him in there and found him furniture, and to secure himself had obtained a bill of sale under which he claimed the goods. Harper and a number of men prevented the bailiffs levying under the warrant of the County Court. Mrs. Springthorpe gave active assistance, but her husband only slightly assisted Harper. Harper and Mrs. Springthorpe were each fined £5, and *Joseph Springthorpe* was fined 1s and costs.”

1861 Census

18, Church Street

[1] *Joseph Springthorpe* (30), publican, born Hibstock, Leicestershire;

[2] Mary Ann Springthorpe (34), wife, born Walsall;

[3] Betsey Springthorpe (14), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[4] Samuel Springthorpe (13), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[5] Francis Springthorpe (8), son, scholar, born Walsall;

[6] James Springthorpe (6), son, scholar, born Walsall;

[7] Clara Springthorpe (4), daughter, scholar, born Walsall;

[8] Elizabeth Banks (21), housemaid and bar, born Willenhall;

[9] John Haynes (30), lodger, baker's assistant, born Walsall;

[10] William Springthorpe (1), son, born Walsall:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/9/1861

“Applications for new licenses.....

Mr. Waterhouse applied, on behalf of James Springthorpe, that the license taken away from the FOX INN, Church Street, Bilston, might be restored. Refused.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 24/11/1861

“J. Turner of Bilston will run S. Edwards or J. Bromley of Longton 100 yards with one yard start, for £10 or £15 a side; or Cooper of Wolstanton on the same terms. By sending a deposit to *Bells Life*, and articles to Mr. *Springthorpe*’s, FOX INN, Bilston, it will ensure a match. Turner will give or take reasonable expenses to run in the Potteries or at Birmingham.”

Eddowes Shrewsbury Journal 27/3/1867

“Staffordshire Lent Assizes.....

Dean v Harper. This was an action to recover £700 under a covenant by the defendant to keep in repair certain premises at Bilston, which he had leased from the plaintiff. Mr. Huddleston, QC, and Mr. Motteram, instructed by Reece and Harris, for the plaintiff; Mr. Mathews, instructed by Brown and Fereday, for the defendant.

Mr. Motteram opened the pleadings, and Mr. Huddleston, in stating the case to the jury, said the plaintiff was Mrs. Dean, an elderly lady, and the defendant a currier, and the action was brought to recover for damages to plaintiff’s property in consequence of dilapidation allowed by the defendant whilst a tenant of the property under lease. In 1858 defendant obtained a lease of the FOX INN, at Bilston; that lease contained a covenant that the defendant should keep the premises in good and sufficient order and repair, and in such order leave it when his time expired. In 1859 he took in addition four cottages near to the inn at £22 per annum for seven years, under the same conditions as the other property. The leases expired in 1865, and Harper expressed a wish to purchase the whole of the property, but saying that there would be a great deal to be done to them, as the places were in a dreadful condition. The leases were at this time regranted, and a similar covenant to the former one was entered into, namely, to keep the property in a completely efficient state of repair. He had regularly paid his rent, but had not complied with the stipulations in the leases, hence the present action.

Mr. Mathews, in defence, contended that the places were in a dreadful state of dilapidation when the defendant took to them, and that the signature of the defendant to the last lease was obtained by fraudulent means and representations. At the suggestion of the learned Judge, the matter was referred to two architects to be named by the two parties, and a verdict was taken was taken for the plaintiff pro forma.”

Thomas George Jackson, beer retailer, 18, Church Street. [1868]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/9/1868 - Advert

“FOX INN, Bilston. To be Let, this Old-established Inn, situate in Church Street.

Apply to Mr. F. W. Fiddian, Architect and Surveyor, Quadrant Chambers, New Street, Birmingham.”

FOX Inn, Bilston.—To be Let, this Old-established INN, situate in Church Street.—Apply to Mr. F. W. Fiddian, Architect and Surveyor, Quadrant Chambers, New Street, Birmingham.

Edinburgh Gazette 9/3/1869

“*William Hayhurst*, of the FOX INN, Church Street, retail brewer and boiler fitter, previously of St Luke’s Street, boiler fitter, and previously thereto of Coseley Street, all in Bilston, Stafford, boiler fitter.”

Closed

It was demolished.

The new Town Hall was built on the site in 1872.

Bilston and Wednesbury Turnpike Tolls.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Tolls arising at the several Toll Gates upon the Turnpike Road leading from Wednesbury, through Bilston, to the further End of Gibbet Lane, and several other Roads leading to and from Bilston, in the County of Stafford, will be LET by AUCTION, at the House of Mrs. Mary Reynolds, the Fox Inn, in Bilston aforesaid, on Monday the 12th Day of October, 1818, at Four o'Clock in the Afternoon, for the Term of one Year, commencing the first Day of January next, in the Manner directed by the Act passed in the thirteenth Year of the Reign of his present Majesty King George the Third, "for regulating the Turnpike Roads;" which Tolls were let on Lease the last Year at the under-mentioned Sums, clear of the Expenses of collecting them, and will be put up at those Sums respectively. Whoever happen to be the best Bidder must at the same Time give Security, with sufficient Sureties, to the Satisfaction of the Trustees of the said Turnpike Roads, for the Payment of the Rent agreed for and at such Times as they shall direct, and make a Deposit of one Month's Rent for each Lot.

Lot 1. Cock Heath Gate.....	£500
2. Bilston Bridge, Cold Lanes, and High Street Gates, with Weighing Machine }	400
3. Catchem's Corner Gate, Ettingshall Lane Bar, Ettingshall Side Bar, and Fighting Cock's Bar.....	200
4. Gibbet Lane Gate.....	394

By Order of the Trustees,
JOHN WILLIM,
Clerk and Treasurer.

Bilston, Sept. 14, 1818.

1818

BILSTON NEW ROAD.

PERSONS of Experience and a competent Skill in Road-making, who are inclined to contract for making and completing a new Road from the North Corner of the Church Yard, in the Township of Bilston, to Priestfields, in the said Township, may see a Plan, Section, and Specification thereof, at the Office of Messrs. Willim and Son, Solicitors, in Bilston, where Tenders, sealed up, must be left on or before Three o'Clock on Friday the 15th Day of November, 1819; and the Persons making such Tenders are required to attend a Meeting of a Committee of the Trustees at the Fox Inn, in Bilston, at Four o'Clock the same Day, who will require sufficient Security for the Performance of the Contract to be then entered into.

Bilston, October 27, 1819.

1819

TURNPIKE ROAD

From Wednesbury, through Bilston, to the further End of Gibbet Lane, and several other Roads leading to and from Bilston, in the County of Stafford.

A Special General Meeting of the Trustees will be held at the Fox Inn, in Bilston, on Friday the 28th Day of July inst. at Eleven o'Clock in the Forenoon, to meet a Deputation of the Parliamentary Commissioners, accompanied by Mr. Telford, and to communicate with them as to the Objects of the new Act respecting the London and Holyhead Roads, and the Nature of the Improvements suggested by Mr. Telford. At the same Time will be taken into Consideration the Propriety of removing Gibbet Lane Turnpike to Priestfields, in the Township of Bilston.

JOHN WILLIM,
Clerk to the Trustees.

1820

FOX INN, BILSTON.

MARY REYNOLDS respectfully embraces this Opportunity of expressing her grateful Acknowledgments to her numerous Friends and the Public for those Favours which have already been so liberally bestowed upon her, especially during the last five Years she has had the Honour of conducting the above as a Travellers' Inn; at the same Time she humbly begs Leave to acquaint the Commercial Gentlemen who please to honour her with their Commands, that she has lately fitted up the House and Stables in a comfortable Style, a lock-up Gig-house, and every other suitable Convenience for their Accommodation, with most excellent Beds, choice Wines, genuine Spirits, and good home-brewed Ale, such as she confidently trusts cannot fail, by Assiduity and Attention, to secure a Continuance of that Patronage and Support which will ever be her Study to merit.

Bilston, Sept. 6, 1820.

1820

TURNPIKE ROAD

From Wednesbury, through Bilston, to the further End of Gibbet Lane, and several other Roads leading to and from Bilston, in the County of Stafford.

THE next General Meeting of the Trustees will be held at the Fox Inn, in Bilston, Tomorrow (Tuesday) the 24th Day of April, at One o'Clock in the Afternoon precisely, to transact the Business before Dinner and dine at Three.

JOHN WILLIM,
Clerk to the Trustees.

1821

FOX INN, BILSTON.

TO be peremptorily SOLD by AUCTION (by order and direction of the Assignee of Mary Reynolds, a bankrupt), at the said Inn, To-morrow (Tuesday) the 28th of February, precisely at four o'clock in the afternoon;—the Licences, Good-will, and immediate Possession of the above well-known good accustomed House and Travellers' Inn, situated in the centre of Bilston, in the county of Stafford.

The above Inn is a desirable opportunity for any person wishing to embark in the public business, and such as is rarely offered to the public.

For further particulars apply to Mr. Smith, Solicitor, Walsall.

1825

Household Furniture, and other Effects, at the Fox Inn, Bilston.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by J. W. PERKES, (under an Execution from the Sheriff of Staffordshire) at the said Inn, in Bilston, To-morrow (Tuesday) the 17th day of January, and to continue until the whole is disposed of, the valuable Household Furniture, Ale, Wines, Spirits, and other Effects, belonging to Mrs. Mary Reynolds; particulars of which will appear in catalogues, which will be distributed.

FOX INN, BILSTON.

TO be peremptorily SOLD by AUCTION (by order and direction of the Assignee of Mary Reynolds, a bankrupt), at the said Inn, To-morrow (Tuesday) the 28th of February, precisely at four o'clock in the afternoon;—the Licences, Good-will, and immediate Possession of the above well-known good accustomed House and Travellers' Inn, situated in the centre of Bilston, in the county of Stafford.

The above Inn is a desirable opportunity for any person wishing to embark in the public business, and such as is rarely offered to the public.

For further particulars apply to Mr. Smith, Solicitor, Walsall.

1826

**FOX INN and COMMERCIAL HOUSE,
BILSTON.**

J. GILBERT begs leave to inform his Friends and the Public, that he has entered upon the above Inn, and assures them and the Commercial Gentlemen, that no attention to general comfort shall be wanting to ensure their patronage and support, which he respectfully solicits.
•• Excellent Wines and good Stabling.

**FOX INN and COMMERCIAL HOUSE,
BILSTON.**

J. GILBERT having entered upon the above old established house, which has undergone many improvements and been fitted up at considerable expence, begs leave very respectfully to solicit the support of his Friends, the Commercial Gentlemen, and the Public generally, assuring them that his utmost exertions shall be used to promote their comfort and convenience, and to ensure that extensive patronage which the house has for so long a period enjoyed.

J. G. announces to his Friends, that his House Warming will be on the 25th instant, when their company is respectfully solicited.

Tickets may be had at the Bar of the House, at 5s. each, including dinner and dessert.

1826

**That old established COMMERCIAL INN and LIQUOR
SHOP,**

THE FOX INN, BILSTON.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by R. CORBETT, on the premises, on Friday next, January 9, at five o'clock in the afternoon, the Licences, Good-will, and immediate Possession of the above named Commercial Inn and Liquor Shop, the oldest and most lucrative establishment of the kind in the town, which, in consequence of recent expensive alterations and improvements, possesses every convenience as a Travellers' Inn, Public House, and Liquor Shop, enjoying a considerable share of in and out-door business.

The purchaser will be expected to take to the stock of ale and liquors, which is low, the barrels, brewing utensils, fixtures, and part of the household furniture, at a fair valuation.

For further particulars apply on the premises; or to the Auctioneer, New Town, Bilston aforesaid, if by letter, post paid.

1829

TURNPIKE ROADS,

Leading to and from Bilston, in the County of Stafford.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,

THAT a SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of the TRUSTEES of these Roads will be held at the Fox INN, in BILSTON aforesaid, on WEDNESDAY, the FIFTEENTH day of FEBRUARY next, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of assenting to or dissenting from the Proprietors of the Grand Junction Railway laying their Railway across the Bilston Turnpike Roads.

WILLIM and SON,

Clerks to the Trustees of the said Turnpike Roads.

Bilston, 31st January, 1832.

1832

FOX INN, BILSTON.

TO be disposed of by private Treaty, the Licences, Good-will, and Possession of the above truly desirable, highly respectable, and old established Commercial Inn and Liquor Shop, having, in addition to an extensive and old established commercial connection, a great run in the Spirit and Tavern Business, to which is attached several Clubs and other Societies. Part of the Household Furniture, the whole of the Fixtures, Brewing Vessels, and Stock of Ale, Spirits, and Wines, which will be reduced to accommodate a purchaser, to be taken at a fair valuation, and part of the purchase money may remain on approved security.

For further particulars and to treat apply on the premises, to Mr. Hodgins, who is leaving in consequence of other engagements; or to J. Gilbert, Auctioneer, Mogul Tavern, Bartholomew-street, Birmingham.

1832

TO BE LET,

And may be entered upon immediately,

OR AT CHRISTMAS NEXT,

THAT well-frequented and old-established COMMERCIAL HOUSE, with LIQUOR SHOP attached—the FOX INN, BILSTON.

The above is an opportunity which seldom offers for any person desirous of embarking in the public business, as it is one of the best situations in Bilston, in the centre of the town; the trade of which place, and the surrounding neighbourhood, is in a very flourishing and improving state. The present proprietor is leaving on account of other engagements.

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

1833

POINTER DOG LOST.

LOST, on MONDAY LAST, a black and white POINTER DOG, with cut tail, and answers to the name of "DON."—Whoever has found him, and will take him to the Fox Inn, Bilston, or to the Castle Inn, Wolverhampton, shall be handsomely rewarded for his trouble; and any one detaining him after this notice will be prosecuted.

September 2, 1834.

1834

BILSTON TURNPIKE ROADS.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the General Annual Meeting of the Trustees appointed for putting in execution an Act of Parliament, passed in the tenth year of the Reign of his late Majesty King George the Fourth, intituled "An Act for repairing certain Turnpike Roads leading to and from Bilston, in the county of Stafford," advertised to be held on the 26th day of February last, was duly adjourned to Thursday the 12th day of March instant, to the Fox Inn, in Bilston aforesaid, to one o'clock in the afternoon, when and where the accounts for the last year will be audited, and a report of the state of the roads made.

JOHN WILLIM AND SON,

Clerks to the Trustees,

1835

BILSTON.

TO MALTSTERS BREWERS, AND OTHERS.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by Mr. NEWBOLD, at the Fox Inn, Bilston, on Monday the 2d day of September next—Forty Pockets of superior Worcester and Sussex HOPS, in suitable lots for the convenience of purchasers.

The sale will commence precisely at twelve o'clock, and samples drawn.

1839

FOX INN, TAP HOUSE, AND LIQUOR SHOP, BILSTON.

TO be Disposed of, the Licences, Goodwill, and immediate possession of the above named well arranged old established TRAVELLER'S INN, Tap-house, and Liquor Shop.

The stock (which is small), the barrels, brewing utensils, fixtures, and such parts of the household furniture as may be agreed upon, to be taken at a fair valuation.

↪ Mrs. PRATT, on the premises, will show the stock, fixtures, and furniture; to treat for the same apply to RICHARD CORBETT, auctioneer, &c. New Town, Bilston.

1841

SALE AT THE FOX INN, BILSTON.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY JOHN MASON,

On Tuesday, the 29th day of June, 1847,

PART of the modern and useful HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, four post, tent, and other bedsteads, mahogany dining and loo tables, fine toned cabinet piano-forte, 6½ octaves, handsome mahogany secretaire, office table desk, eight excellent 120 gallon iron bound and other Ale Barrels, superior single bodied four wheeled Phaeton, excellent four wheeled Dog Trap, Spring Cart, strong store Pig, and other effects, upon the premises, at the Fox Inn, the present tenant removing to the King's Arms Inn, Bilston.

↪ Particulars, in catalogues, are now in circulation, and may be had at the offices of the Auctioneer, Hall-street, Bilston.

UNRESERVED SALE AT THE FOX INN,

CHURCH-STREET, BILSTON.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by RICHD. CORBETT, on the above premises, on Tuesday and Wednesday the 15th and 16th days of November next—the Licences, Goodwill, and immediate Possession of the above INN, now carried on by Mrs. Mary Pratt, who is declining business; and also all the modern useful Household Furniture, iron-bound Ale Barrels, large Copper Furnaces, Cooling Vats, Brewing Utensils, Liquor Shop and Bar Fixtures, Stock of Wines, Liquors, &c. and other miscellaneous property and effects; catalogues of which will be distributed, and may be had after Thursday next the 3d of November at the place of sale, or at the offices of the Auctioneer, New Town, Bilston.

The sale to commence each day at ten a.m. and at two p.m.

The first lot will be the Licences, Goodwill, and Possession, unless previously disposed of by private treaty, which may be effected by applying to the Auctioneer, and the purchaser may or may not take to the Fixtures, Barrels, Brewing Utensils, &c. at a valuation.

1842

UNRESERVED SALE AT THE FOX INN, CHURCH-STREET, BILSTON.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by RICHD. CORBETT, on the above premises, on Tuesday and Wednesday the 15th and 16th days of November next—the Licences, Goodwill, and immediate Possession of the above INN, now carried on by Mrs. Mary Pratt, who is declining business; and also all the modern useful Household Furniture, iron-bound Ale Barrels, large Copper Furnaces, Cooling Vats, Brewing Utensils, Liquor Shop and Bar Fixtures, Stock of Wines, Liquors, &c. and other miscellaneous property and effects; catalogues of which will be distributed, and may be had after Thursday next the 3d of November at the place of sale, or at the offices of the Auctioneer, New Town, Bilston.

The sale to commence each day at ten a.m. and at two p.m.

The first lot will be the Licences, Goodwill, and Possession, unless previously disposed of by private treaty, which may be effected by applying to the Auctioneer, and the purchaser may or may not take to the Fixtures, Barrels, Brewing Utensils, &c. at a valuation.

1847

WHEREAS a Fiat in Bankruptcy, bearing date the 8th day of May, 1848, has been awarded and issued against JAMES WALTER BUSST, of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, innkeeper, under which he has been adjudged and declared bankrupt; the said James Walter Busst is hereby required to surrender himself to EDMUND ROBERT DANIELL, Esquire, one of her Majesty's Commissioners authorised to act in the prosecution of Fiats in Bankruptcy in the BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT COURT OF BANKRUPTCY, at BIRMINGHAM, on the 7th day of JUNE next, at half-past ten of the clock, and on the 20th day of JUNE next, at half past ten of the clock in the forenoon on each of the said days, and to make a full discovery and disclosure of his estate and effects; when and where the Creditors are to come prepared to prove their debts, and on the first day above specified to CHOOSE ASSIGNEES, and on the last day above specified the said Bankrupt is required to FINISH his EXAMINATION. All persons indebted to the said Bankrupt, or that have any of his effects, are hereby desired not to pay or deliver the same but to FREDERICK WATMORE, Esq. official assignee, Waterloo-street, Birmingham; and give notice thereof to

THOMAS MOSS PHILLIPS,

Solicitor, Wolverhampton.

1848

FAVOURABLE OPPORTUNITY FOR A BUSINESS MAN.

TO be LET, and immediate possession may be had, the present Proprietor having entered into other engagements,

THE FOX COMMERCIAL INN,

which is most admirably situated in the centre of the thriving town of Bilston.

The Premises are most convenient and commodious, and comprise a large well-fitted up Liquor Shop, Bar, Bar Parlour, large Tap Room, Cooking Kitchen, comfortable Commercial Room, Smoke Room, seven good-sized Chambers, spacious Cellaring, Brewhouse, with excellent copper Furnaces, Ale Vats, &c. very conveniently fitted up; two Stables, Coach-house, and other Out-buildings.

Rental moderate, and the whole may be taken at a fair valuation. Another Business may be conveniently carried on upon the Premises.

For further particulars, apply to the Landlord, Mr. Edwin Steer; or to R. L. Courtney, Auctioneer, High Street, West Bromwich.

1856

BILSTON.

TO BE LET, with immediate possession, that well known house of business, the **FOX INN**, Church-street, Bilston. The premises contain five sleeping rooms, large commercial room, two parlours, bar, tap room, back kitchen, brewhouse, malt room, good cellars, stabling for six horses, with large and convenient yard. To be taken to at valuation.—Apply to Mr. R. Heselgrave, Auctioneer and Valuer, Bilston; or on the premises.

“FOX INN,” BILSTON.

TO be LET, with immediate possession, that well-known old-established **HOUSE of BUSINESS**, known as the “**FOX INN**,” Church Street, Bilston. The Premises contain five Sleeping Rooms, large Commercial Room, two Parlours, Bar, Tap Room, back Kitchen, Brewhouse, Malt Room, good Cellars, Stabling for six horses with large and convenient Yard. To be taken to at valuation.—Apply to Mr. R. Heselgrave, Auctioneer and Appraiser, Market Place, Bilston; or on the Premises.

1860

WILLIAM TWELVES,

Fox Inn,

CHURCH STREET, BILSTON.

W. T. begs most respectfully to inform his friends and the public generally that he has taken the above house, and hopes by strict attention to comfort, with moderate charges to merit a share of their patronage and support, which shall be his constant study to observe.

PRIVATE SITTING-ROOM FOR COMMERCIAL GENTLEMEN.

1861

FREEMASONS ARMS

Cold Lanes, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Benjamin Ford [1850] – [1854]

NOTES

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/7/1850

“Staffordshire Midsummer Sessions.....

Sarah Hinton was indicted for stealing two night-gowns, three pairs of stockings, two chemises, a pair of drawers, and other articles, the property of *Benjamin Ford*, at Bilston.

Mr. Kettle, on behalf of the prosecution, called the prosecutor's wife, who stated that her husband kept the FREEMASONS ARMS, at Bilston, and that she took the prisoner into her service on the 1st of June, without a character; but, in consequence of some suspicions, discharged her in a fortnight afterwards. During the time the prisoner remained in her service she missed four sovereigns, a quantity of silver, four night-gowns, a locket, and several other articles. After she had left, information was given to police-officer Williams, who took the prisoner into custody on the 27th of June, and, upon searching her boxes, found several of the missing articles, which were produced and identified.

The prisoner, in her defence, endeavoured to clear herself and vilify the character of her mistress.

A verdict of guilty was returned by the Jury, and the Chairman, in sentencing the prisoner, told her she had considerably aggravated a bad case by the attack made upon the character of the prosecutor's wife. She was sentenced to be imprisoned to hard labour for twelve calendar months.”

1851 Census

Cold Lanes

[1] *Benjamin Ford* (40), fitter of engine work and retail brewer;

[2] *Mary A Ford* (30, wife, born Lichfield;

[3] *Ann Williams* (20), servant, born Brewood:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/6/1853

“*Benjamin Ford*, retail brewer, of Bilston, pleaded guilty to an information charging him with unlawfully having grains of paradise in his possession.

Mr. Shipman, solicitor, appeared for the defendant, and called two witnesses to show that the defendant's wife had sent to a neighbour's for a few hops to put to his ale, after it had been racked. Mrs. Evans, the person referred to, said she brewed for her own use, and sent some hops with grains of paradise in them. The date of this transaction, however, was not at all satisfactorily ascertained; and Mr. Gillespie said he had reason to think that if it took place at all, it did not apply to the present information. The defendant was convicted in the mitigated penalty of £50. Mr. Gillespie said the defendant was a poor man, and the payment of the penalty would press very severely upon him. The Board of Excise, he had reason to believe, would accede to its reduction to £30 if the Magistrates should think proper to recommend it, knowing the circumstances of the defendant, he could not recommend a mitigation. It was understood that £30 would be portion of the penalty required to be paid.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/4/1854

“An inquest was opened on Saturday last, before W. H. Phillips, Esq, deputy coroner, at the house of Mr. *Benjamin Ford*, of Cold Lanes, Bilston, on the body of Joseph Perry, aged 33, a miner, who had been killed on the previous Thursday, whilst at work in a coal pit at Bunkers Hill. It appeared that deceased was employed in getting some bat down in the new mine, and whilst doing so, he was suffocated by a quantity falling upon him. The inquiry was at length adjourned for notice to be sent to the Secretary of State, and for procuring further evidence as to the management of the working.”

GATE

378, Bilston Road, (30, Wolverhampton Road), Priestfield, BILSTON

OWNERS

George Marson, gentleman, licensed victualler, Sweetman Street, Whitmore Reans
William Butler and Co. Ltd.
Georgiana Marson, Sweetman Street, Whitmore Reans
R. A. Harper Ltd., Hall Park Brewery, Bilston
Eley's Stafford Brewery
William Butler and Co. Ltd.
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.
Enterprise Inns Ltd. [1991]

LICENSEES

William Hunt [1834] – [1850]
Mrs. Ann Maddocks [1851] – **1855**;
John Bassett Elwell **(1855 – [1870])**
Alfred Walters [1871] – **1877**;
Joseph Elwell **(1877 – 1885)**;
John Lockley **(1885)**;
Stephen John Sopp (?) **(1885 – 1886)**;
Mary Ann Oakley **(1886 – 1888)**;
George Willetts **(1888 – 1897)**;
Henry Tertius Hodgkiss **(1897 – 1898)**;
James Evans **(1898 – 1926)**;
Isaac Evans [1901]
Ernest Harold Rhodes **(1926 – 1959)**
Mrs. Annie Rhodes [1965]
O Mason [1983]
Raj Kumar Jassal [1995] – [2007]



2007

NOTES

Wolverhampton Road [1851], [1851], [1861], [1871], [1881], [1891], [1925], [1939]
30, Wolverhampton Road [1901], [1911], [1921], [1932], [1940]
378, Bilston Road [2005]

OLD GATE [1851], [1874]
GATES [1870]
GATE HANGS WELL [1877]

It had a beerhouse license.

1841 Census

Priestfields

- [1] William Hunt (65), victualler, born Staffordshire;
- [2] John Hunt (27), born Staffordshire;
- [3] Rebecca Hunt (25), born Staffordshire;
- [4] William Hunt (3), born Staffordshire;



2012

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/4/1843

"The following inquisitions have been held before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner.....

On Friday, at the GATE, Priestfields, near Bilston, on the body of Richard Oakley, who died in consequence of a waggon wheel on a railway having passed over his leg. Verdict, Accidental Death."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 23/4/1845 - Advert

"To be Let, the GATE INN, situate at Priestfield, on the side of the turnpike road leading from Wolverhampton to Bilston.

For particulars inquire of *William Hunt*, upon the premises."

TO be LET, "THE GATE INN," situate at Priestfield, on the side of the turnpike road leading from Wolverhampton to Bilston.—For particulars inquire of WILLIAM HUNT, upon the premises.

Ann Maddocks = Ann Maddox

1851 Census

Wolverhampton Road

- [1] Ann Maddocks (36), widow, innkeeper, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] Catharine Maddocks (14), daughter, home, born Bilston;
- [3] Elenor Maddocks (13), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] Sarah Maddocks (12), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] John Maddocks (10), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] Elizabeth Maddocks (8), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] Ann Maddocks (6), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [8] George Maddocks (1), son, born Bilston:

1861 Census

Wolverhampton Road

- [1] John Elwell (46), boiler maker and victualler, born Coseley;
- [2] Ann Elwell (46), wife, born Burton on Trent;
- [3] George W. Elwell (17), son, born Coseley;
- [4] Abraham Bennett (20), apprentice boiler maker, born Burton on Trent;
- [5] William Dunn (17), apprentice boiler maker, born Burton on Trent;
- [6] John Matthin (17), apprentice boiler maker, born Burton on Trent;
- [7] Charles Duma (21), boarder, bridle bit maker, born Burton on Trent;
- [8] Amelia Evan (8), servant, born Portobello;
- [9] Sarah Whyett (19), servant, born Wolverhampton;
- [10] Alfred Walters (16), visitor, book keeper in boiler maker's office, born Burslem, Staffordshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 15/10/1862 - Advert

"A Road-Side Inn.

To be Disposed Of, near the Priestfield Toll Gate, on the Bilston Road. This excellent house of business is known by the sign of the GATE, and is worthy the attention of an industrious family. There has only been three changes of tenants for more than fifty years. Rent, £30. In-coming, about £110.

Apply to Mr. Ashcroft, Auctioneer, 38, Snowhill, Wolverhampton."

A ROAD-SIDE INN
TO BE DISPOSED OF, near the Priestfield Toll Gate, on the Bilston-road. This excellent house of business is known by the sign of the "Gate," and is worthy the attention of an industrious family. There has only been three changes of tenants for more than fifty years. Rent, £30. In-coming, about £110.—Apply to Mr. ASHCROFT, Auctioneer, 38, Snowhill, Wolverhampton.

John Bassett Elwell was also a boiler maker. [1864], [1865], [1870]

1871 Census

Wolverhampton Road

- [1] Alfred Walters (27), publican, born Bilston;
- [2] William Walters (24), brother, breaker down at rolling mills, born Bilston;
- [3] John Elwell (56), uncle, boiler maker, born Bilston;
- [4] Ann Elwell (58), aunt, born Burton on Trent;
- [5] Alfred Walters (7), nephew, scholar, born Kidsgrove, Staffordshire;
- [6] John Jenkins (24), boarder, labourer, boiler works, born Overton, Flintshire;
- [7] Agnes Clark (17), domestic servant, born Wolverhampton:

Evening Express 14/4/1877

"*Alfred Walters*, landlord of the GATE HANGS WELL, Priestfield, was summoned by Police-constable Wade for being drunk in the bar of that house at 6.30 on the evening of Thursday last. He was fined 10s and costs."

1881 Census

Wolverhampton Road – GATE INN

- [1] *Joseph Elwell* (49), beerhouse keeper, born Coseley;
- [2] *Catherine Elwell* (44), wife, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *George Elwell* (24), son, striker for blacksmith, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] *Alice Elwell* (22), daughter, barmaid, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] *Kate Elwell* (19), daughter, servant for mother, born Buckley, Worcestershire;
- [6] *Agnes Elwell* (14), daughter, servant for mother, born Buckley, Worcestershire;
- [7] *Annie Elwell* (14), daughter, servant for mother, born Bilston;
- [8] *Horace Elwell* (7), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [9] *Lottie Elwell* (4), daughter, born Bilston;
- [10] *Howard Elwell* (2), son, born Bilston:

Darlaston Weekly Times 3/7/1886 - Advert

"Monday Next, July 5th.

Unreserved Sale at the GATE INN, Wolverhampton Road, Priestfield.

Mr. John Skidmore will Sell by Auction at 12 o'clock prompt, a portion of the Household Furniture and Public House Effects.

Also two pairs of 36in blacksmith's Bellows, three iron Vices, quantity of hemp Rope, Avery's 6cwt sack weighing Machine, capital oat Crusher, wood-turner's treadle Lathe, blacksmith's Anvil, swage Block, quantity of Shafting with Pulleys, three brass Lubricators, brass lined boiler Pump, two wire rope Pulleys, 2ft 6in band Pulley, fencing Chain and wire Rope, galvanized corrugated iron Sheets, set silver mounted Harness, and other effects as described in catalogues to be obtained of the Auctioneer, 7, Lichfield Street, Bilston."

Sporting Life 23/1/1889

"Boxing Contest at Wolverhampton.....

Then came *G. Willetts* of the GATE INN, Priestfield, Wolverhampton (late Birmingham), and Jem M'Cale, of Wolverhampton. This was a ding-dong affair, both trying for the 'knock out.' *Willetts*, however, who is improving, made several good points. Both were well applauded on retiring."

Birmingham Daily Post 27/2/1890

"John McIntyre, of Birmingham, was charged with stealing a pair of field glasses, the property of *George Willetts*, landlord of GATE INN, Priestfield, at Dunstall Park races, on the previous day. He was remanded."

1891 Census

Wolverhampton Road – GATE INN

- [1] *George Willetts* (31), publican, born Aston, Warwickshire;
- [2] *Maria Willetts* (25), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] *Maud Willetts* (2), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] *Mary Ann Hickman* (17), sister-in-law, unmarried, born Tipton:

Sporting Life 24/2/1894

"*George Willetts*, of the GATE INN, Priestfield, Wolverhampton (late of the Birmingham Boxing Club), having taken the drinking booth at the Wolverhampton Race Meeting, will be pleased to see all his old and new friends at the above booth next week."

Henry Tertius Hodgkiss – see also CROWN AND ANCHOR, Oxford Street, LEOPARD, Church Street, ROYAL OAK, High Street, BLANKMAKERS ARMS, WHITE HART and SEVEN STARS.

1901 Census

30, Wolverhampton Road – GATE INN

- [1] Isaac Evans (34), blacksmith and innkeeper, born Bilston;
- [2] Sarah Evans (29), wife, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] James Evans (6), son, born Bilston;
- [4] Ernest Evans (5), son, born Bilston;
- [5] Emily Evans (1), daughter, born Bilston:

Bridgnorth Journal 3/9/1910

“The funeral of the girl, Gladys Maud Felton (18), who hanged herself in a tragic manner at the GATE INN, Priestfield, where she had been employed as a domestic, took place at the Wolverhampton Cemetery, in the presence of a large number of friends, who had also generously subscribed for a number of wreaths. The funeral was from the house of her father, Alfred Felton, of 4, Ablow Street, Wolverhampton, and at the graveside the Priestfield contingent of women created a rather unpleasant scene. There was considerable hissing and booing.”

Birmingham Mail 7/9/1910

“A tragic sequel to the suicide of an eighteen-year-old girl, Gladys Maud Felton, who was found hanging in a stable at the rear of the GATE INN, Priestfield, near Bilston, on the 19th August, was the discovery last night in the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal at Wolverhampton of the dead body of her father, Alfred Felton (44), an iron moulder, of No.4 court, Ablow Street, Wolverhampton. It is stated that Felton has been living with another woman, and on the occasion of the funeral of his daughter at the Wolverhampton Cemetery he was given a hostile reception by a large number of women who lived close to the GATE INN, and who evidently understood the facts of the case. At the Coroner’s enquiry no evidence of a substantial character was brought forward to show why such a determined attempt on her life should have been committed, and the jury returned a verdict that she committed suicide by hanging, but there was not sufficient evidence to indicate the condition of the girl’s mind.

The Coroner’s enquiry into the circumstances attending the death by drowning of Alfred Felton was held this afternoon, at the Town Hall. The Coroner, in opening the case, said it was difficult to account for the daughter’s tragic end, and now the father’s act had made the affair all the more remarkable.

Edith Annie Illidge, married woman, who stated that she was deserted by her husband 13 years ago, told the Coroner that she had lived with Felton for the last nine years. He had not done any work since his daughter’s death, but yesterday morning declared his intention of going down to the Culwell Foundry, though it was apparent that he never reached there. On Sunday he visited his daughter’s grave at the cemetery, and on Monday suffered such pains in his head that he said the ticking of the clock was driving him mad.

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

1911 Census

30, Wolverhampton Road – GATE INN

- [1] James Evans (46), licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] Sarah Evans (40), wife, married 18 years, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] James Evans (17), son, apprentice roll turner, born New Village;
- [4] Earnest Evans (15), son, errand boy, coal dealer, born Priestfield;
- [5] Charles Evan Evans (6), son, born Priestfield;
- [6] William Henry Evans (4), son, born Priestfield;
- [7] Maud Millie May Evans (3), daughter, born Priestfield:

1921 Census

30, Wolverhampton Road (West) – GATE INN

- [1] James Evans (54), licensed victualler, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] Sarah Evans (50), wife, home duties, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] James Evans (27), son, hurdle fitter, bolt and nut manufacturers, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] Ernest Evans (25), son, coal dealer, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] C. Evan Evans (16), son, hurdle fitter, bolt and nut manufacturers, born Wolverhampton;
- [6] William Henry Evans (14), son, born Wolverhampton;
- [7] M. M. May Evans (13), daughter, school, born Wolverhampton:

Bilston & Willenhall Times 7/2/1925

“Bilston Brewster Sessions.....

Mr. Harris presented plans for the rebuilding of the GATE INN, Wolverhampton Road, Priestfield. The application was adjourned to the next meeting.”

Ernest Harold Rhodes was granted a music license on 3rd February 1928.

1939 Register

Wolverhampton Road West – GATE INN (5 of 6)

- [1] Ernest H. Rhodes, date of birth 1/6/1882, clerk in flour mills, married;
- [2] Annie Rhodes, dob 25/12/1880, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] George H. Shinton, dob 10/4/1927, school, single;
- [4] Arthur T. Collins, dob 19/5/1910, motor transport driver, married;
- [5] Gladys Ethel (Collins) Harris, dob 28/8/1909, unpaid domestic duties, married;

1960 Probate

“Ernest Harold Rhodes of the GATE INN, Bilston Road, Priestfield, Wolverhampton, died 5 October 1959. Probate Birmingham 25 January to Lloyds Bank Limited. Effects £3,365 3s 2d.”

Ernest Harold Rhodes – see also ORANGE TREE.

1965 Probate

“Annie Rhodes of the GATE INN, Bilston Road, Wolverhampton, died 30th April 1965 at 30 Wolverhampton Road, Bilston, Staffordshire. Probate Birmingham 29 July to Lloyds Bank Limited. Effects £5,071.”

Birmingham Daily Post 4/9/1965

“Midland Wills.....

Mrs. Annie Rhodes, licensee of the GATE INN, Bilston Road, Wolverhampton. £5,071 (£4,993 net).”

In 1992 a planning application was approved to alter the location of the entrance door (not implemented).

NEW GATE INN [2016]

[2023]



2023

MONDAY NEXT, JULY 5TH.

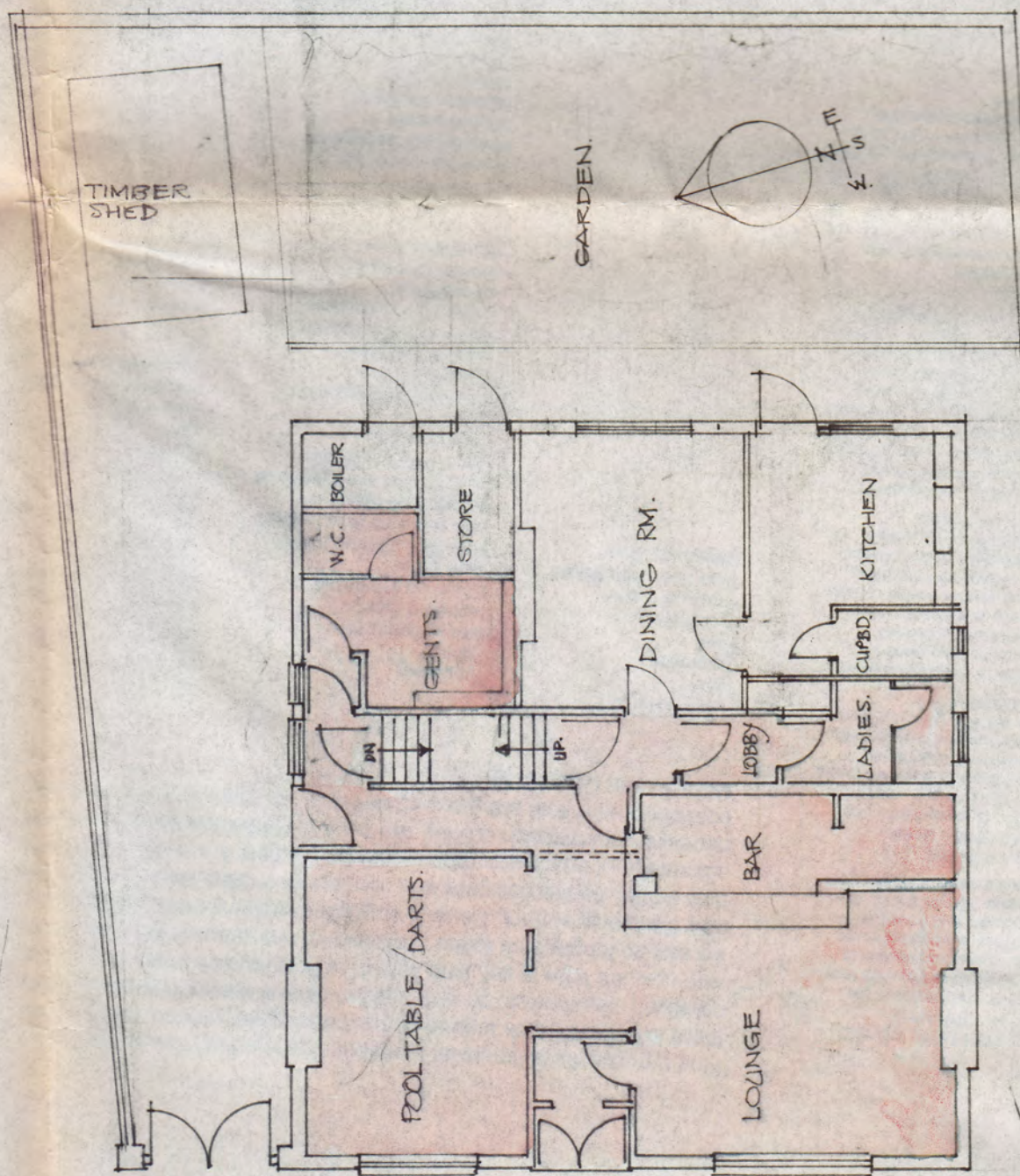
Unreserved Sale at the GATE INN,
WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD, PRIESTFIELD.

MR. JOHN SKIDMORE will SELL BY
AUCTION at 12 o'clock prompt, a portion
of the Household
FURNITURE & PUBLIC HOUSE EFFECTS

Also

Two pairs of 36 in. blacksmith's Bellows, three iron
Vices, quantity of hemp Rope, Avery's 6 cwt. sack
weighing Machine, capital oat Crusher, wood-
turner's treadle Lathe, blacksmith's Anvil, swage
Block, quantity of Shafting with Pulleys, three
brass Lubricators, brass lined boiler Pump, two
wire rope Pulleys, 2 ft. 6 in. band Pulley, fencing
Chain and wire Rope, galvanized corrugated iron
Sheets, set silver mounted Harness, and other
effects as described in catalogues to be obtained
of the Auctioneer, 7, Lichfield-street, Bilston.

1886



GROUND FLOOR PLAN (AS EXISTING)

GEORGE

Stafford Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Jones [1818]

Thomas Morris [1822] – [1824]

Thomas Massey [1828] – [1830]

Richard Hickin [1830]

NOTES

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 5/7/1824 - Advert

“To Sportsmen.

To be Shot For, at Mr. *Morris's*, GEORGE INN, Bilston, on Friday next, the 9th of July, a handsome Percussion Double Gun. Pigeons to rise 20 yards from the trap, and boundaries 100 yards, at five birds each.

Twenty Tickets at 12s each. Shooting to commence at twelve o'clock.”

TO SPORTSMEN.
TO be SHOT FOR, at Mr. Morris's, George Inn, Bilston, on Friday next, the 9th of July, a handsome PERCUSSION DOUBLE GUN. Pigeons to rise 20 yards from the trap, and boundaries 100 yards, at five birds each.
Twenty Tickets at 12s. each.—Shooting to commence at twelve o'clock.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 3/5/1830 - Advert

“To Publicans and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by R. Corbett, on the premises, on Tuesday the 11th of May instant.

All the genteel Household Furniture, Brewing Utensils, iron-bound Ale Barrels, Stock of prime Ale, Hops, Malt, and other effects of Mr. *Richard Hickin*, at the GEORGE INN, Stafford Street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, who is declining the Public Business and leaving the town.

Catalogues will be distributed in due time, and may be had on the premises, and at the office of the Auctioneer, New Town, Bilston.”

TO PUBLICANS AND OTHERS.
TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by R. CORBETT, on the premises, on Tuesday the 11th of May instant, all the genteel Household Furniture, Brewing Utensils, iron bound Ale Barrels, Stock of prime Ale, Hops, Malt, and other effects of Mr. Richard Hickin, at the George Inn, Stafford-street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, who is declining the Public Business and leaving the town.
Catalogues will be distributed in due time, and may be had on the premises, and at the office of the Auctioneer, New Town, Bilston.

GEORGE AND CROWN

Lane End, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Thomas Price [1835] – [1842]

NOTES

Closed
It was demolished c.1925.

Check Willenhall.

GEORGE AND DRAGON

61, Hall Green Street / 6, Wootton(s) Square, Hall Green, (Upper) Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

Edward Wootton
Joseph Wootton
Richard Ashmole
Joseph Wootton, Hall Green, Bradley
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.
InnSpired [2002]

LICENSEES

Edward Wootton [1828] – [1830]
James Swindall [1834] – [1835]
Edward Wootton [1841] – **1877**;
Joseph Wootton (**1877 – 1878**);
Luke Bird (**1878 – 1887**);
George Broomhall (**1887 – 1888**);
John Scott (**1888 – 1891**);
Samuel Bright Oliver (**1891 – 1894**);
Enoch Pickerell (**1894 – 1897**);
James Mason (**1897 – 1898**);
Richard Ashmole (**1898 – 1900**);
Fred Cook (**1900 – 1902**);
Samuel Joseph Salt (**1902 – 1903**);
Henry Ebenezer Bott (**1903 – 1904**);
Benjamin Hodgkiss (**1904 – 1905**);
William Henry Marlow (**1905**);
Arthur Fieldhouse (**1905 – 1906**);
Harry Morris (**1906 – 1907**);
Mrs. Elizabeth Baldwin (**1907 – 1908**);
Charles Painter (**1908 – 1909**);
Edward Williams (**1909 – 1911**);
Alfred Davies (**1911 – 1913**);
Noah James (**1913 – 1915**);
Mrs. Mary Ann James (**1915 – 1916**);
Harold Samuel Cox (**1916 – 1926**);
Bertram Albert Steward (**1926 – 1935**);
John William Kay (**1935 – 1937**);
Thomas William Brooks (**1937 – [1940]**)
Billy Pearson []
Charles Lowndes [1969]
Marvin Whittle [1983] – [1985]
Mrs. Sharon Jukes [1994] – [1995]
Terence Bucknall [2000]



1993



2000

NOTES

[This pub was strictly in Sedgley, but is included here due to it being situated at Bradley.]

6, Wootton Square [1871], [1881], [1890], [1891], [1921]

61, Hall Green Street

GREEN DRAGON [1900]

It was known locally as "The Crownyard".

A lodge of the R.A.O.B. met here.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 9/11/1835 - Advert

"To Publicans.

To be Let, and entered upon the 2nd of January, 1836, that well-known old established Public House, the GEORGE AND DRAGON, at Hall Green, near Bilston, in the county of Stafford, and now in the possession of Mr. *James Swindall*.

The above House is advantageously situated in the midst of the Iron Works and Collieries at Bradley and its neighbourhood, and a Life Club is held there every fortnight, in which there are about eighty members.

For terms and further particulars apply (if by letter, post paid) to Mr. *Edward Wootton* or Mr. *James Swindall*, both of Hall Green aforesaid."

Edward Wootton = Edward Wooton

1841 Census

Hall Green

[1] *Edward Wooton* (40), innkeeper, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Mary Wootton* (35), born Staffordshire;

[3] *Mary Wootton* (16), born Staffordshire;

[4] *Rupert Brown* (12), born Staffordshire;

[5] *James Wooton* (3), born Staffordshire;

[6] *Thomas Wooton* (1 month), born Staffordshire;

[7] *Mary Dalemor* (16), f.s., born Staffordshire:

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 25/7/1841

"Rushton, who was challenged by Gilbert Howell, went to the place appointed, but Gilbert was 'nowhere.' Rushton is ready to make a match for £25, his 'attractive' will be the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Bilston, tomorrow morning at ten o'clock."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 22/5/1842

"Joseph Turner, alias Snowball, will fight Benjamin Southwick, of Princes End, for £5 of his own money, and as he has £2 of the Doctor's, he will post the £7 to his £5, and meet him at Mr. *Edward Wootton*'s, GEORGE AND DRAGON, Hall Green, on Tuesday next, at from ten to eleven o'clock in the morning, to post and settle time and place."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/1/1846

"On Tuesday an inquest was held at the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Hall Green, Sedgley, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of Ann Jones, a married woman, about thirty-nine years of age. Edward Jones, her husband, stated that he lived at Batmans Hill, and on Saturday last he and his wife had supper by the fire, at about twelve o'clock. He fell asleep on a bench; his wife sitting at the time on a chair by the fire. At about half-past two o'clock he awaked, and heard the deceased cry, 'Ned, Ned, come and doubt me.' He immediately jumped up and wrapped his flannel jacket round her. She was badly burned, and notwithstanding medical assistance, died in her husband's house on the following Monday morning. The deceased, it appeared, was subject to fits. The husband said they were both sober. Verdict, Accidental Death."

AND

“On Tuesday an inquest was held at the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Hall Green, Sedgley, on the body of James Barton, a bandsman, about thirty-five years old, whose death was caused by his falling down a pit in Mr. Addenbrook’s colliery at Rough Hay, Wednesbury, on the preceding Saturday morning. It appeared that deceased had hooked an empty skip to the pit rope, to send down, when he hooted to the engine man to ‘pull up;’ he did so; the skip pushed the waggon off the pit, and the deceased, who was holding the skip, slipped into the pit, which was about fifty yards deep. He was got out in about two minutes, but was dreadfully cut and bruised, and quite dead. The accident, it appeared, would not have happened had the deceased fastened the ‘catch.’ Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Journal 17/1/1846

“A long investigation took place on Monday last, by adjournment, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, and a coroner’s jury, at the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Hall Green, Sedgley, respecting the cause of the death of two miners, named Enoch Wainwright and John Price, who were ascending a pit at Princes End Colliery, on Saturday, the 3rd inst, when the rope suddenly broke, by which they were so much injured as to occasion death. A scrutinising inquiry into the condition of the rope was made, but its defective state appeared to be unknown to the workmen, who had fetched it for use of their own accord. A verdict of Accidental Death, was accordingly returned, with a deodand of 1s on the rope.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/3/1846

“The following inquests have been held by T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner.....

On Saturday, at the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Hall Green, Sedgley, on the body of Samuel Toy, a labourer, about fifty-two years of age, who was found lying upon the ground, dead, at Hallfields. Verdict in conformity with the evidence.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 25/3/1846

“A report having been circulated in the neighbourhood that a woman of the name of Mary Stanley, about thirty-five years of age, had died from starvation and ill treatment by her husband, a coroner’s inquest was held yesterday (Tuesday) on the body, at the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Hall Green, Sedgley, before Thomas Moss Phillips, Esq. Several witnesses were examined, whose testimony directly proved the falsity of the report, and the evidence of the surgeon, Mr. Charles Edwyn Kettle, was decisive. He stated that, in his opinion, the deceased died from inflammation of the peritoneum, and from expansion caused by such inflammation. The poor woman was confined in childbirth.”

Birmingham Journal 17/7/1847

“On Monday week the brothers of the Loyal Nelsonic Crimson Oak Lodge held their annual festival at the house of Mr. *Edward Wootton*, GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Hall Green, Bradley, in the parish of Sedgley. The meeting was numerously attended by the members of that flourishing society. The dinner was served up in excellent style, for which the host and hostess received the cordial thanks of the members. The funds of the lodge gave universal satisfaction, and after reelecting Mr. C. E. Kettle, as surgeon, for the ensuing year, the party separated, highly gratified at the whole proceedings. It appears that there is a balance in favour of the lodge of upwards of £40.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/11/1847

“The following inquests have been held before W. W. Ward, Esq, officiating for T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner.....

On the 10th instant, at the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Hall Green, Sedgley, on the body of John Titley, a child about two years old. Death was occasioned by the clothes of the deceased catching fire. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

1851 Census

Hallgreen

- [1] *Edward Wootton* (50), licensed victualler, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Marianne Wootton* (45), wife, born Birmingham;
- [3] *James Wootton* (12), son, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [4] *Joseph Wootton* (7), son, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [5] *William Wootton* (5), son, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [6] *George Pillsbury* (22), brewer, born Brewood;
- [7] *Elizabeth Fereday* (19), domestic servant, born Sedgley;
- [8] *Mary Dyson* (19), domestic servant, born Sedgley;

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/4/1853

“On Monday last, an inquest was held at the GEORGE AND DRAGON, at Hall Green, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of Thomas Gaunt, about 53 years of age, and Joseph Walker, aged about 45, who were killed on the 23rd inst, by a large quantity of coal falling upon them from the roof of a pit in which they were at work at Ettingshall. The removal of the coal from the bodies of the deceased occupied about an hour and a half, when it was found that both men had received various mortal injuries, and that Walker’s skull was dreadfully fractured. There was, it appeared, a sufficient prop in the middle of the entrance into the stall where the men were working, and also two pillars and a cog for the purpose of supporting the coal. The place was therefore considered safe by the other miners at work in the pit. Walker was the doggy. The coal had been examined by the doggy on the morning of the occurrence. Both the deceased men have left widows and five children each. It appeared in evidence that Gaunt was keeping a woman in the house with his wife, and had had five children by her. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Worcester Journal 21/1/1854

“South Staffordshire Election.....

Lord Paget has partially continued his canvass during the week, and has addressed meetings in those places which he had not previously visited then proceeded to attend a meeting at the GEORGE AND DRAGON, at Hall Green. The meeting was addressed by Mr. Barlow, chairman of the district committee, Mr. Dimmack, Lord Paget, and Mr. Blackwell. The party then proceeded to the COSELEY TAVERN, and addressed a numerous meeting in the large room of that inn. They subsequently attended another meeting at the COURT HOUSE, at Sedgley.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 15/2/1854

“On Thursday an inquest was held at the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Bilston, on the body of Charles Edwin Bagby, ten years old, who was caught by the machinery in Mr. Rose’s Works, Hall Green, on the previous day, and very much injured before he was discovered. He died at five o’clock in the afternoon. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/2/1855

“On Monday last, an inquest was held at the GEORGE AND DRAGON, at Bradley, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, on the body of Joseph Morris, aged 23, a puddler, who met with his death under the following circumstances. Joseph Brookes, a collier, said that he was working in the hollows of a coalpit, at Herberts Park Colliery, Darlaston, on Friday, when the deceased, with whom he was acquainted, descended the pit, and lay down near the face of the work, which was being opened. Witness asked him to move away from under the coal; but he complained of having the cramp, and would not do so. Witness then went on with his work, holing; and soon after a large piece of coal, without the slightest warning, broke off from the side of the cog, and fell upon the deceased, completely covering him. The coal was removed as quickly as possible, when deceased was found terribly bruised and broken, and quite dead. The deceased had no business in the pit, and only went down out of curiosity to see how coal was got. Evidence having been given to show that every means had been used for obviating the danger, the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/4/1858 - Advert

“To Ironmasters, Boat Owners, and Others. Sale of Shares in the Highfields Iron Boat Society.

Mr. George Brown will Sell by Auction, at the house of Mr. *Edward Wootton*, GREEN [sic] DRAGON INN, Hall Green, near Bilston, on Tuesday, the 4th day of May, 1858, at seven o’clock in the evening punctually, subject to conditions to be then and there read, Ten Shares in the above-named Iron Boat Society, held at the GREEN DRAGON INN aforesaid.

To four of the share boats have been allotted, and they may be seen at the yard of Mr. Stephen Thompson, Iron Boat Builder, Highfields, near Bilston aforesaid.

Further particulars may be had upon application to Mr. Charles Gallimore Brown, Solicitor, or the Auctioneer, both of Oxford Street, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/8/1858

“Yesterday (Tuesday), before J. Leigh Esq, a man named John Wareing, a labourer, living at Bilston, was charged with committing an indecent assault upon a young woman named Elizabeth Baugh, a servant at the GEORGE AND DRAGON public house, Hall Fields. Mr. Waterhouse appeared for the complainant, and Mr. Wilkinson, of Walsall, for the defence. On hearing the evidence of the complainant, the charge resolved itself into one of rape. Mr. Wilkinson here stated that he was not prepared with witnesses to meet so serious a charge, and the case was accordingly remanded until today (Wednesday) at Wolverhampton.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 25/8/1858

“John Waring, puddler, was brought up on remand charged with committing a rape upon an intelligent looking young girl, named Elizabeth Baugh, only sixteen years of age. Mr. Hall, of Bilston, appeared for the complainant, and Mr. S. Wilkinson jnr, of Walsall, for the defendant.

The statement of the complainant, which had been taken before the Magistrates at Bilston on the previous day, was read over, and was to the following effect. I was a short time since a servant at the GEORGE AND DRAGON public house at Hall Fields, kept by Mr. *Wootton*. I left that place of service a fortnight ago today. The defendant, John Waring, used to come there frequently as a customer. On Thursday, the 29th of July, I put my mistress to bed at a quarter past two o'clock in the morning, and then went down stairs. There had been a club feast, and music and dancing was going on in the kitchen. I went into the parlour, and sat down with my head on the table, and fell asleep. I was awoke by the prisoner, who was pulling me off the chair. He dragged me up to the far end of the room. (The witness then described the assault.) During the time he was assaulting me Elizabeth Rudge came into the room. She said nothing, but ran out of the room laughing. The prisoner then got up, and left the room. Elizabeth Rudge came again, and I asked her for some water, which she brought me. Next morning I told Margaret Lloyd all that had happened. About noon on the following day the prisoner came to my master's house. I said to him, ‘Oh, Mr. Waring, you're a nice man.’ He answered, ‘Well, if I have done anything, I am sorry; but I hope you'll forgive me.’ I said, ‘Well, you have done a great deal of harm. When I go home I shall tell my mother and father, and you'll have to pay for it.’ I went home a fortnight today, namely August 4th, and a week after my arrival there told my mother how I had been served. I was persuaded not to tell by my fellow servant and Jane Rudge, and was ashamed. On Thursday last, the 12th instant, I went with my father to the prisoner's house, and saw him there. My father said, ‘Why did you molest my daughter so?’ He replied, ‘Me!’ several times; ‘How can you say so?’ I answered him, ‘I can say so with a clear conscience.’ He then said, ‘Go, and do your best.’ The reason why I was not heard when I called out was the noise in the public house of the music. I was not drunk, but quite sober’. In cross-examination she said, ‘I have been to a doctor both before and since I went home, but did not say anything about any man having criminally assaulted me. When I applied for a summons against the prisoner for an indecent assault, I denied that he had had criminal connection with me, because I was ashamed to acknowledge it. I am quite positive that I did not say on leaving the Bilston Police Court yesterday, ‘I will have £20 out of him for it.’”

David Shorthouse said, ‘I am a puddler, and live at Sedgley. I was at *Wootton*'s on the night spoken of, Wednesday, July 28th. There was dancing going on in the tap room, and the defendant was there. I missed him from the room about a quarter past two o'clock in the morning. He was absent about ten minutes or a quarter of an hour. When he returned I noticed his waistcoat, trousers, and braces were unfastened, and his hair was disordered. About three o'clock in the afternoon of the Thursday I was passing the GEORGE when he tapped at the window, and called me in. He said, ‘Did you hear of me throwing the servant down last night? They tell me I did something.’ I replied, ‘When you came back I noticed your trousers were unbuttoned.’ He then said, ‘What a b—— I am when I get drunk. I shall be ashamed to show my face on the Green again as long as I live.’” In cross-examination the witness stated that the defendant was fresh. The complainant, Elizabeth Baugh, was not drunk. She was assisted to bed in consequence of the ill treatment she had sustained from the defendant.

Margaret Floyd stated, ‘I was a fellow servant of the complainant, and I recollect the night in question. I was dancing with the defendant Waring. I noticed him leave the room about twenty minutes past two o'clock in the morning. The next morning the complainant told me that Waring had assaulted her, and she said she did not know what to do about telling her mother. I told her the best thing she could do would be to go on as usual and say nothing about it. Waring was quite drunk while he was dancing with me. The complainant was sober, quite sober enough to attend to her business, or to resist any man taking liberties with her.’

Nancy Hall was examined and said, ‘I am a married woman and live at Sedgley. On Saturday morning last I was in a garden adjoining Waring's house. I heard Waring's wife accuse him of something, but I cannot say what it was about. Waring replied, ‘She was asleep in the parlour and I pulled her off the chair. I felt her knees, and I should have done something else if it had not been for that young cat coming in.’”

This being the case for the prosecution, Mr. Wilkinson, for the defence, called James Wootton, and endeavoured to establish from this witness that the complainant was intoxicated; that she complained the next day of having lost her purse containing 8s 5d on the previous night, and that she made no complaint of having been assaulted by Waring. James Watkins stated that he went to *Wootton's* public house on the day after the dancing. He saw the complainant there, and she complained of having lost her money on the previous night. He asked her if what he had heard was true about her being in the long parlour with Mr. Waring on the over night, and she replied that she never remembered seeing him in the parlour. Last Wednesday he met the complainant, and she then said that her father was going to have Waring up on the next Tuesday for 'messaging' with her in the parlour. He (the witness) exclaimed, 'You don't mean to say that Waring had to do with you,' and she replied, 'He had nothing to do with me except heaving my clothes up.'

Elizabeth Rudge was examined at considerable length to prove that on the occasion referred to the complainant was carried to bed in a state of helpless intoxication.

John Denholm was then sworn, and stated that he was a constable at Darlaston. On the previous day he was at the Bilston Police Court, and as the people were leaving the court room after the business was over he followed the complainant down the stairs, and he distinctly heard her say to another woman that she would have £20 out of the prisoner and make 'old bricks and mortar pay for it.' (The witness here handed to Mr. Leigh his pocket book, in which he had made an entry of the expression at the time.) Mr. Leigh minutely cross-questioned the witness as to whether he was quite certain as to the identity of the party, but he positively swore that the complainant was the person who had uttered those words. Mr. Leigh also asked the witness his motive for writing down those words in his pocket book, to which question, after some hesitation, he answered, because he considered that there had been an attempt to extort money. The witness stated that after following the complainant to the bottom of the stairs he returned to the court room to the Magistrates clerk's table, to receive his expenses in a case in which he had given evidence.

After some conversation between Mr. Leigh and the Magistrates clerk (Mr. Ward), Mr. Ward was sworn, and stated that the complainant and her mother remained in the court room for full three quarters of an hour after the business of the court was over, in order to complete her deposition. She sat at the table, so that the witness must have seen her there.

Mrs. Baugh was also sworn, and stated that she remained with her daughter in the court room nearly an hour after the business was over. Neither she nor her daughter left the room for a moment until Mr. Ward had taken down her daughter's evidence.

Mr. Leigh said that it was the opinion of the Bench that Denholm had committed wilful and corrupt perjury; they should therefore order him to be detained in custody until they could investigate the case. Denholm was then removed from the witness box into the dock. After a few brief remarks by Mr. Wilkinson for the defence, the Magistrates decided upon committing Waring to take his trial at the Assizes. Bail was accepted for his appearance, himself in £100 and two sureties of £50."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/9/1858

"John Denholm, parish constable from Darlaston, appeared to answer a charge of wilful and corrupt perjury. Mr. Leigh briefly recapitulated the leading points of the case, and pointed out to the prisoner the slight foundation which he had for making such serious assertions. Mr. Leigh said that there was a probability that the defendant had not committed a wilful offence, and he should, therefore, give him the benefit of that supposition. The defendant expressed deep penitence for the error he had committed, and left the Court expressing his determination never again to interfere in other persons business."

Staffordshire Advertiser 12/3/1859

"Staffordshire Lent Assizes.....

The Grand Jury ignored the bills against John Waring."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 11/12/1859

"T. Baker is surprised at J. Hodgkiss of Can Lane challenging him, as he knows Baker is not recovered from a severe illness, but W. Humphries of Skidmore Row, will run him 100 yards providing he will allow two yards at the coming-in end, for £5 a side. Humphries can be heard of at the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Hall Green, Bradley, where his money is ready. *Bell's Life* to be stakeholder."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 6/2/1864 - Deaths

"On the 3rd inst, after a lingering illness, in the 23rd year of his age, Thomas Kettle, the beloved son of *Edward* and Mary Ann *Wootton*, of the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Hall Fields, near Bilston."

Birmingham Daily Post 10/9/1864 - Died

"On the 7th inst, suddenly, of small pox, aged 42 years, Mary Ann, wife of Mr. John Bumford, of the VICTORIA INN, New Street, Bradley, and only daughter of Mr. *Edward Wootton*; deeply lamented."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/5/1865 - Deaths

"On the 12th instant, aged 26 years, James Swindall, son of *Edward Wootton*, of the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Bilston, deeply deplored."

1871 Census

6, Woottons Square – GEORGE AND DRAGON

- [1] *Edward Wootton* (74), licensed victualler, born Sedgley;
- [2] Mary Ann *Wootton* (70), wife, born Birmingham;
- [3] *Joseph Wootton* (27), son, blacksmith, born Sedgley;
- [4] William *Wootton* (25), son, painter, born Sedgley;
- [5] Sarah Litely (21), domestic servant, born Sedgley:

Edward Wootton died on 24th March 1877.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 14/4/1877

"At Bilston the Bench transferred the following licenses Alehouses.....
GEORGE AND DRAGON, Bradley, from *Edward Wootton*'s executors to *Joseph Wootton*."

Joseph Wootton = Joseph Wooton

Dudley Herald 31/1/1880

"*Luke Bird*, licensed victualler, Hall Green, Bradley, and George Powell, puddler, Wootten Square, Bradley, were charged with being drunk on the 16th inst, in Hall Street, Dudley.

Defendants were seen about half-past nine o'clock on the evening of the day named, fighting and causing a great disturbance.

Each of the defendants were fined 2s 6d and costs, or seven days' imprisonment."

1881 Census

6, Woottons Square – GEORGE AND DRAGON

- [1] *Luke Bird* (33), licensed victualler, born Hurley, Warwickshire;
- [2] Mary Ann *Bird* (25), wife, born Gornal;
- [3] Ann *Bird* (7), daughter, scholar, born Gornal;
- [4] Alice *Bird* (5), daughter, scholar, born Gornal;
- [5] Mary Jane *Bird* (2), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [6] Emily *Bird* (9 months), daughter, born Sedgley:

Luke Bird – see also OLD BUSH, Cross Street.

John Scott, 6, Wootton Square. [1890]

1891 Census

6, Wootons Square – GEORGE AND DRAGON

- [1] *John Scott* (49), licensed victualler, born Cheshire;
- [2] Mary *Scott* (53), wife, born Cheshire;
- [3] Emily *Scott* (24), daughter, barmaid, born Cheshire;
- [4] William Darbyshire (10), adopted son, scholar, born Cheshire:

1911 Census

Woottons Fold – GEORGE AND DRAGON

- [1] *Edward Williams* (34), publican, born Bradley;
- [2] *Margaret Ann Williams* (34), wife, married 13 years, born Bradley;
- [3] *Lilian May Williams* (12), daughter, born Bradley;
- [4] *Alice Williams* (5), daughter, born Bradley;
- [5] *Gladys Mary Williams* (1), daughter, born Bradley;

Wolverhampton Express and Star 25/4/1911 - Advert

“To Let, the Home-brewing, Fully-licensed Public House, called the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Bradley, Bilston; rent £20 per annum.

Further information may be obtained from Boswell and Tomlins, 6, Darlington Street, Wolverhampton.”

1921 Census

6, Woottons Square

- [1] *Harold S. Cox* (32), stock-taker's clerk, pig iron and steel manufacturer, born Coseley;
- [2] *Ethel Cox* (27), wife, at home, born Bilston;
- [3] *Phyllis J. Cox* (6), daughter, school, born Ebbw Vale, South Wales;
- [4] *Harold Stephen Cox* (4), son, born Lanesfield;

1939 Register

Wootton Square – GEORGE AND DRAGON

- [1] *Thomas W. Brooks*, date of birth 13/2/1897, publican, manager, married;
- [2] *William T. Brooks*, dob 27/7/1920, A. R. P. Shelters, heavy work, single;
- [3] *Lilian Minnie (Brooks) Mason*, dob 7/11/1923, shop assistant, single;
- [5] *Lily M. Kinsey*, dob 28/5/1908, barmaid, single;

Billy Pearson was married to *Blanche*.

Alterations were carried out in 1957.

Birmingham Daily Post 20/8/1969

“A Wolverhampton councillor is to launch a three-point campaign for action to check the increasing number of tinkers arriving in the borough. Coun. Dennis Turner, who represents a Bilston ward – the area most affected by the tinker problem – last night warned that the antagonism to the itinerants was growing rapidly. He is to call on the town council to seek fresh talks between the five Black Country county boroughs to discuss ways of tackling the problem. He also wants the police to be asked to take quicker action against tinkers who park on the roadside. He will also contact Mr. Bob Edwards, Labour MP for Bilston, to see if a national action can be taken.

Coun. Turner said, ‘The five county boroughs ought to be getting together to analyse the situation. Something has got to be done by some authority. Wolverhampton Corporation should consider appointing a special officer to deal with tinkers in the Bilston Bradley areas because they had the biggest share of the problem. People were appalled at the amount of filth and rubbish left behind by the tinkers, even after they had parked for as little as two days.’

Meanwhile a petition has been drawn up by Mrs. Lila Langford, of the GREEN [sic] DRAGON Public House, Bradley, protesting against the tinker problem. She has already collected 300 signatures.”

Charles Lowndes – see also BRICKLAYERS ARMS, Coseley.

Sandwell Evening News 20/1/1984

“Licensee *Marvin Whittle* shows his regular he’s ‘got a lot of bottle’ – by playing tunes on optics behind the bar at his Coseley pub. Marvellous *Marvin*, aged 36, who runs the GEORGE AND DRAGON in Wootton Square, has set up a special bottle drum kit from 12 assorted whisky and spirit bottles and plays jazz tunes with his drumsticks. *Marvin* quit professional drumming 12 months ago to run the pub and, in his time, he has backed many of Britain’s top comedians, including Bob Monkhouse and Jim Davidson. ‘It started as a joke, but the regulars liked it so much I do it on a regular basis now, and the tunes come out very well,’ said *Marvin*. ‘I play mainly jazz and ragtime tunes and it all makes for a very lively night out.’”

Marvin Whittle – see also TRAVELLERS REST, Great Bridge Road, Darlaston.

It closed in May 2005.

Express and Star 8/4/2006

“Investigators were today sifting through remains of an historic pub ripped apart by a blast after an arson attack. Huge cracks could be seen along the walls of the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Bradley, Bilston, which had all its windows blown out. Police set up an emergency cordon around the blackened Hall Green Street building following fears that it could collapse, following last night’s blast. The pub had been closed for some time for an extensive refurbishment, which was due to be completed in the next few weeks.

Firefighters from Bilston and Wednesbury were called to the explosion at around 9.15pm. They arrived to find a small residual fire on the first floor and stairs of the pub, which is currently being refurbished. Leading firefighter Ivor Davies from Bilston fire station, said, ‘It became clear petrol had been liberally sprinkled throughout the first floor. Firebugs had forced their way into the building through the back door of the pub.

Scenes of crimes officers were called to the scene and a structural engineer declared the building unsafe.

The revamp of the building was close to being finished and the pub was full of workers’ tools.

Fire crews and police officers remained at the scene overnight to prevent people from entering the building.

Today the current leaseholder of the much-loved drinking spot was too upset to speak about the blast.

One resident, who asked not to be named, said that they had been watching television when they heard a huge bang. ‘I thought a bomb had gone off, then a few minutes later I heard sirens,’ he added.

The GEORGE AND DRAGON is on the edge of the 100-acre site of the planned Bilston Urban Village. Work on preparing the area for the £100 million regeneration scheme is well under way.

The pub was the last of six which thrived in Bradley during the area’s industrial heyday.”

It was demolished in May 2007.

Housing was built on the site.



Marvin Whittle

TO PUBLICANS.
TO be LET, and may be entered upon the 2d of January, 1836, that well-known old established Public House, the **GEORGE and DRAGON**, at Hall Green, near Bilston, in the county of Stafford, and now in the possession of Mr. James Swindall.
The above House is advantageously situated in the midst of the Iron Works and Collieries at Bradley and its neighbourhood, and a Life Club is held there every fortnight, in which there are about eighty members.
For terms and further particulars apply (if by letter, post paid) to Mr. Edward Wootton or Mr. James Swindall, both of Hall Green aforesaid.

1835

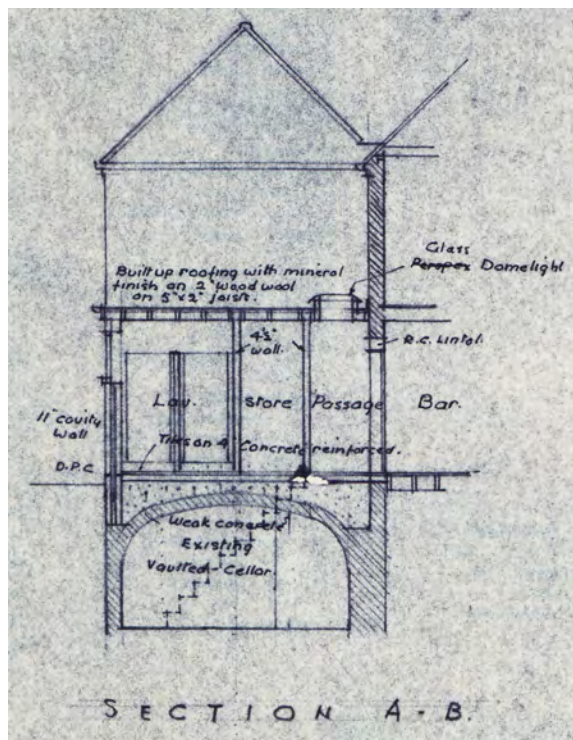
TO IRONMASTERS, BOAT OWNERS, AND OTHERS.
SALE OF SHARES IN THE HIGHFIELDS IRON
BOAT SOCIETY.

MR. GEORGE BROWN will **SELL** by **AUCTION**, at the house of Mr. Edward Wootton, **GREEN DRAGON INN, HALL GREEN, near BILSTON**, on **Tuesday, the 4th day of May, 1858, at seven o'clock in the evening punctually**, subject to conditions to be then and there read, **TEN SHARES** in the above-named **IRON BOAT SOCIETY**, held at the **Green Dragon Inn** aforesaid.

To four of the shares boats have been allotted, and they may be seen at the yard of Mr. Stephen Thompson, Iron Boat Builder, Highfields, near Bilston aforesaid.

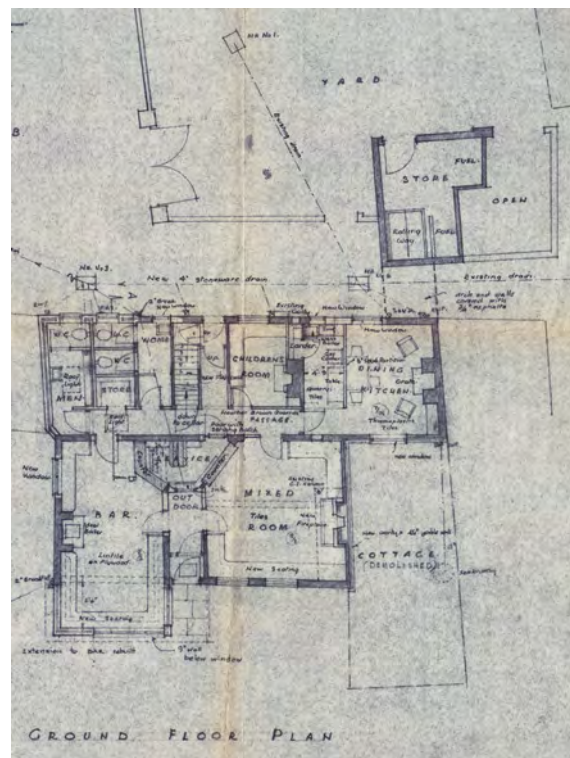
Further particulars may be had upon application to Mr. CHARLES GALLIMORE BROWN, Solicitor, or the AUCTIONEER, both of Oxford-street, Bilston.

1858



TO Let, the Home-brewing, Fully-licensed Public House called The George and Dragon, Bradley, Bilston; rent £20 per annum.—Further information may be obtained from Boswell and Tomlins, 6, Darlington-st., Wolverhampton.

1911



Plans 1957

GLADSTONE ARMS

176, Oxford Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Fanny Hunt, Aston House, Moxley

LICENSEES

Thomas Perkins [1861] – [1862]
Samuel Maullin [1871] – **1873**;
John Worth (**1873 – 1875**);
George Cartwright (**1875**);
Richard Bowen (**1875**);
Enoch Boaler (**1875 – 1876**);
Isaiah Emery (**1876 – 1877**):

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

1861 Census

176, Oxford Street

- [1] *Thomas Perkins* (46), victualler and plasterer employing 3 men, born East Langton, Leicestershire;
- [2] *Sarah Perkins* (37), wife, born Preston, Lancashire;
- [3] *Ellen Perkins* (22), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] *Hannah Perkins* (19), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] *Sarah Ann Porter* (7), daughter-in-law, born Preston, Lancashire;
- [6] *Bertram Porter* (4), son-in-law, scholar, born Willenhall;
- [7] *Joseph Herniam Perkins* (1 day), son, born Bilston:

Thomas Perkins, retailer of beer, 176, Oxford Street. [1862]

1871 Census

176, Oxford Street

- [1] *Samuel Maullin* (27), bricklayer and publican, born Bilston;
- [2] *Elizabeth Maullin* (25), wife, born Annfield Plain, Durham:

Birmingham Daily Post 8/11/1871

“At Bilston Police Court, yesterday, *Samuel Maullin*, landlord of the GLADSTONE ARMS, Oxford Street, was summoned for permitting gaming in his house on the 31st ult.

George Yates said on the night in question he went to defendant’s house in company with a man named William Purcell. Witness noticed some men shuffling a lot of cards on the table.

Mr. Spooner: Did you see anyone playing at cards? – Witness: I did not.

Mr. Spooner: Now, I give you warning that I shall take down what you say, and if I find that you have mentioned to anyone that you saw card-playing going on in the house, I shall have you indicted for perjury.

Witness went on to say that he was assaulted in defendant’s house, and he at once went and gave information to Inspector McWilliams of the fact. He did not tell the inspector that he had seen card-playing at defendant’s house. He could not exactly remember what he told the inspector.

Mr. Spooner ordered the witness to be kept in custody pro tem.

William Purcell, labourer, said he went to defendant's house, in company with the witness Yates, on the night in question. He did not see any card-playing.

Mr. Spooner: I ask you were there any cards upon the table at the time you entered the house? – Witness: No, there was not.

Mr. Spooner said the police might justifiably prosecute the witnesses for perjury.

Chief-Superintendent McRea said he thought further evidence could be produced respecting the gambling.

Mr. Spooner said the witness had committed direct perjury, and he should order a summons to be issued against him for having committed deliberate perjury. With respect to the defendant, the case would be adjourned, in order that further evidence might be produced, as the police thought that more evidence would be forthcoming."

County Express 26/2/1876

"*Enoch Boaler*, landlord of the GLADSTONE ARMS, Oxford Street, Bilston, was charged with permitting drunkenness upon his premises on the 12th and 15th February. Mr. C. Barrow, of Wolverhampton, defended.

In connection with the second charge a man named Loans stated that on the 15th inst, after he had a 'sup' of drink he went to the defendant's house, when was supplied with drink. From that house he was taken by the police and locked up on the charge of drunkenness and convicted.

Mr. Spooner thought that the case arose in a measure through jealousy, and under the circumstances he only convicted upon the second charge and fined the defendant £1 and costs."

Dudley Herald 16/9/1876

"*Isaiah Emery*, beerhouse keeper, GLADSTONE ARMS, Oxford Street, Bilston was fined 10s and costs for keeping his house open until twelve minutes after eleven o'clock on Friday last."

Dudley Herald 30/9/1876

"Adjourned Licensing Meeting at Bilston.....

Mr. A. J. Langman applied on behalf of *Isaiah Emery*, GLADSTONE ARMS, Oxford Street, Bilston, for a renewal of his certificate. *Emery* had only been in occupation a month, and had already been convicted of selling in improper hours, but the Bench believed he had erred from ignorance, and fined him only 10s and costs. Mr. Hatton said the house had been badly conducted for two years past. There was a piano in the front shop, and the music was the means of attracting many bad characters to the house. If the applicant would undertake to stop the music during the next twelve months the certificate would be renewed. On an undertaking to this effect being given, the licence was renewed."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 20/2/1877

"Wolverhampton County Court. *Emery v Starkey*.

This case, which has been before the Court several times, was called on again. Mr. Plumptre (instructed by Mr. Clayton, of Wolverhampton) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Hugo Young, of the Midland Circuit (instructed by Mr. Jacob Rowlands, of Birmingham) defended.

The plaintiff, Mr. *Isaiah Emery*, of Bilston, agreed to sell to the defendant, Mr. Charles Starkey, of Pelsall, his coal dealing business for the sum of £25, to be paid within a certain time. A process-server named Charles Bicknall, of Walsall, hearing of the transaction, went to the plaintiff, and asked to be allowed to collect the money, which had not then been paid. Plaintiff, however, refused, saying that Mr. A. J. Langman, solicitor, of Bilston, did all his business. Bicknall afterwards, he alleged, at the direction of the plaintiff, issued a writ against the defendant for the amount owing, and accepted £15 in settlement of the account. The plaintiff, not acknowledging Bicknall's authority, put in an execution, and the matter afterwards came before this Court, by issue from the High Court of Justice, to ascertain whether the plaintiff gave Bicknall authority to settle the account.

The case on the previous hearings was argued at some length by counsel, who cited several cases bearing upon it. Plaintiff also stated that he did not give Bicknall authority to settle the case. The hearing was then adjourned till today for the presence of Bicknall, who had been twice previously fined £5 for not appearing to give evidence, and had failed to attend. He now stated that he received instructions from the plaintiff to settle the account with the defendant for what he could get.

His Honour said he was fully convinced that the plaintiff had committed wilful and corrupt perjury, and the only question upon which he had some hesitation was whether he ought not to commit him to take his trial for the offence. If there had been a good witness to corroborate the evidence of Bicknall he should have certainly committed plaintiff for trial. His Honour then gave a verdict for the defendant."

London Gazette 27/2/1877

"The Bankruptcy Act, 1869. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton.

In the Matter of Proceedings for Liquidation by Arrangement or Composition with Creditors, instituted by *Isaiah Emery*, of the GLADSTONE ARMS, Oxford-street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Beer Retailer and Beer Brewer.

Notice is hereby given, that a First General Meeting of the creditors of the above-named person has been summoned to be held at the offices of Mr. John Glover, No.66, Park-street, Walsall, in the county of Stafford, on the 13th day of March, 1877, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 22nd day of February, 1877.

John Glover, Solicitor for the said Debtor."

Birmingham Daily Post 16/3/1877

"A meeting of the creditors of *Isaiah Emery*, of the GLADSTONE ARMS, Oxford Street, Bilston, beer retailer and brewer, was held on Tuesday, at the offices of Mr. Glover, solicitor, Walsall. Mr. C. Cox, maltster, presided.

The statement of accounts showed liabilities £762 7s 5d, assets £80.

An offer of a composition of 1s in the pound was made, but it was refused, and the meeting separated without coming to any decision."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 24/3/1877

"Bilston Police Court. Yesterday.....

Isaiah Emery, late landlord of the GLADSTONE ARMS, Oxford Street, was fined £1 and costs, and the conviction ordered to be endorsed upon the license, for permitting drunken and riotous conduct there on the 17th."

Wellington Journal 21/4/1877

"Wolverhampton. Hayward v Parkes.

This was an action tried at the County Court, on Tuesday last, in which Mr. Henry Hayward, pianoforte dealer, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, sought to recover from Mr. Parkes, colliery proprietor and brick manufacturer, of Bloxwich Road, Walsall, damages for trover and conversion of a piano belonging to the plaintiff.

It appeared from the evidence adduced that the piano, which was valued at about £30, was lent on hire by the plaintiff to Mr. *Isaiah Emery*, of the GLADSTONE ARMS, Bilston, at the rate of 10s 6d per month, and was by him assigned, by virtue of a bill of sale, to the defendant. In February last, *Emery* filed his petition for liquidation, and the defendant took possession, under his bill of sale, of his goods, including the piano in question. When this came to plaintiff's knowledge, he at once sent and demanded the piano, but defendant refused to give it up, and sold it by auction on the 19th of March last for £14; hence the present proceedings.

For the defence, it was contended that the plaintiff had sold the piano to *Emery*, but this was denied.

After hearing the evidence his Honour was of opinion that the plaintiff's case was made out, and gave a verdict for the plaintiff for £28 damages, and costs."

The license was taken away in 1877.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/9/1877

"The annual licensing sessions for the Bilston division were held at the Public Office, Bilston, yesterday.....

The black list was as follows Beersellers.....

Isaiah Emery, GLADSTONE ARMS, Oxford Street, Bilston, open after hours, 12th September, 1876, 10s and costs, and on 23rd March, for permitting disorderly conduct, 20s and costs and license endorsed. There were also two convictions against the former landlord of this house during 1876.....

The whole of the licenses in the 'black list,' it was stated, would be held over until the adjourned sessions, and in the cases of *Isaiah Emery* Mr. H. Ward said the bench had very serious thoughts about withholding the licenses."

Birmingham Daily Post 22/9/1877

"Bilston Adjourned Licensing Sessions were held yesterday.....

There was not appearance for the renewal of the license of the GLADSTONE ARMS, Oxford Street, recently held by *Isaiah Emery*, against whom several convictions were recorded, and the license was ordered to be withdrawn."

GLOBE

59, (79), Ash Street / Lane Street, (Upper) Bradley, (Daisy Bank), (Highfield), BILSTON

OWNERS

James Lane

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. (acquired in 1897) [1921]

LICENSEES

James Lane [1861] – **1878**);

Isaac Whitehouse (**1878 – 1881**);

Ephraim Hill (**1881 – 1885**);

Joseph James Lane (**1885 – 1891**);

Mrs. Ellen (Lane) Wallace (**1891 – 1906**);

Samuel Cotton (**1906 – 1907**);

Thomas Millington (**1907 – 1908**);

Geoffrey Goodall (**1908 – 1910**);

Alfred Pountney (**1910 – 1911**);

Silas Eaves (**1911 – 1920**);

Eliza (Eaves) Nesbitt (**1920 – 1936**);

John Edward Pountney (**1936 – 1937**);

Annie Cole Bowdler (**1937 – 1938**);

Mrs. Hannah Bradley (**1938 – [1940]**)

A J Emery [1988]

Glen Smith [1994]



NOTES

[This pub was strictly in Sedgley, but is included here due to it being situated at Bradley.]

79, Ash Street [1871]

59, Ash Street [1891], [1896], [1901], [1904], [1911], [1921], [1936]

It had a beerhouse license.

James Lane, beer retailer and blacksmith, Bradley. [1861]

1861 Census

Highfields

[1] *James Lane* (52), publican and blacksmith, born Sedgley;

[2] *Martha Lane* (50), wife, born Sedgley;

[3] *Joseph J. Lane* (22), son, blacksmith, born Belgium, British subject;

[4] *Daniel Lane* (20), son, blacksmith, born Belgium, British subject;

[5] *Prudence Lane* (18), daughter, servant, born Sedgley;

[6] *Samuel Lane* (15), son, blacksmith, born Sedgley;

[7] *Theodosia Lane* (11), daughter, scholar, born Sedgley;

[8] *Selina Lane* (9), daughter, scholar, born Sedgley;

James Lane, beer retailer, Highfields, Bradley. [1865]

James Lane, beer retailer and blacksmith, Upper Bradley. [1868], [1870]

1871 Census

79, Ash Street – Public House

- [1] *James Lane* (62), retail brewer and engine smith employing 2 men, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Martha Lane* (60), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Theodosia Lane* (20), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [4] *Selina Lane* (18), daughter, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [5] *Ann Walters* (13), general servant, born Sedgley:

James Lane died in 1882.

Theodosia and *Selina Lane* took over the grocery shop.

Martha Lane died in 1890.

Black Country Bugle 16/8/2001

'More on the Globe and the Fox of Bradley' by Jeff Lane

".....regarding Bradley pubs, particularly the GLOBE INN and the FOX. The former was built by my great great grandfather, *James Lane*, some time between 1861 and 1864. At the same time he built 5 terraced houses and a foundry in Lane Street. Only the GLOBE still stands – the remaining buildings have long since gone or form part of a new factory. When these buildings were originally built there was a barrier erected across the street and tradesmen wanting entrance had to obtain the key from the GLOBE.

James was something of an entrepreneur. He was originally a blacksmith who travelled to Belgium with his family in the 1840s, working on the building of bridges in Bruges *James* had moved to Church Street in Wolverhampton by 1881 with his wife *Martha* and daughter *Selina*. He died there in 1883. The GLOBE, which at that time also included a grocery shop, was then run by his son *Joseph James Lane*. It was sold to Banks's Breweries in 1897....."

Birmingham Daily Post 15/8/1878

"Early on Tuesday morning, Police-constable Wade, stationed at Ettingshall, was informed that a small wooden box containing the body of a newly-born female child had been got out of the canal near at hand by a boatman. The officer went to the place indicated, and found that the information was correct. The body awaits an inquest at the GLOBE INN."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 21/9/1878

"The Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

Isaac Whitehouse, of the GLOBE INN, Highfields, Bradley, applied personally for a license to sell foreign wines. There being no opposition, the application was granted."

1881 Census

Ash Street

- [1] *Isaac Whitehouse* (30), publican, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Anne Whitehouse* (27), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Florence Whitehouse* (6), daughter, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [4] *Walter Whitehouse* (2), son, born Sedgley;
- [5] *Hannah Whitehouse* (1), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [6] *Elizabeth Ebbs* (15), domestic servant, born Sedgley:

Evening Express 3/5/1881 - Advert

"To be Let, the GLOBE INN, Daisy Bank, near Bilston.

Apply on the Premises."

TO be Let, the Globe Inn, Daisy Bank, near Bilston.—Apply on the Premises.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 14/10/1881

"The following transfers were granted.....

GLOBE INN, Highfield, from *Isaac Whitehouse* to *Ephraim Hill*, ironworker, Sedgley."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 2/1/1885 - Advert

“To Brewers, and Others.

A good Beerhouse, with wine license, to Let, known as the GLOBE INN, Highfields, Daisy Bank, near Bilston; immediate possession; surrounded by large works; large and convenient premises; good stabling; no brewing plant to take to; fixtures optional.

Apply to J. Lane, close to the premises.”

TO Brewers, and Others.—A good Beerhouse, with wine license, to Let, known as the Globe Inn, Highfields, Daisy Bank, near Bilston: immediate possession; surrounded by large works; large and convenient premises; good stabling; no brewing plant to take to; fixtures optional.—Apply to J. Lane, close to the premises.

Joseph James Lane died on 20th March 1891.

1891 Census

59, Ash Street

- [1] Ellen Lane (50), widow, grocer and beerhouse, born Sedgley;
- [2] Prudence Lane (19), daughter, born Daisy Bank;
- [3] Selina Lane (14), daughter, born Daisy Bank;
- [4] David Wootton (26), son-in-law, blacksmith, born Darlaston;
- [5] Hannah E. Wootton (25), wife, born Daisy Bank;
- [6] David Wootton (1), son, born Daisy Bank:

David and Hannah Wootton – see COTTAGE SPRING, High Street, Tipton.

Ellen Lane married Samuel Wallace on 2nd August 1894.

Mrs. Ellen Lane, beer retailer and shopkeeper, 59, Ash Street, Bradley. [1896]

Ellen Wallace = Ellen Wallis

Ellen Wallace was convicted on 24th March 1896 of two cases of permitting gaming on licensed premises.

Staffordshire Advertiser 28/3/1896

“Ellen Wallis, of the GLOBE INN, Ash Street, Bradley, was charged with allowing gaming on her licensed premises. She pleaded guilty, and was fined 20s and costs.”

1901 Census

59, Ash Street

- [1] Ellen Wallace (60), widow, publican, born Sedgley;
- [2] Selina Pardoe (24), daughter, born Bradley;
- [3] Thomas H. Pardoe (24), son-in-law, ironmonger's assistant, born Birmingham;
- [4] Elizabeth Bentley (20), domestic servant, born Tipton:

Mrs. Ellen Wallace, beer retailer, 59, Ash Street, Bradley. [1904]

1911 Census

59, Ash Street

- [1] Silas Eaves (40), shingler, born Coseley;
- [2] Eliza Eaves (39), wife, married 20 years, born Coseley;
- [3] Alice Eaves (18), daughter, domestic servant, born Coseley;
- [4] Florrie Eaves (16), daughter, domestic servant, born Coseley;
- [5] Elsie Eaves (13), daughter, born Coseley;
- [6] Silas Eaves (6), son, born Coseley;
- [7] Lizzie Lees (17), domestic servant, born Coseley:

1920 Probate

“Silas Eaves, of GLOBE INN, Bradley, Coseley, Staffordshire, died 28 December 1919. Administration Lichfield 31 January to Eliza Eaves, widow. Effects £202 1s.”

1921 Census

59, Ash Street – GLOBE INN

- [1] *Eliza Eaves* (48), widow, manageress, born Bilston;
- [2] *Silas Eaves* (15), iron worker, born Bilston;
- [3] *Robert Reynolds* (30), son-in-law, boarder, iron moulder, born Bilston;
- [4] *Alice Reynolds* (28), daughter, boarder, household duties, born Bilston;
- [5] *Robert Reynolds* (6), grand-son, boarder, school, born Birmingham;
- [6] *Joseph Reynolds* (7 months), grand-son, boarder, born Bilston;
- [7] *James Harris* (56), brother, boarder, safe maker, born Bilston;
- [8] *Harry Jones* (31), boarder, iron moulder, born Willenhall;
- [9] *Robert Bullock* (42), boarder, iron worker, born Sandbach, Cheshire:

Eliza Eaves married *Albert B. Nesbitt* in the 2nd quarter of 1922.

South Staffordshire Times 24/6/1922

“*Alfred Stanley Crane*, who gave his age as 17, but who looked much younger, and who lives at hut 11, Lord Street, Bradley, was charged with stealing a bicycle and an electric lighting set, value £5, the property of *Alfred R. Lloyd*, bookkeeper at Messrs. *Alfred Hickman Ltd.*, Springvale.

Prosecutor stated that he left the bicycle and lighting set outside his office at the works, but about half an hour afterwards he missed it. Prisoner had been employed at the works.

Silas Eaves, GLOBE INN, Daisy Bank, said he saw prisoner with a bicycle and an electric lighting set, he offered to exchange them for an acetylene lamp.

Detective Constable *Thorpe* said that on June 13th he made enquiries about the bicycle and lighting set from the last witness. On June 17th he recovered the lighting set from the last witness. Continuing his enquiries he traced prisoner to Wolverhampton, Willenhall, and Darlaston, but afterwards heard that he had absconded. He was arrested at Northampton with the bicycle in his possession. Subsequently, witness took prisoner into custody. On being charged with the theft he admitted it saying that he took the bicycle to try to get a job on a farm.

Prosecutor said he did not wish to press the case.

Prisoner was then bound over for twelve months.”

1936 Probate

“*Eliza Nesbitt*, of the GLOBE INN, 59 Ash Street, Bradley, near Bilston, Staffordshire (wife of *Albert Nesbitt*) died 13 January 1936. Probate Birmingham 29 April to *Silas Eaves*, mill worker. Effects £34 13s.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 1/8/1936

“*Allen Poutney*, aged six, of the GLOBE INN, Ash Street, Bradley, died in the Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton, yesterday, shortly after he was admitted with head injuries and multiple abrasions. It was stated he was knocked down by a motor-lorry.”

1939 Register

Ash Street – GLOBE INN

- [1] *Hannah Bradley*, date of birth 25/6/1880, licensee, widowed;
- [2] *May E. Thomas*, dob 19/11/1910, unpaid domestic duties, divorced:

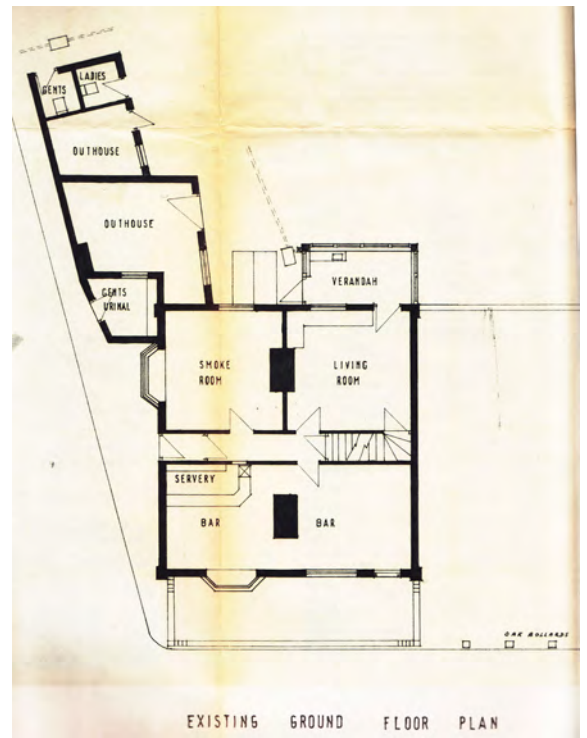
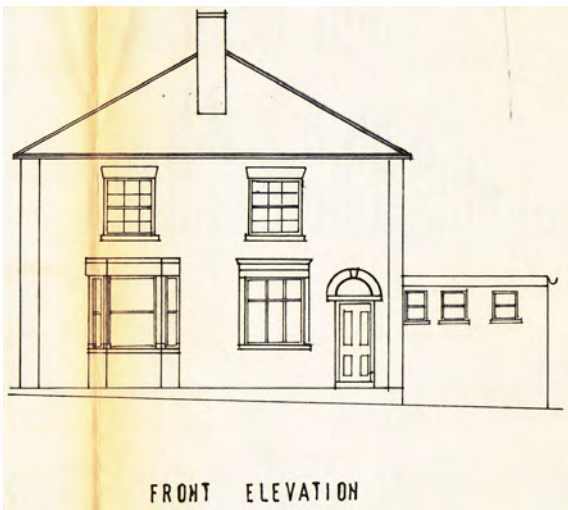
A team from here took part in the Bradley Darts League, First Division. [1946]

It closed in April 1995.

It became Globe House, paint supplies. [2002]



2007



Plans1983

GLOBE TAVERN

Market Street, (Hall Street), BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Richard Morgan [1833] – [1837]
Mrs. Elizabeth Morgan [1839] – **1841**)
Charles and Mary Morgan [1841] – [1843]
Thomas Manning [1845] – [1854]
James Manning [] – **1854**);
Emma Whitehead (**1854** – []

NOTES

Hall Street [1833], [1835], [1835], [1841], [1843], [1849], [1851]
Market Street [1854]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 7/5/1834 - Advert

“Additional donations on behalf of John Oakley.....
Collected at the GLOBE TAVERN, Bilston, 14s.”

[John Oakley was an ostler at the CROWN AND CUSHION, Dudley Street, Wolverhampton. Two miners, when refused service, threw a barrel of gunpowder on the fire, which Oakley managed to pull off before it could explode.]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 13/4/1835 - Advert

“Copyhold Houses and Mining Land in Bilston, within the Manor of Stowheath.

To be Sold by Auction, by B. Chesshire, at the SWAN HOTEL, Wolverhampton, on Wednesday, May 6, 1835, at three o'clock in the afternoon (by virtue of an order of the Court of Review in the matter of George Elwell Jackson, a bankrupt).....

Lot V. The GLOBE TAVERN, situate in Hall Street, Bilston, in the occupation of Mr. *Richard Morgan*. This is a very roomy House, has excellent Cellars, and is well situated for business.”

Richard Morgan died on 8th May 1837.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 15/5/1837 - Died

“On Monday last, aged 65, Mr. *Richard Morgan*, of the GLOBE TAVERN, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/5/1837

“On Monday week, as Mr. *Morgan*, of the GLOBE TAVERN, Bilston, who had for some time been confined by serious illness, was taking a drive in company with Mr. Whitehead for the benefit of his health, the horse in the phaeton became unmanageable, and ran one of the wheels of the vehicle against a post near to the Methodist chapel in that town. Both gentlemen were, in consequence, thrown out with considerable violence. After the accident Mr. *Morgan* walked to Mr. Whitehead's, and thence home, where in about half an hour he became insensible, and died the same evening about eight o'clock. Mr. E. Best, his medical attendant, who was instantly sent for, attributed his decease to pressure on the brain, occasioned by the concussion from the fall. Mr. Whitehead, although he was thrown out first, and fell undermost, escaped with little injury.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/6/1839

“Mr. W. Smith Bickley, of Bilston, charged Mr. Best, coach proprietor, of that place, with assaulting him. Complainant said he was at Mrs. *Morgan*’s, of the GLOBE TAVERN, on the 1st of June, and Mr. Best was there. As they were leaving the house defendant collared him, tore his waistcoat, and gave him a black eye. It was between one and two o’clock in the morning.

Mr. Best said in extenuation that Mrs. *Morgan* had tried in vain to get Mr. Bickley out of the house, and that his (Mr. Best’s) assistance was solicited. It was in endeavouring to do this that the assault took place. Both himself and Mr. Bickley, he said, were the worse for liquor at the time. Mr. Best was fined 5s and costs.”

Birmingham Journal 27/3/1841 - Deaths

“On the 15th inst, much regretted, Mrs. *Elizabeth Morgan*, of the GLOBE TAVERN, Bilston, aged 72.”

1841 Census

Hall Street

- [1] *Mary Morgan* (35), publican, born Staffordshire;
- [2] *Charles Morgan* (30), publican, born Staffordshire;
- [3] *Sarah Hood* (40), ind., born Staffordshire;
- [4] *Mary Bullock* (15), f.s., born Staffordshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/4/1843 - Advert

“Desirable Opportunity For Investment.

To be Disposed of, the Goodwill and Possession of that old established and well accustomed Public House, situate in Hall Street, Bilston, known as the GLOBE TAVERN, the present occupiers being about to decline the public business.

The Stock, Fixtures, &c, to be taken to at a valuation. The coming-in will be low.

Every information may be obtained by applying to *M. and C. Morgan*, at the above house.”

Birmingham Journal 2/10/1847 - Advert

“Valuable Property, in Lichfield Street and Bow Street, in Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by W. Parkes on Monday, the 4th day of October, 1847, at the house of Mr. *Thomas Manning*, known by the name of the GLOBE TAVERN, subject to conditions then to be produced.....”

1851 Census

Hall Street

- [1] *Thomas Manning* (49), victualler, born Oxfordshire;
- [2] *Mary Manning* (52), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Harriet Griffiths* (18), servant, born Llanasmona, North Wales:

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/4/1854 - Deaths

“On the 18th instant, aged 53, Mr. *Thomas Manning*, of the GLOBE TAVERN, Bilston, much regretted.”

GLOBE

4, (5), Mount Pleasant, (Willenhall Road), BILSTON

OWNERS

Thomas Price
Thomas Bromhill
Mary Ann Smith, Chorley Hall, near Lichfield
William Francis Clarke
Bent's Brewery Co. Ltd, 30, Johnson Street, Liverpool [1904], [1925]

LICENSEES

G W Webber [1855] – [1858]
E Mason* [1859]
Enoch Meachem* [1860] – [1862]
Thomas Price [1864] – **1877**;
Thomas Bromhill **(1877 – 1882)**;
Henry Baker **(1882 – 1885)**;
William Francis Clarke **(1885 – 1896)**;
Stephen Allen Corbett **(1896 – 1899)**;
William Nathaniel Cottrell **(1899 – 1900)**;
Edward Salter Nickson **(1900 – 1902)**;
Alfred Guest **(1902 – 1904)**;
James Walters **(1904 – 1917)**;
James Newton Cowling **(1917 – 1923)**;
William Austin Fair **(1923 – 1930)**;
David Fisher **(1930 – 1939)**;
John McArdle **(1939 – [])**
Mrs. Mildred E Bamber [1940]
Henry 'Harry' Southall Owen [1962]

NOTES

4, Mount Pleasant [1861], [1871]
5, Mount Pleasant [1881], [1911], [1921], [1939]

GLOBE TAVERN [1858]
GLOBE HOTEL [1884], [1904], [1908], [1916], [1921], [1932]

It was situated next door to the police station.
It was almost opposite the Theatre Royal.

It was known locally as "The Gluepot".

Bankruptcy hearings were held here.



Pub Token

T H E G L O B E I N N ,
M O U N T P L E A S A N T , B I L S T O N .
T O B E S O L D B Y A U C T I O N .

BY Mr. JABEZ MORRELL, at the Lion Hotel, Church Street, Bilston, on MONDAY, the 25th day of June inst., at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then read—all that valuable Old PUBLIC HOUSE and Premises, known as the "GLOBE INN," situate near adjoining the Police Station, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, now in the occupation of Mr. Enoch Meachem, at the low annual rent of £30.

The House and Premises consist of Entrance Hall, Lobby, front Parlour, front Tap Room, back Parlour, Bar, eight sleeping Rooms, Cooking Kitchen, Brewhouse, five Cellars, Warehouse, with Room over, a four-stall Stable, Coach-house, Piggeries, Bowling Alley, and large Garden. The back Premises are approached by a carriage road, with folding doors.

The Property is Copyhold of Inheritance of the Manor of Stow-heath, and may be enfranchised at a moderate outlay.

For further particulars apply to Mr. Thomas Bolton, Solicitor, Wolverhampton; or the Auctioneer, Bilston.

1860

Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/11/1845

“On Thursday morning last, between three and four o’clock, a woman named Sarah Bowlar was brought to the Bilston police station by a man who told police officer Worsey, then on duty, that she was ill. She sat by the fire, and after she had warmed herself Worsey recommended her to go to the CROWN public house, where she could have a bed. She appeared to be in pain, and Worsey thought she was in labour. She left, but in about ten minutes returned, and upon being admitted produced a dead child in a blue handkerchief. She said it was all over (meaning her delivery) in a few minutes, and that it happened on the road. Worsey made her some tea, and she then informed him that she had travelled from Ellesmere in the course of the day, and was on the road to Portobello, where she had a sister living. An inquest was held at the GLOBE, at Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, on Friday last, when Mr. Dickenson, surgeon, having stated that the child was still-born, a verdict to that effect was returned.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/7/1846

“On Monday last, an inquest was held at the GLOBE TAVERN, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of Edward Evan, a banksman, about 30 years of age, who met with his death on Saturday last by falling down a coalpit in Mr. Smith’s field, in Coseley Row, Bilston. It appeared by the evidence of a man named Davis, that as the deceased was running a bowk of bricks along a railway on the bank towards the pit, the bowk and bricks fell down, pulling the deceased with it. He was brought up in a few minutes afterwards quite dead. Verdict Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Journal 1/8/1846

“The Globe Lodge of Ancient Free Gardeners, No.380, held their second anniversary dinner at the GLOBE TAVERN, Bilston, on Thursday last, when the chair was ably filled by William M. Hancox, Esq, the surgeon to the lodge; the vice-chair being filled by GM Thomas Fieldhouse. The day was spent in the most pleasant manner, the meeting being enlivened with many excellent songs, and the members keeping in mind that great moral maxim, the basis of their order, of ‘doing unto others as they would wish others to do unto them.’”

Birmingham Journal 11/11/1848

“An inquest was held at the GLOBE INN, Bilston, on Monday last, on the body of Thomas Pooley, a miner, who was killed by falling down a pit, near the Willenhall Road. The deceased was banksman, and having missed his hold, fell backwards down the pit. He was so dreadfully injured that his brains were brought home in a handkerchief. The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Journal 3/11/1855 - Advert

“Malt Crushers.

Parties requiring Malt Crushers would do well before purchasing to inspect those made by Richard Thompson, Pot House Bridge Foundry, Bilston, Staffordshire.

They can be seen at work at the following places.....

Mr. *Webber*’s, GLOBE INN, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/8/1859

“At the Public Office, on Tuesday, John Lee, Joseph Davies, George Solloway, Samuel Vernon, George Brookes, and Samuel Davies, were brought before J. N. Bagnall, Esq, charged with assaulting John Moore, in the highway at Bilston, and stealing from him 14s and a cap. The prosecutor was a miner, and on Saturday night last had been spending the evening at the GLOBE INN, Mount Pleasant, of which his doggy, E. Mason is landlord. He left at midnight, and on his way retired for a few minutes down a back street leading out of Dudley Street. As he was returning to Dudley Street he saw the six prisoners approaching him, and as soon as they came up to him Lee knocked him down, and the other prisoners attacked him, taking 14s from his pocket, and also carrying off his billycock hat. As soon as he could, after they left him, he got up, and met police sergeant Smith, who, obtaining assistance, went in the direction taken by the ruffians. Meeting another policeman near Hallfields, who had met the gang, they succeeded in coming up with them and capturing four. Samuel Davis and Brooks managed to get away, but were afterwards taken. Mr. Shipman appeared for Lee, Solloway, and Brookes, who had made statements clearly identifying them with the attack upon the prosecutor. All the prisoners were committed for trial at the Assizes.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 21/10/1859

“Staffordshire October Sessions.....

John Lee, Joseph Davis, George Salloway, Samuel Vernon, George Brooks, and Samuel Davis were charged with unlawfully assaulting John Moore, and stealing from his person, at Bilston, the sum of 14s, his property. The prosecution was conducted by Mr. Jenkins, and the prisoners were defended by Mr. Kenealy.

The facts of the case, which occupied between four and five hours in its investigation, were briefly these.

On the night of the 20th of August last, the prosecutor, a miner, was in Bilston, and was returning home between twelve and one o'clock in the morning, when he was met by six men in Dudley Street or Star Lane, who knocked him down, and kicked him in the body and face, and then robbed him of 14s from his left-hand trousers pocket. After obtaining his money they went away, and he got up and gave information to the police of the robbery. About the same time Police-officer Hackett met the prisoners in Dudley Street; and they were singing and making a noise, and almost immediately after he saw the prosecutor; blood was running down his face, and he was without his billycock hat. In the company of the prosecutor and other officers, he then went in the direction of Highfields, where they overtook the prisoners, and the prosecutor at once identified them as the parties who had assaulted him, and the prisoner Lee as the one who took the money from his pocket.

Lee Salloway, Vernon, and Joseph Davis were apprehended, and conveyed at once to the Police Station, and whilst there, in the temporary absence of the officer, Lee and Vernon changed their coats. On being charged with the robbery, Lee said he had not been at the place that night; but Vernon replied, ‘If there is anything in the b—— job, it is us that’s done it.’ On being apprehended, Brooks, and Samuel Davis denied any knowledge of it, but afterwards said they saw the other four men knock the prosecutor down and kick him, and that they left because they would have nothing to do with it.

The prosecutor was cross-examined at some length. He denied he had ever offered to make the matter up if money was given to him; that he never said he knew the man who robbed him from his wearing a short-sleeve jacket; and that he had not been in a house of ill-fame in Bilston prior to the robbery.

Some strong observations were made by Mr. Kenealy with reference to the omission, before the Justices, by a police-officer named Smith, of evidence which he volunteered on the present occasion; in answer to which the officer said he had stated before the Justices sufficient to secure the conviction of the prisoners, and was not asked anything further. On being searched, 6s 8½d was found in the pockets of Lee, and 11s 8d on Joseph Davis.

In his address to the jury, Mr. Kenealy spoke with considerable warmth on the conduct of police-officer Smith, which he denounced as unfair to his clients, and detrimental to the best interests of the community.

The learned counsel then called Eliza Lee, mother of the prisoner John Lee, who deposed that the prosecutor came to her in the morning before the prisoners were committed, and offered to make the matter up if the parents of the accused would each give him 6s, and that he said in reply to her that he knew the man who robbed him from his having worn at the time a short-sleeve flannel jacket. She further added that her son never had such a garment.

Edward Vernon, brother of the prisoner Vernon, gave similar evidence, and added that the prosecutor treated him and others with a quart of ale in a public house, when he offered to compromise the charge.

Hannah Evans, a girl between 16 and 17 years of age, who in the course of her cross-examination admitted that she had a child by the prisoner Holloway, himself only 16, deposed that she was in an entry in Dudley Street, early in the morning of the 21st of August, when she heard a man threaten to turn another out of doors. The other shouted that he would not go until the 14s was returned to him, and immediately afterwards a woman pushed the prosecutor out of the house, and he fell on the causeway. He then asked for his hat, and she struck him on the face and scratched it. At the time she heard the prisoners at the bottom of the street, singing ‘We won’t go home till morning.’

Richard Hall, a puddler, said he saw a man lying in the street between twelve and one in the morning, whom he shook, and who immediately got up, knocked him down, and ran off with his cap, with which he went into a house in Dudley Street, and whilst trying to obtain possession of his property the prisoners came up and were arrested by the police officers.

This was the evidence for the defence, and on the prosecutor being re-called, he stoutly denied the truth of any of the allegations made.

The learned Counsel for the prosecution then addressed the Jury on the whole case, and after a careful summing up by the learned Chairman, the Jury returned a verdict of guilty against all the prisoners.

A former conviction or felony, in February last, was proved by Mr. Chidley, against Lee, who was sentenced to six years’ penal servitude, and the other prisoners were each sentenced to four years’ penal servitude. Immediately after delivering sentence, the Chairman said that the Court also directed that Eliza Lee, Edward Vernon, and Harriet Evans should be immediately arrested, and an indictment for wilful and corrupt perjury preferred against them. The three witnesses were at once taken into custody on the charge.”

[In December 1859, at the Staffordshire Winter Assizes, Eliza Lee and Hannah Evans were charged with perjury. They were found guilty; Lee was sentenced to eighteen months and Evans, who the jury recommended to mercy on account of her age, sentenced to six months. The Grand Jury returned no bill against Edward Vernon and he was discharged.]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/11/1859

“On Wednesday Mr. Thomas Hawkswood, formerly manager of Messrs. Hickman’s provision shop, committed suicide by hanging himself in his own house, in Brides Row, Cold Lanes, Bilston. About three months ago he was discharged from his situation owing to some misunderstanding unconnected with the performance of his duties. Since then he has been out of a situation. About mid-day on Wednesday he was in the town, accompanied by his wife, whom, shortly after his return home, he sent out on some errand or another. When she came back, not finding him downstairs, she went into the bed-room, and there found him suspended by a bridle rein to one of the bed-posts. The unhappy man was cut down, and bled by Mr. Larkin, surgeon, who was shortly in attendance, but although the blood flowed, life proved to be extinct.

An inquest was held on the body on Friday last, at the GLOBE INN, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, Coroner, when it was stated that the unhappy deceased had been under medical treatment for a fortnight before his death, and that his medical attendant had intimated that it was necessary he should be carefully watched. The Jury found that he had destroyed himself while in a state of Temporary Insanity. The deceased has left a wife and seven children.”

*possibly the same person

Enoch Meachem = Enoch Meacham = Enoch Meatcham = Enoch Mechem

Birmingham Journal 9/6/1860 - Advert

“The GLOBE INN, Mount Pleasant, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Jabez Morrell, at the LION HOTEL, Church Street, Bilston, on Monday, the 25th day of June inst, at Six o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then read.

All that valuable Old Public House and Premises, known as the GLOBE INN, situate near adjoining the Police Station, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, now in the occupation of Mr. *Enoch Meachem*, at the low annual rent of £30.

The House and Premises consist of Entrance Hall, Lobby, front Parlour, front Tap Room, back Parlour, Bar, eight Sleeping Rooms, Cooking Kitchen, Brewhouse, five Cellars, Warehouse, with Room over, a four-stall Stable, Coach-house, Piggeries, Bowling Alley, and large Garden. The back Premises are approached by a carriage road, with folding doors.

The Property is Copyhold of Inheritance of the Manor of Stowheath, and may be enfranchised at a moderate outlay. For further particulars apply to Mr. Thomas Bolton, Solicitor, Wolverhampton; or the Auctioneer, Bilston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/1/1861 - Advert

“Lost, on January 2nd, between Swan Village and Bilston Railway Stations, a Box of Drawing Instruments. Whoever has found it, and will bring it to the GLOBE INN, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, shall receive 10s reward.”

LOST, on January 2nd, between Swan Village and Bilston Railway Stations, a BOX of DRAWING INSTRUMENTS. Whoever has found it, and will bring it to the Globe Inn, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, shall receive 10s. Reward.

1861 Census

4, Mount Pleasant – GLOBE TAVERN

- [1] *Enoch Meachem* (38), coal and iron miner and beer seller, born Bilston;
- [2] Sophia Meachem (32), wife, born Stourbridge;
- [3] Enoch Meachem (15), son, iron miner, born Monmore Green;
- [4] Harriet Meachem (11), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] Esther Meachem (7), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] Thomas Meachem (4), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] David Meachem (2), son, born Bilston;
- [8] Noah Meachem (6 months), son, born Bilston;
- [9] Amy Meachem (70), mother, widow, born Bilston;
- [10] Joseph Smith (30), servant, locksmith, born Willenhall;
- [11] Priscilla Johnson (22), servant, born Bridgnorth;
- [12] John Ward (41), boarder, carpenter and joiner, born Stone, Worcestershire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/6/1861 - Advert

"Notice is Hereby Given that we, the under-signed, *Enoch Meachem*, Bilston, and Samuel Hartshorn, New Village, Butty Miners, have agreed, by mutual consent, to Dissolve Partnership from this date.

As witness our hands this 4th day of June, 1861.

Enoch Meachem, Samuel Hartshorn. Witness, James Jones."

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that we, the undersigned, ENOCH MEACHEM, Bilston, and SAMUEL HARTSHORN, New Village, Butty Miners, have agreed, by mutual consent, to DISSOLVE Partnership from this date.—As witness our hands this 4th day of June, 1861.
ENOCH MEACHEM,
SAMUEL HARTSHORN.
Witness, JAMES JONES.

London Gazette 5/12/1862

"This is to give notice, that the Court acting in the prosecution of a Petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy, filed in the Birmingham District Court of Bankruptcy, at Birmingham, on the 17th day of September, 1862, by *Enoch Meachem*, of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Innkeeper and Chartermaster, did, on the 26th day of November, 1862, grant the Discharge of the said *Enoch Meachem* and that such Discharge will be delivered to the bankrupt, unless an appeal be duly entered against the judgment of the Court, and notice thereof be given to the Court."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/12/1862 - Advert

"The Bankruptcy Act, 1861. In the Court of Bankruptcy for the Birmingham District.

Notice is hereby given that an Order of Discharge was granted to *Enoch Meachem*, of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Innkeeper and Charter Master, on the 26th day of November last.

William Henry Duignan, Solicitor of the said *Enoch Meachem*."

Birmingham Journal 18/7/1863 - Advert

"Mount Pleasant, Bilston. Important Sale of Valuable Freehold Building Land.

Mr. Thomas Lloyd has been favoured with instructions to Offer for Sale by Auction, on Monday Next, July the 20th, at the GLOBE TAVERN, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions of sale....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 20/5/1865

"Yesterday, the adjourned inquest was held in the GLOBE INN, Willenhall Road, Bilston, before Mr. W. H. Phillips, Deputy Coroner, on the body of Ellis Richardson, who died on Sunday, under the circumstances related in Wednesday's *Gazette*.

Three more witnesses were examined, who corroborated the evidence given on Tuesday.

Mr. F. A. Best, surgeon, who had made the post mortem examination, said the symptoms were those of inflammation of the bowels. He considered death to have been caused by rupture and inflammation of the bowels. The rupture, he thought, must have been caused by violence to the deceased, or that he had gone through some violent exercise. The jury after hearing the evidence returned a verdict of Manslaughter against Richard Wilkinson. The prisoner was at once committed on the Coroner's warrant, and was afterwards brought up at the Police Court, before Messrs. A. Sparrow and B. Whitehouse, and committed for manslaughter."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 24/7/1865

"Staffordshire Summer Assizes.....

"Richard Wilkinson (23), labourer, was indicted for killing and slaying Ellis Richardson, on the 12th of May, at Bilston. Mr. Young, the counsel for the prosecution, intimated doubts of his ability to establish a case against the prisoner, and, with the consent of the Judge, called Mr. Best, surgeon, who stated that the death of the deceased might have been caused by over-exertion, and he could not say that it was the result of blows; the prisoner, it should be stated, having been charged with killing the deceased in a fight. This was the only evidence called, and the Jury, under the direction of the Judge found a verdict of acquittal."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/1/1867

"On Friday an adjourned inquest was held at the GLOBE INN, Mount Pleasant, before Mr. T. M. Phillips, Coroner, on the body of a child, which was found on the 26th ult on a door-step in Wellington Street. When the child was found there were bruises on the head and face sufficient, according to the medical testimony, to have caused death. Since the inquest opened, however, a post mortem examination has been made by Mr. G. Malin, surgeon, who affirms that the child was still-born. The jury returned their verdict accordingly. It has not been ascertained to whom the infant belonged, although the police have made all possible inquiry."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 24/6/1868

"Yesterday, at Bilston Police Court, *Thomas Price*, landlord of the GLOBE TAVERN, Mount Pleasant, was summoned for assaulting Francis Beckett, a youth in the employ of Mr. Edwin Busby, tinman, Crown Street.

The complainant's statement was to the effect that on Friday last he was crossing a field belonging to the defendant, and as he was doing so Mr. *Price* came down the side of the pit bank, and, after telling him he was trespassing, pushed him into a pool of water that was near, and it was with great difficulty that he got out, the water being up to his neck.

In reply to the charge, the defendant stated that people were constantly trespassing in the field in question, and on the above day he saw the complainant crossing it. He went to him, and asked him to go back, but this he refused to do, and he then pushed him. The complainant returned it, and in the slight scuffle that ensued he fell into the water. Mr. Spooner, after hearing the evidence, said it was a most unjustifiable assault, and if the boy had been drowned the defendant would most assuredly have been charged with murder. He should hardly have believed such an assault would have been committed by a man in his position had he not heard the evidence; and he should impose a fine of £2 and costs."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/5/1869

"On Saturday an inquest was held at the GLOBE TAVERN INN, Bilston, by Mr. W. H. Phillips, Deputy Coroner, on the body of Matthew Chatterton, of Bilston Street, Hall Fields, a rifleman, who died on the previous day, in consequence of injuries received by a shot from a rifle, under circumstances already reported.

Jane Halcroft said that she lived near Bilston, and she identified the body the jury had seen as that of Matthew Chatterton. He was 42 years old, and was a tailor. She was with him when he died, and had been with him since he was wounded. He was sensible when she first saw him. He had the appearance of having been injured by a gun shot wound. She heard him say that he had not time to mark or put his colours out. He died at the house where he then lay at ten o'clock on the previous day. She had seen him the day he was injured, and he was perfectly sober. He was a teetotaller.

John Ward, a galvaniser, of Broad Street, Bilston, said he was a private in the Bilston Rifle Volunteer Company, and knew Chatterton as a member of the corps. He was also a member of the band, but sometimes carried a rifle, and used it. Witness was at the rifle range when deceased was injured. He asked witness to go to see the men shoot, and he did go, but did not take his gun with him. There were only two persons shooting; there was no firing before witness got there. Sergeant Mason sent deceased to the target. The flag was kept in the 'butt,' and witness went with him there. One of the men there named Jones put the red flag up. Deceased took the bucket from the mantlet to black the target, and he was doing that when he was shot. The danger signal was not up. He did not take the proper flag out with him when he went to the target, but left it in the mantlet. He did not make any remark about it. Witness heard a report and saw deceased fall in front of the target, and say, 'Oh, Lord, I am shot. Pick me up.' The bucket deceased had in his hand had dropped on the floor. The shot witness heard was the only one to his knowledge. He had never known deceased act as marker before.

Mr. Edridge asked whether if the deceased had taken the flag out, the men firing could have seen it at the firing point. Witness said that the men could have seen it.

Mr. Bowen explained that what the witness called a flag was a disc painted red, and fastened on a stick.

Mr. Fellows said that as soon as the disc was put out, it was a signal to cease firing. In answer to Mr. Bowen, the witness said that the disc was not out of the target all the time, and he also said that a man could be seen from the firing place if in front of the bull's eye.

Edward Jones, a file-cutter, of Bradley, and a private of the company, said he had been in nearly two years, and had had some experience in marking. Witness was going to fire after Feeney. Witness went to the mantlet at the side of the 'butt,' but deceased was near the target. He had the bucket and brush in his hand. He was going to black and white the target. He had just raised the brush, and was standing a little on the side of the bull's eye. His left hand was on the target, and he was standing upright. Witness heard a report, which seemed to come from the firing point, and deceased fell. Witness was five feet from the mantlet, but did not know firing was going to commence, or he should not have gone there. Deceased ought to have put a red disc out, but he had not received any instructions in witness's hearing. The disc was in the mantlet. Witness had always seen the marker take the red disc with him if there were riflemen on the range. Witness knew that it was the duty of the marker, but had not time to tell deceased so. The red disc was a signal of danger, and when it was removed the firers could commence firing. There were some shots on the target, but witness did not know how many. He did not think a man at the firing point would see

another in front of the target, as the firing would be four hundred yards away, he kneeling and having one eye closed, and would therefore only see a certain object. Witness did not attach any blame to the man who fired. If there were any shot marks, or if the target wanted cleaning, then the marker would go towards it and clean it; but the firers did not know that it did want cleaning, or that deceased was going to it.

John Mason, sergeant instructor of the Bilston Company, said the range had only been used for firing since the 1st of May. It was the rule that the mantlet and the target should be fifteen yards apart. The mantlet was for the protection of the marker, and was in front of the butt. The disc was kept on one side of the mantlet, of which witness had the key. No firing was allowed unless witness was present. It was a class firing on Thursday, and on that day witness was going to instruct Feeney and others. Witness made arrangements with deceased to mark; he had been marking before on that day at the same target, and had marked about a dozen times before. In the morning he had occasion to use the disc. Witness instructed him not to come out of the mantlet unless the disc was answered from the firing place. Jones had the key to the mantlet in which the black and white was kept. It was not necessary on that occasion to obliterate the shots on the target. Witness did not know deceased was going to black it. The disc was not out, and witness considered it all clear, and gave orders to Feeney to fire. It would almost be impossible for a firer to see a man in front of the target, as the background was a dark one, and the deceased had a dark coat on. The disc was ten yards from the target, and witness explained, in answer to Mr. Edridge, that it could be seen because it was a different colour to the background. The deceased could not have been seen because his clothes were of the same colour as the background. If he had walked to the target, and not run, then the accident would not have happened. As soon as the men entered the mantlet witness told Feeney to fire, as the disc had not been shown. Witness then stooped down and took a black lead out of his pocket, and, on looking up, heard the report of the gun and saw Chatterton fall down.

The coroner asked witness if there was anything he could suggest to prevent accidents occurring. The witness suggested that the marker should wear red uniform, as that colour always signified danger, and could be more easily distinguished. The witness had never heard of a marker being hurt in marking.

The Coroner suggested that the seat in the mantlet should be so constructed that immediately a marker rose from it the signal should spring up and remain exposed until he again sat down.

In answer to a question put to witness as to why he selected the deceased, as he had only been in the company for such a short time, witness said that the man was the most intelligent one in the whole company. He thought that it was through his over-anxiousness to do his duty that he neglected to put the disc out, and thus the accident happened. In answer to further questions put to him, the witness said that there were notice-boards put in every suitable position about the grounds to caution people not to go on the range. He thought it was as good a 600-yards range, and in as good a position as any in England. When the deceased was struck he must have been in a stooping position.

James Blower, a member of the band of the company, said that he was coming down the range behind the firers at the time the accident happened. He knew Feeney was firing, and afterwards assisted to carry deceased away. Witness did not see the disc. If there was any blame to be attached to anyone, it was to the deceased, as he ought to have put out the disc. If anyone was going out of the mantlet the disc ought to be exhibited.

John Edwin Fellows, the captain of the company, said that deceased had been an enrolled member of the company only since January last, but a member of the band for some years. Witness considered the deceased was sufficiently experienced to act as marker, as he was a very careful man, and had been marking all the week. The butt and mantlet were at sufficient distances, and were constructed on the principle laid down by the War Office.

The Coroner asked Captain Burke, the adjutant to the battalion, if he had any remarks to make. Captain Burke said that he thought that the range was perfectly safe, and he also thought that the sergeant acted discreetly in placing the deceased in the position of marker, and thought that he was more fitted for that position than any one in the company. Captain Burke should have given deceased the place if he had been there.

This was the whole of the evidence, and the Coroner then summed up. He said that it was quite clear that the deceased died from a shot wound, and that that was occasioned by the firing of Sergeant Feeney. If they were satisfied that every precaution was used at the firing point, and that the deceased himself neglected his duty in approaching the target without putting up the disc, and that plenty of time was allowed him to do so, and that no fault was to be attached to anyone, then the verdict would be accidental death.

The father of the deceased was in the room, and said that he did not wish to say anything to the jury or to call any witnesses. He believed that it was from the fault of the deceased that the accident happened.

The jury then returned a verdict of Accidental Death, but the foreman (Mr. Williams) said that he thought it was very desirable for the markers at all rifle shooting ranges to be dressed in red clothes.

Captain Fellows said that he should be very glad to adopt the suggestion at the Bilston range."

1871 Census

4, Mount Pleasant – GLOBE

[1] *Thomas Price* (44), colliery proprietor and licensed victualler, born Beguildy, Radnorshire;

[2] *Eleanor Price* (47), wife, born Radnorshire;

[3] *Sarah A. Price* (18), daughter, born Bilston;

[4] *William E. Price* (16), son, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 17/1/1872

“*Thomas Perks*, a carter, in the employ of *Mr. H. Hall*, grocer, of Willenhall, was yesterday charged, at the Bilston Petty Sessions, with assaulting *Mr. Thomas Price*, the landlord of the GLOBE INN, Bilston, and his wife, on Sunday night. It was elicited in evidence that late that evening the prisoner while on his return home called at the GLOBE INN, and demanded a pint of ale. *Mr. Price* told him that as it was the hour for closing he could not serve any refreshment. The prisoner upon this became abusive, and tried to force his way into the house. In so doing he damaged the door, tore *Mrs. Price*’s dress, broke *Mr. Price*’s gold watch-guard, and assaulted them both. *Mr. Price* eventually secured him, and gave him into custody. The prisoner was fined £2 and costs for the assault upon *Mr. Price*, 10s and costs for the assault upon his wife, and £5 12s for the damage he had occasioned. In default of payment he would be sent to prison for eleven weeks.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/1/1872

“*Thomas Parkes*, a carter, of Mount Pleasant, was fined 10s and costs for assaulting *Thomas Price*, landlord of the GLOBE INN, Mount Pleasant; 40s and costs for assaulting the landlord’s wife; 20s and costs for wilfully damaging the house door by bursting the door open to obtain admittance into the house after the landlord had refused to admit him.”

Thomas Price was also a coalmaster of Willenhall Road. [1873]

Staffordshire Advertiser 13/9/1873

“*C. Titley*, forge roller, and *W. Purslow*, both of Bradley, were committed for trial on the charge of stealing £20 from the person of *William Roper*, Chartermaster, of Pipes Meadow. The parties were drinking together in the GLOBE INN, Mount Pleasant, and prosecutor openly counted £20 from a sum of £47 he had with him, and put the £20 in a separate pocket. Soon after he missed it, and the landlady said she saw *Purslow* take the money from prosecutor’s pocket.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 14/10/1873

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

The Grand Jury ignored the bill against *William Purslow*, on bail, charged with stealing £20, the moneys of *William Roper*, at Bilston.”

Thomas Price was also a colliery proprietor of Bunkers Hill [1874]

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/3/1876 - Advert

“The GLOBE INN, Bilston.

Desirable Freehold Licensed Inn, at Bilston, in the county of Stafford.

Mr. R. H. Harper has been favoured with instructions from *Mr. Thomas Price* to Offer for Sale by Public Auction, upon the Premises, on Tuesday, March 28, 1876, at six o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then and there read.

All that valuable and genuine Freehold Old-Licensed House, known as the GLOBE INN, situate at Mount Pleasant, Bilston, together with the License, Goodwill, Fixtures, and immediate possession. The House and Premises are in thorough repair, and have recently been extended, situate on the main road to the important towns of Willenhall and Walsall, and joining the Public Office at which Petty Sessions are held on Tuesday and Friday in each week, and are most eligibly situated for a general and increasing trade.

The Premises stand on an area of upwards of 2,000 yards, and contain spacious Liquor Vaults, Bar, large Smokeroom, Clubroom, with Foresters Court attached, Ante-room, seven Bedrooms, Kitchen with cooking range, Brewhouse, extensive Cellaring, Gateway entrance to large yard, Stabling, Warehouses, Offices, large Garden, and requisite Outbuildings.

This house is not only adapted for its business capabilities, but is replete and comfortable as a residence. The Auctioneer calls special attention to this important property, as it is an opportunity rarely to be met with. The party purchasing will be required to take the stock-in-trade and effects at valuation. Part of the purchase money may remain. For further particulars and to view, apply to the Proprietor, J. W. Hall, Esq, Solicitor, or of the Auctioneer, all of Bilston. Auctioneer's Offices, 5, Market Street, Bilston."

Thomas Bromhill = Thomas Bramhill = Thomas Bramhall

Birmingham Daily Post 26/10/1878 - Advert

"Important Sale of a valuable Building Estate, situate at Mount Pleasant, Bilston, containing nearly twenty acres, with the Mines and Minerals thereunder, and fronting to the main road leading from Bilston to Willenhall, and to Colds Lane and streets leading thereout.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Charles Round, at the House of Mr. *Thomas Bramhall*, the GLOBE INN, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, on Monday, November 11, 1878, at 5 for 6 o'clock in the evening....."

Birmingham Daily Post 14/11/1878

"By the magistrates on Tuesday, Jane Cook, domestic servant, employed by *Thomas Bramhill*, of the GLOBE INN, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, was sentenced to four months' imprisonment, for having stolen £2 6s and various articles of wearing apparel, belonging to her employer. Prisoner had been in her situation only five weeks."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 14/1/1879

"The Free Breakfasts to Children at Bilston.

The free breakfast movement is now well developed and in full activity. Upwards of 2,200 breakfasts each week are given to ticket-holders, and practically a larger number are given after the ticket-holders have been satisfied to sundry hungry children who come unprovided with tickets.....

In the drill shed, at Mount Pleasant The porridge was at first, by the kind permission of Mr. *Bramhill*, of the GLOBE INN, and Chief-superintendent McCrea, cooked in coppers on their premises, but within the last few days a large copper has been fixed on part of the drill shed premises....."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 27/3/1879

"Nomination for the Board of Guardians Bilston.....

Thomas Bramhill, licensed victualler, Mount Pleasant."

[*Thomas Bramhill* was not elected.]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 21/7/1879

"This (Monday) morning, W. H. Phillips, Esq, coroner, held an inquest at the GLOBE INN, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, on the body of the youth Samuel Chirm, who was killed at the pit of Mr. Richard Atkiss, of Bilston, on Friday. It appears the deceased was engaged at the bottom of the shaft, which is 22 yards deep, to hook the skips on to the pit rope, which is worked by a windlass. The skip is balanced by an iron ball 80lbs weight, attached to rod by a 'd' link and a screw nut. When the iron ball is at the bottom of the shaft the skip is at the top. Soon after the deceased had, early on Saturday morning, signalled for a skip to be drawn up, the banksman, David Owen, heard a splash at the bottom of the shaft. He descended the shaft, and there found that the nut of the 'd' link had become loose, and the iron ball had fallen into the sump. It is supposed that the weight in falling struck the head of the deceased and caused the fracture from which death ensued. Mr. Scott, the assistant inspector of mines, has since examined the pit and the machinery, but blames no one for the accident, though he suggests that the iron ball might be made more secure with an iron cotter. The jury returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased died from a fracture of the head, but how he sustained the injury there was no evidence to show."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 13/4/1880

"The following gentlemen have been elected to represent the township of Bilston as Guardians in the Wolverhampton Union.....

The rejected candidates are *Thomas Bramhill*."

County Advertiser 22/5/1880 - Advert

"Thursday, May 27th, 1880. Bilston. Extensive Sale of House and Business Properties.

Messrs. Sollom and Barnett respectfully announce their instructions to Offer for Sale by Auction, at the house of Mr. *Bramhill*, the GLOBE INN, Mount Pleasant, Bilston upwards of 50 Houses and other Properties in the town of Bilston....."

1881 Census

5, Mount Pleasant – GLOBE INN

[1] *Thomas Bramhill* (43), publican, born Doncaster;

[2] *Susan Bramhill* (44), wife, born Walsall;

[3] *Sarah Ann Bramhill* (17), daughter, born Leeds;

[4] *Thomas Brookes* (5), nephew, scholar, born Sheffield;

[5] *Mary Holcroft* (18), domestic servant, born Bilston:

London Gazette 3/5/1881

"The Bankruptcy Act, 1869. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton.

In the Matter of Proceedings for Liquidation by Arrangement or Composition with Creditors, instituted by *Thomas Bramhill*, of the GLOBE INN, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Engineer and Licensed Victualler.

Notice is hereby given, that a First General Meeting of the creditors of the above-named person has been summoned to be held at the office of S. Pearman Smith and Son, King's-chambers, Dudley-street, Wolverhampton, in the county of Stafford, on the 19th day of May, 1881, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 29th day of April, 1881.

S. Pearman Smith and Son, Wolverhampton, Solicitors for the said Debtor."

Evening Express 23/5/1881

"A meeting of the creditors of *Thomas Bromhill*, the GLOBE INN, Bilston, was held on Thursday, at the offices of Messrs. Spearman, Smith and Son, solicitors, Dudley Street, Wolverhampton.

Mr. Smith Jnr. represented the debtor, and creditors were represented by Messrs. Frederic Bill and J. W. Hall, solicitors, and Mr. Greensill, from the office of Mr. R. A. Willcock, solicitor.

The statement of affairs showed liabilities £1,110 6s 4d, and assets £90 7s 4d. Mr. Smith made an offer on behalf of the debtor of 1s in the pound, payable in seven days from registration, which was accepted."

Evening Express 3/7/1881

"An inquest was held at the GLOBE INN, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, on Friday afternoon, before W. H. Phillips, Esq, district coroner, touching the death of an old man named Charles Swift, who had been in the employ of Mr. *T. Bramhill*, of the GLOBE, who died in the yard of that inn suddenly on Thursday evening.

Mrs. *Bramhill*, the first witness, said she was in the bar about five o'clock, when she heard someone vomiting near the side door, and on going to see who it was, found the deceased vomiting blood. A man named Isaiah Skeldon went to his assistance, and she (witness) sent to Dr. Larkin, but before that gentleman arrived he was dead.

The jury returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/10/1881 - Advert

"Wanted, at once, good General Servant, who understands her duties.

Apply, GLOBE INN, Mount Pleasant, Bilston."

WANTED, at once, good General Servant, who understands her duties.— Apply, Globe Inn, Mount Pleasant, Bilston

Evening Express 30/9/1881

"Stephen Henry Baker, Greencroft, Bilston, was charged with stealing 13s 6d from a till in the GLOBE public house, Willenhall Road, occupied by *Thomas Bramhill*.

On Tuesday last, about nine o'clock in the morning, Mrs. *Bramhill* put 10s 6d in silver in a drawer, and when she examined the till between ten and eleven o'clock only 4s remained. Mrs. *Bramhill* then marked two florins and three shilling pieces, which she put in the drawer. At half past four o'clock the same afternoon the prisoner came in and paid for a glass of beer, and was left at the bar alone for a few minutes. The sound of money jingling was afterwards heard, and on Mrs. *Bramhill* re-entering the bar she found the prisoner putting money in his purse. He was afterwards given into custody, and at the police station the marked pieces of money were found in his possession.

The prisoner pleaded guilty, and this being his first offence, the Bench sentenced him to one month's imprisonment."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 5/12/1881 - Advert

“Wanted, at once, a General Servant; from the country preferred. Apply, GLOBE INN, Bilston.”

WANTED, at once, a General Servant; from the country preferred.—Appy, Globe Inn, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 2/8/1882

“During Monday evening a large assortment of jewellery, including a couple of watches and chains, together with £1 10s in money, was stolen from the bed rooms of the GLOBE INN, Mount Pleasant, Bilston. It is believed that the thief must have entered while the landlord and landlady were busy with customers. The property belonged to Mr. *Henry Baker*, who found out the theft at bed time. No arrest has been made.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/8/1882

“On Monday evening, at the GLOBE INN, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, a thief or thieves went upstairs and stole from the bedrooms a large quantity of jewellery and other valuables, including a silver English lever watch, a pair of gold sleeve-links, silver watchguards, a lady’s silver set, including locket, brooch, necklet, and earrings; a lady’s mourning ring, a lady’s gold Geneva watch (No.104472), gold chain, with key and 1 on attached; gold earrings set in rubies, gold brooch, gold dress rings, a purse containing half a sovereign, 19s in silver, and a post-office order for 8s 6d, with numerous other articles of value, the property of Mr. *Henry Baker*, the landlord, who discovered the theft on retiring to rest.”

AND

Darlaston Weekly Times 5/8/1882

“A daring robbery was committed on Monday night, between the hours of eight and eleven, at the house of Mr. *Henry Baker*, GLOBE HOTEL, Mount Pleasant, Bilston.

It appears that the whole of the occupants of the house were busily engaged in serving, when some person or persons entered the premises from the back, which was left unfastened for the convenience of customers, and, taking advantage of the absence of the occupants, walked upstairs to the bedrooms, the doors of which, in the hurry of business, had also been left unfastened.

The only object of plunder in the first room was a silver lever watch, the property of Mr. *Baker*, which he had left on the shelf in his room, and silver trinkets, belonging to Mrs. *Baker*. The thieves then entered the room of Miss Smith, the barmaid, and there their success was far greater, a gold watch and chain, a number of valuable trinkets, and a purse containing about £2 in money, and a P.O.O. for 8s 6d, being taken away.

The theft was not discovered until the house was closed, and the residents were about to retire to rest. The watch and chain were then missed, and search was made for it, in the bar and elsewhere. As it could not be found, a further search took place, and a great commotion was caused by the discovery of the loss sustained by Miss Smith. The police were called in, but beyond the few footmarks in the back yard, no evidence remained as to how, or by whom, the robbery was committed. The total loss is about £30, nearly £20 of which belonged to the barmaid.”

AND

Darlaston Weekly Times 12/8/1882

“Early on Saturday morning, as a youth was proceeding along Green Lanes, he observed under a hedge a bright chain, and upon examination found the two watches and chains stolen the previous Monday from Mr. *Baker*’s, the GLOBE HOTEL, Bilston. The watches were afterwards taken to Mr. *Baker*, and Miss Smith, the barmaid, soon recognised her lost property. The police are on the alert to discover the thief or thieves.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 26/8/1882 - Advert

“The GLOBE HOTEL, Mount Pleasant, Bilston (New Proprietor).

Henry Baker has pleasure in announcing to his many Friends and the Public that he has entered upon the above Hotel, formerly occupied by Mr. *T. Bramhill*, and begs to inform them that he has selected a Splendid New Stock of Spirits and Wines, with Choice Samples of Ales and Porters, all will be sold at the most Reasonable Charges.

A Splendid Stock of Cigars.

H.B. offers every accommodation to his customers, and hopes to merit their patronage and support.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 23/12/1882 - Advert

“To Auctioneers, Promoters of Entertainments, Meetings, &c.

A Very Large Room suitable for holding Sales, Meetings, Entertainments, &c, can be secured at the GLOBE HOTEL, Mount Pleasant, Bilston.

H. Baker, Proprietor.”

Birmingham Daily Post 15/3/1883

“At the Police Court, on Tuesday, Francis Hoskins alias Maxwell and Alfred Smallwood were charged with stealing 10s from *Henry Baker*, landlord of the GLOBE INN, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, by ringing the changes. Both prisoners were committed to the Sessions.”

[Frederick Maxwell, alias Francis Hoskins, who had several previous convictions, got 7 years' penal servitude and Alfred Smallwood 12 months' imprisonment with hard labour.]

Darlaston Weekly Times 19/5/1883

“For some time Mr. *Thomas Bramhill*, formerly owner and proprietor of the GLOBE HOTEL, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, has been in ill-health, and, after an amount of severe suffering, died on the 15th instant, at the age of 45 years, leaving a widow, son, and daughter. Mr. *Bramhill* was brought-up as an engineer; his father in the same profession, occupying a respectable position in Yorkshire. After a residence in Bilston for some time, the deceased was elected as a Town Commissioner, and served the office for three years. The funeral took place in the cemetery, on Friday, and several friends attended.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/9/1883

“Edward Fellows, who for some time past has been living in Bridge Street, Bilston, was brought up in custody charged with stealing 4s, the money of *Henry Baker*, landlord of the GLOBE INN, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, on the 28th ult. The prisoner had been casually employed by prosecutor to do ‘odd jobs,’ and had been sent to fetch some clover from Wednesfield, but instead of carrying out prosecutor’s instructions the prisoner spent the money on his own requirements. He was sentenced to 14 days’ hard labour, this being his first offence.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 8/12/1883

“Another was added to the already long list of recent sudden deaths in Bilston, on the 31st ult, when a boy named William Becket (9), who resided with his parents at 26, Cold Lanes, Bilston, was found dead in bed by his mother. An enquiry into the cause of death was held before Mr. W. H. Phillips, district coroner, at the COCK INN, Willenhall Road, on Monday. From the evidence given it appeared that about one o’clock on the previous Friday, the child complained of being ill, and on the suggestion of its mother, went upstairs to bed. About twenty minutes to two, the child called to its mother, and she went upstairs, and found the child insensible. In a few minutes afterwards it died. The enquiry was adjourned until Friday, for a post mortem examination to be made.

On the resumption of the enquiry yesterday, at the GLOBE HOTEL, Mount Pleasant, Dr. Mathie said he had made a post mortem examination, and found that the child had died from capillary bronchitis, consequent upon exposure to cold and damp. He considered that the house in which the parents lived was in a very bad state, and unfit for habitation, as it was cold and damp.

In reply to the coroner, the mother of the deceased said her husband and another child lay ill in the house, and she attributed this to the insanitary condition of the dwelling. There was no closet to the house, and no back door. The house was half a crown a week, but on account of her husband’s illness, the rent had got behind, and she could not leave, because if she did, the landlord would distrain on her goods.

The coroner said it would be only right for the jury to take into consideration the miserable condition of the place, he quite agreed with the doctor, entirely unfit for human habitation. It was a great hardship that a sick man with a wife and family to support should be only receiving five shillings a week from the parish, when half a crown had to be paid as rent.

The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence, and instructed the police to call the attention of the Sanitary Inspector to the house.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 2/8/1884 - Advert

“A fine lot of Store Pigs for Sale, from 20s upwards.
Apply, *H. Baker*, GLOBE HOTEL, Bilston.”

A FINE LOT OF STORE PIGS FOR SALE,
from 20s. upwards.—Apply, *H. Baker*,
Globe Hotel, Bilston.

The Stage 21/11/1884 - Advert

“Miss May Douglas, Lead, Comedy. Engaged by Goddard Whyatt, Esq, for 6 nights. Nellie, Lost in London. At liberty November 22. Address, GLOBE HOTEL, Bilston.”

MISS MAY DOUGLAS,
Lead, Comedy. Engaged by Goddard Whyatt, Esq,
for 6 nights. Nellie, Lost in London. At liberty Nov. 22.
Address, Globe Hotel, Bilston.

The Stage 2/1/1885 - Advert

“Mr. E. F. Brady, GLOBE HOTEL, Bilston.
Third year of Little Red Riding Hood Pantomime.”

M R . E . F . B R A D Y ,
Globe Hotel,
Bilston.
Third year of Little Red Riding Hood Pantomime.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 17/1/1885 - Advert

“Queens Own Royal Yeomanry Cavalry. Wolverhampton Troop.
The Sixth Annual Ball will take place in the Agricultural Hall, on Thursday, January 22nd, 1885, under the Patronage of Lieutenant-Colonel The Marquis of Anglesea, and the Officers of the Regiment.
The Band of the South Staffordshire Regiment will attend, under Bandmaster Herr Eisen.
Dancing to commence at Nine o'clock.
All members of Yeomanry Cavalry or Volunteer Regiments to appear in uniform.
NB. Any Lady or Gentleman wishing to attend in Fancy Dress may do so on application to the Secretary, sending full name, address, and character they wish to appear in, for which they will receive a special ticket.
Tickets, 3s 6d each, may be obtained from the Stewards Sergeant *Baker*, GLOBE HOTEL, Bilston.
All applications for Tickets to be made personally to the Stewards, or by letter to the Hon. Secretary, not later than January 19th, 1885.
Sergeant A. E. Allen, Hon. Secretary, 63, Queen Street, Wolverhampton.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 13/8/1885

“This (Thursday) morning, Mr. E. B. Thorneycroft, deputy coroner, held an adjourned inquiry at the GLOBE HOTEL, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, relative to the death of a newly-born female child of Sarah Betsy Hill, a young unmarried woman, residing with her parents in Wright Street, Bradley.
The inquest had been adjourned to allow a post mortem examination to be made, and Mr. Wm. John Nolan, surgeon, now deposed that he made the examination on Tuesday, August 4th, and found that the body was that of a fully-developed female child. There were no marks of violence on any part of the body, and after applying the usual scientific tests he came to the conclusion that the child was born alive, it having died from suffocation. All the organs were healthy. On the 31st July witness examined the young woman, Sarah Betsy Hill, whom he found had given birth to a child, and who, in answer to his questions, denied having been pregnant, or that she cohabited with any man since the birth of her last child.
Sarah Betsy Hill was then called, and after being cautioned by the Coroner, made a statement to the effect that she was delivered of the child on the 31st July, in a closet at the rear of the house, where it was subsequently found by the police. She did not see the child. She was not aware when she went to the closet that the birth would occur so soon, and she did not go with the intention of making away with the child.
Inspector Harrison said this completed the evidence, and the deputy coroner then briefly summed up, pointing out to the jury that the question they had to consider was whether the suffocation of the child was accidental or otherwise. The jury, after a short deliberation, returned a verdict that the child was Accidentally Suffocated during its birth in the closet.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 22/8/1885 - Advert

“GLOBE HOTEL, Mount Pleasant, Bilston.
Henry Baker begs to tender his many thanks to his wide circle of friends and the public, for their very liberal patronage and support during the past three years, at the above hotel, and to introduce his successor, Mr. *William F. Clarke*, who, he feels sure, will be ever ready to seek to merit the support of his customers.
William F. Clarke, upon entering the hotel, begs to assure the many friends of Mr. *Baker* and the public, that nothing shall be wanting on his part, to serve all in the hotel as before, and kindly solicits the patronage of the old customers and the public generally.
The supply of first-class Spirits, Ales, Porter, Cigars, &c, will be of the very best kind.”

William Francis Clarke = William Francis Clark

Wolverhampton Express and Star 31/10/1885

“The annual dinner of G (Bilston) Company of the 3rd Volunteer Battalion South Staffordshire Regiment took place in the Drill Hall, Mount Pleasant, on Friday night, when there was a most successful gathering A dinner of a recherche character was provided by Mr. *Clarke*, of the GLOBE HOTEL.....”

Darlaston Weekly Times 7/11/1885 - Advert

“*William F. Clarke*, GLOBE HOTEL, Mount Pleasant, Bilston.

William F. Clarke, having taken to the above Hotel, begs to inform the Public that all Wines, Spirits, Ales, and Porter are of the best Quality, and Cigars of Finest Brands.

He has a good Club-Room, and can well accommodate Private Meetings, and Auction Sales.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/1/1886

“Birmingham Quarter Sessions.....

George Hewitt, Rotherham, horse-dealer, and John Elvin, Birmingham, were indicted for conspiring together to defraud *William Clarke*, landlord of the GLOBE HOTEL, Bilston, of four pigs, of the value of £6 10s in May, 1884. Mr. Stubbins prosecuted, and Mr. B. B. Hackney (instructed by Mr. F. Hooper) defended.

It was alleged that on the date in question the parties met at the Grand Turk Inn, Hockley, and prosecutor agreed to sell prisoners four pigs. After sending the pigs away Hewitt said that he had left his cheque-book at home, and Elvin then said he would help to pay for the pigs.

Mr. Hackney, for the defence, denied that there had been any fraudulent intention on the part of the prisoners. The deal was a bona fide one, and prosecutor had his remedy in a County Court rather than by preferring a criminal charge against the prisoners.

The jury found the prisoners guilty, and Elvin was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment, with hard labour, and Hewitt to nine months' imprisonment, with hard labour.”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/2/1886

“At Bilston Police Court, on Friday, application was made by Mr. Plumptre for the renewal of the license of the CAPE OF GOOD HOPE INN, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, to Mr. Matthew J. Blewitt, solicitor, Birmingham, the administrator of the late licensee Martha Lee. This house was one of the oldest in Bilston, and no objection had been made to it whilst it was held by Mrs. Lee.

Mr. Dallow, on behalf of Mr. *Clark*, the licensee of the GLOBE INN, which is only next door to the CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, urged that another public house was not required in the neighbourhood. A memorial against the application, signed by the inhabitants of Mount Pleasant, was presented by Mr. Fellows.

Mr. Whitehouse said the Bench sympathised with the mortgagees of the property, but they must refuse the application.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 3/4/1886

“The first annual dinner in connection with the Bilston Volunteer Athletic Club took place on Tuesday evening last, at the GLOBE HOTEL, Bilston.....”

Darlaston Weekly Times 17/4/1886

“Grand Independent Order of Loyal Caledonian Corks.

On Tuesday, upwards of 100 officers and brothers attended at the STAG INN, Crown Street (Brother Brown's) and walked in procession to the GLOBE HOTEL (Brother *Clark's*), to open a Branch Lodge of the above Order, the officiating members being the officers of 384 Lodge held at Brother Brown's. After the initiation of a good number of new members, Brother J. Stokes presided at the piano, and songs were given.....”

Darlaston Weekly Times 24/6/1887

“The Queen's Jubilee. Grand Banquet in the Town Hall, Bilston.

On Wednesday evening last a public banquet was held in the Town Hall, Bilston, for the purpose of commemorating the Jubilee.....

The repast was of a most recherche character and was admirably served up, and reflected great credit upon the caterer, Mr. *W. F. Clarke*, of the GLOBE HOTEL, who certainly deserves a word of praise for the excellent manner in which this part of the programme was carried out. The following was the menu.

Soup – Julienne. Fish – Salmon, Turbot, Fennel and Lobster Sauce. Joints – Roast Beef, Boiled Leg of Mutton and Capers. Roast Lamb. Removes – Roast Chicken and Asparagus, Ham, Tongue. Sweets – Jubilee Pudding, Plum Pudding, Gooseberry Tarts, Koffee and Strawberry Creams. Jellies – Blanc-mange. Cheese – Gorgonzola and Cheddar. Salad.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 8/7/1887

“The ceremony of formally opening the newly-constituted Bilston Bowling Club took place yesterday (Thursday) under favourable auspices. The bowling green is situated behind the GLOBE HOTEL in Mount Pleasant, with which establishment it is connected, and it has been laid out by the enterprising proprietor, Mr. *W. Clarke*, at considerable expense.

The club, having already secured a goodly number of members it was determined to commence active operations, which was accordingly done yesterday. In the afternoon a number of competitions took place with the bowls, and the weather being gloriously fine there was a large attendance and the healthy out-door pastime was thoroughly enjoyed. In the evening the members dined at the GLOBE HOTEL, when a company numbering about 30 sat down to the very excellent spread provided by the landlord, and which was served up in a way that reflected the greatest credit upon his well-known establishment.....

The Vice-President next proposed ‘The Host and Hostess’ whom he warmly eulogised for their splendid catering. The toast was received with musical honours. Mr. *Clarke* thanked them for the honour they had done him. He said the change effected in the bowling green showed in a small way what could be done with the Park. He was sensible that the green was not yet perfect, but with their kind encouragement and support he hoped to greatly improve it. The proceedings were agreeably interspersed with songs and recitations, and a very pleasant evening was spent.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 21/8/1889 - Advert

“Bilston Horticultural Society. The Ninth Grand Annual Exhibition of Flowers, Fruits, and Vegetables.....

Prizes amounting to upwards of £140! Numerous special prizes for cottagers.

The splendid Templar Prize Brass and Reed Band is engaged.

Special engagement of the celebrated Japanese Trio, in their wonderful acrobatic performances, Bamboo Perche and Japanese Ladder Performances.

The continental wonders, Marti and Julietta, pyramid chair artists; teeth performances, feats of strength, and Norwegian Spar Act.

Each evening there will be a Grand Display of Fireworks.

Prof. Heller’s Royal Punch and Judy.

Illumination of the Avenue and Grounds with Chinese Lanterns.

Refreshments will be provided by Mr. *W. F. Clarke*, GLOBE HOTEL, Mount Pleasant.

Admission Sixpence.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/4/1890

“An adjourned inquest was held yesterday at the GLOBE INN, Bilston, before Mr. W. H. Phillips (coroner), touching the death of John Walton (16).

In the course of further evidence, Ellen Elizabeth Morgan stated that she had been with Lloyd (the young man who was alleged to have caused Walton’s death) on the evening of the 9th inst to fetch coal, and when passing the COCK INN a number of boys threw clods at them.

A boy named Enoch Jones stated that Lloyd threw a stone, which caught a stick witness held under his arm, and bounced on to deceased’s head. Walton fell, and when got up he was bleeding from the head.

Dr. S. Ashby Smith, Bilston, who had made a post mortem examination, said he found a small indented fracture of the skull, in which were impacted three small pieces of stone. A small piece of bone was depressed, and pressed its sharp edge on the membrane of the brain. The depressed fracture of the skull, by setting up irritation of the membrane of the brain, was the cause of death. The injury all pointed to deceased having been struck with some pointed stone. It was within the bounds of possibility that had the lad been well attended to at first he would have lived.

Lloyd, who was duly cautioned, said that Walton called him ‘Pecker,’ which was a nickname. He, however, took no notice, but went on, and they wished each other ‘good night.’ He asked deceased not to throw any more clods, but he only laughed, and the boys continued throwing, and he then threatened to throw back. One of the boys came up and struck him twice with a stick on his back, and then punched him. Subsequently he saw the boys waiting for him, and he went home another way.

The jury, after a consultation of twenty minutes, returned a verdict of Justifiable Homicide, the result of deceased’s being struck by a stone thrown by John Lloyd. They also desired to express a strong opinion with reference to the dangerous practice of boys throwing in the public roads. They wished to call the attention of the police to the matter, and hoped that at the earliest opportunity an example would be made of the boys so offending.”

Birmingham Mail 17/3/1891

“Birmingham Assizes This Day.....

An action was brought by *William Francis Clarke*, licensed victualler, Bilston, against Joseph Chadwick, 12, Albert Road, Aston, to recover costs in consideration of the plaintiff rescinding a contract between them. Mr. Hugo Young and Mr. R. Harrington for the plaintiff, and Mr. Lawrence for the defendant.

The defendant, who was formerly a traveller or manager for Messrs. Showell and Sons, pleaded that the contract was rescinded by mutual consent, and the charges were excessive. The contract was for the plaintiff to sell to defendant the GLOBE TAVERN, Bilston, and when the contract was cancelled, as the plaintiff says, for the convenience and at the request of the defendant, the plaintiff alleges the defendant agreed to pay certain sums.”

AND

Birmingham Mail 18/3/1891

“The hearing of the case *Clarke v Chadwick* was resumed this morning. Mr. Acland appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Lawrence for the defendant.

The action was one in connection with a contract to sell the GLOBE TAVERN, Bilston, and to recover certain sums that were agreed to be paid when the contract was cancelled at defendant’s own risk. Plaintiff was lately the owner of the GLOBE TAVERN, and the defendant agreed to buy the house for £2,000. This agreement the defendant asked to be cancelled, but plaintiff could not agree to that unless the defendant paid certain costs and damages. This he agreed to do, but he had not yet paid the costs and damages, which were now sued for.

Mr. Lawrence stated that he and Mr. Acland had agreed upon the damages in case a verdict was given for plaintiff, and he proposed to deal with the case upon a question of law. In arguing the point Mr. Lawrence mainly relied upon the constitution of the contract as one requiring to be in accord with the statute of frauds.

His Lordship said that if he could find an honest way of giving judgement for the plaintiff he should do so. He thought that as the facts stood the defence was a disgraceful one, yet, of course, the defendant was entitled to his disgrace and money if he could claim them by law. He would deliver judgement in London.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 27/3/1891

“Birmingham Assizes. *Clark v Chadwick*.

To the Editor of the *Daily Post*.

Sir. In your report of the trial of this action some days ago, and in your leader today, you speak of my client as being ‘lately the owner’ of the GLOBE INN, Bilston. He is at the present moment not only the occupier but the owner of the freehold thereof. As your statement may prejudice him, I shall be glad if you will insert this as a correction. As the last paragraph of your leader imputes negligence to my client or myself, in not having reduced the agreement into writing, let me say that both my client and myself used every effort to induce the defendant to give it in writing, without effect.

Edward Mallard, Plaintiff’s Solicitor. Newhall Street, Birmingham. March 26.”

1891 Census

Mount Pleasant

- [1] *William F. Clark* (50), licensed victualler, born Ealing, Middlesex;
- [2] *Flora Clark* (42), wife, born Winshan, Somerset;
- [3] *Maggie Lloyd* (21), visitor, born Handsworth, Staffordshire;
- [4] *Helen E. Herbert* (20), barmaid, born Cheltenham;
- [5] *Joshua C. Jones* (23), hostler, born Tarlow, Shropshire;
- [6] *Elizabeth Griffiths* (17), domestic servant, born Bilston;
- [7] *John Humphries* (27), boarder, comedian, actor, born Portsmouth;
- [8] *Wilfred Protheroe* (26), boarder, comedian, actor, born Bristol;
- [9] *Thomas J. P. Jenkins* (26), boarder, tragedian, actor, born Carmarthen;
- [10] *Ruby Jenkins* (24), boarder, tragedian, actor;

The Era 5/3/1892 - Advert

“Wanted, for W. Smithson’s Pantomime, Ladies that can Sing and Dance. Send photos and lowest terms, H. Thompson, GLOBE HOTEL, Bilston.”

WANTED, for W. Smithson’s Pantomime,
Ladies that can Sing and Dance. Send photos. and
lowest terms, H. THOMPSON, Globe Hotel, Bilston.

The Era 10/12/1892

"GLOBE HOTEL, Bilston, December 4th.

Dear Mr. Chapman. Please accept my best thanks and congratulations for the perfect manner in which you have designed and painted my scenery for 'The Pointsman.' Some of the scenes I consider works of art. They certainly are very beautifully painted, and do you great credit. I shall be only too pleased to say a good word for you at any time you may ask.

Sincerely yours, Arthur Percival."

The Era 4/3/1893

"On the occasion of Mr. J. F. Preston's birthday, February 28th, the members of the Jane Shore company presented him with three handsome volumes, Shakespeare, Scott, and Moore. Mr. George De Lara made the presentation, and in a neat speech expressed the good wishes of the company, who were afterwards entertained by Mr. Preston at the GLOBE HOTEL, Bilston, where things were kept merry until a late hour."

Birmingham Daily Post 15/8/1894 - Advert

"Partner wanted, with capital, for Scenic Painting and Decorative Business.

Address, Artist, GLOBE HOTEL, Bilston."

PARTNER Wanted, with capital, for Scenic Painting and Decorative Business.—Address, Artist, Globe Hotel, Bilston.

The Stage 14/3/1895 - Advert

"Mr. Henry Leger, Disengaged. Offers invited. Principal Heavy Business, Rough or Refined. Special parts, Acting, Stage or General Management. Address, GLOBE HOTEL, Bilston."

MR. HENRY LEGER, Disengaged. Offers invited. Principal Heavy Business, Rough or Refined. Special parts, Acting, Stage or General Management. Address, Globe Hotel, Bilston.

Bromsgrove & Droitwich Messenger 26/6/1897

"A friendly bowling match between the Talbot Hotel, Belbroughton, and the GLOBE HOTEL, Bilston, bowling clubs, took place on Saturday on the ground of the latter club, resulting in a win for the visitors."

[Talbot 122; GLOBE 100.]

The Stage 30/9/1897

"On Friday last, September 25, Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Grahame entertained the whole of their Mankind Company to supper at the GLOBE HOTEL, Bilston, the occasion being the second anniversary of their marriage. An enjoyable evening was spent. Toasts were proposed for Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Grahame and for the success of their new enterprise, Honour Bright. Amongst the guests were Mr. E. T. de Banzie (who travelled from London), Mr. Luke Foster, Mr. Harry Battersley, and Mr. and Mrs. Corbett."

Westminster Gazette 23/2/1899

"Detective Kent, of the Bilston police force, was in the GLOBE HOTEL, Bilston, yesterday, when he heard a bugle march being played on the piano in an adjoining room. He arrested the performer – a man known to play that particular tune – on a charge of theft in a Chesterfield hotel, and the pianist at once confessed his guilt."

AND

Denbighshire Free Press 4/3/1899

"It is dangerous to play the bugle march on the piano in Bilston. A professional pianist named George Barrett, of London, was wanted at Chesterfield on a charge of theft. He was known to play a certain bugle march very effectively. One morning a Bilston detective was in the GLOBE HOTEL, Bilston, when he heard a bugle march being played on the piano in an adjoining room. His suspicions being aroused he went in, found Barrett, and arrested him."

Stephen Allen Corbett – see also OLDE WHITE ROSE, Lichfield Street, and GREAT WESTERN, Hall Street.

William Nathaniel Cottrell – see also FIVE WAYS, Cradley Heath, Rowley Regis, STAR, Tipton, and LEOPARD, Church Street, Bilston.

1901 Census

Mount Pleasant – GLOBE HOTEL

[1] Alfred Guest (42), licensed victualler, born Netherton;

[2] Laura Guest (34), wife, born Netherton;

[3] William Gower (32), boarder, clicker in boot warehouse, born Netherton;

[4] William Westwood (63), ostler, born Cradley Heath;

[5] Louise Townsend (25), barmaid in hotel, born Netherton;

[6] Martha Kinsey (16), domestic servant, born Bilston;

[The license was not transferred to Alfred Guest until 1902.]

Gloucestershire Echo 21/2/1902

“At the GLOBE HOTEL, Bilston, on Thursday, Mr. T. A. Stokes, coroner, held an inquest on the body of John Cameron Scott (29), a draughtsman, of Phoenix Street, Park Village, near West Bromwich, who shot himself on Tuesday night under circumstances already reported, in the presence of his fiancé, Miss Florence Griffiths, daughter of Mr. Griffiths, the manager of Messrs. Bradley’s Works, Willenhall Road.

Miss Griffiths was the first witness, and she stated that she was engaged to be married to the deceased. On Tuesday, about half-past six, he went to her father’s house, and remained until nearly a quarter-past eleven. At that time he got up to leave the house, and said, ‘Good-bye Florrie.’ Witness said, ‘No, not Good-bye, Jack, but Good night.’ Immediately she heard a pistol-shot and a fall. At the moment her back was towards him, and on turning round she saw him lying on the floor, and ran out of the room and called her father. He had seemed as usual, and an hour or so before was singing. There had not been any quarrel, and as far as witness knew the deceased had no monetary troubles.

Questioned as to whether the wedding day had been fixed, witness said ‘there was another girl in it,’ but although the engagement had not been broken off there had been a little unpleasantness, but it had passed away before Christmas, and they were on the same friendly terms as before. Witness said she could give no reason for the deceased taking his life, ‘unless it was this other girl.’

At this stage Detective Kent produced the following undated letter, enclosed in an envelope bearing the postmark November 28, 1901.

‘To Miss Griffiths. I have found out by good authority that you have been seen several times in company with my boy, and I only learned about a fortnight ago that he was coming to visit you very often at your home. In short, I know everything that has been between you, and as I have been engaged to the same person for four years and have received two rings from him, and have now in my possession letters speaking of marriage, etc, I am determined that neither you nor anyone else shall take him from me. I have the prior claim, and both myself and mother will fight to the end to gain my rights, even though it may cost £1,000. It seems to me he has been fascinated for a time, then inveigled into an attachment with you; but he shall never have you, I am determined. As I have said previously, I am resolved to take the case to law and have my deserts. Fancy being engaged to a man for four years, then having him ‘entrenched’ by a passing fancy! But that shall never be. If ever there was a scene published, this will figure to the front. Law will step in and then everything shall be revealed. Thank goodness money is no object in my case, and vengeance shall indeed be mine. I am determined to have full recompense. The proceedings will have to rest for a while, just while I step in and play my little part, which I can tell you shall be enacted with full scenery. Yours, M. Eadie.’

In answer to the coroner, Miss Griffiths said she received that letter in November, but the unpleasantness that ensued had passed.

George Frederick Griffiths, the father of the last witness, said the family had just finished supper, and there had been some singing, when Scott and his daughter left the room to say ‘Good night.’ As his daughter passed through the door she remarked that as it was cold they had better go into the breakfast room. A few minutes later witness heard a report of the discharge of a pistol, and rushed out of the room. He met his daughter in the hall, and he took her and his wife into a neighbour’s house. On returning he found Scott lying in a pool of blood and quite dead, a shot having entered his temple. During the evening he appeared to be quite rational. He was well educated and well informed, and during the evening a discussion had taken place on the works of various poets and authors. The deceased also sang, and appeared to be perfectly sane. The reason for his act was an absolute secret.

Detective Kent handed to the coroner a number of telegrams which had passed between the deceased and someone named Frost, at 123 Salop Street, Dudley, making engagements at various times and places.

In answer to questions, Mr. Griffiths explained that 'Frost,' the person referred to in the telegram, was 'M. Eadie Frost,' and there was no doubt about Frost being the surname of the lady who wrote the letter. Holland, another name given in the telegrams, was the married sister of Scott, with whom he had been staying. Among other things found on the deceased was a funeral card.

The Coroner, in summing up, said his opinion was that a man who took his life was more or less insane, unless he did it to escape being arrested for some serious crime. In this case there did not seem to be any reason for the man committing suicide unless he was worried by the girl who signed herself 'Eadie.' Scott did not seem to have adopted the old adage of being off with the old love before getting on with the new. Yet Miss Griffiths said she knew all about it, and that any unpleasantness that had arisen had been smoothed over.

The jury returned a verdict that deceased committed Suicide whilst Temporarily Insane."

Walsall Advertiser 28/3/1903

"The first general meeting of the Staffordshire Bowling Association, which has its headquarters at the RING 'O BELLS, Dudley Road, Wolverhampton, and was started in December last, was held on Tuesday night.....

The following clubs sent representatives GLOBE, Bilston."

Walsall Advertiser 13/6/1903

"Bowling. Staffordshire Association Cup. First Round.

North Walsall v GLOBE (Bilston). Played at North Walsall on Saturday in splendid weather. After some good bowling the home team won by 108 points."

Walsall Advertiser 20/6/1903

"Bowling. Staffordshire Association Cup. First Round.

GLOBE (Bilston) v North Walsall. The second game in connection with the first round of the above competition took place on Saturday last on the GLOBE INN green, Bilston. The weather was anything but favourable for the game, but did not prevent the encounter being brought to a finish. North Walsall again played good bowls, and won by 8 points, passing into the next round of the competition by a lead on the two games of 116."

The Stage 3/12/1908 - Advert

"Little Keeno. Moss's Empires till 1912. All coms., Harry Joseph, GLOBE HOTEL, Bilston; next, New Inn, Amesbury."

LITTLE KEENO.

MOSS'S EMPIRES till 1912.
All coms., Harry Joseph, Globe Hotel, Bilston; next, New Inn, Amesbury.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 29/9/1909 - Advert

"Wanted, a good General, able to assist in bar; not under 20.
Apply, Mrs. Walters, GLOBE HOTEL, Bilston."

WANTED, a good General, able to assist in
bar; not under 20.—Apply, Mrs. Walters,
Globe Hotel, Bilston.

1911 Census

5, Mount Pleasant – GLOBE HOTEL

- [1] James Walters (42), manager public house, born Bilston;
- [2] Louie Walters (35), wife, married 7 years, born Netherton;
- [3] Harry J. Walters (15), son, shearing tin plate, born Bilston;
- [4] Frederick E. Walters (11), son, school, born Bilston;
- [5] Louie May Walters (5), daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] Ethel G. Walters (4), daughter, born Bilston;
- [7] Clara Evans (20), domestic servant, born Bilston;
- [8] Beatrice Wilkes (17), domestic servant, born Bilston;
- [9] Yvonne Laing (21), boarder, theatrical actress, born London:

AND

Mount Pleasant – c/o GLOBE HOTEL

- [1] Edwin Bell (33), lodger, theatrical manager, born Manchester;
- [2] Maude Bell (32), lodger, married 14 years, Born London:

Sports Argus 7/6/1913

“Bowling Notes.....

The second round of the challenge cup put up by the Staffordshire Association was commenced and finished last week.....

GLOBE (Bilston) beat Willenhall St. Giles on the aggregate by 36 points.”

The Era 10/5/1916 - Advert

“Wanted, to rehearse immediately, owing to group being called up, Two really Funny Comedians, who have worked panto or revue together; own specialities; one capable of good Charlie Chaplin imitation. Photos, references, and lowest terms.

Geo. Gordon, GLOBE HOTEL, Bilston.”

South Staffordshire Times 11/10/1919

“Arthur Chapman (43), Mount Pleasant, Wilnecote, was summoned for being on the licensed premises of the GLOBE HOTEL and doing wilful damage to the extent of 6s.

James Newton Cowling, the landlord, said that on Saturday evening about 9.35 the man came into the snug. He refused to serve him. He went into the vault and asked him to get off the premises. He declined to do so and commenced to throw glasses and jugs at his wife and himself. He broke four glasses in all, the cost being 6s 1d.

PC Anslow corroborated.

Defendant said he had been on a char-a-banc ride and had something to drink. He had been teetotal for six years.

The Stipendiary: See what a bad thing it is to be teetotal for six years. (Laughter.)

A fine of 10s was imposed for being drunk, 10s for wilful damage, and 6s for the broken jugs, or seven days in default in each case.”

The Stage 3/3/1921 - Advert

“Wanted, smart Gentleman, to learn Acting Management, able to take charge of Musical Comedy. Experience not essential. Manager with capital preferred. Interest and salary from commencement. Advertiser well-known proprietor.

Address, Revue, GLOBE HOTEL, Bilston.”

1921 Census

5, Mount Pleasant – GLOBE HOTEL

[1] *James Newton Cowling* (47), licensed victualler, born Scarborough, Yorkshire;

[2] *Evelyn Cowling* (39), wife, born Knutsford, Cheshire;

[3] *James Jack Cowling* (12), son, school, born Manchester;

[4] *Harriet Darlington* (70), mother-in-law, widow, born Fulshaw, Cheshire,

[5] *Bertie Charles Halls* (34), boarder, actor, born Baseford, Nottingham;

[6] *Eleanor S. Halls* (30), boarder, actress, born London;

[7] *George Brown* (58), tailor, born Wolverhampton:

Bilston & Willenhall Times 29/11/1924

“The annual smoking concert of the Bilston and District Bowling League was held at the GLOBE HOTEL, Bilston, on Thursday night, when the championship cup and medals were presented.....”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 10/1/1925

“Many players will be interested in the proposal to extend the bowling green at the GLOBE HOTEL, Bilston, and the suggestion also to provide a gate giving entrance to the green from Lewis Street. The necessary permission for the improvements has been obtained. In an application to the magistrates, Mr. H. A. Owen, manager of Bent’s Brewery Co., explained to the satisfaction of the Bench what it proposed to do, and no objection was offered by Superintendent Higgs, who thought that the principal feature was the new approach to the premises.”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 21/2/1925

“A pleasant evening was spent at the GLOBE HOTEL, Bilston, in connection with the R.A.O.B. Shakespeare Lodge, when the Wulfruna Knights Chapter, Grand Primo, Grand Lodge Officers, and Brothers, representing several Lodges, assembled on the occasion of the raising to the second degree and presentation of a jewel to Brother *Fair*.”

Lichfield Mercury 2/7/1926 - Advert

“Wanted, Refined Girl as Bar General; two kept; no washing; good home and wages; references required; would teach bar work if otherwise suitable.

Apply, by letter, stating all particulars, age, etc, Mrs. *Fair*, GLOBE HOTEL, Bilston, Staffs.”

Bilston and Willenhall Times 8/12/1928

“At the GLOBE HOTEL, Bilston, on Thursday night, the annual supper and presentation of prizes won by members of the Bowling League took place.....”

Gloucester Citizen 6/1/1937

“Ernest Fearncombe Oaten (60), of Penn, Wolverhampton, was to have given evidence of identification at an inquest on his brother at Bilston yesterday, but he died just before the inquiry at the Police Station was due to begin. Feeling ill, he entered the GLOBE HOTEL and called for a brandy and port, but before he could pick up the glass he collapsed and died before the arrival of a doctor.”

1939 Register

Mount Pleasant – GLOBE HOTEL

[1] *John McArdle*, date of birth 5/10/1907, licensee, manager, married;

[2] *Ethel I. McArdle*, dob 5/9/1911, hotel duties, unpaid domestic duties, married:

John McArdle was a devout Catholic.

He was called up for service in 1941 with the WT Reserve as NAAFI manager.

He died in 2000.

[The Black Country Bugle ran a series of articles, following his wartime diary, from 14/1/2010.]

John McArdle – see also PIPE HALL.

Birmingham Daily Post 1/8/1953

“Inns in Midland counties which have been scheduled during the past twelve months by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government as being of outstanding historical and architectural interest.....

GLOBE HOTEL, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, Staffordshire.”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/1/1962

“A Bilston woman waited for news late last night of her husband who disappeared from home at lunch-time on Saturday. Mr. *Henry Southall Owen*, aged 53, of the GLOBE HOTEL, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, may be suffering from loss of memory, believes his wife. Mrs. *Lillian Owen* said last night, ‘He has been very worried lately by roughs who have caused us a lot of bother.’ Mr. *Owen* was reported to have been seen earlier yesterday in Wolverhampton.”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/1/1962

“Mr. *Harry Southall Owen*, aged 53, licensee of the GLOBE HOTEL, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, is in bed at home resting on medical advice and trying to recall what happened to him during six days which are blank in his memory. He disappeared from home on January 13 and ‘came to’ in London. How he reached London and what happened in the meantime he cannot remember. Mr. *Owen* said, ‘This has never happened to me before. I can’t understand it. But I had been worrying over trouble I had with the roughs here.’ His wife, Mrs. *Lillian Owen*, her week of worry over, said, ‘It’s wonderful to have him back.’”

[1967]

Closed

It was demolished in the 1960s.

THE BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1861.
IN THE COURT OF BANKRUPTCY FOR THE BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT.

Notice is hereby given that an Order of Discharge was granted to **ENOCH MEACHEM**, of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Inn-keeper and Charter Master, on the 26th day of November last.

WILLIAM HENRY DUIGNAN, Walsall,
Solicitor for the said Enoch Mechem.

1862

The **GLOBE INN, BILSTON**.—Desirable **FREEHOLD LICENSED INN** at **BILSTON**, in the county of Stafford.

MR. R. H. HARPER has been favoured with instructions from Mr. Thomas Price to **OFFER** for **SALE** by **PUBLIC AUCTION**, upon the Premises, on **TUESDAY, March 28, 1876**, at six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then and there read.

All that valuable and genuine **FREEHOLD OLD-LICENSED HOUSE**, known as the **Globe Inn**, situate at **Mount Pleasant, Bilston**, together with the Licence, Goodwill, Fixtures, and immediate possession. The House and Premises are in thorough repair, and have recently been extended, situate on the main road to the important towns of **Willenhall** and **Walsall**, and joining the **Public Office** at which **Petty Sessions** are held on **Tuesday** and **Friday** in each week, and are most eligibly situated for a general and increasing trade.

The Premises stand on an area of upwards of **2,000 yards**, and contain spacious **Liquor Vaults**, **Bar**, large **Smokeroom**, **Clubroom**, with **Foresters' Court** attached, **Ante-room**, seven **Bed-rooms**, **Kitchen**, with cooking range, **Brewhouse**, extensive **Cellarage**, **Gateway** entrance to large **yard**, **Stabling**, **Warehouses**, **Offices**, large **Garden**, and the requisite **Outbuildings**.

This house is not only adapted for its business capabilities, but is replete and comfortable as a residence.

The **Auctioneer** calls special attention to this important property, as it is an opportunity rarely to be met with.

The party purchasing will be required to take the stock-in-trade and effects at valuation.

Part of the purchase-money may remain
For further particulars and to view, apply to the Proprietor,
J. W. HALL, Esq., Solicitor, or of the **Auctioneer**, all of **Bilston**.

Auctioneer's Offices, 5, Market-street, Bilston.

1876

THE GLOBE HOTEL,
MOUNT PLEASANT, BILSTON,
(New Proprietor).

HENRY BAKER

Has pleasure in announcing to his many Friends and the Public that he has entered upon the above Hotel, formerly occupied by Mr. T. Bramhill, and begs to inform them that he has selected a

SPLENDID NEW STOCK OF SPIRITS AND WINES,
WITH CHOICE SAMPLES OF ALES AND PORTERS,

all will be sold at the most Reasonable Charges.

A SPLENDID STOCK OF CIGARS.

H.B., offers every accommodation to his customers, and hopes to merit their patronage and support.

TO AUCTIONEERS, PROMOTERS OF ENTERTAINMENTS, MEETINGS, &c.

A VERY LARGE ROOM

Suitable for holding Sales, Meetings, Entertainments, &c., can be secured at the

GLOBE HOTEL, MOUNT PLEASANT, BILSTON.

H. BAKER, PROPRIETOR

1882

QUEEN'S OWN ROYAL YEOMANRY CAVALRY.
WOLVERHAMPTON TROOP.

THE SIXTH ANNUAL BALL
WILL TAKE PLACE

IN THE AGRICULTURAL HALL,
ON **THURSDAY, JANUARY 22ND, 1885,**

Under the Patronage of Lieutenant-Colonel
THE MARQUIS OF ANGLESEA,
and the **OFFICERS** of the **REGIMENT.**

THE BAND OF THE SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE REGIMENT will attend, under Bandmaster **Herr Eisen.**

Dancing to commence at Nine o'clock.

All members of **Yeomanry Cavalry** or **Volunteer Regiments** to appear in uniform.

N.B.—Any Lady or Gentleman wishing to attend in **Fancy Dress** may do so on application to the Secretary, sending full name, address, and character they wish to appear in, for which they will receive a special ticket.

Tickets, 3s. 6d. each, may be obtained from the Stewards, viz., **Sergeant-major SALLER**, 19, Clifton-street; **Sergeant-major STRATFORD**, Wombourn; **Sergeant BAKER**, **Globe Hotel**, Bilston; **Sergeant VALLANCE**, Cleveland-road; **Sergeant J. BOSWELL**, Cleveland-street; **Corporal TUDOR**, 24, Queen-street; **Corporal A. TAYLOR**, Chapel-ash; **Corporal G. GROVES**, Victoria-street; and **Trooper A. BRYAN**, 87, Oak-street, **Wolverhampton.**

All applications for Tickets to be made personally to the **STEWARDS**, or by letter to the **HON. SECRETARY**, not later than **January 19th, 1885.**

SERGEANT A. E. ALLEN,

Hon. Secretary.

63, Queen-street, **Wolverhampton.**

GLOBE HOTEL,
MOUNT PLEASANT, BILSTON.

HENRY BAKER,

Begs to tender his many thanks to his wide circle of friends and the public, for their very liberal patronage and support, during the past three years, at the above hotel, and to introduce his successor, **MR. WILLIAM F. CLARKE**, who, he feels sure, will be ever ready to seek to merit the support of his customers.

WILLIAM F. CLARKE.

Upon entering the hotel, begs to assure the many friends of Mr Baker and the public, that nothing shall be wanting on his part, to serve all in the hotel as before, and kindly solicits the patronage of the old customers and the public generally.

The supply of first-class **Spirits, Ales, Porter, Cigars, &c.**, will be of the very best kind.

1885

WILLIAM F. CLARKE.
GLOBE HOTEL,
MOUNT PLEASANT, BILSTON.

W F. CLARKE having taken to the above
 Hotel, begs to inform the Public that
 all
WINES, SPIRITS, ALES, AND PORTER
 are of the best Quality, and
CIGARS OF FINEST BRANDS.

He has a good CLUB-ROOM, and can well
 accommodate Private Meetings, and Auction
 Sales.

1885

BILSTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY,
 1893.

THE NINTH
GRAND ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF FLOWERS,
FRUITS, AND VEGETABLES,

Will be held in the

GROUNDS OF J. E. SPARROW, Esq.,

Between Wellington-street and Wolverhampton-street
 (Kindly placed at the disposal of the Committee),

TO-DAY (WEDNESDAY), AUGUST 21.

PRIZES AMOUNTING TO UPWARDS OF

£ 1 4 0 !

NUMEROUS SPECIAL PRIZES FOR COTTAGERS.

The Splendid

TEMPLAR PRIZE BRASS AND REED BAND

Is Engaged.

Special Engagement of the Celebrated

JAPANESE TRIO,

In their wonderful Acrobatic Performances, Bamboo Pouch
 and Japanese Ladder Performances.

The Continental Wonders,

MARTI AND JULIETTA,

Pyramid Chair Artists; Teeth Performances, Feats of
 Strength, and Norwegian Spar Act.

Each Evening there will be a Grand Display of

FIREWORKS

By Messrs. C. T. Brock and Co., Sole Pyrotechnists to the
 Crystal Palace Company, London.

PROF. HELLER'S ROYAL PUNCH AND JUDY.

Illumination of the Avenue and Grounds with Chinese
 Lanterns. Refreshments will be provided by Mr. W. F.
 Clarke, Globe Hotel, Mount Pleasant.

Admission SIXPENCE.

A special arrangement has been made with the Wolver-
 hampton Tramway Company to admit passengers to
 Show.

ADMISSION TO SHOW, EIGHTPENCE,

Including Tram Fare both ways, from Queen-street to
 Bilston and back, stopping at the Show Ground.

Tickets may be had from any of the Tram Conductors.

CORNELIUS T. MORRELL, Hon. Sec.

1889

WANTED, to rehearse immediately, owing to
 group being called up, Two really Funny
 Comedians, who have worked panto. or revue to-
 gether; own specialities; one capable of good
 Charlie Chaplin imitation. Photos, references,
 and lowest terms,

GEO. GORDON,
 Globe Hotel, Bilston.

1916

WANTED, smart Gentlemen, to
 learn Acting Management, able
 to take charge of Musical Comedy.
 Experience not essential. Manager
 with capital preferred. Interest and
 salary from commencement. Advertiser
 well-known proprietor. — Address,
 Revue, Globe Hotel, Bilston, Staffs.

1921

WANTED, Refined Girl as Bar-
 General; two kept; no washing;
 good home and wages; references required;
 would teach bar work if otherwise suitable.
 —Apply, by letter, stating all particulars,
 age, etc., Mrs. Fair, Globe Hotel, Bilston,
 Staffs.

1926

GOLDEN CROSS

74, Oxford Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Richard Walker
Sarah Catherine Walker

LICENSEES

John Dawson [1859]
Richard Walker [1862] – 1873);
Sarah Catherine Walker (1873 – 1875);
Martha Pitt (1875):

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Birmingham Journal 1/10/1859 - Advert

“GOLDEN CROSS, Oxford Street, Bilston.

Messrs. Atree and Son will Sell by Auction, on Tuesday Next, October 4th, without reserve, on the above Premises—all the PUBLIC HOUSE FIXTURES, FURNITURE, BREWING PLANT, &c., four-post and tent Bedsteads, prime feather Beds, Mattresses, mahogany Chests of Drawers, Wash Stands, Dressing Tables, Pier and Toilet Glasses, Cane-seated and Windsor Chairs, mahogany Sofas, dining and other Tables, Pictures, eight-day Clock, in case, four-pull Ale Machine and Piping, Screens, Seating, Ale Measures, Frames, Shelves, capital Ale Casks, Coolers, Vats, massive lead Piping, Mash Tub, and other Brewing Utensils; Stock of Ale and Porter, with a variety of useful Effects, the Property of Mr. J. Dawson, who is giving up the Business.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock am.

F. Atree and Son, Auctioneers and Valuers, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 10/10/1860 - Notice

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

Whereas a Petition of *John Dawson*, now and for nine months last past residing in Union Street, Willenhall, in the county of Stafford, and being employed as a Journeyman Joiner and Carpenter; previously and for about two months residing in Cramp Hill, Darlaston, in the county aforesaid, and being employed as a Journeyman Carpenter and Joiner; previously thereto residing at the GOLDEN CROSS, Oxford Street, Bilston, in the county aforesaid, and carrying on the business of a Retailer of Beer and Tobacco; previously and for about four years residing in Union Buildings, in the borough of Stafford, in the county of Stafford, and being employed as a Journeyman Carpenter and Joiner; and for about two years preceding thereto residing in Halls Passage, in Stafford aforesaid, and carrying on the business of a Carpenter and Joiner; an Insolvent Debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire at Wolverhampton, and an Interim Order of Protection from Process having been given to the said *John Dawson*, under the provisions of the statutes in that case made and provided, the said *John Dawson* is hereby required to appear in Court, before the Judge acting in the matter of the said petition, on the 29th day of October, 1860, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, at the Court House, Queen Street, Wolverhampton aforesaid, for his First Examination, touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said statutes; and notice is hereby given that the Choice of Assignees is to take place at the time so appointed.

All persons indebted to the said *John Dawson*, or who have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. Charles Gallimore Brown, the Official Assignee, acting in the matter of the said petition, at his office, in Queen Street, Wolverhampton aforesaid.

George Cresswell, Attorney, Willenhall. C. G. Megevan, High Bailiff.”

GOLDEN CROSS, OXFORD STREET, BILSTON.
MESSRS. ALTREE and SON will SELL by AUCTION, on TUESDAY NEXT, October 4th, without reserve, on the above Premises—all the PUBLIC HOUSE FIXTURES, FURNITURE, BREWING PLANT, &c., four-post and tent Bedsteads, prime feather Beds, Mattresses, mahogany Chests of Drawers, Wash Stands, Dressing Tables, Pier and Toilet Glasses, Cane-seated and Windsor Chairs, mahogany Sofas, dining and other Tables, Pictures, eight-day Clock, in case, four-pull Ale Machine and Piping, Screens, Seating, Ale Measures, Frames, Shelves, capital Ale Casks, Coolers, Vats, massive lead Piping, Mash Tub, and other Brewing Utensils; Stock of ALE and PORTER, with a variety of useful Effects, the Property of Mr. J. Dawson, who is giving up the Business. Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock a.m.
F. Atree and Son, Auctioneers and Valuers, Bilston.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/10/1860

“At the Wolverhampton County Court, on Monday last, the undermentioned insolvents came up for hearing, and were adjudicated upon as follows.....

John Dawson, Union Street, Willenhall, passed, supported by Mr. Creswell. Debts, £70 12s 7d; assets, £2 15s.”

Richard Walker, retailer of beer, 74, Oxford Street. [1862]

Richard Walker, beer retailer, 74, Oxford Street. [1865], [1868]

1871 Census

74, Oxford Street

[1] *Richard Walker* (70), publican, born Peckington, Leicestershire;

[2] *Sarah Catherine Walker* (46), wife, born Osgathorpe, Leicestershire;

[3] *Joseph Matchett* (35), brother-in-law, labourer in iron works, born Osgathorpe, Leicestershire:

Richard Walker died in the 2nd quarter of 1873.

Midland Counties Evening Express 12/5/1875

“*Eliza Astley*, a married woman living apart from her husband, at Daisy Bank, pleaded guilty to stealing a jacket, the property of *Walter Pitt*, from the GOLDEN CROSS, Oxford Street, Bilston, on Friday last, and a previous conviction having been proved, was sentenced to six months imprisonment.”

Martha Pitt was fined 40s and costs on 18th June 1875 for permitting drunkenness.

The license renewal to her was refused.

Birmingham Daily Post 28/8/1875

“Yesterday, there was an annual licensing meeting for the Bilston Petty Sessional Division.....

Chief-superintendent *McCrea* presented the ‘black list.’ The beerhouse keepers who had been fined during the year were.....

Martin [sic] *Pitt*, GOLDEN CROSS, permitting drunkenness, £2 and costs.....

All the old licenses would be renewed, excepting those of holders who had been convicted. Their applications would be deferred until the adjourned licensing day.”

[Renewed with a caution at the adjourned brewster sessions.]

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 23/9/1876

“The adjourned licensing session for the Bilston licensing division was held at the Bilston Police Court yesterday.....

The transfer of the license of the GOLDEN CROSS beerhouse, Oxford Street, applied for by Mr. A. J. Langman, was refused.”

The license was abandoned.

Check CROSS

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF STAFFORDSHIRE, HOLDEN AT WOLVERHAMPTON.

8th day of October, 1860.

WHEREAS a Petition of **JOHN DAWSON**, now and for nine months last past residing in Union-street, Willenhall, in the county of Stafford, and being employed as a Journeyman Joiner and Carpenter; previously and for about two months residing in Cramp-hill, Darlaston, in the county aforesaid, and being employed as a Journeyman Carpenter and Joiner; previously thereto residing at the Golden Cross, Oxford-street, Bilston, in the county aforesaid, and carrying on the business of a Retailer of Beer and Tobacco; previously and for about four years residing in Union Buildings, in the borough of Stafford, in the county of Stafford, and being employed as a Journeyman Carpenter and Joiner; and for about two years preceding thereto residing in Hall's Passage, in Stafford aforesaid, and carrying on the business of a Carpenter and Joiner; an Insolvent Debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire at Wolverhampton, and an Interim Order of Protection from Process having been given to the said John Dawson, under the provisions of the statutes in that case made and provided, the said John Dawson is hereby required to appear in Court, before the Judge acting in the matter of the said petition, on the 29th day of OCTOBER, 1860, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, at the COURT HOUSE, QUEEN STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON aforesaid, for his FIRST EXAMINATION, touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said statutes; and notice is hereby given that the Choice of Assignees is to take place at the time so appointed.

All persons indebted to the said John Dawson, or who have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. CHARLES GALLIMORE BROWN, the Official Assignee, acting in the matter of the said petition, at his office, in Queen-street, Wolverhampton aforesaid.

GEORGE CRESSWELL, Attorney, Willenhall.
C. G. MEOEVAN, High Bailiff.

GOLDEN CUP

68, (54), (53), High Street (54, Church Street) / Oat Meal Square, BILSTON

OWNERS

William Darby [1857]
Henry Jones
Henry Plant and Sons [1896]
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1904], [1965]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

John Tomkinson [1822] – [1830]
Ann Tomkinson [1833] – [1835]
George Withers [1838] – [1839]
John Parker [1840] – [1842]
Charles Stanley [] – **1845**;
Joseph Gibson **(1845 – [1846])**
George Rowley [post 1846]
Charles Stanley [1849] – [1850]
Joseph Morrall [1851]
Thomas Hall [1851] – **1852**;
William Machin **(1852)**;
Mrs. Sidonia Smith **(1852)**;
Hannah Barker **(1852 – 1853)**;
William Dulson **(1853 – 1854)**;
Decimus Field **(1854 – 1855)**;
Isaac Beck **(1855 – [])**
George Cox [1858] – [1860]
Joseph Brywood [1861]
Thomas Dolman [1861]
Thomas Bowen [] – **1862**;
Richard Churm **(1862 – [1865])**
Joseph Hodgkiss [1868] – [1870]
Henry Jones [1871] – **1887**;
William John Barnes Bates **(1887 – 1888)**;
Mrs. Elizabeth Shale **(1888 – 1891)**;
William Dudley **(1891 – 1912)**;
Mrs. Elizabeth Dudley **(1912 – 1920)**;
John Silvester **(1920 – 1921)**;
Fred Cox **(1921 – 1926)**;
George Cresswell **(1926 – 1932)**;
Betsy Cresswell **(1932 – 1935)**;
Frank Turton **(1935 – [1940])**
A A Hodgkins [1957]
James Timmins [c.1979]
J Archer [1980s]
Harry Cornfield []
M D Collins [1993]

THE CUP PUBLIC HOUSE
In High-street, Bilston, without the least Reserve.
TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by JOHN RODWAY, upon the premises, on Monday the 11th day of September inst. without reserve, the Licences, Good-will, and very valuable Possession of the above good-accustomed Public House, known by the sign of the CUP, well-situated in High-street, Bilston. There are several numerous and respectable Clubs attached; together with the Household Furniture, Brewing Vessels, &c.—comprising neat tent and four-post bedsteads, feather and other beds, bed clothes, tables, chairs, chest of drawers, looking-glasses, capital eight-day clock, cupboards, tea and glass-ware, screens, grates, pewter and other measures, iron furnaces, mashing-tub, oval and round coolers, ale barrels, ale, spirits, hops, &c.
Particulars will be given in catalogues.
N. B. The sale will commence at half past ten o'clock in the morning, at which time the Licences, Good-will, and Possession of the premises will be sold, subject to the purchaser taking to the fixtures, and such part only of the effects as he may think proper, at a fair valuation.
For further particulars apply to the Auctioneer, Edgaston-street, Birmingham (if by letter, post paid.)

1837

GOLDEN CUP PUBLIC-HOUSE, HIGH-STREET, BILSTON.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, on Monday, the 15th day of June, 1840 (unless in the mean time disposed of by private treaty), the GOODWILL, LICENSE, and POSSESSION of the above desirable establishment, situated in the centre of the mining district, and well frequented by miners and forge and furnace men.

The situation of the premises is inferior to none, being a corner house, and would suit a butcher, pork butcher, or fishmonger, there being but one of the latter established in the town.

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

The sole reason for the present proprietor leaving the same is on account of ill health.

☞ For further particulars, inquire on the premises.

1840

NOTES

54, High Street [1858], [1861], [1864], [1865], [1868], [1870], [1871], [1872], [1874], [1881], [1887], [1892], [1896], [1904]

53, High Street [1891]

68, High Street [1901], [1911], [1916], [1921], [1921], [1932], [1939], [1940]

It was popular for jazz music.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 4/9/1837 - Advert

"The CUP Public House in High Street, Bilston, without the least Reserve.

To be Sold by Auction, by John Rodway, upon the premises, on Monday the 11th day of September inst, without reserve, the Licenses, Goodwill, and very valuable Possession of the above good-accustomed Public House, known by the sign of the CUP, well-situated in High Street, Bilston. There are several numerous and respectable Clubs attached; together with the Household Furniture, Brewing Vessels, &c, comprising neat tent and four-post bedsteads, feather and other beds, bed clothes, tables, chairs, chest of drawers, looking-glasses, capital eight-day clock, cupboards, tea and glass-ware, screens, grates, pewter and other measures, iron furnaces, mashing-tub, oval and round coolers, ale barrels, ale, spirits, hops, &c.

Particulars will be given in catalogues.

NB. The sale will commence at half past ten o'clock in the morning, at which time the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the premises will be sold, subject to the purchaser taking to the fixtures, and such part only of the effects as he may think proper, at a fair valuation.

For further particulars apply to the Auctioneer, Edgbaston Street, Birmingham (if by letter, post paid)."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 20/6/1838

"An investigation, which caused considerable excitement at Bilston, and terminated in the committal of *George Withers*, the landlord of the GOLDEN CUP, upon a charge of manslaughter, took place before H. Smith, Esq, coroner, on the 5th instant, and by adjournment on Friday last, the 15th instant.

From the evidence adduced it appeared that the deceased, Thomas Jones, the cause of whose death was the subject of the inquiry, was found by Moses Goulding, and engineer employed at Barbers Field colliery, about half-past two o'clock in the morning of Sunday the 3rd instant, in the slack hole of the boiler which Goulding was attending. The deceased was lying on his belly, and groaning loudly. Goulding asked him where he had been, and the deceased hooted out 'Murder,' and complained of a pain in his head and at the bottom of his belly. He was quite fresh in liquor, and seemed incapable of knowing anything. He had nether hat nor shoes. Goulding, as the deceased seemed to have lost the use of his legs, carried him into the engine chamber, and about four o'clock, took him to his father's house, which Goulding knew to be in Shropshire Row, in a wheelbarrow. The deceased cried out several times from the pain caused by the motion of the wheelbarrow, and upon Goulding asking him where he had been, he said the last place he could remember was the SHAKESPEARE; and that he had been abused, he did not know by whom or where, but three or four had set about him.

On the deceased being brought to his father's house he was instantly put to bed, and the first words he uttered were 'Father, they have killed me.' He complained, as he had done before, of great pain at the bottom of his belly, and, notwithstanding, the remedial applications used by Mr. Best, the surgeon, who was called to attend him about ten o'clock on Sunday morning, he expired a little before five o'clock on the Tuesday morning following. A post mortem examination of the body was made by Mr. Best, and traces of violent inflammation, quite sufficient to have occasioned death, were discovered in the part where he stated the pain to exist. A very severe bruise was also found on the right side of his neck. The pockets of a black velveteen coat worn by the deceased, and those of his trousers, were found turned inside out, when he was taken home, and in reply to questions from Mr. Best, the deceased said he did not know how many persons had ill-treated him, but there must be more than one, as he recollected one person told another to take off his shoes.

For three or four days after the death of the deceased great difficulty existed in obtaining evidence, which occasioned the adjournment of the inquest, and although the following evidence may justify the belief that the death of the deceased was occasioned by a kick or kicks from *Withers*, yet, from the state in which he was found, it appears certain that he was subsequently robbed, and conveyed to the slack pit where he was found by Goulding.

The evidence connecting *Withers* (who, besides keeping the GOLDEN CUP, is a screw maker, and worked at Mr. Hawkesford's manufactory) with the offence was given by Sarah Doughty, Elizabeth King, Job Williams, and John Tonkes.

Sarah Doughty said that on Saturday night, the 2nd inst, she went to *Withers*'s house, about eleven o'clock, to fetch her husband, and she saw *Withers* push a man in a black velveteen coat out of his house; the man was very tipsy, and *Withers* turned him out three times; the last time *Withers* kicked him in the bottom of his belly, and some of the company came out and took the man into the house where witness, after being absent a short time, saw him again, lying partly upon a chair and partly upon the floor, a little after twelve o'clock.

Elizabeth King, who lives at Ettingshall, and did not know either *Withers* or the deceased, stated that on the night in question she was returning home about half-past eleven o'clock, from Bilston market, and passed by the GOLDEN CUP; she saw a man rattling and kicking at the door, and another man came out, and after saying something about the rattling at the door, kicked the man who was at the door, and threatened to kick his belly out. The man, on getting up, said, '*Withers*, you are d—n—n rogue for kicking me upon the belly.'

John Tonkes, who is a collier, said that about one o'clock on Sunday morning, the 3rd inst, he was passing the house of *Withers*, whom he knew, with a fellow lodger named Williams, and that they saw a man knocking at the house door; he had got hold of the latch, and while he was knocking, the door was opened by *Withers*, who gave the man a kick upon the bottom of his belly. Instantly after the man had received the kick, he fell down upon his knees, quite helpless. *Withers* went in and slammed the door. When *Withers* opened the door, the witness heard him say, 'D—n your eyes, I'll make you remember shaking at my door.' It was a very heavy kick, and the deceased, as he fell down, cried out, 'Oh, dear, he has killed me; he has killed me.' Neither himself nor Williams assisted the man, because two young men, who seemed to know him, came up. One of them said, 'This is Tom Jones, and he lives in Shropshire Row,' they also said they would take him home with them, and thereupon picked him up, and dragged him towards the THREE HORSE SHOES. The man seemed to have no use of his legs, which dragged after him as the two men led him away, and the deceased cried out to them, 'Let me lie; let me lie, lads.' Witness did not know the two men, and the deceased, when witness saw him, had on his hat, shoes, and neckerchief; so that if he was robbed at was not while witness and William were with him.

Job Williams gave similar testimony to that of the preceding witness. He also said he did not know the men who took Jones from *Withers*'s door.

The jury, after hearing an exposition of the law affecting the case, by the coroner, returned a verdict of Manslaughter against *George Withers*, who, being in custody, was committed on the coroner's warrant, to take his trial for the offence at the next assizes."

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/6/1838

"Committed to Stafford County Gaol.....

George Withers, for killing and slaying Thomas Jones, at Bilston."

Staffordshire Advertiser 21/7/1838

"Staffordshire Summer Assizes.....

George Withers was indicted for the manslaughter of Thomas Jones, at Bilston. Mr. Busby appeared for the prosecution; and Mr. Sergeant Ludlow and Mr. Gray for the prisoner.

The prisoner is a publican, residing at Bilston, and on Tuesday, the 5th June, the night on which the unfortunate transaction took place, the deceased had been drinking a good deal throughout the day, and in the evening became very quarrelsome. He went to the house of the prisoner and called for drink, but being in a state of intoxication he was refused, and put out of the house. Before he left the house he fell with great violence against the gas meter. On being turned out he became very noisy and abusive without, kicked the door with tremendous violence, and swore he would go in and have a drink. After some time the prisoner opened the door, and thrust the deceased away; and it was alleged on the part of the prosecution that he kicked the deceased with great violence, who was afterwards found by Moses Golding, an engineer, in his engine house in a state of insensibility.

Mr. Best, surgeon, of Bilston, attended him until his death, which happened on the following Tuesday. He found the region of the abdomen in a very inflamed and diseased state, and he was decidedly of opinion that his death was occasioned by the bruises he had received.

Three witnesses appeared on behalf of the prisoner, who swore that he did not kick the deceased, but merely pushed him from the door, and that he did not do so until his conduct became intolerable. Not guilty."

London Gazette 24/5/1839

“George Withers, late of Bilston, Staffordshire, Licenced Victualler, out of business. In the Gaol of Stafford.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/7/1839

“The Court for Relief of Insolvent Debtors.

The following Prisoners, whose Estates and Effects have been vested in the Provisional Assignee by order of the Court, having filed their Schedules, are ordered to be brought up before a Commissioner on Circuit, to be dealt with according to the statute, at the Court House, Stafford, on the ninth day of August, 1839.....

George Withers, late of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, first following the business of an Iron Turner only, afterwards an Iron Turner together with the business of a Licensed Victualler and Retailer of Spiritous Liquors and Tobacco, afterwards being a Prisoner in the Gaol of Stafford, in the said county, charged with manslaughter, his family still continuing their residence at Bilston aforesaid, carrying on the business of Victualler and Retailer of Spiritous Liquors and Tobacco; since of Bilston aforesaid, carrying on the business of an Iron Turner, Licensed Victualler and Retailer of Spiritous Liquors and Tobacco; afterwards carrying on the business of a Licensed Victualler and Retailer of Spiritous Liquors and Tobacco only, and lately following no business.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/9/1839

“Court for hearing cases of Insolvent Debtors, petitioning for their discharge Discharged conditionally.....

George Withers, victualler, Bilston. If the condition is not complied with, to be imprisoned 4 calendar months.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/11/1839

“Mary Ann Pickstock, licensed victualler, of Bilston, was fined 40s and costs, for selling ale during divine service on Sunday, the 27th of October. The information was preferred by the police.

George Withers, of the GOLD CUP public house, Bilston, was also charged with a similar offence the 20th of October. There was a second information against the defendant, for refusing to admit Mr. Charles Whitehead, the constable, on Sunday the 3rd of November. He was forgiven the first offence on payment of the expenses; and fined 40s and costs for the latter, ‘that the publicans might know,’ as the Magistrates observed, ‘that they were bound to admit constables when attending in discharge of their duty.’”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 13/5/1840 - Advert

“GOLDEN CUP Public House, High Street, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, on Monday, the 15th day of June, 1840 (unless in the meantime disposed of by private treaty). The Goodwill, License, and Possession of the above desirable establishment, situated in the centre of the mining district, and well frequented by miners and forge and furnace men.

The situation of the premises is inferior to none, being a corner house, and would suit a butcher, pork butcher, or fishmonger, there being but one of the latter established in the town.

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

The sole reason for the present proprietor leaving the same is on account of ill health.

For further particulars, inquire on the premises.”

John Parker = John Parkes

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/12/1840 - Advert

“An Old Established Public House, in High Street, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett, on Friday, the 8th day of January, 1841, at the SPREAD EAGLE, INN, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, at five o’clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be produced.

All that old established and well-accustomed Public House, with the outbuildings and appurtenances thereto belonging, known by the sign of the GOLDEN CUP, in High Street, Bilston aforesaid; consisting of convenient cellaring, large front and back kitchens, two small parlours, large club room, smoke room, suitable bed rooms, two brewhouses, outbuildings, and an enclosed back yard, now occupied by Mr. John Parkes, as yearly tenant, at the moderate rent of thirty pounds per annum.

The above property, being a corner situation in a very populous part of the town, is admirably adapted for a Liquor Shop, where an extensive scope of business may be carried on, and consequently is desirable either for persons wishing a Public House or Liquor Shop, either for occupation or as an investment.

To view the same apply on the premises, and for further particulars to the Auctioneer, New Town, Bilston.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 7/2/1841

“John Challiner, of Bilston, wishes to make a match with James Whitehead, of Sedgley, to fight from five to seven cocks or chickens, from £10 to £20 a battle, and £50 the main; to fight in the Wolverhampton Pit, in fair round steel spurs. If Whitehead does not accept this Challiner will fight a match with Thomas Irons, of Birmingham, or any man in England on the same terms. His money is ready at Mr. *John Parkes*’s, GOLDEN CUP, High Street, Bilston, Staffordshire.”

1841 Census

High Street

[1] *John Parkes* (50), publican;

[2] *Ann Parkes* (48);

[3] *James Parkes* (25), m.s.;

[4] *Jane Parkes* (25), born Staffordshire;

[5] *William Parkes* (12), born Staffordshire;

[6] *Henry Parkes* (9 months), born Staffordshire;

[7] *Charles Buttlar* (20), iron labourer, born Staffordshire;

[8] *Mary Clenly* (20), f.s., born Staffordshire:

Birmingham Journal 22/8/1846

“On Thursday, the 14th instant, William Smith was brought up in custody of Sub-inspector Thompson, before J. Forster, Esq, and charged with stealing a cotton gown, the property of Sarah Cartwright. It appeared that the prosecutrix was a servant at the GOLD CUP public house, in Bilston, where the prisoner was drinking the day before. The gown was hanging up in the back kitchen, and after the prisoner had left it was missed. Mr. *Gibson*, the landlord of the house, went after Smith, and brought him back; but before he laid hold of him, the prisoner threw a bundle over the wall, and on Mr. *Gibson* going to see what it was, he found the stolen gown. He was given into the custody of the police; and on inquiry being made, it was discovered that he had been to offer the gown in pledge at Mr. Taylor’s, pawnbroker, but it was refused. He was committed.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 24/10/1846

“Staffordshire Michaelmas Sessions.....

William Smith pleaded guilty to a charge of stealing a cotton gown, the property of Sarah Cartwright, at Bilston. To be imprisoned one calendar month.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 25/11/1846 - Advert

“The GOLDEN CUP INN, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. W. Aston, at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, on Thursday, the 10th day of December next, at five o’clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be read.

All that old established and good accustomed Public House, situate in High Street, Bilston aforesaid, called or known by the sign of the GOLDEN CUP, and now in the occupation of Mr. *Joseph Gibson*.

Also all that Messuage or Dwelling House, adjoining to and at the back of the GOLDEN CUP, and now in the occupation of Thomas Davis.

The premises are Copyhold of Inheritance within the Manor of Stowheath.

For further particulars apply at the office of Mr. Thomas Bolton, solicitor, or to the Auctioneer, Wolverhampton.”

George Rowley was also known as “Ruff” Rowley, a bare knuckle fighter.

He was born in 1821.

Staffordshire Advertiser 13/4/1850

“An inquest was held on Monday last, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, at the GOLDEN CUP, Bilston, on the body of Patrick Corley, a child of about six or seven years of age. The deceased was playing with a little boy named Stanton, about five years old, and other children of a similar age, near a stone pit at Stonefield Colliery, when, it is supposed, he accidentally fell down the shaft. The pit in question was stated to be ‘close to the public road, and then in a most exposed and dangerous state;’ it had since, however, been covered over with a few slabs. The jury returned a verdict of Found Dead.”

1851 Census

High Street

- [1] *Thomas Hall* (33), licensed victualler, born Claines, Worcestershire;
- [2] *Elizabeth Hall* (32), wife, born Thornbury, Herefordshire;
- [3] *Eliza Taylor Hall* (5), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] *Sarah Agnes Hall* (4), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] *Emily Ann Hall* (1), daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] *Mary Powis* (22), house servant, born Bilston;
- [7] *Catharine Dile* (16), house servant, born Ireland:

William Machin = William Meachin

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/1/1852

“At the Petty and Special Sessions on Monday last, being the day appointed for transferring victuallers’ licenses, the following changes took place.....

Thomas Hall, of the GOLDEN CUP, Bilston, to *William Machin*, Worley Wigorn, Worcestershire.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 21/8/1852

“At the weekly sessions held on Monday last, the following licenses were transferred.....

GOLDEN CUP, High Street, Bilston, from *William Meachin* to *Sidonia Smith*, of the same place, widow.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/9/1852

“The annual licensing day for the division of Seisdon North was held at the Public Office, Bilston Street, Wolverhampton, on Thursday last.....

There were about forty applications for new [spirit] licenses, of which eight were granted.....

Mr. Hayes applied, on behalf of Mr. Hollingsworth, for a license to a house, which the applicant had rebuilt at an expense of about £2,000, opposite the Market Place, in Bilston, and near the site of the intended Town Hall. Mr. Hayes handed in a testimonial signed by many respectable inhabitants, and observed that Mr. Hollingsworth was one of the oldest and most respectable inhabitants of Bilston, and he believed was well known to several of the Magistrates.

Mr. Whitehouse said he opposed on behalf of Mr. Holland, a much older resident than Mr. Hollingsworth. By a plan which he would put in, prepared by Mr. Bidlake, the Magistrates would almost be led to suppose that every person in Bilston was a friend of John Barleycorn, for there were, between the top of the street in question and the KINGS ARMS, thirteen beershops, and no less than thirty-one houses which had obtained spirit licenses. (Mr. Hayes observed that Mr. Whitehouse had forgotten to state that Bilston was almost one street.) Mr. Whitehouse admitted that it had been called an overgrown village. There were now, he added, two licensed public houses in the same street unoccupied – the BALLOON and the GOLDEN CUP.

Mr. Underhill opposed for Mr. Price, who keeps a public house about 150 yards from Mr. Hollingsworth’s.

The Magistrates, after some consideration, granted the application. Some conversation ensued as to whether the necessary notices had been given in the form prescribed by law, but the Magistrates were ultimately satisfied that the Act had been complied with.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/9/1852 - Advert

“The GOLDEN CUP INN, Bilston.

To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, the GOLDEN CUP INN, High Street, Bilston. The Stock to be taken to at a fair valuation.

For particulars, apply on the premises, or to Mr. Darbey, High Street, Bilston.”

Hannah Barker = Hannah Burke

Wolverhampton Chronicle 23/2/1853

“At Bilston Petty Sessions on Tuesday, John Burke, John Liney, Thomas Collins, William Turley, Thomas Noon, James Burns, and James Callan, were charged with riotous conduct at the GOLD CUP public house, High Street, on Sunday night last. It appears a number of railway labourers lodge at the house, and these Irishmen went in drunk and began a disturbance, smashing a door and other property. *Hannah Burke*, the landlady, had been obliged to shut her house, in consequence of the threats of the defendants, who said they would kill all in the house. They were severally ordered to find sureties to keep the peace for six months.”

Birmingham Journal 12/3/1853 - Advert

“Old-Licensed Public House, High Street, Bilston.

To be Let, and may be entered into immediately, the GOLDEN CUP INN, Bilston. The Brewing Utensils and Fixtures to be taken at a fair valuation.

For further particulars, apply on the Premises; or to Mr. John Mason, Auctioneer, High Street, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/4/1853

“On Monday the following licenses were transferred.....

Hannah Barker, GOLDEN CUP, Bilston, to *William Dulson*, of Tong, Salop.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 25/7/1857

“Staffordshire Summer Assizes.....

John Birch, John Davis, and Job Stanley were indicted for stealing, on the 24th February, 1857, at Bilston, 60 tons of coal, the property of Mr. William Darby.....

The prisoners who, with the exception of Birch, had been out on bail, were miners, living at Bilston, where Birch had some land, underneath which were mines of coal, and he acted in the capacity of master, and the others as butty colliers of the pit. Adjoining Birch’s land was some belonging to Mr. Darby, the prosecutor, a gentleman living at Wood End, near Lichfield, and on either person’s land was a shaft by which to descend the pit. The coal underneath Mr. Darby’s land had been got with the exception of a piece about three yards square, which was left for the purpose of supporting the superincumbent weight of earth, on the surface of which stood the GOLDEN CUP public house, in High Street, the property of the prosecutor. Up to the 18th of February last, the premises of the prosecutor were uninjured from the excavations below, but before the 25th of that month, a week later, the walls of the house cracked, the roof gave way, and the building was otherwise damaged. The dangerous position in which the house had thus suddenly been thrown led to an examination of the pits below, and it was discovered that the solid coal underneath the premises had been removed, and the roof of the mine left in a tottering and unsafe condition. To connect the prisoners with the transaction, which, it was alleged, was caused by the removal of the coal, witnesses were examined, Mr. Darby having first of all proved that the property was freehold, and belonged to him.....

The learned Judge summed up the evidence, commenting upon it as he proceeded, and observed that the question for the jury to decide was whether the prisoners knew that the coal removed belonged to another person, for if so, that constituted felony, and was in fact a theft.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty against all the prisoners, recommending Davis and Stanley to mercy.

His Lordship observed that he entirely concurred in the verdict, and the distinction which the jury had made between Birch and the others. He did not, however, mean to punish either of them with a sentence of imprisonment, for he did not think it right to punish people for doing that which they may not have known to be illegal. The prisoners then entered into their own recognizances of £50 each to come up for judgement when called upon, and were discharged.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/1/1859

“Some time during the evening of Sunday last, the house of Mr. *George Cox*, the GOLDEN CUP INN, High Street, Bilston, was entered during the absence of the inmates, and half a dozen silver spoons, a silver thimble, together with some other trifling articles, and about £4 in cash, carried off. Mr. *Cox* left home with his family to go to chapel, about five o’clock in the afternoon, and after chapel they went to a friend’s house, and returned home shortly after ten. On attempting to open the front door it was ascertained to be bolted on the inside, and on going round to the back, the back door was found unfastened. It is supposed that the thieves must have opened the front door by means of a skeleton key, and then bolted themselves in, and quietly proceeded to ransack the premises. A terrier dog which had been left in the house was found dead, having been struck on the head with a poker.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/1/1859

“At the Police Court, on Friday, a man named James Campbell was charged with having broken into the premises of Mr. *G. Cox*, the GOLDEN CUP INN, High Street, on the previous Sunday.

The prosecutor stated that early on the morning of that day he left home with his family, and remained out till the evening. On his return about half-past ten pm, he found the back door open, his dog, which had been left in the house, dead in the kitchen, and £4 in money, a quantity of plate, and other articles, carried off.

James Arnold deposed that he saw the prisoner in the vicinity of the prosecutor’s house under very suspicious circumstances. Abraham Cotterill gave similar evidence.

Superintendent M’Crea stated that on the Wednesday after the robbery he searched prisoner’s house, and found about a pint of rum in a bottle, and that a quantity of that spirit had been stolen from Mr. *Cox*’s. The prisoner’s hands were also bitten as if by a dog.

Mr. Claydon, who was retained for the defence, attempted to prove an alibi. The prisoner was, however, committed for trial.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 12/3/1859

“Staffordshire Adjourned Sessions.....

James Campbell, 40, furnaceman, was indicted for breaking into the GOLDEN CUP public house, Bilston, on the evening of the 2nd of January, and stealing therefrom a dozen silver spoons, a pair of sugar tongs, silver cruets stand, £4 in money, a bottle of rum, two scarfs, and a variety of small articles. Mr. Kenealy prosecuted, and Mr. Claydon defended.

Admittance had been obtained by means of a skeleton key. A little dog which was left in the kitchen had been killed. Prisoner had been seen by two or three persons near the premises on the evening of the robbery. When Inspector Machree arrested prisoner he noticed marks of a bite on his hand. Three witnesses were called to prove an alibi; one also stated that Campbell had been bitten by her dog. Notwithstanding that these statements were rather contradictory the prisoner was acquitted.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 13/3/1861

“On Wednesday last a shocking accident, which resulted fatally, occurred in Mr. Sparrow’s forge at Bilston, to a boy named James Bartlett, 14 years of age. An inquest was held at the GOLDEN CUP, on Friday, before Mr. W. H. Phillips, deputy-coroner, when the principal witness called was James Davis, a roller. He deposed that deceased was reaching over the roller boxes for a pair of tongs, and an iron band that encircled them caught the button hole of his coat, and carried him round twenty or thirty times before the engine could be stopped. When deceased was extricated he was quite dead. Witness had several times reprimanded him for reaching over the boxes. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

1861 Census

54, High Street

- [1] *Thomas Dolman* (48), victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *Sarah Dolman* (47), wife, victualler, born Gospel Oak;
- [3] *William Dolman* (19), son, coal miner, born Bilston;
- [4] *Mary A. Dolman* (9), daughter, scholar, born Tipton;
- [5] *James Dolman* (16), son, coal miner, born Bilston;
- [6] *Charlotte Dolman* (6), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [7] *Sarah Roberts* (19), servant, born Sedgley;

Birmingham Daily Post 22/4/1862 - Advert

"The GOLDEN CUP, High Street, Bilston.

By Gilbert and Son. To be Sold, this Old-Licensed House, in the best situation for trade; with roomy and entire Premises; including a Front Liquor Shop, now doing a good and paying trade, which the situation will always command.

Apply to Gilbert and Son, 23, Ann Street, Birmingham."

Richard Churm = Richard Churme = Richard Chirm = Richard Chirms = Richard Churn

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/6/1862

"At Bilston Police Court, on Friday, the following intermediate transfers were made.....

GOLDEN CUP, High Street, *Thomas Bowen* to *Richard Churn*, butty collier."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/3/1863

"At Bilston Police Court, yesterday, Edward Churm, for breaking a panel in a door of the GOLDEN CUP, High Street, was fined 1s, damages 3s, and the expenses."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 29/8/1863

"At Bilston Public Office, yesterday, the undermentioned licenses were suspended.....

Richard Chirm, GOLDEN CUP, Bilston."

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/9/1863

"The meeting for the renewing and granting of licenses was held on Friday, at Bilston police office.....

The following is a list of those who had been proceeded against and fined in the past year.....

Richard Chirm, GOLDEN CUP, Bilston."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/9/1863

"The adjourned licensing meeting for the Bilston division of the county was held on Friday.....

Licenses suspended at the annual licensing meeting were now renewed to the following houses, the landlords being cautioned to conduct them more creditably for the future.....

GOLDEN CUP, Bilston, kept by *Richard Chirm*."

Birmingham Daily Post 8/10/1863 - Advert

"To be Sold, Cheap, a Lantern and Views.

Apply to Mrs. *Chirms*, the GOLDEN CUP, Bilston."

TO be SOLD, Cheap, a LANTERN and VIEWS.—
Apply to Mrs. Chirms, the Golden Cup, Bilston.

Staffordshire Advertiser 21/5/1864

"At Bilston, on Tuesday, the following publicans and beerhouse keepers were fined as under for offences against their licenses.....

Richard Churm, of the GOLDEN CUP INN, High Street, £5 and costs for selling ale after twelve o'clock on Saturday night last."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/9/1864

"Bilston Annual Licensing Meeting.....

During the year the police had summoned before the Bench 32 publicans for various offences against their licenses, and out of that number the following, who were the worst of the lot, were suspended until the adjourned licensing day, on the 22nd inst.....

Richard Churm, of the GOLDEN CUP, High Street; had been fined twice."

Birmingham Daily Post 24/9/1864

"Bilston Adjourned Licensing Day.....

All the licensed victuallers whose licenses had been suspended a fortnight ago were yesterday renewed."

Birmingham Daily Post 29/12/1864

“At the Bilston Petty Sessions, on Tuesday, before the Stipendiary, *Richard Churm*, of the GOLDEN CUP, High Street, was fined £5 and costs, for allowing drunkenness in his house. He had before been fined a similar amount for the same class of offence.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/8/1865

“Annual Licensing Meeting for the Bilston Division.....

The ‘black list’ handed in by the police contained the names of fourteen publicans who had been fined for offences against their license.....

Richard Churm, Bilston.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 7/10/1865

“Bilston Adjourned Licensing Meeting.....

The following, whose names had been placed on the ‘black list,’ had their licenses renewed.....

R. Churm, GOLDEN CROSS [sic], High Street.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 6/8/1870

“At Bilston Police Court, yesterday.....

Patrick Markey was charged with being disorderly, in the GOLDEN CUP, High Street, on Tuesday last. Fined 10s.”

1871 Census

54, High Street – GOLDEN CUP

- [1] *Henry Jones* (55), licensed victualler, born Stourbridge;
- [2] *Eliza Jones* (40), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Harry W. Jones* (25), son, commercial traveller, born Bilston;
- [4] *Jane Clerk* (38), step-sister, no occupation, born Bilston;
- [5] *Mary Fox* (15), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/5/1871

“Bilston Police Court, yesterday.....

Michael Holican, labourer, was charged with assaulting Police-constable *Farmer*, whilst in the execution of his duty. On Saturday night the officer was called to the GOLDEN CUP, High Street, to quell a disturbance which was going on there. Several of the disturbers were turned into the street, and the prisoner, who was one of them, struck the prisoner [sic] a violent blow on the mouth with his fist. He was fined 40s and costs, or, in default, one month’s imprisonment.”

Dudley Herald 10/5/1879 - Advert

“Sale of Freehold Property, situate at Hartshorne Street, Bilston, in the County of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by *Jabez Bywater*, on Tuesday May 20th, 1879, at the house of Mr. *Henry Jones*, the GOLDEN CUP INN, High Street, Bilston.....”

1881 Census

54, High Street – GOLDEN CUP

- [1] *Henry Jones* (65), licensed victualler, born Stourbridge;
- [2] *Elizabeth Jones* (56), wife, born Walsall;
- [3] *Maud Walters* (18), general servant, born Bilston;
- [4] *John Tonks* (18), general labourer, born Aston, Warwickshire;
- [5] *Elizabeth Ann Barlow* (9), niece, scholar, born Walsall:

Darlaston Weekly Times 8/3/1884

“The annual meeting of the Bilston Night Watch Committee was held at the GOLDEN CUP INN, High Street, on Wednesday evening.....

During the year the watchmen had discovered 207 places of business open or insecure, against 132 during the preceding year, and the Committee had received several flattering acknowledgements of the services rendered to the tradesmen subscribers by the diligence of the watchmen.....”

Darlaston Weekly Times 8/7/1887 - Advert

"Tuesday, July 12th, 1887. High Street, Bilston.

Important Sale of a Full-licensed Freehold Public House, and other Properties.....

Lot 2. Valuable full-licensed Freehold Public House, called the GOLDEN CUP INN, being No.54, High Street, Bilston, having a frontage of 28ft, and in the occupation of Mr. *Bates* at a rental of £45 per annum; the premises comprise large liquor vault, 28ft long, with 2 bay windows; large smoke room, private parlour, cooking kitchen, with oven grate; pantry, scullery, club room, 3 bedrooms, attic, 2 cellars, model brewery, malt room, hay loft, stable, coach-house, 2 ash-pits, 2 closets, yard, small garden, and cartway at back.

Possession may be had at short date."

1891 Census

53, High Street – GOLDEN CUP

[1] *William Dudley* (36), engine fitter, born Bilston;

[2] *Elizabeth Dudley* (30), wife, manageress in public house, born Bilston;

[3] *Mary Hartill* (38), barmaid, born Bilston:

1901 Census

68, High Street

[1] *William Dudley* (46), manager of public house, born Bilston;

[2] *Elizabeth Dudley* (41), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Sophia Steventon* (20), domestic servant, born Bilston:

1911 Census

68, High Street

[1] *William Dudley* (56), manager of public house, born Bilston;

[2] *Elizabeth Dudley* (52), wife, married 20 years, born Bilston;

[3] *Eliza Pritchard* (24), domestic servant, born Bilston:

1912 Probate

"*William Dudley* of the GOLDEN CUP, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 3 February 1912. Probate Lichfield 8 March to *Elizabeth Dudley*, widow. Effects £295 7s 6d."

1921 Census

68, High Street

[1] *John Silvester* (37), licensed victualler, born Bilston;

[2] *Ethel Moss Silvester* (36), wife, home duties, born Bilston;

[3] *John Leslie Silvester* (14), son, school, born Bilston;

[4] *Dorothy May Silvester* (9), daughter, school, born Bilston;

[5] *Mary Baker* (22), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/6/1930

"The South Staffordshire Stipendiary Magistrate (Mr. Bertram Grimley) yesterday gave his decisions at the Bilston Police Court in a case heard a fortnight ago, which has aroused considerable interest locally. There were 15 summonses concerning transactions at the GOLDEN CUP INN, High Street, Bilston, and the defendants were *George Cresswell*, the licensee, *Betsy Cresswell*, his wife; *Nellie Skitt*, barmaid, and *Alice Comer*, who lives near the inn.

The accusations concerned the alleged sale of intoxicating liquors during non-permitted hours, the taking away of intoxicating liquors, and consuming.

For the defence it was argued that the sale of a bottle of whiskey and beer was completed earlier in the day, and that there was no sale after ten o'clock, when they were merely called for.

The Stipendiary dismissed the cases against the licensee (who was stated to have been ill at the time) under the Probation of Offenders Act, on payment of court costs, 4s in each of two cases, and £2 12s 6d special costs.

The cases against *Skitt* were dismissed.

For having aided and abetted in the sale of a bottle of whiskey *Betsy Cresswell* was fined £2 10s, together with £2 12s 6d special costs. Summonses relating to the alleged selling of a small quantity of whiskey were dismissed. For having taken beer from the premises during non-permitted hours Alice Comer was fined 20s, and *Betsy Cresswell* 20s for having aided and abetted. For having taken away whiskey Alice Comer was fined 40s, and *Betsy Cresswell* 20s for having aided and abetted.”

1932 Probate

“*George Cresswell* of 68 High Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 14 March 1932. Administration Birmingham 19 April to *Betsy Cresswell*, widow. Effects £90.”

1935 Probate

“*Betsy Cresswell* of the GOLDEN CUP INN, High Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, widow, died 25 June 1935. Administration Birmingham 19 August to George Barker, garage proprietor. Effects £5,957 0s 4d.”

London Gazette 27/3/1936

“*Betsy Cresswell*, Deceased. Pursuant to the Trustee Act, 1925.

Notice is hereby given that all creditors and other persons having any debts, claims or demands against the estate of *Betsy Cresswell*, late of the GOLDEN CUP INN, High Street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Widow deceased (who died on the 25th day of June, 1935, and to whose estate letters of administration were granted out of the Birmingham District Probate Registry on the 19th day of August, 1935, to George Barker), are requested to send particulars, in writing, of their debts, claims or demands to us, the undersigned, Solicitors for the said administrator, on or before the 30th day of May, 1936, after which date the said administrator 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 he shall then have had notice; and he will not be liable for the assets of the said deceased, or any part thereof, so distributed, to any person or persons of whose debts, claims or demands he shall not then have had notice.

Dated this 23rd day of March, 1936.

Hall, Pratt and Pritchard, Lichfield Street, Bilston, Solicitors for the said Administrator.”

Evening Despatch 23/10/1936

“Following a police raid on a Bilston house, William Reece, aged 66, of 10, Stonefield Walk, Bilston, was fined a total of £26 and £7 costs by the Bilston magistrates today for using his house for the purpose of betting. His son, Samuel Reece, aged 22, Mary Elizabeth Spilsbury, aged 45, of 18, Earl Street, Bilston, and William Mason, aged 35, of 25, Bunkers Hill, Bilston, were each fined 40s for aiding and abetting him.

A similar charge against *Frank Turton*, aged 40, licensee of the GOLDEN CUP INN, High Street, Bilston, who stated that he had gone to the house to hand Reece betting slips for one of the customers after closing hours, was dismissed. Mr. E. E. Brown (prosecuting) said police officers kept observation on the house and during four days saw 104 men, women and boys enter the premises.”

1939 Register

68, High Street

[1] *Frank Turton*, date of birth 24/5/1896, licensee, married;

[2] *Ellen A. Turton*, dob 22/10/1896, unpaid domestic duties, married:

A team from here took part in the Butlers (Bilston) Darts League. [1946]

A team from here took part in the Bilston Crib League, Section B. [1946]

James Timmins was born in Bilston.

He married Beryl on 18th September 1963.

He was chairman of Coseley Pub Watch.

Harry Cornfield filed for bankruptcy on 15th January 1985.

It closed in 1985.

It was subject to a Compulsory Purchase on 2nd October 1991, and again on 17th September 1992.

Birmingham Daily Post 3/2/1993

"The Insolvency Act, 1986. In Bankruptcy in the Wolverhampton County Court.

Re: *M. D. Collins* (female), of the GOLDEN CUPS, High Street, Bilston, West Midlands WV14 O EZ. Occupation Unknown and carrying on business as Publican at the GOLDEN CUPS, High Street, Bilston, West Midlands WV14 O EZ.

On 20 January 1993 the above-named Court made a Bankruptcy Order against the above-named debtor.

All debts due to the estate should be paid to me.

27 January 1993. A. T. R. Stretton, Official Receiver."

Demolished

A supermarket was built on the site.

AN OLD ESTABLISHED PUBLIC HOUSE,
In High-street, Bilston.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY RICHARD CORBETT,
On Friday, the 8th day of January, 1841, at the Spread Eagle inn, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, at five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be produced,

ALL that old established and well-accustomed **PUBLIC HOUSE**, with the outbuildings and appurtenances thereto belonging, known by the sign of "The Golden Cup," in High-street, Bilston aforesaid; consisting of convenient cellaring, large front and back kitchens, two small parlours, large club room, smoke room, suitable bed rooms, two brewhouses, outbuildings, and an enclosed back yard, now occupied by Mr. John Parkes, as yearly tenant, at the moderate rent of thirty pounds per annum.

The above property, being a corner situation in a very populous part of the town, is admirably adapted for a Liquor Shop, where an extensive scope of business may be carried on, and consequently is desirable either for persons wishing a Public House or Liquor Shop, either for occupation or as an investment.

☞ To view the same apply on the premises, and for further particulars to the **AUCTIONEER, New Town, Bilston.**

1840

THE GOLDEN CUP INN, BILSTON.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY MR. W. ASTON,

At the King's Arms Inn, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, on Thursday, the 10th day of December next, at five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be read,

ALL that old established and good accustomed **PUBLIC HOUSE**, situate in High-street, Bilston aforesaid, called or known by the sign of the **GOLDEN CUP**, and now in the occupation of Mr. Joseph Gibson.

Also all that **MESSUAGE or DWELLING HOUSE**, adjoining to and at the back of the Golden Cup, and now in the occupation of Thomas Davis.

The premises are Copyhold of Inheritance within the Manor of Stowheath.

☞ For further particulars apply at the office of **Mr. Thomas Bolton**, solicitor, or to the **AUCTIONEER, Wolverhampton.**

1846

THE GOLDEN CUP INN, BILSTON.
TO BE LET, and may be entered upon immediately, the **GOLDEN CUP INN**, High-street, Bilston. The Stock to be taken to at a fair valuation. — For particulars, apply on the premises, or to **Mr. DABNEY**, High-street, Bilston.

1852

OLD-LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE,
HIGH STREET, BILSTON.
TO be LET, and may be entered into immediately, the "**GOLDEN CUP INN**," Bilston. The Brewing Utensils and Fixtures to be taken at a fair valuation. — For further particulars, apply on the Premises; or to **Mr. John Mason**, Auctioneer, High Street, Bilston.

1853

"THE GOLDEN CUP,"
HIGH STREET, BILSTON.
BY GILBERT and SON.—To be **SOLD**, this **OLD-LICENSED HOUSE**, in the best situation for trade; with roomy and entire Premises; including a Front Liquor Shop, now doing a good and paying trade, which the situation will always command.
Apply to Gilbert and Son, 23, Ann Street, Birmingham.

1862

LOT 2.—Valuable full-licensed **FREEHOLD PUBLIC HOUSE**, called the "Golden Cup inn," being No. 54, High Street, Bilston, having a frontage of 28 ft., and in the occupation of Mr. Bates at a rental of £45 per annum; the premises comprise large liquor vault, 28 ft. long, with 2 bay windows; large smoke room, private parlour, cooking kitchen, with oven grate; pantry, scullery, club room, 3 bedrooms, attic, 2 cellars, model brewery, malt room, hay loft, stable, coach-house, 2 ashpits, 2 closets, yard, small garden and cartway at back.

Possession may be had at short date.

1887

PUBLIC NOTICE

COMPULSORY PURCHASE OF LAND
IN HIGH STREET, BILSTON

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Wolverhampton Borough Council have made the WOLVERHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL (BILSTON TOWN CENTRE) COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER 1991 under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. They are about to submit this Order to the Secretary of State for the Environment for confirmation, and if confirmed, the Order will authorise Wolverhampton Borough Council to purchase compulsorily the land described below for the purpose of securing the development re-development and improvement of land by the erection of a food store and provision of ancillary car parking.

A copy of the Order and of the accompanying map may be seen at all reasonable hours at the offices of the Director of Legal and Administrative Services, Civic Centre, St. Peter's Square, Wolverhampton and at Bilston Branch Library, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, West Midlands.

Any objection to the Order must be made in writing to the Secretary of State for the Environment, West Midlands Regional Office, Five Ways Tower, Frederick Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 1SR before 29 November 1991 and should state the title of the Order and the grounds of objection.

DESCRIPTION OF LAND

Land in the district of Bilston in the Borough of Wolverhampton in the County of West Midlands. Numbers in brackets relate to the Reference Numbers in the Compulsory Purchase Order Schedule and Map.

- 1580 square metres of land and premises to the west of 88 High Street forming the site of second hand car sales business together with hoardings thereon (1)
- 140 square metres of business premises and living accommodation known as 88 High Street (2)
- 20 square metres of vacant land fronting Quarry Street (3)
- 80 square metres of land and premises being at the rear of 88 High Street and fronting Quarry Street (4)
- 240 square metres of business premises situate on the west side of Quarry Street adjacent to reference no. 4 (5)
- 1570 square metres of business premises 80 and 82 High Street (6)
- 270 square metres of business premises 72a, 74, 76 and 78 High Street (7)
- 110 square metres of business premises and living accommodation 72 High Street (8)
- 320 square metres of business premises, living accommodation and rear yard 70 High Street (9)
- 420 square metres of land and premises being the Golden Cup Public House, 68 High Street (10)
- 570 square metres of land and business premises 62, 64 and 66 High Street (11)
- 160 square metres of access way situate at Stonefield Road to the rear of numbers 62-74 (evens) High Street (12)
- 30 square metres of premises comprising an electricity sub-station at Stonefield Walk (13)
- 190 square metres of access way at the rear of 44-60 (evens) Stonefield Walk (14)
- 710 square metres of land being the site of 20-34 (evens) Stonefield Walk (15)

R H ROBERTS
Director of Legal and
Administrative Services
Civic Centre
St Peter's Square
Wolverhampton

Dated: 2 October 1991

WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL *Working for you*

1991

PUBLIC NOTICE

FORM OF NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION
OF A COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER
THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
ACT 1990 AND THE ACQUISITION OF
LAND ACT 1981WOLVERHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
(BILSTON TOWN CENTRE)
COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER 1991

1. Notice is hereby given that the Secretary of State for the Environment, in exercise of his powers under the above Acts, on 4 September, 1992, confirmed with modifications the Wolverhampton Borough Council (Bilston Town Centre) Compulsory Purchase Order 1991 submitted by the Council of the Borough of Wolverhampton.

2. The Order as confirmed provides for the purchase for the purpose of securing the development, redevelopment and improvement of land by the erection of a food store and provision of ancillary car parking of the land described in the Schedule hereto.

3. A copy of the Order as confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Environment and of the map referred to therein have been deposited at the offices of the Director of Legal and Administrative Services, Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton, and may be seen there at all reasonable hours.

4. The Order as confirmed becomes operative on the date on which this notice is first published; but a person aggrieved by the Order may, by application to the High Court within six weeks from that date, question its validity on the grounds (i) that the authorisation granted by the Order is not empowered to be granted or (ii) that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirements relating to the Order.

Schedule

Land in the district of Bilston in the Borough of Wolverhampton in the County of West Midlands. Numbers in brackets relate to the reference numbers in the Compulsory Purchase Order schedule and map.

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- 160 square metres of accessway situate at Stonefield Road to the rear of numbers 62 to 74 (evens) High Street (12).
- 30 square metres of premises comprising an electricity sub station at Stonefield Walk (13).
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- 710 square metres of land being the site of 20 - 34 (evens) Stonefield Walk (15).

R H ROBERTS
Director of Legal and
Administrative Services
Civic Centre
St Peter's Square
Wolverhampton

DATED 17 SEPTEMBER, 1992

WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL *Working for you*

1992

GOLDEN FLEECE

5, (3), Fleece Street, (3, Providence Place), (Ward Street), Ettingshall, (Priestfield), (New Village), BILSTON

OWNERS

Clara Dallow, spinster, 20, Lewis Street, Penn Road, Wolverhampton
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

LICENSEES

James Allcock [1860]
John Lewis [1869] – **1887**;
John Jones (**1887 – 1891**);
Joseph Flavell (**1891 – 1898**);
Mrs. Susannah Flavell (**1898 – 1904**);
Lilian Timmins (**1904 – 1905**);
Robert Colley (**1905**);
John Harper (**1905 – 1906**);
William Harris (**1906 – 1907**);
George Rogers (**1907 – 1908**);

NOTES

Ward Street [1860], [1872]
3, Providence Place [1881]
Fleece Street [1904]

It had a ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/10/1860 - Notice

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

Whereas a Petition of *James Allcock*, of the GOLDEN FLEECE, Ward Street, Priestfield, near Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Publican, Brewer, and Retailer of Beer, and Licensed to sell Tobacco, and also a Japanner; previously of Gozzard Street, Bilston aforesaid, Japanner, an Insolvent Debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, at Wolverhampton, and an Interim Order of Protection from Process having been given to the said *James Allcock*, under the provisions of the statutes in that case made and provided, the said *James Allcock* is hereby required to appear in Court before the Judge acting in the matter of the said Petition, on the 29th day of October, 1860, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, at the Court House, Queen Street, Wolverhampton aforesaid, for his First Examination, touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said statutes; and notice is hereby given that the Choice of Assignees is to take place at the time so appointed.

All persons indebted to the said *James Allcock*, or who have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. Charles Gallimore Brown, the Official Assignee, acting in the matter of the said Petition, at his Office, in Queen Street, Wolverhampton aforesaid.

James Walker, Attorney, 57, Queen Street, Wolverhampton.

C. G. Megevan, High Bailiff.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/12/1860

“County Court Insolvents.....

James Allcock, of Ward Street, Priestfield, publican and japanner, supported by Mr. Walker, and opposed by Mr.. Langman, passed, with the opposition reserved to the final examination.”

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF STAFFORDSHIRE,
HOLDEN AT WOLVERHAMPTON.
12th day of October, 1860.
WHEREAS a Petition of **JAMES ALLCOCK**,
of the Golden Fleece, Ward-street, Priestfield, near Bilston,
in the county of Stafford, Publican, Brewer, and Retailer of Beer,
and Licensed to sell Tobacco, and also a Japanner; previously of
Gozzard-street, Bilston aforesaid, Japanner, an Insolvent Debtor,
having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, at Wolver-
hampton, and an Interim Order of Protection from Process having
been given to the said James Allcock, under the provisions of the
statutes in that case made and provided, the said James Allcock is
hereby required to appear in Court before the Judge acting in the
matter of the said Petition, on the 29th day of OCTOBER, 1860, at
nine o'clock in the forenoon, at the COURT HOUSE, QUEEN-STREET,
WOLVERHAMPTON aforesaid, for his FIRST EXAMINATION,
touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be further dealt with
according to the provisions of the said statutes; and notice is hereby
given that the Choice of Assignees is to take place at the time so
appointed.
All persons indebted to the said James Allcock, or who have any
of his effects are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. CHARLES
GALLIMORE BROWN, the Official Assignee, acting in the matter of
the said Petition, at his Office, in Queen-street, Wolverhampton
aforesaid.
JAMES WALKER, Attorney,
57, Queen-street, Wolverhampton.
C. G. MEGEVAN, High Bailiff.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 7/11/1860 - Notice

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

In the Matter of the Petition of *James Allcock*, of the GOLDEN FLEECE, Ward Street, Priestfield, near Bilston, in the County of Stafford, Publican, Brewer, and Retailer of Beer, and licensed to sell tobacco, and also a Japanner, previously of Gozzard Street, Bilston aforesaid, Japanner; notice is hereby given that the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton, acting in the matter of this Petition, will proceed to make a Final Order thereon, at the said Court, on the 26th day of November next, at nine o'clock in the forenoon precisely, unless cause be then and there shown to the contrary.

Dated this 29th day of October, 1860.

James Walker, Attorney, 57, Queen Street, Wolverhampton.

C. G. Megevan, High Bailiff.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/12/1860

“At the Wolverhampton County Court, on Monday last, the undermentioned insolvents obtained their final orders.....

James Allcock, Priestfield, publican and japanner, supported by Mr. J. Walker, the opposition by H. Langman being withdrawn.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/8/1869

“The annual licensing meeting for the Bilston division took place yesterday, at the Police Court.....

The following beerhouse keepers had been fined during the past five years.....

For keeping open during prohibited hours *John Lewis*, FLEECE, New Village, 1s and costs.”

John Lewis, beer retailer, Ward Street, New Village, Ettingshall. [1872]

Birmingham Weekly Post 7/7/1877

“Attempted Murder by a Lunatic.

On Tuesday, a respectably connected man, named John Griffiths, aged 31, was brought before Mr. Moses Ironmonger, sitting as magistrate at Petty Sessions at Bilston, charged with attempting to murder *John Lewis*, at Priestfield. The accused was very excited, and had his hands tied together at his back. Evidently Griffiths was not master of his actions.

Chief Superintendent McCrea remarked that he had brought up Griffiths merely to obtain a remand, and proposed to give only enough evidence to permit of compliance with the request. In the interval the prisoner's mental state could be ascertained.

Policeman Wade, stationed at Ettingshall, deposed: This morning I was called to the prisoner at about a quarter-past two. I found him, with nothing on but his shirt, in the bed room of *John Lewis*, landlord of the GOLDEN FLEECE beerhouse, Ettingshall. I found *John Lewis* lying in a helpless state on the room floor, in a pool of blood. I took the prisoner into custody, charged with attempting to murder *Lewis*.....

[John Griffiths was remanded for a week.]

The prisoner is the son of parents, now dead, who owned the BRITANNIA INN, Temple Street, Bilston, and other house property there. For many years they kept that inn, and likewise a provision shop. As a boy he was subject to fits. Growing into manhood he showed a liking for whisky, and often surreptitiously obtained it. Symptoms of lunacy then developed themselves, and he was placed as a pauper lunatic in Stafford Asylum, the cost being repaid to the Guardians by his sister, Mrs. Riley, wife of Mr. Riley, of the HEN AND CHICKENS, New Village. By-and-by he was removed from Stafford to Burntwood. Possessing, with Mrs. Riley, an interest in the property left by the parents in Temple Street, some gossips had hinted, with disagreeable plainness, that Griffiths was being kept in an asylum for motives originating in his right to share in the property; and Mrs. Riley, who has always been kind to him, sensitive of such allegations, applied to the surgeons at Burntwood that her brother might be released in her care, and he came out on the 16th April last. A few times previously during the three or four years he had been under restraint he had been temporarily released; but he had always got at the whisky, and had had to be sent back. Mr. Jennings, relieving officer for Bilston, therefore declined all responsibility touching his release on this occasion. Mrs. Riley could not have Griffiths at her home, for it was an old-licensed house, and the tempting spirit would be too near to him. Beer has no attractions for him; and as her friend Mrs. *Lewis*, wife of the landlord of the GOLDEN FLEECE, was ready to take him as a lodger, he was placed in her custody.

Mr. *Lewis*, who is a master chainmaker as well as a beerhouse keeper, is of great size, and weighs quite 16 stone, and Mrs. *Lewis* is not much less proportioned. They, therefore, had no fear of Griffiths, who is comparatively slender. Griffiths was not always tractable, but became quiet whenever *Lewis* threatened to 'horsewhip him.' The dread of such a punishment has from earliest years brought terror to him. Did the threat of it unhinge his mind as a child?

On Monday *Lewis* was out all day, and as he is 'fond of his beer,' Mrs. *Lewis* thought it advisable to have Griffiths out of the way when he should arrive, as he probably would be 'a little the worse for what he had taken.' She therefore, about ten o'clock, sent him to bed. *Lewis* came in at about eleven. By-and-by there was a dispute, with high words between husband and wife, for *Lewis* had been drinking tolerably freely, and was not in the best of humours. During the dispute Griffiths came down in his night-shirt, but was sent back by the potent threat. He came down again, when the servant trying to get him back he struck her with a stick. The last time *Lewis* himself went upstairs with Griffiths, who, before he left the room, asked forgiveness, and sought to kiss *Lewis*. Mrs. *Lewis* had been especially anxious that the two should not meet, because there was too much reason to conclude that Griffiths had during Monday purchased and drank some whisky.

Before two o'clock on Tuesday morning all three had retired each to a separate sleeping room, Mrs. *Lewis* for that night taking the servant's bed, and relegating her to the sofa in the parlour. At about two she heard Griffiths go down stairs; but thought he was merely seeking water to drink from the filter, for he sometimes did so in the night. Presently she was alarmed by some heavy and unusual nasal sounds from her husband's bed room. Fearing that Griffiths might be there attempting his hurt, she leaped from bed and ran into the room. Here she was horrified at finding Griffiths with his left knee on the pillow, his left hand on her husband's head, and with a carving-knife in his right hand, cutting away in a most determined manner at *Lewis*'s throat, whilst *Lewis* lay so overcome by drink and somnolence that he was unconscious of what was happening. She shouted out, 'You murderer!' and clutched at the arm which held the knife, and tried to secure her husband's assailant. The struggle awoke *Lewis*, who arose and joined in the struggle. Soon, however, he fell exhausted from loss of blood. Mrs. *Lewis* had now disarmed Griffiths, and giving the knife to the servant, who had now come up, sent her with it downstairs, and out of the house for help, whilst she kept Griffiths secure in the room.....

The surgeon found that *Lewis* had received two jagged wounds, one extending ten inches from left to right, and the other taking an upward direction from the right side of the neck to the ear. There had been very great loss of blood before the surgeon arrived, and it was not easy to stop it after he arrived. Presently, however, the wounds were effectually plugged. At present the surgeons give hope of recovery, the patient being able to drink; but his state will in the ensuing three days be perilous."

Staffordshire Sentinel 10/11/1877

"Staffordshire Winter Assizes.....

John Griffiths, 30, no occupation, was indicted for feloniously wounding *John Lewis*, at Bilston, on the 3rd of July, with intent to kill and murder him. Mr. Macnamara prosecuted, and Mr. J. Underhill defended the prisoner.

The prosecutor is the keeper of the GOLDEN FLEECE at Bilston, and it would seem that prisoner lodged at his house. Both men had been drinking on the night the affair occurred, and a quarrel took place between them, which, however, was 'made up' before they retired to rest. The prisoner and prosecutor slept in bedrooms adjoining each other. About two o'clock in the morning Mrs. *Lewis*'s attention was attracted by an unusual disturbance in the room in which her husband was sleeping, and, hastening to the spot, found the prisoner cutting at her husband's throat. Prisoner was kneeling on prosecutor, and had a carving knife in his hand. She rushed up and succeeded in taking the knife away, when prisoner turned round and threatened to take her life for interfering. A policeman was at once sent for and prisoner given into custody.

Mrs. *Lewis* stated that she did not think there was any enmity between her husband and the prisoner, and did not believe prisoner would have committed the outrage but for the fact that at the time he was under the influence of drink. Prisoner had been liable to fits ever since he had lived at her husband's house, and he had been in an asylum on three separate occasions.

A medical gentleman who had seen prisoner having expressed his strong conviction that prisoner was a dangerous lunatic, the jury acting upon advice of his lordship, returned a verdict of not guilty, on a plea of insanity.

The Judge ordered prisoner to be kept in custody during her Majesty's pleasure. Prisoner was then removed in custody."

1881 Census

3, Providence Place – GOLDEN FLEECE

- [1] John Lewis (59), innkeeper and chain maker, born at sea;
- [2] Harriet Lewis (57), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Eliza H. Thompson (6), grand-daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] Edith Thompson (4), grand-daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] Emma Benton (13), domestic servant, born Bilston;
- [6] Ann Elwell (66), boarder, widow, retired innkeeper, born Burton on Trent;
- [7] William Nunnery (48), boarder, widower, labourer, carter, born Baschurch, Shropshire;
- [8] William Cox (19), boarder, general labourer, born Oxford:

1891 Census

3, Fleece Street

- [1] John Jones (41), licensed victualler, born Shropshire;
- [2] Jane Jones (40), wife, born Bilston:

John Jones was fined 40s and costs, on 24th July 1891, for permitting drunkenness.

Joseph Flavell died on 11th April 1898.

1901 Census

5, Fleece Street

- [1] Susannah Flavell (61), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] George Flavell (24), son, brewer, born Woodcross;
- [3] Jabez Flavell (22), son, moulder, iron foundry, born Woodcross;
- [4] Mathias Flavell (20), son, moulder, iron foundry, born Woodcross;
- [5] Martha G. Flavell (17), daughter, born Woodcross;
- [6] Ebor Whitehouse (30), boarder, boatman, born Dudley Port;
- [7] Ann Hyde (10), grand-daughter, born Woodcross:

Mrs. Susannah Flavell, beer retailer, Fleece Street. [1904]

Robert Colley – see also OLD BROWN JUG.

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority in February 1908.
It was refused by the Compensation Authority on 18th June 1908.

Lichfield Mercury 26/6/1908

“The principal meeting of the members of the Staffordshire Licensing Committee was held at the Shirehall, Stafford. There was a full attendance of the members of the committee, Lord Hatherton presiding. The business before the committee was that of hearing and determining applications for the renewal of licenses in those cases which had been referred to the committee by the justices in petty sessions for compensation. The list contained forty public houses. There was a large attendance of barristers and solicitors, but in none of the cases were any objections raised to the reports of the justices concerning the houses referred, and the committee refused to renew the licenses in each of the forty cases which came before them. The following are the houses, the licenses of which were refused.....
GOLDEN FLEECE, Ettingshall, Bilston, ante-1869 beerhouse.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/6/1908 - Notice

“The Licensing Act 1904. County Of Stafford.

Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Compensation Authority for the above area, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on the 18th day of June, 1908, to refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below, All Persons Claiming to be Interested in the said Premises for the purpose of the payment of Compensation under the said Act (other than the Licensee and the Registered Owner of the said Premises) are required to send to the Compensation Authority Notice of their Claims before the 20th day of July, 1908, for the purpose of enabling the Compensation Authority to ascertain in manner provided by the Licensing Rules 1904, the Persons entitled to Compensation under the said Act in respect of the said Premises.....

GOLDEN FLEECE, Fleece Street, Bilston. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *George Rogers*. Registered Owners, Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Limited.”

Compensation of £350 was paid on 30th November 1908.

House closed on 7th December 1908.

Lichfield Mercury 8/1/1909

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

The Licensing Committee presented a report for the year 1908. They stated that the number of licenses referred from sixteen divisions and boroughs in the county was seventy-four, and the committee, having regard to the limited funds at their disposal, decided to proceed upon forty only.....

The committee went in great detail into all the figures submitted to them upon which the persons interested claimed compensation, and heard, upon oath, evidence put forward by the claimants.

The amounts awarded as compensation were as follows.....

GOLDEN FLEECE, Fleece Street, Ettingshall, Bilston, £400.”

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF STAFFORDSHIRE,

HOLDEN AT WOLVERHAMPTON.

IN the Matter of the Petition of **JAMES ALL-COCK**, of the Golden Fleece, Ward street, Priestfield, near Bilston, in the County of Stafford, Publican, Brewer, and Retailer of Beer, and licensed to sell tobacco, and also a Japanner, previously of Oozard-street, Bilston aforesaid, Japanner: notice is hereby given that the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton, acting in the matter of this Petition, will proceed to make a FINAL ORDER thereon, at the said Court, on the 26th day of NOVEMBER next, at nine o'clock in the forenoon precisely, unless cause be then and there shown to the contrary.—Dated this 29th day of October, 1860.

JAMES WALKER, Attorney,

57, Queen-street, Wolverhampton.

G. G. MEEVAN, High Bailiff.

GOLDEN LAMB

41, High Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

William Slater [1861]

NOTES

1861 Census

41, High Street

- [1] William Slater (52), beerhouse keeper, born Yoxall, Staffordshire;
- [2] Sarah Slater (39), wife, born Alrewas, Staffordshire;
- [3] Faith Slater (18), daughter, born Curborough, Staffordshire;
- [4] Emma Slater (15), daughter, scholar, born Curborough, Staffordshire;

Wolverhampton Chronicle 24/7/1861 - Advert

"Valuable Freehold and Copyhold Property, at Bilston, in the County of Stafford.

Messrs. Richards and Turley will Sell by Auction, at the BULLS HEAD INN, High Street, Bilston, on Monday, the 5th day of August, 1861, at six o'clock in the evening.....

Lot 1. All those eight Messuages or Dwelling Houses, with the large Yard, Outbuildings, and Appurtenances thereto belonging (one of which is a Public House, known by the sign of the GOLDEN LAMB), situate in High Street, Bilston, in the several occupations of Elizabeth Mills, John Cross, Ann Mapson, *William Slater*, and others, occupying a site of 824 square yards or thereabouts, and producing the annual rental of £77 19s.

The above is Copyhold of the Manor of Stowheath."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/2/1864 - Advert

"Valuable Freehold and Copyhold Property, at Bilston and Willenhall, in the County of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Thomas Richards, on Monday Next, the 21st day of March, at Six o'clock in the Evening, at the QUEENS ARMS HOTEL, Wellington Street, Bilston.....

Lot 1. All those Eight Messuages or Dwelling Houses, with the large Yard, Out-buildings, and Appurtenances thereto belonging (one of which is a Public House, known by the sign of the GOLDEN LAMB), situate in High Street, Bilston, in the several occupations of Elizabeth Mills, John Cross, Ann Mapson, Patrick Beasley, and others, occupying a site of 824 square yards or thereabouts, and producing the annual rental of £78 6s.

The above is Copyhold of the Manor of Stowheath."

**VALUABLE
FREEHOLD AND COPYHOLD PROPERTY,
At BILSTON and WILLENHALL, in the county of Stafford,
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY Mr. THOMAS RICHARDS, on MONDAY
NEXT, the 21st day of March, at Six o'clock in the evening, at
the Queen's Arms Hotel, Wellington Street, Bilston, subject to condi-
tions to be produced—the following Lots of FREEHOLD and COPY-
HOLD PROPERTIES and BUILDING LAND :—**

Lot 1.—All those Eight MESSUAGES or DWELLING HOUSES, with the large Yard, Out-buildings, and Appurtenances thereto belonging (one of which is a Public-house, known by the sign of The Golden Lamb), situate in High Street, Bilston, in the several occupations of Elizabeth Mills, John Cross, Ann Mapson, Patrick Beasley, and others, occupying a site of 824 square yards or thereabouts, and producing the annual rental of £78. 6s.
The above is Copyhold of the Manor of Stowheath.

**VALUABLE FREEHOLD AND COPYHOLD
PROPERTY,
AT BILSTON, IN THE COUNTY OF STAFFORD.**

MESSRS. RICHARDS and TURLEY will
SELL by AUCTION, at the BULL'S HEAD INN, HIGH
STREET, BILSTON, on Monday, the 5th day of August, 1861, at
six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be produced—
the following Lots of FREEHOLD BUILDING LAND,
BUTCHER'S SHOP and PREMISES, and COPYHOLD BUILD-
ING PROPERTY :—

Lot 1.—All those eight MESSUAGES or DWELLING HOUSES, with the large Yard, Outbuildings, and Appurtenances thereto belonging (one of which is a PUBLIC HOUSE, known by the sign of the "Golden Lamb"), situate in High-street, Bilston, in the several occupations of Elizabeth Mills, John Cross, Ann Mapson, William Slater, and others, occupying a site of 824 square yards or thereabouts, and producing the annual rental of £77 19s.
The above is Copyhold of the Manor of Stowheath.

1861

GOLDEN LION

46, Ash Street, (5, Chell Street) / Lord Street West, (Upper) Bradley, (Daisy Bank), (Highfields), (Old Green), BILSTON

OWNERS

Enoch Clempson, licensee

Jeremiah Francis Baker, coal merchant, Albert Road, Wolverhampton

John Seedhouse, innkeeper, Princes End

John Seedhouse and Sons Ltd., High Street, Princes End [1930s]

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

Marstons plc [2009]

LICENSEES

Thomas Clempson [1841] – **1852**;

Mrs. Margaret Clempson (**1852** – [1861]

Enoch Clempson [1862] – **1874**);

Joseph White (**1874** – **1875**);

George Williams (**1875** – **1879**);

Samuel Smith (**1879** – **1882**);

Richard Hyde (**1882** – **1884**);

William Bourne (**1884** – **1886**);

Thomas William Stanford (**1886** – **1891**);

Samuel Millichamp (**1891** – **1900**);

Thomas Stanford [1896]

Albert Garvey (**1900** – **1901**);

Esther Lucy Evans (**1901** – **1902**);

Walter Bunch (**1902** – **1915**);

Sarah Stanford [1903]

Thomas Leach (**1915** – **1922**);

Florence Leach (**1922** – **1924**);

James 'Jim' Shutt (**1924** – **1933**);

James Smith (**1933** – [1940]

Zachariah Pearson (**1957** – **1980**)

Roger Renton [] – **1985**)

Eve Jones [1994]

Dawn Roberts [1995]

Lyn Randles (**1996** – [1997]

Stephen J King [2005]

Maureen Cynthia Atkins [] – **2006**)

Eliza Cunningham Groom (**2006** – []

Chris Hadley [2006] manager

Shelly Garbett (**2009** – **2012**)



2007

NOTES

[This pub was strictly in Sedgley, but is included here due to it being situated at Bradley.]

Old Green [1841], [1842]

Highfields [1841], [1851], [1861]

Daisy Bank [1849]

Upper Bradley [1861], [1868]

5, Chell Street, Bradley [1871], [1891], [1896], [1901], [1904], [1908], [1911]

46, Ash Street

LION [1841], [1862]

GOLDEN LION HOTEL [1911]

It was known locally as 'Smithy's', and 'Zacha's'

Thomas Clempson = Thomas Clemson

1841 Census

Highfields

[1] *Margaret Clempson* (50), victualler;

[2] *Thomas Clempson* (50), miner;

[3] *John Clempson* (25), ironworker, born Staffordshire;

[4] *Thomas Clempson* (20), ironworker, born Staffordshire;

[5] *Catherine Clempson* (15), born Staffordshire;

[6] *Enoch Clempson* (10), born Staffordshire:

1851 Census

Highfields

[1] *Thomas Clempson* (61), licensed victualler and miner, born Broseley, Shropshire;

[2] *Margret Clempson* (62), wife, born Broseley, Shropshire;

[3] *Enoch Clempson* (23), son, puddler of iron, born Sedgley;

[4] *Harriet Bennett* (14), general servant, born Broseley, Shropshire;

[5] *Thomas Jinks* (8), grand-son, born Bilston;

[6] *Margret Breeze* (9), niece, born Chebsey, Shropshire;

[7] *John Gittins* (46), visitor, stone miner, born Broseley, Shropshire;

[8] *Henry Gittins* (17), visitor, stone miner, born Broseley, Shropshire:

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/7/1851

"An inquest was held on Monday last, by W. W. Ward, Esq. (for T. M. Phillips, Esq.), coroner, at the GOLDEN LION, Hall Green, near Bilston, on the body of Selina Reynolds, between two and three years old, daughter of William Reynolds, of Hall Green, who was found drowned in a soft water cistern near to her father's house, on the afternoon of the 27th ult. Verdict, Found Dead in a cistern, but how the child got into it there was no evidence to shew."

Thomas Clempson died in the 4th quarter of 1852.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/12/1852

"On Monday last, the following transfers of licenses took place.....

From the executors of the late *Thomas Clempson*, GOLDEN LION, Hall Green, Sedgley, to his widow, *Margaret Clempson*."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/9/1857

“On Monday last T. M. Phillips, Esq, Coroner, held an adjourned inquest at the GOLDEN LION INN, Daisy Bank, touching the death of Susannah Cartwright, a married woman about thirty-three years of age, whose death had taken place on the morning of Friday week shortly after being delivered of a male child. The deceased was attended in her confinement by a midwife named Sarah Cherrington – a woman whom one of the witnesses described as a very ignorant person in her business – and it was proved that while attending the deceased Cherrington used great violence to Cartwright, which was complained of by the deceased and others who were present. She, however, persisted in her conduct, and not long after her delivery the deceased died. During Cartwright’s labour one or two persons present recommended further assistance to be sent for, but Cherrington told one of them that she ought to be put out of the room for suggesting such a thing; the matter was all right. Mr. Kettle, surgeon, was called in, but found Mrs. Cartwright dead but warm. Mr. Hancox, surgeon, made a post mortem examination of the body in the presence of Mr. Kettle, and arrived at the conclusion that the deceased had been ignorantly and unskilfully treated in her confinement, and that the greatest violence must have been used upon her. After hearing the evidence of the other witnesses Mr. Hancox added that he was of opinion that the deceased’s death would not have taken place had a medical man with ordinary skill attended her during her labour. Cherrington was asked by the Coroner if she had anything to say, and was cautioned that if she did make any statement it might be used as evidence against her. She made a short reply, stating that she used all her efforts to save the life of the deceased. The Jury found a verdict of Manslaughter against Cherrington, and the Coroner committed her for trial at the next Assizes.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 16/12/1857

“Staffordshire Winter Assizes.....

Sarah Cherrington, 52, was indicted for the manslaughter of Susannah Cartwright, on the 18th of September, at Daisy Bank, in the parish of Sedgley. Mr. Hill, in opening the case to the Jury, stated that the prisoner was charged with the manslaughter of a married woman named Susannah Cartwright, 33 years of age, who was a strong healthy woman, and had previously been delivered of seven children.....

His Lordship having summed up the evidence, the Jury returned a verdict of guilty, but recommended her to mercy in consideration of her generally good character.

Mr. Hill having stated, in reply to his Lordship, that it was not the wish of the prosecution that the prisoner should be punished, the learned Judge told her that the Jury had taken a very proper view of the case, for whilst they considered she had exhibited the kindest feelings towards the unfortunate deceased, they also thought that not having the necessary knowledge requisite for any emergency which might arise in a matter of that kind, she had undertaken a duty for which she was not competent, and which had resulted in the death of the unfortunate deceased. The object of the trial was to prevent her or any other such person from attempting a similar operation, and upon the understanding that she did not repeat it, she would be discharged on her own recognizances to appear when called upon.”

1861 Census

Highfields

[1] *Margret Clempson* (72), widow, victualler, born Broseley, Shropshire;

[2] *Elizabeth Sheppard* (13), house servant, born Sedgley:

Margaret Clempson died in the 2nd quarter of 1862.

1871 Census

5, Chell Street

[1] *Enoch Clempson* (43), puddler, born Sedgley;

[2] *Eliza Clempson* (43), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Thomas Clempson* (15), son, labourer, born Sedgley;

[4] *Silas Clempson* (13), son, born Sedgley;

[5] *Enoch Clempson* (11), son, born Sedgley;

[6] *David Clempson* (6), son, born Sedgley;

[7] *Sophia Clempson* (1 month), daughter, born Sedgley;

[8] *Eliza Fieldhouse* (23), daughter, married, born Bilston;

[9] *George H. Fieldhouse* (3), grand-son, born Sedgley;

[10] *Annie A. Fieldhouse* (1), grand-daughter, born Sedgley:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 11/1/1879

"Last night's *London Gazette* notifies that the following persons have filed their petitions for liquidation or composition *George Williams*, late of the GOLDEN LION, Bradley, near Bilston, now of Wednesbury, out of business."

1881 Census

5, Chell Street

- [1] *Samuel Smith* (26), roll turner, born Tipton;
- [2] *Emma Smith* (23), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] *Emma Smith* (3 months), daughter, born Daisy Bank;
- [4] *Pollie Thompson* (30), domestic servant, born Dudley:

Evening Express 26/10/1881

"A petition in liquidation has been filed in the Dudley County Court on behalf of *Samuel Smith*, of the GOLDEN LION INN, Chell Street, Daisy Bank, licensed victualler and roll turner. Liabilities estimated at £200. Messrs. Stokes and Hooper are the debtor's solicitors, and Mr. T. B. Cope, high bailiff of the Court, has been appointed receiver."

London Gazette 1/11/1881

"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 *Samuel Smith*, of the GOLDEN LION INN, Chell-street, Daisy Bank, in the parish of Sedgley, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler and Roll Turner.

Notice is hereby given, that a First General Meeting of the creditors of the above-named person has been summoned to be held at the office of Messrs. Stokes and Hooper, 1, Priory-street, Dudley, in the county of Worcester, on the 11th day of November, 1881, at three o'clock in the afternoon precisely.

Dated this 27th day of October, 1881.

Stokes and Hooper, 1, Priory-street, Dudley, Solicitors for the said Debtor."

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1884

"At the Police Court, yesterday, *W. Bourne*, GOLDEN LION, Chell Street, Daisy Bank, was fined 5s and costs for allowing drunkenness in his tap room, on Saturday night.

Enoch Clemson, Abraham Whitehouse, and David Thomas were fined, the former 5s and costs, and the two latter 2s 6d and costs, for being upon the premises in a drunken state"

Wolverhampton Express and Star 7/9/1885 - Advert

"To, Let, with immediate possession, BROWN [sic] LION INN, Chell Street, Bradley; fixtures only to be taken to."

1891 Census

5, Chell Street

- [1] *Samuel Millichamp* (29), licensed victualler, born Tipton;
- [2] *Annie Millichamp* (28), wife, born Cawney Hill;
- [3] *Julia Millichamp* (8), daughter, scholar, born Tipton;
- [4] *Albert Millichamp* (5), son, born Smethwick;
- [5] *Flora Millichamp* (2), daughter, born Daisy Bank:

1901 Census

5, Chell Street

- [1] *Albert Garvey* (53), publican &c, born Stourbridge;
- [2] *Betsey Jane Garvey* (54), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] *Ernest Garvey* (18), son, iron worker, born Sedgley;
- [4] *Lily Garvey* (16), daughter, domestic, born Sedgley;
- [5] *Sidney Garvey* (14), son, domestic, born Sedgley;
- [6] *May Garvey* (6), daughter, born Sedgley:

Tipton Herald 9/5/1903

“At Bilston Police Court on Tuesday before Messrs. G. N. Adams, E. Hickman, and Dr. S. Ashley- Smith, an old man named Joad Cox, boatman, of Ash Street, Bradley, was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of the GOLDEN LION INN, Bradley.

Detective Quinn and Police-sergeant Gibbs deposed to finding defendant in the tap room in a drunken condition when they visited the house on other business.

Defendant denied being drunk, and said he had only had two and a half pints, and could walk straight.

A fine of 12s 6d, including costs, was imposed.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/3/1904

“The adjourned licensing sessions for Sedgley were held on Tuesday.....

Mr. R. A. Willcock applied for the renewal of the licenses of the IVY HOUSE, Coseley, and the GOLDEN LION, Bradley, to which the police objected on the grounds that they were not required and that convictions had been recorded against former licensees The magistrates granted the applications.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 4/11/1909

Mr. *Walter Bunch*, of the GOLDEN LION INN, Ash Street, Daisy Bank, whose long connection with the Wolves is well-remembered, has suffered a loss of about £170 as the result of a visit by a burglar to the safe in his bedroom on Tuesday night. The theft was committed whilst Mr. *Bunch* and his wife were engaged in their duties before closing time, the thief having quietly made his way to the bedroom, opened the safe, and obtained the money without being disturbed. Four bottles of whisky had also been placed ready for removal, but the theory is that, having made such a good haul, the robber sought to get away without anything suspicious about him, or anything to hinder his progress. Some clue as to the time the robbery was committed is given by Mrs. *Bunch*, who at 10.15 had occasion to go to the brewhouse. When returning to the house she saw a man on the pantry roof with his hands on the bedroom windowsill, but by the time she raised an alarm the man had made good his escape. When Mr. *Bunch* went to examine the bedroom he found the safe door wide open. He at once called in Police-constable Lewis, and the premises were searched without avail. The police have since been busily engaged making inquiries with a view to the apprehension of the guilty party.”

1911 Census

5, Chell Street – GOLDEN LION

[1] *Walter Bunch* (36), licensed victualler, born Coseley;

[2] *Florence Maud Bunch* (32), wife, married 9 years, assisting in business, born Coseley;

[3] *Harold Ernest Bunch* (8), son, school, born Coseley;

[4] *Walter William Bunch* (3), son, born Coseley;

[5] *Hilda Mary Rampson* (19), cousin, assisting in business, born Coseley;

[6] *Rebecca Clempson* (20), domestic servant, born Coseley:

Walter Bunch died in the 2nd quarter of 1915.

1921 Census

5, Chell Street

[1] *Thomas Leach* (46), publican, born Tipton;

[2] *Florence Leach* (45), wife, house duty, born Bloomfield;

[3] *Sidney Leach* (22), son, polisher, born Tipton;

[4] *Gertrude Florence Leach* (13), daughter, school, born Tipton:

Thomas Leach died on 13th May 1922.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/1/1928 - Interview

“To have been a reader of the *Gazette* for close upon fifty years is the happy boast of Mr. *Samuel Millichamp*, a retired publican now living in Bridgnorth Road, Wollaston, Stourbridge. He first remembers taking it when about 21 years old, at which time he was licensee of the BURNT TREE TAVERN, Tipton, and at various licensed houses he has been in charge of in the Black Country and Birmingham he has always had a *Gazette* on the premises.

When I called to have a chat with him, yesterday, Mr. *Millichamp* commented upon the great changes which had been effected in the licensing trade since the time he first became associated with it. In his early days most of the drink was homed brewed, but he considered the bog breweries of today could supply just as good a beverage as that of fifty years ago.

He thought that there was more drinking amongst women today than in the old days. Unfortunately a lot was done in secret, but when he started in the business it was nearly all done openly. Then there were the hours of opening. 'I was open,' he said, 'from six in the morning and did not close my doors until eleven at night, and sometimes later than that. In comparison, the publican of today almost has a gentleman's life. Years ago it was the custom to allow credit, and many colliers and puddlers who were customers of mine had credit to the extent of £5 or more. Sometimes they paid up, sometimes they didn't. Nowadays it is practically all ready money.'

Mr. *Millichamp* then alluded to an incident which he said revealed the honesty and straightforwardness of the average Black Country worker. While at the BURNT TREE TAVERN one of his customers ran up a 'score' and then emigrated to America without having paid his beer debts. Twelve months ago he received two dollars from the man, who had since made good in settlement of his account. 'So you see,' commented Mr. *Millichamp*, 'he squared up after 45 years.'

The facilities for drinking on licensed premises were next touched upon, Mr. *Millichamp* observing that in his younger days they had not the necessary number of glasses or mugs to supply all with drink. 'I had 30 to 40 men in my tap-room at one time,' he said, 'and one would order a pint and pass it round for his friends to drink. If any refused, it would be looked upon as an insult, and I have seen many a fight develop from such a refusal.' 'How different it all is now,' he added reminiscently, and then, as the mood deepened, he began to relate some of the fiery happenings which are now only recounted in well-upholstered seats by real old timers.

'You don't hear tell of rat pits at pubs now, do you?' he said, after musing awhile. 'Years ago they were one of the greatest assets of the Black Country publican. I had one when I was at the GOLDEN LION, Daisy Bank. It was in the club room, and at times there were as many as 30 rats in the pit when the dogs were put in. A lot of money changed hands in bets, and there was often a ratting competition for which the stake was a good supper. Dog fights were also staged in the tap-rooms at many houses, and I have seen lots of them end with their owners stripping to the waist and fighting each other in the same room when a dispute arose. Those were the days when tap-rooms often resembled a slaughterhouse in so far as blood was concerned.....'

1939 Register

Ash Street – GOLDEN LION

[1] *James Smith*, date of birth 19/6/1882, licensee, married;

[2] *Florence Smith*, dob 22/11/1884, unpaid domestic duties, married:

A team from here took part in the Bradley Darts League, First Division. [1946]

It was demolished in 1970.

It was rebuilt on a site 50 yards away on the corner of Ash Street and Lord Street West.

Express & Star 18/9/2007

"Two Black Country pubs have been rapped after complaints by neighbours about noise and yob behaviour. Bosses of the GOLDEN LION and SPREAD EAGLE in Bilston are being summoned before council chiefs and could face sanctions on their licence. An official council report reveals that eight complaints have been made by two residents against the GOLDEN LION since March. They claim that music coming from the venue in Ash Street, Bradley, is too loud, and on one occasion there was noise from the watering hole after hours. Bosses have been sent formal written warnings but more complaints were received as recently as July of this year. Report author Jayne Freeman-Evans, from the council's environmental services division, said, 'The continuing nuisance allegedly suffered by local residents, together with management's disregard of the conditions on their licence, has resulted in a deterioration in the quality of life of local residents.....'

Shelly Garbett – see also COTTAGE SPRING, Woodsetton, Sedgley.

[2016]



2011



2023



GOLDEN LION

Church Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

William Howes [1813] – [1841]

William Cluett [1841] – [1842]

James Akers [1845] – [1848]

NOTES

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 20/9/1813 - Advert

"To Druids.

Lodge 54 will be removed from Brother George Beebee's to *William Howe's*, at the Sign of the GOLDEN LION, Bilston, on Monday the 27th of September inst, when the Company of any regular-made Brother will be esteemed a Favour, at the usual Time in the Evening.

By Order of the MNG.

George Beebee, Secretary."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 15/11/1813 - Advert

"Most Noble Ancient Order of Druids, Lodge No.54.

The next Anniversary Dinner will be held at Brother *William Howe's*, Sign of the GOLDEN LION, Bilston, on Monday next, the 22nd of November instant, when the Company of any regular made Brother will be esteemed a Favour.

G. Beebee, Secretary.

NB. Dinner on the Table precisely at Two o'clock.

Bilston, November 15, 1813."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 22/8/1825 - Advert

"To be Sold by Auction, by Ricard Corbett, at the GOLDEN LION, in Church Street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, on Monday the 29th day of August, 1825, at five o'clock in the afternoon precisely, subject to conditions which will be then read, and in the following or such other lots as may be agreed upon at the time of sale.....

Lot II. All that well accustomed Public House, situate in Church Street, Bilston, called the GOLDEN LION, with an extensive yard and garden behind the same, now in the occupation of Mr. *William Howes*; and also of and in all that other Messuage, Tenement, or Dwelling House adjoining the last, heretofore in the occupation of Shale, but now of the said *William Howes*, together with the appurtenances thereunto belonging.....

Lot VI. All that Garden and Croft of Land, situate in the township of Bilston aforesaid, in the holding or occupation of the said *William Howes*, containing together about three quarters of an acre, with the Mines of Coal and Ironstone and all other Mines and Minerals in and under the same."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 5/9/1825 - Advert

"Sale of Rents arising from Freehold Messuages, Land, and Premises, situated at Brierly, in the Parish of Sedgley, in the County of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. R. Corbett, this present Monday, the 5th day of September, at five o'clock in the afternoon, at the house of *William Howes*, known by the name of the GOLDEN LION INN, in Bilston,, in the county of Stafford (by the direction of the Assignees of Thomas Wood, late of Bilston aforesaid, Ironmonger, a bankrupt) in one, or the following lots, and subject to conditions then and there to be produced....."

TO DRUIDS.

LODGE 54 will be removed from Brother George Beebee's to William Howe's, at the Sign of the Golden Lion, Bilston, on Monday the 27th of September inst. when the Company of any regular-made Brother will be esteemed a Favour, at the usual Time in the Evening.

By Order of the M. N. G.

GEORGE BEEBEE, Secretary.

Most Noble Ancient Order of Druids, Lodge No. 54.

THE next Anniversary Dinner will be held at Brother William Howe's, Sign of the Golden Lion, Bilston, on Monday next, the 22d of November instant, when the Company of any regular made Brother will be esteemed a Favour.

M. N. A.

G. BEEBEE, Secretary.

N. B. Dinner on the Table precisely at Two o'Clock.
Bilston, Nov. 15, 1813.

1813

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/10/1839 - Advert

“Fire Engine.

To be Sold by Auction, by John Batte, without reserve, on Saturday, November 2, 1839, at three o’clock in the afternoon, at the house of Mr. *William Howes*, GOLDEN LION, Bilston.

A Powerful Fire Engine, with Piping, Buckets, &c complete.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/10/1840 - Married

“On the 15th instant, at Bushbury, Mr. James Caddick, of Bilston, to Miss Ann Howes, youngest daughter of Mr. *William Howes*, of the GOLDEN LION, in the same place.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/3/1841 - Advert

“To be Let, with immediate possession, the GOLDEN LION, opposite St. Leonard’s Church, together with a Malthouse, in Stafford Street, Bilston.

For particulars apply to Mr. *William Howes*, on the premises.”

1841 Census

Church Street (south side of)

[1] *William Cluett* (35), auctioneer;

[2] *Ann Cluett* (35);

[3] *Emily Cluett* (11), born Staffordshire;

[4] *John Cluett* (7), born Staffordshire;

[5] *Mary Cluett* (5), born Staffordshire;

[6] *George Cluett* (2), born Staffordshire;

[7] *Edmund Cluett* (8 months), born Staffordshire;

[8] *Charlotte Griffiths* (15), f.s.:

Staffordshire Advertiser 11/12/1847

“Some excitement was exhibited at the Bilston public office, on Tuesday, by the appearance before the magistrates of Samuel Hodgkiss and George Yates, two men residing in that disreputable part of town called ‘the Berry.’ The prisoners were charged by John Williams with robbing him of 5s in the street, on Sunday night.

According to the prosecutor’s evidence, he had been drinking a jug or two of ale at the GOLDEN LION public house, Bilston, where the prisoners had also been taking a ‘drop.’ About half-past ten the prosecutor left, and as he was walking home, the prisoners stopped him, and demanded his money, which he refused to give them; Hodgkiss then held him, whilst Yates took the money, threatening, if he made a noise, to murder him. Prosecutor then returned to the GOLDEN LION INN, and afterwards gave the prisoners into custody of the police. They were committed to the Assizes for trial. The prisoners applied to be admitted to bail, and the magistrates ordered them to find two sureties in £25 each, and themselves in £50 each.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/3/1848

“Staffordshire Lent Assizes.....

Samuel Hodgkiss and George Yates were charged with assaulting Joseph Williams, at Bilston, on the 3rd of December last, and stealing from his person four shillings and two sixpences.

It appeared from the testimony of the prosecutor, Edward Thompson, a police officer, and Mrs. Worthington, of the FOX INN, Bilston, as they deposed to the facts respectively within their knowledge, that the prosecutor, about nine o’clock on the evening in question, went to the GOLDEN LION, at Bilston. He there met with the prisoners. Hodgkiss went out first, then Williams, and then Yates. Hodgkiss caught hold of Williams, and Yates took his money; after which ‘they both cut up the street as hard as they could go.’ The prisoners were taken, the same night, by the police and the prosecutor, at the FOX INN. Hodgkiss, while going to the police station, stooped, as if tying his shoe, and on being searched a second time at the police station, 7s 6d were found in his left shoe, among which was a bent sixpence identified by the prosecutor.

The Jury found the prisoners guilty, and they were each sentenced to be imprisoned twelve months, with hard labour.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 16/8/1848 - Advert

"Sale at the GOLDEN LION INN, Church Street, Bilston, in consequence of the premises being required for railway purposes.

To be Sold by Auction, by John Mason, on Monday next, the 21st day of August, 1848.

All the clean and neat Household Furniture, Brewing Utensils, &c, upon the premises of Mr. *James Akers*, GOLDEN LION INN, Church Street, Bilston; consisting of four-post and other bedsteads, prime feather beds, bed room furniture, all requisite Household Furniture, excellent iron-bound Ale Barrels, from 28 to 200 gallons, thirteen bushel Mash Tub, 110 gallon Copper Boiler, six pockets of prime Hops, and other effects.

The sale will commence at eleven o'clock in the morning.

Particulars in catalogues, which may be had at the office of the Auctioneer, Hall Street, Bilston."

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by **RICHARD CORBETT**, at the Golden Lion, in Church-street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, on Monday the 29th day of August, 1825, at five o'clock in the afternoon precisely, subject to conditions which will be then read, and in the following or such other lots as may be agreed upon at the time of sale:—

LOT I. All that valuable plot, piece, or parcel of Land, situate in Pinfold-street, Bilston, nearly opposite to the west entrance of the Market-place, desirably situated for building upon, containing about 17 yards to the front of Pinfold-street, and about 40 yards deep, being an oblong square plot of land, with a carriage road on the north side the whole depth of the land.

Also all that one undivided Third Part or Share of and in the following Messuages, Lands, and Hereditaments, viz.

LOT II. All that well accustomed Public House, situate in Church-street, Bilston, called the **GOLDEN LION**, with an extensive yard and garden behind the same, now in the occupation of Mr. William Howes; and also of and in all that other Messuage, Tenement, or Dwelling House adjoining the last, heretofore in the occupation of — Shale, but now of the said William Howes, together with the appurtenances thereunto belonging.—

1825

FIRE ENGINE. TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, BY JOHN BATTE,

Without reserve, on Saturday, November 2, 1839, at three o'clock in the afternoon, at the house of Mr. William Howes, Golden Lion, Bilston,

A POWERFUL FIRE ENGINE, with Piping, Buckets, &c. complete.

1839

TO BE LET,

With immediate possession,

THE GOLDEN LION, opposite St. Leonard's Church, together with a **MALTHOUSE**, in Stafford-street, Bilston.

For particulars apply to Mr. **WILLIAM HOWES**, on the premises.

1841

SALE AT THE GOLDEN LION INN, CHURCH-STREET, BILSTON,

In consequence of the premises being required for railway purposes.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, BY JOHN MASON,

On Monday next, the 21st day of August 1848,

ALL the clean and neat **HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE**, **BREWING UTENSILS**, &c. upon the premises of Mr. *James Akers*, Golden Lion Inn, Church-street, Bilston; consisting of four-post and other bedsteads, prime feather beds, bed room furniture, all requisite Household Furniture, excellent iron bound Ale Barrels, from 28 to 200 gallons, thirteen bushel Mash Tub, 110 gallon Copper Boiler, six pockets of prime **HOPS**, and other effects.

The sale will commence at eleven o'clock in the morning.

Particulars in catalogues, which may be had at the office of the **AUCTIONEER**, Hall-street, Bilston.

1848

GOOD FELLOWS ARMS

Stafford Street , BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Timothy Brooks [1851] – [1854]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

1851 Census

Stafford Street

- [1] *Timothy Brooks* (52), innkeeper, born Lye;
- [2] *Maria Brooks* (56), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *John Spencer* (81), father-in-law, widower, gentleman, born Bilston;
- [4] *Ann Jones* (19), general servant, born Wales:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/9/1852

“The annual licensing day for the division of Seisdon North was held at the Public Office, Bilston Street, Wolverhampton, on Thursday last.....

There were about forty applications for new [spirit] licenses, of which eight were granted.....

Application made by Mr. Underhill on behalf of Mr. *Timothy Brookes*, Stafford Street, Bilston, was, after some discussion, refused.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/8/1854

“The annual meeting of Magistrates for granting and renewing publican’s licenses in the parish of Bilston and Sedgley was held on Friday last, in the Bilston Police Court.....

There were eleven applications for new licenses which were disposed of as follows.....

An application made by Mr. Underhill, for a license to the GOOD FELLOWS ARMS, Bilston, in the occupation of Mr. *T. Brooks*, which was opposed by Mrs. *Amelia Wallet*, occupying the BALL COURT, an adjoining house, was refused.”

Timothy Brooks – see also VINE, Vine Street.

GREAT WESTERN

1, Ash Street / 83, Hall Green Street, (Hall Green), (Hallfields), Daisy Bank, Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

Great Western Railway Co.
Holt Brewery Co. Ltd.
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

LICENSEES

John Green [1851] – **1855**);
John Martin (**1855 – 1865**);
William Ryder Taylor (**1865**);
Alfred Martin (**1865 – 1866**);
Noah Halford (**1866 – 1900**);
Mrs. Martha Halford (**1900 – 1901**);
William McKenzie (**1901 – 1902**);
Mary Jane Mackenzie (**1902**);
William Henry Hemming (**1902**);
John Maddocks (**1902 – 1904**);
James Collins (**1904 – 1907**);
Albert Maddocks (**1907 – 1908**);
Thomas Morris (**1908**);
Richard Tunnicliffe (**1908 – 1909**);
Louis Hercy (**1909 – 1913**);
James Charles Ingram (**1913 – 1916**);
James 'Jim' Cooper (**1916 – 1926**);
Mrs. Isabella Alice Kidman (**1926 – [1939]**)
Harry Morris (**1947 – 1952**)
Thomas William Brookes []
Mick Gill [1987]
Don Concannon [1992]
Frederick Paskin [1994] – **1995**);
Paul Thompson (**1995 – []**)
Carmen Rawley (**2005 – [2008]**)



2000



2007

NOTES

[This pub was strictly in Sedgley, but is included here due to it being situated at Bradley.]

83, Hall Green Street [1891]
Hall Green Street [1896], [1908], [1912]
1, Ash Street [1881], [1911], [1932], [1940]

It was originally called the RAILWAY FOUNTAIN.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/2/1847

“An inquest was held on Thursday last, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, at the RAILWAY TAVERN, Daisy Bank, Sedgley, on the body of Joseph Westwood, a boy about nine years of age. It appeared that on the 25th of last month some men were employed in breaking a large wheel at Caponfield ironworks, when one of the wedges broke through the middle, and part of it struck deceased, who was standing by, on the head, and fractured his skull. On the following Tuesday he died. Verdict Accidental Death.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 4/7/1853 - Advert

“Building Materials, on the line of the Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton Railway, at Daisy Bank, near to Highfield, Coseley, Deepfields, and Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by E. and C. Robins, (by order of the Directors of the said Railway), on Monday the 11th day of July inst, at five o'clock in the afternoon, at the house of Mr. *John Green*, the RAILWAY FOUNTAIN INN, at Daisy Bank.

The Materials of two Houses and Out-offices, late belonging to Mr. Bailey, adjoining the premises of the FOUNTAIN INN aforesaid, which are required to be taken down for the Line and Works of the said Railway.

For particulars apply to E. and C. Robins, Surveyors and Auctioneers, New Street, Birmingham.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 20/6/1855

“Transfer of victuallers licenses, Bilston.....

RAILWAY FOUNTAIN, from *John Green*, deceased, to *John Martin*.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/10/1860 - Advert

“Freehold Dwellings Houses, at Hallfields, in the Parish of Sedgley.

Mr. S. Powell will Sell by Auction, at the house of Mr. *Martin*, the RAILWAY INN, Hallfields aforesaid, on Tuesday, the 16th of October, 1860, at six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be read.....”

John Martin was also a grocer. [1861]

1861 Census

Daisy Bank

- [1] *John Martin* (42), victualler and grocer, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Esther Martin* (41), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] *Thomas Martin* (20), son, grocer's assistant, born Sedgley;
- [4] *Sarah Ann Martin* (17), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [5] *Phebe Martin* (15), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Rebecca Martin* (12), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [7] *Esther Martin* (10), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [8] *John Henry Martin* (7), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [9] *Frederick Caleb Martin* (5), son, scholar, born Sedgley;

Wolverhampton Chronicle 6/11/1861

“Yesterday afternoon W. H. Phillips, Esq, deputy-cornor, held an inquest at the RAILWAY FOUNTAIN INN, Bradley, Bilston, on the body of William Lewis, 69 years of age, iron roller, who had died under distressing circumstances on the previous Sunday morning. Deceased, it seems, was returning home in a state of intoxication on Saturday night, and he succeeded in getting as far as the entry leading into his own yard. Between three and four o'clock on the Sunday morning he was found there by a watchman named Hickman, but Hickman did not know him, and consequently he did not remove him. At the inquest yesterday Hickman was not examined, but a witness named Solloway proved hearing a conversation between him and the deceased. She heard Hickman inquiring of Lewis who he was, and heard Hickman go away, saying that he would fetch a policeman. During the conversation between Hickman and the deceased witness got up to the window. About five or ten minutes after witness got into bed again, and while Hickman was searching for the police Mrs. Solloway heard some one apparently drag the deceased out of the entry into the road, where he was found next morning. She heard deceased cry, 'Mercy,' and 'Don't murder me,' but she did not get up a second time. A girl named Elizabeth Thompson proved seeing a man pick the deceased up

in the street at seven o'clock on Sunday morning. He was alive and muttered something very inaudibly, but no one could understand what he said; he died shortly afterwards. A woman named Waller stated that she heard someone cry 'Murder,' but it only seemed to be like the brawling of a drunken man. Thomas Perry proved hearing a man in conversation with the deceased; he believed the man to be Hickman. The inquest was adjourned till Monday next for the purpose of making a post mortem examination.

Rumours have been currently circulated in Bilston that the deceased was murdered, but there is little reason to suppose that this is the case. An indefatigable correspondent to the London and provincial papers has 'written up' the case most alarmingly, and many of the daily papers yesterday were flaming with an account of 'Another Murder at Bilston.'"

Leeds Mercury 14/11/1861

"On Monday the adjourned inquest was held at the RAILWAY FOUNTAIN INN, Daisy Bank, Bilston, Staffordshire, on the body of William Lewis, relative to whose death in the road near his lodgings, at Hall Fields, so much interest has been excited. The medical evidence was entirely opposed to the idea of death by violence, though it appeared that deceased's pockets might have been picked while he was intoxicated. Several of the jurymen remarked on the coldness of the night on which the deceased died. The jury returned a verdict of Died from Excessive Drinking and Exposure to Cold."

Birmingham Journal 11/1/1862 - Died

"On the 4th inst, aged 9½ years, John Henry, fourth son of Mr. *John Martin*, of the FOUNTAIN INN, Daisy Bank."

Birmingham Journal 24/10/1863 - Advert

"Sedgley Wakes.

Proprietors of Booths, Stalls, Shows, or Circuses, are hereby informed that Ground for the above can be obtained Free of Charge by applying to *John Martin*, RAILWAY FOUNTAIN INN, near the Daisy Bank Station.

Success Is certain. Vivat Regina."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/5/1864 - Advert

"Highfields, near Bilston, Staffordshire. Freehold Houses and Premises.

Messrs. Davies and King will Sell by Auction, on Thursday next, the 5th day of May, at the house of Mr. *John Martin*, the RAILWAY FOUNTAIN INN, Daisy Bank, Highfields, at Six o'clock in the afternoon....."

Birmingham Journal 18/6/1864 - Advert

"To Grocers. An Excellent Opportunity.

To be Disposed Of, in the neighbourhood of Great Bridge, a good Business in the above Trade. Stock and Fixtures at valuation, will be about £25. Satisfactory reasons given for leaving.

Apply to Mr. *J. Martin*, RAILWAY FOUNTAIN, Daisy Bank; or W. R. Taylor, Appraiser, Lichfield Street, Bilston."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/7/1864 - Advert

"To Carpenters. Wanted, Two good Men of General Work. Good wages given.

Apply personally, at the RAILWAY FOUNTAIN, Daisy Bank, near Bilston."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 20/9/1865

"An inquest was held on Monday, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, deputy coroner, at the RAILWAY FOUNTAIN, Daisy Bank, Bilston, on the body of John Hughes, aged twenty-three. On the 25th of August, deceased was working in one of the Earl of Dudley's pits, at Deepfields, when a quantity of coal fell upon him. He sustained injuries from which he died on Friday last. The witnesses were unable to attach blame to any one, and a verdict of Accidental Death was recorded."

Edinburgh Gazette 17/10/1865

“*John Martin*, late of Bradley, near Bilston, Stafford, licensed victualler, a prisoner for debt in the Gaol at Stafford.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 2/12/1865

“Birmingham Bankruptcy Court In re *J. Martin*, of Bradley, victualler.

Meeting for last examination and discharge, attended by Mr. Griffin (James and Griffin) for the assignee.

The bankrupt was briefly examined by Mr. Griffin. He said, ‘I bought some goods from Mr. Chapman, on the 24th of March. My name was then over the door, but it was removed on the following Wednesday, and *William Ryder Taylor*’s name was then put up. *Taylor* is my son-in-law, and his name remained until July, when the business was transferred to *Alfred Martin*, my son. Mr. Chapman has not been paid for the goods.’

The balance-sheet not having been filed, the meeting was adjourned to January 18, the bankrupt being ordered to file a cash account, a deficiency account, and a purchase and sale account.”

Birmingham Journal 20/1/1866

“Birmingham Bankruptcy Court In re *J. Martin*, late of Bradley, victualler.

Meeting for last examination and discharge. Attended by Mr. Griffin (firm James and Griffin) for the assignees. The bankrupt having neglected to file certain accounts which had been ordered, the Court adjourned him sine die.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 25/3/1868

“Yesterday, at Bilston Police Court, William Jeavons, chartermaster, was charged with stealing a horse, value £10, belonging to *Noah Halford*, landlord of the FOUNTAIN INN, Daisy Bank. Mr. Sheldon appeared on behalf of the prosecutor.

The horse was purchased on the 1st of November last from a relative of the prisoner, named Cadman, and on the 24th of that month it was put into a field to grass. Some of the rails that surrounded the field were on the following morning found down, and the animal was missing; nothing was heard about it again until within the past few days, when the prisoner was seen driving the animal in the street. He was then given into custody, and he admitted having taken away the pony from the field. The case was remanded until Friday week.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 16/7/1869 - Deaths

“On the 9th inst, at Hall Green, near Bilston, aged 5 years and 3 months, Mary, eldest daughter of *Noah* and Harriet *Halford*; deeply lamented. On the 12th inst, at the same place, in the 26th year of her age, Harriet, the beloved wife of Mr. *Noah Halford*.”

Noah Halford married *Martha Tomes* in the 2nd quarter of 1870.

Martha was the daughter of Thomas Tomes – see HIMLEY ARMS.

Martha was the sister of *Noah Halford*’s first wife, Harriet.

1871 Census

1, Ash Street

[1] *Noah Halford* (35), licenced victualler, born Sedgley;

[2] *Martha Halford* (24), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Jane Halford* (5), daughter, born Bilston;

[4] *Noah Halford* (1 month), son, born Sedgley:

Midland Examiner 27/7/1878 - Deaths

“On the 7th instant, in his 8th year, Noah, the dearly-beloved son of *Noah Halford*, GREAT WESTERN INN, Daisy Bank, Bilston.”

Dudley Herald 31/1/1880

“At the Bilston Police Court, on Tuesday, John Mumford, bricklayer, Daisy Bank, was charged under an adjourned summons with being drunk and refusing to quit the GREAT WESTERN INN, Daisy Bank, on the 23rd of December, and there was a cross-summons, in which *Noah Halford*, the landlord of the house named, was charged with assaulting Mumford. Mr. R. A. Willcock (Wolverhampton) appeared for *Halford*. The latter stated that about half-past nine o’clock on the date named, Mumford entered his house in a drunken state, and requested to be supplied with a glass of whisky. Witness refused to serve him, at the same time telling him that he had had enough and had

better go home. He, however, refused to go, and witness took him to the front door, when Mumford attempted to throw him, and caught hold of him, and in the struggle that ensued they both fell down two steps into the road. He called two witnesses, who gave corroborative evidence.

Mumford was sworn, and said he had one glass of whisky in the house, and called for another. *Halford* laid hold of him by the collar, dragged him into the road and down two steps, his leg being broken by the fall. He had since been in the Wolverhampton Hospital. As he called no witnesses to substantiate his statement, the Bench dismissed the summons for assault against *Halford*, and fined Mumford 2s 6d and costs. The magistrates told him that he would have been fined much heavier only that he had already suffered for his misconduct.”

1881 Census

1, Ash Street

[1] *Noah Halford* (48), licensed victualler, born Sedgley;

[2] *Martha Halford* (34), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Jane Halford* (15), daughter, born Bilston;

[4] *Frederick J. Halford* (8), son, scholar, born Sedgley;

[5] *Harriet Halford* (5), daughter, scholar, born Sedgley;

[6] *Clara Halford* (3), daughter, scholar, born Sedgley;

[7] *Harriet Grice* (20), general servant, born Sedgley:

Birmingham Daily Post 21/8/1883

“Yesterday, Mr. W. H. Phillips (coroner) held an inquest at the GREAT WESTERN INN, Daisy Bank, into the death of John Jones (63), miner, late of John Street, Daisy Bank, who committed suicide by jumping down a pit shaft on Friday last.

Daniel Jones, son of the deceased, deposed that his father had lately acted very strangely, and he considered that he was not right in his mind.

William Bennett, of Highfields, said that he saw the deceased take off his boots near the Highfields Colliery. He then climbed the fence round the mouth of the pit, and jumped head foremost down it. He believed the shaft was 135 yards 2 feet deep, and contained 36 feet of water.

John Lee, sinker, stated that he went down the shaft and took the body out, but only after seven trials.

A verdict of Committed Suicide whilst in a State of Temporary Insanity was returned by the jury; and the coroner rewarded Lee for his courageous conduct in taking the body out of the pit.”

Dudley and District News 3/1/1885

“On Wednesday morning W. H. Phillips, Esq, coroner, held an inquest at the GREAT WESTERN INN, Daisy Bank, touching the death of Elizabeth Brett (80), widow of Thomas Brett, formerly a blacksmith, of Ash Street, Daisy Bank.

Henry Brett, son of the deceased, stated that lately deceased had been suffering from diarrhoea. She had had parish relief, also the attendance of the parish surgeon. On Sunday morning he left her lying on a bench, apparently asleep. Upon returning, between ten and eleven o’clock, he found her in the same position, in consequence of which he became alarmed, sent for a neighbour, and it was found that she was dead. He thought death was due to old age. She had not wanted food.

Elizabeth Lamb, the wife of John Lamb, who resides near by, said deceased was very infirm, but generally worse in cold weather, and she expected her death. Deceased had not wanted food or fire. There was no mark of injury upon her. She had no bed to sleep upon, but rested upon a bench, and the place was miserable.

The police officer said when he saw deceased on Sunday morning she was only covered with rags.

The Coroner remarked that there was only one room, and that upon the ground floor, and it was a miserable place to live in. Deceased would have been better off in the Union. The son said he had asked his mother to go there, but she refused. He also stated that he could not bury her, and a note was given him to go to the relieving officer.

The jury returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 24/3/1885

“Local Board Nominations Coseley.

The following nominations have been received by the returning officer *Noah Halford*, Ash Street, publican.”

[He was not elected.]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 20/5/1885

“Wolverhampton Fishing Club. Established 1877. By kind permission of Lord Hatherton; J. Deyken, Esq. This Club owns Best Water in Midlands River, Trout Stream, and well-stocked Ponds. For Tickets, apply GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Daisy Bank.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 13/7/1885 - Advert

“Fishing! Fishing!! The Best in the Midlands. River, Trout Stream, and Ponds. For day and season tickets apply to T. Gretton, 21, Park Street, Walsall; BLUE BOAR HOTEL, Bilston; GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Daisy Bank; Bowen’s, grocer, Bradley; Shakespeare’s Fishing Tackle Shop, Berry Street, Wolverhampton.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 31/8/1889 - Advert

“Fishing. Extraordinary takes, both rivers in good fishing order. Tickets, Great Western Hotel Daisy Bank; Shakespeare’s, Wolverhampton.”

FISHING.—Extraordinary takes, both rivers in good fishing order. Tickets, Great Western Hotel Daisy Bank; Shakespeare’s, Wolverhampton.

Worcestershire Chronicle 27/9/1890

“A fatal accident of a shocking nature took place at the Daisy Bank Station, on the Great Western Railway, on Tuesday night. A widow named Fanny Clulow, 79 years of age, and a resident in Walsall Street, Bilston, had been to Tenbury, in Worcestershire, hop-picking, and returned by a train which reached Daisy Bank about 10 o’clock. She alighted there intending to walk home, and proceeded to cross the line behind the passenger train. Just as she got on the up rails a goods train came up and the engine struck her, knocking her a considerable distance and killing her almost instantaneously. The body when picked up was terribly mangled. It was removed to the GREAT WESTERN INN at Daisy Bank.”

1891 Census

83, Hall Green Street – GREAT WESTERN INN

- [1] *Noah Halford* (58), licensed victualler, born Bradley;
- [2] *Martha Halford* (44), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Harriett Halford* (15), daughter, pupil teacher, born Daisy Bank;
- [4] *Clara Halford* (13), daughter, scholar, born Daisy Bank;
- [5] *Sydney Halford* (9), son, scholar, born Daisy Bank;
- [6] *Frank Halford* (8), son, scholar, born Daisy Bank;
- [7] *Phoebe Tate* (19), domestic servant, born Bradley;

Birmingham Daily Post 29/3/1900 - Deaths

“On the 27th inst, at the GREAT WESTERN, Daisy Bank, Bilston, *Noah Halford*, in his 68th year. No cards. No flowers, by request.”

1900 Probate

“*Noah Halford* of the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Daisy Bank, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 27 March 1900. Probate Lichfield 26 June to *Martha Tomes*, spinster. Effects £2,008 0s 5d.”

Noah Halford – see also BLACK HORSE, High Street.

Martha Halford died on 5th November 1901.

1911 Census

1, Ash Street – GREAT WESTERN

- [1] *Louis Hercy* (53), licensed victualler, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] *Margaret Hercy* (55), wife, married 30 years, born Tipton;

Jim and *Hannah Cooper* also ran a coal business from the premises.

It was the headquarters of Coseley Ladies FC.

Dudley Chronicle 25/1/1934 - Advert

“To Speculators, Builders, Dairymen, Etc.

By Direction of the Mortgagees. Announcement of Sale by Auction of a Valuable Freehold Property, situate at Daisy Bank, near Bilston.

Noel Thompson & Co. are instructed to offer for Sale by Auction, at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Daisy Bank, on Monday, February 5th, 1934, at 7pm precisely and subject to Conditions of Sale, the Commodious Detached Residence, together with 2 Roods 27 Perches, or thereabouts of Capital Freehold Land, known as Highfields Hall.....”

1939 Register

Ash Street – GREAT WESTERN INN

[1] Isabella A. (Kidmann) Plant, date of birth 6/2/1879, licensed victualler, manageress, widowed;

[2] Rose E. Mason, dob 27/12/1909, unpaid domestic duties, single;

[3] Sidney G. Hytch, dob 9/5/1876, commercial traveller, married;

[4] Clara Hytch, dob 28/10/1874, unpaid domestic duties, married:

A team from here took part in the Bradley Crib League. [1946]

A team from here took part in the Bradley Darts League, Second Division. [1946]

A team from here won the Banks's and Hansons / Silk Cut Sports Quiz Championship in 1987, 1988, and 1989.

Don Concannon was married to Pearl.

Carmen Rawley's partner was Roger Wood.

She was born c.1961.

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.....

GREAT WESTERN, Bradley.”

[2023]



2016



2023

BUILDING MATERIALS,

On the Line of the Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton Railway, at Daisy Bank, near to Highfield, Coseley, Deepfield, and Bilston.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by E. and C. ROBINS (by order of the Directors of the said Railway), on Monday the 11th day of July inst., at five o'clock in the afternoon, at the house of Mr. John Green, the Railway Fountain Inn, at Daisy Bank—the MATERIALS of two Houses and Out-offices, late belonging to Mr. Bailey, adjoining the premises of the Fountain Inn aforesaid, which are required to be taken down for the Line and Works of the said Railway.

For particulars apply to E. and C. Robins, Surveyors and Auctioneers, New-street, Birmingham.

1853

SEDGLEY WAKES.

PROPRIETORS of BOOTHS, STALLS, SHOWS, or CIRCUSES, are hereby informed that GROUND for the above can be obtained FREE of CHARGE by applying to John Martin, Railway Fountain Inn, near the Daisy Bank Station.

SUCCESS IS CERTAIN.
VIVAT REGINA.

1863

TO GROCERS.—An EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY.—To be DISPOSED OF, in the neighbourhood of Great Bridge, a good BUSINESS in the above Trade. Stock and Fixtures at valuation, will be about £25. Satisfactory reasons given for leaving.—Apply to Mr. J. Martin, Railway Fountain, Daisy Bank; or W. R. Taylor, Appraiser, Lichfield Street, Bilston.

TO CARPENTERS.—WANTED. Two good MEN of General Work. Good wages given.—Apply, personally, at the Railway Fountain, Daisy Bank, near Bilston.

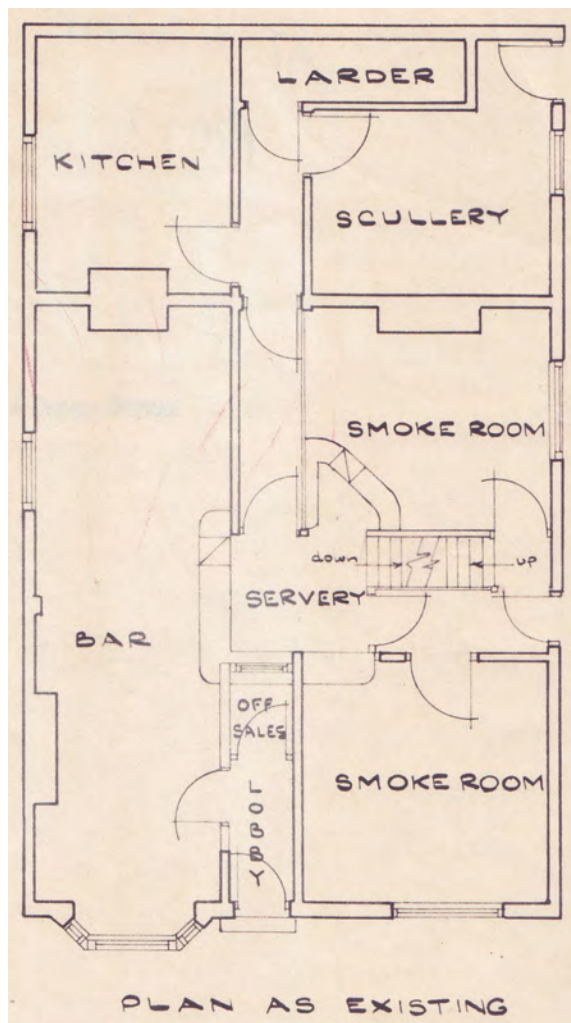
1864

FISHING! Fishing!!—The Best in the Midlands.—River, Trout Stream, and Ponds.—For day and season tickets apply to T. Gretton, 21, Park-st., Walsall; Blue Boar Hotel, Bilston; Great Western Hotel, Daisy Bank; Bowen's, grocer, Bradley; Shakespeare's Fishing Tackle Shop, Berry-st., Wolverhampton.

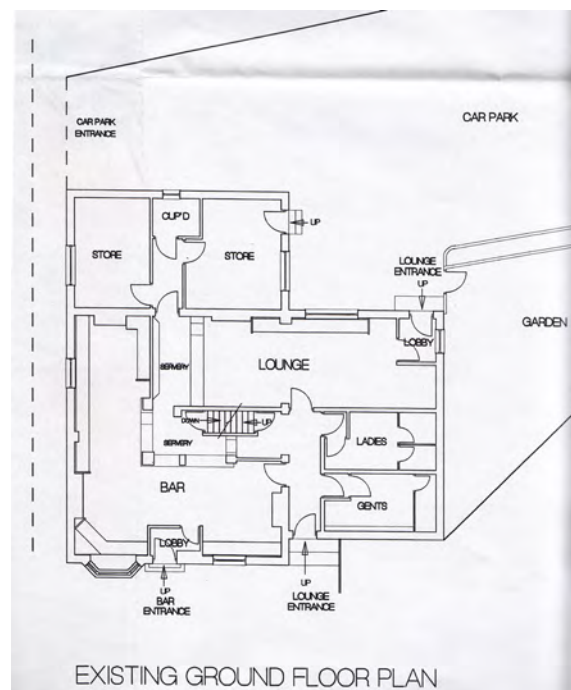
1885



1884



Plan 1975



Plans 1995

GREAT WESTERN

25, Hall Street, (Market Street), BILSTON

OWNERS

John Rogers
Thomas Salt and Co. Ltd.
Atkinsons Brewery Ltd. [1921]

LICENSEES

John Rogers (1863 – 1875);
Robert John Rogers (1875 – 1903);
Charles Mortimore (1903 – 1904);
Thomas Atkiss (1904 – 1906);
Stephen Allen Corbett (1906 – 1908);
Thomas Hanks (1908 – 1910);
Reginald Arthur Passingham (1910 – 1912);
William Dunn (1912);
William Vaughan (1912 – 1913);
John 'Jack' Silvester (1913 – 1920);
Henry 'Harry' Cooper (1920 – 1925);
Joseph Johnson (1925 – [1940])

NOTES

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/9/1862

“The Annual Licensing Meeting. This meeting was held in the Police Court on Friday last.....

Mr. Whitehouse then applied on behalf of Mr. *John Rogers*, hairdresser, news agent, and collector of assessed taxes, for a license to premises he is erecting by PIPE HALL. Mr. Whitehouse remarked that he was well aware that the Bench were of opinion that the number of public houses in Bilston was sufficiently great already; but his client had expended £700 in the purchase of the ground and the erection of a house, which would provide accommodation for the important class of the community, commercial travellers, which he declared was afforded by no public house in Bilston. Mr. Underhill, who opposed on behalf of Mr. Elkington, of the ANGEL, argued that the best proof that no such house was wanted, was that neither the railway company nor Mr. Pugh had used the license for PIPE HALL. The application was refused.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/8/1863

“Yesterday a special session was held for the renewal and granting of victuallers' licenses.....

A new license was granted for the GREAT WESTERN INN, near the Great Western Station to Mr. *John Rogers*, on the application of Mr. Waterhouse, opposed by Mr. J. E. Underhill.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/9/1863

“The meeting for the renewing and granting of licenses was held on Friday, at Bilston police office.....

Mr. Waterhouse, solicitor, of Bilston, made an application for a license to be granted to Mr. George [sic] *Rodgers*, landlord of the GREAT WESTERN INN, Market Street. It appeared that when the Great Western Railway Company constructed their line of railway through Bilston, some years ago, some land, on which stood two old licensed houses, known by the names of the GLOBE and HOP POLE, were taken in by the company, and the license of the former house was subsequently transferred to PIPE HALL, a large and commodious house near the Great Western Railway Station. Mr. Bull, the owner of the house, had never availed himself of the license, but had let the house to a schoolmaster, and it was now used as an educational establishment, and called the Pipe Hall Academy. The

applicant had purchased a piece of land formerly belonging to PIPE HALL, and as he had extensive accommodation, and was so close to the railway station he (Mr. Waterhouse) thought there was great necessity that the house should be licensed. Mr. Waterhouse then handed in a certificate signed by the churchwardens, also a petition signed by the majority of the commissioners, including the chairman; one from the chairman of the Wolverhampton Board of Guardians, and one bearing the signatures of twenty-four commercial travellers, no less than six of whom had availed themselves of his accommodation during the preceding day.

Mr. J. E. Underhill, of Wolverhampton, opposed on behalf of Mr. Elkinton, of the ANGEL INN, and stated that his client's house was of much easier access than the applicant's, being directly opposite to the station.

Mr. *Rodgers*, in answer to the Bench, guaranteed that in a very short time he would be in a position to give accommodation for at least six horses and conveyances, and with this understanding, and also taking into consideration the applicant's previous good character, the application was granted."

John Rogers was also a brewers agent and income tax assessor and collector.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 16/9/1863 - Advert

"Valuable Freehold Property, at Bilston.

Messrs. Morrell and Griffiths will Offer for Sale by Public Auction, on Friday, the 2nd day of October, 1863, at the house of Mr. *John Rogers*, known as the GREAT WESTERN INN, Hall Street, Bilston....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 6/5/1865

"A dinner was given to Mr. Thomas Owen, station-master of the Great Western Railway Company at Bilston (who is leaving for promotion to another station), by the officials and a few friends – gentlemen of the town, who held Mr. Owen in high esteem for his kind and courteous demeanour as station-master. The dinner was provided at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, by Mr. *John Rogers* (the landlord), in the usual excellent style of the establishment. The entertainment was presided over by Mr. George Beard, Chairman of the Local Board of Commissioners; and the vice-chair by Mr. James Thomas, ironmaster. After the cloth was drawn, a very handsome testimonial was presented to Mr. Owen, consisting of a splendid time-piece and a well-filled purse, subscribed by the officials at the station and other friends."

Birmingham Daily Post 23/8/1865

"Yesterday, Mr. W. H. Phillips, Deputy Coroner, held an inquest at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Bilston, on the body of James Rogers, aged 24 years, who died there on Monday morning from injuries received on the Saturday evening previously.

Obadiah Rogers, yardsman, in the employ of the Great Western Railway Company, deposed that the deceased was a passenger guard under the same company, living at Wednesfield Heath. On Saturday night he left Wolverhampton Station as guard on the 10.30pm passenger train. He (the witness) accompanied him. When near to Priestfields Station the deceased leaned out of the window on the right hand side of the carriage, and, shortly after the train had passed under a bridge, the witness spoke to him. Not receiving an answer he went over and found him insensible. He was taken out at Bilston. He (the witness) had since examined the bridges, and thought that the bridge on the other side of Priestfields was 13 inches from the side of a broad gauge carriage. That bridge was a wooden one, and, as long as he had known it, had occupied the same position, i.e., none of the supports or the rails had been removed. He thought that the deceased had been struck by one of the bridges, but he could not tell which.

Mr. Larkin, surgeon, deposed that he was called in to see the deceased on Saturday night. He was then insensible, and suffering from concussion and compression of the brain. There was a large scalp wound at the back of his head, and he had lost a considerable quantity of blood. The injuries might have been occasioned by a violent blow on the back of the head.

John Ledbrooke, inspector, deposed that the deceased had been on the line for the last two years. He had nothing to do that he should have leaned out of his van window. The witness had examined the line from that particular van. The nearest bridge on the line was 2ft 9in from the rails, and 18in from the carriage window. He found no mark on any bridge. The bridges were now in the same state as they were when examined by the Government Inspector. The Coroner suggested to the Jury that a special examination of the line between Wolverhampton and Priestfields should be made. The Jury acquiesced, and the inquest was adjourned until eleven o'clock on Friday morning."

[At the adjourned inquest the jury returned a verdict that James Rogers died from the effects of injuries received by coming in contact with a bridge.]

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/9/1865

“A subscription is being organised for the widow of late James Rogers, guard on the Great Western Railway, who was killed on the line between Priestfields and Bilston on the 19th ult. He was much respected by the travellers on the line, and it is hoped that the public will assist in providing for his widow and child. Donations may be made at the Wolverhampton or any other station on the Great Western line.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 15/8/1866

“On Wednesday evening last an inquest was opened before T. M. Phillips Esq, Coroner, at the GREAT WESTERN INN, Bilston, on the body of a man named John Tranter, a miner, aged 41, living in Bristol Street, Bilston, who had died suddenly on the previous Sunday night, under circumstances which gave rise to considerable suspicion.

The deceased was not married, but lived with a woman named Eliza Carline, and the evidence showed that they lived on affectionate terms, the deceased having been for some time a teetotaler. They were together at home on Sunday, and soon after six o'clock went into a neighbour's house to tea. Eliza Carline said she made tea for herself and deceased in Hopkin's (the neighbour's) teapot, the latter having had tea. They had bread and butter for tea, and shortly after deceased complained of a slight pain, and went out for a walk; but the pain increasing, he came home, and at his request Eliza Carline made him some mint tea. His bowels were then moved twice, but as he continued in great agony, Mr. Best, surgeon, was sent for, and the assistant came. He prescribed emetics, which did not, however, operate, and the poor fellow died after enduring excruciating torment about two o'clock on Monday morning. He had roast pork and potatoes for dinner on Sunday, which was prepared by the woman Carline, and of which she also partook.

The inquiry was adjourned until Friday, when Mr. Malim, assistant to Mr. Best, gave the following evidence, as to the results of a post mortem examination he had made of the body of the deceased. He said: I am a surgeon, and reside at Bilston, in this county. By the direction of the Coroner I made a post mortem examination of the body of the deceased, John Tranter, on the 8th of August instant. On examining the body externally I found no marks of bruises or other injuries. The face wore an expression of pain, and it, together with the neck, was of a deep purple hue. The abdomen was much distended with gas, and the limbs, scrotum, and remainder of the body were swollen and puffy. On opening the head the scalp was much injected with venous blood; the brain was soft and pale, and contained within its cavities and unusual amount of serous fluid. In the chest I found the heart healthy in texture, and quite empty of blood on both sides. The pericardium contained a quantity of fluid, not more than usual. The right lung was congested, and very firmly adherent, the adhesions being the result of old disease. The left lung was shrunk, but free of adhesions. On opening the abdomen, the peritoneum, covering the intestines, presented an inflammatory appearance. The stomach was enormously distended with gas. In the cavity of the abdomen there was a quantity (I should think half a pint) of dark coloured fluid matter, having the smell of vomit, and exactly the appearance of the fluid I afterwards found in the stomach. On laying open the stomach, I found it to contain a quantity of thickish fluid matter, of a brownish black colour, and floating in it were some small lumps of pork fat and pieces of potato. On removing these contents (some of which I have preserved), I found a patch of charred membrane, about the size of a half-crown piece, irregularly circular in shape, soft and friable. In the centre of this patch was an aperture about the size of a sixpence, through which some of the contents of the stomach had evidently passed. The edges of this aperture were thin, and slightly bevelled from within outwards. Leading to the circumference of the above-described patch were a few injected blood-vessels. This aperture was situate on the anterior surface of the stomach, near the small curvatur, or nearer to the cardiac than the pyloric orifice. Corresponding to the position of this patch, on the exterior of the stomach, the tissues were also blackened and destroyed, though not to so great an extent as on the inside. There were also scattered over the cardiac end of the stomach, internally, small red inflammatory punctae. The remainder of the mucous membrane of the stomach seemed quite healthy, and was of a rather pale colour. The duodenum contained a quantity of partially digested food. Its lining membrane was healthy. The remaining intestines presented no unusual appearance. The kidneys were both healthy; the bladder empty. The liver was of a much darker colour than natural, probably a post mortem change; otherwise it seemed healthy. The spleen was natural. From these facts and the symptoms exhibited before death, I am of opinion that deceased died from perforation of the stomach, caused by the action of some corrosive poison. The witness, in reply

to the Coroner, stated that the medicine he sent to the deceased was of a very simple character, being composed of 20 grains of sulphate of zinc, mixed with one and a-half ounces of water. The pills were 7 grains compound soap pills, and would contain not quite 1½ grains of pure opium. Mr. Best (who was present), said he had shown the stomach to Mr. Newnham, surgeon to the South Staffordshire Hospital, and he concurred with him that the poison was so powerful that had it been administered in a liquid form, it must have burnt the lips and throat; and they thought, therefore that it must have entered the stomach in a solid form. But in what form the evidence did not at all show; and after a very patient inquiry the inquest was adjourned till the 7th September so as to enable Mr. McCrea ample time to make further inquiries, and also that the stomach might be analysed.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/9/1866

“On Friday, T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, held an adjourned inquest, at the GREAT WESTERN INN, Bilston, touching the death of a man named John Tranter, a miner, aged 41, living in Bristol Street, Bilston, who died suddenly on the night of the 10th ult, under circumstances which gave rise to considerable suspicion.

It may be in the recollection of our readers that on the last occasion Mr. Malim, (assistant to Mr. Best), who had made a post mortem examination of the body, stated that the appearances presented by the stomach – which in one part was perforated and apparently calcined – led him to the conclusion that death had been caused by some strong mineral poison, but of what particular character he was unable to say. This was likewise the opinion of Mr. Best, and of one or two other surgeons to whom the case was mentioned, although there was no evidence to show that any poison had been taken by or administered to the deceased.

Dr. Hill, Borough Analyst for Birmingham, to whom the analysis of the stomach of the deceased had been entrusted, now attended and gave the following evidence. He said: I have examined the stomach and portions of the liver forwarded to me by direction of the Coroner, and I found the stomach to contain a considerable quantity of food, partly digested. There was a large ulcer on the coat of the stomach, three inches by two inches, and an oval angular perforation half an inch the long way. There were no marks of inflammation or corrosion in any part of the stomach, such as would be expected if a corrosive or irritant poison had been swallowed. The contents of the stomach were not excessively acid, as they would have been if sulphuric, nitric, hydrochloric, oxalic, or any other corrosive acid had been taken. I proved the absence of these acids by chemical tests. A search for the corrosive and irritant metallic poisons, including arsenic, antimony, mercury, lead, copper, gave negative results. Perforation is by no means an uncommon result of natural disease of the stomach, and regarding the absence of more general marks of corrosion and irritation, the absence of poison, and the character of the ulcer and perforation, I have no doubt whatever that death was produced by peritonitis, from the escape of food into the cavity of the abdomen through a perforation in the stomach, which was the result of disease. I have not heard the evidence as to symptoms, but fully expect that it will strengthen this view of the case. Dr. Hill then read the medical evidence previously taken and found this to be the case. In the first place that evidence stated that the perforation was in the cardiac of the stomach, that portion of the stomach in which ulcers generally occurred. Then there were no marks of ulceration except at that point, and no inflammation of any note, were points corroborative of his opinion. The presence of food in the stomach too proved the absence of anything of a corrosive nature; because the first symptoms of the presence of corrosive poison in the stomach was vomiting. The slight vomiting that did take place was caused by the escape of food through the perforation irritating the peritoneum; ulceration of the stomach would exist without pain, and death ultimately from it was not uncommon.

A Juryman remarked that the evidence on the last occasion showed that deceased and the woman with whom he lived had been ‘larking’ together the same evening in the yard.

Dr. Hill, in reply to this, said very likely it was the exertion on that occasion which ruptured the ulcer.

Mr. Malim, in reply to the Coroner, said he quite concurred with Dr. Hill as to the cause of death.

The Coroner remarked that he had never heard of so remarkable a case in all his experience.

The Jury then returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased came to his death from peritonitis, occasioned by rupture of a ulcer in the stomach, the ulcer being the result of disease.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/8/1867

“Bilston. Nomination of Commissioners. Messrs. Holcroft, Baker, Dean, and Bowen retire by rotation from the office of Commissioners, under the Local Improvement Act, and the period for nomination of their successors closed on Wednesday evening. Of the retiring Commissioners, only two have been again nominated, Messrs. Dean and Bowen. The following have also been nominated Mr. Rogers, licensed victualler, GREAT WESTERN HOTEL The election takes place on Thursday next.”

[He was elected, in third place, to fill one of the four vacancies.]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/4/1868 – Advert

“Important Sale of Valuable Freehold Property, at Bilston, and Bank Shares.

Mr. Thomas Richards will Offer for Sale by Auction, at the house of Mr. *John Rogers*, the GREAT WESTERN INN, Hall Street, Bilston, on Friday, the 1st of May, 1868, at Six o’clock in the evening.....”

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/12/1868

“The leading Conservatives of Bilston met together yesterday evening at dinner at Mr. *Rogers*’s, the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, to celebrate the return of Sir Smith Child, Bart, and Mr. Meynell-Ingram at the recent election for West Staffordshire.”

John Rogers was an agent for Findlater & Co. Dublin stout and Salt & Co. Burton Ale. [1868], [1870], [1872]

1871 Census

Hall Street – G.W. INN

- [1] *John Rogers* (50), licensed victualler employing 1 man, born Bilston;
- [2] *Hannah Rogers* (49), wife, born Basingstoke, Hampshire;
- [3] *Dinah Rogers* (19), daughter, barmaid, born Bilston;
- [4] *John Rogers* (12), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] *Alice Rogers* (9), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] *William Knott* (13), nephew, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [7] *Matilda Pearson* (18), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 29/11/1873 - Advert

“Freehold Property, situate at Shropshire Row and John Street, Bradley, near Bilston.

Mr. James Taylor will Sell by Auction, at the house of Mr. *J. Rogers*, GREAT WESTERN INN, Hall Street, Bilston, on Wednesday, December 10, 1873, at 7 o’clock in the evening.....”

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/4/1875

“The following have been nominated to fill the eight vacancies for Bilston parish at the Board of Guardians.....

John Rogers, licensed victualler, Hall Street.”

[He was elected.]

Robert John Rogers was the son of *John Rogers*.

Midland Counties Evening Express 8/1/1878

“The annual Dinner of the employees of the goods department of the Great Western Railway, in Bilston, took place at the GREAT WESTERN INN, on Saturday last. A most substantial dinner was capitally served by the host Mr. *Robert Rogers* and was heartily enjoyed.....”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 16/2/1878

“The resignation of Mr. John Hawkesford, by which the office of vestry clerk for the township of Bilston becomes vacant today (Saturday), had caused some excitement in the town, and already eight candidates are in the field. The following is a list of candidates Mr. *Robert J. Rogers*, GREAT WESTERN INN, Hall Street.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/2/1878

“Vestry meeting for the election of a vestry clerk.....

Mr. *Rogers* is the landlord of the GREAT WESTERN INN, and Mr. J. Skemp moved an amendment to the effect that Mr. *Rogers* was not a fit and proper person to be vestry clerk. The Chairman ruled that this was not in order, and could not be seconded or put.....

On a show of hands being taken, the numbers were declared by the Chairman to be as nearly as possible for *Rogers*, 85; Bowen, 80The voting for the first two was by the Chairman declared to be so close that the difference in number could hardly be told. A poll was demanded and will be held today and tomorrow.”

[*Rogers* withdrew and Bowen was elected.]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 18/4/1878

“The monthly meeting of the members of the Bilston Township Commissioners.....

Mr. Skemp, pursuant to notice, proposed the following motion: That in future no licensed victualler or beerhouse keeper, shall be a servant of this Board; that Mr. *Robert Rogers*, being a licensed victualler, be requested to retire from such service Mr. *Robert Rogers* was a licensed victualler, and as collector of the market tolls, he must exercise some influence to the benefit of his trade upon people who attended the market. It was no doubt to the interest of a licensed victualler to do as much trade as he could, but they ought not to allow a licensed victualler to remain in their service, because people having to transact market business with him might be induced to frequent his house. He would grant that Mr. *Rogers*’s house was properly conducted, for if there was a respectable public house in the town it was that, but a large number of such houses were not conducted in a satisfactory manner. They could do very well with Mr. *Rogers* if he would give up the public house, as he was a good servant. A pause followed, and as the motion was not seconded it was dropped.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/6/1878 - Advert

“Bicycle (48in), quite new, to be Sold, cheap.

BICYCLE (48in.), quite new, to be Sold, cheap.—Apply to Mr. Rogers, Great Western Hotel, Bilston.

Apply to Mr. *Rogers*, GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Bilston.”

Evening Express 1/2/1881

“On Monday afternoon, Mr. W. H. Phillips held an inquest at the GREAT WESTERN INN, Hall Street, Bilston, touching the death of an old woman named Hannah Whitehouse, seventy two years of age, who resided at Oxford Street, and whose death resulted from burns sustained on Saturday last.

The evidence of a daughter-in-law showed that deceased went upstairs on the night named to bed, witness accompanying her to undress her. Having done so, she went downstairs again. Shortly afterwards, hearing her children scream, she ran upstairs, and found deceased in flames. The flames were, after some difficulty, put out, and deceased told witness that she was trying to burn the string of one of her garments with the candle when she caught fire. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

1881 Census

Hall Street

- [1] *Robert J. Rogers* (32), licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *Ann M. Rogers* (33), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *John Rogers* (14), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] *Ann Billing* (26), domestic servant, born Wolverhampton:

Evening Express 11/5/1881 - Advert

“Wanted, a good General Servant; good character.

Apply, GREAT WESTERN INN, Hall Street, Bilston.”

Evening Express 27/6/1881

“This (Monday) afternoon W. H. Phillips, Esq, coroner, held an inquest at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Bilston, on the body of William Jones (30), carter, of Bushbury Lane, Bushbury, who was found in a dying condition in the six foot of the Great Western Railway, near the Bilston Station early on Saturday morning.

Inspector Locke appeared to watch the proceedings on behalf of the Railway Company.

The evidence showed that the deceased, who was a married man, was in the habit of going to his employment at Messrs. Groucutt and Sons, Bilston, every morning, and returning at night. He left home on Thursday morning, but on that night he slept in the stables at Messrs. Groucutt’s works. On Friday night he was drinking at the NAVIGATION INN, with a fellow carter, named James Wilson, who went with him towards Bilston station as far as Pothouse Bridge, where he left him. The deceased was then the worse for drink. He was not seen alive again until 2.30 the following morning, when William Willis, the driver of a goods train, saw him lying in a pool of blood in the six foot, and with two large gashes on the left temple and back of the head. The deceased was removed to the railway station, but died on reaching that place. Judging from the position in which he found him, the witness considered that the deceased had been injured by an up train. Further evidence was given which indicated that the deceased had probably endeavoured to reach Bilston station by walking along the line.

The jury returned a verdict that the deceased was found in a dying state, and died at the railway station, but that there was no evidence to show how he received his injuries.”

In September 1881 *Robert John Rogers* stood unsuccessfully in the election for the Bilston Board of Commissioners.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/12/1881

“On Tuesday evening about 60 members of Court Forest Bride, A.O.F., met at the headquarters of the lodge, the GREAT WESTERN INN, Hall Street, Bilston, for the purpose of presenting to their treasurer, PCR *R. J. Rogers*, a valuable tea and coffee service and cruet stand. Before proceeding with the testimonial, PDCR Samuel Thompson, as chairman of the testimonial committee, spoke in very high terms of Brother *R. J. Rogers* as a member of the court, and described him as labouring zealously in the cause of Forestry, both in his own court and in others. Brother Joseph Solomon, in making the presentation, also referred at some length to the service rendered by Brother *Rogers* to the court. Mrs. *R. J. Rogers* next received a fine electro-plated cake basket and butter dish to match the set presented to her husband. Brother *R. J. Rogers*, in responding, expressed a hope that himself and wife would be spared to look upon the presents in their old age with pride, as bringing back to their minds the many kind expressions that had been uttered in the courtroom that evening.”

Evening Express 10/12/1881

“On Thursday evening last the annual dinner of the non-commissioned officers of the Bilston and Darlaston (G and H) Companies of S.R.V. took place at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Bilston. About 20 officers sat down to a most substantial repast, served up in excellent style by Mr. and Mrs. *R. J. Rogers*, the host and hostess. Captain Holcroft presided. In the course of the proceedings, Mr. *Rogers* stated that it was his intention to give a challenge cup to the G and H Companies to be shot for by the recruits joining during the year 1882. He expressed a hope that it would be the means of inducing respectable men to come forward and join the corps. Referring to the good shooting of the companies during the year, he said nothing gave him greater pleasure than to see the battalion cup in front of him, and he urged the officers present to leave no stone unturned to secure it again next year. During the evening a number of songs were given in excellent style by Sergeants Boutcher, Fellows, Harper, and Nokes, and a most enjoyable meeting was concluded by the singing of the National Anthem.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 12/8/1882

“On Wednesday evening, the annual supper connected with the money club held at the house of Mr. *Rogers*, GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, was attended by a large company; and the liberal catering of the host and hostess secured the general thanks of all present. After supper, Mr. *Rogers*, senior, occupied the chair, and Mr. Fellows the vice. The usual loyal toasts were given; and also success to the club. Nearly £100 was paid in money during the evening, and afterwards the balance-sheet was read by the host, showing that the club had exceeded all former in number and amount of contributions, which, with the bonus, was divided amongst the 40 members. A new club was also formed, with Mr. Hill as chairman, and Mr. Colley as vice. A most pleasant evening was spent by the company, and the vocal powers of several members made it more enjoyable.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 30/12/1882 - Advert

“To Let, a Good Bakehouse, Bristol Street, Bilston.
Apply, *R. J. Rogers*, GREAT WESTERN INN, Bilston.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 1/9/1883 - Advert

“Great Western Railway Company.

The Committee of the Wolverhampton and District Licensed Victuallers Incorporated Society have made arrangements with the above Company to run a Special Express Train to London (International Fisheries Exhibition).....

Tickets may be had from any of the undermentioned.....

Robert J. Rogers, GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Hall Street, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 13/2/1885 - Advert

“The first annual dinner in connection with the Bilston Horticultural Society was held on Thursday evening, at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Bilston, and there was a good company The host, Mr. *Rogers*, catered.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 27/10/1885 - Advert

“Important Sale of Valuable Freehold Corner Business Premises, Church Street, Bilston.

Messrs. J. Morrell and Sons are favoured with instructions to Offer for Sale by Public Auction, on Thursday, October 29th, 1885, at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Hall Street, Bilston, at Six for Seven in the evening.....”

Darlaston Weekly Times 9/10/1886

“A meeting of the hairdressers of Bilston was held at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, on Wednesday evening last, for the purpose of considering the question of closing their establishments all day on Sunday It was intimated at the meeting that out of the ten tradesmen, in Bilston, seven were already willing to close, and it is anticipated that this much-desired object will be easily attained. A deputation was appointed to wait upon the other tradesmen of the town.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 9/4/1889 - Advert

“Wanted, a General Servant; good character required; no family.
Apply, GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Bilston.”

WANTED. a General Servant; good character required; no family.—Apply, Great Western Hotel, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 14/12/1889

“The Christmas Holidays. Mr. *R. J. Rogers*, of the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Bilston, and vice-president of the Wolverhampton and District Licensed Victuallers Society, applied on behalf of the licensed victuallers in the district for the nights of the 24th, 26th, and 31st inst. The application was granted.”

1891 Census

Hall Street – GREAT WESTERN HOTEL

- [1] *Robert J. Rogers* (42), licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *Ann M. Rogers* (44), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Jane Johnson* (21), general servant, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] *Annie Thompson* (16), general servant, born Wolverhampton;

Birmingham Daily Post 29/9/1891

“Mr. W. H. Phillips (coroner) held an inquest at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Bilston, yesterday, on the body of Joseph Shelley (5), son of an ironworker, residing near Bilston Post Office.

On Friday morning the child was left upstairs in bed, and shortly afterwards his mother heard him scream, and on going to him found that he had drunk some liniment from a bottle which had been left on the mantelpiece. He was taken to the surgery of Mr. Kennedy, where he expired. The liniment had been supplied by Mr. Kennedy for a lodger, and the mother of the deceased said she did not know that it was of a poisonous nature.

Mr. Kennedy said the liniment contained aconite, a deadly poison, and the word ‘poison’ had been written on the label.

The mother of the deceased stated that she could not write or read; and the Coroner remarked that labels on bottles containing poison should be of an easily recognisable character.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned, and the jury recommended that all medical men should place a label of a distinctive character on bottles containing poison.”

Lichfield Mercury 10/2/1893

“On Wednesday week, at the Forebridge Police Barracks, Stafford, Capt. Richard Longden, deputy chief constable, was presented by a committee representing the inhabitants of Bilston and district with an oak suite of sitting-room furniture, upholstered in green velvet, together with a purse of £50, as a token of their esteem and regard upon his leaving the town after thirteen years’ service as chief superintendent of police, and upon his promotion to the office which he now holds. The presentation was made by Mr. *R. J. Rogers*, of the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Bilston. After some congratulatory remarks from Mr. T. Morrell (chairman) and other members of the committee present, Capt. Longden appropriately acknowledged the presentation. It may be added that the suite of furniture included a comfortable easy chair bearing a silver plate which was suitably inscribed.”

In April 1893 *Robert John Rogers* was elected a representative for Bilston on the Wolverhampton Board of Guardians.

Robert John Rogers (49), widower, licensed victualler, married Lizzie Jane Green (27), spinster, on 6th June 1898 at West Bromwich.

Lizzie Jane Green was the daughter of John Green – see NELSON, New Street, West Bromwich.

1901 Census

Hall Street – GREAT WESTERN HOTEL

- [1] Robert J. Rogers (52), licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] Lizzie J. Rogers (30), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] Arthur G. Rogers (2), son, born Bilston;
- [4] Mary A. Ray (20), domestic servant, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] Annie Martin (23), domestic servant born Sedgley;
- [6] George Hadley (21), boots, born Bushbury;

Robert John Rogers was vice president and chairman of the council of Wolverhampton and District Licensed Victuallers Association. [1902]

Birmingham Mail 29/5/1906

“The Bradley drowning case formed the subject of an enquiry at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Bilston, today, by Mr. Stokes, the County Coroner.

The body was identified as that of Henry Roberts (20), boiler-maker, of Smith Street, Bilston, the father of the deceased stating that his son had been out of work for seven weeks. On Saturday evening when deceased came into the house witness asked him if he wanted anything to eat, but deceased replied, ‘No, I shall work before I eat any more here.’ Witness had not threatened to turn his son out. Deceased was strange in his manner, and witness was frightened and got out of his way. His son was in trouble respecting a fine and costs against him at the police court. Eliza Porter, single woman, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, said she had kept company with deceased for five years. She had issued a paternity summons against the deceased. On Saturday evening deceased came to her mother’s house, went out drinking with her brother, and afterwards returned and sat up till an early hour in the morning drinking tea. When leaving the house deceased remarked to witness, ‘I am going to do it in,’ and then requested witness to go a walk with him, but she refused. Deceased had had some beer, and said he should drown himself, adding, ‘I am out of work, and all seem to frown upon me.’

Police-constable Lewis deposed to recovering the body from the canal at Capponfield Stop, Highfields, Bradley, on Monday morning. There had been several drowning cases at the same spot during the last seven months.

The jury returned a verdict of Suicide whilst Temporarily Insane.

Before discharging the jury, the Coroner, addressing Police-constable Lewis, said the jury had desired him to convey their appreciation of his conduct in the saving the life of a child some little time ago at the same spot from which the body of Roberts had been recovered. The constable thanked the Coroner for his observations.”

Stephen Allen Corbett – see also OLDE WHITE ROSE, Lichfield Street, and GLOBE, Mount Pleasant.

1911 Census

25, Hall Street

- [1] Reginald Arthur Passingham (29), licensed victualler, born Herefordshire;
- [2] Ann Passingham (31), wife, married 2½ years, born London;
- [3] Reginald William Passingham (14 months), son, born Bilston;
- [4] Florence Harvey (17), servant, born Bilston;

Birmingham Mail 19/7/1912

“Before Mr. Justice Avory today at the Birmingham Assizes, the hearing of an action was continued in which Mr. and Mrs. *William Dunn*, of the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Bilston, formerly of the SALUTATION INN, Dudley, sued William Davis, a checkweigher, of Netherton, for damages as compensation, for injuries received. Mr. Graham Milward appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. A. J. David, KC, with Mr. Riley Pearson, for the defence.

The plaintiffs alleged that the defendant committed an indecent act upon Mrs. *Dunn* while she was sitting in the smoke-room of her inn on May 27. The toe of her left foot was beneath the fender at the time, and in the struggle which followed the assault Mrs. *Dunn* wrenched her knee, with the result that an injury was done which made it necessary for her to be an in-patient at the General Hospital for two months. The knee was still painful, and the

medical evidence was that it would never be perfectly sound again, even after another operation. Mrs. *Dunn* claimed damages as compensation for the injury, and Mr. *Dunn* claimed damages as compensation for expenses incurred by his wife's illness, and for the help engaged to take his wife's place while she was in the hospital. The defence was a complete denial of any assault. Plaintiffs case was put forward yesterday, and today the defence was opened.

The defendant, giving evidence on oath, said he was not in Dudley at all on May 27; from four in the afternoon till seven in the evening that day he was working in his garden at Netherton. That day is his daughter's birthday. A week before he had called at the SALUTATION, and Mrs. *Dunn* told him she had twisted her knee on the landing. Mrs. *Dunn* had placed her hands on him on more than one occasion, and he had told her 'to get off.'

Cross-examined, defendant said he was friendly with Mr. and Mrs. *Dunn*, and had had no quarrel with them. He received a letter in October asking him to go and see them on Monday evening. He did not go nor answer that letter.

Counsel: Why did you not go to see the people with whom you were friendly, and with whom you had no quarrel? – Defendant: My wife said if I went she would go with me.

Counsel: Why was she suspicious of you? Why would she not trust you to go alone? – Defendant: Why are women ever suspicious? (Laughter.)

Counsel: Perhaps because they know too much about their husbands. (Laughter.) Did your wife know you had been in the habit of going to the SALUTATION INN? – Defendant: Oh, yes.

Counsel: Then why did your wife suddenly change her opinion and refuse to let you go alone to see the *Dunns* alone? – Defendant: She didn't like it.

The defendant's wife said her husband was gardening on the evening of Saturday, May 27th. She remembered what her husband was doing because it was her daughter's birthday.

Cross-examined, witness said her husband generally went to Dudley on Saturday evenings. He had seven children; one of the other daughters had a birthday in June, but she did not remember what her husband was doing then. She opened the letter from the *Dunns* asking her husband to go and see them, and she offered to go with him. He did not go after she said that, and said it was money the *Dunns* wanted from him. She had no reason to doubt that Mrs. *Dunn* is an honest woman, and she knew the *Dunns* were friends of her husband.

The defendant's brother said the defendant remained with him from half-past eight till half-past nine or ten on the evening of May 27th.

Witnesses were called to say that Mr. *Dunn* had told them that Mrs. *Dunn* had injured her knee by slipping on the landing.

Counsel having addressed the Court, his Lordship summed up. He remarked that the issue was a serious one, and in regard to the defendant's suggestion that the story had been concocted to obtain blackmail was it likely that two respectable people, licensees of an inn, would make up a narrative like the one before them, and would support in by perjury, so rendering themselves liable to prosecution?

The jury retired, and on their return found a verdict for the plaintiff. They awarded out of pocket expenses with £50 special damages. The Foreman said the jury thought it was no use giving heavier damages.

The Judge said he quite understood their feeling, and judgement would be entered accordingly for £71 16s.

Mr. David asked for a stay of execution, on the ground of wrongful direction.

His Lordship said he would not grant any stay unless anything could be pointed to which would make him think he was mistaken in anything he said.

Mr. David said he objected to his Lordship telling the jury that the injury could not have been caused by falling on the landing. (Cries of 'No, no,' from the jury).

His Lordship said he was quite sure he never said anything of the sort. He would take the agreement of the jury.

Mr. David said he must decline to argue the case if an appeal is to be made to the jury.

His Lordship said he made no appeal to the jury, but he was not surprised that the jury intervened to deny a misstatement of fact.

Mr. David said it was very difficult to argue in circumstances when the jury had treated counsel in a way in which it was not usual to treat counsel. He took exception to his Lordship's remark that the wife might have told her husband she twisted her knee on the landing when there was no evidence to show she did so inform her husband.

His Lordship said he wanted to stop the practice of giving stays of execution as a matter of course, and he would not give one here. The remedy was in the Court of Appeal."

William Dunn – see also SALUTATION, Dudley.

Alfred Blud was fined £10 and costs for selling liquor to a drunken person on 16th August 1912.

[Was he a manager?]

South Staffordshire Times 10/7/1920

“Mr. W. Lee applied for permission to effect structural alterations at the PARK INN, Woodsetton, to extend the living accommodation. A copy of the plan had been submitted to the superintendent of police, who now stated that alterations were absolutely necessary. Granted.

Similar permission was granted in respect of the GREAT WESTERN, Bilston, the alterations being in the direction of better police supervision.”

1921 Census

25, Hall Street – GREAT WESTERN HOTEL

- [1] *Harry Cooper* (40), licensed victualler, born Birmingham;
- [2] *Eliza Ann Cooper* (35), wife, home duties, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *Harry Cooper* (15), son, carpenter, out of work, born Birmingham;
- [4] *Horace Cooper* (13), son, school, born Birmingham;
- [5] *Arthur Cooper* (5), son, school, born Birmingham;
- [6] *Frank Cooper* (1), son, born Bilston;
- [7] *Clara Hadley* (30), barmaid, born Wolverhampton:

A music license was granted on 27th March 1928.

1939 Register

Hall Street – GREAT WESTERN INN

- [1] *Joseph Johnson*, date of birth 11/6/1871, publican, manager, married;
- [2] *Amy Johnson*, dob 7/4/1872, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] *Leslie V. Johnson*, dob 24/5/1897, sheet mill roller, single;
- [4] *Arthur A. Johnson*, dob 21/8/1895, engineer's fitter, motor car, single:

Closed

It was demolished circa 1975.

GREAT WESTERN

12, Bradley Road, (Cox's Yard), Canalside, Lower Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

Lady Emily Foley, Stoke Edith, Herefordshire
James Bullock
South Staffordshire Brewery Co. Ltd.
J. and J. Yardley and Co. Ltd.
Old Wolverhampton Breweries Ltd.
Frank Myatt Ltd.
Holt Brewery Co. Ltd. [1930]

LICENSEES

Ann Foley [1871] – **1879**);
John Webb (**1879 – 1889**);
James Bullock (**1889 – 1893**);
Thomas Griffiths (**1893 – 1897**);
Fred Henry Bourton (**1897 – 1929**);
Louisa Bourton (**1929 – 1930**):

NOTES

12, Bradley Road [1871]
Canalside [1881]
Cox's Yard [1891], [1901]

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

1871 Census

12, Bradley Road
[1] Ann Foley (59), widow, publican, born Bilston;
[2] Phoebe Oakley (37), sister, married, born Bilston;
[3] Thomas J. Oakley (4), nephew, scholar, born Bilston;
[4] William Oakley (2), nephew, born Bilston;
[5] Elizabeth A. Oakley (1), niece, born Bilston:

Ann Foley – see also TRAVELLERS REST, Moxley, Darlaston.

1881 Census

Canal Side – Beerhouse
[1] John Webb (36), bundler in ironworks, born Sedgley;
[2] Rachel Webb (33), wife, born Gornal;
[3] Job Webb (8), son, scholar, born Gornal;
[4] Elizabeth Webb (10), daughter, scholar, born Gornal;
[5] James Webb (6), son, scholar, born Gornal;
[6] Sarah Jones (26), domestic servant, born Gornal:

Darlaston Weekly Times 8/3/1884

“Certain individuals said to hail from Darlaston seem to be animated by a desire to revive in our midst the barbarity known as the ‘sport’ of cock fighting.....

It seems that suspicions having been aroused that ‘things were not what they seemed,’ PCs Kidson and Hayward visited the GREAT WESTERN INN, Lower Bradley, near Bilston, about five o’clock on Saturday night. In the marble alley, at the back of the house, they found appearances of a recent cock fight. On going into the bar room, they found about sixty men all intent upon discussing the merits of two cocks, which, trimmed and spurred, were in the room, and which bore every appearance of having been engaged in combat. When the police took possession of the birds, a general exodus of the men took place, but one, a youth, was arrested, and the names of others are known to the police.

When charged at Bilston Police Court on Tuesday, with the offence of cruelty to one of the cocks, the defendant, for whom Mr. T. M. Green, of Darlaston, appeared, urged in defence that he was simply carrying the cock for a man whom he did not know, who had rewarded him with 1½d. As opposed to this, the statement of Chief Superintendent Longden, that the prisoner was bailed out by a well-known Darlaston cock fighter, scarcely lead to the supposition of ‘injured innocence’ being made to suffer for the guilty; and the battered, dilapidated appearance of the bird itself was conclusive evidence that a battle had been fought.

Probably the small fine of 1s and costs will not act as a very powerful deterrent; but the prosecution will at all events show that the authorities are alive to the doings of the sporting fraternity; that to attempt to revive the sport, under such adverse circumstances, will be labour lost, and that ‘the game,’ even if completed, will not be ‘worth the candle,’ seeing that under any circumstances it means an unpleasant detention and monetary payment, with an equally unpleasant public interview with the local justices.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 28/2/1885

“*John Webb*, landlord of a beerhouse in Lower Bradley, called the GREAT WESTERN INN, was charged with being drunk on his own premises on the 21st of February. PCs Titherleigh and Buxton proved the offence.

Mr. W. Bowen appeared for the defence, and defendant was fined 5s and costs.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 18/7/1885

“The half-yearly meeting of the officers of the Bilston, Walsall, and Cannock district of the National United Order of Free Gardeners was held on Monday, at the house of Brother *John Webb*, the GREAT WESTERN INN, Lower Bradley, near Bilston. Upwards of 70 delegates were present.....

Appeals from the various lodges were carefully considered, and the sum of £35 was ordered to be paid from the benevolent fund to the afflicted brothers of the district.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 8/5/1886

“Maria Holden and Alice Perks, both of Lower Bradley, Bilston, were charged with stealing a shawl, value 3s, the property of Rachael Webb, wife of *John Webb*, publican, Lower Bradley.

Prosecutor stated that on the 27th of April the shawl was in the bar, the prisoners being in and out at the time. Soon after the shawl was missed, and from inquiries made by the police it was found that the younger defendant had pawned it at a shop in Bilston.

The Bench dismissed the charge against Holden, and fined Perks 5s and costs; in default 14 days’ imprisonment.”

1891 Census

Cox’s Yard – GREAT WESTERN INN

[1] *James Bullock* (59), manager of coal mines, born Tipton;

[2] *Mary A. Bullock* (51), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Eliza J. Dudley* (28), general servant, born Bilston:

1901 Census

Cox Yard, Lower Bradley – GREAT WESTERN INN

- [1] *Fred Bourton* (29), beerhouse keeper, born Leamington, Warwickshire;
- [2] *Louisa Bourton* (27), wife, born Bloxwich;
- [3] *Lily Bourton* (7), daughter, born Bloxwich;
- [4] *Wilfred Bourton* (6), son, born Bloxwich;
- [5] *Amy Bourton* (4), daughter, born Bloxwich;
- [6] *Grace Bourton* (2), daughter, born Bilston;
- [7] *Fred Bourton* (1), son, born Bilston;
- [8] *Maud Bourton* (3 months), daughter, born Bilston;
- [9] *Edith Taylor* (20), domestic servant, born Walsall;
- [10] *George Keats* (40), visitor, shoe maker, born Bloxwich:

Black Country Bugle (May 1985)

“.....opened in what had previously been Foley House. The GREAT WESTERN HOTEL only occupied part of the house, however, and the Green and Rickuss families lived in the remainder

By the early 1900s the GREAT WESTERN had a thriving fishing club, whose members used the nearby Rocket Pools during the 1926 coal strike *Fred [Bourton]* had a coal shaft sunk in the large garden of the GREAT WESTERN near to the closed Bradley Mission.”

Fred Bourton, beer retailer, Lower Bradley. [1904]

He managed a haulage business from the yard and stables behind the premises.

1911 Census

Lower Bradley – GREAT WESTERN INN

- [1] *Fred Henry Bourton* (39), beerhouse keeper, born Leamington, Warwickshire;
- [2] *Louisa Bourton* (37), wife, married 19 years, born Walsall;
- [3] *Lily Louisa Bourton* (17), daughter, assists at home, born Walsall;
- [4] *George Wilfred Bourton* (16), son, stamper in tin plate works, born Walsall;
- [5] *Grace Bourton* (12), daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] *Fred Bourton* (11), son, born Bilston;
- [7] *Florence Bourton* (7), daughter, born Bilston;
- [8] *Gladys Bourton* (3), daughter, born Bilston;
- [9] *Sidney Herbert Bourton* (2), son, born Bilston;
- [10] *Ernest Bourton* (1), son, born Bilston:

1921 Census

Lower Bradley – GREAT WESTERN INN

- [1] *Fred Bourton* (50), beerhouse keeper, born Leamington, Warwickshire;
- [2] *Louisa Bourton* (47), wife, home duties, born Pelsall;
- [3] *Grace Bourton* (23), daughter, dressmaker, born Bradley;
- [4] *Florence Bourton* (17), daughter, packer, holloware trade, born Bradley;
- [5] *Gladys Bourton* (14), daughter, school, born Bradley;
- [6] *Sidney Herbert Bourton* (12), son, school, born Bradley;
- [7] *Ernest Bourton* (11), son, school, born Bradley;
- [8] *Albert Bourton* (9), son, school, born Bradley;
- [9] *Doris Bourton* (4), daughter, born Bradley:

Fred Henry Bourton died in the 4th quarter of 1928.

Black Country Bugle

Letter from Mrs. M. Baker

“My gran, *Louise Bourton*, kept at that particular time the GREAT WESTERN pub, which serviced the drinking needs of the steel workers of that time. The pub was situated at the side of the canal in question and close to the factories where the foundry workers walked to work.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/3/1930

“At the adjourned annual Licensing Sessions yesterday of the Bilston Division four houses were referred for compensation on the grounds of redundancy....

In regard to the GREAT WESTERN INN, Lower Bradley, it was stated that the trade did not average a barrel a week and that there were only four customers. The house was in the midst of pit mounds and there was no footpath to approach to it.”

License refused by Compensation Authority, on the ground of redundancy, on 28th July 1930.

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/8/1930 - Notice

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

Notice as to sending in Claims to be treated as Persons Interested in Licensed Premises.

Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Compensation Authority for the above area, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on the 28th day of July, 1930, to Refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below.....

GREAT WESTERN INN, Bilston. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *Louisa Bourton*. Registered Owner, Holt's Brewery Co. Ltd.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/1/1931

“County Quarter Sessions Report of the County Licensing Committee for 1930.....

At the Principal Meeting of the Compensation Authority, on July 28, 14 licenses out of 16 referred were refused, and at the Supplemental Meeting the committee fixed the compensation sums as follows.....

GREAT WESTERN INN, Bilston, beerhouse, ante 1869, £1,250.”

Compensation of £1,250 was paid on 29th December 1930.

License extinguished on 31st December 1930.

GREEN DRAGON

7, Cross Street, Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

Sarah Steventon
Herbert Steventon
George Thompson, brewer, Dudley
William John Hawkes
Holdens Brewery (acquired in 5th February 1946) (they sold it on 25th June 1971)

LICENSEES

Sarah Steventon [1871] – **1879**);
Herbert Steventon (**1879 – 1889**);
James Henry Hawkes (**1889 – 1890**);
Elizabeth Lydia Hawkes (**1890 – 1891**);
William John Hawkes (**1891 – [1940]**)

NOTES

7, Cross Street [1871], [1881], [1891], [1901], [1904], [1912], [1939], [1940]

It had a beerhouse license.

1871 Census

7, Cross Street – GREEN DRAGON

- [1] *Sarah Steventon* (50), widow, publican, born Bilston;
- [2] *Herbert Steventon* (26), son, no occupation, born Bilston:

Midland Examiner 1/1/1876

“S. Caddick was charged by *Sarah Steventon* with being disorderly in her house, at Bilston, and refusing to quit the same, December 27. Fined 5s and costs.”

1881 Census

7, Cross Street – GREEN DRAGON

- [1] *Herbert Steventon* (36), innkeeper, born Bilston;
- [2] *Georgina Steventon* (27), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Mary Steventon* (12), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [4] *Georgina Steventon* (1), daughter, born Bilston:

Darlaston Weekly Times 11/4/1885

“*Herbert Steventon*, Cross Street, Bradley, was charged by PC Tytherleigh with being drunk and disorderly at Bradley, on the 6th inst. The case was adjourned for a week.”

James Henry Hawkes was married to *Elizabeth Lydia*.
He died on 4th May 1890.

1891 Census

7, Cross Street – GREEN DRAGON

- [1] *Elizabeth L. Hawkes* (39), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Bilston;
- [2] *Elizabeth E. Hawkes* (18), daughter, born Bilston;
- [3] *Benjamin T. Hawkes* (15), son, general labourer, born Bilston;
- [4] *George C. Hawkes* (14), son, general labourer, born Bilston;
- [5] *Hannah M. Hawkes* (11), daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] *Rachael Hawkes* (10), daughter, born Bilston;
- [7] *William H. Hawkes* (7), son, born Bilston;
- [8] *Emma Hawkes* (5), daughter, born Bilston;
- [9] *James H. Hawkes* (1), son, born Bilston:

Dudley Herald 17/3/1900- Advert

“To Brewers and Maltsters.

Notice of Sale by Auction of an Important Old Established Beerhouse and Dwelling Houses, at Bradley.

Alfred W. Dando has received instructions to Sell by Auction, at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Daisy Bank, on Monday, April 2nd, 1900, at Seven o'clock in the evening precisely, subject to Conditions of Sale then to be produced, all that well-situated very valuable Beerhouse, known as the GREEN DRAGON INN, Cross Street, Bradley (about 5 minutes' walk from the Station), containing Smoke Room, Bar, Tap Room, Club Room, two Bedrooms, together with Brewhouse, Malt Room, Cellars and the usual Out-buildings in Yard at back. Also the two capital Brick-built Dwelling Houses adjoining, the whole let to Mr. W. J. Hawkes, upon a quarterly tenancy.

The GREEN DRAGON INN enjoys one of the best trades in the district, and is particularly well worth the attention of Maltsters, Brewers, or others in search of a genuine Licensed House for occupation.

Further particulars may be obtained of Messrs. Warmington, Thompson, and Warmington, Solicitors, or the Auctioneer, all of Dudley.”

1901 Census

7, Cross Street

- [1] *William J. Hawkes* (34), sheet iron shearer, born Bilston;
- [2] *Lydia Hawkes* (34), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *William J. Hawkes* (10), son, born Sedgley;
- [4] *Arthur S. Hawkes* (8), son, born Bilston;
- [5] *Harold Hawkes* (5), son, born Bilston;
- [6] *Lydia M. Hawkes* (9 months), daughter, born Bilston;
- [7] *Charlotte Darby* (17), niece, domestic servant, born Bilston:

William John Hawkes, beer retailer, 7, Cross Street, Bradley. [1904], [1912]

1911 Census

7, Cross Street

- [1] *Lydia Hawkes* (44), wife, married 21 years, born Bradley;
- [2] *William John Hawkes* (20), son, school teacher, born Bradley;
- [3] *Harold Hawkes* (15), son, pryler, ironworks, born Bradley;
- [4] *Dorothy Hawkes* (13), daughter, school, born Bradley;
- [5] *Thomas Hawkes* (1), son, born Bradley:

William John Hawkes was also a brewer. [1914], [1939]

1921 Census

7, Cross Street

- [1] *William John Hawkes* (54), brewer and licensed victualler, born Bradley;
- [2] *Lydia Hawkes* (54), wife, home duties, born Bradley;
- [3] *Arthur Samuel Hawkes* (28), son, clerk in labour exchange, born Bradley;
- [4] *Beatrice Lydia Hawkes* (18), daughter, home duties, born Bradley;
- [5] *Thomas Hawkes* (11), son, school, born Bradley:

1939 Register

7, Cross Street – GREEN DRAGON

[1] William J. Hawkes, date of birth 17/2/1867, publican, married;

[2] Lydia Hawkes, dob 24/7/1866, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] Sarah A. Townsend, dob 19/9/1864, unpaid domestic duties, widowed;

[4] John A. Thompson, dob 30/7/1910, elementary school teacher, ARP warden, single:

A team from here took part in the Bradley Darts League, Second Division. [1946]

[1969]



To Brewers and Malsters.
Notice of SALE by AUCTION of an Important Old
Established BEERHOUSE and DWELLING-
HOUSES, at BRADLEY.

ALFRED W. DANDO has received instructions
to SELL by AUCTION at the GREAT
WESTERN HOTEL, DAISY BANK, on MONDAY,
April 2nd, 1900, at Seven o'clock in the evening
precisely, subject to Conditions of Sale then to be
produced, all that well-situated very valuable BEER-
HOUSE, known as

THE GREEN DRAGON INN,

Cross Street, Bradley (about 5 minutes' walk from
the Station), containing Smoke Room, Bar, Tap
Room, Club Room, two Bedrooms, together with
Brewhouse, Malt Room, Cellars, and the usual Out-
buildings in Yard at back. Also the two capital Brick-
built DWELLING-HOUSES adjoining the whole
lot to Mr W. J. Hawkes, upon a quarterly tenancy.

The Green Dragon Inn enjoys one of the best
trades in the district, and is particularly well worth
the attention of Malsters, Brewers, or others in search
of a genuine Licensed House for occupation.

Further particulars may be obtained of Messrs
Warmington, Thompson, and Warmington, Solicitors,
or the Auctioneer, all of Dudley.

1900

GREEN DRAGON

17, Oatmeal Square, High Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

David Brown, gentleman, Highfields House, Smethwick

LICENSEES

Richard Morris [1791]
Clement Hackwood [1818] – [1830]
John Hughes [1833] – [1834]
Thomas Burnish [1834] – [1841]
Elizabeth Burnish [1841]
John Walker [1851] – [1858]
Isaac and Jacob Walker [1860] – **1861**);
Isaac Walker (**1861** – []
John Larkin [1864] – **1873**);
David Brown (**1873** – []

SALE OF THREE COPYHOLD MESSUAGES AND LAND,
SITUATED IN
HIGH STREET, BILSTON,
In the County of Stafford.

TO be SOLD by PRIVATE TREATY, all that
COPYHOLD MESSAGE or DWELLING HOUSE, known
by the name or sign of the **GREEN DRAGON**, situate near High-
street, in Bilston aforesaid. The house comprises tap-room, kitchen,
parlour, five sleeping rooms, two cellars, and brewhouse, with pig-
geries and yard, and in the occupation of Isaac and Jacob Walker.

Also all those Two other COPYHOLD MESSUAGES or
DWELLING HOUSES, together with the spare LAND in front
thereof, situate in High-street, in Bilston aforesaid, and now in the
occupation of John Larkin and William Smart.

The tenants will show the premises. For particulars and to treat
apply to Mr. JOHN MASON, Solicitor, or to the AUCTIONER, both
of Bilston.

1860

NOTES

High Street [1818], [1822], [1828], [1833], [1834], [1841], [1851]
Burches Building [1841]
Birchs Building [1851]
Hot Mill Street [1858]
17, Oatmeal Square [1861]

Richard Morris, victualler, GREEN DRAGON, and japanner, Bilston. [1791]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 3/2/1817

"C. Hackwood, alias Betty Broadhouse, publican, in Bilston, was convicted at the Public Office, Wolverhampton, on Wednesday last, in the full penalty, with costs, for suffering tippling in her house, on the Sabbath day."

Clement Hackwood = Cleman Hackwood

John Hughes was also a blank tray maker. [1833]

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/12/1838

"Inquisitions before Henry Smith, Esq, Coroner.....

On the 12th at Bilston, on *Thomas Burnish*, landlord of the GREEN DRAGON public house. From the evidence of Jane Worrall and Rees Burnish, it appeared that the deceased was 52 years of age; had for three or four weeks been in a low state, and on Monday last about noon, he threw himself head foremost from an attic window. He was killed instantaneously. Verdict, Temporary Insanity."

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/12/1838

"On Monday the 10th instant, Mr. *Thomas Burnish*, innkeeper, of Bilston, in a fit of temporary derangement, threw himself from an attic window of his house into the street, and dashed his brains out. He was immediately picked up, but life was extinct. It appeared on evidence before the coroner (H. Smith, Esq) that the unfortunate man had for some time previously been labouring under occasional aberration of mind, and had entertained distressing apprehensions that he should be taken to Stafford Gaol. A verdict of Temporary Derangement was returned."

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/11/1839

"*Burnish*, landlord of the GREEN DRAGON INN, Bilston, was charged with allowing tippling during divine service on Sunday the 20th of October. The case was proved by the evidence of Mr. Charles Whitehead, the constable, and *Burnish* was fined 40s and costs."

1841 Census

Burches Building

- [1] *Elizabeth Burnish* (60), publican;
- [2] *Isaiah Hill* (20), miner, born Staffordshire;
- [3] *Ann Hill* (20), born Staffordshire;
- [4] *Henry Burnish* (15), born Staffordshire;
- [5] *John Hill* (2), born Staffordshire:

1851 Census

Birchs Building

- [1] *John Walker* (59), licensed victualler, born Shropshire;
- [2] *Mary Walker* (61), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Joseph Walker* (28), son, house servant, born Bilston;
- [4] *Jacob Walker* (23), son, heater of iron, born Bilston;
- [5] *Isaac Walker* (19), son, labourer in iron works, born Bilston:

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 26/8/1855

"Wm. Roper of Bilston has a blue cock pigeon that he will match, for £5, against Roper's (of Walsall) black cock pigeon, to fly from Hampton Arden, near Birmingham, if he will allow four minutes for the difference of distance, or he will match it against any pigeon in Willenhall, for a like sum, the same distance, on equal terms. Either of these matches can be made any night next week at *John Walker's*, GREEN DRAGON, High Street, Bilston."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 25/5/1856

"Thos. Haley of High Street, Bilston, had a black cock pigeon named Flying Dutchman that he is prepared to fly from Stafford to Bilston level against any pigeon in Bilston, Ettingshall, or Willenhall, if five minutes are given, for £5. A match can be made any evening next week at *J. Walker's*, GREEN DRAGON, High Street, Bilston."

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/3/1858

"Staffordshire Lent Assizes.....

Robert Mangham, 22, a puddler, was indicted for stealing a cart, the property of *John Walker*, licensed victualler, Bilston. Mr. Cook Evans conducted the prosecution.

The prosecutor stated that his cart was safe in his yard at eleven o'clock on the evening of the 26th February last, and that next morning it was missing, and he did not again see it until the 6th March at Dudley, where the prisoner had sold it to a broker for 30s the day after the robbery.

The prisoner said he met a man in the streets of Dudley who asked him to try if he could sell a cart for him, which he had done to the broker as stated.

The jury gave a verdict of guilty. A previous conviction was read, and the prisoner was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment with hard labour."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 25/7/1860 - Advert

"Sale of Three Copyhold Messuages and Land, situated in High Street, Bilston, in the County of Stafford.

To be Sold by Private Treaty, all that Copyhold Messuage or Dwelling House, known by the name or sign of the GREEN DRAGON, situate near High Street, in Bilston aforesaid. The house comprises tap-room, kitchen, parlour, five sleeping rooms, two cellars, and brewhouse, with piggeries and yard, in the occupation of *Isaac* and *Jacob Walker*.

Also all those Two other Copyhold Messuages or Dwelling Houses, together with the spare Land in front thereof, situate in High Street, in Bilston aforesaid, and now in the occupation of John Lackin and William Smart.

The tenants will show the premises. For particulars and to treat apply to Mr. John Mason, Solicitor, or to the Auctioneer, both of Bilston."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/8/1860 - Advert

“Sale of Three Copyhold Messuages and Land, situate in High Street, Bilston, in the County of Stafford.

To be Sold by Private Treaty, all that Copyhold Message or Dwelling House, known by the name or sign of the GREEN DRAGON, situate near High Street, in Bilston aforesaid. The House comprises Tap Room, Kitchen, Parlour, five Sleeping Rooms, two Cellars, and Brewhouse, with Piggeries and Yard, in the occupation of *Isaac and Jacob Walker*. The House is well situated, and doing a good trade.

Also all that Copyhold Message, adjoining the GREEN DRAGON, with a large space of Land in front thereof, situate in High Street, in Bilston aforesaid, and now in the occupation of John Larkin.

And also all that Copyhold Message, with Provision Shop, fronting High Street, in Bilston, and lineable with the GOLDEN CUP INN, with Land at the back thereof (about 14 yards by 9 yards), sufficient to erect three good Cottages; also a road leading to and communicating with the GREEN DRAGON, and now in the occupation of William Smart.

The Tenants will show the premises.

For particulars and to treat, apply to Mr. John Mason, Solicitor, or Mr. Mason, Auctioneer, both of Bilston.”

Birmingham Journal 26/1/1861 - Advert

“Notice is Hereby Given, that the Partnership lately subsisting between us, the undersigned *Isaac Walker* and *Jacob Walker*, in the Trade or Business of Beerhouse Keepers, at Bilston, has been this day Dissolved by mutual consent; and that all Debts due and owing to and from the said Partnership will be received and paid by the said *Isaac Walker*, by whom the said Trade will in future be carried on.

As witness our hands, this 22nd day of January, 1861.

Isaac Walker. Jacob Walker.

Witnesses to the signing by the said *Isaac Walker* and *Jacob Walker*, Richard Caddick, Solicitor, West Bromwich.”

1861 Census

17, Oatmeal Square – GREEN DRAGON

[1] *Isaac Walker* (29), victualler, born Bilston;

[2] *Ann Walker* (25), wife, born Cannock:

John Larkin was also a furniture dealer. [1864], [1865]

The license was abandoned by *David Brown*.

SALE OF THREE COPYHOLD MESSUAGES AND LAND, SITUATE IN HIGH STREET, BILSTON, IN THE COUNTY OF STAFFORD.

TO be SOLD by PRIVATE TREATY, all that COPYHOLD MESSAGE or DWELLING HOUSE, known by the name or sign of the GREEN DRAGON, situate near High-street in Bilston aforesaid. The House comprises Tap Room, Kitchen, Parlour, five Sleeping Rooms, two Cellars and Brewhouse, with Piggeries and Yard, and in the occupation of *Isaac and Jacob Walker*. The House is well situated, and doing a good trade.

Also all that COPYHOLD MESSAGE, adjoining the Green Dragon, with a large space of LAND in front thereof, situate in High-street, in Bilston aforesaid, and now in the occupation of John Larkin.

And also all that COPYHOLD MESSAGE, with PROVISION SHOP, fronting High-street, in Bilston, and lineable with the Golden Cup Inn, with LAND at the back thereof (about 14 yards by 9 yards), sufficient to erect three good Cottages; also a road leading to and communicating with the Green Dragon, and now in the occupation of William Smart.

The Tenants will show the premises.

For particulars and to treat, apply to Mr. JOHN MASON, Solicitor, or Mr. MASON, Auctioneer, both of Bilston.

1860

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the
PARTNERSHIP lately subsisting between us, the undersigned *ISAAC WALKER* and *JACOB WALKER*, in the Trade or Business of Beer House Keepers, at Bilston, has been this day **DISSOLVED** by mutual consent; [and that all Debts due and owing to and from the said Partnership will be received and paid by the said *Isaac Walker*, by whom the said Trade will in future be carried on.—As witness our hands, this 22nd day of January, 1861.

*ISAAC WALKER.
JACOB WALKER.*

Witness to the signing by the said *Isaac Walker* and *Jacob Walker*, *RICHARD CADDICK*, Solicitor, West Bromwich.

1861

GREEN MAN

178, Oxford Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Thomas Hawkswood [1860]
Mrs. Ellen Hawkswood [1861] – [1865]

NOTES

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/11/1860

“*Thomas Hawkswood*, of the GREEN MAN, Oxford Street, Bilston, was fined 5s and costs for opening his house on Sunday forenoon.”

1861 Census

178, Oxford Street – GREEN MAN

- [1] *Ellen Hawkswood* (37), widow, innkeeper, born Bilston;
- [2] *Thersa Hawkswood* (15), daughter, born Bilston;
- [3] *Thomas Hawkswood* (13), son, born Bilston;
- [4] *Harry Hawkswood* (7), son, scholar, born Bilston:

Ellen Hawkswood, retailer of beer, 178, Oxford Street. [1862]

Ellen Hawkswood – see also BIRD IN HAND, Oxford Street.

GREYHOUND

1, (13), Cross Street, (Tup Street), Hall Green, (Upper) Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

Daniel Cooper
Elizabeth Cooper
John Rolinson and Son Ltd., Five Ways Brewery, Netherton [1906]
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. (acquired in 1925)

LICENSEES

William Hunt [1841] – [1842]
Philip Partridge [1845] – [1850]
Daniel Cooper [1851] – **1873**;
Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper **(1873 – 1886)**;
Miss Elizabeth Cooper **(1886 – 1887)**;
George H Ecclestone **(1887 – 1900)**;
Joseph Swift **(1900 – 1902)**;
Isaac Morris **(1902 – 1904)**;
Charles Smith **(1904)**;
John Smith **(1904 – 1905)**;
John William Thomas Elliott Sedman **(1905)**;
John Robinson **(1905 – 1907)**;
Stephen Edward Williams **(1907 – 1913)**;
Leonard Kinsey **(1913 – 1927)**;
Stephen Edward Williams **(1927 – 1933)**;
Esther Ann (Perry) Rose **(1933 – 1935)**;
Agnes Harriet Brooks **(1935 – 1936)**;
Edward Reynolds **(1936 – 1938)**;
William Thomas Kings **(1938)**;
Henry Ralph Till **(1938 – 1939)**;
Harold Maurice Moseley **(1939)**;
George Harris Rogerson **(1939 - [1940]**
Mrs. Mary A Parker **(1939 – [1940]**
William Brown **(1943 – 1945)**

NOTES

Tup Street [1851], [1855]
13, Cross Street [1861], [1871], [1873], [1874], [1881], [1891], [1896], [1901], [1904], [1908], [1911], [1912], [1916],
[1921], [1921], [1932], [1940]
1, Cross Street [1939]

Bradley United FC changed here.

THE GREYHOUND INN,
BRADLEY, near BILSTON.
BY Mr. JOHN BENT, TO-MORROW (Wednesday),
March 3—a Quantity of Spirit CASKS, SCALES and
WEIGHTS, Wrought and Scrap IRON, and numerous other Effects,
belonging to Mr. Cooper, who has no further use for them.
Sale to commence at Four o'clock in the afternoon.

1869

1841 Census

Bradley

- [1] *William Hunt* (30), publican, born Staffordshire;
 - [2] *Elizabeth Hunt* (24), born Staffordshire;
 - [3] *Elizabeth Hunt* (3 days), born Staffordshire;
 - [4] *Harriett Fletcher* (10), born Staffordshire;
 - [5] *Martha Fletcher* (5), born Staffordshire;
 - [6] *Sarah Purton* (15), f. s., born Staffordshire;
 - [7] *Mary Martin* (15), f. s., born Staffordshire;
 - [8] *Hannah Green* (10), f. s., born Staffordshire;
 - [9] *Susannah Forrester* (48);
 - [10] *Henry Partridge* (21), born Staffordshire;
 - [11] *Elizabeth Partridge* (21), born Staffordshire;
- [The next entry in the census is *Philip Partridge*, grocer.]

TO LET,
A N Old Licensed PUBLIC-HOUSE and PROVI-
SION SHOP, in the centre of the iron works and
collieries, situate at Bradley, near Bilston.
Inquire of Mr. PHILIP PARTRIDGE, on the pre-
mises.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 16/11/1842 - Advert

“To Let, an Old Licensed Public House and Provision Shop, in the centre of the iron works and collieries, situate at Bradley, near Bilston.

Inquire of Mr. *Philip Partridge*, on the premises.”

Philip Partridge was also a grocer. [1845], [1850]

Birmingham Journal 7/8/1847

“The British Queen Lodge, No.6, of the Royal Victoria Order of Odd Fellows, celebrated their anniversary at Host *Partridge*’s, the GREYHOUND INN, Hall Green, Bradley, on Monday, when a party of fifty-two members sat down to an excellent dinner, which gave general satisfaction, and the evening was spent with much harmony and enjoyment.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 16/11/1850

“Inquests at Bilston before T. M. Phillips, Esq.....

On Monday, at the GREYHOUND INN, Bradley, on the body of *Mary Myatt*, aged 13. The deceased was employed at the pot works at Bradley, and on the 27th October last, while attending to the kiln, her clothes caught fire; she was severely burned on various parts of her body; she lingered until Saturday last, when death terminated her sufferings. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

1851 Census

Tup Street

- [1] *Daniel Cooper* (40), butcher and victualler, born Bobbington;
 - [2] *Elizabeth Cooper* (30), wife, born Tipton;
 - [3] *James Cooper* (69), visitor, widower, farmer, 10 acres, born Bobbington;
 - [4] *Sarah Elwell* (30), house servant, born Sedgley;
 - [5] *Hannah Morris* (18), house servant, born Sedgley;
- [The previous entry in the census is *Philip Partridge*, grocer.]

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 20/6/1853 - Advert

“Freehold Building Land, at Batmans Hill, Bradley, in the parish of Sedgley, in the county of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Chesshire and Gibson, on Friday next the 24th day of June, at four o’clock in the afternoon, at the house of Mr. *Daniel Cooper*, the GREYHOUND INN, at Batmans Hill, Bradley.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 16/5/1855 - Advert

“Freehold Investment, at Bradley, near Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Solomon Powell, on Friday, the 25th day of May, 1855, at six o’clock in the evening, at the house of Mr. *Daniel Cooper*, the GREYHOUND INN, in Tup Street.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/3/1858

“T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, opened an inquest at the GREYHOUND INN, Bradley, on the body of Elizabeth Phillips, 33 years old, wife of Richard Phillips, boiler maker, of Bradley, in the parish of Sedgley, whose death, it is alleged, had taken place from unskilful treatment in childbirth by a surgeon.

It appears from the evidence that on Wednesday, the 10th ult, Mrs. Dyke, a neighbour of the deceased, was sent for to attend Mrs. Phillips. On the following Saturday evening the latter requested her to fetch Mr. Charles Edwin Kettle, surgeon, as she expected to be confined. Mrs. Dyke did so, and Mr. Kettle attended, sat with the deceased about half an hour, and before leaving assured her that she was not in labour, and promised to send her a bottle of medicine to relieve her pain. Mrs. Dyke, however, fetched the medicine, and Mrs. Phillips took it that night. She appeared much worse on the following day, and in the evening the deceased's husband again fetched Mr. Kettle, who a second time pronounced that the woman was not in labour. He prescribed more medicine, and Mrs. Phillips took two doses of it that night. Her pains, however, continued, and about nine o'clock on the following morning her husband fetched Mr. Kettle a third time, and that gentleman then said 'it was a cross birth,' and he should not leave the patient until she was delivered. He used instruments to procure the birth, and the woman complained that he was cutting her to pieces. At about eleven o'clock she was partially delivered, and Mr. Kettle sent to Bilston for Mr. Hancox, but he was from home. Mr. Kettle, after exerting himself and using his instruments till a little after two, sent for Mr. Smith, who attended in less than half an hour, and he and Mr. Kettle jointly used the latter gentleman's instruments in endeavouring to complete the birth. Not being able to effect their purpose. Mr. Kettle again sent for Mr. Hancox, who arrived about four o'clock in the afternoon, bringing with him instruments differing from those used by the two other gentlemen. With these he succeeded in completing the delivery of the woman in the course of five minutes. The child was dead. Mr. Kettle continued to attend the deceased up to about ten o'clock on Thursday morning. The poor woman being very much worse, about eight o'clock in the evening her husband sent for Mr. Kettle again, but as he did not come Phillips sent a message to Mr. Hancox desiring his attendance. That gentleman arrived at about ten o'clock, and continued to attend Mrs. Phillips till her death, which took place on the following night.

The deceased had had eight children, and two of the female witnesses gave it as their opinion that the deceased's death had taken place from a want of skill on the part of Mr. Kettle.

Mr. Hancox stated that when he first entered the room where the deceased was he found her sensible but much exhausted. He described at length the means he adopted for her relief, and said that on the completion of the birth the woman expressed her gratitude for what he had done.

The inquest was adjourned to Tuesday (yesterday) for a post mortem examination of the body, but in consequence of the illness of the coroner, the inquest was further adjourned.”

Birmingham Daily Post 10/3/1858

“Yesterday the inquest was resumed on the body of Elizabeth Phillips, the late wife of a miner, residing at Batmans Hill, near Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, Coroner.

In addition to the evidence previously taken, Mr. Hancox, surgeon, deposed that he was present at the post mortem examination made by Mr. Edwardes, surgeon, of Wolverhampton. They found that the uterus had been most extensively lacerated, and those lacerations contributed to occasion death.

Mr. Green James, of Wolverhampton, solicitor, was in attendance to watch the proceedings on behalf of Mr. Kettle, the surgeon who was first called in to attend the deceased. Mr. Edwardes deposed, in addition to the evidence of Mr. Hancox, that the interior of the uterus presented traces of a considerable amount of inflammation, terminating with gangrene, and considering the great extent of the injury the uterus presented, it was a wonder to him that the woman had survived so long after her confinement. He did not consider that forceps ought to have been used; the course to be adopted in such a case was that adopted by Mr. Hancox, by reducing the size of the head of the child. The lacerations, in his opinion, were sufficient to cause death.

The other witnesses repeated their former evidence, after which the jury first handed in a written verdict, to the effect that the deceased had died in consequence of the unskilful treatment on the part of Mr. Kettle. The Coroner informed the Jury that they must find a verdict upon the cause of death, when they decided that the deceased expired from lacerations of the uterus; but how such lacerations were occasioned, there was no evidence to prove.”

Birmingham Daily Post 18/10/1860

“An inquest was held on Monday, at the GREYHOUND INN, Cross Street, Bradley, on the body of Bridget M'Intyre, aged ten years. On the forenoon of the previous day the deceased was leaping from a boat in the canal at Bradley, and falling into the water, was drowned. A verdict of Accidental Death was recorded.”

1861 Census

13, Cross Street – GREYHOUND

[1] *Daniel Cooper* (50), cattle dealer and victualler, born Broughton;

[2] *Elizabeth Cooper* (40), wife, born Golds Hill, Staffordshire;

[3] *Daniel Cooper* (11), son, scholar, born Bradley;

[4] *Mary Ann Shala* (20), general servant, born Bradley:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/9/1861

“Annual meeting for the renewal and granting of spirit licenses.....

Mr. T. M. Whitehouse applied for a license on behalf of John Bumford for a license to the VICTORIA TAVERN, Bradley. The application was opposed by Mr. Waterhouse, and behalf of the landlord of the GREYHOUND INN Granted. It was then shown by Mr. Waterhouse that the notice of Mr. Bumford’s application had not been posted on the doors of Sedgley parish church, as required by the Act. This, of course, set aside the license.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 11/5/1864 - Advert

“Important Sale of Freehold Property and Building Land, with the Mines and Minerals under the same, situate at Bateman’s Hill, in the Parish of Sedgley.

Mr. Thomas Richards, will Offer for Sale by Auction, on Friday, the 31st day of May, 1864, at the house of Mr *Daniel Cooper*, the GREYHOUND INN, Upper Bradley, at six o’clock in the evening.....”

Daniel Cooper was also a cattle dealer.

He was described as also being a shopkeeper. [1868], [1870]

Birmingham Daily Post 3/3/1869 - Advert

“The GREYHOUND INN, Bradley, near Bilston. By Mr. John Bent, This Day (Wednesday), March 3.

A Quantity of Spirit Casks, Scales and Weights, Wrought and Scrap Iron, and numerous other Effects, belonging to Mr. *Cooper*, who has no further use for them.

Sale to commence at Four o’clock in the afternoon.”

County Express 22/5/1869

“At Dudley Police Court, on Monday, Henry Fox Wright, landlord of the CASTLE AND FALCON INN, Wolverhampton Street, and commercial traveller, was charged, on remand, with embezzling certain sums of money belonging to his employer, Mr. Thomas Willis. Mr. Stokes prosecuted, and Mr. Shakespeare defended.

At the commencement of the case, Mr. Shakespeare applied for a remand, inasmuch as he had not had sufficient time to get up his defence. Mr. Stokes objected; and the Bench decided that the cases should go on. A week was amply sufficient remand for the purpose of defence.

Thomas Willis, the prosecutor, stated that he was a wholesale grocer, of the Market Place, Dudley. Prisoner had been employed by him for a period of fifteen or sixteen years. His duties were those of a traveller and shopman, and these capacities he had to obtain orders and receive moneys, and to account for these every day. The prisoner was paid by salary, and not commission. David Weston was a customer of his (witness’s), and he resided at Dudley Wood. He owed witness £20. The prisoner had not accounted for that money; nor for money received from Matthew Smith, who owed £14 5s; nor from *Daniel Cooper*, Bradley, who owed £37 12s 2d. Prisoner had a book in which moneys received by him and paid over were credited to him by witness. In that book none of the amounts mentioned above were acknowledged. Since February last he had frequently called the attention of the prisoner to the accounts, but he made excuses.

By Mr. Shakespeare: Prisoner had £100 per year and 4s per day expenses. For that sum he had to give up all his time to prosecutor. The prisoner owed him a private account for grocery and hops, amounting to £30 3d, and witness gave him credit in February last for one year and a quarter’s salary to cover the amount and deficiencies. By that he did not mean embezzlements. Prisoner had written to him on the 18th February, stating that he was going to get money to put all his accounts straight. He begged to be allowed to go on, as he had some time before told him that he was wrong in his accounts. On the 21st January the prisoner paid, on account of money received, £10, saying that that amount balanced Woodhouse’s account. It was not for general deficiencies. In March he found further deficiencies, and in May again he found larger deficiencies. After some slight equivocation, witness said he had received some money in September, 1868, on account of discrepancies in the prisoner’s accounts. There was no arrangement at Christmas that the prisoner was to have a commission instead of a salary; neither had there been any

settlement since that time. Witness obtained a warrant against the prisoner on the 8th of May, in consequence of his absconding. Previous to that date he had found out the embezzlement of *Cooper's* account. He did not intend to prosecute, but when prisoner bolted he sought the assistance of Mr. Stokes. Prisoner returned on Monday last. After Davies had arrested him, and the prisoner had said he could get the money in a short time, witness wanted the warrant again in his hands. It was only to look at the date. Before prisoner's arrest he did not ask him to turn over the CASTLE AND FALCON INN, where prisoner was landlord. Prisoner's wife had been to him with £300, but he declined to settle the matter in any such way.

Re-examined by Mr. Stokes: Made many enquiries for the prisoner during the Friday night and Saturday whilst he was away, absconding, in fact, and could learn nothing of him. The sum embezzled amounted to £700.

David Weston said he owed Mr. Willis £20 for hops. On the 18th February he paid prisoner, and produced the receipt.

Matthew Smith said that on the 17th February he paid the prisoner £14 and received a receipt for it.

Elizabeth Cooper, wife of *Daniel Cooper*, said she received a receipt from the prisoner for £37.

Sergeant Davis said he received the warrant for the apprehension of the prisoner, and on the previous Monday he went to Mr. Willis's, and found prosecutor and prisoner together in a stable, at the back of the premises. Mr. Willis said to him, 'Here's your prisoner, and here's your warrant.' After that he locked the prisoner up. Upon charging him at the station he made no reply.

Cross-examined: When in the stable prisoner asked Mr. Willis to allow him three hours, and he would get the whole of his money. After that Mr. Willis desired witness to give him the paper again, but witness refused, and said he must do his duty. The prisoner was then formally charged and pleaded not guilty.

Mr. Shakespeare said his client would reserve his defence, after which the prisoner was committed to the Sessions for trial. Six other charges of embezzlement against the prisoner were then gone into, and the prisoner was committed to the Sessions upon two indictments involving three charges in each. Bail was then allowed."

[Henry Fox Wright appeared at the Worcestershire Quarter Sessions in June 1869, he was found guilty, and sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment with hard labour.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/6/1870

"An inquest was held yesterday, at the GREYHOUND INN, Cross Street, Bradley, by the Coroner, Mr. W. H. Phillips, on the body of Joseph Chambers, aged 18, a miner, in the employ of Mr. Yardley. At 6pm on the 11th inst he was about to ascend a pit in the Brerely Colliery, when he fell off the skip into a sump filled with water at the bottom, and was drowned. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

1871 Census

13, Cross Street – GREYHOUND INN

[1] *Elizabeth Cooper* (52), married, publican's wife, born Wednesbury;

[2] Sarah Rudd (62), sister, colliery engineer's wife, born Claverley, Shropshire;

[3] Hannah Chambers (16), general servant, born Bilston;

[4] Paulina Randle (9), general servant, born Bilston:

Daniel Cooper died in 1873.

Birmingham Daily Post 26/3/1873

"At the Bilston Police Court, yesterday, Thomas Briggs, Secretary of the Glory of England Lodge, otherwise the Victoria Order of Odd Fellows, GREYHOUND INN, Bradley, was charged with that he, together with other members of the lodge, refused to recognise Thomas Collins as a member. Mr. Stokes (Dudley), was for the complainant, and Mr. Thurstans (Wolverhampton), for the defendant.

The plaintiff, a long time ago, became a member of the lodge, and had since paid the usual subscriptions. Being a teetotalter, he seldom attended the meetings, and sent his contributions by his wife. Three weeks ago his contributions were refused, and when he went to the club room he was expelled. Hence the proceedings.

The defence was that when the complainant first became a member he was over the maximum age of membership – forty-five years. He was, however, accepted on condition, the defence continued, of his leaving the club when his son left, and his son left last December. It was further urged that the defendant had signed a document to that effect. The signature to this document the complainant now repudiated; and it was pointed out on his behalf that throughout

the whole interval between December and three weeks ago complainant's contributions were regularly received. The minute-book of the club showed that when the complainant tendered himself for membership, some of the members believed him to be 45, and some 47, but that it was eventually agreed to accept him at 45. Recently the rules of the club had been altered to make the maximum age 35.

The Stipendiary, in giving judgement, said that the complainant had a distinct claim upon the club, because he had been accepted as 45. If being over 45, and his money had been accepted, his claim to membership would not be tenable, but he would have his remedy against the individual members who accepted his money. In this case they agreed to waive the question as to the exact age, and received him as 45. They had now, therefore, no right to exclude him from the benefits of the association. The Magistrate, therefore, decided in the complainant's favour."

Dudley Guardian 21/3/1874

"On Wednesday evening, a fire was discovered to have broken out on the premises of Mrs. *Elizabeth Cooper*, of the GREYHOUND INN, Cross Street, Bradley, Bilston. The fire occurred in the malt room, where there were at the time a large quantity of malt and some poultry, as Mrs. *Cooper* also deals in poultry. Several of the neighbours rendered what assistance they could give by throwing water on the fire, and it was soon extinguished. The damage sustained is estimated at about £40. How the fire originated has not transpired, but from subsequent inquiries it is suspected that some one entered the place to steal the poultry, and that the straw inside was set on fire by the intruders."

Midland Counties Evening Express 13/5/1875

"Charles Strong was summoned for having, as secretary of a friendly society, refused to pay the sum of £2 16s to Thomas Briggs, a member of the Society. Mr. Barrow appeared for the complainant, who is a cabinetmaker, living in Railway Street, Bradley, and stated that his client, thirty-five years ago, fortunately or unfortunately, joined the Glory of England Lodge of the United Order of Oddfellows, which met at the GREYHOUND INN, Bradley. Since then he has paid his subscriptions regularly, and during part of the time he was secretary of the lodge. He left that post in September last, and in February this year was taken ill. He applied for relief, but although he had paid over £100 to the lodge, and was in full benefit, no money was paid to him. On the contrary, he was informed that the lodge had no funds to dispose of. He was ill until the 22nd March, and for those seven weeks he now claimed £2 16s, the relief due to him at the rate of 8s a week."

[The case was adjourned until the following day.]

AND

".....Mr. Spooner, the learned Stipendiary, after remarking that the society seemed to be nothing but a drinking and burial society, and that the accounts were shamefully kept, ordered the defendant to pay the full amount claimed. If the money were not forthcoming, a distress would be levied on defendant's goods."

Birmingham Daily Post 20/4/1878 - Married

"On the 15th inst, at the Parish Church, Sedgley (by the Rev. William Griffith, vicar), William Henry, youngest son of the late *Daniel Cooper*, of the GREYHOUND, Bradley, to Clara, second daughter of the late James Rose, of Batmans Hill."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/1/1880

"Mr. W. H. Phillips (Coroner) held an inquest on Monday at the GREYHOUND INN, Cross Street, Bradley, on the body of Titus Wainwright (42), a Wolverhampton bailiff, who had been placed in possession of the Bradley Bridge Iron Foundry at Bradley.

The deceased had been in possession for several weeks, and on Saturday night, at about half-past seven o'clock, whilst he was eating his supper in the presence of a little girl named Elizabeth Fletcher, he fell forward and died immediately.

A verdict was returned that the deceased died from Natural Causes; and the Coroner remarked that it was fortunate that the witness Fletcher was present at his death, or perhaps the deceased being a bailiff, and the sale of the works having been announced to take place that day (Monday), some suspicion might have been aroused in the neighbourhood."

Evening Express 10/1/1881

"Yesterday (Sunday) morning an old man 73 years of age, named William Baker, a resident of Stoke Street, Daisy Bank, was found dead in the road in Brierley Lane, Bradley, under circumstances of a strange and very unusual character.

The deceased, who was a horse fettler, at the Eight Locks pit, Great Bridge, went to his work on Saturday afternoon, and on Sunday morning at about a quarter to eight o'clock, a boy named Hughes found deceased's dead body lying in the road, without his coat, and in a saturated condition, as if he had been in the canal. He at once communicated with Police-constable Baldwin, who had the body conveyed to the GREYHOUND INN, Cross Street, Bradley, where it awaits an inquest.

The deceased's coats were soon after found at the foot of what is known as the Rocket Bridge, near Batmans Hill Works, and as these were also saturated with water it was evident the man must either have fallen into the canal or have been pushed in and left to get out as best he could.

The general belief is that the deceased, when returning home, accidentally fell into the canal, and got out again, but afterwards died from exposure to the severe cold which prevailed. An enquiry will be held."

Evening Express 12/1/1881

"Yesterday (Tuesday) afternoon, W. H. Phillips, Esq, coroner, held an inquest at the GREYHOUND INN, Cross Street, Bradley, on the body of William Baker (73), of Stoke Street, Daisy Bank, who was on Sunday morning found dead in Brierley Lane, under circumstances reported in our columns on Monday.

Mrs. Ann Millard, with whom the deceased had lodged for many years, identified the body. She said he had been employed at the Eight Locks Pit, Great Bridge, as a horse fettler. She had examined the body of the deceased, but had found no mark or injury upon it. She had no reason to blame any one for his death. He was a very weakly old man and stooped very much, nearly two double. His eyesight was very bad. His relatives lived in Derbyshire.

George Hobble, watchman at the Eight Locks pit, stated that the deceased, after fettling the horses down the pit, came up, and left between three and four o'clock on Sunday morning. He started to go down the lane leading to the railway and the canal. He usually went home along the canal side.

A lad living at Bradley gave evidence to going to fetch some water from a spring near Brierley Farm just before eight o'clock on Sunday morning, when a dog he had with him stopped. He went to see what the dog was stopping for, and found the deceased lying dead on the ground.

John Jones, labourer, Batmans Hill, also spoke to seeing the deceased lying dead on the ground. He helped to wheel him to the place of inquest. Witness found two jackets belonging to the deceased on the ground near to the canal bridge in the locality when the deceased was picked up. The jackets seemed to have been taken off together.

The jury was satisfied that the deceased had fallen into the canal and got out again, but was overcome by the severe weather and died before anyone came to him. They returned a verdict of Found Dead."

1881 Census

13, Cross Street – GRAY HOUND

[1] Elizabeth Cooper (62), widow, licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;

[2] Elizabeth Cooper (27), daughter, born Bilston;

[3] William Cooper (25), son, butcher, born Bilston;

[4] Betsey Nichols (18), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Darlaston Weekly Times 5/8/1882

"The Bilston Wake..... The Victoria Reformers Lodge of Oddfellows, Bradley, held their anniversary dinner at the GREYHOUND INN, Bradley, where members partook of a grand spread served up by the hostess, Mrs. *Cooper*, and, combining business with pleasure, received a very glowing report of the Society's progress. A musical entertainment followed, the whole evening passing off very harmoniously."

Darlaston Weekly Times 2/8/1884

"At the GREYHOUND INN, Bradley, the members of the Glory of England Lodge, Reformed Order of Oddfellows, had on Monday their annual feast. There were about eighty present, and the hostess, Mrs. *Cooper*, served up an excellent meal. After dinner, Brother Isaac Townsend took the chair, and Brother W. Laight the vice-chair. The usual toasts were drunk. Brother Charles Strong, secretary, showed in the annual report the affairs of the lodge were flourishing. About thirty new members had been added during the year, and the bank account was increased by about £30."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 26/5/1885

"On Monday morning, Mr. W. H. Phillips, coroner, held an inquest at the GREYHOUND INN, Cross Street, Bradley, touching the death of Edith Asberry (16), daughter of the late Benjamin Asberry, of Daisy Bank.

Eliza Gough, the wife of Henry Gough, an ironworker, of Brierley Lane, Daisy Bank, said deceased was her sister, and lived with and was supported by her. About twelve o'clock on Friday last she left home alone, without hat or shawl. Witness did not hear anything of her until her dead body was brought home. There had not been any quarrel. Deceased had complained of a pain in the head.

Jane Hale, a relative, residing in Chell Street, Daisy Bank, deposed that deceased came to her mother's house about four o'clock on Friday afternoon, and had tea. Deceased complained of sickness. She asked witness to go some of the way home with her. They proceeded over Daisy Bank railway bridge, and along the Greengate Lane, to a pool of water near the Blue Button engine, deceased remarking that she was going to meet a young woman named Sarah Lloyd returning from work, to ask her about a situation. They were gaming there for some time, deceased throwing stones into the water. Deceased gave witness a pair of cuffs, apron, and shawl pin, remarking, 'Keep them as long as you live.' Deceased spoke about the spot being near to where a young woman named Eliza Cartwright was murdered. Deceased asked witness to see if Lloyd was coming. She went about twelve yards from the pool, and upon returning found deceased in the water. She raised an alarm, and a relative named Hannah Hale, of Skidmore Row, went to the spot. The body was afterwards got out by James Budd, of Bradley.

Sarah Lloyd, of Daisy Bank, stated that she knew deceased well, and saw her on Thursday at the brickyard at Deepfields, but not to speak to her. Witness had not made an appointment to meet deceased on Friday, and did not return home from her work from Deepfields by that way.

The girl Hale, recalled, said deceased did not mention anything about death, but stated she had been there a week before. Deceased was close to the water with her back towards it when she asked witness to see if Lloyd was coming.

The jury found that deceased died from drowning, but that there was no evidence to show by what manner or means she got into the water."

Darlaston Weekly Times 26/6/1886 - Deaths

"On the 18th inst, at her residence, GREY HOUND INN, Bradley, *Elizabeth*, relict of the late Mr. *Daniel Cooper*; aged 67. Deeply lamented."

Darlaston Weekly Times 26/6/1886

"Our readers will regret to hear of the death of Mrs. *Elizabeth Cooper* (67), relict of the late Mr. *Daniel Cooper*, of the GREY HOUND INN, Bradley, which occurred after a short illness, on Friday last. Deceased will be missed by a great many, always being ready to help in every charitable object, and especially that of the poor. The funeral took place on Wednesday, at Coseley Church, when much respect was shown by the hundreds who formed the funeral cortege. The coffin was of fine oak and bore the following inscription, '*Elizabeth Cooper*, born May 8th, 1819; died June 18th, 1886.'" A great number of wreaths were placed upon the coffin by friends of deceased. The Rev. W. Spencer, vicar of Coseley, officiated. Mr. Baines, of Princes End, carried out the funeral arrangements."

Birmingham Daily Post 31/7/1886

"License transfers made at Bilston Police Court yesterday.....
GREYHOUND, Bradley, to *Elizabeth Cooper*, jun."

Darlaston Weekly Times 7/1/1887

"A number of friends and customers met on Saturday evening last at the house of Miss *E. Cooper*, GREYHOUND INN, Bradley, to partake of a substantial supper provided gratuitously by the hostess. After ample justice had been done to the good things provided, Mr. George Moody was voted to the chair and Mr. John J. Larkin to the vice-chair. Songs were given during the evening by Mr. J. Pascal, and a duet was given by Messrs. J. Gallagher and Hampton. Mr. T. Paul acted as accompanist."

Birmingham Daily Post 21/1/1887

"Yesterday, the Deputy Coroner, Mr. E. B. Thorneycroft, held an inquest at the GREYHOUND INN, Bradley, Bilston, into the death of Mary Morris (70), lately lodging in Cross Street, Bradley. It appeared that the deceased had been taking a breakfast to an ironworks near the canal side, and was seen by a girl named Moody leaving the works. The morning was very foggy, and shortly after she left a splash was heard, followed by a cry of 'Murder!' Subsequently the body was recovered by a boatman. When got out of the water deceased was alive, but she could not speak, and she died very quickly. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

George Ecclestone = George Eccleston

1891 Census

13, Cross Street – GREY HOUND

- [1] George H. Eccleston (34), licensed victualler, born West Bromwich;
- [2] Hannah Eccleston (37), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Elizabeth Eccleston (11), daughter, born Sheffield;
- [4] George W. Eccleston (9), son, born Sheffield;
- [5] Thomas C. Eccleston (7), son, born Sheffield;
- [6] Isaac H. Eccleston (7), son, born Sheffield;
- [7] Ellen Watson (25), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;
- [8] Ellen Millington (15), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 3/7/1893

"Mr. A. B. Smith (deputy coroner) held an inquest at the GREYHOUND INN, Cross Street, Bradley, on Friday night, touching the death of John Glover, late of 19, Rose Street, Bradley, who was found the same morning to have cut his throat in an outhouse. The deceased, a labourer at an ironworks, had been strange in his behaviour for some time, and had stated that he should have to give up work, but the thought of having to go to the workhouse was driving him mad. A verdict was returned that deceased committed Suicide whilst of Unsound Mind."

Birmingham Daily Post 1/4/1895 - Advert

"For Sale, Avery Weighing Machine, 3 tons; also four-wheeled Wagon and an oak Boat. — Apply, Greyhound, Bradley, Bilston."

FOR Sale, Avery Weighing Machine, 3 tons; also four-wheeled Wagon and an oak Boat. — Apply, Greyhound, Bradley, Bilston.

Lichfield Mercury 6/11/1896 - Advert

"Wanted, general Servant, about 18 or 20; country preferred. Apply, G. H. Eccleston, GREYHOUND INN, Bradley, near Bilston."

WANTED, general Servant, about 18 or 20; country preferred.—Apply, G. H. Eccleston, Greyhound Inn, Bradley, Near Bilston.

Dudley Herald 2/4/1898

"At the GREYHOUND INN, Bradley, on Saturday evening, Councillor W. H. Wells (who for the past 20 years has been in medical practice at Bradley, and who is now retiring, consequent of the new law of the Medical Council of the United Kingdom) was entertained at dinner by a large number of friends and well-wishers. After an excellent repast, Councillor J. A. Jordan presided, and made a presentation to the guest of the evening of a very handsome illuminated address and a purse of gold containing £50. The subscribers to the testimonial included many friends and admirers of Mr. Wells. In making the presentation, Councillor Jordan alluded to the many acts of kindness and consideration which had endeared their guest to the whole population of Bradley and district, and he expressed, on behalf of all, the deep regret they felt on the severance of his professional connection with them. Councillor W. H. Wells, who was enthusiastically received, feelingly acknowledged the gift. The remaining portion of the evening was devoted to harmony."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 4/11/1898

"At the GREYHOUND INN, Bradley, last night, Mr. James Roberts was made the recipient of a gold medal by the President of the Bradley Flower Show. The medal was awarded for the Willenhall Temperance Prize Band winning the championship of South Staffordshire, Mr Roberts being the leader. The medal bore the following inscription: Awarded to James Roberts, bandmaster of Willenhall Temperance Prize Band, with first prize and championship of South Staffordshire, at Bradley Park Band Contest, August 22nd, 1898."

1901 Census

13, Cross Street

- [1] Joseph Swift (50), publican, born Walsall;
- [2] Mary Swift (48), wife, born Walsall;
- [3] Annie Swift (24), daughter, born Walsall:

Hereford Times 25/1/1902

“From Tuesday’s *London Gazette*. The Bankruptcy Acts, 1883 and 1890. Receiving Orders.....
Joseph Swift, of GREYHOUND INN, Bradley, near Bilston, licensed victualler.”

23rd June 1906 – It was decided at a meeting of John Rolinson and Son that this house should be equipped with a small brewing plant.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 1/9/1906

“Two novel arguments were raised in defence in a case at Bilston Police Court yesterday, when *John Robinson*, licensee of the GREYHOUND INN, Cross Street, Bradley, was charged with being drunk and disorderly. A police-constable in his evidence said that the defendant followed him into Bilston Police Station, where he was very disorderly.

Mr. Waldron (of Brierley Hill), for the defence, urged that as the charge against defendant was with respect to his conduct at the police station the latter could not be considered a public place or highway in accordance with the Act under which the proceedings were taken, Moreover, as he voluntarily entered the police station and was detained there he had been unlawfully taken into custody.

The Bench overruled both objections, and after hearing evidence for the defence fined the defendant 20s and costs.”

1911 Census

13, Cross Street

- [1] Stephen Edward Williams (33), licensed victualler, born Princes End;
- [2] Phoebe Williams (28), wife, married 8 years, born Princes End;
- [3] Simon Henry Williams (7), son, school, born Princes End;
- [4] Mary Williams (5), daughter, school, born Princes End;
- [5] Beatrice Hilda Williams (1), daughter, born Princes End;
- [6] Elizabeth Sunner (19), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Stephen Edward Williams – see also WHITE LION, Cross Street, and LAND OAK.

1921 Census

13, Cross Street

- [1] Leonard Kinsey (37), publican and miner, born Bilston;
- [2] Annie Kinsey (33), wife, publican’s assistant, born Willenhall;
- [3] John Kinsey (10), son, school, born Moxley;
- [4] William Kinsey (8), son, school, born Moxley;
- [5] John T. Camm (33), boarder, collier, pikeman, born Lower Bradley:

Leonard Kinsey was involved in the Rocket Pit tragedy in 1921.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/1/1922

“James Morris, married, of Broomfield Road, Princes End, was killed, and *Leonard Kinsey* and Thomas Camm, both of Bradley, sustained injuries as a result of brickwork collapsing on them during the sinking of a pit shaft at Bradley (Wolverhampton). The accident occurred at the Rocket Pit, in the centre of a disused coalfield lying between Bradley and Princes End. *Kinsey* held a contract for sinking the shaft at the time of the mishap, the other two being at work a little way down the shaft. *Kinsey* noticed some of the brickwork suddenly begin to bulge and shouted to the others to jump into the ‘bowk,’ and at the same time signalled to the men in charge of the windlass to draw then up. Their weight, however, caused the whole of the brickwork to give way, and this, with a mass of dirt and the windlass itself, hurtled on to the men beneath, while *Kinsey* himself was also carried in by the collapse. Other men who were at work in the vicinity rushed to the rescue, but this work was very difficult owing to the dangerous

condition of the bank, due in some measure to the heavy rain. It was three hours before Morris was extricated, and he died soon afterwards. The other two were buried up to their armpits. Stimulants were administered to them while the rescuers toiled to remove the debris which pinned them down. Fortunately they escaped with minor injuries. The body of Morris was conveyed to the mortuary at Bilston, where the inquest opens today.”
[At the inquest a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.]

South Staffordshire Times 9/2/1924

“Bilston Licensing.....

Mr. Tildesley presented plans with regard to the alterations at the GREYHOUND INN, Cross Street, Bradley. The drinking area would, he stated, be less, and the alterations were for improving the domestic accommodation. The plans were passed with certain slight alteration.”

Leonard Kinsey was fined £10 and £5 5s 0d costs for aiding and abetting consuming of intoxicating liquor during prohibited hours.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/1/1926

“A fine of £10 was imposed at Bilston yesterday on *Leonard Kinsey*, licensee of the GREYHOUND INN, Bradley, for allowing drink to be consumed on his premises after permitted hours.”

Esther Ann Perry married *George Rose* on 9th September 1933.

Evening Despatch 30/8/1935

“The undermentioned particulars of new companies recently registered are taken from the daily register.....

Brookes (Dudley) Ltd., 28, Wolverhampton Street, Dudley. To carry on the business of chemists, druggists, etc. Capital £100. Directors: J. T. Richardson, MINERS ARMS, Salop Street, Dudley, Worcs; *Harriett A. Brookes*, GREYHOUND INN, Bradley, near Bilston, Staffs.”

Henry Ralph Till – see also RED COW, Dudley Street, Wolverhampton, and CROWN AND ANCHOR, Horseley Fields, Wolverhampton.

Evening Despatch 30/11/1939

“Well-supported dog shows were held at GREYHOUND INN, Bradley.”

1939 Register

1, Cross Street – GREYHOUND

[1] *Mary A. Parker*, date of birth 30/12/1866, licensed victualler, single;

[2] *Ellen Adams*, dob 21/3/1880, unpaid domestic duties, widowed;

[3] *James Wardle*, dob 29/10/1866, painter, retired, single:

A team from here took part in the Bradley Crib League. [1946]

A team from here took part in the Bradley Darts League, First Division. [1946]

[1949]

Tipton Herald 15/10/1960

“A funeral service was held on Wednesday at Bushbury Crematorium for Mr. *William Brown*, who was licensee of the BLACK COCK INN, Owen Street, Tipton, for 15 years. Mr. *Brown*, who was 62, was first a licensee at the GREYHOUND, Bradley, from 1943 until 1945 when he left to come to Tipton. He leaves a widow, two sons and a daughter.”

GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL

51, (26), (27), (25), (47½), High Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

John Mason, solicitor, Bilston
Edward Camfield, Bilston
Cheltenham Brewery Co.
Beard Brothers, Gresley Brewery Co. Ltd., Burton on Trent
Richard Andrew Harper, brewer, Bilston [1889]
R. A. Harper Ltd., Hall Park Brewery, Bilston [1921]
Eley's Stafford Brewery Ltd.
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1935], [1965]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.
Avebury Taverns Ltd. (acquired in 1999) [2003]
Admiral Taverns [2006]

LICENSEES

John Garbet [1757]
Johnathan Hartshorn [1791] – [1801]
Robert Hartshorn [1815]
Job Hartshorn [1818] – [1822]
Robert Reeve [1828] – [1842]
Joseph Reeves [1838]
Samuel Meacham [1851] – [1854]
Mrs. Sarah Meacham [] – **1854**;
William Hall **(1854 – [1870])**
William Hyde [] – **1871**;
John Smith **(1871 – 1873)**;
Job Jeavons **(1873 – 1874)**;
William Highfield **(1874 – 1875)**;
George Whittle **(1875 – 1877)**;
Alfred Woodhouse **(1877)**;
Mary Bowers **(1877 – 1881)**;
William Harfield **(1881 – 1884)**;
Septimus West [1881] – [1882]
Septimus West **(1884 – 1893)**;
Richard Jones [1886]
Richard Jones **(1893 – 1894)**;
Charles Galiner (?) **(1894)**;
Thomas Jones **(1894)**;
James Dyer **(1894 – [])**
Albert James Richards **[1896] – 1899)**;
Edward Wilkinson **(1899 – 1900)**;
Richard Jones **(1900 – 1906)**;
Richard Hughes [1901] manager
George Hassell **(1906)**;
William Haynes **(1906 – 1907)**;
Thomas Murray **(1907 – 1913)**;
William Baker **(1913)**;
Joseph Wheeler **(1913 – [1940])**



Len Fieldhouse **(1974 – [1979]**
 Jim Wells **[1985] – 1987)**
 M McDowell **[1989]**
 Colin Shingler **[1991] – [1992]**
 Stuart Clarkson **[1994] – [1995]**
 Dawn Wheate **(1999 – []**
 Sylvia Pitts **(2003 – []**
 Casey-Ann Wills **[2005]**
 Amarjit Singh Umbi **[2008]**
 George Kang **[2023]**



NOTES

25, High Street **[1858], [1862]**
 27, High Street **[1873]**
 26, High Street **[1861], [1864], [1865], [1868], [1870], [1879], [1881], [1891], [1892], [1896], [1900], [1904]**
 47½, High Street **[1874]**
 51, High Street **[1908], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1932], [1939], [1940], [1994], [2006]**

GREYHOUND **[1818], [1822], [1828], [1833], [1841], [1854], [1858], [1860], [1861], [1862], [1863], [1864], [1865], [1870], [1873], [1881], [1892], [1896], [1900], [1908], [1911], [1912], [1940]**
 PUNCHBOWL **[1879]**

Grade II* listed

Blackcountryman (Autumn 1984) **‘Bilston’s Ancient Pile’ by Ron Davies**

“.....The former Stowheath Manor, dating from the 15th century, situated in High Street, now goes by the sign of the GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL, though formerly known as the GREYHOUND, which title it is believed was adopted from the former Greyhound coach line, who appear to have used the old building as a coach-house, owing to its being situated on the A41 London to Holyhead road. This ran through the main town and Wolverhampton Street until a more direct route was laid down by Thomas Telford c.1821 (now Wellington Road). As many as 30 coaches passed daily through the town in its hey-day; the London coach once each week.

Quite how long the building has been used as an Inn is uncertain, but G. T. Lawley, referring to the interior décor of the building in his History of Bilston, 1893, says, ‘After a century of hard usage from miners and iron workers, the habitues of its drinking rooms, the house is much the worse for wear and is fast losing every semblance of its former substantial importance.’ (Photographs taken at this period justify Mr. Lawley’s comment.)

Some may wonder why the so-called Stowheath Manor lies in Bilston town whilst Stowheath proper lies about a mile to the north. In truth, the former Manor of Stowheath covered quite a large area.....

Lawley noted the building to be a good specimen of the half-timbered, many-gabled structures peculiar to the earlier Tudor period, with low ceilings, queerly shaped rooms, with recesses oddly placed and floors of different levels. It formerly contained some magnificently panelled and carved oak wainscoting and traces of beautiful ceiling in moulding and arabesque are still to be seen. There is, however, one ceiling in fair state of preservation of an unusual character, and that is the liquor vault, where the votaries of Bacchus partake of the usual liberations. This ceiling is moulded in a design of birds, vine leaves and grapes; it was once painted in colours, but is now white-washed and smoke-grimed. The cement is still as hard as stone, and though the surface is broken into compartments by massive oak beams, it is a fine specimen of ceiling decoration of the Queen Anne period.....

The old Bilston humourist John Freeman gave some account of the GREYHOUND in his Black Country Stories and Sketches (1930), mainly concerning a certain *Joseph Reeves* who was landlord c.1840. He was among the last in the town to wear the quaint 18th century dress of breeches, silk or worsted stockings and swallow-tailed coat, long after the introduction of trousers. Besides being mine host, he was also choirmaster at the Ettingshall Wesleyan Church. Most of the old taverns in the town at that period were rendezvous for members of the various churches. The ACORN, Pinfold Street, was used by the choir of St. Luke’s, devotees from St. Leonard’s met at the WHITE ROSE, and those from St. Mary’s at the ANGEL. The GREYHOUND was no exception; here the Primitive

Methodists made free use of its hospitality, and ministers and officials often met there to discuss church affairs. However, landlord *Reeves* (a dapper little man) was known to turn off his taps at the slightest suggestion of improper behaviour from his customers, saying, 'No more filled for an hour,' and then turn all out into the streets, saints and sinners alike."

Black Country Bugle (1978)

'The GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL'

"The Bilston residence of the Mollesleys was the old, half-timbered house, known at present as the GREYHOUND INN, High Street. There was a tradition current among some of the older inhabitants that it was formerly the Manor House of Stowheath and it was occasionally called by that name. This may have been from the fact that the Mollesleys, for several generations, were Stewards to Lord of the Manor. In one of the bedrooms about the year 1820 the following inscription was found cut in one of the beams: 'John Mollesley 1438.' In his family [John Green, the next owner] it remained until the latter end of the 18th century when it was made into a beerhouse called the GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL. This is the oldest building in the town.....

About the year 1790 it became a Public House used mainly by miners and ironworkers and became the worst for wear."

Black Country Bugle 13/1/2021

'What was brewing in Bilston? Recalling lost pubs and brewers.' by Steve James

"By far the oldest pub in the town is the GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL. Originally built as Stowheath Manor in 1438 by John de Mollesley, it became a public house in 1820. In 1936 Wolverhampton brewers W. Butler and Co. employed architect James Swan to renovate this fine timber-framed building, retaining much of the original woodwork, along with the 17th century plaster ceiling and Jacobean fireplaces. Although it's been refurbished several times, some of the original panelling and seating survives, along with its ghost! It's one of the most historic buildings in the area, nationally recognised and listed (Grade II*)."

Reputedly haunted by the "punchbowl ghost" who walks from the smoke room to the bar, clutching a glass of whisky.

Black Country Bugle 17/8/2022

'Supping with the spirits at haunted hostelries' by Steve James

"In Bilston, the GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL is an ancient inn which was originally Stow Heath Manor House, associated with the Mollesley family. It's home to the 'Punch Bowl ghost,' reputed to walk out of the smoke room with a glass of whisky. A tall man in a black cloak and large black hat has also been seen around the kitchen. Other ghosts have been seen walking the corridors, along with the sound of a baby crying for its mother, who was murdered by a cruel landlord. She still wanders around the pub wearing a white gown, seeking her revenge."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 13/6/1757 - Advert

"This is to give Notice, that on Monday the 27th Day of June, at the House of *John Garbet*, the Sign of the GREYHOUND AND PUNCH BOWL, in Bilston, there will be a Match of Cocks fought betwixt the Gentlemen of Worcestershire and the Gentlemen of Staffordshire; to weigh 16 Cocks of each Side for Two Guineas a Battle, and Five Pounds the Main; and two Shakebag Battles for Four Guineas a Battle.

James Wilkinson and Isaiah Shale, Feeders.

Also there will be a Foot-Race at the same House the Morning before the Fighting, betwixt Anthony of Rowley, the noted Runner, and Edward Beards, a noted Runner, who formerly went by the Name of the Greyhound of Bilston."

Johnathan Hartshorn, victualler, GREYHOUND AND PUNCH BOWL, Bilston. [1791]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 11/4/1791 - Advert

"Houses and Land, situate adjoining the High Street in Bilston.

To be Sold to the best Bidder, on Friday the 15th inst.....

The GREYHOUND INN, with the Buildings thereunto belonging, and a Parcel of Land called the Batch Croft and Yard, containing about 10 Acres, now in the Occupation of Mr. *Hartshorn*, or his Under-tenants."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 21/9/1801 - Advert

"To be Sold by Auction, on Tuesday the 6th of October, 1801, between the Hours of Four and Six in the Afternoon, at *Jonathan Hartshorn's*, the Sign of the GREYHOUND, in Bilston.

Lot I. About one Hundred and twenty Thousand of Bricks, made this Summer, and now stacked on Lot 2.

Lot II. All that Piece of Land situate near to Bilston, called Cooper's Croft, containing by Estimation two Acres, or thereabouts (be the same more or less) together with the Heathen Coal and white Ironstone, and such Part of the thick Coal and Brick Clay as remains ungot therein; and also the Heathen Coal and white Ironstone, and such Part of the thick Coal as remains ungot in certain Parcels of Land lately taken out of the said Croft, amounting in the whole to Half an Acre, or thereabouts.

Lot III. The Remainder of a Lease for three Lives (renewable for a small Fine) of a Cottage in Bridge Street, Bilston, adjoining the said Croft, and now in the Holding of Rudge, at the yearly Rent of £3 18s.

The Land is Copyhold of Inheritance, within the Manor of Stowheath.

There is a Lease of the Land, with Power to get the thick Ironstone, which expires at Midsummer next. It is an exceeding eligible Spot for building upon, and there is a Brick-kiln upon the Premises, which has been and may be worked to great Advantage.

For Particulars apply to Mr. Thomas Price, Bilston."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 30/10/1815 - Advert

"Blast Furnace, Coal and Ironstone Mine.

To be Sold by Auction, by J. Payton, on Tuesday the 7th Day of November, 1815, at the House of Mr. *Robert Hartshorn*, the GREYHOUND AND PUNCH BOWL, in Bilston....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 19/2/1816 - Died

"On Friday, aged 59, Mr. *Robert Hartshorn*, coal-master, of the GREYHOUND, Bilston."

Job Hartshorn was also a field bailiff. [1818]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 26/10/1818 - Advert

"To Coal and Iron-Masters.

To be Sold by Auction by T. Walters, on Thursday, October 29, 1818, at Mr. *Job Hartshorne's*, GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL INN, Bilston, at Four o'Clock in the Afternoon; three high Cabin Boats, excellent Swimmers, and in good working Condition....."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/12/1838

"On Wednesday, a meeting was held at the house of Mr. *Joseph Reeves*, GREYHOUND INN, High Street, Bilston, for the purpose of forming a Mechanics Institution in that town. Mr. Hodgkins was unanimously called to the chair. The meeting, which was numerous and respectable, was addressed by Mr. Dimmack, Mr. Evans, Mr. Wright, Mr. Edwards, and others, on the necessity and advantages of such an institution; and a series of resolutions was submitted to the meeting and passed. The institution is to be called 'The Bilston Society for the Promotion of useful and scientific Knowledge.' Thanks were voted to the chairman, and the meeting separated."

1841 Census

High Street

[1] *Robert Reeve* (65), publican;

[2] *Hannah Reeve* (65), born Staffordshire;

[3] *Eleanor Pardo* (15), f.s.;

[4] *Thomas Southern* (25), painter, born Staffordshire;

[5] *Ebenazar Fowler* (25):

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/9/1842 - Died

"On the 4th instant, after a long and painful illness, borne with patience and resignation, *Hannah Reeve*, the beloved wife of Mr. *Robert Reeve*, innkeeper, of Bilston, in the 71st year of her age."

Robert Reeve died on 20th October 1849.

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/2/1851

"*Samuel Meacham*, landlord of the GREYHOUND INN, High Street, Bilston, was charged by inspector Thompson with allowing drunkenness in his house. The house being generally badly conducted, he was fined 5s and costs. A second charge was preferred against him for allowing dominoe playing, and for this offence he was fined 1s and costs."

1851 Census

High Street

[1] *Samuel Meachem* (36), licensed victualler, born Bilston;

[2] *Sarah Meachem* (31), wife, born Sedgley:

Staffordshire Advertiser 14/5/1853

"Mr. Heathcote, the Supervisor in Wolverhampton of the excise department of the Inland Revenue Board, summoned, on Wednesday last, Mr. *Samuel Meacham*, landlord of the GREYHOUND INN, Bilston, for having grains of paradise in his possession. Mr. Taylor, an officer of the board, detected the spurious ingredients under decoction in a furnace. Mr. Bolton, appeared for the defendant, and admitted the possession of the article referred to, yet pleaded that it had been obtained by defendant's wife against his wish. Mr. *Meacham* was fined in the mitigated penalty of £50, which the magistrates recommended should be further reduced by the Inland Revenue Board to £30."

Samuel Meachem died in the 2nd quarter of 1853.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 6/9/1854 - Advert

"To be Peremptorily Sold, pursuant to an Order of the High Court of Chancery, bearing date the 10th day of July, 1852, made in certain causes of Shale and others v Hodson and others, Shale and others v Thompson and others, and Shale and others v Hartshorn and others, with the approbation of William Henry Tinney, Esquire, one of the Masters of the said Court, by John Mason, on Monday, the 18th day of September, 1854.....

Lot 5. All that Old Licensed and well-accustomed Public House, Messuage, or Tenement, called or known by the name or sign of GREYHOUND AND PUNCH BOWL, situate in, and fronting to, High Street, in Bilston aforesaid, and within the manor of Stowheath, together with the brewhouse, two stables, outbuildings, garden, and appurtenances thereunto belonging, formerly in the occupation of Mr. *Robert Reeve*, deceased, and now of Mrs. *Sarah Meachem*, and others.

And also all that other Messuage or Dwelling House, situate in, and fronting to, High Street, in Bilston aforesaid, and adjoining on one side to the last described messuage, formerly in the occupation of Mr. Job Hartshorn, deceased, and now of Mrs. Summers.

And also all that Barn or Building, situate in, and fronting to, High Street, in Bilston aforesaid, and adjoining on one side to the last described messuage or dwelling house, and now in the occupation of Thomas Holt.

The land comprised in this lot including the site of the said messuages and buildings contains 1,391 square yards or thereabouts, and the premises produce altogether the annual rental of £44."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/6/1858

"On Monday last, an inquest was held at the GREYHOUND INN, Bilston, on the body of a female child, named Margaret Thurstans Adie, aged five months, daughter of Mr. Adie, grocer, of Bilston. It appeared that on Saturday night the child was in perfect health, and retired to rest with the nurse and a servant girl. In the morning the nurse, when she awoke, was horrified at discovering that the child was dead. The Jury returned a verdict of Found Dead, but from what cause death took place, there was no evidence to show."

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/8/1858

"John Kirk, jun, manager for his father, who is a butty collier at the Priestfield Colliery, Bilston, appeared on an information charging him with paying 6d to one of his workmen, named William Griffiths, contrary to the terms of the Truck Act. Mr. Waterhouse supported the complaint, and Mr. W. Ward appeared for the defendant.

The statement of Griffiths was that he worked for the defendant as a collier, and that on the 1st of May he received the wages then due to him, less 6d, which was to be spent in ale at the GREYHOUND public house, at Bilston, kept by *William Hall*, a brother-in-law of the defendant. He went to *Hall's* house, and was there given a token, in exchange for which he afterwards received a quart of ale. Mr. *Hall* was called for the defence, and deposed that he

was paid for the ale, not by the defendant, but by the doggy of the pit, who, he understood, received the money from the men. It was also contended for the defence that Griffiths had been paid in full. No direct evidence of this was, however, produced, and Mr. Leigh fined Kirk £5 and costs, in default three months' imprisonment. A second penalty of the same amount was imposed upon Kirk, for a similar offence in regard to a collier named Wilden."

1861 Census

26, High Street – GREY HOUND

[1] *William Hall* (40), innkeeper, born Bilston;

[2] *Sarah Hall* (40), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Betsey Meachem* (19), niece, born Bilston;

[4] *Sarah A. Meachem* (17), niece, born Bilston;

[5] *Joe Meachem* (15), nephew, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/7/1861 - Advert

"To be Let, a Front Shop and good Bakehouse, situate adjoining the OLD GREYHOUND Public House, High Street, Bilston.

For further particulars, apply to Miss Hughes, on the premises."

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/5/1863

"*W. Hall*, of the GREYHOUND INN, Bilston, was fined 10s and costs, for selling ale on Sunday morning, the 24th inst."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/6/1864 - Advert

"Valuable Freehold Public House and Premises, Bilston, Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Private Contract, all that old-licensed and well-established Public House, Messuage or Tenement, called or know by the name or sign of the GREYHOUND AND PUNCH BOWL, situate in and fronting to High Street, in Bilston aforesaid, with the brewhouse, two stables, piggeries, outbuildings, and spacious yard at the back thereof; formerly in ten occupation of Mr. *Robert Reeve*, and now of Mr. *William Hall*.

And also all that other Messuage or Dwelling House and Shop (now used as a baker's shop), with the barn or building thereto, situate in and fronting to High Street, in Bilston aforesaid, and adjoining on one side to the above described Public House, lately in the occupation of Mrs. Summers, and now of Mr. Frederick Chaplin.

The above property is desirably situated either for occupation or investment. It is freehold of inheritance, and has a frontage to High Street of twenty-six yards, and contains, with the sites of the buildings, 1,391 superficial square yards of land, and at the present low rentals produces £46 a year.

A portion of the purchase money may, if required, remain on security of the premises.

The respective tenants will show the property, and to treat for purchase, apply to Mr. Samuel Baker, Auctioneer; or at the Offices of Messrs. Mason and Holmes, Solicitors, Bilston."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/2/1865 - Advert

"Valuable Freehold Public House and Premises, Bilston, Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Private Contract, all that Old-Licensed and well-established Public House, Messuage, or Tenement, called or known by the name or sign of the GREYHOUND AND PUNCH BOWL, situate in and fronting to High Street, in Bilston aforesaid, with the Brewhouse, two Stables, Coachhouse, Piggeries, Outbuildings, and spacious Yard at the back thereof; in the occupation of Mr. *William Hall*, whose tenancy expires at midsummer next, when the purchaser may be let into possession of the whole of the premises.

And, also, all that other Messuage or Dwelling House and Shop (now used as a Barber's Shop), with the Barn or Building thereto, situate in and fronting to High Street, in Bilston aforesaid, and adjoining on one side to the above described Public House, in the occupation of Frederick Chaplin.

The above property is desirably situated either for occupation or investment. It is freehold of inheritance and has a frontage to High Street of 26 yards, and contains with the sites of the buildings 1,391 superficial square yards of Land, with the Mines and Minerals underneath, and at the present low rental produces £46 a year.

A portion of the purchase money may, if required, remain on security of the premises.

The respective tenants will show the property, and to treat for purchase, apply to Messrs. Timmis and Woodcock, Land Surveyors, Wolverhampton, and at the offices of Messrs. Mason and Holmes, Solicitors, Bilston."

Birmingham Journal 16/2/1867 - Died

"On the 12th inst, in her 49th year, Sarah, wife of Mr. *William Hall*, of the GREYHOUND INN, High Street, Bilston; much respected."

Birmingham Daily Post 7/1/1874

"From last night's *London Gazette* Liquidations by Arrangement.....

Job Jevons, formerly of the GREYHOUND INN, High Street, Bilston, licensed victualler and iron dealer, but now of High Street, Dudley, out of business. First meeting, at the offices of Mr. Edwin Jaques, 40, Cherry Street, Birmingham, January 15, at 12."

1881 Census

26, High Street

[1] *William Harfield* (30), widower, licensed victualler, born Birmingham;

[2] *Eliza Shannon* (35), housekeeper, born Weston, Cheshire:

Evening Express 12/8/1881

"*Septimus West*, landlord of the GREYHOUND INN, High Street, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his premises on the 2nd inst.

Inspector Gasson said he went in company with Police-constable Wilson into a marquee on the defendant's premises, and found a prostitute, named Martha Cooper, and a man named Severn, both of whom were in a state of intoxication. The landlord and his waiter were sworn, and stated that none of the persons named appeared to be drunk, but the defendant, believing they had had enough, refused to fill them any more.

The Bench did not consider the case a very serious one, and ordered the defendant to pay a fine of 5s and costs.

The defendant said he was a stranger to the town, and he should have expected that the police would have cautioned him as to the kind of characters that frequented the house."

Evening Express 18/11/1881

"*Septimus West*, landlord of the GREYHOUND INN, High Street, Bilston, was charged with permitting drunkenness on the morning of the 8th inst. Mr. R. A. Willcock defended.

From the evidence for the prosecution it appeared that two men named Richards and Clarke went into the house on the morning in question, and at half past nine Police-constable Brian found the two men drunk on the premises.

For the defence it was contended that the landlord, when he observed the men were under the influence of liquor, twice left the house to get the assistance of an officer to eject them. He could not find a policeman, and he then tried every means in his power to put them out of the house.

The Bench considered the charge proved, and the defendant having been previously convicted of a similar offence, was ordered to pay a fine of £5 and costs."

Darlaston Weekly Times 23/9/1882 - Advert

"Join the Christmas Goose and Spirit Club, just commencing, at the GREYHOUND INN, High Street, Bilston.

Full Particulars of Mr. *Septimus West*, at the Bar."

Darlaston Weekly Times 5/5/1883

"The monthly meeting of the Bilston Night Watch Committee was held at the GREYHOUND INN, High Street, on Wednesday evening. Mr. F. Nokes presided.

The balance sheet showed a balance in favour of the society of £9 2s 8d. The watchmen reported that during the month they discovered 16 business premises left insecure or unfastened, and this was taken as showing the watchmen exercised the necessary vigilance on behalf of the subscribers.

On the motion of Mr. John Bishop it was resolved to present a pair of boots to each of the watchmen, the cost thereof to be defrayed by the society."

Dewsbury Chronicle 12/7/1884

"Adjudications in Bankruptcy.....

Septimus West, licensed victualler, of the GREYHOUND INN, High Street, Bilston, Staffordshire."

Darlaston Weekly Times 16/1/1886

“*Richard Jones*, landlord of the GREYHOUND INN, High Street, Bilston, was summoned for harbouring Police-constables Jackson and Ogden at a time when they were on duty. Defendant pleaded guilty and was fined 1s and costs. PS Hayward proved the case.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/11/1889 - Advert

“Important to Brewers, Licensed Victuallers, and Capitalists.

Valuable Full-Licensed Freehold Public House, High Street, Bilston.

Messrs. Payton & Hill will Offer for Sale by Public Auction, This Day (Tuesday), at Three o’clock, at the Property and Estate Rooms, Newhall Street, Birmingham, subject to conditions then to be produced and read.

All that Valuable Full-Licensed Public House, known as the GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL INN, situate as above, containing Bar Parlour, Smoke Room, Kitchen, spacious Liquor vaults, 29ft by 16ft, on ground floor; Club Room, and three Bed Rooms over; Brewhouse; large Garden at the back; Stabling, with Room over, and other Appurtenances. The above Premises are let to Mr. R. A. Harper as yearly tenant, and possession can be obtained at an early date, if desired.

Also, the Dwelling House and Shop adjoining the above, now void.

To view the Premises apply to Sub-tenant, and further particulars at the Offices of Messrs. Ticehurst and Sons, Solicitors, Essex Place, Cheltenham; or the Auctioneers, Bilston.”

1891 Census

26, High Street – GREYHOUND

[1] *Richard Jones* (53), licensed victualler’s manager, born Bilston;

[2] *Mary E. Jones* (47), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Harriet Inskip* (18), domestic servant, born Bilston:

1901 Census

51, High Street

[1] *Samuel Hughes* (52), widower, manager of licensed house, born Bilston;

[2] *Joseph Hughes* (20), son, bedstead maker, born Bilston:

Sporting Life 27/4/1901

“Pedestrianism. New Town Grounds, Bilston.

Mr. Sam Hughes’ 120 Yards Pedestrian Handicap will take place at these grounds on Saturdays, May 11 and 18. Entries to Mr. *Hughes*, GREYHOUND INN, Bilston.”

Samuel Hughes – see also RED COW.

1911 Census

51, High Street

[1] *Thomas Murray* (44), publican, born Bilston;

[2] *Selina Murray* (38), wife, married 18 years, assisting in the business, born Bilston;

[3] *Richard Murray* (14), son, born Stalybridge, Cheshire;

[4] *Ellen Nora Murray* (9), daughter, born Dukinfield, Cheshire;

[5] *Ivy Murray* (6), daughter, born Dukinfield, Cheshire;

[6] *Ada Mary Murray* (3), daughter, born Stalybridge, Cheshire:

1921 Census

51, High Street

[1] *Joseph Wheeler* (45), public manager, born Bilston;

[2] *Alice Wheeler* (45), wife, home duties, born Bilston;

[3] *Fred Wheeler* (19), son, corn dealer, born Bilston;

[4] *Alice Wheeler* (18), daughter, home duties, born Bilston;

[5] *Howard Wheeler* (15), son, toolmaker, born Bilston;

[6] *Evelyn Wheeler* (13), daughter, school, born Bilston;

[7] *Norman Wheeler* (10), son, school, born Bilston:

A music license was granted on 3rd February 1928.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/1/1935

“What is believed to be Bilston’s oldest building, now used as a licensed house, is to be restored, as near as possible, to its original appearance. The building is the GREYHOUND INN, High Street, and yesterday the licensing justices approved plans for alterations to be carried out.

Erected in 1458, the building was formerly the Manor House of Stowheath. It once had handsome fireplaces adorned with Dutch tiles, fine panelling and oaken floors and staircases. Rather more than a century ago it was converted into a public house, the GREYHOUND AND PUNCH BOWL, its courtyard being used some years later as a weekly pig market. Though many of the original features have disappeared, one that still remains is a fine Arabesque ceiling in what is now the public bar. It is moulded into a design of birds, fruit, and vine leaves. The only other ceiling of its kind within knowledge is at Blickling, Norfolk.

Appealing for the Justices consent, Mr. F. L. Steward said the house was really a delightful piece of antiquity, and his clients desired to restore it as far as possible to its original appearance. Part of the house which was added 40 or 50 years ago would be demolished, so as to reveal once again the beauty of the half-timbered structure. Granting the application, the Justices said it would be a welcome improvement.”

Evening Despatch 13/9/1935

“Alleging she was twice attacked Mary Hall, of back of 74, High Street Bilston, at Bilston, today summoned Alice Wheeler, wife of the licensee of the GREYHOUND INN, High Street, for assault. Mrs. Hall said that on the morning of 5 September Mrs. Wheeler came to her in the High Street and struck her twice in the face. When she went into the public house to tell Mr. *Wheeler*, Mrs. Wheeler knocked her down. Mrs. Wheeler contended that Mrs. Hall, who had assisted her in the house for over a year, had been causing mischief between her and her husband. When she met Mrs. Hall in the street she only smacked her lightly on the head. When she found her in her house afterwards she ordered her out. The case was dismissed.”

It was restored by the brewery in 1935-1936.

It was reopened on 7th October 1936.

Evening Despatch 7/10/1936

“The Mayor of Bilston (Ald. T. R. Wood) today opened the GREYHOUND AND PUNCH BOWL INN, at Bilston, once the Manor House of the town. While hundreds of people lined the streets, the Mayor alighted from his car in the place where knights and cavaliers used to dismount. The house still retains all its old glory of timbered façade and decorated rooms in the fashion of five centuries ago. It was built by the family of John de Mollesley Bylston in 1458.

The house has been restored to all its former dignity and antiquity. The front of the building is now a complete example of timer framing and over-hanging gables while the inner posts, once the trunks of trees which were growing on the site, have been restored. In the old days the house was important because it was situated on the old Watling Street, from London to Holyhead, where warriors were wont to meet as they journeyed to the Wars of the Roses. The work of restoration has been carried out by Messrs. W. Butler and Co. Ltd., brewers, of Wolverhampton, under the direction of Mr. A. J. Swan.

The mayor was presented by Mr. W. R. Wilson with a silver tankard, inscribed with the coat of arms of the town, as a memento of the occasion, and out of which he said the future mayors of the borough could drink a toast. The Mayor added that the tankard would be something towards the Mayor’s Parlour, which to them was still a dream, but which might some day become a reality. After the ceremony a reception was held in the old rooms of the house, and members of the borough corporation warmed themselves at the large open fireplaces.”

Blackcountryman (Autumn 1984)

‘Bilston’s Ancient Pile’ by Ron Davies

“.....By the 1930s the building became such a decaying eyesore that it could easily have been demolished, so wretched and unimportant was its outlook. The property, however, was purchased by Messrs. W. Butler & Co. Ltd., brewers of Wolverhampton (now Mitchells & Butlers Ltd.), and thanks to the managing director at the time it was given a second look and, with the help of architect Mr. J. A. Swan, it once again became alive. A new gable was added taking up most of the old bibble [pebble] fold, but giving the property its original features, so that it now looks exactly as it did all those 500 years ago, and is now truly a great credit to the town.”

1939 Register

51, High Street

[1] Joseph Wheeler, date of birth 2/4/1876, licensed victualler, married;

[2] Alice Wheeler, dob 8/5/1876, unpaid domestic duties, married:

A team from here took part in the Butlers (Bilston) Darts League. [1946]

Birmingham Daily Post 21/8/1952

"A timely reminder that Bilston, for all its industrial aspect, has important links with the past is given by the announcement that eleven buildings in the town are scheduled for preservation for their special historical or architectural interest.

Heading the list is the GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL, the oldest building in the town. Believed to have been built during the Wars of the Roses by John Mollesley, it was formerly the Manor House of Stow Heath and a Court Leet. Restoration of the inn in 1936 revealed several features hitherto unknown, including an overhanging gable that had been hidden for 120 years."

Birmingham Daily Post 1/8/1953

"Inns in Midland counties which have been scheduled during the past twelve months by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government as being of outstanding historical and architectural interest.....

GREYHOUND INN, High Street, Bilston, Staffordshire."

Sandwell Evening Mail 10/11/1978

"If you ask where to go for a pint in Bilston people will usually say 'The GREYHOUND.' Not only is it the oldest pub in town, but also the oldest building. Licensee *Len Fieldhouse* has become an expert on the pub's history since he took over with his wife, Dot, four years ago. 'When we had the chance to take the GREYHOUND, we couldn't believe it,' said Dot. She was born 'just down the road' from the pub, and *Len* proposed to her in the oldest part of the pub, in the first smoke room. She accepted, and little knew they would both one day run the pub.

The pub was originally a manor house built for the aristocratic De Mollesley family when Bilston was one of the largest villages in the Midlands. In the first and second smoke room you can see the original oak beams which were cut from the once surrounding woodland of Stow Heath. The pub was on the Roman Watling Street and eventually became a coaching inn called the GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL. It was restored as faithfully as possible to its origins by W. Butler and Co. Ltd. in 1936.

Pensioner Charlie Burns has been a regular drinker at the GREYHOUND for nearly 60 years, and can make history come alive over a pint of mild. The pub is reputed to be haunted by a 'good' ghost (one who buys spirits all round each time it appears). Charlie, an ex-chauffeur and mechanic for an undertaker, swears he saw a white lady descend the stairs one night and disappear into the ladies parlour – without buying a drink.

Of course not everybody drinks at the pub because of its architecture, though Michael Granton said he liked to take a drink and 'study the pretty patterns on the ceiling,' a Jacobean plaster ceiling with thin leaf scrolls. 'There is a good, quiet atmosphere here, the landlord makes you feel welcome, and you can get a good pint,' said Darrell Richards, ex-lead singer for Wolverhampton's Blithe Spirit pop group. 'A group of us use this pub as a watering hole after French lessons at the local college, because it's quiet, and we can practice our French,' said West Bromwich commercial director, John Blower. And college lecturer, Sharon Morton, said, 'I don't know much about the pub's history, but the interior décor certainly gives the pub a cosy atmosphere.'"

Sandwell Evening Mail 27/3/1979

"Detectives were today hunting two raiders who struggled with a Bilston publican before escaping with £1,100 in cash from the pub. Mr. *Len Fieldhouse*, landlord of the GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL in the High Street, disturbed the two intruders. They had climbed through a kitchen window after spotting part of the weekend takings on a table. Mr. *Fieldhouse*, aged 58, tried to stop the men, but after a brief struggle they ran off with the money.

Detective Chief Inspector Ken Snell warned publicans all over the Black Country to be on the lookout for 'opportunistic' thefts of this sort. One of the thieves was described as 18 years old, about 5ft 7in tall, well built, with long black straggly hair. Police have appealed for anyone who may have seen the men behaving suspiciously near the pub around 8pm on Sunday night to contact them."

Jim Wells was married to Shirley.

Birmingham Mail 19/5/1998

“Buildings and monuments in the Midlands considered to be at risk by English Heritage.....
GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL INN (formerly Stoke Heath Manor House), High Street, Bilston.”

Black Country Bugle 22/4/1999 - Advert

“GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL, High Street, Bilston.

Now Under New Management.

Rod, *Dawn*, family and staff welcome you to the oldest 16th Century building in Bilston where Dick Turpin once stayed.

Home-made hot and cold food served Mon-Sat 12-2.30pm Sunday 12-2pm.

Daily Specials available from only £2 or £3.

Traditional Sunday Lunch only £3.00.

Traditional ales served here.

So come and enjoy a warm friendly relaxing atmosphere.”

Black Country Bugle 23/9/1999 - Advert

“GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL, High Street, Bilston.

Dave, *Dawn*, family and staff welcome you to the oldest 16th Century building in Bilston where Dick Turpin once stayed.

Every Friday Night Disco. Every Sunday 3-7pm Karaoke/Disco.

Large Children’s Enclosed Garden.

Home-made hot and cold food served Mon-Sat 12-2.30pm Sunday 12-2pm.

Daily Specials available from only £2 or £3.

Traditional Sunday Lunch only £3.00.

Sunday 31st October Halloween Fancy Dress Party.

Millennium New Years Eve Party.

Traditional ales served here.

So come and enjoy a warm friendly relaxing atmosphere.”

Dawn Wheate’s partner was David Asprey.

Black Country Bugle 4/11/1999

Pub of the Month. GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL, High Street, Bilston

“.....In its very centre, three feet from the bar, is a slender, twisted pillar, running from floor to ceiling. On closer inspection, this slim support turns out to be a tree trunk, with its roots still apparently clutching at the earth beneath the foundations, and its upper half nosing its way into the attic.”

It reopened in September 2003 after being closed for 12 months for structural repair and refurbishment.

Sylvia Pitts was married to Steve.

Express & Star 12/10/2012

“Bear pits, stately homes, churches and factories are among almost 60 landmarks in the region at risk of being lost, English Heritage has said. The organisation has published its annual At Risk Register of 6,000 buildings and historic sites across the country At risk sites across the region.....

GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL INN, Bilston, Grade II* listed. Poor condition.”

Express & Star 15/5/2023

“A Bilston pub has applied for a licence to sell booze from its new lounge area. The GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL on High Street wants to extend its current licence to take in the new lounge. Should the application be successful, the venue will be able to sell alcohol from 10am to 1am Sunday to Thursday, and 10am to 3am on other days.”

Express & Star 30/9/2023

“Part of Bilston High Street has been closed off to make safe the building of an historic pub after an overnight blaze the GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL suffered extensive damage in the fire, which started around 3.40 this morning – the incident is now being treated as arson. Smoke was seen pouring from the Grade Two listed pub, which dates back to the 15th century when it started life as a manor house. West Midlands Fire Service sent crews from Bilston, Willenhall, Tipton and Wolverhampton to tackle the blaze. Police officers were also at the scene to investigate. Fire crews are still on scene along with sniffer dogs as they try to make the structure of the Grade Two listed building safe – traffic disruption is expected for at least the next hour on the high street.”

The Times 2/10/2023

“A grade II* listed inn has been damaged by a suspected arson attack five miles from the CROOKED HOUSE pub, which burnt down in August. The GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL pub in Bilston, Wolverhampton, which has wonky exterior beams, has been on the Heritage at Risk Register for more than a decade following complex structural problems caused by the introduction of a supporting concrete frame during a renovation in the 1930s. Firefighters called to the 16th-century building at about 3.40am on Saturday had put it out by 5.20am but more than a quarter of the first floor suffered fire damage. All three floors were damaged by smoke.....”

Express & Star 3/10/2023

“A fire that caused extensive damage to an historic Black Country pub has been confirmed to be caused deliberately. Fire investigators from West Midlands Fire Service have confirmed that the blaze of the pub, which happened around 3.40am on Saturday was an arson, and they have now concluded their investigation and passed it onto West Midlands Police. A spokesperson from West Midlands Police confirmed that investigations continue into the pub blaze. Firefighters were called to the GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL in Bilston High Street at around 3.40am after smoke was seen pouring from the Grade II listed pub.....”

Express & Star 5/10/2023

“A Bilston landlord is defiant even after his Grade II listed pub was hit by fire then two break-ins, and says he is determined to carry on. *George Kang* has spent more than £100,000 renovating the GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL on High Street since taking it over. It was badly damaged by fire in the early hours of Saturday and since then has been broken into twice, with burglars taking televisions and alcohol Structural engineers from Wolverhampton Council and officers from Historic England are due on site today to assess the damage and whether it can be reasonably restored. Mr. *Kang* said he was determined to get the pub up and running again, though he couldn't put a timeline on it.....”

[2023]



c1950s



c1980s



1997



2012



2023



2016

THIS is to give Notice,
THAT on Monday the 27th Day of June,
 at the House of John Gayer, the Sign of the Greyhound
 and Punch-Bowl in Bilston, there will be a MATCH of Cocks
 fought betwixt the Gentlemen of Worcestershire and the Gentle-
 men of Staffordshire; to weigh 16 Cocks of each Side for Two
 Guineas a Battle, and Five Pounds the Main; and two Shake-
 bag Battles for Four Guineas a Battle.

JAMES WILKINSON and ISAIAH SHALE, Feeders.

* * Also there will be a Foot-Race at the same House the
 Morning before Fighting, betwixt Anthony of Rowley, the noted
 Runner, and Edward Beards, a noted Runner, who formerly
 went by the Name of the Greyhound of Bilston.

1757

LOT 5.—All that Old Licensed and well-accustomed
 PUBLIC HOUSE, MESSUAGE, or TENEMENT,
 called or known by the name or sign of "The Greyhound
 and Punch Bowl," situate in, and fronting to, High-
 street, in Bilston aforesaid, and within the manor of
 Stowheath, together with the brewhouse, two stables, out-
 buildings, garden, and appurtenances thereunto belong-
 ing, formerly in the occupation of Mr. Robert Reeve,
 deceased, and now of Mrs. Sarah Meachem, and others.

And also all that other MESSUAGE or DWELL-
 ING HOUSE, situate in, and fronting to, High-street,
 in Bilston aforesaid, and adjoining on one side to the
 last described messuage, formerly in the occupation of
 Mr. Job Hartshorn, deceased, and now of Mrs. Summers.

And also all that BARN or BUILDING situate in, and
 fronting to, High-street, in Bilston aforesaid, and ad-
 joining on one side to the last described messuage or
 dwelling house, and now in the occupation of Thomas
 Holt.

The land comprised in this lot including the site of the
 said messuages and buildings contains 1,391 square
 yards or thereabouts, and the premises produce alto-
 gether the annual rental of £14.

1854

**VALUABLE FREEHOLD PUBLIC HOUSE AND
 PREMISES,
 BILSTON, STAFFORDSHIRE.**

TO be SOLD by PRIVATE CONTRACT, all
 that old-licensed and well-established PUBLIC HOUSE,
 MESSUAGE, or TENEMENT, called or known by the name or
 sign of the "Greyhound and Punch Bowl," situate in and fronting
 to High-street, in Bilston aforesaid, with the brewhouse, two stables,
 piggeries, outbuildings, and spacious yard at the back thereof;
 formerly in the occupation of Mr. Robert Reeve, and now of Mr.
 William Hall.

And also all that other MESSUAGE or DWELLING-HOUSE and
 SHOP (now used as a baker's shop), with the barn or building
 thereto, situate in and fronting to High-street, in Bilston aforesaid,
 and adjoining on one side to the above described Public-house,
 lately in the occupation of Mrs. Summers, and now of Mr. Frederick
 Chaplin.

The above property is desirably situated either for occupation or
 investment. It is freehold of inheritance, and has a frontage to
 High-street of twenty-six yards, and contains, with the sites of the
 buildings, 1,391 superficial square yards of land, and at the present
 low rentals produces £46 a year.

A portion of the purchase money may, if required, remain on
 security of the premises.

The respective tenants will show the property, and to treat for
 purchase, apply to Mr. SAMUEL BAKER, Auctioneer; or at the
 Offices of Messrs. MASON and HOLMES, Solicitors, Bilston.

1864

**VALUABLE FREEHOLD PUBLIC HOUSE
 AND PREMISES,
 BILSTON, STAFFORDSHIRE.**

TO be SOLD by PRIVATE CONTRACT, all
 that Old Licensed and well established PUBLIC HOUSE,
 MESSUAGE, or TENEMENT, called or known by the name or
 sign of the "GREYHOUND and PUNCH BOWL," situate in and
 fronting to High-street, in Bilston aforesaid, with the Brewhouse,
 two Stables, Coachhouse, Piggeries, Outbuildings, and spacious Yard
 at the back thereof, in the occupation of Mr. William Hall, whose
 tenancy expires at midsummer next, when the purchaser may be let
 into possession of the whole of the premises.

And, also, all that other MESSUAGE or DWELLING HOUSE
 and SHOP (now used as a Barber's Shop), with the Barn or Building
 thereto, situate in and fronting to High-street, in Bilston aforesaid,
 and adjoining on one side to the above described Public-house, in
 the occupation of Frederick Chaplin.

The above property is desirably situated either for occupation or
 investment. It is freehold of inheritance and has a frontage to
 High-street of 26 yards, and contains with the sites of the buildings
 1,391 superficial square yards of Land, with the Mines and
 Minerals underneath, and at the present low rental produces £46
 a year.

A portion of the purchase money may, if required, remain on
 security of the premises.

The respective tenants will show the property, and to treat for
 purchase apply to Messrs. TIMMIS and WOODCOCK, Land Surveyors,
 Wolverhampton, and at the offices of Messrs. MASON and HOLMES,
 Solicitors, Bilston.

1865

**JOIN THE
 CHRISTMAS GOOSE & SPIRIT CLUB,
 Just Commencing, at the
 GREYHOUND INN, HIGH STREET,
 BILSTON.**

Full Particulars of Mr Septimus West, at the Bar.

1882

Important to Brewers, Licensed Victuallers, and Capitalists.—
 Valuable FULL-LICENSED FREEHOLD PUBLIC-HOUSE,
 High Street, Bilston.

MESSRS. PAYTON & HILL will Offer for Sale by
 Public Auction, THIS DAY (Tuesday), at Three o'clock, at the
 Property and Estate Rooms, Newhall Street, Birmingham, subject to
 conditions then to be produced and read—all that Valuable FULL-
 LICENSED PUBLIC-HOUSE, known as the "GREYHOUND AND
 PUNCHBOWL INN," situate as above, containing: Bar Parlour,
 Smoke Room, Kitchen, spacious Liquor Vaults, 25ft. by 16ft., on
 ground floor; Club Room, and three Bed Rooms over; Brewhouse;
 large Garden at the back; Stabling, with Room over, and other
 Appurtenances. The above Premises are let to Mr. R. A. Harper
 as yearly tenant, and possession can be obtained at an early date, if
 desired.

Also, the DWELLING HOUSE and SHOP adjoining the above,
 now void.

To view the Premises apply to Sub-tenant, and further particulars
 at the Offices of Messrs. Ticehurst and Sons, Solicitors, Essex Place
 Cheltenham; or the Auctioneers, Bilston.

1889



GREYHOUND & PUNCHBOWL

HIGH STREET, BILSTON
TEL: 01902 493809

NOW UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT


Rod, Dawn, family and staff welcome you to the oldest 16th Century building in Bilston where Dick Turpin once stayed

Home made hot & cold food served
Mon-Sat 12-2.30pm Sunday 12-2pm

**DAILY SPECIALS AVAILABLE FROM
ONLY £2 OR £3**

Traditional Sunday Lunch Only £3.00

**TRADITIONAL ALES SERVED HERE . So come
and enjoy a warm friendly relaxing
atmosphere**



Greyhound & Punchbowl

NOW RE-OPEN AFTER REFURBISHMENT

Come and soak up the history - visit the oldest building in Bilston - built late 1450's

Fine beers, real ale's and spirits

Cold bar snacks served daily 12-6 pm

We can cater for parties and celebrations

REAL FIRES, ORIGINAL SURROUNDINGS
A TRADITIONAL PUB AT IT'S BEST

High Street, Bilston Tel: 01902 495541

2003



GREYHOUND & PUNCHBOWL

HIGH STREET, BILSTON
TEL: 01902 493809

Dave, Dawn, family and staff welcome you to the oldest 16th Century building in Bilston where Dick Turpin once stayed .

EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT DISCO
EVERY SUNDAY 3-7 PM
KARAOKE/DISCO
LARGE CHILDRENS ENCLOSED GARDEN

Home made hot & cold food served
Mon-Sat 12-2.30pm Sunday 12-2pm

**DAILY SPECIALS AVAILABLE FROM
ONLY £2 OR £3**

Traditional Sunday Lunch Only £3.00

SUNDAY 31st OCTOBER
HALLOWEEN
FANCY DRESS PARTY

PRIZES FOR BEST FANCY DRESS **PLUS FREE ENTERTAINMENT**

FREE GLASS OF CHAMPAGNE **MILLENNIUM** **FREE BUFFET**

NEW YEARS EVE PARTY
MUSICAL FUN PACKED EVENING
PLUS
GAMES & SPOT PRIZES
DON'T DELAY - ORDER YOUR TICKETS TODAY
ONLY £5 PER PERSON

TRADITIONAL ALES SERVED HERE.
So come and enjoy a warm friendly relaxing atmosphere

1999



1999 - Dawn & David Wheate



THE GREYHOUND & PUNCH BOWL HOTEL, HIGH STREET, BILSTON

Formerly Stow Heath Manor House - the Home of the De Mollesleys

Built by John de Mollesley who married the daughter and heiress of Edwin de Bilston, the period would appear to be the Wars of the Roses.

The site adjoining the Heath of Stow was thickly wooded country and here the oak was felled for the construction of the House. Old English and French coins discovered in the floors would appear to confirm the period of George III and Louis XVI of France.

The West Front is a complete example of timber framing, the oak trees for the main parts being only worked on the exposed faces with axed surfaces, the inside face being left with the bark removed.

A beautiful example of the period is a richly carved 16th Century Mantelpiece with fine oak panelling which has been refixed in the ladies parlour.

The lounge has a delicately carved mantelpiece showing earlier types of panels with shaped arches. The ceiling with its mellow colouring of old age is a splendid example of plaster work and it can be said that this is the original, handworked *in situ*, and done by a master craftsman.

The work of restoring the old and carrying out the new additions has been well executed by the Staff of W. Butler & Co., Ltd., under the directions of Mr. J. A. Swan, F.R.I.B.A.



THE GREYHOUND & PUNCH BOWL HOTEL, HIGH STREET, BILSTON.

Formerly Stow Heath Manor House - the Home of the De Mollesleys.

Built by John de Mollesley who married the daughter and heiress of Edwin de Bilston, the period would appear to be the Wars of the Roses.

The site adjoining the Heath of Stow was thickly wooded country and here the oak was felled for the construction of the House. Old English and French coins discovered in the floors would appear to confirm the period of George III and Louis XVI of France.

The West Front is a complete example of timber framing, the oak trees for the main parts being only worked on the exposed faces with axed surfaces, the inside face being left with the bark removed.

A beautiful example of the period is a richly carved 16th Century Mantelpiece with fine oak panelling which has been refixed in the ladies parlour.

The lounge has a delicately carved mantelpiece showing earlier types of panels with shaped arches. The ceiling with its mellow colouring of old age is a splendid example of plaster work and it can be said that this is the original, handworked *in situ*, and done by a master craftsman.

The work of restoring the old and carrying out the new additions has been well executed by the Staff of W. Butler & Co., Ltd., under the directions of Mr. J. A. Swan, F.R.I.B.A.

HAND AND BOTTLE

46, (40), (117), (114), (113), Wolverhampton Street, Shift End, BILSTON

OWNERS

Obadiah Johnson
Joseph Johnson
Nancy Baker, The Mount, Sedgley
Peck and Kerrison [1896]
Bent's Brewery Co. Ltd. [1904], [1908], [1965]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Obadiah Johnson [1818] – [1835]
Joseph Johnson [1834] – **1876**;
William Henry Jennings (**1876 – 1878**);
William Osborne (**1878 – 1886**);
Daniel Bayliss (**1886 – 1910**);
Phoebe Bayliss (**1910 – 1911**);
Thomas Downs (**1911 – 1913**);
George Henry Downs (**1913 – 1917**);
Mrs. Rosannah Downs (**1917 – 1922**);
William Benton [1923]
William Henry Porter (**1922 – 1960**);
Winnie (Porter) Brown (**1960 – 1978**)



NOTES

113, Wolverhampton Street [1861]
114, Wolverhampton Street [1864], [1865], [1881], [1891]
117, Wolverhampton Street [1892], [1896]
46, Wolverhampton Street [1901], [1908], [1911], [1916], [1921], [1932], [1940]
40, Wolverhampton Street [1904]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 29/6/1829 - Advert

"HAND AND BOTTLE Public House, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Jesse Wright, on the premises, on Tuesday, July 7, 1829, at four o'clock in the afternoon, in the following or such other lots as shall be agreed upon.....

Lot I. All that Messuage or Dwelling House, called the HAND AND BOTTLE, situate in Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, now in the occupation of *Obadiah Johnson*, consisting of excellent cellaring, bar, front and back kitchens, parlour, brewhouse, stable, and other out-buildings, large club-room, and suitable chambers, with extensive yard and pump amply supplied with water. The house has a frontage of 25 feet next the line of road from Bilston to Wolverhampton.....

The Public House has been long established, is commodiously situated for that purpose, and presents an excellent opportunity for investment."

Staffordshire Advertiser 26/11/1831

"Insolvent Debtors Court Discharged Forthwith *Obadiah Johnson*, engineer, Bilston."

Obadiah Johnson was also a weighing machine maker. [1833]

Staffordshire Advertiser 26/7/1834

“The Court for Relief of Insolvent Debtors.

The Matters of the Petitions and Schedules of the Prisoners hereinafter named, are appointed to be heard at the Court House, at Stafford, in the county of Stafford, on the 15th day of August, 1834.....

Obadiah Johnson, formerly of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Engineer and Victualler, and late of the same place, Engineer.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/8/1834

“Insolvent Debtors Court.....

The following were ordered to be discharged forthwith.....

Obadiah Johnson, engineer, Bilston.”

1841 Census

Wolverhampton Street

[1] *Joseph Johnson* (30), engineer and publican, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Emma Johnson* (30), born Staffordshire;

[3] *Rhoda Johnson* (8), born Staffordshire;

[4] *Nancy Johnson* (6), born Staffordshire;

[5] *Sarah Johnson* (4), born Staffordshire;

[6] *Matilda Johnson* (2), born Staffordshire;

[7] *Joseph Johnson* (6 months), born Staffordshire;

[8] *Obadiah Johnson* (15), blacksmith, born Staffordshire;

[9] *Caroline Evans* (20), f.s., born Staffordshire;

[10] *John Scotts* (40), labourer, born Staffordshire:

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 5/8/1844 - Advert

“Wanted an eight or ten-horse power high-pressure Steam Engine, or a twelve or fourteen-horse power Condensing Engine (either to be fit to work forthwith).

Apply to *Joseph Johnson*, Engineer, &c, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston.”

Joseph Johnson was also a weighing machine manufacturer and engineer. [1845], [1849], [1851], [1854]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 15/10/1845 - Advert

“Staffordshire. Desirable Public House and Premises, Bilston.

To be Sold by Private Contract, all that old established and well-accustomed Public House, with the extensive plot of land lying at the back thereof, with the outbuildings and appurtenances thereto belonging, known by the sign of the HAND AND BOTTLE, situated in Wolverhampton Street, in Bilston aforesaid, formerly belonging to and occupied by the late Mr. *Obadiah Johnson*, deceased, an insolvent debtor, and now in the occupation of Mr. *Joseph Johnson*, as tenant from year to year of the same.

The property is Copyhold of Inheritance within the Manor of Stowheath.

To treat for the same apply at the offices of Mr. John Mason, solicitor, Bilston, and North Street, Wolverhampton.”

Birmingham Journal 6/6/1846 - Advert

“Staffordshire. Desirable Public House and Premises, in Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by R. Corbett, on Tuesday, the 16th day of June, 1846, at the CASTLE INN, in Bilston, in the county of Stafford, at Five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be read.

All that old-established and well-accustomed Public House, with the extensive Plot of Land lying at the back thereof, and Out-buildings and Appurtenances thereto belonging, known by the sign of the HAND AND BOTTLE, situated in Wolverhampton Street, in Bilston aforesaid, formerly belong to and occupied by the late Mr. *Obadiah Johnson*, deceased, an insolvent debtor, and now in the occupation of Mr. *Joseph Johnson*, as tenant from year to year of the same.

The property is Copyhold of Inheritance within the Manor of Stowheath.

For further particulars, apply to Mr. John Mason, Solicitor, Bilston and Wolverhampton; or to the Auctioneer, Bilston.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/5/1847 - Notice

“Pursuant to a Rule of the Court for the Relief of Insolvent Debtors, in the matter of *Obadiah Johnson*, late of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Engineer and Victualler, the matters of whose Petition were heretofore appointed to be heard on a day Gazetted for the same, and now past.

Whereas, application, supported by Affidavit, has been made by Sophie Brueton, Richard Thompson, and John Etheridge and his Wife, for the Provisional Assignee of the said Court, to make, or join in making, a Surrender or Assignment of an Interest now vested in him (no other person having become Assignee) in certain Lands and Tenements, namely, all that Messuage or Tenement or Public-house, called the HAND BOTTLE, situate and being in Bilston aforesaid, at a certain place called Shift End, with the yards, outbuildings, and premises to the same belonging, which interest is represented to be of no value to Creditors. Any Creditor or other person concerned in objecting to such application, must shew cause in person, or by Counsel, against the same, in the Court, in Portugal Street, Lincolns Inn Fields, on Saturday, the eight day of May next, at twelve o'clock at noon, when the Court will proceed thereupon pursuant to the Statute.

Austen & Hobson, 4, Raymond Buildings, Grays Inn, Attorneys for the said Applicant.”

Birmingham Journal 5/6/1847 - Advert

“On Monday Evening, June 14, a Grand Miscellaneous Concert and Ball will take place at Mrs. Sower's, KINGS HEAD, Tipton, for the Benefit of the No.7 Lodge of Good Fellows.

Principal Vocalists – Miss Jones, Messrs. William and G. Mainwaring, Wilkinson, and J. Kelding.

The Concert to commence at Seven o'clock.

Single Tickets, 1s 6d; Double Tickets, admitting a Lady and a Gentleman, 2s 6d each; to be had of....

Mr. *J. Johnson*, HAND AND BOTTLE, Bilston.”

Birmingham Journal 17/6/1848

“At the Wednesbury Public Office, on Tuesday, before John Leigh, Esq, Stipendiary Magistrate, and James Bagnall, Esq, a case of some importance to lodges and friendly societies came on for hearing. *Joseph Johnson*, landlord of the HAND AND BOTTLE, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, was summoned by Frederick Atkins, Joseph Fellows, and Thomas Worton, as trustees of a Lodge of Good Fellows, formerly held at his house, on a charge of refusing to deliver up to them certain boxes, desks, money, &c, which had been entrusted to him as landlord of the house.

It appeared that about three months back the lodge had been removed to the house of Hannah Caddick, the BULLS HEAD, owing to the members being afraid that the room in which they met would fall in, as it had actually done since they shifted. A special meeting of the members had been held for the purpose of considering the removal, and every step taken in connection with the matter which the rules required, they having been certified by Mr. Tidd Pratt, and the lodge enrolled according to Act of Parliament. The cheque-book of the lodge lay in one of the desks which defendant had refused to give up, and they were consequently unable to draw any money from the bank or get a new book.

In defence, Mr. *Johnson* said that the whole affair had been managed very quietly, so that those members who were against the removal should know nothing of it, or at least had received so very short notice of the special meeting, as to render it inconvenient for them to attend. This was denied by the trustee who appeared for the lodge, but as the defendant said he should be able to bring forward proof, if the case was adjourned, Mr. Leigh complied with a request made for that purpose, and ordered the parties to be in attendance next Tuesday at Bilston.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 24/6/1848

“Bilston Public Office, on Tuesday last....

Joseph Johnson, landlord of the HAND AND BOTTLE, who had refused to give up the property he held belonging to No.3 Lodge of Good Fellows, consented to give up the same upon the members of the lodge paying him £4 for the rent of the room in which they had held their meetings.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/11/1848

“A decision of some importance to those masters who, having public houses, allow their workmen to run up scores for liquor, the amount of which is deducted from their wages every Saturday night, was given by John Leigh, Esq, the Stipendiary Magistrate, at the usual petty sessions held on Tuesday, at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston.

Mr. *Joseph Johnson*, weighing machine maker, and landlord of the HAND AND BOTTLE public house, was summoned by Thomas Blyth, one of his workmen, for wages to the amount of £3 10s 3d. It appeared that he had received more than one-half of the amount claimed, but the remainder had been kept back to clear a score which he had run up with his employer for liquor, and for provisions supplied by another person, for the payment of which Mr. *Johnson* had been responsible.

Mr. Leigh remarked upon the inducements which such a system held out to a workman to spend his wages in drink, instead of taking them home to his wife and family; and in order to show that employers need not expect to have any protection shown them when they allowed their workmen to contract debts of such a nature, he made an order for the payment of the amount kept back, with the exception of what Mr. *Johnson* had become responsible for in the shape of necessaries of life.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/12/1850

“At a special sessions for the hundred of Seisdon North, held on Monday last, at the office of the county magistrates, Bilston Street, in this town.....

The license of *Joseph Johnson*, of the HAND AND BOTTLE, in Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, was, in consequence of his house being thrown down by the working of the mines in that street, transferred to a house in his occupation in another part of the same street.”

1851 Census

Wolverhampton Street

- [1] *Joseph Johnson* (42), engineer, born Tipton;
- [2] *Emma Johnson* (41), wife, born Broseley, Shropshire;
- [3] *Nancy Johnson* (16), daughter, house servant, born Bilston;
- [4] *Sarah Johnson* (14), daughter, house servant, born Bilston;
- [5] *Matilda Johnson* (13), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] *Joseph Johnson* (10), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] *Emma Johnson* (8), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [8] *Obadiah Johnson* (7), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [9] *Pamela Johnson* (3), daughter, scholar, born Bilston:

Emma Johnson died in the 1st quarter of 1854.

1861 Census

113, Wolverhampton Street

- [1] *Joseph Johnson* (52), widower, engineer, public beer shop, born Tipton;
- [2] *Nancy Johnson* (26), daughter, born Bilston;
- [3] *Sarah Johnson* (24), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] *Joseph Johnson* (20), son, engineer, born Bilston;
- [5] *Emma Johnson* (18), daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] *Obadiah Johnson* (16), son, engineer, born Bilston;
- [7] *Pamela Johnson* (13), daughter, born Bilston;
- [8] *Naomi Johnson* (9), daughter, born Bilston;
- [9] *Mary Johnson* (8), daughter, born Bilston:

Joseph Johnson, retailer of beer, Wolverhampton Street. [1862]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/10/1863 - Deaths

“On the 22nd instant, at Bilston, aged 22, Joseph, eldest and beloved son of Mr. *Joseph Johnson*, weighing machine maker; deeply regretted.”

Joseph Johnson was listed as an engineer. [1864], [1865]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 24/8/1864 - Deaths

“On the 16th instant, at Bilston, Obadiah, the only and beloved son of Mr. *Joseph Johnson*, weighing machine maker, in the 20th year of his age, deeply regretted.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 6/9/1865 - Deaths

“On the 2nd ultimo, at Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, Emma, the beloved daughter of Mr. *Joseph Johnson*, weighing machine maker, aged 22 years, deeply regretted.”

1871 Census

Wolverhampton Street – HAND AND BOTTLE

- [1] *Joseph Johnson* (61), widower, licensed victualler and weighing machine maker, born Tipton;
- [2] *Pamela Johnson* (23), daughter, housekeeper, born Bilston;
- [3] *Naomi Johnson* (19), daughter, assistant at home, born Bilston;
- [4] *Mary Johnson* (18), daughter, assistant at home, born Bilston:

RESPECTABLE YOUTH WANTED, for Counter Trade ; age from 16 to 19. Good character and references indispensable.—Apply, Hand and Bottle Inn, Wolverhampton-street, Bilston.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 7/12/1876 - Advert

“Respectable Youth Wanted, for Counter Trade; age from 16 to 19. Good character and references indispensable, Apply, HAND AND BOTTLE INN, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/7/1880

“Mr. W. H. Phillips (Coroner) held an inquest at the HAND AND BOTTLE INN, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, on Saturday afternoon, on the body of *Thomas Harrison*, who hanged himself the previous morning. The evidence showed that the deceased had been out of work for some time, that he had spent the little money he had previously saved, and that this had caused him to fret a great deal. A verdict that deceased hanged himself whilst in a state of Temporary Insanity was returned.”

1881 Census

114, Wolverhampton Street – HAND AND BOTTLE INN

- [1] *William Osborne* (48), tube worker, born Kidderminster;
- [2] *Rebecca Osborne* (46), wife, born Kidderminster;
- [3] *Joseph Osborne* (19), son, tube worker, born Birmingham;
- [4] *Phoebe Mansell* (14), general servant, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 23/12/1881 - Advert

“German Birds, in full song, for Sale.
HAND AND BOTTLE, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston.”

GERMAN Birds, in full song, for Sale.—Hand and Bottle, Wolverhampton-street, Bilston.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 12/1/1885 - Advert

“Splendid German Canaries for Sale, in full song.
Apply, *Osborne's* HAND AND BOTTLE, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston.”

SPLENDID German Canaries for Sale, in full song.—Apply, *Osborne's*, Hand and Bottle, Wolverhampton-st., Bilston.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 2/2/1885 - Advert

“Splendid Hartz Mountain Rollers; also 60 Hens for Sale.
Osborne's HAND AND BOTTLE, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston.”

SPLENDID Hartz Mountain Rollers; also 60 Hens for Sale.—*Osborne's*, Hand and Bottle, Wolverhampton-st., Bilston.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 14/12/1885 - Advert

“Splendid German Birds for Sale, also Hens.
Osborne, HAND AND BOTTLE, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston.”

SPLENDID German Birds for Sale. also Hens.—*William Osborne*, Hand and Bottle, Wolverhampton-st., Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 18/7/1889

“Steelyards, weigh up to 8 tons; good condition.
HAND AND BOTTLE INN, near Hampton Street, Bilston.”

STEELYARDS, weigh up to 8 tons; good condition.—Hand and Bottle Inn, near Hampton Street, Bilston.

1891 Census

114, Wolverhampton Street

- [1] *Daniel Baylis* (41), fitter, born Bilston;
- [2] *Phoebe Baylis* (33), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] *Beatrice A. Baylis* (2), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] *Harold M. Baylis* (1), son, born Bilston;
- [5] *Eliza Stewart* (19), domestic servant, born Bilston:

1901 Census

46, Wolverhampton Street

- [1] *Daniel Bayliss* (51), publican, born Bilston;
- [2] *Phoebe Bayliss* (43), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] *Harold M. Bayliss* (11), son, born Bilston;
- [4] *Annie B. Bayliss* (12), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] *Minnie Weare* (15), domestic servant, born Bradley:

1909 Probate

“*Daniel Bayliss* of Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 15 September 1909. Probate Lichfield 5 November to *Phoebe Bayliss*, widow. Effects £467 4s 6d.”

1911 Census

46, Wolverhampton Street

- [1] *Phoebe Bayliss* (53), widow, licensed victualler, under Brewery Co, born Coseley;
- [2] *Beatrice Annie Bayliss* (22), daughter, born Bilston;
- [3] *Harold Martin Bayliss* (21), son, wood turner's joinery clerk, born Bilston:

1921 Census

46, Wolverhampton Street

- [1] *George Henry Downs* (33), blast furnaceman, born Bilston;
- [2] *Rosehannah Downs* (32), wife, home duties, born Bilston;
- [3] *Thomas Alfred Downs* (10), son, school, born Bilston;
- [4] *Enoch Bradney Victor Downs* (8), son, school, born Bilston;
- [5] *John Henry Downs* (6), son, school, born Bilston;
- [6] *Rosehannah Downs* (4), daughter, born Bilston:

Bowling club founded in 1922.

It later had the only bowling green in Bilston.

William Henry Porter married 'Hetty' Benton, the daughter of David Benton of the BOARD.

Dudley Herald 29/8/1931

“Bowling. The Ex-Service Men's Club entertained the HAND AND BOTTLE in the Bilston and District League on Saturday afternoon, and after a hard fought match the visitors won narrowly by four points.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 1/9/1934

“Two charges of theft of money by means of a trick were preferred at Bilston Court yesterday against Lily Boden, aged 48, said to be a native of Coventry, and living at a lodging house, 173, Oxford Street, Bilston.

The first case referred to the theft of 6d. *William Henry Porter*, licensee of the HAND AND BOTTLE INN, Wolverhampton Street, said that the defendant entered the bar and asked for half-a-pint of mild. She tendered 6d and was given 3½d change. She said that she had been given wrong change – that she gave him 1s. During the argument his wife entered and, having heard the cause of the dispute, said, ‘Give her the 6d.’ Defendant left; he followed her and saw her go into four shops and eventually he gave her into custody.

The second charge was of the theft of 11½d belonging to Clarrie Jones, of 39, High Street, Bilston, who said that the woman asked for a halfpennyworth of sweets, for which she tendered a halfpenny. The woman began to tell her

(witness) that there had been a terrible motor accident in the town and then said, 'You haven't given me my change. I gave you a shilling.' She started to shout and she (witness) became confused; not wanting a disturbance in the shop and being desirous of getting rid of the woman, she gave her 11½d and the woman left.

Superintendent Orland: There are quite a lot of other cases in Bilston.

Accused: Not that I can remember.

Prisoner was sentenced to 28 days' imprisonment."

1939 Register

Wolverhampton Street – HAND AND BOTTLE Public House

[1] William H. Porter, date of birth 22/2/1878, licensed victualler, married;

[2] Henrietta Porter, dob 31/5/1882, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] Winnie (Porter) Brown, dob 5/5/1923, insole maker, machine, shoe trade, single:

Winnie was the daughter of William and Henrietta Porter.

She married Douglas G. Brown in the 3rd quarter of 1946.

Evening Despatch 23/1/1950 - Advert

"Amalgamated Union of Foundry Workers. Series of Special Meetings. Full Time Officers will Speak. Tuesday, January 24th.....

Bilston: HAND AND BOTTLE, Wolverhampton Street.....

All meetings commence at 7.45pm. All members, and non-union Foundry Workers invited."

Birmingham Daily Post 17/1/1969

"When it comes to the sing-song at the end of an evening at the HAND AND BOTTLE. Bilston, there is no one more keen to join in that the inn's 21-month-old Alsatian. And no wonder, with a named like 'Boosie' – or Timbervale Blue Boosie, to give it in full. Mrs. Winnie Brown, the licensee, tells me, 'His singing is not up to Covent Garden standard, but his friendliness has endeared him to the customers.'"

A team from here took part in the Sunday People Great Pub Sports Quiz. [1977/78]

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

Sports Argus 22/4/1978

"The WAGON AND HORSES from Tipton, top sports quiz competitors over the years set a hot pace in the Sports Argus Sport-Inn Quiz this week. In the second round they smashed in a fantastic score of 67 points against the hard-pressed HAND AND BOTTLE from Bilston."

[1985]

Closed

It was demolished in 1987.

HAND AND BOTTLE PUBLIC HOUSE, BILSTON.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by JESSE WRIGHT, on the premises, on Tuesday, July 7, 1829, at four o'clock in the afternoon, in the following or such other lots as shall be agreed upon, and subject to the conditions then to be produced:—

LOT I. All that Messuage or Dwelling House, called the HAND AND BOTTLE, situate in Wolverhampton-street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, now in the occupation of Obadiah Johnson, consisting of excellent cellaring, bar, front and back kitchens, parlour, brewhouse, stable and other out-buildings, large club-room, and suitable chambers, with extensive yard and pump amply supplied with water. The house has a frontage of 25 feet next the line of road from Bilston to Wolverhampton.

1829

STAFFORDSHIRE.

DESIRABLE PUBLIC HOUSE AND PREMISES, BILSTON.

TO be Sold by Private Contract, all that old established and well-accustomed PUBLIC HOUSE, with the extensive plot of land lying at the back thereof, with the outbuildings and appurtenances thereto belonging, known by the sign of THE HAND AND BOTTLE, situated in Wolverhampton-street, in Bilston aforesaid, formerly belonging to and occupied by the late Mr. Obadiah Johnson deceased, an insolvent debtor, and now in the occupation of Mr. Joseph Johnson, as tenant from year to year of the same.

The property is Copyhold of Inheritance within the Manor of Stowheath.

To treat for the same apply at the offices of Mr. JOHN MASON, solicitor, Bilston, and North-street, Wolverhampton,

1845

**STAFFORDSHIRE.
DESIRABLE PUBLIC HOUSE AND PREMISES,
IN BILSTON.**

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by R. CORBETT, on **TUESDAY**, the 16th day of June, 1846, at the Castle Inn, in Bilston, in the county of Stafford, at Five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be read:—All that old-established and well-accustomed **PUBLIC HOUSE**, with the extensive Plot of **LAND** lying at the back thereof, and Out-buildings and Appurtenances thereto belonging, known by the sign of the "**HAND AND BOTTLE**," situated in Wolverhampton Street, in Bilston aforesaid, formerly belonging to and occupied by the late Mr. Obadiah Johnson, deceased, an insolvent debtor, and now in the occupation of Mr. Joseph Johnson, as tenant from year to year of the same.

The Property is Copyhold of Inheritance within the Manor of Stowheath.

For further particulars, apply to Mr. John Mason, Solicitor, Bilston and Wolverhampton; or to the Auctioneer, Bilston. 60

1846

NOTICE.—Pursuant to a Rule of the Court for Relief of Insolvent Debtors, in the matter of **OBADIAH JOHNSON**, late of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Engineer and Victualler, the matters of whose Petition were heretofore appointed to be heard on a day Gazetted for the same, and now past.

Whereas, application, supported by Affidavit, has been made by Sophia Bructon, Richard Thompson, and John Etheridge and his Wife, for the Provisional Assignee of the said Court, to make, or join in making, a Surrender or Assignment of an Interest now vested in him, (no other person having become Assignee,) in certain Lands and Tenements, namely,—All that Messuage or Tenement or Public-house, called the Hand Bottle, situate and being in Bilston aforesaid, at a certain place called Shift End, with the yards, outbuildings, and premises to the same belonging, which interest is represented to be of no value to Creditors. Any Creditor or other person concerned in objecting to such application, must shew cause in person, or by Counsel, against the same, in the Court, in Portugal-street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, on Saturday, the eighth day of May next, at twelve o'clock at noon, when the Court will proceed thereupon pursuant to the Statute.

AUSTEN & HOBSON,
4, Raymond Buildings, Gray's Inn,
Attorneys for the said Applicant.

1847

**STAFFORDSHIRE.
DESIRABLE PUBLIC HOUSE AND
PREMISES, BILSTON.**

TO be Sold by Private Contract, all that old established and well-accustomed **PUBLIC HOUSE**, with the extensive plot of land lying at the back thereof, with the outbuildings and appurtenances thereto belonging, known by the sign of **THE HAND AND BOTTLE**, situated in Wolverhampton-street, in Bilston aforesaid, formerly belonging to and occupied by the late Mr. Obadiah Johnson deceased, an insolvent debtor, and now in the occupation of Mr. Joseph Johnson, as tenant from year to year of the same.

The property is Copyhold of Inheritance within the Manor of Stowheath.

To treat for the same apply at the offices of Mr. **JOHN MASON**, solicitor, Bilston, and North-street, Wolverhampton,

1865

Bass Mitchells & Butlers Limited

Cape Hill Brewery
P.O. Box 27
Birmingham B16 0PQ
Telephone: 021-558 1481 Ext: 2145
Telex: 335588

Your Ref:
Our Ref: E/W/K/49492

C. R. Seymour, Esq.,
Clerk to the Licensing Justices
Town Hall
North Street
Wolverhampton

please file

117 NOV 1986

12th November 1986

Dear Sir

HAND & BOTTLE, WOLVERHAMPTON STREET, BILSTON

We refer to our letter of 30th October in respect of the above and now write to confirm the sale of the premises to Wolverhampton Metropolitan Borough Council was completed on Thursday 6th November 1986, on which date the Council took occupation of the premises.

As you are aware, the property has been sold on a delicensed basis and we therefore return herewith the Justices' Licence, by way of surrender.

No doubt you will amend your Licensing Register accordingly.

A copy of this letter has been sent to the Chief Superintendent of Police for his information.

Yours faithfully
BASS MITCHELLS & BUTLERS LIMITED

R. A. Willetts
Estates Department

Registered No. 70011 England Registered Office at above address



1986 - Letter

HAND AND KEYS

28, (121), Wolverhampton Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

George Cockayne, coalmaster, Union Street, Bilston
Edwin Hickman, quarrymaster, Bilston
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. [1965]

LICENSEES

James Foster [1818] – [1830]
Joseph Foster [1833]
John Lucy [1841] – 1847);
Mrs. Hannah Lucy (1847 – 1852);
Charles Lewis (1852 – [1853]
Esther Wilkinson [] – 1855);
Charles Lewis (1855 – 1860)
Miss Mary Lewis [] – 1863);
William Lewis (1863 – 1868);
James Lawley (1868 – [1871]
John Smith [1872] – 1876);
Samuel Leadbetter (1876 – 1879);
William Reeves (1879 – 1884);
Thomas Perkins (1884 – 1887);
James Pitchford (1887 – 1888);
William Clark (1888 – 1889);
David Bayliss (1889 – 1890);
Elijah Bickey (1890);
Joseph Parker (1890 – 1892);
John Thomas Chew (1892 – 1896);
Caroline Hickman (1896 – 1898);
Arthur Smith (1898 – 1899);
Henry Lewis (1899 – 1900);
Enoch Ward (1900);
George Matthews (1900 – 1902);
John Thomas Lloyd (1902 – 1904);
William Felix Williams (1904);
Joseph Garbett (1904 – 1905);
William Henry Ralph (1905 – 1906);
Arthur Fellows (1906 – 1909);
Edwin Davies (1909);
John Thomas Fellows (1909 – 1914);
John Jones (1914 – 1915);
John Thomas Fellows (1915 – 1917);
Mrs. Fanny Smith (1917 – 1922);
Thomas Samuel Bate (1922 – 1934);
Dora Bate (1934 – 1938);
William Robert Nicholls (1938 – [1940]
Ron Drinkwater []
Thomas William Brookes []
John Halford [] – 1969)

TO PUBLICANS AND OTHERS.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY DANIEL TAYLOR,
On MONDAY the 17th day of JUNE, 1833;
ALL the excellent BREWING VESSELS, Iron-bound
CASKS, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, and other
Effects, of Mr. JOSEPH FOSTER, of the Old Hand and Keys
Public House, WOLVERHAMPTON-STREET, BILSTON, who is
declining the public business.
Sale to commence at Ten o'clock in the morning.—Con-
ditions as usual.

1833

HAND AND KEYS, BILSTON.
TO BE LET,
And may be entered upon on or before Lady-day next,
THAT well-known and old-established PUBLIC
HOUSE, situate in Wolverhampton-street, Bilston,
and known by the sign of the Hand and Keys, comprising
on ground floor, an excellent liquor shop, and good tap
room in front, with large club room, parlour, and back
kitchen, above which are four good bed rooms, malt room,
and lumber room. The out-premises consist of large
inclosed yard, capital brewhouse, stable for one horse,
piggeries, an excellent well of water, and good nine-pin
alley. The cellars are good, being all arched, the barrels
and brewing utensils all new, as also the fittings-up of
the spirit shop.
The present proprietor having taken another house, can
reduce the stock, &c. by removal, to meet the wishes of
any one; the coming-in, as it stands at present, would be
about £400, but could be reduced one half. Licensees,
stock, &c. to be taken at a fair valuation.
For further particulars apply on the premises, if by
letter, post paid.

1835

NOTES

121, Wolverhampton Street [1864], [1865], [1871], [1874], [1881], [1891], [1892], [1896]
28, Wolverhampton Street [1901], [1911], [1916], [1921], [1932], [1940]

OLD HAND AND KEYS [1818], [1827], [1833]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/6/1833 - Advert

“To Publicans and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by Daniel Taylor, on Monday the 17th day of June, 1833.

All the excellent Brewing Vessels, Iron-bound Casks, Household Furniture, and other Effects of Mr. *Joseph Foster*, of the OLD HAND AND KEYS, Public House, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, who is declining the public business.

Sale to commence at Ten o'clock in the morning.

Conditions as usual.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/12/1835 - Advert

“HAND AND KEYS, Bilston.

To be Let, and may be entered upon on or before Lady-day next.

That well-known and old-established Public House, situate in Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, and known by the sign of the HAND AND KEYS, comprising on ground floor, an excellent liquor shop, and good tap room in front, with large club room, parlour, and back kitchen, above which are four good bed rooms, malt room, and lumber room. The out-premises consist of large inclosed yard, capital brewhouse, stable for one horse, piggeries, an excellent well of water, and good nine-pin alley. The cellars are good, being all arched, the barrels and brewing utensils all new, as also the fitting-up of the spirit shop.

The present proprietor having taken another house, can reduce the stock, &c, by removal, to meet the wishes of any one. The coming-in, as it stands at present, would be about £400, but could be reduced one half. Licenses, stock, &c, to be taken to at a fair valuation.

For further particulars apply on the premises, if by letter, post paid.”

1841 Census

Wolverhampton Street

[1] *John Lucy* (30), publican;

[2] *Hannah Lucy* (30);

[3] *Elizabeth Morris* (15), f.s., born Staffordshire:

Birmingham Journal 29/3/1845

“On Wednesday night last, an attempt was made by a man named William Neach to commit self-destruction, at the Bilston Police Station. It appears that during the day he had been indulging rather freely in drink, and while in a state of intoxication he broke the window of Mr. *Lucy*, publican, and was taken into custody by the police. When at the station, he became very violent, and attempted to strike the officer, for which he was placed for security in a cell. In about a quarter of an hour after the officer visited him, and found him hanging by a woollen neckcloth, which he had contrived to place over the end of a small beam in the lock-up. On being released, he fell insensible upon the floor, but was ultimately recovered by the exertions of the officers – to repent, we hope, of his folly.”

Birmingham Journal 28/2/1846

“On Friday last some gentlemen from the neighbourhood of Bilston were coursing at Paradise and started a hare, which they hunted nearly a mile and a half across the country, when poor puss was killed. On opening her a fine young leveret was taken out of her alive by Mr. *Lucy*, of Bilston, victualler, who gave it some milk, which it lapped eagerly. Mr. *Lucy* afterwards parted with the leveret to Mr. *Lester*, of Bilston, in whose care it was doing well until Tuesday last, when a cat which was in the house pounced upon the poor animal and killed it.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 24/2/1847 - Died

“On the 2nd instant, aged 50 years, Mr. *John Lucy*, of Bilston, much regretted.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/4/1847

“At a special sessions for the transfer of victualler’s licenses, held on Friday last, the following business was transacted.....

Hannah Lucy, widow, of Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, applied for the transfer to her of the license lately held by her late husband, which was granted.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 4/8/1849

“A lad named David Lloyd, for stealing a bottle of wine from the HAND AND KEYS public house, Shift End, Bilston, was ordered to be sent to Wolverhampton, and to be whipped.”

1851 Census

Wolverhampton Street

[1] *Hannah Lucy* (51), widow, victualler, born Lincoln;

[2] *Ellen Evans* (20), house servant:

Birmingham Journal 25/12/1852

“An inquest was held on Wednesday last, at the HAND AND KEYS, Wolverhampton Street, on the body of Sarah Humphries, four years of age, who was so shockingly burnt by her clothes taking fire on the 25th ult, that she died on Tuesday. Her mother, it appeared, had left her by herself while she went to the Tommy shop. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Birmingham Journal 9/4/1853 - Advert

“Freehold and Copyhold Houses, Rolling Mill, Buildings, and Land, at Bilston, in the County of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Chesshire and Gibson, on Monday, the 25th day of April inst, at Four o’clock in the afternoon, at the KINGS ARMS INN, in Bilston, either in the following or such other lots as may be determined upon at the time of sale.....

A Licensed Public House, situated on Wolverhampton Street, known as the HAND AND KEYS, in the occupation of *Charles Lewis*, with Two Front and Five Back Houses adjoining thereto.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 2/5/1853 - Advert

“Freehold and Copyhold Houses, Rolling Mill, Buildings, and Land, at Bilston, in the County of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Chesshire and Gibson, on Monday next, May 9, at four o’clock in the afternoon.....

Lot 1. All that well-accustomed old-licensed Public House, situated in Wolverhampton Street; containing large club-room, spirit shop, bar, parlour, tap-room, four bed-rooms, kitchen, brewhouse, and other conveniences, known as the HAND AND KEYS, in the occupation of Mr. *Lewis*, at an annual rental of £39 2s. Also two front Houses adjoining, occupied by Williams and Cummins, and five others at the back, producing, at weekly rents, £47 9s per annum; together with vacant Land and Right of Carriage-way into Union Street.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 15/6/1856

“Constable of Willenhall having been repeatedly challenged by Barlow of Birmingham to run 140 yards, states that that distance would not suit him; but that he will run him 100 yards, and give him one yard start, or 120 yards level, for £25 a side; or will run Fairbrother of Hunslet, Collins of Jumbo, or T. Wood of Worksop 100 yards. Any of these matches can be made for the same amount if a deposit is sent to *Bells Life*, and articles to Constable, at Mr. *Charles Lewis*’s, HAND AND KEYS, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 12/4/1857

“At *C. Lewis*’s, HAND AND KEYS, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, on Tuesday next, a pigeon gun, value £7, will be shot for, also a fat pig, value £6, by 26 members, at 10s each. The first best shot to have the choice of gun or pig, the second to take the second prize. Conditions: 3 birds each, 21 yards rise, ¾-inch guns 2oz of shot, double 1½oz of shot, allowed two yards. No gentleman allowed to shoot more than two tickets. To commence at one o’clock.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 13/9/1857

“J. Adams (the Barber) of Bilston will run Edwards of Wednesbury, who defeated H. Causer (better known as the Crown Street Pet) at Shelford Common, near Walsall, on Tuesday last, 120 or 140 yards level, for £5 or £10 a side; or he will run Hadley of the same place, on the same terms. To run in three weeks from the first deposit. Money ready any time at Mr. C. Lewis’s, HAND AND KEYS, Bilston, or Mr. W. Whitmore’s, SPREAD EAGLE INN, Moxley, near Bilston.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 16/10/1858

“Thomas Maybury and John Cording, both residing at Bilston, were brought up charged with highway robbery on Monday evening last. Mr. Claydon appeared for Maybury.

William Harris, miner, and Sarah Harris, his wife, deposed that they were going home from Bilston market on Monday night, about seven o’clock, and as they were passing along Coseley Row – at a place where there are houses on each side of the street – two men attacked them, knocking them both down, and rendering them insensible. They were unable to identify the men who attacked them; but Harris said that he had been drinking with the prisoners at an early part of the evening, and his wife said that Maybury’s father had given her a sovereign to say nothing of the matter. When she came to herself she missed 2s 10d from her pocket.

A girl named Selina Bradley spoke to seeing the two prisoners near the spot where the attack took place, and to seeing them run away whilst Harris and his wife were on the ground. Harris’s wife followed the men on recovering from the insensibility and gave information to the police, who apprehended the prisoners in the HAND AND KEYS, Wolverhampton Street, to which she had traced the two men who attacked her and her husband. Both were very violent when the police attempted to take them into custody. On Cording was found a piece of silk handkerchief which was identified by Mrs. Harris as part of one she had on at the time, which was torn in the scuffle.

The magistrates, considering that the abstraction of the money was not clearly proved, treated the case as one of assault, and disregarding the evidence of a man named Baker, who was called to prove an alibi in the case of Maybury, sentenced each of them to three months’ imprisonment.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 4/9/1859

“J. Turner of Bilston is surprised at J. Rigby’s challenging him, and wanting two yards start; but if he really wants a match Tuner will run him 120 yards, for £10 a side, level; or he will run Gilbert of Darlaston or Keats of Bloxwich 120 yards, or take one yard start in like distance of Ben Garrington of Birmingham, for £10 or £15 a side. Either of the matches can be made at C. Lewis’s, HAND AND KEY, Bilston, any time.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 15/7/1860

“E. Williams and W. Thompson (both of Tipton) are matched to run 110 yards, for £10 a side, to come off at Aston Cross Grounds, on Monday, July 23. A further deposit for the same must be made tomorrow (Monday), at Mr. C. Lewis’s, HAND AND KEYS, Bilston.”

AND

“S. Hollis of Can Lane, Bilston, will run Kellet of Shrewsbury 120 yards level, or take three yards in 120 of Newbold, or two yards in 120 of Crudginton (both of Birmingham); or will run Thrasher of Coventry 200 yards level, for from £15 to £25 a side. Either of the matches can be made any night next week at Mr. C. Lewis’s, HAND AND KEYS, Bilston.”

Staffordshire Sentinel 28/7/1860

“Stafford Assizes.....

James Durkin, 40, hawker, Thomas Davis, 28, blacksmith, and *Charles Lewis*, publican, were indicted on a charge of burglariously breaking and entering into the dwelling house of Benjamin Guy at Bilston, with intent to steal his property, and did then and there attempt to kill and murder him. *Lewis* was also charged with feloniously receiving, harbouring, and maintaining in his dwelling house the above-named James Durkin.

Mr. Brown and Mr. Hill conducted the case for the prosecution; the prisoner Durkin was defended by Mr. Sawyer, *Lewis* by Mr. Matthews, and Davis by Mr. Kenealy.

Mr. Brown, in opening the case for the prosecution, said the prisoners were charged with having committed a burglary, and *Lewis* was also charged with harbouring the other prisoners. Although there would be no evidence of *Lewis* being engaged in the burglary, still if he was an accessory to the fact it would be the duty of the jury to bring him in guilty with the other prisoners, if they should decide upon convicting them. Of this, of course, the jury would be best able to judge after they had heard the evidence which he should lay before them.

It will be remembered that at the last Assizes a man named Samuel Jones was tried and convicted of being a participator in its burglary. He was sentenced to death, but his sentence was afterwards commuted to 20 years' penal servitude, which he is now undergoing. The facts of the case are briefly these. About half-past two on the morning of the 6th of March last the prosecutor, a butty collier, who resides at Portobello, Willenhall, was awaked from his sleep by three men rushing into his bedroom. One of these men was the convict Jones, who held a lighted candle over his head, the others were the prisoners Durkin and Davis, one of whom had his face covered with a black net, and both armed with life preservers. The prosecutor jumped out of bed and grasped Jones, whom he held down, and then faced the others with whom he had a terrific struggle. His nephew, who slept in another room, hearing a noise, came to his uncle's assistance, and was met as he entered the room by a heavy blow on the forehead from a life preserver. He assisted his uncle, and managed to get to the window and shout 'murder.' The prisoners, finding their attempt fruitless sought to escape and Davis and Durkin succeeded, one by the window and the other by the street door; Jones, however, being still held by the prosecutor, and ultimately handed over to the policeman who, aroused by the cry of 'murder,' came to the spot. During the struggle the prosecutor was seriously stabbed in the arm, and he was also wounded on the head by a blow from a life preserver. Davis and Durkin succeeded in getting clear away and would probably have escaped together, but that Jones, while in prison, made a statement criminating them, which led to their apprehension. The principal evidence against them was that of Jones, who was brought from the gaol in custody. He stated that he met the prisoners the day before the burglary at the house of *Lewis*, the HAND AND KEYS, Bilston, and Durkin said he owed *Lewis* £10 and he must have the money to pay him from somewhere, and *Lewis* said he wanted to get £50 by the next month. Later in the day Jones again met the prisoners, who said they were going to Portobello. The same night, at 12 o'clock, he again called at the HAND AND KEYS, where the prisoners were, and Davis asked Jones to go with him and Durkin to Portobello. *Lewis* supported the proposal, and told Jones he need not be afraid to go with Durkin; he (*Lewis*) knew he was all right. Durkin, who had left the room, presently returned with a lot of house-breaking implements, and observed that money was very easy to be got, it was to be had for fetching. Davis then said they were going to Guy's house, adding he knew Guy and Guy knew him, but he did not care for that – they (the burglars) would do for him. *Lewis* said he had got pistols and went to look for them but could not find them. It was then agreed that Jones should look after the money, and Davis and Durkin (armed with life preservers) were to look after the prosecutor. They laid down until two and then started, Davis leading the way. *Lewis* previously sent his wife to bed and said he would sit up till the prisoners returned. He gave Jones a candle and some matches, and it was agreed that he should have a share of the plunder. They went to Guy's house by a circuitous route and entered by the back way through the cellar. In the kitchen they found a lot of flannel jackets and each put one on. They left their shoes in the passage and proceeded upstairs to Guy's bedroom. The scene which followed has been already briefly described.

Jones gave his evidence in a very straightforward manner, and it was not much shaken by the severe cross-examination he underwent. To support his statement an old man named James Pugh, who had the ill-luck to be in the station house at the same time as Davis was produced, and he stated that Davis at the time made a full confession to him of his share in the burglary, and expressed a regret that his companions had not done as he wished, if they had Guy would never have been able to appear against them. In cross-examination this witness admitted that he had been a frequent inmate of gaols, and that his life had not been the most respectable. He confessed that he might have committed many a theft, but he did not know how many, for he didn't keep such things in his head.

A good deal of evidence tending both directly and indirectly to criminate the prisoners was taken. In reply to the statement of Jones so far as it affected Davis, the man who was convicted a few days since of stealing a large sum of money with which he ran off to Australia, was brought from gaol, on the application of Mr. Kenealy, and he made a statement to the effect that Jones had expressed while in gaol, his determination to 'pull Davis in,' and ensure his companionship during his twenty years of penal punishment.

The learned counsel for the prisoners each addressed the Jury at some length, the principal argument in each case being the insufficiency of the evidence and the unreliable character of the statements of such men as Jones and Pugh, especially the former, whose animus was clearly shown.

Several witnesses were called to prove an alibi for Davis, and to speak to his character.

It being now a quarter past seven, the Judge decided to adjourn the case. His lordship, however, assented to Mr. Matthews application to be allowed to call witnesses to speak to *Lewis*'s character. Several respectable persons, who stated that they had known *Lewis* for many years, spoke very favourably of him.

The Court then (at 20 minutes past 7) rose, the Jury being locked up for the night."

AND

“The case for the defence was resumed, when several witnesses were called to prove that Durkin had a black eye and walked lame – the consequence of having fallen down the cellar steps – for several days before the burglary, and also that neither Jones nor Davis was at the HAND AND KEYS at any period of the day preceding the night of the burglary.

Other witnesses were also called to speak to *Lewis*’s character, after which Mr. Brown replied to the whole case, and the learned Judge summed up. The jury retired at ten minutes past one to consider their verdict, and after half-an-hour’s absence they returned with a verdict of guilty against Durkin, and not guilty against Davis and *Lewis*.

Sentence of death was recorded against Durkin; the other prisoners were discharged.

At the close of the case Mr. Hill said he had been assured by the officials of the gaol, that the convict Swatman had had no opportunity of making a communication to the convict Jones, so that the story told by Swatman on the previous day was a pure fabrication.

The Judge said he also had been informed by Major Fulford that this was the case..”

[James Durkin was a returned convict.]

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/9/1860

“Bilston Adjourned Licensing Meeting.....

Friday was the last day appointed by the magistrates for determining the renewal of publicans’ licenses, the consideration of which had been deferred from the annual licensing meeting through the misconduct of the applicants. The bench admonished each applicant, but renewed all the licenses, except in the case of *Charles Lewis*, of the HAND AND KEYS, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, who, it will be remembered, was tried at the last Stafford assizes for being concerned in a burglary at Portobello.”

Charles Lewis, licensed victualler, Wolverhampton Street. [1861]

Birmingham Daily Post 11/4/1863

“Yesterday, the following licences were granted by the Magistrates.....

ROYAL OAK, Wolverhampton Street, not possessing conveniences for an inn, the licence was ordered to be transferred to the HAND AND KEYS, of the same street.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/5/1863

“On Monday, at the HAND AND KEYS, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, Mr. W. H. Phillips, deputy coroner, concluded an inquiry touching the death of William Mansell, who had been in the employ of Messrs. Claridge and North. The evidence showed that on the 10th ult deceased quarrelled at the works with his striker, Thomas Davis, and threatened to run him through with a bar of hot iron. Davis in self-defence wrested the iron from him, and struck him about the head. About a week afterwards Mansell fell ill, and died on the 29th, as a post mortem examination showed, from slow inflammation of the brain, which resulted in apoplexy. The medical testimony pointed to the violence used by Davis as a probable cause of the inflammation; but as Davis did not seem to have used more violence than was necessary for his defence, the jury returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased had died from an attack of apoplexy, but whether it was caused by violence or natural causes there was no evidence to show.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/6/1863

“Yesterday, Mr. T. M. Phillips, Coroner for the district, opened an inquest, at the house of Miss *Lewis*, the HAND AND KEYS, Wolverhampton Street, on the bodies of Benjamin Morris, Joseph Mincher, William Elwell, Benjamin Danbury, and William Keenan, who were killed by the explosion at the Old Bilston Mills, on Saturday.....”

[The inquest was adjourned.]

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 27/6/1863

“Yesterday morning, at the HAND AND KEYS, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, Mr. T. M. Phillips, Coroner, concluded his inquiry touching the death of the men who were killed by the explosion of a boiler at the Bilston Mills (Messrs. Sparrows), on Saturday, the 30th ult.....

Ultimately the jury unanimously agreed that the deceased men were killed by the explosion of the boiler, but that there was no evidence to show how the explosion was caused.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 31/10/1863

"Bilston. The Millmen's Union. At a meeting of about one hundred men engaged in the various branches of millwork carried on in this neighbourhood, and held at the HAND AND KEYS, Wolverhampton Street, on Monday morning, it was resolved to amalgamate the local society with the general union formed a few weeks ago at Westbromwich."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/5/1868 - Advert

"Bilston. To Let (at Valuation), the Beerhouse late in the occupation of *James Lawley*, in Wolverhampton Street. Apply, Mr. *Lawley*, HAND AND KEYS INN, or Mr. Baker, Auctioneer."

BILSTON.—To Let (at Valuation), the BEERHOUSE late in the occupation of *James Lawley*, in Wolverhampton Street.—Apply, Mr. *Lawley*, "Hand and Keys Inn;" or Mr. Baker, Auctioneer.

1871 Census

121, Wolverhampton Street – HAND AND KEYS

[1] *James Lawley* (40), licensed victualler, born Bilston;

[2] *Sarah Lawley* (43), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Ann Lawley* (25), domestic servant, born Bilston;

[4] *David Whiteing* (35), boarder, waiter in public house, born Uttoxeter:

Birmingham Daily Post 1/11/1871

"Yesterday, the adjourned inquest was held at the HAND AND KEYS, Bilston, upon the body of *Mary Jane Griffiths*, aged eleven years. The child died a month ago, under circumstances that led to the impression in the mind of Mr. Kellett, surgeon, that the illness was cholera; but Mr. Larkin, surgeon, after making a post mortem examination, deposed that cholera was not the cause of death; nor could he account for the cause of death. The stomach was quite empty, and its lining very inflamed. There had been much vomiting and purging before death, but no cramp. Mr. Larkin was of opinion that death arose from other than natural causes; and as this was the ninth child of the family who had died, the Coroner and the Jury thought that it would be well that there should be an analysis of the stomach....."

AND

Cumberland and Westmorland Advertiser 26/12/1871

"On Tuesday afternoon, the adjourned inquiry into the deaths of three children alleged to have been poisoned by their mother, *Eliza Griffiths*, the wife of a puddler, was resumed at Bilston in South Staffordshire. The circumstances of the case have been previously fully reported.

The coroner, in reviewing the evidence, said that as to *Mary Jane Griffiths*, it was first supposed that she had died of cholera, and, as they had heard, a certificate had been given that that was the cause of death. This led to a post mortem examination, and ultimately to an analysis being made, and antimony was found in the stomach. But the physician would not say that antimony caused death. The same symptoms that preceded death in respect of the girl were observed in relation to the boys *Thomas* and *William*, and upon an analysis of each of these cases after disinterment, antimony had been found. The whole affair had a most suspicious, and at the same time an extraordinary, appearance. No one of the surgeons was able to say that antimony caused the death of any one of the deceased; still the poison was in the system. It could not have found its way there in any of the medicine that they prescribed, and the mother denied having given any powders in which antimony might be looked for. The symptoms baffled the surgeons in all the cases.

When the jury had deliberated for about half an hour, they returned a verdict of Wilful Murder against the accused in respect of all the three children, and she was committed by the coroner for trial at the next Staffordshire assizes. Subsequently she was taken before the stipendiary magistrate and remanded."

AND

Potteries Examiner 9/3/1872

"Staffordshire Spring Assizes will commence on Monday morning, at the Shire Hall Stafford.....

The cases of wilful murder are as follows.....

Eliza Griffiths stands charged with having caused the deaths of her three children, at Bilston, by poison. The commitment is upon the Coroner's warrant only, the Stipendiary Magistrate, when the case was before him, considering the evidence insufficient to warrant him in sending the case for trial."

AND

Globe 14/3/1872

"At the Staffordshire Assizes yesterday, in the case of *Eliza Griffiths*, who had been committed by the coroner for poisoning her three children at Bilston, no evidence was offered, and the prisoner was consequently acquitted."

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/1/1876

“On Tuesday evening the foremen, clerks, and time-keepers employed by Mr. Joseph Walker on the South Staffordshire Mines Drainage Works, together with a few friends, sat down to an excellent supper at the HAND AND KEYS INN, Wolverhampton Street. Mr. C. Lee, engineer for the Mines Drainage Commissioners, occupied the chair. The evening was spent in a most enjoyable manner.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 28/10/1876

“On Monday afternoon the annual inspection of the Bilston Corps of the S. R. V. (Captain W. H. Hatton commanding) took place at the Armoury, Mount Pleasant, before Capt. and Adj. Burke, of the 4th Battalion. The strength of the corps under command was about 50 officers and privates. After the usual inspection of the arms and accoutrements by the Adjutant, Col-sergt. Meanley put the men through the new squad exercise, Sergt. Hughes the manual exercise, Qr. Mr. Harvey company drill, Corp. Lloyd the manual, and Sergts. Meanley and Harvey, and Bugler Hughes the light infantry drill. At the conclusion of the inspection the men were marched to the HAND AND KEYS INN, Wolverhampton Street, where they sat down to a bountiful dinner.”

1881 Census

121, Wolverhampton Street – HAND AND KEYS INN

[1] William Reeves (48), licensed victualler, born Elvington, Warwickshire;

[2] Sarah Reeves (49), wife, born Wolverhampton;

[3] Sarah Johnson (22), general servant, born Bilston:

Evening Star 6/7/1882

“This morning while a moulder named Joseph Fletcher was at work at the Spring Vale Foundry, Ettingshall, he suddenly fell down and died in a few minutes. The deceased, who was 45 years of age, resided at 15, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston. Dr. Cameron was called in, but all he could do was to pronounce life extinct.

The body now lies at the HAND AND KEYS INN, Ettingshall. A coroner’s inquest will be held.”

Evening Star 7/7/1882

“This afternoon Mr. W. H. Phillips, coroner, held an inquest at the HAND AND KEYS INN, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, touching the death of Joseph Fletcher (45), of 15, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston. The deceased was a moulder, and engaged at the late Thomas Sheldon’s foundry, Spring Vale, Ettingshall.

On Thursday morning deceased went to his work apparently in good health, but about 5.30, whilst at work, he fell down suddenly and died. Dr. Cameron, of Bilston, attended as soon as possible, but found life to be extinct.

The jury returned a verdict to the effect that deceased died suddenly from Natural Causes.

The deceased was in no society, and leaves a widow and five children wholly unprovided for. The youngest child is only four months old.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 10/2/1883

“On Saturday afternoon an inquest was held at the HAND AND KEYS INN, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, before E. B. Thorneycroft, Esq, deputy coroner, on the body of Ambrose Bowen (16), a miner, of Wolverhampton Street, who was killed by falling down a pit shaft at Sandy Gay Colliery, on the evening of the 31st ult.

Francis Tart, a fellow workman of deceased, said deceased, who had been working all day as a ‘gin’ minder, left work about 6-20 on the night in question, and then was about to carry some fire to put into the ‘lamps’ in the shaft.

It was witness’s duty to put the fire in, but deceased was helping him. The fire was required in the shaft to keep up the current of air. Witness asked deceased to stand on the iron plate at the top of the shaft, while he and deceased’s brother went and wound up the lamp by the gin. At this time the gate, which was at the top of the shaft, and with the railing round, was four feet high, was closed, and deceased was asked to stand outside the rails and the gate. Witness suddenly heard a noise, and upon turning round, found the gate open, and deceased, fire, and shovel missing.

Witness and deceased’s brother afterwards went down the pit, and discovered the body of the lad, terribly mutilated. Samuel Bowen, deceased’s brother, said the lad knew his work thoroughly, having been engaged at the pit three years. The pit was properly fenced, four feet six inches high, all round. Had the boy remained where he was told to stay, he could not possibly have fallen.

The jury found that the lad had contributed to his own death, and returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 17/2/1883

“*William Reeves*, of the HAND AND KEYS, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, was charged with supplying drink after hours.

PC Wilson stated that he was on duty at 10-45 on Sunday night, when he saw a woman go to the back door of the defendant's house. He waited, and presently saw her come back with a can of beer (produced) under her shawl.

Mr. Bowen defended, and contended that the beer was supplied before the time of closing, and was handed to a servant named Caddick, to take across to the person who had ordered and paid for it. She, however, went ‘courting,’ and left the beer in a gateway, from which she was taking it, when seen by the officer. Several witnesses were called, their evidence bearing out this statement.

The case was dismissed.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 16/5/1885 - Advert

“Wanted, respectable honest Girl, about 15 or 16; three in family.

Address, with full particulars Mr. *T. Perkins*, HAND AND KEYS, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston.”

WANTED, respectable honest Girl, about 15 or 16; three in family.—Address, with full particulars Mr. *T. Perkins*, Hand and Keys, Wolverhampton-st., Bilston.

Darlaston Weekly Times 4/12/1886

“*James Pitchford*, landlord of the HAND AND KEYS INN, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, was summoned for assaulting *Eliza Jones*, who appeared with her lip plastered.

On Thursday night, shortly after eleven o'clock, defendant, together with her son and several others, came out of defendant's house. They commenced to fight. Defendant had her son down, and she went to him to try to induce him to release him, when defendant struck her in the mouth. The effect of the blow was that her lip was split, and it had to have several stitches put into it by a doctor.

In reply to defendant prosecutrix said she did not stick a knitting needle into his back while her son had him down. Defendant said prosecutrix's son was in his (defendant's) house and caused a disturbance and wanted to fight. Defendant ordered him out, and when he got them outside prosecutrix's son struck him and knocked him down. While down he seized defendant by the legs and held on by them. When they were on the ground prosecutrix and her daughter came up and attacked him, and prosecutrix stuck a knitting needle into him. The father of his assailant had to come and release his hold of defendant's legs. The woman pulled the shirt off his back, and he hit the prosecutrix accidentally, but after the disturbance he took her to a doctor and had her lip stitched. He paid the cost of it.

George Ward saw the women round defendant when he was on the ground. They ‘pulled him to pieces.’ They pulled his shirt off his back.

The Stipendiary said there could be no doubt that the woman had received a severe blow, but he believed it had been given accidentally. Defendant had evidently been set upon and had only acted in self-defence. The case would be dismissed.”

Birmingham Daily Post 15/4/1887

“Mr. W. H. Phillips (district coroner) yesterday held an inquest at the HAND AND KEYS INN, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, concerning the death of *Israel Brookes* (20), who was knocked down by a horse and cart, in Swan Bank, on the evening of the 5th inst, and died on the following morning.

Evidence was now given that the driver of the cart in question was *Edward Grosvenor*, of Graiseley Passage, Wolverhampton, a carrier between that town and Birmingham. Grosvenor stated that he did pass through the thoroughfare mentioned on the date and at the time named, but he did not know that he had run over anyone.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned, the jury expressing themselves as not satisfied that Grosvenor's was the cart which caused the accident.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 29/11/1889 - Advert

“Stolen, from the HAND AND KEYS, Bilston, Liver-and-white Spaniel Dog; detainer prosecuted.”

STOLEN, from the Hand and Keys, Bilston, Liver-and-white Spaniel Dog; detainer prosecuted.

1891 Census

121, Wolverhampton Street – HAND AND KEYS INN

- [1] Joseph Parker (46), publican, born Bilston;
- [2] Selina Parker (49), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Edith Parker (15), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] Clara Parker (15), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] Selina Jane Parker (11), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] Joseph Parker (9), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] Leo Parker (6), son, born Bilston;
- [8] Rose H. Scholefield (16), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Joseph Parker – see also NOAHS ARK.

London Gazette 17/3/1896

“Receiving Orders. *John Thomas Chew*, 13, Wolverhampton-street and the HAND AND KEYS INN, Wolverhampton-street, both in Bilston, Staffordshire, Licensed Victualler and Baker.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/4/1896

“*John Thomas Chew*, baker and licensed victualler, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, attended for his public examination. The liabilities were estimated at £307 10s 10d and the assets at £6 5s 6d. The debtor was formerly a baker. In 1892 he commenced business as a licensed victualler at the HAND AND KEYS INN, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston. He borrowed £80 to pay for the in-going, and in 1894 he took to a bakery business. In December of the same year he borrowed £100 in connection with his public house, and gave a bill of sale, and on being pressed by his creditors he was sold up by the bill of sale holder. The debtor attributed his failure to want of capital, heavy expenses, and bad trade. He was allowed to pass.”

1901 Census

28, Wolverhampton Street

- [1] George Matthews (42), wood pattern maker and licensed victualler, born Chester;
- [2] Fanny Matthews (41), wife, born Moxley;
- [3] Frances J. Matthews (21), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] Lilley Matthews (19), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] Violet Matthews (17), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [6] George W. H. Matthews (7), son, born Wolverhampton:

1911 Census

28, Wolverhampton Street

- [1] Thomas Fellows (47), publican, brewery company manager, born Bilston;
- [2] Emma Fellows (44), wife, married 24 years, born Bilston;
- [3] Leah Fellows (21), daughter, solderer, tin plate works, born Bilston;
- [4] Susannah Fellows (20), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] Miriam Fellows (18), daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] Sarah Fellows (13), daughter, school, born Bilston;
- [7] Martha Fellows (11), daughter, school, born Bilston;
- [8] May A. Fellows (9), daughter, school, born Bilston;
- [9] Catherine Fellows (7), daughter, school, born Bilston;
- [10] Elizabeth Fellows (4), daughter, born Bilston;
- [11] John Fellows (23), son, tea tray maker, japan factory, born Bilston;
- [12] Elizabeth Fellows (24), daughter-in-law, born Bilston;
- [13] Thomas Fellows (1), grand-son, born Bilston:

1921 Census

28, Wolverhampton Street – Public House

[1] *Fanny Smith* (45), widow, manageress of public house, born Bilston;

[2] *May Smith* (22), daughter, home duties, born Bilston;

[3] *Violet Smith* (16), daughter, clerk, born Bilston:

South Staffordshire Times 10/6/1922

“Application was made by *Thomas Samuel Bate* to have the license of the HAND AND KEYS INN, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, transferred to himself.

Superintendent Higgs made an objection, saying he did not think applicant was a proper person to hold a license as manager of a public house. He formerly held the license of the WHITE HORSE INN, Ettingshall, and while there he was convicted for selling beer during prohibited hours.

A representative of the brewery company pointed out that conviction took place in 1917, when *Bate* was only fined 15s, which indicated that the offence could not have been regarded as a serious one. For five years afterwards *Bate* held the license, without the slightest complaint being made against him. The house had been closed with compensation. The company had every confidence in *Bate*.

PC Wright, called by Superintendent Higgs, said that during the last few years in which *Bate* kept the house in Ettingshall the conduct of the house was generally bad. He did not think *Bate* was a fit person to hold a license for a public house. Replying to the company’s representative, witness said no proceeding were taken against *Bate* after the one referred to, but the house so situated that it was difficult to keep proper observation.

After deliberation, the Chairman said they had decided to grant a temporary license, but *Bate* must be careful in the conduct of his house.”

Thomas Samuel Bate died in the 2nd quarter of 1934.

Thomas Samuel Bate – see also WHITE HORSE, Ward Street.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/11/1934

“The annual show of racing pigeons arranged by the Bilston and District Flying Club held on Saturday night at the headquarters, the HAND AND KEYS INN, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, proved one of the most successful in the history of the club. Confined to an area of five miles the club embraces a good number of local towns including Wednesbury, West Bromwich, Dudley, Tipton, Darlaston, Willenhall, Wolverhampton and Coseley, and the exhibits sent by the members numbered 220, an increase of about 70 on those of last year. Many finely bred and valuable birds were included in the exhibits and competition was keen. The judge was Mr. W. Hayre, of West Bromwich.....”

1939 Register

Wolverhampton Street – HAND AND KEYS Public House (2 of 3)

[1] *William R. Nicholls*, date of birth 26/12/1899, licensed victualler, married;

[2] *Clara Nicholls*, dob 8/1/1902, unpaid domestic duties, married;

Birmingham Daily Post 1/10/1969

“There was a beer bonanza at the HAND AND KEYS public house, Bilston, the night the publican, Mr. *John Halford*, left. Before he left, Mr. *Halford*, whose whereabouts are unknown, left instructions with his staff to give all the beer and cigarettes to the customers. And while the customers had their free beer, Mr. *Halford* went out and did not return. One of the regulars at the public house, in Wolverhampton Street, said, ‘When we came into the pub we were told we did not have to pay for the ale.’

A spokesman for Banks Brewery at Wolverhampton confirmed yesterday that Mr. *Halford* had left the HAND AND KEYS and they had no idea where he had gone. ‘It has been reported to me that he did leave his stock for his customers,’ he added. But there was no question of the brewery having to foot the bill. The spokesman added, ‘He was the tenant of this public house and the stock was his.’ There is now a relief manager at the public house.”

[1985]

Subject to a Compulsory Purchase Order in August 1985.

Closed. Demolished in 1987.

**FREEHOLD AND COPYHOLD HOUSES, ROLLING MILL,
BUILDINGS, AND LAND,**

AT BILSTON, IN THE COUNTY OF STAFFORD.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

**BY Messrs. CHESSHIRE and GIBSON, on
MONDAY, the 25th day of April inst., at Four o'clock in the
afternoon, at the King's Arms Inn, in Bilston, either in the following
or such other lots as may be determined upon at the time of sale—the
under-mentioned PROPERTIES:—**

**A FREEHOLD LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE, known as "THE
NOAH'S ARK," situated at the junction of Union Street and Wolver-
hampton Street, in the town of Bilston, in the occupation of Mr. Wil-
liam Flowers, as yearly Tenant.**

**A FREEHOLD PROPERTY, adjoining to the last; consisting of
Eleven HOUSES, fronting to Wolverhampton Street; and Five others
at the back, with their Appurtenances.**

**A FREEHOLD HOUSE, Yard, and Premises, also fronting to Wol-
verhampton Street, and adjoining to the last lot, in the occupation of
Edward Johnson, at an annual rental of £18.**

**A Piece of FREEHOLD LAND, fronting to Wolverhampton Street,
containing 111 superficial yards.**

A similar Piece, adjoining, containing 114 yards.

**A large Plot of valuable LAND, formerly used as a Garden, lying
in the rear of the above lots, containing 3a., or thereabouts, now in
the occupation of William Flowers, as annual Tenant.**

**A LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE, situated on the opposite side of
Wolverhampton Street to the last lot, known as the "HAND AND
KEYS," in the occupation of Charles Lewis, with Two Front and Five
Back HOUSES adjoining thereto.**

**Three HOUSES, fronting to Wolverhampton Street, in the occu-
pation of Doughty, Woolley, and Winsper, and One HOUSE at the
back, with Gardens and Out-buildings.**

**The MOUNT PLEASANT BEER HOUSE, in the occupation of
Mr. John Ruscoe, with a considerable space of LAND connected
therewith, having an approach from Wolverhampton Street and Union
Street.**

**FREEHOLD AND COPYHOLD HOUSES, ROLLING
MILL, BUILDINGS, AND LAND,
AT BILSTON, IN THE COUNTY OF STAFFORD.**

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

**BY Messrs. CHESSHIRE and GIBSON, on Monday
next, May 9, at four o'clock in the afternoon, at the
King's Arms Inn, in Bilston, either in the following or
such other lots as may be determined upon at the time of
sale—the under-mentioned PROPERTIES:—**

**LOT 1.—All that well-accustomed old-licensed PUBLIC
HOUSE, situated in Wolverhampton-street; containing
large club-room, spirit shop, bar, parlour, tap-room, four
bed-rooms, kitchen, brewhouse, and other conveniences,
known as the "HAND AND KEYS," in the occupation of
Mr. Lewis, at an annual rental of 39l. 2s. Also two front
HOUSES adjoining, occupied by Williams and Cummins,
and five others at the back, producing, at weekly rents,
47l. 9s. per annum; together with vacant Land and Right
of Carriage-way into Union-street.**

**LOT 2.—Three comfortable HOUSES, fronting to Wol-
verhampton-street, in the occupation of Miss Woolley,
Charles Doughty, and Edward Winsper; and one other
HOUSE at the back, occupied by John Pierce, with Garden
and Outbuildings, producing a rental of 30l. 4s. per annum.**

**LOT 3.—The "MOUNT PLEASANT" BEERHOUSE,
and a considerable plot of valuable LAND, in the occupation
of John Ruscoe, at an annual rental, including other por-
tions of the Property, of 30l. per annum.**

**This Property has a double approach, having Carriage-
entrances from Wolverhampton-street and Union-street.**

HAPPY WANDERER

141, Green Lanes / Marchant Road, Stowlawn Estate, BILSTON

OWNERS

Ansells Ltd.

LICENSEES

June Grashion [1988] – [1993]

Eileen Hilda Johnson [1995] – [2007]

NOTES

Marchant Road
141, Green Lanes [2001]



1993

Birmingham Daily Post 14/7/1958

“Wine and spirit stocks were damaged when fire occurred in a first floor store room at the HAPPY WANDERER public house in Green Lane, Bilston, early last night. Bilston firemen, wearing breathing apparatus, had the outbreak under control before opening time, but part of a floor was damaged and the bar beneath was also affected.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 14/6/1985

“A judge has praised the bravery of an off-duty policeman who went to break up a fight in a Bilston pub car park on Christmas Day. Judge John Evans QC commended PC Michael Allsopp who was attacked as he tried to stop a nasty disturbance outside the HAPPY WANDERER pub in Green Lane.

PC Allsopp was kicked and punched by brothers John Hall (26) of Winston Churchill Court, Bilston, and Peter Hall (22) of Ward Street, Wolverhampton, Dudley Crown Court heard. John Hall was sentenced to a total of 27 months prison and his brother, Peter, to nine months. The brothers denied to assaulting PC Allsopp but a jury found them guilty. John Hall admitted two offences of unlawful wounding on other occasions.

The court heard how PC Allsopp went to restore order after the fight broke out. He said he was a police officer and asked the two brothers to go home, but instead they attacked him, said Mr. William Wood, prosecuting. Mr. Wood said, ‘The officer was off-duty and was driving in the area when he saw a nasty fight on the pub car park. Peter Hall was fighting another man and was obviously giving him a beating. The officer went to intervene, but the Hall brothers kicked and punched him, knocking him to the ground,’ he said.

The brothers denied attacking the officer, telling the court that they didn’t know he was a policeman.”

Alterations were approved in 1988.

Sandwell Evening Mail 4/8/1990

“A Bilston pub is sending local handicapped people to the Special Olympics in the Isle of Wight following a charity battle of the sexes. Male and female regulars of the HAPPY WANDERER in Stow Lane, Bilston, lined up on opposite sides to take part in darts and football matches. The sporting event was organised to raise the £125 needed to send Down’s Syndrome sufferer Malcom Walker, a regular visitor to the pub, to the Special Olympics in October. However, pub licensee Mrs. *June Grashion* said, ‘We have done so well that we are now hoping to collect £500 to send four competitors from the Wolverhampton area to the Isle of Wight. We decided to hold the matches to get Malcom to the Isle of Wight after he qualified at the regional heats in Birmingham on July 7. He won a silver medal for running, but will be competing in three events at the Olympics.’ A charity disco and barbeque were held after the matches.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/7/1993 - Advert

“The Insolvency Act 1986. In Bankruptcy in the Wolverhampton County Court. No.98 of 1993.

Re: *June Grashion*, Publican, the HAPPY WANDERER, Green Lanes, Bilston.

On 23 June 1993 the above-named Court made a Bankruptcy Order against the above-named debtor.

Note: All debts due to the estate should be paid to me.

30 June 1993.

A. T. R. Stretton, Official Receiver, Commercial Union House, 22 Martineau Square, Birmingham, B2 4UP.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/7/1993 - Advert

“The Insolvency Act 1986. In Bankruptcy in the Wolverhampton County Court. No.99 of 1993.

Re: Roy Ian Grashion, Publican, the HAPPY WANDERER, Green Lanes, Bilston.

On 23 June 1993 the above-named Court made a Bankruptcy Order against the above-named debtor.

Note: All debts due to the estate should be paid to me.

30 June 1993.

A. T. R. Stretton, Official Receiver, Commercial Union House, 22 Martineau Square, Birmingham, B2 4UP.”

Ansells Advert 17/2/1994

“The HAPPY WANDERER, Stowlawn Estate, Bilston.

This two roomed pub, consisting of bar and lounge, is in excellent decorative order requiring little capital investment. With a catering kitchen, 3 bedroomed accommodation, beer garden, large car park and situated in the middle of a housing estate, this pub offers great potential.”

[2015]

Closed [2019]

Express & Star 25/6/2021

“Arsonists are believed to have started a fire at a derelict Wolverhampton pub. Around 40 firefighters battled the blaze at the HAPPY WANDERER, in Bilston, on Thursday night. Greens Lane was closed to traffic while firefighters tackled the flames. They operated hoses from a hydraulic platform, dosing the charred building with water. Parts of the roof were left gutted. A spokesman for West Midlands Fire Service said, ‘We had a call at 7.58pm to the HAPPY WANDERER. The first crew got there in three minutes. We had six crews in attendance, along with the hydraulic platform, which is around 35 to 40 personnel. We do believe it was started deliberately. The building was derelict, which crews said was well alight when they arrived. Crews had to split the firefighting operation into sections. The gas and electricity board was in attendance. Greens Lane was closed to the public. Our firefighters carried out a thorough search of the building using breathing apparatus and thermal imaging cameras. Police were making investigations as to who the owner of the building was.’”

Express & Star 8/9/2021

“Work has started to demolish an eyesore former pub and neighbouring derelict garages to transform the site. The arson-hit former HAPPY WANDERER pub, in Green Lanes, in Stowlawn, Wolverhampton, has been subject to arson attacks since the pub closed four years ago due to poor trade. Wolverhampton Council planners have now given the owners of the property, Kam Sanghera and Josheel Sanghera, of Bilston Solutions Ltd permission to flatten it after it was deemed dangerous by building control. The site clearance work will now pave the way for potential new homes to replace it. The council’s city assets and housing boss Councillor Bhupinder Gakhal said, ‘This positive action will make the site safe and remove the risk of further anti-social behaviour, making a big difference to the local community in Bilston. The development of the site, subject to planning approval, will make a huge difference to the street scene in the area. Furthermore, there is the potential to deliver much-needed new homes, boosting the local economy.’”

The disused council-owned garages to the rear of the pub have been subject to anti-social behaviour and will also be demolished. A planning application has been submitted by the owner to build 33 apartments on the site with dedicated parking. If approved the development would see 11 one bedroom and 22 two-bedroom flats built across three buildings. Delighted councillors in the area have welcomed the arrival of the demolition crew. Bilston North

ward representative Councillor Linda Leach said, ‘A lot of hard work has gone into getting to this point and I am delighted to see demolition works starting. This is the first step in transforming this troublesome site and creating something that will provide a real uplift for neighbouring residents.’

Nearby residents have campaigned for action after the community faced a series of anti-social behaviour related incidents including blazes and drug taking at the site resulting in numerous calls to the emergency services.

‘The pub has been derelict for many years. It is the cause of a lot of problems for residents especially the homes next to it. It has been set fire to on numerous occasions and the police have also made visits. Incidents like those prevent the fire brigade from attending live saving emergencies,’ she added.

In the latest blaze around 40 firefighters tackled flames and smoke the site on June 24.”

Express & Star 4/8/2022

“More than 30 new apartments will be built on the site of a former Bilston pub which has been torn down after being a target for vandals. Bilston Property Solutions will build 11 one-bedroom and 22 two-bedroom flats across three buildings on the vacant land in Greens Lane which used to house the HAPPY WANDERER. The pub was built in the 1950s or 60s but was closed and boarded up back in 2018 after experiencing an increasing level of poor trade. It has now been demolished. Developers said it became no longer financially viable to run a pub at the site due to its poor condition and the lack of business it experienced prior to closure.....”

Express & Star 8/8/2022

“A vacant former pub site near Wolverhampton is to have 33 new residential apartments built on the land, council bosses have agreed. The HAPPY WANDERER in Green Lanes, Bilston, closed in 2018 and demolition work began in September last year. The application, made by Mr. Kam Sanghera of Bilston Property Solutions, is for three new buildings housing 11 one-bedroom and 22 two-bedroom apartments. This meant knocking down both the pub and a garage block that was also on the site. A statement from CT Planning, acting on behalf of Mr. Sanghera, said, ‘The pub was typical of suburban pubs built during the 1950s and 60s, being of fairly bland appearance and situated on a large prominent plot. It was closed for several years and was trading poorly prior to that. The premises were in a poor condition and would have required significant investment to enable it to get close to being a viable concern. It is no longer viable for pubs of this size to trade mainly in drink – food sales need to be a significant part of the business. Without this investment the pub was not a viable concern. Unfortunately, there had been no interested parties willing to invest the significant sum required given the high risk and low return. This has only been compounded by the coronavirus pandemic and the various restrictions placed on the hospitality industry. Whilst smaller pubs can remain prosperous by serving mainly drinks, buildings of the HAPPY WANDERER’s size need to attract diners to become a destination,’ added the statement. There are at least three pubs of equivalent size within approximately one kilometre – namely the GRAPES, the CLEVELAND ARMS and the MERRY BOYS. All three premises provide food and drink and thus serve the local community admirably. The site is a previously developed site within a built-up area and close to shops, services, other amenities and public transport connections. The principle of residential apartments on the site is therefore considered to be acceptable subject to justification for the loss of the pub.”



2007



2011

HARP AND SHAMROCK

Oxford Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

T Mack [1865]

NOTES

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 29/7/1865

“Mick Welch of Birmingham will fight Sam Hall of Bilston at catch weight, for £10 a side. Jack Jarvis (also of Birmingham) hearing that J. Hayward of Bilston is anxious for a match will fight him at catch or any weight, for £15 to £25 a side. Money ready at *T. Mack's*, HARP AND SHAMROCK, Oxford Street, Bilston.”

HEN AND CHICKENS

25, (32), (32+33), George Street / Victoria Street, (Priestfield), (New Village), Ettingshall, BILSTON

OWNERS

Charles Clark, gentleman, Perton Grove, Wolverhampton
George Riley
Matthew Rhodes
Richard Andrew Harper, brewer, Bilston
R. A. Harper Ltd. [1921]
Eley's Stafford Brewery Ltd.
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1946]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

James Evans [1858] – **1863**;
George Riley (**1863 – 1898**);
Matthew Rhodes (**1898 – 1903**);
Richard Andrew Harper (**1903 – 1908**);
Joseph Oliver [1904]
Joseph Benjamin Oliver (**1908 – 1910**);
Benjamin Oldfield (**1910 – 1912**);
Walter Addenbrooke Cook (**1912 – 1913**);
Henry Herbert Nuttall (**1913 – 1927**);
Harry Millington (**1927 – 1930**);
Mrs. Martha Millington (**1930 – [1940]**)



NOTES

32, George Street [1861], [1868], [1870], [1872], [1892], [1896]
32+33, George Street [1871]
25, George Street [1901], [1904], [1912], [1921], [1932], [1939], [1940]

1861 Census

32, George Street – Grocers Shop
[1] James Evans (44), brewer &c, born Bilston;
[2] Catherine Evans (42), wife, born Bilston;
[3] Ann Evans (22), daughter, brewer, born Penn;
[4] Richard Evans (20), son, labourer, iron works, born Bilston;
[5] John Evans (16), son, coal miner, born Bilston;
[6] Eliza Evans (15), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
[7] Polly Evans (13), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
[8] Caroline Evans (11), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
[9] Lydia Evans (10), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
[10] George Evans (12), son, scholar, born Bilston;
[11] David Evans (6), son, scholar, born Bilston;
[12] Kezia Evans (2), daughter, born Bilston;
[13] Samuel Evans (14 days), son, born Bilston;
[14] Charlotte Hardwick (15), domestic servant, born Bilston;
[15] Edward Torain (21), labourer, iron works, born Salsbury, Shropshire:

James Evans – see also RED LION, George Street.

George Riley, beer retailer and pawnbroker, 32, George Street, New Village. [1868], [1870], [1872]

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/5/1869 - Advert

“.....The Licensed Victuallers Tea Association, founded in 1867, and owing its origin to the irregular competition of the Grocers in the sale of Wine, is now supplying through the following appointed Agents in this county its unequalled Teas.....

G. Riley, HEN AND CHICKENS, New Village, Priestfield.”

Birmingham Daily Post 5/8/1869

“An inquest was held at Mr. Riley’s public house, Priestfield, on Monday evening, upon the body of William Cadman (15), of Ettingshall. On Friday, deceased was hanging-on at a stone pit in Messrs. H. and G. Ward’s New Priestfield Colliery. A brick fell off a skip, which was standing by the side of the mouth of the shaft, ready to be lowered, struck the boy on the head, and caused instant death. A verdict of Accidental Death was recorded.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/12/1870

“At the Wolverhampton Police Court, yesterday, *George Riley*, a publican and pawnbroker, of Priestfield, was charged by George Jackson, commercial traveller, Tettenhall Road, with having, on the 7th inst, at Priestfield, unlawfully and maliciously published a certain defamatory libel concerning him. Mr. Barrow represented the plaintiff, and Mr. Thurstans the defendant.

It was agreed between the two solicitors that the case should be withdrawn, and Mr. Spooner said he would rather not hear any statement from the legal gentleman representing the complainant under these circumstances.”

1871 Census

32+33, George Street

[1] *George Riley* (37), licensed pawnbroker and publican, born Bilston;

[2] *Phoebe Riley* (36), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Lizzie Riley* (10), daughter, born Bilston;

[4] *Maria Rowley* (8), orphan, born Priestfield;

[5] *Amelia Riley* (20), domestic servant, born Priestfield;

[6] *John Kirkham* (18), general servant, born Endlebury [Enderby?], Leicestershire:

George Riley was also a pawnbroker. [1873]

Birmingham Daily Post 15/1/1874 - Advert

“Wanted, strong, steady young Man, thoroughly accustomed to horse and trap.

Apply, HEN AND CHICKENS, New Village, Ettingshall.”

WANTED. in-doors, strong, steady young Man, thoroughly accustomed to horse and trap.—Apply, Hen and Chickens, New Village, Ettingshall.

Birmingham Weekly Post 7/7/1877

“Attempted Murder by a Lunatic.

On Tuesday, a respectably connected man, named John Griffiths, aged 31, was brought before Mr. Moses Ironmonger, sitting as magistrate at Petty Sessions at Bilston, charged with attempting to murder John Lewis, at Priestfield. The accused was very excited, and had his hands tied together at his back. Evidently Griffiths was not master of his actions.

Chief Superintendent McCrea remarked that he had brought up Griffiths merely to obtain a remand, and proposed to give only enough evidence to permit of compliance with the request. In the interval the prisoner’s mental state could be ascertained.

Policeman Wade, stationed at Ettingshall, deposed: This morning I was called to the prisoner at about a quarter-past two. I found him, with nothing on but his shirt, in the bed room of John Lewis, landlord of the GOLDEN FLEECE beerhouse, Ettingshall. I found John Lewis lying in a helpless state on the room floor, in a pool of blood. I took the prisoner into custody, charged with attempting to murder Lewis.....

[John Griffiths was remanded for a week.]

The prisoner is the son of parents, now dead, who owned the BRITANNIA INN, Temple Street, Bilston, and other house property there. For many years they kept that inn, and likewise a provision shop. As a boy he was subject to

fits. Growing into manhood he showed a liking for whisky, and often surreptitiously obtained it. Symptoms of lunacy then developed themselves, and he was placed as a pauper lunatic in Stafford Asylum, the cost being repaid to the Guardians by his sister, Mrs. *Riley*, wife of Mr. *Riley*, of the HEN AND CHICKENS, New Village. By-and-by he was removed from Stafford to Burntwood. Possessing, with Mrs. *Riley*, an interest in the property left by the parents in Temple Street, some gossips had hinted, with disagreeable plainness, that Griffiths was being kept in an asylum for motives originating in his right to share in the property; and Mrs. *Riley*, who has always been kind to him, sensitive of such allegations, applied to the surgeons at Burntwood that her brother might be released in her care, and he came out on the 16th April last. A few times previously during the three or four years he had been under restraint he had been temporarily released; but he had always got at the whisky, and had had to be sent back. Mr. Jennings, relieving officer for Bilston, therefore declined all responsibility touching his release on this occasion. Mrs. *Riley* could not have Griffiths at her home, for it was an old-licensed house, and the tempting spirit would be too near to him. Beer has no attractions for him; and as her friend Mrs. Lewis, wife of the landlord of the GOLDEN FLEECE, was ready to take him as a lodger, he was placed in her custody.....”

[Further on the attempted murder under GOLDEN FLEECE.]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 18/3/1879

“Thomas Parker (28), waggoner, was charged with being drunk and refusing to quit the HEN AND CHICKENS public house, Ettingshall, and also with assaulting Police-constable Golding, on Saturday night. For the first offence he was fined 10s 6d, or 14 days’ hard labour, and for the assault he was committed to hard labour for a month, without any alternative.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 22/7/1879

“Reuben Blunt (21), labourer, Heath Street, Heath Town, was brought up in custody charged with unlawfully wounding Jabez Harper, tap and die maker, of John Street, Ettingshall.

The parties were together with other men at the HEN AND CHICKENS public house, at Ettingshall, on Saturday night. Shortly before 11 o’clock a quarrel took place, and prosecutor and prisoner fought, and in the course of the fight it was alleged the prisoner drew a knife, and with it stabbed the prosecutor in the lower part of the jaw. The injured man was taken to the Hospital at Wolverhampton, and there attended to by Mr. Miller, assistant house surgeon, and the prisoner was arrested on a warrant.

The Bench committed the accused for trial, offering to accept his own bail in £50 and two sureties in £25. For being drunk and refusing to quit licensed premises the prisoner and also William Blunt, his brother, were each fined 10s and costs.”

AND

Birmingham Weekly Post 18/10/1879

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Reuben Blunt (21), labourer, was indicted for assaulting Jabez Harper, on the 19th July, at Bilston. Mr. Plumtre was for the prosecution.

Prisoner was found guilty of inflicting bodily harm, and sentenced to four months’ imprisonment with hard labour.”

1881 Census

New Village – HEN AND CHICKENS INN

[1] George Riley (47), licensed victualler, born Bilston;

[2] Phoebe Riley (46), wife, born Bilston;

[3] Elizabeth Riley (20), daughter, born Bilston;

[4] Emily Phillips (21), domestic servant, born New Village;

[5] Marrion Benton (19), domestic servant, born Wolverhampton:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 22/8/1885 - Advert

“For Sale, 1½in oak four-bag Mash Tub, with copper betwell and brass taps; sold to make way for larger. Also three 400 gallon Gathering Squares.

Apply, HEN AND CHICKENS, Priestfield.”

FOR Sale, 1½in. oak four-bag Mash Tub, with 1½in. copper betwell and brass taps; sold to make way for larger. Also three 400 gallon Gathering Squares. -Apply, Hen and Chickens, Priestfield.

Darlaston Weekly Times 21/8/1886

“Bilston Township Commissioners Streets and Sewers Committee.....

The following building plans have been passed.....

Mr. *George Riley*, for closet and stabling in George Street.”

1891 Census

George Street – HEN AND CHICKENS INN

[1] *George Riley* (57), licensed victualler, born Bilston;

[2] *Phoebe Riley* (56), wife, pawnbroker, born Bilston;

[3] *Hannah Hill* (25), barmaid, born Stafford;

[4] *Jane Warwick* (18), general servant, born West Bromwich:

Birmingham Daily Post 23/4/1900

“The body of an infant was found on Friday afternoon by two boys in a swag at Priestfield, near Wolverhampton. A piece of hurden had been tied round the neck and attached to a brick. The matter was reported to Police-constable Head, who communicated with Mr. Stokes, the county coroner, and an inquest was ordered to be held on Saturday, at the HEN AND CHICKENS INN, George Street, Ettingshall. After the coroner had viewed the body, that of a female child, he informed the jury that it was in so frightfully decomposed a condition that he was quite certain the jurymen could not gain any information by looking at it, and unless some information could be obtained from the inspection of a body there was no need for him to hold an inquest. He found that the head was severed from the body, and a great deal of flesh was off the scalp. The jury were then discharged, and Mr. Stokes afterwards informed Police-constable Head and Detective Kent, of Bilston, that in such a case as this, where a body had lain in a place for a long time, and become much decomposed, the matter was one for the magistrates to deal with, and, if necessary, order a post mortem examination to ascertain, if possible, if the child had had a separate existence, The offices stated that they would report the views of the coroner to Superintendent Walters.”

Birmingham Daily Post 24/4/1900

“A special meeting of the Bilston magistrates was held yesterday to consider the discovery of a female child in a swag at Priestfield, under circumstances already reported. On Saturday an inquest should have been held on the body, but the coroner, Mr. Stokes, stated that the remains were in such a decomposed condition that the jury could gain no information from a view of them, and it would not be necessary to hold an inquest unless the magistrates ordered a post mortem examination. Mr. Pratt, magistrates clerk, now stated that since the jury were called together a post mortem examination had been made, and the coroner would now be able to deal with the matter on the medical evidence which had been supplied to him. The Bench expressed the opinion the Mr. Stokes should continue the enquiry, and the case was left for the coroner to deal with. Yesterday afternoon Mr. Stokes held an inquest at the HEN AND CHICKENS INN, George Street, Ettingshall, on the body of the child. Dr. Kendrick gave the result of the post mortem examination, and an open verdict was returned.”

1901 Census

25, George Street – HEN AND CHICKENS Public House

[1] *Matthew Rhodes* (42), licensed victualler and brewer, born Coseley;

[2] *Elizabeth Rhodes* (43), wife, born Market Drayton, Shropshire;

[3] *Ernest Harold Rhodes* (18), son, brewer's clerk, born Coseley;

[4] *Stephen John Rhodes* (16), son, brewer's clerk, born Coseley;

[5] *Albert Bert Rhodes* (14), son, born Bilston;

[6] *George Leonard Rhodes* (13), son, born Bilston;

[7] *Maud Elsie Rhodes* (11), daughter, born Bilston;

[8] *Walter Sidney Rhodes* (9), son, born Bilston;

[9] *Victor Archibald Rhodes* (8), son, born Bilston;

[10] *Lily May Rhodes* (6), daughter, born Bilston;

[11] *Edwin Arthur Rhodes* (5), son, born Bilston;

[12] *Percy Hubert Rhodes* (4), son, born Bilston;

[13] *Mabel L. Rhodes* (3), daughter, born Bilston;

[14] *Eliza Parkes* (36), sister, born Coseley;

[15] *Eliza Morrell* (17), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Edinburgh Evening News 10/1/1903

“Bankruptcy Proceedings Receiving Orders from last night’s London Gazette.....

Matthew Rhodes, brewer and licensed victualler, HEN AND CHICKENS INN, George Street, Priestfield, Bilston, county of Stafford.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/1/1903 - Advert

“Thursday Next, January 22.

Sale of Valuable Freehold Full-Licensed Premises, known as the HEN AND CHICKENS INN, occupying a most important position at the corner of Victoria Street and George Street, Ettingshall, in the Parish of Bilston, now in the occupation of Mr. *Matthew Rhodes*; together with Excellent Modern Brewing Plant.

Messrs. John Male & Son have received instructions to submit for Sale by Auction, on the above date, at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Bilston, at 7.30 in the evening, subject to Conditions of Sale embodying those of the Wolverhampton Law Society.

All that Freehold Full-Licensed House, known as the HEN AND CHICKENS INN, George Street, Ettingshall, comprising large Vaults, with Out-door Department in George Street, Smoke Room, large Sitting Room, Kitchen, four Bed Rooms, Bath Room, extensive Cellaring, with roll way from Victoria Street. The Outbuildings comprise large Brewery, with Brewing Plant complete; Scullery, two-stall Stable, Loft, and Cow Shed. The Yards are well paved with blue bricks, with gateway entrance from Victoria Street. At the rear there is a large piece of Garden Land, with a good wall round same. The Brewing Plant consists of large Copper Boiler, Taps, and Connections complete; Malt Hopper, large Cooler and Collecting Vessel. The whole is quite modern and in perfect working order.

NB. The Auctioneers wish to call the attention of Brewers and others to the fact that the house is well built, very compact, situated in a thickly-populated district close to large works, and capable of doing a very extensive and respectable trade. Possession can be had on completion.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 31/1/1903

“A Speculator’s Failure. A petition in bankruptcy has been filed against *Matthew Rhodes*, of the HEN AND CHICKENS INN, George Street, Priestfield. His debts are estimated at £9,490, and, after allowing for secured creditors, £1,781 will rank for dividend. It appeared that he had purchased a number of licensed houses at Bilston, Wednesbury, and other places, and borrowed money on mortgage. He had expended large sums on altering several of the houses, and owed over £8,000 on mortgages.”

Matthew Rhodes – see also ORANGE TREE, VINE, John Street, and BULL AND MOUTH.

Ernest Harold Rhodes – see ORANGE TREE and GATE.

1911 Census

George Street – HEN AND CHICKENS

- [1] *Benjamin Oldfield* (34), licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *Mabel Oldfield* (39), wife, married 9 years, born Dorchester, Dorset;
- [3] *Wilfred B. Oldfield* (4), son, born Bilston;
- [4] *Charlotte New* (16), servant, born Ettingshall:

Benjamin Oldfield – see also OLD BOARS HEAD and BLANKMAKERS ARMS.

1921 Census

25, George Street

- [1] *Henry H. Nuttall* (47), licensed victualler, born Dudley Port;
- [2] *Mina Nuttall* (48), wife, licensee’s assistant, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *Tom Nuttall* (19), son, plumber, born Bilston;
- [4] *Ada Nuttall* (16), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] *John Hodgkiss* (12), adopted son, school, born Wolverhampton;
- [6] *Mary West* (22), general servant, born Enniskillen, Ireland:

Henry Herbert Nuttall – see also BIRD IN HAND, High Street, DOG AND PARTRIDGE, Broad Street, SEVEN STARS, High Street, and UNION MILL, Manor Road.

Harry Millington was granted a music license on 3rd February 1928.

Harry Millington – see also NEW BULLS HEAD, Wellington Road, Bilston; GLADSTONE, North Street, Wolverhampton; and SEVEN STARS, High Street, Bilston.

1939 Register

25, George Street – HEN AND CHICKENS

[1] Martha Millington, date of birth 27/1/1871, licensed victualler, widowed:

A team from here took part in the Butlers (Bilston) Darts League. [1946]

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

Closed

Demolished

THURSDAY NEXT, JANUARY 22

SALE OF VALUABLE FREEHOLD FULL-LICENSED PREMISES,

Known as the
"HEN AND CHICKENS INN."

Occupying a most important position at the corner of
VICTORIA STREET & GEORGE STREET, ETTINGSHALL,
in the Parish of Bilston, now in the occupation of Mr.
Matthew Rhodes; together with
EXCELLENT MODERN BREWING PLANT.

MESSRS. JOHN MALE & SON have received instructions to submit for Sale by Auction, on the above date, at the Great Western Hotel, Bilston, at 7.30 in the evening, subject to Conditions of Sale embodying those of the Wolverhampton Law Society—that **FREEHOLD FULL-LICENSED** **PUBLIC**, known as the "HEN AND CHICKENS INN," George Street, Ettingshall, comprising large Vauxhall, with Out-door Department in George Street, Smoke Room, large Sitting Room, Kitchen, four Bed Rooms, Bath Room, extensive Cellaring, with roof way from Victoria Street. The Outbuildings comprise large **BREWERY**, with Brewing Plant complete; stables, two-horse stable, Engine Room, Loft, large Floor Shed and Cow Shed. The Yards are well paved with blue bricks, with gateway entrance from Victoria Street. At the rear there is a large piece of Garden Land, with a good brick wall round same.

The Brewing Plant consists of large Copper Boiler, Taps, and Connections complete; Malt Hopper, large Cooler and Collecting Vessel. The whole is quite modern and in perfect working order. **N.B.**—The Auctioneers wish to call the attention of Brewers and others to the fact that the house is well built, very compact, situated in a thickly-populated district close to large works, and capable of doing a very extensive and respectable trade. Possession can be had on completion. For further particulars, apply to Messrs. Hall, Pratt, and Pritchard, Solicitors (Tele. No. 36), or to the Auctioneers, Oxford Street, both of Bilston.

HEN AND CHICKENS

16, (60+61), Green Croft, BILSTON

OWNERS

Thomas White, Derby
William Briggs, publican, 2, Ames Alley, Derby
John Paget, maltster, Castle Donington
Mrs. Paget, Derby
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

LICENSEES

Thomas Winsper [1861]
Mary Winsper [1865] – **1895**;
Stephen Winsper **(1895 – 1899)**;
Charles Francis Pitt **(1899 – 1900)**;
Mary Ann Pitt **(1900)**;
John Harris **(1900 – 1910)**;
Thomas Talbot **(1910 – 1913)**;
Jabez Flavell **(1913)**;
Frederick William Martin **(1913 – 1914)**;
Elizabeth Baldwin **(1914 – 1922)**;

NOTES

60, Green Croft [1861], [1862], [1865], [1871], [1881], [1896]
60+61, Green Croft [1891]
16, Greencroft [1901], [1904], [1911], [1921]

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Thomas Winsper = Thomas Windsper

1861 Census

60, Green Croft – HEN AND CHICKENS Public House and Grocers Shop
[1] *Thomas Winsper* (53), publican and grocer, born Bilston;
[2] *Mary Winsper* (50), wife, born Bilston;
[3] *Agnes Winsper* (22), daughter, servant, born Bilston;
[4] *Thomas Winsper* (18), son, engine fitter, born Bilston;
[5] *Job Winsper* (16), son, engine fitter, born Bilston;
[6] *Alice Winsper* (14), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
[7] *Hannah Winsper* (10), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
[8] *Stephen Winsper* (8), son, scholar, born Bilston:

Thomas Windsper, retailer of beer, 60, Green Croft. [1862]

Staffordshire Advertiser 26/9/1863 - Deaths

“On the 18th inst, at Bilston, Mr. *Thomas Winsper*, aged 56.”

Mary Winsper, beer retailer and provision dealer, 60, Greencroft. [1865]

1871 Census

60, Greencroft

[1] Mary Winsper (60), widow, publican, born Bilston;

[2] Hannah Winsper (20), daughter, born Bilston;

[3] Stephen Winsper (18), son, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 31/8/1878

“Bilston Annual Licensing Sessions.....

The following is the list of licensed victuallers and beerhouse keepers who had been summoned during the year for offences against the Licensing Act Beerhouse keepers.....

Mary Winsper, HEN AND CHICKENS, Greencroft, Bilston, permitting drunkenness, 14th June, 1878, paid costs.”
AND

Wolverhampton Express and Star 21/9/1878

“The Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

The persons who had been convicted during the last twelve months for offences against their licenses, the renewals of which were withheld until today, now appeared before the Bench, and there being no further complaint as to the conduct of their houses in the interval the magistrates granted the renewals.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 14/1/1879

“The Free Breakfasts to Children at Bilston.

The free breakfast movement is now well developed and in full activity. Upwards of 2,200 breakfasts each week are given to ticket-holders, and practically a larger number are given after the ticket-holders have been satisfied to sundry hungry children who come unprovided with tickets.....

Collection of funds is of course an important point. Here also help has been volunteered Quite unsolicited and unexpectedly, a sum of 14s 1½d has come from a box put up by Mr. Winsper at the beerhouse, the HEN AND CHICKENS, in Greencroft.”

1881 Census

60, Green Croft – HEN AND CHICKENS

[1] Mary Winsper (70), widow, publican, born Bilston;

[2] Stephen Winsper (27), son, beer brewer, born Bilston;

[3] Jane Dudley (18), domestic servant, born Bilston;

[4] George S. Pitt (10), grand-son, scholar, born Bilston:

Darlaston Weekly Times 24/3/1883

“A number of the furnace hands employed under Mr. John Matthews, foreman at Mr. Alfred Hickman’s Spring Vale Works, were entertained at supper on Tuesday evening, by Mr. Matthews, in celebration of the finishing of structural alterations to the furnaces. The ‘spread’ took place at the HEN AND CHICKENS, Greencroft, where a capital old English repast was placed on the table by the hostess, Mrs. Winsper. After good justice had been done to the viands provided, the health of the firm was enthusiastically drunk, Messrs. George Pitt (manager), E. Satterthwaite, and J. Matthews speaking highly in praise of the association existing between the employer and the employed. The remainder of the evening was then devoted to music and song. A pleasant evening was spent.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 1/3/1884

“A club supper was held on Wednesday evening, at the house of Mrs. Winsper, the HEN AND CHICKENS, Greencroft, Bilston, in connection with the money club held there. A usually good supply was placed on the tables, and done ample justice to. After the cloth was drawn, the evening was devoted to social harmony, a pleasant time having been spent when ‘Bruce’s time’ came.”

1891 Census

60+61, Green Croft

- [1] Mary Winsper (80), widow, grocer and beer seller, born Bilston;
- [2] Stephen Winsper (38), son, brewer, born Bilston;
- [3] Jane Felton (20), barmaid, born Bilston;
- [4] Mary J. Powel (13), niece, scholar, born Blakenall:

Birmingham Post 12/12/1893

“His Honour Judge Griffith had before him at the Wolverhampton County Court, yesterday, an action in which Ellen Wright, a widow, of Queen Street, Bilston, sought to recover £5 from *Stephen Winsper*, of the HEN AND CHICKENS INN, Greencroft, Bilston, which, it was alleged, was due on the death of her husband. Mr. Taylor was for the plaintiff; and Mr. Pratt for the defendant.

It appeared that the defendant kept an unregistered death club, in which the husband of the complainant had been insured, but the agreement was only a verbal one. The defendant was secretary, and his mother the treasurer.

The plaintiff was non-suited, and Mr. Pratt said that there was a bona fide defence as to the arrears of subscription.”

Mary Winsper died in the 1st quarter of 1895.

Stephen Winsper, grocer and beer retailer, 60, Green Croft. [1896]

1901 Census

16, Greencroft

- [1] John Harris (50), publican, born Bilston;
- [2] Betsy Harris (49), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] George Maddox (24), son-in-law, general labourer, born Bilston;
- [4] Sarah A. Maddox (26), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] George S. Maddox (4 months), grand-son, born Bilston;
- [6] Katie Harris (4), grand-daughter, born Bilston:

John Harris, shopkeeper and beer retailer, 16, Greencroft. [1904]

1911 Census

16, Greencroft – HEN AND CHICKENS

- [1] Thomas Talbot (58), widower, publican, born Wyrley, Staffordshire;
- [2] Mary Wheatley (26), general servant, born Wednesbury:

1921 Census

16, Greencroft

- [1] James Baldwin (65), house painter, born West Bromwich;
- [2] Elizabeth Baldwin (65), wife, publican, born Newport, Monmouthshire;
- [3] George A. Baldwin (40), son, married, engineer's labourer, born West Bromwich;
- [4] Elizabeth M. Baldwin (10), grand-daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] William M. Parry (26), boarder, mechanical engineer, out of work, born Wolverhampton:

The license renewal was refused by the Compensation Authority on 20th July 1922.

South Staffordshire Times 27/7/1922

“The principal meeting of the County Licensing Committee was held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, on Thursday morning.....

No opposition was offered to the closure of the HEN AND CHICKENS, Greencroft, Bilston (licensee *Elizabeth Baldwin*), and the license was refused on the ground of redundancy.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/8/1922

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

Notice as to sending in Claims to be treated as Persons Interested in Licensed Premises.

Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Compensation Authority for the above area, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on 20th day of July, 1922, to Refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below.....

HEN AND CHICKENS, Greencroft, Bilston. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *Elizabeth Baldwin*. Registered owners, Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 14/10/1922

“A Supplementary Meeting of the Staffordshire Compensation Authority under the Licensing Act, 1910, was held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, on Tuesday. The Committee approved the following awards of compensation.....

HEN AND CHICKENS, Greencroft, Bilston, beerhouse, ante 1869, £1,300.”

Compensation of £1,300 was paid on 23rd December 1922.

Closed

HIMLEY ARMS

16, (91), (136), (96), (52), Dudley Street (North), (Temple Street), BILSTON

OWNERS

John Bishop, draper, Bilston
Sarah Bishop, widow, Bilston
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1882], [1946]

LICENSEES

Thomas Tomes [1854]
John Thomas Dean [] - **1856**;
Thomas Tomes **(1856 - [1861])**
Benjamin Banks [1860] - [1861]
Samuel Perry [1862] - **1873**;
Alexander Paul **(1873 - 1875)**;
Edward Allen **(1875 - 1877)**;
Elizabeth Baker **(1877 - 1880)**;
Daniel Rose **(1880 - 1881)**;
Edmund Darby **(1881 - 1882)**;
George Thomas Lawley **(1882)**;
Benjamin Moore **(1882 - 1891)**;
Thomas Salt **(1891 - 1893)**;
John Silvester **(1893 - 1897)**;
Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Silvester **(1897 - 1921)**;
Alfred Silvester **(1921 - 1935)**;
Arthur John Edwards **(1935 - [1940])**
James Hale **(1959)**

BILSTON
HOMEING **P**IGEON **S**OCIETY.
The above SOCIETY will hold its first meeting
on SATURDAY EVENING next at 8 o'clock. Any-
one desirous of becoming a Member may do so on
application to the Secretary, who will be pleased
to give any information.—Benjamin Moore.
Himley Arms, Sec. pro. tem,
Dudley Street, Bilston.

1885

NOTES

Temple Street [1860]
52, Dudley Street [1861], [1864], [1865], [1868], [1870]
96, Dudley Street [1871], [1872]
136, Dudley Street [1874]
91, Dudley Street [1881], [1891], [1892], [1896]
16, Dudley Street [1901], [1904], [1908], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1932], [1939], [1940]

HIMBERLEY ARMS [1861]

Staffordshire Advertiser 24/1/1852

“An inquest was held on Wednesday morning, at the HIMLEY ARMS, Dudley Street, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, on the body of Elijah Hughes, a miner, aged 28. It appeared that the deceased was ‘doggy’ at a pit at Mobb’s Bank colliery, belonging to P. Williams, Esq, and on the morning of the 19th instant was pushing an empty skip near the pit mouth; the poor fellow not being aware the pit was uncovered, pushed it too near, and it fell down the shaft, dragging the unfortunate man with it. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Thomas Tomes = *Thomas Tome* = *Thomas Tombs*

Wolverhampton Chronicle 8/12/1858

“Ann Burke, described as a prostitute, was charged with uttering base coin, in the month of September last. Evidence was given to show that on a certain evening, in September last, she had passed a bad crown piece at Mr. Bache’s liquor shop, in High Street, Bilston, and another at the HIMLEY ARMS, kept by Mr. *Tombs*; she also on the same night offered another at Mr. Peck’s liquor shop in Oxford Street. She had absconded immediately afterwards, and was only recently arrested in Wolverhampton, where she was living, somewhere in the neighbourhood of the notorious ‘Cat-yard.’ She was remanded for a week to give time to communicate with the authorities at the Mint.

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/1/1859

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Ann Burke, alias Durkin, 21, no occupation, was indicted for uttering two counterfeit crown pieces, at Bilston, well knowing the same to be false and counterfeit. On the 22nd of September last the prisoner, late in the evening, went to *Tome*’s liquor vaults, in High Street, Bilston, and called for a glass of porter, in payment for which she tendered a crown piece. The coin was taken, and was put by the daughter of the landlady into the till. On counting, the same evening, the money in the till, the landlady discovered that this crown piece was counterfeit, and having marked it, she gave it to the police. It was afterwards discovered that the same evening the prisoner went to Peck’s liquor vaults, in Oxford Street, and called for a glass of ale, for which she tendered another counterfeit crown piece. On being told that it was counterfeit she said that it had been given to her by a gentleman, and that she did not know it was counterfeit. She paid for the ale with three half-pence, and then went to Bache’s spirit vaults, and there offered another counterfeit crown piece in payment for some drink, repeating, on being told it was counterfeit, the same story that she had, told at Peck’s. Information was given to the police, but as the prisoner had been allowed to leave, she made her escape, and was not apprehended until the 1st of December.

Mr. S. Hill, who appeared for the prisoner, submitted to the Jury, as the defence, that these counterfeit crown pieces had, as she stated, been really given her by a scoundrel who had been wicked enough to take advantage of the unhappy calling which the unfortunate woman followed, and contended that considering the facilities which unprincipled men had for passing off bad money under such circumstances, nothing could be more likely to be true than the story told by the prisoner.

The Jury found the prisoner guilty. The learned Chairman, in sentencing her to twelve months’ hard labour, reminded that two and a half years previously she had been convicted of stealing money.”

Birmingham Journal 7/5/1859 - Married

“On the 30th ult, at St. Mary’s, Bilston (by the Rev C. Lee), Mr. Noah Halford, butcher of Bradley, near Bilston, to Harriet, eldest daughter of Mr. *Thomas Tomes*, victualler, of Dudley Street, Bilston.”

[Noah Halford – see BLACK HORSE, High Street, and GREAT WESTERN, Ash Street.

Following Harriet’s death, Noah Halford married Martha Tomes.]

Birmingham Daily Post 7/10/1859 - Married

“On the 29th ult, at St. Leonard’s (by the Rev. H. S. Fletcher), George, eldest son of Mr. *Thomas Tomes*, of Dudley Street, to Eliza Maria, eldest daughter of Mr. Obadiah Batte, Oxford Street, both of Bilston.”

1861 Census

52, Dudley Street

[1] *Thomas Tomes* (48), farmer of 53 acres, employing 2 labourers, and victualler, born Bilston;

[2] Jane Tomes (46), wife, born Bilston;

[3] Sarah A. Tomes (16), daughter, born Bilston;

[4] Martha Tomes (14), daughter, born Bilston;

[5] Joseph Tomes (10), son, born Bilston;

[6] Jane Tomes (8), daughter, born Bilston;

[7] Lucy Bretton (17), servant, born Barkers Green, Shropshire:

Thomas Tomes – see also BRITISH QUEEN, Dudley Road, Wolverhampton.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/1/1863

“Yesterday at the HIMLEY ARMS, Bilston, a coroner’s inquiry touching the death of John Richards, aged 43, once a sailor, but at the time of his decease a miner, working at Highfield, was resumed. He cohabited with a woman named Riley, who had absconded, and who is believed to have a husband working in America. They lived at Hallfields, at the house of a widow named Rose, to whom they represented themselves as man and wife; and who described Riley as ‘an awful woman to get drunk.’

On the evening of Sunday the 18th inst, she went out, and after spending some time with a young man, purchased two quarts of ale, and returned home with him. She then commenced kissing him in the presence of the deceased, whom she frequently kicked and then attempted to strangle. On deceased’s brother, who had just called at the house, attempting to take him away, the woman took up a table knife and attempted, though unsuccessfully, to cut the brother’s throat.

On the following Tuesday the deceased and his paramour went out together, and at night they returned home drunk. They then commenced a quarrel, which terminated, according to a statement made by deceased before he died, in the woman dealing him a terrible blow on the head with the edge of a flat-iron. Mrs. Rose was in bed at the time, and could only speak to sounds and oaths. Immediately after the blow was struck, Riley ran up into her bed room and hid herself under the bed. Deceased followed, and not finding her came into Mrs. Rose’s room with the blood streaming from his head. He at first threatened to burn all that belonged to Riley, but, saying it was not right to create a disturbance in other persons’ houses, quietly left the place, and passed the night in the hovel of the pit where he worked. He subsequently went to the house of a married sister, where he was attended by Mr. Gilbert, surgeon, and died of his injuries on Wednesday, the 21st inst.

The evidence of the surgeon was to the effect that he was called in to the deceased on the Monday preceding his death, and found him in a very low and feverish condition. He learned that he had been much addicted to drinking, and was then suffering from its effects, and was unable to retain any food on his stomach. He prescribed for him, and left him, no mention having been made of any injury upon the head. He heard of that on the following evening, and went and examined the man’s head, when he found an ensanguined scab on the top of his head, but there was no inflammation about it, and the injury was of a character which required no special treatment. By direction of the Coroner he made a post mortem examination of the body, which he found much emaciated, the eyes being deeply sunken. On the right side of the head, near the vertex, was a small lacerated wound, which was dry, and nearly healed up. The wound had penetrated the scalp, but had not invaded the brain or pericranium. The brain and its membranes appeared quite healthy. With the exception of some signs of congestion in the lungs, some portions of the stomach, and the cortical substance of the kidneys, the other viscera were free from morbid appearances. Judging from these appearances, and the result of his inquiries into the habits of the deceased, he concluded that he had died from exhaustion consequent upon his excesses. He was certain that the wound on his head had neither caused nor accelerated his death.

In answer to the jury, he would not say how far the loss of blood resulting from the wound might have affected his life, as he did not know how much blood he had lost. It would hardly be a great quantity, there being no large blood vessels in the neighbourhood of the wound, and deceased having walked to several places at various times during the night, after receiving the wound.

Samuel Richards, brother of deceased, was called and questioned as to the habits of his brother, and acknowledged, with evident reluctance, that he was much given to drinking, and that Riley was, if anything, more depraved in that respect. As soon as he got his money on a Saturday night, they would both go drinking, and continue doing so until the money was exhausted.

The woman Riley, who surrendered herself to the police on Saturday morning, was then called in, and the evidence having been read over to her, she made a very lengthy statement, wherein she sought to exculpate herself from all blame, and representing the deceased as a most determined and reckless drunkard. Stating that he had not been sober since the Saturday night preceding their last quarrel, she commenced her history by telling how on the Monday morning she pawned his jacket at Bilston, the events being a detail of visits paid from public house to public house until their return home on Tuesday night. There they quarrelled. He called her vile names, seized her by the hair of the head, which he twisted under his arm, and swore he would cut her heart out. She put her hand behind her, and took from the table a ‘pop’ bottle, and struck him on the head with it. He then loosed his hold, and she ran away, fearing he would take her life.

The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical testimony.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/1/1865 - Advert

“Wanted, a strong active Youth, age from 18 to 19 years. One who has been accustomed to assist in Brewing preferred; and to make himself generally useful.

Apply, personally, to the HIMLEY ARMS, Dudley Street, Bilston.”

1871 Census

96, Dudley Street

[1] Samuel Perry (71), licensed victualler, born Bilston;

[2] Fanny Perry (61), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Sophia Howes (20), barmaid, born Bilston;

[4] Mary Clark (17), domestic servant, born Bilston:

WANTED, a strong, active YOUTH, age from 18 to 19 years. One who has been accustomed to assist in Brewing preferred; and to make himself generally useful. — Apply, personally, to the Himley Arms, Dudley Street, Bilston.

Alexander Paul – see also FOX, Ash Street.

London Gazette 6/3/1877

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

In the Matter of Proceedings for Liquidation by Arrangement or Composition with Creditors, instituted by *Edward Allen*, of the HIMLEY ARMS, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler and Engine Tender.

Notice is hereby given that a First General Meeting of the creditors of the above-named person has been summoned to be held at my offices, No.34, Lichfield-street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, on the 19th day of March, 1877, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 1st day of March, 1877.

John William Hall, 34, Lichfield-street, Bilston, Solicitor for the said *Edward Allen*.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 16/3/1877

“John Adamson, jun., summoned *Edward Allen*, landlord of the HIMLEY ARMS, Dudley Street, Bilston, for assaulting him, and *Allen* summoned Adamson and his brother Charles, who were charged with being disorderly in *Allen*’s house. On the 7th inst, the Adamsons went to the HIMLEY ARMS, and, after some words had passed, *Allen* struck John in the face. The young men remained on the premises for some time afterwards, and behaved in a disorderly manner, refusing to leave when requested. *Allen* was fined 10s and costs, and the other two were fined 5s and costs each.

The father of the youths, an eccentric individual, known as ‘Jack the Barber,’ who had been very noisily during the hearing, afterwards wished to address the Bench, and on being told he could not do so as the case had been decided, he excited some merriment by declaring that he should ‘make an appeal.’ He continued to be very violent, and eventually had to be forcibly ejected from the court by Police-constable Wiley.”

1881 Census

91, Dudley Street – HIMLEY ARMS INN

[1] Edmund Darby (31), publican, born Wheaton Aston, Staffordshire;

[2] Mary A. Darby (35), wife, born Sawley, Yorkshire;

[3] Alice Darby (26), sister, domestic servant, born Albrighton:

Darlaston Weekly Times 25/11/1882

“Abraham Baker, Bridge Street, was charged with creating a disturbance in Dudley Street, on Saturday night. Police-constable Brindley stated that he was sent for by the landlord of the HIMLEY ARMS, Dudley Street, and upon requesting him to leave, defendant declined to go, created a disturbance, and had to be locked up. Fined 2s 6d and costs, or seven days.

William Bryan, of Bridge Street, was charged with a similar offence to the foregoing. He was the companion of the last defendant, and created a disturbance when asked to leave the house. Defendant stated that he was excited because the landlord accused him of stealing a bagatelle ball, which had been put into another man’s pocket. Police-constable Myatt corroborated. Fined 5s and costs.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 6/12/1884

“The usual meeting of the Bilston Night Watch was held on Wednesday evening, at the HIMLEY ARMS, Dudley Street, when a goodly company partook of supper, well catered by the host. The watchmens’ reports were received, and their duties had been duly fulfilled during the past month, having found thirty-three buildings insecure.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 7/2/1885 - Advert

“Bilston Homeing Pigeon Society.

The above Society will hold its first meeting on Saturday Evening next at 8 o’clock. Anyone desirous of becoming a Member may do so on application to the Secretary, who will be pleased to give any information.

Benjamin Moore, HIMLEY ARMS, Sec. pro tem, Dudley Street, Bilston.”

1891 Census

91, Dudley Street – HIMLEY ARMS

- [1] *Benjamin Moore* (55), married, licensed victualler, manager, born Bilston;
- [2] *Benjamin N. Moore* (18), son, letter carrier, born Bilston;
- [3] *Sarah A. Smart* (28), niece, general servant, born Portobello;
- [4] *Ann Hadley* (24), general servant, born Daisy Bank:

1897 Probate

“*John Silvester* of Dudley Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, licensed victualler, died 14 December 1896. Probate Lichfield 10 April to *Mary Elizabeth Silvester*, widow, James Silvester, haulier, and James Colbourne, ironworker. Effects £115.”

1901 Census

16, Dudley Street – HIMLEY ARMS INN

- [1] *Mary Elizabeth Silvester* (49), widow, licensed victualler, born Bradley;
- [2] *John Silvester* (17), son, tool turner, born Bilston;
- [3] *Alfred Silvester* (14), son, born Bilston;
- [4] *Mary Elizabeth Silvester* (12), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] *Fanny Beatrice Silvester* (14), niece, born Bradley;
- [6] *Mary Price* (30), domestic servant, born Bilston:

1911 Census

16, Dudley Street – HIMLEY ARMS

- [1] *Mary Elizabeth Silvester* (59), widow, publican, born Bradley;
- [2] *Alfred Silvester* (24), son, pattern maker, bridge and girder works, born Bilston;
- [3] *Elizabeth Ashfield* (36), widow, domestic servant, born Bilston;
- [4] *Eliza Higgins* (17), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Alfred Silvester married *Jemima Gethings* in the 2nd quarter of 1911.

1921 Census

16, Dudley Street

- [1] *Alfred Silvester* (35), licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *Jemima Silvester* (36), wife, home duties, born Bradley;
- [3] *Hilda May Silvester* (8), daughter, school, born Bradley;
- [4] *Eric Geoffrey Silvester* (4), son, born Bilston;
- [5] *Mary Elizabeth Silvester* (69), mother, home duties, born Staffordshire;
- [6] *Annie Gethings* (38), sister-in-law, home duties, born Bradley:

1939 Register

16, Dudley Street (2 of 4)

- [1] *Arthur J. Edwards*, date of birth 19/11/1896, licensed victualler, married;
- [2] *Ethel Edwards*, dob 27/8/1898, unpaid domestic duties, married;

A team from here took part in the Butlers (Bilston) Darts League. [1946]

A team from here took part in the Bilston Crib League, Section B. [1946]

James Hale was born in Coseley.

He married Elizabeth Statham.

He died in 1959.

Closed

It was demolished circa 1966.

The site is now occupied by the market car park.

HOO ARMS

Hoo Lane, Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Mrs. Fanny Clarke [1845]

NOTES

Check Tipton.

HOPE AND ANCHOR

12, (60), Bank Street, (60, Bilston Street), Hallfields, Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

Henry Harris, puddler, America
Isaac Harris
Keziah Harris
Richard Andrew Harper, brewer, Bilston [1918]

LICENSEES

John Harris [1851] – [1861]
Elizabeth Hooper [1873] – **1874**;
Isaac Harris **(1874 – 1895)**;
Keziah Harris **(1895 – 1896)**;
Adam Bailey **(1896 – 1912)**;
James Paul Pickin **(1912 – 1918)**;

NOTES

60, Bilston Street [1861], [1881], [1891]
60, Bank Street [1901]
12, Bank Street [1911], [1912]

It had a beerhouse license.

1851 Census

Hallfields
[1] *John Harris* (50), retail brewer, born Clay Mills, Staffordshire;
[2] *Mary Harris* (46), wife, born Stourbridge;
[3] *Thomas Harris* (28), son, puddler, born Bilston;
[4] *Sarah Harris* (18), daughter, house servant, born Bilston;
[5] *Joseph Harris* (16), son, puddler, born Bilston;
[6] *Henry Harris* (14), son, iron works labourer, born Bilston;
[7] *Mary Harris* (11), daughter, born Bilston;
[8] *Isaac Harris* (8), son, born Bilston:

1861 Census

60, Bilston Street – Beer Shop
[1] *John Harris* (60), beer shop keeper, born Clay Mills, Staffordshire;
[2] *Mary Harris* (56), wife, born Brettel Lane;
[3] *Henry Harris* (23), son, puddler in iron works, born Bilston;
[4] *Isaac Harris* (17), son, butcher, born Bilston;
[5] *Sarah Roberts* (14), general servant, born Dudley Port:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/1/1880

“The first anniversary of Fruitful Vine Lodge, No.1390, of the National United Order of the Free Gardeners, Bilston district, was celebrated on Saturday last at their lodge house, the HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Hallfields, Bradley, the room being tastefully decorated for the occasion. About 40 sat down to dinner, and afterwards the chair was taken by Bro. Benjamin Baldwin, and the vice-chair by Bro. Henry Cole. The secretary, Bro. John Yorke, read the report, which was considered very favourable, and after a few remarks was confirmed. The Chairman, in proposing the toast of the ‘National United Order of Free Gardeners,’ spoke of the progress the lodge had made, and Bro. John Brooks, who gave the toast of the ‘Fruitful Vine,’ made similar remarks. Other toasts were honoured.”

1881 Census

60, Bilston Street – HOPE AND ANCHOR

[1] *Isaac Harris* (36), beer retailer, born Bilston;

[2] *Kezia Harris* (33), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Polly Harris* (8), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[4] *Rebecca Jones* (16), general servant, born Bilston:

Evening Express 27/4/1881

“The members of the Fruitful Vine Lodge of the National United Order of Free Gardeners sat down to an excellent dinner provided by the host, Bro. *Harris*, at their lodge house, the HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Hallfields, a night or two ago.

Bro. John Brookes occupied the chair, and Bro. George Fersey, district secretary, the vice chair.....”

Evening Express 2/9/1881

“Thomas Kempson, Old Fields, Bradley, was fined 5s and costs for refusing to quit the HOPE AND ANCHOR beerhouse, Bilston Street, Bradley, on Saturday night last.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 24/3/1883

“Noah Davies, miner, of The Lunt, was charged with using threats and obscene language to Mr. *Isaac Harris*, landlord of the HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Bradley, on the 4th instant.

Mr. Fellows prosecuted, and stated that on the night in question, complainant was standing near his door, when the defendant came and challenged him to a pigeon flying match. Complainant said he had given up that pursuit, and defendant then commenced to swear, and threatened the complainant, who, on declining to have anything to do with him, was followed to Bankfields, where defendant threatened to jump on him and knock his head off, concluding by telling him that when he came to Bilston, he would not get off so lightly. Several witnesses bore out this statement; but for the defence, a man named Clews asserted that *Harris* was the aggressor.

The Bench bound the defendant over, but on his character being shown up, including 20 offences, ordered him to pay 37s and also to be bound over in £5 to keep the peace for six months.

Davies confidentially informed the Bench, as he left the Court, that it was all a ‘big pack of lies.’”

Dudley and District News 26/1/1884

“The half-yearly meeting of the Bilston, Walsall, and Cannock District of the National United Order of Free Gardeners was held at the house of Bro. J. [sic] *Harris*, HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Hallfields, Bradley, near Bilston, on the 14th inst, when 70 delegates were present. The auditor’s report showed that during the half-year £183 15s 2d had been received on account of the funeral fund, and the expenditure of £190. The balance for the benevolent fund was £46 6s 7d. The general statement of accounts showed a good balance in hand. Grants of various amounts were made amounting to £14 from the benevolent fund to five members who were in adverse circumstances owing to sickness and accidents. It was resolved to appeal to the forthcoming general meeting of the Order to establish a superannuation fund, to provide a weekly allowance to members after attaining a certain age.....”

1891 Census

60, Bilston Street – HOPE AND ANCHOR

- [1] *Isaac Harris* (46), beer seller, born Bilston;
- [2] *Kezia Harris* (43), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Jenny Harris* (24), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] *Polly Harris* (18), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] *Kezia Brereton Buxton* (4), grand-daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] *Zackariah Buxton* (3), grand-son, born Wednesfield;
- [7] *Isaac Buxton* (1), grand-son, born Portobello:

Isaac Harris died on 19th August 1895.

1901 Census

60, Bank Street

- [1] *Adam Bailey* (51), publican, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] *Mary Bailey* (51), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *Alice Olive Williams* (17), domestic servant, born Bradley:

Birmingham Mail 5/3/1909

“Mr. Stokes (County Coroner) held an enquiry at the HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Bradley, yesterday, into the circumstances attending the death of Samuel Bettelley (29), a furnaceman, of Slater Street, Bradley. Bettelley was employed at the Britain Ironworks, Bradley, belonging to Messrs. Greenaway Brothers.

Sarah Ann Bettelley, the mother of the deceased, said her son returned home from the works on February 23, and complained that he had received a blow in the chest from a spanner. On Wednesday morning he went to Dr. Maitland. Her son died at four o'clock last Monday afternoon, and Dr. Maitland gave her a certificate of death.

Sarah Ann Smith, sister of deceased, said her brother called at her house last Friday. He showed her a bruise on the right side of his chest. Subsequently he became delirious.

The Coroner: Dr. Maitland gave a certificate of death which you took to Mr. Colley, the registrar? – Yes.

Did the certificate say that the cause of death was alcoholic poisoning, delirium tremens, and the secondary cause, cardiac failure? – Yes.

Was your brother given to drink? – I never saw him drunk in my life.

The next witness, William Rowley, a roller, employed at the Britain Ironworks, spoke to hearing Bettelley say, ‘I feel a bit low. I think I have twisted myself with that spanner.’ In answer to questions the witness said Bettelley was a strong man, and never ailed. He liked a pint of beer.

Dr. Maitland, who was called, stated that Bettelley first came to see him on the Wednesday, and complained of his stomach, and that he was out of sorts. Witness felt his pulse, took his temperature, looked at his tongue, and gave him a bottle of medicine. Early last Saturday morning Bettelley’s brother called, and said his brother was ‘struggling and saying things.’ Later in the day he went to Bettelley’s house. Bettelley had all the symptoms of delirium tremens but he did not complain of pain, there was no cough, and he had a normal temperature. The pulse was feeble, and the heart was becoming weak. On the Monday morning the end seemed near. In answer to the coroner, the doctor said no mention was made to him of a blow until the Monday night. He gave the certificate as stated.

Dr. David Christie, practicing at Bradley, stated that he, in company with Dr. Clendinnen, made a post mortem examination of the body of the deceased, which was that of a well-nourished man. There was a bruise on the right side of the chest the size of a four shilling piece. The heart, brain, and liver were normal.

The Coroner: I take it that all these organs might have been diseased. – Slightly, but nothing to cause death.

Did you see traces of alcoholism? – No.

Did you see any indications that the man had suffered from delirium tremens? – No.

What do you say was the cause of death? – Pneumonia of the left lung. The blow set up pneumonia.

The witness, in answer to Mr. Duffell, said he had known cases, by experience, where the temperature of the patient suffering from pneumonia had not only been normal but sub-normal.

You do not agree with Dr. Maitland’s diagnosis of the case? – No.

The Coroner said the jury had to decide which of the medical gentlemen they preferred to accept as the proper authority on the cause of death. It was clear that the doctors were in conflict.

After a short consideration the jury returned a verdict in accordance with Dr. Christie’s evidence, that death was due to pneumonia, set up by a blow.”

1911 Census

12, Bank Street

[1] Adam Bailey (61), beerhouse keeper, born Wolverhampton;

[2] Mary Bailey (61), wife, married 42 years, born West Bromwich;

[3] Florence Kelsey (16), domestic servant, born Coseley:

Adam Bailey, beer retailer, 12, Bank Street, Bradley. [1912]

Adam Bailey – see also ORANGE TREE.

License refused by Compensation Authority on 3rd July 1918.

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.....

HOPE AND ANCHOR, Bank Street, Bradley, Bilston. Beerhouse (ante 1869) License. Licensee, *James Paul Pickin*. Registered Owner, R. A. Harper Ltd.”

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.....

HOPE AND ANCHOR, Bradley, Bilston, £850.”

Compensation of £850 was paid on 21st December 1918.

HOP POLE

72, (63), (68), Dudley Street (South), BILSTON

OWNERS

Thomas Richards, licensed victualler, Dudley Street, Bilston
Charles Colonel Smith, Fox Brewery, Wolverhampton
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. [1965]

LICENSEES

Thomas Chambers [1860] – [1862]
William Cole [] – **1871**);
David Baker (**1871 – 1876**);
Mrs. Elizabeth Baker (**1876 – 1877**);
Jane Elizabeth Garrington (**1877 – 1878**);
Frank Eglington (**1878 – 1884**);
Miss Eliza Eglington [1881]
John Meanley (**1884 – 1889**);
Thomas Winwood (**1889 – 1896**);
James Cornelius Wooldridge (**1896 – 1912**);
Mrs. Susannah Wooldridge (**1912 – 1913**);
Adam Bailey (**1913 – 1920**);
Arthur Samuel Caddick (**1920 – 1926**);
Robert Reynolds (**1926 – 1931**);
Harry Martin (**1931 – 1933**);
Walter Edward Draisey (**1933 – [1940]**)
Annie Draisey [1939]
Albert Matthews []



NOTES

68, Dudley Street [1871]
63, Dudley Street [1881], [1891], [1896], [1904]
72, Dudley Street [1901], [1904], [1911], [1912], [1921], [1921], [1939], [1940]

FOX [1901]

It had a beerhouse license.

1861 Census

Dudley Street

- [1] Thomas Chambers (40), beerhouse keeper, born Bilston;
- [2] Hannah Chambers (41), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Richard Chambers (19), son, iron foundry, born Bilston;
- [4] Roseannah Chambers (17), daughter, dressmaker, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] John Chambers (10), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] Thomas Chambers (8), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] Sampson Chambers (3), son, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [8] Ellen C. Chambers (2), daughter, born Bilston;
- [9] Edith Trubshaw (20), nurse, born Cannock;

Thomas Chambers, retailer of beer, Dudley Street. [1862]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/1/1865 - Advert

“Wanted, by a respectable and experienced Young Person, a Situation as Barmaid, or in any Light Business.
Address, H. H., care of Mr. Samuel Jackson, back of the HOP POLE, Dudley Street, Bilston. Good references.”

WANTED, by a respectable and experienced Young Person,
a SITUATION as BARMAID, or in any Light Business.
— Address, H. H., care of Mr. Samuel Jackson, back of the
Hop Pole, Dudley Street, Bilston. Good references.

1871 Census

68, Dudley Street

- [1] David Baker (50), publican, born Tipton;
- [2] Elizabeth Baker (49), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] Mary A. Baker (25), daughter, born Tipton;
- [4] William T. Baker (23), son, iron roller, born Tipton;
- [5] Jabez Baker (21), son, iron roller, born Tipton;
- [6] Eliza Baker (19), daughter, born Tipton;
- [7] John Baker (15), son, born Tipton;
- [8] Joseph Baker (13), son, scholar, born Tipton:

David Baker died in the 2nd quarter of 1876.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 12/8/1876

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

The beerhouse license of the late *David Baker*, of Bilston, to his widow and executrix, *Elizabeth Baker*.”

1881 Census

63, Dudley Street – HOP POLE INN

- [1] Eliza Eglington (36), unmarried, beerhouse keeper, born Cradley Heath:

Darlaston Weekly Times 10/10/1885

“Fanny Thomson, Dudley Street, Bilston, was ordered to find a surety of £5, and to be bound over herself in the sum of £10, also to pay the costs of the case, for using threatening language towards Ann Meanly, of the HOP POLE INN, Dudley Street.”

1891 Census

63, Dudley Street – HOP POLE

- [1] Thomas Winwood (62), engine fitter, born Great Bridge;
- [2] Ann Winwood (61), wife, born Roseville;
- [3] Mary J. Winwood (26), daughter, born Coseley;
- [4] Eliza Westwood (17), general servant, born Daisy Bank:

Thomas Winwood, beer retailer, 63, Dudley Street. [1896]

James Cornelius Wooldridge married Susanna New in the 2nd quarter of 1896.

1901 Census

72, Dudley Street – FOX INN

- [1] James C. Wooldridge (45), innkeeper, born Sedgley;
- [2] Susan Wooldridge (47), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] John New (17), step-son, tin polisher, born Bilston:

James Cornelius Wooldridge, beer retailer, 72, Dudley Street. [1904]

1911 Census

72, Dudley Street

- [1] *James C. Wooldridge* (56), beerhouse keeper, born Bilston;
- [2] *Susannah Wooldridge* (57), wife, married 14 years, assisting in the business, born Bilston;
- [3] *Edwin Leonard New* (22), boarder, tin plate worker, born Bilston:c

James Cornelius Wooldridge died in the 4th quarter of 1911.

Mrs. *Susannah Wooldridge*, beer retailer, 72, Dudley Street. [1912]

Susannah Wooldridge died in the 3rd quarter of 1913.

1921 Census

72, Dudley Street

- [1] *Arthur Samuel Caddick* (31), tool setter, electrical stampings, born Bilston;
- [2] *Mary Eliza Caddick* (29), wife, home duties, born Bilston;
- [3] *Ada Edwina Caddick* (6), daughter, school, born Bilston;
- [4] *Doris Caddick* (3), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] *Arthur S. Caddick* (9 months), son, born Bilston:

Walter Edward Draisey = *Walter Braisey*

1939 Register

72, Dudley Street (3 of 4)

- [1] *Walter E. Draisey*, date of birth 11/12/1897, boot maker and repairer, married;
- [2] *Annie Draisey*, dob 23/5/1901, licensee, married;
- [3] *Betty (Draisey) (Cole) Taylor*, dob 23/1/1921, hairdresser, single;

A team from here took part in the Bilston Charity Darts League. [1946]

A team from here took part in the Bilston Crib League, Section A. [1946]c

Black Country Bugle 21/1/1999

Letter from Mrs. Mary Matthews (nee Morrall)

“.....My father-in-law, Mr. *Albert Matthews*, used to play football in the 1930s. He used to be landlord of the OLD BUSH in Bradley Lane, the ROCKET POOLS, Bradley, and also the HOP POLE in Dudley Street, Bilston, with my mother-in-law *Ethel Matthews* until their retirement.”

[1986]

Delicensed [1988]

HOP POLE

Hall Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Richard Chambers [1818] – [1835]

NOTES

Richard Chambers was also a baker [1818]

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/2/1822

“Petitions of Insolvent Debtors to be heard at the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, to be held by adjournment at the Shire Hall, in Stafford, in and for the County of Stafford, on Thursday, the seventh day of March, 1822, at eleven o’clock in the forenoon.....

Richard Chambers, late of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Victualler, Baker, and Huckster.”

Richard Chambers, retailer of beer, Hall Street. [1835]

HOP POLE

2, (20), Market Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Daniel Evans
Sarah Evans
William Butler and Co. Ltd. (leased)
John Thomas Mottram
George Henry Harbach
Johnson and Phipps Ltd.
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.
Wolverhampton Council



2010

LICENSEES

George Evans [] – **1852**;
Daniel Evans (**1852 – 1877**);
Mrs. Sarah Evans (**1877 – 1886**);
Mrs. Jane Randall (**1886 – 1897**);
Miss Ellen Ralph [1892]
John Thomas Mottram (**1897 – 1924**);
Horace Henry Harbach (**1924 – 1926**);
George Henry Harbach (**1926 – 1936**);
Leonard Lilley (**1936 – [1940]**)
William John Williams [1961]
Robert Thompson [1995]
Stewart Parton [2005] – [2006]



2016

NOTES

20, Market Street [1858], [1861], [1865], [1881], [1891], [1896], [1901], [1911], [1939], [1940]
2, Market Street [2005], [2007]

It was situated next to Bilston bus station. [2006]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/3/1852

“On Monday last, the following transfers of publicans licenses took place.....

George Evans, of the HOP POLE, Bilston, to his brother, *Daniel Evans*, of the same place, blacksmith.”

1861 Census

20, Market Street

- [1] *Daniel Evans* (40), blacksmith, born Bilston;
- [2] *Sarah Evans* (36), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Elizabeth Williams* (26), house servant, born Walsall:

Birmingham Daily Post 29/8/1868

“The annual Licensing Sessions for Bilston district was held yesterday, at the Police Court.....

Mr. Best applied for a license for Mr. W. Rogers, to the SHAKESPEARE INN, Bilston. The house had formerly been a licensed one, but in consequence of the misconduct of the then occupant it was withdrawn, on the intimation, however, that if a suitable tenant could be obtained the license would be renewed; hence the present application. Mr. Thurstans opposed on behalf of Mr. *Evans*, of the HOP POLE, a licensed house on the opposite side of the street..... In the case of William Rogers, the license would be granted on the promise that the part of the house now used as a lodging house should be added to the house.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 12/2/1870

“A Sparrow Handicap, for a splendid cup, will be shot for at the house of *Daniel Evans*, HOP POLE INN, Bilston. Also, money prizes. Shooting to commence at twelve o'clock on Monday next, February 14, 1870.”

1871 Census

Market Street

[1] *Daniel Evans* (49), licensed victualler, born Bilston;

[2] *Sarah Evans* (46), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Daniel Evans* (8), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[4] *Jane Hart* (18), domestic servant, born London:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 31/8/1871

“At the Police Court, yesterday, before Mr. I. Spooner (stipendiary), William Goodwright and Isaac Goodwright, puddlers, of Bilston, were summoned for violently assaulting *Daniel Evans*, landlord of the HOP POLE, Market Street, Bilston. Mr. H. Best appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Barrow for the defence.

On the 15th inst complainant, who was returning home from the Wolverhampton Races, stopped to speak to a friend in Lichfield Street. Whilst he was standing with one foot on the step of his trap and the other on the ground, the defendants came up from behind in a cart at a smart trot, and the shaft of the vehicle caught complainant and nearly knocked him down. He recovered himself as soon as he could, and he then ran and seized defendants horse by the bridle, and at the same time shouting out to defendants, ‘Lads; I want your names.’ He felt very weak from the effects of the blow from the shaft; in fact, he was nearly unconscious, but he clung to the horse’s head, as defendants refused to give him their names. Defendants jumped out of the cart, and commence beating him in a most unmerciful manner. They struck him in the face, cutting his cheeks inside, and blacking his eyes, and one of the brave fellows dealt him a violent blow with some kind of instrument, presumed to be a ‘life preserver,’ which rendered him unconscious. He remained unconscious upwards of a hour.

The defendants were then charged, together with William Goodwright, furnaceman, of Bilston, with having violently assaulted John Higgins, son-in-law to the complainant in the previous case. Higgins was in the company of his father-in-law, and he naturally enough did his best to protect him from the violence of his assailants. The defendants beat complainant in a most brutal manner. They knocked him down, and kicked him as he lay on the ground. One of his teeth was knocked out by the defendants.

For the defence, Mr. Barrow said the defendants were much provoked by the complainant refusing to let go the horse’s head. Defendants told him who they were, and complainant was well acquainted with them. Through his seizing the horse’s bridle a female in the cart was much terrified, and in endeavouring to get out of the vehicle she fell and was hurt considerably.

Mr. Best said complainant did not wish to press the case harshly against the defendants, as their friends had entreated him to forgive them, and offered to give him any reasonable sum by way of compensation.

Mr. Spooner said this was not a case for compensation. He considered that it was an outrage on the public. Here was a respectable tradesman stopping for a few minutes to speak to a friend in the street run upon by defendants, and whilst exercising the simplest legal right which belonged to everybody under such circumstances (demanding the names of the offenders), he was set upon by them, and beaten in a most brutal manner.

For the assault on Mr. *Evans*, William and Isaac Goodwright were fined £3 and costs, or in default six weeks’ imprisonment each; and for assaulting John Higgins, they were also fined £3 and costs, or six weeks; William Goodwright, the furnaceman, for assaulting John Higgins, was fined £5, or in default two months’ imprisonment.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/8/1873

“Yesterday the annual licensing meeting for Bilston and the neighbourhood was held in the Petty Sessions Court..... The Rev. A. Collingwood (Wesleyan), accompanied by the principal temperance advocates of Bilston, attended, and presented a memorial signed by 1,300 persons. It prayed that, considering the increasing decorum prevailing throughout Bilston and the neighbourhood during the past year, especially on Saturday and Monday nights, owing to the earlier closing of public houses, that the committee would not allow, during the next twelve months, public houses to be opened before half-past six in the morning, and after half-past ten in the evening, and as, in the opinion of the memorialists, many individuals were deterred from attending a place of worship by public houses being opened at six o’clock in the evening, it prayed that public houses would be compelled to close until seven o’clock. Mr. Hall (Magistrates’ Clerk) said that the committee possessed no judicial power to alter the hours of opening licensed premises on Sunday evenings.

Mr. *Daniel Evans*, of the HOP POLE, Bilston, in the absence of the chairman of the Licensed Victuallers’ Association, questioned the presenters of the memorial as to whether they had given the requisite twenty-one days’ notice.

Mr. Hall explained that, however favourably the magistrates might feel inclined towards the memorial, they could not, until the adjourned licensing sessions in September, make any order. If they then determined to do so, it would be necessary that twenty-one days’ notice of their intention should be given to all holders of licenses.

Mr. *Evans* remarked that licensed victuallers never meddled with the affairs of ministers, and considering that a minister’s stipend exceeded the profits of a publican, he thought that they had no justifiable cause to interfere with their business.

The Committee now retired, and, after an absence of about fifteen minutes, Mr. Rogers stated.....

With regard to the testimonial, they were resolved not to act on any of the suggestions it embodied.”

Midland Examiner 18/12/1875

“Bilston. Application for Extension of Hours at Christmas.

Mr. *Daniel Evans*, of the HOPPOLE, and Mr. Rogers, of the SHAKESPEARE, applied for an extension of hours; an extra hour of Christmas Eve, an hour on Monday the 27th, and an hour and a half on New Year’s Eve. The matter was adjourned until Tuesday.”

Midland Examiner 1/1/1876

“George Prince and William Clamp were charged by Mr. *Daniel Evans*, HOP POLE INN, Bilston, with being disorderly in his house. The Magistrates ordered Prince to pay costs, and Clamp 10s and costs.”

Daniel Evans died in the 1st quarter of 1877.

Birmingham Daily Post 21/3/1877

“Yesterday, at Bilston, by the Stipendiary, Richard Porter, miner, Bristol Street, was mulcted in two fines, each of £1 10s, for assaulting, on Saturday, in the HOP POLE, Market Street, George Roberts, the brewer, and John Higgins, who is related to the landlady, Mrs. *Sarah Evans*; and George Porter, miner, Quarry Lane, was fined £2 for being disorderly in, and refusing to quit, the same house. The two defendants are brothers, and the offences were committed while they were being ejected. The prosecution, conducted by Mr. Charles Barrow, Wolverhampton, was instituted by the Wolverhampton Licensed Victuallers Association.”

1881 Census

20, Market Street

[1] *Sarah Evans* (56), widow, innkeeper, born Bilston;

[2] *Daniel Evans* (18), son, born Bilston;

[3] *Mary Perry* (18), domestic servant, born Tipton:

Birmingham Daily Post 13/7/1883

“The Strike of Ironworkers.....

The result of the interview between the masters and men at Birmingham was discussed last night by the men in the Wolverhampton and Bilston districts. It had been rumoured that a delegate would communicate the decision at the HOP POLE INN, Bilston, at eight o’clock, and numbers of men were in the vicinity of that inn at the hour appointed, but no meeting was held. Both in Wolverhampton and in Bilston disappointment was expressed that the masters would not consent to a resumption of work except at the reduction; but the determination to play on was less firm

than had been anticipated. The police authorities are maintaining their precautions; but there seems no probability of disturbance. About a dozen men resumed work during the morning at one of the special bar mills of Messrs. Isaac Jenks and Son's Minerva Works, Horseley Fields, at the reduction. With this exception, there is no alteration in the position of the various works as last recorded."

Birmingham Daily Post 12/5/1884

"On Saturday night a meeting of millmen, adjourned from the 3rd inst, was held at the HOP POLE INN, Bilston. Mr. J. S. Whatton, of the Britannia Works, Bradley, presided, and about fifteen mills were represented from Wolverhampton, Willenhall, Wednesbury, Darlaston, and Tipton.

The objects of the meeting were stated by the chairman to be (1) the question of extras on long lengths and 28 w.g.; (2) the restriction of the output; (3) the employment of boys before the rolls; (4) the question of supporting the Wages Board; (5) the question of forming an association for protecting the card list of prices as it now exists. The chairman, in the course of his remarks, said he understood there were works playing in that district now because the masters were getting their sheets rolled at other mills more cheaply than they could at their own. This was the case, for instance, at Gospel Oak.

Several suggestions were made upon the subjects on the programme, and it was moved that these should be sent to Mr. Capper with a request that he would wait upon the masters of the various works. The Chairman, however, pointed out that Mr. Capper could only represent men who contributed to the Board, and went on to strongly urge those in the meeting who were not contributing to do so. Ultimately, however, a resolution was carried to the effect that an organisation for millmen was needed separate from the Wages Board, and a committee of one delegate each from about twenty works was nominated and elected to consider how such an organisation could be established so as to move in all matters mentioned in the programme."

Darlaston Weekly Times 18/10/1884

"On Tuesday evening, the 30th ult, a concert was given at the HOP POLE (Mrs. *Sarah Evans*, proprietress) to assist the miners on strike. After a most successful musical entertainment, and paying the necessary expenses, £3 17s 3d was kindly handed over by Mrs. *Evans* to the treasurer, Mr. John Williams, of the SAMPSON AND LION INN, to be divided amongst the men on strike. Mr. Curley, secretary, of Bilston, desires us to thank Mrs. *Evans*, on behalf of the committee, for her kindness, and also to thank all who attended the concert."

Birmingham Daily Post 25/11/1884

"Yesterday a mass meeting of the ironworkers in the Bilston district was held at the HOP POLE INN, Bilston. Mr. J. York presided over a large attendance.

Mr. J. Capper, the operative secretary to the Wages Board, reiterated his statement that the two large and important districts of Staffordshire and the North of England would always bear some relation to each other. That there had not been an improvement in trade or an alteration in the wages of the two districts justifying the ironworkers of Staffordshire to at present put in a claim for an advance in wages was a cause for regret, and he himself regretted it. The English iron trade had been between 1864 and 1874 undergone very rapid development, but since then steel had largely superseded iron. If, however, the great railway companies had continued to use iron, their mills and forges and blast furnaces and collieries would have been kept more regularly employed. This was especially seen in rails, locomotive engines, and tenders. Formerly these, and many other things which went to make the railway system, had been manufactured of iron; but now not a few were made of steel. This proceeding had been of great advantage to the user, since steel rails, for instance, had five lives as compared with iron rails. Mr. Capper then dealt with the necessity for the men becoming reorganised; for unless they were properly organised they could not of necessity protect their own interests. The best way to carry this out was to join the Conciliation Board.

Ultimately a resolution was to come to giving the men's representatives upon the board full power to deal with the wages question."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 6/1/1885 - Advert

"Wanted, good strong Servant Girl, used to business preferred. Apply, Mrs. *Evans*, HOP POLE INN, Bilston."

WANTED, good strong Servant Girl, used to business preferred.—Apply, Mrs *Evans*, Hop Pole Inn, Bilston.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 21/7/1885 - Advert

"Wanted, respectable Servant Girl. Apply, Mrs. *Evans*, HOP POLE INN, Market Street, Bilston."

WANTED, respectable Servant Girl.—Apply, Mrs. *Evans*, Hop Pole Inn, Market-st., Bilston.

1891 Census

20, Market Street – HOP POLE INN

[1] *Jane Randall* (55), widow, publican, born Sedgley;

[2] *Amelia J. Hinde* (15), grand-daughter, general servant, born Wolverhampton:

1901 Census

20, Market Street – HOP POLE INN

[1] *John T. Mottram* (31), licensed victualler, born Bilston;

[2] *Sarah Mottram* (30), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Clare Mottram* (3 months), daughter, born Bilston:

1911 Census

20, Market Street

[1] *John T. Mottram* (41), licensed victualler, born Bilston;

[2] *Sarah Mottram* (40), wife, married 13 years, born Bilston;

[3] *Clare Mottram* (10), daughter, school, born Bilston;

[4] *Blanche Mottram* (7), daughter, school, born Bilston;

[5] *Hilda Mottram* (6), daughter, school, born Bilston:

John Thomas Mottram brewed here. [1921]

1921 Census

Market Street – HOP POLE INN

[1] *John Thomas Mottram* (51), licensed victualler, born Bilston;

[2] *Sarah Mottram* (50), wife, home duties, born Bilston;

[3] *Clare Mottram* (20), daughter, school part time, born Bilston;

[4] *Hilda Mottram* (16), daughter, school, born Bilston;

[5] *Irene Mottram* (8), daughter, school, born Bilston:

Horace Henry Harbach brewed here. [1926]

Dog shows were held here. [1939]

1939 Register

20, Market Street

[1] *Leonard Lilley*, date of birth 20/4/1902, licensee, manager, married;

[2] *Ethel Mary Lilley*, dob 8/12/1899, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Joseph Slater*, dob 26/1/1902, electric truck driver, single;

[4] *James J. Palmer*, dob 23/3/1894, engineer, married:

Burton Observer and Chronicle 31/8/1961

“*Lyn Whitehouse* aged six, of 10 Bristol Street, Bilston, was taken to Burton General Hospital with lacerations to her head after being involved in an accident in New Street, Burton, last Thursday afternoon. At about 3.55 *Lyn* apparently walked from the rear of a parked car near the Corporation Arms and into the path of a motor-scooter. *Lyn*, who was accompanied by Mr. *William John Williams*, of the HOP POLE, Market Street, Bilston, was allowed to leave hospital after treatment.”

Closed

Demolished

Rebuilt c.1973

Birmingham Weekly Mercury 19/7/1992

“It’s lift off for the Telethon as 20,000 balloons fill the skies of Birmingham. TV comic Andrew O’Conner helped launch the balloons from Birmingham’s Centenary Square. The spectacular, organised by the *Sunday Mercury*’s sister paper, the *Evening Mail*, was last night on course to raise £13,000. Organisers of the 28 hour TV Telethon marathon were last night hoping to smash the £24 million record set two years ago. Hundreds of events were held across the Midlands to raise money for 2,000 charities.....

Other Black Country events included a 12-hour baked bean bath at the HOP POLE INN, Bilston, and 179 people bungee jump at the RED LION in Sedgley.”

Birmingham Mail 11/12/1992

“Customers at a Black Country pub were entertained by the hits of the 50s and 60s today, in an eight hour music marathon to raise money for charity. The band Three Way Split were playing until 7pm, and Dave Steadman was taking on all-comers in a pool marathon at the HOP POLE on Market Street, Bilston, to raise money for the Macmillan Nurses Appeal.”

[2018]

Express & Star 17/5/2018

“The HOP POLE INN, next to Bilston’s market, will be demolished under a proposal by Wolverhampton council. Marston’s has agreed to surrender its lease of the pub, which is owned by the council.

Cabinet member for city economy, Councillor John Reynolds, said, ‘We are delighted to have reached this agreement with Marston’s over the HOP POLE INN. It will enable the land to be better utilised for the benefit of the town and, in particular, the outdoor market. It is part of the wider regeneration of the area to deliver new homes, new jobs and more investment. It demonstrates our commitment to Bilston and ensures it will continue to be a thriving area.’

The pub in Market Street was built in the early 1970s.

The council said it has ‘limited use’ but will continue to trade until it is taken down. A planning application is due to be submitted for knocking it down in May. The work will provide the opportunity to improve links with the bus station and the Midland Metro once completed, the council said. The outdoor market will continue to operate during the demolition works. The proposal forms part of the wider regeneration of Bilston.

Marston’s recently opened the WHITE RABBIT pub in Bilston Urban Village.

A pub spokesman said, ‘We are currently in consultation with the local council in regards to a planned demolition date. Until that stage, the pub is open and will trade business as usual’.”

Express & Star 7/1/2019

“The demolition of a former Bilston pub will begin next week. Marston’s HOP POLE pub is set to be torn down under council plans to improve the town’s outdoor market. The site on Market Street is leased by Marston’s from the council, and the brewery has agreed to surrender its long-term lease. The local authority plans to enhance links with the bus station and metro and potentially create development land by knocking the building down. Bulldozers will move in on the site on January 14 and the process is expected to take up to six weeks. The council has confirmed the market will stay open throughout this time.....”

It was demolished in 2019.

HOP POLE
2 Market Street (next to Bilston Bus Station) Bilston

Where a warm welcome awaits
OPEN TILL 1am FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
Food served Thurs - Mon 8am till 2pm

Monday & Tuesday 2pm till 5pm
Free & Easy with
★ MIAMI DUO ★
Every Friday Night with
JOHN EVANS & ROB STARKY
Keyboard and Drummer
8.30pm till 12pm

Every Saturday Night
Motown Disco
60's, 70's & 80's
KARAOKE Every Sunday
8pm till 12pm
No bookings necessary

HORSE AND JOCKEY

72, (79), Church Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Samuel Holloway, timber merchant, Bilston

Eliza Holloway

Thomas Jones, commission agent, Parkfield Street, Wolverhampton

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

LICENSEES

Samuel Holloway [1818] – [1851]

Mrs. Ann Fowler [1851] – **1866**;

Peter Nixon (**1866 – 1880**);

Mrs. Rebecca Nixon [1881] manager

John Jenks (?) (**1880 – 1886**);

Joseph Bowater (**1886 – 1887**);

Thomas Price (**1887**);

Joseph 'Joe' Holberry (**1887 – 1888**);

William Pettifer (**1888 – 1891**);

George Ellis (**1891 – 1892**);

Thomas Joseph Hodgson (**1892 – 1897**);

Edward ? (**1897 – 1898**);

Henry ? (**1898 – 1900**);

Thomas Legge (**1900**);

Frederick John ? (**1900 – []**)

Edward Henry Till [1901] – **1902**;

Thomas Lindsay (**1902**);

Alfred Plant (**1902 – []**)

Samuel Mansell [1904]

Ernest Edwin Lloyd []

Harry Weare [1908] – [1916]

George Jones [1921] – [1929]

John A 'Jack' Howard [1932]

Ben Olney [1935]

Mudie L G Jackson [1939] – [1940]

Samuel John Bolton []

Walter Edgar Perry [1976]

Kathleen Riley [1980s]

David Bellingham [1994] – [1995]

Mrs. Jacqueline 'Jacky' Phillips (**1998 – [2002]**)

Susan Tiernan [2005]

Michael Fullwood [] – **2018**)



2008



2023

NOTES

79, Church Street [1861], [1864], [1865], [1868], [1870], [1871], [1872], [1881], [1891], [1892], [1896], [1904]

72, Church Street [1901], [1908], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1932], [1939], [1940], [1978]

It was opposite to Greencroft.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 16/4/1810 - Advert

"Notice is hereby given, that the Partnership lately subsisting between Edward, John, and *Samuel Holloway*, of Bilston, in the County of Stafford, Boat-builders, is this Day dissolved by mutual Consent.

Dated the 28th Day of December, 1809.

Edward Holloway, John Holloway, *Samuel Holloway*. Witness, Thomas Cox.

John and *Samuel Holloway* return their sincere Thanks to their Friends and the Public in general for their past Favours, and wish to inform them, that they carry on the Boat-building Business, at the Deepfield Meadows, near Bilston, and hope by their steady Attention to that Business to merit their future Favours."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 1/11/1813 - Advert

"Notice is hereby given, that the Partnership lately subsisting between John Holloway and *Samuel Holloway*, of Bilston, Boat Builders, is this Day dissolved by mutual Consent. The said Trade in future will be carried on by *Samuel Holloway*.

Dated the 29th Day of September, 1813.

John Holloway, *Samuel Holloway*. Witness, William Shall."

Samuel Holloway was also a boat builder. [1818], [1833]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 24/3/1830 - Advert

"Copyhold Building in Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction by Richard Corbett, on Tuesday the 30th of March, 1830, at Five o'clock in the Afternoon, at the House of Mr. *Samuel Holloway*, the Sign of the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Church Street, Bilston....."

1841 Census

Church Street (South Side)

[1] *Samuel Holloway* (55), boat builder, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Samuel Holloway* (25), boat builder, born Staffordshire;

[3] *Eliza Holloway* (25), born Staffordshire;

[4] *Sarah Bowen* (15), f.s., born Staffordshire;

[5] *Ann Richards* (13), f.s., born Staffordshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/6/1850 - Advert

"Public House to Let.

To be Let, that old established and well accustomed Public House, know by the sign of the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Church Street, Bilston, which has been carried on upwards of forty years by the present proprietor, who is leaving solely in consequence of age and ill health. There is attached to the house an old established Lodge, with upwards of 160 members. The premises are convenient, with a good supply of hard and soft water. The stock and fixtures to be taken to at a fair valuation.

NB. If required, one half of the money may remain at interest.

For rent and particulars apply to the proprietor, Mr. *Samuel Holloway*, Church Street, Bilston."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 11/12/1850 - Died

"December 6, in the 71st year of his age, Mr. *Samuel Holloway*, sen, of the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Bilston, deeply lamented and sincerely regretted by his family and friends."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/3/1851 - Advert

"Notice

All persons having any claim against the estate of Mr. *Samuel Holloway*, late of the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Bilston, deceased, are requested to send in the particulars of the same, to either of the undermentioned executors, so that the same may be examined and discharged; and all persons indebted to the above estate are requested to pay their respective amounts immediately to Mr. *Samuel Holloway*, timber merchant, Bilston.

NB. To be Sold by Private Contract, five Open Canal Boats.

Samuel Holloway, John Green, Executors. Bilston, March 17, 1851."

1851 Census

Church Street

- [1] Ann Fowler (48), widow, licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] Henry Fowler (30), son, timber merchant's clerk, born Bilston;
- [3] William Fowler (21), son, butcher, born Bilston;
- [4] John Fowler (16), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] Ann Fowler (13), daughter, servant, born Bilston;
- [6] Sarah Fowler (11), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] Levina Wiers (20), servant, born Sedgley;
- [8] Sarah Harker (5), grand-daughter, born Bilston:

Rebecca Fowler (34), widow, married Peter Nixon (25), bachelor, carpenter, on 6th October 1859.

1861 Census

79, Church Street

- [1] Ann Fowler (66), widow, licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] John Fowler (26), son, sheet iron furnace man, born Bilston;
- [3] Sarah Fowler (21), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] Betsy Parker (12), grand-daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] William Parker (5), grand-son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] Thomas Goodman (27), brewer, born Birmingham;
- [7] Sarah Palin (18), general servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 11/8/1864

"The fifty-third anniversary of No.1 Lodge of the Nelsonic Crimson Oaks was held at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Church Street, Bilston, on Monday last. After an excellent dinner, Mr. Millington was called to the chair, and Mr. J. Tate to the vice-chair. The financial report proved that the lodge was never in so flourishing a condition as at the present time. The evening was spent in friendly enjoyment."

Birmingham Daily Post 29/6/1866 - Died

"On the 27th inst, at the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Church Street, Bilston, aged 26 years, Sarah, youngest daughter of the late Thomas Fowler; deeply regretted."

Ann Fowler – see also OLD CROWN, Bridge Street.

1871 Census

79, Church Street

- [1] Peter Nixon (36), publican employing one man, born Copesthorpe, Cheshire;
- [2] Rebecca Nixon (46), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] John Fowler (21), son, engine fitter at works, born Bilston;
- [4] Sarah Fowler (18), daughter, bar assistant, born Bilston;
- [5] Thomas Goodman (39), assistant brewer, born Birmingham:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 13/10/1871

"On Monday last a friendly match between 11 members of the Bilston Rifle Corps and 11 members of the Sedgley Rifle Corps took place on the Bilston range, and resulted in favour of the Sedgley Corps..... After the shooting the squads, together with several gentlemen visitors, adjourned to the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, where a capital dinner was served up by Mr. Peter Nixon, and a very enjoyable evening was spent. The return match will take place on the Tipton range."

Birmingham Daily Post 16/2/1872

"The engine-drivers of Bilston and the surrounding district held a meeting on Saturday evening at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Church Street, Bilston, to discuss the question of shorter hours of labour. The meeting was adjourned until tomorrow."

Birmingham Daily Post 28/3/1872 - Advert

"The Journeymen Filesmiths of the Wolverhampton District will hold a General Meeting, at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Church Street, Bilston, at Ten am, on Monday, the 1st April, 1872."

Birmingham Daily Post 3/9/1873

"A meeting was held on Monday, at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Bilston, of the filesmiths representing the whole of South Staffordshire, to consider what steps should be taken with the view of obtaining a further advance of wages. Mr. Josiah Simcox presided, and there was a good attendance.

The Chairman remarked that for some time a little ill-feeling had appeared to exist between the district and the Birmingham branches, but he was pleased to see that this ill-feeling did not at present prevail, as was evinced by the attendance of two delegates from that town. The Birmingham men had determined to obtain an augmentation in their wages; and the question that naturally arose was whether the district was to be surpassed by Birmingham men? Were they to remain passive, whilst their neighbouring compeers were working for higher remuneration? He considered that they ought to all stand on an equal footing. (Hear, hear.) They must demonstrate strength and will to obtain what they required, and they would succeed. (Hear, hear.) There was no substantial reason, of which he had acquaintance, why, if their attempts were prosecuted with zeal, they should fail.

Mr. Silas Round then read a circular from the Birmingham Executive Committee of Operative Filesmiths, setting forth that the members were petitioning their employers for the adoption of the Sheffield revised list of 1872. The speaker explained that the Birmingham men were placed upon a different principle to themselves, inasmuch as Birmingham workmen provided their own tools. If they adopted such a system it would make a material difference to both the masters and men. (A Voice: It would be on the men's side though.)

Several speakers addressed the meeting, urging upon the members the absolute necessity of taking decisive steps, and concertedly acting together.

The Secretary said that if they succeeded in gaining the desired list, it would mean not only 10 per cent on the ruling rates, as it would with the Birmingham men, but 15 per cent increase, because their basis was a decrease of 5 per cent on the Birmingham basis.

A person present advocated delay, but others counselled immediate action, firmness, but no measures that would culminate in a strike. It was pointed out that the Birmingham men did not even as much as hint at a strike. Eventually it was resolved that the men of the surrounding districts should join the Birmingham men in the application for the revised Sheffield list of 1872.

Another resolution was adopted to the effect that the date of their application should be coincident with that of the Birmingham men – namely, the first Monday in October."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 16/3/1876 - Advert

"To the Filesmiths of South Staffordshire.

A General Meeting of all the Men will be held on Monday, March 20th, at the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Church Street, Bilston. Chair to be taken at 7 o'clock. As there is important business to be done all are invited to attend."

Birmingham Daily Post 22/3/1876

"On Monday, at the JOCKEY INN, Church Street, Bilston, there was a general meeting of all the filesmiths of South Staffordshire, to transact important business. Mr. Wm. Blakeney was the chairman, and there were about thirty people present.

The Chairman explained that at present the South Staffordshire Union of Filesmiths paid 3d per week to a common trade fund. Such contributions, however, would not aggregate enough to give efficient help in the event of a strike; and it was desirable that the South Staffordshire filesmiths should amalgamate their union with the stronger union which existed in Birmingham. Before, however, such an amalgamation would be accepted in Birmingham, the weekly contributions in Staffordshire must be doubled and certain entrance fees would have to be paid....

The meeting approved the project, and passed a resolution to amalgamate upon the Birmingham conditions.

During the speaking it transpired that the wages of filesmiths in Staffordshire are 10 per cent under those of the Birmingham operatives."

Birmingham Daily Post 15/12/1876

“A meeting of the filesmiths was held at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Church Street, Bilston, on Tuesday night, and was addressed by delegates from Birmingham. The following resolution was passed.

That this meeting pledges itself to assist the union of South Staffordshire, and to use every legitimate means to induce non-unionists to join, that they may gain the desired end – namely, the Birmingham list of prices, and, if possible, amalgamation.”

Evening Express 4/5/1877

“*Peter Nixon*, landlord of the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Bilston, was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of John Fowler, landlord of the LEOPARD public house, Church Street, and the latter was charged with permitting the drunkenness.

At five minutes past 12 on Tuesday night, Police-constables McGuire and Downey were passing down Church Street, when they observed a man coming out of the LEOPARD. They immediately knocked on the door, and enquired of the servant who opened it if anyone was in the house, and she replied no. They, however, went inside and found the defendant *Nixon* in the bar drunk.

The defendant Fowler was found in the back yard. After informing Mr. Fowler of *Nixon*’s presence in the house, the officers went to the station and reported the case, and about ten minutes later they saw Fowler leading *Nixon* home. Mr. Barrow, who defended, urged that *Nixon* had only drunk one glass of brandy whilst in the house, and that he had not left at closing time owing to a sudden attack of diarrhoea.

The Magistrates was of opinion that the case was perfectly clear, and fined *Nixon* 10s and costs, and Fowler £1 and costs.”

Peter Nixon died on 2nd February 1880.

See also OLD CROWN, Bridge Street.

1881 Census

79, Church Street

[1] *Rebecca Nixon* (56), widow, manageress of liquor shop, born Bilston;

[2] *Eliza Bate* (18), general servant, born Bilston;

[3] *Thomas Goodman* (50), brewer, born Birmingham:

Darlaston Weekly Times 2/10/1886

“Last (Thursday) evening the committee who so successfully carried out the recent Foresters fete at Bilston, dined together at the HORSE AND JOCKEY HOTEL, Church Street, to celebrate the completion of their labours. About 20 partook of an excellent repast provided by host *Bowater*, and which was served up in a style that reflected great credit upon his establishment.....

Darlaston Weekly Times 13/5/1887

“At the Bilston Police Court today (Friday), before Messrs. Twentyman and Loveridge, *Thomas Price* (35), now of Coseley, but formerly landlord in charge of the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Church Street, Bilston, was charged on a warrant with embezzlement on the 21st February, 1887, £3 10s, the money of his employer, Mr. William Henry Simpkins, brewer, Brierley Hill. Mr. Holberton, Brierley Hill, prosecuted, and Mr. Dallow, Wolverhampton, defended.

Mr. Holberton, in opening the case, stated that the prisoner was placed in charge of the HORSE AND JOCKEY public house as manager, for which he received £1 a week. He also travelled for the prosecutor and was allowed 10 per cent commission on cash and also 5 per cent on the orders for the first three months. It appeared that on the 21st of February he received £3 10s from a man named James Wedge, landlord of the NELSON INN, Bridge Street, Bilston, for beer supplied to Wedge. Prisoner gave Wedge a receipt for the money, but failed to account for it to his employer, and had not entered it in the counterfoil.

William Henry Simpkins, prisoner’s employer, was then called, and stated that he took over the good will and business of the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Bilston, and placed defendant as manager and traveller, on terms which had already been mentioned. Prisoner had not paid to him the £3 10s received from Mr. Wedge. It was prisoner’s duty to pay any monies to him the week after they had been received.

James Wedge, the next witness called, stated that he paid the £3 10s to the prisoner, and the receipt produced and shown to him was the one signed by the prisoner for the money.

The prisoner pleaded guilty, and elected to have the case summarily dealt with.

Mr. Dallow, speaking on behalf of the prisoner, said it was the first time the prisoner had been in trouble on any such charge. He had hitherto borne an unimpeachable character, and hoped the Bench would deal with him in a merciful way. The prisoner was in very low circumstances at the time he was engaged by the prosecutor. He was also a widower with four children, was in very ill health, and had been locked up some days, during which time he had been attended by a doctor. He hoped they would make the sentence as light as was consistent with their duty.

The magistrates said the prosecutor wished the prisoner to be mercifully dealt with, but they could not pass over an offence of that description. Prisoner would have to go to prison for one month with hard labour."

Joseph Holberry = Joseph Holiberry

Darlaston Weekly Times 29/7/1887

"It will be seen from our advertising columns that the members of the local Foresters courts have made arrangements for holding a demonstration and fete on a grand scale, in Hall Park recreation grounds, Prouds Lane, Bilston, on Monday next. We may say that brother *Joseph Holiberry*, of the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Church Street, has charge of the stage amusements; and that brother S. Hughes, of the RED COW INN, has been appointed referee for the foot races. There will be a grand procession headed by the Bilston Brass and Reed Band. The committee and members have done all in their power to make the fete a success, and it is earnestly hoped that the public will show their appreciation of their praiseworthy efforts by extending to them a liberal patronage. Should the weather be fine the fete cannot fail to prove a great attraction."

The Era 23/6/1888 - Advert

"Foresters' Fêtes, Bilston. July 30th.

Wanted, First-class Talent in every branch to send lowest terms. Artistes Engaged near Wolverhampton and Birmingham on that date please note. Also Sideshows, Roundabouts, Swings, &c.

Address, *Joe Holberry*, HORSE AND JOCKEY, Bilston, Staffs."

Birmingham Daily Post 24/7/1889

"Alfred Whitehouse, Frieze Land, Priestfield, was sentenced, at Bilston Police Court, yesterday, to six weeks hard labour, for an assault upon Ann Oldbury [sic], wife of the landlord of the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Church Street, on August 9, 1887."

Birmingham Weekly Mercury 21/9/1889

"On Saturday a special meeting of the members and friends of the local branch of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers was held at the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Church Street, Bilston, when Benjamin Dudley, of Gozzard Street, Bilston, who has become incapacitated from work through the loss of his eyesight, was presented out of the accident fund of the society with a sum of £100. Dr. Smith presided, and amongst those present were deputations from Wolverhampton, Wednesbury, Smethwick, and other places in the locality.

Mr. Parish gave an interesting account of the rise and progress of the society, which now numbers 470 branches in various parts of the world. The total number of members was 58,184, and the balance of funds amounted to £180,000.

Messrs. Daft dwelt upon the advantages of belonging to such a society, and stated that last year £3,000 was paid out of the accident fund to men entitled to £100 each, £52,000 was paid to men out of employment, £30,962 in sick benefit, and £2,000 in benevolent grants.

Other speakers addressed the meeting, and the presentation was made by Mr. Banks, who referred in feeling terms to the great affliction which had befallen Mr. Dudley, and trusted that in time such sufferers would be paid a weekly sum out of the funds (hear, hear). Mr. Dudley, in returning thanks, said that although the £100 was due to him, he was very pleased to find himself with so many friends around him in his hour of need."

1891 Census

79, Church Street

[1] *William Pettifer* (47), licensed victualler, born Smethwick;

[2] *Sarah A. Pettifer* (47), wife, born Smethwick;

[3] *Mary Rook* (18), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

William Pettifer – see also ROYAL GEORGE, and SADDLE AND STIRRUPS.

Thomas Joseph Hodgson = Thomas Joseph Hodson

1901 Census

72, Church Street – HORSE AND JOCKEY INN

- [1] Edward H. Till (52), licensed victualler, born Tettenhall Wood;
- [2] Lucy Till (48), wife, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] Lucy Till (17), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] Emily Till (14), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] Annie Rhodes (19), domestic servant, born Wolverhampton:

Edinburgh Gazette 10/12/1907

“Ernest Edwin Lloyd, 71 Broad Street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, lately residing at Spring Road, Ettingshall, near Wolverhampton, in the said county, and before then at Bunkers Hill, Bilston, and carrying on business at Central Chambers, Bilston aforesaid, and before then residing at the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Bilston aforesaid, and before then at the LEOPARD INN, Bilston aforesaid, out of business, late an electrical fitter, before then a public house manager, and before then a licensed victualler.”

1911 Census

72, Church Street – HORSE AND JOCKEY

- [1] Harry Weare (45), public house manager, born Bilston;
- [2] Alice Weare (45), wife, married 13 years, public house manager, born Bilston;
- [3] Louisa Mullett (20), domestic servant, born Bilston:

1921 Census

Church Street – HORSE AND JOCKEY

- [1] George Jones (46), cutter up, annealing pots, boiler works, born Bilston;
- [2] Elizabeth Jones (50), wife, domestic duties, born Bilston;
- [3] Bernard Jones (23), son, acetylene welder, out of work, born Bilston;
- [4] Robert Baden Jones (21), son, annealing pot welder, out of work, born Bilston;
- [5] George Edward Jones (19), son, edge tool stamper, out of work, born Bilston;
- [6] Samuel Jones (16), son, labourer, steel foundry, born Bilston;
- [7] Elizabeth Jones (14), daughter, school, born Bilston;
- [8] Mary Annie Jones (12), daughter, school, born Bilston;
- [9] Bertha Jones (9), daughter, blind, born Bilston;
- [10] Harold Jones (7), son, school, born Bilston:

South Staffordshire Times 16/6/1923

“A one-armed man named Thomas Higginson, of Salop Street, Bradley, was charged with begging in a public house; with refusing to quit when requested to do so; and assaulting a man named Isaac Campbell, Greencroft, Bilston, on the previous evening.

George Jones, licensee of the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Church Street, Bilston, said that on the previous evening defendant went into the house and asked him if he could go round and beg money from customers. Witness told him that he could not allow it, as there had been several others in doing the same the same thing, and the customers did not like it. Defendant, however, insisted on going round, and witness ordered him out, but he said he would not go. At last he said he would go outside, but when he got there he smashed the windows. On going out defendant struck a man named Isaac Campbell, who had in no way interfered with him. Witness then sent for the police.

Isaac Campbell said he was sitting quietly in the house when defendant came in, and he saw all that took place, but did not in any way interfere with defendant. As defendant was leaving the house he struck witness on the jaw, and knocked him down.

PC Davy said that he was called to the HORSE AND JOCKEY on the previous night, and there found defendant being detained by the licensee, who made complaint against defendant. Witness took defendant to the Police Station. Defendant was under the influence of drink.

Defendant said he was unable to follow his occupation, and was trying to get an 'honest copper or two' towards his lodgings. He was 'born and bred' in the town, and thought he had as much right to go into a public house and ask for coppers as people from outside had, but they were not prevented from doing it. He was sorry he struck Campbell, but that was because Campbell interfered.

Defendant was sentenced to 14 days' imprisonment for assault, but the other two charges were dismissed."

Bilston and Willenhall Times 20/10/1928

"Members of the Loyal Lily of the Valley Lodge (MU) of Oddfellows passed a pleasant evening at a social gathering at the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Church Street, Bilston. The NG (Bro. L. Smith, PG) presided, and was supported by district officers....."

Bilston and Willenhall Times 24/11/1928

"The annual show of racing pigeons arranged by the Bilston and District Flying Club was held on Saturday night last at the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Church Street....."

Reynolds Newspaper 1/9/1929

"Pigeon racing..... The Bilston F.C. are organising a Y.B. race from Guernsey, September 7. All details from J. Hedge, Herberts Park, Darlaston, or *George Jones*, HORSE AND JOCKEY, Bilston."

Ben Olney was a footballer (goalkeeper). He played for England (2 caps).

He played for Aston Villa, Brierley Hill Alliance, Stourbridge, Derby, Bilston United, Walsall, and Shrewsbury.

He was born in March 1899, in Holborn, London.

He died in September 1943.

Jack Howard married Elizabeth Robinson (daughter of Tom 'Tarpole' Robinson – see SWAN, High Street).

A meeting of the Walsall and District Licensed Victuallers Society was held here in June 1938.

1939 Register

72, Church Street

[1] Mudie L. G. Jackson, date of birth 10/9/1879, ships purser and licensed victualler, tenant, married;

[2] Edith J. (Jackson) Brooks, dob 7/12/1882, unpaid domestic duties, married:

Samuel John Bolton died in 1982.

London Gazette 13/6/1978

"*Walter Edgar Perry*, Club Steward, residing at the Codsall Conservative Club previously residing and carrying on business as the HORSE AND JOCKEY, 72, Church Street Tenant Publican....."

London Gazette 14/8/1984

"*Walter Edgar Perry*, Club Steward, residing at the Codsall Conservative Club, The Firs, Station Road. Codsall, Wolverhampton, in the metropolitan county of West Midlands, previously residing and carrying on business at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, 72 Church Street, Bilston, in the aforesaid county, as a Tenant Publican, formerly residing at 56 Cleve View Road, Wombourne, in the aforesaid county.

Court - Wolverhampton.

Date of Order - 27th October 1978.

Date of Operation of Order of Discharge - 2nd June 1983."

Sandwell Evening Mail 5/2/1991 - Advert

"Christie & Co. The Vanguard Lease.....

HORSE AND JOCKEY, Bilston, West Midlands.

A modern style, 2 storey, red bricked building. Car parking for 40. Comprises bar, kitchen and 3 bedroomed owners accommodation.

Asking rental – offers in the region of £17,500 Leasehold.

Premium offers in excess of £40,000."

Jacky Phillips was married to Bill.
She was born c.1957.

Black Country Bugle 22/4/1999 - Advert

"Bill and *Jacky Phillips* welcome you to the HORSE AND JOCKEY.
Every Monday afternoon come join in the fun and have a sing-a-long with June the pianist.
Every Thursday free grae paes and bacon.
Church Street, Bilston."

Express & Star 22/12/2018

"Hundreds of people turned out to pay their respects to a much-loved former pub landlord. *Michael Fullwood*, who died in November aged 40, was well known in Bilston for being the landlord of the HORSE AND JOCKEY pub and was described by his brother as the town's 'greatest showman.' People lined the streets as his family and friends walked more than 500 yards along High Street with his coffin from Ellsmore and Family funeral directors to his former pub. The coffin was adorned with a gay pride flag and was covered in Mr. *Fullwood's* favourite Marvel superheroes, as well as carrying his old silver stiletto shoes. Following the procession, hundreds of close family and friends packed into coaches to head to Sandwell Crematorium for the funeral service."

[2023]

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Partnership lately subsisting between EDWARD, JOHN, and SAMUEL HOLLOWAY, of Bilston, in the County of Stafford, Boat-builders, is this Day dissolved by mutual Consent. Dated the 28th Day of December, 1809.

EDWARD HOLLOWAY,
JOHN HOLLOWAY,
SAMUEL HOLLOWAY,

Witness, THOMAS COX.

JOHN and SAMUEL HOLLOWAY return their sincere Thanks to their Friends and the Public in general for their past Favours, and wish to inform them, that they carry on the Boat-building Business, at the Deepfield Meadows, near Bilston, and hope by their steady Attention to that Business to merit their future Favours.

1810

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Partnership lately subsisting between John Holloway and Samuel Holloway, of Bilston, Boat Builders, is this Day dissolved by mutual Consent. The said Trade in future will be carried on by Samuel Holloway. Dated the 29th Day of September, 1813.

JOHN HOLLOWAY,
SAMUEL HOLLOWAY.

Witness, WILLIAM SHALL.

1813

PUBLIC HOUSE TO LET.

TO BE LET, that old established and well accustomed PUBLIC HOUSE, known by the sign of the "Horse and Jockey," Church-street, Bilston, which has been carried on upwards of forty years by the present proprietor, who is leaving solely in consequence of age and ill health. There is attached to the house an old established Lodge, with upwards of 160 members. The premises are convenient, with a good supply of hard and soft water. The stock and fixtures to be taken to at a fair valuation.

N.B.—If required, one half of the money may remain at interest.

For rent and particulars apply to the proprietor, Mr. SAMUEL HOLLOWAY, Church-street, Bilston.

1850

NOTICE.

ALL persons having any claim against the estate of Mr. SAMUEL HOLLOWAY, late of the Horse and Jockey Inn, Bilston, deceased, are requested to send in the particulars of the same, to either of the undermentioned executors, so that the same may be examined and discharged; and all persons indebted to the above estate are requested to pay their respective amounts immediately to Mr. SAMUEL HOLLOWAY, timber merchant, Bilston.

N.B. To be SOLD by PRIVATE CONTRACT, five OPEN CANAL BOATS.

SAMUEL HOLLOWAY, } Executors.
JOHN GREEN, }

Bilston, March 17, 1851.

1851

THE Journeymen Filesmiths of the Wolverhampton District will hold a GENERAL MEETING, at the Horse and Jockey, Church Street, Bilston, at Ten a.m., on MONDAY, the 1st April, 1872.

1872

TO THE FILESMTHS OF SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE.

A GENERAL MEETING of all the Men will be held on MONDAY, March 20th, at the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, CHURCH-STREET, BILSTON. Chair to be taken at 7 o'clock. As there is important business to be done all are invited to attend.

1876

Foresters' Fêtes, Bilston, July 30th.

WANTED, First-class Talent in every branch to send lowest terms. Artistes Engaged near Wolverhampton and Birmingham on that date please note. Also Sideshows, Roundabouts, Swings, &c.

Address, JOE HOLBERRY, Horse and Jockey, Bilston, Staff.

1888

Bill and Jacky Phillips Welcome you to the

Horse and Jockey

EVERY MONDAY AFTERNOON

Come join in the

fun and have a

sing-a-long with

June The Pianist



EVERY THURSDAY

FREE

**Grae Paes
and bacon**

FREE

CHURCH STREET
BILSTON TEL: 01902 657314

IRONMASTER

Wesley Street, Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

M Zakula [1983]
Reuben Campbell [1988] – [1995]
Marie Janet Webb [2002]
Timothy Richard Aston [2005]
Pauline Wilde [2005]



Token - John Wilkinson, Ironmaster, Bradley

NOTES

It opened on 4th January 1972.

A team from here played in the Sandwell Sunday (football) League. [1978-79], [1979-80], [1980-81], [1981-82]

Sandwell Evening Mail 15/5/1979

“Sandwell Sunday League.....

The District One Cup final between IRONMASTER and Sival was a dour affair. Sival looked the better side in the first half, but IRONMASTER got on top after the interval and finally made a breakthrough in the last minute when Gary Moore netted the only goal.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 26/6/1979

“The Sandwell Sunday League will have a new trophy next season, but it is unlikely to mean extra football.

The trophy will be in memory of Steve Faulkner, who was killed in the recent explosion at the KVE pork scratching factory at Tipton. League secretary Geoff Spicer said, ‘Steve was a stalwart with IRONMASTER, and the idea of a new trophy came from other teams in the First Division. Arrangements are being made for clubs to make donations towards the new award, but I think we will replace an existing trophy rather than create a new competition. We already have a very busy programme, and any more football could really create fixture congestion.”

[The explosion happened on 12th June 1979.]

[It appears that the Steve Faulkner Cup became the prize in the division one cup final.]

IRONMASTER won the Premier Three division of the Sandwell Sunday League in the 1979-80 season.

They lost in the Premier Two cup final to Coneygrye in the 1980-81 season.

They played in the Premier One division in the 1981-82 season under their new name of Western Athletic.

Sandwell Evening Mail 13/10/1980

“The friends and neighbours of blast victim Mr. Steve Faulkner who died in an explosion at a Tipton scratchings factory last year, have raised nearly £300 to honour his memory. Steve’s former neighbours in Albert Street, Princes End, his football team-mates from the IRON MASTER public house and Princes End Football Club, pupils at Willingsworth High School, Bilston Road, Tipton, and friends from local clubs and pubs raised £278 from donations and by organising fund-raising discos. His parents, Mr. Donald and Mrs. Alice Faulkner, of Albert Street, have presented the money to Sandwell’s Scanner Appeal.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 11/1/1986

“Darts.....

Tipton’s Matt Kelly and West Bromwich’s Steve Parkes have fought their way through to the Staffordshire finals of the famous *News of the World* competition. They battled their way through an area final at Princes End Ex-Servicemens Club, and now compete at the Littleton and Mid-Cannock Sports Club on February 10. Kelly, representing the IRON MASTER, Bradley, eliminated Len Price and Bill Evans before coming up against Gary Coxsell of Willenhall in his final.....”

Sandwell Evening Mail 21/2/1986

“Darts.....

Wolverhampton’s Peter Webb has reached the Midland final of the *News of the World* championship. The Heath Town WMC player battled his way through from the Staffordshire round at the Littleton and Mid-Cannock Sports Club. But it was the end of the line for Sandwell stars Matt Kelly and Steve Parkes, who were both outsmarted by the super-sharp Webb.

Kelly was first to fall. Representing the IRONMASTER, Bilston, he beat Stoke’s Rod Cotterill in the opening round, but then went down 2-1 to Webb who produced some stunning form in the deciding leg.....”

Express & Star 2/2/2010

“A man was recovering in hospital today following a suspected stabbing in Bilston. Police say the 28-year-old had injuries to his hand, face and chest but it is not clear how he came about them. The IRONMASTER pub in Wesley Street, Bradley, was cordoned off yesterday while investigations took place into the attack, which was reported at 8am. West Midlands Police spokesman Brigg Ford said today that house to house inquiries were on-going.”

It closed in 2010.

Sold as a development opportunity for £125,000.

Demolished [2013]

Housing was built on the site.



2007

Freehold for sale

THE IRON MASTER
WESLEY STREET
BILSTON WV14 8TX

- All offers invited
- Best bids by 22 June

For further information, contact:
Verity Nottingham
TEL 0121 265 7500
verity.nottingham@colliers.com

www.colliers.com/uk/leisure

FOR SALE



Colliers
INTERNATIONAL

2010

JAPANNERS ARMS

116, (130), (132), Oxford Street, (Green Croft), BILSTON

OWNERS

Eliza Kendrick, wife of Arthur, Yarnfield, near Stone
Richard Andrew Harper, brewer, Bilston [1912]

LICENSEES

Isaac Smith [1861] – [1862]
Mrs. Mary Smith [1868] – **1876**);
William Swift (**1876 – 1877**);
John Stokes (**1877 – 1878**);
Henry Sirrett (**1878 – 1881**);
Richard Finch (**1881**);
Walter Thorman (**1881**);
William Swift (**1881 – 1884**);
Joseph York (**1884 – 1885**);
Joseph Ball (**1885 – 1886**);
Susanna Benson (**1886 – 1887**);
Job Stokes (**1887 – 1888**);
Isaiah Wantling (**1888**);
George Smith (**1888 – 1890**);
Arthur Edward Devereux (**1890 – 1893**);
Frank Haynes (**1893 – 1898**);
William Beardmore (**1898 – 1903**);
Isaac Roper (**1903 – 1912**);
Louisa Jones (**1912**);

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29TH, 1885.
OXFORD-STREET, BILSTON.
To be SOLD by AUCTION, by
MESSRS. J. MORRELL and SONS, at
the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, HALL-
STREET, BILSTON, on the 29th day of October, 1885, at
Seven o'clock in the evening punctually, subject to condi-
tions to be then read, the old-established FREEHOLD
BEERHOUSE and PREMISES, known as the Japanners'
Arms, situate in Oxford-street, Bilston, and now in the
occupation of Mr. Joseph York, at an annual rental of
£17; together with the large yard and two storey ware-
house, and two storey shopping at the back of the same,
and now in the occupation of Mr. Joseph Smith, at an
annual rental of £13.
The premises adjoin the Bilston Brewery, and property
of Mr. S. Day and Mr. John Baker.
For further particulars apply to the AUCTIONEERS, or
Messrs. HAND, BLACKISTON, EVERETT, and HAND,
solicitors, Stafford.

1885

NOTES

132, Oxford Street [1861], [1862], [1868], [1871]
130, Oxford Street [1891]
116, Oxford Street [1901], [1904], [1911], [1912]

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

1861 Census

132, Oxford Street

- [1] *Isaac Smith* (62), publican and japanner employing 21, including women and children, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Mary Smith* (53), wife, born Lilleshall, Shropshire;
- [3] *Letha Smith* (27), daughter, house servant, born Lilleshall, Shropshire;
- [4] *Mary Smith* (20), daughter, employed in japan shop, born Sedgley;
- [5] *Joseph Smith* (18), son, japanner, born Bilston:

Isaac Smith, retailer of beer, 132, Oxford Street. [1862]

Mrs. Mary Smith, japanner and beer retailer, 132, Oxford Street. [1868]

1871 Census

132, Oxford Street

- [1] Mary Smith (63), widow, beer retailer and japanner employing 4 men 6 women and 3 girls, born Lilleshall, Shropshire;
- [2] Letitia Smith (37), daughter, born Lilleshall, Shropshire;
- [3] Mary E. Smith (30), daughter, japanner, born Lilleshall, Shropshire;
- [4] Joseph Smith (27), son, japanner, born Lilleshall, Shropshire:

Mary Smith died in the 3rd quarter of 1876.

Evening Express 8/2/1881

“Richard Finch, landlord of the JAPANNERS ARMS, Greencroft, Bilston, was summoned for having sold ale without a license.

The evidence showed that the defendant took to the house a short time ago from Mr. Harper, auctioneer, and the license had not been transferred to him. On Thursday Police-sergeant O’Brien and Police-constable Smith went to the house and were supplied by the landlady with two glasses of ale. It transpired that the defendant had paid a deposit upon the fixtures in taking possession of the house, and understood that the license had been transferred. Under these circumstances a fine of 40s only and the costs was ordered to be paid, the Bench remarking that Mr. Harper ought to repay the amount.”

1881 Census

Oxford Street – Public House

- [1] Richard Finch (59), publican, born Old Park, Shropshire;
- [2] Mary Ann Finch (50), wife, born Penkridge, Staffordshire;
- [3] Arthur Finch (18), son, iron moulder, born Dudley Port;
- [4] Charles Finch (15), son, iron moulder, born Dudley Port;
- [5] Kate Finch (10), daughter, scholar, born Smethwick;
- [6] Thomas Cherratt (50), lodger, waggoner, born Herefordshire:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 28/10/1885 - Advert

“Thursday, October 29th, 1885. Oxford Street, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. J. Morrell and Sons, at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Hall Street, Bilston, on the 29th day of October, 1885, at Seven o’clock in the evening punctually, subject to conditions to be then read, the old-established Freehold Beerhouse and Premises, known as the JAPANNERS ARMS, situate in Oxford Street, Bilston, and now in the occupation of Mr. *Joseph York*, at an annual rental of £17; together with the large yard and two storey warehouse, and two storey shopping at the back of the same, and now in the occupation of Mr. Joseph Smith, at an annual rental of £13.

The premises adjoin the Bilston Brewery, and property of Mr. S. Day and Mr. John Baker.

For further particulars apply to the Auctioneer, or Messrs. Hand, Blackiston, Everett, and Hand, solicitors, Stafford.”

1891 Census

130, Oxford Street

- [1] Arthur E. Devereux (36), publican, manager, born Birmingham;
- [2] Maria Devereux (34), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Jessie Devereux (8), daughter, scholar, born Scotland;
- [4] Alice Devereux (10 months), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] Maria Devereux (6), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] Francis Udall (72), father-in-law, widower, born Handsworth;
- [7] Thomas Udall (35), son, married, butcher, born Bilston;
- [8] Lissie Shepherd (16), general servant, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 3/6/1891

“At Bilston Police Court, yesterday, Joseph Fletcher, of Canal Row, Bilston, who was only apprehended on Saturday, was charged with unlawfully wounding Aaron Lockley, of Wooden Well Yard, Bilston, on the 1st of September last. Evidence was given to the effect that the two men were in the JAPANNERS ARMS, Temple [sic] Street, Bilston, when a dispute arose, and the prisoner taking up a quart jug struck the prosecutor on the side of the head with it, inflicting a wound half an inch deep, and nearly three inches long. He was committed for trial.”

Birmingham Daily Post 1/7/1891

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Joseph Fletcher (33), miner, was charged with unlawfully wounding Aaron Lockley, on the 1st September, at Bilston. On the date named prisoner, prosecutor and others were at the JAPANNERS ARMS, Oxford Street, Bilston. Prosecutor said he remonstrated with the prisoner for teaching a child to use bad language, whereupon the prisoner struck him on the side of the face with a pint jug, cutting his cheek open and breaking the jug.

The prisoner after the event disappeared, and was not arrested until May last, when he was said to have remarked that he should ‘only get two years, and would murder the whole lot when he came out.’ He now denied having used these words, and stated that he struck complainant because he had hit his child.

Prisoner was found guilty of a common assault, and was sentenced to six months’ imprisonment.”

1901 Census

116, Oxford Street – Beerhouse

- [1] William Beardmore (59), widower, publican, beerhouse, born Bilston;
- [2] Mary Beardmore (18), daughter, dressmaker, born Bilston;
- [3] Samuel Brown (25), son-in-law, widower, forge roller, born Bilston;
- [4] William Brown (2), grand-son, born Bilston;
- [5] Myra Cotterill (13), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Isaac Roper, beer retailer, 116, Oxford Street. [1904], [1912]

1911 Census

116, Oxford Street

- [1] Isaac Roper (62), publican, born Bilston;
- [2] Sarah Ann Roper (51), wife, married 32 years, born Bilston;
- [3] Mary Elizabeth Roper (21), daughter, millinery shop assistant, born Bilston;
- [4] Florence Roper (21), daughter, millinery shop assistant, born Bilston;
- [5] Harry Roper (15), son, railway clerk, born Bilston;
- [6] Bertha Fisher (30), boarder, domestic servant, born Willenhall;
- [7] Grace Roper (7), daughter, school, born Bilston:

Staffordshire Advertiser 17/2/1912

“Bilston Annual Licensing Sessions were held on the 9th inst.....

The licenses of JAPANNERS ARMS INN, Oxford Street were referred to the compensation authority for closing as not being required.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/6/1912

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

Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Principal Meeting to be held pursuant to the Licensing Rules, 1910, by the Compensation Authority for the above Area, will be held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, at Eleven o’clock am, on Thursday, the 18th Day of July, 1912.

And Notice Is Hereby Also Given, that the Compensation Authority will at the Meeting be prepared to hear, with reference to the Renewal of the Licenses of the several Premises specified in the subjoined list, all those Persons to whom under the Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910, they are bound to give an opportunity of being heard; that is to say, the Persons interested in any Licensed Premises in question, and, unless it appears to the Compensation Authority unnecessary, any other persons appearing to them to be interested in the question of the renewal of the license of those premises (including the Justices of the Licensing District). List of Licensed Premises.....

JAPANNERS ARMS, Bilston. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *Isaac Roper*.”

License refused by Compensation Authority on 18th July 1912.

Staffordshire Sentinel 18/7/1912

“The principal meeting of the County Compensation Authority was held in the Shire Hall, Stafford, today..... JAPANNERS ARMS, Bilston agreements had been entered into, and there was no opposition.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/8/1912 - Notice

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

Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Compensation Authority for the above area, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on the 18th day of July, 1912, to Refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below, all Persons Claiming to be Interested in the said Premises for the purpose of the Payment of Compensation under the said Act (other than the Licensee and the Registered Owner of the said Premises) are required to send to the Compensation Authority Notice of their Claims before the 26th day of August, 1912, for the purpose of enabling the Compensation Authority to ascertain in manner provided by the Licensing Rules, 1910, the Persons entitled to Compensation under the said Act, in respect of the said Premises.....

JAPANNERS ARMS, Bilston. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licencee, *Isaac Roper*. Registered Owner, Richard Andrew Harper.”

Lichfield Mercury 3/1/1913

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

The County Licensing Committee presented the following report.....

The committee went in great detail into all the figures submitted to them upon which the persons interested claimed compensation, and heard evidence put forward by the claimants. The committee consider that the amounts of compensation agreed upon are satisfactory, both from the point of view of the parties interested and the compensation fund.

In the following twenty-five cases the committee fixed the compensation.....

JAPANNERS ARMS, Bilston, beerhouse ante 1869, £500.....

The money has been apportioned amongst the interested parties and will be paid out on the 21st of December.”

Compensation of £500 was paid on 21st December 1912.

License extinguished on 28th December 1912.

JOLLY COLLIER

Bristol Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Henry Riley

LICENSEES

Henry Riley* [1841] – [1851]
William Riley [] – **1856**);
Henry Riley* (**1856** – [1861]
Henry Riley* [1873] – **1876**);
William Riley (**1876** – []

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Freeman's Black Country Folk 'Harry R Sells His Wife'

"*Harry* was the landlord of the JOLLY COLLIER INN and as a booty collier worked some profitable pits in the Lunt Colliery. Like many of his craft he came from Shropshire His wife and he decided that a change was advisable, and it was arranged for her to be sold in Bilston market....."

* probably the same person

1841 Census

Bristol Street

- [1] *Henry Riley* (30), publican, born Staffordshire;
- [2] *Ann Riley* (30), born Staffordshire;
- [3] *William Riley* (15), collier, born Staffordshire;
- [4] *James Riley* (12), born Staffordshire;
- [5] *Mary Riley* (10), born Staffordshire;
- [6] *Sarah Riley* (9), born Staffordshire;
- [7] *Elizabeth Riley* (7), born Staffordshire;
- [8] *John Riley* (4), born Staffordshire;
- [9] *John Mathews* (20), collier, born Staffordshire;
- [10] *David Harper* (20), collier, born Staffordshire:

Henry Riley was described as a brickmaker [1845], [1849], [1850]

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/6/1848

"Thomas Townsend, alias Gipsy Tom, was brought before John Foster, Esq, on Tuesday, charged by *Henry Riley* with threatening him, and creating a disturbance at his house on the 14th of May. In the course of the inquiry it transpired that about two years ago the defendant sold his wife to the complainant for £2 10s, and she had since lived with her purchaser. The complainant kept a public house in Bilston, and the defendant, with others, had often gone to the house for the purpose of making an uproar. On the 14th the defendant, with twelve other men, repeated the offence, threatening the complainant's life, and getting drink from a neighbouring public house, because they were refused any at the complainant's. The defendant was ordered to find bail for six months, and pay the expenses."

Henry Riley was described as a miner. [1851]

1851 Census

Bristol Street

[1] *Henry Riley* (45), married, miner and victualler, born Canton, Warwickshire;

[2] *Elizabeth Riley* (17), daughter, housekeeper, born Bilston;

[3] *John Riley* (13), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[4] *Eliza Riley* (7), daughter, scholar, born Bilston:

Staffordshire Advertiser 26/1/1856

“On Tuesday last, at Bilston Police Office, *Henry Riley*, who keeps the JOLLY COLLIER, and is a butty collier, was fined £10 and costs for assaulting his wife and threatening her life, so that she had to escape through a window, and he was further required to find sureties to keep the peace for six months.”

Birmingham Journal 20/6/1857

“Michael Mann was charged at Bilston Public Office on Tuesday under the following circumstances. He is in the employment of *Henry Riley*, who is a beer-shop keeper, in Bilston. On Saturday night he had been drinking for about three hours in *Riley*’s house, and being partially intoxicated, rose for the purpose of going home. *Riley* attempted to prevent him, stating that it was a rule that all his men should pay for a shillings-worth of drink before leaving on the pay night. Mann refused to take any more drink, but offered to pay 1s if another man present would do the same. An altercation ensued, in the course of which Mann picked up a stone ginger beer bottle, and knocked Mrs. *Riley* down with it, rendering her insensible. He was committed to prison for fourteen days, with hard labour.”

1861 Census

Bristol Street

[1] *Henry Riley* (55), victualler, born Coaton, Warwickshire;

[2] *Emily Riley* (38), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Jane Wade* (13), servant, born London:

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 30/12/1876

“Special Session for the transfer of licenses Alehouses.....

JOLLY COLLIER, Bristol Street, Bilston, from executors of *Henry Riley*, deceased, to *William Riley*.”

The license was abandoned.

KINGS ARMS

12, Church Street / Lichfield Street, Swan Bank, BILSTON

OWNERS

Samuel Griffiths, Wolverhampton
William Beddard
Ralph Gough
Charles Gray

LICENSEES

John Tomkys [1812] – [1832]
John Tomkys [1833] – [1843]
Mrs. Mary Tomkys [1845] – [1847]
William Hollingsworth [1847]
James Walter Busst [1848] – **1849**;
Mrs. Ellen Busst **(1849 – [1851]**
C Wright [] – **1854)**
Edward Dickenson **(1854 – 1855);**
William Beddard **(1855 – []**
Henry Oliver [1858] – [1858]
William Lewis [1860] – **1863**;
Ralph Gough **(1863 – 1879);**
Charles Gray **(1879 – []**



Pre 1890

NOTES

Court of Request and Excise Office [1833]
Excise Office [1822], [1861], [1941]
Commercial and excise office [1828], [1830]
Commercial, coaching and excise office [1845]
Commercial house and excise office [1830], [1835], [1849], [1850]
Commercial inn [1851]
Inn and commercial hotel [1851]

Blackcountryman (Winter 1982)

‘The Cry Of The Children’ by C. J. L. Elwell

“*John Tomkyns*, landlord of the KINGS ARMS at Bilston, argued that the Tommy-shops were ‘a good thing, because the working classes are very improvident and extravagant; if they had their wages in money, the majority of them would spend it in ducks and geese and fowls, and starve the rest of the week; most of the colliers have large families and their wives, by means of the Tommy-shops, get sufficient provisions instead of the husband spending all the wages at once on drink or other extravagancies.’”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 24/2/1812 - Advert

“Copyhold Buildings at Bilston.

To be peremptorily Sold by Auction, without Reserve, by John Moreton (by Order of the Assignees of John Poolton, a Bankrupt) at the Dwelling House of *John Tomkys*, known by the Name or Sign of the KINGS ARMS INN, in Bilston, in the County of Stafford, on Tuesday the 10th Day of March next....”

Volunteer Service Gazette and Military Dispatch 16/1/1907

Historical Records of the Yeomanry Regiments.

No.22. The Queen's Own Royal Staffordshire Imperial Yeomanry.

".....Captain Bickley received orders on June 9, 1817, from the magistrates to call out the Bilston Troop, in consequence of Major-General Sir James Lyon, KCB, Commanding the District, having directed that all the Regular troops in Wolverhampton should be held in readiness to march to Birmingham at a moment's notice. The troop accordingly assembled, the head-quarters being established at the KINGS ARMS, Bilston, and remained on duty till the 16th. The neighbourhood was perfectly quiet during the time."

Parson and Bradshaw Directory 1818

"Coaches from the Inns in Bilston From the KINGS ARMS, Church Street.

The Mail to Holyhead every day at one at noon; to Birmingham at half-past one at noon.

The Bang-up to Liverpool at seven in the morning; to Birmingham at seven at night.

The Eclipse to Manchester every morning at eight; to Birmingham every evening at six o'clock.

The Prince of Orange to Chester every morning at eight o'clock; to Birmingham at six in the evening.

Prince of Wales through W. Hampton to Shrewsbury daily at half-past twelve at noon; to Birmingham every forenoon at eleven o'clock.

Accommodation Day Coach to Birmingham every morning at half-past eight, and returns every morning at seven.

Old Union to Shrewsbury and Holyhead every morning at eleven; to London through Birmingham every morning at eleven.

A Light Coach to Birmingham every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, at nine in the morning, and returns half-past seven in the evening.

Packages and parcels deposited at the above Inn, are immediately forwarded by Land Carriage to any part of the kingdom."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 19/10/1818

"Bilston Association for the Prosecution of Felons.

We, the undersigned, having formed ourselves into an Association for prosecuting any Person or Persons who shall commit any Felony upon any of our Persons or Property, do hereby offer the following Rewards, to be paid to any Person by whose Means and Evidence shall be Convicted of the under-mentioned Offences.

For Murder £52 10s 0d.

For Maihem, Arson, Burglary, Highway Robbery, Horse-stealing, stealing of neat Cattle, Sheep, or for any other capital Offence £10 10s 0d.

For stealing Wearing Apparel, Linen, Money, Household Goods, Poultry, and for wilfully and maliciously damaging or injuring any Steam or Fire Engine or Machinery, or for the robbing of any Warehouses, Barns, Stables, or other Out-offices £5 5s 0d.

For stealing Hooks and Thimbles from Gates, Harrow Teeth, Plough Irons, or other Implements of Husbandry, old Iron, Lead, Corn, Hay, Straw, Timber in the Round or converted, Garden Produce severed from the Freehold, and petit Larcenies £2 2s 0d.

On the Conviction of a Person for receiving Goods, knowing them to have been stolen £5 5s 0d.

And in Case of a Conviction for any Offence for which no Reward is particularly mentioned, such Sum as a Committee of the Subscribers shall direct.

[Here is a list of subscribers, including *John Tomkys*.]

Edward Woolley, Treasurer. John Willim, jun, Solicitor.

Any Person desirous of becoming a Subscriber must apply to the Treasurer, or at the Office of the Solicitor, in Bilston.

The Annual Meeting will be held at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, Tomorrow (Tuesday) the 20th of October, where every Subscriber is requested to attend. Dinner on the Table at Three o'Clock.

The Reward of five Guineas was paid to Thomas Perry, for giving Information and Evidence against Chilton, for stealing a Duck, the Property of Peter Banks, one of the Subscribers.

Bilston, October 19, 1818."

Freeman's Black Country Folk 'Abel Hill'

[Abel Hill murdered Mary Martin and her 2 year old son.]

".....His first hearing took place in the Justices Room at the rear of the old KINGS ARMS....."

AND

British Press 27/3/1820

"A horrid murder has been discovered in the liberty of Bilston. A woman, named Mary Martin, and her infant natural child, were missed on the 23rd ult and some days after their bodies were found in the Birmingham canal, near Bradley, with marks of violence upon them. The event excited a strong sensation in the neighbourhood, and as several circumstances tended to criminate one Abel Hill, by whom the woman had the child, and by whom also she was again far advanced in pregnancy, he was apprehended. An inquest has been held upon the woman and child, and on Thursday the Jury, after three days of minute investigation, returned a verdict of wilful murder against Hill, who has been committed to Stafford gaol."

AND

Sun (London) 28/7/1820

"Wolverhampton, Tuesday night, 10 o'clock.

The trial of Abel Hill, for the wilful murder of Mary Martin and Thomas Martin, in the parish of Wolverhampton, which was most interesting, and consisted almost entirely of circumstantial evidence, came on at eight o'clock this morning, and was not finished until seven this evening. The Learned Judge summed up in the most ample and perspicuous manner, commenting, as he proceeded, upon the nature of the evidence; and the Jury, after consulting about five minutes, returned a verdict of Guilty. His Lordship, who seemed almost exhausted with fatigue, then passed sentence in the most affecting and impressive manner. The prisoner was to be executed yesterday."

[Abel Hill was executed on the Thursday morning by hanging and his body was delivered to Mr. Best, surgeon, of Bilston, to be dissected and anatomised, according to the sentence.]

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/9/1820 - Advert

"To the Noblemen, Gentlemen, & Clergy, Magistrates of the County of Stafford.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

As the Office of Gaoler, and Keeper of the House of Correction at Stafford, will become vacant at the next Epiphany Sessions, I beg to solicit your votes and interest to fill that situation.

In offering myself a Candidate on the present occasion, I am fully aware of the various and important duties attached to the Office; but I humbly hope I shall be able to produce such testimonials of my character and abilities, as a Police Officer in the County for the last twenty years, as will be considered satisfactory.

Should I be fortunate enough to become the object of your choice, I shall be most grateful, and will earnestly endeavour to discharge my duty with zeal and fidelity.

I am, my Lords and Gentlemen, most respectfully, your obedient servant. *John Tomkys*, Constable of Bilston."

[He was not elected.]

British Mercury or Wednesday Evening Post 15/5/1822

"The following pathetic appeal from the starving miners is generally circulating through the disturbed districts.

An Humble Address from the Coal and Ironstone Miners of Bilston, and the Neighbourhood.

To the worthy and honourable Magistrates that attended at a Meeting of the Coal and Iron Masters, at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, April 23, 1822.

It appears, according to publications that are in circulation, that your meeting was respectably attended by a part of the Coal and Iron Masters, who have declared that the men are receiving Two Shillings and Sixpence to Three Shillings per day, with the advantage of three pints of pit drink. But instead of three pints, a many of us receive but one pint, and that worth no more than One Halfpenny. And allowing we have Two Shillings and Sixpence per day in the Ironstone Mines, as has been suggested, and that there should be Five Days per Week done (but upon an average there is not above Four Days per Week) which will amount to Ten Shillings; and out of that, suppose we deduct One Shilling to buy coal, and Three pence which the Masters stop for Club, that will bring it to Eight Shillings and Nine-pence; then in most places we are obliged to pay One Shilling for Ale when we receive it. Then in the next place there is about Two Shillings and Three-pence for Rent, which will bring it to Six Shillings, the nett money for a family to subsist on.

Now, Sirs, we humbly wish that you would investigate these things minutely; considering the many dangers we are exposed to, the hardness of our labour, and the small sum that we receive for it, you must be led to think that we must be almost in a state of starvation!! So we hope you will reflect for a moment, and not draw too hasty conclusions by hearing the reports of masters, who are almost always acting too much for self, and not listening to the cries of the poor and needy. But we believe you have been informed wrong by these Gentlemen, if we may so call them; who would send us to the grave without any feeling for our case. But considering that we are, or should be in a free nation, and not born to be slaves; we take the liberty of addressing you in this plain and simple manner, hoping you will interpose for us accordingly to your wisdom; and we pray that God may direct you, so that there may be a speedy tranquillity between masters and servants; that masters might not make their servants like the Egyptians of old, to serve with rigour; and that servants might pay that regard that is due to masters, not as a slave, but as a servant.

Signed on behalf of ourselves and brethren, R. Hartshorne, S. Lister, W. Hartshorne, W. Jones, J. Lomas, G. Cartwright, S. Brooks.”

The Regulator coach to Birmingham left from here every morning at eight, and returned the same evening at seven. [1822]

The Eclipse coach to Birmingham left from here every afternoon at half past three. [1822]

The Bang-up coach and the Prince of Orange coach to Birmingham left from here every evening at half past six. [1822]

The Prince of Orange coach to Chester left from here every morning at half past seven. [1822]

The Bang-up coach to Liverpool left from here every morning at eight. [1822], [1828]

The Aurora coach to Liverpool left from here every morning at nine. [1822]

The Rocket coach to Liverpool left from here every evening at ten. [1822]

The Royal Mail coach to London, through Birmingham and Coventry left from here every afternoon at one. [1822]

The Young Prince coach to London left from here every day at one. [1822], [1828]

The Lark coach and the Rocket coach to London left from here every morning at three. [1822]

The Oxonian coach and the Aurora coach to London left from here every morning about three. [1822]

The Union coach to London left from here every morning at half past ten. [1822]

The Shamrock coach to London left from here every day at twelve. [1822]

The Old Prince of Wales coach to London left from here every afternoon at three. [1822]

The Traveller coach to London left from here every afternoon at five. [1822]

The Eclipse coach to Manchester, through Stafford, Congleton and Wilmslow, left from here every morning at seven. [1822]

The Traveller coach to Manchester, through Stafford, Congleton, Macclesfield, and Stockport, left from here every morning at half past seven. [1822]

The Lark coach to Manchester, through Stafford, Stone, the Potteries, and Congleton, left from here every morning at ten. [1822]

The Royal Mail coach to Shrewsbury left from here every forenoon at half past eleven. [1822]

The Prince of Wales coach to Shrewsbury left from here every morning at ten. [1822]

The Young Prince of Wales coach to Shrewsbury left from here every day at a quarter before one. [1822]

The Shamrock coach to Shrewsbury left from here every afternoon at two. [1822]

The Oxonian coach to Shrewsbury left from here every night at eleven. [1822]

The Prince of Orange coach to Shrewsbury left from here every morning at half past 7. [1822], [1828]

The Union coach to Shrewsbury left from here every morning at 9. [1822], [1828]

The Shropshire Hero coach to Birmingham left from here every morning at 10. [1828]

The Eclipse coach to Birmingham left from here every afternoon at 4. [1828]

The Traveller coach to Birmingham left from here every afternoon at 5. [1828]

The Bang-up coach to Birmingham left from here every evening at half past 7. [1828]

The Shropshire Hero coach to Bridgnorth left from here every afternoon at 4. [1828]

The Royal Mail coach to Holyhead left from here every morning at half past 9. [1828]

The Royal Mail coach to Liverpool left from here every evening at 9. [1828]

The Independent Tally Ho coach to Liverpool left from here every morning at 7. [1828]

The Rocket coach to Liverpool left from here every Sunday, Wednesday and Friday nights at 11. [1828]

The Royal Mail coach (from Holyhead) to London, through Birmingham and Warwick, left from here every afternoon at 4. [1828]

The Oxonian coach to London, through Birmingham, left from here every morning at 3. [1828]

The Hibernia coach to London, through Birmingham, left from here every morning at 5. [1828]

The Union coach to London, through Birmingham, left from here every afternoon at half past 2. [1828]

The Old Prince coach to London, through Birmingham, left from here every afternoon at 3. [1828]

The Wonder coach to London left from here every morning at 8. [1828]

The Emerald coach to London left from here every day at half past 1. [1828]

The Independent Tally Ho coach to London left from here every day. [1828]

The Eclipse coach to Manchester left from here every morning at 8. [1828]

The Traveller coach to Manchester left from here every day at half past 2. [1828]

The Old Prince coach to Shrewsbury left from here every morning at 10. [1828]

The Emerald coach to Shrewsbury left from here every morning at half past 11. [1828]

The Young Prince coach to Shrewsbury left from here every day at noon. [1828]

The Oxonian coach to Shrewsbury left from here every evening at 5. [1828]

The Wonder coach to Shrewsbury left from here every evening at half past 7. [1828]

The Hibernia coach to Shrewsbury left from here every night at 11. [1828]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 5/9/1825

"Sale at the BEAR INN, Smethwick, near Birmingham.

Comprising Ricks of Wheat, Barley, and Oats, eighty Tons of Hay, valuable Dairy of twelve Cows, quantity of Sheep, Pigs, and Poultry, six useful Waggon Horses and a Hackney, Waggon, Carts, Ploughs, Harrows, Gearing, &c, five Acres of growing Potatoes, the Licences, Good-will, and Possession of the BEAR INN, the whole of the excellent Household Furniture and Fixtures, capital Brewing Vessels, &c, &c.....

Catalogues will be ready a week prior to the sale, and may be had at the KINGS ARMS, Bilston."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 27/2/1826 - Advert

"KINGS ARMS, Bilston.

John Tomkys, Proprietor of the above Inn, having endeavoured at a considerable expense, to render it in every respect commodious, respectfully solicits the patronage and support of the Public. To Commercial Gentlemen, in particular, he wishes to state, that all possible attention will be paid to their comfort and accommodation, and assures them that they may depend upon well aired beds for themselves, and excellent stabling, with the best hay and corn, for their horses.

A sober and steady man wanted as Ostler. None need apply but those whose character will bear the strictest investigation.

Bilston, February 25, 1826."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 5/12/1881

"Bilston Fifty Years Ago from a 1827 directory.....

The petty sessions court was held in a room at the back of the KINGS ARMS, Swan Bank, the local commissioner for taking bail being Mr. Richard Corbett; here also the court of request for the recovery of small debts, established in 1808 by Act of Parliament, was held."

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/5/1827

"We understand that the Ball at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, on Thursday evening se'nnight, was very numerously attended, comprising a great proportion of the beauty and fashion of the town and neighbourhood. The elegant and spacious assembly room, recently erected by Mr. *Tomkys*, was fitted up with splendid and costly cut glass chandeliers, and otherwise appropriately and beautifully decorated on the occasion, and the whole arrangements were such as to reflect great credit on the taste and judgement of Mr. *Tomkys*."

Lane's Masonic Records (www.dhi.ac.uk)

"Noah's Arke Lodge (347)

KINGS ARMS, Swan Bank, Bilston, Staffordshire. 1828."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 17/3/1828 - Advert

"Bilston Charity Ball.

A Ball will be held at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, on Thursday next, the 20th of March.

Mrs. Stewart, Patroness.

T. Perry, Esq. N. Best, Esq. Stewards.

Tickets to be had of the Stewards, and at the KINGS ARMS.

Gentlemen's Tickets 7s. Ladies' ditto 6s.

Bilston, March 17, 1828."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 12/5/1828 - Advert

"Extensive Sale of Building Materials, Coal and Ironstone Mines, &c, at Bilston.

Richard Corbett respectfully begs leave to announce that he has received instructions from the Trustees of the Estate of the late Samuel Proud, Esq, deceased, to Sell by Auction, at the KINGS ARMS INN, in Bilston, on Friday the 30th day of May instant, the whole of the very valuable Building Materials of that excellent Mansion House, heretofore occupied by the said deceased, situate at Mount Pleasant, Bilston, in the county of Stafford; together with the Materials of several Dwelling Houses, Stables, Barns, and other Outbuildings, adjoining and near thereto, the whole of which will be sold in suitable lots. And at the same time will be sold the whole of the Mines in and under the lands forming the site of the said premises and the gardens adjoining....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 13/10/1828 - Died

"On Monday, after a few days illness, in her 40th year, Mary Ann, wife of Mr. R. Baker, of Bilston, and eldest daughter of Mr. *John Tomkys*, of the KINGS ARMS INN, of that place."

Staffordshire Advertiser 13/12/1828

"On Friday, 5th inst, a most elegant dinner was given to the Rev. J. Clare and the Rev. W. Leigh, at the KINGS ARMS, Bilston, for their constant and zealous attention to the interests of that town and neighbourhood, as magistrates. About sixty of the principal inhabitants were present, and the dinner and wines were of the first order, and reflected great credit on the landlady of the house and the managing committee. There are few rooms better calculated for a public dinner, than this, in which sixty persons could be accommodated at one table with the utmost convenience to every visitor. The musical and vocal exertions which enlivened the festivities of the entertainment between the powerful harangues of the chairman and the eloquent replies of those whose names and heaths were drank, gave to the enjoyment of the evening a rational happiness which will long be remembered by those who partook of the banquet."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 25/10/1830 - Advert

"Masonic. The Right Hon. Earl Ferrers, Provincial Grand Master for the county of Stafford, intends holding a Provincial Grand Lodge at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, on Saturday the 30th day of October, at one o'clock, to which all Brothers are respectfully invited. Dinner on the table at four o'clock.

John Dean, Secretary to the Noahs Ark Lodge, 668, Bilston. October 18, 1830."

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/11/1830

"Masonic Intelligence. On Saturday last, the Right Hon. Earl Ferrers, Provincial Grand Master for the counties of Warwick and Stafford, held his first Provincial Grand Lodge for this county, at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston. He was accompanied by several of the provincial Grand Officers of Warwickshire, and was met by Major Hawkes, and the Masters, Officers, and Brethren of the Lodges at Bilston, Dudley, Stafford, &c. The business commenced at one o'clock, when his Lordship delivered a most truly Masonic address to the assembled brethren, appointed provincial grand officers for this county, and paid very flattering and appropriate compliments to all present, for their genuine masonic order and regularity. The customary business being ended the lodge was duly closed with solemn prayer. A most sumptuous dinner was provided, and the company sat down at half-past four; his Lordship in the chair. The superior flavour of the wine, and the excellent arrangements made by Miss Tomkys, called forth his Lordship's high approbation, and he paid Miss T. a well-merited compliment on the occasion. When the cloth was removed, the Noble Chairman gave the following toasts, 'King William the Fourth,' 'Queen Adelaide,' 'The Duke of Sussex,' and several other loyal and patriotic sentiments, which were duly honoured by the craft; several excellent songs were given in a superior style; and the evening was spent in the greatest harmony. The company separated truly and highly gratified at the condescension and affability of the Noble Chairman."

Staffordshire Advertiser 25/12/1830

“The annual dinner complimentary to the Magistrates acting for the Bilston district, was held on Thursday se’nnight at the KINGS ARMS Bilston, and was attended by a numerous and respectable party.....

The dinner, which was elegant and abundant, was served up in a very superior style, and reflected great credit on the Misses Tomkys. The table was in particular plentifully supplied with venison, and other descriptions of game, for which the worthy hostesses and the company were indebted to the kindness and liberality of the following noblemen and gentlemen, Earl of Dartmouth; Lord Grey, of Groby; Sir John Wrottesley, Bart, MP; Sir George Pigot, Bart; E. J. Littleton, Esq, MP; and Thomas W. Giffard, Esq; whose healths, as the donors, were collectively given in the course of the evening. To conclude, the whole entertainment was of a very superior cast, and such as to merit the undivided approbation of, and give unmixed satisfaction to, the guests assembled.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 6/7/1831

“Staffordshire Sessions.....

The election for the office of High Constable of the Hundred of Seisdon North, vacant by the death of Mr. Thomas Norris, took place, when Mr. *John Tomkys*, of Bilston, was elected to the situation. Mr. *Tomkys* was lately High Constable of the Southern District of the Hundred. He had, we understand, been elected to his present office for the Northern Division on the occasion of the last vacancy, but handsomely resigned in favour of the late Mr. Norris. Mr. Jordan, of Penn, was elected for the Southern Division, in place of Mr. *Tomkys*. They were elected by a majority of eight to six.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 26/9/1831 - Advert

“Noahs Ark Lodge of Freemasons. 668.

The Right Hon. Earl Ferrers, PGM for Warwickshire and Staffordshire, will hold a Provincial Grand Lodge, at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, on Friday the 7th of October next, at eleven o’clock in the forenoon. All Brothers are respectfully invited to attend.

Dinner on the table at three o’clock.

John Tomkys, Jun. PGS. Bilston, September 26, 1831.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 7/3/1832

“It has seldom been our painful duty to record a more pitiable event than that which took place at Bilston, on Wednesday morning last, by the explosion of a large steam boiler at the wood-screw manufactory of Mr. J. Hawkesford, in that town. The accident occurred about ten o’clock, a time when all the work-people, amounting upwards of 300, were upon the premises; and we grieve to state that it has already proved fatal to eight persons, and fifty-six others are most seriously injured. The entire top of the boiler was blown off, and carried through the gates of the manufactory into an adjoining field. The report, at the moment of the explosion, was dreadful, and the shock was so powerful that a considerable part of the roof of the mill, where many women and children were at work, fell in, and forcing down the floors of two rooms, fell through into the rooms on the ground floor.

A little girl, the daughter of one of the workmen Abraham Worall, who had come to the manufactory with her father’s breakfast, and was near the boiler at the time it burst, was so dreadfully scalded that she died on the spot. The father, who was also within the reach of the hot vapour, was injured to such a degree that he died in a few hours afterwards. Mary Flavel and Sarah Burton died on Thursday, and Thomas Tennant and Hannah Price on Friday morning; Mary Anne Gittins on Friday night; and Mary Hughes on Saturday; they were all children under thirteen years of age. The scene at the manufactory, immediately after the explosion, was, we are informed, quite terrific; women and children, in a state of the greatest consternation, were jumping through the windows of the rooms from the second and third stories, and their shrieks, together with those of the sufferers upon whom the building had fallen, were distressing in the extreme.

An inquest was held on Friday afternoon, at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, before H. Smith, Esq, coroner, upon the bodies of Abraham Worrall, Mary Worrall, Mary Flavel, Sarah Burton, Thomas Tennant, and Hannah Price.....”

AND

Chester Chronicle 9/3/1832

“.....An inquest was held on the bodies and a verdict of Accidental Death returned. The engineer, it appeared, was so badly scalded, that he was confined to his bed, and could not attend the inquest; and therefore nothing could be ascertained respecting the precise cause of the accident. Robert Blaze, a boiler maker, proved that the boiler had been put up about a month ago, and was in a perfect state of repair. A meeting has since been held, at which it was resolved that a subscription should be entered into, for the relief of the surviving sufferers.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/9/1832 - Died

“On Wednesday night last, advanced in life, after a lingering illness, Mr. *John Tomkys*, senior, of Bilston, High Constable of the Hundred of Seisdon, in this county. Mr. *Tomkys* was well known and universally respected.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 24/12/1832 - Advert

“All Persons standing indebted to the estate of the late Mr. *John Tomkys*, of Bilston, are requested to pay the amount of their respective debts to Mr. Joseph Tomkys, of Bilston (who is authorised to receive the same), without delay; and all persons having any claim upon the estate are required immediately to send in particulars of their demands to Mr. Joseph Tomkys, in order that the same may be examined and discharged.
December 21, 1832.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 11/3/1833 - Advert

“KINGS ARMS Commercial Inn, Bilston.

John Tomkys having taken to the above Inn, so many years carried on by his late Father, begs to return his sincere thanks to his Friends and the Public for the liberal favours they have already conferred on the family, and assures them that nothing shall be wanting on his part to render every accommodation for their convenience and comfort. To Commercial Gentlemen he respectfully takes this opportunity of soliciting their kind support, assuring them that they may rely on every attention, good beds, excellent stables, with the best hay and corn for their horses.”

Magistrates met here every Tuesday. [1833]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/8/1833 - Advert

“Wanted an active Person as Clerk in a Machine; if he has some knowledge of Ironworks the better. Respectable references will be required as to honesty and sobriety. Personal applications to Mr. *John Tomkys*, KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, will be only attended to, where further particulars may be known.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 11/11/1833 - Advert

“House-Warming, KINGS ARMS, Bilston.

The Friends of Mr. *John Tomkys* intend to dine at the above Inn, on Friday the 22nd instant.

Thomas Perry, Esq, in the Chair.

Dinner upon the table at four o'clock. Tickets, 12s 6d each, to be had at the Bar.

J. Tomkys embraces the present opportunity of returning his best thanks to those numerous Friends who have so liberally given him their support and encouragement at the KINGS ARMS since the decease of his father. He also most respectfully solicits their attendance at his House-Warming, assuring them that it will be his earnest endeavour to afford every comfort upon that and all other occasions.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 3/2/1834 - Advert

“Bilston Ball.

A Ball will be held at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, on Monday the 10th day of February inst.

Mrs. Leigh, Lady Patroness.

Rev. H. S Fletcher, Mr. Perry, Mr. Willim, jun, Mr. E. Best, Stewards.

Dancing will commence at nine o'clock.

Tickets to be had of the Stewards, or of Mr. *Tomkys*, at the KINGS ARMS.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 8/10/1834

“At our Public Office, on Wednesday last, there was a Special Sessions held for the appointment of Surveyors of the Highways for the township of Bilston, Thomas White, druggist, and *John Tomkys*, innkeeper. Henry Pool was appointed a Special Surveyors for the same township, with a salary.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 17/11/1834 - Advert

“KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston.

Wanted a Waiter and Chambermaid (one person).

Apply as above.”

KING'S ARMS INN, BILSTON.
WANTED a Waiter and Chambermaid (one person.)—Apply as above.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 11/2/1835 - Advert

“Wanted a middle aged Single Man, to take care of Horses and manage a Kitchen Garden. Apply, personally, to Mr. *Tomkys*, KINGS ARMS, Bilston. A character will be required.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 6/4/1835 - Advert

“KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston.

Wanted an experienced Woman as Waiter, from 25 to 30 years of age.

Apply as above.”

WANTED a middle aged SINGLE MAN, to take care of Horses and manage a Kitchen Garden. Apply, personally, to Mr. *Tomkys*, King's Arms, Bilston. A character will be required.

KING'S ARMS INN, BILSTON.
WANTED an experienced Woman as Waiter, from 25 to 30 years of age.—Apply as above.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 15/4/1835 - Advert

“Borough of Wolverhampton.

A Public Dinner will be given to Thomas Thornley, Esq, and C. P. Villiers, Esq, the Representatives of this Borough, on Friday the 24th instant, at the KINGS ARMS, Bilston.

Dinner upon the table at half-past four o'clock.

Tickets, 10s 6d each, to be had of Mr. *Tomkys*, at the KINGS ARMS, Bilston.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 18/1/1836 - Advert

“Wanted at the KINGS ARMS, Bilston, a good plain Cook, from 25 to 30 years of age. None need apply whose character will not bear the strictest investigation.”

WANTED at the King's Arms Inn, Bilston, a good plain Cook, from 25 to 30 years of age. None need apply whose character will not bear the strictest investigation.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 25/4/1836 - Advert

“To be Sold by Auction, by E. and C. Robins, at the SWAN HOTEL, in Wolverhampton, on Wednesday next, the 27th say of April, at three o'clock in the afternoon, and at the KINGS ARMS INN, in Bilston, in the county of Stafford, on Thursday next, the 28th day of April, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, in fifty-four lots.

The Manor or Lordship of Bradley, with its Rights, Royalties, and Appurtenances; the celebrated Bradley Iron Works.....”

[Bradley Iron Works were established by the ironmaster John Wilkinson.]

Staffordshire Advertiser 28/5/1836

“Dinner to the Rev. H. S. Fletcher, incumbent of Bilston.

The friends and supporters of Mr. Fletcher having determined to invite their newly elected minister to a public dinner, upwards of 90 sat down on Wednesday evening to a sumptuous repast, provided by Mr. *Tomkys*, at the KINGS ARMS INN.....”

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/6/1836

“We understand that a very numerous and respectable meeting was held at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, on Thursday se'nnight, when it was determined immediately to open a joint-stock bank in that town, to be called the Bilston District Bank, and Directors were chosen, who have advertised for a manager. We believe it is intended to commence business as soon as some eligible premises which the Directors have contracted for can be got ready for the purpose.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/11/1836 - Died

“On the 1st inst, after a protracted and painful illness, borne with great patience and resignation, Ann, the beloved wife of Mr. *John Tomkys*, of the KINGS ARMS INN, in Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/7/1837 - Advert

“To The Electors Of The Borough Of Wolverhampton.....

Any communication in favour of Mr. Benbow and Captain Burton's election will be thankfully received at the following places and houses where the gentlemen conducting their election sit daily.....

Bilston, the KINGS ARMS.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 7/2/1838

"Bilston annual ball took place at the KINGS ARMS commercial inn, on Thursday evening last, when nearly one hundred persons mingled in the scene of Christmas festivity. The musical department was under the direction of Mr. Hayward, whose attractive band enlivened the merry dance; whilst the 'provisional committee' acted under the able superintendence of Mrs. *John Tomkys*, by whom every suitable refreshment was provided. The room also was elegantly decorated, and we never saw a party inter into the spirit and enjoyment of the amusements with greater ardour. It is needless to say dancing was kept up to an early hour the next morning, and that daylight dawned ere the party separated. From the experience of pleasure which this year's meeting has afforded, we feel satisfaction in announcing that the next year's stewards are appointed."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 11/4/1838 - Advert

"One Guinea Reward.

Lost, on Wednesday evening, from the Ellowes, near Sedgley, a small White Italian Greyhound, with a brown head, answering to the name of 'Tasso.'

Whoever will bring the same, either to Mr. C. Fereday, of the Ellowes; or to Mr. *Tomkys*, KINGS ARMS, Bilston; or to Mr. Parke, bookseller, Wolverhampton, shall receive the above reward.

No further reward will be offered; and whoever detains him after this notice will be prosecuted.

April 7, 1838."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 23/5/1838 - Advert

"Coronation.

Great preparations are making at Bilston for a Grand Dinner, at the house of Mr. *John Tomkys*, KINGS ARMS INN, to celebrate the Coronation of our illustrious Queen, which is appointed to take place on Thursday, June 28, 1838.

By order of the Committee. *John Tomkys*."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 13/2/1839

"The second annual general meeting of the Bilston District Banking Company was head the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, on Monday last, when the report of the directors was read to the shareholders, and a dividend of five per cent was declared, payable on the first of March....."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/1/1840 - Advert

"Freemasonry.

The Brethren of the Noahs Ark Lodge, No.435, will dine at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, on Friday, the 3rd of January, to celebrate the festival of St. John, when the company of Brethren will be esteemed a favour.

By order of the WM.

John Tomkys, Secretary.

Dinner on the table at two o'clock."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/2/1840 - Advert

"The Old Workhouse Buildings and Land, situate in the town of Bilston, in the county of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett (under an order of the Poor Law Commissioners) on Thursday, the 6th day of February, 1840, at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston aforesaid, at five o'clock in the afternoon....."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/10/1840 - Advert

"To Hop Merchants, Grocers, Brewers, and Others.

To be Peremptorily Sold by Auction, by Mr. Jonathan Jones, on Tuesday, the 3rd of November, 1840, at the Large Room, KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston.

Three Hundred and Two pockets of choice Hops, good, sound, and bright, in the best possible condition and excellent packages, of the growth of 1835, 1836, and 1838, viz.

Twenty-two pockets of Kent, 1835;

On hundred and forty ditto Sussex, 1836;

On hundred and forty ditto ditto, 1838;

In lots suitable to purchasers, being the property of a speculator.

Sale to commence at eleven o'clock, for twelve precisely.

The Hops may be inspected the day prior to the sale, at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, from three to five o'clock."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 10/2/1841 - Advert

"Bilston Annual Card and Dancing Assembly will be held at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, on Thursday, the 18th day of February instant.

Stewards. Mr. J. Bickley, Mr. W. Riley.

Ladies' tickets 5s; Gentlemen's 7s 6d; to be had at the Bar.

Dancing to commence at nine o'clock."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 12/4/1841 - Died

"On Tuesday last, in her 71st year, Ann, relict of the late Mr. *John Tomkys*, formerly of the KINGS ARMS, Bilston, and High Constable of the hundred of Seisdon North, in the county of Stafford."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/6/1841

"Freemasonry. On Tuesday last, a dinner was given by the Brethren of the Noahs Ark Lodge, Bilston, at the KINGS ARMS INN, to their worthy WM, Brother Thomas Lewis, of the Capponfield ironworks, to testify their regard for him as a mason, and to express their regret at his leaving the country. The members of the lodge mustered numerously on the occasion, and several members of the adjoining lodges attended. Brother Thomas Aston was in the chair, and the usual loyal and masonic toasts were given and drank with the customary cordiality. Upon Brother Lewis's health being drank, he replied in a truly masonic and feeling manner, much regretting his separation from the brethren. The evening was spent with great conviviality and real masonic feeling."

1841 Census

Swan Bank

[1] *John Tomkys* (48), victualler, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Mary Tomkys* (33), born Staffordshire;

[3] *Mary Tomkys* (3), born Staffordshire;

[4] *John Tomkys* (1), born Staffordshire;

[5] *James Price* (24), ostler;

[6] *Sarah Baker* (18), barmaid, born Staffordshire;

[7] *Emma Thursfield* (15), barmaid, born Staffordshire;

[8] *Jane Homer* (22), cook, born Staffordshire;

[9] *Elizabeth Bucknall* (20), chambermaid, born Staffordshire;

[10] *Mary Ann Waldron* (18), nursemaid, born Staffordshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/5/1841 - Advert

"Windmill, Dwelling House, &c, at Bilston, Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett, on Friday, the 28th day of May, 1841, at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston aforesaid, at five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to condition then to be read....."

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/2/1842

"The 5th annual meeting of the Bilston District Bank took place on Tuesday, at the KINGS ARMS, Bilston.

The report of the directors was of a highly satisfactory nature, and exhibits, after deducting the bad debts, a net profit of £2,800 10s 9d, out of which the directors recommended a dividend to be paid at the rate of seven per cent upon the paid up capital, leaving a surplus of £674 5s 9d to be added to the guarantee fund, which would then amount to £4,478 0s 7d. The report was unanimously adopted by the meeting, and the two retiring directors re-elected, after which votes of thanks were passed to the directors and manager. A party of the shareholders dined together in the afternoon, under the presidency of W. H. Sparrow, Esq, the chairman of the directors."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/3/1842 - Advert

"Freemasonry.

The Brethren of the Noahs Ark Lodge, No.435, will dine at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, on Thursday, the 17th of March, to celebrate the Festival of St. John, when the company of Brethren will be esteemed a favour.

By order of the WM.

John Tomkys, Secretary.

Dinner on the table at two o'clock."

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/7/1843

“Inquests before T. M. Phillips, Esq.

On Tuesday, at the KINGS ARMS, Bilston, on Henry Cross, a young man who had been missing four days, and was found dead in a canal which goes near his house. Verdict, Found Dead.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 25/10/1843 - Died

“On the 19th instant, in the 51st year of his age, at Bilston, Mr. *John Tomkys*, late of the KINGS ARMS, deeply regretted by his family and friends.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 6/12/1843

“The following inquests have been held before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner.....

On Tuesday se’nnight, at the KINGS ARMS, Bilston, on a child named Isaac Lloyd, who died in consequence of injuries sustained by his clothes taking fire. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/1/1844 - Advert

“Noahs Ark Lodge, No.435, Bilston.

The Brethren of the Noahs Ark Lodge, No.435, will hold their Annual Festival of St. John, at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, on Thursday, the 25th instant, when any brother’s attendance will be esteemed.

The Lodge will be opened at one o’clock, and dinner on the table at three.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/1/1844

“The brethren of the Noahs Ark Lodge, No.435, held their annual festival of Saint John on the 25th instant, at the KINGS ARMS, Bilston, being joined by many of the visiting brothers of the adjoining lodges. After the duties of the lodge had been gone through, the widow of the late Brother *John Tomkys* provided an excellent dinner, the dessert and wines being of first rate quality; the brothers on retiring testified their satisfaction with the conviviality and harmony of the evening, by many assurances of their determination, if spared, to renew the pleasure on the next festival of St. John.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 8/5/1844

“The following inquests have been held before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner.....

On Thursday last, at the KINGS ARMS, Bilston, on an elderly female, named Jane Cotterill, who was attending as a nurse upon an invalid, and expired suddenly while in the act of feeding a baby by the bedside of her charge. Verdict, Died by the Visitation of God.”

Birmingham Journal 20/9/1845 - Advert

“The KINGS ARMS, Travellers Inn, with Liquor Shop, Excise and Public Offices, Bilston, Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Richard Corbett, on Tuesday, the 30th day of September, at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston aforesaid, at Six o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be read.

All that the above-named old-established and well-accustomed Travellers Inn and Liquor Shop; comprising very extensive and lofty Ale, Wine, and Liquor Vaults under the whole of the house, a large Retail Wine and Spirit Shop, back Parlour, Bar, Bar Parlour, commodious Tap Room, large Cooking Kitchen, Butlers Pantry and Office, an excellent Commercial Travellers Room, an elegantly fitted-up Assembly Room, forty-five feet six inches by sixteen feet six inches, having handsome wainscot partitions to divide the same, and eleven Bed Rooms suitable for Commercial Travellers and family purposes; there is a spacious entire back Yard, enclosed by lofty gates, in which there are two large soft-water Cisterns, a Larder, Scullery, Excise Office, Brewhouse, Boot Room, and Coal Depot, with Malt and Store Rooms over, one four-stalled Stable, with Hayloft and Billiard Room over the same, a Gighouse, Piggery, and other outbuildings and conveniences thereto belonging.

The above Inn has a good business as a Commercial Travellers Inn and Liquor Shop, and the Collector of Excise, the Commissioners of the Court of Requests, and the Magistrates for this district, hold their periodical meetings in the Assembly Room, which is also used as a Freemasons Lodge Room.

To view the same, apply on the Premises; and further particulars may be obtained at the Offices of Mr. Thomas Bolton, Solicitor, Wolverhampton; Mr. Horatio Barnett, Solicitor, Walsall; or the Auctioneer, New Town, Bilston.”

[This advert was repeated for a sale on 21st October 1845.]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/1/1846

“The brethren of the Noahs Ark Lodge, No.435, met at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, on Monday the 12th instant, to celebrate the Festival of St. John the Evangelist, when brother Thomas Lewis was installed, with the usual ceremonies, as WM for the present year. Brother the Rev. Dr. Slade, DPGM and GC for Staffordshire, favoured the brethren with his company, and addressed them in an most eloquent and impressive speech on the duties of the craft. A most excellent dinner was provided by Mrs. *Tomkys*, widow of the late respected brother *John Tomkys*, which, together with the wines, gave universal satisfaction. The evening was spent in the true spirit of harmony, and the brethren retired highly delighted with the intellectual meeting.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 11/2/1846

“On Wednesday last the friends and supporters of Mrs. *Tomkys*, landlady of the KINGS ARMS, Bilston, held their annual dinner at her house. There were upwards of fifty respectable tradesmen living in the neighbourhood, and several ironmasters, as well as visitors who use the house from Wolverhampton and Birmingham. The dinner was served up by Mrs. *Tomkys* in her usual good style, and consisted of an abundance of the delicacies and more substantial fare of a good old English dinner. In compliance with the request of a deputation which waited on Samuel Griffiths, Esq, of Wolverhampton, proprietor of the property, that gentleman kindly took the chair.....

Mr. Griffiths said he had been brought up in Bilston, and the little knowledge he possessed had been imparted to him there. When he was an apprentice in the town some few years ago, he little thought he should have the honour to preside over a meeting so influential as the one before him. They were met to support the widow of their late worthy host, and he was gratified to see so numerous an assembly, whose presence was creditable not only to their own feelings, but to the memory of their departed friend. He begged to thank them for their kindness in drinking his health, and concluded by proposing the health of Mrs. *Tomkys*.

Mr. Hollingsworth responded on behalf of their hostess, who, he could assure them, was most grateful for the kind support she had received since the death of her husband.

The health of the vice chairman, the magistrates of Bilston, and other toasts of a local character, were afterwards drunk, and responded to in a suitable manner, after which the company separated at a late hour, much gratified with the entertainment and the kind feeling which pervaded the meeting.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/3/1846 - Advert

“Bilston Gas Light and Coke Company. Completely Registered.

Notice is hereby given, that the Adjourned Extraordinary General Meeting of the Shareholders in this Company will be held on Friday, the 6th day of March instant, at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, at eight o'clock pm for the purpose of deciding whether the company shall proceed to erect the works, or wait the decision of Parliament upon the Bill now before the House of Commons.

Charles G. Brown, Clerk to the Company. Bilston, March 2, 1846.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/8/1846

“At Bilston Public Office, on Tuesday last, Mary Lister, for being drunk and abusive to Mrs. *Tomkys*, of the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, was ordered to find sureties to keep the peace for six months, and pay the costs.”

Birmingham Journal 5/9/1846

“William Marlow was brought before the Bench, and charged with stealing a coat, the property of Mr. Thomas Smallwood. It appeared that the prosecutor was an attorney, practising at Wellington, and on the 8th of June he left a coat in the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston. He made inquiries about his coat, but could not find it, and all the servants denied any knowledge of it. On Sunday, the 23rd ult, from circumstances which had occurred at the inn, Mrs. *Tomkys*, the landlady, went to the house of the prisoner at Wood Green, and found the coat in his box. On being charged with stealing it he said that Emma Barnes, a servant at the inn, with whom he kept company, had given it to him, but she denied having done so. He was committed.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 20/10/1846

“Staffordshire Michaelmas Sessions Not Guilty.....

William Marlow, charged with stealing a coat, at Bilston, belonging to Thomas Smallwood.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/10/1846

“Staffordshire Michaelmas Sessions.....

Emma Barnes, aged 28 years, was indicted for stealing in the dwelling house of *Mary Tomkys*, at Bilston, eighteen yards of silk ribbon, the property of Joseph Francis.

The prosecutor stated that he was a ribbon manufacturer, residing at Coventry, and travelled through the country with a stock of ribbons. On the 21st of August he went to the **KINGS ARMS INN**, Bilston, kept by Mrs. *Tomkys*. According to his custom, he arranged the ribbons, which were in various boxes, in one of the rooms, for the inspection of his customers. There were three doors leading to the room, two of which he locked himself, and the other he did not fasten, thinking it was merely a private entrance. On going into the room on the following morning, he found one of the boxes had been disturbed, and various lengths of ribbon cut from six half pieces. He lost about eighteen yards in the whole, the value of 17s or 18s. The same day Mrs. *Tomkys* gave him five pieces of ribbon, which corresponded with the patterns and quantity he had missed.

Mrs. *Tomkys*, the landlady of the **KINGS ARMS**, deposed to the prosecutor being at her house on the 21st of August. On his making a complaint that some of his ribbons had been stolen, she searched the box of the prisoner, and found the pieces of ribbon produced, which Mr. Francis identified as his property. The prisoner had been in her service five years, and also two years on a previous occasion.

William Hollingsworth purchased the ribbons from the prosecutor for Mrs. *Tomkys*. He did so, because he (the prosecutor) had said he should hold Mrs. *Tomkys* responsible for any loss.

Mr. Woolrych addressed the jury at length on behalf of the prisoner, and called several witnesses to character.

Guilty. There was a second indictment against the prisoner, which charged her with stealing several silver teaspoons, and other articles, belonging to Mrs. *Tomkys*, which was not proceeded with.

The prisoner, who was recommended to mercy by the jury, on the ground of her previous good character, and also by her late mistress, was sentenced to twelve months imprisonment.’

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 30/11/1846 - Advert

“Wanted an Ostler at a Commercial Inn. He must be a sober, steady man, about 30 years of age, without incumbrance. Apply personally at the **KINGS ARMS INN**, Bilston.”

WANTED an Ostler at a Commercial Inn. He must be a sober, steady man, about 30 years of age, without incumbrance.—Apply personally at the **KING'S ARMS INN**, Bilston.

Birmingham Journal 23/1/1847

“Yesterday morning an influential meeting of the inhabitants of Bilston was held at the **KINGS ARMS**, to take into consideration the best method of raising local subscriptions to alleviate the deep distress and famine now existing in Ireland and parts of Scotland. At eleven o'clock, the chair was taken by the Rev. H. S. Fletcher, who opened the business by stating the object of the meeting, and expressing his sympathy with the distressed people of the neighbouring kingdoms. A resolution, deploring their present position, and rejoicing in the efforts now being made throughout this country to aid them, also recognising it as a duty to cooperate with the British Association in London in raising funds for their support, was passed; and a committee, consisting of ministers of all denominations, and many influential gentlemen of the town, was appointed to carry out these views. It was agreed to send weekly remittance to London to the British Association; and Mr. Thomas Cross was appointed treasurer, and the Rev. J. Heafield, secretary. One hundred pounds was subscribed in the room; and the meeting was adjourned until seven o'clock in the evening, to give greater facilities for carrying out the object sought to be attained.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/3/1847 - Married

“On the 25th instant, at St. Leonard's church, Bilston, by the Rev. H. S. Fletcher, Mr. *W. Hollingsworth*, to Mrs. *Mary Tomkys*, of the **KINGS ARMS INN**, both of that town.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 16/6/1847 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale at the **KINGS ARMS INN**, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by John Corbett, on the premises, on Tuesday and Wednesday next, the 22nd and 23rd days of June, 1847.

The whole of the iron-bound Ale Barrels, Mashing and Cooling Tubs, 120 gallon Copper and Fixings, four-pull Beer Machine, four-post and tent Bedsteads, in Moreen and Chintz Clothing, Feather Beds, Linen, Glass, China, Liquor Shop Fixtures, stock of Wines and Liquors, neat Dennet Gig, Spring Cart, and a variety of other effects, belonging to Mr. *William Hollingsworth*, who is leaving the above establishment; catalogues of which will be in circulation on and after Thursday next, and may be had at the place of sale, or of the Auctioneer, New Town, Bilston.”

Birmingham Journal 10/7/1847

“On the afternoon of Sunday last, one of the police had his attention called to a man lying in the street, apparently unwell, and as he was a stranger to the town, he took him to the station, where the poor man was in the course of the evening visited by Mr. Dickson, the surgeon, who pronounced him dangerously ill. Some medicine was given him, but he continued to grow worse during the night, and died on the following morning. An inquest was held on Wednesday, at the KINGS ARMS INN, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, Coroner, and a verdict returned of Died by the Visitation of God. After he was taken to the station, he said his name was John Boden, and that he came from Oldridge, Cheshire.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/9/1847

“An inquest was held on Wednesday at the KINGS ARMS at Bilston, before G. Hinchliffe, Esq (officiating for T. M. Phillips, Esq) on the body of William France, about 31 years of age, who was at work in one of Mr. Sparrow’s pits at Moseley Hole New Colliery on the previous Friday week, when an explosion of sulphur took place, and France was so badly burnt upon various parts of his body, that he died on the following Monday evening. The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 11/9/1847

“An inquest was held on Wednesday last, at the KINGS ARMS, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, on the body of Catherine Onions, a widow, sixty years of age, who appears, from the evidence, to have been literally frightened to death. Rebecca Steerer stated that on Monday night last, the deceased and herself were walking from Wolverhampton to Bilston, about ten o’clock, the deceased being apparently in good health. When they reached the railway between Ettingshall Lane and Gibbet Lane, two men (whom the witness did not know) overtook them, and used indecent language towards them, on which the deceased instantly reeled, and they both called out, which caused the men to run away. The deceased walked on for a few yards, and then fell down lifeless, apparently from fright. The witness stated that deceased was a very timid woman, and she had frequently known her faint from very trivial causes. The men did not touch either of them, and there were no marks of violence on the deceased. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased died from the Effects of Fright.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 15/9/1847

“An inquest was held on Wednesday last, at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of Edward Rogers, about two years old, who was accidentally drowned by falling into a brook near a brickkiln in that town. Verdict, Accidentally Drowned.”

AND

“An inquest was held on Wednesday last, at the KINGS ARMS, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, on the body of Catherine Onions, a widow, aged sixty, who appears, from the evidence, to have been literally frightened to death. Rebecca Steerer stated that on Monday night last, the deceased and herself were walking from Wolverhampton to Bilston, about ten o’clock, the deceased being apparently in good health. When they reached the railway between Ettingshall Lane and Gibbet Lane, two men (whom the witness did not know) overtook them, on which the deceased instantly reeled and they both called out, which caused the men to run away. The deceased walked on for a few yards, and then fell down lifeless, apparently from fright. The witness stated that the deceased was a very timid woman, and she had frequently known her faint from very trivial causes. The men did not touch either of them, and there were no marks of violence on the deceased.

The jury returned a verdict that the deceased died from the effects of fright.”

Birmingham Journal 6/11/1847

“On Saturday last, two inquests were held at the KINGS ARMS, Bilston, before Thomas Moss Phillips, Esq, Coroner. The first of them was on the body of John Jones, who was killed in a stone pit in Mr. Banks’s field, near Bilston, on Friday afternoon, by about three tons weight of stone and clod falling upon him. He had been told, a short time before, that the stone and clod were likely to fall, but he tried it with his pick, and said it was all safe. Shortly afterwards, however, it fell, and he was killed on the spot. Verdict, Accidental Death.

The other inquest was on the body of Eliza Hollingshead, who, on Saturday morning about ten o'clock, was assisting as a bank's girl at the mouth of a pit in the neighbourhood of Bilston, and was in the act of pushing a skip from the platform on to the bank, when the catch gave way, the platform fell back, and the deceased (who was standing between two men) fell backwards down the pit, which is eighty-four yards deep, and was killed on the spot. The two men narrowly escaped with their lives by jumping off the platform to the side of the pit, catching hold of the frame, whilst their legs hung down the pit until they were rescued from their perilous position. The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

Birmingham Journal 6/11/1847 - Advert

"Copyhold Enfranchisement.

The Copyholders of Bilston are respectfully requested to Meet at the Large Room, KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, on Monday next, the 8th of November, at Seven o'clock in the evening, for the purpose of deciding what measures shall be taken to promote the Enfranchisement of Copyhold Property.

J. Hartill, Chairman of the Willenhall Enfranchisement Society. November 2, 1847."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 13/12/1847 - Advert

"Sale of Building Materials, by order of the Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Dudley Railway Company.

To be Sold by Auction, by E. and C. Robins, on Monday the 27th day of December inst, at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, for twelve precisely, in lots to be marked upon the property, and set forth in handbills, which will be shortly prepared and circulated.

All the valuable Materials of the Dwelling Houses and other Buildings, in and near to Hall Street, Bilston....."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/12/1847 - Advert

"Bilston Gas Light and Coke Company.

The Second Annual Meeting of the Shareholders in the Bilston Gas Light and Coke Company will be held at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, on Monday, the 3rd day of January, 1848, at twelve at noon, for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors, declaring a Dividend, and electing three Directors, for the ensuing year....."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/12/1847

"Another instance of the recklessness with which some colliers prosecute their dangerous occupation took place a few days ago in a coal pit near Bilston. Some colliers descended the pit in question about six o'clock in the morning. One of them, Richard Thompson, was cautioned by another collier not to go up a gate road till it had been properly examined by the doggy, but Thompson persisted in his original intention, and took with him a lighted candle. After he had proceeded some distance an explosion of fire damp took place, and Thompson ran back, badly burnt about his arms, back, face, and breast. He was taken home, and was subsequently attended by Mr. Dunn, surgeon, of Wolverhampton, but after lingering from Monday till Wednesday morning, he died in consequence of the injuries he had received. The deceased was twenty-one years of age. At the inquest, which was held on Friday, before W. W. Ward, Esq, at the KINGS ARMS, Bilston, a verdict in accordance with the evidence was returned."

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/1/1848

"Freemasonry at Bilston. The annual dinner of the brethren of the Noahs Ark Lodge, held at the KINGS ARMS, Bilston, took place at that inn on Monday afternoon last. There was a large assemblage of the brethren, the chair being filled by Brother J. F. Warner, WM, for the year ensuing, the vice chair being filled by Brother Brettell, SW, for the ensuing year. A most sumptuous dinner was provided by Host Brother *Busst*. Several admirable anecdotes, showing the utility of Freemasonry, were narrated by a visitor. The usual loyal and masonic toasts were drank, and several excellent songs given, and enjoyments of the evening participated in in a truly fraternal spirit."

Manchester Courier 22/1/1848

"On Tuesday, an adjourned inquest was held at the KINGS ARMS, at Bilston, Staffordshire, on the body of a newly-born female child, who had been found dead at the bottom of a coal pit at Bilston, on the morning of the 3rd instant. Bridget Killgallan, the mother of the child, who is in custody on suspicion of having caused its death by unfair means, was present at the inquest. It appears that she is a lodging-house keeper at Bilston, and that her husband is transported. The only evidence against the mother was her own statement, made to a neighbour, and that of her own daughter. She was secretly delivered of the child, and finding it alive, wrapped it up in bed and left it for some time; that finding it dead when she again visited it, she went out and threw it down the pit. The jury returned a verdict of Wilful Murder against her, and she was committed for trial at Stafford Assizes.

The evidence disclosed a fearful want of common decency, the wretched woman slept on a bed by herself, two men were in another bed, and three in another. The daughter slept in a bed in another room, in which were also sleeping two women and three men, a lodger's child and her brother and sister."

AND

Birmingham Journal 18/3/1848

"Staffordshire Lent Assizes.....

Bridget Kilgallan, an Irishwoman, was charged with the wilful murder of her new-born female child, on the 30th of December, at Bilston.....

Mr. Hancox, surgeon, of Bilston, who had made a post mortem examination, now described the child as being healthy and full-grown; but he was unable distinctly to state the cause of death.

His Lordship: Then the case is too obscure for the Jury to find a verdict of wilful murder against the prisoner. There was no evidence to sustain that charge, as they must have indisputable testimony in regard to the cause of death; but there was abundant evidence for the Jury to find the prisoner guilty of concealing the birth of the child, and consequently of a misdemeanour. The Jury having returned a verdict to this effect, his Lordship addressed the prisoner, and said that he was not surprised at suspicions being raised that the child had been murdered, because, where a woman took pains to conceal the fact of her labour, and took the chance of her own death and that of the child, it might justly be considered ample proof that she did not desire the child to live. She had been found guilty, however, of a misdemeanour of a very aggravated character, and he therefore sentenced her to twelve months' imprisonment, with hard labour."

Birmingham Journal 18/3/1848 - Advert

"Bilston Masonic Ball.

The above Ball will be held at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, on Thursday, the 30th of March, 1848, under the immediate patronage of H. C. Vernon, Esq, DPGM, the proceeds of which will be applied in aid of the Masonic Benevolent Fund.

Stewards. Brother Masfield, PGSWZ; Brother Patterson, PGJDH; Brother Warner, WMRA; Brother Dean, PM; Brother Brettell, SWRA; Brother Law, PMRA; Brother Lester.

Dancing to commence at Nine o'clock.

Tickets, including Supper – Gentlemen, 7s 6d; Ladies, 5s; to be obtained from the Stewards only.

It is requested that the Brethren will attend in full Masonic Costume."

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/4/1848

"On Thursday evening se'nnight, a grand masonic ball was held in the Assembly Room at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, which was attended by a numerous and respectable assembly. The object was for the relief of the Benevolent Fund of the Lodge held at that house, and the sum realised was very liberal."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/4/1848

"On Wednesday last, whilst a child of the name of Daffey, son of Thomas Daffey, a labourer, was sitting by the side of a fire in a house in Birch's Buildings, Bilston, where his parents lodged, with his back against the hob, a large potful of nearly boiling water accidentally tilted on one side by the coal giving way in the grate, and the water ran down the child's right side, by which he was very much scalded on his head, side, and leg. He was taken to a surgeon, but died on Friday afternoon from the effects of the scalds. An inquest was held on the body of the child on Saturday, at the KINGS ARMS INN, before W. W. Ward, Esq, coroner (acting for T. M. Phillips, Esq) when a jury gave a verdict of Accidental Death."

A coach and omnibuses to Birmingham left here from 9am to half past 9 at night. [1849]

A coach to Bridgnorth left from here every evening at 5. [1849]

An omnibus to the Potteries left from here every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, return every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. [1849]

A coach to Holyhead left from here every morning at 3. [1849]

The Royal Mail coach to Shrewsbury left from here every afternoon at 4. [1849]

The Salopian coach to Shrewsbury left from here every afternoon at half past 2. [1849]

The Greyhound coach to Shrewsbury left from here every afternoon at half past 2. [1849]

The Wonder coach to Shrewsbury left from here every afternoon at half past 1. [1849]

Omnibuses to Wolverhampton left from here every hour. [1849]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 10/5/1848

“An application was made by Mr. *Busst*, of the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, to transfer his license to his brother, which was granted.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/5/1848 - Notice

“Whereas a Fiat in Bankruptcy, bearing date the 8th day of May, 1848, has been awarded and issued against *James Walter Busst*, of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, innkeeper, under which he has been adjudged and declared bankrupt, the said *James Walter Busst* is hereby required to surrender himself to Edmund Robert Daniell, Esquire, one of her Majesty’s Commissioners authorised to act in the prosecution of Fiats in Bankruptcy in the Birmingham District Court of Bankruptcy, at Birmingham, on the 7th day of June next, at half past ten of the clock, and on the 29th day of June next, at half past ten of the clock in the forenoon on each of the said days, and to make a full discovery and disclosure of his estate and effects; when and where the Creditors are to come prepared to prove their debts, and on the first day above specified to Choose Assignees, and on the last day above specified the said Bankrupt is required to Finish his Examination. All persons indebted to the said Bankrupt, or that have any of his effects, are hereby desired not to pay or deliver the same but to Frederick Whitmore, Esq, official assignee, Waterloo Street, Birmingham; and give notice thereof to Thomas Moss Phillips, Solicitor, Wolverhampton.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 17/6/1848

“Court of Bankruptcy, Birmingham, Wednesday, June 7. Before Mr. Commissioner Daniell.

In re *James Walter Busst*, of Bilston, Innkeeper.

This was a meeting for the choice of trade assignees, which was carried by Mr. Phillips, of Wolverhampton, Mr. Foley, Mr. Taylor, and Mr. York being appointed trade assignees. The bankrupt was examined relative to transactions with his brother, when it appeared that he now owed his brother £400 for moneys lent and groceries, for which sum the bankrupt’s brother held a bill of sale, under which he was now in possession of the bankrupt’s property, but whether he would relinquish possession was not known. Mr. Wright, who appeared for the bankrupt, was of opinion that the property would be available to the creditors generally, but as nothing definite could be stated, it was determined that the bankrupt’s brother should be summoned to attend the court to give the required explanations. On the 10th instant the bankrupt’s brother attended pursuant to the summons, and relinquished his bill of sale, consequently the effects comprised in it will be available for the creditors.”

Birmingham Journal 1/7/1848 - Advert

“Re *J. W. Busst*, KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, near Wolverhampton, Staffordshire, a Bankrupt.

Unreserved Sale of the whole of the Household Furniture, valuable Spirit Shop and Public House Fixtures, Five-Pull Beer Machine, Kitchen and Brewing Utensils, and other Effects, at the KINGS ARMS INN, situated at Bilston, near Wolverhampton, Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. W. Callum, without reserve (by order of the Assignees to the Estate of *James Walter Busst*, a Bankrupt), upon the Premises of the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, near Wolverhampton, in the county of Stafford, on Monday and Tuesday Next, the 3rd and 4th days of July.

All the Household Furniture and Effects; together with the Spirit shop and other Fixtures; comprising lofty mahogany four-post, tent, and other Bedsteads, clothed in damask and chintz hangings, hair and flock Mattresses, straw Palliasses, fine goose-feather Beds, fancy painted Dressing Tables and Wash-hand Stands, Chamber Chairs, Swing Glasses, in mahogany frames, mahogany Chests of Drawers, mahogany Dining and other Tables, mahogany Chairs, with horse-hair seats and seating, Sofa, in mahogany carved frame, with spring seat, back, and pillow covered with horse-hair; Couch, in mahogany frame, to match; mahogany Cheffionere, Oil Paintings, in gilt frames; Prints, framed

and glazed; China, Glass, and Linen, five-pull Beer Machine, eight-day Timepiece, in mahogany frame; Pier Glass, in gilt frame; Bar and Spirit Shop Fixtures, Kitchen and Brewing Utensils, and numerous other Effects; particulars of which appear in catalogues, now in circulation, and may be had at the Offices of F. Whitmore, Esq, Official Assignee, Waterloo Street, Birmingham; or at the Offices of Mr. W. Callum, No.14, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham. The Sale will commence punctually at Eleven o'clock each morning."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/8/1848

"On Friday last a large quantity of rock fell from the roof of a stone pit at Bunkers Hill, near Bilston, and knocked down one of the workmen, John Dainty, about thirty-one years of age. He received several severe bruises, and a very bad cut on his right side, from which he died in the course of the evening. At the inquest which was held on his body on Saturday, at the KINGS ARMS, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 7/2/1849 - Died

"On the 3rd instant, at Bilston, after a short illness, Mr. *James Walter Busst*, of the KINGS ARMS INN, in that town."

James Walter Busst – see also FOX, Church Street.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 7/3/1849

"At the Public Office on Monday last, the following transfers of victuallers licenses took place.....
Bilston: *James Walter Busst*, deceased, to *Ellen Busst*, his widow."

Ellen Busst = Ellen Bust

Wolverhampton Chronicle 23/5/1849

"The recently appointed Magistrates, having resolved to hold an additional Petty Sessional sitting weekly, E. B. Dimmock, Esq, and John Jones, Esq, sat for the first time on Friday last at the KINGS ARMS INN....."

AND

"On Wednesday last an inquest was held at the KINGS ARMS INN, in this town, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of Francis Portens, about five years of age, who was drowned on the previous afternoon by falling into a well of water, about three feet six inches deep, in the cellar of an unoccupied house, near his parents house in Wooley's buildings, Wolverhampton Street. The child was soon after taken out by Henry Davis, an engineer, but life was quite extinct. Verdict, Accidental Death."

AND

"On Wednesday last an inquest was held at the KINGS ARMS INN, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, to inquire into the circumstances attending the death of two newly-born female children, who had been found buried in a pit bank on the morning of Tuesday.

Inspector Thompson, having heard a report that some interment had taken place, went to the house of the persons said to be the parents, a poor Irish couple, of the name of Durkin, residing in Birch's Buildings. On making inquiry of the father, he at first denied knowing where the children were, but afterwards admitted that he had been forced to bury them in a field of land in the occupation of Messrs. Abbots, near Bilston, not having money to bury them in a churchyard. Application had been made to Mrs. Johnson, the wife of the relieving officer, for medical relief, but she told Durkin that his wife would require to go into the workhouse to be delivered. The advice was not taken, however, and Durkin's wife was delivered of twins, one of which was stillborn, while the other died directly after its birth. The relieving officer was informed of the circumstances. Durkin states that Mr. Johnson refused to give him coffins for the children, but this has since been denied by the relieving officer, who states that he asked Durkin if he could not bury them (meaning to inquire whether he had the means of doing so), but Durkin took the question in its literal meaning, and said he could bury them, and on the same night interred them in a pit mound, which was 'convenient' to his house.

The inquest having been adjourned till Wednesday evening, in order that Mr. Hancox, surgeon, might make a post mortem examination, on its being resumed, that gentleman proved that one of the children had been stillborn, and that the other had died from natural causes. A verdict to this effect was returned by the jury, who, however, expressed their dissatisfaction in the strongest manner in regard to the conduct of Mr. Johnson, and forthwith drew up a

memorial on the subject to the Poor Law Commissioners. (It will be observed that Mr. Johnson gave an explanation at the meeting of the Board of Guardians on Friday, and the Rev. Chairman undertook to write to the jury, stating to them that both medical relief and food was given by the relieving officer, and that they had been misinformed.)”

Staffordshire Advertiser 4/8/1849

“An inquest was held at the KINGS ARMS, Bilston, on Saturday, before Thomas Moss Phillips, Esq, on the body of Phillip Dyke, who was killed through being drawn over the pulley at a pit in Mr. Hickman’s field, on Friday. The deceased and a boy had finished work about ten o’clock at night, and gave the signal to be drawn up. Joseph Derry, the engineer, started the engine at a very moderate pace, and was not aware the men were so near the top, when in an instant the dolly, with the deceased and the boy, was drawn over the pulley, and Dyke fell about five yards from the mouth of the pit on a cinder pit; he was taken home and died about twelve o’clock the same night. The boy was also injured, but he is progressing favourably. It appeared from the evidence that a shot had been fired in the pit about nine o’clock, and Dyke called out for some fire to be thrown down to light his candle that had been extinguished; a shovel full of fire was thrown down, and it is supposed that a gleed caught the token (a piece of tow) attached to the chain and burnt it off. There was no banksman in attendance when the parties came up. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/12/1849

“On Tuesday last the police committee of the mining district assembled at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, to investigate the charge made against the police, who are stated to have used unnecessary violence in the protection and assistance of Mr. Boydell, in taking possession of a boat laden with iron ore, as messenger from the Birmingham Court of Bankruptcy, in the case of Messrs. Jones and Oakes, bankrupts, to whom the ore belonged.

George Bate, Esq, presented a memorial, which he stated was most respectably signed, and that he himself knew many of the parties to be most respectable; but on reference to the minutes of the quarter sessions it appears that the case must be investigated at Wordsley, and Friday, the 21st instant, was appointed by the committee for the purpose.”

Birmingham Journal 13/7/1850

“An inquest was held on Saturday last, at the BIRD IN HAND public house, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, Coroner, on the body of George Davis, a lad aged thirteen years, who met with his death under the following melancholy circumstances. It appears that on Monday morning, the 1st inst, the deceased was at play in Mr. Hickman’s field, Mount Pleasant, when two lads, one George Bust, aged twelve years, son of Mrs. Bust, of the KINGS ARMS INN, and the other son of Mr. Obadiah Batte, parish constable, went up to him and asked him why he had been throwing stones at them, but before the deceased had time to answer the boy Bust struck him a violent blow above the left ear with a constable’s staff which he had in his hand. The deceased instantly dropped to the ground, and remained insensible from the effects of the blow for nearly an hour, when he was taken home to his father’s house, in Black Horse Yard, and put to bed. On Wednesday he appeared much better and came down stairs, but towards the evening he became worse, and died on Thursday. The inquest was adjourned till Wednesday last, at three o’clock, in order that a post mortem examination might be made. It was again adjourned, however, till next Thursday, for the production of the lads, Bust and Batte.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/7/1850

“The inquiry into the cause of the death of George Davis, a boy 13 years of age, whose death resulted from a blow on the head, inflicted by another boy, named George Busst, 12 years of age, son of Mrs. Busst, of the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, has terminated in a verdict of Manslaughter against the boy Busst.”

AND

Birmingham Journal 27/7/1850

“Staffordshire Summer Assizes..... The Charge of Manslaughter against a Boy.

George Busst, a boy eleven years of age, who pleaded guilty to the indictment charging him with having killed George Davis, a boy of his own age, at Bilston, a few days ago, under the melancholy circumstances described by us at the time, was sentenced to the nominal punishment of one week’s imprisonment. In doing so, his Lordship admonished him in the most feeling terms, and trusted that the sad event would prove of service to him during his whole lifetime.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/7/1850

“A preliminary and private meeting was held on Monday morning last, at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, preparatory to a public one on next Thursday night, to consider what steps should be taken on the part of Bilston to express its sympathy with the great political loss which the nation has sustained in the lamented death of Sir Robert Peel.....”

[The public meeting resolved to hold public subscription for a monumental memorial at Bilston, and for the erection of baths and washhouses for the people.]

Birmingham Journal 26/10/1850 - Advert

“Pot House Bridge Iron Works, near Bilston. To Ironmasters, Engineers and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by R. S. Walker, at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, on Monday, November 11th, 1850 at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to such conditions as will be then produced.

The following important Premises and Machinery, which have been recently erected upon the banks of the Birmingham Canal, and late in the occupation of Messrs. Arrowsmith and Davis.....”

1851 Census

Church Street

- [1] Ellen Busst (36), widow, innkeeper, born Wellington, Shropshire;
- [2] Jane Maria Busst (19), daughter, barmaid, born Bilston;
- [3] Charles James Busst (16), son, tailor, born Bilston;
- [4] Horatio Samuel Busst (15), son, at home, born Bilston;
- [5] George Walter Busst (13), son, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [6] Thomas Busst (11), son, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [7] James Alfred Busst (6), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [8] Richard Harris (53), visitor, widower, formerly innkeeper, born Warwick;
- [9] John Williams (22), visitor, widower, wine merchant, born Birmingham;
- [10] Mary Brown (29), chambermaid, born Whittington, Staffordshire;
- [11] Sarah Bythaway (17), house maid, born Bilston;
- [12] John Amor (52), widower, boot at inn, born Stockland, Dorsetshire;
- [13] Thomas Kirkland (13), errand boy, born Coventry:

Staffordshire Advertiser 24/7/1852

“Last evening (Friday) a public dinner was given at the KINGS ARMS, Bilston, to the Hon. C. P. Villiers, and Thomas Thornley, Esq, the members for the borough of Wolverhampton, in order to commemorate their fifth return to Parliament. The chair was filled by E. B. Dimmack, Esq, Mr. J. C. Barlow, and Mr. Robert Bew, acting as vice-chairmen.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 30/8/1852 - Advert

“Building Materials, Bilston, on the line of the Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton Railway.

To be Sold by Auction, on Monday next the 6th day of September, at four o'clock in the afternoon, at the KINGS ARMS, Bilston, subject to conditions to be produced.

The valuable Building Materials of several Dwelling Houses and other Buildings, situated in Gibbett Lane, Millfield Road, and Coseley Row, Bilston, to be taken down for the purposes of the above Railway and Works.....”

Birmingham Journal 25/12/1852 - Advert

“Old Licensed Public House Wanted, within eight or ten miles of Bilston. Coming-in not to exceed £140.

Apply, by letter only, J. B., KINGS ARMS, Bilston.”

OLD LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE WANTED,
within eight or ten miles of Bilston. Coming-in not to exceed
£140.—Apply, by letter only, J. B., King's Arms, Bilston.

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/9/1853

“Out of the twenty-three applications for new licenses made before the magistrates for the Bilston division, at their annual sitting, ten were granted. In five of these there was no opposition. On the same occasion the renewal of the licenses of the KINGS ARMS, the FOX, and the CROWN in Crown Street, against which houses complaints had been preferred by the police, was withheld, to be considered at the adjourned court on the 16th inst.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/9/1853

“At the Petty Sessions, on Friday.....

The licenses of the KINGS ARMS and FOX INNS, and also the OLD CROWN, in Crown Street, suspended at the late licensing meeting were renewed upon promise of amendment in conducting the respective houses.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/2/1854 - Advert

“Sixteen First-Class Draught Horses.

Mr. W. Ashcroft will Sell by Auction, on Friday, February 24, 1854, at the house of Mr. *C. Wright*, KINGS ARMS, Church Street, Bilston.....”

Edward Dickenson = Edward Dickinson

Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/7/1854 - Advert

“To Publicans and Others. KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston.

Mr. Ashcroft has received instructions from Mr. *E. Dickinson*, who is now tenant at the above establishment, to Sell by Auction, without reserve, on Friday next, July 21, 1854, a portion of the Furniture, the whole of the Spirit Shop Fixtures, Spiritous Liquors, and Wines, comprising.

Gallons. 56 of Sherry, 80 of Port Wines, 6 of Cape, 130 of British Wines, 25 of Foreign Brandy, 10 of British Brandy, 10 of Rum, 20 of Gin, 6 of Whiskey, 20 of Cappalain, 100 of prime old Ale.

Four dozen excellent Sherry, three dozen of prime old Port Wine, thirty Casks, glazed Partition, twelve feet by nine feet six inches; handsome copper water Boiler, and numerous effects.

The spirituous liquors and wines will be sold in lots of two gallons each. Parties are respectfully requested to bring their own bottles, in order that they may see their purchases drawn from the casks, and measured.

Catalogues may be had at the place of sale, and at the Auctioneer’s Office, Snowhill, Wolverhampton
Sale to commence at eleven o’clock.”

AND

Worcester Journal 12/7/1856

“Worcester Insolvency Court. Wednesday, July 9.....

In re *Edward Dickenson*, Dudley, skin-broker.

Insolvent applied for his final order, supported by Mr. Rea and Mr. Wilson, and unopposed. His liabilities were set down as £2,777 9s 2d, and assets as £93 13s 1d. He attributed the cause of his insolvency to the loss he sustained in having his goods seized and sold by one of his creditors, the ruinous rate of interest charged him for money lent, the large sums expended in improving the KINGS ARMS at Bilston, and the CASTLE INN, Dudley, and having but a small capital when he commenced business.

His honour remarked upon the large amount of debts incurred by the insolvent in the short space of four years, he having been a bankrupt in 1851. Insolvent replied that he had been in a very large way of business, and had been unfortunate. His honour said as no creditor appeared to oppose, neither would he oppose him, but would grant his final order.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/8/1854

“The annual meeting of Magistrates for granting and renewing publican’s licenses in the parish of Bilston and Sedgley was held on Friday last, in the Bilston Police Court.....

There were eleven applications for new licenses which were disposed of as follows.....

The application of Mr. Hall for a license to the SWAN BANK TAVERN, Bilston, in the occupation of Mr. Norris Best, was opposed by Mr. Waterhouse for the proprietor of the KINGS ARMS, and refused.”

William Beddard = William Beddow

Birmingham Journal 3/2/1855 - Advert

“KINGS ARMS HOTEL, Bilston.

Mr. Charles Gray has been favoured with instructions from Mr. *William Beddard*, to Offer for Sale by Auction, upon the Premises as above, without the least reserve, on Tuesday and Wednesday Next, the 6th and 7th of February, previous to extensive alterations being made upon the Premises.

The whole of the superb modern and useful Household Furniture, large Chimney Glasses, in gold and maple Frames, goose-feather Beds, Linen, Glass, China, massive four-post mahogany Bedsteads (in six Commercial and two other Bed Rooms) with Cornice Poles, and Damask Furniture, in crimson, green, drab, &c; Spanish mahogany Dressing Tables and Wash-hand Stands to match, large Swing Glasses, painted Chamber Furniture, &c, mahogany framed wire gauze Blinds and Rollers, Blinds and Carpets, and Floor Cloths, throughout the house. The Furniture in the Commercial Room, Smoke Room, News Room, Tap Room, Bar, and Cooking Kitchen; the Public House Fixture, Glazed Partitioning, Doors, Screens, Grates, and Mantel Pieces; Brewing Requisites, well-seasoned Hogshead and other Casks, Spirit Fountain, Counter, Casks, and Taps, capital five-pull Beer Machine, Gas Fittings, Lamp over door, together with the whole of the choice and large Stock of Wines and Spirits, three Bins of old bottled Wine, four dozen Champagne, Compounds, 21lbs of Cigars, and other Effects.

Catalogues may be had at the *Journal* and *Mercury* Offices, Birmingham; the Place of Sale, at the Hotels in the adjoining towns or of the Auctioneer, at his Offices, High Street, Dudley, and High Street, Walsall.

Sale to commence at Ten o'clock each morning. Conditions as usual.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/7/1855

“Henry Hodgkinson was summoned for using threatening language towards Mrs. Sarah Jane Beddow, landlady of the KINGS ARMS, Bilston. It appeared that on Monday last the defendant (who did not appear) went into the liquor vaults and insulted some of the customers. Mrs. Beddow said she did not allow her customers to be insulted, upon which the defendant told her it was not her place to interfere, and used very improper expressions towards her. He afterwards attempted to strike the complainant, and broke a glass, the contents of which fled all over her.

The Magistrates said the case was an aggravated one. It was not the first time the defendant had been summoned to this Court. The defendant was fined 20s, in default two months' imprisonment.”

Birmingham Journal 23/2/1856 - Advert

“Re Joseph Spencer, of Bilston, Ironfounder, a Bankrupt.

Mr. J. W. Smith has received instructions to Sell by Auction, at the KINGS ARMS HOTEL, Bilston, on Monday, the 3rd of March, 1856, at Four o'clock in the afternoon.

Two Policies of Assurance on the Life of the said Joseph Spencer.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/8/1857 - Advert

“KINGS ARMS Commercial Hotel, Bilston.

Mr. Frederick Altree has received instructions from the Proprietor, Mr. *Beddard*, to Dispose of by Private Treaty, the above noted old-established House of Business. Rent £65 per year. Let off £53. Valuation can be reduced to £350. Cause of disposal the Proprietor going abroad.

Apply F. Altree, Auctioneer and Publicans Valuer, Bilston.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/8/1857 - Advert

“KINGS ARMS Commercial Hotel and Spirit Vaults, Church Street, Bilston.

Mr. Frederick Altree has received instructions from Mr. *Beddard*, the proprietor, to Dispose of the Licenses, Possession, and Stock of the above noted premises. The house contains commercial, smoke, sitting, and eleven sleeping rooms; cooking kitchens, large brewhouse, malt rooms, six dry cellars, large yard, coach-house, stabling, and other conveniences. In-coming can be reduced to £350. Cause of disposal the proprietor going abroad.

Apply to F. Altree, Auctioneer and Valuer, Bilston. Established 1840.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/10/1857

“At Bilston Petty Sessions yesterday, Sarah Jane Beddard preferred a charge of assault against William Alltree. Mr. *Beddard*, the husband of the complainant, who is the landlord of the KINGS ARMS INN, is about to emigrate to America, and Mr. Alltree, who is an auctioneer, was called in to value the stock and fixtures in the house between Mr. *Beddard* and the incoming tenant. Thursday last was the settling day, and according to the statement of the complainant £38 had to be paid over to her on behalf of her husband by Alltree. He, however, only paid her £37. She remonstrated, and he insisted that he had paid £37 10s, having kept half a guinea as his own fee. An altercation ensued, in the course of which, as the complainant alleged, Alltree put his arm round her waist and attempted to kiss her, at the same time intimating that ‘he would not mind £5.’ This constituted the assault complained of. Mrs. Beddard was cross-examined at some length by the defendant. She admitted having made similar charges against two other persons for taking liberties with her in the bar; also that she went with the defendant to the VINE INN to see a cousin of hers after the alleged assault took place; and also that she had held out a threat to be revenged on him for keeping the half sovereign for the valuation. At the close of her examination the Magistrates dismissed the case without inquiring further into it or calling upon Mr. Alltree for his defence, stating they were satisfied no assault was committed.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/11/1857

“Mr. F. Altree, auctioneer, of Bilston, was charged on Saturday with an infringement of the Excise Laws. Mr. Harding appeared on behalf of the commissioners of Inland Revenue, stating that the defendant was charged with letting horses for hire without taking out a license, by which he had incurred a penalty of £100. On the present occasion he should prove that the defendant had been employed by a Mr. *Beddard*, who had kept the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, as a valuer, and in the bill subsequently sent in by him, had charged a guinea for the hire of a horse and trap from Bilston to West Bromwich. That bill had been laid before the Board of Revenue in London, and it was by the express command of the revenue authorities that the present charge was brought. He then called as witness Mr. *William Beddard*, who stated that some time since he was owner of the KINGS ARMS, and employed the defendant, Mr. Altree, an auctioneer, of Bilston, to make a valuation of the house to a Mr. Wade, with whom he had negotiations at the time, to take the house. On September 29th, Mr. Altree, Mr. Wade, and himself went to West Bromwich in Mr. Altree’s trap, and the expenses of that journey were charged in the bill. Witness objected to the amount at the time, as being too much, as he himself paid horse keep and other expenses on the occasion. The witness was examined by the defendant as to a charge brought by him against the latter of indecently assaulting his wife, which had been dismissed by the Bilston magistrates. The object of such examination being to show an animus.

The defendant maintained that he had not let his horse and trap for hire. He had driven the witness over to West Bromwich certainly, but the charge of a guinea was made, not for the hire of the vehicle, but for his own professional services as an auctioneer and valuer on the occasion. He should have made the same charge had he gone alone, or travelled by railway. Mr. Harding, in reply, contended that Mr. Altree had charged for the hire of the conveyance, and that the onus rested upon him to prove his license. If dissatisfied with their decision he could appeal to the next quarter sessions, and a case could be then sent up for the opinion of a higher court.

The Bench, after a short consultation, intimated that they did not consider the case proved against the defendant, and must consequently be dismissed. Mr. Harding said, under those circumstances, he should himself take a case.”

[The Board of Inland Revenue withdrew the appeal against the magistrates decision.]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/10/1858

“At the Bilston Police Court yesterday (Tuesday), before J. Leigh, Esq, seven persons, named William Fellows, John Fellows, Mary Fellows, Mary Pearson, Joseph Pearson, Rebecca Fowler, and Elizabeth Cope, were charged with stealing a silver watch from the person of Mr. *Henry Oliver*, the landlord of the KINGS ARMS, Bilston. Mr. Henry Underhill was engaged for the prosecution, and Mr. Ebsworth for the defence.

The evidence of the prosecutor was to the effect that on Thursday night last, at about eleven o’clock, the prisoners were drinking in a room at his house; he went to the room to tell them that it was closing time, and sat down upon a chair next the door. While he was sitting there Rebecca Fowler, who is a widow, and keeps a beerhouse [OLD CROWN, Bridge Street] in Bilston, came and sat beside him. Shortly afterwards a quarrel commenced between Fellows and Pearson, which led to a fight, and Mr. *Oliver*, after considerable difficulty, succeeded in getting them out of the house. As soon as they had gone he missed his watch, but he could not say which of the parties had taken

it. At the time he first entered the room he pulled out his watch and told the parties it was closing time. The following day police constable M’Nulty took the prisoners to the prosecutor’s house, when they admitted that the watch must have been taken by one of their number, but no one would acknowledge it. They were remanded for a week, to obtain additional evidence, bail being refused.”

Birmingham Journal 8/1/1859

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions. Yesterday.....

Elizabeth Cope, 40, William Fellows, 20, Rebecca Fowler, 34, Joseph Pearson, 48, Mary Pearson, 46, John Fellows, 43, and Mary Fellows, 42, who surrendered on bail, were indicted for assaulting *Henry Oliver*, at Bilston. Mr. Kenealy was counsel for the prosecutor, and Mr. Hill defended the prisoners.

The first witness was *Henry Oliver*, who deposed that he was a licensed victualler, keeping the KINGS ARMS, Bilston. On the 20th of October, about twenty minutes after eleven o’clock at night, he went into the smoke room and told the prisoners, who were drinking there, that it was time to shut up. John Fellows then requested him to sit down a few minutes, as it was not late, observing that there was no need for them to choke themselves. He then sat down close to the door, which he kept open with his knee. After remaining about five or six minutes, W. Fellows began to quarrel with J. Pearson, when he told him he would not have any bad language there, to which Fellows replied, ‘If you stop me I’ll strike you,’ and he was then knocked down and struck several times, and his forehead was cut with a glass thrown at him. His female servant came to his assistance, and ultimately the prisoners were turned out.

There was an indictment charging them with stealing the prosecutor’s watch, but this bill the Grand Jury had ignored. Mr. Hill addressed the Jury on behalf of the prisoners, and called several witnesses, who deposed that at the time named no disturbance took place at the KINGS ARMS; that the prosecutor was very drunk, and that on attempting to turn the prisoners out after midnight, he fell down and cut his forehead, and that the utmost that had been done was a slight resistance on the part of the prisoners to being turned out of the house.

The Jury returned a verdict of guilty of the graver charge of occasioning grievous bodily harm. The verdict of the Jury was received by a crowded Court with considerable surprise, which was not lessened when the whole of the prisoners were sentenced to six months’ imprisonment with hard labour. (The female prisoners, who fully expected a verdict of acquittal, gave vent to their surprise in loud screams and lamentations.)”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 20/6/1860

“Monetary embarrassments, in connection with this district, as our readers are aware, have lately been revealed to a most painful and distressing extent; it is, consequently, with much more than ordinary regret that we announce the suspension of business by Messrs. Foster and Co., bankers, of Bilston.....

A meeting of creditors of the bank was held on Monday morning last, at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, when about fifty depositors were present.....”

AND

Birmingham Journal 14/7/1860

“A large meeting, probably from sixty to ninety, of the creditors of Mr. John Foster was held at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, yesterday.....

It was agreed that the affairs of Mr. Foster should be carried out under the private arrangement clauses of the Bankruptcy Act.”

1861 Census

12, Church Street – KINGS ARMS

[1] *William Lewis* (46), licensed victualler, born Sedgley;

[2] *Hannah Lewis* (54), wife, born Rawcliffe, Lincolnshire;

[3] *Mary J. Lewis* (22), daughter, born Sedgley;

[4] *Mary A. Lyons* (17), servant, born Somerset;

[5] *John Kelley* (22), servant, born Waterford, Ireland:

Birmingham Daily Post 28/6/1861 - Adverts

“To the Electors of the Borough of Wolverhampton.

Mr. Griffiths will Address the Electors, at the KINGS ARMS, Bilston, This (Friday) Evening, at Seven o’clock, and at the LION HOTEL, Sedgley Tomorrow (Saturday) Evening, at Seven o’clock also.

The Committee recommend the Electors to hear Mr. Griffiths’s political views for themselves on these days.

The Committee have every confidence in the successful issue of the contest, and pledge themselves to use all honourable means to secure his triumphant return.

Committee Room, Snow Hill, Wolverhampton. Nine o’clock, Wednesday Evening, 26th June, 1861.”

AND

“To the Electors of the Borough of Wolverhampton; including Bilston, Willenhall, Wednesfield, and Sedgley.

Mr. Hill will Address the Electors at the Times and Places undermentioned.

Today (Friday). Bilston (KINGS ARMS) 1pm; Willenhall 5pm.

Saturday. Sedgley 1pm; Wednesfield 5pm.”

[These were two of the candidates for the member of parliament. Neither were elected.]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/7/1861

“On Friday evening last the supporters of Mr. Griffiths during the late borough election dined together at the KINGS ARMS, Bilston. About 130 or 140 electors had been invited, and nearly all attended. Mr. Griffiths presided, and the vice-chairs were occupied by Mr. W. M. Hancox, Mr. James Walker, and Mr. H. Boucher. The dinner was of the most sumptuous character, including every delicacy of the season and the choicest wines.....”

Birmingham Journal 17/8/1861 - Advert

“South Staffordshire. Stone Field, Bilston.

Valuable Freehold Property, the Factory Iron Works and Rolling Mill, with the Mines and Minerals thereunder.

To be Sold by Auction, by Kempson and Suckling (by order of the Mortgagees), at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, on Friday, the 13th day of September next at Six o’clock in the afternoon, for half-past punctually.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/2/1862 - Advert

“To Japanners and Others.

To be Offered for Sale by Auction, on Tuesday, the 18th day of February, 1862, at six pm, at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, by Morrell and Griffiths (by order of the Mortgagee), altogether or in such lots as may then be announced, the Japan Shop or Manufactory, in Gozzard Street, Bilston, occupied by Messrs. Jones and Bird.....”

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/4/1862

“A boiler explosion, the most fatal in its results of any of that too frequent class of accidents we ever remember, occurred on Tuesday morning last, at the Millfield Iron Works of Mr. Thomas Rose, situated at Priestfield, near Bilston. No less than twenty-six lives have been already sacrificed, a considerable number of persons seriously injured, and property to the amount of some thousands of pounds destroyed.....

The forge which was the scene of the accident contained fourteen puddling furnaces, of which ten were in work, and five boilers connected together. There were about forty men and boys employed in the forge at the time of the accident, and at some of the puddling furnaces they were taking out the heat, so that the engine was at work at the time. The boiler which exploded was about ten feet six inches in diameter and twenty feet long. It was heated by four puddling furnaces, and the one next to it, which was unseated, by three, so that these boilers were in the very centre of the puddlers’ operations.

At about a quarter past eleven on Tuesday morning the boiler referred to suddenly burst. The upper portion, weighing about eight tons, was lifted up, dashed through the roof of the works, which was completely destroyed, and rising to a great height in the air, probably 200 yards or more, after crossing the West Midland Railway, fell on a piece of waste ground at the distance of 170 yards. The noise was compared to thunder, and the ground shook at a considerable distance as the boiler was rent apart. This large portion of the boiler rose into the air, and as it ascended steam issued from the bottom of it. The other, or lower portion of the boiler, was torn into several portions and driven in different directions. The brickwork in which the boiler was seated, the slates, ironwork, and timber of the roof, and portions of the puddling furnaces, walls, &c, were driven in various directions, and the whole place rendered a complete wreck. Several of the puddling furnaces were destroyed, the iron plates used in their construction broken, and the chimneys scattered about in showers of bricks. The molten or semi-molten contents of the puddling furnaces, the burning coals, and hot bricks and scalding water were strewn about, and a great deal of timber was

burnt to a cinder, though it did not break out into a blaze, as was at one time feared. Boats were sunk in the canal which runs through the works by the heavy showers of materials falling into them. Some of the bricks were carried a great distance, and the roofs of some houses fully 300 yards distant were broken by them. The most fearful sight presented, however, was that of the killed and injured men scattered over the place Great difficulty was experienced in identifying the bodies, not only from the complete destruction of all personal likeness in many cases, but also owing to the fact that the works having been newly started, several of those employed were strangers, and at least two, one of whom is killed and the other only slightly injured, only began to work that morning. It is needless to depict the misery of the scene, wives and mothers and fathers frantically seeking for their husbands and sons, and endeavouring to discover amongst the fearfully mangled remains traces of identification. It was not until Wednesday afternoon that all who had lost their lives were identified, and the last was only found on that morning in the canal, dreadfully disfigured, so that it is certain that he was killed by injuries before being blown into the water.....

With regard to the cause of the accident further enquiry must take place before any positive opinion can be formed.”
[Samuel Cornfield, publican and iron shingler, of the WAGGON AND HORSES, Millfields Road, died as a result of the accident.]

[Thomas Hogan, labourer and beerhouse keeper, of the BRITANNIA, 137, Oxford Street, was injured in the accident.]

AND

Walsall Free Press 3/5/1862

“On Thursday afternoon the inquest was again resumed [after several adjournments] before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, on the bodies of the 28 deceased killed by the boiler explosion at the Millfield ironworks.....

The coroner, in addressing the jury, said that they could not return a verdict of manslaughter against the engineer. After an hour’s deliberation, the jury returned the following verdict. That the boiler exploded from an over pressure of steam; but how caused sufficient evidence doth not appear to the jurors. We are of opinion that boilers of the size and description of the one in question should not be made or used for high pressure steam.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/9/1862 - Advert

“KINGS ARMS, Bilston.

To be Let, with large Spirit Vaults, Billiard, Commercial, and Smoking Rooms, with small Brewery. Valuation low. Apply on the premises.”

AND

“To be Let, the ROYAL OAK INN, Portobello, doing a good Spirit and Ale Trade. Valuation low.

Apply to Mr. *Lewis*, KINGS ARMS, Bilston.”

KING'S ARMS, BILSTON.
TO BE LET, with large Spirit Vaults, Billiard,
Commercial, and Smoking Rooms, with small Brewery.
Valuation low.—Apply on the premises.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 8/10/1862 - Advert

“Monday, October 13th, 1862.

To Hotel Keepers, Parties Furnishing, Brokers, and Others. Sale at the KINGS ARMS Hotel, Bilston.

Mr. Thomas Richards will Sell by Auction, on Monday next, October 13th, 1862, upon the above premises.

The whole of the Fixtures, Stock-in-Trade, Furniture, &c, comprising the splendid fixtures in the spirit vaults, the contents of the commercial and smoke rooms, superior billiard table, with cues, long and short rests, &c, complete; brewing plant, quantity of 120 gallon and 60 gallon ale casks, 280 gallon wrought iron boiler, 200 ditto ditto, with 3-inch brass taps, and other effects, the property of Mr. *William Lewis*, who is leaving the above hotel.

Also, a four-stop Organ, with German pedals, and gilt front pipes.

In consequence of the great number of lots, the sale will commence at ten o’clock am precisely.

Catalogues may be had at the place of sale, and from the Offices of the Auctioneer, 17, Church Street, Bilston.”

Birmingham Journal 11/10/1862 - Advert

“Monday Next, October 13th.

To Hotel Keepers, Parties Furnishing, Brokers, and Others. Sale at the KINGS ARMS Hotel, Bilston.

Mr. Thomas Richards will Sell by Auction, on Monday next, October 13th, upon the above Premises.

The whole of the Fixtures, Stock-in-Trade, Furniture; comprising the splendid Fixtures in Spirit Vaults, and contents of Commercial and Smoke Rooms, Powerful Organ, splendid Billiard Table, with Cues, Long and Short Rests, &c, complete; thirteen-tap Spirit Fountain, splendid six-pull Beer Engine, with Stop and Barrel Taps, costly thirty-day Timepiece, with glass shade and mahogany stand, costly Chandelier, in China and Gold, with mermaid lights; Wines and Spirits, Brewing Plant, quantity of 120-gallon and 60-gallon Ale Casks, and other Effects, the property of Mr. *William Lewis*, who is leaving the above Hotel.

In consequence of the number of lots, the Sale will commence at Ten o'clock in the morning precisely.

Catalogues may be had at the place of sale, and from the Offices of the Auctioneer, 17, Church Street, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/12/1863 - Advert

“The KINGS ARMS, Bilston.

To be Let or Sold, the above large and commodious Inn, situate in the most eligible part of Bilston, in the centre of the mining district, and which has been carried on for many years as a commercial hotel. The house, which is replete with every convenience for that business, contains thirteen good sleeping rooms, commercial room, smoke room, parlour and kitchens, with large entire Yard, good Stabling and Coach-house. There is also a large and beautifully fitted up room, lately occupied by the Township Commissioners, and suitable for public meetings, &c.

The proprietor would alter the premises, if desired, to suit the wishes of a permanent tenant.

Apply to Mr. Morrell, Auctioneer, Bilston; or to Mr. G. Jones, House and Land Agent, Cleveland Road, Wolverhampton.”

The license appears to have been renewed for some years after the building ceased to be the KINGS ARMS.

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/4/1865

“In compliance with the invitation of Mr. Samuel Griffiths, of Wolverhampton, the men locked out of the ironworks yesterday assembled from all parts of the surrounding district, to the number of between 5,000 and 6,000, opposite the house once known as the KINGS HEAD [sic], Bilston, but now in the occupation of Mr. Gray, chemist and druggist.....”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/4/1865

“In accordance with an announcement which was placarded about Wolverhampton, Bilston, and the neighbourhood on Thursday last, and signed by Mr. Samuel Griffiths, a numerously attended meeting of puddlers, millmen, and other operatives employed in connection with the iron trade of this district, took place at Bilston, on Friday, for the purpose of listening to an address by that gentleman, on the subject of the ‘Lock-out,’ and also to take into consideration a plan he proposed to lay before them for at once terminating the same. Mr. Griffiths had in the first instance thought of holding the meeting in Wolverhampton, but the Mayor of the borough (J. Ford, Esq), on being applied to, prohibited any open-air meeting in this town. Under these circumstances, Mr. Griffiths decided to have the meeting called in the neighbouring town of Bilston, and he ultimately obtained the consent of Mr. Gray, chemist and druggist, who occupies the premises formerly known as the KINGS HEAD [sic] INN, at the junction of Church Street and Swan Bank, to address the assemblage from the balcony over his shop.....”

In the 1871 census 12, Church Street is occupied by Charles Grey, pharmaceutical chemist.

The license was abandoned.

It became Bilston Conservative and Unionist Club, and later shops.

*To the Noblemen, Gentlemen, & Clergy, Magistrates
of the County of Stafford.*

My Lords and Gentlemen,

AS the Office of Gaoler, and Keeper of the House of Correction at Stafford, will become vacant at the next Epiphany Sessions, I beg to solicit your votes and interest to fill that situation.

In offering myself a Candidate on the present occasion, I am fully aware of the various and important duties attached to the Office; but I humbly hope I shall be able to produce such testimonials of my character and abilities, as a Police Officer in the County for the last twenty years, as will be considered satisfactory.

Should I be fortunate enough to become the object of your choice, I shall be most grateful, and will earnestly endeavour to discharge my duty with zeal and fidelity.

I am,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Most respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN TOMKYS,

Constable of Bilston.

1820

SALE AT THE BEAR INN, SMETHWICK, NEAR BIRMINGHAM,

Comprising Ricks of Wheat, Barley, and Oats, eighty Tons of Hay, valuable Dairy of twelve Cows, quantity of Sheep, Pigs, and Poultry, six useful Waggon Horses and a Hackney, Waggon, Carts, Ploughs, Harrows, Gearing, &c. five Acres of growing Potatoes, the Licences, Good-will, and Possession of the BEAR INN, the whole of the excellent Household Furniture and Fixtures, capital Brewing Vessels, &c. &c.

TO be SOLD by Auction, by J. HARRISON, (by order of the Executors of the late Mr. Clift) on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 20th and 21st days of September, 1825, upon the premises of the Bear Inn, Smethwick, situate a short distance out of the Hagley turnpike road, three miles from Birmingham;—the whole of the valuable live and dead Farming Stock, growing Crops, excellent Household Furniture, Fixtures, Brewing Vessels, &c. together with the Licences, Good-will, and Possession of the above very desirably situated and well accustomed Inn and very convenient Premises.

Catalogues will be ready a week prior to the sale, and may be had at the place of sale; at Betty Taylor's, Hales Owen; the Hagley Tap-house; the Vine Inn, Stourbridge; Bush, Dudley; Peacock, Wolverhampton; King's Arms, Bilston; Turk's Head, Wednesbury; Swan, and Bull's Head, West Bromwich; Bull's Head, Oldbury; and of James Harrison, Surveyor, Auctioneer, and Appraiser, New-street, Birmingham.

1825

KING'S ARMS, BILSTON.

JOHN TOMKYS, Proprietor of the above Inn, having endeavoured at a considerable expence, to render it in every respect commodious, respectfully solicits the patronage and support of the Public. To Commercial Gentlemen, in particular, he wishes to state, that all possible attention will be paid to their comfort and accommodation, and assures them that they may depend upon well aired beds for themselves, and excellent stabling, with the best hay and corn for their horses.

A sober and steady man wanted as Ostler. None need apply but those whose character will bear the strictest investigation.

Bilston, Feb. 25, 1826.

1826

BILSTON CHARITY BALL.

A BALL will be held at the King's Arms Inn, Bilston, on THURSDAY next, the 20th of March.
Mrs. STEWART, Patroness.

T. PERRY, Esq. } Stewards.
N. BEST, Esq. }

Tickets to be had of the Stewards, and at the King's Arms. Gentlemen's Tickets 7s.—Ladies' ditto 6s.
Bilston, March 17, 1828.

1828

MASONIC.

THE Right Hon. EARL FERRERS, Provincial Grand Master for the county of Stafford, intends holding a PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE at the King's Arms Inn, BILSTON, on Saturday the 30th day of October, at one o'clock, to which all Brothers are respectfully invited.

Dinner on the table at four o'clock.

JOHN DEAN,

Secretary to the Noah's Ark Lodge, 668, Bilston.
October 16, 1830.

1830

ALL Persons standing indebted to the estate of the late Mr. JOHN TOMKYS, of Bilston, are requested to pay the amount of their respective debts to Mr. Joseph Tomkys, of Bilston (who is authorised to receive the same), without delay; and all persons having any claim upon the estate are required immediately to send in particulars of their demands to Mr. Joseph Tomkys, in order that the same may be examined and discharged.
December 21, 1832.

1832

DINNER TO FRANCIS HOLYOAKE, ESQ.

THE COMMITTEE for conducting the Election of F. HOLYOAKE, Esq., as one of the Members for this Borough, beg to inform their Friends who feel interested in the cause he came forward to support, that they intend Dining together on Friday, the 25th day of January instant, at the KING'S ARMS INN, BILSTON.

Dinner on the Table at Four o'Clock precisely.

Tickets, 3s. 6d., (exclusive of Wine,) to be had at the King's Arms, the Castle, and the Blue Boar Inns, Bilston; where early applications are requested to be made.

S. S. BRISCOE, ESQ., PRESIDENT.

Mr. JOHN MASON, VICE-PRESIDENT.

KING'S ARMS COMMERCIAL INN, BILSTON.

JOHN TOMKYS having taken to the above Inn, so many years carried on by his late Father, begs to return his sincere thanks to his Friends and the Public for the liberal favours they have already conferred on the family, and assures them that nothing shall be wanting on his part to render every accomodation for their convenience and comfort.

To Commercial Gentlemen he respectfully takes this opportunity of soliciting their kind support, assuring them that they may rely on every attention, good beds, excellent stables, with the best hay and corn for their horses.

1833

WANTED an active Person as Clerk in a Machine; if he has some knowledge of Ironworks the better. Respectable references will be required as to honesty and sobriety. Personal applications to Mr. JOHN TOMKYS, Kings Arms Inn, Bilston, will be only attended to, where further particulars may be known.

**HOUSE-WARMING.
KING'S ARMS, BILSTON.**

THE Friends of Mr. JOHN TOMKYS intend to dine at the above Inn on Friday the 22d instant. THOMAS PERRY, Esq. in the Chair.
Dinner upon the table at four o'clock.—Tickets, 12s. 6d. each, to be had at the Bar.

J. Tomkys embraces the present opportunity of returning his best thanks to those numerous Friends who have so liberally given him their support and encouragement at the King's Arms since the decease of his father. He also most respectfully solicits their attendance at his House-Warming, assuring them that it will be his earnest endeavour to afford every comfort upon that and all other occasions.

1833

BILSTON BALL.

A BALL will be held at the King's Arms Inn, Bilston, on Monday the 10th day of February inst. Mrs. LEIGH, Lady Patroness.
Rev. H. S. FLETCHER,
Mr. PERRY,
Mr. WILLIM, jun. } Stewards.
Mr. E. BEST,

Dancing will commence at nine o'clock.
Tickets to be had of the Stewards, or of Mr. Tomkys, at the King's Arms.

1834

BOROUGH OF WOLVERHAMPTON.

A PUBLIC DINNER will be given to THOMAS THORNELY, Esq. and C. P. VILLIERS, Esq. the Representatives of this Borough, on Friday the 24th instant, at the King's Arms, Bilston.

Dinner upon the table at half-past four o'clock.
. Tickets, 10s. 6d. each, to be had of Mr. TOMKYS, at the King's Arms, Bilston.

1835

ONE GUINEA REWARD.

LOST, on Wednesday evening, from the Ellowes, near Sedgley, a small WHITE ITALIAN GREY-HOUND, with a brown head, answering to the name of "Tasso."

Whoever will bring the same, either to Mr. C. FERREDAY, of the ELLOWES; or to Mr. TOMKYS, King's Arms, Bilston; or to Mr. PARKE, bookseller, Wolverhampton, shall receive the above reward.

☞ No further reward will be offered; and whoever detains him after this notice will be prosecuted.

April 7, 1838.

CORONATION.

GREAT preparations are making at BILSTON for a GRAND DINNER, at the house of Mr. JOHN TOMKYS, KING'S ARMS INN, to celebrate the CORONATION of our illustrious Queen, which is appointed to take place on THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 1838.

By order of the Committee.

JOHN TOMKYS.

1838

FREEMASONRY.

THE Brethren of the NOAH'S ARK LODGE, No. 435, will dine at the KING'S ARMS INN, BILSTON, on FRIDAY, the 3d of January, to celebrate the festival of St. John, when the company of Brethren will be esteemed a favour.

By order of the W. M.

JOHN TOMKYS, Secretary.

. Dinner on the table at two o'clock.

1840

BILSTON

A NNUAL CARD and DANCING ASSEMBLY will be held at the KING'S ARMS INN, BILSTON, on THURSDAY, the 18th day of FEBRUARY instant.

Stewards.

Mr. J. BICKLEY.

Mr. W. RILEY.

. Ladies' tickets 5s.; Gentlemen's 7s. 6d.; to be had at the Bar.

☞ Dancing to commence at nine o'clock.

1841

FREEMASONRY.

THE Brethren of the NOAH'S ARK LODGE, No. 435, will dine at the KING'S ARMS INN, BILSTON, on THURSDAY, the 17th of MARCH, to celebrate the Festival of St. John, when the company of Brethren will be esteemed a favour.

By order of the W. M.

JOHN TOMKYS, Secretary.

☞ Dinner on the table at two o'clock.

1842

NOAH'S ARK LODGE, No. 435, BILSTON.

THE Brethren of the Noah's Ark Lodge, No. 435, will hold their ANNUAL FESTIVAL of ST. JOHN, at the KING'S ARMS INN, Bilston, on THURSDAY, the 25th instant, when any brother's attendance will be esteemed.

. The Lodge will be opened at one o'clock, and dinner on the table at three.

1844

THE KING'S ARMS,

Travellers' Inn, with Liquor Shop, Excise and Public Offices, Bilston, Staffordshire.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by Mr. RICHARD CORBETT, on TUESDAY, the 30th day of September, at the King's Arms Inn, Bilston aforesaid, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be read—all that the abovenamed old-established and well-accustomed Travellers' INN and LIQUOR SHOP; comprising very extensive and lofty Ale, Wine, and Liquor Vaults under the whole of the house, a large Retail WINE and SPIRIT SHOP, back Parlour, Bar, Bar Parlour, commodious Tap Room, large Cooking Kitchen, Butler's Pantry and Office, an excellent Commercial Travellers' Room, an elegantly fitted-up Assembly Room, forty-five feet six inches by sixteen feet six inches, having handsome wainscot partitions to divide the same, and eleven Bed Rooms suitable for Commercial Travellers and family purposes; there is a spacious entire back Yard, enclosed by lofty gates, in which there are two large soft-water Cisterns, a Larder, Scullery, Excise Office, Brewhouse, Boot Room, and Coal Depot, with Malt and Store Rooms over, one four-stalled Stable, with Hayloft and Billiard Room over the same, a Gighouse, Piggery, and other outbuildings and conveniences thereto belonging.

The above Inn has a good business as a Commercial Travellers' Inn and Liquor Shop, and the Collector of Excise, the Commissioners of the Court of Requests, and the Magistrates for this district, hold their periodical meetings in the Assembly Room, which is also used as a Freemasons' Lodge Room.

To view the same, apply on the Premises; and further particulars may be obtained at the Offices of Mr. Thomas Bolton, Solicitor, Wolverhampton; Mr. Horatio Barnett, Solicitor, Walsall; or the Auctioneer, New Town, Bilston.

1845

COPYHOLD ENFRANCHISEMENT.

THE COPYHOLDERS of BILSTON are respectfully requested to MEET at the Large Room, King's Arms Inn, Bilston, on MONDAY NEXT, the 8th of November, at Seven o'clock in the evening, for the purpose of deciding what measures shall be taken to promote the Enfranchisement of Copyhold Property.

J. HARTILL,

Chairman of the Willenhall Enfranchisement Society.
November 2, 1847.

1846

UNRESERVED SALE AT THE KING'S ARMS INN, BILSTON.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, BY JOHN CORBETT,

On the premises, on Tuesday and Wednesday next, the 22d and 23d days of June, 1847.

THE whole of the iron-bound ALE BARRELS, Mashing and Cooling TUBS, 120 gallon COPPER and FIXINGS, four-pull BEER MACHINE, four-post and tent BEDSTEADS, in Moreen and Chintz Clothing, Feather BEDS, LINEN, GLASS, CHINA, Liquor Shop FIXTURES, Stock of WINES and LIQUORS, neat Denmet GIG, Spring CART, and a variety of other effects, belonging to Mr. William Hollingsworth, who is leaving the above establishment; catalogues of which will be in circulation on and after Thursday next, and may be had at the place of sale, or of the AUCTIONEER, New Town, Bilston.

1847

BILSTON MASONIC BALL.

THE above BALL will be held at the KING'S ARMS INN, BILSTON, on THURSDAY, the 30th of March, 1848, under the immediate patronage of H. C. VERNON, Esq., D.P.G.M., the proceeds of which will be applied in aid of the MASONIC BENEVOLENT FUND.

STEWARDS.

Brother MASEFIELD, P.G.S.W.Z. Brother BRETTILL, S.W.R.A.
Brother PATTERSON, P.G.J.D.H. Brother LAW, P.M.R.A.
Brother WARNER, W.M.R.A. Brother LESTER.
Brother DEAN, P.M.

Dancing to commence at Nine o'clock.

Tickets, including Supper—Gentlemen, 7s. 6d.; Ladies, 5s.; to be obtained from the Stewards only.

It is requested that the Brethren will attend in full Masonic Costume.

RE J. W. BUSST, KING'S ARMS INN, BILSTON NEAR WOLVERHAMPTON, STAFFORDSHIRE, A BANKRUPT.

UNRESERVED SALE

OF THE WHOLE OF THE
HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,

VALUABLE

SPIRIT SHOP AND PUBLIC HOUSE FIXTURES,
FIVE-PULL BEER MACHINE,
KITCHEN AND BREWING UTENSILS,

AND OTHER EFFECTS,

At the KING'S ARMS INN, situated at BILSTON, near Wolverhampton, Staffordshire.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by Mr. W. CALLUM, without reserve, (by order of the Assignees to the Estate of James Walter Busst, a Bankrupt,) upon the Premises of the King's Arms Inn, Bilston, near Wolverhampton, in the county of Stafford, on MONDAY and TUESDAY NEXT, the 3rd and 4th days of July—all the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE and Effects; together with the SPIRIT SHOP and other FIXTURES; comprising lofty mahogany four-post, tent, and other Bedsteads, clothed in damask and chintz hangings, hair and flock Mattresses, straw Palliasses, fine goose-feather Beds, fancy painted Dressing Tables and Wash-hand Stands, Chamber Chairs, Swing Glasses, in mahogany frames, mahogany Chests of Drawers, mahogany Dining and other Tables, mahogany Chairs, with horse-hair seats and seating, Sofa, in mahogany carved frame, with spring seat, back, and pillow covered with horse hair; Couch, in mahogany frame, to match; mahogany Cheffonere, Oil Paintings, in gilt frames; Prints, framed and glazed; China, Glass, and Linen, five-pull Beer Machine, eight-day Timepiece, in mahogany frame; Pier Glass, in gilt frame; Bar and Spirit Shop Fixtures, Kitchen and Brewing Utensils, and numerous other Effects; particulars of which appear in catalogues, now in circulation, and may be had at the Offices of F. Whitmore, Esq., Official Assignee, Waterloo Street, Birmingham; or at the Offices of Mr. W. Callum, No. 14, Bennett's Hill, Birmingham.

The Sale will commence punctually at Eleven o'clock each morning.

1848

TO PUBLICANS AND OTHERS.

KING'S ARMS INN, BILSTON.

MR. ASHCROFT has received instructions from Mr. F. DICKINSON, who is now tenant at the above establishment, to SELL by AUCTION, without reserve, on FRIDAY next, JULY 21, 1854, a portion of the FURNITURE, the whole of the Spirit Shop FIXTURES, SPIRITUOUS LIQUORS, and WINES, comprising—

GALLONS.

56 of Sherry,	80 of Port Wines,
6 of Cape,	130 of British Wines,
25 of Foreign Brandy,	10 of British Brandy,
10 of Rum	20 of Gin,
6 of Whiskey,	20 of Cappelain,
100 of prime old Ale,	

Four dozen excellent Sherry, three dozen of prime old Port Wine, thirty Casks, glazed Partition, twelve feet by nine feet six inches; handsome copper water Boiler, and numerous effects.

The spirituous liquors and wines will be sold in lots of two gallons each. Parties are respectfully requested to bring their own bottles, in order that they may see their purchases drawn from the casks, and measured.

Catalogues may be had at the place of sale, and at the AUCTIONEER'S Office, Snowhill, Wolverhampton.

☞ Sale to commence at eleven o'clock.

1852

"KING'S ARMS HOTEL," BILSTON.

MR. CHARLES GRAY has been favoured with instructions from Mr. William Beddard, to OFFER for SALE by AUCTION, upon the Premises above, without the least reserve, on TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY NEXT, the 6th and 7th of February, previous to extensive alterations being made upon the Premises—the whole of the superb modern and useful HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, large Chimney Glasses, in gold and maple Frames, goose-leather Beds, Linen, Glass, China, massive four-post mahogany Bedsteads, (in six Commercial and two other Bed Rooms,) with Cornice Poles, Rinses, and Damask Furniture, in crimson, green, drab, &c.; Spanish mahogany Dressing Tables and Wash-hand Stands to match, large Swing Glasses, painted Chamber Furniture, &c., mahogany framed wire gauze Blinds and Bellows, Blinds and Carpets, and Floor Cloths, throughout the house. The FURNITURE in the Commercial Room, Smoke Room, News Room, Tap Room, Bar, and Cooking Kitchen; the PUBLIC HOUSE FIXTURES, Glazed Partitioning, Doors, Screens, Graves, and Mantel Pieces; BREWING REQUISITES, well seasoned Hogshead and other Casks, Spirit Fountain, Counter, Casks, and Taps, capital five-pull Beer Machine, Gas Fittings, Lamp over door, together with the whole of the choice and large Stock of WINES and SPIRITS, three Bins of old bottled Wine, four dozen Champagne, Compounds, 21lbs. of Cigars, and other Effects.

Catalogues may be had at the *Journal and Mercury Offices*, Birmingham; the Place of Sale, at the Hotels in the adjoining towns or of the Auctioneer, at his Offices, High Street, Dudley, and High Street, Walsall.

Sale to commence at Ten o'clock each morning. Conditions as usual.

1855

KING'S ARMS COMMERCIAL HOTEL, BILSTON.

MR. FREDERICK ALTREE has received instructions from the Proprietor, Mr. Beddard, to DISPOSE OF by PRIVATE TREATY, the above noted old-established HOUSE of BUSINESS. Rent £65 per year. Let off £53. Valuation can be reduced to £350. Cause of disposal the Proprietor going abroad.—Apply F. ALTREE, Auctioneer and Publicans' Valuer, Bilston.

KING'S ARMS COMMERCIAL HOTEL AND SPIRIT VAULTS, CHURCH STREET, BILSTON.

MR. FREDERICK ALTREE has received instructions from Mr. Beddard the proprietor, to DISPOSE OF the LICENCES, POSSESSION, and STOCK of the above noted premises. The house contains commercial, smoke sitting, and eleven sleeping rooms; cooking kitchens, large-brewhouse, malt rooms, six dry cellars, large yard, coach-house, stabling, and other conveniences. In-coming can be reduced to £350. Cause of disposal the proprietor going abroad.—Apply to F. ALTREE, Auctioneer and Valuer, Bilston. Established 1840.

1857

**TO THE ELECTORS
OF THE
BOROUGH OF WOLVERHAMPTON.**

MR. GRIFFITHS will ADDRESS the ELECTORS at

**THE KING'S ARMS, BILSTON,
THIS (FRIDAY) EVENING,
AT SEVEN O'CLOCK.**

**AND AT
THE LION HOTEL, SEDGLEY,
TO-MORROW (SATURDAY) EVENING,
AT SEVEN O'CLOCK ALSO.**

The Committee recommend the Electors to hear Mr. Griffiths's political views for themselves, on these days.

The Committee have every confidence in the successful issue of the contest, and pledge themselves to use all honourable means to secure his triumphant return.

Committee Room, Snow Hill, Wolverhampton.
Nine o'clock, Wednesday evening, 26th June, 1861.

1861

**TO THE ELECTORS
OF THE
BOROUGH OF WOLVERHAMPTON;
INCLUDING
BILSTON, WILLENHALL, WEDNESFIELD,
AND SEDGLEY.**

MR. HILL will ADDRESS the ELECTORS at the Times and Places undermentioned:—

TO-DAY (FRIDAY).

**AT BILSTON (KING'S ARMS)..... 1 p.m.
WILLENHALL 5 p.m.**

SATURDAY.

**SEDGLEY 1 p.m.
WEDNESFIELD..... 5 p.m.**

1861

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13TH, 1862.

**TO HOTEL KEEPERS, PARTIES FURNISHING, BROKERS,
AND OTHERS.**

SALE AT THE KING'S ARMS HOTEL, BILSTON.

MR. THOMAS RICHARDS will SELL by AUCTION, on Monday next, October 13th, 1862, upon the above premises, the whole of the FIXTURES, STOCK-IN-TRADE, FURNITURE, &c., comprising the splendid fixtures in the spirit vaults, the contents of the commercial and smoke rooms, superior billiard table, with cues, long and short rests, &c., complete; brewing plant, quantity of 120 gallon and 60 gallon ale casks, 280 gallon wrought iron boiler, 200 ditto ditto, with 3-inch brass taps, and other effects, the property of Mr. William Lewis, who is leaving the above hotel.

Also, a four-stop ORGAN, with German pedals, and gilt front pipes.

In consequence of the great number of lots, the sale will commence at ten o'clock a.m. precisely.

Catalogues may be had at the place of sale, and from the Offices of the AUCTIONEER, 17, Church-street, Bilston.

MONDAY NEXT, October 13th.

**TO HOTEL KEEPERS, PARTIES FURNISHING,
BROKERS, AND OTHERS.**

SALE AT THE KING'S ARMS HOTEL, BILSTON.

MR. THOMAS RICHARDS will SELL by AUCTION, on MONDAY NEXT, October 13th, upon the above Premises—the whole of the FIXTURES, STOCK-IN-TRADE, FURNITURE; comprising the splendid FIXTURES in SPIRIT VAULTS, and contents of Commercial and Smoke Rooms, Powerful ORGAN, splendid BILLIARD TABLE, with Cues, Long and Short Rests, &c., complete; thirteen-tap Spirit Fountain, splendid six-pull Beer Engine, with Stop and Barrel Taps, costly thirty-day Timepiece, with glass shade and mahogany stand, costly Chandelier, in China and Gold, with mermaid lights; WINES and SPIRITS, BREWING PLANT, quantity of 120-gallon and 60-gallon Ale Casks, and other Effects, the property of Mr. William Lewis, who is leaving the above Hotel.

In consequence of the number of lots, the Sale will commence at Ten o'clock in the morning precisely.

Catalogues may be had at the place of sale, and from the Offices of the Auctioneer, 17, Church Street, Bilston.

1861

THE KING'S ARMS, BILSTON.

TO be LET or SOLD, the above large and commodious INN, situate in the most eligible part of Bilston, in the centre of the mining district, and which has been carried on for many years as a commercial hotel. The house, which is replete with every convenience for that business, contains thirteen good sleeping rooms, commercial room, smoke room, parlour and kitchens, with large entire Yard, good Stabling and Couch-house. There is also a large and beautifully fitted up room, lately occupied by the Township Commissioners, and suitable for public meetings, &c.

The proprietor would alter the premises, if desired, to suit the wishes of a permanent tenant.

Apply to Mr. MORRELL, Auctioneer, Bilston; or Mr. G. JONES, House and Land Agent, Cleveland-road, Wolverhampton.

1863

KINGS HEAD

27, (13), (12), Broad Street, ((Middle) Field Lane), BILSTON

OWNERS

John Shale, licensed victualler, Broad Street, Bilston
William Hanley, leather dealer, Willenhall
William Butler and Co. Ltd. (acquired in 1896)
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Joseph Shale [1818] – [1835]
Joseph Hartill [1841] – [1842]
William Rhodes [1849] – **1860**;
William Welch **(1860 – [])**
William Butler [1862] – **1866**;
Henry Vickers Mayers **(1866 – 1869)**;
Henry Crown Wellings **(1869 – 1874)**;
Sarah Wellings **(1874 – 1877)**;
Samuel Wellings **(1877 – 1887)**;
John Williams **(1887 – 1889)**;
William Joseph Wood **(1889 – 1899)**;
Ernest Wood **(1899 – 1901)**;
James Caddick **(1901 – 1903)**;
John Winyard **(1903 – 1923)**;
George Cresswell **(1923 – 1926)**;
Harry Llewelyn Paviter **(1926 – 1929)**;
James Langford **(1929 – 1934)**;
Henry James Darlington **(1934 – 1936)**;
Mrs. Florence Jane Haynes **(1936 – [1940])**

NOTES

Field Lane [1830], [1833]
Middle Field Lane [1841], [1849], [1850], [1851]
Chain Lane [1851]
12, Broad Street [1874]
13, Broad Street [1871], [1881], [1891], [1892], [1896], [1904]
27, Broad Street [1901], [1911], [1921], [1932], [1939], [1940]

KINGS ARMS [1881], [1894]

Staffordshire Advertiser 4/10/1828 - Married

“On the 25th ult, at Wolverhampton, Mr. *Joseph Shale*, of the KINGS HEAD, Bilston, to Mrs. Esther Shale, of Bilston.”

THE ENGINEERS' HEAD-QUARTERS
AT BILSTON, is at the
KING'S HEAD INN, BROAD STREET,
where all communications will be promptly attended to.
Mr. WM. BUTLER, Proprietor.
THE MINER AND WORKMAN'S ADVOCATE, taken in weekly,
1864

CLEARING - OUT SALE,
On MONDAY NEXT, May the 13th.
THE KING'S HEAD,
BROAD STREET, BILSTON.
BY Mr. JOHN BENT.—The whole of the PUBLIC-
HOUSE FIXTURES, BREWING PLANT, well-seasoned
Ale Casks, four-pull Beer Machine, Pewter Ale and Spirit Measures,
Cups, Jugs, Glasses, &c. ; together with the clean HOUSEHOLD
FURNITURE, belonging to Mr. Mayer, who has removed from the
above Inn, and has no further use for them.
Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.

THE BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1861.
IN THE COUNTY COURT OF STAFFORDSHIRE,
HOLDEN AT WOLVERHAMPTON.
HENRY VICKERS MAYERS, of No. 2, High Street, Bilston,
in the county of Stafford, Barber and Hairdresser; previously of
the King's Head, Broad Street, Bilston aforesaid, Licensed Vic-
tualier, Retail Brewer, and Dealer in Tobacco; and previously
thereto of 73, High Street, Bilston, having been adjudged Bank-
rupt on the 4th day of August, 1868, a Public Sitting for the said
bankrupt to pass his LAST EXAMINATION and make applica-
tion for his discharge will be held at the said COURT, at WOL-
VERHAMPTON, on the 29th day of September, 1868, 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
J. STOKES, Esq., of Dudley, is the Solicitor acting in the bank-
ruptcy.

CLIFTON N. CURTIS, High Bailiff.
1868

1841 Census

Middlefield Lane

- [1] Joseph Hartill (30), victualler, born Staffordshire;
- [2] Sarah Hartill (25), born Staffordshire;
- [3] Joseph Hartill (1 month), born Staffordshire;
- [4] Sarah Mainwaring (15), born Staffordshire;
- [5] Hezekiah Mainwaring (10), born Staffordshire;
- [6] Mary Jones (12), f.s.:

1851 Census

Middlefield Lane

- [1] William Rhodes (56), stone miner, born Malins Lee, Shropshire;
- [2] Martha Rhodes (40), wife, born Malins Lee, Shropshire;
- [3] Eliza Rhodes (14), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] Thomas Rhodes (9), son, born Bilston;
- [5] Elizabeth Wilkinson (74), mother-in-law, widow, born Wicksor, Shropshire;
- [6] Betsey Wild (25), general servant, born Donnington Wood, Shropshire:

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/11/1851

“John Smith, alias David Hogan, Rosannah Smith, and James Smith, were charged at Bilston Police Office on Tuesday with uttering base coin. Mrs. Ann Stretton, landlady of the TURKS HEAD, stated.....

The prisoners were also charged with uttering two base sixpences at the house of Mr. Rhodes, Middle Field Lane; also to Mrs. Mary Lester, High Street.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/12/1851

“At Bilston Police Office, on Tuesday, Daniel Hogan, James Smith, and Rosana Smith (husband and wife), were charged with uttering counterfeit coin. It was clearly proved that Hogan had passed two base sixpences at the TURKS HEAD, High Street, kept by William Stretton, on Sunday night, and a bad shilling at the house of William Rhodes, the KINGS HEAD, Chain Lane, as well as 2s 6d, all in bad money, at the house of Mrs. Lester, in High Street. The connection of the other prisoners with Hogan was also established. Inspector Thompson, in searching the house of the prisoners, discovered some other counterfeit coin, and the requisite materials for such nefarious manufacture. They were remanded until the decision of the mint authorities as to their prosecution should be known. The money was a very bad imitation.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/12/1851

“Daniel Hogan, Rosanna Smith, and John Smith, remanded from Tuesday, were brought before W. Baldwin, Esq, on Monday last, charged with uttering base coin, at the house of Mr. Stretton, TURKS HEAD, High Street, Bilston. The evidence being conclusive against Hogan, the Mint authorities were determined to prosecute, and he was committed to the sessions. The other prisoners were discharged.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/1/1852

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Daniel Hogden was charged with uttering counterfeit coins at Bilston, in November last, knowing them to be false and counterfeit. Mr. Kynnersley and Mr. Gordon conducted the prosecution.

Mr. Kynnersley opened the case, which was more fully detailed by the several witnesses, and also stated to the jury the law respecting the uttering of base coin.

It appeared that the prisoner, who is a labouring man, went to a beerhouse in Bilston kept by Mrs. Lester, about five o'clock in the evening of the 23rd of November, and, in company with another man, called for a pint of ale, which was given to them by the servant, Fanny Brevitt, and for which they gave her fourpence. They then asked for more ale, and gave Brevitt a base sixpence, which she subsequently marked and placed on the mantelpiece. About half an hour afterwards the prisoner returned with a bottle, and asked for a gallon of ale, putting down two base shillings in payment. Brevitt told him they were counterfeit, and took them to her mistress, during which time the prisoner decamped. Scarcely an hour had elapsed before the prisoner went to the TURKS HEAD public house, and Mrs. Stretton, the landlady, stated that he brought a bottle for half a gallon of ale, in return for which he gave her two sixpences, which she almost immediately discovered to be counterfeit. In less than an hour a woman brought the

same bottle for half a gallon of ale, when Mrs. Stretton made some remarks to her about the bottle and the sixpences, upon which she went to the door, where it appeared the prisoner was standing, and returned with two good sixpences and paid for the ale. Mr. Stretton stated that whilst his wife was filling the bottle, he went round the house to the front door, when the prisoner ran away, but was almost immediately captured. When caught he spit a shilling out of his mouth, which, with three sixpences found in his pocket, were also counterfeit. The whole of the coins, which were marked, and produced by Inspector Thompson, were proved by Mr. Lithgoe, silversmith, of Stafford, to be counterfeit.

The prisoner, in his defence, said he had received the coins in changing some silver.

The jury found him guilty, and he was sentenced to be imprisoned one year to hard labour.”

[A few weeks after being discharged from prison Daniel Hogden was again passing counterfeit coins at Bilston. At the Sessions in March 1853 he was sentenced to eighteen months.]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/3/1856

“Staffordshire Lent Assizes.....

Richard Travis Openshaw was indicted for feloniously embezzling the sum of £14 on the 27th March; £5 on the 24th April; and £5 on the 5th of June, the moneys of Thomas Tomkinson Riley, at Wolverhampton.

It appeared that the prisoner had been engaged as traveller and book-keeper by the prosecutor, and that his duties were to receive orders and accounts, enter them every day, and pay the amounts received to the prosecutor. On the 27th of March last the prisoner called on a Mr. Shore, who paid him £14, for which he gave him a receipt; but the sum had never been accounted for to the prosecutor. On the 24th of April, in the same year, and also on the 5th June, the prisoner received the sum of £10, £5 on each occasion, but had entered £4 on each date in the day book instead of the amounts received.

Thomas Tomkinson Riley, wine and spirit merchant, at Wolverhampton, said that the prisoner was in his employ as traveller until June, 1855, having been in the service of himself and partner since 1853. His duty was to go round receive orders and money, putting down on his return the amounts received, and accounting to him for them every evening. He produced a book containing all the transactions with the prisoner and their customers. On the 27th March, 1855, there was no entry of a sum of £14, received from Mr. Shore by the prisoner. On 24th April, 1855, there was a sum of £4 entered as received from Mr. *Rhodes*. The entries in the book were in his handwriting. On the 5th June, 1855, there was an entry of £4 from Mr. *Rhodes*, as received by the prisoner. The prisoner had £60 per year and his board. On the 8th June, when the entry was made, there was no money due to him – there was money due to the prisoner for money lent. The amount was £173. He (witness) and another put him into a public house, and he was to pay the money back by coming to work as usual. The document produced showed a statement between himself and the prisoner.

Joseph Shore, a publican on the Bilston Road, said he had purchased goods of the last witness. On 25th March, 1855, the prisoner called and asked for money, and he gave him £14, taking off £1 12s as discount.

William Rhodes, publican, of Bilston, deposed to having on two occasions paid the prisoner £5. He recollected the prisoner and prosecutor calling in December last; the prisoner came in first, when he (witness) asked if he had brought the bill, to which the prisoner replied, ‘Say nothing to the master – when I come I’ll bring it right.’

The Jury returned a verdict of guilty, accompanied with a recommendation to mercy; and his Lordship sentenced the prisoner to two months’ imprisonment with hard labour.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/3/1863

“Mr. John Bate, of the Holyhead Road Colliery, very liberally entertained his workpeople on Tuesday last, in honour of the occasion of the marriage of the Prince of Wales. At about one o’clock a hundred men sat down to a plentiful dinner, at the KINGS HEAD INN, Broad Road, Bilston. The chair was taken by Mr. Edwin Hill, and the vice-chair by Mr. Charles Kitson. The loyal toasts were drunk with more than usual enthusiasm, after which the health of Mr. Bate was proposed and drunk with three times three. Mr. Bate responded in a hearty speech, and said he was much pleased by passing such a pleasant evening in the company of his workmen. The evening was spent in a very pleasant and harmonious manner, and the workmen did not separate without expressing the heartiest good wishes for their employer. The dinner was supplied by Mr. Butter [sic], and gave universal satisfaction.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 1/7/1863

"An inquest was held yesterday, at the house of Mr. *Butler*, the KINGS HEAD, Broad Street, Bilston, by Mr. W. H. Phillips, Deputy-Coroner, on the body of William Elton Needham, aged five weeks, whose death was supposed to have been caused by an overdose of some sleeping mixture.

The first witness called was Eliza Needham, the mother of the deceased, and wife of William Needham, a grocer, residing at New Village, Ettingshall, who said that the child had usually been in good health. On Friday last the deceased was cross, and witness, by the advice of Mrs. Proverbs, a neighbour, purchased a poppy-head at the grocer's, boil it in water, and gave some of the fluid to the deceased. Witness purchased one poppy-head from Mr. Butler, a grocer, at New Village, and there was a quarter of a pint of the liquid remaining after its having been boiled a quarter of a hour. Her mother gave the child two teaspoonfuls. The deceased gradually became quieted after taking the fluid, between ten and eleven at night, and slept very nicely until five o'clock next morning, when he would not take the breast. Witness went for a medical man and Mr. Hancox, surgeon, and Mr. Gray, chemist, came, and Mr. Gray administered some medicine. Witness afterwards took the child to Mr. Larkin, surgeon. The child died at half-past five the same afternoon; it had continued sleeping most of the day. The deceased was not in any burial club, nor was its life insured in any office. Witness had thrown away the remainder of the poppy water.

The Coroner pointed out to the witness the danger of dealing with narcotics in the case of children, and advised her to refrain from such a practice for the future, at the same time observing that had the mixture been given to the deceased by any third party, a criminal charge might have been the result. He trusted the press would aid him in cautioning mothers against such dangerous practices.

Mr. G. Liddington, chemist, was sent for, and requested by the Coroner to state, for the benefit of the public, the strength of the liquid which would be produced by the boiling of one poppy head in a specified quantity of water, namely, one pint. Mr. Liddington stated that the liquid administered was a poison, but he could not say what quantity would occasion death.

The Jury at once returned a verdict of 'Died from the innocent administration of poppy-water.'

It is right to state that all the medical gentlemen whose names have appeared in this report were engaged at the Stafford Sessions, and therefore could not attend the inquest; and that Mr. Gray, the chemist, was also absent from home. Before she left the room the Coroner again cautioned the mother of the deceased against using drugs, except under medical advice, which, if her means did not permit her to obtain at her own cost, was provided for her by law."

The Miner and Workman's Advocate 23/1/1864 - Advert

"The Engineers Head-Quarters at Bilston is at the KINGS HEAD INN, Broad Street, where all communications will be promptly attended to.

Mr. *Wm. Butler*, Proprietor.

The *Miner and Workman's Advocate* taken in weekly."

The Miner and Workman's Advocate 1/10/1864

"Engineers Union.

To the Editor of the *Miner and Workman's Advocate*.

Sir, In your impression of the 24th of September appeared a paragraph signed 'A Colliery Engineer,' who said he had a right to canvass the affairs of the association, and I believe he has a right to do so, so long as he does so in truth and honour; but when he deviates from the path of truth and rectitude, I think it proper to call upon him to deny his false assertions, or to give his name and come forth to prove what he has said. In the first place, the assertion that he gave the complainant 14s is false, and that any such sum was paid from the branch fund we deny, and I now challenge the 'Colliery Engineer' or the secretary of his branch to come forward to prove that it is correct.

By inserting this you will greatly oblige, your truly, *William Butler*, Treasurer to the said Branch.

KINGS HEAD INN, Broad Street, Bilston, September 24, 1864.

PS. I shall decline answering any more anonymous letters."

The Miner and Workman's Advocate 4/2/1865

"To the Benevolent Public and Enginemen Especially.

To the Editor of the *Miner and Workman's Advocate*.

Sir, Knowing your willingness at all times to benefit the working classes, I crave a small space in your valuable paper respecting an engineman, named Samuel Crew, who met with an accident through a man starting his engine. After suffering upwards of three months, amputation of the leg was deemed necessary. It being above the knee, an artificial one will come very expensive. He now makes an appeal by the following petition.

Commonside, Pensnett, January 1865.

Your humble petitioner, Samuel Crew, engineman, was disabled under the employment of the Right Hon. the Earl of Dudley, at the No.41, Old Park Colliery, and has since suffered amputation of the leg. He now appeals to the benevolent public, and enginemen especially, for a subscription to enable him to get an artificial one. By doing so he may again be enabled to follow his usual occupation, or any other his capabilities may allow. Donations will be thankfully received; and for his benefactors he will ever pray.

NB. The nature of his accident and the circumstances under which he met with the same are well-known throughout the district to which he belongs. All donations and donors names will be acknowledged through the public press.

Post-office orders to be made payable to Samuel Rushton, Dudley Post Office, or to Mr. *William Butler*, KINGS HEAD INN, Broad Street, Bilston, South Staffordshire, National Treasurer to the Engineers Philanthropic Association. About £12 is already collected.

By inserting the above this week you will greatly oblige your obedient servant, Samuel Rushton, Secretary to the above subscription. Woodside, near Dudley, January 30, 1865."

Birmingham Daily Post 25/10/1865

"Mr. W. H. Phillips, Deputy Coroner, held an inquest, in Bilston, on Monday afternoon, on the body of Thomas Green, deputy engineer of a water shaft on the Stow Heath Colliery of Messrs. Sparrow and Co, Ettingshall, who had died on the previous Friday. The deceased had been down the shaft to superintend some repairs, and was being drawn up, when, by some means, he fell out of the skip, and was killed. His brother-in-law, Police-constable Denston, was at the mouth of the shaft at the time, and finding that the man in charge of the horse which turned the winding apparatus was drunk, would not allow him to proceed with his work. The Jury were very much inclined to commit the driver for manslaughter, but, after long deliberation, returned a verdict of Accidental Death, at the same time censuring him."

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/12/1865 - Correspondence

"To the Editor of the *Daily Gazette*.

Sir, Thomas Green, engineer, was killed in an engine pit at Stow Heath Colliery on the 20th of November last, under Mr. John Sparrow, and left his widow with four young daughters, and she has since given birth to two other twin daughters, making a total of six, and not one of them able to get a penny, and as the whole of the mother's time will be required to nurse and attend to those children, the whole seven are entirely dependent upon charity. This is really a needy case, and my object in giving it publicity is to procure as much money for the widow as would enable her to manage some business at home, whereby to assist in maintaining herself and children.

The smallest donation will be thankfully received by Mr. Daniel Morris, chief engineer, Stow Heath; Mr. *William Butler*, KINGS HEAD INN, Broad Street, Bilston; Mr. Joseph Hancox, SHIP AND RAINBOW, Highfields, near Bilston.

By inserting the above in your valuable paper you will greatly oblige.

Your obedient and humble servant, *William Butler*, KINGS HEAD INN, Broad Street, Bilston, December 23rd, 1865."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 27/1/1866

"To the Editor of the *Daily Post*.

Sir, Some time ago you were kind enough to publish in your valuable paper a paragraph, headed 'A Case of Charity,' on behalf of the Widow Green. I shall feel obliged if you will state in your next publication that the list will close on the last day of January, and after that date, by your kind permission, all contributions received shall be published through the *Daily Post*, and the smallest donation will be thankfully received by

Your humble and obedient servant, *William Butler*.

KINGS HEAD INN, Broad Street, Bilston, January 25, 1866."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 10/2/1866 - Advert

“To the Public Generally.

We, the undersigned, beg to return our most sincere Thanks on behalf of Widow Mary Green, of Ettingshall New Village, near Wolverhampton, to whom the Public have do kindly contributed on behalf of the deceased Thomas Green.

The sums that we have received on behalf of the above, the appointed time being now up, we feel it our duty to show the same, as promised, through the *Daily Post*, and beg to remain your obedient servants in sympathy.

Daniel Morris, Chief Engineer, Stowheath; *William Butler*, KINGS HEAD, Bilston; Joseph Hancox, Highfields, near Bilston; William Bennett, Highfields, near Bilston.

KINGS HEAD INN, Broad Street, Bilston, February 8, 1866.

List of Subscriptions received for the Widow Mary Green.....

Mrs. *Butler*, KINGS HEAD, Bilston, 2s 6d.”

[A total of £16 0s 8d was raised.]

Birmingham Journal 16/5/1868 - Advert

“Clearing Out Sale, on Monday Next, May the 18th.

The KINGS HEAD, Broad Street, Bilston.

By Mr. John Bent.

The whole of the Public House Fixtures Brewing Plant, well-seasoned Ale Casks, four-pull Beer Machine, Pewter Ale and Spirit Measures, Cups, Jugs, Glasses, &c; together with the clean Household Furniture, belonging to Mr. *Mayer*, who has removed from the above Inn, and has no further use for them.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/9/1868 - Advert

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1861. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton.

Henry Vickers Mayers, of No.2, High Street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Barber and Hairdresser; previously of the KINGS HEAD, Broad Street, Bilston aforesaid, Licensed Victualler, Retail Brewer, and Dealer in Tobacco; and previously thereto of 73, High Street, Bilston, having been adjudged Bankrupt on the 4th day of August, 1868, 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 Wolverhampton, on the 29th day of September, 1868, 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 J. Stokes, Esq, of Dudley, is the Solicitor acting in the bankruptcy.

Clifton N. Curtis, High Bailiff.”

Henry Crown Wellings = *Henry Crown Welling* = *Henry Crown Willings*

1871 Census

13, Broad Street – KINGS HEAD

[1] *Henry C. Welling* (60), publican, born Tewkesbury;

[2] *Sarah Welling* (48), wife, born Tenbury, Herefordshire;

[3] *John Smith* (32), lodger, iron refiner, born Gosty Hill;

[4] *Emma Smith* (33), wife, born Bilston;

[5] *George S. Smith* (8), son, scholar, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 31/8/1872

“Bilston Division Annual Licensing Sessions.....

The record of the Chief Constable showed that 28 licensed victuallers and 14 beersellers had been convicted of various offences against their licenses. Of these five publicans and one beerhouse keeper were only ordered to pay the costs. In the other cases the fines varied from £10 to 1s. The licenses of 210 licensed houses and a similar number of beerhouses were renewed.

The applications for the renewal of the suspended licenses were postponed till the adjourned licensing day, on the 27th September, but the certificates were granted to the five licensed victuallers and the beerseller who, as before mentioned, were previously only ordered to pay the costs. These were.....

Henry Wellings, Broad Street, Bilston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 5/9/1873 - Advert

“Wanted to Purchase, a second-hand Coffee-roasting Cylinder.

Send size and price, by letter, to C. Edmonds, at Mr. *H. Welling's*, KINGS HEAD, Bilston.”

Henry Crown Welling died in the 4th quarter of 1873.

WANTED to Purchase, a second-hand Coffee-roasting Cylinder.
—Send size and price, by letter, to C. Edmonds, at Mr. H. Welling's, King's Head, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 5/1/1874

“Bilston Special License Transfer Session.....

KINGS HEAD, Broad Street, to *Sarah Willings*, as widow and executrix of the late *Henry Crown Willings*.”

1881 Census

13, Broad Street – KINGS ARMS

- [1] *Samuel Wellings* (54), engineer and licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *Phoebe Wellings* (43), wife, born Kidderminster;
- [3] *Samuel Wellings* (14), son, house painter, born Bilston;
- [4] *Phoebe Wellings* (10), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] *Thomas Wellings* (64), brother, widower, general labourer, born Bilston;
- [6] *Thomas Wellings* (28), nephew, general labourer, born Bilston:

Darlaston Weekly Times 29/8/1885 - Advert

“Lost, on Monday night, on the Wake Ground, Darlaston, a large black retriever dog, answers to the name of ‘Wallace.’ Anyone taking the same to the KINGS HEAD INN, Broad Street, Bilston, will be rewarded, and anyone detaining the animal after this notice, will be prosecuted.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 17/9/1885 - Advert

“To Engineers (Bilston-Wolverhampton District).

A Fund having been started to Support Engineers on Strike, owing to an attempt to considerably reduce their wages by Messrs. Grocutt, Bankfield Works, Bilston, a Meeting will be held at the KINGS HEAD, Broad, Street, Bilston, Saturday Night, when contributions will be thankfully acknowledged.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 28/9/1885

“National Federation of Engine Tenters. There was another meeting of engine tenters held at the KINGS HEAD INN, Broad Street, Bilston, on Saturday night. A good number enrolled themselves members of the association, and a collection was made to support those men now on strike at the Bankfield Ironworks, Bilston.”

1891 Census

13, Broad Street

- [1] *Joseph Wood* (53), licensed victualler, born Shareshill, Staffordshire;
- [2] *Emma Wood* (49), wife, born Walton on Trent, Derbyshire;
- [3] *Jemima Hill* (15), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 16/1/1894

“At a special Petty Sessions, held at Bilston yesterday.....

James Whittingham, *Greencroft*, and *William Harris*, *Pipes Meadow*, were remanded on a charge of stealing a quart of rum from the KINGS ARMS INN, Broad Street, Bilston.”

1901 Census

27, Broad Street

- [1] *James Caddick* (25), licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *Harriet M. Caddick* (26), wife, born Wolverhampton:

LOST, on Monday night, on the Wake Ground, Darlaston, a large black retriever dog, answers to the name of “Wallace.” Anyone taking the same to the King's Head Inn, Broad-street, Bilston, will be rewarded, and anyone detaining the animal after this notice, will be prosecuted.

TO Engineers (Bilston-Wolverhampton District).—A Fund having started to Support Engineers on Strike, owing to an attempt to considerably reduce their wages by Messrs. Grocutt, Bankfield Works, Bilston, a Meeting will be held at King's Head, Broad st., Bilston, Saturday Night, when contributions will be thankfully acknowledged.

1911 Census

27, Broad Street

- [1] John Winyard (45), married, wood turning, born Birmingham;
- [2] William Winyard (21), son, wood turning, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] Florance Winyard (17), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] George Earnest Winyard (15), son, fitting and turning, born Bilston;
- [5] Harry Winyard (13), son, born Bilston;
- [6] Harold Winyard (12), son, born Bilston;
- [7] Annie Winyard (10), daughter, born Bilston;
- [8] Sidney Winyard (8), son, born Bilston;
- [9] Ivy Winyard (6), daughter, born Bilston;
- [10] Bella Spencer (47), servant, born Birmingham:

John Winyard also ran a saw mill. [1912]

John Winyard married Florence Thomas in the 4th quarter of 1920.

1921 Census

27, Broad Street

- [1] John Winyard (54), licensed victualler, born Birmingham;
- [2] Florance Winyard (44), wife, housewife, born Dudley;
- [3] William Henry Winyard (30), son, wood turner, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] George Winyard (26), son, tool maker, born Bilston;
- [5] Harry Winyard (23), son, pot welder, out of work, born Bilston;
- [6] Harold Winyard (21), son, motor fitter, out of work, born Bilston;
- [7] Sidney Winyard (19), son, tool fitter, out of work, born Bilston;
- [8] Ivy Winyard (16), daughter, employed at home, born Bilston;
- [9] Marrion Dorothy Thomas (13), step-daughter, school, born Bilston;
- [10] John Arnold Thomas (11), step-son, school, born Bilston;
- [11] Ellen May Thomas (4), step-daughter, born Bilston;
- [12] Bella Spencer (60), servant, born Birmingham:

South Staffordshire Times 16/12/1922

“Bilston Police Court. Florence Winyard, 37, Broad Street, Bilston, summoned her husband, *John Winyard*, Oatmeal Square, Bilston, for desertion, and applied for a maintenance order.

Mr. A. J. Glover appeared for the complainant, and Mr. Pritchard for defendant.

Mr. Pritchard having intimated that desertion would not be disputed, Mr. Glover said he could considerably shorten the case, as it was now resolved itself into a question of means. The parties were married on the 8th December, 1920, complainant being then a widow with three children. Defendant also was a widower with several grown-up children. There was one child, aged four months, of the present marriage. Defendant formerly kept a licensed house in Broad Street, Bilston, but on 30th October he gave it up. He bought himself a new house and went to it, but told complainant that he would not have her there. He had previously told her that he should cease living with her. He said he would let the matter be brought before the Court, and whatever the magistrates put on him he would pay. He had recently repeated that assertion, week after week, and, as he at last put it into effect, the complainant took out a summons for desertion. With regard to defendant's means, when complainant married him she was a licensee in Bilston, but she gave up that business and went to live at defendant's licensed premises. While living together there defendant used to give her £7 10s to £8 per week for household expenses. He was then not only a license-holder, but also carried on business as a wood-turner and case-maker, in which he employed two men and two boys. Shortly after the marriage, defendant showed her some figures, and told her he had £3,000 invested in war loans and in the bank. Complainant now had herself to keep, also the child of the last marriage, and the children of the former marriage. Therefore, he (Mr. Glover) appealed to the magistrates to make an order for the full amount of £2 per week for complainant herself, and 10s per week for the young child of the marriage with defendant. He understood that she could not claim anything for the children by the former marriage, although defendant was well aware that she had them when he married her. In addition to buying the new house referred to, defendant must have received a good sum for fixtures and stock at the licensed house which he vacated, and therefore could not be short of means.

Complainant stated that she married defendant at Wolverhampton Registry Office, on 8th December, 1920. She was then a widow, with three children. There was one child living of her marriage to defendant. It was born on the 14th August last. On 30th of last month defendant left the public house, and went to a private house which he had bought. On the day they were leaving the public house, she went to the bar door and asked defendant if she could go to the private house, and he said she could not, even if she took proceeding against him. He said he would have the children, but not her. He had made similar remarks on many occasions. He had many times told her to clear out, and said that whatever separation allowance the magistrates ordered him to pay he would be willing to pay. Knowing that defendant would not have her at the private house, she did not go to it. She took the four children and went into lodgings. Defendant had not given her any money since then. Defendant used to allow her between £7 10s and £8 per week for the whole of the household expenses. He had carried on business as a wood-turner and case-maker for about 18 years, and still had the business. She believed defendant gave £575 for the private house, and spent about £12 on repairs. About a week after they were married defendant showed her some figures. They represented about £3,000, and defendant said that was what he was worth in War Savings Certificates and money in the bank. He also received money from the sale of the stock and fixtures at the public house.

Mr. Pritchard: Did you ever see the certificates for £3,000?

Complainant: No, he has taken care never to let me see them.

Mr. Pritchard: You say he showed you the figures?

Complainant: Yes they were written on a piece of cardboard. It was one night in the bedroom, and he said, 'You can go into the street tomorrow knowing that you are worth £3,000.'

Mr. Pritchard: Have you never seen any evidence of it?

Complainant: No; but I have seen some certificates.

In the witness box defendant said he was quite willing for a separation order to be made, as he thought it was most desirable at the present moment. It was impossible for himself and complainant to live together. He would offer her £1 a week for herself and child. She was capable of taking a business. When he bought the private house complainant said she would not live with him there. She said she had been used to a business house, and she must go to another. He then told her he would never go to another public house, as that was the cause of all their trouble. With regard to the £3,000, it was not true that he had that much invested. Whatever there was complainant had had her share of it, and the other had been used up. He had lost money at the public house, but there had been a little profit on the wood-turning business. He had five sons living with him in the private house.

Mr. Glover: Do you seriously make an offer of only £1 per week to complainant for herself and children, and suggest that is enough?

Defendant: Yes.

Mr. Glover: I repeat the question. Do you seriously offer her only £1 per week for herself and children, and suggest that is enough?

Defendant: Yes; if she takes another business, as she intends to do.

Mr. Glover: What do you say are the profits and the wood-turning business?

Defendant: Very little; £1 per week would clear it. I lost money on the public house.

Mr. Glover: Will you swear you have not been making more than £1 per week profit at the wood-turning business?

Defendant: Recently I have not. I lost £104 on the public house last year.

Mr. Glover: Have you four sons living with you?

Defendant: Yes.

Mr. Glover: What do they pay you?

Defendant: One is out of work, and the other three, when working, pay 25s per week each for their board and lodging.

The Bench made an order for defendant to contribute £2 per week to complainant, and 10/- per week for the child, defendant also to pay two guineas solicitor's fee."

1939 Register

27, Broad Street

[1] Florence J. Haynes, date of birth 8/1/1883, licensed victualler, widowed:

A team from here took part in the Butlers (Bilston) Darts League. [1946]

It closed c.1960.

Demolished

LAMB AND FLAG

89, (16), (Lower) Salop Street, (Shropshire Row), (Salop Row), (16, Highfields Road), (Hallfield Road), Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

William Banks

Henry Fowler, iron master, Albrighton

Rev. Charles Lee, Vicar of Bilston

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

LICENSEES

Thomas Banks [1818] – [1824]

William 'Will' Banks* [1828] – [1851]

William Banks* [1860]

James Ball [1861] – **1874**;

Mrs. Elizabeth Ball **(1874 – 1876)**;

John Fletcher **(1876 – 1888)**;

James Bibby **(1888 – 1889)**;

James Osborne **(1889 – 1894)**;

Frederick Jones **(1894 – 1896)**;

Henry McLoughlin **(1896)**;

Enoch Duce **(1896 – 1898)**;

Samuel Tate **(1898 – 1899)**;

Alexander Berry **(1899)**;

John Henry Jeffery **(1899)**;

John Little **(1899 – 1900)**;

Frank McDonald **(1900 – 1901)**;

William Henry Ralph **(1901 – 1904)**;

Henry Maddock **(1904 – 1906)**;

Daniel Dalton **(1906 – 1909)**;

Elijah Pountney **(1909 – 1910)**;

Alfred Pountney **(1910 – 1911)**;



NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

THE Creditors of PETER BANKS, of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Coalmaster, are requested to meet the Trustees of the estate and effects of the said Peter Banks on Monday the 18th day of October inst. at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at the house of Thomas Banks, the Lamb and Flag Inn, near Bilston aforesaid, when a statement of the affairs of the said Peter Banks will be laid before them, and proposals for the future management of the said estate made to them. Dated this 8th day of October, 1824.

FRANCIS STUART,

Solicitor to the above Estate.

1824

NOTES

Shropshire Row [1818], [1828], [1830], [1833], [1850], [1851]

Salop Row [1861], [1881]

Salop Street [1863], [1868], [1881]

Highfields Road [1871]

Hallfield Road [1881]

16, Salop Street [c.1901]

89, Salop Street [1908]

16, Highfields Road

Good stabling.

It was known locally as the "Hell House".

It had a beerhouse license.

Blackcountryman (Winter 1985)

'Two Notorious Public Houses In Bilston'

".....But if the SWAN was rowdy, the LAMB AND FLAG of Salop Street was positively the most riotous in the area, and was also a great resort of ironworkers. Standing as it did on high ground it was known as HILL HOUSE, but as riotous repute increased so it gradually assumed more suitably to Hell House. *Tommy Banks*, who kept the house for a time, was a big burly character who in addition to keeping the inn also managed the butchery department of the noted Banks' tommy-shop. He entered into all of the excesses of the place with gusto and was locally known as the devil One singular feature of the inn was that it stood in the Parish of Sedgley and for that reason after became a sanctuary for men under pursuit when the cry was raised that the local bobby was on his rounds. Culprits simply entered the inn out of his jurisdiction The inn had quite spacious cellars where dog fights and cock fights took place Trading at the inn appears to have ceased early in the century."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 1/10/1821 - Advert

"To be Sold by Auction, by R. Allen, on Friday the 5th Day of October, at Mr. *Thomas Banks's*, the LAMB AND FLAG INN, at Ettingshall, near Bradley, in the County of Stafford.....
Four good Canal Boats and a Frigate....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 15/4/1822 - Advert

"To Miners.

To be Sold by Auction, at Mr. *Banks's*, at the LAMB AND FLAG, at Bradley, on Friday next, the 19th of April, a complete Whimsey, planted near to the said house.

The sale will commence precisely at three, and the whimsey may be viewed by applying to Mr. Titley, of Bradley aforesaid."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 11/10/1824 - Advert

"Notice to Creditors.

The Creditors of Peter Banks, of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Coalmaster, are requested to meet the Trustees of the estate and effects of the said Peter Banks on Monday the 18th day of October inst at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at the house of *Thomas Banks*, the LAMB AND FLAG INN, near Bilston aforesaid, when a statement of the affairs of the said Peter Banks will be laid before them, and proposals for the future management of the said estate made to them.

Dated this 8th day of October, 1824. Francis Stuart, Solicitor to the above Estate."

* possibly the same person

Will Banks was a bookmaker.

William Banks, beer retailer, Shropshire Row. [1849], [1850], [1851]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/11/1849

"An inquest was held yesterday (Tuesday) at the HILL HOUSE, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of William Perks, six years of age, who was very badly burnt by his clothes catching fire in his mother's house, in Shropshire Row, on Tuesday, the 13th instant. The boy lingered until the 16th instant, when he expired at his grand-mother's house. The accident took place during the absence of the child's mother, a widow, who was following her ordinary occupation at Mr. Baldwin's tin works. The boy had been left in charge of his grand-mother, but subsequently went into his mother's house, where the accident occurred. Verdict, Accidental Death."

Staffordshire Advertiser 12/1/1850

"Bilston Petty Sessions, on Friday, the 4th instant.....

Edmund Bate, a puddler, was charged with attempting to utter a counterfeit shilling. George Parkes, an assistant to Mr. *Banks*, the HILL HOUSE, Shropshire Row, stated that on Thursday afternoon the prisoner came into his master's house and called for a pint of ale, in payment of which he tendered a shilling, which on examination proved to be counterfeit. On being told that it was bad, he produced a good one, paid for the ale, and left the house. Information was given to the police, and the prisoner was shortly afterwards apprehended, and on being searched, four counterfeit shillings were found in his pocket. Police-constable John Oldridge stated that he searched the prisoner's house the same evening, and found two counterfeit shillings in his clothes on the bed. They all appeared to have been made

in the same mould. On searching the pantry he found a Britannia metal coffee-pot hid behind the lumps of coal, and upon making inquiries he found that it had been stolen from Mr. Henry James Lester, landlord of the SHAKSPERE INN, and that the prisoner had been drinking there the same day. The prisoner, who said nothing in defence, was remanded till Tuesday, in order to communicate with the Mint authorities.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 13/3/1850

“Staffordshire Adjourned Sessions.....

Edmund Bate, 22 (who yesterday pleaded guilty to a charge of having uttered a counterfeit shilling at Bilston), was charged with stealing a coffee-pot from the house of Henry James Lister, at Bilston. The prisoner was found guilty. A prior conviction at the Adjourned Epiphany Sessions of last year, for uttering counterfeit coin (when he was imprisoned for six months), was proved against the prisoner. For stealing the coffee-pot he was sentenced to one month's imprisonment; and for the uttering, twelve months' imprisonment, the sentence to commence at the expiration of the former.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/8/1851

“An inquest was held on Friday, at the LAMB AND FLAG, Shropshire Row, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, on the bodies of Jabez Richards, aged eleven years, and Daniel Caddick, aged nine, who were drowned while bathing in the canal near the iron works of Mr. Banks. It appeared that they got out of their depth, and being unable to swim, they were drowned before assistance could be rendered. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/12/1857

“On Tuesday, an inquest was held at the LAMB AND FLAG, Shropshire Row, Bilston, on the body of Joseph Arnold, a child two years old. The cause of death was attributable to the coffee pot having been upset and most of the scalding contents having fallen upon the chest of the deceased.”

Chester Courant 2/1/1861

“From the result of the inquest held at the LAMB INN, Shropshire Row, Bilston, before Mr. T. M. Phillips, as to the cause of death of Maria Pearson and her youngest daughter, Harriet Pearson, it would appear that the statements with regard to their having been poisoned were at least premature, and that their death may have been caused by suffocation.

Pearson went to his work on the day previous to his wife's death, as watchman for Mr. Baldwin, as usual, leaving his wife and four daughters at home. They partook of supper about half-past nine o'clock, and about an hour later they went to bed. They reside in a small cottage, which has only one room below, one bed-room, and a small attic above it, which was never used. The whole of the family, therefore, slept in one bed-room, which is very small, and must have been exceedingly unhealthy when the confined air was breathed by five persons. In preparing for Christmas, the floor of the bed-room had been washed on Friday, and to obviate the dampness consequent upon this a fire was lighted in the room, and supplied with coke. Owing to its form, the chimney was not sufficient to carry off the deleterious vapours arising from the combustion of the coke, and on retiring to rest they noticed that there was a strong smell of sulphur in the room. Instead of taking proper precautions, and opening both the door and the window, they took the worst course possible in placing more coke upon the fire and closing the chamber door, not being aware of the dangerous position in which they were placing themselves. Ann Maria and Eliza got into the bed nearest the door, where there was a slight draught, owing to which they were probably saved from the fate of their mother and youngest sister, who, with Hannah, slept together in another bed.

A post mortem examination has been made on the bodies of the deceased, but no trace of poison had been discovered.”

1861 Census

Salop Row

- [1] James Ball (41), licensed victualler, born Sedgley;
- [2] Betsey Ball (38), wife, born Blockley; [no county given]
- [3] Louisa Ball (13), daughter, born Tipton;
- [4] William H. Ball (8), son, born Bilston;
- [5] Betsy Ball (2), daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] Phoebe Ball (17), servant, born Sedgley;

Wolverhampton Chronicle 7/8/1861 - Advert

“Important Sale of Valuable Freehold and Leasehold Ironworks, Blast Furnaces, Collieries, Dwelling Houses, Public House, Building Land, and Premises, at Bilston, in the County of Stafford.

Richard Clarke had been favoured with instructions from the Trustees of the Estate of Mr. *William Banks*, trading under the firm of Thomas Banks and Son, to Sell by Auction, at the SWAN HOTEL, Wolverhampton, on Wednesday, the 21st of August, 1861, at three o'clock in the afternoon, for half-past precisely.....

The capital Old-Licensed Public House and Premises, called the LAMB AND FLAG in the occupation of Mr. *James Ball*.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/5/1863

“*J. Ball*, LAMB AND FLAG, Salop Street, Bilston, for skittle playing, was fined 20s and costs.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 29/8/1863

“At Bilston Public Office, yesterday, the undermentioned licenses were suspended.....

James Ball, LAMB AND FLAG, Bilston.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/9/1863

“The meeting for the renewing and granting of licenses was held on Friday, at Bilston police office.....

The following is a list of those who had been proceeded against and fined in the past year.....

James Ball, LAMB AND FLAG, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/9/1863

“The adjourned licensing meeting for the Bilston division of the county was held on Friday.....

Licenses suspended at the annual licensing meeting were now renewed to the following houses, the landlords being cautioned to conduct them more creditably for the future.....

LAMB AND FLAG, Shropshire Row, Bilston, kept by *James Ball*.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/8/1865

“Yesterday, the annual licensing meeting for the Bilston division of the county of Stafford was held.....

Mr. Fellows, solicitor, applied for a license on behalf of Thomas Holland, the owner and occupier of the PRINCE OF WALES, Shropshire Row. The house had been put on land near to Mr. Perry's foundry, and amongst some eighty houses that had been built in the past two years. The only opposition was from the owner, not the occupier, of the LAMB AND FLAG, situated some seventy or eighty yards off; but that house was notoriously incommodious, especially for the holding of inquests and the like, and Mr. *Ball*, the keeper, had been several times summoned before the magistrates for offences against his license. Mr. Holland, on the contrary, had kept his house without any complaint being made against him, and he had obtained a certificate of character from the Churchwardens and other respectable people of the locality.

Mr. Underhill, in opposing the application, admitted that the house was a good one, but said that inasmuch as Mr. Holland was a member of the firm of Brereton and Co, the magistrates would scarcely believe that it was likely that he would carry on the house. He (Mr. Underhill) apprehended that before their worships granted the application, they would require to know by whom it was intended it should be kept.

Mr. Fellows: It is for no other person than Mr. Holland.

Mr. Underhill, continuing, said that his clients were the Barbor's Field Company, who were the owners of the LAMB AND FLAG. Besides which house, there were some three other licensed houses, the CROWN, the CROWN AND CUSHION, and the ROLLING MILLS, all within 100 yards away. Mr. Fellows contended that they were 250 yards away. Application granted.”

The capital Old-Licensed PUBLIC HOUSE and Premises, called the “Lamb and Flag,” in the occupation of Mr. *James Ball*; and Five LABOURERS' COTTAGES. Also the House, Workshops, Rope Walk, and Premises, in the occupation of Mr. *Hawley*, part of which is held under a lease for an unexpired term of 61 years.

The above Estate is eligibly situated near to the centre of the Town of Bilston, and by means of the continuation of the new street, called Dudley Street, into Shropshire Row, will afford many valuable Sites for Building. It is intersected by the Wolverhampton level of the Birmingham Canal for a distance of upwards of 300 yards.

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 17/2/1866

“T. Holloway of Lady Moor and Brueton of Shropshire Row are matched to run 100 yards for £5 a side, at Aston Cross Grounds on Monday, March 5. *J. Ball* of the LAMB AND FLAG, Shropshire Row, the stakeholder and referee, has £2 a side, and a further deposit has to be made to him on Saturday (this) evening.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 10/3/1866

“Aston Cross Grounds. On Monday upwards of 1,000 persons were present to witness the undermentioned matches which came off. The first event was between T. Holloway of Lady Moor and J. Brueton of Shropshire Row, near Bilston before a dozen yards were covered Holloway stumbled and fell, cutting both knees severely. Brueton, therefore, ran in an easy winner.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/9/1866

“At Bilston Police Court, yesterday.....

Thomas Chambley pleaded guilty to stealing six quarts of ale, from the house of *James Ball*, publican, where he was employed. He was sentenced to six weeks’ imprisonment.”

1871 Census

Highfields Road – LAMB AND FLAG

- [1] *James Ball* (50), licensed victualler, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Betsy Ball* (47), wife, born Blockley, Worcestershire;
- [3] *William Ball* (18), son, roll turner, born Bilston;
- [4] *Mary E. Ball* (4), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] *Agnes Cockburn* (21), domestic servant, born Wolverhampton:

James Ball was married to *Elizabeth*.

He died on 20th November 1874.

Evening Express 2/2/1881

“Yesterday (Tuesday) afternoon, three youths recklessly ventured on the ice at the Old Bankfield pool, Bradley, when the ice, which was rotten, suddenly gave way, and precipitated all three into the water. Two of the three, after some difficulty, succeeded in getting to land, but the third, a youth named John Stubbs, 15 years of age, who resided with his parents in Bradley Street, Bilston, was unfortunately drowned. The deceased’s companions gave information of the occurrence to Police-constable Clarke, of the Bradley Police Station, who at once proceeded to the scene of the fatality, and, with the assistance of a number of bystanders, the pool was dragged. After considerable searching the body was recovered, and removed to the LAMB AND FLAG INN, Salop Street, Hallfields, to await an inquest.”

Dudley and District News 19/3/1881 - Advert

“Under A Distraint.

LAMB AND FLAG INN, Salop Street, Hallfields, near Bilston.

Monday Next, March 21st, 1881.

Mr. Short will Sell by Auction, as above, a capital Sausage Chopping Machine (to work by hand), Sausage Filler, &c; together with a quantity of Household Furniture, comprising square Table, Chairs, Iron Bedsteads, Mattresses, Flock Bed, Copper Kettle, and the usual kitchen requisites, removed to the above place for convenience of Sale, and belonging to Mr. Thomas Salter.

Sale to commence at three o’clock.

Auctioneer’s Office, 5, Union Street.”

1881 Census

Hallfield Road – LAMB AND FLAG

- [1] *John Fletcher* (49), licensed victualler, born Tipton;
- [2] *Mary Ann Fletcher* (57), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *John Fletcher* (23), son, millman in ironworks, born Tipton;
- [4] *Elizabeth Fletcher* (18), daughter, born Birmingham:

Evening Express 6/5/1881

“This (Friday) morning, a boy, named Joseph Wilkinson, 12 years of age, whose parents reside in Ivy House Lane, Coseley, was drowned in the Birmingham Canal, near to the Bankfield Ironworks, Bradley. Deceased, with another boy of similar age, went into the water to bathe, and, it is believed, got out of his depth, and was drowned before assistance could be rendered. Information was conveyed to the Bradley Police Station, and Police-constable Clarke at once went to the spot and had the body removed to the LAMB AND FLAG INN, Salop Street, where it now lies to await the verdict.”

Evening Express 13/5/1881

“On Tuesday an inquest was held by W. H. Phillips, Esq, district coroner, at the LAMB AND FLAG INN, Salop Row, Bilston, touching the death of a youth named Joseph Wilkinson, who was drowned in the Birmingham Canal, near the Bankfield Ironworks, Bradley, under circumstances already reported.

The jury, after hearing the evidence of the boy Joseph Pargeter, who was bathing with the deceased, returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Evening Express 10/11/1881

“An adjourned inquest was held at the LAMB AND FLAG INN, Salop Street, Bilston, this (Thursday) afternoon on the body of a child, named Harry Aston, whose death was reported on Monday.

William Mott Hancox, surgeon, said that on the 4th instant he received a note from the relieving officer to attend deceased. He visited the child on that day and found it in a dying condition. He observed an abrasion upon the forehead and left side of the face, which, he was told, were caused by scalds. He also found an abrasion on the right foot. On Monday he made a post mortem examination of the body, assisted by Dr. Cameron, surgeon, of Bilston. The body weighed six pounds and a half, and presented a very emaciated appearance. The abdomen was collapsed, and the body reduced to a mere skeleton. Externally he found an extensive abrasion of the skull, extending over the left side of the forehead and nose; also similar injuries on the right instep and on the foot. There were also two blue marks on the left side of the cheek and a bruise on the left hand. On opening the child he found the lungs pale, collapsed, and bloodless. The heart and large vessels were destitute of blood. The stomach contained one ounce of coagulated milk. The whole of the intestines and the brain were slightly congested. The result of the post mortem enabled him to arrive at the conclusion that the child had not received sufficient nourishment during life. He should think the scalds had existed for six or seven days. If the child had died from starvation or from scalds he should not have found any material difference in the appearance of the child in post mortem. The irritation from the scalds might have prevented the child taking the necessary substances, but would not have prevented it altogether from taking food in small quantities. The bruise might have been produced by slight pressure on the skin, owing to the impoverished condition of the blood. In answer to a question from the coroner, Dr. Hancox said the child had died of starvation, accelerated by scalds. In reply to a further question, he said he should think the child had been neglected from its birth, more or less, to produce such a state of things as the post mortem showed.

William Upton, puddler, said he recollected the mother of the child coming to live with them about 11 weeks ago, accompanied by Aston. They did not sleep together as man and wife. Aston paid for the lodgings, and for the support of the woman and child. When the child came to his house it was small, but appeared well. The child always took nourishment when it was offered to it. Aston generally fed it himself, because the mother was not so sharp as she should be, though she seemed capable of taking care of herself. They lodged about three weeks with witness, and then they went to live by themselves. There was no alarm called when the child was scalded. Witness had heard Aston say it was his child, and also heard him deny it. He had never heard Aston threaten, or seen him hit the child. Aston had been all the time in full work.

Mary Ann Goodreid said she saw the baby when Aston and the mother came to live in the court; it was a poor little creature. While the deceased's parents were living at Upton's, the mother did not pay proper attention to the child. When they went into housekeeping witness visited them most days. On the Tuesday after the child was scalded she went into the house, and asked how the scalds had happened. The child's mother replied, 'Don't say anything, because Aston had said he would do something at her, and go and leave her.' The mother told witness Aston was putting his shirt on and pulled the saucepan on to the child. She also said Aston told her, if anyone asked about the baby, to tell them that it had broke out with the measles. The scalds had no dressing upon them whatever. Aston told her the child's bottle was broke and no use. He broke the bottle purposely. The child always took food when it was offered it in witness's presence.

William Upton said one morning in September, while Aston and the mother were lodging at his father's home, he and Aston were in the same room sleeping. They had both been working nights, and when they were in bed the

deceased's mother brought the child to Aston and it began to cry. Aston then struck the child, and it had a black eye. Joseph Upton, an intelligent little fellow of eleven, who satisfactorily answered the coroner's inquiries as to his knowledge of an oath, said he slept with Aston while the latter lived at his mother's house. Just after they came to witness's father's house deceased's mother brought the child to Aston in bed, and he struck the child on its face, and said he would quieten it. He also shook the child, and kept on shaking it till the child was quiet.

Ann Atkins said she remembered seeing the child one morning in Mrs. Upton's arms; it had a black eye and a bruise up each side of its neck. This was when Aston and the mother resided at Upton's. Aston threatened Mrs. Upton for showing the child. She heard nothing more of the child until last Wednesday week, when deceased was found in bed. Witness had given both the mother and child food since they had been in housekeeping. The child could always eat when it had food given it. Witness considered the mother capable of nursing the baby.

Joseph Corbett said Aston worked with him until the last week. During the last month Aston had earned £3 9s 10d, out of which 17s 10d had been paid to him, and his wife the remainder.

Louisa Freeman had seen bruises on the child on two occasions. One of the bruises was on the eye, and one under the chin. When the witness Talbot brought the deceased to her house on the Wednesday morning the child was in a most wretched and neglected condition. Witness attended to the child after it was brought from the Hospital, and fed it on the Thursday with milk, but he only took about two teaspoonfuls at a time. On the Friday the child took less milk still, and died on Saturday. The mother was capable of minding her own child, though not quite sharp. Witness had seen deceased's mother rush out of the house.

Emily Pearson, daughter of a previous witness, said she was an in-patient in the Wolverhampton Hospital about five months ago, when the mother of the deceased, who was suffering from gathered breasts, became an in-patient. Dr. Winter attended upon them, and gave the child, who was with its mother, medicine three times a day.

The Coroner said it was material that the jury should know what was the condition of the child at that time, and he thought they had better have evidence of Dr. Winter on the point.

The inquiry was accordingly adjourned for this purpose until Friday, the 18th inst."

Evening Express 18/11/1881

"The adjourned inquest on the body of the child Harry Bailey, who died under circumstances already reported, was held at the LAMB AND FLAG, Salop Row, Bilston, before W. H. Phillips, Esq, district coroner.

Henry Trimmer Winter, house surgeon at Wolverhampton Hospital, said he remembered the mother of the deceased being in the Hospital. She went in on April 11th, and came out on the 24th May. The child which she had with her was a very small one, but might have been reared by careful nursing. The child was under treatment when the mother was in the Hospital, at which time the mother was in such a state as to nurse and care for it herself.

In answer to the foreman, witness said the medicine the child had was a tonic to strengthen it.

Mary Ann Rigby said she lived next door to Priscilla Aston's father's at Priestfield, and witness took her to the Workhouse to be confined. During that time she did not visit her because the authorities would not allow any one to do so. When the mother and child came from the Workhouse the child was very thin. The mother suckled it until her breasts got bad, and she had to go to the Hospital on that account. When the child came out of the Hospital it was a nice child, but thin. On the Wednesday, when Mary Talbot found the child in bed scalded, she saw it, and it then looked to be in a dying condition; but she did not notice that it was much thinner. It then took milk freely, and did not vomit after it. She saw the child daily after until it died. She never saw the mother ill use the baby, and was of opinion that she was as sound in mind as she (witness) was, and quite capable of taking care of the child.

Elizabeth Upton, recalled, said when she saw the father strike the baby the mother was not present. The child had a bruise on the eye.

After the Coroner had read over the evidence, Aston, the father of the child, and Mrs. Pearson, one of the witnesses, came to him and said it would be better to burn the tube of the child's bottle. She asked him what he should get for the child, and he replied, 'We can't afford best milk, but it shall have a pint of skim a day.' She said she would not get skim milk.

Priscilla Aston, the mother of the deceased, said her husband had beaten the child dreadfully at times. She heard him smack it several times. On Saturday night, when he scalded the baby, he beat her as well. She did not know of the scalds till she came back from Bilston. When she asked her husband what was the matter with the baby, he replied, 'Shut up,' and she let it be till Sunday morning. He would not let his mother-in-law see the baby, or let any one else see it.

The Coroner then summed up. He said they had to consider how this child Harry Bailey came to his death, and they must be guided in their verdict entirely by the evidence they had heard in that room, and not from any kind of rumour or report which they might have heard circulated in the neighbourhood. They had heard that this child was from the

first a very delicate child, and one that the mother was not able to suckle and rear herself in consequence of her having gathered breasts. They had heard from the surgeon to the Wolverhampton Hospital that the child was, when in that institution, a very delicate and weakly child, and such was its history all along. That this child was very improperly treated whilst in the care of Aston before their marriage was undoubted, and that he ill treated it in a very brutal manner. At the same time they had to consider the actual cause of death, and they would have to be guided very much by the medical evidence of Mr. Hancox. He had told them that the child had died of starvation, accelerated by scalds. He said in his evidence, also, that the child being scalded, would exhibit feverish symptoms, which would tend to make the child refuse to take food freely. They would consider whether the scalds which were on the child prevented it from taking food. At the same time, if they believed that starvation was the actual cause of death, and was brought about by the ill treatment and neglect of the father, or the mother, or both, then they had the power to bring in a verdict of manslaughter against one or both.

The jury, after a lengthened deliberation, returned a verdict of Manslaughter against Harry Aston and Priscilla Aston, his wife."

Birmingham Daily Post 25/1/1882

"Staffordshire Assizes.....

Harry Aston (22), puddler, and Priscilla Aston (23), his wife, were indicted for killing and slaying Harry Bailey, an infant, on the 29th October last, at Bilston. Mr. Plumptree prosecuted, and Mr. Jackson, at the request of his lordship, defended the prisoners.

It seems that in February last the woman, who was not then married, was confined of a boy at Wolverhampton workhouse, the man being the putative father of the child. Whilst in the workhouse the female prisoner appeared to behave well to her offspring, and towards August the two prisoners, along with the child, obtained lodgings at the house of a Mrs. Upton, in Bilston. In October the prisoners were married, at which time the child was weakly and emaciated, and subsequently some of the neighbours noticed that the infant was scarred over one eye and other parts of the body. The child was taken by them to the hospital, and its sores dressed, and subsequently the prisoners were requested to call in a doctor, but they declined, though eventually the medical officer of the Union attended the infant. He found it was in a rapidly-sinking condition, and it shortly afterwards died.

The male prisoner was a puddler, in constant work; and even if he had had no money to provide food for the child, it was urged on behalf of the prosecution that he ought to have applied for relief, instead of acting in the manner he did.

Witnesses were called, some of whom spoke to the female prisoner being without food herself at times, and thus was unable to provide for the infant; and others to seeing the male prisoner thrash the baby because it would not be quiet. Dr. Hancocks stated that on the 7th November he made a post mortem examination of the body, which weighed but 6½lb, and presented an extremely emaciated appearance, being reduced to a mere skeleton. He found extensive abrasions over the left forehead, and smaller ones on the instep. In the stomach was a little coagulated milk, which showed that the child had been fed before death. He attributed death to starvation, in not having received sufficient nourishment during life.

Dr. Winter also gave evidence to seeing the child before death, when it was in a weakly condition, and his opinion was that it might have lived if it had good nursing and good food.

The jury acquitted the prisoners; and the learned Judge said he was sorry to find they had been prisoners so long a time on such a charge. No evidence was offered on a second count, charging them with not providing the child with sufficient food, and the prisoners were discharged."

Darlaston Weekly Times 6/9/1884

"On Sunday afternoon, whilst Mr. *John Fletcher* and his wife, of the LAMB AND FLAG INN, Bradley, were driving home from Coseley, they met with an accident. A heavy shower of rain came on, and while Mr. *Fletcher* was trying to open his umbrella, the off-wheel of the trap came into contact with a bank, and the vehicle was overturned, and the occupants thrown out. Some persons soon came to their assistance, and they were removed to Tettenhall, and, after there resting a short time, were taken home. Mrs. *Fletcher* escaped with a shaking, but Mr. *Fletcher* sustained severe injuries."

Darlaston Weekly Times 3/7/1886

“E. B. Thorneycroft, Esq, deputy-coroner, held an inquest on Monday afternoon, at the LAMB AND FLAG INN, Bradley, touching the death of William Attley (60), carter, of Moxley.

From the evidence it appears that deceased was on Friday evening in charge of a horse and wagon, when on driving past Messrs. Hatton's Ironworks a steam whistle blew, which caused the animal to rear, throwing deceased violently against a brick wall. When picked up it was found that he had sustained very severe injuries. He was conveyed to the LAMB AND FLAG INN where the unfortunate man died before medical aid could be rendered.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 20/3/1889

“The Borough Coroner (Mr. W. H. Phillips) held an inquest at the LAMB AND FLAG INN, Bradley, on Tuesday afternoon, on the body of Mary Smith (22), wife of Henry Mortiboy Smith, roll turner, of Broad Street, Bilston.

Deceased went to bed with her husband about ten o'clock on Sunday night. Early on Monday morning he woke up and missed her. On going downstairs he found some notes on the table which deceased had written, stating that she was tired of life, and that the next time she would be seen in a watery grave near the Bankfield Works. Shortly after three o'clock on Monday morning Edwin Turner, boatman, of Hall Green, was passing along the canal side, when he found deceased's hat and shawl and a pair of gloves. He informed Police-constable Tytherleigh, who went with him to the place. They looked about, and at length found the body of the deceased in the water. She had attempted suicide about five years ago.

The jury returned a verdict of Suicide whilst in a state of Temporary Insanity.”

1891 Census

16, Salop Street - unoccupied

Walsall Advertiser 13/1/1894

“Walsall County Court.....

John Barton, coachbuilder, Holly Edge Lane, sued *James Osborne*, landlord of the LAMB AND FLAG, Bradley, near Bilston, for £10 10s, being the price agreed for a barrel organ. Mr. Cotterell appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. A. Whitehouse for the defence.

Mr. Cotterell, in opening his case, said that the plaintiff, John Barton, was a man very well known in the town as a coachbuilder, and he also dealt with odd things which he purchased now and again, and amongst some things he bought was a barrel organ, about which the dispute had arisen. The barrel organ in question originally cost £150, and it was for many years at the SHAKESPEARE, and was knocked down to a witness he had present for £10. That witness was subsequently offered £15 but did not sell it.

Mr. Whitehouse: Really, I cannot have the history of the organ. I will let your Honour send in any musical man in Walsall to hear the machine, and if he says it was a musical instrument in any sense of the word he would pay for it. It was simply a piece of furniture and nothing more.

Mr. Cotterell said the plaintiff wanted to sell it, and a man named Partridge, of Sedgley, saw it and recommended the defendant to buy it. Mrs. *Osborne* came and saw the machine, said she should like it, and eventually she agreed to purchase it. It would not play then, and she was told that if she liked to have it play he would get it repaired. His client got it repaired by a Mr. Lord at a cost of £3 10s, and it was subsequently taken to the house. Mrs. *Osborne* gave the men two pints of beer for taking it, and as one was a teetotaller she gave him a cup of coffee. The organ was filled up and started to play, but defendant complained that it did not play long enough.

The plaintiff Barton gave evidence in support of the statements of his solicitor, and said that Mr. *Osborne* offered them £1 to take the instrument back. He also said that he had sued both Mr. and Mrs. *Osborne*, but the latter made the purchase.

Mr. Whitehouse: There is not a semblance of a tune in the instrument at all; there is not as much in it as a bagpipe.

Mr. Cotterell: I do not know whether my friend is musical, he may have been.

His Honour contended that Mr. Cotterell must sue against either Mr. or Mrs. *Osborne*, and prove that Mrs. *Osborne* has a separate estate.

Mr. Cotterell then said that he would now ask that the case against Mrs. *Osborne* be struck out, and the case be heard against Mr. *Osborne*.

Mr. Whitehouse (to plaintiff): Did you sell the organ to the defendant as a piece of furniture or a musical instrument?

Plaintiff: I sold it as a barrel organ that would not play; I sold it as it stood. I would not care for anyone to test its musical qualities (laughter).

Mr. Whitehouse: Did you tell Mrs. *Osborne* that you were selling it because music was stopped at Walsall? Plaintiff said that he did tell her so and that in was in consequence of an order of the magistrates. His Honour gave verdict for the defendant with costs."

Birmingham Daily Post 18/8/1894 - Advert

"The LAMB AND FLAG, Bradley; old-established Inn, doing large proof trade under well-known brewers; rent £30 net; in-going at valuation; illness cause of leaving. Apply, Dando, Auctioneer, Dudley."

THE Lamb and Flag, Bradley; old-established Inn, doing large proof trade under well-known brewers; rent £30. net; in-going at valuation; illness cause of leaving.—Apply, Dando, Auctioneer, Dudley.

Ellen Wallace = Ellen Wallis

Staffordshire Advertiser 28/3/1896

"*Frederick Jones*, of the LAMB AND FLAG INN, Salop Street, Bradley, was charged with allowing gaming on his licensed premises. Police-constable Heapey, in disguise, visited the house and witnessed gambling on two occasions. The defendant had been convicted before, and was now fined £5 and costs on one case and 20s and costs on another case."

Birmingham Daily Post 3/9/1900 - Advert

"Barmaid, Re-engagement as, aged 22; good references given. Miss McDonald, LAMB AND FLAG, Bradley, Bilston."

1901 Census

Salop Street – LAMB AND FLAG INN

- [1] *William H. Ralph* (34), licensed victualler, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Mary Jane Ralph* (30), wife, born Hagley;
- [3] *William E. Ralph* (8), son, born Sedgley;
- [4] *Arthur L. Ralph* (4), son, born Sedgley;

LEATHER Pocket Wallet, containing two auctioneers' licenses, hawker's ditto, and hawker's plate license, also motor-cycle driver's ditto, and two dog licenses. The whole of the same are pinned together.—Anyone finding the same and returning it to the Lamb and Flag Inn, Bradley, near Bilston, Staffs, will be well rewarded.

Birmingham Daily Post 25/5/1904 - Advert

"Leather Pocket Wallet, containing two auctioneers' licenses, hawker's ditto, and hawker's plate license, also motor-cycle ditto, and two dog licenses. The whole of the same are pinned together. Anyone finding the same and returning it to the LAMB AND FLAG INN, Bradley, near Bilston, Staffs, will be well rewarded."

Staffordshire Advertiser 12/2/1910

"The Bilston Annual Licensing Sessions were held yesterday.....

The licences of the LAMB AND FLAG INN, Highfields Road, Bradley were referred for compensation."

License referred to Compensation Authority on 24th June 1910.

Lichfield Mercury 1/7/1910

"On Friday the principal meeting of the Staffordshire Licensing Compensation Authority was held at the Shirehall, Stafford Licenses refused.....

LAMB AND FLAG, Bradley, Bilston, full license."

Lichfield Mercury 6/1/1911

"The annual report of the County Licensing Committee stated that at the principal meeting the committee refused to renew 27 licenses. At the supplemental meetings the committee went in great detail into all the figures submitted to them upon which the persons interested claimed compensation, and heard, upon oath, evidence put forward by the claimants. The 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.....

LAMB AND FLAG, Bradley, Bilston, full license, £725."

Compensation of £725 was paid on 21st January 1911.

It closed on 28th January 1911.

LAMP TAVERN

Lichfield Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Felton [1852]
Mary Hawkswood [1861]

NOTES

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/9/1852

“The annual licensing day for the division of Seisdon North was held at the Public Office, Bilston Street, Wolverhampton, on Thursday last....

There were about forty applications for new [spirit] licenses, of which eight were granted....

Mr. Hayes applied on behalf of Mr. *John Felton*, LAMP TAVERN, Lichfield Street, Bilston. The application was opposed by Mr. Underhill on behalf of George Hide, the owner of the SPREAD EAGLE, Mr. Underhill stating that Mr. *Felton*’s house was within thirty-one yards of the SPREAD EAGLE, and within 150 or 200 yards of eight other licensed houses. Application refused.”

LAND OAK

18, Wesley Street, (Westley Street), Bradley, (Batmans Hill), (Brierley), BILSTON

OWNERS

Richard Lunn

George Lunn

Thomas Plant's Brewery Ltd., Netherton

Jeremiah Francis Baker, coal merchant, Albert Road, Wolverhampton

Thomas Oliver Ltd., Sandwell Brewery, Walsall Road, West Bromwich [1921], [1926]

LICENSEES

Richard Lunn [1861] – 1883);

George Lunn (1883 – 1892);

George Wainwright (1892 – 1894);

Titus Lowe (1894 – 1898);

John Percival (1898 – 1899);

James Tate (1899 – 1900);

Benjamin Beckett Cooper (1900);

George Asprey (1900 – 1903);

Stephen Edward Williams (1903 – 1906);

Isaac Bradburn (1906 – 1910);

Mary Bradburn (1910 – 1913);

Samuel Nuttall (1913 – 1914);

Benjamin Thomas Waterhouse (1914 – 1915);

Clarissa Alice Crew (1915 – 1916);

Martha Bethsheba Witherell (1916 – 1923);

Stephen Edward Williams (1923 – 1926):

NOTES

[This pub was strictly in Sedgley, but is included here due to it being situated at Bradley.]

Westley Street [1861]

18, Wesley Street [1871], [1881], [1883], [1891], [1901], [1911], [1921]

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Richard Lunn, beer retailer, Upper Bradley. [1861], [1868]

1861 Census

Westley Street

[1] *Richard Lunn* (49), beer seller and fitter, born Bloxwich;

[2] *Ann Lunn* (47), wife, born Sedgley;

[3] *Sarah A. Lunn* (16), daughter, servant, born Sedgley;

[4] *Jane Lunn* (13), daughter, servant, born Sedgley;

[5] *George Lunn* (11), son, scholar, born Sedgley;

[6] *Richard Lunn* (7), son, scholar, born Sedgley;

[7] *Robert Beddow* (14), servant, labourer, born Sedgley;

Richard Lunn, retailer of beer, Bradley. [1862]

Richard Lunn, beer retailer, Wesley Street, Bradley. [1865]

1871 Census

18, Wesley Street

- [1] Richard Lunn (59), slitter in iron work, born Sedgley;
- [2] Ann Lunn (57), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] Jane Lunn (23), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [4] George Lunn (21), son, slitter in iron work, born Sedgley;
- [5] Richard Lunn (17), son, born Sedgley;
- [6] Mary Barns (16), general servant, born Sedgley;

Birmingham Daily Post 6/10/1871 - Advert

“To be Sold, cheap, Ten Pair of New Cutters, 15in diameter.
Apply, Mr. R. Lunn, 18, Wesley Street, Bradley, Bilston.”

TO be SOLD, cheap. Ten Pair of New CUTTERS, 15 in. diameter.
—Apply, Mr. R. Lunn, 18, Wesley St., Bradley, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 21/5/1878 - Advert

“For Sale, two double-linked Chains. nearly new. 90 and 50 yards long.
Richard Lunn, Bradley.”

FOR Sale, two double-linked Chains, nearly new. 90 and 50 yards long.—Richard Lunn, Bradley.

1881 Census

18, Wesley Street

- [1] Richard Lunn (69), publican, born Walsall;
- [2] Ann Lunn (67), wife, at home, born Sedgley;
- [3] George Lunn (31), son, sheet iron worker, born Sedgley;
- [4] Jane Perry (18), domestic servant, born Bilston;

Birmingham Daily Post 5/4/1882 - Died

“On the 26th ult, at Wesley Street, Bradley, after a painful illness, aged 68 years, Ann, wife of *Richard Lunn*.”

Birmingham Daily Post 24/10/1883 - Died

“On the 13th inst, after a short illness, aged 72 years, *Richard Lunn*, of 18, Wesley Street, Bradley.”

George Lunn married Clara Haynes in the 4th quarter of 1883.

1891 Census

18, Wesley Street

- [1] George Lunn (41), publican, born Sedgley;
- [2] Clara Lunn (28), wife, born Birmingham;
- [3] Arthur Lunn (5), son, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [4] Walter Lunn (3), son, born Sedgley;
- [5] Agnes Lunn (1), daughter, born Sedgley;

1901 Census

18, Wesley Street

- [1] George Asprey (41), stock-taker, sheet iron, born Sedgley;
- [2] Eliza Asprey (33), wife, born Birmingham;
- [3] Percy V. Asprey (3), son, born Sedgley;

Stephen Edward Williams – see also WHITE LION, Cross Street, and GREYHOUND.

Isaac Bradburn = Isaac Bradbourn

Isaac Bradbourn died in the 4th quarter of 1909.

Isaac Bradburn – see also RED LION, High Street, Princes End, Tipton.

Mary Bradburn = Mary Bradbourn

1911 Census

18, Wesley Street – LAND OAK

- [1] Mary Bradbourn (62), widow, proprietress, born Tipton;
- [2] James Smith (28), son-in-law, gas engine driver, born Sedgley;
- [3] Florence Smith (26), daughter, married 8 years, born Sedgley;
- [4] Florence Smith (7), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [5] Lily Smith (5), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [6] Maude Braiden (19), barmaid, born Sedgley;
- [7] William Collier (60), boarder, file cutter, born Sedgley;

A billiard license was granted on 5th March 1920.

1921 Census

18, Wesley Street

- [1] Martha Bethsheba Witherell (56), widow, manageress, born Garsington, Oxfordshire;
- [2] Ernest James Witherell (27), son, clerk, iron works, born Leamington, Warwickshire;
- [3] Kathleen H. Witherell (24), daughter, home duties, born Leamington, Warwickshire;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/3/1926

“At Bilston Adjourned Licensing Sessions yesterday the following beerhouses were referred for compensation on the ground of redundancy.....

LAND OAK INN, Bradley.”

License refused by Compensation Authority on 28th June 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.....

LAND OAK, Bradley, Bilston. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *Stephen Edward Williams*. Registered Owner, Thomas Oliver Limited.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/12/1926

“The Licensing Committee for the County have fixed the following sums as compensation.....

LAND OAK, Bradley, ante '69 beerhouse, £950.”

Compensation of £950 was paid on 24th December 1926.

It closed on 31st December 1926.

Dudley Chronicle 27/1/1927 - Advert

“Freehold de-Licensed, LAND OAK, Wesley Street, Bradley, for Sale.

Gardiner-Ball, FAI, Auctioneer, West Bromwich.”

Demolished

FREEHOLD de-Licensed, “Land Oak,
Wesley Street, Bradley, for Sale.-
Gardiner-Ball, F.A.I., Auctioneer, West
Bromwich.

LEOPARD

97, (53), Church Street, (High Street), BILSTON

OWNERS

John Proud

Edwin Purcell, hosier, 53, Church Street, Bilston

Richard Andrew Harper, brewer, Bilston

R. A. Harper Ltd., Hall Park Brewery, Bilston

Eley's Stafford Brewery Ltd.

William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1914], [1965]

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

John Fellows [1816] – [1835]

Phoebe Fellows [1841] – [1842]

Salt [1847]

Mrs. Sarah Salt [1851] – [1854]

Edward Foster [1855] – [1865]

John Fowler [1869] – **1884**;

George Millard Fellows **(1884 – 1886)**;

George Price **(1886 – 1887)**;

William Wright Ball **(1887 – 1888)**;

Paul Lewis **(1888 – 1890)**;

Thomas Joseph Hodson **(1890 – 1892)**;

George Fox **(1892 – 1893)**;

Arthur Ray **(1893)**;

Benjamin Wilkinson **(1893 – 1896)**;

Jesse Veal **(1896)**;

Hannah Taft **(1896 – 1897)**;

Anne Massey **(1897)**;

John Groome **(1897 – 1898)**;

Henry Tertius Hodgkiss **(1898 – 1899)**;

Frederick McQuay **(1899)**;

George Walter Fox **(1899 – 1900)**;

Amy Cottrell **(1900 – 1902)**;

William Nathaniel Cottrell [1901]

Richard Jones **(1902)**;

William Guy **(1902 – 1903)**;

Ernest Edward Lloyd **(1903 – 1904)**;

George Maddocks **(1904 – 1905)**;

William Guy **(1905 – 1914)**;

Igal Alfred Sidaway **(1914 – 1915)**;

Henry Tertius Hodgkiss **(1915 – 1916)**;

Annie Porter **(1916 – 1917)**;

Frank Pearman **(1917 – [1945])**

Jack Hylton []



1934

Two Whimsy Engines, Pit Frames, Rail Roads, Mining Implements, Household Furniture, Stock of Ale, Barrels, and other effects, at Monway and Broadwaters Colliery, Wednesbury, and at Bilston, Staffordshire,

TO be SOLD by Auction, by R. CORBETT, To-morrow (Tuesday) and Wednesday, the 15th and 16th days of October, under an execution from the Sheriff of Staffordshire, against Mr. John Fellows, of the Spotted Leopard Public House, Bilston, Staffordshire, subject to conditions to be produced.

On Tuesday morning, at ten o'clock, at Monway and Broadwaters Colliery, a double-power Whimsy Engine, with 20-inch cylinder, boiler, &c.; a single-power ditto, with 26-inch cylinder, boiler, &c.; four Pit Frames and Waggons, about 200 yards of Rail Roads, two Flat Ropes, Pit Chain, Rail-road Waggons, Skips, Water Barrel, Mining Implements, and other effects; particulars of which will be in satalogues.

And at two o'clock on Tuesday afternoon, at the Spotted Leopard Public House, Bilston, will commence the Sale of Household Furniture, Stock of Ale, Barrels, Brewing Utensils, Ricks, and other effects. Descriptive catalogues will be delivered in due time.

1822

NOTES

53, Church Street [1861], [1862], [1870], [1871], [1872], [1874], [1892], [1896], [1904]

High Street [1869]

97, Church Street [1901], [1908], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1932], [1934], [1939], [1940]

It stood opposite to the CRICKETERS ARMS.

SPOTTED LEOPARD [1854], [1858], [1860], [1862], [1865]

LEOPARD [1822], [1833], [1873]

It had a beerhouse license.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 8/4/1816 - Advert

"Valuable Coal and Ironstone Mines, Engines, &c, at and near Bilston, Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett (by Order of the Assignees of Messrs. Rushbury, of Bilston, Bankrupts).....

To view Lots 1, 2, and 3, apply to Mr. Richard North, at Old Friezland Colliery; Lots 4 and 5 to Mr. *John Fellows*, SPOTTED LEOPARD, Bilston....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 14/10/1822 - Advert

"Two Whimsey Engines, Pit Frames, Rail Roads, Mining Implements, Household Furniture, Stock of Ale, Barrels, and other effects, at Monway and Broadwaters Colliery, Wednesbury, and at Bilston, Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Auction, by R. Corbett, Tomorrow (Tuesday) and Wednesday, the 15th and 16th days of October, under an execution from the Sheriff of Staffordshire, against Mr. *John Fellows*, of the SPOTTED LEOPARD Public House, Bilston, Staffordshire, subject to conditions to be produced.

On Tuesday morning, at ten o'clock, at Monway and Broadwaters Colliery, a double-power Whimsey Engine, with 20-inch cylinder, boiler, &c; a single-power ditto, with 26-inch cylinder, boiler, &c; four Pit Frames and Waggons, about 200 yards of Rail Roads, two Flat Ropes, Pit Chain, Rail-road Waggons, Skips, Water Barrel, Mining Implements, and other effects; particulars of which will be in catalogues.

And at two o'clock on Tuesday afternoon, at the SPOTTED LEOPARD Public House, Bilston, will commence the Sale of Household Furniture, Stock of Ale, Barrels, Brewing Utensils, Ricks, and other effects. Descriptive catalogues will be delivered in due time."

John Fellows was also a mine agent. [1833]

Phoebe Fellows, beer retailer, Church Street. [1841]

1841 Census

Church Street

[1] *Phoebe Fellows* (70), victualler, born Staffordshire;

[2] Elizabeth Norton (30), f.s., born Staffordshire;

[3] Ann Morris (20), f.s., born Staffordshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/6/1844 - Advert

"SPOTTED LEOPARD, Bilston, Old Established Public House.

To be Disposed of by Private Treaty, the License, Goodwill, and Immediate Possession of that well-known old established Public House, in High Street, near the Market Place, Bilston, known by the sign of the SPOTTED LEOPARD. The present occupier, having carried on the business successfully for more than forty years, is now necessitated to retire on account of infirmity and old age. Any one in want of a public house would find this a desirable investment. It is the best situation in the populous and thriving town of Bilston, with stables, yard, and piggeries, and is a good market house. The stock, &c, to be taken at a fair valuation.

To treat for the same apply to Mr. John Morris, New Cross, Wednesfield."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 10/9/1845 - Died

"On the 30th ult, aged 83, Mrs. *Fellows*, late landlady of the SPOTTED LEOPARD INN, Bilston."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 7/4/1847 - Advert

"First-Rate Business Situations, High Street, Bilston, Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Auction, by Corbett and Son, on Friday, the 16th day of April, 1847 (by direction of the representatives of the late John Proud, Esq, deceased).....

Lot II. The adjoining old established Public House, known as the LEOPARD INN, High Street, Bilston aforesaid, in the occupation of Mr. *Salt*, at the yearly rent of £35, comprising three cellars, tap room, parlour, bar, pantries, brewhouse, and kitchen, with a large club room over the same, four large chambers and three attics; also the adjoining Retail Shop or Dwelling House.....

The purchaser of this lot will also have a right of road from Fleet Street."

Staffordshire Advertiser 11/1/1851

"On Wednesday week, an inquest was held at the SPOTTED LEOPARD, Church Street, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of William Davis, a boy about four years old, son of Thomas Davis, a labourer, who died in consequence of injuries received by his clothes taking fire on the previous Tuesday. He had been left at home at the time of the occurrence with a brother about three years older than himself, whilst their mother went out to pick coal from the pit mounds. Verdict, Accidental Death."

1851 Census

Church Street

- [1] Sarah Salt (39), widow, victualler, born Baswick, Staffordshire;
- [2] Sarah Ann Salt (14), daughter, born Baswick, Staffordshire;
- [3] Fanny Salt (10), daughter, born Baswick, Staffordshire;
- [4] Edward Salt (9), son, born Baswick, Staffordshire;
- [5] Frederick Salt (6), son, born Bilston;
- [6] John Salt (3), son, born Bilston;
- [7] James Nevil (28), lodger, brush maker, born Liverpool;
- [8] Ann Nevil (20), wife, born Darlaston:

Sarah Salt, widow, married *Edward Foster*, widower, cordwainer, on 25th October 1854.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1855

"The Annual Meeting for Bilston, Sedgley, Gornal, and adjoining places took place on Friday last, at the Police Office, Bilston.....

The following licenses were suspended till the adjourned licensing day, in consequence of complaints against the house.....

Edward Foster, LEOPARD, Church Street."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 6/5/1857

"Wolverhampton Police Court.....

William Clark, who had been several times remanded, was brought up today and committed for trial for passing base coin. It appeared that he first attempted to put off a counterfeit florin at the house of *Edward Foster*, the LEOPARD INN, Bilston, on Monday, the 13th ult, but it being discovered to be a bad one it was returned to him. He then went to the SEVEN STARS INN, offered the coin in payment for something to drink, and it was received, and not discovered to be spurious until after he had left the house. On the same day he attempted to utter a bad shilling at the shop of Mr. Dangerfield, provision dealer, in the same town. The prisoner was apprehended by Sergeant Heath, but denied the charge."

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/5/1857

"Staffordshire Adjourned Sessions.....

William Clarke, 27, labourer, was indicted for uttering and putting off a false and counterfeit florin, well knowing the same to be false and counterfeit. Mr. Davis appeared on behalf of the authorities at the Mint; the prisoner was undefended.

From the evidence it appeared that the prisoner went to the provision shop of Joseph Dangerfield, at Bilston, and tendered a shilling in payment of some small purchases which he made. Mr. Dangerfield told the prisoner that the shilling was counterfeit and broke it with his teeth, upon which the prisoner tendered a good shilling, and appeared

very desirous that the counterfeit coin should be returned to him, but this was not done. At a later period of the same day the prisoner went to the SEVEN STARS public house in Bilston, and called for a pint of ale, for which he tendered a florin, which was counterfeit, and which he had previously attempted to put off at a shop in Bilston, where he had been warned against trying to pass it at any other place.

The fact of the coins being clumsy counterfeits was proved by Mr. Lithgoe, of Stafford, who stated that the florins were without dates. In the many years experience which he had had in attending as a witness in cases of this description he had never before met with so singular a mistake.

The jury at once found the prisoner guilty, and he was sentenced to one year's imprisonment."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 18/10/1857

"J. Turner of the Coppice will run J. Adams (alias Jack the Barber) five score yards if he will give two yards start, for £10 a side. Money ready any night next week, at *E. Foster's*, SPOTTED LEOPARD, Bilston."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 1/11/1857

"Samuel Wedge of Bilston and John Adams of the same place have staked 10s each in the hands of Mr. *Foster*, of the SPOTTED LEOPARD INN, Bilston, to run 125 yards, for £10 a side. They were to meet and draw up articles on Thursday last, at the SPOTTED LEOPARD INN, to increase the stakes into £2, and appoint a stakeholder."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/7/1860

"At the Wolverhampton County Court, last week, Richard Churm, miner, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, brought an action against Owen Smith, a sergeant in the Bilston police force, to recover £15 damages for false imprisonment. Mr. Bartlett was for the plaintiff, and Mr. Owen defended.

Both parties, with other companions, were at the SPOTTED LEOPARD public house, Bilston, on the 20th of April, and a disagreement arising out of a wager, it was suggested that plaintiff should stake his money with the defendant, who was in plain clothes. Plaintiff demurred to this, as he did not know him; whereupon defendant, as was alleged, abused him, and said he was one of the biggest scamps in Bilston. An angry altercation followed, and they went out to fight, when Smith pulled out a pair of handcuffs and struck plaintiff on the head until he became senseless; and then, with the assistance of two other officers, took him into custody. Next morning he was charged before the Magistrates with assaulting the defendant, but the case was dismissed.

For the defence it was set up that the plaintiff was the aggressor, that the defendant only acted in self-defence, and that the Magistrates dismissed the charge, not because they believed it had not been proved, but because they thought the plaintiff had been sufficiently punished. Defendant had been twelve years in the force, and bore an excellent character.

His Honour admitted that a man had a right to defend himself from attack, but in taking his assailant into custody he was bound not to use unnecessary violence. In the present instance he considered unjustifiable violence had been exercised, and he strongly reprehended the practice of constables striking with the handcuffs. His Honour gave judgement for the plaintiff, damages £5."

1861 Census

53, Church Street

[1] *Edward Foster* (47), victualler and innkeeper, born Bilston;

[2] *Sarah Foster* (53), wife, born Brockton, Staffordshire;

[3] *Clara Salt* (23), step-daughter, born Brockton, Staffordshire;

[4] *Thomas Salt* (18), step-son, boiler maker, born Brockton, Staffordshire;

[5] *Frances Salt* (20), step-daughter, born Brockton, Staffordshire;

[6] *John Salt* (12), step-son, scholar, born Bilston;

[7] *Frederick Salt* (14), step-son, scholar, born Bilston;

[8] *Elizabeth Bratt* (21), house servant, born Bilston;

[9] *Levison Martin* (41), boarder, fishmonger, born Staffordshire;

Wolverhampton Chronicle 8/10/1862

“At the County Court, on Thursday, before A. M. Skinner, Esq. judge, and a jury, Elizabeth Ashton, widow of George Ashton, a deceased member of Court 3502 Sons of Freedom, of the Order of Foresters, holding its meetings at the LEOPARD INN, Bilston, sought to recover from the society £9 4s, the balance of £10 which she alleged to be due to her in respect of a funeral donation payable by the society on the decease of her husband. Mr. Walker appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Thurstans for the defendants.

The defence was, first, that the plaintiff had sued the wrong society, it being the district fund which was liable, if there was any liability at all, to pay the amount, but the substantial answer to the claim was that at the time of his death Ashton was ‘suspended’ from the benefits of the society on account of owing arrears of fines and subscriptions. The society, however, failed to prove that they gave notice, as required by the rules, informing Ashton that unless he paid the money due by a certain date he would be suspended, and a verdict was accordingly given for the plaintiff for the amount claimed.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 23/9/1865

“At the Bilston Police Court yesterday, Mr. *Edward Foster*, of the LEOPARD INN, Church Street, was summoned by William Wilkes, shoemaker, for having assaulted him by spitting in his face.....”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/9/1865

“.....Mr. *E. Foster*, who was defended by Mr. Bowen, attended on a summons charging him with spitting in the face of Mr. William Wilkes, shoemaker, of Darlaston, and for whom Mr. Ebsworth, of Walsall, appeared. The quarrel out of which the complaint arose took place at the late annual meeting for the election of Commissioners for Bilston. The case for the complainant was that at the close of the meeting defendant called him a foul name, pushed him, and finally spat in his face. The defence was that defendant was first insulted, and simply blew in the complainant’s face. He was, however, fined 20s and costs.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 18/11/1865

“A meeting of the Arbitration Committee of the Order of Foresters was held at the SPOTTED LEOPARD, Bilston, on Thursday evening.....”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 28/8/1869

“The annual licensing meeting for the Bilston division took place yesterday, at the Police Court.....

The following is the list of the licensed victuallers who have been fined during the year.....

Permitting Drunkenness *John Fowler*, LEOPARD, High Street, 2s 6d and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 10/9/1869

“A few evenings ago, Charles Brown, a porter, in the employ of Mr. William Pratt, grocer, Church Street, Bilston, experienced a narrow escape from death under singular circumstances. He was in the LEOPARD INN, Church Street. A person in handing some coppers to the landlady, dropped a penny into a jug of ale. Brown, a minute afterwards, took up the jug and drank the ale, and the penny also. The coin lodged about three inches down his throat. First Mr. Larkin, surgeon, and then Mr. Malin (assistant to Mr. Best) attempted to extract it, but found such a course impossible, and the last-named gentleman thrust it into the stomach. Medicine was afterwards administered. What ultimately became of the penny is not quite clear; but the man is now well, and goes about his customary work.”

Birmingham Daily Post 18/9/1869 - Advert

“Bagatelle Board for Sale, 9½ feet by 3½ feet, Slate Bottom; in excellent condition.

Apply, LEOPARD INN, Church Street, Bilston.”

BAGATELLE BOARD for SALE, 9½ feet by 3½ feet, Slate Bottom; in excellent condition.—Apply, Leopard Inn, Church Street, Bilston.

1871 Census

53, Church Street – LEOPARD

[1] *John Fowler* (36), innkeeper, born Bilston;

[2] *Sarah A. Fowler* (27), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Mary A. Deeley* (19), barmaid, born Wolverhampton;

[4] *John Cumming* (23), visitor, journeyman hatter, born London;

[5] *Abram Ball* (48), visitor, journeyman sword cutler, born Willenhall:

Evening Express 4/5/1877

“Peter Nixon, landlord of the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Bilston, was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of *John Fowler*, landlord of the LEOPARD public house, Church Street, and the latter was charged with permitting the drunkenness.

At five minutes past 12 on Tuesday night, Police-constables McGuire and Downey were passing down Church Street, when they observed a man coming out of the LEOPARD. They immediately knocked on the door, and enquired of the servant who opened it if anyone was in the house, and she replied no. They, however, went inside and found the defendant Nixon in the bar drunk. The defendant *Fowler* was found in the back yard. After informing Mr. *Fowler* of Nixon’s presence in the house, the officers went to the station and reported the case, and about ten minutes later they saw *Fowler* leading Nixon home.

Mr. Barrow, who defended, urged that Nixon had only drunk one glass of brandy whilst in the house, and that he had not left at closing time owing to a sudden attack of diarrhoea.

The Magistrates was of opinion that the case was perfectly clear, and fined Nixon 10s and costs, and *Fowler* £1 and costs.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/9/1877

“The annual licensing sessions for the Bilston division were held at the Public Office, Bilston, yesterday.....

The black list was as follows Licensed Victuallers....

John Fowler, LEOPARD, High Street, Bilston, permitting drunkenness, 20s and costs.....

None of these persons had their license endorsed.

The whole of the licenses in the ‘black list,’ it was stated, would be held over until the adjourned sessions.”

[Renewed with a caution at the adjourned licensing sessions.]

John Fowler married Clara Maria Cooper on 10th June 1877.

Midland Examiner 8/6/1878

“Wolverhampton County Court Neast v *Fowler*.

This was an action to recover £12, the value of a trap. Mr. A. J. Langman for the plaintiff, E. R. Neast, baker, Bilston; and Mr. R. Willcock (Queen Street) for the defendant, *John Fowler*, landlord of the LEOPARD INN, Bilston.

The plaintiff stated that he had been in the employ of his father, who had been in business as a baker in Church Street. His father was ‘sold up’ for rent in December, and on the 20th of November he (the father) owed him £17 wages, and in lieu of paying him money he sold him the trap in question for which he produced a receipt. The trap was now in possession of the defendant. It transpired that the plaintiff had parted with possession of the trap to Mr. Tart, a provision dealer, as security for a sum of money due on the purchase of flour.

The Judge, without calling on Mr. Willcock for the defence, non-suited the plaintiff, ruling that Mr. Tart, as the person to whom the trap was mortgaged, should be the plaintiff, if an action were brought at all.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 13/12/1880

“On Saturday morning a grocer’s assistant, named Robert Anderson, who has been lodging in Dudley Street, Bilston, attempted to commit suicide by taking a large dose of laudanum. On his condition being discovered a medical gentleman was called in and the stomach pump successfully applied. Anderson was then removed to the police station.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/12/1880

“At the Willenhall Petty Sessions on Monday, Charles Bowen (27), alias Robert Anderson, a grocer’s assistant, lodging at the LEOPARD INN, Church Street, Bilston, who attempted to commit suicide on Saturday, was brought up and remanded until Tuesday week, when he will be brought up at Bilston.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 22/12/1880

“At Bilston Police Court yesterday, before Mr. W. F. F. Boughey, Charles Brown (27), grocer’s assistant, was again brought up charged with having attempted to commit suicide.

The prisoner, who was formerly employed at Wolverhampton, has lately been lodging at the LEOPARD INN, Church Street, Bilston, and on the 11th inst, as he was going upstairs, he told one of the servants that he should not come down alive. The girl thought he was joking, but shortly afterwards, hearing groans proceed from his room, she called the landlord, who found the prisoner writhing in great agony in his bed. On the dressing table were a

bottle, labelled 'poison,' and a letter stating that he had taken the poison owing to the unfaithfulness of his wife. The prisoner was liberated on entering into his own recognisances in £25, and finding two sureties for £10, and paying the costs."

1881 Census

53, Church Street – LEOPARD

- [1] John Fowler (46), licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] Clara M. Fowler (24), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] Elizabeth Evans (19), general servant, born Princes End;
- [4] William Fletcher (61), musician, pianist, blind, born Ludlow;
- [5] Richard Andrew (70), boarder, tailor, born Berriew, Montgomeryshire;
- [6] George Allcock (41), boarder, commercial traveller, japan goods, born Bilston;
- [7] Henry D. Allcock (13), boarder, scholar, born Bilston:

Clara Maria Fowler died in the 4th quarter of 1881.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 3/12/1881 - Advert

"Wanted, at once, a respectable Girl, as General Servant. Apply, LEOPARD INN, Church Street, Bilston."

WANTED, at once, a respectable Girl as General Servant. – Apply, Leopard Inn, Church-street, Bilston.

Darlaston Weekly Times 28/10/1882

"Thomas Claridge, Blakenall, recently a well-known ironmaster in the district, was charged with stealing a bottle of brandy from the LEOPARD INN, Bilston, the property of *John Fowler*.

Annie Cooper, the barmaid, stated that on Thursday accused went into the house, and tried to beg a glass of whiskey. It was refused, and upon the girl leaving the place, he left the house, and a bottle of brandy was missed. He was afterwards seen to drink the brandy having previously borrowed a corkscrew from the PLOUGH INN. Accused, who presented a pitiable spectacle in the dock, stated in reply to PC Jackson, who arrested him, that he knew nothing of it; 'it was the drink which did it.'

Mr. Loveridge referred feelingly to the case, which he stated was the most painful he ever had before him. However, it would be better, however sad it was to see a respectable man in such a position, that accused should be kept in confinement for a time. One month's imprisonment."

Birmingham Daily Post 1/9/1883

"At Bilston Police Court yesterday, *John Fowler*, landlord of the LEOPARD INN, Church Street, pleaded guilty to permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises, on the 17th inst, and was fined 40s and costs."

Darlaston Weekly Times 9/2/1884

"On Wednesday morning a blind old man named Fletcher, who for some years has been engaged in various public houses in the district, as a pianist, was found drowned in the canal at Navigation Street, Walsall. From the appearance of the body it appears to have been in the water for several days. The deceased was well known in Bilston, from the fact that he played at several houses, notably the LEOPARD INN."

John Fowler – see also CASTLE, Church Street.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 20/2/1885

"*George M. Fellows*, landlord of the LEOPARD INN, Church Street, was, at the Bilston Police Court, today, charged with a breach of the licensing laws by having his house open for the sale of intoxicating liquors at a quarter-past twelve o'clock midnight on the 11th February last. Four persons who were found in the house drinking appeared in answer to the summons charging them with being on licensed premises during prohibited hours on the same occasion. Their names were Samuel Shaw, grocer, High Street; Joseph Wright and George Blakemore, carrying on a joint business as grocers, in Church Street; and Walter Delaney, ironmonger, Church Street.

The magistrates inflicted a fine of £1 and costs on the landlord, the license not to be endorsed; and each of the other defendants were fined 1s and the expenses."

George Millard Fellows – see also WHITE HORSE, Ward Street.

Birmingham Daily Post 4/6/1886 - Advert

“LEOPARD INN, Church Street, Bilston.

This capital free Spirit Vault to Let. Rent £45. In-going low.

Apply, at once, to Thomas Skidmore, Valuer, 2, Bilston Street, Wolverhampton.”

L EOPARD Inn, Church Street, Bilston.—This capital free Spirit Vault to Let. Rent £45. In-going low.—Apply, at once, to Thomas Skidmore, Valuer, 2, Bilston Street, Wolverhampton.

Darlaston Weekly Times 15/4/1887

“On Saturday evening, April 2nd, the members of the Loyal Caledonian Corks Friendly Sick and Dividend Society sat down to an excellent supper at Bro. *W. Ball*’s LEOPARD INN, Church Street, Bilston. Bro. Shand was elected to the Chair and Bro. J. Anslow to the Vice-chair. The health of the Queen was drunk and other toasts were duly honoured. The cost of the supper was partly defrayed by Bro. *W. Ball* (host) and Bro. *George Price* (late host)..... A vote of thanks was given to the Host and Hostess for the very excellent manner in which the supper was placed upon the table. Bro. *W. Ball* in responding thanked them heartily for the kind manner in which they had received him as host and said it would afford him great pleasure to meet the members of the order upon any occasion, and he would do all in his power to further the interests of the lodge.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/11/1887

“Staffordshire and Shropshire Assizes.....

Thomas Anslow (34), ironworker, and Jane Anslow (29), his wife, were indicted for feloniously wounding Joseph Shelley, iron-plate worker, Princes Street, Bilston, on the 3rd of October, with intent to do grievous bodily harm..... Prosecutor said he was in the SPOTTED LEOPARD INN, Bilston, on the 3rd of October, and the prisoners were there. They had a dispute about some pigeons, which resulted in prosecutor and the male prisoner going to the back of the Great Western Goods Station to fight. The female prisoner followed, and threw a cinder ‘as big as a man’s hand,’ which cut through prosecutor’s hat and cut his head. Prosecutor was knocked down, and the female prisoner again struck him with a cinder as he was rising. When prosecutor regained his feet he put himself in a fighting attitude, but was again knocked down by a cinder. While he was struggling on the ground with the male prisoner the latter stabbed him twice in the shoulder, and when he was getting up the woman stabbed him twice in the lower part of the back, remarking at the time, ‘Kill the —.’ He became unconscious from the loss of blood. Cross-examined by Thomas Anslow: He was sure prisoner stabbed him while he was on the ground.

Henry Allen, an iron-plate worker, deposed to seeing the female prisoner striking prosecutor with a firebrick or cinder.

Dr. Kennedy, who attended prosecutor, gave evidence of the nature of the injuries, which, he said, were serious. They were probably inflicted by a chisel or sharpened screwdriver. Great violence must have been used.

The male prisoner said that he only had a fair fight with the prosecutor, and Jane Anslow said that when she saw the prosecutor had got her husband down she picked up a cinder and struck him on the back.

His Lordship said he thought the prosecutor was a little to blame, because he went out voluntarily to fight. Prosecutor very properly did not complain of the fight, but complained of unfair weapons being used. He put it to the jury whether they should find prisoners guilty of wounding with intent or unlawfully wounding.

The jury found prisoners guilty of unlawfully wounding.

His Lordship, in passing sentence, said prisoners need be thankful to the jury for the merciful view they had taken of the case. It was absolutely necessary to teach people who did use knives and other weapons in a stand-up fight that they must expect to be severely punished. Prisoners were sent to gaol for six months each.”

1891 Census

53, Church Street

- [1] *Thomas J. Hodson* (35), licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *Harriet Hodson* (36), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Emily J. Hodson* (11), daughter, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] *Alfred E. Hodson* (9), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] *George J. Hodson* (7), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] *Alice M. Hodson* (5), daughter, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [7] *Eliza A. Hodson* (2), daughter, born Wolverhampton:

Birmingham Daily Post 24/8/1893

“At Wolverhampton Police Court, yesterday, Patrick Edward Connolly, wine and spirit merchant, Worcester Street, appeared to answer charges of stealing two receipts, for £60 and £31, the property of *Arthur Ray*, formerly the tenant of the LEOPARD INN, Bilston. Mr. Kettle appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Vachell for the defence.

In April last Mr. Connolly was the landlord of the LEOPARD INN, and *Ray* became the tenant, paying certain sums for the stock and fixtures, for which he received receipts, which were placed on a bill-file. Subsequently the prosecutor relinquished the tenancy of the house, and a difference of opinion arose as to the sums paid by *Ray* when he took possession. The license was transferred to another man, and the prosecutor removed his goods and chattels, but missed the two receipts from the bill-file, and accused Connolly of stealing them. Connolly denied stealing the receipts and offered to supply duplicate ones. The prosecutor was now willing to withdraw the charges.

Mr. Vachell said his client denied stealing the receipts, and was willing to supply duplicates.

The Stipendiary said he had no power to allow the matter to be settled as suggested, and adjourned the case for a week to obtain the views of the Public Prosecutor.”

Birmingham Daily Post 31/8/1893

“At Wolverhampton Police Court, yesterday, the Stipendiary again had before him the case adjourned from last week in which Mr. P. E. Connolly, wine and spirit merchant, Worcester Street, was charged with stealing two receipted bills for £60 and £30, the property of *Arthur Ray*, formerly of the LEOPARD INN, Bilston, and at that time a tenant of the defendant.

It was now announced that the Public Prosecutor had consented to the charge being withdrawn.”

Henry Tertius Hodgkiss – see also CROWN AND ANCHOR, Oxford Street, ROYAL OAK, High Street, GATE, BLANKMAKERS ARMS, WHITE HART and SEVEN STARS.

1901 Census

97, Church Street

- [1] *William Nathaniel Cottrell* (42), licensed victualler, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] *Amy Cottrell* (44), wife, born Wellesbourne, Warwickshire;
- [3] *William Douglas Cottrell* (15), son, railway clerk, born Tettenhall;
- [4] *Arthur Felix Cottrell* (13), son, born Tettenhall;
- [5] *Amy Beatrice Cottrell* (10), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [6] *Florence Hutchinson* (21), domestic servant, born Bilston:

William Nathaniel Cottrell – see also FIVE WAYS, Cradley Heath, Rowley Regis, STAR, Tipton, and GLOBE, Mount Pleasant, Bilston.

Edinburgh Gazette 10/12/1907

“*Ernest Edwin Lloyd*, 71 Broad Street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, lately residing at Spring Road, Ettingshall, near Wolverhampton, in the said county, and before then at Bunkers Hill, Bilston, and carrying on business at Central Chambers, Bilston aforesaid, and before then residing at the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Bilston aforesaid, and before then at the LEOPARD INN, Bilston aforesaid, out of business, late an electrical fitter, before then a public house manager, and before then a licensed victualler.”

1911 Census

97, Church Street

- [1] *William Guy* (49), licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *Maria Guy* (39), wife, married 9 years, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Joseph Henry Guy* (23), son, fitter cold pressed nut trade, born Bilston:

1921 Census

97, Church Street

- [1] Frank Pearman (49), widower, public house manager, born Walsall;
- [2] Ethel Pearman (23), daughter, home duties, born Walsall;
- [3] Horace Pearman (21), son, tool maker, born Walsall;
- [4] Norah Pearman (13), daughter, school, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Jack Pearman (12), son, school, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Doris Pearman (8), daughter, school, born Wolverhampton;

1939 Register

97, Church Street

- [1] Frank Pearman, date of birth 13/6/1873, licensed victualler, tube welder retired, widowed;
- [2] Jack Pearman, dob 24/3/1909, journeyman carpenter, single;
- [3] Doris Theresa (Pearman) Smith, dob 8/6/1913, housekeeper, single;

1946 Probate

"Frank Pearman of the LEOPARD INN, Church Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 28 August 1945. Probate Birmingham 11 April to William Thomas Baker, certified accountant. Effects £985 17s 2d."

A team from here took part in the Bilston Crib League, Section B. [1946]

Jack Hylton was married to Maude.

[1966]

Closed

It was demolished c.1970.

SPOTTED LEOPARD, BILSTON. *Old Established Public House.*

TO be Disposed of by Private Treaty, the License, Goodwill, and Immediate Possession of that well-known old established PUBLIC HOUSE, in High-street, near the Market-place, Bilston, known by the sign of the "Spotted Leopard." The present occupier, having carried on the business successfully for more than forty years, is now necessitated to retire on account of infirmity and old age. Any one in want of a public house would find this a desirable investment. It is the best situation in the populous and thriving town of Bilston, with stables, yard, and piggeries, and is a good market house. The stock, &c. to be taken at a fair valuation.

☞ To treat for the same apply to Mr. JOHN MORRIS, New Cross, Wednesfield.

1844

LOT II.—The adjoining old established PUBLIC HOUSE, known as the "Leopard Inn," High-street, Bilston aforesaid, in the occupation of Mr. Salt, at the yearly rent of 35*l.* comprising three cellars, tap room, parlour, bar, pantries, brewhouse, and kitchen, with a large club room over the same, four large chambers and three attics; also the adjoining RETAIL SHOP or DWELLING HOUSE, now in the occupation of Mr. Collins, currier, &c. containing an excellent cellar, front shop, sitting room and kitchen, three chambers and three attics, and in the rear is a large enclosed yard, with a range of warehousing, pettiea, piggeries, stable gighouse, and other conveniences. The purchaser of this lot will also have a right of road from Fleet-street.

1847

LION

79, (44), Church Street, (High Street) / Crown Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

George Masters, agent, Oxford Street, Bilston
George Masters, agent, Holly Bank, Congleton
Frederick William Plant, wine and spirit merchant, Bilston
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1904], [1922]
Mitchells and Butler Ltd. [1960]

LICENSEES

William Fox Hollingsworth [1852] – [1856]
Samuel William Hales [1858] – **1861**)
William George Masters [1862] – [1870]
Charles Roberts [1871] – **1874**);
George William Hands (**1874 – 1876**);
Thomas Barnes (**1876 – 1879**);
Samuel Barnett (**1879 – 1881**);
Charles Roberts (**1881**);
George Millard (**1881 – 1896**);
Frederick William Plant (**1896**);
Charles Homer Bond (**1896 – 1897**);
Frederick William Plant (**1897 – 1906**);
Mary Sophia Wright (**1906 – 1907**);
William Howard Collins (**1907 – 1935**);
Mrs. Ethel Mary Collins (**1935 – [1940]**)
J R Hughes [1960]

NOTES

44, Church Street [1861], [1864], [1865], [1868], [1870], [1871], [1873], [1874], [1881], [1891], [1892], [1896]
79, Church Street [1901], [1908], [1916], [1932], [1939], [1940]

WHITE LION [1863]
LION HOTEL [1860], [1861], [1865], [1870], [1904], [1916], [1932], [1940]
LION and Commercial house [1858]
Commercial hotel [1854], [1873]

William Hollingsworth = William Hollinsworth

Staffordshire Advertiser 28/8/1852

“Thursday last was the general annual licensing day of the division of Seisdon North, when there were about forty applications for new [spirit] licenses The successful applicants for new licenses were.....

William Hollingsworth, Bilston.”

AND

TO MALTSTERS, BREWERS, PUBLICANS, &c.
IMPROVED MALT MILLS, Double Geared, to
gain either Speed or Power, and constructed to meet the
requirements of the Excise Commissioners, are now being manufac-
tured by

DIXON, BELL, AND CO.

These Mills may be seen in operation at the following places, viz. :-
Bilston—At Mr. W. F. Hollingsworth's, Lion Inn, Market Place.
Walsall—At Mr. Edward Parker's, Dragon Inn, High Street.
Wolverhampton—At Mr. Thomas Lancaster's, Newmarket Inn,
Cleveland Road.
Darlaston—At Mr. John Burford's, White Lion.
Wednesbury—At Mr. Sheldon's, Old Bell.
West Bromwich—At Mr. William Smith's, Lewisham Arms Inn.
Willenhall—At Mr. Clarke's, New Inn.

AGENT.

MR. EDMUND W. OTWAY,
MEYER'S GREEN, WEST BROMWICH. 7110

1855

INSOLVENT DEBTOR.—To be heard at the
SHIRE HALL, WARWICK, in the county of Warwick, on the
25th day of NOVEMBER, 1857, at ten o'clock in the morning pre-
cisely.

WILLIAM FOX HOLLINGSWORTH, formerly of Bilston, in
the county of Stafford, Licensed Retailer of Spirituous Liquors,
Ale, Beer, and Tobacco, and Pork Butcher, at the same time carrying
on at Fotherley, near Shenstone, in the said county of Stafford, the
business of a Farmer; afterwards of the same place, Licensed Retailer
of Spirituous Liquors, Ale, Beer, and Tobacco, and Farmer; after-
wards of Bilston aforesaid, in no business there, but carrying on
the business of a Farmer at Fotherley aforesaid; afterwards of
Bilston aforesaid, in no business or occupation; afterwards of
Solihull, in the county of Warwick, in no business or occupation;
afterwards of Buxton, in the county of Derby, in no business or
occupation, and late of Solihull aforesaid, in no business or occu-
pation.

WILLIAM OVERELL,
36, Warwick-street, Leamington Priors, and 34, Cherry-street,
Birmingham, Insolvent's Attorney.

TO CAPITALISTS, WINE MERCHANTS, AND OTHERS.

ELIGIBLE INVESTMENT.

THE LION COMMERCIAL HOTEL AND SPIRIT VAULTS,
HIGH STREET, BILSTON,

IN THE COUNTY OF STAFFORD.

MR. GEORGE BROWN begs to inform the
Public that he has received instructions to SELL by PRI-
VATE CONTRACT, the above first-rate PROPERTY, situated in
the best business part of BILSTON.

The PREMISES consist of a large SPIRIT VAULT, with an at-
tractive frontage to the Market Place, an Entrance Hall, Smoke
Room, and extensive Cooking Kitchen on the ground floor.

A large Commercial Room, Sitting Room, and four Bed Rooms
on the first floor; and three Bed Rooms on the upper floor.

The out offices comprise extensive Brewhouse, Stabling, Shed-
ding, and Store Rooms.

The cellars are excellent, and the whole premises admirably
adapted for carrying on a first-rate Commercial Business, and a
large Wholesale and Retail Wine and Spirit Trade.

Immediate possession may be had on an arrangement with the
tenant, Mr. Hollingsworth.

For further particulars apply to the TENANT; Mr. GEORGE
BROWN, Auctioneer; or Mr. C. G. BROWN, Solicitor, all of Bilston
aforesaid.

1857

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/9/1852

“The annual licensing day for the division of Seisdon North was held at the Public Office, Bilston Street, Wolverhampton, on Thursday last.....

There were about forty applications for new [spirit] licenses, of which eight were granted.....

Mr. Hayes applied, on behalf of Mr. *Hollingsworth*, for a license to a house, which the applicant had rebuilt at an expense of about £2,000, opposite the Market Place, in Bilston, and near the site of the intended Town Hall. Mr. Hayes handed in a testimonial signed by many respectable inhabitants, and observed that Mr. *Hollingsworth* was one of the oldest and most respectable inhabitants of Bilston, and he believed was well known to several of the Magistrates.

Mr. Whitehouse said he opposed on behalf of Mr. Holland, a much older resident than Mr. *Hollingsworth*. By a plan which he would put in, prepared by Mr. Bidlake, the Magistrates would almost be led to suppose that every person in Bilston was a friend of John Barleycorn, for there were, between the top of the street in question and the KINGS ARMS, thirteen beershops, and no less than thirty-one houses which had obtained spirit licenses. (Mr. Hayes observed that Mr. Whitehouse had forgotten to state that Bilston was almost one street.) Mr. Whitehouse admitted that it had been called an overgrown village. There were now, he added, two licensed public houses in the same street unoccupied – the BALLOON and the GOLDEN CUP.

Mr. Underhill opposed for Mr. Price, who keeps a public house about 150 yards from Mr. *Hollingsworth*'s.

The Magistrates, after some consideration, granted the application. Some conversation ensued as to whether the necessary notices had been given in the form prescribed by law, but the Magistrates were ultimately satisfied that the Act had been complied with.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/3/1853

“Mr. *W. Hollingsworth* having recently obtained a license for some spacious premises belonging to him, situate opposite the Market Place in Church Street, his housewarming dinner took place on Tuesday, and was attended by upwards of eighty gentlemen, comprising the principal tradesmen and residents of the town, and friends from Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and the adjacent district. A more respectable party has never assembled in Bilston, and seldom has any company sat down to a more splendid dinner than that provided by Mrs. *Hollingsworth*. Thomas Spencer, Esq, occupied the chair, and C. G. Brown, Esq, the vice chair; and a due admixture of speechifying, music, and fun, made the evening pass very pleasantly. The wine with which ‘the LION’ was baptised was worthy of the dinner.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 15/11/1854

“Thomas Highway, a determined fellow, a fishmonger, who had just been released from gaol, where he had undergone six months imprisonment for illtreating his wife, was brought before Bilston Magistrates on Tuesday, on a series of charges of assault, &c.

It appeared that on the Saturday night previously the prisoner went into Mr. *Hollingsworth*'s, the LION public house, and called for something to drink. Seeing that he was tipsy Mr. *Hollingsworth* refused to supply him. The prisoner then assaulted Mr. *Hollingsworth*, and before the police, who had been sent for, could arrive, escaped into the house of Mr. Johnson, another publican, where he made a similar application, and, upon receiving a refusal, treated Mr. Johnson in a similar manner. Upon the arrival of a policeman at Mr. Johnson's the prisoner started to run away. The policeman followed him, and subsequently a great disturbance was created by the riotous conduct of the prisoner, who assaulted the officer and was eventually carried to the station. No sooner had the fellow been placed in a cell than he broke the whole of the windows.

He was fined £10 for the assaults, in default two months; and for breaking the windows a fine of 10s was imposed, in default to be committed for one month. The fines were not paid.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/10/1855

“At Bilston, on Tuesday evening a public dinner was given to Lieutenant and Adjutant Evans, of the 38th (1st Staffordshire Foot), on the occasion of his safe return from the Crimea. The dinner, which was served up at the LION, did infinite credit to Host *Hollinsworth*, and the wines were of the first quality.....”

Birmingham Journal 17/11/1855 - Advert

“To Maltsters, Brewers, Publicans, &c.

Improved Malt Mills, Double Geared, to gain either Speed or Power, and constructed to meet the requirements of the Excise Commissioners, are now being manufactured by Dixon, Bell, and Co.

These Mills may be seen in operation at the following places.....

Bilston – At Mr. *W. F. Hollingsworth's*, LION INN, Market Place.....

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

Wolverhampton Chronicle 13/2/1856

“A ball was held on Thursday evening last at Mr. *W. F. Hollingsworth's*, the LION INN, Bilston, which was numerously and respectably attended. Refreshments were liberally supplied by the worthy host, and the general management was highly creditable to himself and Mrs. *Hollingsworth*. We believe the stewards of the late ball now contemplate having one annually in the town. The principal difficulty in their way is that there is no public room in the town of the proper size. ‘Why,’ says a correspondent, ‘do not the directors of the Public Baths and Town Hall Company bestir themselves and give the people of Bilston what – the promise of which induced many of them to take shares in the concern – a town hall?’ The stewards desire us to state that they are not answerable for a specimen of erudition and bad taste which appeared on Saturday in a Birmingham contemporary.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 8/10/1856 - Advert

“To Capitalists, Wine Merchants, and Others. Eligible Investment.

The LION Commercial Hotel and Spirit Vaults, High Street, Bilston, in the County of Stafford.

Mr. George Brown begs to inform the Public that he has received instructions to Sell by Private Contract, the above first-rate Property, situated in the best business part of Bilston.

The Premises consist of a large Spirit Vault, with an attractive frontage to the Market Place, an Entrance Hall, Smoke Room, and extensive Cooking Kitchen on the ground floor.

A large Commercial Room, Sitting Room, and four Bed Rooms on the first floor; and three Bed Rooms on the upper floor.

The out offices comprise extensive Brewhouse, Stabling, Shedding, and Store Rooms.

The cellars are excellent, and the whole premises admirably adapted for carrying on a first-rate Commercial Business, and a large Wholesale and Retail Wine and Spirit Trade.

Immediate possession may be had on an arrangement with the tenant, Mr. *Hollingsworth*.

For further particulars apply to the Tenant; Mr. George Brown, Auctioneer; or Mr. C. G. Brown, Solicitor, all of Bilston aforesaid.”

London Gazette 10/11/1857

“*William Fox Hollingsworth*, late of Solihull, Warwickshire, in no business. In the Gaol of Warwick.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/11/1857 - Notice

“Insolvent Debtor. To be heard at the Shire Hall, Warwick, in the county of Warwick, on the 25th day of November, 1857, at ten o'clock in the morning precisely.

William Fox Hollingsworth, formerly of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Retailer of Spirituous Liquors, Ale, Beer, and Tobacco, and Pork Butcher, at the same time carrying on at Fotherley, near Shenstone, in the said county of Stafford, the business of a Farmer; afterwards of the same place, Licensed Retailer of Spirituous Liquors, Ale, Beer, and Tobacco, and Farmer; afterwards of Bilston aforesaid, in no business there, but carrying on the business of a Farmer at Fotherley aforesaid; afterwards of Bilston aforesaid, in no business or occupation; afterwards of Solihull, in the county of Warwick, in no business or occupation; afterwards of Buxton, in the county of Derby, in no business or occupation, and late of Solihull aforesaid, in no business or occupation.

William Overell, 36, Warwick Street, Leamington Priors, and 34, Cherry Street, Birmingham, Insolvent's Attorney.”

Samuel William Hales = Samuel William Hale

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/6/1859 - Advert

“Staffordshire. Freehold Land at Bilston, with the Ungotten Mines and Minerals under the same.

To Solicitors, Capitalists, Speculators, and Others.

Mr. S. Powell will Sell by Auction, at the LION INN, High Street, Bilston, on Friday, the 8th day of July, 1859, at six o’clock in the evening, twenty acres of Freehold Land, in one or the following or such other lots as shall be agreed upon at the time of sale.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 8/7/1859 - Advert

“Staffordshire. To Capitalists and Others in want of a First-Rate Situation for Business.

Important Sale of the Highly Valuable and Central Property, known as the LION Commercial Inn and Liquor Vaults, situated in High Street and Crown Street, and opposite the Market Place, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. S. Powell, upon the above-named Premises, This Day (Friday), the 8th of July, at Six o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be produced.

All that important and valuable Property, comprising the LION Commercial Inn and Liquor Vaults, occupied by Mr. S. W. Hale.

The above Property is well adapted, and is most eligibly situated for the business now carried on upon the premises, is opposite the Market Place, and is in the best part of the town of Bilston; and comprises four large and lofty Cellars, large and commodious Liquor Shop, with two Entrances, Hall and Pantry, Smoke Room, Kitchen, lofty and well ventilated Brewhouse, Water Cisterns, Entrance Doors, capital three-stalled Stable, with Malt and Hay Room over, Larder and Room over, private paved and flagged Yard. The upper rooms consist of a large Club Room, Commercial, and two Sitting Rooms, Water Closet, and five Bed Rooms; the whole being well arranged and substantially built.

The above Property is Copyhold of the Manor of Stowheath.

Further particulars may be obtained on application to Mr. T. H. Pemberton, Deepfields; Mr. E. J. Hayes, or Mr. Thomas Bolton, Solicitors, Wolverhampton; or the Auctioneer, Tipton.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/3/1860 - Deaths

“On the 11th instant, at the residence of her mother, Mary Ann, the beloved and deeply regretted wife of Mr. S. W. Hale, LION HOTEL, Bilston, and daughter of the late J. Powell, Esq, of the Avenue House, Worcester.”

1861 Census

44, Church Street

[1] Samuel W. Hale (32), widower, spirit merchant, born Moreton, Gloucestershire;

[2] Ann Sherritt (35), housekeeper, born Oxford;

[3] Jane Budry (21), waitress, born Ross;

[4] Jane Griffiths (26), cook, born Welchford, Shropshire;

[5] Mary Smith (36), barmaid, born Sedgley;

[6] Louisa Hale (35), sister, born Moreton, Gloucestershire:

Worcester Journal 29/6/1861 - Deaths

“June 26, aged 32, Mr. Samuel W. Hale, of the LION HOTEL, Bilston, and formerly of Moreton-in-Marsh.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/7/1861

“A complimentary dinner to Mr. A. S. Hill, of the Oxford Circuit, and a candidate in the Conservative interest at the late contested election for the borough of Wolverhampton, was given on Thursday evening last at the LION HOTEL, Bilston.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/7/1861 - Advert

“Important to Wine and Spirit Merchants, and Others.

To be Let, the LION Commercial Hotel, Wine and Spirit Vaults, situated in High Street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, in the very best business part of the town, being immediately opposite the Market Place.

The Premises consist of a large Spirit Vaults, with attractive Frontage and Entrance Hall, Smoke Room, and extensive Cooking Kitchen on the ground floor, a large Commercial Room, Sitting Room, Club Room and five Bed Rooms, with convenience to add to their number. The Out-offices comprise an extensive Brewhouse, Stabling, Shedding, and Store Room. The Cellars are excellent, and the whole Premises admirably adapted for carrying on a first-rate Commercial Business, and a large Wholesale and Retail Wine and Spirit Trade.

The Business, which is well established and flourishing, is to be disposed of in consequence of the death of the late Proprietor.

The Fixtures are the property of the Landlord, and the in-coming Tenant will merely have to purchase the Goodwill, Stock-in-Trade, and Brewing Plant, at a fair valuation.

Immediate possession can be given.

For further particulars, apply to the Executors of the late Mr. *Samuel Hale*, Mr. Purcell and Mr. George Jackson, of Church Street; or Mr. George Brown, Auctioneer, Oxford Street, all of Bilston, aforesaid.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/9/1861 - Advert

“LION Commercial Hotel, and Wine and Spirit Vaults, Church Street, Bilston.

To Wine and Spirit Merchants, Brokers, and Others.

Mr. George Brown is instructed by the Executors of the late Mr. *Samuel Hale* to Sell upon the above premises, on Monday and Tuesday next, the 23rd and 24th days of September instant, the Household Furniture, stock of Wines and Spirits, Brewing Plant, and other Effects.

Catalogues may be had upon the premises, or at the Auctioneer’s Offices, Oxford Street, Bilston aforesaid.”

Gloucester Journal 2/11/1861 - Notice

“Pursuant to the Act to further amend the Law of Property, and to relieve Trustees, 22nd and 23rd Vict. c.35.

The Creditors of *Samuel William Hale*, late of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Wine and Spirit Merchant, who died in or about the month of June last, are on or before the second day of December next, to send the particulars of their Debts or Claims to Mr. Edward Purcell, of Bilston, aforesaid, Hosier, and Mr. George Jackson, of Bilston, aforesaid, Draper, the Executors named in the Will of the said *Samuel William Hale*, which Will bears the date the thirteenth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one, or in default thereof the Executors of the said *Samuel William Hale* will, after the said second day of December, proceed to distribute the Assets of the said *Samuel William Hale*, amongst the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the Claims of which they have then Notice.

Dated this 24th day of October, 1861.

Charles Gallimore Brown, Solicitor to the Executors.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/3/1862 - Advert

“Wanted, for the LION HOTEL, High Street, Bilston, a strong, active young Woman as Kitchen Maid. One used to an hotel preferred.

Also a young Woman as Bar Maid. Must understand her business.

Apply to *W. G. Masters*, Proprietor.”

WANTED, for the Lion Hotel, High Street, Bilston, a strong, active young Woman as KITCHEN MAID. One used to an hotel preferred.—Also a young Woman as BAR MAID. Must understand her business.—Apply to *W. G. Masters*, Proprietor.

Birmingham Daily Post 9/5/1862 - Advert

“Wanted, for the LION HOTEL, Bilston, a Waitress. Must understand her business; and have been used to a Commercial House.

Apply as above.”

WANTED, for the Lion Hotel, Bilston, a WAITRESS. Must understand her business; and have been used to a Commercial House.—Apply as above.

Birmingham Journal 10/5/1862

“On Monday, in the County Court at Wolverhampton, Matthew Bradey, a travelling draper, sued *William George Masters*, wine and spirit merchant, of Wolverhampton, and the tenant of the LION HOTEL in Bilston, to recover £10 as damages for the bite of a dog, on the 28th of March last. Mr. Bartlett was for the plaintiff, and Mr. Thurstans for the defendant.

It appeared from the statement of the plaintiff that he was in the LION, at Bilston, when upon going into the yard a dog flew at him and bit him upon the calf of the leg. In consequence of the injuries thereby sustained he had to call in a surgeon, and was incapable of carrying on his business during three weeks.

For the defence it was urged that the dog had belonged to the former landlord of the LION, and had been bequeathed by his executors to Job Kirkham, the ostler and brewer at the LION when the former owner of the dog died; and that Kirkham, who was not now one of the servants at the hotel, had taken the animal away, and had sold or given it to someone else; but that it persisted in remaining on the defendant's premises, where, however, it was asserted that it was not fed. The defendant deposed that he had given orders for the dog to be driven away, and the ostler and a female waiter both swore that they had endeavoured to carry out their employer's instructions. Further, it was deposed by the waitress that the plaintiff, in disregard of her caution, irritated the animal by shaking a stick at him. The case was tried by a jury, who returned a verdict for the plaintiff, damages £2.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/7/1862 - Advert

“Dog Cart. To be Sold, the owner having no further use for it, a capital first-class Dog Cart, nearly new, and in excellent condition, suitable for a 16-hand horse. Apply to the Ostler, the LION HOTEL, Bilston.”

DOG CART.
TO BE SOLD, the owner having no further use for it, a capital first-class DOG CART, nearly new, and in excellent condition, suitable for a 16-hand horse.—Apply to the OSTLER, the Lion Hotel, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/8/1863

“William Venables, and John Taylor, working men, were yesterday charged before Mr. Spooner, Stipendiary Magistrate, with having been drunk, engaged in a fight, and broken a table, at the LION INN, Church Street. Mrs. Goodhall, who manages the establishment for Mr. *Masters*, of Wolverhampton, proved the charge, and the accused were ordered to pay the amount of damage they had occasioned.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/9/1863

“At the Bilston police court, on Friday, Mr. *Masters*, wine and spirit dealer, Wolverhampton, charged Edward Hollis with assaulting him on Wednesday last. Mr. Langman, Wolverhampton, appeared for the complainant, and Mr. Waterhouse, of Bilston, for the defendant.

The evidence adduced was to the effect that the defendant had been in the employ of the complainant as ‘boots,’ and on the day in question he was sent by his employer (who is also the landlord of the WHITE LION, Bilston), with a conveyance, containing a quantity of spirits. Complainant was induced to follow the defendant to Bilston, and when he overtook him he (defendant) was intoxicated, and the horse appeared to have been over-driven. On a very slight remonstrance, to the effect that the defendant might leave the horse and see him next morning (at the same time making use of a somewhat unguarded expression), defendant became very fractious, and struck the complainant on the right ear, which was very much discoloured. The complainant called a female servant, who partly corroborated his evidence, and the Bench, after a short deliberation, imposed a fine of 10s and costs – in all, £1 0s 6d, which the defendant paid.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/12/1863

“Yesterday afternoon, the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the Congregational Chapel in course of erection on the site of the old Independent Chapel in Oxford Street was performed by Mr. W. Hatton, in the presence of a numerous company.....

The company then adjourned to the lecture room to luncheon. Upwards of 100 ladies and gentlemen sat down to an excellent repast provided by Mr. *Masters*, of the LION HOTEL.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/5/1865 - Advert

“Kinahans’s Celebrated Old L. L. Whisky.

This well-known Old Irish Whisky rivals the finest French Brandy. It is pure, mild, mellow, delicious, and very wholesome. Sold in bottles, 3s 8d each, at the retail houses in London; by the Agents in the principal towns in England; or wholesale at 8, Great Windmill Street, London W.

Caution. The Public are hereby cautioned against imitations or substitutes, and to observe the red seal, pink label, and cork branded.

‘Kinahan’s L. L. Whisky.’

Agent – *W. G. Masters*, Dudley Street, Wolverhampton; and LION HOTEL, Bilston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/9/1865 - Advert

“Wanted, for the LION HOTEL, Bilston, a young Person as Barmaid. Also, a young Man as Boots and Ostler, &c. Apply to *W. G. Masters*, Dudley Street, Wolverhampton.”

WANTED, for the Lion Hotel, Bilston, a young Person, as BAR-MAID. Also, a young Man as BOOTS and OSTLER, &c.—Apply to *W. G. Masters*, Dudley Street, Wolverhampton.

Birmingham Daily Post 3/1/1866

“Chesnut Horse, 15 hands, 5 off, sound. Broke to harness; excellent Hack, suitable for light weight. Sound. Price, twenty-two guineas.

Apply to the Groom, LION HOTEL, Bilston.”

CHESNUT HORSE, 15 hands, 5 off, sound. Broke to harness; excellent Hack, suitable for light weight. Sound. Price, twenty-two guineas.—Apply to the Groom, Lion Hotel, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 28/12/1867

“At Bilston Police Court, yesterday, Mr. *G. W. Masters*, of the LION Commercial Hotel, was fined 10s and costs, for harbouring thieves and prostitutes, on Monday night last.”

Birmingham Daily Post 2/1/1868 - Correspondence

“Bilston. Harboursing Thieves.

To the Editor of the *Daily Post*.

Sir, In your impression of Saturday last a paragraph appears, under the above heading, which refers to a case which was brought by the police against me, and, in answer to which I hope you will allow me, in justice to myself, and to the general body of licensed victuallers, the great majority of whom are subscribers to your paper, and any one of whom is open to a similar charge to that which was preferred against me, to say a few words in explanation, and to express my surprise that your report should be so worded as to make the case appear so much worse than is warranted by the facts as stated.

That there was a number of people in my vaults, some of whom were known to the police to be thieves and prostitutes, is admitted; but it is not true, as anyone would naturally infer from your paragraph, that they were so known to me or any of my servants. My vaults, like others, are open to all, and it is not at all likely that any licensed victualler can know the character of all the persons who present themselves at his counter from day to day. As to the case itself, as presented before the Magistrates, if I or my solicitor, Mr. Thurstans, had suspected gross perjury would have been resorted to by the policemen to prove their charge we should have adopted a very different course; and I do not now intend to let the matter rest, for I am using every exertion to find out the address of some respectable parties who were in the vaults at the time the policemen came, and who heard the conversation which took place between myself and them; and if I succeed in this the public shall have a specimen of the quality of the evidence upon which respectable tradesmen are often, I suppose, convicted.

I am, sir, your obedient servant, *W. G. Masters*.

LION Commercial Hotel, High Street, Bilston; and Wine Vaults, Dudley Street, Wolverhampton.

December 31, 1867.”

Birmingham Daily Post 24/7/1869 - Advert

“Wanted, a Plain Cook. Reference required.

Apply, *W. G. Masters*, LION HOTEL, Bilston.”

WANTED, a Plain COOK. Reference required.—Apply *W. G. Masters*, Lion Hotel, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 27/8/1869

“Charles Crook, publican, of Park Street, Walsall, appeared on his summons, in the Police Court, in Wolverhampton, charged with that he being the occupier of a booth on the racecourse, did unlawfully permit it to be used for betting.....

[He was fined £20 and costs. His solicitor gave notice of appeal and the magistrates required sureties of £200 from the defendant and two sureties of £100.]

Later in the day the defendant entered into the required recognisances. His bondsmen were Mr. Robert Miller, draper, of High Street, Bilston; and Mr. *William George Masters*, of the LION HOTEL, in the same town.’

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 27/8/1870

“The annual sessions for the renewal of existing and the granting of new licenses to licensed victuallers and beersellers in Bilston and Sedgley, was held yesterday at the Police Court, Bilston.....

All the applications for renewal of licenses were granted except the following, who had been fined for various offences during the year, and whose applications for renewal were adjourned until the adjourned licensing day, November 30 Licensed Victuallers.....

George Masters, LION, Church Street.”

[Renewed at the adjourned licensing meeting.]

William George Masters – see also BEEHIVE, Dudley Street, Wolverhampton.

1871 Census

44, Church Street – LION HOTEL

[1] *Charles Roberts* (35), licensed victualler employing 1 assistant, born Overton, Hampshire;

[2] *Elizabeth Roberts* (37), wife, born Walsall;

[3] *Anne Roberts* (9), daughter, scholar, born Wolverhampton;

[4] *Charles Roberts* (6), son, scholar, born North Wales;

[5] *William Roberts* (3), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[6] *Harry Roberts* (1), son, born Wolverhampton;

[7] *Clara Callis* (15), domestic servant, born Smethwick;

[8] *Edith C. Hawkins* (26), domestic servant, born Manchester;

[9] *Ann M. Allen* (29), visitor, cooper’s wife, born Blackheath:

Lincoln Gazette 9/5/1874

“Lucy Cooper, aged 30, has been murdered at Bilston, by her husband, Roland Cooper, a collier, aged 60. After a series of acts of shocking violence, for which he has been in gaol, Cooper twice strapped his wife dreadfully on Saturday, vowing that when he began again he would kill her outright. He repeated his violence late on Tuesday night, and he kept his word. He killed her by first beating her with a poker, and then striking her upon the region of the heart with a rolling pin.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 13/5/1874

“Yesterday the inquest was concluded before Mr. W. H. Phillips, coroner, at the LION HOTEL, Bilston, on the body of Lucy Cooper, who was supposed to have been killed by the violence of her husband, under the circumstances already set forth in the *Daily Post*.

Mr. H. W. Larkin, surgeon, who, in the presence of Mr. R. Macdonald, had made the post mortem investigation, deposed that occasionally during life he had attended the deceased for dyspeptic affections. At about ten minutes past nine on the night of the death he was called into deceased, and found her dead. She had been dead about ten minutes. He made an examination of the body last Friday, when he found a severe contusion over the left temple, two abrasions on the right side of the neck, five abrasions on the back and shoulders, all of more than 24 hours’ standing, and most likely occasioned three or four days before death. There were recent severe bruises on the right hand, and some trifling marks on the left side of the chest below the breast. There was, however, no external injury sufficient to account for death. The lungs were in a state of chronic inflammation, only one-fifth remaining available for breathing; and it was the result entirely of the cold weather. The actual cause of death was suffocation by fainting. In reply to the Coroner, Mr. Larkin said that to a woman in the state of health he had described a blow in the back might prove highly dangerous, and that any violence which would occasion a kind of stupor would greatly accelerate death.

John Smith, aged ten years, was sworn. He said that he saw Cooper beat his wife with a rolling pin on the right side, not long before she sat down and died.

This was all the evidence, and the Coroner, after reading to the jury the depositions of all the witnesses, reminded them if they were satisfied that the violence used by Cooper had accelerated deceased's death, then they must return a verdict of Manslaughter; but if they were not so satisfied, their verdict must be Death from Natural Causes.

The jury found a verdict of Manslaughter against Roland Cooper, who, upon the Coroner's warrant, was committed for trial at the Assizes. Cooper remains in prison upon the remand of the magistrates."

AND

Dudley Guardian 1/8/1874

"Stafford Summer Assizes.....

Roland Cooper (58), miner, convicted of causing the death of his wife under circumstances of great aggravation. The woman, his Lordship said, was small, weak, and diseased, and the prisoner new that, and yet he inflicted a series of blows on her, causing her death in a very short time. He was sentenced to fifteen years' penal servitude."

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. *Thomas Barnes*, LION HOTEL, Bilston."

Birmingham Daily Post 16/10/1877

"The gale which visited Great Britain on Sunday night and early yesterday morning swept over the Midlands with a violence unparalleled for some years past, and caused a vast amount of damage to property of various descriptions.....

Bilston A plate-glass window of the LION HOTEL, Church Street, was smashed."

Midland Advertiser 9/2/1878 - Advert

"Walter Showell, Crosswells Brewery, Oldbury, has the pleasure to inform his friends and customers at Oldbury and District, that he has given up the Agency of Messrs. W. A. Gilbey. He has been induced to do so in consequence in the rapid increase of business, which has far outgrown the limits to which agencies of this kind usually attach, and which has consequently rendered it necessary for him to purchase in the open market, in order to meet the requirements of his customers. In doing so he has confined his purchases to importers of the first-class only, and being in a position to obtain the most favourable terms, and finds himself able to offer an article very far superior to that he has been hitherto able to do in his capacity as Agent. In order to give every facility for the prompt execution of orders, he has arranged for a stock of each quality of Wines and Spirits to be kept at the ROYAL OAK INN, King Street, Wednesbury, where Mr. William Hupton will be happy to supply any orders that may be entrusted to him. Wholesale and Family Orders forwarded to the Crosswells Brewery will receive prompt attention.

Agents Mr. *Thomas Barnes*, LION HOTEL, Bilston."

1881 Census

44, Church Street – LION

[1] *Charles Roberts* (47), married, licensed victualler, born Hampshire;

[2] *William Roberts* (14), son, born Oldbury;

[3] *Enoch Wood* (30), barman, born St. Ives, Huntingdonshire:

Evening Express 26/8/1881 - Advert

"Wanted, a good General Servant, with good character.

Apply at the LION HOTEL, Bilston."

WANTED, a good General Servant, with good character.—
Apply at the Lion Hotel, Bilston.

Darlaston Weekly Times 9/9/1882

"James O'Brien, of Black Horse Yard, High Street, Bilston, was charged by PC Brindley with being drunk in Church Street, on Monday afternoon. Defendant was thrown out of the LION HOTEL, on account of his bad conduct, and refusing to go home when requested, was taken into custody.

Mr. *G. Millard*, the landlord, when called, stated that defendant was abusing the landlady. He was very drunk, used bad language, and declined to go when asked. Consequently he had to be turned out. Fined 5s including costs."

Darlaston Weekly Times 1/9/1883 - Advert

"Great Western Railway Company.

The Committee of the Wolverhampton and District Licensed Victuallers Incorporated Society have made arrangements with the above Company to run a Special Express Train to London (International Fisheries Exhibition).....

Tickets may be had from any of the undermentioned.....

G. Millard, LION HOTEL, Church Street, Bilston."

Darlaston Weekly Times 29/9/1883

"Startling Occurrence in a Bilston Hotel.

Considerable alarm was caused on Wednesday morning, by the announcement in the town that a building had fallen in, and done a great amount of damage near the LION HOTEL, Church Street, Bilston. Investigation revealed the fact that a chimney pot on Mr. Plant's premises adjoining the LION HOTEL, having become loosened by the heavy winds, had fallen, and in its descent had detached some bricks, which fell through the roof of the liquor shop, breaking through the plaster of the ceiling and falling with a crash into the shop. Fortunately no person was near the spot at the time, or the results might have been serious, especially as the spot where the bricks came in is just over the stove near which customers are in the habit of congregating. As it was, no harm occurred to anyone, and beyond the damage to the ceiling and glassware in the shop, there was no cause for the startling reports circulated in reference to the matter."

Birmingham Daily Post 22/1/1884 - Advert

"General Servant (thoroughly good) Wanted, with knowledge of cooking.

Apply, LION HOTEL, Bilston."

GENERAL Servant (thoroughly good) Wanted, with knowledge of cooking.—Apply Lion Hotel, Bilston

Evening Express 19/10/1885 - Advert

"Wanted, good General Servant, one used to plain cooking.

Apply, LION HOTEL, Bilston."

WANTED, good General Servant, one used to plain cooking.—Apply, Lion Hotel, Bilston.

1891 Census

44, Church Street – LION HOTEL

[1] George Millard (46), licensed victualler, born Eversholt, Bedfordshire;

[2] Mary Millard (43), wife, born London;

[3] Laura Millard (18), daughter, born Walsall;

[4] Elizabeth Guest (23), barmaid, born Staffordshire;

[5] Sarah Stretton (25), domestic servant, born Derbyshire;

[6] Alice Davis (15), waitress, born Staffordshire:

Worcestershire Chronicle 10/10/1891 - Advert

"Wanted, active Young Man, to do general work, and billiard mark; good character.

LION HOTEL, Bilston."

WANTED, active Young Man, to do general work and billiard mark ; good character.—Lion Hotel, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 10/8/1892

"Yesterday afternoon, *George Millard*, the landlord of the LION HOTEL, Church Street, Bilston, was passing along that thoroughfare, and when near the butcher's shop of Mr. Caddick, a dog flew at him, and bit him severely on the hand and thigh. A medical man was at once sent for, and the wounds were dressed."

George Millard – see also BARREL VAULTS and SPREAD EAGLE.

1901 Census

79, Church Street

[1] Mary Wright (44), widow, hotel manageress, born Bilston;

[2] Harold Wright (13), son, born Bilston;

[3] Winifred Wright (11), daughter, born Bilston;

[4] Mary Wright (10), daughter, born Bilston;

[5] Emily Finlow (28), barmaid, born Kidderminster:

1911 Census

Church Street – LION HOTEL

- [1] *William Howard Collins* (33), hotel manager, born Dudley;
- [2] *Ethel Mary Collins* (32), wife, married 10 years, assisting in business, born Stourbridge;
- [3] *Geoffrey Collins* (9), son, school, born Dudley;
- [4] *Abigail Harper* (21), domestic servant, born Dudley;
- [5] *Ethel Adams* (21), barmaid, born Bilston:

1921 Census

Church Street – LION HOTEL

- [1] *William Howard Collins* (44), hotel manager, licensed victualler, born Dudley;
- [2] *Ethel Mary Collins* (43), wife, hotel manageress, born Stourbridge;
- [3] *Geoffrey Collins* (19), son, turner and fitter, out of work, born Dudley;
- [4] *Beatrice Williams* (19), barmaid, born Wolverhampton:

South Staffordshire Times 7/10/1922

“Mr. Wright, on behalf of Messrs. Butlers, brewers, Wolverhampton, for permission for structural alterations at the MARKET TAVERN, Church Street, Bilston and the LION INN, which adjoins it, and BRITANNIA INN, Bradley. Dealing with the MARKET TAVERN first, he said the proposed alterations would be an improvement in the domestic and sanitary accommodation of the premises, and the building of a bath room upstairs. The premises would be made more comfortable for the occupants and also more convenient for the customers of both sexes.

The Chairman said the Bench quite approved of the desire to make the occupants more comfortable. That was a very reasonable request, and the application would be granted.

Mr. Wright explained that the alterations at the LION would be similar, and the application was also granted.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/10/1926

“Rescued from his Burning Bar. Licensee Owes His Life to Policeman.

A policeman’s dash through a volume of thick smoke to rescue the licensee of the LION HOTEL, Bilston, was the feature of a fire which broke out there in the early hours of yesterday morning and caused damage to the extent of about £800. Mr. *Howard Collins*, the licensee, and his wife were sleeping in a room above the smokeroom, and in the early hours Mrs. *Collins* was awakened by the smell of smoke. She immediately aroused her husband, who ran into the road and gave the alarm, and the fire brigade was soon on its way. Meanwhile Mr. *Collins* raced back into the house to recover some papers, but collapsed in the bar where the fire originated. He was dragged into safety by Police-constable Martin.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/4/1931

“A Police raid at the LION HOTEL, Church Street, Bilston, last Saturday had a sequel at the local court yesterday when 23 defendants were summoned for offences under the Betting Acts. *William Howard Collins*, the licensee, was summoned for keeping the bar of the hotel to be used for purposes of betting and suffering the licensed premises to be used for this purpose between 4 and 19 April. His wife, *Ethel Collins*, Annie Martin, a barmaid, and Philip Morris, of 110, Moxley Road, Darlaston, were summoned for aiding and abetting, and Morris was also summoned for using the bar. Nineteen defendants, all men, were summoned for using the bar for the purposes of betting. Mr. Ernest E. Brown (prosecuting) mentioned that the male defendant *Collins* had been licensee of the LION HOTEL since 1907.

As a result of information received by the police, Constable Williams visited the house on 4 April. He stayed in the bar from 12.15 till 1.50pm. There were between 25 and 30 men present when Morris came in and took up a position near the counter. He had a pencil behind his right ear during the time he was there, and Mr. Brown contended that this fact was obviously noticeable by the persons responsible for the conduct of the house. The constable saw people offer Morris slips and money. Some of the men looked at a sporting paper Morris had with him, and then sat down at a table, wrote something on a piece of paper, and handed it to Morris. Altogether on this particular day the constable saw 39 men hand pieces of paper, and money, to Morris.

On Saturday, 11 April, when Constable Williams entered the bar at 12.15 with Sergeant Martin, Morris was there, and during their stay the police-officers saw 47 persons hand slips to Morris. On this day the barmaid was in the bar assisting the licensee and his wife.

On 18 April Sergeant Martin again visited the house, when, it was alleged, 41 men handed slips and money to Martin. At 1.35 Superintendent Orland entered the bar. At that time a man was standing at the bar counter writing on a piece of paper. The superintendent obtained the slip and on it was written 'Windjammer,' the name of a horse running at Derby that day.

In the possession of the men summoned for using the house for betting purposes, papers referring to betting were found. On Morris was found a book of racing rules, two paying out slips, 24 betting slips, and £9 18s 8½d in cash. The prosecution contended, added Mr. Brown, that for some time Morris had been conducting betting in the licensed house. Evidence was given in support of this statement by Constable Williams, Sergeant Martin, Superintendent Orland, Inspector Jones, and other police officers.

Mr. A. Dallow, for the defence, said that the whole case against *Collins*, his wife, and the barmaid, rested on the conjecture of the police officers that they knew the betting was going on, and having regard to that, and a positive oath of denial made by *Collins*, who had a good record, Mr. Dallow urged the magistrates to dismiss the case. He submitted that there was no evidence against Miss Martin, and the magistrates dismissed the summonses against her. In evidence *Collins* and his wife denied that they knew betting was going on.

Collins was fined £10 for suffering the house to be used for the purpose of betting, and Mrs. *Collins* was fined £5 for aiding and abetting. Morris was fined £50, with £12 12s special costs, for using the house. The summonses against the other 19 defendants were withdrawn on the payment by each of 4s costs."

1935 Probate

"*William Howard Collins* of the LION HOTEL, Church Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 21 June 1935 at the Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton. Administration Birmingham 12 August to *Ethel Mary Collins*, widow. Effects £652 15s.

1939 Register

79, Church Street

[1] *Ethel M. Collins*, date of birth 16/1/1878, manager of hotel, widowed;

[2] *Annie Martin*, dob 1/7/1883, barmaid, single;

[3] *Ivy (Massey) Walker*, dob 2/3/1914, general maid, single:

Birmingham Daily Post 14/1/1952 - Deaths

"*Ethel Mary Collins*, of 4, Woodland Avenue, Luton, late of LION HOTEL, Bilston, died January 9, aged 73 years. RIP."

Closed

It was put up for auction in July 1960 as a de-licensed public house.

Birmingham Daily Post 8/6/1960

"Six public houses owned by Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. in Wolverhampton are being offered for sale by auction in London on July 5. 'The houses are superfluous. Some of them are in shopping areas and there is already one public house owned by the brewery in the same street,' Mr. H. A. Walker, chief executive of the company, said yesterday. It was the policy of the company to sell any surplus public houses, he said. Those in Wolverhampton would probably be turned into shops. The six public houses are.....
LION, Church Street, Bilston."

Birmingham Daily Post 11/6/1960 - Advert

"Healey & Baker (Established 1820) 29, St. George Street, Hanover Square, London, W1. Mayfair 9292.

Surveyors, Valuers, Auctioneers and Estate Agents.

For Sale by Auction, at the London Auction Mart, 155, Queen Victoria Street, EC4, on Tuesday, July 5, 1960 (unless previously sold).

Freehold De-Licensed Public Houses with vacant possession, ripe for immediate development or conversion as retail shops with offices or showrooms over. Occupying prime retail trading positions.....

LION, Church Street, Bilston."

Demolished

STAFFORDSHIRE.
TO CAPITALISTS AND OTHERS IN WANT OF A FIRST-
RATE SITUATION FOR BUSINESS.
IMPORTANT SALE OF THAT HIGHLY VALUABLE
AND CENTRAL PROPERTY,

KNOWN AS THE
LION COMMERCIAL INN AND LIQUOR VAULTS,
SITUATED IN HIGH STREET AND CROWN STREET, and opposite
the MARKET PLACE, BILSTON.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION.

BY Mr. S. POWELL, upon the above-named
Premises, THIS DAY (Friday), the 8th of July, at Six o'clock
in the evening, subject to conditions then to be produced—all that
important and valuable PROPERTY, comprising the "LION C M-
MERICAL INN AND LIQUOR VAULTS," occupied by Mr. S. W. Hale.
The above Property is well adapted, and is most eligibly situated for
the business now carried on upon the premises, is opposite the Market
Place, and is in the best part of the town of Bilston; and comprises
four large and lofty Cellars, large and commodious Liquor Shop, with
two Entrances, Hall and Pantry, Smoke Room, Kitchen, lofty and
well ventilated Brewhouse, Water Cisterns, Entrance Doors, capital
three-stalled Stable, with Malt and Hay Room over, Larder and Room
over, private paved and flagged Yard. The upper rooms consist of
a large Club Room, Commercial, and two Sitting Rooms, Water
Closet, and five Bed Rooms; the whole being well a range and sub-
stantially built.

The above Property is Copyhold of the Manor of Stow Heath.
Further particulars may be obtained on application to Mr. T. H.
Pemberton, Deepfields; Mr. E. J. Hayes, or Mr. Thomas Bolton, Soli-
citors, Wolverhampton; or the Auctioneer, Tipton.

1859

IMPORTANT TO WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS,
AND OTHERS.

TO BE LET, the LION COMMERCIAL
HOTEL, WINE AND SPIRIT VAULTS, situated in High-
street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, in the very best business
part of the town, being immediately opposite the Market-place.
The Premises consist of a large Spirit Vaults, with attractive Front-
age and Entrance Hall, Smoke Room, and extensive Cooking Kitchen
on the ground floor, a large Commercial Room, Sitting Room, Club
Room and five Bed Rooms, with convenience to add to their number.
The Out-offices comprise an extensive Brewhouse, Stabling, Shed-
ding, and Store Room. The Cellars are excellent, and the whole
Premises admirably adapted for carrying on a first-rate Commercial
Business, and a large Wholesale and Retail Wine and Spirit Trade.

The Business, which is well established and flourishing, is to be
disposed of in consequence of the death of the late Proprietor.

The Fixtures are the property of the Landlord, and the in-coming
Tenant will merely have to purchase the Goodwill, Stock-in-Trade,
and Brewing Plant, at a fair valuation.

Immediate possession can be given.

For further particulars, apply to the Executors of the late Mr.
Samuel Hale, Mr. PURCELL and Mr. GEORGE JACKSON, of Church-
street; or Mr. GEORGE BROWN, Auctioneer, Oxford-street, all of
Bilston aforesaid.

LION COMMERCIAL HOTEL, AND WINE AND
SPIRIT VAULTS,

CHURCH STREET, BILSTON.

TO WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS, BROKERS, AND
OTHERS.

MR. GEORGE BROWN is instructed by the
Executors of the late Mr. Samuel Hale to SELL upon the
above premises, on Monday and Tuesday next, the 23rd and 24th
days of September instant, the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,
stock of WINES AND SPIRITS, BREWING PLANT, and other
Effects.

Catalogues may be had upon the premises, or at the Auctioneer's
Office, Oxford-street, Bilston aforesaid.

Pursuant to the Act to further amend the Law of
Property, and to relieve Trustees, 22d and 23d Vict.
c. 35.

THE Creditors of SAMUEL WILLIAM HALE,
late of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Wine and
Spirit Merchant, who died in or about the month of June
last, are on or before the second day of December next, to
send the particulars of their Debts or Claims to Mr. Edward
Purcell, of Bilston, aforesaid, Hosier, and Mr. George Jackson,
of Bilston, aforesaid, Draper, the Executors named in the
Will of the said Samuel William Hale, which Will bears
date the thirteenth day of June, one thousand eight hundred
and sixty-one, or in default thereof the Executors of the
said Samuel William Hale will, after the said second day of
December, proceed to distribute the Assets of the said
Samuel William Hale, amongst the parties entitled thereto,
having regard only to the Claims of which they have then
Notice.—Dated this 24th day of October, 1861.

CHARLES GALLIMORE BROWN,
Solicitor to the Executors.

1861

KINAHAN'S CELEBRATED OLD
L. L.

WHISKY.

THIS well-known Old Irish Whisky rivals the
finest French Brandy. It is pure, mild, mellow, delicious,
and very wholesome. Sold in bottles, 3s. 8d. each, at the retail
houses in London; by the Agents in the principal towns in
England; or wholesale at 8, Great Windmill-street, London, W.
CAUTION.—The Public are hereby cautioned against imitations
or substitutes, and to observe the red seal, pink label, and cork
branded

"KINAHAN'S L. L. WHISKY."

Agent—W. G. MASTERS, Dudley-street, Wolverhampton; and
Lion Hotel, Bilston.

1865

WALTER SHOWELL,
CROSSWELLS' BREWERY

OLDBURY.

Has the pleasure to inform his friends and customers
at Oldbury and District, that he has given up the
Agency of Messrs. W. A. Gilbey. He has been
induced to do so in consequence of the rapid increase of
business, which has far outgrown the limits to which
agencies of this kind usually attach, and which has
consequently, rendered it necessary for him to purchase
in the open market, in order to meet the requirements
of his customers. In doing so he has confined his
purchases to Importers of the first-class only, and being
in a position to obtain the most favourable terms, he
finds himself able to offer an article very far superior to
that he has been hitherto able to do in his capacity as
Agent. In order to give every facility for the prompt
execution of orders, he has arranged for a stock of each
quality of Wines and Spirits to be kept at the

ROYAL OAK INN,

KING STREET, WEDNESBURY,

WHERE

MR. WILLIAM HUFTON

Will be happy to supply any orders that may be entrusted
to him.

Wholesale and Family Orders forwarded to the Cross-
wells' Brewery, will receive prompt attention.

Agents:

Mr. T. TAFT, Talbot Hotel, Cradley Heath.

" ISAAC NEWTON, Horse Shoe Inn, Brierley
Hill

" THOMAS BARNES, Lion Hotel, Bilston.

" DANIEL DABRY, Old Britannia Inn, Moxley

1878

HEALEY & BAKER

29, ST. GEORGE STREET, HANOVER SQUARE, LONDON, W.1.

SURVEYORS, VALUERS, AUCTIONEERS & ESTATE AGENTS.

FOR SALE BY AUCTION

At the LONDON AUCTION MART, 155, QUEEN VICTORIA STREET, E.C.4.
on TUESDAY, JULY 5, 1960 (unless previously sold).

FREEHOLD DE-LICENSED
PUBLIC HOUSES

WITH VACANT POSSESSION
RIPE FOR IMMEDIATE DEVELOPMENT OR CONVERSION AS
RETAIL SHOPS WITH OFFICES OR SHOWROOMS OVER.

Occupying prime retail trading positions

WOLVERHAMPTON

THE DUKE OF YORK, PRINCESS STREET. THE BELL INN, CHAPEL ASH.
THE ODDFELLOWS ARMS, WORCESTER STREET. THE RED LION, SNOW HILL.

BILSTON

THE LION, CHURCH STREET. THE ROYAL GEORGE INN, CHURCH STREET.

NOTTINGHAM

DERBY

THE BLACK SWAN, GOOSE GATE. THE GEORGE AND DRAGON, ALBERT ST.
Joint Auctioneers' as to The Oddfellows Arms, Wolverhampton; The Red Lion,
Wolverhampton; The Lion Hotel, Bilston and The Royal George Inn, Bilston:—
NEALE & ALLDRIDGE and FOSTER & PARTNERS, 50, Newhall Street, Birmingham.
CENTRAL 2066-7-8-9.

1960

THE FREEHOLD PROPERTY

known as

THE LION HOTEL CHURCH STREET, BILSTON AND LAND AT REAR

The property occupies a fine retail trading position at the junction of Crown Street with Church Street, close to leading multiple companies including: Montague Burton, Ltd., Pearks Stores, Ltd., Boots Cash Chemists, Ltd., Dale Forty, Ltd., etc.

Brick built and comprising

DE-LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE

designed on basement, ground floor and two upper floors.

together with

LAND AT REAR

Frontage to Church Street about 28 ft.

Built depth about 79 ft.

Return site frontage to Crown Street and site depth about 238 ft.

(including land at rear)

The upper floors are internally approached and comprise four rooms, having an area of approximately 610 sq. ft. and bathroom on the first floor, whilst on the second floor there are three rooms, having an area of approximately 410 sq. ft.

The basement is utilised for storage purposes and has an area of approximately 900 sq. ft.

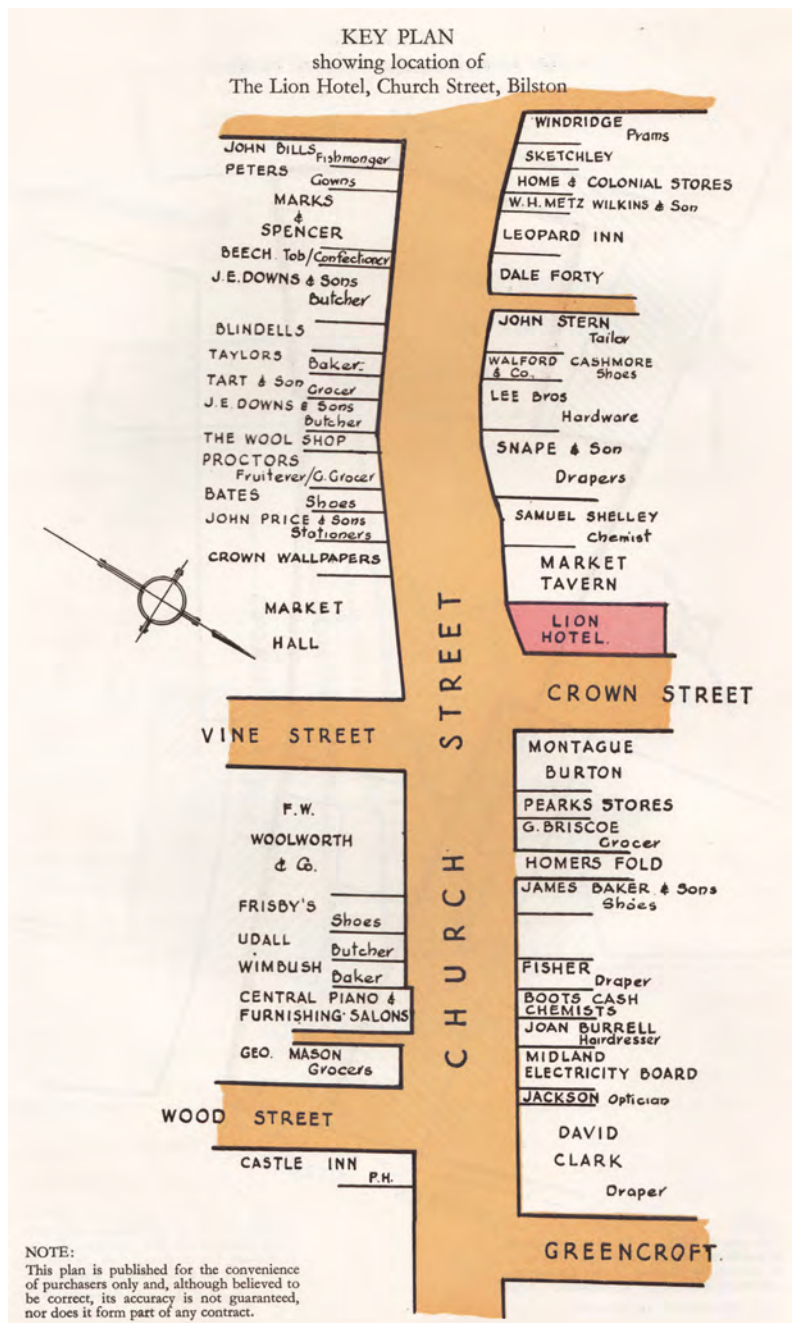
The property is **FREEHOLD**.

VACANT POSSESSION

ON COMPLETION

RIPE FOR CONVERSION OR REDEVELOPMENT
AS RETAIL SHOPS WITH OFFICES OR SHOWROOMS
ABOVE ON THE CHURCH STREET FRONTAGE, AND
RESIDENTIALLY AT THE REAR.

The Justices and Excise Licences and all furnishings, trade fixtures and fittings, are excluded from the sale.



Catalogue 1960

LION

1, Coseley Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Charles Tizard [1861]

NOTES

1861 Census

1, Coseley Street – LION

[1] *Charles Tizard* (45), victualler and grocer, born Charminster, Dorset;

[2] *Elizabeth Tizard* (42), wife, born Whitney, Herefordshire;

[3] *Sarah Kinston* (16), general servant, born Bilston:

Charles Tizard – see also EXCHANGE VAULTS, BALL COURT and FORESTERS ARMS.

LITTLE SWAN

30, (40), Gozzard Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

William Parker, blacksmith, Tame Street, Wednesbury
Daniel Ratcliffe
Chater and Co. Ltd., brewers, Wolverhampton
J. and J. Yardley and Co. Ltd.
Daniel and J. H. Ratcliffe, 17, High Street, Bilston
J. H. Ratcliffe, butcher, 32, Market Street, Hednesford
Millward Brothers Ltd., maltsters, Leabrook, Wednesbury
William Butler and Co. Ltd.
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

George Roper [1841] – [1853]
William Parker [1858] – [1867]
John Parkes [1868]
Daniel Ratcliffe [1870] – **1894**;
Thomas Hall **(1894)**;
John Pagett **(1894 – 1895)**;
Mrs. Ann Bird **(1895)**;
Fanny Daniels **(1895)**;
Joseph Davis **(1895 – 1897)**;
William Dunn **(1897)**;
Caroline Smith **(1897 – 1898)**;
Eliza Hall **(1898)**;
George Hall **(1898)**;
Daniel R Bishop **(1898 – 1901)**;
Thomas Hill **(1901 – 1902)**;
Richard Bate **(1902 – 1905)**;
Frederick John Thomas Haskew **(1905 – 1911)**;
Joseph Boyce [1911] manager
John Simmons **(1911 – 1913)**;
Mrs. Sarah Maria (Vickers) Walton **(1913 – 1929)**;
William Henry Vickers **(1929 – [1950])**
Dora Vickers [1955]
F E Owen [1976]
Frank Roper []

STOLEN or STRAYED, late on Friday, the 9th, or early on Saturday morning, the 10th November, out of a piece of Land near the Blue Pig Inn, Bilston, a BAY PONY, 13 hands high, three years old, with four black legs, and marked on two hoofs with J. N.—Information to be given to George Roper, Gozzard Street, Bilston.

3715

1848

NOTES

40, Gozzard Street [1861], [1862], [1871], [1881], [1891]
30, Gozzard Street [1901], [1921], [1929], [1939], [1940], [1950]

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

1841 Census

Gozzard Street

- [1] George Roper (50), publican, born Staffordshire;
- [2] Ann Roper (50), born Staffordshire;
- [3] John Roper (20), born Staffordshire;
- [4] Eliza Roper (20), born Staffordshire;
- [5] Mary Roper (15), born Staffordshire;
- [6] Peter Roper (13), born Staffordshire;
- [7] Emma Roper (7), born Staffordshire:

Birmingham Journal 8/12/1849 - Advert

“Stolen or Strayed, late on Friday, the 9th, or early on Saturday morning, the 10th November, out of a piece of Land near the BLUE PIG INN, Bilston, a Bay Pony, 12 hands high, three years old, with four black legs, and marked on two hoofs with J.N.

Information to be given to *George Roper*, Gozzard Street, Bilston.”

1851 Census

Gozzard Street

- [1] George Roper (62), coal miner and brewer, born Shropshire;
- [2] A. Roper (62), wife, born Shropshire;
- [3] J. Roper (34), son, coal miner, born Bilston;
- [4] P. Roper (22), son, moulder, born Bilston;
- [5] E. Roper (19), daughter, born Bilston:

Birmingham Journal 1/1/1853

“On Monday last, an inquest was held at Mr. *George Roper*’s, the SWAN INN, Gozzard Street, Bilston, on the body of Daniel Onions, forty-six years of age, who died on Christmas eve from the effects of injuries received by the bursting of the tuyere of a furnace at Mr. Blackwell’s works. The explosion was caused by some water having accidentally got into the tuyere. The shower of molten iron which fell upon deceased (who was the furnace man) burned his body in the most shocking manner. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.

Some few weeks ago the deceased was seen to consign the young foal of an ass to an equally horrible but more speedy death. He dropped it into the furnace, which was soon to be made the means of retributive justice (as his fellow workmen think) for such a gross act of barbarity. This fact was privately mentioned at the inquest.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 4/3/1854 - Deaths

“On the 12th ult, aged 67, deeply regretted, Mr. *George Roper*, of Gozzard Street, Bilston.”

William Parker, beerhouse, Gozzard Street. [1858]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1860

“The annual meeting for the renewal of spirit licenses, and also for hearing fresh applications for the same, was held at the Bilston Police Court on Friday last....

Mr. Waterhouse applied, on behalf of Mr. *William Parker*, for a license to the LITTLE SWAN, Gozzard Street, Bilston. Refused.”

1861 Census

40, Gozzard Street – LITTLE SWAN

- [1] *William Parker* (50), victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] Elizabeth Parker (48), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Ann Parker (19), daughter, house servant, born Bilston;
- [4] Thomas Parker (10), son, scholar, born Bilston:

Ann Parker married Edward Wilkes – see GREYHOUND, Wednesbury.

William Parker, retailer of beer, 40, Gozzard Street. [1862]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/9/1864

“Bilston Annual Licensing Meeting.....

LITTLE SWAN, Gozzard Street, Bilston.

Mr. Bowen applied for a license to this house, which is kept by an old man named *William Parker*, by trade an engineer, and who had, it was stated, occupied one situation in the town for thirty years, but was now disabled from following his employment in consequence of an accident to his shoulder. Mr. Bowen handed in a testimonial as to the applicant's good character, signed by the whole of the Township Commissioners, and property owners in the district where the house is situate.

There was no opposition to the application, which the Bench adjourned for further consideration.”

Birmingham Daily Post 10/9/1864

“The annual licensing sessions for the district of Bilston was held yesterday, at the Police Court, in that town.....

Mr. Bowen made application, on behalf of Samuel [sic] *Parker*, of the SWAN INN, Goddard [sic] Street. The application was backed by the Bilston Town Commissioners. There was no opposition. The Magistrates deferred their decision.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/9/1864

“Bilston Adjourned Licensing Day.....

Mr. Bowen made an application on behalf of Mr. *William Parker*, of the SWAN, Gozzard Street. The house had been built expressly for the business of a licensed victualler; had two entrances and commodious stabling.

Mr. Sparrow said, after consulting with his brother Magistrates, the Bench was of opinion that another licensed house was not wanted in that neighbourhood.”

William Parker, beer retailer, Gozzard Street. [1865]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 16/3/1867 - Advert

“To be Let, with immediate possession, an old-established and well-frequented Beerhouse. Rent, £30. Valuation very moderate.

Apply, *William Parker*, SWAN INN, Gozzard Street, Bilston.”

TO be LET, with immediate possession, an old-established and well-frequented BEERHOUSE. Rent, £30. Valuation very moderate.—Apply, *William Parker*, Swan Inn, Gozzard Street, Bilston.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/7/1868

“At Bilston Police Court, yesterday, before H. D. Best and W. Hatton, Esqs, a man named Henry Bradley, a collier, was charged, on the summons with assaulting Mrs. Eliza Parkes, landlady of the SWAN beerhouse, in Gozzard Street, and stealing a purse.

The complainant's statement was that on Tuesday evening the defendant was drinking at her house. Whilst he was there she went into the brewhouse to look at some ale. The defendant followed her in, put his arms round her neck and commenced kissing her, and otherwise attempting to take liberties with her. She resented this conduct, and in the struggle that took place between them the defendant tore open the front of her dress. She called out for assistance, and on her servant girl making her appearance the defendant released her. She then found that her purse, which was in her bosom when she went into the brewhouse, was missing, and although a search was made it could not be found. Complainant called her servant girl as a witness, and the latter stated that she saw her mistress go into the brewhouse, closely followed by the prisoner. In about a minute afterwards she heard the complainant call out ‘Eliza,’ and on going into the brewhouse, saw her with her dress very much torn and disordered, and her mistress said to her that she had ‘lost her purse.’ She did not hear her charge the prisoner with taking the purse till afterwards, and the girl added that her mistress promised her that if she would come and swear that the defendant took the purse she would make her a handsome present; if not she would discharge her at once.

The defendant's reply to the charge was that he accompanied the complainant into the brewhouse at her own request, for an immoral purpose, as he had often done before, but she, finding that the servant girl was peeping at them through the window, commenced screaming out, and then charged him with having assaulted her.

The complainant, a tidy-looking little woman, having her husband by her side, indignantly denied the defendant's allegation, but another witness being called, who to some extent bore out the defendant's statement, the Magistrates dismissed the case as not having been proved.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/8/1869

"The annual licensing meeting for the Bilston division took place yesterday, at the Police Court.....

The following beerhouse keepers had been fined during the past five years.....

For keeping open during prohibited hours *John Parkes*, LITTLE SWAN, Gozzard Street, 1s and costs."

Daniel Ratcliffe = Daniel Radcliff = Daniel Radcliffe

Birmingham Daily Post 16/3/1870

"At the Petty Sessions, yesterday, before Mr. I. Spooner (Stipendiary) *Daniel Radcliffe*, a beerhouse keeper, of Gozzard Street, Bilston, was fined 20s and costs for selling ale at an unlicensed house, on Monday morning last."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 27/8/1870

"The annual sessions for the renewal of existing and the granting of new licenses to licensed victuallers and beersellers in Bilston and Sedgley, was held yesterday at the Police Court, Bilston.....

All the applications for renewal of licenses were granted except the following, who had been fined for various offences during the year, and whose applications for renewal were adjourned until the adjourned licensing day, November 30 Beerhouse Keepers.....

Daniel Ratcliffe, LITTLE SWAN, Gozzard Street."

[Renewed at the adjourned licensing meeting.]

1871 Census

40, Gozzard Street

[1] *Daniel Radcliff* (29), beer seller, born Alton, Staffordshire;

[2] Emma Radcliff (23), wife, born Bilston;

[3] Mary Radcliff (3), daughter, born Bilston;

[4] Harriet Hackwood (17), domestic servant, born Newcastle under Lyme, Staffordshire:

Staffordshire Advertiser 13/7/1872

"A child named *Caroline Ratcliffe*, aged five weeks, whose parents keep the SWAN INN, Gozzard Street, Bilston, was found dead in bed on Saturday morning. On Monday an inquest was held at the SHIP AND RAINBOW INN, Oxford Street, and a verdict of Accidentally Suffocated was returned."

Birmingham Daily Post 20/8/1879

"Yesterday, an inquest was held at the LITTLE SWAN INN, Gozzard Street, before Mr. W. H. Phillips, coroner, on the body of Elizabeth Bourne, who committed suicide on Monday morning, under circumstances already reported in the *Daily Post*. The jury returned a verdict of Temporary Insanity."

1881 Census

40, Gozzard Street

[1] *Daniel Radcliffe* (39), beerhouse keeper, born Alton, Staffordshire;

[2] Emma Radcliffe (33), wife, born Bilston;

[3] Mary Radcliffe (13), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[4] Daniel Radcliffe (7), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[5] John Radcliffe (3), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[6] Wilfred Radcliffe (6 months), son, born Bilston;

[7] Mary Radcliffe (78), mother, widow, visitor, born Alton, Staffordshire;

[8] Emma Lane (21), general servant, born Bilston:

Evening Express 16/6/1881

"An inquest was held at the LITTLE SWAN INN, Gozzard Street, Bilston, on Tuesday, before W. H. Phillips, Esq, district coroner, on the body of a child, aged three months, named Alice Emberton, who died suddenly on Monday afternoon.

The mother of the deceased stated that the child had been entirely in her own care, and had only been suffering from a slight attack of diarrhea. On Monday deceased seemed a little better, and she laid it down while she went into the yard. When she returned, about twenty minutes after, the child was dead. The yard in which she lived was in a very

unhealthy condition. In wet weather a pool of stagnant water lay in front of the dwelling, and remained there until it was absorbed, the smell arising from it being, at times, very strong.

A neighbour gave similar testimony. She said that the mother of the deceased had lost four children since she had lived in the yard. The yard had been in its present bad condition for two or three years. A number of other children had been taken ill. She believed some of her neighbours had complained about the state of the yard.

A juryman said he had been told that the surveyor had seen the place, and had stated that he did not think it was the province of the Township Commissioners to put it in proper order.

The coroner said whether that was so or not, he thought it was the duty either of the inspector of nuisances or the surveyor to see that the yard was put in a healthy condition either by the owners of the property or someone else. It was utterly impossible to rear a healthy child whilst the yard was in its present filthy and badly drained state; and he hoped the jury would call the attention of the Commissioners to the matter.

The jury returned a verdict of Natural Causes, and adding to their verdict the following rider: That the attention of both the surveyor and inspector of nuisances should be called to the terrible condition of the yard, with a view to affecting some remedy of the existing sanitary defects."

Birmingham Daily Post 30/5/1883

"Yesterday Mr. W. H. Phillips held an inquest at the LITTLE SWAN, Gozzard Street, Bilston, on the body of Joseph Siddons (51), Gozzard Street, who died very suddenly on Saturday last.

Elizabeth Price deposed that the deceased, who was a heavy drinker, had lodged with her for some time past, and had been working as a grocer's assistant. Lately, however, he had been supported by charity. The day before his death he went to a medical practitioner, and complained of ill-health; and on Saturday night he died.

Samuel Shaw, grocer, High Street, stated that he had employed deceased for about three and a half years, and that he was a heavy drinker.

Police-sergeant O'Brien deposed that in deceased's box goods worth £10 had been found.

It was decided to adjourn the inquest for a post mortem examination."

AND

Darlaston Weekly Times 2/6/1883

".....On its resumption yesterday, Dr. Larkin stated that he had made a post mortem examination of the body and found that deceased was a generally well-nourished man. The stomach was absolutely devoid of food. The immediate cause of death was effusion of blood into the heart's sac, causing asphyxia, or pulselessness. Deceased was also suffering from inflammation of the pleura, the membrane covering the lungs. The state of deceased was accelerated by intemperance. A verdict in accordance with this evidence was returned."

Darlaston Weekly Times 21/7/1883

"We have to record the death of a Bilston individual, whose duties, and the performance of them, were familiar to all the residents of what is known as the New Town. For upwards of eight years, Henry Lane, of Gozzard Street, has performed the duties of night watchman to the entire satisfaction of the shopkeepers and others, by whom he was employed.....

Deceased was generally respected, and on the occasion of his funeral at the Cemetery, on Thursday, many of the blinds near his dwelling were drawn, and he was attended to the grave by a number of Free Gardeners, of the Flourishing Bough lodge, held at the LITTLE SWAN, Gozzard Street, with which deceased had been connected since its formation, seven years ago. 26 of the members attended the funeral, bearing beautiful bouquets of flowers. The funeral service was conducted by Mr. Ashley, and was listened to with marked attention. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the funeral oration of the order was impressively read by Brother Lloyd, and as each member of the lodge shook hands, in accordance with custom, over the grave, each dropped upon the coffin a large bouquet of flowers."

Darlaston Weekly Times 27/6/1885

"Much regret was felt among the brotherhood of the Free Gardeners of Bilston, at the death which occurred on Sunday last, of Brother John Green, 26 years of age, of Warwick Street, Bilston. The deceased, who was a blank tray maker, in the employ of Mr. J. Froggat, japanner, was a member of the Flourishing Bough Lodge of Free Gardeners, held at Mr. D. Ratcliffe's, LITTLE SWAN INN, Gozzard Street. The kindly feeling which prevails among the members of this order was apparent from the circumstances that sixteen members paid the last tribute of respect to their departed brother by attending the remains to the cemetery, where the interment took place....."

Darlaston Weekly Times 4/3/1887

“Thomas Hawthorn, miner, Gozzard Street, Bilston, was charged with stealing three pigeons value 7s 6d, the property of *Daniel Ratcliffe*, SWAN INN, Gozzard Street.

Prosecutor said he kept some pigeons in a stable behind his house. On the night of Monday, the 7th February, he saw the door locked safe. On the morning of the 8th, about 7.30, he found that the staple had been drawn, and the stable entered. He missed five pigeons, but two of them returned next day. He identified the three pigeons produced as his property. He knew the prisoner, who frequented his house. Prisoner was in his house on the night of the 7th ult.

Hannah Mottram, Monmore Green, said her husband kept a pigeon cage. On the 8th February the prisoner brought three pigeons to her house, her husband being out, and said he wished to sell them. She identified the three pigeons produced as those which prisoner offered for sale. He asked 9d each for them, and she gave him 7d each. In reply to her questions prisoner said the pigeons were his own, and he was selling them because they expected the bailiffs in. He gave the name of William Jones, and said he had other two pigeons for sale. Witness gave the pigeons up to the police.

Detective Moreton said from information he received he arrested the prisoner on Saturday night in prosecutor's house. He charged him with stealing five pigeons, and in reply prisoner said, ‘You're a liar, Moreton. I own I stole three, but the others have gone back.’

Prisoner now pleaded guilty to stealing three pigeons, and was sentenced to six weeks imprisonment.”

1891 Census

40, Gozzard Street – SWAN INN

[1] *Daniel Ratcliffe* (49), publican, beerhouse, born Alton, Staffordshire;

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

[3] *John Ratcliffe* (13), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[4] *Wilfrid Ratcliffe* (11), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[5] *Joseph Ratcliffe* (8), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[6] *Albert Ratcliffe* (5), son, born Bilston:

AND

1, Ratcliffes Yard

[1] *Mary Ratcliffe* (89), widow, living on her means, born Alton Staffordshire:

1901 Census

30, Gozzard Street – Public House

[1] *Thomas Hill* (35), public house keeper, born Lye;

[2] *Mary Hill* (34), wife, born Lye;

[3] *Maria Hill* (14), daughter, born Lye;

[4] *Abigail Chance* (62), boarder, widow, born Lye;

[5] *Nellie Hunt* (15), domestic servant, born Beoley, Worcestershire:

Haskew and Co. brewed here. [1908]

Birmingham Mail 22/2/1909

“At Penkridge Police Court, today, *Frederick Haskew*, licensee, Bilston, was charged with unlawfully selling intoxicating liquors at Chads Moor, contrary to the Licensing Act. Harry Tomkinson, Bilston, and William Degville, Walsall, travellers employed by *Haskew*, were charged with adding and abetting. It was alleged that defendants had contravened that part of the Licensing Act which forbade anyone to sell liquor at a place where not authorised.

Enoch Jones, greengrocer, Chads Moor, said that at the request of a constable he went up to Degville and asked him for a dozen of stout. Degville sold him a box of stout for 3s 6d, remarking, ‘I know it's not legal. Keep it quiet.’

Constable Bennett spoke to seeing Degville and Tomkinson delivering cases at Chads Moor.

Inspector Campbell spoke to interviewing *Haskew* who said if his men had sold anything without its being ordered they had done it entirely on their own responsibility. *Haskew* read to witness his instructions to travellers, which warned them that they were liable to instant dismissal if they delivered goods not previously ordered. He said, ‘Everything sent out from here has been ordered and properly appropriated on the premises.’”

AND

Globe 23/2/1909

“For hawking beer two travellers, named Degville and Wesley, were fined £10 and £5 respectively, with costs, at Penkridge, Staffordshire, yesterday.”

1911 Census

30, Gozzard Street

[1] Joseph Boyce (46), public house manager, born Walsall;

[2] Selina Boyce (46), wife, married 20 years, assisting, born Droitwich:

John Simmons, beer retailer, 30, Gozzard Street. [1912]

John Simmons – see also STAR, Oxford Street.

Sarah Maria Vickers married Job Walton on 19th March 1916.

Sarah Ann Walton was fined £10 and special costs, on 28th June 1918, for selling beer not exceeding 1034 gravity above maximum price.

Mrs. Sarah Ann Walton, beer retailer, 30, Gozzard Street. [1921]

1921 Census

30, Gozzard Street

[1] Job Walton (54), general labourer, out of work, born Bilston;

[2] Sarah M. Walton (55), wife, home duties, born Bilston;

[3] Alfred Vickers (20), step-son, tool setter, out of work, born Bilston;

[4] Lily Vickers (16), step-daughter, packer, lock manufacturer, born Bilston;

[5] Percy Vickers (11), step-son, scholar, born Bilston;

[6] Charles Wildman (33), son-in-law, general labourer, born Bilston;

[7] Minnie Wildman (23), daughter, home duties, born Bilston;

[8] William Wildman (7), son, born Bilston;

[9] Joseph Kiely (43), lodger, erecter, born county Cork, Ireland:

1929 Probate

“Sarah Maria Walton of the LITTLE SWAN, 30 Gozzard Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, widow, died 8 February 1929. Administration Birmingham 21 March to *William Henry Vickers*, beerhouse keeper, and *George Albert Vickers*, horse driver. Effects £187 7s 1d.”

1939 Register

30, Gozzard Street – SWAN INN

[1] William H. Vickers, date of birth 12/10/1896, licensed victualler, married;

[2] Dora Vickers, dob 6/9/1898, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] Gordon W. Vickers, dob 21/9/1924, garage mechanic, single:

Daily News (London) 17/1/1946

“Standing in the public bar of the LITTLE SWAN in Gozzard Street, Bilston, Staffs, last night, the Rev. Norman Keen, vicar of St. Mary’s, said, ‘It may surprise some people to hear of a vicar in a public house. But the Church can learn much about good brotherliness from the public house and vice-versa.’ The vicar dedicated a tablet put up in the bar by customers as a memorial to Harold Lee, 19-year-old darts champion of the LITTLE SWAN, who was killed in action.”

A team from here took part in the Bilston Charity Darts League. [1946]

A team from here took part in the Bilston Comforts Fund Darts League.
They won the cup for the best collection in 1946.

1951 Probate

“*William Henry Vickers* of the LITTLE SWAN, 30 Gozzard Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 23 November 1950 at the Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton. Administration Birmingham 24 February to *Dora Vickers*, widow. Effects £997 8s 1d.”

1955 Probate

“*Dora Vickers* of the LITTLE SWAN, Gozzard Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, widow, died 5 February 1955. Administration Birmingham 29 March to Gordon William Vickers, motor engineer. Effects £604 19s 10d.”

Frank Roper was the brother of Isaac (DOG AND PARTRIDGE).

Closed

Demolished [2007]

LORD NELSON

2, (65), Bridge Street (Old Road) / Fraser Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

William Bowen, solicitor, Bilston
Elijah Price, Bilston [1882]
James Wedge
Lucy Wedge
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1921], [1946]

LICENSEES

George Beebee [1812] – [1813]
Alexander Berry [1835] – [1841]
Mrs. Mary Berry [1851] – [1855]
E Smith [1859]
Thomas Dorsett [1861]
John Proffitt [1864] – [1866]
Richard Silvester [1868] – [1870]
Joseph Shale [1871] – **1874**;
William Evans **(1874)**;
Joseph Jones **(1874 – 1882)**;
Thomas Winsper **(1882 – 1886)**;
Job Winsper **(1886 – 1887)**;
James Wedge **(1887 – 1908)**;
Lucy Wedge **(1908 – 1910)**;
Mrs. Mary (Wedge) Richards **(1910 – 1916)**;
Eli Scarrott **(1916 – [1940])**



c1950

DRUIDS' ANNIVERSARY FEAST.
NOTICE to Druids in general, that the second Anniversary Meeting of Lodge 54, held at Brother George Beebee's, at the Nelson Inn, in Bilston, will be held on Monday the 26th Day of October instant, when the Company of any visiting Brother of the above Order in Union, will be esteemed a Favour.
By Order of RICHARD DEVY, M. N. A.
GEORGE BEEBEE, jun. Secretary.
Dinner Tickets at two Shillings to be had at the Bar of the above Inn. Dinner on the Table precisely at Two o'clock.

1812

NOTES

65, Bridge Street [1864], [1865], [1881], [1896], [1901]
2, Bridge Street [1904], [1911], [1912], [1921], [1940]

It was built on the site of the Bull Holes, which had been used for bull baiting.

NELSON [1868], [1870], [1903]

It had a beerhouse license.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 19/10/1812 - Advert

“Druids Anniversary Feast.

Notice to Druids in general, that the second Anniversary Meeting of Lodge 54, held at Brother *George Beebee's*, at the NELSON INN, in Bilston, will be held on Monday the 26th Day of October instant, when the Company of any visiting Brother of the above Order in Union, will be esteemed a Favour.

By Order of Richard Devy, MNA.

George Beebee, jun. Secretary.

Dinner Tickets at two Shillings to had at the Bar of the above Inn. Dinner on the Table precisely at Two o'clock.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 8/2/1813 - Advert

"To be Sold by Auction, by J. Pool, at the House of Mr. *Beebee*, known by the Sign of the LORD NELSON, situate in Bilston, in the County of Stafford, on Thursday the 25th Day of February inst between the Hours of Four and Six o'clock in the Afternoon, subject to such Conditions as will be then and there produced; all those five Copyhold Messuages or Dwelling Houses....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 14/9/1835 - Advert

"Copyhold Property, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by J. Gilbert, Tomorrow (Tuesday) the 15th day of September, at five o'clock in the afternoon, at the BLUE BOAR INN, New Town, Bilston, subject to conditions which will be then and there produced.

All those six substantially-built Dwelling Houses, situate in Bridge Street, Bilston, one of which is now used as a Public House, to which is attached a private Yard, with Skittle-alley, Piggery, &c, now in the occupation of Mr. *Berry*, and five others, in the occupation of Banks, Williams, Bailey, Bagley, and one void, with a large Garden, Piggeries, &c, at the back thereof; the whole producing an annual rental of £54 9s.

The above is Copyhold of inheritance, and has recently undergone a thorough and complete repair.

To view the premises apply to Mr. Francis, BLUE BOAR INN, and for further particulars to Mr. Stuart, Solicitor, both of Bilston, or to Mr. J. Gilbert, Land Surveyor, 120, Bordesley Street, Birmingham."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 10/10/1838

"*Alexander Berry*, a beershop keeper, of Bilston, was convicted in the penalty of 40s and costs, for selling ale before one o'clock on Sunday, the 30th of September."

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/10/1838

".....The case of *Alexander Berry*, LORD NELSON, Bridge Street, Bilston, may be a hard one; but by the publication of his letter we might provoke half a dozen actions for libel."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 4/8/1839

"Alexander Graham, generally called Scotty, will back his dog 'Cruel' against Fletcher's dog, £25 to £20, providing the latter does to exceed 35lbs. If this is not accepted 'Cruel' can be backed against any 35lbs dog within thirty miles of Bilston. The money for either of the above is ready at the LORD NELSON, Old Road, Bilston."

1841 Census

Bridge Street

[1] *Alexander Berry* (60), lock maker, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Mary Berry* (55), born Staffordshire;

[3] *John Berry* (25), screw maker, born Staffordshire;

[4] *Eliza Berry* (15), born Staffordshire;

[5] *Richard Day* (25), screw maker, born Staffordshire:

Alexander Berry died in the 4th quarter of 1842.

Mary Berry, beer retailer, Bridge Street. [1851]

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/2/1851

"*Mary Berry*, landlady of the LORD NELSON INN, Old Road, Bilston, was charged with keeping her house open for the sale of ale, &c, at twenty minutes to twelve o'clock on Saturday night last. The offence was proved by police-constable Devonport. The defendant having been brought up repeatedly for similar offences, was fined 20s and costs, with an intimation from the Bench that the next time she appeared there on a similar charge, her license would be suspended."

1851 Census

Bridge Street

- [1] Mary Berry (67), widow, retail brewer, born Bilston;
- [2] Eliza Owen (27), daughter, widow, born Bilston;
- [3] Thomas Owen (2), grand-son, born Bilston;
- [4] Ann Owen (1), grand-daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] Margeret Gaynard (13), nurse, born Ireland:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/8/1854

"The annual meeting of Magistrates for granting and renewing publican's licenses in the parish of Bilston and Sedgley was held on Friday last, in the Bilston Police Court.....

There were eleven applications for new licenses which were disposed of as follows.....

An application, made by Mr. Waterhouse, for *Mary Berry*, of the LORD NELSON, Bridge Street, Old Road, Bilston, was refused."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1855

"The Annual Licensing Meeting for Bilston, Sedgley, Gornal, and the adjoining places took place on Friday last, at the Police Office, Bilston.....

Mr. Waterhouse applied for a license to the LORD NELSON INN, Bridge Street, Bilston, on behalf of Mrs. *Berry*, a widow. The house was first opened as a beershop by the applicant's husband, who died about eighteen years ago, since which time the house had been conducted without a complaint by Mrs. *Berry*. The only objection to the granting of the license was that the house was situated in a disorderly locality, but a sufficient number of respectable persons had hitherto attended the house to enable the applicant to live respectably. The license was refused."

Mary Berry died on 25th August 1857.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/10/1857 - Notice

"*Mary Berry*, Deceased.

All Persons having any Claims or Demands against the Estate of *Mary Berry*, late of Bridge Street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Widow, deceased, are requested forthwith to send particulars thereof to Mr. Thomas Perkins, of Bilston, or to Mr. Thomas Stokes, of Wolverhampton, the Executors of the Will of deceased, in order that the same, if found correct, may be discharged; and all Persons Indebted to the said Estate are desired to pay the amount of their respective Debts to the said Executors without delay.

John Mason, Solicitor to the Executors. Bilston, October 6, 1857."

Birmingham Daily Post 14/1/1859 - Advert

"Found, a small Store Pig.

The Owner may have it again by paying expenses, and applying to *E. Smith*, sign of LORD NELSON, Bridge Street, Bilston."

FOUND, a small Store PIG.—The Owner may have it again by paying expense, and applying to *E. Smith*, sign of Lord Nelson, Bridge Street, Bilston.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/9/1861 - Advert

"Freehold Messuages and Premises, in Bilston, in the County of Stafford.

Messrs. Whitehead and Caddick will Sell by Auction (by direction of the Representatives of Mortgagee with Power of Sale), on Thursday, the 26th day of September, 1861, at the SHIP AND RAINBOW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, at five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be read.

Lot 1. All that old-established and well-accustomed House, known by the sign of the LORD NELSON, situate in and fronting to Bridge Street, in Bilston aforesaid, and now in the occupation of *Thomas Dorsett*, at an annual rent of £20. The House comprises bar parlour, smoke-room, tap-room, spacious club-room, three bed rooms, excellent cellaring, and brewhouse, with malt-room over the same; together with the exclusive use of the easement in the yard at the rear of the said premises as shown on a plan to be produced at the time of sale, and also the use of the said yard in common with the owners and occupiers for the time being of lots 2,3,4, and 5....."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 25/9/1861 - Advert

“Sale Tomorrow, Thursday. The NELSON INN, Bridge Street, Bilston.

Mr. John Cassere will Sell by Auction, upon the premises as above, tomorrow, Thursday, September 26th, 1861, the whole of the Stock-In-Trade, Brewing Plant, Public House Fixtures, and Effects, comprising 20 bushels of malt, capital malt crusher, several capital ale casks of 500 and 300 gallons each, also 60 and 50 gallon casks, the whole of the brewing vessels, valuable 4-pull beer machine, gas fittings, meter and piping, screens, benches, chairs, tables, about 100 gallons of ale, capital 8-day clock in mahogany case, several Paintings and Engravings, and numerous other effects, all of which will positively be sold without the least reserve.

Sale to commence at eleven o'clock in the morning.

NB. The House To Be Let, with immediate possession.”

John Proffitt, beer retailer, 65, Bridge Street. [1864], [1865]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 25/11/1865 - Advert

“Tuesday Next, the 28th November.

Desirable Freehold Public House, and Ten Other Messuages and Premises, in Bilston, in the County of Stafford.

Mr. Samuel Baker will Sell by Auction (by direction of the Representatives of Mortgagee), under a power of sale.....

Lot 1. All that old-established and well-accustomed Public House, known by the sign of the LORD NELSON, situate in and fronting to Bridge Street, in Bilston aforesaid, with the Brewhouse, Out-buildings, and appurtenances thereto (and coloured red on the plan to be produced at the time of sale), now in the occupation of Mr. *John Proffitt*, at an annual rental of £18.

The House comprises Bar, Parlour, Smoke Room, Tap Room, spacious Club Room, Bed Rooms, excellent Cellaring, and Brewhouse with Malt Room over the same, and is well situated for business, being in a densely populated neighbourhood, and within a short distance of the Bilston Brook Ironworks.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/12/1865 - Advert

“Desirable Freehold Public House and Premises, Bilston.

To be Sold by Private Contract, all that old-established and well-accustomed Public House, known by the sign of the LORD NELSON, situate in and fronting to Bridge Street, in Bilston, in the county of Stafford, with the Brewhouse, Outbuildings, and Appurtenances thereto, and now in the occupation of *John Proffitt*, at an annual rental of £18.

The House comprises bar parlour, smoke room, tap room, spacious club room, bed rooms, excellent cellaring, and brewhouse, with malt room over the same, and is well situated for business, being in a densely populated neighbourhood, and within a short distance of the Bilston Brook Ironworks.

To view the premises apply to the Tenant, and to treat for purchase to Messrs. Mason and Holmes, Solicitors, Bilston.”

Birmingham Journal 27/1/1866 - Advert

“Tuesday, February 6, 1866. Desirable Freehold Public House and Premises, at Bilston, in the County of Stafford.

Mr. Samuel Baker will Sell by Auction (by direction of the Representatives of the Mortgagee, under power of sale), at the GREAT WESTERN INN, Hall Street, Bilston, on Tuesday, the 6th day of February next, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions.

All that old-established and well-accustomed Public House, known by the sign of the LORD NELSON, situate in and fronting to Bridge Street, in Bilston aforesaid, with the Brewhouse, large Copper Boiler, Out-buildings, and Appurtenances thereto belonging, now in the occupation of Mr. *John Proffitt*, at an annual rental of £18.

The House comprises Bar, Parlour, Smoke Room, Tap Room, spacious Club Room, Bed Rooms, excellent Cellaring, and Brewhouse, with Malt Room over the same, and is well situated for business, being in a densely populated neighbourhood, and within a short distance of the Bilston Brook Ironworks.

The Premises now offered for sale are coloured red on a plan, which will be produced at the time of sale.

To view the premises apply to the tenant; and for further particulars at the Offices of Messrs. Mason and Holmes, Solicitors; or to the Auctioneer, Bilston.”

1871 Census

Bridge Street – NELSON INN

- [1] Joseph Shale (30), blacksmith, employing 1 man, and publican, born Bilston;
- [2] Agnes Shale (28), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Florance Shale (7), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] William Shale (4), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] Agnes Shale (3), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] Marian Shale (4 months), daughter, born Bilston;
- [7] Betsy Wilkes (18), general servant, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 31/8/1878

“Bilston Annual Licensing Sessions.....

The following is the list of licensed victuallers and beerhouse keepers who had been summoned during the year for offences against the Licensing Act Beerhouse keepers.....

Joseph Jones, NELSON INN, Bridge Street, Bilston, keeping open after hours, 5th October, 1877, fined 10s and the costs.”

AND

Wolverhampton Express and Star 21/9/1878

“The Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

The persons who had been convicted during the last twelve months for offences against their licenses, the renewals of which were withheld until today, now appeared before the Bench, and there being no further complaint as to the conduct of their houses in the interval the magistrates granted the renewals.”

1881 Census

65, Bridge Street – NELSON INN

- [1] Joseph Jones (33), sheet iron roller, born Bilston;
- [2] Catherine Jones (33), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] James Jones (10), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] Thomas Richard Jones (8), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] Frederick Walter Jones (4), son, born Bilston;
- [6] Hannah Maria Jones (6 months), daughter, born Bilston;
- [7] Edwin Jones (35), boarder, shingler in iron works, born Bilston:

Darlaston Weekly Times 18/11/1882

“Thomas Jones, who was defended by Mr. J. E. Fellows, was charged with stealing 12 feet of lead piping, the property of Mr. Elijah Price, from the premises of the NELSON INN, Bridge Street, Bilston, on October 3rd.

The case was somewhat peculiar. A sale took place on the premises, and included in the catalogue was the piping which the defendant was charged with stealing. Defendant bought the piping at the sale, but it was claimed by Mr. Price, on the ground that the tenant had no right to sell that which was a part of the property really.

The Bench said there was no evidence of stealing, and dismissed the case.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 3/11/1883

“A special meeting of the Thriving Plant Lodge of the United Order of Free Gardeners of the Bilston District, was held at the lodge house, the NELSON INN, Bridge Street, on Saturday evening, for the purpose of presenting Brother T. Jordan with an emblem of the order, for services rendered. The Secretary made the presentation, which was appropriately acknowledged. Songs were afterwards given by Messrs. *Thomas Winsper*, T. Bibbins, H. Fellows, and others.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 26/1/1884

“Free Gardener’s Dinner.

The annual dinner of the Thriving Plant Lodge, of the above order was held at the lodge house (the NELSON INN, Bridge Street), on Saturday night, when about 40 were catered for by the host Brother *T. Winsper*. After the cloth was drawn Brother T. Jordan, PM, took the chair, and Brother J. Jordan, Secretary, the vice. The chairman in a few opening remarks, set forth the advantages of Friendly Societies, and showed the progress made by the National United Order of Free Gardeners. The usual toasts were given, and the company spent an enjoyable evening, enlivened by songs ably rendered by Messrs. T. Jordan, E. Bothwood, *T. Winsper*, and others. At the close, a vote of thanks was given to the host and hostess, for the able manner in which they had provided for those present, and also to Messrs. G. Pitt and E. Probert, for the assistance they had rendered to the lodge.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 28/3/1885 - Advert

“Cow to be Sold, cheap.

Apply, *Thomas Winsper*, NELSON INN, Bilston.”

**COW to be Sold, cheap.—Apply, Thomas Winsper,
Nelson Inn, Bilston.**

Birmingham Daily Post 15/9/1886

“Bankruptcy Proceedings.....

Thomas Winsper, of the NELSON INN, Bridge Street, Bilston, has filed his petition in the Wolverhampton County Court. His liabilities are £70, and his assets are estimated at £22.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 15/9/1886

“From last night’s *London Gazette*.....

Thomas Winsper, the NELSON INN, Bridge Street, Bilston, beerhouse keeper and journeyman fitter. First meeting, September 24, at 4pm, at the Official Receiver’s, Wolverhampton; public examination, October 18, at the Wolverhampton Court.”

AND

Commercial Gazette (London) 11/1/1888

“Notice of Dividends.....

Thomas Winsper, the NELSON INN, Bridge Street, Bilston, beerhouse keeper and journeyman fitter. First and final, of 3/7, at the Official Receiver’s, Wolverhampton, on and after January 9.”

James Wedge was the son-in-law of Thomas and Lucy Legg of the THREE HORSESHOES, Oxford Street.

Darlaston Weekly Times 13/5/1887

“At the Bilston Police Court today (Friday), before Messrs. Twentyman and Loveridge, Thomas Price (35), now of Coseley, but formerly landlord in charge of the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Church Street, Bilston, was charged on a warrant with embezzlement on the 21st February, 1887, £3 10s, the money of his employer, Mr. William Henry Simpkins, brewer, Brierley Hill. Mr. Holberton, Brierley Hill, prosecuted, and Mr. Dallow, Wolverhampton, defended.

Mr. Holberton, in opening the case, stated that the prisoner was placed in charge of the HORSE AND JOCKEY public house as manager, for which he received £1 a week. He also travelled for the prosecutor and was allowed 10 per cent commission on cash and also 5 per cent on the orders for the first three months. It appeared that on the 21st of February he received £3 10s from a man named *James Wedge*, landlord of the NELSON INN, Bridge Street, Bilston, for beer supplied to *Wedge*. Prisoner gave *Wedge* a receipt for the money, but failed to account for it to his employer, and had not entered it in the counterfoil.

William Henry Simpkins, prisoner’s employer, was then called, and stated that he took over the good will and business of the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Bilston, and placed defendant as manager and traveller, on terms which had already been mentioned. Prisoner had not paid to him the £3 10s received from Mr. *Wedge*. It was prisoner’s duty to pay any monies to him the week after they had been received.

James Wedge, the next witness called, stated that he paid the £3 10s to the prisoner, and the receipt produced and shown to him was the one signed by the prisoner for the money.

The prisoner pleaded guilty, and elected to have the case summarily dealt with.

Mr. Dallow, speaking on behalf of the prisoner, said it was the first time the prisoner had been in trouble on any such charge. He had hitherto borne an unimpeachable character, and hoped the Bench would deal with him in a merciful way. The prisoner was in very low circumstances at the time he was engaged by the prosecutor. He was also a widower with four children, was in very ill health, and had been locked up some days, during which time he had been attended by a doctor. He hoped they would make the sentence as light as was consistent with their duty. The magistrates said the prosecutor wished the prisoner to be mercifully dealt with, but they could not pass over an offence of that description. Prisoner would have to go to prison for one month with hard labour.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/11/1889

“At the Bilston Police Court today (Friday), before Messrs. T. Holcroft and H. Ward, Thomas Byrne, a discharged soldier, was charged with obtaining by false pretences £1 from John Blewitt, RAILWAY TAVERN, Willenhall; money, food, and lodgings from Mrs. Preece, 4, Birmingham Street, Willenhall; and 3s from *James Wedge*, landlord of the NELSON INN, Bilston.

Blewitt stated that prisoner represented to him that he was about to take charge, as sergeant-instructor, of the Birmingham Volunteers, and that his soldier’s kit was at Mr. Preece’s house in Birmingham Street. On the strength of these statements witness lent him, as requested, two half-sovereigns.

Mrs. Preece went into the box to give evidence as to the charge in which she was concerned, when the prisoner became very excited shouting, ‘For — sake tell me off, gentlemen; I plead guilty to all this, I have just come out of the asylum; I don’t remember anything about it. For — sake tell me off, gentlemen.’

The Clerk explained to the prisoner that it was necessary to take the evidence, to which he replied excitedly, ‘What’s the use; I plead guilty to it all; send me to gaol, gentlemen. I can’t stand the suspense; my head’s bursting now.’

Prisoner having been quieted somewhat, Mrs. Preece stated that he went to her house and said he had been recommended by witness’s son, who was a soldier in Ireland, to apply to her for lodgings, as she would make him ‘sweet and comfortable.’ Her son, he said, looked fat and well, and she was very glad to hear it. He told her he had a note to cash, and borrowed 2s from her on the strength of this statement. He subsequently asked her to lend him 3s, but she did not do so.

James Wedge stated that the prisoner told him he had £10 worth of goods at the railway station for a man named Whalley, who was a soldier, and whom witness had formerly known. He further stated that there was £10 due to him in the Post Office Savings Bank, and went down to Bilston Post Office and inquired if the authorities had any money for him. He was told they had not, and he then filled up a printed form of some kind. He asked witness to go to the station to help him to fetch up his ‘kit,’ in which he said there were £10 worth of goods for Whalley, 50 yards of cloth, two Poll parrots, and two cages. He told witness that until he got his money from the bank he was without means, and witness then lent him 2s, another shilling being afterwards lent to the prisoner by witness’s sister. The magistrates informed the prisoner that they were determined to commit him for trial upon the first charge only. Prisoner appealed to the Bench not to send him to the Sessions. If they did he would have two men guarding him all the time he was in gaol, and he would be sent to the asylum again.

Mr. Ward: What shall you do if we discharge you?

Prisoner: I don’t want you to discharge me – send me to prison. He further stated that he had been a soldier in Egypt and had received a wound in the head. He had been told that the magistrates could deal with him under the Vagrancy Act, and he could, after he came out of gaol, obtain the help of the Prisoners Aid Society in getting a situation.

A consultation took place between the Bench and the Clerk, during which prisoner broke out, ‘Give me three months, gentlemen; anything, only for — sake tell me off.’

Ultimately the magistrates decided, by the prisoner’s wish, to send him to Stafford as a rogue and vagabond for three weeks.”

1891 Census

Bridge Street – NELSON

[1] *James Wedge* (35), beer retailer, born Bilston;

[2] *Lucy Wedge* (32), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Lucy Wedge* (8), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[4] *Mary Wedge* (6), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[5] *James Wedge* (3), son, born Bilston;

[6] *Mary Ann Fellows* (16), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 23/12/1895

“On Friday night, a boy named Thomas Pritchard (8) met with a sad death. He was with another boy in the brewhouse of the NELSON INN, Bridge Street, Bilston, when he fell into a boiler filled with hot liquor. His screams brought assistance, and he was taken to hospital, but death ensued shortly after his arrival.”

James Wedge, beer retailer, 65, Bridge Street. [1896]

Sporting Life 11/3/1899

“Pigeon Flying. Mr. Fred Fowler’s and Mr. J. Lewis’s Pigeons Matched for £10.

We hold £5 a side on behalf of this match, owners to fly their birds 400 yards over a course at Bilston today (Saturday). The timekeepers are to meet at the NELSON INN, Bridge Street, Bilston, at 1pm to compare watches, and toss for choice of pigeon to be loosed fist. First up not later than 2.30pm. The *Sporting Life* to appoint referee.”

1901 Census

65, Bridge Street – NELSON INN

- [1] *James Wedge* (45), publican and coal dealer, born Bilston;
- [2] *Lucey Wedge* (43), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Lucey Wedge* (18), daughter, assistant to above, born Bilston;
- [4] *Mary Wedge* (16), daughter, assistant to above, born Bilston;
- [5] *Ann M. Wedge* (8), daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] *Alfred Wedge* (5), son, born Bilston:

James Wedge, beer retailer, 2, Bridge Street. [1904]

James Wedge died on 20th December 1908.

Lucy Wedge was the daughter of Thomas and Lucy Legg of the THREE HORSESHOES, Oxford Street.

1910 Probate

“*Lucy Wedge* of Bridge Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, widow, died 3 June 1910. Administration Lichfield 22 June to *Mary Wedge*, spinster. Effects £82 11s.”

Mary G. Wedge married *David Richards* in the 4th quarter of 1910.

1911 Census

2, Bridge Street – NELSON INN

- [1] *David Richards* (32), steel furnace man, born Ettingshall;
- [2] *Mary Richards* (26), wife, married 1 year, beerhouse keeper, born Bilston;
- [3] *Annie Wedge* (18), sister, assisting in business, born Bilston;
- [4] *Alfred Wedge* (15), brother, apprentice to bootmaking, born Bilston:

Mrs. Mary Richards, beer retailer, 2, Bridge Street. [1912]

County Express 30/8/1913

“Free Gardenry. Brother H. Morgan, of Kingswinford, attended on Saturday evening at the NELSON INN, Bridge Street, Bilston, as District Master of the Order of Free Gardeners, to make a presentation to Brother Charles H. Hughes, who was leaving for Canada.”

1921 Census

2, Bridge Street

- [1] *Eli Scarrott* (32), publican, born Bilston;
- [2] *Daisy Scarrott* (32), wife, house duties and publican's assistant, born Bradley;
- [3] *George Scarrott* (7), son, school, born Bilston;
- [4] *Eli Scarrott* (4), son, born Bilston;
- [5] *Daisy Scarrott* (1), daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] *Dora Jones* (18), cousin, house duties, born Gospel Oak;

Dudley Chronicle 15/6/1933

"A collision occurred on Sunday afternoon at the junction of Whittington Hall Lane and the main Kidderminster-Wolverhampton Road, near to the Whittington Inn, Kinver, between a motor-cycle and a motor-car, and resulted in the motor-cyclist, *Charles Leslie Worwood*, of 15, Grove Street, Kates Hill, Dudley, and his pillion passenger, *Florenec Figg*, also of Dudley, being injured. Both were removed in the Stourbridge ambulance to the Corbett Hospital. The driver of the car, *George Scarrot*, of the LORD NELSON INN, Bridge Street, Bilston, escaped injury....."

1939 Register

Bridge Street – NELSON INN

- [1] *Eli Scarrott*, date of birth 4/10/1887, publican, married;
- [2] *Eli Scarrott*, dob 22/11/1916, general and barman, single;
- [3] *Daisy Margaret (Scarrott) Grew*, dob 13/2/1920, unpaid domestic duties, single;

A team from here took part in the Butlers (Bilston) Darts League. [1946]

Closed

It was demolished circa 1970.



c1959=0 0 Tap Room

COPYHOLD PROPERTY, BILSTON.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by J. GILBERT, To-morrow (Tuesday) the 15th day of September, at five o'clock in the afternoon, at the Blue Boar Inn, New Town, Bilston, subject to conditions which will be then and there produced—all those six substantially-built DWELLING HOUSES, situate in Bridge-street, Bilston, one of which is now used as a Public House, to which is attached a private Yard, with Skittle-alley, Piggery, &c. now in the occupation of Mr. Berry, and five others, in the occupation of Banks, Williams, Bailey, Bagley, and one void, with a large Garden, Piggeries, &c. at the back thereof; the whole producing an annual rental of £54. 9s.

The above is Copyhold of inheritance, and has recently undergone a thorough and complete repair.

To view the premises apply to Mr. Francis, Blue Boar Inn, and for further particulars to Mr. Stuart, Solicitor, both of Bilston, or to Mr. J. Gilbert, Land Surveyor, 120, Bordesley-street, Birmingham.

1835

MARY BERRY, DECEASED.

ALL Persons having any CLAIMS or DEMANDS against the Estate of MARY BERRY, late of Bridge-street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Widow, deceased, are requested forthwith to send particulars thereof to Mr. THOMAS PERKINS, of Bilston, or to Mr. THOMAS STOKES, of Wolverhampton, the Executors of the Will of deceased, in order that the same, if found correct, may be discharged; and all Persons INDEBTED to the said Estate, are desired to pay the amount of their respective DEBTS to the said Executors without delay.

JOHN MASON, Solicitor to the Executors.

Bilston, October 6, 1857.

1857

**FREEHOLD MESSAGES AND PREMISES,
IN BILSTON,
IN THE COUNTY OF STAFFORD.**

MESSRS. WHITEHEAD and CADDICK will **SELL** by AUCTION (by direction of the Representatives of Mortgagee with Power of Sale), on Thursday, the 26th day of September, 1861, at the **SHIP AND RAINBOW INN, OXFORD-STREET, BILSTON**, at five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be read—

Lot 1.

All that old-established and well-accustomed **HOUSE**, known by the sign of the "**LORD NELSON**," situate in and fronting to Bridge-street, in Bilston aforesaid, and now in the occupation of Thomas Dorsett, at an annual rent of £20. The House comprises bar parlour, smoke-room, tap-room, spacious club-room, three bed rooms, excellent cellaring, and brewhouse, with malt room over the same; together with the exclusive use of the easement in the yard at the rear of the said premises as shown on a plan to be produced at the time of sale, and also the use of the said yard in common with the owners and occupiers for the time being of lots 2, 3, 4, and 5.

SALE TO-MORROW, THURSDAY.

THE NELSON INN, BRIDGE-STREET, BILSTON.

MR. JOHN CASSERE will **SELL** by AUCTION, upon the premises as above, to-morrow, Thursday, September 26th, 1861, the whole of the **STOCK-IN-TRADE, BREWING PLANT, PUBLIC-HOUSE FIXTURES, and Effects**, comprising 20 bushels of malt, capital malt crusher, several capital ale casks of 500 and 300 gallons each, also 60 and 50 gallon casks, the whole of the brewing vessels, valuable 4-pull beer machine, gas fittings, meter and piping, screens, benches, chairs, tables, about 100 gallons of ale, capital 8-day clock in mahogany case, several Paintings and Engravings, and numerous other effects, all of which will positively be sold without the least reserve.

Sale to commence at eleven o'clock in the morning.

N.B.—The **HOUSE TO BE LET**, with immediate possession.

1861

TUESDAY NEXT, THE 28TH NOVEMBER.

**DESIRABLE FREEHOLD PUBLIC-HOUSE, AND
TEN OTHER MESSAGES AND PREMISES,**

In BILSTON, in the County of Stafford.

MR. SAMUEL BAKER will **SELL** by AUCTION (by direction of the Representatives of Mortgagee), under a power of sale, at the Great Western Inn, Hall Street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, on **TUESDAY NEXT**, the 28th day of November, at six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions—

Lot 1.—All that old-established and well-accustomed **PUBLIC-HOUSE**, known by the sign of the "**LORD NELSON**," situate in and fronting to Bridge Street, in Bilston aforesaid, with the Brewhouse, Out-buildings, and appurtenances thereto (and coloured red on the plan to be produced at the time of sale), now in the occupation of Mr. John Proffitt, at an annual rental of £18.

The House comprises Bar Parlour, Smoke Room, Tap Room, spacious Club Room, Bed Rooms, excellent Cellaring, and Brewhouse, with Malt Room over the same, and is well situated for business, being in a densely populated neighbourhood, and within a short distance of the Bilston Brook Ironworks.

**DESIRABLE FREEHOLD PUBLIC HOUSE AND PREMISES,
BILSTON.**

TO BE SOLD BY PRIVATE CONTRACT, all that old-established and well-accustomed **PUBLIC HOUSE**, known by the sign of the "**Lord Nelson**," situate in and fronting to Bridge-street, in Bilston, in the county of Stafford, with the Brewhouse, Outbuildings, and Appurtenances thereto, and now in the occupation of John Proffitt, at an annual rental of £18.

The House comprises bar parlour, smoke room, tap room, spacious club room, bed rooms, excellent cellaring, and brewhouse, with malt room over the same, and is well situated for business, being in a densely populated neighbourhood, and within a short distance of the Bilston Brook Ironworks.

To view the premises apply to the Tenant, and to treat for purchase to Messrs. **MASON and HOLMES**, Solicitors, Bilston.

1865

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1866.

**DESIRABLE FREEHOLD PUBLIC-HOUSE AND
PREMISES,**

At BILSTON, in the County of Stafford.

MR. SAMUEL BAKER will **SELL** by AUCTION, (by direction of the Representatives of Mortgagee, under power of sale), at the Great Western Inn, Hall Street, Bilston, on **TUESDAY**, the 6th day of February next, at six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions—all that old-established and well-accustomed **PUBLIC-HOUSE**, known by the sign of "**THE LORD NELSON**," situate in and fronting to Bridge Street, in Bilston aforesaid, with the Brewhouse, large Copper Boiler, Out-buildings, and Appurtenances thereto belonging, now in the occupation of Mr. John Proffitt, at an annual rental of £18.

The House comprises Bar Parlour, Smoke Room, Tap Room, spacious Club Room, Bed Rooms, excellent Cellaring, and Brewhouse, with Malt Room over the same, and is well situated for business, being in a densely populated neighbourhood, and within a short distance of the Bilston Brook Ironworks.

The Premises now offered for sale are coloured red on a plan which will be produced at the time of sale.

To view the premises, apply to the tenant; and for further particulars at the Offices of Messrs. **MASON and HOLMES**, Solicitors; or to the Auctioneer, Bilston.

1866

LORD NELSON

Wednesbury Oak, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Mary Dutton [] - **1845**;
Richard Lunn **(1845 - [1851]**

NOTES

[This possibly belongs to Princes End, Tipton.]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 15/10/1845

“A special sessions was held at the Public Office, in this town, on Friday last, by adjournment.....
The following victuallers licenses were transferred.....
from *Mary Dutton*, widow, of Wednesbury Oak, parish of Sedgley, to *Richard Lunn*.”

MALT SHOVEL

91, (40), (40+41), Oxford Street, (Oxford Road), New Town, BILSTON

OWNERS

William Brown
Richard Pearson Snr., gentleman, Wednesfield
Frederick William Plant
Henry Plant and Son [1896]
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1904], [1946]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

William Brown [1818] – [1847]
Joseph Linney **(1847 – [1850])**
Ann White [1851] – [1851]
Mary White [] – **1852**;
Isaac Dolphin **(1852 – [1854])**
William Plant [1855]
Richard Grove (Jnr) [1859] – **1863**;
Henry Plant **(1863 – [1870])**
William Jeffery [1871] manager
George French [1873] – **1875**;
Henry Plant [1874]
Frederick William Plant **(1875 – 1877)**;
Isaac Richardson **(1877 – 1880)**;
William Matthews **(1880 – 1883)**;
William Griffin **(1883 – 1900)**; manager
John Danks **(1900 – 1902)**;
Mrs. Phoebe Danks **(1902 – 1911)**;
Robert Rudge **(1911)**;
Walter Waldron **(1911 – 1914)**;
George Powell **(1914 – 1922)**;
Edwin Hill **(1922 – 1937)**;
Harry Frederick Thomas **(1937 – [1940])**

NOTES

Oxford Road [1828]
40+41, Oxford Street [1861], [1868], [1870]
40, Oxford Street [1862], [1864], [1865], [1871], [1874], [1881], [1891], [1896], [1904]
91, Oxford Street [1901], [1908], [1911], [1916], [1921], [1932], [1939], [1940]

It stood between the SADDLE AND STIRRUPS and TALBOT.

TO be LET, with immediate Possession, that old-established and good-accustomed PUBLIC HOUSE and LIQUOR SHOP, known by the name of the MALT SHOVEL, situate in Oxford Street, Bilston. The Premises comprise double-fronted Liquor Shop, Parlour, Bar, Kitchen, Tap Room, large Club Room, a number of Bed Rooms, and extensive Cellaring, with an entire Yard, fourteen and ten-quarter Malthouses, Stable, Gig-house, Store Room, and other Out-buildings.
Parties wishing to embark in the Public Business will find the present an opportunity that rarely occurs. The present Proprietor has occupied the premises for thirty-six years, and is now retiring from business.
The Stock, Fixtures, &c., to be taken at a fair valuation.
Apply to Mr. George Brown, Auctioneer, Bilston.

1846

TO SPIRIT MERCHANTS, INNKEEPERS, MALTSTERS, AND OTHERS IN WANT OF A FIRST-RATE BUSINESS SITUATION, VALUABLE FREEHOLD PROPERTY, IN OXFORD STREET AND TEMPLE STREET, NEW TOWN, BILSTON.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by J. CORBETT, on TUESDAY, the 13th day of July next, at the house of Mr. Thomas Bowen, Angel Inn, Bilston, at Five 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 conditions to be then produced:—

Lot 1.—All that valuable old-established INN and RETAIL SPIRIT SHOP, known by the sign of the "MALT SHOVEL," in the New Town, Bilston, together with a MALTHOUSE in the rear thereof, capable of wetting fifteen quarters of barley, now and for many years past in the occupation of the proprietor, Mr. William Brown, who has carried on a very extensive trade in the Brewing, Spirit, and Malting Departments, and is retiring from business. The House comprises six large Cellars or Spirit Vaults, front Retail Spirit Shop and Tap Room, neatly fitted up Parlour, with private Hall Entrance, back Tap Room and Parlour, large Bar, five convenient Chambers, an excellent Club Room, 61½ feet by 17 feet 8 inches, with all necessary Closets attached. The Out-offices consist of a large Brewhouse, Cooking Kitchen, Dairy, Piggeries, and two large Soft Water Cisterns. In the rear of the House there is a large enclosed Yard, which, with the site of the Buildings, contains 800 square yards of Land or thereabouts.

This Lot will be sold with a Carriage or Cart Road from Temple Street, ten feet wide, as a back entrance to the House and Malthouse.

The above Property is decidedly the best situation in the New Town. With the aid of a moderate capital, an enterprising tradesman might do a first-rate business in these Premises. The House is substantially-built and well-arranged, and from its greatest extent is capable of being divided into two convenient Houses of business, at a small outlay.

Lot 2.—All that newly and substantially-built MALTHOUSE, capable of wetting 12½ quarters of barley, situated in Temple Street, Bilston aforesaid, with all necessary Store Rooms, &c., attached, and also a five-stall Stable and Gig-house, with Water Cistern underneath, range of Shedding, Piggeries, &c., and an enclosed Yard; having a frontage to Temple Street of 23 yards, and containing, with the site of the Buildings, 600 yards of Land or thereabouts. This Malthouse is also occupied by the Proprietor.

To view the Property, apply on the Premises; and for further particulars, to Mr. C. G. Brown, Solicitor, Mr. George Brown, or the Auctioneer, all of Bilston.

1847

William Brown was also a maltster. [1818], [1845]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 13/3/1820 - Advert

"Steam Engine, Blade Mill, Land, and Buildings, at Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by R. Corbett, at the House of Mr. *William Brown*, the MALT SHOVEL INN, New Town, Bilston, in the County of Stafford, on Friday, March 17, 1820, at Five o'Clock in the Afternoon....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/3/1836 - Married

"On Monday, at the Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton, by the Rev. G. Oliver, Mr. George Price, printer, of Bilston, to Mary Anne, third daughter of Mr. *W. Brown*, of the MALT SHOVEL, in the same place."

1841 Census

Oxford Street

[1] *William Brown* (50), maltster, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Mary Brown* (50), born Staffordshire;

[3] *Mary Turley* (20), born Staffordshire;

[4] *Mary Owen* (30), f.s.;

[5] *Mary Lloyd* (15), f.s., born Staffordshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 7/8/1844

"Staffordshire Summer Assizes.....

Mary Garcett, 34, was indicted for breaking into the dwelling house of *James Fellows*, at Bilston, in the night of the 9th of April last, and stealing therein two flannel petticoats, his property, and part of a loaf of bread, the property of *Paul Fellows*. Mr. Neale conducted the prosecution.

Paul Fellows stated that he was a miner and lived with his father, *James Fellows*, at Bilston. On the evening of the 9th of April, about ten o'clock, he was at the MALT SHOVEL public house in Bilston, when the prisoner came in and told him that her husband had deserted her, and that she had had nothing to eat for two days, in consequence of which he took her to his father's house, and gave her some bread and bacon from a chest belonging to him (witness). She afterwards went back to the MALT SHOVEL and drank with him, after which he bid her good night, and she said she was going home. He returned to his father's house and latched the door, but any one could get into the house from the outside. On the following morning he was called up by a woman named *Badger*, who had been attending his mother, and on his going down stairs he found the chest unlocked, and the bacon and bread gone which he had left there on the previous night. In cross-examination witness denied having asked the prisoner to stop in a hovel with him.

Prisoner here said that the prosecutor wanted to take advantage of her if he had had a chance.

Mr. Godson cautioned the prisoner against making her case worse by throwing imputations upon the prosecutor; she would not deceive the court or jury by this course.

Sarah Badger proved having on the 10th of April found the chest unlocked, and two flannel petticoats, with part of a loaf of bread, missing.

John Fellows, a constable, stated that when he apprehended the prisoner on the 10th of April, she said she was drunk when she took the property.

The prisoner, in her defence, said she was dead drunk on the night in question, when a woman met her and gave her the petticoats as she was coming along by the Catholic Chapel, and in the morning she determined to return them to *Fellows*.

The jury found a verdict of guilty.

Mr. Godson told the prisoner that if she had not set up such an ungrateful defence he should only have sentenced her to an imprisonment of one month; but under all the circumstances he should increase the punishment to three months' hard labour; and if she was ever again detected committing a felony she would most assuredly be transported, whether the act was committed at a time when she was drunk or sober."

Birmingham Journal 3/1/1846

“On Tuesday an inquest was held before T. M. Phillips, Esq, Coroner, at the sign of the MALT SHOVEL, Bilston, on the body of Mary Baylis, a girl sixteen years or age, whose death was caused by her gown catching fire, while she was standing with her back towards the fire in a bed room in the house in which she lived, on the evening of Sunday, the 21st instant [sic]. The poor child lingered until Saturday last, when death put a period to her sufferings. The Jury having heard all the particulars of the melancholy occurrence, returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Journal 28/3/1846

“At Bilston, on Tuesday, Ellen Durkin was charged by Mr. *William Brown*, of the MALT SHOVEL INN, with stealing a piece of flannel and a silver table spoon, his property. It appeared that on Wednesday night, between nine and ten o'clock, the prisoner went into the MALT SHOVEL for something to drink. She was in the bar, and after taking some liquor she left the house. Soon after her departure 2½ yards of flannel were missed, and the prisoner being suspected as the thief, Mr. *Brown* went for a constable, who traced the woman to the house where she lived. The constable there apprehended her and charged her with stealing the flannel; upon which she gave it up. They then returned to Mr. *Brown*'s house with the prisoner, when they found that during their absence a silver table spoon had also been taken, and on the constable being informed of it, he returned to the prisoner's house and found it hid behind some things upon the table. The property was sworn to by Mr. *Brown* and a servant, and the prisoner was committed.”

Birmingham Journal 11/4/1846

“Staffordshire Sessions.....

Helen Durkin, who had been admitted to bail, was charged with stealing two yards of flannel, and a silver spoon, from Mr. *William Brown*, at Bilston. She was sentenced to two months imprisonment, with hard labour.”

Birmingham Journal 5/9/1846 - Advert

“To be Let, with immediate Possession, that old-established and good-accustomed Public House and Liquor Shop, known by the name of the MALT SHOVEL, situate in Oxford Street, Bilston. The Premises comprise double-fronted Liquor Shop, Parlour, Bar, Kitchen, Tap Room, large Club Room, a number of Bed Rooms, and extensive Cellaring, with an entire Yard, fourteen and ten-quarter Maltheuses, Stable, Gighouse, Store Room, and other Out-buildings.

Parties wishing to embark in the Public Business will find the present an opportunity that rarely occurs. The present Proprietor has occupied the premises for thirty-six years, and is now retiring from business.

The Stock, Fixtures, &c, to be taken at a fair valuation.

Apply to Mr. George Brown, Auctioneer, Bilston.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/9/1846

“Josiah Jenks, a miner, about 25 years of age, was charged by Joseph Pershouse, of Daisy Bank, in the parish of Sedgley, with stealing from his house, on Saturday, the 12th inst, a purse containing a £5 bank note and thirteen sovereigns.

From the evidence of the prosecutor and his wife, it appeared that the prisoner had been an apprentice to prosecutor's father, and that for about three years he had been a lodger in the prosecutor's house. On Saturday last, about two o'clock in the afternoon, the prisoner came home and went up stairs, and then left; soon afterwards the prosecutor's wife went into her bed room, and found that her husband's box had been robbed of the purse and money. Prosecutor went with a policeman to Wolverhampton in search of the prisoner, but without success.

Paul Pershouse, a brother of the prosecutor, proved that he also went in search of the prisoner, and that about 12 on the Saturday night he found him in a liquor shop, at Wolverhampton, dressed in a new butcher's frock, hat and shoes. He took him into custody, and charged him with robbery, which the prisoner denied, and brought him to Bilston the same night. When within a quarter of a mile of Bilston, the prisoner asked the witness to allow him to go out of the road for a private purpose, to which witness assented, and stood at a few yards distance. On the prisoner being brought to the station at Bilston, he was searched, but no money, excepting 1s 10d, was found upon him. Police-constable Conway, finding that the witness had suffered the prisoner to stop on the road, advised Pershouse to retrace his steps, as in all probability the prisoner had 'planted' the money at that place. Early on the Sunday morning witness went as advised, and found the purse, with fourteen sovereigns in it, concealed under the turf at the place where the prisoner had stopped on the road.

Mr. *William Brown*, of the MALT SHOVEL INN, at Bilston, produced the £5 bank note, which the prisoner had paid him on the Saturday afternoon, and to whom he gave four sovereigns and a half sovereign in exchange.

Inspector Hogg also proved showing the prisoner the purse, and asking him if he knew it, when he replied, 'Yes, I do; it is of no use denying it, for I took the money, but was drunk at the time.'

The prisoner being asked if he had anything to say, admitted the charge to be true. He was then committed for trial at the Sessions.

The prisoner, it appeared, had purchased a silver watch, a new hat, a new frock, shoes, and stockings, with a portion of the stolen property."

AND

"Committed to Stafford County Gaol for the Sessions.....

Josiah Jenks, charged with stealing from the dwelling house of Joseph Pershouse, at Sedgley, a bag, containing one £5 Bank of England Note, and thirteen sovereigns, his property."

Birmingham Journal 24/10/1846

"Staffordshire Sessions.....

Josiah Jenks, aged 23, was indicted for stealing a bag, containing a £5 Bank of England note and thirteen sovereigns, the property of Joseph Pershouse, of Sedgley. He pleaded guilty. In answer to questions from the learned Chairman, it appeared that the prisoner was a lodger, and lived with the prosecutor. In September last he broke open a box, and took the money, with which he decamped, but was taken at Wolverhampton the same night. On being searched, £14 was found upon him, but he tried to conceal it by throwing it upon a coal-pit bank, on his way to the station. He was sentenced to be imprisoned for twelve months."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 16/6/1847 - Advert

"To Spirit Merchants, Innkeepers, Maltsters, and Others in want of a first-rate Business Situation.

Valuable Freehold Property, in Oxford Street and Temple Street, New Town, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by John Corbett, on Tuesday, the 13th day of July next, at the house of Mr. Thomas Bowen, ANGEL INN, Bilston, at five 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 conditions to be then produced.

Lot I. All that valuable old established Inn and Retail Spirit Shop, known by the sign of the MALT SHOVEL, in New Town, Bilston, together with a Malthouse in the rear thereof, capable of wetting fifteen quarters of barley, now and for many years past in the occupation of the proprietor, Mr. *William Brown*, who has carried on a very extensive trade in the brewing, spirit and malting departments, and is retiring from business. The House comprises six large cellars or spirit vaults, front retail spirit shop and tap room, neatly fitted up parlour with private hall entrance, back tap room and parlour, large bar, five convenient chambers, an excellent club room, 61½ feet by 17 feet 8 inches, with all necessary closets attached. The Out-offices consist of a large brewhouse, cooking kitchen, dairy, piggeries, and two large soft water cisterns. In the rear of the House there is a large enclosed yard, which, with the site of the buildings, contains 800 square yards of land or thereabouts.

This Lot will be sold with a Carriage or Cart Road from Temple Street, ten feet wide, as a back entrance to the House and Malthouse.

The above property is decidedly in the best situation in the New Town. With the aid of a moderate capital an enterprising tradesman might do a first-rate business in these premises. The House is substantially built and well arranged, and from its great extent is capable of being divided into two convenient houses of business, at a small outlay.

Lot II. All that newly and substantially built Malthouse, capable of wetting 12½ quarters of barley, situate in Temple Street, Bilston aforesaid, with all necessary Store Rooms, &c attached, and also a five stall Stable and Gighouse, with water cistern underneath, range of Shedding, Piggeries, &c, and an enclosed Yard, having a frontage to Temple Street of 23 yards, and containing, with the site of the buildings, 600 yards of land or thereabouts. The Malthouse is also occupied by the proprietor.

To view the property apply on the premises; and for further particulars to Mr. C. G. Brown, solicitor, Mr. George Brown, or the Auctioneer, all of Bilston."

Joseph Linney was a Chartist.

Northern Star and Leeds General Advertiser 18/9/1847

"The Chartists of Bilston and the members of the National Land Company are hereby informed that Mr. *Joseph Linney* having taken the MALT SHOVEL INN, New Town, Bilston, they are requested to meet there on and after September 21st, at seven o'clock in the evening.

PS. All correspondence for Mr. *Linney* to be addressed, MALT SHOVEL INN, New Town, Bilston."

Northern Star and Leeds General Advertiser 16/9/1848

"A Meeting of Delegates from the Mining Districts of South Staffordshire will be held on the 25th of September, at Mr. *Joseph Linney's*, the MALT SHOVEL, New Town, Bilston, for the purpose of considering the practicability of effecting an adjustment of wages to the fluctuating price of iron, with the sanction and concurrence of the employers. A member of the Central Committee of the National Association of United Trades will attend the meeting."

Joseph Linney – see also WHITE HORSE, High Street, and OLD CROWN, Crown Street.

1851 Census

Oxford Street – MALT SHOVEL INN

- [1] Ann White (50), widow, born Romsley, Worcestershire;
- [2] Mary Ann White (26), daughter, born Bromsgrove;
- [3] Thomas White (23), son, castrator, born Bromsgrove;
- [4] Arabella White (21), daughter, born Bromsgrove;
- [5] Dorothy White (14), daughter, scholar, born Dudley;
- [6] John Griffin (24), visitor, maltster, born Stourbridge;
- [7] Thomas Bury (25), visitor, butcher, born Dudley;
- [8] Eliza Timmins (22), general servant, born Broseley, Shropshire:

Birmingham Journal 4/10/1851 - Advert

"To Publicans, &c.

To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, that old-established and commodious Inn, the MALT SHOVEL, situate in the New Town, Bilston. The present Tenant is leaving in consequence of other engagements. Coming-in moderate.

For particulars, apply on the Premises; or to Mr. John Mason, Auctioneer."

TO PUBLICANS, &c.
TO be LET, and may be entered upon immediately, that old-established and commodious INN, "THE MALT SHOVEL," situate in the New Town, Bilston. The present Tenant is leaving in consequence of other engagements. Coming-in moderate. For particulars, apply on the Premises; or to Mr. John Mason, Auctioneer.

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/4/1852 - Advert

"For Sale by Private Contract, a light Four-Wheel Waggon, built expressly for the purpose of carrying iron. The waggon is quite new, and the owner had no further use for it.

To view and treat for the same, apply at the MALT SHOVEL INN, Oxford Street, Bilston.

Also, at the same place, a very fast well-bred Hackney Horse, coming four years old, about 14¾ hands high, very temperate, quite sound, and free from vice."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/4/1852

"At an adjourned special sessions for the transfer of victuallers' licenses, within the division of Seisdon North..... MALT SHOVEL, Bilston, from *Mary White* to *Isaac Dolphin*, of the Deepfields."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/12/1852 - Advert

"Important to Persons in Want of Horses.

For Sale by Private Contract several very superior young and powerful Draught Horses, the property of Mr. *Isaac Dolphin*, of the MALT SHOVEL INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, who has completed his contract. The horses may be seen at work any day until January 1, 1853, at the Toll Gate Colliery, Bilston."

IMPORTANT TO PERSONS IN WANT OF HORSES.

FOR SALE by PRIVATE CONTRACT several very superior young and powerful DRAUGHT HORSES, the property of Mr. Isaac Dolphin, of the Malt Shovel inn, Oxford street, Bilston, who has completed his contract. The horses may be seen at work any day until January 1, 1853, at the Toll Gate Colliery, Bilston.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/1/1853 - Advert

“To Contractors, Horse Dealers, and Others.

Sale of Superior Young Waggon Horses, and Strong Carts, Gearing, &c. New Town, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by George Price, on Tuesday, January 11, 1853, at the MALT SHOVEL INN, New Town, Bilston, the property of Mr. *Dolphin*, who has declined the carting business.

Six capital young and powerful Draught Horses, with their Gearing, and five strong narrow wheel and one 4½ inch wheel Carts, with Iron Arms, and Side-boards complete.

The Auctioneer can with confidence recommend the above Horses and Carts to the notice of purchasers. The Horses are very superior, and the Carts are well built, and most of them nearly new.

Catalogues will be in circulation on and after Thursday, and may be had at the MALT SHOVEL INN, New Town, Bilston; or at the office of the Auctioneer, Auction Mart, Snowhill, Wolverhampton.

The sale will commence punctually at twelve o'clock.”

Birmingham Journal 20/8/1853

“On Tuesday at Bilston Petty Sessions, a labourer named Peter Duffy was committed to the Sessions for stealing a flannel coat from the kitchen of the MALT SHOVEL public house, Oxford Street, kept by Mr. *I. Dolphin*, on Sunday during the hours of divine service. He was seen by a boy to leave the house with the coat on his back, and information being given to a policeman, he was followed and taken into custody.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/10/1853

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Peter Duffey, 40, charged with stealing a flannel overcoat, the property of *Isaac Dolphin*, at Bilston, on the 14th of August, was convicted, and sentenced to be imprisoned three months.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/9/1853

“At the Public Office, Bilston, on Tuesday, before J. Leigh, Esq, an information against *Isaac Dolphin*, a butty collier, and landlord of the MALT SHOVEL INN, for paying wages to John Jones, a workman, in a public house, contrary to 5th and 6th Victoria, c.99, was heard. Mr. Waterhouse attended for the defence.

The complainant stated that on Saturday week he reckoned as usual, with Mr. *Dolphin*, in a building at the back of the MALT SHOVEL, and occupied by him therewith. It appeared, however, on the cross-examination of this witness, and from the evidence of a witness named Banks, who was afterwards called by Mr. Waterhouse, that the building in question was originally a small private house; that it was rented at a separate rent from the landlady; that the door of it was distant several yards from the door of the public house, and might be approached by a road out of Temple Street, without going near the public house; and that it was never used for the sale of liquors, but merely as a private sitting-room for Mr. *Dolphin* and his family, and as an office. Mr. Waterhouse urged in defence that Mr. *Dolphin*, as a butty collier, was not within the description of persons prohibited by the Act from paying wages in a public house, and that the building in question was not one to which the prohibition extends. Mr. Leigh, however, overruled the objections, and convicted the defendant in £10, being the highest penalty allowed by the Act.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/9/1853

“*Isaac Dolphin* was fined £5 and costs, on the information of John Jones, miner, for paying wages in his public house, the MALT SHOVEL, Oxford Street, Bilston. He was fined £10 a fortnight ago.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/5/1854 - Advert

“To Publicans and Others.

To be Let, with immediate possession, that excellent Beerhouse, the MALT SHOVEL, in High Street, Bilston, the present proprietor leaving the town in consequence of other engagements. Stock and Fixtures to be taken to. Coming in about £70.

For further particulars apply on the premises.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/6/1854 - Advert

“To Publicans, Grocers, and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by George Brown, upon the premises, on Tuesday, the 27th day of June, 1854.

The whole of the Stock-in-Trade, together with the Ale Barrels, 120 gallon copper boiler, pair of vats, with pipe and large brass tap, twenty strike Mash Tub, and other Brewing Utensils, two Beer Machines, Counter, with metal top, and liquor shop Fixtures, large Bagatelle Board, with Balls and Cues, 6¼ octave Cottage Pianoforte, by Broadwood and Son, Mahogany Chest of Drawers, Feather Beds, a Gig, a quantity of Pit Skips and Rings, and other effects, of Mr. *Isaac Dolphin*, MALT SHOVEL INN, Bilston.

Catalogues may be had at the place of sale, or at the office of the Auctioneer, Oxford Street, Bilston.

Sale to commence at eleven o'clock.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1855

“The Annual Licensing Meeting for Bilston, Sedgley, Gornal, and the adjoining places took place on Friday last, at the Police Office, Bilston.....

The following licenses were suspended till the adjourned licensing day, in consequence of complaints against the house.....

William Plant, MALT SHOVEL, Oxford Street.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/10/1859

“Yesterday, at Bilston Police Court, before the Rev. H. S. Fletcher and H. Ward, Esq, Sarah Hazeldine and Jane Richards were charged with assaulting Moses Baggott, a brickmaker, living at Moxley, and stealing from him the sum of £4 4s 6d. It appeared from the evidence of the prosecutor that about eight o'clock on Friday evening last he was at the BARREL public house, in Bilston, where he met the prisoners, and Hazeldine having been an old servant of his father he treated her and her companion to some drink. They remained there together until about ten o'clock, when the prosecutor left to go home. Before he left, the woman Hazeldine told him to be careful of his money, and advised him to put it in his stocking, which he accordingly did. On his road home, as he was passing the Bilston gas works, he was suddenly attacked from behind by the two prisoners and a man whom he did not know. Richards put her hand over his mouth, while the man held him, and Hazeldine took his money, amounting to £4 4s 6d.

Richard Groves, the landlord of the MALT SHOVEL public house, proved that between seven and eight o'clock on the morning after the robbery the two prisoners came to his house for some rum and coffee, and that Richards had at that time a couple of sovereigns in her hand.

Both prisoners were committed for trial.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/10/1859

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Sarah Hazledine, 45, Jane Richards, 21, and George Bentley, were indicted for having stolen from the person of Moses Baggott, at Bilston, a purse containing £4 4s 6d. The prosecutor deposed that on the evening of the 30th of September he was at the BARREL public house, Bilston, and offered Hazledine some drink, she having been an old servant to his father. The woman seeing he had some money advised him to place it in his stocking before starting from the house. He adopted her suggestion. When passing the Gasworks at Bilston the male prisoner suddenly caught hold of his arms, Richards put her hand upon his mouth, and Hazledine took the money from his stocking. They then threw him down and made off. The Jury found the prisoners guilty, and they were each sentenced to six months' imprisonment.”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/7/1860

“A woman tramp, who said that her name was Elizabeth Hughes, and that she came from Manchester, and was in pursuit of her husband, was, at Bilston Petty Sessions on Friday last, ordered to be imprisoned for fourteen days for wilful damage, first at the MALT SHOVEL, in Oxford Street, and afterwards at the Police Station. At the latter place she broke the window of her cell door, and threatened to prove herself equally formidable in an attack upon the head of any police-officer.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/10/1860 - Advert

"Tuesday, October 30th, 1860.

Valuable Freehold and Copyhold Properties, at Bilston.

By Messrs. Aston and Sollom. To be Sold by Auction, on Tuesday, the 30th day of October, 1860, at six o'clock in the evening precisely, at the MALT SHOVEL INN, Oxford Street, Bilston (by direction of the Trustees of the Will of the late Mr. *William Brown*), and subject to conditions of sale to be produced and read, the following very valuable Freehold and Copyhold Messuages, Land, and Premises, in and near the town of Bilston, and in the following or such other lots as shall be determined upon.

Lot 1. The excellent and well-established Freehold Inn and Wine and Spirt Vaults, called the MALT SHOVEL, situate in Oxford Street, Bilston, together with the whole of the premises, as now occupied by Mr. *Richard Grove*, at an annual rental of £70.

The premises contained in this lot are exceedingly well arranged for carrying on a large business, having an extensive front shop, club room and cellars, large parlour, the usual bed rooms, a brewhouse and enclosed yard, with the great advantage of one part being set off and used as the private residence of the tenant."

[There are ten lots of properties and land in this sale.]

1861 Census

40+41, Oxford Street

- [1] *Richard Grove* (50), spirit merchant, born Walsall;
- [2] *Rosina Grove* (50), wife, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *Richard Grove* (24), son, assistant, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] *Rosina Grove* (21), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] *Martha Grove* (17), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [6] *Henry W. Grove* (13), son, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [7] *Alfred J. Grove* (9), son, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [8] *Emma Pugh* (15), general servant, born Wolverhampton:

Henry Plant, wine and spirit vaults, 40-41, Oxford Street. [1868]

Frederick William Plant, wine and spirit vaults, 40 and 41, Oxford Street. [1870]

1871 Census

40, Oxford Street

- [1] *William Jeffery* (27), manager, liquor vaults, born Northamptonshire;
- [2] *Mary A. Jeffery* (29), wife, assistant, liquor vaults, born Northamptonshire:

Birmingham Daily Post 12/1/1874 - Advert

"Bilston, Staffordshire, This Day (Monday), January 12.

Important Sale of an ancient and well-accustomed Freehold Inn, Wine and Liquor Vaults, and other valuable Freehold Property, in Oxford and Temple Streets.

Mr. Thomas Richards will Sell by Auction, This Day (Monday), the 12th day of January, at the MALT SHOVEL INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, at 6 o'clock in the evening.....

Lot 1. The MALT SHOVEL INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, occupied by Mr. *Henry Plant*, with four Houses, Out-buildings, Yard, and Premises at the back, the whole occupying at site of 660 square yards of land or thereabouts."

Bilston, Staffordshire, This Day (Monday), Jan. 12.—Important Sale of an ancient and well-accustomed FREEHOLD INN, WINE and LIQUOR VAULTS, and other valuable FREEHOLD PROPERTY, in Oxford and Temple Streets.
MR. THOMAS RICHARDS will Sell by Auction, THIS DAY (Monday), the 12th day of January, at the Malt Shovel Inn, Oxford Street, Bilston, at 6 o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions of Sale, and in the following or such other Lots as shall be determined upon at the sale.
Lot 1.—THE MALT SHOVEL INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, occupied by Mr. Henry Plant, with four HOUSES, Out-buildings, Yard, and Premises at the back, the whole occupying a site of 660 square yards of land or thereabouts.
Lot 2.—Two DWELLING HOUSES, with the capital Front SHOPS, adjoining the last Lot, being Nos. 38 and 39, in Oxford Street aforesaid, with six HOUSES at the back, known as "CAD-DICK'S YARD," in the occupation of Frederick Chaplin and others, the whole occupying a site of about 598 square yards.

Midland Counties Evening Express 30/12/1874 - Advert

“Peremptory and Unreserved Sale at the MALT SHOVEL LIQUOR VAULTS, Oxford Street, Bilston.

To Liquor Merchants, Publicans, Brokers and Others.

Messrs. J. Morrell and Son will Sell upon the above premises, on Thursday next, December 31st 1874, under Bill of Sale and other legal processes.

The whole of the Valuable Liquor Vault Fixtures, Trade Utensils, and other effects, consisting of 12-tap spirit fountain, six-pull lever beer machine, three-tap copper hot water apparatus, three large metal drainers, 18 spirit casks, spirit jars, stone spirit barrels, large mahogany counter, 24 feet long, broad deal counter, 24 feet, window boards, screens, seating, tables, ale and spirit measures, ale and spirit glasses, jugs and bottles; also the neat and genteel Household Furniture, consisting of mahogany telescope dining table, mahogany Pembroke table, mahogany-framed couch, in hair; mahogany-framed easy chair, pianoforte, handsome eight-day clock, Windsor, cane-seated, and other chairs, round and square deal tables, half-tester bedsteads, in wood and iron; mahogany dressing tables, mahogany chests of drawers, drugget Kidderminster and other carpets, wool and feather beds, wool and straw mattresses, six mahogany crown-back chairs, in hair; with the usual kitchen and culinary utensils, with numerous other Effects, as detailed in catalogues.

Sale to commence at 10am.

Auctioneers offices, Swan Bank, Bilston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/3/1877 - Advert

“Man and Wife Wanted, both excellent hands, for Wine and Spirit Counter. If brought up to grocery counter preferred. Salary £100; house and coals.

Address, *Richardson*, MALT SHOVEL, Oxford Street, Bilston.”

MAN and Wife Wanted, both excellent hands, for Wine and Spirit Counter. If brought up to grocery counter preferred. Salary £100; house and coals.—Address, *Richardson*, Malt Shovel, Oxford Street, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 24/4/1877 - Advert

“Nurse. Wanted, a steady, respectable Person, to two young children, and assist in household duties. No other servant kept. Will be treated as one of the family.

Address, care of Mrs. *Richardson*, MALT SHOVEL, Oxford Street, Bilston.”

Isaac Richardson – see also OXFORD, Oxford Street.

1881 Census

40, Oxford Street – MALT SHOVEL INN

[1] *William Matthews* (37), licensed victualler, born Minety, Wiltshire;

[2] *Emily Matthews* (46), wife, born Warwick;

[3] *Annie Matthews* (13), daughter, scholar, born Stockton on Tees;

[4] *Jane Matthews* (11), daughter, scholar, born Middlesbrough;

[5] *John Matthews* (7), son, scholar, born Guisborough, Yorkshire;

[6] *Elizabeth Matthews* (6), daughter, scholar, born Guisborough, Yorkshire;

[7] *James Matthews* (5), son, scholar, born Middlesbrough;

[8] *Rhoda Holcroft* (17), general servant, born Bilston:

Darlaston Weekly Times 15/7/1882

“*William Matthews*, landlord of the MALT SHOVEL, Oxford Street, Bilston, was charged with permitting drunkenness, on July 5th.

Thomas Haynes, drayman, employed by Mr. Butler, Springfield Brewery, stated that he had been fined 10s and costs for being drunk in the house, and PC *Johnson* stated that he saw the last witness leave the house in a very drunken state, almost incapable.

Dr. *Larkin* was called as witness for the defence, and stated that *Haynes*, when in the police cell, answered perfectly coherently, but seemed to be in a drowsy condition. If he had been up the whole of the previous night, it would have accounted for his state. The appearance of the man was very misleading, on account of a physical imperfection in his eyes. He should say that *Haynes* was decidedly not drunk, but decidedly sleepy.

Haynes, recalled, said he was up all the previous night, and was not drunk, but very tired. He had only had a share of five pints of ale among four of them.

A fine of 20s and costs was imposed.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 9/12/1882

“At the Bilston Police Court, yesterday, four little girls, named Harriett Jones (15), Mary Ann Petley (14), Louisa Emberton (13), and Eliza Emberton (12), all of Bridge Street, were charged with stealing three dozen of scarves, value 10s, from the shop of John Nolan, general dealer, of Oxford Street, on the 15th ult.

Prosecutor stated that the goods were safe in the shop at two o’clock on the day in question, but at six o’clock they were missing.

John Toole, bailiff, of Gozzard Street, said he bought eight of the scarves from Petley in the SADDLE public house for fivepence.

Daniel Darby, licensed victualler, of Moxley, said he bought two of the scarves from Petley for sixpence, thinking this a fair value for them. He had previously bought matches from the same child.

The landlord of the SADDLE spoke to the prisoners Jones and Petley offering the scarves for sale in his house.

William Matthews, manager of an Oxford Street public house, was called as a witness, but Chief Superintendent Longden stated that the witness had said he’d see the Court d— before he gave evidence. A summons, however, was issued to compel his attendance.

Detective Hayward said he arrested Petley and Jones. They denied the offence at first but afterwards said that Eliza Emberton stole them, and they shared the money. The prisoner Eliza Emberton told him it was the fault of a woman named Sarah Jones, or Folden, who beat her until she went into the shop and stole. He, unfortunately, could not connect the woman with this particular case, although there was no doubt that the woman was the instigation of the thefts.

The case was adjourned for seven days, to compel *Matthews*’s attendance, and the children in the meantime to be sent to the workhouse. Louisa Emberton was discharged.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 16/12/1882

“Yesterday, at the Bilston Police Court three little girls, named Harriet Jones, 13 years of age, Elizabeth Emberton, aged 11 years, and Mary A. Pethley, aged 14 years, were charged with stealing three dozen scarves, from the shop of John Nowlan, Oxford Street, under circumstances reported in our last issue.

The witnesses called last week recapitulated their evidence, and in addition, *William Matthews*, publican, of Oxford Street (who appeared on a summons), said Pethley came into the MALT SHOVEL alone, and offered several scarves for sale, some of which he bought, but he declined to swear whether the scarves (produced) were those he bought. He was not certain of the price he bought the scarves at, nor did he refuse to give them up to Detective Hayward when requested. He knew the child as a general hawker, having bought other things from her at different times.

The mothers of the children appeared before the Bench, and gave several versions of the matter, concluding by an appeal for mercy.

Emberton was discharged, Pethley and Jones were each fined 5s and costs, or 21 days’ hard labour.

Matthews and Tool, the witnesses, were called before the Bench.

Detective Hayward stated that *Matthews* objected to produce the scarves, and when told that he would have to appear as a witness, said he would see the Court d— first. *Matthews* denied this, and said that the officer had a spite against him. Witnesses were severely reprimanded, and their expenses disallowed, the Bench stating that both witnesses seemed to be encouraging rather than repressing theft.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 15/12/1883 - Advert

“Wines and Spirits for Christmas.

H. Plant and Sons, Wholesale Wine and Spirit Merchants, Market Place, Bilston, supply Wines and Spirits, well matured, to Families and the Trade at very reasonable prices.

Wholesale and Family orders may be left at any of the following Branch Establishments.....

MALT SHOVEL, Oxford Street, Bilston.....

H. P. & S. will be glad to forward to the Trade, in bond or duty paid, samples or prices.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 19/7/1884 - Advert

“Wanted, a General Servant, about 16 years old; used to children.
Apply MALT SHOVEL, Oxford Street.”

WANTED, A GENERAL SERVANT, about
16 years old; used to children. Apply Malt
Shovel, Oxford Street.

Darlaston Weekly Times 2/8/1884 - Advert

“House To Let, in Oxford Street, containing sitting room and kitchen, with two bedrooms.

Apply MALT SHOVEL.”

HOUSE TO LET, in Oxford Street, containing
sitting room and kitchen, with two bed-
rooms.—Apply Malt Shovel.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 3/11/1885 - Advert

"Lost, Grocer's Order Book, on Monday night, between Wednesbury and Wolverhampton.

Finder returning same to Mr. *Griffin*, MALT SHOVEL INN, Bilston, or H. T. Phillips, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, will receive 2s 6d reward."

LOST, Grocer's Order Book, on Monday night, between Wednesbury and Wolverhampton. — Finder returning same to Mr. Griffin, Malt Shovel Inn, Bilston, or H. T. Phillips, Queen-street, Wolverhampton, will receive 2s.6d. reward.

1891 Census

40, Oxford Street – MALT SHOVEL INN

- [1] *William Griffin* (43), licensed victualler, born Leigh, Staffordshire;
- [2] *Jane Griffin* (44), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *Jennie Jones Griffin* (10), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] *William Griffin* (9), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] *Samuel Andrew Griffin* (7), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] *Robert Thomas Griffin* (5), son, scholar, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 24/10/1894

"Mr. Neville (stipendiary) was occupied for a long time yesterday, at the Bilston Police Court, in hearing cases arising out of a raid on public houses in Bilston, Willenhall, and the neighbourhood.....

William Griffin, manager of the MALT SHOVEL, Oxford Street, Bilston, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his premises, and, further, with serving a drunken person. *Griffin* was fined 20s and the costs; and a man named North, a butcher, of Oxford Street, was fined 10s and the costs for being drunk on *Griffin's* premises."

Staffordshire Advertiser 24/8/1895

"Bilston Brewster Sessions.....

The police opposed the renewal of the licenses attached to the NEW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston; the MALT SHOVEL INN, Oxford Street Bilston; the RED LION INN, Bilston, the FOUNTAIN INN, Parliament Street, Bilston; and the ORANGE TREE INN, Ettingshall. Infringement of the licensing laws were the grounds of the objection in each case, with the exception of the ORANGE TREE INN, the landlord of which had been sentenced to two months' imprisonment for assaulting his wife. The whole of the licenses were renewed with the exception of the FOUNTAIN INN, the consideration of which was to be held over until the adjourned licensing sessions."

William Griffin – see also BLOOMSBURY TAVERN, Wolverhampton.

1901 Census

91, Oxford Street

- [1] *John Danks* (45), publican, born Bradley;
- [2] *Phoebe Danks* (42), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] *Mary E. Danks* (14), daughter, school teacher, born Sedgley;
- [4] *Stephen J. Danks* (13), son, office boy, born Bilston;
- [5] *Frederick C. Danks* (11), son, born Bilston;
- [6] *Lilian V. M. Danks* (11 months), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [7] *Clara Hamsley* (19), domestic servant, born Sedgley;
- [8] *Sarah M. Briscoe* (14), domestic servant, born Sedgley:

John Danks died on 11th January 1902.

1911 Census

91, Oxford Street

- [1] *Robert Rudge* (40), publican, born Tettenhall;
- [2] *Jessie Rudge* (37), wife, married 9 years, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *Gertrude Dalton* (22), assisting in the business, born Tettenhall:

Robert Rudge died in the 3rd quarter of 1911.

Walter Waldron – see also MARKET TAVERN, Bilston, and ROYAL OAK, Salop Street, Dudley.

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/8/1915

“Eliza Glide, an elderly women, no fixed abode, was charged with assaulting *George Powell*, of the MALT SHOVEL INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, and also with drunkenness. She went into the house, and being the worse for drink was refused. She then threw a glass and struck *Powell* on the forehead, causing a wound. She was sentenced to 14 days for the assault, and was fined 10s or seven days for drunkenness.”

South Staffordshire Times 26/2/1921

“Joseph Thomas Roach (Wednesbury) and John Waling (Oxford Street, Bilston), were charged with being drunk and disorderly in Oxford Street, Bilston, on February 23rd, and further with refusing to quit the MALT SHOVEL INN when requested to do so by the manager.

The evidence was to the effect that the two men who have no particular occupation, were drunk and disorderly in the street; but previous to that they had gone into the MALT SHOVEL INN and when the manager refused to serve them with drinks they became threatening and abusive, and tried to get over the counter to help themselves. They had to be forcibly ejected.

Defendants, who had previous convictions against them, were each fined £6, or two months imprisonment.”

1921 Census

91, Oxford Street

- [1] *George Powell* (44), licensed victualler, born Edgmond, Shropshire;
- [2] *Mabel Powell* (41), wife, home duties, born Great Barr;
- [3] *George Harry Powell* (18), son, pole building, out of work, born Aldridge;
- [4] *Eunice Powell* (17), daughter, house duties, born Tipton;
- [5] *Colin Powell* (15), son, fitter's labourer, boiler makers, born West Bromwich;
- [6] *Margery Powell* (11), daughter, school, born West Bromwich;
- [7] *Irene Powell* (9), daughter, school, born West Bromwich;
- [8] *Edith Powell* (7), daughter, school, born West Bromwich;
- [9] *Mabel Grace Powell* (3), daughter, born Bilston;
- [10] *Edna May Powell* (1), daughter, born Bilston:

Edwin Hill – see also MARKET TAVERN.

1939 Register

91, Oxford Street – MALT SHOVEL INN

- [1] *Harry F. Thomas*, date of birth 28/3/1883, licensed victualler, manager, married;
- [2] *Emma Thomas*, dob 23/2/1904, licensed victualler, manageress, married;
- [3] *Mary E. (Thomas) Sheffery*, dob 20/1/1933, at school, single;
- [4] *Frederick E. Cain*, dob 15/8/1917, driller, steel work, single:

A team from here took part in the Butlers (Bilston) Darts League. [1946]

Closed

Demolished



1934

FOR SALE by PRIVATE CONTRACT, a light FOUR-WHEEL WAGGON, built expressly for the purpose of carrying iron. The waggon is quite new, and the owner has no further use for it.—To view and treat for the same, apply at the MALT SHOVEL INN, Oxford-street, Bilston. Also, at the same place, a very fast well-bred HACKNEY HORSE, coming four years old, about 14½ hands high, very temperate, quite sound, and free from vice.

1852

TO CONTRACTORS, HORSE DEALERS, AND OTHERS.
SALE OF SUPERIOR YOUNG WAGGON HORSES,
AND STRONG CARTS, GEARING, &c.

New Town, Bilston.

**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY GEORGE PRICE.**

On Tuesday, January 11, 1853, at the *Malt Shovel Inn*,
New Town, Bilston, the property of Mr. Dolphin, who
has declined the carting business.

SIX capital young and powerful DRAUGHT HORSES,
with their Gearing, and five strong narrow wheel and
one $4\frac{1}{2}$ inch wheel CARTS, with Iron Arms, and Side-
boards complete.

The Auctioneer can with confidence recommend the
above Horses and Carts to the notice of purchasers. The
Horses are very superior, and the Carts are well built, and
most of them nearly new.

Catalogues will be in circulation on and after Thurs-
day, and may be had at the *Malt Shovel Inn*, New Town,
Bilston; or at the office of the Auctioneer, Auction Mart,
Snowhill, Wolverhampton.

The sale will commence punctually at twelve
o'clock.

1853

TO PUBLICANS AND OTHERS.

TO BE LET, with immediate possession, that excel-
lent Beerhouse the "**MALT SHOVEL**," in High-
street, Bilston, the present proprietor leaving the town
in consequence of other engagements. Stock and
Fixtures to be taken to. Coming in about £70.—For
further particulars apply on the premises.

TO PUBLICANS, GROCERS, AND OTHERS.

**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY GEORGE BROWN,**

Upon the premises, on Tuesday, the 27th day of June,
1854,

THE whole of the STOCK-IN-TRADE, together with
the Ale Barrels, 120 gallon copper boiler, pair of
vats, with pipe and large brass tap, twenty strike Mash
Tub, and other Brewing Utensils, two Beer Machines,
Counter, with metal top, and liquor shop Fixtures, large
Bagatelle Board, with Balls and Cues, $6\frac{1}{2}$ octave Cottage
Pianoforte, by Broadwood and Son, Mahogany Chest of
Drawers, Feather Beds, a Gig, a quantity of Pit Skips and
Rings, and other effects, of Mr. Isaac Dolphin, Malt
Shovel Inn, Bilston.

Catalogues may be had at the place of sale, or at the
office of the AUCTIONEER, Oxford-street, Bilston.

☞ Sale to commence at eleven o'clock.

1854

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30TH, 1860.

VALUABLE

**FREEHOLD AND COPYHOLD PROPERTIES,
AT BILSTON.**

By Messrs. ASTON and SOLLUM.—To be SOLD
by AUCTION, on Tuesday, the 30th day of October, 1860, at
six o'clock in the evening precisely, at the **MALT SHOVEL INN**,
OXFORD STREET, BILSTON (by direction of the Trustees of the
Will of the late Mr. William Brown), and subject to conditions of
sale to be produced and read, the following very valuable FREE-
HOLD and COPYHOLD MESSUAGES, LAND, and PREMISES,
in and near the town of Bilston, and in the following or such other
lots as shall be determined upon:—

Lot 1.—The excellent and well-established FREEHOLD INN
and WINE and SPIRIT VAULTS, called "**THE MALT SHOVEL**,"
situate in Oxford-street, Bilston, together with the whole of the
premises, as now occupied by Mr. Richard Grove, at an annual
rental of £70.

The premises contained in this lot are exceedingly well arranged
for carrying on a large business, having an extensive front
shop, club room and cellars, large parlour, the usual bed rooms,
a brewhouse and enclosed yard, with the great advantage of
one part being set off and used as the private residence of the
tenant.

1860

PEREMPTORY and UNRESERVED SALE at the **MALT
SHOVEL LIQUOR VAULTS, OXFORD-STREET, BILSTON.**
TO LIQUOR MERCHANTS, PUBLICAN, SBROKERS and
OTHERS.

MESSRS. J. MORRELL and SON will SELL
upon the above premises, on THURSDAY NEXT, Decem-
ber 31st, 1874, under Bill of Sale and other legal processes, the
whole of the Valuable LIQUOR VAULT FIXTURES, Trade
Utensils, and other effects, consisting of 12-tap spirit fountain,
six-bull lever beer machine, three-tap copper hot water
apparatus, three large metal drainers, 18 spirit casks, spiri
jars, stone spirit barrels, large mahogany counter, 24 feet long,
broad deal counter, 24 feet, window boards, screens, seating,
tables, ale and spirit measures, ale and spirit glasses,
jugs and bottles; also the neat and genteel HOUSEHOLD
FURNITURE, consisting of mahogany telescope dining table,
mahogany Pembroke table, mahogany-framed couch, in hair;
mahogany-framed easy chair, pianoforte, handsome eight-day
clock, Windsor, cane-seated, and other chairs, round and square
deal tables, half-tester bedsteads in wood and iron; mahogany
dressing tables, mahogany chests of drawers, drugget, Kidder-
minster and other carpets, wool and leather beds, wool and
straw mattresses, six mahogany crown-back chairs, in hair
with the usual kitchen and culinary utensils, with numerous
other Effects, as detailed in catalogues.

Sale to commence at 10 a.m.

Auctioneers offices, Swan-bank, Bilston.

1874

NURSE.—Wanted, a steady, respectable Person, to two young
children, and assist in household duties. No other servant
kept. Will be treated as one of the family.—Address, care of Mrs.
Richardson, Malt Shovel, Oxford Street, Bilston.

1877

Wines and Spirits for Christmas.

H. PLANT AND SONS,

WHOLESALE

WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS,

Market Place, Bilston,

☞ Supply Wines and Spirits, well matured, to Families
and the Trade at very reasonable prices.

Wholesale and Family orders may be left at any of
the following Branch Establishments:—

THE BALLOON, High Street, Bilston;

" **ROYAL GEORGE**, Church Street, Bilston;

" **MALT SHOVEL**, Oxford Street, Bilston;

" **WAGGON AND HORSES**, Oxford Street, Bilston;

" **PIED BULL**, Snow Hill, Wolverhampton;

" **SHAKESPEARE**, Horseley Fields, Wolverhampton;

" **LORD RAGLAN**, Brickkiln Street,

" **KING'S HEAD**, Market Place, Willenhall;

" **MALT SHOVEL**, Upper High Street, Wednesbury;

" **BULLS HEAD**, High Street, Princes End.

H. P. & S. Will be glad to forward to the Trade, in bond
or duty paid, samples or prices.

1883

MANCHESTER HOUSE

26+27, Coseley Street, (Coseley Row), BILSTON

OWNERS

Thomas Bywater, clerk, Birmingham

LICENSEES

Edward Roberts [1870] – **1873**;

John Shipley (**1873** – []

NOTES

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 27/8/1870

“The annual sessions for the renewal of existing and the granting of new licenses to licensed victuallers and beersellers in Bilston and Sedgley, was held yesterday at the Police Court, Bilston.....

There were six applications for new licensed victuallers' licenses The following were refused.....

Edward Roberts, MANCHESTER HOUSE, Coseley Street.”

1871 Census

26+27 Coseley Street – MANCHESTER HOUSE

[1] *Edward Roberts* (46), railway porter and ale and porter stores, born Oswestry, Shropshire;

[2] *Clara Roberts* (52), wife, born Kettering, Northamptonshire;

[3] *Mary Ann Jones* (32), step-daughter, born Kettering, Northamptonshire;

[4] *Clara Jones* (17), step-daughter, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Amey Jones* (13), step-daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[6] *Catherine Jones* (11), step-daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[7] *Mary Ann Roberts* (10), daughter, scholar, born Wolverhampton:

License abandoned – house down. [1873]

MANOR

94, Stowheath Lane, BILSTON

OWNERS

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.
Courage Ltd.
Inntrepreneur Ltd. [1995]



1997

LICENSEES

Carole O'Rourke [1986] – [1989]
Keith Lawley [1995]
Christina Wilkes [2005]

NOTES

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/4/1939

“An adjourned meeting of the Staffordshire County Licensing Confirmation Committee was held on Tuesday at the Shirehall, Stafford, when consideration was given to the confirmation of license removal orders granted earlier in the year by local licensing justices.....

Other applications approved by the committee were as follow.

Removal of the full license of the PLOUGH INN, High Street, Bilston, to premises proposed to be erected in Stow Heath Lane, Bilston, to be known as the MANOR.”

Built c.1960s

Drogheda Independent 19/9/1964

“The marriage, with Nuptial Mass and Papal Blessing, took place at the Church of the Holy Rosary, Hickman Avenue, Wolverhampton, England, of Mr. Edward Clifford Hall, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hall, 12, Beechgrove Terrace, Drogheda, and Miss Janet Penrice, 2, Avenue Road, Darlaston, Staffordshire.

The bride, who was given away by her father, was attired in a full-length gown of white lace and she carried a bouquet of roses and maidenhair fern. She was attended by Miss Valerie Brown and Mr. Oliver Leape, a friend of the groom, was best man.

A reception was held at the MANOR, Stowheath Lane, Bilston, and the honeymoon was spent in Bray, Ireland. Going away, Mrs. Hall wore a navy two-piece suit with white accessories.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/9/1977

“Thousands of Midland drinkers will be forced to change their drinking habits next year – because of a Government report. Three major breweries are to swop 437 pubs – leaving drinkers to choose between their favourite public house or their favourite beer. The deal was announced yesterday by Ansells, owned by Allied Breweries, Mitchells and Butlers, owned by Bass Charrington, and Courage. The move, involving public houses valued at £11,000,000, was prompted by a Monopolies Commission report seven years ago which claimed that breweries had too much of a stranglehold in certain towns and cities Tenants and managers are being given the opportunity to stay on new terms or change to another establishment. Managers can also opt for voluntary redundancy.....

M & B managed houses transferred to Courage.....

MANOR HOTEL, Stow Heath Lane, Bilston.”

[1997]

An application was made for alterations in 1998.

It was renamed HARE AND HOUNDS. [2001]

It closed in 2007.

It was demolished in 2012.

Housing was built on the site.



2007

MARKET TAVERN

81, (45), (46), Church Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Henry Plant, wine merchant, Penkridge
Henry Plant and Sons [1882], [1896]
Frederick William Plant
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1904], [1922]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1975]
Stonegate Group [2023]



Pub Token

LICENSEES

William Bath [] – **1850**);
John Green (**1850 – 1852**);
William Whitehouse (**1852**);
Thomas Cawood (**1852 – 1855**);
William Ashcroft (**1855** – [1858]
Benjamin Taylor [1859] – [1860]
Walter Plant and Co. [1864] – [1865]
Walter Plant [1868] – **1876**);
Henry Plant (**1876 – 1877**);
Frederick William Plant (**1877 – 1917**);
Miss Sarah A Overton [1891] manageress
Hezekiah Harris [1911] – [1913] manager
Walter Waldron (**1917 – 1937**);
Edwin Hill (**1937** – [1940]
John H Smallman [1983] – [1988]
Grant McMurchie [1994] – **1995**);
Graham Steven Williams (**1995** – [2005]



1997

NOTES

46, Church Street [1858]
45, Church Street [1881], [1891], [1896], [1904]
81, Church Street [1901], [1908], [1916], [1921], [1921], [1932], [1939], [1940], [1994], [2022]

MARKET VAULTS [1858]
UNICORN [1865], [1871]

Tokens were issued from here.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/12/1850

“At a special sessions for the hundred of Seisdon North, held on Monday last, at the office of the county magistrates, Bilston Street, in this town, the following victuallers’ licenses were transferred that of *William Bath*, of MARKET TAVERN, Church Street, Bilston, to *John Greene*, of Great Bridge, Tipton, corn dealer.”

John Green = John Greene

John Green was also a wine and spirit merchant. [1851]

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/2/1851

“John Edwards, a coffee mill maker, residing in North Street, Wolverhampton, was charged with breaking a square of glass in the window of Mr. *John Green*, MARKET TAVERN, Church Street, Bilston. The defendant, it appears, had been drinking in Mr. *Green*’s house the whole of Wednesday evening; a quarrel ensued between him and some parties who were present, and, in aiming a blow at one of them, he struck his fist through the window. He was ordered to pay 8s costs.”

1851 Census

Church Street

[1] *John Green* (36), widower, innkeeper, born Studley, Warwickshire;

[2] *George Green* (34), visitor, builder, born Studley, Warwickshire;

[3] *Edna Green* (46), sister-in-law, widow, housekeeper, born Tong, Staffordshire;

[4] *Edna Green* (26), niece, born Warwickshire:

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/7/1851

“At Bilston Petty Sessions on Tuesday last, before J. Leigh, Esq, Mr. *John Green*, of the MARKET TAVERN, Church Street, appeared to prefer a charge against Elizabeth Hayward, under the following circumstances.

It appeared that the defendant’s brother was engaged by the complainant to play the harp at his saloon, and in consequence of some irregularities in his conduct, Mr. *Green* had complained to the defendant, and requested her to ‘lecture him.’ Before doing this, she requested to be allowed to see the agreement which had been drawn up between her brother and the complainant. On this being shown to her, she directly pocketed it, and still refused to return it, in consequence of which he had summoned her before the bench. Mr. Leigh asked to see the document, and on its being handed to him, he directly gave it up to Mr. *Green*, and after cautioning the defendant against playing such tricks in future, dismissed the case.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/4/1852

“At an adjourned special sessions for the transfer of victuallers’ licenses, within the division of Seisdon North..... MARKET TAVERN, Bilston, from *John Green* to *William Whitehouse*, of Princes End.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/6/1852

“The following transfers of victuallers licenses took place.....

William Whitehouse, MARKET TAVERN, Bilston, to *Thomas Cawood*, of Wednesbury.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 25/4/1855

“At the Petty Sessions, yesterday the following victuallers licenses were transferred.....

MARKET TAVERN, Church Street, from *Thomas Cawood* to *William Ashcroft*, auctioneer, Wolverhampton.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/9/1858

“Foreign Publicans at Darlaston Wake.

Mr. Harper; Mr. William Coates, Bulls Head, Kidderminster; Mr. *William Ashcroft*, of Bilston; Mr. Aaron Stokes, of Walsall; Mr. Francis Jones, of West Bromwich; Mr. William Grattage, of Wolverhampton; and Mr. Joseph Archer, of Wolverhampton, were severally charged at Wednesbury Petty Sessions, on Tuesday, with having, on Sunday, the 22nd current, the opening day of Darlaston wake, unlawfully sold, by retail, quantities of exciseable liquors (spirits or ale) to be drunk and consumed on their premises there situate, the said parties not being then and there licensed so to do, and not being then and there the heirs, executors, administrators, or assignees, of the parties duly licensed so to do. Mr. Bartlett, solicitor, of Wolverhampton, appeared for the defendants, and Inspector Blaney conducted the case for the prosecution.

The charge against Harper was first taken, when Serjeant Went proved that he saw exciseable liquors sold in the defendant’s booth on the day in question. Mr. Bartlett, on the part of his client, said that for a good number of years it had been customary for persons like his client to fix booths for the sale of their liquors at such places of pleasure and pastime.

Mr. Leigh: I must decide according to law.

Mr. Bartlett: I speak merely as to mitigation of fine.

Mr. Leigh: In the case of a village festival, which may occur only once a year, I would consider it very hard that certain tradesmen should come from a distance and endeavour to deprive the local publicans of the chance of reaping

a good trade. There may have been licensed victuallers from Kidderminster at Darlaston wake. Just at the very moment when the publicans of Darlaston, who are subject to pay rates and all other legal taxes, expected to command a good business, they were suddenly pounced upon and put in competition with ten or twenty licensed victuallers from a distance. This is not allowed by the spirit of the law.

Mr. Bartlett stated that his client had acted under misapprehension of the law, and he considered supplying refreshments at wakes similar to erecting booths at race-courses. Mr. Bartlett also quoted notices, intimating that on each day of the wake there would be a pony race for a purse of money.

After a patient consideration of the case, Mr. Leigh decided that the law had been infringed; and, as Mr. Bartlett gave notice of appeal to the Quarter Sessions, he would impose a penalty of £20.

In the course of the other six cases being tried – for they were all similar – Mr. Bartlett, on consulting his clients, withdrew his notice of appeal, when the whole defendants were fined each in the mitigated penalty of £5.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 8/6/1859

“At the Petty Sessions, on Friday, Thomas [sic] *Taylor*, the occupier of the MARKET TAVERN, Church Street, Bilston, was fined 10s, and the expenses, for allowing disorderly characters to assemble in his house at an improper hour.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/8/1859

“The annual meeting of Magistrates for the purpose of the renewal and granting of licenses for the township of Bilston and the neighbourhood was held at the Bilston Police Court on Friday last.....

The following publicans having been fined during the past year their licenses were suspended until the adjourned licensing day.....

Benjamin Taylor, MARKET TAVERN, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/9/1859

“At the Bilston petty sessions, on Friday, the following cases which had been reserved from the annual licensing meeting for further consideration in consequence of complaints having been made by the police against the applicants, were disposed of, the licenses being renewed conditionally that the respective occupiers are more circumspect in their conduct MARKET TAVERN.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 6/2/1861

“Hezekiah Webb and Charles Hughes, both of Bilston, were charged at the Police Office, yesterday, with having stolen a gold watch from the person of Thomas Hughes, at the MARKET TAVERN, on the 28th ultimo. The prosecutor was a schoolmaster at Stone. On the 28th ultimo he had occasion to visit Bilston, and while in the town he called at the NEW MARKET TAVERN. He was there robbed of an old-fashioned gold watch, and the prisoners being near him at the time the robbery was committed, they were taken into custody. The watch has not been recovered. Hughes was not present to prosecute yesterday, and the prisoners were bound over on their own recognisances to appear when called on.”

Birmingham Journal 23/3/1861 - Advert

“To Spirit Merchants, Brokers, and Others.

Important and Unreserved Sale at the MARKET TAVERN Wine and Spirit Vaults, Church Street, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. George Brown, upon the Premises, on Monday Next, the 25th day of March.

The capital Shop Fixtures, Brewing Plant, Stock-in-Trade, Household Furniture, and Effects; consisting of handsome Shop Counter, with panel front, mahogany top, and two Spirit Fountains, one with twelve taps and one with eleven taps and Piping, together with copper Hot-water Fountain, metal Hot-water Fountain, and metal Drainers; five-pull Beer Machine, Piping, and Taps; Stock of Wine, Spirits, and Ale; Spirit Casks, 120-gallon Boiler, 70-gallon Boiler, 18-strike Mash Tub, Vats and Piping, Malt Crusher, iron-bound Ale Barrels, Coolers, and Tubs, Ale and Spirit Measures, handsome Shop Shelving, with plate-glass back; Saloon Screens, with shelves; Piano-Forte, in rosewood; excellent Bagatelle Board, slate-bottomed, with two Pockets; four-post and other Bedsteads, feather Beds, Wash Stands, Dressing Tables, mahogany Sofa, mahogany Chairs, in hair seating; mahogany Tables, together with the usual Kitchen Furniture, Gas Fittings, Water Piping, and Effects of Mr. *Taylor*, MARKET TAVERN Wine and Spirit Vaults, Church Street, Bilston aforesaid, under an Execution from the Sheriff.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.”

1861 Census

45, Church Street – uninhabited

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/5/1861 - Notice

“*Benjamin Taylor*, late of Number 12, Alfred Terrace, Osler Street, in the borough of Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, in lodgings, and out of business; previously thereto of the MARKET TAVERN INN, Church Street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Publican and Licensed Victualler; but formerly of the Dog and Duck Inn, Saint Nicholas Street, in the city of Worcester, Publican and Licensed Victualler; now a prisoner for debt in the gaol of Warwick, in the county of Warwick.

Alfred Baldwin East, 45, Ann Street, Birmingham, Attorney for the Insolvent.”

Walter Plant & Co, UNICORN, Church Street. [1865]

Walter Plant, spirit vaults, 45, Church Street. [1868], [1870], [1872]

1871 Census

45, Church Street – UNICORN

[1] Mary Hayes (28), housekeeper, born Birmingham;

[2] Ann Millward (23), barmaid, born Kidderminster;

[3] Thomas George (35), brewer, born West Bromwich:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 10/2/1875

“*Walter Plant*, of the MARKET TAVERN, was summoned for permitting drunkenness on Saturday night. Mr. Barrow defended. Police-constable Webb said that he entered the defendant’s house at nine o’clock on Saturday night, and found a man named Lavender drunk. He told him to leave, but going again in half an hour found him still there, and saw him drink some whisky. Several witnesses were called who swore that Lavender was not supplied with drink in the house, but that after being put out at nine o’clock he returned and concealed himself in an obscure corner of the liquor shop, and on being discovered was again put out.

The learned Stipendiary allowed the summons to be withdrawn on defendant paying the costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/2/1878 - Advert

“Barmaid. An experienced and domesticated Woman Wanted, as Barmaid.

Apply, MARKET TAVERN, Market Place, Bilston.”

BARMAID.—An experienced and domesticated Woman Wanted.
as Barmaid.—Apply, Market Tavern, Market Place, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 13/3/1878 - Advert

“Man and Wife Wanted (no encumbrance), for Wine and Spirit Counter; must be workers, and good at counter.

Apply, personally, MARKET TAVERN, Market Place, Bilston.”

MAN and Wife Wanted (no encumbrance), for Wine and Spirit
Counter: must be workers, and good at counter.—Apply,
personally, Market Tavern, Market Place, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/6/1880

“At Willenhall Police Court on Monday, George Elks (22), of Vine Street, Bilston, a blank tray maker, was charged with having assaulted his wife, and Emily Millward, his sister-in-law. On Saturday night the parties were in the MARKET TAVERN, Bilston, when, without any provocation, the prisoner assaulted his wife, and on Millward interfering he struck her several times on the face. Sent to gaol for fourteen days on each charge.”

1881 Census

45, Church Street – MARKET TAVERN

[1] *Frederick Plant* (32), licensed victualler, born Wolverhampton;

[2] Mary Plant (37), wife, born Birmingham;

[3] Alfred G. Plant (21), brother, clerk, born Bilston;

[4] Henry W. Plant (6), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[5] Caroline A. Plant (3), daughter, born Bilston;

[6] Emma L. Plant (1), daughter, born Bilston;

[7] Annie Salmon (24), barmaid, born Warwick;

[8] Jane Butler (26), nurse, born Bilston;

[9] Clara Caddick (19), general servant, born Bilston:

Darlaston Weekly Times 19/8/1882

“Sarah Kempson, Hall Green Street, Bradley, was charged with the theft of a drinking glass from the MARKET TAVERN, Bilston, the property of Messrs. Plant and Son.

Mary Nicholls, of Ash Street, Bradley, said she saw the defendant take the glass from a bench in the shop and put it in her basket.

PC Kinson said the defendant told him she saw the glass stolen, but did not steal it herself.

Sentenced to one month’s hard labour. Prisoner left the dock shouting to a companion to bring her some ‘grub,’ as she could not eat the rubbish supplied in the cell.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 16/12/1882

“Peter Ryan, of Vine Street, Bilston, was charged with assaulting John Adamson, barber, of High Street, by setting a dog upon him.

Complainant stated that on Monday evening he was in the MARKET TAVERN, Bilston, when defendant, who was mad drunk, came and asked witness to take him home. Witness refused, and shortly after left the house. Defendant followed, and with the remark, ‘At him, Jack,’ set a large Newfoundland dog upon him. The result was that he was bitten in the arm.

Defendant contended that the whole of the evidence was false; the dog was only six months old, and could not bite. Corroborative evidence was given, and a fine of 10s and costs was imposed.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 6/7/1883

“Thomas Nodes and Elizabeth, his wife, was charged with creating a disturbance in the MARKET TAVERN, Bilston, on Monday night.

PC Hayward was called to a disturbance in the house, where he found the defendants trying to assault the landlord. He requested them to leave, which they did. When they got into the street, both commenced using abusive and insulting language, defying the officer to take them into custody, and drawing a crowd of 300 persons round them. The male defendant said he had been teetotal, and drunk nothing but brandy for nine months. Inspector Harrison said the police were compelled to take the man’s boots off lest he should kick the cell door to pieces. The female defendant was, if anything, worse than the man.

The female defendant was fined 5s and costs and the male defendant 10s and costs; having imputed cruelty to the constables, which was disproved by officers, and a prisoner who was in the cell at the time of the alleged cruelty.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 12/1/1884 - Advert

“Notice. Left at Messrs. Plant and Sons, MARKET TAVERN, Bilston, on Saturday, December 22, 1883, Two Parcels. Whoever can legally own the same, by paying expenses, must apply as above.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 31/7/1886 - Advert

“Bilston Horticultural Society.

The Sixth Exhibition of Flowers, Fruits and Vegetables, will be held in the grounds of J. E. Sparrow, Esq, between Wellington Street and Wolverhampton Street, kindly placed at the disposal of the Committee, on Tuesday and Wednesday, August 17 and 18, 1886.

Upwards of £130 in Prizes. Special Prizes for Cottagers.

Admission up to 4pm on Tuesday 1s, after that time 6d.

Refreshments will be provided by Mr. *F. W. Plant*, MARKET TAVERN, Church Street.

There will be a Luncheon on the Exhibition Ground, on the first Day of the Show, at 2-30pm. Tickets, 2s 6d each, may be had from the Purveyor (Mr. *F. W. Plant*), or from the Hon. Secretary.

Schedule of Prizes of full Particulars on application to Cornelius T. Morrell, Hon. Sec.”

1891 Census

45, Church Street – MARKET TAVERN

[1] Sarah A. Overton (33), unmarried, barmaid, manageress, born Sedgley;

[2] Ellen Payne (19), barmaid, born Brierley Hill;

[3] Griffith Evans (23), domestic servant, born Guilsfield, Montgomeryshire;

[4] Florence A. Richards (19), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 23/5/1898 - Advert

"Barmaid. Wanted, domesticated young Person as Barmaid, about 25; must be quick.
Apply MARKET TAVERN, Bilston."

BARMAID.—Wanted, domesticated young Person as Barmaid,
about 25; must be quick.—Apply Market Tavern, Bilston.

1901 Census

81, Church Street

- [1] Martha Turley (21), barmaid, born Sedgley;
- [2] Miriam Agg (18), barmaid, born Charles Wotton, Broadway, Worcestershire;
- [3] Martha Wood (21), barmaid, born Oldbury;
- [4] Louisa Mathews (44), domestic cook, born Eccleshall, Staffordshire;
- [5] Annie Varley (14), domestic servant, born Bilston:

1911 Census

Church Street – MARKET TAVERN

- [1] Hezekiah Harris (49), public house manager, born Bromsgrove;
- [2] Frances Ellen Harris (48), wife, married 23 years, assisting in the business, born Bromsgrove;
- [3] Francis Leonard Harris (21), son, hairdresser, born Bromsgrove;
- [4] Oscar Bertie Harris (18), son, motor body builder, born Bilston;
- [5] Elsie Dora Harris (16), daughter, apprentice milliner, born Bilston;
- [6] Florence Nellie Harris (13), daughter, school, born Bilston;
- [7] Harriet Turvill (28), widow, barmaid, born Bilston:

Bromsgrove & Droitwich Messenger 27/9/1913

"On Tuesday, September 16th, there passed away, at the early age of 51, after a long and painful illness, Mr. *Hezekiah Harris*, manager of the MARKET TAVERN, Church Street, Bilston. The deceased was well known in Bromsgrove, his native town, in which his brother, Mr. Edward Harris, is in business. No tradesman was ever held in greater esteem, evidence of which was plainly seen on Friday in last week, when his remains were laid to rest. At the Church of St. Luke, where the deceased attended during his residence in Bilston, a large number of relatives and friends assembled, many of whom wended their way to the cemetery. The hearse and coaches were covered with beautiful wreaths, more than twenty having been sent by relatives, members of the firm, managers, and friends. Mr. *Harris* leaves a wife, two sons, and two daughters to mourn his loss....."

Birmingham Mail 17/10/1917 - Advert

"Girl (respectable) for Domestic Service; good wages; comfortable home; fully licensed house.
W. Waldron, MARKET TAVERN, Bilston."

GIRL (respectable) for Domestic Service; good wages; com-
fortable home; fully licensed house.—*W. Waldron*,
Market Tavern, Bilston.

South Staffordshire Times 24/7/1920

"Bilston Police Court, Friday.....

Walter Waldron, of the MARKET TAVERN, Bilston, was granted an occasional license for the Bilston Flower Show on August 4th from 10.30 to 10pm."

1921 Census

81, Church Street – MARKET TAVERN

- [1] *Walter Waldron* (49), licensed victualler, born Birmingham;
- [2] *Amy Waldron* (48), wife, born Birmingham;
- [3] *Edith Annie Palmer* (25), niece, barmaid, born Handsworth;
- [4] *Lucy Violet Maullins* (24), servant, born Bilston:



South Staffordshire Times 7/10/1922

“Mr. Wright, on behalf of Messrs. Butlers, brewers, Wolverhampton, for permission for structural alterations at the MARKET TAVERN, Church Street, Bilston and the LION INN, which adjoins it, and BRITANNIA INN, Bradley. Dealing with the MARKET TAVERN first, he said the proposed alterations would be an improvement in the domestic and sanitary accommodation of the premises, and the building of a bath room upstairs. The premises would be made more comfortable for the occupants and also more convenient for the customers of both sexes.

The Chairman said the Bench quite approved of the desire to make the occupants more comfortable. That was a very reasonable request, and the application would be granted.....”

Walter Waldron – see also MALT SHOVEL, Oxford Street, Bilston, and ROYAL OAK, Salop Street, Dudley.

Tipton Herald 2/1/1937

“Distressed because of leaving Bilston after a period of 23 years, Amy Waldron, aged 63, left her home at Dudley, on the afternoon of Thursday, December 17th, and was never seen alive again, her body being recovered from the canal at Bloomfield, Tipton, on Xmas Eve. These facts were revealed at the inquest conducted by Mr. J. H. S. Addison (Deputy Coroner for South Staffs) at the RISING SUN INN, Toll End, Tipton, on Monday afternoon.

Walter Waldron, aged 65, licensed victualler residing at the ROYAL OAK, Salop Street, Dudley, identified the body as that of his wife, whose 64th birthday, he held, fell on December 22nd. She underwent a severe operation ten years ago, but apart from that had always enjoyed good health, until about six weeks ago. For 23 years, up to then, he had kept a licensed house at Bilston. Leaving there was a great shock to his wife and she had never really recovered from it, she had had a nervous breakdown and had been depressed ever since. She had been attended by Dr. John Wells, of Bilston, and although they moved, to the Dudley district, she still went to him.

On Tuesday, December 15th, witness took his wife to see Dr. Wells, who said she ought to go away. The next day, however, she seemed to pick up wonderfully, but when she got up on the Thursday she appeared rather more depressed than usual, taking no interest in anything. During the course of the morning witness several times went into the living quarters to see her, the last occasion being about 1.40pm, when she was preparing dinner. When he went to have his dinner at two o'clock his wife was missing, and he sent round to relatives and informed the police. The spot where she was found in the canal, on December 24th, was a long way from the house. He had no idea why she went over that way, although they returned via Tipton on the bus from Bilston.

The Deputy Coroner: You mean she made a note of the district on the way? Is that what is at the back of your mind? – Yes, sir.

Continuing, witness said there was nothing to prop upon his wife's mind, except that they had left Bilston.

Horace Wellings, of 113, Walsall Road, Willenhall, a gauger, employed by the Birmingham Navigation Company, gave evidence of the recovery of the body from the canal at Bloomfield.

PS Windridge, of Tipton Green, said every enquiry had been made, but no one apparently saw the woman from the time she left the house until she was found in the water. Witness was called to the side of the canal at Bloomfield shortly after 9am on Thursday, and upon examination of the body formed the opinion that it had been in the water for some days. There were no marks on the canal bank and the weeds were not disturbed. The woman had been very queer during the past few weeks, and Dr. Wells had informed witness that there was very marked depression.

Dr. W. Murdoch, who said he had examined the body, said there were no marks of violence. Death was due to asphyxia from drowning. It was his opinion that the body had been in the water for several days.

A verdict was recorded of Suicide whilst Temporarily of Unsound Mind.”

1939 Register

81, Church Street

[1] *Edwin Hill*, date of birth 4/8/1886, manager public house, married;

[2] *Mary F. M. (Hill) Edwards*, dob 15/5/1890, manageress public house, married;

[3] *Mary A. (Painter) Gretton*, dob 5/6/1922, bar general, public house, single:

Edwin Hill – see also MALT SHOVEL, Oxford Street.

Birmingham Daily Post 17/3/1958 - Deaths

"On March 14, 1958, Edith Annie Palmer, late of the MARKET TAVERN, Church Street, Bilston; the ROYAL OAK, Salop Street, Dudley; and 56, Church Street, Bloxwich, Walsall. Interment at Bilston Cemetery Service, St. Leonard's, Church Street, Bilston, Thursday, March 20, 10.30am."

Birmingham Daily Post 12/6/1958

"Bequests for Dr. Barnardo's Homes....."

Miss Edith Annie Palmer, of Gillott Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, late of the MARKET TAVERN, Church Street, Bilston, left £7,085 (£6,962 net).

It was refurbished in the early 1990s.

Birmingham Daily Post 1/4/1994

"Landlord Mr. *Grant McMurchie*, of the MARKET TAVERN, Bilston, is turning the clock back to serve up beer 1900 prices to celebrate Bass buying the pub in that year."

Grant McMurchie committed suicide in August 1995.

Graham Steven Williams was married to Vicky Anne.

Daily Mirror 4/6/1998

"Free Pint of Carling.

With just six days to go before the World Cup kick-off your soccer-loving *Mirror* is buying you a drink. We've a Free pint of Carling to get you into the mood for the great Vive Le Football pub opening parties across the nation. Our friends at Bass Leisure Retail are offering every reader over 18 a free pint of Carling to get things off to a flying start today.....

Where to get your Free pint MARKET TAVERN, 81 Church Street, Bilston."

Express & Star 30/10/2022

"Police have closed off Bilston town centre today after two men were stabbed in the early hours. Officers were called to a disorder involving a group of men at the MARKET TAVERN in Church Street just after 1am. They found two men, aged 20 and 35, with stab wounds. Some businesses have been unable to open today due to police investigations at the scene. The men were treated by paramedics before being taken to hospital, with injuries which are not believed to be life-threatening. Police have cordoned off the area as forensics experts examine the scene, and CCTV is being retrieved and reviewed as part of the ongoing enquiries. A spokesman for West Midlands Police said, 'Officers will also be out on extra patrols around the town centre to offer reassurance to residents and businesses.....'"

[2023]

TO SPIRIT MERCHANTS, BROKERS, AND OTHERS,
IMPORTANT AND UNRESERVED
SALE AT THE MARKET TAVERN WINE AND
SPIRIT VAULTS,
CHURCH STREET, BILSTON.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

BY Mr. GEORGE BROWN, upon the Premises, on MONDAY NEXT, the 25th day of March—the capital SHOP FIXTURES, BREWING PLANT, STOCK-IN-TRADE, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, and Effects; consisting of handsome Shop Counter, with panel front, mahogany top, and two Spirit Fountains, one with twelve taps and one with eleven taps and Piping, together with copper Hot-water Fountain, metal Hot-water Fountain, and metal Drainers; five-pull Beer Machine, Piping, and Taps; Stock of WINE, SPIRITS, and ALE; Spirit Casks, 130-gallon Boiler, 70-gallon Boiler, 18-strike Mash Tub, Vats and Piping, Malt Crusher, iron-bound Ale Barrels, Coolers, and Tubs, Ale and Spirit Measures, handsome Shop Shelving, with plate-glass back; Saloon Screens, with shelves; PIANO-FORTE, in rosewood; excellent BAGATELLE BOARD, slate-bottomed, with two Pockets; four-post and other Bedsteads, feather Beds, Wash Stands, Dressing Tables, mahogany Sofa, mahogany Chairs, in hair seating; mahogany Tables, together with the usual Kitchen Furniture, Gas Fittings, Water Piping, and Effects of Mr. Taylor, Market Tavern Wine and Spirit Vaults, Church Street, Bilston aforesaid, under an Execution from the Sheriff.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.

1861

NOTICE.—Left at Messrs. Plant and Sons, Market Tavern, Bilston, on Saturday, Dec. 22, 1883, TWO PARCELS. Whoever can legally own the same, by paying expenses, must apply as above.

1884

BILSTON
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Sixth Exhibition of

FLOWERS,
FRUITS
AND
VEGETABLES,

Will be held in
THE GROUNDS OF J. E. SPARROW, Esq
Between Wellington St. & Wolverhampton St.,
Kindly placed at the disposal of the Committee,
ON
TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY,
August 17 and 18, 1886.

UPWARDS OF **£130** IN PRIZES.
SPECIAL PRIZES FOR COTTAGERS.

Admission up to 4 p.m. on Tuesday 1s., after that
time 6d.

REFRESHMENTS

Will be provided by Mr. F. W. Plant, Market
Tavern, Church Street.

There will be a LUNCHEON on the Exhibition
Ground, on the first Day of the Show, at 2-30 p.m.
Tickets 2s. 6d. each ; may be had from the Purveyor
(Mr. F. W. Plant), or from the Hon. Secretary.

Schedule of Prizes of full Particulars on applica-
tion to

CORNELIUS T. MORRELL,
Hon. Sec

1886



2007



2023

MINERS ARMS

2, Stafford Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Price [1860] – [1861]

NOTES

1861 Census

2, Stafford Street

[1] *John Price* (54), publican, born Brosely, Shropshire;

[2] *Mary Ann Price* (55), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Martha Ann Price* (20), daughter, born Bilston;

[4] *George Price* (19), son, stone miner, born Bilston;

[5] *Mary Ann Price* (17), daughter, born Bilston:

MINERS ARMS

1, Thompson Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

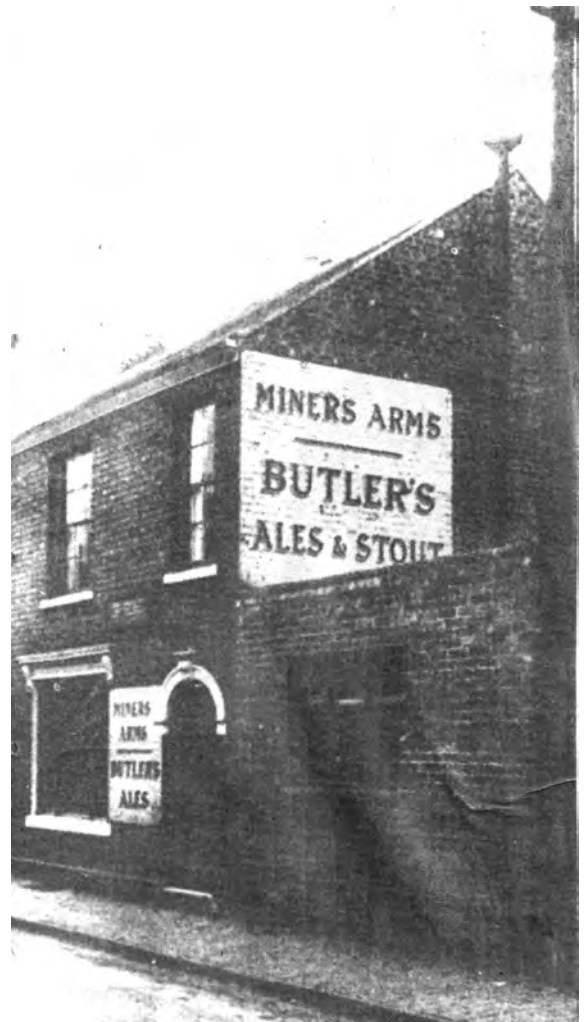
John Baker, air pipe maker, Thompson Street, Bilston
Richard Andrew Harper, brewer, Bilston
Cheshire's Brewery Ltd. (leased)
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (leased)
John Downing, brewer, Black Horse Brewery, Dudley
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1965]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

William Cornfield [1869] – [1870]
Alfred Townsend [1873] – **1874**;
Henry Baker **(1874 – 1875)**;
Vincent Wheeler **(1875 – 1876)**;
Francis 'Frank' Bridgman **(1876 – 1881)**;
Joseph James Blackford **(1881 – 1882)**;
John Millward **(1882 – 1884)**;
Henry Baker **(1884 – 1886)**;
Joseph George Hall **(1886 – 1894)**;
Thomas Wood **(1894 – 1896)**;
William Harris **(1896 – 1897)**;
Thomas Hunt **(1897)**;
Alfred Wood **(1897 – 1901)**;
Edward Astwick **(1901 – 1902)**;
Alice Astwick [1901]
John Henry Wright **(1902 – 1905)**;
Charles Smith **(1905 – 1906)**;
Henry John Underwood **(1906)**;
Joseph Martin **(1906 – 1907)**;
Joseph Dicken **(1907 – 1908)**;
Arthur Perks **(1908)**;
Frederick William Lewis Bowness **(1908 – 1909)**;
Charles Smith **(1909)**;
Henry Willey **(1909 – 1911)**;
Frederick Ernest Bird **(1911)**;
Thomas Roberts **(1911 – 1914)**;
William Roberts **(1914 – 1920)**;
Joseph Wilfred Law **(1920 – 1922)**;
Job Lockley **(1922 – [1940]**
Richard Lockley [] – **1956)**

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.



Staffordshire Advertiser 25/9/1869

“George Jones, a collier, of Quarry Lane, was committed for trial charged with having obtained eight quarts of ale under false pretences from *William Cornfield*, of the MINERS ARMS, Thomas [sic] Street, Bilston. On Monday night prisoner went to the prosecutor’s house, and on representing that he wanted eight quarts of ale for Messrs. Buxton and Foster, for whom he worked some time since, the ale was given to him, and he went away with it. It was found, however, that prisoner had not been authorized to come upon any such errand, either by Mr. Buxton or Mr. Foster. He stated that a man had given him threepence to fetch the ale.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/10/1869

“George Jones, 31, miner, indicted for obtaining by false pretences some ale and porter from *William Cornfield*, at Bilston, with intent to defraud, was acquitted.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/11/1870

“At the Bilston Police Court, yesterday, *William Cornfield*, of the MINERS ARMS, Thompson Street, was fined 20s and costs for having his house open at improper hours on Sunday.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/3/1871 - Advert

“Left at the MINERS ARMS, Thompson Street, Bilston. Whippet Dog. White face, white feet, bit white on tail.”

L EFT at the Miners' Arms, Thompson Street, Bilston.
Whippet DOG. White face, white feet, bit white on tail.

Birmingham Daily Post 25/11/1878 - Advert

“Horse (brown) for Sale, 8 years, 16 hands; quiet in single and double harness, believed sound; suitable for maltster or van work. Trial allowed if required.

To be seen at *F. Bridgman's*, Thompson Street, Bilston.”

H ORSE (brown) for Sale, 8 years, 16 hands; quiet in single and double harness, believed sound; suitable for maltster or van work. Trial allowed if required.—To be seen at *F. Bridgman's*, Thompson Street, Bilston.

Francis Bridgman – see also SADDLE AND STIRRUPS, Oxford Street.

1881 Census

Thompson Street

- [1] *James Blackford* (36), iron worker and licensed victualler, born Dover;
- [2] *Emily Blackford* (32), wife, born Willenhall;
- [3] *Florence Blackford* (13), daughter, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] *Ada Blackford* (11), daughter, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] *Laura Blackford* (9), daughter, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [6] *Annie Blackford* (2), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] *Mary Chilton* (16), sister-in-law, general servant, born Wolverhampton;

1891 Census

Thompson Street – MINERS ARMS

- [1] *Joseph G. Hall* (29), beerhouse keeper, born Warwick;
- [2] *Hannah J. Hall* (30), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Millie Hall* (3), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] *Matilda Molineux* (23), domestic servant, born Bilston;

Birmingham Daily Post 17/2/1892

“Mr. W. H. Phillips (coroner) held an inquest at the MINERS ARMS, Thompson Street, Bilston, yesterday, on the body of *Henry James*, assistant to Mr. Price, butter dealer, of High Street, who was found to have hanged himself on Monday morning in a closet at the rear of his house. The evidence showed that the deceased had been strange in his manner for some time, and a verdict was returned that the deceased committed Suicide whilst in a state of Temporary Insanity.”

Thomas Wood, beer retailer, Thompson Street. [1896]

Bridgnorth Journal 29/8/1896

“On Thursday, Mr. Archer B. Smith (Deputy County Coroner) held an inquest at the MINERS ARMS INN, Thompson Street, Bilston, touching the death of Frederick Lewis (14), whose parents live at 37, Thompson Street. Dr. Ashley Smith said death was due to an abscess on the brain, caused by a blow. Whilst larking together at Bilston Wake the deceased and other boys knocked down a boy named David Dudley, aged 12. Dudley thereupon threw a stone, which struck the deceased on the head.

The jury returned a verdict that the boy died from effects of the blow, adding that as Dudley was of tender age they thought he could not be held responsible.

Dudley was severely reprimanded by the Coroner.”

1901 Census

1, Thompson Street

[1] *Edward Astwick* (35), woollen draper’s traveller, born Flockton, Yorkshire;

[2] *Alice Astwick* (27), wife, licensed victualler, born Wolverhampton;

[3] *Annie Cund* (18), domestic servant, born Wolverhampton:

John Henry Wright, beer retailer, 1, Thompson Street. [1904]

1911 Census

1, Thompson Street

[1] *Frederick Ernest Bird* (38), publican, beerhouse, born Tamworth;

[2] *Edith Maude Bird* (39), wife, married 19 years, born Cradley Heath;

[3] *Herbert Victor Bird* (18), son, gas tube labourer, born Brierley Hill;

[4] *Minnie Margaret Louisa Bird* (12), daughter, school, born Birmingham;

[5] *Louisa Hill* (68), mother-in-law, widow, born Bresnall, Wiltshire;

[6] *Charles Hodgekinson* (29), visitor:

Thomas Roberts, beer retailer, 1, Thompson Street. [1912]

1921 Census

1, Thompson Street

[1] *Joseph Wilfred Law* (24), beerhouse keeper, born Tipton;

[2] *Lily Law* (24), beerhouse keeper’s assistant, born Tipton;

[3] *Alice Margaret Law* (1), born Bilston;

[4] *Alice Westwood* (18), domestic servant, born Dudley:

Evening Despatch 5/10/1934

“An admission that he had failed to account to clients for £849 6s 6d he had collected for them was made by *Joseph Wilfred Law*, of 19, Tividale Road, Tipton, a house and estate agent carrying on business under the style of Trevor and Law, when he appeared for his examination in bankruptcy at Dudley today.

His liabilities amounted to £849 6s 6d, with a deficiency of £712 6s 2d, and he said that his failure was due to living beyond his income, particularly in the last two years, when business declined owing to slum clearance orders, involving property for which he collected the rents, and heavy betting losses during the last nine months.

He said in 1921 he became the licensee of the MINERS ARMS, Bilston, the ingoing being paid by his father-in-law, Mr. Downing, but he removed in 1922 owing to ill health. In July 1923, with £350 given to him by his wife, he purchased for £300 a business of house and estate agents. At first his weekly rent collections were £120, and his commission was £5 or £6, but he increased his business very considerably. For some time he lived within his income, but then his personal expenses increased, and in 1927 he had to sell some property to keep himself straight. The Official Receiver: So as long ago as 1927 you were living on monies that did not belong to you? – Yes.

In July, 1930, said *Law*, a statement was prepared which showed that he was deficient in moneys collected for clients to the extent of £1,108, but that was put right by a gift from Mr. Downing of £1,100. He was then solvent, and for 12 months he endeavoured to reduce his expenses and live quietly. His expenses increased again, however, and his income began to fall owing to slum clearance schemes.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 20/2/1935

“A well-known Dudley estate agent, *Joseph Wilfred Law*, who was sent to prison for three months yesterday for offences under the Bankruptcy Acts, blamed slum clearance orders for his decline in income which resulted in gambling to try to retrieve his position. He pleaded guilty to failing to keep proper books and increasing the extent of his insolvency by gambling....”

Evening Despatch 22/7/1927

“An unusual point arose at Bilston today affecting Sunday morning trips from public houses.

Job Lockley, licensee of the MINERS ARMS, Thompson Street, Bilston, pleaded guilty to supplying beer during prohibited hours, while three members of the Miners Arms Outing Club pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting. *Lockley* was fined £3 and the four other defendants 10s each.

Evidence showed that a number of members from the club were going on a tour and eight bottles of beer and a quantity of mineral water and sandwiches were brought from the house and placed in two chars-a-banc. *Lockley* told the police that he had drawn the beer the previous night and placed it in the yard. He did not think he was doing wrong and no money had been paid for the beer. Later, *Lockley* explained that the members of the club paid so much a week for refreshments.”

Bilston and Willenhall Times 4/2/1928

“In applying for the renewal of the license of the MINERS ARMS, Thompson Street, Bilston, to *J. Lockley*, Mr. F. Cooper (Walsall) mentioned that on July 22nd there was a conviction against the house, and it might be imagined that the offence was a serious one. It arose, however, purely through a misunderstanding on the part of the licensee. It applied to some beer, which had been served on a Saturday night, and had been put on premises at the back, to be called for on Sunday morning by a party who were having a day’s outing. The licensee had held the house for six years without the slightest complaint by the police or the owners of the property, and at the legal proceedings the police were good enough to intimate that they did not regard this as a case where the Brewery Company should be asked to get rid of the licensee. Mr. Cooper asked the Justices in this case, where the conviction was due entirely to a misconception, to renew the license to a man who had borne so excellent a character in the eyes of the police and his employers.

The application was granted.”

Dudley Chronicle 7/3/1929 - Advert

“Pigeons for Sale, cheap, a good lot of racing pigeons. Proof, flown H. and R.H.S., Bilston.

Apply *Lockley*, MINERS ARMS, Thompson Street, Bilston.”

PIGEONS for Sale, cheap, a good lot of racing pigeons. Proof, flown H. and R.H.S., Bilston. Apply *Lockley*, Miners' Arms, Thompson Street, Bilston.

1939 Register

1, Thompson Street

[1] *Job Lockley*, date of birth 15/7/1876, beerhouse keeper, married;

[2] *Sarah A. Lockley*, dob 17/4/1881, unpaid domestic duties, married:

Evening Despatch 30/8/1940

“A licensee at Bilston for the past 20 years, Mr. *Job Lockley*, had many tributes paid to his memory at his funeral service in Bridgtown Methodist Church. There were over 30 wreaths. He supported Cannock Town FC for many years.”

A team from here took part in the Bilston Crib League, Section B. [1946]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/7/1956

“*Richard Lockley* (61), licensee of the MINERS ARMS, Thompson Street, Bilston, was committed to Staffordshire Quarter Sessions at Bilston yesterday on a charge of breaking into a butchers shop, and stealing £1. *Lockley* had pleaded not guilty and declined to give evidence or call witnesses at that stage.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/9/1956

"Richard Lockley (61), a Bilston licensee, who admitted breaking into his friend's shop and stealing a marked £1 note, was given a conditional discharge and ordered to pay £5 cost at Staffordshire Sessions yesterday. Lockley was said to have resigned his post as licensee of the MINERS ARMS, Thompson Street, Bilston. Mr. Stephen Brown, defending, said Lockley, who had previously borne an excellent character, could give no explanation for the offences. He was not short of money and was not a man who had dishonest tendencies."

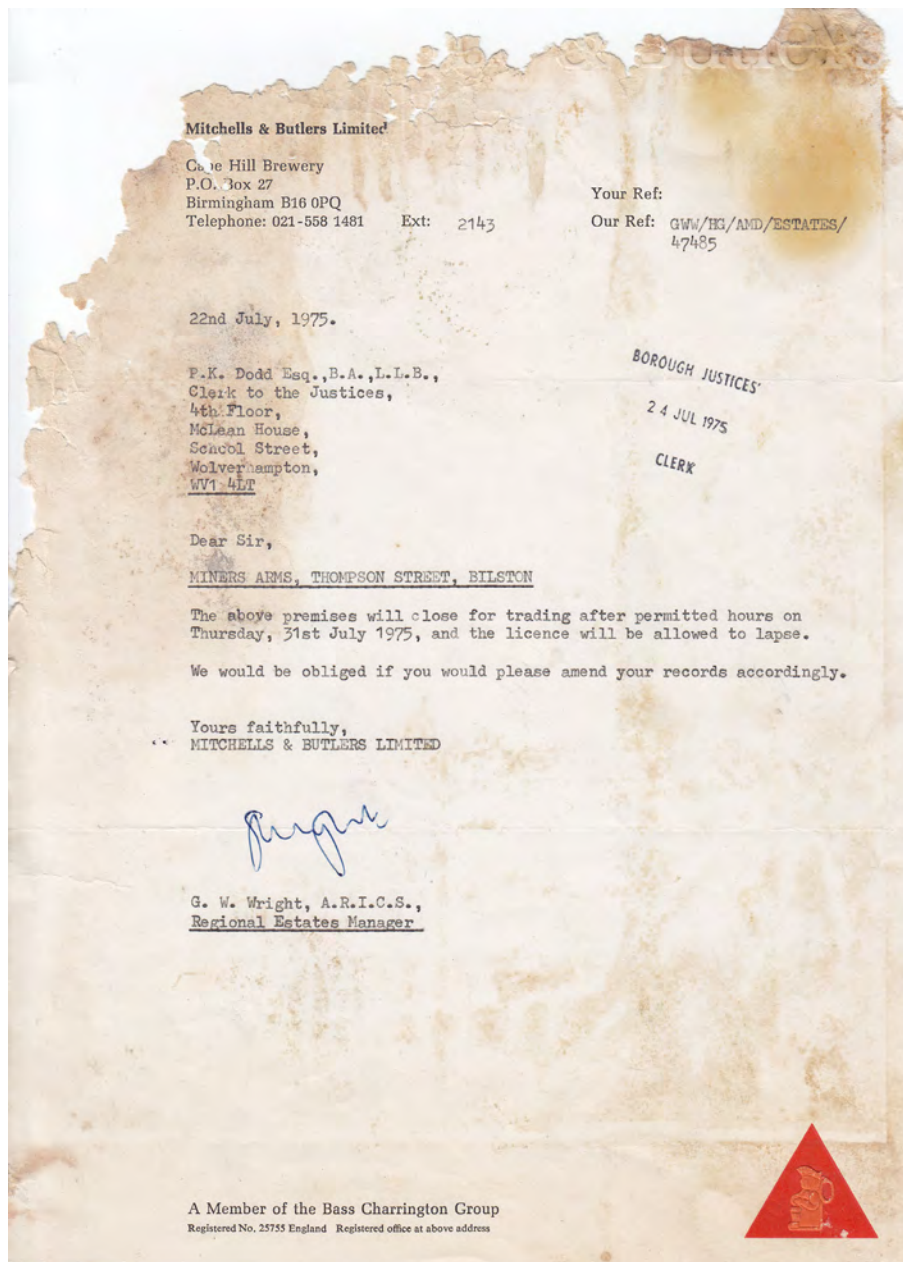
Letter to the Clerk to the Justices in Wolverhampton 22/7/1975

"MINERS ARMS, Thompson Street, Bilston.

The above premises will close for trading after permitted hours on Thursday, 31st July 1975, and the license will be allowed to lapse.

We would be obliged if you would please amend your records accordingly.

Yours faithfully, Mitchells & Butlers Limited."



Letter 1975

MITRE

Church Street, (High Street), BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

William Speakman []
Margaret Speakman [1868]

NOTES

William Speakman = William Speakman

William Speakman – see also ROYAL OAK, St. Lukes Street.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/8/1868

“Yesterday, at Bilston Police Court, before the Stipendiary (Mr. I. Spooner), Richard Fletcher, a collier, of the Lunt, Bilston, was brought up on a warrant, charged with assaulting *Margaret Speakman*, landlady of the MITRE INN, High Street. The assault took place in December, 1865, when the prosecutrix went to the prisoner’s father’s house about some money matters. The prisoner, who was present, struck her a violent blow on her mouth, knocking several of her teeth out. He then absconded, and was only arrested a few days since. Prisoner was committed to prison for three months.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/11/1868 - Notice

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1861. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton.

“*William Speakman*, of No.1 Court, Wolverhampton Street; and previously of the MITRE INN, High Street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Labourer, in Lodgings; previously of the MITRE INN aforesaid, Labourer, Licensed Brewer and Retailer of Beer and Tobacco; formerly of No.103, Temple Street, Bilston aforesaid, Cow Keeper, Milk Seller, and Labourer; and previously of the same place, Labourer and Dealer in Grocery and Huckstery Goods, having been adjudged bankrupt in Wolverhampton on the 29th day of October, 1868, is hereby required to surrender himself to Charles Gallimore Brown, Esq, a Registrar of the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton, at the First Meeting of Creditors, to be held on the 5th day of December, 1868, at Twelve o’clock at noon precisely, at the Court House, Queen Street, Wolverhampton.

C. W. Ratcliffe, Esq, of Wolverhampton, 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.

Clifton N. Curtis, High Bailiff.”

THE BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1861.

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF STAFFORDSHIRE,

HOLDEN AT WOLVERHAMPTON.

WILLIAM SPEAKMAN, of No. 1 Court, Wolverhampton Street; and previously of the Mitre Inn, High Street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Labourer, in Lodgings; previously of the Mitre Inn aforesaid, Labourer, Licensed Brewer and Retailer of Beer and Tobacco; formerly of No. 103, Temple Street, Bilston aforesaid, Cow Keeper, Milk Seller, and Labourer; and previously of the same place, Labourer and Dealer in Grocery and Huckstery Goods, having been adjudged bankrupt in Wolverhampton on the 29th day of October, 1868, is hereby required to surrender himself to **CHARLES GALLIMORE BROWN, Esq.**, a Registrar of the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton, at the FIRST MEETING of Creditors, to be held on the 5th day of December, 1868, at Twelve o’clock at noon precisely, at the COURT HOUSE, QUEEN STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON.

C. W. RATCLIFFE Esq., of Wolverhampton, 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.

CLIFTON N. CURTIS, High Bailiff.

1868

London Gazette 22/12/1868

“*William Speakman*, of No.1 Court, Wolverhampton-street, and previously of the MITRE INN, High-street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Labourer, in lodgings, previously of the MITRE INN aforesaid, Labourer, Licensed Brewer, and Retailer of Beer and Tobacco, formerly of No.103, Temple-street, Bilston aforesaid, Cowkeeper, Milk Seller, and Labourer, and previously of the same place, Labourer, and Dealer in Grocery and Huckstery Goods, having been adjudged bankrupt under a Petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy, filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton, on the 29th day of October, 1868, 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 Wolverhampton, on the 25th day of January next, at twelve o’clock at noon precisely, the day last aforesaid being the day limited for the said bankrupt to surrender. Charles Gallimore Brown, Esq., of Wolverhampton, is the Official Assignee, and Mr. C. W. Ratcliffe, of Wolverhampton, is the Solicitor acting in the bankruptcy.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 28/8/1869

“The annual licensing meeting for the Bilston division took place yesterday, at the Police Court.....

The following beerhouse keepers had been fined during the past five years.....

For keeping open during prohibited hours *William Speakman*, MITRE, High Street, 2s 6d and costs.”

Closed

It was demolished in the 1960s.

MOULDERS ARMS

Green Croft, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Samuel Jackson [1855]

NOTES

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/10/1855 - Advert

“Beerhouse. To be Let, the house known by the name of the MOULDERS ARMS, situate in Green Croft, Bilston, now occupied by Mr. *Samuel Jackson*. The back premises are excellent, and in the yard are marble and peg alleys. The Stock and Fixtures to be taken to at a valuation. Apply on the premises.”

BEERHOUSE.
TO BE LET, the house known by the name of the MOULDERS' ARMS, situate in Green Croft, Bilston, now occupied by Mr. Samuel Jackson. The back premises are excellent, and in the yard are marble and peg alleys. The Stock and Fixtures to be taken to at a valuation.—Apply on the premises.

MOULDERS ARMS

23, Twenty House Row, (Lower) Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

Lady Emily Foley

LICENSEES

William Masefield [1861]

Samuel Busby [1873]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

1861 Census

23, Twenty House Row – MOULDERS ARMS

[1] William Masefield (70), retail brewer, born Ketley, Shropshire;

[2] Ann Masefield (66), wife, born Wordsley, Lancashire;

[3] Hannah Masefield (25), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[4] Margaret Masefield (23), daughter, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/9/1864 - Advert

“Important Sale of Freehold Property, situate at Hall Fields and Bradley, in the Township of Bilston.

Mr. Thomas Richards will Sell by Auction (by order of the Trustees of the late Mr. James Adams), Tomorrow (Tuesday, September the 27th), at the House of Mr. Arthur Wright, the CROWN AND CUSHION INN, Hall Fields, at Six o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions then to be produced, the under-mentioned valuable Freehold Properties.....

Lot 3. All those Four Leasehold Houses, situate and forming part of the Twenty House Row, at Bradley, in the Township of Bilston, aforesaid (part of which adjoins the MOULDERS ARMS INN), together with Two Stables and Brewhouse, in the occupancy of John Hargrove, Samuel Thompson, Camm, and Richard Jones, the whole producing an annual rental of £29 18s.”

The license was abandoned.

MOUNT PLEASANT

Wolverhampton Street / Union Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Roscoe [1851] – [1853]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

John Roscoe = John Ruscoe

FREEHOLD AND COPYHOLD HOUSES, ROLLING MILL,
BUILDINGS, AND LAND,
AT BILSTON, IN THE COUNTY OF STAFFORD.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

BY Messrs. CHESHIRE and GIBSON, on
MONDAY, the 25th day of April inst., at Four o'clock in the
afternoon, at the Kings Arms Inn, in Bilston, either in the following
or such other lots as may be determined upon at the time of sale—the
under-mentioned PROPERTIES:—

A FREEHOLD LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE, known as "THE
NOAH'S Ark," situated at the junction of Union Street and Wolver-
hampton Street, in the town of Bilston, in the occupation of Mr. Wil-
liam Flower, as yearly Tenant.

A FREEHOLD PROPERTY, adjoining to the last; consisting of
Eleven HOUSES, fronting to Wolverhampton Street; and Five others
at the back, with their Appurtenances.

A FREEHOLD HOUSE, Yard, and Premises, also fronting to Wol-
verhampton Street, and adjoining to the last lot, in the occupation of
Edward Johnson, at an annual rental of £16.

A Piece of FREEHOLD LAND, fronting to Wolverhampton Street,
containing 111 superficial yards.

A similar Piece, adjoining, containing 114 yards.

A large Plot of valuable LAND, formerly used as a Garden, lying
in the rear of the above lots, containing 3a., or thereabouts, now in
the occupation of William Fellows, as annual Tenant.

A LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE, situated on the opposite side of
Wolverhampton Street to the last lot, known as the "HAND AND
KEY," in the occupation of Charles Lewis, with Two Front and Five
Back HOUSES adjoining thereto.

Three HOUSES, fronting to Wolverhampton Street, in the occu-
pation of Doughty, Woolley, and Winspear, and One HOUSE at the
back, with Gardens and Out-buildings.

THE MOUNT PLEASANT BEER HOUSE, in the occupation of
Mr. John Ruscoe, with a considerable space of LAND connected
therewith, having an approach from Wolverhampton Street and Union
Street.

1853

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/2/1851

"At Bilston Public Office, on Tuesday last, Thomas Lowe, of the DUKE OF YORK, Wolverhampton Road; Thomas Henshaw, of the CROWN AND ANCHOR, Cozeley Row; Richard Talbot, of the CROWN INN, Hall Fields; Isaac Riley, of the ROYAL EXCHANGE; and *John Roscoe*, of the MOUNT PLEASANT, were fined in sums varying from 10s to 40s and costs, for infringement of their licenses by keeping their houses open beyond the specified hours, or allowing card-playing &c."

Birmingham Journal 9/4/1853 - Advert

"Freehold and Copyhold Houses, Rolling Mill, Buildings, and Land, at Bilston, in the County of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Chesshire and Gibson, on Monday, the 25th day of April inst., at Four o'clock in the afternoon, at the KINGS ARMS INN, in Bilston, either in the following or such other lots as may be determined upon at the time of sale.....

The MOUNT PLEASANT Beer House, in the occupation of Mr. *John Ruscoe*, with a considerable space of Land connected therewith, having an approach from Wolverhampton Street and Union Street."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 2/5/1853 - Advert

"Freehold and Copyhold Houses, Rolling Mill, Buildings, and Land, at Bilston, in the County of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Chesshire and Gibson, on Monday next, May 9, at four o'clock in the afternoon.....

Lot 3. The MOUNT PLEASANT Beerhouse, and a considerable plot of valuable Land, in the occupation of *John Ruscoe*, at an annual rental, including other portions of the Property, of £30 per annum.

Lot 3.—The "MOUNT PLEASANT" BEERHOUSE,
and a considerable plot of valuable LAND, in the occupation
of John Ruscoe, at an annual rental, including other por-
tions of the Property, of 30*l.* per annum.

This Property has a double approach, having Carriage-
entrances from Wolverhampton-street and Union-street.

NAGS HEAD

49, Wolverhampton Street, (Hampton Street), Shift End, BILSTON

OWNERS

John Hickman, ironfounder, Bilston

LICENSEES

Edward Holloway [1818]
John Hickman [1822] – [1842]
Edward Jones [] – **1850**;
Thomas Jones **(1850 – [1854]**
Thomas Boulton [] – **1857**;
John Roberts **(1857 – []**
J Holmes [1860]
Joseph Springthorpe [1860]
Alfred Hill [1861]
Henry Maybury [] – **1865**;
Thomas Jones **(1865 – []**
J Frances [1867]
Thomas Jones [1873] – **1885**);

NOTES

Edward Holloway was also a boat builder. [1818]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 15/6/1829 - Advert

“Valuable Copyhold Buildings and Land.

To be Sold by Auction, by John Pool, at the house of Mr. Nagington, the BIRD IN HAND INN, Shift End, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, on Tuesday the 23rd day of June inst precisely at four o'clock in the afternoon, in the following or such other lots as shall be agreed upon at the time of sale.....

Lot I. All that old established Public House, known by the sign of the NAGS HEAD, with kitchen, parlour, club-room, brewhouse, cellars, shop, pigsty, yard, and garden, containing in the whole, by an admeasurement lately made thereof, 649 square yards or thereabouts, situate at Shift End aforesaid, and now in the occupation of Mr. *John Hickman*.”

John Hickman was also a brass and iron founder. [1833]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/7/1850

“On Wednesday last an inquest was held before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, at the NAGS HEAD, Bilston, on the body of John Tarbow, a young man nineteen years of age, who was drowned on the preceding Monday evening, while bathing in the basin of the Birmingham canal, near Mill Fields. The deceased jumped into the basin at a deep place, upon seeing a boy named Cornelius Plant swim across it and back again, and a miner named Job Stanley, who was bathing, nearly lost his life in endeavouring to save him. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/12/1850

“At a special sessions for the hundred of Seisdon North, held on Monday last, at the office of the county magistrates, Bilston Street, in this town, the following victuallers' licenses were transferred that of *Edward Jones*, of the NAGS HEAD, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, to *Thomas Jones*, of Ettingshall Lane, pattern maker.”

VALUABLE COPYHOLD BUILDINGS AND LAND.
TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by JOHN POOL, at the house of Mr. Nagington, the Bird-in-Hand Inn, Shift-end, Wolverhampton-street, Bilston, on Tuesday the 23d day of June inst. precisely at four o'clock in the afternoon, in the following or such other lots as shall be agreed upon at the time of sale, and subject to such conditions as shall be then produced:—

LOT 1. All that old established Public House, known by the sign of the NAG'S HEAD, with kitchen, parlour, club-room, brewhouse, cellars, shop, pigsty, yard, and garden, containing in the whole, by an admeasurement lately made thereof, 649 square yards or thereabouts, situate at Shift-end aforesaid, and now in the occupation of Mr. John Hickman.

1829

OLD LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE,
“THE NAG'S HEAD,” WOLVERHAMPTON STREET, BILSTON.
BY JOHN GRAY.—To be DISPOSED OF by PRIVATE TREATY, the GOODWILL, LICENSES, and valuable POSSESSION of the above commanding-situated PUBLIC HOUSE, close to several very extensive ironworks, now doing a first-rate Ready-money Trade.
The payments are very low, and the Coming-in will be about £100.
For particulars, apply to John Gray, Auctioneer and Public House Agent, 117, Colehill Street, corner of Stafford Street, Birmingham.

1856

SALE AT THE “NAG'S HEAD,” WOLVERHAMPTON-STREET, BILSTON.
MR. F. ALTREE will SELL by AUCTION, on the above premises, on Monday, 6th July, 1857, part of the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, ten feet Mahogany Bagatelle Board, Spanish Mahogany Chairs, easy and elbows to match; mahogany, dining, and other Tables, French, tent, and other Bedsteads, Feather Beds, mahogany Chests of Drawers, Washstands, Dressing Tables, Toilet and other Glasses, Eight-day Clock, two Watches, three double-barrelled Guns, six-revolver Pistol, 18-bushel Mash and other Tubs, Ale Casks, two Pockets of HOFS, 1855; twenty STORE PIGS, useful SPRING CART, Child's four-wheel Shay, and numerous other Effects, the property of Mr. Thomas Boulton, who is leaving the town.
Sale will commence at 10 o'clock a.m.
Catalogues are in circulation and at the AUCTIONER'S, Bilston.
N.B.—A good PUBLIC HOUSE to be LET.

1857

1851 Census

Wolverhampton Street

[1] *Thomas Jones* (34), pattern maker and victualler, born Bilston;

[2] *Lydia Jones* (29), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Ann Jones* (8), daughter, day scholar, born Bilston;

[4] *Lydia Jones* (3), daughter, day scholar, born Bilston;

[5] *Enoch Evan Jones* (1), son:

Birmingham Journal 25/12/1852

“At Bilston Public Office, on Friday, *Elizabeth Clarke*, a servant in the employ of Mr. *Thomas Jones*, licensed victualler, Wolverhampton Street, was charged with stealing three yards of silk, a silk shawl, and several other articles of wearing apparel, the property of her mistress. The prisoner had been in Mr. *Jones*’s service about five weeks, and in consequence of having lost a number of articles from his house, suspicion fell upon her, and she was discharged on Friday last. On Wednesday the prisoner went again to the house, when Mr. *Jones* gave her into custody, having received information which induced him to do so. The property produced he identified as belonging to him. A witness, named *Mary Evans*, stated that the prisoner came to her house on the night she left Mr. *Jones*’s service, and produced a piece of silk, which she said she intended to have made into a bonnet; she also saw the shawl, which was now produced. Having heard that some things had been missed from Mr. *Jones*’s house, she informed him of what she had seen, and prisoner was given into the custody of Inspector Thompson. The prisoner, who denied the charge, was committed to the Sessions.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/1/1853

“Staffordshire Epiphany Sessions.....

Elizabeth Clarke, aged 21, was indicted for stealing two yards of black silk, a silk handkerchief, silk shawl, and other articles, the property of *Thomas Jones*, at Bilston. It appeared from the evidence of the prosecutor, that the prisoner, a domestic servant, was dismissed from his service on the 10th December, when some of the articles were found in her box. The articles were produced, and identified by prosecutor; but in the course of cross-examination, it was elicited that the things were missed by the prosecutor’s wife, and not by himself, and that the prisoner had given an account to her mistress of how she got the things, and that she had given her 2s for the handkerchief.

Mr. Wright, who conducted the prosecution, having closed his case, Mr. M’Mahon submitted that there was no evidence to go to the jury in the absence of the prosecutor’s wife, contending that it was a rule of law, when a person had in his possession stolen property, and gave a reasonable account of that possession, for the prosecution to show that account to be untrue. The Court, however, considered there was evidence to go to the jury; when Mr. M’Mahon addressed the jury on behalf of the prisoner. Mr. Wright replied.

The Chairman, in the course of his summing up, directed the jury to dismiss from their minds the evidence respecting the handkerchief, the prosecution having failed to disprove the prisoner’s statement. The jury returned a verdict of not guilty, and the prisoner was discharged.”

Birmingham Journal 31/12/1853

“On Friday evening week, Mr. W. Phillips, Deputy Coroner, held an inquest at the NAGS HEAD, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, on the body of an infant named *Isaac Davies*, who was found dead in a well in its parents house The inquest was adjourned.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/1/1854

“The inquest on the body of the child named *Isaac Davies*, found dead in a well, in its father’s house, at Bilston, was resumed on Friday last, when the jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against the mother.”

AND

Birmingham Journal 18/3/1854

“Staffordshire Lent Assizes.....

Ellen Davies, a meanly-attired female, 24 years of age, was indicted on the Coroner’s inquisition for the wilful murder of her infant child, *Isaac Davies*, on the 17th of December last, at Wolverhampton. Mr. Corbett prosecuted, and Mr. Cooke, on the suggestion of the Court, defended the prisoner.

Margaret Holmes, the first witness, said: The prisoner at the bar and her husband live next door to my house, at Wolverhampton. She had a child, which would have been a month old on the 17th of December last. The husband came to my house on the evening of that day, and made an alarm. The prisoner was in her own house at the time.

I went into the house with the husband, and after he had lighted a candle, I went into the cellar, where I saw the child in a small well of water. The husband, by the aid of a pick, got the child out. I asked the prisoner how she came to place the child there, as if, she had made an alarm, she (the witness) would have gone to her assistance. The prisoner said she did not make an alarm because she was not able to speak. The prisoner seemed moping at the time the child was found, but did not render any assistance. After laying the child out, the prisoner said she went down the cellar for water, and the child slipped out of her hands. This occurred, the prisoner said, soon after six in the morning. I again asked her why she did not make an alarm, when she again said she was not able to speak.

Cross-examined by Mr. Cooke: I do not remember when she was taken to the Lunatic Asylum.

Superintendent McCrae said the well in which the child was found was 5ft 11in in depth, and contained about 3ft of water. The well had shelving sides.

Mr. Cooper, surgeon, stated that from the appearance of the deceased child, it had evidently been in the water some hours. There were no marks of violence upon it. He some years before attended the prisoner for symptoms of insanity, and recommended her removal to the Asylum. His impression undoubtedly was that the prisoner was temporarily insane at the time she dropped the child into the well.

Cross-examined: He had known cases of insanity where the person afflicted had a consciousness of doing wrong, but yet could not resist doing it.

The witness Holmes being recalled, said the prisoner had always been kind to her children.

Mr. Cooke briefly addressed the Jury on behalf of the prisoner, and contended that the child got into the well by accident.

In summing up the evidence, the learned Judge remarked on the absence of mind displayed by the prisoner on the discovery of the child in the well, and also on the evidence of the surgeon, showing that the prisoner had before been subject to temporary insanity. After a short consultation, the Jury returned a verdict of not guilty, on the ground of insanity."

Birmingham Journal 2/9/1854

"*Thomas Jones*, of the NAGS HEAD, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, was charged with having in his possession and using grains of paradise, for the adulteration of his beer. Mr. Underhill was retained for the defendant, who pleaded not guilty.

Mr. John A. Taylor, officer of inland revenue, stated that on the 23rd of June last, he, in company with another officer, visited the brewhouse premises of the defendant. In the corner of the yard, on an ash heap, the witness discovered a quantity of spent hops, containing a large admixture of grains of paradise. They then examined the hop sieve, and found grains of paradise in a crushed state, and on the edge of the copper they discovered several particles of the same article, which had evidently been boiled up.

Mr. Henry Hoyte, supervisor, confirmed the evidence of the last witness in all its main particulars, and added that about twelve or fourteen days after the discovery the defendant called on the witness, and said he came to explain how the grains of paradise were found as they had been; that a number of beer barrels, belonging to another brewer, had been brought to his premises to be cleansed, and that the grains of paradise must have dropped from them. The witness laughed, and asked the defendant why he had taken a fortnight to concoct such a tale, and why he had not made this statement at the time of detection. The defendant replied that Mr. Underhill, his attorney, had told him to say so.

Mr. Underhill then addressed the Bench, and offered an ingenious defence, namely, that John Whiston, a broker at Darlaston, had purchased five beer barrels at a sale at West Bromwich, and finding a sale advertised at the defendant's house on the 19th of June, he had transferred the casks thither; that he (Whiston) had himself brought them in, and that finding they were foul, and that *Jones* was about to brew on the 22nd of the same month, when hot water would be plenty, he had asked and received permission to cleanse them; that in performing this operation he had used the hop sieve, and fetched the water from the copper, and that thus the sieve first, and subsequently the copper, received that portion of the seeds detected by the officers. Mr. Underhill called Whiston to sustain his statement. The witness was sharply handled by Mr. Dance in cross-examination, and could not tell from whom he purchased the barrels, or to whom he sold them.

Mr. Underhill then proposed to call the defendant *Jones* as a witness, but after referring to the authorities, the Bench decided he could not do so.

Mr. Leigh then announced that the Magistrates considered a reasonable defence had not been sustained, and therefore inflicted a penalty of £50 in one count, the collector not having pressed for a conviction on the other."

Birmingham Journal 1/11/1856 - Advert

“Old Licensed Public House, the NAGS HEAD, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston.

By John Gray. To be Disposed Of by Private Treaty, the Goodwill, Licenses, and valuable Possession of the above commanding-situated Public House, close to several very extensive Ironworks, now doing a first-rate Ready-money Trade.

The payments are very low, and the Coming-in will be about £100.

For particulars, apply to John Gray, Auctioneer and Public House Agent, 117, Colleshill Street, corner of Stafford Street, Birmingham.”

Staffordshire Sentinel 3/1/1857

“On Monday an inquest was held at the NAGS HEAD, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of Diana Winsfer, a child about five years old, who died in consequence of burns she received on Wednesday, the 24th of December, 1856. From the evidence of a woman named Emma Severn, and the mother of the deceased, it appeared that the child was left in the house with a younger sister and a boy about eight years old, the mother of deceased being out washing. About six o'clock screams were heard, and Emma Severn went out of her house to the deceased's parents house, and there met the deceased running out of the house with her clothes on fire. Verdict accordingly.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 14/2/1857 - Advert

“A Good Nag for a Little Money.

To be Let, by Mr. Altree, that noted old licensed Public House, the NAGS HEAD, Bilston, established more than a century, and doing a profitable business. The house is convenient, with good yard, stables, piggeries, &c, &c. Rent and coming-in very low. Immediate possession, if required.

Apply F. Altree, Auctioneer and General Publican's Valuer, Bilston, established 1840.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/7/1857 - Advert

“Sale at the NAGS HEAD, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston.

Mr. F. Altree will Sell by Auction, on the above premises, on Monday, 6th July, 1857, part of the Household Furniture, ten feet Mahogany Bagatelle Board, Spanish Mahogany Chairs, easy and elbows to match; mahogany dining, and other Tables, French, tent, and other Bedsteads, Feather Beds, mahogany Chests of Drawers, Washstands, Dressing Tables, Toilet and other Glasses, Eight-day Clock, two Watches, three double-barrelled Guns, six-revolver Pistol, 18-bushel Mash and other Tubs, Ale Casks, two Pockets of Hops, 1855; twenty Store Pigs, useful Spring Cart, Child's four-wheel Shay, and numerous other Effects, the property of Mr. *Thomas Boulton*, who is leaving the town.

Sale will commence at 10 o'clock am.

Catalogues are in circulation and at the Auctioneer's, Bilston.

NB. A good Public House to be Let.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/3/1858 - Advert

“Capital Old-Licensed House, known by the sign of the NAGS HEAD, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston.

To be Sold by Private Treaty, by Mr. F. Altree (by direction of the proprietor), the Licenses and Possession of the above very excellent old-licensed House, with large entire yard, skittle ground, piggeries, &c. In-coming and rent very low.

Apply to F. Altree, old-established Publicans Valuer and Collector, 73, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston. Established 1840.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/9/1859 - Advert

“To Innkeepers and the Public Generally.

To be Let, with immediate possession, that excellent old-established Public Tavern, known as the NAGS HEAD INN, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston. Coming-in and rental moderate.

For further particulars, apply to W. P. Tomkys, Senior, Auctioneer, Bilston.”

TO INNKEEPERS AND THE PUBLIC GENERALLY
TO BE LET, with immediate possession, that
excellent old-established PUBLIC TAVERN, known as
the Nag's Head Inn, Wolverhampton street, BILSTON. Coming-
in and rental moderate — For further particulars, apply to W.
P. TOMKYS, Senr. Auctioneer, Bilston.

Birmingham Journal 18/2/1860 - Advert

“An Excellent Opportunity for Entering into Public Trade.

To be Sold by Auction, on Monday next, February 20th, at Eleven o'clock precisely, the Licenses and Possession of that old-established House, known as the NAGS HEAD INN, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston. Also, the whole of Stock in Trade, Brewing Plant, Gas Fitting, and other Effects, the Property of Mr. *J. Holmes*, who is retiring from public business on account of ill health.

For further particulars, apply to W. R. Taylor, Appraiser, 16, Hall Street, Bilston.

W. R. Taylor has also several good established Houses to Let, coming-in varying from £600 to £150.

Offices, 16, Hall Street, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 25/4/1860 - Advert

“To be Let, an Old Established Inn, the NAGS HEAD, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston.

Apply to Mr. B. Beebee, High Street, Bilston.”

TO BE LET, an Old Established INN, “THE NAG’S HEAD,” Wolverhampton-street, Bilston.—Apply to Mr. B. BEEBEE, High-street, Bilston.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1860

“The annual meeting for the renewal of spirit licenses, and also for hearing fresh applications for the same, was held at the Bilston Police Court on Friday last.....

There were altogether 215 applications for renewals, of which number thirty-four of the applicants have been fined during the past year for offences against their licenses in the following cases the Magistrates deferred their decision until the adjourned licensing day, which is fixed to take place on the 21st of September.....

Joseph Springthorpe, NAGS HEAD, Hampton Street.”

[Renewed at the adjourned licensing meeting, after being admonished by the magistrates.]

1861 Census

Wolverhampton Street – NAGS HEAD Public House

[1] *Alfred Hill* (32), coal miner, born Bilston;

[2] *Sarah Hill* (29), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Henry Hill* (12), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[4] *Denis Hill* (5), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[5] *Aron Hill* (2), son, scholar, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 21/12/1861 - Advert

“To be Let, with immediate possession, the NAGS HEAD INN, situate in Wolverhampton Street, Bilston.

Apply to B. Beebee, High Street, Bilston.”

TO be LET, with immediate possession, the “NAGS HEAD INN,” situate in Wolverhampton Street, Bilston.—Apply to B. Beebee, High Street, Bilston.

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 15/6/1867

“Joe the Ostler of Bilston will fight Young Cookey of the same place, for £10 a side, *Bells Life* to be stakeholder.

Articles to *J. Frances*, NAGS HEAD, Bilston will ensure a match.”

1871 Census

49, Wolverhampton Street - uninhabited

Iron Foundry and Public House

1881 Census

49, Wolverhampton Street - uninhabited

Used for foundry

The license was abandoned in 1885.

A GOOD NAG FOR A LITTLE MONEY.

TO BE LET, by Mr. **ALTREE**, that noted old licensed **PUBLIC-HOUSE**, the **NAG'S HEAD**, **BILSTON**, established more than a century, and doing a profitable business. The house is convenient, with good yard, stables, piggeries, &c., &c. Rent and coming-in very low. Immediate possession, if required.—Apply **F. ALTREE**, Auctioneer and General Publicans' Valuer, **Bilston**, established 1840.

1857

CAPITAL OLD-LICENSED HOUSE, known by the sign of "THE **NAG'S HEAD**," **WOLVERHAMPTON-STREET**, **BILSTON**.

TO BE SOLD BY PRIVATE TREATY, by Mr. **F. Altree** (by direction of the proprietor), the **LICENSES** and **POSSESSION** of the above very excellent old-licensed **HOUSE**, with large entire yard, skittle ground, piggeries, &c. In-coming and rent very low.

Apply to **F. ALTREE**, old-established Publicans' Valuer and Collector, 73, **Wolverhampton-street**, **Bilston**. Established 1840.

1858

AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR ENTERING INTO PUBLIC TRADE.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, on **MONDAY** NEXT, February 20th, at Eleven o'clock precisely, the **LICENSES** and **POSSESSION** of that old-established House, known as the **NAG'S HEAD INN**, **Wolverhampton Street**, **Bilston**. Also, the whole of **STOCK** in Trade, **BREWING PLANT**, **GAS FITTING**, and other **EFFECTS**, the Property of Mr. **J. Holmes**, who is retiring from public business on account of ill-health.

For further particulars, apply to **W. R. Taylor**, Appraiser, 16, **Hall Street**, **Bilston**.

W. R. Taylor has also several good established **HOUSES** to **LET**, coming-in varying from £500. to £150.
Offices, 16, **Hall Street**, **Bilston**.

1860

NAVIGATION

1, (2), Salop Street, (2, Salop Row), (Shropshire Row), (Pothouse Bridge), Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

William Hayward
Mrs. Goodreid, Salop Street, Bradley, Bilston
Emma Goodred, widow, Salop Street, Bradley, Bilston
Edward Lawrence, brewer, Wolverhampton
Harmer and Co. Ltd.
Holt Brewery Co. Ltd. [1921]
Ansells Ltd.

LICENSEES

Abraham Brereton [1818] – [1842]
William Hayward [1851] – 1880;
William Goodreid (1880);
Charles Preston (1880 – 1888);
Alfred Fellows (1888 – 1889);
Thomas Whitehouse (1889 – 1891);
Mrs. Sarah Ann Whitehouse (1891 – 1895);
Joseph Danks (1895 – 1905);
George Willcox [1901] manager
James Clay (1905 – 1907);
Mrs. Rachel Westwood (1907 – 1909);
Thomas Williams (1909 – 1919);
Mrs. Lizzie Williams (1919 – 1930);
Frank Holliday (1930 – 1932);
Louisa Bourton (1932 – 1937);
George Henry Wilkes (1937 – [1940]
Ron Higginson [c.1960]

C. PRESTON, NAVIGATION INN, SALOP-
STREET, BILSTON.—NEW YEAR GIFTS.
—N . 1,135, 1s.; 605, 2s. 6d.; 1,819, 5s.; 1,426,
1s.; 1,672, 1s.; 293, £1; 1,672, 1s.; 3,073, 2s. 6d.;
3,061, 2s. 6d.; 3,059, 1s.; 2,890, 1s.; 36, 1s.; 52,
1s.; 2,739, 1s.; 2,731, 1s.; 973, 1s.; 1,998, 1s.;
3,087, 1s.; 284, 15s.; 126, 2s. 6d.; 2,607, 2s. 6d.;
3,074, 2s. 6d.; 3,081, 2s. 6d.; 2,958, —.; 3,071, 1s.;
3,066, 1s.; 3,075, 1s.; 2,947, 1s.; 2,210, 1s.; 1,104,
1s.; 1,320, 1s.

1885

NOTES

Pothouse Bridge [1818], [1822], [1851]
Shropshire Row [1834], [1842], [1868]
2, Salop Row [1861]
2, Salop Street [1873]
1+2, Salop Street [1881]
1, Salop Street [1891], [1904], [1908], [1912], [1921], [1932], [1939], [1940]

Abraham Brereton = *Abraham Brearton*

Abraham Brereton, beerhouse, Shropshire Row. [1834]

1841 Census

Salop Row

- [1] *Abraham Brereton* (55), coal master, born Staffordshire;
- [2] *Jane Brereton* (55), born Staffordshire;
- [3] *Hannah Brereton* (30), born Staffordshire;
- [4] *Isaac Brereton* (20), iron furnaceman, born Staffordshire;
- [5] *Harriet Brereton* (18), born Staffordshire;
- [6] *John Brereton* (15), shoe maker, born Staffordshire;
- [7] *Ann Ray* (3), grand-daughter, born Staffordshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 25/8/1841

“The general annual licensing meeting was held on Friday.....

The following is a list of the new licenses granted.....

Abraham Brereton, Shropshire Row, Bilston.”

Abraham Brearton, retailer of beer, Shropshire Row. [1842]

Harriet Brereton, spinster, married *William Hayward*, bachelor, butcher, on 20th October 1847.

Abraham Brereton was the father of *Abraham Brereton* of the WHITE HART, Salop Street.

Birmingham Journal 17/8/1850

“On the afternoon of Friday last, a melancholy accident occurred in an old pit shaft, in the field belonging to Messrs. Pemberton and Benton, at the Deepfields. Two men, named *Hugh Roberts* and *John Sheffield*, were employed in cleansing the pit, which had not been in use for some time, and they had been clearing away a large mass of soil that had accumulated on a scaffolding situated about halfway up the shaft. When they had reached within two feet of the scaffold, however, the decayed boards gave way beneath their feet, and *Sheffield* having instantly got into the ‘bowk’ used for taking the rubbish out of the pit, he was hoisted to the top in safety. *Roberts* was less fortunate, for upon the ‘bowk’ descending to relieve him from his perilous position – it being supposed that he had managed to get upon a safe portion of the scaffold, as his voice was heard after *Sheffield* got to the pit mouth – it was found he had disappeared, and his body was afterwards recovered from the bottom of the shaft, where it lay in eight feet of water. His head was fractured in two places, and his body was also much injured by the fall. On Monday an inquest was held before *T. M. Phillips, Esq.* at the NAVIGATION INN, Shropshire Row, when a verdict of Accidental Death was returned. The deceased was about fifty years of age, of tall stature, and stout make.”

William Hayward = *William Haywood*

William Hayward, beer retailer Pothouse Bridge. [1851]

1851 Census

Salop Row

- [1] *William Haywood* (32), butcher, born Bilston;
- [2] *Harriet Haywood* (32), born Bilston;
- [3] *Abraham Brereton* (69), lodger, widower, coal master, born Kidsgrove, Staffordshire;
- [4] *Isaac Brereton* (32), lodger, widower, sheet iron roller, born Bilston;
- [5] *John Corbal* (18), servant man, born Ireland;
- [6] *Emma Myatt* (15), domestic servant, born Potteries, Staffordshire:

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/8/1851

“The annual assembly of magistrates for granting victuallers licenses within the hundred of Seisdon North, took place on Thursday last.....

There were thirty-six applications for new licenses, thirty of which were refused, and one deferred (that of Elisha White, Daisy Bank, Sedgley), and five granted, viz.....

Mr. *William Hayward*, butcher, Shropshire Row, Bilston.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/8/1851

“Annual Licensing Meeting for Seisdon North.....

Application was made by Mr. Bolton, on behalf of Mr. *William Hayward*, of the NAVIGATION INN, Shropshire Row, Bilston. The house was stated to be worth £1,000 and to possess every requisite accommodation. It was also in the immediate neighbourhood of several large ironworks; and the testimonials in behalf of the applicant were unexceptionable. An accident had occurred, a gentleman having been thrown from his gig and taken to the house, and the want of some brandy had been severely felt on the occasion. After some consultation the license was granted.”

Worcester Journal 2/9/1852

“An inquest was held at the NAVIGATION INN, Shropshire Row, Bilston, on Wednesday, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, on the body of John Smith, thirty-six years of age, labourer, of Halls Buildings, Bradley, who had his head fractured in an affray near Pothouse Bridge, by a blow from a stone, so far back as the 16th of May last, and died on the afternoon of the 24th of August, from the injuries he received. The inquest was adjourned till the 7th instant, and Mr. Hancox, surgeon, was directed to make a post mortem examination of the body. Three young men, named David Jarman, Richard Jarman, and William Martin, were committed to the Sessions on the 3rd August, for the assault, and the deceased was then supposed to be out of danger, having been attended by Mr. Hancox, after several other surgeons who had been attending him had given up.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/9/1852

“The inquest held on the body of John Smith, at Bilston, terminated on Tuesday week in a verdict of manslaughter against three young men who were previously committed by the magistrates for the assault, namely William Martin, Richard Jarman, and David Jarman, and they were committed on the coroner’s warrant to Stafford gaol, on Wednesday.”

AND

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 21/3/1853

“Staffordshire Lent Assizes.....

William Martin, Richard Jarman, and David Jarman were found guilty of the manslaughter of John Smith, on the 24th August last, at Wolverhampton. The deceased was knocked down and severely kicked by the prisoners and other men, and was wounded in the forehead by a stone thrown at him. The prisoners were sentenced to two years’ imprisonment, the Judge remarking that if it had been clearly proved that they threw the stone, the sentence would have been one of transportation.”

Worcester Journal 28/10/1854

“On Saturday last an inquest was held before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, at the NAVIGATION INN, Bilston, on the body of a boy named George Dicken, about fourteen years of age, who was engaged to straighten iron at Messrs. Higgins and Row’s manufactory, at Bradley. He went to his work as usual, and there being not sufficient iron for him to commence with, he began playing near the spindles, and was caught and turned round so rapidly that his brains were dashed out before the engine could be stopped. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/8/1855

“An inquest was held at the NAVIGATION INN, Shropshire Row, Bilston, by T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on Wednesday, touching the death of Morris Fellows, a little boy, about four years of age. The boy’s father, after giving deceased some bread and butter, a little before 8 o’clock on the preceding evening, left him to go to bed, and went to the NAVIGATION, where, in about twenty minutes, word was brought him that his boy had fallen in the canal, near the Pothouse Bridge. He instantly went there, and while inquiring of some bystanders after his child, he observed his cap floating on the canal, into which he plunged, and in about five minutes brought up the boy dead from the bottom of the canal. No one had previously sought to rescue the child. Verdict, Found Drowned.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/12/1855 - Deaths

“On the 17th ult, at his residence, Salop Street, Bilston, Mr. *Abraham Brereton*, in his 75th year, much lamented by his family and friends.”

Inquests were held here in May 1856 on two men killed in a boiler explosion.

[For further on the boiler explosion see under SADDLE AND STIRRUPS.]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/1/1857

“*Brereton v Hayward*.”

In this case Mr. H. Underhill appeared for the plaintiff, Mr. John Brereton, of Bilston, and Mr. Kettle, barrister, for the defendant, Mr. *William Hayward*, of the same township.

It appeared from the opening speech of Mr. Underhill, that the plaintiff is the administrator of Mr. *Abraham Brereton*, who died in the month of November, 1855, and the action was brought against his relative, the defendant, to recover £50 due upon a promissory note, which had been given by the defendant to the testator previously to his decease. The testator resided in the house of the defendant at Bilston, an inn, where he had a private room. He was a man possessing considerable property, and had been in the habit, from time to time, of lending the defendant sums of money.

The testator died between three and four o'clock on the morning of the 17th of November, and shortly afterwards, in the presence of the defendant, several relatives, and a person named Wood, a box in the testator's room was, with some unwillingness, opened. The box contained his will, and a pocket book in which were found two notes of hand, the one signed by a person named Duffield, and the other for £50, signed by the defendant, and payable to the testator 'on demand.' After the latter was produced, Wood read it, and said to the defendant, 'This is yours.' *Hayward* replied, 'Yes; it's all right,' and added, 'There were £50 worth of hops which the old man (the testator) bought for Isaac (meaning the defendant's eldest son), which will make him (Isaac) and me level.' The notes of hand were again put into the pocket book, which was replaced in the chest, the latter and the room door locked, and the keys kept by the defendant.

The executors to the will were Mr. R. Bew and Mr. Henry Wootten, of Bilston, but the latter gentleman dying, and the former refusing to act, letters of administration were taken out by Mr. John Brereton.

Mr. Underhill said he was informed that the defence would be that the £50 had been paid. No doubt a receipt for that sum would be produced; but his answer to that was that there had been several money transactions between the testator and the defendant, and although a certain promissory note or a bill of exchange for £50, payable in three months after date, might be produced, yet that was not the promissory note upon which the plaintiff sought to recover.....

The learned counsel remarked upon the evidence of the witnesses, the confusion of the affairs of the family, as testified by witnesses, the bad conduct of the members of the family towards the defendant, and mentioned circumstances which, he said, went to show that the defendant had acted honourable and honestly to the family.....

Mr. Bolton, solicitor, stated that Wood, one of the witnesses for the plaintiff, had told him that he could not swear that the note found in the pocket book bearing the defendant's signature, was payable 'on demand.'

His Honour summed up, and the Jury returned a verdict for the defendant.

There was a cross action, *Hayward v Brereton*, but the hearing of this was adjourned.”

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

“J. Wild of Bilston will run W. Jones of Moxley 100 yards, and give three yards start, for £5 a side. Money ready at Mr. *Hayward*'s, NAVIGATION INN, Salop Street.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 10/2/1858

“On Monday last, W. H. Phillips Esq, deputy coroner, held an adjourned inquest at the house of Mr. *Haywood*, the NAVIGATION INN, Bilston, on the body of Harriet Haywood, 37 years of age, wife of the landlord of the inn. The inquest was held in accordance with the wish of the friends of the deceased, certain rumours having been current to the cause of death. At the opening of the inquest Mr. Hancox, surgeon, gave it as his opinion that the deceased had died from excessive drinking, but according to the desire of Mrs. Haywood's friends the inquest was adjourned in order that Mr. Best, surgeon, might make a post mortem examination of the body. At the adjourned inquiry Mr. Best confirmed the opinion of Mr. Hancox as to the cause of the deceased's death, namely, the excessive use of intoxicating drinks. There were, he said, no marks of violence upon the body. The Jury returned a verdict accordingly.”

1861 Census

2, Salop Row

- [1] *William Hayward* (40), married, victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *Emma Hayward* (37), sister, housekeeper, born Bilston;
- [3] *Emma Hayward* (9), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] *George Hayward* (6), son, born Bilston;
- [5] *Jane Murry* (20), servant, born Sedgley;
- [6] *Thomas Butler* (40), brewer, born Northampton:

Staffordshire Advertiser 14/6/1862

“Henry Hayward, butcher, and *William Hayward*, publican, of Bilston, were each fined 5s and costs, for furious driving on the Bilston road, on the 27th May.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 2/9/1865

“Frank James of Bilston, hearing that G. Lowe of the same place wishes for a match with him, at catch weight, he can be on at once, and James will stake £25 to his £20. If he really means business he has only to call at *Hayward's*, NAVIGATION INN, Salop Street, Bilston, and a match can be made.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/1/1868

“On Monday last, an inquest was held at the NAVIGATION INN, Salop Street, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, touching the death of Hannah Plant, a child three years of age, who died on Saturday from the effects of burns. The deceased it seemed was on Thursday last left in the care of an elder sister; but it went upstairs without her knowledge, and whilst igniting some lucifer matches set fire to its clothes and was severely burnt. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/5/1868

“On Wednesday last an inquest was held at the NAVIGATION INN, Bilston, on the body of a youth, named John Whittle, who was found dead at the bottom of a pit shaft on Monday night. The deceased, it appears, acted as hooker-on in one of the pits in Messrs. Thorneycroft's colliery at Bradley, and the injuries found on his body induce the inference that his clothes became entangled in an ascending skip, and that having been drawn up some distance, he became disentangled, and, falling back, was killed. There was no person present at the time of the occurrence, and the jury, after hearing the evidence adduced before them, returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Emma Hayward, spinster, married *William Goodreid*, bachelor, mill furnace man, on 16th January 1871.

1871 Census

Salop Street

- [1] *William Hayward* (52), widower, licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *William Goodreid* (22), visitor, iron roller in forge, born Bilston;
- [3] *Emma Goodreid* (19), visitor, born Bilston;
- [4] *George Hayward* (16), son, born Bilston;
- [5] *Thomas Buttler* (59), domestic servant, born Northampton:

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 7/12/1872

“Canine Fancy..... Mr. W. Bayley of Salop Street, Bilston, will run his Lady against Baxter's Sally of Wednesbury, to give or take two yards and a half to the pound, for £10 or £15 a side. Money ready any time next week at Mr. *W. Hayward's*, NAVIGATION INN.”

Potteries Examiner 25/3/1876

"On Thursday week, the inquest on three of the four deceased killed by the boiler explosion, on the 1st inst, at Bradley Hall Ironworks, near Bilston, belonging to Messrs. East and Co., was concluded at the NAVIGATION INN, Bradley, before Mr. W. H. Phillips, coroner.....

The coroner read the report upon the explosion by Mr. E. B. Marten, chief inspector of the Midland Steam Boiler and Inspection Company, whom his worship had instructed to make the official examination.....

The coroner summed up. All the responsibility, he said, of seeing that the boilers were in good condition seemed to have been thrown upon two working engineers, neither of whom in their evidence could account for the explosion. Mr. Marten, finding the boiler in fair condition, looked elsewhere for the cause of the explosion, when he detected the dash-plate affixed as he had described. Danger was thus existing without the engineer in charge knowing it. It was a matter of very great regret that the plate was so affixed.

The jury debated their verdict in private. In half an hour they announced as their verdict that the deceased persons lost their lives in consequence of the explosion of a boiler, at Messrs. East's works, and such explosion was caused by the injudicious placing of a plate on the boiler, and allowing it to be left there in such a way as to interfere with the escape of the steam. In an addendum the jury censured the engineers in charge of the boiler for allowing the dash-plate to remain in the dangerous position described. They recommended the owners of boilers to do away with all dash-plates in boilers, but that if they were used there should be an independent safety-valve attached to every boiler; and they likewise recommended that the owners of all boilers should have them frequently examined by competent engineers."

William Hayward died in the 1st quarter of 1880.

Charles Preston was fined 10s and costs on 7th December 1880 for an offence against the Licensing Act.

Evening Express 7/12/1880

"*Charles Preston*, landlord of the NAVIGATION INN, Salop Street, Bradley, was summoned on a charge of having permitted drunkenness in his house on the night of the 22nd November. The prosecution was conducted by Chief Superintendent Longden, Mr. H. B. Hill, of Wolverhampton, appearing for the defence.

Mr. W. M. Hancox, surgeon, said that nearly at midnight on the date given, on passing defendant's house, he saw a short distance away two men, named Joseph Price and John Webster, in a drunken condition. Witness made a remark about men getting in such a disgraceful condition, whereupon Webster, who carried a gun, pointed the weapon at witness.

Price and Webster admitted having been in defendant's house, but said they only had a glass of brandy there, but a man named Brockley swore that he saw them supplied each with whiskey.

The defendant was fined 10s and costs, and Webster and Price were each fined 14s 6d, including costs, for being drunk."

1881 Census

1+2, Salop Street

[1] *Charles Preston* (28), publican, born Wednesfield;

[2] *Harriet Preston* (27), wife, born Wolverhampton;

[3] *Eliza Preston* (8), daughter, scholar, born Wolverhampton;

[4] *Harriet Preston* (5), daughter, scholar, born Willenhall;

[5] *Charles Preston* (4), son, scholar, born Willenhall;

[6] *Eliza Percival* (18), niece, born Wolverhampton:

Darlaston Weekly Times 9/2/1884

"*Thomas Beech*, grocer, Salop Street, was charged with refusing to quit the NAVIGATION INN, Salop Street, Bradley, on the night of the 26th of January, and with using threats to *Charles Preston*, the landlord. Mr. Dallow appeared for the complainant, and Mr. R. A. Willcock for the defence.

From the evidence (which was most contradictory), it appeared that certain reports had been in circulation in Bradley, and defendant went to *Preston's* house for an explanation, when *Preston* desired him to leave.

Beech was fined 6d and bound over in his own recognizance to keep the peace."

Darlaston Weekly Times 15/3/1884

“William Thompson, of Bradley, was charged with refusing to quit the NAVIGATION INN, Salop Street, Bradley, on 8th of October, 1881. Fined 2s 6d and costs 23s 6d.”

Charles Preston was fined 10s and costs on 20th June 1884 for an offence against the Licensing Act.

Darlaston Weekly Times 21/6/1884

“Charles Preston, NAVIGATION INN, Bradley, and Thomas Kempson, Bradley, were charged, the former with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises, and the latter for being drunk, on the 7th instant, between 7.45 and 9.00.

Sergeant Williams, Brettle Lane, and PC Booth proved the case. Mr. R. A. Willcock appeared for the defendant. Preston was fined 10s and costs, and Kempson 2s 6d and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/8/1884

“The Bilston annual Brewster Sessions took place yesterday.....

After consulting for a short time, the Bench decided to renew all the old licenses, with the exception of the following, whose holders have been fined during the past year, and who will have to apply again at the adjourned meeting on the 26th prox.....

NAVIGATION INN, Bradley.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1884

“Yesterday Bilston adjourned Brewster Sessions was held.....

Chief Superintendent Longden presented the list of publicans who had been convicted during the year. The Bench, after severely cautioning the persons in question, agreed to renew the licenses.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 3/1/1885 - Advert

“C. Preston, NAVIGATION INN, Salop Street, Bilston. New Year Gifts.

No. 1135, 1s; 605, 2s 6d; 1819, 5s.....”

Darlaston Weekly Times 17/1/1885

“On Monday, an inquest was held at the NAVIGATION INN, Bradley, by Mr. W. H. Phillips, on the body of Samuel Wild (59), puddler, 6, Canal Row, Bradley, who was found dead in bed, on Saturday morning. The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 5/2/1885 - Advert

“Lost, on Sunday afternoon, Scotch Sheep Dog, red body, white neck.

Apply, C. Preston, NAVIGATION INN, Bilston.”

LOST, on Sunday afternoon, Scotch Sheep Dog, red body, white neck.—Apply, C. Preston, Navigation Inn, Bilston.

Darlaston Weekly Times 10/10/1885

“On Monday morning, W. H. Phillips, Esq. Coroner, held an inquest at the NAVIGATION INN, Salop Street, Bradley, on the body of James Hawkes (63), stock-taker, of William Street, Bradley.

Charles Hawkes, son of deceased, stated that he last saw his father alive on Thursday morning, when he appeared to be in his usual health. Witness heard that he was missing on Friday morning. His breakfast had been sent to the Bankfield Ironworks (Messrs. Groucutt’s), and he was not there. Witness afterwards saw deceased’s body on the canal side, and his legs were then tied with his neck handkerchief. Deceased had been in trouble ever since Messrs. Groucutt’s ironworks stopped, and he lost his job. He had only been working lately as a casual hand since the works had been re-started, earning boy’s wages, and he had often expressed a wish that he could die.

Mrs. Eliza Cotterill stated that on Friday morning she heard of deceased being missing from his work, and later on she was passing an opening near her house, which looked onto the canal, and saw deceased’s body in the water. When he was got out witness noticed that his legs were tied. She had noticed that deceased had been strange in his manner lately, and had seen him walking about, clapping his hands and crying. The previous witness stated that deceased had worked for Messrs. Groucutt for about 35 years, and he had been in great trouble since he lost his situation.

The jury returned a verdict that deceased Drowned himself whilst in a state of Temporary Insanity.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 9/11/1885

“Thomas Richards, a miner, of 38, Oxford Street, Bilston, who has been missing since Saturday evening last, was found drowned in the Canal at Pothouse Bridge this morning, and his body has been removed to Mr. *Preston*’s, the NAVIGATION INN, to await an inquest.

Another man named Thomas Richards, who was thrown out of a trap on Sunday evening, was also removed to Mr. *Preston*’s, and little hopes are entertained of his recovery. It is said the two men are relatives.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 11/11/1885

“This (Wednesday) morning, Mr. E. B. Thorneycroft, deputy coroner, held an inquest at the NAVIGATION INN, Salop Street, Bradley, on view of the body of Thomas Richards, aged 34, collier, of Oxford Street, Bilston.

The evidence adduced went to show that on Saturday night the deceased had been drinking somewhat heavily, and that he went along the canal side for the purpose of reaching his home. As he did not return on the Sunday, and as a hat had been found floating on the waters of the canal, it was feared that some ill had befallen him. The canal was dragged and the body of the deceased found on Monday morning.

The police stated that there were no suspicious circumstances connected with the case, and the jury returned a verdict of Found Drowned.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 2/12/1885 - Advert

“For Sale, Fox-terrier Dog, thorough-bred.

FOR Sale, Fox-terrier Dog, thorough-bred.—Apply, Charles Preston, Navigation Inn, Salop-st., Bilston.

Apply, *Charles Preston*, NAVIGATION INN, Salop Street, Bilston.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 3/4/1886

“On Saturday, an inquest was held at the NAVIGATION INN, Bradley, by Mr. W. H. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of Sarah Moseley (65), who lately resided with her son, at the Pleck, Walsall.

William Ashdown, labourer, Salop Street, Bradley, stated that he was passing alongside the Birmingham Canal, on Friday, and saw some bubbles arising on the surface of the water. He stood for a few minutes, and saw the body of a woman in the water. With assistance he got the body out and it was removed to the NAVIGATION INN.

Corroborative evidence was given by a man who assisted in taking the body out of the water.

Edward Moseley, of Bridge Street, Bilston, gave evidence that on Wednesday night, about half-past eight o’clock, deceased, who was his mother, came to his house, but only stayed a few minutes. She did not go inside, saying she had only called as she was passing.

The inquest was then adjourned to give time for a post mortem examination, until Monday.

Mr. F. J. Griffiths, surgeon, of Bilston, gave medical evidence to the effect that he had made an examination and found that there were no marks of violence of any kind, and death had been the result of drowning.

Emma Norton, a relative of the deceased, living at the Fiery Holes, stated that the deceased called at witness’s house on the Wednesday preceding her death, about two o’clock. After having tea, witness went with her as far as Moxley Church, deceased then saying that she was going home.

The Jury returned an open verdict to the effect that deceased was Found Drowned, but by what means there was no evidence to show.”

Lancaster Gazette 7/5/1887

“On Wednesday, at Wolverhampton, William Porter, a policeman stationed at Bradley, near Bilston, was charged with burglariously entering the NAVIGATION INN, Bradley, kept by *Charles Preston*, on the 21st ult, and again on Tuesday last, and stealing four bottles of home-made wine. The prisoner, it is alleged, committed the burglaries after the house was closed at eleven o’clock at night by lifting up the bar-room sash window on Tuesday night. He was apprehended while committing the burglary by the landlord.

The prisoner pleaded guilty, and was committed to the Assizes on both charges.”

AND

Lichfield Mercury 13/5/1887

“Stafford and Salop Assizes.....

William Porter, 21, police officer, pleaded guilty to burglariously breaking and entering the dwelling house of *Charles Preston*, at Bradley, near Bilston, on two occasions, and stealing bottles of ginger wine, aniseed, orange bitters, and peppermint, the property of *Charles Preston*.

Mr. Corser, for the defence, called attention to the paltry character of the offence, and asked his lordship to bear in mind that the prisoner had been three years in the police force, during which time he had always borne a good character, and that this conviction would result in his discharge from the force.

His lordship said that the prisoner's position made the offence more serious than it otherwise would have been. Prisoner would be sentenced to eight months' hard labour.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/6/1887

“At Bilston Police Court, yesterday, *Charles Preston*, publican, Salop Street, Bradley, was charged with a serious assault upon William Bayliss, also of Salop Street. Evidence was given that on the night of the 18th inst, the two men quarrelled, that the prisoner struck Bayliss several times, and that he knocked him into the gutter.

Mr. J. H. Gough, house surgeon at the Wolverhampton Hospital, stated that Bayliss was suffering from a serious compound fracture of the leg.

Preston was remanded for a week.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 7/9/1887

“At Bilston Police Court yesterday, *Charles Preston*, 56, landlord of the NAVIGATION INN, Salop Street, Bradley, was further remanded on a charge of inflicting injuries upon William Baylis, of the same place, who, it was said, was unable to attend owing to his detention in the Wolverhampton hospital, where he was suffering from a compound fracture of the leg.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 3/11/1887

“On Tuesday, at Bilston Police Court, *Charles Preston*, publican, late of the NAVIGATION INN, Salop Street, Bradley, was charged with unlawfully wounding, on the 18th of June, William Bayliss, ironworker, Bilston Street. The defendant has been in the hospital since the date of the alleged assault.

The prosecutor's evidence was to the effect that prisoner, after he had spoken as to the payment of some money that prosecutor owed him, knocked him down twice. Prosecutor's leg struck the kerbstone as he fell, and it was found at the Wolverhampton Hospital to be fractured.

After hearing corroborative evidence, the Bench committed the prisoner for trial.”

[At the Assizes in November 1887 *Charles Preston* pleaded guilty to common assault. To pay a fine of 10s and £5 towards the costs of the prosecution; in default of payment to be imprisoned for one calendar month hard labour.]

Nottingham Journal 2/7/1887

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1883 Receiving Orders.....

Charles Preston, of Bradley, near Bilston, Staffordshire, licensed victualler.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 19/7/1887

“Bankruptcy Proceedings.....

Charles Preston, coal dealer and publican, NAVIGATION INN, Bradley, appeared at the Wolverhampton Bankruptcy Court, yesterday, on his public examination. He was represented by Mr. Rhodes.

The liabilities were £575, and the assets £152, leaving a deficiency of £423.

The debtor acquired the NAVIGATION INN in October 1880, he having previously been a keymaker, at Willenhall. The lease of those premises he assigned the following year by way of mortgage to secure £200, which he borrowed to enable him to pay on the fixtures and fittings at the BRIDGE INN, Ettingshall, which he took in that year. In 1885 the BRIDGE INN was disposed of, as the debtor asserted, at a loss of £167. He had also carried on the businesses of a pig dealer and coal dealer. Finding his affairs becoming complicated the debtor called a meeting of his creditors on the 14th June, when he offered to hand over to them his estate. This, however, they declined to accept, and a receiving order was made.

The examination was adjourned until the 23rd August.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 24/8/1887

“Bankruptcy Proceedings.....

Charles Preston, publican, of the NAVIGATION INN, Salop Street, Bradley, appeared at the Wolverhampton Bankruptcy Court, yesterday, for his adjourned examination. He was represented by Mr. R. R. Rhodes. Certain documents not having yet been filed, the examination was further adjourned.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 24/10/1888

“The Bankruptcy Act 1883 Notices of Dividends.....

Charles Preston, Brewley [sic], near Bilston, licensed victualler. First and final dividend, 15/16d in the pound; payable October 26, at the Official Receiver’s, Wolverhampton.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/12/1888 - Advert

“NAVIGATION INN, Salop Street, Bradley.

To Let, this well-known Liquor Vaults; midst of the works, and immediately opposite Regent Ironworks.

Large and profitable trade; valuable inventory.

Apply on the premises.”

NAVIGATION Inn, Salop Street, Bradley.—To L. t. this well-known Liquor Vaults; midst of the works, and immediately opposite Regent Ironworks. Large and profitable trade; valuable inventory.—Apply on the premises.

1891 Census

1, Salop Street – NAVIGATION INN

[1] *Thomas Whitehouse* (45), licensed victualler, born Dudley;

[2] *Sarah A. Whitehouse* (45), wife, born Wolverhampton;

[3] *Maude Whitehouse* (14), daughter, scholar, born Dudley;

[4] *Edith Whitehouse* (13), daughter, scholar, born Dudley:

Thomas Whitehouse died on 15th June 1891.

Joseph Danks = *Joseph Banks*

See also PRINCE OF WALES, Highfield Road.

1901 Census

Salop Street – NAVIGATION INN

[1] *George Willcox* (49), manager of public house, born Stone Easton, Somerset;

[2] *Elizabeth Willcox* (49), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Elizabeth Danks* (19), niece, waitress, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/4/1905 - Advert

“Bilston. This Evening, April 11.

Messrs. John Male and Son will Submit, on the above date, at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, at 7.30pm in the Evening – Several Lots of Freehold Property and Land, situate Bradley and Bilston; also Freehold Free Full-Licensed Public House, known as the NAVIGATION INN, Salop Street, Bradley, in the occupation of Mr. *J. Danks*. The Auctioneers desire to call particular attention to the above Inn, which is situate in a most central position, being surrounded with large iron and other works, with every convenience. Inspection invited. Possession can be had on completion.

For full particulars and circulars, apply to John Male and Son, Auctioneers, Bilston.”

1911 Census

Shropshire Street – NAVIGATION INN

[1] *Thomas Williams* (30), publican, born Birmingham;

[2] *Lizzie Williams* (26), wife, married 7 years, assisting in the business, born Birmingham;

[3] *Clara Partridge* (34), assistant, born Birmingham:

1921 Census

1, Salop Street

[1] Lizzie Williams (35), married, licensed victualler, born Birmingham;

[2] Elsie Taylor (23), barmaid, born Birmingham;

[3] Holland Williams (9), nephew, school, born Birmingham:

1939 Register

1, Salop Street

[1] George Henry Wilkes, date of birth 2/6/1880, public house keeper, married;

[2] Florence A. Wilkes, dob 11/3/1874, unpaid domestic duties, married:

A team from here won the Bradley Darts League, Second Division, in 1946.

Tipton Herald 11/8/1956

"Bilston foundry worker Sam Ellis, of 14, Rosemary Road Tipton, won the annual Bradley Bank Holiday marathon race for the NAVIGATION Challenge Trophy on Monday – and all because of his workmates. 'The only reason I entered was because they kidded me I wouldn't get into the first half dozen,' he said breathlessly after the race. He added that the race was his first for a 'good many years.' Receiving a 3½ minutes allowance, Sam, who at 38 was the second oldest competitor in the race, covered the four mile course in 25min 30sec.

Thirty-five-years-old Ron Bilboe, of 11, Chantry Crescent – one of three brothers in the race – was a close second, five seconds behind. He received a three minutes allowance.

Third place went to the youngest competitor and one of two scratch men in the race, 20-years-old Albert Smith, of 23, Valley Road, Upper Gornal. His time of 23min 50sec was 2min 50sec outside the record set by Alf Norman in 1950.

Last years' winner, Raymond Holmes, and R. A. Newall, the first man home in 1954, finished joint sixth.

Fifty-four-years-old J. T. ('Jotter') Perrins, of Coseley, was the oldest man taking part. He has been a competitor in the event for 33 years and each time he covers the course walking. A well-known local walker, 'Jotter' says he would rather do that than break into a 'degrading' run.

At the presentation which took place at the NAVIGATION INN on Monday night 'Jotter' received a specially struck medal commemorating the 33 years he has been associated with the event.

The race, which started and finished at the NAVIGATION INN in Salop Street, was watched by nearly 1,000 spectators. All proceeds from the event will go towards the Bradley Old Age Pensioners Fund.

For the record, 13 runners took part in the race and not one of them was tempted to pop into any one of the 13 public houses on the route."

Ron Higginson died in 1981.

He was married to Lily.

BY MESSRS. JOHN MALE AND SON.

BILSTON.

THIS EVENING, APRIL 11.

MESSRS. JOHN MALE and SON will SUBMIT, on the above date, at the Pipe Hall Hotel, Bilston, at 7.30 in the Evening—Several Lots of **FREEHOLD PROPERTY** and **LAND**, situate Bradley and Bilston; also **FREEHOLD FREE FULL-LICENSED PUBLIC-HOUSE**, known as the "NAVIGATION INN," Salop-street, Bradley, in the occupation of Mr. J. Danks.

The Auctioneers desire to call particular attention to the above Inn, which is situate in a most central position, being surrounded with large iron and other works, with every convenience. Inspection invited. Possession can be had on completion.

For full particulars and circulars, apply to John Male and Son, Auctioneers, Bilston.

NEW BULLS HEAD

97, Wellington Road, (Wolverhampton Road), (Bilston Road, Priestfield), BILSTON

OWNERS

Phineas Bullock
Henry Ward, gentleman, Rodbaston Parsonage
Richard Andrew Harper, brewer, Bilston
R. A. Harper Ltd., Hall Park Brewery, Bilston [1911]
Eley's Stafford Brewery Ltd.
William Butler and Co. Ltd.
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Phineas Bullock [1845] – [1860]
Mrs. Mary Bullock [1861] – [1862]
William Cook [1864] – **1866**;
Thomas Maddocks (**1866** – []
John Hughes [1871] – **1879**;
George Hughes (**1879** – **1880**);
Richard Andrew Harper (**1880** – **1916**);
Richard Palmer [1891] manager
William Edwards [1901]
Harry Millington* [1908] – [1911]
Harry Millington* (**1916** – **1917**);
Howard Silvester Harper (**1917** – **1918**);
Charles Willis (**1918** – **1919**);
John Stokes (**1919** – **1925**);
Harry Boucher (**1925** – **1926**);
John Henry Golby (**1926** – **1927**);
Catherine Golby (**1927** – **1928**);
Jonathan Eccles (**1928** – **1931**);
Percy Thomas Mercer (**1931** – [1940]
H Singh [1983]
L Chand [1988]
A Singh [1989]
Jaswant Mehta [1995]

NOTES

Wolverhampton Road [1851], [1862], [1864], [1896]
Bilston Road, Priestfield [1874]
97, Wellington Road [1901], [1921]
Wellington Road [1912]

BULLS HEAD [1830], [1864], [1865]



c1910s - Mrs Millington



Ex Pub 2007

Phineas Bullock, father of *Phineas Bullock* – see BULLS HEAD, High Street.

Staffordshire Advertiser 14/9/1844

“Inquests before T. M. Phillips, Esq, Coroner.....

On Tuesday last, at the NEW BULLS HEAD INN, Bilston, upon the body of a child 8 years old, named Abraham Layton. The parents of the deceased lived in a cottage in the Old Friezland Colliery, within three yards of which there is an open coal-pit, and while the deceased was missing for a few minutes, his mother heard something fall down the pit, and immediately informed her husband of it, and as the child could not be found, the father tied a rope round his waist, and in that way was let down the pit by his wife and a man named Garbett; he brought up the child, who died in about half an hour afterwards, in consequence of the injuries he had received. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 16/4/1845

“The following inquisitions have been held before T. M. Phillips, Esq, Coroner.....

At the NEW BULLS HEAD, Bilston, on the body of John Jones, a miner, about twenty-six years old, whose death was caused by his driving a head towards the shaft of an old pit, instead of making a hole into it, as directed by the bailiff, with a long punch, in consequence of which the water in the shaft rushed upon the deceased and other workmen, and he was much hurt by a great stone which the water rolled over him. The deceased died on Thursday last, in consequence of the crushes and bruises he received. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 7/5/1845 - Advert

“An excellent roadside Inn, a Dwelling House, and Two Plots of Building Land adjoining, also two small Tenements, in the township of Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett, by direction of the devisee in trust for sale, acting under the will of the late Mr. Phineas Bullock, on Friday, the 9th day of May, 1845, at the BULLS HEAD INN, Holyhead Road, between Bilston and Wolverhampton, in the county of Stafford, at five 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 conditions then to be produced.

Lot I. All that newly-erected and substantially built House and Premises, known as the BULLS HEAD INN, now occupied by Mr. *P. Bullock*, comprising on the basement five spacious cellars; on the ground floor an entrance hall, stair lobby, back passage and staircase to the club room, two large parlours, spacious tap room, convenient bar and back kitchen; on the chamber floor, a large club room or lodge room, with wainscot partition and four commodious bed chambers, with two large attics extending over the whole length, which may be converted into four good bed rooms.

At the back of this lot there is an enclosed yard, part of which is paved with blue bricks, a large brewhouse with soft water cistern, lead pump and store room, gig house, malt and store rooms over, an excellent five stalled stable, with hay loft over, and numerous other conveniences. The whole of the premises are newly and substantially built, and are fitted-up with grates, cupboards, racks, stalls, and every other requisite.

Lot II. A Plot of Building Land adjoining Lot I having a frontage of twenty-nine yards to the Holyhead road.

Lot III. A neat Dwelling House adjoining Lot I comprising an excellent cellar, entrance hall, parlour, and sitting-room, stair lobby, two capital bedrooms, and a large attic, an enclosed yard, in which is a convenient servant's kitchen with soft water cistern under, a lead pump, and other conveniences. These premises were built with Lot I, are fitted up in the same manner, and are now in the occupation of Miss *Bullock*.

Lot IV. A Plot of Building Land adjoining Lot III having a frontage of twenty yards or thereabouts to the Holyhead road.

The above four Lots are copyhold of inheritance of the manor of Stow Heath.....”

Birmingham Journal 9/8/1845

“On Tuesday last, at Bilston Police Office, William Hadley, William Whitehead, and seven others, were brought up and charged with aiding and assisting at a cock fight, at the BULLS HEAD, in Bilston. The fight was for £10 a side, and was to come off near Wednesfield, but the parties were disturbed by the police, and then they came to Bilston. Hadley, Whitehead, and Foster, were fined 20s and costs, and the rest were discharged. Mr. *Bullock* was fined 10s for keeping a place to fight cocks in.”

Birmingham Journal 15/4/1848

“At a Special Sessions, held on Saturday at Wolverhampton, the following were appointed overseers for the township of Bilston, during the ensuing year Mr. *Phineas Bullock*, victualler.”

Phineas Bullock, NEW BULLS HEAD, Priestfield. [1849]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/3/1849

“On Saturday afternoon last Abraham Collins, a boy about seven years of age, was killed under distressing circumstances, in an engine house at Priestfield, the property of Mr. William Ward. It appears that the boy was in the habit of playing about the engine house, and going in and out to see his father, Michael Collins, who had the management of the engine. About twenty minutes past four o'clock his father went up into the gallery of the engine house for the purpose of oiling part of the machinery, and found his boy on a piece of wood, called the bunting piece (upon which the catchpin of the beam falls upon every alternate stroke of the engine), with his head dreadfully fractured, and quite dead. An inquest was held on his body on Monday last, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, at the NEW BULLS HEAD, Wolverhampton Road, Bilston, when the father of the boy detailed the circumstances of the accident, and gave it as his opinion that the death of the deceased was caused by his being crushed between the catchpin and the bunting piece. Sarah Gratton deposed that the parents of the child were very kind to him, and that the father was in very great distress when he found the boy killed in the gallery of the engine. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

1851 Census

Wolverhampton Road – NEW BULLS HEAD INN

- [1] *Phineas Bullock* (42), innkeeper, born Bilston;
- [2] *Mary Bullock* (43), wife, born Bransford, Worcestershire;
- [3] *Phineas S. Bullock* (6), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] *Mary Jane Bullock* (4), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] *Anne Dawes* (25), boarder, barmaid, born Admaston, Shropshire;
- [6] *Eliza Cox* (22), house servant, born Bilston;
- [7] *George Matthews* (22), ostler and brewer, born Condover, Shropshire;
- [8] *John Lane* (33), leather factor and saddlers ironmonger, born Stourport:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/8/1860

“On Monday last, Mr. William Bratt, who has during the long period of twenty-two years held the office of secretary to the Odd Fellows Lodge which holds its meetings at Mr. *Phineas Bullock*'s, the NEW BULLS HEAD INN, Bilston Street, was presented with a handsome silver snuffbox by the members of the society as a mark of their appreciation of his services, on the occasion of his retiring from the secretaryship. The presentation was made by Mr. *Phineas Bullock* on behalf of the members, and Mr. Bratt, in acknowledging the present, expressed his thankfulness for the generous recognition which the society had made of his services and his gratification that he had been able to discharge his duties to the satisfaction of the members. The snuffbox bore the following inscription: Waterloo Lodge of Odd Fellows. Presented to PG CS William Bratt, as a token of respect for his faithful services as secretary to this society for a period of 22 years. 1860.”

Phineas Bullock died in the 3rd quarter of 1860.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 10/10/1860 - Advert

“For Sale by Private Treaty, the excellent road-side House, the NEW BULLS HEAD INN, Wolverhampton Road, Bilston, containing Attics, large Club Room, four Bed Rooms, Dressing Room, large front Parlour, private Parlour, Bar, Tap Room, Kitchen, Larder, excellent Cellaring, Brewhouse, three-stall Stable, with Lofts over, Coach house, Piggeries, Outhouses, &c, being a most complete and desirable property. Application to be made on the Premises, or to Mr. John Bullock, Bilston.”

FOR SALE BY PRIVATE TREATY, the excellent road-side House, the NEW BULLS HEAD INN, Wolverhampton-road, Bilston, containing Attics, large Club Room, four Bed Rooms, Dressing Room, large front Parlour, private Parlour, Bar, Tap Room, Kitchen, Larder, excellent Cellaring, Brew-three-stall Stable, with Lofts over, Coach house, Piggeries, Outhouses, &c., being a most complete and desirable property.—Application to be made on the Premises, or to Mr. JOHN BULLOCK, Bilston.

1861 Census

Wolverhampton Road

[1] Mary Bullock (53), widow, innkeeper, born Bransford, Worcestershire;

[2] Phineas S. Bullock (16), son, miller, born Bilston;

[3] Jane Smith (24), niece, general servant, born Brierley Hill;

[4] Edwin Hollis (25), hostler, born Bangor, Wales:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/10/1861 - Advert

"To be Let, at a moderate rent, and entered upon immediately, a good road-side House, known by the name of the NEW BULLS HEAD INN, Bilston. Fixtures to be taken to at a valuation.

Apply on the premises, or to Mr. John Bullock, Bilston."

TO BE LET, at a moderate rent, and entered
upon immediately, a good road-side HOUSE, known by the
name of the New Bull's Head Inn, Bilston. Fixtures to be taken
to at a valuation.—Apply on the premises, or to Mr. JOHN
BULLOCK, Bilston.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/7/1862 - Advert

"To Capitalists and Others.

Valuable Freehold Old-Licensed Roadside Inn and Building Land, in the township of Bilston, in the County of Stafford.

Messrs Morrell and Griffiths are favoured with instructions from the representatives of the late Mr. *Phineas Bullock* to Offer for Sale by Public Auction, on Tuesday, the 22nd day of July, 1862, upon the Premises, at six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then read.

Lot 1. All that substantially erected and well fitted up Freehold Old-Licensed Public House, known as the NEW BULLS HEAD INN, fronting the Great Holyhead Turnpike Road, in the township of Bilston. The House consists of five dry and excellent cellars on the basement, with entrance into yard; on the ground floor, front parlour, front tap room, bar, back parlour, china closet, cooking kitchen, larder; the upper rooms consist of four bed rooms, large club room, dressing room, and two large attics. At the rear of the premises a large brewhouse, with soft water cistern and lead pump; coach-house, five-stall stable, over which is hay-loft, malt and store rooms; a large yard, walled in; piggeries, and other out-offices; an excellent gateway entrance to the back premises. The whole of the Premises are erected and fitted up in the best manner, and offers for capitalists and others either for occupation or investment one of the best opportunities that has occurred in the neighbourhood for a considerable time. The late proprietor occupied the premises upwards of twenty years, and they are now in the occupation of Mrs. *M. Bullock*.

Lot 2. All that valuable piece of Freehold Building Land, adjoining the last lot, and having a frontage to the above road of 28 yards, and containing in the whole 330 yards or thereabouts.

Further particulars from John Willim Hall, Esq, Solicitor; or the Auctioneer, all of Bilston."

William Cook = William Cooke

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/3/1865

"On Friday, at Bilston Police Court, John Doughton, John Holmes, and Samuel Jones, were committed for trial at the assizes for an assault on George Roberts, in Salop Row, Bilston, on the 9th inst, and robbery from his person. The parties had been drinking together. Afterwards Doughton knocked the prosecutor down, Jones struck him on the left temple and Holmes stood by. Prosecutor was robbed of his waistcoat, shoes, handkerchief, etc. Doughton and Jones were afterwards found sleeping together and the prosecutor's waistcoat was on the bed. Mr. Hancox, surgeon, said that the prosecutor was severely injured; he was at first senseless, having sustained concussion of the brain."

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/7/1865

"Staffordshire Summer Assizes.....

Samuel Jones, 25, miner, John Doughton, 22, miner, and John Holmes (on bail), were indicted for feloniously assaulting George Roberts on the 8th of March, 1865, at the township of Bilston, and stealing from his person one waistcoat, and one pair of shoes, his property. Mr. Staveley Hill conducted the case for the prosecution. Mr. Brindley defended the prisoner Holmes, and Mr. Young defended the prisoner Doughton. The other prisoner was undefended.

It appeared that the prosecutor and the prisoner were drinking together on the day in question at the WATERLOO public house, Bilston, that they left there and went to the BULLS HEAD in Wolverhampton Road, and that after the prosecutor leaving there, the prisoners followed and committed the offence with which they were now charged. The evidence was very conflicting, and therefore the jury returned a verdict of not guilty."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/6/1865 - Advert

“The NEW BULLS HEAD INN, Wolverhampton Road, Bilston.

To be Let, with immediate possession, the above well situated Old Licensed Public House. The Fixtures, &c, to be taken at a fair valuation. Coming-in about £250.

Apply on the Premises, or to Aston and Sollom, Auctioneers, Wolverhampton.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 20/9/1865 - Advert

“Tuesday, September 26th. The NEW BULLS HEAD INN, New Road, Bilston. By Messrs. Aston and Sollom.

To be Sold by Auction, by order of Mr. *Cooke*, on Tuesday, September 26th, 1865, all the excellent and well-seasoned Ale Casks, Brewing Vessels, Beer Machine, portion of the Household Furniture, strong Cart and Thripples, Whitechapel Dog Cart (by Cand), in good condition; and numerous Effects, upon the premises as above. Catalogues in due course. The sale to commence at 11.30am.”

1871 Census

Wolverhampton Road – BULLS HEAD INN

[1] *John Hughes* (49), publican, born Wellington, Shropshire;

[2] *Elizabeth Hughes* (38), wife, born Shropshire;

[3] *George Hughes* (19), son, scrap dealer, born Bilston;

[4] *Alfred Hughes* (18), son, scrap dealer, born Bilston;

[5] *Edward Hughes* (9), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[6] *John T. Hughes* (2), son, born Bilston;

[7] *William Hughes* (7 months), son, born Bilston;

[8] *Elizabeth Russell* (10), wife's daughter, scholar, born Shropshire;

[9] *Mary J. Russell* (5), wife's daughter, scholar, born Shropshire;

[10] *Ann Whitehead* (19), domestic servant:

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/2/1873

“*Elizabeth Ann Russell*, aged twelve years, step-daughter of the landlord of the NEW BULLS HEAD INN, Bilston, was missed about six o'clock on Monday evening last. On search being made her body was found in a cistern of water in the brewhouse. The cistern, which is about eight feet deep, had been left uncovered by some negligent person who had been using it.”

Midland Examiner 13/11/1875

“*Andrew Bevan* was charged by *William Davies* with committing a highway robbery upon the night of the 1st November.

It appeared from the evidence that on the night in question *Davies*, after receiving his pension at Wolverhampton, went into the BULLS HEAD INN, on Wolverhampton Road, Bilston, and had a glass or two of beer. Prisoner was there at the time, and heard the prosecutor state that he had been to Wolverhampton and drawn his pension. A little time after, he left, and was closely followed by the prisoner. Prisoner walked behind complainant some yards, until he got to a lonely spot, when he pounced upon him, threw him down, and robbed him of over £3 in money, a belt, and some articles.

Prisoner admitted his guilt, and expressed his sorrow for what he had done.

Committed for trial.”

AND

Wolverhampton Express and Star 4/1/1876

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Andrew Bevan (38), labourer, was indicted for stealing from the person of *William Davis*, on the 1st November last, at Bilston, the sum of £4, a purse, and a strap. Found guilty, and sentenced to six months' hard labour.”

John Hughes died on 8th May 1879.

1881 Census

Wolverhampton Road – BULLS HEAD INN

- [1] *Richard A. Harper* (37), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Elizabeth Harper* (38), wife, born Willenhall;
- [3] *Ann M. Harper* (13), daughter, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] *Agness Harper* (12), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] *Elizabeth Harper* (8), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] *Richard W. Harper* (5), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] *Sarah Ball* (21), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Darlaston Weekly Times 27/1/1883

“An inquest was held at the NEW BULLS HEAD INN, Wolverhampton Road, Bilston, on Monday afternoon, before W. H. Phillips, Esq, the district coroner, on the body of Florence Louisa Sheldon, aged three months, the child of Charles and Maria Sheldon, of Cemetery Row, Bilston, who was found dead in bed by the side of its mother, on Saturday morning.

The evidence given by the mother showed that the child had suffered since its birth from tightness of the chest, for which complaint it had been treated by a medical man, and seemed to get better. On last Thursday week she took the child, which had recently been vaccinated, to Dr. Smith, to have the lymph removed from its arm. It seemed continually sleepy after this, and before being put to bed on the Thursday night, was sick. On Friday it was better, and did not awake all night. When the mother woke on Saturday morning, she found the child quite dead and cold, with its hands clenched. The child was entitled to half-benefit from a Foresters Club. The child had shown no signs of convulsive movements before, but the mother was quite satisfied that death proceeded from convulsions.

The Coroner said the child seemed to have been particularly well nourished and cared for, and the jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

1891 Census

Wolverhampton Road – BULLS HEAD INN

- [1] *Richard Palmer* (41), hotel manager, born Willenhall;
 - [2] *Ann Maria Palmer* (41), wife, born Willenhall;
 - [3] *Richard W. Palmer* (14), son, carpenter, born Willenhall;
 - [4] *Arthur John Palmer* (11), son, scholar, born Willenhall;
 - [5] *Roland Palmer* (9), son, scholar, born Willenhall;
 - [6] *Frederick H. Palmer* (7), son, scholar, born Willenhall;
 - [7] *Herbert Palmer* (4), son, born Willenhall;
 - [8] *Caroline M. Palmer* (2), daughter, born Bilston:
- [*Richard A. Harper*, brewer, is the next entry.]

Richard Andrew Harper was a brewer. [1892], [1900]

Black Country Bugle 13/1/2021

‘What was brewing in Bilston? Recalling lost pubs and brewers.’ by Steve James

“In 1897 *Richard Harper* established the Hall Park Brewery in Wellington Road, near the NEW BULLS HEAD, supplying around 40 pubs, but this was taken over by Eley’s Brewery in 1924 and ceased brewing in 1928.”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/7/1900

“The South Staffordshire coroner, Mr. T. A. Stokes, held an inquest yesterday at the NEW BULLS HEAD, Bilston, touching the death of *Elizabeth Pugh* (46), widow, late of Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, whose dead body was found lying on the line at Priestfield on Saturday morning. The right side of the head was cut off.

The mother of the deceased said the latter had been practically destitute. She earned 2s 2d one week, and 1s 9d of that went in rent.

The body was seen on the line by the driver of an express train, and he gave information at Priestfield. Near the body was found a letter, of which the following is the substance: Mother, I am not so well as Betts says I am, and I leave home Saturday. Am out of the road now, so no more from your *Elizabeth Evans*. Tom said last time I went to see him that I was not his mother. So good night and God bless you, and Mary and Tom and all.

Police-constable Head said the deceased had a liking for intoxicants.
A verdict of Suicide whilst Temporarily Insane was returned.”

AND

Bridgnorth Journal 7/7/1900

“On Monday afternoon an inquest was held at the BULLS HEAD INN, Bilston, respecting the death of Elizabeth Pugh (46), widow, late of Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, whose decapitated body was found on the Great Western line at Priestfield early on Saturday morning.

Evidence was given to the effect that the last week the deceased worked she earned only 2s 2d, out of which she paid 1s 9d for rent.

Mary Beddoes said she kept deceased for two days. On Friday night deceased said she was going to fetch three chairs from her house to sell in order to purchase some food. She left a letter with witness, written apparently by one of her sons, in which he said he should not go home again, but would allow his mother two shillings a week on condition that she did not come near him.

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

1901 Census

97, Wellington Road – BULLS HEAD INN

[1] *William Edwards* (51), licensed victualler, born Redditch;

[2] *Sarah A. Edwards* (49), wife, born Tipton;

[3] *Thomas Richards* (19), son, theatre bar waiter, born Bilston;

[4] *Ann Griffiths* (16), domestic servant, born Bilston:

[*Richard A. Harper*, brewer and spirit merchant, was at No.95.]

R. A. Harper, brewer, Hall Park Brewery [1904]
(registered November 1916).

* probably the same person

1911 Census

Wellington Road – NEW BULLS HEAD

[1] *Harry Millington* (35), licensed victualler, born Willenhall;

[2] *Mrs. Millington* (40), wife, married 8 years, born Bilston;

[3] *George Briggs* (19), son, stout bottler, born Bilston;

[4] *Irene Millington* (6), daughter, born Bilston;

[5] *Mrs. Jones* (65), aunt, born Leicester:

[*Richard Andrew Harper*, wholesale and retail brewer, is the previous entry.]

Harry Millington was married to *Martha*.

Harry Millington was fined £1, on 8th April 1918, for selling beer to a child under 14 in a vessel not corked or sealed.

Harry Millington – see also GLADSTONE, North Street, Wolverhampton; SEVEN STARS, High Street, Bilston; and HEN AND CHICKENS, George Street, Bilston.

South Staffordshire Times 10/1/1920

“At the generosity of Mr. Harper, Mr. and Mrs. *J. Stokes*, Mr. Walter Webb and Mr. Garbett, a large number of women were entertained to an excellent tea at the BULLS HEAD INN, Wellington Road, Bilston, on New Years night, and the beautifully decorated room and tables presented an attractive appearance. Mrs. Garbett and her busy staff of waitresses made every effort to make the guests feel in an atmosphere of happiness. An interesting and miscellaneous programme was subsequently gone through. Violin solos were creditably contributed by Mr. Davies, songs by Mrs. Humprey, humorous gramophone selections on Mr. Langstone’s instrument, Mrs. Ramsey made an excellent accompanist. A most pleasant evening was spent, and the donors were heartily thanked for their hospitality and Mr. *J. Stokes* suitably replied.”

1921 Census

97, Wellington Road

[1] John Stokes (37), licensed victualler, born Brierley Hill;

[2] Ada Mary Loise Stokes (38), wife, assisting husband in business, born Stourbridge;

[3] Clara Doris Stokes (16), daughter house duties, born Stourbridge:

It was rebuilt c.1925.

A music license was granted on 6th February 1925.

John Henry Golby died in the 1st quarter of 1927.

Bilston and Willenhall Times 28/1/1928

"There was a good attendance at the NEW BULLS HEAD, Wellington Road, Bilston, on Wednesday night, on the occasion of the annual dinner of the R.A.O.B. Wellington Lodge (No.684). Bro. K. Pitt occupied the chair...."

Percy Thomas Mercer was fined £15 and special costs of £6 5s 0d, and costs of 12s for using the bar of the licensed premises for the purpose of betting (and 3 other cases), on 21st June 1935.

Evening Despatch 21/6/1935

"A police raid at the NEW BULLS HEAD INN, Wellington Road, Bilston, on 8 June, led to the licensee, *Percy Thomas Mercer*, being fined £15, with £6 5s special costs, at Bilston today for using the bar of his premises for the purpose of betting. His wife, Eva Mercer, was fined £5 for assisting, and fines of £2 each for aiding and abetting were imposed on Joseph James Hale, Hall Park Street; Timothy Thomas Lewis, Green Lanes; William Booth, Prouds Lane; Enoch Downes, Best Road; and Jack Thomas Davies, Wellington Road.

The defendants pleaded guilty, and Mr. Ernest Brown, for the prosecution, said that when the raid was made Supt. Orland found nine betting slips and some money under the counter. *Mercer* told him, 'There is no denying I have taken some slips on the premises, but I do not take for myself. I have never received a halfpenny benefit from it. My trade was dropping off badly, and that is what made me do it. It has made a difference to trade.'

Mrs. Mercer said, 'I am only here to do my job. If anyone has come in with one I have put it on the top. There have not been any papers taken here until the last few months.'

Mr. Frank Cooper, for the defence, said *Mercer* had been very frank about the whole matter and had not made a penny out of any transactions. He had simply allowed regular customers to leave their bets at the inn for a bookmaker to collect. He became licensee of the inn because the firm with which he held a very responsible position was going out of business, and that was the only means of livelihood left to him. He had not previously been in the licensed trade."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/7/1939 - Advert

"Bar-General or Girl willing to learn; good wages and outings.
NEW BULLS HEAD, Wellington Road, Bilston."

BAR-GENERAL or Girl willing to learn; good wages and outings. — New Bull's Head, Wellington-road, Bilston.

1939 Register

Wellington Road – NEW BULLS HEAD

[1] Percy T. Mercer, date of birth 6/2/1895, licensee, late works managing coach building, married;

[2] Eva Mercer, dob 9/7/1894, wife to licensee, also domestic duties, married;

[3] Geoffrey H. (Ernest) Mercer, dob 7/6/1919, metallurgical chemist, aircraft lab, single:

Birmingham Mail 14/2/1974

"The 54th roller canary singing contest of the Walsall Roller Canary Club was staged at the NEW BULLS HEAD, Bilston...."

[1995]

It closed in February 2002.

It was converted, along with neighbouring buildings, into a temple.

An excellent roadside Inn, a Dwelling-House, and Two Plots of Building Land adjoining, also two small Tenements, in the township of Bilston.

**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY RICHARD CORBETT,**

By direction of the devisee in trust for sale, acting under the will of the late Mr. Phineas Bullock, on Friday, the 9th day of May, 1845, at the Bull's Head Inn, Holyhead Road, between Bilston and Wolverhampton, in the county of Stafford, at five 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 conditions then to be produced,

Lot 1.—**A**LL that newly-erected and substantially built HOUSE and PREMISES, known as the Bull's Head Inn, now occupied by Mr. P. Bullock, comprising on the basement five spacious cellars; on the ground floor an entrance hall, stair lobby, back passage and staircase to the club room, two large parlours, spacious tap room, convenient bar and back kitchen; on the chamber floor, a large club or lodge room, with wainscot partition and four commodious bed chambers, with two large attics extending over the whole length, which may be converted into four good bed rooms.

At the back of this lot there is an enclosed yard, part of which is paved with blue bricks, a large brewhouse with soft water cistern, lead pump and store room, gig house, malt and store rooms over, an excellent five stalled stable, with hay loft over, and numerous other conveniences. The whole of the premises are newly and substantially built, and are fitted-up with grates, cupboards, racks, stalls, and every other requisite.

Lot II.—A Plot of BUILDING LAND adjoining Lot I. having a frontage of twenty-nine yards to the Holyhead road.

Lot III.—A neat DWELLING-HOUSE adjoining Lot I. comprising an excellent cellar, entrance hall, parlour, and sitting-room, stair lobby, two capital bedrooms, and a large attic, an enclosed yard, in which is a convenient servant's kitchen with soft water cistern under, a lead pump, and other conveniences. These premises were built with Lot I, are fitted up in the same manner, and are now in the occupation of Miss Bullock.

Lot IV.—A Plot of BUILDING LAND adjoining Lot III. having a frontage of twenty yards or thereabouts to the Holyhead road.

The above four Lots are copyhold of inheritance of the manor of Stow Heath.

1845

TO CAPITALISTS AND OTHERS.
VALUABLE FREEHOLD OLD-LICENSED ROADSIDE
INN AND BUILDING LAND,
IN THE TOWNSHIP OF BILSTON, IN THE COUNTY OF
STAFFORD.

MESSRS. MORRELL and GRIFFITHS are favoured with instructions from the representatives of the late Mr. Phineas Bullock to OFFER for SALE by PUBLIC AUCTION, on Tuesday, the 22nd day of July, 1862, upon the Premises, at six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then read:

Lot 1.—All that substantially erected and well-fitted up FREEHOLD OLD-LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE, known as the NEW BULL'S HEAD INN, fronting the Great Holyhead Turnpike Road, in the township of Bilston. The House consists of five dry and excellent cellars on the basement, with entrance into yard; on the ground floor, front parlour, front tap room, bar, back parlour, china closet, cooking kitchen, larder; the upper rooms consist of four bed rooms, large club room, dressing room, and two large attics. At the rear of the premises a large brewhouse, with soft water cistern and lead pump; coachhouse, five-stall stable, over which is hay-loft, malt and store rooms; a large yard, walled in; piggeries, and other out-offices; an excellent gateway entrance to the back premises. The whole of the Premises are erected and fitted up in the best manner, and offers for capitalists and others either for occupation or investment one of the best opportunities that has occurred in the neighbourhood for a considerable time. The late proprietor occupied the premises upwards of twenty years, and they are now in the occupation of Mrs. M. Bullock.

Lot 2.—All that valuable piece of FREEHOLD BUILDING LAND, adjoining the last lot, and having a frontage to the above road of 28 yards, and containing in the whole 330 yards or thereabouts.

Further particulars from JOHN WILLIAM HALL, Esq., Solicitor; or the AUCTIONEERS, all of Bilston.

1862

**THE NEW BULL'S HEAD INN, WOLVERHAMPTON-ROAD
BILSTON.**

TO be LET, with immediate possession, the above well situated Old Licensed Public House. The Fixtures, &c., to be taken at a fair valuation. Coming-in about £250.—Apply on the Premises, or to ASTON and SOLLUM, Auctioneers, Wolverhampton.

ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH.
**THE NEW BULL'S HEAD INN,
NEW ROAD, BILSTON.**
BY Messrs. ASTON and SOLLUM.—To be SOLD by AUCTION, by order of Mr. Cooke, on Tuesday, September 24th, 1866, all the excellent and well-seasoned ALE CASKS, BREWING VESSELS, BEER MACHINE, portion of the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, strong CART and TRIPPLES, WHITE-CHAPEL DOG CART (by Gaud), in good condition; and numerous EFFECTS, upon the premises as above. Catalogues in due course. The sale to commence at 11 30 a.m.

1865

NEW INN

357, Wolverhampton Road West, (Bilston Road) / Ettingshall Road, (Ettingshall Lane), Ettingshall, BILSTON

OWNERS

Philip Partridge
Jane Partridge
William Partridge
Philip and William Partridge [1904]
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. [1921], [1995]
Pyramid Pub Co. [2005]

LICENSEES

John Bill [1828] – [1830]
Thomas Bill [1834]
Mrs. Catherine Bill [1835] – [1842]
J Bayliss [1843]
Philip Partridge [1846] – [1851]
Mrs. Ann Lowe [1855] – **1860**;
Philip Partridge **(1860 – 1880)**;
Mrs. Jane Partridge **(1880 – 1888)**;
Philip and William Partridge **(1888 – 1901)**;
Frederick Henry Hartill **(1901 – 1902)**;
Charles Yeates **(1902 – 1903)**;
Emanuel Hanstock **(1903 – 1919)**;
Edward John Peers **(1919 – 1930)**;
John Walker **(1930 – 1938)**;
John Herbert Jackson **(1938 – 1939)**;
William Thomas Kings **(1939 – [1952])**
Mrs. Florence Maud Kings [1955]
L Chand [1988]
Shaun James Cherrington [1994] – **1995**;
Andrew Fraser **(1995 – [])**
Tommy Collins [2003]
Bing Liang Feng [2005] – [2006]



1997



2007

NOTES

Ettingshall Lane [1836], [1842], [1846]
Ettingshall Road [1891]
Bilston Road [1841], [1851], [1860], [1860], [1861], [1881], [1908], [1911], [1952], [1955]
Wolverhampton Road [1871], [1901], [1904], [1911], [1940]
357, Wolverhampton Road West [1921]
Wolverhampton Road West [1939]

Staffordshire Advertiser 14/12/1833 - Died

“On the 6th inst, after a lingering illness, Mr. *Thomas Bill*, NEW INN, near Wolverhampton.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/1/1836 - Advert

“Freehold Land and Building.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. B. Crockett, at Mrs. *Bill*’s, the NEW INN, corner of Ettingshall Lane, in the county of Stafford, on Thursday the 28th day of January, 1836.....”

1841 Census

Bilston Road

[1] *Catherine Bill* (60), victualler;

[2] Mary Baker (73);

[3] Anne Tilton (19), f.s.;

[4] Thomas Jones (25), m.s.:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/1/1842 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Buildings and Land, in Ettingshall Lane, near Wolverhampton.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Walker and Page, at the house of *Catherine Bills*’s, known by the sign of the NEW INNS, in Ettingshall Lane aforesaid, on Friday, the 4th day of February, 1842.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 11/10/1843 - Advert

“Goodwill, Licenses, and Possession of an old established Roadside inn, in the midst of a densely populated district. To be Let, and may be immediately entered upon, all that old established and well known Public House, called the NEW INNS, situate at Ettingshall Lanes, fronting the great Holyhead road, nearly midway between Wolverhampton and Bilston, which was for many years occupied by the late Mr. *Bill*, and lately by Mr. *J. Bayliss*, and which has for a long time enjoyed a greater portion of business than any house in the district.

The Fixtures and Brewing Utensils may be taken to at a valuation, with or without the Furniture. Coming-in about £60.

For particulars, and to treat, apply to Messrs. Walker and Page, house and land agents, Cleveland Street, Wolverhampton.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/1/1846

“On Tuesday an inquest was held at the NEW INN, Ettingshall Lane, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of John Miner, a child about four years old, whose death was caused by his clothes catching fire. Only two other children, it appeared, were in the house with the child at the time, and he was so badly burned that he died in about an hour and a half afterwards. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 14/6/1846

“John Pritchett, late of Wednesbury, but now of Wolverhampton, who has been on the shelf some time, will run Daily or any other man of Wednesbury six score yards, for from £15 to £25; or Benjamin Badger of Wolverhampton, on the same terms. He will be at the NEW INN, Bilston Road, tomorrow (Monday), to make the match, between six and nine in the evening.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 19/7/1846

“Pedestrianism..... Benjamin Badger and John Pritchett. £5 a side has been made up for this match, and £2 10s a side more will be posted tomorrow night at *Philip Partridge*’s, NEW INN, Bilston Road, Wolverhampton. The last deposit of £5 a side is due on the day of the race.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 9/8/1846

“John Pritchett and Benjamin Badger were to have run five score yards, for £10 a side, at the Pleck, near Walsall, on Monday last, but owing to the illness of the former the race did not come off. Badger was ready to run, and claimed the money down, but it is withheld. Unless the matter is fairly settled we shall expose all parties concerned.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/8/1848

“At the Police Office, on Monday last, John Wilson and George Buxton were charged with burglariously breaking into the house of *Philip Partridge*, licensed victualler, at Ettingshall Lane, and stealing a top coat, some silver spoons, a variety of other articles, and some copper money, altogether of the value of £14 or £15. The house of the prosecutor was broken into on the night of Tuesday in Whitsun week, and a part of the property taken. It was again broken open within eight days afterwards, and other property stolen. On the night of Saturday the prisoner Wilson was seen by a woman named Hayward attempting to get into the house through a chamber window, but on her noticing him he ran off. Buxton came to see Wilson (who was apprehended with a tea kettle, battered to prevent identification, belonging to the prosecutor, in his possession) at the police station, and was taken into custody. When charged in the presence of Wilson with stealing the tea kettle, he said, ‘We bought it.’ Wilson said they found it under a rick near Penkridge, where they had slept the Sunday night before. The prisoners were committed.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 17/3/1849

“Staffordshire Lent Assizes.....

John Wilson and George Buxton were indicted for burglariously breaking into the dwelling house of *Philip Partridge*, on the 13th June, 1848, at Wolverhampton, and stealing a copper tea kettle, and other articles, his property. Mr. Kynnersley conducted the prosecution; the prisoners were undefended.

The prosecutor stated that on the night of the 13th June, 1848, he fastened his doors and windows before retiring to bed; and that on the following morning he received information from his servant that the cellar window had been broken open and an entrance effected into the house. Upon examination he missed a tea kettle, some silver spoons, a great coat, and other things. The copper kettle was produced and identified by the prosecutor and his servant, Ann Humphries, as the one stolen from his house on the night in question. The prisoners were apprehended about five weeks after the burglary, Wilson having the kettle, beaten up for old metal, under his arm.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty against Wilson, and acquitted Buxton.

A previous conviction for felony was proved against Wilson, and he was sentenced to be transported for seven years.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 6/2/1850 - Advert

“Ettingshall Lane, near Wolverhampton. Valuable Freehold Buildings and Garden Ground

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Thomas Page, on Monday, February 18, 1850, at six o’clock in the evening, at the house of Mr. *Philip Partridge*, at the corner of Ettingshall Lane aforesaid.....”

1851 Census

Bilston Road

- [1] *Philip Partridge* (36), victualler, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Jane Partridge* (35), wife, born Wotton, Warwickshire;
- [3] *Julia Partridge* (14), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [4] *Moiria Partridge* (12), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [5] *Philip Partridge* (10), son, born Sedgley;
- [6] *William Partridge* (8), son, born Sedgley;
- [7] *Ann Partridge* (6), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [8] *Anne Lowe* (52), step-mother, widow, born Wotton, Warwickshire;
- [9] *Martha Phillips* (16), general servant, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/1/1858

“Celebration of the Marriage of the Princess Royal. On Monday the workmen of Mr. Edwin Dixon, tube works, Bilston Road, were entertained with a capital dinner, given them by Mr. *Philip Partridge*, NEW INN, Bilston Road. The chair was taken by Mr. Woodley, and the health of the Queen, the Prince, and Princess, were proposed and received with the most lively demonstration of loyalty. Several excellent songs and toasts were given, and the entertainment altogether afforded the greatest satisfaction.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/4/1858 - Marriages

“On the 30th ultimo, at Snowhill Congregational Church, Wolverhampton, by the Rev. William Bevan, Mr. Samuel Dixon, of Goldthorn Hill, to Julia, eldest daughter of Mr. *Philip Partridge*, Bilston Road, both of that town.”

Nottinghamshire Guardian 1/12/1859

“On Wednesday afternoon, the dead body of a man was found at the bottom of an old coalpit shaft in a worked out coal field, at the back of the NEW INN, on the Bilston Road, near Wolverhampton. Thomas Sabin, a workman to Messrs. Dixon, tube makers, aged about 30, left the NEW INN between eight and nine o’clock on Monday night, under the influence of drink; but as he had not reached his home, and as nothing more had been heard of him, search was yesterday being made for him in the canal over which he would have to pass. Whilst the search was being made, a woman discovered appearances about the pit referred to which raised her suspicions that Sabin might have fallen in there. The efforts of the searchers were turned into that direction, and Sabin’s dead body was found at the bottom of the eight feet of water which had accumulated in the shaft. The only protection which the pit had against such an accident was a covering of boarding first, and then earth. The boarding had evidently rotted till it could not bear the weight of the earth, and had gone in sufficiently to allow a man to fall through. The pit lies within fifteen yards of the road, along which Sabin would go from the inn to his home, and there is little doubt that he missed the pathway, and wandered, unconscious of his danger, to the fatal spot.”

1861 Census

Bilston Road – NEW INN

- [1] *Philip Partridge* (46), licensed victualler, born West Bromwich;
- [2] *Jane Partridge* (45), wife, born Leek Wootton, Warwickshire;
- [3] *Moiria Partridge* (23), daughter, born Ettingshall;
- [4] *Philip Partridge* (21), son, iron roll turner, born Ettingshall;
- [5] *William Partridge* (18), son, iron roll turner, born Ettingshall;
- [6] *Annie Partridge* (16), daughter, born Ettingshall;
- [7] *Eliza Duckers* (20), general servant, born Whitchurch, Shropshire:

Birmingham Daily Post 19/3/1863

“On Tuesday an inquest was opened at the NEW INN, Bilston Road, on the body of the child William Ellis Reece.....”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/7/1863

“Staffordshire Summer Assizes.....

Sarah Ellis Reece was indicted for unlawfully and feloniously killing and slaying William Ellis Reece, at Wolverhampton, in March last. The prosecution was conducted by Mr. Hill; Mr. Motteram defended the prisoner. It appeared from the evidence that the prisoner was step-mother to the unfortunate child, whose death she was charged with causing. At the time of the child’s death he was about four years old, and it was shown by the evidence of Sarah Thompson, a neighbour, that the child was locked up by the prisoner in the depth of winter, and kept without fire or food, and that the poor little creature was often found lying at her door. She had also seen him go to the tub and drink soap suds, in consequence of not being able to get clean water. She further stated that the child always seemed ‘clammed.’ She had frequently given him food, and had heard his mother say she would kill him.

Mrs. Lear stated that she nursed the mother of the deceased during her confinement, and was with her until her death, which took place during confinement. The deceased was a healthy child. She had frequently seen the child since, and he appeared ‘clammed,’ and she had often given him food.

The medical evidence showed that the deceased had his right arm fractured in two places and his left arm broken. No less than eight bruises were found upon his head. The stomach was empty and contracted. Death had been caused or accelerated by violence or want of food.

The learned judge summed up the evidence very carefully. The jury immediately returned a verdict of guilty.

His Lordship said it was one of the most aggravated cases that had ever come before a court of justice, and then sentenced the prisoner to penal servitude for life.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 16/9/1863

“An inquest was held at the NEW INN, Bilston Road, on Saturday morning last, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, Coroner, on the body of Samuel Preston, a youth 14 years of age, who lost his life in a coal pit at Roughills Colliery on the previous Thursday. It seems that while standing at the bottom of the shaft a brick fell out of some part of the side and struck him upon his head and killed him.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1871 Census

Wolverhampton Road

- [1] *Philip Partridge* (56), licensed victualler, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Jane Partridge* (55), wife, born Wootton, Warwickshire;
- [3] *Philip Partridge* (31), son, helps in father's business, born Sedgley;
- [4] *William Partridge* (29), son, roll turner, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] *Annie Partridge* (27), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [6] *Philip Dixon* (7), grand-son, born Wootton, Warwickshire;
- [7] *Ann Lowe* (76), mother-in-law, born Wootton, Warwickshire;
- [8] *Ann Munday* (18), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

Philip Partridge died in the 1st quarter of 1880.

1881 Census

Bilston Road

- [1] *Jane Partridge* (65), widow, licensed victualler, born Leek Wootton, Warwickshire;
- [2] *Philip Partridge* (41), son, born Sedgley;
- [3] *William Partridge* (38), son, born Sedgley;
- [4] *Annie Partridge* (36), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] *Ada Dixon* (4), grand-daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [6] *Sarah Rubery* (16), domestic servant, born Sedgley;

Wolverhampton Express and Star 21/3/1889 - Advert

"Wanted, General, for public, not under 25; no children.
Mrs. *Partridge*, NEW INNS, Bilston Road, Wolverhampton."

WANTED, General, for public, not under 25; no children.—Mrs. *Partridge*, New Inns, Bilston-rd., Wolverhampton.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 23/7/1889 - Advert

"Wanted, a good working Girl, with good character.
Apply, Mrs. *Partridge*, NEW INN, Bilston Road, Wolverhampton."

WANTED, a good working Girl, with good character.
—Apply, Mrs. *Partridge*, New Inn, Bilston-rd., Wolverhampton.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 5/10/1889 - Advert

"Strong, good working Girl, honest.
Apply, Mrs. *Partridge*, NEW INN, Bilston Road, Wolverhampton."

STRONG, good working Girl, honest.—Apply, Mrs. *Partridge*, New Inn, Bilston-road, Wolverhampton.

1891 Census

Ettingshall Road – NEW INN

- [1] *Philip Partridge* (51), innkeeper, born Bilston;
- [2] *William Partridge* (48), brother, innkeeper, born Bilston;
- [3] *Jane Partridge* (75), mother, widow, born Leek Wootton, Warwickshire;
- [4] *Emma Hateley* (18), domestic servant, born Walsall;

1901 Census

Wolverhampton Road – NEW INN

- [1] *Philip Partridge* (61), publican innkeeper, born Bilston;
- [2] *William Partridge* (58), brother, publican innkeeper, born Bilston;
- [3] *Annie Partridge* (56), sister, domestic cook, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] *Polly White* (16), domestic servant, born Wolverhampton;

1911 Census

Bilston/Wolverhampton Road – NEW INN

- [1] *Emanuel Hanstock* (50), publican, born Heath Town;
- [2] *Mary Hanstock* (52), wife, married 30 years, assisting in the business, born Heath Town;
- [3] *Henry Hanstock* (20), son, weighing clerk, nut and bolt trade, born Heath Town;
- [4] *Thomas Hanstock* (18), son, crate maker, varnish and paint trade, born Heath Town;
- [5] *Sarah Hanstock* (16), daughter, assisting in the business, born Heath Town;
- [6] *Richard Hanstock* (14), son, fitting shop, iron foundry, born Heath Town;
- [7] *Ethel Hanstock* (9), daughter, school, born Heath Town;
- [8] *Harriet Jones* (24), domestic servant, born Heath Town:

Emanuel Hanstock died in the 3rd quarter of 1919.

1921 Census

357, Wolverhampton Road West – NEW INN

- [1] *Edward John Peers* (34), licensed victualler, born Connahs Quay, Flintshire, Wales;
- [2] *Florence Peers* (31), wife, licensed victualler's assistant, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *Edward George Peers* (1), son, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] *George Bentley* (34), brother-in-law, brass finisher, out of work, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] *Elizabeth Bentley* (74), mother-in-law, widow, born Wolverhampton;
- [6] *Maud Harvey* (27), domestic servant, born Darlaston;
- [7] *Winifred Barnett* (15), niece, born Wolverhampton:

Plans for structural alterations were approved in February 1925.

It was rebuilt in 1937.

1939 Register

Wolverhampton Road West – NEW INN

- [1] *William T. Kings*, date of birth 12/6/1881, licensee, married;
- [2] *Florence M. Kings*, dob 9/11/1890, domestic duties, assisting licensee, married;
- [3] *Ivy E. (Kings) Fiddler*, dob 5/7/1914, unpaid domestic duties, single:

Evening Despatch 14/7/1943

“A question as to whether a part-time commercial traveller went by car from Stourbridge to Wolverhampton to deliver orders or to go to dog races on Whit-Monday arose in the prosecution at Wolverhampton Police Court today. *Albert Horace Matthews*, aged 34, of the DUKE WILLIAM INN, Stourbridge, was fined £10 and £1 special costs for improperly using petrol. A summons for using motor fuel to make a journey, the whole of which could have been made by public service vehicle, was dismissed.

Supt. Balance said *Matthews* had an arrangement with the licensee of the NEW INNS, Bilston Road, Wolverhampton, to call for orders for tobacco and cigarettes on a Saturday and deliver them the next Saturday.

War Reserve Young saw *Matthews*' car at a greyhound track and *Matthews* admitted he had been to the races, but he had also delivered articles elsewhere. The delivery was in fact a dozen boxes of matches.

The prosecution suggested that the journey was made simply for *Matthews* to go to the dog track and in any case there was a 20-minute bus service from Stourbridge to Wolverhampton.

Matthews denied that he made the journey because the dog races had been brought forward from the following Saturday. In addition to delivering at the NEW INNS, he had two other calls to make at Princes End on his way back, and he should have made the journey if there had been no dog races. With regard to the dozen boxes of matches, he said the licensee's wife only accepted that number.

The South Staffordshire Stipendiary said he was quite sure that *Matthews* would not have gone there on the Monday if there had been no dog races that day.”

1952 Probate

"*William Thomas Kings* of NEW INN, Bilston Road, Wolverhampton, died 28 March 1952. Administration Birmingham 22 July to *Florence Maud Kings*, widow. Effects £838 13s 5d."

1955 Probate

"*Florence Maud Kings* of NEW INN, Bilston Road, Wolverhampton, died 21 April 1955. Probate Birmingham 7 October to Ivy Elizabeth Fidler (wife of Harold Fidler). Effects £5,815 11s 6d."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/11/1955

"Midland wills.....

Mrs. *Florence Maud Kings*, of NEW INN, Bilston Road, Wolverhampton, £5,815 (£5,636 net)."

An application for alterations was made in 1972.

[2001]

It opened as a Bar and Oriental Restaurant on 26th April 2006.

It closed in mid 2018.

Express & Star 22/5/2019

"A landmark former Wolverhampton pub alongside the Metro route could be converted into apartments if a proposal is given the go-ahead. Bilston-based developers RJ & Sons Ltd want to create 14 flats at the NEW INN on A41 Bilston Road. If approved, there will be nine one-bedroom apartments and five two-bedroom apartments, along with 17 parking spaces on the site. The venue closed as a pub a number of years ago but operated as a Chinese buffet restaurant until it closed completely in 2018.

The application states, "The NEW INN is a large roadside public house occupying a prominent corner position on the junction of Bilston Road and Ettingshall Road. It was built in 1937 to designs by the architects A T and Bertram Butler of Priory Street, Dudley to replace an earlier public house which was demolished to make way for improvements to Ettingshall Road. Although built as a public house and run for one for many years the NEW INN was converted and operated as a Chinese buffet again for many years but has been closed since the middle of 2018. It is a prominent local landmark and a relatively rare example of an inter-war public house which survives, internally and externally, in virtually its original form. We intend to turn the building into 14 apartments. They all will have their own entrance with along with all separate services. There will be parking for 17 cars on the car park and is on a main bus route from Wolverhampton into Bilston. It is also on the main tram line through from Wolverhampton into Birmingham. And the Priestfield Metro stop is in walking distance."

Council planners are currently considering the application."

It was converted into housing. [2021]

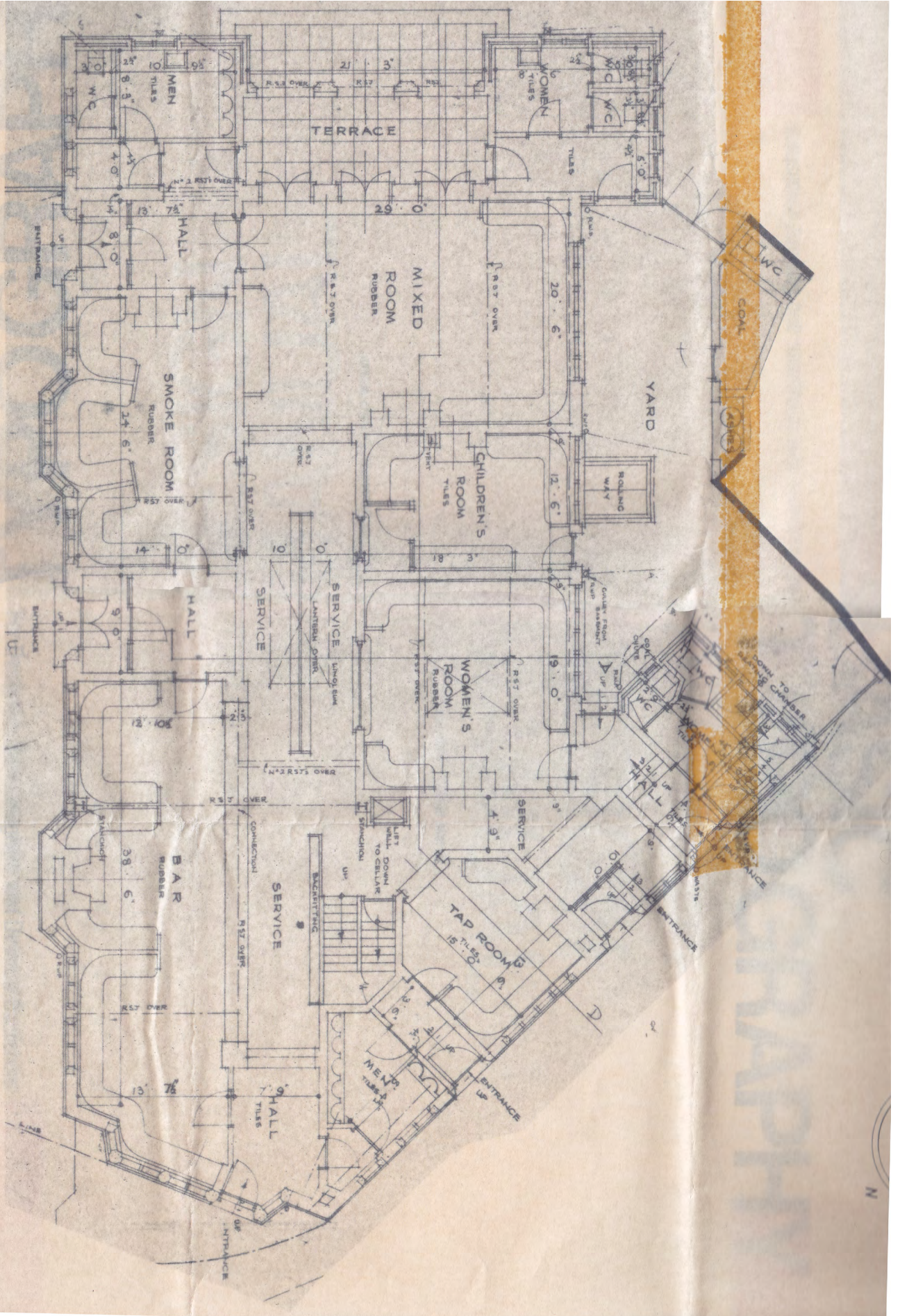
Goodwill, Licenses, and Possession of an old established Roadside Inn, in the midst of a densely populated district.

TO BE LET, and may be immediately entered upon, all that old established and well known PUBLIC-HOUSE, called the "New Inns," situate at Ettingshall Lanes, fronting the great Holyhead road, nearly midway between Wolverhampton and Bilston, which was for many years occupied by the late Mr. Bill, and lately by Mr. J. Bayliss, and which has for a long time enjoyed a greater portion of business than any house in the district.

The Fixtures and Brewing Utensils may be taken to at a valuation, with or without the Furniture. Coming-in about 60%.

For particulars, and to treat, apply to Messrs. WALKER and PAGE, house and land agents, Cleveland-street, Wolverhampton.

GROUND FLOOR PLAN



NEW INN

84, (150), Oxford Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Thomas Twigg, shoe salesman, Rhyl
Millward Brothers, maltsters, Wednesbury [1921], [1924]

LICENSEES

Abraham Lunn [1868]
Joseph Taylor [1871] – **1884**);
Mrs. Eleanor Taylor (**1884**);
Samuel Plant (**1884 – 1886**);
Alfred Perry (**1886 – 1889**);
John Hand (**1889**);
Thomas Keay (**1889 – 1890**);
John Griffiths (**1890 – 1891**);
George Pearson (**1891**);
Amy (Pearson) Fellows (**1891 – 1898**);
John Timmins (**1898 – 1899**);
Isaac Godfrey Daft (**1899 – 1900**);
Samuel Timmins (**1900**);
Thomas Dunn (**1900**); [1901]
Catherine Harold (**1900 – 1901**);
John Henry Clements (**1901 – 1902**);
Mary Ann White (**1902 – 1903**);
John Doughty (**1903 – 1924**);

LOT 1. All that Commodious Freehold Beer-house, known as the "New Inn," Oxford-street, Bilston, with a frontage thereto of 14 ft. The premises comprise large Tap Room, good Kitchen, Pantry, cooking Kitchen, two large Cellars, four Bed Rooms, large Brewhouse with Room over, and the usual outhouses.

There is a large yard well-paved and drained. The property is spouted round, supplied with tap water and soft water, and is now in the occupation of Mr. Samuel Plant and produces an annual rental of £300

1886

NOTES

150, Oxford Street [1871], [1881], [1886], [1888], [1891]
84, Oxford Street [1901], [1911]

It had a beerhouse license.

1861 Census

150, Oxford Street - uninhabited

Abraham Lunn, beer retailer, 84, Oxford Street. [1868]

1871 Census

150, Oxford Street
[1] Joseph Taylor (41), retail brewer, born Packwood, Warwickshire;
[2] Eleanor Taylor (40), wife, born Bicknal, Warwickshire;
[3] Eleanor Rose (77), boarder, widow, born Bicknal, Warwickshire;
[4] Harriet Duce (16), general servant, born Sedgley;

1881 Census

150, Oxford Street

- [1] Joseph Taylor (51), retail brewer, born Pack Wood, Warwickshire;
- [2] Elenor Taylor (50), wife, born Bicknel, Warwickshire;
- [3] Katherine Taylor (23), daughter-in-law, married, no occupation, born West Bromwich;
- [4] Ellenor Taylor (3), grand-daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] Joseph W. G. Taylor (1), grand-son, born Bilston;
- [6] Elizabeth Barrett (18), domestic servant, born Sedgley;

Joseph Taylor died on 20th March 1884.

Darlaston Weekly Times 17/5/1884

“At Bilston, yesterday, the following license transfers were granted.....
NEW INN, Bilston, from *Eleanor Taylor* (executrix of *Joseph Taylor*) to *Eleanor Taylor*.”

Eleanor Taylor died on 18th August 1884.

Darlaston Weekly Times 22/5/1886 - Advert

“Sale of Freehold Beerhouse, Oxford Street, and Eligible Freehold Building Land, Thompson Street, Bilston.
J. Morrell and Son are instructed to offer for Sale by Public Auction, at the SHIP AND RAINBOW, Oxford Street, Bilston, on Tuesday, June 1st, 1886, at six for seven in the evening.....
Lot 1. All that Commodious Freehold Beerhouse, known as the NEW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, with a frontage thereto of 14ft. The premises comprise large Tap Room, good Kitchen, Pantry, cooking Kitchen, two large Cellars, four Bed Rooms, large Brewhouse with Room over, and the usual outhouses.
There is a large yard well-paved and drained. The property is spouted round, supplied with tap water and soft water, and is now in the occupation of Mr. *Samuel Plant* and produce an annual rental of £200.”

1891 Census

150, Oxford Street – NEW INN

- [1] George Pearson (30), beerhouse keeper, born Bilston;
- [2] Amy Pearson (28), wife, born Wednesfield;
- [3] Mary Ann Pearson (5), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [4] Joseph Pearson (2), son, born West Bromwich;
- [5] Charlotte Whittingham (16), domestic servant, born Bilston;

George Pearson died in the 2nd quarter of 1891.

Amy Pearson married John Fellows on 30th January 1892.

Staffordshire Advertiser 24/8/1895

“Bilston Brewster Sessions.....

The police opposed the renewal of the licenses attached to the NEW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston; the MALT SHOVEL INN, Oxford Street Bilston; the RED LION INN, Bilston, the FOUNTAIN INN, Parliament Street, Bilston; and the ORANGE TREE INN, Ettingshall. Infringement of the licensing laws were the grounds of the objection in each case, with the exception of the ORANGE TREE INN, the landlord of which had been sentenced to two months' imprisonment for assaulting his wife. The whole of the licenses were renewed with the exception of the FOUNTAIN INN, the consideration of which was to be held over until the adjourned licensing sessions.”

Amy Fellows, beer retailer, Oxford Street. [1896]

1901 Census

84, Oxford Street – Public House

[1] *Thomas Dunn* (43), public house manager, born Walsall;

[2] *Clara Dunn* (25), wife, born Wolverhampton;

[3] *Agnes Dunn* (12), daughter, born Walsall;

[4] *Thomas Christopher Dunn* (6), son, born Wolverhampton;

[5] *Peter Dunn* (5), son, born Wolverhampton;

[6] *Florence May Dunn* (2), daughter, born Walsall:

Thomas Dunn – see also HARP, Walsall Street, Wolverhampton.

John Doughty, beer retailer, 84, Oxford Street. [1904], [1912]

1911 Census

84, Oxford Street

[1] *John Doughty* (53), coal miner, hewer, born Bilston;

[2] *Elizabeth Doughty* (52), wife, married 32 years, born Bilston;

[3] *Agnes May Doughty* (14), cousin, adopted, school, born Blackpool:

1921 Census

84, Oxford Street

[1] *John Doughty* (63), publican, born Bilston;

[2] *Elizabeth Doughty* (61), wife, home duties, born Bilston:

Staffordshire Advertiser 16/2/1924

“Bilston Licensing Sessions, February 8th.....

During the ensuing business, it was intimated that the licenses of the NEW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, the ROYAL EXCHANGE, Bilston, and the WHITE LION, Cross Street, Bradley, would be referred to the Adjourned Sessions to be considered as redundant houses.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/3/1924

“At the adjourned Bilston licensing sessions yesterday.....

The NEW INNS, Oxford Street, Bilston; WHITE LION, Bradley; and the ROYAL EXCHANGE, Queen Street, Bilston, were referred for compensation.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/7/1924

“At a meeting under the Licensing Consolidation Act the Staffordshire Compensation Authority refused yesterday to renew the licences of fifteen houses on the ground of redundancy.....

NEW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, 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.....

NEW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston.”

Lichfield Mercury 9/1/1925

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

The County Licensing Committee, in their report for 1924, stated that they had fixed the compensation in respect of a number of houses as follows.....

NEW INN, Bilston, £1,400.”

Compensation of £1,400 was paid on 24th December 1924.

License extinguished on 31st December 1924.

NOAHS ARK

1, Wolverhampton Street / High Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Ann Payton, widow, Wolverhampton Road, Bilston
Joseph Parker, Wellington Road, Bilston
John Summerfield
Frank Myatt Ltd.

LICENSEES

Thomas Lee [1828] – [1830]
Sophia Morris [1833] – [1835]
William Fellows [1845] – **1854**;
Patience Elizabeth Walton (**1854** – []
Thomas Parker [1856] – [1861]
John Fowler [1860]
Edward Clarke [1862] – [1871]
Richard Clarke [1873] – **1881**;
Joseph Parker (**1881** – **1890**);
Barzillai Lambert (**1890** – **1891**);
Alfred Folkes (**1891** – **1920**);
Joseph H Parker (**1920**);
John Summerfield (**1920** – **1923**);
Horace Philip Bassett (**1923** – **1925**);
William Large (**1925** – **1926**);
John Johnson (**1926** – **1927**);
Samuel Higgins (**1927** – **1929**);
Francis James Winmill (**1929** – **1931**);
Harold Draisey (**1931** – **1933**);
William Frederick Pugh (**1933** – **1938**);
Thomas Rowson (**1938** – [1940]
Leah Rowson [1957]

NOTES

Thomas Lee = Thomas Lea

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/4/1845

“The following inquisitions have been held before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner.....

On the 20th ult, at the NOAHS ARK, Bilston, on the body of Joseph Morris, a boy about six years of age, whose clothes caught fire while he was endeavouring to put a tea kettle on the fire. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/8/1845

“Inquests before T. M. Phillips, Esq, Coroner.....

On Thursday last, at the NOAHS ARK INN, Bilston, on Sarah Thurstans, a widow, aged 88 years. It appeared from the evidence that the deceased had gone to a shelf at the cellar head to reach something, and had fallen down the steps, and died from the injuries received in three days afterwards. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

FREEHOLD AND COPYHOLD HOUSES, ROLLING MILL, BUILDINGS, AND LAND, AT BILSTON, IN THE COUNTY OF STAFFORD. TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

BY Messrs. CHESHIRE and GIBSON, on MONDAY, the 25th day of April inst., at Four o'clock in the afternoon, at the King's Arms Inn, in Bilston, either in the following or such other lots as may be determined upon at the time of sale—the under-mentioned PROPERTIES:—

A FREEHOLD LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE, known as “THE NOAH'S ARK,” situated at the junction of Union Street and Wolverhampton Street, in the town of Bilston, in the occupation of Mr. William Flowes, as yearly Tenant.

A FREEHOLD PROPERTY, adjoining to the last; consisting of Eleven HOUSES, fronting to Wolverhampton Street; and Five others at the back, with their Appurtenances.

A FREEHOLD HOUSE, Yard, and Premises, also fronting to Wolverhampton Street, and adjoining to the last lot, in the occupation of Edward Johnson, at an annual rental of £16.

A Piece of FREEHOLD LAND, fronting to Wolverhampton Street, containing 111 superficial yards.

A similar Piece, adjoining, containing 114 yards.

A large Plot of valuable LAND, formerly used as a Garden, lying in the rear of the above lots, containing 3½, or thereabouts, now in the occupation of William Fellows, as annual Tenant.

A LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE, situated on the opposite side of Wolverhampton Street to the last lot, known as the “HAND AND KEYS,” in the occupation of Charles Lewis, with Two Front and Five Back HOUSES adjoining thereto.

Three HOUSES, fronting to Wolverhampton Street, in the occupation of Doughty, Woolley, and Winspear, and One HOUSE at the back, with Gardens and Out-buildings.

The MOUNT PLEASANT BEER HOUSE, in the occupation of Mr. John Ruscoe, with a considerable space of LAND connected therewith, having an approach from Wolverhampton Street and Union Street.

A Piece of BUILDING LAND, fronting to Union Street, with right of using a Party Carriage Entrance.

A BLACKSMITH'S SHOP, and other BUILDINGS adjoining, and enclosed LAND, let to an adjoining Proprietor, Mr. Dean, with right of Party Carriage-way to the entire depth.

All that extensive SHEET IRON ROLLING MILL, known as “LITTLE SMITH MILL,” with the Steam Engine and Machinery belonging to the Venders, situated at or near Stonefield, in the township of Bilston, and adjoining to the Line of the Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton Railway, the whole of which is now held upon Lease by Mr. John Gettings, for a term of seven years from Michaelmas, 1882, at an annual rent of £150., together with other BUILDINGS and PREMISES adjoining, not included in such Lease.

Plans and particulars of the several lots will shortly be prepared; and in the meantime further information may be obtained by applying to Messrs. Ryland and Martineau, Solicitors, Cherry Street; to Mr. C. Edge, Bennett's Hill; or to the Auctioneers, 11, Bennett's Hill, Birmingham; and as to the Rolling Mills, to Mr. Gough, Solicitor, Willenhall.

1853

Birmingham Journal 25/4/1846

“On Monday afternoon last an inquest was held before Thomas Phillips, Esq, coroner, at the house of Mr. *William Fellows*, NOAHS ARK, upon the body of William Herrington, who died in consequence of an explosion of fire damp, in a mine, after a lingering and painful illness of eighteen days.

Joseph Smith was the only witness examined. He said that he was a miner, and lived in the Hall Fold, Bilston. He knew the deceased, who was also a miner, twenty-eight years old, and resided in Coseley Row. On the first of this month witness was at work in an ironstone pit in Mr. Vernon’s colliery, in Mill Lane, and about eleven o’clock at night the deceased went to set some timber under the roof. He asked witness to go with him, but he was some distance behind, as he waited to put his flannel waistcoat on. Before he got it on, the deceased being at the time about fifteen yards in advance, a violent explosion of sulphur took place, and Herrington was blown back about four yards. Witness was slightly injured, but went as soon as possible to the assistance of the deceased, and found him badly burned. He then helped him up the shaft, and took him home, where he died on the 19th inst. The sulphur, it appears, was ignited by a lighted candle which he carried in his hand. There was a safety lamp in the pit, but they did not use it, as they had no idea there was any sulphur. Witness had been in the workings farther by two or three yards a short time before, and there was no appearance of sulphur then. The occurrence was purely accidental.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/8/1846

“The following inquests have been held before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner.....

On Saturday last at the NOAHS ARK INN, Bilston, on the body of Robert Price, a miner, about seventeen years of age, whose death was occasioned by a large fall of clod, while at work in an ironstone pit, in Parkfield colliery, on Monday the 3rd instant. He was badly crushed and bruised, and died on Thursday last. The place where he was working appeared to be perfectly safe. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Journal 24/10/1846

“On Wednesday morning last, another of those fearful accidents, which are of such common occurrence in the mining districts, occurred at Mr. North’s field, about a quarter of a mile from Bilston. The results have, unfortunately, been fatal. It appears that about a quarter past six o’clock on Wednesday morning, seven men and boys met at the top of the mine, which is a stone one, for the purpose of proceeding to their work. Mr. F. Armstrong, residing at Bilston, who is the butty, saw them get into the skip, and they were gradually lowered. When about ninety feet down, Mr. Armstrong, who was standing by the side of the pit, heard a shrill cry of agony, and a loud report, and turning hastily round, observed a huge body of flame dart up the shaft, and for nearly fifty feet into the air. The fact instantly flashed upon him that an explosion of sulphur had taken place, and running into the engine house he gave the alarm by sounding a clapper. The engine man, though quite unconscious of what had taken place, instantly reversed the engine, and the skip was drawn to the top. A most sickening spectacle presented itself. Out of the seven men who had entered the skip, only five remained, and these so blackened and burned that they could scarcely be recognised. For about a hundred feet they had been literally drawn through a mass of fire. Their hair was singed, their faces and hands blistered and burned, and portions of their dress in a state of ignition, and partly crumbling away at the touch. Even when at the mouth of the pit it was with difficulty that they were rescued from the fearful abyss, in which the flames still ascended in great broad volumes, and reared and curled up the shaft, and for many feet beyond into the air. Their shrieks, which were heard for a great distance off, produced a painful excitement, and not many minutes elapsed before a number of persons had gathered round anxious to render assistance. The poor men, who were suffering fearful tortures, were at length got out of the skip, and three of them, named Robert Redgeford, Edward Potter, and William Biddler, were conveyed to Mr. Armstrong’s house at Bilston – the two former being young lads and his apprentices. The other two named William Love and an old man named Thomas Roden, were conveyed to their residences. But what had become of the two men who had entered the skip, but who could then nowhere be seen? It is almost unnecessary to say that the most dreadful apprehensions were entertained regarding their fate. Certainty, however, could not be attained, as for more than twenty minutes a body of flame continued to shoot up the shaft, threatening to destroy the framework, and precluding all approach. At length, with a loud explosion, the flame gradually expired; and Mr. William North, of Bilston, the proprietor of the mine, who had proceeded to the spot to render any assistance in his power, having received a direct refusal from the miners who were standing round, to go down the shaft, courageously resolved to descend himself, and rescue, if still in life, the two unfortunate persons whose fate was but too apparent. On learning Mr. North’s resolution, three of the miners intimated their willingness to descend, and accordingly they were lowered to the bottom of the shaft. It was then found, that a wall which had been built about forty yards from the bottom had been thrown down by the explosion, and the unfortunate persons, whose names were Thomas Roden (the son of the old man who was burned) and William Henslow, who

was his brother-in-law, were buried underneath the ruins. After incredible exertions they were at length got out quite dead; but in such a state as to be beyond description. The true cause of the occurrence is enveloped in some mystery; but all subsequent inquiry tends to the probability that the five miners in the skip came in contact with an accumulation of sulphur by the side of the shaft, when the explosion ensued. The two unfortunate men who were suddenly deprived of life had either, by the shock of the explosion, or by having loosed their hold, been thrown out of the skip, and precipitated through the flames to the bottom, a distance of about two hundred and fifty feet. Henslow, who was married to the daughter of the old man Roden, has left a widow and three children; Thomas Roden junior was about 16 years of age. All the men who went in the skip were now lying in a very precarious state, more especially Roden senior, Biddler (who has been lately married) and Ridgeford, and it is not improbable that fatal results may still ensue from the effects of the catastrophe. An inquest was held on the bodies of the two unfortunate men who had been deprived of life, at the NOAHS ARK TAVERN, Bilston, on Thursday, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, when after a lengthened investigation, a verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/11/1846

"On Saturday last an inquest was held before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, at the NOAHS ARK INN, Bilston, on the body of Thomas Roden, a miner, fifty-four years of age, another of the sufferers by the awful explosion which took place in Mr. North's field, about a quarter of a mile from Bilston, on Wednesday, the 21st ult. The deceased, who was very badly burned, lingered until Friday last, when he died. The deceased was the third victim of the disaster, and all the other men remained too ill to attend the inquest. Verdict, Accidental Death.

Birmingham Journal 5/12/1846

"On Tuesday last, an inquest was held at the house of Mr. Thomas Wall, SWAN INN, Bradley, near Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, upon the body of Eliza Bullock, a girl seven years old, who was burned to death by her clothes taking fire on Monday morning, while standing by a cinder mound, near her father's house.

On Thursday another inquest was held at the house of Mr. *William Fellows*, NOAHS ARK, on the body of Samuel Robinson, a child four years old, who also lost his life in a similar melancholy manner.

In both cases verdicts of Accidental Death were returned."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/4/1847

"On Saturday last an inquest was held at the NOAHS ARK, at Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of Benjamin Rudge, a labourer, about twenty-five years of age, who had died from injuries received by the fall of a large iron column at Mr. Vernon's ironworks, at Stoneyfield, Bilston, on the previous Tuesday. It appeared that the column had been erected only a few days before, upon a body of brickwork about a yard high, for the purpose of supporting the iron steam pipes leading from the boiler, and that it had a circular hole at the top to admit the pipe into it. It was put up in the usual way, and appeared to be quite safe. One of the witnesses gave it as his opinion that the column fell in consequence of a great pressure of steam causing the pipes to heave up. Rudge was badly crushed and bruised, and one of his legs was broken. He died on Thursday. The witnesses described the occurrence as accidental, and the jury returned a verdict to that effect, but expressed an opinion that there had been want of caution on the part of the proprietor of the works, and requested the coroner to write to him on the subject."

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/5/1847

"On Thursday last an inquest was held by T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, at the NOAHS ARK, Bilston, on the body of a miner, named Thomas Smith, 40 years of age, who was killed by a fall of coal, while at work, on the previous day, in a coal pit at Mr. Bagnall's colliery, Caponfield. Verdict, Accidental Death."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/12/1847

"The following inquests have been held since our last before William Webb Ward, Esq, coroner (officiating for T. M. Phillips, Esq).....

On Monday last, at the NOAHS ARK, at Bilston, on the body of James Ball, about four years of age, who was very much burnt by his clothes catching fire in his parents house on Saturday last, and died on the following morning. Verdict in accordance with the evidence."

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/1/1848

“On Wednesday last, an inquest was held by G. Hinchliffe, Esq, at the NOAHS ARK, Bilston, on Samuel Harris, a miner, 18 years of age, who was killed by a fall of coal, while at work in one of Mr. Ward’s coal pits, at Bilston, on the previous Monday. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 8/3/1848

“On Friday last an inquest was held at the NOAHS ARK, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of William Green, a collier, about 22 years of age, who met with his death under the following melancholy circumstances.

On the previous Tuesday afternoon he and another collier named Dodd, who had been at work in a stone pit at Hall Park Colliery, belonging to Mr. William Riley, coal and iron master, foolishly got upon the water barrel at the bottom of the shaft, for the purpose of going up the pit. It went steadily all the way up, and when they got to the top, the banksman pushed the waggon partly over the pit; but, finding that the engine man had not drawn the barrel quite high enough to enable him to push the waggon completely over, he called out twice to the engine man, ‘pull up.’ The engine man mistook this direction for a request to ‘short,’ that is to let the barrel a little lower down, and as it lowered upon the waggon the barrel tilted on one side. Dodd, who was on the side that tilted, fearing the barrel would fall against him, jumped off upon the side of the pit, but Green, who was on the opposite side of the barrel, either jumped off or was thrown off the barrel, and fell to the bottom of the pit, which is upwards of one hundred yards deep. The deceased was shortly afterwards brought up the pit quite dead.

It appeared from the evidence of Dodd that it is usual for the engine man to ‘short’ when the water barrel is drawn up. He attributed the circumstance of the engine man not drawing the water barrel high enough to the fact that it was considerably longer than the skip. Dodd admitted that he and Green ought not to have gone up on the water barrel.

The engine house is about one hundred yards distant from the pit. There was about a ton of water in the barrel at the time of the accident. All the witnesses agreed that no blame could be attached either to the banksman or engine man; indeed it appeared that, a short time before Dodd and deceased came up without giving any signal to the banksman, one of the witnesses went to the engine man and told him that no other men would come up the pit for an hour.

The jury returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased died from the injuries he received by being thrown from a water barrel to the bottom of a stone pit.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/11/1848

“On Saturday last an inquest was held at the NOAHS ARK, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of Betsy Davies, six years of age, whose death had resulted from her having been badly burned on the morning of Saturday, the 4th instant, by her clothes catching fire in the kitchen of her parents house. During the time she was ill the little girl stated to a neighbour that she got up early in the morning before her mother was awake, and went down stairs, that she was standing before the fire, when the wind blew down the chimney, and her nightgown took fire. It appeared that the mother of the child was in the habit of raking the fire every night, and that her husband, on getting up, placed some more coal upon it. The girl was attended by Mr. Cooper, surgeon, but she died on Wednesday last, from the serious injuries she had received. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/6/1849

“Caroline Stubbs, a married woman, was charged with stealing a quantity of coal, the property of Mr. *William Fellows*, NOAHS ARK, Bilston. Mr. *Fellows* declined to prosecute, and after a severe reprimand from Mr. Leigh, she was discharged.”

Birmingham Journal 8/12/1849

“On Friday last an adjourned inquest was held at the NOAHS ARK, Bilston, before Thomas M. Phillips, Esq, Coroner, on the body of Jacob Tipton, a miner, lately residing in Wolverhampton Street, and whose death had taken place suddenly. At first his decease was supposed to have taken place from natural causes, but a report having become current that he had died from having been kicked and beaten by one of his companions, whilst in a state of intoxication, an inquest was held, after which Mr. Harper, surgeon, performed a post mortem examination of the body. As he was unable to account for the cause of death, and suspected that it had arisen from poisoning, the inquiry was again adjourned, and Mr. Harper having made an analysis of the contents of the stomach, and submitted them

to the usual tests, deposed that the deceased had died from the effects of arsenic, of which several grains must have been taken. The case being at present involved in mystery, the inquiry was adjourned to afford time to collect evidence. We understand that the police have been unable to obtain any clue which would justify them in attaching suspicion to any one, although their inquiries have been principally in reference to a young woman named Jane Dyke, who bears a rather loose character. The deceased formerly kept company with her, but they had quarreled."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/7/1850

"On Friday an inquest was held before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, at the NOAHS ARK, Bilston, on the body of Edward Lloyd, a child about five years old, who, it was supposed, had fallen into the canal at the Spring Vale ironworks, to which he had accompanied an elder brother, with his father's dinner. Verdict, Accidental Death."

Staffordshire Advertiser 21/12/1850

"Inquests held before T. M. Phillips, Esq.

At the NOAHS ARK, Bilston, on the 16th instant, on the body of a man, name unknown, who was found dead at the bottom of a pit on the 10th instant. Verdict accordingly."

1851 Census

Wolverhampton Street

- [1] *William Fellows* (54), coal miner employing 25 men, 5 boys, 1 woman, and victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *Sarah Fellows* (56), wife, born Broseley, Shropshire;
- [3] *Elizabeth Taylor* (20), general servant, born Bilston;
- [4] *William Vaughn* (33), son-in-law, puddler, born Bilston;
- [5] *Sarah Vaughn* (31), wife, born Bilston;
- [6] *Fanny Vaughn* (13), grand-daughter, born Bilston:

Staffordshire Advertiser 14/6/1851

"An inquest was held on Tuesday last, at the NOAHS ARK, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, on the body of Peter Hay, a miner, aged 36 years, who died from injuries received on Saturday last, in a pit belonging to P. Williams, Esq, near Cold Lanes. The poor fellow was loading a skip, when a quantity of coal fell upon him from the roof; he was immediately taken to his home, but died before reaching there. Verdict accordingly."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 7/4/1852

"*Fellows v Lawley*. This was an action brought by Mr. *Fellows*, of the NOAHS ARK, Bilston, against Mr. Joseph Lawley, to recover £15 damage done to the plaintiff's house by undermining.

Mr. Bolton having briefly stated the nature of the plaintiff's case, Mr. Hayes (with whom was Mr. Bartlett) submitted that the particulars of demand in this case were not sufficiently stated, as they did not describe by what means the damage was caused, or where the property was situate. Mr. Bolton intimated that he was not aware who had drawn up the particulars of demand for the plaintiff, but certainly they were vague. He thought, however, that there was a sufficient allegation that it was the property of the plaintiff. His Honour expressed an opinion that the particulars were not sufficient, and the case was therefore adjourned to the next court, on payment of costs by the plaintiff."

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/10/1852

"On Tuesday, an inquest was held at the sign of the NOAHS ARK, Bilston, before Mr. Phillips, upon the body of William Jones, a child of three years, who died on Sunday, from the effects of a burn sustained on Saturday, the 8th inst. Deceased's home was Quarry Lane. The accident occurred in the presence of two of his companions. Verdict, Accidental Death."

Birmingham Journal 9/4/1853 - Advert

"Freehold and Copyhold Houses, Rolling Mill, Buildings, and Land, at Bilston, in the County of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Chesshire and Gibson, on Monday, the 25th day of April inst, at Four o'clock in the afternoon, at the KINGS ARMS INN, in Bilston, either in the following or such other lots as may be determined upon at the time of sale.

A Freehold Licensed Public House, known as the NOAHS ARK, situated at the junction of Union Street and Wolverhampton Street, in the town of Bilston, in the occupation of Mr. *William Fellows*, as yearly Tenant."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 2/5/1853 - Advert

"Freehold and Copyhold Houses, Rolling Mill, Buildings, and Land, at Bilston, in the County of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Chesshire and Gibson, on Monday next, May 9, at four o'clock in the afternoon.....

Lot 6. A Freehold Property; consisting of the NOAHS ARK Licensed Public House, situated at the junction of Wolverhampton Street, High Street, and Union Street, in the town of Bilston, with Stable and Loft, and other Buildings, in the occupation of Mr. *William Fellows*, at a rental of £26 per annum."

Peoples Paper 28/6/1856

"The Chartist Movement..... Deepfields.

I am requested by a few members of the National Land Company, to call a meeting of members for June 29th, at the house of Mr. *Thomas Parker*, at the NOAHS ARK INN, in Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, on business of importance. J. Jones."

Peoples Paper 16/8/1856

"To the Chartists of South Staffordshire.

All those who wish to see Mr. Frost in this District, and will help to get up a public meeting when he makes his tour through this country, are requested to meet at 6 o'clock on August 17th, at Mr. *Parker's*, NOAHS ARK, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston. W. Smith."

Peoples Paper 23/8/1856

"The Chartists of Bilston will meet at J. [sic] *Parker's* NOAHS ARK, Wolverhampton Street, August 24th, at six o'clock in the evening, to arrange for the reception of Mr. Frost, when all lovers of freedom and true patriotism are requested to attend. W. Smith."

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/12/1856

"*Thomas Perks* [sic], of the NOAHS ARK, Bilston, was fined 10s and costs, for keeping his house open on Sunday morning last."

Peoples Paper 24/10/1857

"The Chartist Movement.....

At our meeting on Sunday evening last we had some of the old body guards present, and it was unanimously agreed to re-establish a branch of the N.C.A. Mr. Thompson, on being appointed to the chair, said that he felt much pleasure in meeting his friends once more, and he trusted that they would not let any opportunity pass that would benefit his fellow man in any privilege that he did not enjoy. He thought that in the forthcoming agitation the friends of Democracy should be on their guard, and see that they were not entrapped into any humbug reform.

On the motion of Mr. Stringer, *T. Parker* was appointed treasurer, and J. Sykes secretary, and the meeting adjourned to Sunday evening.

It is particularly urged that all readers of the *Peoples Paper*, and friends of Democracy in Bilston and district, will meet at the house of Mr. *Thomas Parker*, NOAHS ARK INN, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, on Sunday evening next, at five o'clock, to re-establish a branch of the N.C.A. The question of a national Conference and delegates for South Staffordshire, will be brought before all friends present. We will be glad to have friends from Dudley, Walsall, Wolverhampton, and Wednesbury. Do not fail to attend. J. Sykes."

Peoples Paper 21/11/1857

"The Chartist Movement.....

On Sunday last the Delegate Meeting took place at the NOAHS ARK, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston. There were about twenty Delegates present from Stourbridge, Dudley, Wolverhampton, Birmingham, Bilston, and Wednesbury. Mr. Chase, of Stourbridge, was voted in the chair. He commenced by observing that there never was a time so favourable as the present for the working classes to secure that for which they had so long been struggling, namely, their political rights (hear, hear). He was convinced there was a good prospect of the working and middle-classes uniting upon a basis of reform that would be really worth struggling for, and which, with energy, was certain to be obtained. Let them relax no efforts in making the coming Conference one that would redound to their credit as a body of Democratic Reformers....."

Birmingham Daily Post 25/3/1859 - Advert

"Wanted, by Mr. *Parker*, NOAHS ARK INN, Bilston, a middle-aged Female, to Superintend the Household, and take charge of two children. Good character indispensable."

WANTED, by Mr. Parker, Noah's Ark Inn, Bilston, a middle-aged FEMALE, to Superintend the Household, and take charge of two children. Good character indispensable.

Birmingham Daily Post 19/12/1859

"A woman named Amy Jones was convicted of stealing a gilt pin, several teaspoons, and other articles, the property of *Thomas Parker*, landlord of the NOAHS ARK, Bilston. She had been employed washing there on Tuesday, and had been seen to take the pin by a little girl of Mr. *Parker*'s. Her house being searched, the teaspoons and other things were found. She has been twice previously convicted, and was now sentenced to three months' imprisonment with hard labour."

London Gazette 6/3/1860

"*Thomas Parker*, late of Bilston, Staffordshire, out of business. In the Gaol of Stafford."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 7/3/1860

"Insolvent Debtors to be heard before the Judge of the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Stafford, on Tuesday, the 20th day of March instant, at eleven in the morning precisely.....

Thomas Parker, late of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, and Dealer in Ale, Porter, Cider, Spirituous Liquors, and Tobacco, and Scrap Iron; and lately of the same place, out of business."

Staffordshire Advertiser 24/3/1860

"Staffordshire County Court.....

The following insolvents applied for their discharge, and were ordered to be discharged forthwith.....

Thomas Parker, licensed victualler, Bilston."

1861 Census

Wolverhampton Street – NOAHS ARK

[1] *Thomas Parker* (44), widower, publican, born Ireland;

[2] Sarah Parker (15), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[3] Alfred Parker (11), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[4] Thomas Parker (7), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[5] Michael Healey (40), brewer, born Ireland;

[6] Harriot Johnson (25), servant, born Brewood:

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/6/1861

"Four girls, named Ann Pitt, Mary Ann Pitt, Bridget Kavanagh, and Susanna Lydall, were charged yesterday, at Bilston, with stealing, on Monday last, iron skip wheels, the property of Mr. George Edwards, coal proprietor and timber merchant. The iron was sold on the same day to a publican, named *Parker*, who is also a marine store dealer, and was a witness against the girls. The two Pitts were sentenced to a month's imprisonment on pleading guilty. The other two girls were discharged. *Parker* was then charged with feloniously receiving, but was remanded, in order to enable him to avail himself of legal assistance."

Birmingham Daily Post 26/6/1861

"At Bilston Petty Sessions yesterday, *Thomas Parker*, a publican and marine store dealer, was charged on remand with receiving six iron skip wheels, the property of Mr. George Edwards, colliery proprietor and timber merchant, of Bilston, knowing them to have been stolen. During last week several skip wheels belonging to the prosecutor were found at Mr. Thomas Light's foundry, to whom they had been sold by the prisoner. Two girls, named Ann Pitt and Mary Ann Pitt, were convicted of stealing the wheels in question on Friday, and on being called to give evidence yesterday, they stated that they, with two other girls who were discharged, took the wheels to *Parker*'s shop, and he afterwards broke them up, and told the girls to fetch more, for he wanted to make up a lot, and at the same time gave them each some refreshment. Prisoner was committed to the Sessions."

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/7/1861

“Staffordshire Midsummer Sessions.....

The following bills were ignored by the Grand Jury.....

Thomas Parker, charged with stealing nine iron wheels, the property of George Edwards, at Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/8/1861 - Advert

“NOAHS ARK Public House, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston.

To be Disposed of by Private Contract, in consequence of the death of Mrs. *Parker*, the late landlady. This excellent house of business is situated at the junction of three roads, in a densely populated neighbourhood, and is commodious and conveniently fitted up. Rent low. In-coming about £130.

Apply W. Ashcroft and Son, Auctioneers, 38, Snowhill, Wolverhampton.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/9/1861 - Advert

“NOAHS ARK INN, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston.

To be Let, with immediate possession. This is an excellent House of Business, being situate at the junction of four roads, and in a very populous locality. In-coming about £100.

Apply to W. Ashcroft and Son, Auctioneers, 38, Snow Hill, Wolverhampton.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 24/8/1861

“On Tuesday Mr. Phillips held an inquest at the NOAHS ARK, Bilston, on the body of a collier, named William Fellows, who had been killed by fire damp in his brother’s pit, at Bilston. Deceased had gone down the pit in order to stop an accumulation of fire-damp. The noxious gas was much more plentiful than he had anticipated, and it choked him.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/9/1861 - Advert

“NOAHS ARK INN, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, to be Let, with immediate possession.

This is an excellent House of Business, being situate at the junction of four roads, and in a very populous locality. In-coming about £100.

Apply to W. Ashcroft and Son, Auctioneers, 35, Snow Hill, Wolverhampton.”

Edward Clarke = Edward Clark

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/5/1863

“*E. Clarke*, NOAHS ARK, Bilston, for allowing card playing on the 5th inst, was fined 20s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/2/1866 - Correspondence

“To the Editor of the *Daily Post*.

Sir, On the 9th of December last, a young man, 23 or 24 years of age, about 5ft 8in high, light complexion, well built, came to Tunstall, and on the 16th of December was killed in a stone pit. He said his name was George Smith, and that he came from the NOAHS ARK, Bilston. The police cannot find any one in Bilston knowing anything of such a man. It is thought that he did not give his correct name and residence, although he was evidently a South Staffordshire man.

Would you kindly insert a paragraph in your paper respecting him, as it might be the means of his friends knowing something of his sad end? They may learn full particulars by applying to Mr. Edwin Baker, Goldenhill, Stoke-on-Trent.

I am, sir, your obedient servant, Fredk. Elmer.

Goldenhill Parsonage, Stoke-on-Trent, February 6, 1866.”

1871 Census

1, Wolverhampton Street – NOAHS ARK

- [1] Edward Clarke (51), publican employing 3 men, born Coalbrookdale, Shropshire;
- [2] Caroline Clarke (49), wife, born Astley Abbots, Shropshire;
- [3] Caroline Clarke (14), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] Edward Clarke (10), son, born Bilston;
- [5] Jerry Wigan (70), general servant, born Kingswinford;
- [6] Caroline Rushton (12), general servant, born Heath Town;
- [7] Harriot Wright (19), general servant, born New Village, Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 28/8/1872 - Advert

“Stolen or Strayed on the 23rd, Black Pony, 13½ hands high, from Priestfield, near Bilston; saddle mark on back, and blind right eye; if strayed all expenses will be paid, by applying to Mr. *Clark*, NOAHS ARK, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston.”

STOLEN or Strayed on the 23rd, Black Pony, 13½ hands high, from Priestfield, near Bilston; saddle mark on back, and blind right eye; if strayed all expenses will be paid, by applying to Mr. Clark, Noah's Ark, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston.

Bee-Hive 2/6/1877

“Trades Union Directory.

Branches belonging to the Iron Moulders Society.....

NOAHS ARK, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 8/6/1880 - Advert

“Dog. Lost, Friday, 4th, a liver-coloured Setter Dog, white spot on head, long bushy tail; will give his paw, answer to the name of Rover. Finder rewarded.

Apply, NOAHS ARK INN, Bilston.”

DOG.—Lost, Friday, 4th, a liver-coloured Setter Dog, white spot on head, long bushy tail; will give his paw, answer to the name of Rover. Finder rewarded.—Apply, Noah's Ark Inn, Bilston.

1881 Census

1, Wolverhampton Street – NOAHS ARK

- [1] Joseph Parker (35), licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] Selina Parker (39), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Minnie Parker (9), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] Clara C. Parker (5), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] Edith E. Parker (5), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] Mary F. Parker (3), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] Selina J. Parker (1), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [8] Catherine Parker (14), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Joseph Parker – see also HAND AND KEYS.

Evening Express 4/8/1881

“On Bilston Wake Monday the members of the Rose, Shamrock and Thistle lodge of the United Order of Free Gardeners held their anniversary at the NOAHS ARK INN, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston. About sixty sat down to a capital dinner, well served up by the host and hostess, and, after the withdrawal of the cloth, the chair was taken by Brother Robert Hodgkisson, and the vice chair by Brother Peter Murphy. The usual loyal toasts, the toasts ‘Success of the Rose, Shamrock, and Thistle Lodge,’ and the ‘Host and Hostess’ having been duly honoured, the evening was spent in social enjoyment.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 9/5/1885

“On Thursday night, the annual dinner of the Lily of the Valley Lodge, Independent Order of Oddfellows, Manchester Unity, was held at the NOAHS ARK INN, Bilston Mr. *Parker* catered in good style.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 13/3/1886

“On Saturday, a meeting of the local branch of the Friendly Society of Ironfounders was held in the NOAHS ARK INN, Bilston, for the purpose of making a presentation of £100 from the society to Mr. Benjamin Clarke who has been a member for thirty years, and is now suffering from permanent disablement.....”

Darlaston Weekly Times 31/12/1886

“On Monday afternoon the annual dinner of the members of the Bilston Excelsior Cricket Club took place at the NOAHS ARK INN, Bilston. The chair was occupied by Mr. J. H. Knight, the vice-chair by Mr. J. Corquedale, and there was a good attendance of members and visitors. The statement of the affairs of the club showed that ten matches, out and home, had been played during the year, five of which had been won by the club, three lost, and two drawn. The funds showed a balance in favour of the club, and the prospects of the coming year were looked upon as very satisfactory.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/12/1889

“Last night a crowded meeting of operatives was held at the NOAHS ARK, Bilston, for the purpose of hearing the report of the deputation who waited upon Messrs. B. Hingley and A. Hickman to ask for an advance of wages. A workman presided. Messrs. R. Juggins and J. Tayler reported that the result of the conference was that the men should receive 5 per cent at once, wages in future to rise or fall by the same scale as governed the ironworkers wages, viz, 10 per cent for every 1s all round given to the puddlers. The report was accepted, and the thanks of the meeting were given to the deputation.”

1891 Census

1, Wolverhampton Street – NOAHS ARK

- [1] *Barzillai Lambert* (47), planer, engine maker, born Wellington, Shropshire;
- [2] Sarah Lambert (46), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Elizabeth Lambert (16), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] Susan Lambert (14), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] Leo Lambert (8), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] Alfred Lambert (3), son, born Bilston:

1901 Census

1, Wolverhampton Street

- [1] *Alfred Folkes* (46), licensed victualler, born Winchcombe, Gloucestershire;
- [2] Amelia Folkes (42), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Arthur Folkes (22), son, steel works labourer, born Bilston;
- [4] Charlotte Folkes (19), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] Rhoda Folkes (18), daughter, boot machinist, born Bilston;
- [6] Herbert Folkes (15), son, packer in japan-ware works, born Bilston;
- [7] Frank Folkes (12), son, born Bilston;
- [8] Frederick Folkes (11), son, born Bilston;
- [9] George Folkes (9), son, born Bilston;
- [10] Alice Folkes (5), daughter, born Bilston:

1911 Census

1, Wolverhampton Street

- [1] *Alfred Folkes* (56), married, manager, hotel, born Winchcombe, Gloucestershire;
- [2] Arthur Folkes (31), son, bricklayer, general, born Bilston;
- [3] Frank Folkes (23), son, fitter, engineer's, born Bilston;
- [4] Frederick Folkes (21), son, welder, wheel, born Bilston;
- [5] George Folkes (19), son, porter, railway company, born Bilston;
- [6] Alice Folkes (15), daughter, born Bilston;
- [7] Emily Chapman (14), servant, born Bilston:

Alfred Folkes died in the 2nd quarter of 1920.

South Staffordshire Times 29/5/1920 - Advert

"Tuesday Next, June 1st, 1920.

Joseph T. Parker begs to announce that he has been instructed by the Owner to submit for Sale By Auction, at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, at 7 o'clock in the Evening on the above date the following....

Lot 2. The very valuable and important licensed Premises known as the NOAHS ARK INN situate at the junction of High Street and Wolverhampton Street, Bilston (with possession on completion). A freehold, Free, Fully Licensed Property.

The House, with a double front, occupies an excellent position at the junction of several main thoroughfares and close to several large works.

The accommodation includes, on the ground floor, Vestibule, Front Bar, Tap Room, Smoke Room, and Living Room fitted with sink, water being laid on. On the first floor, Landing, Large Club Room 28ft 6in x 14ft 6in, small Store Room, and one Bedroom. On the second floor, Landing and three Bedrooms. In the basement, three Cellars, two having brick stillaging. Outside there is a good paved Yard with a gateway entrance from Wolverhampton Street, from which there is a right of way. Gas is laid on.

The house is well known, has done a good deal of lucrative trade, and is worthy of attention.

The purchaser will be required to take to and pay for at fair valuation the whole of the trade fixtures, fittings and effects, together with the whole of the consumable stock-in-trade on the date of completion, also the apportionment of license, rates, taxes, etc.

For further particulars apply to Messrs. Hall, Pratt and Pritchard, Solicitors, Bilston (Tel.36); or to the Auctioneers, 13 Mount Pleasant, Bilston."

South Staffordshire Times 5/6/1920

"The NOAHS ARK, one of the few free, fully licensed public houses in this district, was offered for sale by auction at the PIPE HALL HOTEL on Tuesday by Mr. J. H. Parker. The house, however failed to find a purchaser. It was in the occupation of the late Mr. *Alfred Folkes* for a period of thirty years."

1921 Census

1, Wolverhampton Street

- [1] *John Summerfield* (53), publican, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] *Ellen Summerfield* (54), wife, helps in business, born Heath Town;
- [3] *Thomas Edward Summerfield* (26), son, iron moulder, out of work, born Heath Town;
- [4] *Percy Summerfield* (24), son, painter, born Heath Town;
- [5] *Ruth Summerfield* (21), daughter, servant at home, born Heath Town:

1939 Register

Wolverhampton Street – NOAHS ARK INN

- [1] *Thomas Rowson*, date of birth 1/12/1886, licensed victualler, married;
- [3] *Joyce (Rowson) Haynes*, dob 27/2/1926, at school, single;
- [5] *Leah Rowson*, dob 25/7/1889, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [6] *Nellie (Rowson) Shinton*, dob 13/6/1928, at school, single;
- [7] *Thomas William Rowson*, dob 10/7/1913, bobbing motor pressing labourer, single:

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/3/1941

"Staffordshire Adjourned Quarter Sessions.....

Patrick Michael Eggington (17), committed from Bilston, pleaded guilty to having broken and entered the NOAHS ARK INN, Bilston, and stolen property, including 1,590 cigarettes, value £4 18s 9d, between November 7 and 8, 1940; and not guilty to a charge of burglary in respect of a dwelling house at Bilston between November 21 and 22, where he was alleged to have stolen articles value £2 7s 6d.

Mr. W. Field Hunt, prosecuting, said the prosecution were prepared to accept prisoner's plea. *Eggington* was originally charged with another man, who was dealt with at the last Sessions, but prisoner then failed to appear and a warrant was issued for his arrest. Counsel said the case was remarkable because of the large number of cigarettes stolen. The licensee heard no disturbance, and, in fact, could not find out next morning how entry had been effected, but the cigarettes were missing.....

Prisoner did not appear at the last Sessions, and on inquiry was found to be serving in the Army. An officer from prisoner's regiment and the battalion chaplain said he had a clean sheet in the Army, and they expressed the opinion that he could become a good soldier.

In a statement to the Bench, accused said the five weeks which he had spent in prison awaiting trial had taught him a lesson, and he appealed for a chance to rejoin his regiment, saying he thought the Army 'a grand life.'

Eggington was bound over for two years, the Assistant Chairman telling him that the Bench were giving him an opportunity to make good."

A team from here took part in the Bilston Crib League, Section B. [1946]

Thomas Rowson died in the 3rd quarter of 1952.

Birmingham Daily Post 16/1/1957 - Notice

"Licensing Act, 1953.

To the Clerk to the Licensing Justices of the Aldridge and Rushall Division of the County of Stafford; the Chief Constable for the County of Stafford; the Clerk to the Rating Authority for the Urban District of Aldridge in the County of Stafford; *Leah Rowson* the Licensee; Frank Myatt Limited of Aston Brewery, Birmingham; the Holt Brewery Company Limited of Aston Brewery, Birmingham; and to all others whom it may concern.

I, James Constantine, of 34 Beeches Drive, Erdington, in the City of Birmingham, Licensing Superintendent, Do Hereby Give Notice that it is my intention to Apply at the First Session of the General Annual Licensing Meeting for the Aldridge and Rushall Division of the County of Stafford, to be holden at the Court House, Aldridge, on Monday, the 4th day of February, 1957, at the hour of 10.30 o'clock in the forenoon for the Provisional Grant to me of an Order sanctioning the Removal the Removal of the Justices License now in force and held by the said *Leah Rowson*, in pursuance of which the said *Leah Rowson* holds an Excise License to sell by Retail at the licensed premises situate at Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, in the said County of Stafford, and known by the sign of the NOAHS ARK, any intoxicating liquor which may be sold under a Publican's Licensed for consumption either on or off the premises, from such premises to a certain House and premises proposed to be erected upon land situate on the West side of Beacon Road, and on the North side of a new Road now in course of construction opposite Collingwood Drive, Great Barr, in the said County of Stafford.

And I Hereby Give Further Notice that Frank Myatt Limited of Aston Brewery, Birmingham, are the Owners of the said premises known as the NOAHS ARK, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston aforesaid, and that the Holt Brewery Company Limited of Aston Brewery, Birmingham, are the Owners of the said land situate in Beacon Road, Great Barr aforesaid.

Given under my hand this 10th day of January, 1957. James Constantine."

Birmingham Daily Post 28/9/1957

"William Colbourne (33), labourer, of Garden Walk, Bilston, was sent to prison for six months by Bilston magistrates yesterday for stealing a Father Hudson collection box containing £4 10s from the bar of the NOAHS ARK INN, Bilston."

1959 Probate

"Thomas William Rowson of 1 Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 5 March 1958 at or near the Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton. Administration London 26 November to Nellie Shinton (wife of Ernest William Shinton). Effects £805."

Closed

Demolished

**FREEHOLD AND COPYHOLD HOUSES, ROLLING MILL,
BUILDINGS, AND LAND,
AT BILSTON, IN THE COUNTY OF STAFFORD.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,**

BY Messrs. CHESHIRE and GIBSON, on
MONDAY, the 25th day of April inst., at Four o'clock in the
afternoon, at the King's Arms Inn, in Bilston, either in the following
or such other lots as may be determined upon at the time of sale—the
under-mentioned PROPERTIES:—

A FREEHOLD LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE, known as "THE
NOAH'S ARK," situated at the junction of Union Street and Wolver-
hampton Street, in the town of Bilston, in the occupation of Mr. Wil-
liam Flowers, as yearly Tenant.

A FREEHOLD PROPERTY, adjoining to the last; consisting of
Eleven HOUSES, fronting to Wolverhampton Street; and Five others
at the back, with their Appurtenances.

A FREEHOLD HOUSE, Yard, and Premises, also fronting to Wol-
verhampton Street, and adjoining to the last lot, in the occupation of
Edward Johnson, at an annual rental of £16.

A Piece of FREEHOLD LAND, fronting to Wolverhampton Street,
containing 111 superficial yards.

A similar Piece, adjoining, containing 114 yards.
A large Plot of valuable LAND, formerly used as a Garden, lying
in the rear of the above lots, containing 3a., or thereabouts, now in
the occupation of William Fellows, as annual Tenant.

A LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE, situated on the opposite side of
Wolverhampton Street to the last lot, known as the "HAND AND
KEYS," in the occupation of Charles Lewis, with Two Front and Five
Back HOUSES adjoining thereto.

Three HOUSES, fronting to Wolverhampton Street, in the occu-
pation of Doughty, Woolley, and Winspear, and One HOUSE at the
back, with Gardens and Out-buildings.

The MOUNT PLEASANT BEER HOUSE, in the occupation of
Mr. John Ruscoe, with a considerable space of LAND connected
therewith, having an approach from Wolverhampton Street and Union
Street.

1853

**NOAH'S ARK PUBLIC HOUSE,
WOLVERHAMPTON STREET, BILSTON.**

TO be DISPOSED OF by PRIVATE
CONTRACT, in consequence of the death of Mrs. Parker, the
late landlady. This excellent house of business is situated at the
junction of three roads, in a densely populated neighbourhood, and
is commodious and conveniently fitted up. Rent low. In-coming
about £130.—Apply to W. ASHCROFT and Son, Auctioneers, 38,
Snowhill, Wolverhampton.

**"NOAH'S ARK INN,"
WOLVERHAMPTON STREET, BILSTON.**

TO be LET, with immediate possession. This
is an excellent House of Business, being situate at the junction
of four roads, and in a very populous locality. In-coming about £100.
—Apply to W. ASHCROFT and Son, Auctioneers, 38, Snow Hill, Wolver-
hampton.

1861

L ICENSING ACT, 1953.

To The Clerk to the Licensing Justices of
the Aldridge and Rushall Division of
the County of Stafford. The Chief
Constable for the County of Stafford.
The Clerk to the Rating Authority for
the Urban District of Aldridge in the
County of Stafford Leah Rowson the
Licensee; Frank Myatt Limited of Aston
Brewery, Birmingham 6. The Holt
Brewery Company Limited of Aston
Brewery, Birmingham 6 AND to all
others whom it may concern.

I JAMES CONSTANTINE of 34
Beeches Drive, Erdington in the City of
Birmingham, Licensing Superintendent. Do
Hereby Give Notice that it is my intention
to APPLY at the FIRST SESSION of the
GENERAL ANNUAL LICENSING MEET-
ING for the Aldridge and Rushall Division
of the County of Stafford to be holden
at THE COURT HOUSE, ALDRIDGE,
on Monday the 4th day of February, 1957,
at the hour of 10.30 o'clock in the fore-
noon for the Provisional Grant to me of
an ORDER sanctioning the REMOVAL
OF THE JUSTICES' LICENSE now in
force and held by the said Leah Rowson,
in pursuance of which the said Leah Row-
son holds an Excise License to sell by
Retail at the licensed premises situate at
WOLVERHAMPTON STREET BILSTON
in the said County of Stafford, and known
by the sign of "THE NOAH'S ARK" any
intoxicating liquor which may be sold
under a Publican's License for consumption
either on or off the premises, from such
premises to a certain House and premises
proposed to be erected upon land situate
on the West side of Beacon Road, and on
the North side of a new Road now in
course of construction opposite Colling-
wood Drive Great Barr in the said
County of Stafford

AND I HEREBY GIVE FURTHER
NOTICE that Frank Myatt Limited of
Aston Brewery Birmingham 6 are the
Owners of the said premises known as
"The Noahs Ark" Wolverhampton Street
Bilston aforesaid and that The Holt
Brewery Company Limited of Aston
Brewery Birmingham 6 are the Owners of
the said land situate in Beacon Road
Great Barr aforesaid

Given under my hand this 10th day of
January, 1957.

JAMES CONSTANTINE

1957

OAK AND IVY

22, (28), (173), Oxford Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Frances Payton, widow, High Street, Bilston
John Poulton, chartermaster, 10, Railway Street, Bilston
Emily Lashford, 119 St Annes Road, Willenhall [1921]
Truman, Hanbury, Buxton and Co. Ltd.
Courage Ltd.
Avebury Taverns Ltd. (acquired in 1999)

LICENSEES

James King [1860] – **1879**);
Sarah Ann King (**1879**);
Richard Smith (**1879 – 1883**);
Lydia Smith (**1883 – 1884**);
William Woolley (**1884 – 1891**);
Thomas Tranter (**1891 – 1892**);
George Burrows (**1892 – 1898**);
John Poulton (**1898 – 1911**);
Rebecca Poulton (**1911 – 1912**);
Henry Flavell (**1912 – 1916**);
Charles Hall Leadbetter (**1916**);
Alfred Hugh Thomas (**1916 – 1923**);
Jane (McGrail) Betts (**1923 – 1931**);
Howard Fullwood (**1931 – 1935**);
Harry Robbins (**1935 – 1936**);
Leslie Norman Westley (**1936 – 1937**);
Samuel Brindley (**1937 – [1940]**)
K Hoyle [1976]
J Pilkington [1983]
John Spencer [1983]
V A Ratcliffe [1988]
N Beman [1989]
Raymond Davies [1995] – [2001]
Donna Fleetwood [2005] – [2006]
Samantha Angela Jones []



2009

NOTES

173, Oxford Street [1861], [1862], [1865], [1868], [1871], [1881], [1891], [1896]
28, Oxford Street [1901], [1904], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1921], [1940]
22, Oxford Street [1997], [1998], [2001]

It had a beerhouse license.



1861 Census

173, Oxford Street – OAK AND IVY

- [1] James King (51), coal miner and victualler, born Winchester;
- [2] Ann King (51), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Sarah King (12), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] Sarah Claton (17), general servant, born West Bromwich;
- [5] Elizabeth King (92), visitor, widow, farm labourer, born Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire:

James King, retailer of beer, 173, Oxford Street. [1862]

James King, beer retailer, 173, Oxford Street. [1865], [1868]

FOR SALE, a handsome Brown HORSE PONY, with black legs, main and tail, rising 4 years old, quiet to ride or drive; with a new SET of Plated Silver HARNESS. Price £24. To be sold separately if required.—Apply, Oak and Ivy, Oxford Street, Bilston.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 12/10/1867 - Advert

"For Sale, a handsome Brown Horse Pony, with black legs, main and tail, rising 4 years old, quiet to ride or drive; with a new Set of Plated Silver Harness. Price £24. To be sold separately if required.

Apply, OAK AND IVY, Oxford Street, Bilston."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/8/1869

"The annual licensing meeting for the Bilston division took place yesterday, at the Police Court.....

The following beerhouse keepers had been fined during the past five years.....

Permitting Drunkenness James King, OAK AND IVY, Oxford Street, 10s and costs."

1871 Census

173, Oxford Street

- [1] James King (57), cab and hearse proprietor, master 4 men, born Tamworth;
- [2] Ann King (60), wife, born Bradley;
- [3] Sarah Crowder (20), general servant, born Bilston:

James King died on 30th March 1879.

1881 Census

173, Oxford Street

- [1] Richard Smith (49), beerhouse keeper, born Tamworth;
- [2] Lydia Smith (47), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] Elizabeth Smith (21), daughter, pot maker in pottery works, born Bilston;
- [4] Esther Smith (16), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] Alice Clara Smith (14), daughter, dressmaker, born Bilston;
- [6] Hannah Louisa Smith (11), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] Florence K. Smith (7), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [8] Esther Jones (67), wife's mother, widow, born Sedgley:

Richard Smith died on 15th February 1883.

Darlaston Weekly Times 17/5/1884

"Free Gardeners Friendly Society.

The first dinner in connection with the Oak and Ivy Lodge, No.1486, was held on Saturday evening, at the lodge house, OAK AND IVY INN, Oxford Street, Bilston. The dinner was served up in the host's best style, and gave great satisfaction. After dinner, Brother Baldwin, district master, was voted to the chair, and Brother Whutton to the vice-chair. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts were duly honoured, after which Brother Caldwin gave, 'The National Order of Free Gardeners.' Brother Whatton responded to the toast. The Secretary (Bro. J. Clark) in giving his report, said that he was glad to say the finances of the lodge had greatly improved since he took office. There were now 39 financial members on the books, and the lodge was as prosperous as any in the order. The health of the host and hostess (Bro. and Mrs. Woolley) was then given. Songs by Bros. Harris, Orton, and Connolly followed, and brought a very pleasant and enjoyable evening to a close."

Commercial Gazette 12/8/1886

“Extracts from the Register of County Court Judgements Stafford.....

William Woolley, OAK AND IVY INN, Oxford Street, Bilston. July 12 1886. £19 9s 6d.”

1891 Census

173, Oxford Street – OAK AND IVY

- [1] *Thomas Tranter* (31), iron worker, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] *Louisa Tranter* (30), wife, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *William Tranter* (8), son, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [4] *Joseph Tranter* (7), son, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [5] *Alice Tranter* (3), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [6] *Mariah Doughty* (18), domestic servant, born Wolverhampton:

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/1/1894

“Samuel Dando, Greencroft, William Wilkes and Edward Wilkes, Bradley, all iron-workers, were charged with refusing to quit the OAK AND IVY INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, and also with assaulting *Thomas Tranter*, the landlord. Mr. R. Tildesley prosecuted.

The defendants, accompanied by a bulldog, went to the house of complainant. They began to quarrel and he ordered them to leave, but they refused. One of them incited the dog to bite the complainant. The Wilkeses had been previously convicted and they were sentenced to one month’s hard labour each, and Dando was fined 20s and costs.”

George Burrows, beer retailer, 173, Oxford Street. [1896]

1901 Census

28, Oxford Street

- [1] *John Poulton* (59), widower, royalty coalmaster and beerhouse keeper, born Bilston;
- [2] *Sarah A. Poulton* (26), daughter, barmaid to above, born Bilston;
- [3] *Rebecca Poulton* (23), daughter, barmaid to above, born Bilston;
- [4] *William Poulton* (23), son, labourer, born Bilston:

John Poulton, beer retailer, 28, Oxford Street. [1904]

1911 Census

28, Oxford Street – OAK AND IVY INN

- [1] *Rebecca Poulton* (33), unmarried, beerhouse keeper, born Bilston;
- [2] *Maria Poultney* (18), niece, domestic servant, born Bilston;
- [3] *Margaret Kinsey* (59), widow, domestic servant, born Bilston:

London Gazette 26/5/1911

“Friendly Societies Act, 1896. Advertisement of Dissolution by Instrument.

Notice is hereby given, that the Oak And Ivy Lodge, 1486, National United Order Of Free Gardeners, held at the OAK AND IVY INN, Oxford-street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, is dissolved by Instrument, registered at this office, the 17th day of May, 1911, unless within three months from the date of the *Gazette* in which this advertisement appears proceedings be commenced by a member or other person interested in, or having any claim on, the funds of the Branch, to set aside such dissolution, and the same be set aside accordingly.”

Henry Flavell, beer retailer, 28, Oxford Street. [1912]

Alfred H. Thomas, beer retailer, 28, Oxford Street. [1921]

1921 Census

28, Oxford Street

- [1] *Hugh Alfred Thomas* (54), beerhouse manager, born Bilston;
- [2] *Ann Elizabeth Thomas* (49), wife, house duties, born Lancashire;
- [3] *Hugh Alfred Thomas* (26), son, motor frame builder, born Bilston;
- [4] *Edward Owen Thomas* (23), son, seaman, Royal Navy, born Bilston;
- [5] *James Thomas* (22), son, railway truck loader, out of work, born Bilston;
- [6] *Mary Lillian Thomas* (17), daughter, house duties, born Bilston;
- [7] *Frederick Thomas* (11), son, school, born Bilston;
- [8] *Dorothy Annie Thomas* (5), daughter, school, born Bilston;

Jane McGrail married Abraham Betts on 5th August 1925.

1939 Register

Oxford Street – OAK AND IVY INN

- [1] *Samuel Brindley*, date of birth 6/8/1890, licensed victualler, manager, married;
- [2] *Ann Brindley*, dob 31/8/1890, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] *William H. Evans*, dob 9/5/1919, iron works under roller, married;
- [4] *Edna M. Evans*, dob 20/11/1921, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [5] *Howard B. Holloway*, dob 12/1/1923, painter and decorator, single;

A team from here took part in the Bilston Crib League, Section A. [1946]

Bilston and Willenhall Times 18/5/1946

“It was reported that a successful season had just ended, when cups and prizes won by players in the Bilston Charity Darts League were distributed at the OAK AND IVY, Oxford Street, Bilston, on Tuesday night by the Mayor (Councillor C. H. Green).”

Sandwell Evening Mail 26/5/1983

“Regulars at the OAK AND IVY pub in Bilston will never forget the day in February they pulled a four-ton lorry up a hill. But they knew it was all worthwhile when the money they raised in the sponsored lorry pull went almost half way to buying a guide dog for the blind. And on Monday, Courage brewers brought the dog to a presentation evening at the Oxford Street pub. Two teams of five – one from the public bar and one from the lounge – took it in turns to pull the lorry up a steep 100-yard hill behind the pub to raise £300. A rifle shoot, dominoes and billiard competitions helped to raise another £150. This made the pub one of the most successful to take part in Courage’s guide dog appeal. Most of the brewery’s 120 Midland pubs took part and raised £15,000 altogether. OAK AND IVY landlady Mrs. Jane Spencer said, ‘It was hard work but they enjoyed every minute of it. We are already planning our next set of events.’”

John Spencer was married to Jane.

On New Year’s Eve 1984, Stuart Saffery had his hair cut for the Wolverhampton Eye Infirmary and New Cross Hospital, in a charity event, here.

London Gazette 8/10/1986

“John Spencer, unemployed, residing at 49 Russell Road, St. Chads Estate, Bilston, lately residing and carrying on business at the OAK AND IVY, Oxford Street, Bilston both in the county of West Midlands, as a Tenant Publican. Court - Wolverhampton (by transfer from High Court of Justice).

Date of First Meeting - 29th October 1986, 10.30am.

Place - Official Receiver’s Office, Commercial Union House, 22 Martineau Square, Birmingham.

Date of Public Examination - 25th November 1986, 10.15am.

Place - Wolverhampton County Court, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, West Midlands.”

Birmingham News 13/10/1989 - Advert

“Function Room Available.

The OAK AND IVY, Oxford Street, Bilston.

Comfortably accommodates for up to 50 people, with bar.

Ideal for Office and Christmas Parties.

Ring Now! (Wolverhampton) 0902-42266.”

Raymond Davies filed for bankruptcy on 27th April 2001.

A fire broke out in the bar at about 3am on 24th June 2006. It caused smoke damage.

It was locally listed in 2009.

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.

[2012]

It was converted into housing. [2015]



1989



ODYSSEY

Oxford Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.
Enterprise Inns Ltd. [1991]

LICENSEES

John Hunter [1986]
J Pardoe [1988]
W Goddard [1989]
Kevin Lockley [1991]
Patrick Meddings [1995]

NOTES

It was built in 1971.

[1976]



Sandwell Evening Mail 30/12/1978 - Advert

“Bar Staff. Required three evenings per week for a busy main road pub. Excellent working conditions, on the main 75 Birmingham to Wolverhampton bus route. Please contact the Manager, the ODYSSEY, Oxford Street, Bilston.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 29/3/1979

“The Pubs Good for Grub.

Fourteen pubs in Sandwell and Bilston have won a place in a brewery’s good grub guide published this month. The guide lists more than 400 pubs in England, Scotland, and Wales chosen by Bass Ltd., for high standards of food preparation, service and hygiene, good quality, and value for money. The pubs won their entries through the group’s ‘Welcome Food Award’ scheme. Local pubs include....
ODYSSEY, Oxford Street, Bilston.”

Burntwood Post 2/2/1995

“As we approach the half way stage of the season in the Wolverhampton Wednesday Pool league, four teams seem to be chasing second spot after suffering three losses. They met this week and have the home advantage as ODYSSEY, Bilston, handed out a 7-0 brushing to BIRD IN Hand Tettenhall....”

Enterprise Inns Advert 11/3/1996

“This modern two bar house is on the main Bilston to Wolverhampton Road. It is ideally situated to serve the local industry and the catering kitchen provides an excellent opportunity to develop the food business. The ODYSSEY has extensive car parking facilities. Estimated In-going £10,000.”

It closed in November 1999.

It was demolished in November 2000.

The site was occupied by a car showroom.

OLD BALL

Green Croft, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Richard Morris [1818]

OLD BARLEY MOW

Wolverhampton Road, (Ettingshall Lane), BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Edward Aston [1828] – [1830]
Thomas Royster [1833] – [1840]
William Bratt Adderley [1841] – [1842]
John Cooper [1845] – **1850**;
Thomas Yarsley **(1850 – [1854]**

TO BE LET,
And may be entered upon immediately.
THAT well known established **PUBLIC-HOUSE,**
called "**THE BARLEY MOW,**" situated at the bottom
of Ettingshall-lane, on the Bilston road. The Stock and
Fixtures to be taken to at a fair valuation.
Inquire of **THOMAS ROYSTER,** on the premises.

1837

NOTES

Ettingshall Lane [1834], [1841], [1847], [1850]
Wolverhampton Road [1842], [1854]

BARLEY MOW [1833], [1834]
OLD BARLEY MOW [1842], [1854]

The Hell Lane Gang met here occasionally.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/11/1866

"Sketches of the Black Country in the Olden Time. No.VII. Marvels and Mysteries of Hell Lane.....

A few evenings ago, accompanied by two pleasant companions, I set out on a pilgrimage to Hell Lane, in quest of that oft quoted individual 'the oldest inhabitant,' a great authority in antiquarian matters. Leaving Wolverhampton, we proceeded for some distance along the Bilston turnpike road, until we noticed a lane branching off to the right, and straggling up towards Sedgley beacon. 'This,' observed my companions, 'is Hell Lane,' and in another moment we had commenced our tour of inspection.....

At the entrance to the lane stands an antiquated hostelry, of a nondescript style of architecture, known as the **DUKE OF YORK**, a place which fifty years ago was the terror of the whole neighbourhood.....

The Oldest Inhabitant: Hell Lane was a queerish place I do assure you. Nobody durst venture down it after nightfall; and even in broad day-light it was hardly safe. There were certain public houses where gangs of highwaymen used to meet,. There was the **OLD DUKE O'YORK**, and the **BARLEY MOW**, as stood near by each other; two fearsome places were these for all sorts of plots and mischief. Then there was old Trilly Riley's place, the **BULLS HEAD**, where they used to get up bull baiting and such like sports; and Billy Moore's, by the brook. But the worst placed of the lot was called 'Hell House,' kept by old Evans, a butty collier. This was a great fighting place for the colliers, and there used to be a pitched battle every night. Evans's daughter, a big, strapping wench, used to be second to one of the men, and when the fight was on she would jump on the screen and shout, 'Wind him Jack lad,' 'Tap his wine bottle,' or 'Give him a red shirt, my bonny boy.'"

Wolverhampton Chronicle 20/9/1837 - Advert

"To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately.

That well known established Public House, called the **BARLEY MOW**, situated at the bottom of Ettingshall Lane, on the Bilston road. The Stock and Fixtures to be taken to at a fair valuation.

Inquire of *Thomas Royster*, on the premises."

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/5/1840

“*Thomas Royster*, keeper of a beer shop in Ettingshall Lane, charged by the Excise officers with having used grains of paradise in brewing, on the 13th March, was fined £50, with a recommendation to the commissioners to reduce the fine to £15, this being his first offence.”

1841 Census

Ettingshall Lane

- [1] *William Adderley* (25), cordwainer, born Staffordshire;
- [2] *Catharine Adderley* (20), born Staffordshire;
- [3] *Elizabeth Adderley* (2 months), born Staffordshire;
- [4] *Sophia Bratt* (20), f.s., born Staffordshire:

Birmingham Journal 12/12/1846

“On Wednesday last, an inquest was held at the house of Mr. *John Cooper*, BARLEY MOW, Monmore Green, Wolverhampton, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, on the body of *Joseph Bullen*, a boy twelve years old. It appears that he lived in Ettingshall Lane, and on Sunday last, between two and three o’clock, he was sliding upon a slough in Stow Heath Colliery, when the ice broke, and he fell into the water. There were two other lads on the ice at the time, but in their alarm they ran away, without rendering the unfortunate youth the slightest assistance.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/1/1847

“On Wednesday se’nnight an inquest was held at the BARLEY MOW, Ettingshall Lane, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of *Moses Haywood*, a lad about eleven years old, who came by his death in an ironstone pit in Messrs. Sparrow’s colliery, at Stow Heath, on the previous day, in consequence of a large quantity of clod falling upon him. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/8/1850

“Transfer of Victuallers’ Licenses. Monday last being the day appointed for the transfer of licenses in the division of Seisdon North, the county Magistrates granted the following transfers.....

John Cooper, of the BARLEYMOW, Ettingshall Lane, Bilston, to *Thomas Yarsley*, of Monmore Green.”

1851 Census

Wolverhampton Road

- [1] *Thomas Yarsley* (27), mine agent, born Bilston;
- [2] *Esther Yarsley* (28), wife, born Gloucestershire;
- [3] *George Aspinall* (9), son-in-law, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] *Maria Wall* (16), servant, born Wolverhampton:

Thomas Yarsley – see also RAVEN AND BELL, Wolverhampton, and SEDGLEY HOUSE, Wolverhampton.

OLD BOARS HEAD

88, (72), Church Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Theophilus Morrell, auctioneer, Church Street, Bilston
Mrs. Maria Rogers
Manchester Brewery Co. Ltd, Ardwick, Manchester
Thomas Russell Ltd. [1881]
Richard Andrew Harper, brewer, Bilston
R. A. Harper Ltd., Hall Park Brewery, Bilston [1921]
Eley's Stafford Brewery Ltd.
William Butler & Co. Ltd. [1946]

LICENSEES

Charles Crooke [1860] – [1865]
Joseph Lawrence [1860] – [1861]
Samuel Boden [1862]
Charles Tizard [1862] manager
John Watkins [] – **1864**;
Thomas Harris Banks (**1864** – []
Henry Jones [1868]
John Thomas Hunt [1871] – [1874];
Sidney Wright [1874];
John Whitehead [];
Iram Bould [1878];
Thomas Barnes [1879] – **1881**;
James Bennett (**1881** – []
Mark Taylor [] – **1882**;
William Vann (**1882**);
Frederick Evans (**1882** – **1883**);
John Harriman (**1883** – [1886];
William Alfred Johnson [];
Charles Freeman [];
Alfred Walters [] – **1890**;
Thomas Finney (**1890** – [1892];
John Jones [];
Peter Lewis [1896];
Harry Meredith [];
John Lee Newton [] – **1898**;
Thomas Hooper Todd (**1898** – **1899**);
Frank Hare (**1899** – **1900**);
Thomas Lee (**1900** – **1902**);
Alfred Edwards (**1902** – **1904**);
Joseph Hankins Mutlow (**1904**);
Thomas Hooper Todd [1904]
Major George Cox (**1904** – **1907**);
Richard Andrew Harper (**1907** – **1908**);
William Edwards [1908]
Richard John Larking (**1908**);
Job Lawley (**1908** – **1909**);

UNRESERVED SALE.
"OLD BOAR'S HEAD" WINE AND SPIRIT
VAULTS,
CHURCH STREET, BILSTON.
TO WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS, INNKEEPERS
BROKERS, and OTHERS.

MR. GEORGE BROWN is instructed to
SELL by PUBLIC AUCTION, upon the Premises, on
THURSDAY NEXT, the 29th day of January, 1863, the STOCK
of WINES, SPIRITS, ALE, PORTER, Shop Fixtures, Four-
pull Beer Machine, Two-pull ditto, HOUSEHOLD FURNI-
TURE, fine-toned Pianoforte, in rosewood, nearly new, Feather
Beds, Handsome Chandeliers, Chimney Glasses, LICENSES,
GOODWILL, Gas Fittings, and other effects, at the "OLD
BOAR'S HEAD" Wine and Spirit Vaults, Church Street, Bilston
aforesaid.

Catalogues may be had at the Offices of John Smith, Esq., So-
licitor, No. 24, Waterloo Street, Birmingham; at the Offices of
the Auctioneer, Chapel Street, Bilston; and at the place of
Sale.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock. 1214

PREMISES TO BE LET.

BILSTON, STAFFORDSHIRE.

TO be LET, immediately, the old-established
WINE AND SPIRIT VAULTS, known as "THE OLD
BOAR'S HEAD," situate opposite the Market Place, Bilston,
aforesaid.

The Stock, Fixtures, &c., to be taken to at a valuation.
For particulars apply to Mr. George Brown, Auctioneer, &c.,
Oxford Street, Bilston.

1863

Important Sale of Business Premises, at Bilston.—To be Sold by
Auction, by

MR. SAMUEL BAKER, on MONDAY NEXT,
June 10, at the Old Boar's Head Inn, Church Street,
Bilston, at Six o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions then to
be produced—

All that the said well-known Old Licensed HOUSE, situate in
Church Street, Bilston, called the "OLD BOAR'S HEAD INN,"
comprising capital Liquor Shop, Cellaring, Sitting Room, Kitchen,
and three Bed Rooms, with the Out-buildings thereto belonging, now
occupied by Mr. John Thomas Hunt, at a yearly rent of £35.

And also, all that excellent SHOP and Business PREMISES,
adjoining the Old Boar's Head Inn; comprising large front Shop,
Cellaring, Sitting Room, Kitchen and Bed Rooms, with the Out-
buildings thereto belonging, now occupied by Mr. Thomas Leves
Neale, Hatter, at a yearly rent of £35. The whole of the Property
is Copyhold.

The Tap Water is laid on throughout both Premises.

The Old Boar's Head Inn, and the Shop adjoining, are situated
in the principal street of the town of Bilston, and, from their close
proximity to the Market Place, always command excellent business.

For further particulars, apply to the Auctioneer, Church Street,
Bilston; or to Mr. James Slater, Solicitor, Darlaston.

1872

Benjamin Oldfield (1909 – 1910);
Herbert Rutland Meatyard (1910 – 1911);
Robert Woolley (1911 – 1912);
Frederick Robinson (1912 – 1913);
Charles Lewis Caldicott (1913);
John Davis (1913 – 1920);
Archibald James Wilson (1920 – 1925);
William Lote (1925 – 1926);
Arthur Humpage (1926 – 1933);
Arthur William Parton (1933 – 1934);
Arthur Humpage (1934 – 1938);
Mrs. Margaret (Humpage) Edwards (1938 – [1946]
R B Walker [1951]

NOTES

72, Church Street [1861], [1871], [1873], [1874], [1881], [1891], [1892], [1896], [1904]
88, Church Street [1901], [1908], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1921], [1932], [1939], [1940], [1946]

BOARS HEAD [1873], [1878], [1879], [1901]
OLD BOARS HEAD [1862], [1872], [1896], [1904], [1908], [1912], [1916], [1932]

Charles Crook = Charles Crook

Charles Crooke, wine and spirit vaults, Church Street. [1860]

Joseph Lawrence, OLD BOARS HEAD, Church Street. [1860]

1861 Census

72, Church Street
[1] Charles Crooke (36), licensed spirit merchant, born Kilsby, Northamptonshire;
[2] Elizabeth Crooke (40), wife, born Northamptonshire;
[3] Sarah Morse (18), general servant, born Willenhall:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 16/4/1862 - Notice

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1861.

Notice of Adjudication and First Meeting of Creditors.

In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton.

Charles Tizard, of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, now and for seven weeks last past carrying on or managing Liquor Vaults in Church Street, Bilston aforesaid, for Mr. *Charles Crook*; previously for about three calendar months and a week carrying on the trade of a Grocer or Huckster in Wolverhampton Street, Bilston aforesaid; and previously thereto for about two calendar months carrying on a Beerhouse at Monmore Green, in the parish of Wolverhampton, in the said county, having been adjudged bankrupt under a petition of adjudication of bankruptcy, filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton, is hereby required to surrender himself to the Registrar of the said Court, at the First Meeting of creditors to be held before the said Registrar on the 5th day of May, at twelve o'clock at noon precisely, at the Court House, Queen Street, Wolverhampton.

Mr. C. G. Brown, of Wolverhampton, is the Official Assignee, and Mr. Thomas Waterhouse, of Bilston, is the Solicitor acting in the bankruptcy.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 16/7/1862 - Notice

"In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton.

In the matters of *Charles Tizard*, of Bilston Bankrupts.

Whereas, at a Public Sitting of the Court, held this day, the Court granted the Orders of Discharge to the said Bankrupts.

Notice is hereby given, that Orders of Discharge will be drawn up and delivered to the said Bankrupts after the expiration of thirty days from this date, unless, in the meantime, an appeal be duly entered against the judgements of the said Court.

Dated this 11th day of July, 1862.

C. G. Megevan, High Bailiff."

Charles Tizard – see also LION, Coseley Street, BALL COURT and FORESTERS ARMS.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/1/1863 - Adverts

"Unreserved Sale. OLD BOARS HEAD Wine and Spirit Vaults, Church Street, Bilston.

To Wine and Spirit Merchants, Innkeepers, Brokers, and Others.

Mr. George Brown is instructed to Sell by Public Auction, upon the Premises, on Thursday Next, the 29th day of January, 1863, the Stock of Wines, Spirits, Ale, Porter, Shop Fixtures, Four-pull Beer Machine, Two-pull ditto, Household Furniture, fine-toned Pianoforte, in rosewood, nearly new, Feather Beds, Handsome Chandeliers, Chimney Glasses, Licenses, Goodwill, Gas Fittings, and other effects, at the OLD BOARS HEAD Wine and Spirit Vaults, Church Street, Bilston aforesaid.

Catalogues may be had at the Offices of John Smith, Esq, Solicitor, No.24, Waterloo Street, Birmingham; at the Offices of the Auctioneer, Chapel Street, Bilston; and at the place of Sale.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock."

AND

"Premises to be Let. Bilston, Staffordshire.

To be Let, immediately, the old-established Wine and Spirit Vaults, known at the OLD BOARS HEAD, situate opposite the Market Place, Bilston aforesaid.

The Stock, Fixtures, &c, to be taken to at a valuation.

For particulars apply to Mr. George Brown, Auctioneer, &c, Oxford Street, Bilston."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 19/12/1863

"Yesterday, at the Wolverhampton County Court, Mr. *Charles Crook*, licensed victualler, of Bilston, sued Mr. William Lewis, licensed victualler, of Wolverhampton, for the sum of £6 7s 6d, the balance due on a bill of exchange. The sum of £40 odd was paid into Court, and as to the remainder, it was urged that a certificate of a deed of arrangement having been filed, that was a sufficient answer to the action; that £7 10s, part of the consideration for the bill, was money due for a bet on horse racing, and that a further sum claimed for spirits supplied was not recoverable, the plaintiff being only a retail dealer. Mr. Waterhouse appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Thurstans for the defendant, and after a long argument his Honour gave a verdict for the plaintiff, with leave for the defendant to move at the next Court to set aside the verdict, and enter one for himself on the grounds urged by Mr. Thurstans on his behalf."

Birmingham Daily Post 15/1/1864

"Yesterday the action *Charles Crook* v William Lewis, to recover £6 7s 6d, the balance of a promissory note given by defendant to the plaintiff, again came on for hearing; Mr. Waterhouse, of Bilston, for the plaintiff; and Mr. Thurstans, of Wolverhampton, for the defendant. It will be remembered that the case was tried last month, and a verdict given for the plaintiff, after the defendant had pleaded a deed of arrangement with his creditors as a bar to the action, and that part of the consideration of the bill was a betting transaction. Leave was, however, at the same time given to the defendant to move at this Court to set aside the judgement on the points stated.

Yesterday, Mr. Thurstans withdrew the plea in respect of the deed, and confined himself to that relating to the illegal character of the debt. He said that both the plaintiff and the defendant were publicans of Bilston, and that two or three years ago the plaintiff came to Wolverhampton, and, in partnership with the defendant, made a bet 30 to 4 upon a certain horse which was about to be run in the Derby. Plaintiff lost the wager and paid the money; and the amount now claimed was the defendant's share, and formed part of the consideration of the bill. The transaction being an illegal one, the document, Mr. Thurstans contended, was thereby invalidated. Mr. Waterhouse maintained, for the

plaintiff, that the money claimed – and that formed part of the consideration of the bill – could not be regarded as a betting transaction, but as money due from the defendant to the plaintiff for cash paid by the plaintiff on his behalf. The arguments on either side were continued at some length; but his Honour ultimately confirmed his former decision, and again gave judgement for the plaintiff.”

John Watkins = John Watkin

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/2/1864

“At Bilston Police Court, on Monday, Mr. *John Watkin*, of the BOARS HEAD, was fined 20s and costs for permitting drunkenness and disorderly conduct in his house. At two o’clock on Tuesday morning a police-constable found the BOARS HEAD full of drunken and noisy customers, and reported the house accordingly.

Sarah Lapage and Mary Bately, for being drunk and disorderly in the same house the ensuing night, were fined 5s each and costs.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 10/9/1864

“Yesterday the magistrates sat in Special Sessions, for the consideration of the applications for the renewal of old and the granting of new licenses to victuallers.....

The following houses and their landlords had been complained against and fined during the year.....

J. Watkins, BOAR, Church Street.”

Charles Crooke, EXCHANGE VAULTS, 72 Church Street. [1865]

Henry Jones, spirit vaults, 72, Church Street. [1868]

1871 Census

72, Church Street

[1] *John Thomas Hunt* (30), publican, born Macclesfield;

[2] *Betsey Maria Hunt* (28), wife, born Hanley, Staffordshire;

[3] *Lizzie Maud Esther Hunt* (6), daughter, scholar, born Hazlegrove, Cheshire;

[4] *Charlotte Doleman* (16), domestic servant, born Bilston:

John Thomas Hunt was also a wine and spirit merchant. [1873]

Birmingham Daily Post 6/6/1872 - Advert

“Important Sale of Business Premises, at Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Samuel Baker, on Monday Next, June 10, at the OLD BOARS HEAD, Church Street, Bilston, at Six o’clock in the Evening, subject to conditions then to be produced.

All that the said well-known Old-licensed House, situate in Church Street, Bilston, called the OLD BOARS HEAD INN, comprising capital Liquor Shop, Cellaring, Sitting Room, Kitchen, and three Bed Rooms, with the Out-buildings thereto belonging, now occupied by Mr. *John Thomas Hunt*, at a yearly rent of £35.

And also, all that excellent Shop and Business Premises adjoining the OLD BOARS HEAD INN; comprising large front Shop, Cellaring, Sitting Room, Kitchen, and Bed Rooms, with the Out-buildings thereto belonging, now occupied by Mr. Thomas Lever Neale, Hatter, at a yearly rent of £35. The whole of the Property is Copyhold.

The Tap Water is laid on throughout both Premises.

The OLD BOARS HEAD INN, and the Shop adjoining, are situated in the principal street of the town of Bilston, and, from their close proximity to the Market Place, always command excellent businesses.

For further particulars, apply to the Auctioneer, Church Street, Bilston; or to Mr. James Slater, Solicitor, Darlaston.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 28/12/1872

“William Evans, of Pinfold Street, was remanded on the charge of stealing a bottle of rum, the property of Mr. J. Hunter [sic], the OLD BOARS HEAD. Employed on the premises at ‘odd jobs,’ he was watched and followed home on Monday, and the bottle of rum was found upon him.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 4/1/1873

“William Evans was charged on remand with having stolen a bottle of rum, the property of his master, *Mr. J. T. Hunt*, licensed victualler, Church Street, Bilston, on the 11th ult, and was sentenced to six weeks’ imprisonment.”

Birmingham Daily Post 13/9/1873 - Advert

“To be Sold, cheap, a very useful Horse, 15 hands, eight years old, very quiet in harness; also set of Harness and Dog Trap. No reasonable offer refused.

Apply, *J. T. Hunt*, OLD BOARS HEAD, Bilston.”

TO be Sold, cheap, a very useful Horse, 15 hands, eight years old, very quiet in harness; also, set of Harness and Dog Trap. No reasonable offer refused.—Apply, *J. T. Hunt*, Old Boar's Head Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 4/10/1873 - Advert

“To be Sold, a handsome bay Mare, 14 hands high, very fast, and steady in harness and saddle; also, a brown Pony, 13½ hands, 5 years old, quiet, but very fast. Selling for no fault, only owner has no further use for same.

Apply, *J. T. Hunt*, OLD BOARS HEAD, Church Street, Bilston.”

TO be Sold, a handsome bay Mare, 14 hands high, very fast, and steady in harness and saddle; also, a brown Pony, 13½ hands, 5 years old, quiet, but very fast. Selling for no fault, only owner has no further use for same.—Apply, *J. T. Hunt*, Old Boar's Head, Church Street, Bilston.

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/10/1873 - Advert

“Preliminary and Important Announcement

For immediate Disposal, that well-known and Old-Established Wine and Spirit Vaults, the OLD BOARS HEAD, Church Street, Bilston. Situate in the best thoroughfare in the town, being within three doors of the public market, and doing an increasing, steady, and safe trade; with the right of purchase of an unexpired lease of ten years.

For particulars, apply to the present lessor, *Mr. J. T. Hunt*, who is about to remove therefrom in consequence of having purchased the OLD BULLS HEAD INN, High Street, Bilston, for the purpose of going into the wholesale department.”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/12/1873 - Advert

“Important old-established Wine and Spirit Vaults, the OLD BOARS HEAD, Church Street, Bilston, situate in the best public thoroughfare. In-coming, £650.

Gray, Son, and Walker, Auctioneers and Surveyors, 31, Temple Row.”

John Thomas Hunt – see also BULLS HEAD, High Street.

IMPORTANT old-established Wine and Spirit Vaults, the Old Boar's Head, Church Street, Bilston, situate in the best public thoroughfare. In-coming £650.—Gray, Son, and Walker, Auctioneers and Surveyors, 31, Temple Row.

Birmingham Mail 21/4/1874

“At Bilston Police Court this morning, before *Mr. Spooner*, Stipendiary Magistrate, *Sidney Wright*, of the OLD BOARS HEAD, Bilston, was charged with allowing liquor to be consumed on his premises after hours. Defendant had invited a neighbouring licensed victualler named *Harriman* and his wife to the house, and a policeman found them at the bar with the liquor before them at half-past eleven at night. *Mr. Spooner* ruled that although friends could be legally entertained in a private room, they could not be at the public bar. He imposed a penalty of 20s and costs, without endorsement.

Mr. and Mrs. Harriman, charged with unlawfully being in the house, consented to pay the costs, the magistrate saying he had no doubt as to their being liable to a penalty.”

London Gazette 14/7/1874

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

In the Matter of Proceedings for Liquidation by Arrangement or Composition with Creditors, instituted by *Sidney Wright*, of Church-street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler.

Notice is hereby given, that a First General Meeting of the creditors of the above-named person has been summoned to be held at the offices of *Mr. Charles Barrow*, Solicitor, 48, Queen-street, Wolverhampton, on the 25th day of July, 1874, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 10th day of July, 1874.

Charles Barrow, 48, Queen-street, Wolverhampton, Attorney for the said Debtor.”

Birmingham Mail 5/9/1874

“A fight between a mob and some bailiffs, who attempted to take possession of the BOARS HEAD, Bilston, took place yesterday. Several of the bailiffs were injured, and the entire proceedings are described as ‘lively.’”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/9/1874

"Yesterday, at the Wolverhampton Police Court, before Mr. Isaac Spooner (stipendiary), the two ironworkers, of Bilston, named Richard Bray and George Slater, were charged on remand with having unlawfully wounded William Wragg, with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm. Mr. Fellows, of Bilston, prosecuted; Mr. Barrow defended. In his opening speech. Mr. Fellows said that a Mr. *Hunt* leased the BOARS HEAD, Bilston, but tenanted it to a Mr. *Wright*, under provisions which gave the former the power, in case of breach of covenant of the lease, to eject the latter by force if necessary. *Wright* had agreed to pay £200. One of the instalments became due in June last, and, as it was not paid, on the 7th July bailiffs were put into possession. On the next day Mr. *Wright* filed a petition, a trustee in liquidation was appointed, and another bailiff was put in for the creditors, and he remained in possession until last Friday, when the sale took place. On August 3rd Mr. *Wright* advertised that he would reopen the business on the night of the 3rd inst, and on the following day he (Mr. Fellows) gave the legal authorisation to Mr. Joseph Potts, bailiff, to take possession, and eject *Wright*.

The prosecutor, who appeared in Court with his head bandaged, was then examined. He stated that he and seven other bailiffs took possession of the house yesterday morning week. Mr. *Wright* stayed in the house for some time bargaining with a Mr. Whitehead about some fittings, and subsequently other men came, among whom were the two prisoners, through the back door; but as they refused to leave the police were sent for. A short time afterwards the bailiffs were all ejected themselves, and a large crowd gathered around the house. Witness sent for a sledge hammer, with which the front door was broken open. Then witness saw inside the house Bray, armed with a piece of iron, and many other people. As he entered witness was felled with a blow which rendered him insensible, and he remembered nothing till he found himself in the hospital, where he was still an in-patient.

In cross-examination, witness admitted that he had expected a 'warm reception,' but he was not aware, he said, that four persons claimed the right of possession; and he did not see 'Gentle Nigger' and another bailiff trying to strangle Mr. *Wright*.

His worship: If they had been lawfully in position, and were turned out, they had an undoubted right to break in.

Mr. Barrow: I am going to show you, sir, that they had not.

Cross-examination continued: While the door was being forced witness did not see a bar of iron laid across the inside. He did not recollect Chief Superintendent McCrea remonstrating with him about breaking open the door.

Mr. John Appleyard, house surgeon at the Wolverhampton and Staffordshire Hospital, deposed that Wragg had two incised wounds over the left forehead, both extending down to the bone, and that the one most to the left was a linear depressed fracture following the mark of the wound. There was a small lacerated wound on the back of the head. Witness did not think the wounds dangerous; but prosecutor was not yet able to leave the hospital.

His Worship: The charge is reduced to that of unlawfully wounding.

Timothy Hill, bailiff, of New Street, Wolverhampton, mainly corroborated Wragg's testimony. He saw Bray with a piece of wood in his hand and Slater with an iron bar, both inside the house, and heard the former say, 'Lay on them; don't let them come in.' Slater felled Wragg on the forehead with the iron bar, and Bray struck witness on the back of the head with a piece of wood. Witness then seized Slater. Chief Superintendent McCrea apprehended Bray, and both were removed in custody.

Chief Superintendent McCrea spoke as to seeing the prisoners armed with the weapons, but he had not seen the offence committed on Wragg. The house was full of people, the noise made was very great, but he saw no one but the prisoners striking with anything.

Sergeant Thomas Barnes deposed to having seen Bray strike the prosecutor with his fists, and Slater with the bar in his hand in the attitude of inflicting a blow. When charged Bray declared, 'I only used my fisses,' and, turning towards Slater, said, 'You had no business striking him with the bar.' Slater replied, 'I did not hit him. I was only holding it up to keep off the hammer. The hammer knocked it on his head.'

As his Worship intimated that he should commit the prisoners for trial, Mr. Barrow reserved his defence, but applied for bail. His Worship said he would consider the matter next Friday, when the prisoners would be brought to have the depositions read over. In answer to the charge, Bray said, 'I am not guilty; you are sending me for nothing.'

The prisoners were then formally committed for trial.

The eight bailiffs were then charged with an assault on Mr. *Wright*. Mr. Barrow prosecuted. On Mr. *Wright* entering the witness box, his Worship said that the prosecution would be quite hopeless. Mr. Barrow: Then I will not occupy your time by examining Mr. *Wright*. His Worship: Has Mr. *Wright* been to hospital? Mr. Barrow: No, sir. His Worship smiled, shrugged up his shoulders, and remarked, 'I think he ought to be had up for a conspiracy.' Mr. Barrow, to Mr. *Wright*: Then get down out of the box, or you may be. The case was then dismissed.”
[At Staffordshire Quarter Sessions in October 1874, Richard Bray and George Slater, for unlawfully wounding, were entered into their own recognizances of £5 to appear and receive judgment when called upon.]

London Gazette 3/9/1878

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1869. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton. In the Matter of Proceedings for Liquidation by Arrangement or Composition with Creditors, instituted by *Iram Bould*, of the OLD BOARS HEAD, Church-street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler. Notice is hereby given, that a First General Meeting of the creditors of the above-named person has been summoned to be held at the offices of Mr. U. Stratton, Solicitor, 57, Queen-street, Wolverhampton on the 17th day of September, 1878, at twelve o'clock at noon precisely. Dated this 31st day of August, 1878. U. Stratton, 57, Queen-street, Wolverhampton, Solicitor for the said Iram Bould.”

London Gazette 20/9/1878

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1869. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton. In the Matter of Proceedings for Liquidation by Arrangement or Composition with Creditors, instituted by *Iram Bould*, of the OLD BOARS HEAD INN, Church-street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler. Notice is hereby given, that a Second General Meeting of the creditors of the above-named person has been summoned to be held at the offices of U. Stratton, Solicitor, 57, Queen-street, Wolverhampton, on the 30th day of September, 1878, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely. Dated this 18th day of September, 1878. U. Stratton, Wolverhampton, Solicitor for the said Debtor.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 17/9/1879

“Betsy Oakley (43), Hall Street, and Mary Ann Ashley (27), Vine Street, married women, were charged with stealing an umbrella, the property of Robert Hunt, landlord of the SADDLE AND STIRRUPS, Oxford Street, Bilston. Prosecutor visited the BOARS HEAD INN, Church Street, on Thursday last, and, after being there some time, he went away, leaving his umbrella behind him. Returning about a quarter of an hour afterwards, he missed his umbrella from the place where he had left it. Information was given to the police, and the women were found in possession of the article trying to sell it. Each was sentenced to 14 days' imprisonment.”

1881 Census

72, Church Street
[1] *Thomas Barnes* (45), licensed victualler, born Newport, Shropshire;
[2] *Ann E. Barnes* (41), wife, born Brierley Hill;
[3] *John H. Barnes* (18), son, draughtsman, born Brierley Hill;
[4] *Ann E. Alden* (13), niece, barmaid, born Brierley Hill;
[5] *Mary Davis* (19), general servant, born Bilston:

Evening Express 5/5/1881

“On Wednesday morning as a bailiff named *James Bennett*, who was in possession at the OLD BOARS HEAD INN, Church Street, Bilston, was walking past the top of the cellar steps he slipped and fell to the bottom. On assistance being obtained it was found that he had broken one of his legs, and he was taken at once in a cab to the Wolverhampton Hospital, where he now lies.”

Evening Express 19/5/1881 - Advert

"BOARS HEAD, Church Street, Bilston, to Let.

For particulars, apply Great Western Street Brewery, Wolverhampton."

BOAR'S Head, Church street, Bilston, to Let.—For particulars, apply Great Western-street Brewery, Wolverhampton.

Evening Express 17/10/1881 - Advert

"Licenses, Fixtures, &c, of the BOARS HEAD INN, Church Street, Bilston, to be Sold.

Apply, Thomas Russell, Great Western Street Brewery, Wolverhampton."

LICENSES, Fixtures, &c., of the Boar's Head Inn, Church-street, Bilston, to be Sold.—Apply, Thomas Russell, Great Western-street Brewery, Wolverhampton.

Darlaston Weekly Times 23/12/1882

"As the late occupier of the People's Music Hall, many residents in Bilston will recollect the name of Mr. *Harriman*, who again solicits a visit from his many friends this Christmas season, having entered upon the BOARS HEAD INN."

Darlaston Weekly Times 13/1/1883 - Advert

"BOARS HEAD, Church Street, Bilston.

J. Harriman (late of the People's Music Hall) begs respectfully to inform the Public that having Re-opened the above Old Established Wine and Spirit Vaults, every article supplied will be of Superior Quality, and at the Lowest Possible Prices.

Having made arrangements with Messrs. Ross Brothers, Wine and Spirit Merchants, Wolverhampton, all Wines and Spirits will be supplied equal in quality as at their Wholesale Establishment.

Price List.....

Jug and Bottle Department, Side Door.

J. H. would call the particular attention of families to the fact that all Ales and Stout supplied at his Establishment are Warranted Free from all Deleterious Ingredients, being supplied direct from Messrs. Mitchell's Noted Brewery, Cape Hill, as will be seen from the following analysis.

Dr. Bostock Hill reports, 'The water supplied from the Artesian Wells, at your Brewery, is the Purest I have ever examined, and the sample of ale submitted to me is perfectly Pure, Light, and Free from Acidity.'

The attention of the Working Classes is particularly called to the Low Prices of Ale – for out-door trade – Good Dinner Ale, 3d per Quart. Extra Strong Ale, 4d per Quart.

Families supplied with 9 and 18 gallon casks at Brewery Prices.

J. H.'s is the Only Establishment supplied with these Ales in Bilston."

Darlaston Weekly Times 17/11/1883

"Ann Jones (45), married woman, of 6, Hall Street, was charged with stealing a 'pony' drinking glass, the property of *John Harriman*, BOARS HEAD INN, Church Street.

On Saturday night PC Jackson saw the woman go into several shops, and come out without making a purchase. He questioned her, and found the glass in her basket. She could not account for it, but said she must have put it in her basket while at *Harriman's*, as she was subject to loss of intellect through fits. The bench, taking this into consideration, ordered her to pay 6d and costs. At the conclusion of the case, Mrs. Hatherley, witness in an assault case, stepped forward and offered to pay the money."

Darlaston Weekly Times 12/1/1884 - Advert

"BOARS HEAD INN, Market Place, Bilston.

In completing his first year of occupancy of the above house *John Harriman* begs to inform the public that he still supplies First Class Ales of the Choicest Quality, and Wines and Spirits Direct from Bond.

Single Bottles at Wholesale Price, Hot Spiced Ale supplied the same as it used to be at the above house."

Darlaston Weekly Times 6/2/1886 - Advert

"BOARS HEAD, Market Place, Bilston. Proprietor, *J. Harriman*.

Just Arrived! The American Twins! To be Seen Daily from 11am until 11pm.

American Twins give a variety of new Songs and Entertainments.

Everyone should see them. The Greatest Treat ever appeared in the town of Bilston.

Ales, Wines, and Spirits of the Finest Quality.

BOARS HEAD, Bilston. Don't Forget to Call."

Darlaston Weekly Times 3/4/1886

“Barnum’s American Giant.

The above monster specimen of humanity, known as Captain Murphy, is exhibiting at the OLD BOARS HEAD, Church Street. Not yet 22 years of age, the Captain stands nearly eight feet in height, and is well built, and of a pleasing appearance and address. Although an Irishman by birth, most of his time has been spent in the United States, which he has travelled through and through. Seeing is believing, and having ourselves obtained ocular proof of the veracity of these statements we commend our readers to do the same.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 17/4/1886 - Advert

“Challenge of £10,000.

The above Challenge is offered to anyone finding an equal, same age, height, and weight to Captain Murphy (nearly 8ft high), the Great American Giant, now exhibiting at the OLD BOARS HEAD.

Showell’s Ales, Wines, and Spirits, of the Finest Quality.”

Birmingham Daily Post 15/10/1886 - Advert

“BOARS HEAD, Market Place, Bilston.

An important modern-fronted Liquor Vaults, with profitable Business, and situated in the main street, next to the Market Hall; and in about the best business position in town. Free lease 14 years. Low rent. In-coming £400.

Apply, Roderick and Son.”

The Era 4/12/1886 - Advert

“Wanted, Bar Novelties, Lady Pianist and Vocalist, Impersonators, Small Musical Families, for present and future dates. *Harriman*, BOARS HEAD, Bilston.”

WANTED, Bar Novelties, Lady Pianist and Vocalist, Impersonators, Small Musical Families, for present and future dates. HARRIMAN, Boar's Head, Bilston.

John Harriman – see also BARREL VAULTS.

Birmingham Daily Post 10/5/1890

“At Bilston Police Court, yesterday.....

Mr. Tildesley applied for the transfer of the BOARS HEAD INN, Church Street, from *Alfred Waters* to *Thomas Finney*. There was no opposition, and the application was granted.”

1891 Census

72, Church Street

[1] *Thomas Finney* (34), public house manager, born Golds Green;

[2] *Eliza Finney* (33), wife, born Dudley;

[3] *Thomas F. Finney* (11), son, scholar, born Golds Green;

[4] *William Finney* (9), son, scholar, born Golds Green;

[5] *Frances E. Finney* (7), daughter, scholar, born Birmingham;

[6] *Elizabeth Finney* (3), daughter, born Hill Top;

[7] *Samuel Finney* (75), father, retired cowkeeper, born Anstey, Leicestershire:

John Lee Newton was convicted on 16th February 1898, for permitting drunkenness.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 26/8/1898

“Bilston annual licensing sessions.....

Formal objection was made against the renewals of the OLD BOARS HEAD, Bilston on account of convictions.....”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/8/1898

“The annual Licensing Meeting of the Petty Sessional Division of Bilston was held yesterday.....

T. H. Todd, OLD BOARS HEAD, Bilston applied for the renewal of their licenses, which were objected to by the Superintendent of Police. Renewed.”

1901 Census

88, Church Street – BOARS HEAD INN

- [1] *Thomas Lee* (46), licensed victualler manager, born Coddington, Nottinghamshire;
- [2] *Sarah J. Lee* (47), wife, born Leicester;
- [3] *Elsie Lee* (17), daughter, milliner, born Leicester;
- [4] *Madge Lee* (9), daughter, born Leicester:

Staffordshire Advertiser 13/2/1909

“Bilston annual licensing sessions were held on the 5th inst.....

An application was made for permission to alter the BOARS HEAD INN, Church Street, Bilston, to enable the District Council to obtain a portion of land for public improvement. The application was granted.”

Benjamin Oldfield – see also HEN AND CHICKENS, George Street, and BLANKMAKERS ARMS.

1911 Census

88, Church Street – BOARS HEAD

- [1] *Herbert Rutland Meatyard* (46), licensed victualler, born Camberwell, Surrey;
- [2] *Elizabeth Meatyard* (47), wife, married 26 years, assisting in the business, born Munlochy, Rosshire;
- [3] *Clara Knott* (22), barmaid, born Lye;
- [4] *Esther Easthope* (20), domestic servant, born Bilston:

South Staffordshire Times 27/11/1920

“Billiards. On Wednesday evening at the OLD BOARS HEAD, Bilston, in the presence of a large assembly, a match of 500 up was played between Mr. H. W. Mathews and Mr. R. Smith. Each made good breaks, and at the interval Mr. Mathews led by 321 to 304. Mr. Smith quickly improved in the closing stages, and won by 500 to 496.”

1921 Census

88, Church Street

- [1] *Archibald James Wilson* (33), licensed victualler, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] *Clara Ann Wilson* (32), wife, home duties, born Bilston;
- [3] *Jack Branford Wilson* (9), son, school, born Bilston;
- [4] *Marjorie Wilson* (6), daughter, school, born Bilston;
- [5] *Reginald Robert Wilson* (1), son, born Bilston;
- [6] *Cicely Beatrice Rose* (29), visitor, widow, home duties, born Wolverhampton;
- [7] *Merton Alfred Wilson Rose* (2), visitor, born Swansea:

South Staffordshire Times 7/6/1924

“A successful concert arranged by the Hollywood Lodge of the R.A.O.B. was held at headquarters, the OLD BOARS HEAD, Church Street.....”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 12/9/1925

“An enjoyable evening was passed on Wednesday, at the R.A.O.B. Holmwood Lodge, OLD BOARS HEAD, Church Street, the company meeting to bid farewell to the host and treasurer, Mr. *Arch Wilson*, and to welcome his successor, Mr. T. Lote, of Walsall. Mr. *Wilson*, who had been associated with various activities in the town, is leaving for the TROCADERO, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, on Monday next. He has been associated with the recently-formed Bilston United FC Supporters Club, and had been an active worker on Flower Show Committees. He is also a visiting member of the R.A.O.B. Mr. *Wilson* served with the Royal Engineers in France, 1914-1919.”

A music license was granted on 3rd February 1928.

1939 Register

88, Church Street (4 of 5)

- [1] Margaret (Humpage) Edwards, date of birth 5/11/1892, licensed victualler, tenant, married;
- [2] Beatrice Humpage, dob 2/3/1920, cardboard box maker, single;
- [3] James Henry Whittingham, dob 8/12/1906, pork butcher's assistant, married;
- [4] Christina Whittingham, dob 19/12/1911, unpaid domestic duties, married;

Margaret Humpage married Alfred Edwards in the 2nd quarter of 1941.

1946 Probate

"Margaret Edwards of the OLD BOARS HEAD, 88 Church Street, Bilston, Staffordshire (wife of Alfred Edwards) died 18 September 1946. Administration Birmingham 18 October to the said Alfred Edwards, steel dresser. Effects £1,082 13s 10d."

A team from here took part in the Butlers (Bilston) Darts League. [1946]

A team from here took part in the Bilston Crib League, Section B. [1946]

Bilston and Willenhall Times 4/5/1946

"The wedding took place at Holy Trinity Church, Bilston, on Saturday of Mr. John Hillman, at present serving with the RAF, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Hillman, Windsor Road, Parkfield, Wolverhampton, and Miss Beatrice Humpage, youngest daughter of Mrs. Edwards and the late Mr. A. Humpage, of the OLD BOARS HEAD, Church Street, Bilston....."

Walsall Observer 17/3/1951

"At the monthly meeting of Walsall and District Licensed Victuallers Society.....
New members elected were Mr. R. B. Walker, OLD BOARS HEAD, Bilston."

Closed

It was demolished in the late 1960s.

PRELIMINARY AND IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.
FOR immediate DISPOSAL, that well-known and OLD-ESTABLISHED WINE AND SPIRIT VAULTS, the Old Boar's Head, Church-street, BILSTON. Situate in the best thoroughfare in the town, being within three doors of the public market, and doing an increasing, steady, and safe trade; with the right of purchase of an unexpired lease of ten years — For particulars, apply to present lessor, Mr. J. T. HUNT, who is about to remove therefrom in consequence of having purchased the Old Bull's Head Inn, High-street, Bilston, for the purpose of going into the wholesale department.

1873

BOAR'S HEAD, CHURCH STREET, BILSTON.

J. HARRIMAN

(Late of the Peoples' Music Hall)
Begg respectfully to inform the Public that having RE-OPENED the above
OLD ESTABLISHED

WINE AND SPIRIT VAULTS,

Every article supplied will be of Superior Quality, and at the Lowest Possible Prices.

Having made arrangements with
MESSRS. ROSS BROTHERS, WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS, WOLVERHAMPTON,
All Wines and Spirits will be supplied equal in quality as at their Wholesale Establishment.

	PRICE				LIST				Per Bottle
	1s. 6d.	1s. 8d.	2s. 0d.	3s. 0d.	1s. 6d.	1s. 8d.	2s. 0d.	3s. 0d.	
PORT	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
SHERRY	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Best FINE BRANDY	—	—	—	—	1s. 8d.	3s. 3d.	4s. 4d.	6s. 6d.	26s. 0d.
Best OLD IRISH WHISKY	—	—	—	—	1s. 2d.	2s. 3d.	3s. 0d.	4s. 6d.	18s. 0d.
Best OLD JAMAICA RUM	—	—	—	—	1s. 2d.	2s. 3d.	3s. 0d.	4s. 6d.	18s. 0d.
Best OLD SCOTCH WHISKY	—	—	—	—	1s. 2d.	2s. 3d.	3s. 0d.	4s. 6d.	18s. 0d.
Best PLAIN LONDON GIN	—	—	—	—	0s. 10d.	1s. 8d.	2s. 3d.	3s. 4d.	13s. 4d.
Best British or Hamburgh BRANDY	—	—	—	—	1s. 2d.	2s. 3d.	3s. 0d.	4s. 6d.	18s. 0d.

JUG AND BOTTLE DEPARTMENT, SIDE DOOR.

J.H. would call the particular attention of families to the fact that all Ales and Stouts supplied at his Establishment are Warranted FREE from all DELETERIOUS INGREDIENTS, being supplied direct from Messrs. Mitchell's Noted Brewery, Cape Hill, as will be seen from the following analysis:—
Dr. Bostock Hill reports:—
"The water supplied from the Artesian Wells, at your Brewery, is the PUREST I have ever examined, and the sample of ale submitted to me is perfectly PURE, LIGHT, and FREE from ACIDITY."
The attention of the Working Classes is particularly called to the Low Prices of Ale—for out-door trade—

Good Dinner Ale, 3d. per Quart.
Extra Strong Ale, 4d. per Quart.

Families supplied with 9 and 16 gallon casks at Brewery Prices.
J.H.'s is the Only Establishment supplied with these Ales in Bilston.

1883

BOAR'S HEAD INN,
MARKET PLACE, BILSTON.

In completing his first year of occupancy of the above house

John Harriman

Begs to inform the public that he still supplies
FIRST CLASS ALES OF THE CHOICEST
QUALITY, and
WINES AND SPIRITS DIRECT FROM BOND

SINGLE BOTTLES at WHOLESALE PRICE,
HOT SPICED ALE supplied the same as it used
to be at the above house.

1884

BOAR'S HEAD,
MARKET PLACE, BILSTON.
Proprietor, J. HARRIMAN.

JUST ARRIVED!

THE AMERICAN TWINS!
to be Seen Daily from 11 a.m. until 11 p.m.

AMERICAN TWINS give a variety of new
SONGS AND ENTERTAINMENTS.
Everyone should see them. The Greatest Treat
ever appeared in the town of Bilston.
ALES, WINES, AND SPIRITS of the Finest
Quality.

BOAR'S HEAD, BILSTON.
Don't Forget to Call.

CHALLENGE OF £10,000.

THE ABOVE CHALLENGE is offered to any-
one finding an equal, same age, height, and
weight to

CAPTAIN MURPHY

(Nearly 8-ft. high).

THE GREAT AMERICAN GIANT,

Now Exhibiting at the

"OLD BOAR'S HEAD."

Shewell's Ales, Wines, and Spirits, of the Finest
Quality.

BOAR'S HEAD, Market Place, Bilston.—An important modern-
fronted Liquor Vault, with profitable Business, and situated
in the main street, next to the Market Hall; and in about the best
business position in town. Free lease 14 years. Low rent. Incom-
ing £400.—Apply, Boderick and Son.

1886

OLD BROWN JUG

55, (29), Temple Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Edwin Lewis, gentleman, Goldthorn Hill, Wolverhampton
Enoch Pearson, Victoria Road, Aston, Birmingham
Enoch Bailey, gentleman, Birmingham Road, Walsall

LICENSEES

Joseph Shale [1858] – [1868]
Patrick Gibbons [1871] – **1877**;
John Knight **(1877 – 1883)**;
Michael Delmore **(1883 – 1886)**;
Martin McTighe **(1886 – 1888)**;
John Sidebottom Jnr. **(1888)**;
Charles Carpenter **(1888 – 1892)**;
William McManus **(1892 – 1893)**;
Samuel Foley **(1893 – 1894)**;
Benjamin Bee **(1894 – 1895)**;
Charles Carpenter **(1895)**;
William Dudley **(1895)**;
John Beebee **(1895 – 1896)**;
John Harper **(1896 – 1899)**;
James Lemm **(1899)**;
Charles Brown **(1899 – 1900)**;
Phoebe Fowler **(1900)**;
John Harper **(1900 – 1905)**;
Ellen Harper [1901] – [1903]
Robert Colley **(1905 – 1906)**;
Arthur Taylor **(1906)**;
Henry Richard Adams **(1906 – 1907)**;

NOTES

29, Temple Street [1861], [1865], [1868], [1881], [1891]
55, Temple Street [1901], [1904]

It had a beerhouse license.

Joseph Shale, beer retailer, Temple Street. [1858]

Birmingham Journal 27/3/1858

“An inquest was held on Saturday, at the OLD BROWN JUG public house, Temple Street, Bilston, on the body of John Edwards, aged thirty-two years, who was employed as banksman at one of Mr. Walker’s pits, at Gospel Oak. It seemed that on the 18th instant the deceased was endeavouring to put a piece of wood into a skip that was about to descend the pit, when he unfortunately over balanced himself and fell down the shaft. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

1861 Census

29, Temple Street – OLD BROWN JUG

- [1] Joseph Shale (45), publican, born Bilston;
- [2] Mary Shale (44), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] John H. Shale (20), son, blacksmith, born Bilston;
- [4] Benjamin F. Shale (18), son, apprentice carpenter, born Bilston;
- [5] Sarah Shale (16), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] Thomas Shale (12), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] Mary S. Shale (6), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [8] Elizabeth Shale (1), daughter, born Bilston:

Joseph Shale, retailer of beer, Temple Street. [1862]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/8/1863

“On Tuesday last the members of the St. Patrick’s Hibernian Benefit Society, together with a number of friends, had their annual feast, at the house of Mr. *Joseph Shale*, BROWN JUG INN, Temple Street, Bilston. Amongst those present were Fathers Terry (Newcastle-on-Tyne), O’Connor (Bilston), Clarke (Bilston), and the Rev. Father Montgomery (Wednesbury). There was a good attendance. Dinner was laid upon the table about three o’clock, and the excellent manner in which it was got up by the worthy host gave the greatest satisfaction to all present. After the cloth was removed a number of speeches were delivered, and some fine old English and Irish ballads sung with good effect. The company broke up at an early hour, well pleased with the day’s enjoyment. The financial state of the society was reported to be satisfactory.”

Joseph Shale, beer retailer, 29, Temple Street. [1865], [1868]

Joseph Shale – see also BARREL, Temple Street.

1871 Census

29, Temple Street

- [1] Patrick Gibbons (50), labourer in iron works, born Ireland;
- [2] Elizabeth Gibbons (46), wife, born Ireland;
- [3] John Gibbons (16), son, labourer in iron works, born Bilston;
- [4] Mary Ann Hemming (15), general servant, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] Thomas Gallagher (24), labourer in iron works, born Ireland;
- [6] Alice Gallagher (22), wife, born Bilston;
- [7] Elizabeth Gallagher (1), daughter, born Bilston;
- [8] Patrick Gallagher (3 weeks), son, born Bilston;
- [9] James Gallagher (30), lodger, labourer in iron works, born Ireland;
- [10] John Moran (30), visitor, labourer in iron works, born Ireland:

1881 Census

29, Temple Street – OLD BROWN JUG

- [1] John Knight (52), innkeeper, born Ireland;
- [2] Mary Knight (51), wife, born Ireland;
- [3] Margaret Knight (26), daughter, dressmaker, born Runcorn;
- [4] Peter Knight (14), son, assistant in ironworks, born Bilston;
- [5] Mary Ann Knight (11), daughter, scholar, born Bilston:

Evening Express 1/11/1881

“William Kilfoy was charged with being drunk and refusing to quit licensed premises in the occupation of *John Knight*, Temple Street, Bilston, and was fined 2s 6d and costs.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 3/6/1882

“The proprietor of the OLD BROWN JUG INN, Temple Street, Bilston, celebrated the Whitsuntide by a tea party, which was held at the house on Tuesday evening. About fifty persons were present at tea, and in the evening an entertainment was given, and was largely attended.”

John Knight – see also WHITE ROSE.

Darlaston Weekly Times 25/7/1885

“Patrick Dirkin, Smith Street, Bilston, was fined 5s and costs for assaulting Richard Fletcher, of Free Street, Bilston. Richard Fletcher, complainant in the previous case, and Joseph Fletcher, Canal Buildings, Bradley Locks, were fined 5s and costs for being disorderly and refusing to quit the house of *Michael Delmore*, the BROWN JUG, Temple Street, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 28/5/1889 - Advert

“Wanted, few Ladies and Gentlemen, to join Bilston Excelsior Dramatic Club.
Apply, OLD BROWN JUG, Temple Street, Bilston.”

1891 Census

29, Temple Street – OLD BROWN JUG

- [1] *Charles Carpenter* (52), coachman, domestic servant, born Tamworth, Warwickshire;
- [2] *Emma Carpenter* (51), wife, greengrocer, born Sludby, Warwickshire;
- [3] *Alice Carpenter* (17), daughter, born Bilston:

William Dudley, beer retailer, 29, Temple Street. [1896]

He died in 1895.

[It appears he paid for the directory entry before he died.]

1901 Census

55, Temple Street – OLD BROWN JUG

- [1] *John Harper* (50), tin plate worker, born Bilston;
- [2] *Ellen Harper* (48), wife, beerhouse keeper, born Bilston;
- [3] *Stanley Harper* (10), son, born Aston, Warwickshire;
- [4] *Horace Harper* (8), son, born Tipton;
- [5] *James Pugh* (26), son-in-law, groom, born Bilston;
- [6] *Florance Pugh* (22), daughter, born Bilston;
- [7] *Louisa Pugh* (3 months), grand-daughter, born Bilston;
- [8] *John Attwood* (30), lodger, brickmaker, born Bilston;
- [9] *Hannah Heighway* (18), visitor, dressmaker, born Moxley:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/9/1903

“Yesterday, at Bilston, *Agnes Taylor* (34), of Temple Street, was sent to gaol for 21 days for stealing a tablecloth, value, 2s, belonging to *Ellen Harper*, of the BROWN JUG INN. Taylor has been before the magistrates no fewer than 66 times.”

John Harper, beer retailer, 55, Temple Street. [1904]

Robert Colley was fined £2 and costs, on 29th September 1905, for permitting drunkenness.

Robert Colley – see also GOLDEN FLEECE.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/2/1907

“According to the report of Police-Superintendent Spendlove read at the annual brewster sessions for the Bilston Petty Sessional Division yesterday, there are 356 licenses of all kinds within the division, or one to every 174 of the population.

The Clerk (Mr. Pratt) said the Bench had decided to recommend the following eleven houses on the ground of redundancy to be referred for compensation, and the cases would be adjourned to the adjourned meeting, and in the meantime notices would be given to the owner.....

BROWN JUG INN, Temple Street.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/6/1907

“County Licensing Compensation Authority.

The principal meeting of the County Compensation Authority under the Licensing Act, 1904, was held at the Shire Hall, Stafford on Tuesday.....

BROWN JUG, Temple Street, Bilston, beer license, *Henry Richard Adams* (licensee).....

Mr. R. A. Willcock (Wolverhampton) formally applied for the provisional renewal of the license, and Superintendent Spendlove gave evidence as to redundancy and structural unsuitability. Renewal refused.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/7/1907

“A supplemental meeting of the County Licensing Compensation Authority was held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, on Wednesday and Thursday, to consider the amount of compensation to be awarded in the case of licenses the renewal of which was refused at the principal meeting.....

BROWN JUG, Temple Street, Bilston (owner Enoch Bailey), £425.”

Compensation of £425 was paid on 12th October 1907.

It closed on 19th October 1907.

OLD BUSH

15, (23), (38), Cross Street (Tup Street), Bradley Bridge, (Bradley Lane), Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

Peter Price, engineer, 2, Hall Street, Bradley

Henry Wilkes

George Thompson, brewer, Dudley

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. [1912], [1921]

Union Pub Co. (W&D) [2001]

LICENSEES

John Jeavon [1828] – [1830]

John Martin [1834] – [1844]

Joshua Townsend [1845]

Joseph Townsend [1850] – [1854]

James Griffiths [1856] – [1870]

Peter Price []

Henry Wilkes [1871] – [1881] – **188_**;

Luke Bird (**188_ – 1891**);

Ann Bird (**1891 – 189_**);

Mrs. Betsy Jeavons (**189_ – 1912**);

William George (**1912 – 1914**);

Edward Williams (**1914 – 1915**);

Alfred Jeavons (**1915 – 1916**);

Arthur Edward George (**1916 – 1921**);

Richard Frederick Coxon (**1921**);

James Brent (**1921 – 1922**);

William Edward George (**1922 – 1925**);

Mrs. Clara Holland (**1925 – 1933**);

Wilfred Taylor Noon (**1933 – 1934**);

Frank Frederick Holmes (**1934 – 1936**);

James Jeavons (**1936 – [1940]**)

Albert Matthews []

Dennis Jones []

Jane Parkin [1995]

Valerie Hayward [2000] – [2005]

Jill Turner []

Ricky Hunt [] – **2008**)

Curt Sale [2014]



2016



2023



NOTES

Tup Street [1851]

Bradley Bridge [1865], [1896]

38, Cross Street [1861], [1871], [1881], [1891]

23, Cross Street [1911]

15, Cross Street [2001], [2021]

BUSH [1828], [1830], [1834], [1835], [1841], [1842], [1870], [1891], [1939], [1940]
OLD BUSH [1862], [1865], [1871], [1881], [1896], [1916]

1841 Census

Bradley

- [1] *John Martin* (45), victualler, born Staffordshire;
- [2] *Hannah Martin* (40), born Staffordshire;
- [3] *Mary Ann Martin* (15), born Staffordshire;
- [4] *Phebe Martin* (12), born Staffordshire;
- [5] *Ellen James* (13), born Staffordshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/3/1843

“The following inquisitions have been held before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner.....

On the 23rd, at the BUSH INN, Bradley, on *Mary Boden*, who died in consequence of burns received while warming herself at a cinder mount. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 24/1/1844 - Advert

“To be Sold by Auction, by *John Mason*, at the house of Mr. *John Martin*, the BUSH INN, Upper Bradley, on Monday, the 29th day of January, 1844, at five o'clock in the afternoon, in one or the following lots, as may be agreed upon at the time of sale, and subject to conditions then to be read.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/4/1844 - Advert

“To Publicans, Hay, Straw, and Horse Corn Dealers, and others.

Desirable Freehold Premises, on the banks of the Birmingham Canal, at Bradley, near Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by *Richard Corbett*, on Friday, the 19th day of April, 1844, at the OLD BUSH public house, adjoining Bradley Bridge, near Bilston aforesaid, at five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be read.

All that aforesaid substantially built old established Public House and Premises, known as the OLD BUSH, at Bradley Bridge aforesaid, comprising extensive ale, porter, and liquor cellars, an excellent brewhouse, 26 feet by 24 feet, with pumps, water cistern, and malt room therein, a good kitchen, parlour, and a commodious club room, 26 feet by 24 feet, and suitable bed rooms, together with a stable, 12 feet by 13 feet, with loft over, a convenient corn and flour warehouse, a newly erected hay, straw, and chaff store, with room over the same, an enclosed back yard, piggery, wash cistern, and other outbuildings and conveniences. And also three Dwelling Houses and Premises, in the rear of the aforesaid house and premises, and now or late in the occupations of *Adam Southall*, *Enoch Bate*, and *Joseph Dunn*.

A great portion of the above property is of recent erection, and the other parts have been lately rebuilt and repaired, and is situate in the centre of extensive collieries, ironworks, and manufactories, and being upon the banks of the canal, may be appropriated to many useful purposes.

To view the same apply on the premises, and for further particulars to Mr. G. H. Townsend, solicitor, or the Auctioneer, both of the New Town, Bilston.”

Joseph Townsend = *Joseph Townshend*

Wolverhampton Chronicle 13/2/1850

“On Friday last an inquest was held by T. M. Phillips, Esq, at the OLD BUSH INN, Bradley, on the body of *Thomas Cox*, a boy about nine years of age, whose death resulted from the reprehensible though shamefully common practice of leaving old coal pits without any fence or covering over them.

The deceased, who lived at Bradley, left home on Wednesday morning, with his father, for the purpose of going to work in a coal pit, near Darlaston. When they got into Mr. *Loxdale's* field, near *Potters Bridge*, the deceased's hat was blown off, and they both ran after it a short distance. It began to rain, and deceased's father desired him to go into a hovel close by whilst he (the father) looked for the hat. As the morning was dark and windy, he could not find the hat; and in going to the hovel to meet his son, he had, using his own words, ‘a very narrow escape of his life, in not falling into an old pit, which was exposed without any fence round or over it.’ He could not find his son, and then it occurred to him that he had fallen down the pit. Some tackling was obtained, and the deceased brought up, with his head fractured, both his legs broken, and otherwise dreadfully crushed, quite dead.

‘The pit in question,’ the boy’s father said, ‘is an old coal pit, situate in the Old Squirrel field, near Bilston, the property of Mr. Loxdale, and in the occupation of Mr. William Baldwin, of Bilston, coal and iron master. A public road passes within twenty yards of the pit in question, and there is no fence against either the road or the pit. The pit is about thirty-five yards deep. There are two or three other pits near the one in question in an equally dangerous state.’

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, expressing an opinion that there had been a great want of proper attention and care on the part of the occupier of the pit in question, in not having seen that it was properly protected.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/2/1850

“On Saturday last an inquest was held at the OLD BUSH INN, at Bradley, in the parish of Wolverhampton, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of Elizabeth Meek, three years and three months old, who fell off the wharf into the canal at Bradley, on Thursday afternoon, having a short time previously arrived in her father’s boat from Worcester. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 11/9/1850

“An inquest was held on Monday last at the OLD BUSH INN, Bradley, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of John Morris, five years and a half old, who was found drowned on Saturday morning in the Birmingham Canal, at Bradley, into which it is believed he had accidentally fallen. He had been seen by a little girl near the Canal on the previous evening. The jury returned a verdict of Found Dead.”

1851 Census

Tup Street

[1] Joseph Townshend (40), licensed victualler, born Bilston;

[2] Ann Townshend (32), wife, born Bilston;

[3] John Townshend (15), son, mill man, born Sedgley;

[4] Joseph Townshend (13), son, scholar, born Sedgley;

[5] Rebecca Dunn (23), house servant, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/4/1855

“On Monday last, T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, concluded, at the OLD BUSH INN, Bradley, an inquiry which had been several times adjourned, as to the death of Henry Gough, one of the men who were killed by the explosion of the boiler at the Darlaston Green Colliery, on the 3rd of February last. The whole particulars of the melancholy occurrence have been so recently and so fully reported in this paper that it is unnecessary to repeat them now. The jury, after a careful consideration of the facts of the case, returned an open verdict, to the effect that the death of the deceased had been caused by scalds and wounds which he received from the explosion of a boiler in consequence upon a flow of cold water upon the hot plates of the lower part of the boiler.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/11/1856 - Advert

“Leasehold Messuages, Land, and Hereditaments, situate at Lower Bradley, near Bilston, in the county of Stafford. To be Sold by Auction, by John Mason (by direction of Mortgagee, with power of sale), on Thursday next, the 6th day of November, at Mr. *James Griffiths*’s, the OLD BUSH INN, Bradley Bridge, near Bilston aforesaid.....”

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/1/1857

“On Tuesday, William Bevan, George Stanley, and about twenty-five other men, were charged by Superintendent McCrea with being engaged in a cock-fight, at Bradley, on the 22nd of December. It appeared that the accused had assembled at a public house kept by *James Griffiths*. A pound a side was staked on a battle between two cocks, which were provided by Bevan and Stanley; the parties adjourned to the public road near the house, and the battle then came off. Mr. Watson was retained for the defendants, who were fined 2s 6d each and costs, or in default 21 days’ imprisonment.

James Griffiths, landlord of the public house in question, was then charged with permitting gaming on his premises. It appeared that after the cock-fight was concluded, the parties adjourned to the defendant’s house, and played for money with dice for two or three hours. The magistrates inflicted a penalty of 20s and expenses.”

1861 Census

38, Cross Street – BUSH INN

- [1] James Griffiths (44), victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] Ann Griffiths (41), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Joseph Griffiths (18), son, puddler, born Bilston;
- [4] Jabez Griffiths (15), son, shingler, born Bilston;
- [5] James Griffiths (13), son, puddler, born Bilston;
- [6] Henry Griffiths (11), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] John Griffiths (9), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [8] Alfred Griffiths (7), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [9] Jane Price (18), general servant, born Bilston:

London Gazette 8/7/1870

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

In the Matter of Proceedings for Liquidation by Arrangement or Composition with Creditors, instituted by *Peter Price*, late of the BUSH INN, Bradley, in the township of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler and Engineer, but now residing at No.38, Queen-street, Hallfields, in the said township of Bilston, Engineer.

Notice is hereby given, that a First General Meeting of the creditors of the above-named person has been summoned to be held at the office of Mr. Joseph Stokes, No.1, Priory-street, Dudley, in the county of Worcester, on the 20th day of July, 1870, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 4th day of July, 1870.

Jos. Stokes, Attorney for the said Debtor.”

Henry Wilkes = Henry Wilks

1871 Census

38, Cross Street – OLD BUSH INN

- [1] Henry Wilkes (43), publican, born Broseley, Shropshire;
- [2] Harriet Wilkes (53), wife, born Wenlock, Shropshire;
- [3] Amy Wilkes (14), daughter, born Quatford, Shropshire;
- [4] Polly Nickless (20), visitor, key maker, born Bridgnorth;
- [5] Sophia Haden (16), general servant, born Dudley Port;
- [6] Maria Pugh (20), boarder, no occupation, farmer's daughter, born Bridgnorth:

Birmingham Daily Post 31/8/1872

“Bilston Division Annual Licensing Sessions.....

The record of the Chief Constable showed that 28 licensed victuallers and 14 beersellers had been convicted of various offences against their licenses. Of these five publicans and one beerhouse keeper were only ordered to pay the costs. In the other cases the fines varied from £10 to 1s. The licenses of 210 licensed houses and a similar number of beerhouses were renewed.

The applications for the renewal of the suspended licenses were postponed till the adjourned licensing day, on the 27th September, but the certificates were granted to the five licensed victuallers and the beerseller who, as before mentioned, were previously only ordered to pay the costs. These were.....

Henry Wilks, OLD BUSH INN, Bradley.”

Dudley Herald 27/9/1873 - Advert

“To be sold by auction. All that old licensed public house and premises known by the sign of the BUSH INN situate at Bradley's Bridge, Bradley near Bilston, comprising tap room, bar, parlour, club room, three bedrooms, storeroom, two cellars, two stables, large brewhouse, maltroom, piggeries and other outbuildings, now in the occupation of Mr. *Henry Wilkes* at yearly rent of £30 per annum.”

1881 Census

38, Cross Street – OLD BUSH

- [1] Henry Wilkes (55), licensed victualler, born Broseley, Shropshire;
- [2] Harriet Wilkes (64), wife, born Much Wenlock, Shropshire;
- [3] Amy Wooton (24), daughter, widow, born Quatford, Shropshire;
- [4] Phoebe Hill (23), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Worcestershire Chronicle 17/3/1883

“Mr. Phillips, the District Coroner, opened an inquest, on Friday night, at the BUSH INN, Bradley, Coseley, respecting the death of Ann Farmer (16), who met with her death on Thursday under shocking circumstances, at the Bateman’s Hill Ironworks, Bradley. The deceased was employed as a breeze washer, and on Thursday she went into a shed at the works where there was a small engine at work for the purpose of grinding stone. By some means her clothes became entangled in the fly-wheel of the engine, and she was subsequently found quite dead, the skull being laid open and her brains scattered about the ground. The enquiry was adjourned for the attendance of the Inspector of Factories. At the resumed inquiry the Inspector said the machinery should have been fenced. The law distinctly stated that the fly-wheel of every engine should be fenced.

The Coroner: Should the fly-wheel in this case have been fenced?

Witness: Certainly; the proper fence in this case would have been a railing of about three and a half feet high. The engine was undoubtedly a dangerous place, and ten times more to women passing on account of their dress.

The Coroner said he thought females should be stopped from going near the machinery when in motion, and also that it was necessary that the law should be strictly carried out as to fencing.

The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 25/8/1883

“On Saturday afternoon, as a child named Jemima Dutton, aged five years, was playing near the canal side, it by some means got into the water, and as no aid was at hand was drowned. On Monday morning, Mr. W. H. Phillips, district coroner, held an enquiry into the death, at the BUSH INN, Bradley Bridge.

Sarah Dutton, the mother of the deceased, said the child was five years of age, and resided with her in the building on the side of the canal. On Saturday afternoon, at a few minutes to four, the child was in the yard playing, and witness went on an errand. When she returned she was told that her child was drowned, and she found that the body had been recovered by a man named White, who lived near.

In response to the coroner, who asked if any restorative means had been employed, witness said that White turned the child upside down to get the water out of it, but there appeared to be no life in it. The Coroner said it could not be too well-known that to turn a body upside down in such a case was the very worst thing that could be done, but it would be the means of driving away the little life that might remain. What should be done was to lay the body on its side, keeping it in motion, and, if hot water could not be obtained, a hot brick should be placed to the feet.

A boy named Mark Higginson spoke to seeing the child playing in the yard as he passed, while going on an errand. When he returned the body was in the water. No one was about, and no boat had gone up or down the canal while he was near.

The Coroner commented strongly on the death traps existing all along the canal side by reason of such persons living there, and allowing their children to play near the water. At the spot where deceased met her death there was every facility for drowning, as the brick work at the side was at least six feet above the water’s edge.

As there was no evidence to show how deceased got into the water, the jury returned an open verdict of Found Drowned.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 21/6/1884

“On Monday evening, a complimentary supper was given by Mr. D. Evans, at the BUSH INN, Bradley Bridge, to the workmen engaged in the erection of a new pumping engine at Bradley. After the removal of the cloth, Mr. T. Crowder was voted to the chair, and a very pleasant evening was spent. It is expected that the new engine will shortly be in complete working order.”

1891 Census

38, Cross Street – BUSH

- [1] Luke Bird (43), licensed victualler, born Hirley, Warwickshire;
- [2] Mary A. Bird (35), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] Ann Bird (17), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [4] Alice Bird (14), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [5] Mary J. Bird (12), daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] Emily Bird (10), daughter, born Bilston;
- [7] John T. Bird (8), son, born Bilston:

Luke Bird – see also GEORGE AND DRAGON.

Luke Bird died on 28th July 1891.

Dudley Herald 2/4/1898

“On Saturday evening a dinner was held at the OLD BUSH INN, Bradley, to celebrate the return to the House of Commons of Mr. J. L. Gibbons. There was a good attendance and the catering reflected the highest credit upon the host and hostess.....”

Betsy Jeavons = Betsey Jeavons

1901 Census

Cross Street

- [1] Thomas Jeavons (57), living on own means, born Sedgley;
- [2] Betsey Jeavons (51), wife, licensed victualler, born Sedgley:

Tipton Herald 9/5/1903

“*Betsy Jeavons*, landlady of the BUSH INN, Cross Street, Bradley, was charged with selling intoxicating liquor to a drunken person, and also with permitting drunkenness on her licensed premises on the 13th April.

Mr. A. Turton prosecuted on behalf of the police authorities and Mr. R. A. Willcock defended.

Mr. Turton said it was only proposed to proceed with the case of permitting drunkenness. It appeared that at six o'clock on the 13th ult Police-constable Patrick and another officer visited the house and found a man named Henry Nock, sitting with a number of others, in a very drunken condition. It was ascertained he had been there since one o'clock, and when the officer asked how much drink had been served him the man himself shouted out, ‘Fourteen pints, but what the — has it got to do with you.’ The defendant had kept the house for thirty years, and had previously given satisfaction to the authorities.

Police-constable Patrick and Police-sergeant Gibbs gave evidence proving the charge.

Mr. Willcock urged that defendant had not remained in the tap room during the whole of the afternoon, and that Nock procured most of his drink from friends who had come to visit him from Wales.

The magistrates, after retiring for a few minutes, fined defendant £5 and £3 18s 6d costs.

Mrs. *Jeavons* was then charged with selling intoxicating liquor to a girl under the age of fourteen years in an unsealed vessel.

Police-sergeant Gibbs deposed that on the 28th ult he saw a girl named Bertha Mole, aged ten years, come out of the defendant's house with a bottle containing beer, the cork of which was not sealed.

In cross-examination by Mr. Willcock, who defended, witness admitted there was sealing wax both on the cork and bottle, but it was not attached.

The Bench gave defendant the benefit of the doubt in this case.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 18/11/1909

“Mr. Coroner Stokes held an inquest at the Town Hall, Bilston, on Wednesday evening, touching the death of Josiah Smith (57), ironworker, of 17, Daisy Street, Daisy Bank, who died suddenly on Tuesday morning.

Frederick Smith, son of the deceased, said his father had complained of pains in his stomach, but had worked three and four turns a week. Last week, however, he only worked one turn.

Henry Jones, employed at the Bradley Bar and Sheet Ironworks, Bradley, said the deceased had been engaged there during Monday night, and left shortly before six o'clock on Tuesday morning. When witness left his work a little

later he found him lying on some boulders at Lower Bradley. He called to witness, 'Oh, Harry, I'm dying; my breath is going.' Witness got him up, and assisted him to the OLD BUSH INN, where he procured some brandy for him, but he was unable to take it. He seemed to doze off to sleep on the bench, and witness then left him.

Thomas Jeavons, licensee of the OLD BUSH INN, said the deceased seemed very ill indeed when he was brought to the house. He was conscious, and made no complaint of any kind. After sitting on the bench some time he dropped to his knees and vomited some blood. He died whilst in that position.

Police-constable Lewis said he had ascertained that the deceased had been medically attended for catarrh and gout, and had been in the Dispensary at Dudley. It was in consequence of failing health he had to give up puddling, and he had since been kept on at the works labouring.

A verdict of Natural Causes was returned by the jury."

1911 Census

23, Cross Street, Bradley

- [1] *Thomas Jeavons* (68), licensed victualler, born Coseley;
- [2] *Betsy Jeavons* (61), wife, married 41 years, housewife, born Bilston;
- [3] *William Jeavons* (38), brewer, born Coseley;
- [4] *Lilian Jeavons* (15), domestic, at home, born Bradley:

Betsy Jeavons – see also BRITISH OAK, Wesley Street, and SWAN, Bank Street.

William Edward George was fined £3, on 1st May 1915, for aiding and abetting consumption of beer except during permitted hours.

Maud Fellows, a barmaid here, was badly injured when a bomb, dropped by a Zeppelin, on 31st January 1916, exploded. She died later in the pub.

Arthur Edward George – see also ROYAL EXCHANGE, Salop Street, and WHITE HART, Salop Street.

1921 Census

Cross Street – BUSH INN

- [1] *Richard Frederick Coxon* (30), public house manager, born Coseley;
- [2] *Harriet Annie Coxon* (31), wife, born Princes End;
- [3] *Harold Coxon* (1), son, born Coseley:

Bilston & Willenhall Times 2/5/1925

"*William Edward George*, Cross Street, Bradley, licensee of the OLD BUSH INN, was summoned for selling intoxicating drink during prohibited hours, and also for aiding and abetting in the same offence.

At 10.30 on the night of March 28th PS Maddox and PC Moore found the front door of the house open, and in the club room at the rear of the premises were 17 male customers and one female. Four glass jugs containing beer and one full glass of port were on the tables, and when the officers entered a man named Hadley picked up his glass and drank the contents. Edward Cooper and his wife were singing at the piano and a man named Jackson was playing. After the singing Cooper sat down near a glass containing beer, but he would not admit that it was his. Mrs. Cooper took her seat near the port wine, but said it belonged to a woman who had just left the premises.

In another room marked 'Refreshments Room' were six women and three children, and to all appearances business seemed to be going on as usual. Defendant told the sergeant that there were only four glasses on the table and the drink had been served before ten o'clock.

The defendant said he called 'Time' at ten o'clock and asked the customers to empty their glasses. There were 27 glasses on the table, and those with drops of beer in them had been left by persons who had gone. He denied that Hadley consumed drink in the presence of the officers.

Before giving their decision the magistrates heard a summons against William Joseph Hadley for consuming drink on licensed premises during prohibited hours. PS Maddox said he saw the defendant drink half a pint of beer from a glass mug. A fine of 10s was imposed.

The summons against the licensee for selling during prohibited hours was dismissed. For aiding and abetting he was fined 60s, with the option of a month's imprisonment."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/1/1936

"A licensee is entitled to entertain his friends in a bona fide manner, but the onus is on him to prove the party is a private one," said the Stipendiary, Mr. B. G. Grimley, at Sedgley yesterday when he gave his reserved decision in a case in which *Frank Frederick Holmes*, licensee of the OLD BUSH INN, Bradley, Bilston, was summoned for supplying and permitting the consumption of intoxicating liquor during non-permitted hours.

Two police officers found seven men drinking in the club room of the inn after 11pm on Christmas night, but the licensee's defence was that they were all members of a bagatelle club, and that he had entertained them to celebrate a recent victory.

The Stipendiary said he was not satisfied that the defence had proved the party to have been a private one, but if the defendant was prepared to pay the costs, a certain course would be taken.

Mr. E. E. Brown, who prosecuted, agreed to the summonses being withdrawn, on payment of costs amounting to £10 3s. Summonses against seven men were also withdrawn on payment of costs."

Evening Despatch 12/3/1938 - Deaths

"Thomas Wilfred, dearly-beloved son of *James* and *Lucie Jeavons*, the BUSH, Cross Street, Bradley, Bilston. Service at Bradley Wesley Chapel, Monday 15th. Interment Bilston Cemetery."

1939 Register

Cross Street – BUSH INN

[1] *James Jeavons*, date of birth 27/5/1877, publican, married;

[2] *Lucy Jeavons*, dob 11/1/1881, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Jack Jeavons*, dob 3/9/1914, outfitter's assistant, single:

A team from here took part in the Bradley Crib League. [1946]

Black Country Bugle 21/1/1999

Letter from Mrs. Mary Matthews (nee Morrall)

".....My father-in-law, Mr. *Albert Matthews*, used to play football in the 1930s. He used to be landlord of the OLD BUSH in Bradley Lane, the ROCKET POOLS, Bradley, and also the HOP POLE in Dudley Street, Bilston, with my mother-in-law *Ethel Matthews* until their retirement."

A football team from here were runners-up in Division Two of the Wolverhampton Combination League in 1999.

Valerie Hayward was married to Keith.

See also WHEATSHEAF, Wolverhampton.

Express and Star 2/10/2000

"Regulars at the OLD BUSH pub in Bradley, Wolverhampton, have raised £3,000 to help grant the wishes of terminally ill children. They organised a range of fundraising events including a sponsored pool marathon, a pub crawl and a barbecue."

Jill Turner, of 122 Arlescote Road, Solihull, West Midlands, and lately carrying on business as the OLD BUSH Public House, Bradley, Bilston, West Midlands, filed for bankruptcy on 11 January 2008.

Express & Star 17/5/2008

"The future of more landmark pubs in Wolverhampton was today in doubt after buildings and land were put up for sale.....

The freehold and contents of the OLD BUSH, in Bradley Lane, Bilston, has also been put on the market for £395,000 plus VAT. The building, which is still serving customers, covers 9,570sqft and is a brick-built property with enough parking space for about 20 vehicles. Current landlord *Ricky Hunt*, who finishes on June 1, said, 'I will be very sad to leave. I don't want to move but the brewery, Marston's, has decided to sell. I believe it is an open sale, and so may go to a developer, rather than remain a pub.'"

It closed in June 2008.

Express & Star 21/8/2008

"A landlord known for 'pulling the best glass of beer in Wolverhampton' has died aged 88.

Dennis Jones was today described as a 'true gentleman,' having stood behind the bar of the FORGE HAMMER in Lanesfield for a decade from 1974 to 1984. He also worked at the ROCKET POOL and OLD BUSH in Bradley and the DOG AND PARTRIDGE in Bilston. Mr. *Jones*, of Bamber Close, Bradmore, was married to Pat, who died five-and-a-half years ago. They had five children, David, now 64, Alan, 62, Brenda, 56, Andrew, 53, and Mark, 45.

Daughter Brenda, who lives in Lanesfield, said her father was a well-known member of the community. 'He was a very quiet man,' Mrs. Paddock said today. 'Mum was the bubbly one behind the bar but dad was well-known for pulling the best glass of beer in the city. People would always tell him that. He was a meticulous landlord and a true gentleman.'

Mr. *Jones* died of a heart problem on August 13. He moved into the pub trade aged 51 after working as a tool maker at firms including Villiers and Jone Hawk Engineers.

Mrs. Paddock added, 'He was a wonderful dad. He never told us what to do – just gave out advice when we needed it. He very rarely raised his voice, because he didn't need to. He commanded such respect. He was a very amiable person and was very well-read and articulate. He enjoyed working behind the bar and meeting people but I think he moved into the trade for mum really.' Mrs. Paddock said her father enjoyed gardening and reading. 'He also loved his animals and was very upset when his dogs and cats passed away,' she added. Mrs. Paddock had been her father's full-time carer for two-and-a-half years.

His funeral will take place at Bushbury Crematorium on Wednesday at 2pm."

Dennis Jones – see also FORGE HAMMER, Lanesfield, DOG AND PARTRIDGE and ROCKET POOLS.

It reopened in 2011.

Curt Sale was born in Denver, Colorado.

He was married to Nicky.

[2023]

To Publicans, Hay, Straw, and Horse Corn Dealers, and others.

DESIRABLE FREEHOLD PREMISES, on the banks of the Birmingham Canal, at Bradley, near Bilston.

**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY RICHARD CORBETT,**

On Friday, the 19th day of April, 1844, at the Old Bush public-house, adjoining Bradley Bridge, near Bilston aforesaid, at five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be read,

All that the aforesaid substantially built old established **PUBLIC HOUSE and PREMISES**, known as the Old Bush, at Bradley Bridge aforesaid, comprising extensive ale, porter, and liquor cellars, an excellent brew-house, 26 feet by 24 feet, with pumps, water cistern, and malt room therein, a good kitchen, parlour, and a commodious club room, 26 feet by 24 feet, and suitable bed rooms, together with a stable, 12 feet by 13 feet, with loft over, a convenient corn and flour warehouse, a newly erected hay, straw, and chaff store, with room over the same, an enclosed back yard, piggery, wash cistern, and other outbuildings and conveniences. And also three **DWELLING HOUSES and PREMISES**, in the rear of the aforesaid house and premises, and now or late in the occupations of Adam Southall, Enoch Bate, and Joseph Dunn.

A great portion of the above property is of recent erection, and the other parts have been lately rebuilt and repaired, and is situate in the centre of extensive collieries, ironworks, and manufactories, and being upon the banks of the canal, may be appropriated to many useful purposes.

To view the same apply on the premises, and for further particulars to **Mr. G. H. TOWNSEND**, solicitor, or the **AUCTIONEER**, both of the New Town, Bilston.



Newcomers of the year
award 2011/2012
**THE OLD BUSH
BRADLEY**
WV14 8DL
JENNINGS DARK MILD
(Permanent)
4 GUEST ALES WEEKLY
Mondays are POKER NIGHT 7pm
Last Friday in the month is always
ROCK & ROLL BINGO
8.30pm
07876214093

2013

OLD BUSH

Ettingshall Lane, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Pool [1833]

OLD BUSH

50, (22), Ward Street, (Gibbet Lane), (Priestfield), (New Village), Ettingshall, BILSTON

OWNERS

Messrs. Pritchard and Shelton, solicitors, Wolverhampton
Elijah Price, licensed victualler, Bilston
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. [1987]

LICENSEES

William Fellows [1834] – [1855]
Mrs. Martha Fellows [] – **1856**;
Walter Siddons **(1856)**;
James Leadbetter **(1856 – [1861]**
George Farley [1862] – [1865]
William Fellows [1868] – [1870]
Thomas Coleclough [1871] – [1872]
George Golding [1873] – **1874**;
Urban Bates **(1874 – 1875)**;
Richard Holmes **(1875 – 1878)**;
Elizabeth Holmes **(1878)**;
Samuel Cutler Holmes **(1878 – 1879)**;
Benjamin Wilkinson **(1879 – 1880)**;
Thomas Maddock **(1880 – 1881)**;
Joseph Fieldhouse **(1881 – 1882)**;
Benjamin Samuel Blower **(1882 – 1884)**;
William Pettifer **(1884 – 1888)**;
Samuel Henry Tilsley **(1888 – 1891)**;
George Henry Turley **(1891 – 1892)**;
John Barratt **(1892 – 1893)**;
Arthur Smith **(1893 – 1895)**;
James Collins **(1895 – 1901)**;
John Collins **(1901 – 1904)**;
Ada Elizabeth Nannery **(1904 – 1905)**;
Harry Weare **(1905 – 1907)**;
Henry Hendley **(1907 – 1908)**;
Edward Davies **(1908 – 1910)**;
John Davies **(1910 – 1913)**;
William Poole **(1913 – 1917)**;
James Collins **(1917 – 1925)**;
Francis William Brooks **(1925 – 1926)**;
Arthur Sambrook Clift **(1926 – 1930)**;
Matthew William Dangerfield **(1930 – 1931)**;
Maria Atkiss **(1931 – 1933)**;
William Robert Nicholls **(1933 – 1937)**;
John Albert Howard **(1937 – 1938)**;
Leonard Hillman **(1938 – 1939)**
Gwendoline (Paskin) Neale [1995] – **2010**)



2007



NOTES

Gibbet Lane [1835], [1841], [1851], [1873]
Ward Street, New Village [1858], [1860], [1868]
Ettingshall [1862]
22, Ward Street [1871], [1881], [1891]
50, Ward Street [1911], [1921]

BUSH [1861], [1939]
OLD BUSH [1858], [1860], [1862], [1912], [1932], [1960]

1841 Census

Gibbett Lane

- [1] William Fellows (50), victualler, born Staffordshire;
- [2] Martha Fellows (35);
- [3] John Fellows (8), born Staffordshire;
- [4] Edwin Fellows (6), born Staffordshire;
- [5] Clara Fellows (4), born Staffordshire;
- [6] Alfred Fellows (2), born Staffordshire;
- [7] Martha Walters (14), f.s., born Staffordshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 23/5/1849

“On Tuesday morning a shocking accident occurred to a young woman, named Mary Evans, about eighteen years of age, employed in Mr. Riley’s works, at Mill Fields. She was engaged in filling a barrow with some hot calcined ironstone, when a large quantity fell upon her, and completely buried her from sight. On the ironstone being removed it was found that she was quite dead, having been cut and bruised all over the body in a dreadful manner. The inquiry was held on Tuesday, at the OLD BUSH, Gilbert [sic] Lane, before T. Phillips, Esq, coroner, when it appeared that only a few minutes before the accident happened she had been cautioned against continuing to work on the spot. She persisted in doing so, however, saying that ‘the ironstone would not come down yet.’ A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/5/1850

“On Monday last, T. M. Phillips, Esq, held an inquest at the OLD BUSH, Gibbet Lane, on the body of James Holding, 26 years of age, a furnace filler at Mr. Jones’s ironworks, Bilston Furnaces, who on Friday afternoon was in the act of trying to jump off the waggon of one of the water lifts, whilst it was ascending, on to the other waggon which was descending, when his foot slipped and he fell into the waggon hole below, a distance of about eight yards. On his being taken out of the waggon hole it was found that he had received a severe fracture of the skull, and was in a dying state. He expired on the road to his house. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

William Fellows was also a coal master. [1851]

1851 Census

Gibbet Lane

- [1] William Fellows (59), victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] Martha Fellows (49), wife, born Birmingham;
- [3] John E. Fellows (18), son, attorney’s general clerk, born Bilston;
- [4] Edwin Fellows (16), son, assistant clerk in county court, born Bilston;
- [5] Alfred Fellows (11), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] James Fellows (9), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] Frederick Buckley (15), visitor, glass cutter, born Birmingham;
- [8] Mary A. Banks (17), servant, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/11/1855 - Deaths

“November 5, Mr. William Fellows, of the OLD BUSH INN, Ward Street, Bilston, in his 65th year.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 25/4/1860 - Advert

“To be Let, that Old Established Public House, the OLD BUSH INN, Gibbet Lane, Bilston. The Stock and Fixtures to be taken at a valuation.

Apply to Mr. George Brown, Auctioneer, Oxford Street, Bilston.”

TO BE LET, that Old Established PUBLIC HOUSE, THE OLD BUSH INN, Gibbet Lane, Bilston. The Stock and Fixtures to be taken at a valuation.—Apply to Mr. GEORGE BROWN, Auctioneer, Oxford-street, Bilston.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1860

“The annual meeting for the renewal of spirit licenses, and also for hearing fresh applications for the same, was held at the Bilston Police Court on Friday last.

There were altogether 215 applications for renewals, of which number thirty-four of the applicants have been fined during the past year for offences against their licenses in the following cases the Magistrates deferred their decision until the adjourned licensing day, which is fixed to take place on the 21st of September.....

James Leadbetter, BUSH INN, Ettingshall.”

[Renewed at the adjourned licensing meeting, after being admonished by the magistrates.]

Birmingham Daily Post 14/12/1860 - Advert

“The BUSH INN, Ward Street, New Village, near Bilston.

Without the slightest reserve. Messrs. Whitehead and Caddick will Sell by Auction.

The Household Furniture, Stock of Ale, large Ale Casks, Brewing Utensils, several Pockets and Tumps of prime Sussex Hops (1859), and other Effects, on Monday Next, December 17, at Eleven o’clock precisely.

Catalogues at Offices and Auction Rooms, Mount Pleasant, Bilston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 1/7/1861 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Property, New Village, Ettingshall, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Hipkins and Thomas, at the House of Mr. *George Farley*, the OLD BUSH INN, Ward Street, New Village, Bilston, This Day (Monday), July the 1st, 1861, at Six o’clock in the Evening.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 1/1/1868

“The inquest upon the body of William Hooper, who was killed at the Hot Holes Blast Furnaces, on Thursday last, was held on Monday, at the BUSH INN, Gibbet Lane, Bilston, and a verdict of Accidental Death returned.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/1/1868

“On Monday last an inquest was opened at the BUSH INN, Gibbet Lane, on the body of a female child that had been found in a basin of the Birmingham canal, near Gibbet Lane, on the 20th inst. Evidence was given showing that the body had been occasionally seen rise in the water for several days and that it had been taken out by a man named Edward Lomer, in a very decomposed state; and the inquest was then adjourned for the purpose of allowing time for a post mortem examination to be made on the body.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/3/1870

“An inquest was held on Monday morning last, at the BUSH INN, Gibbet Lane, Bilston, by the Coroner, Mr. W. H. Phillips, on the body of William Stockton (16), Gibbet Lane, who died from the effects of burns caused by a quantity of burning cinder falling on him while he was at work at the Store Heath Blast Furnaces on Saturday last. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/12/1870 - Advert

“The Licenses and Possession, Stock and Effects, of the OLD BUSH, Ward Street, Bilston. Valuation under £100. Apply to Mr. Samuel Baker, Auctioneer.”

THE LICENSES and Possession, Stock and Effects, of the Old Bush, Ward Street, Bilston. Valuation under £100.—Apply to Mr. Samuel Baker, Auctioneer.

1871 Census

22, Ward Street – OLD BUSH

- [1] Thomas Coleclough (29), publican and boat builder, born Kidsgrove, Staffordshire;
- [2] Mary J. Coleclough (25), wife, born Northamptonshire;
- [3] Emma J. Coleclough (3), daughter, scholar, born Ettingshall;
- [4] Minnie Coleclough (2), daughter, born Ettingshall;
- [5] Emma Richardson (23), visitor, born Northamptonshire;
- [6] Martha Buckley (18), general servant, born Wolverhampton;
- [7] James Edwards (24), boarder, blacksmith's striker, born Dudley Port;

Birmingham Daily Post 1/12/1871 - Advert

“Desirable Freehold Properties, at New Village, near Bilston, in the county of Stafford.

Mr. Thomas Skidmore will Sell by Auction, at the OLD BUSH INN, Gibbett Lane, Ettingshall, on Monday Next, the 4th day of December, at Six for Seven o'clock in the evening.....”

Richard Holmes died in 1878.

Birmingham Daily Post 18/4/1878 - Died

“On the 15th inst, aged 64 years, *Richard Holmes*, of Priestfield, formerly of Smethwick.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/8/1880

“A meeting of the creditors of *Benjamin Wilkinson*, furnace manager, formerly of the OLD BUSH INN, Gilbert [sic] Lane, Priestfield, but now of 3, Caponfield, near Bilston, was held in Wolverhampton on Wednesday.

The statement of affairs showed the total debts to be £140 11s 8d; the assets, consisting of book debts and household furniture, were estimated at £13. A composition of 3s in the pound, payable at two and four months respectively, was accepted.”

Thomas Maddock = Thomas Maddocks

1881 Census

22, Ward Street – Public House

- [1] Thomas Maddocks (56), licensed victualler, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] Sarah F. Maddocks (39), wife, born Ryde, Isle of Wight;
- [3] Arthur W. Maddocks (23), son, labourer in iron works, born New Village;
- [4] Philip A. Maddocks (17), soc, apprentice to factor, born New Village;
- [5] Clara Maddocks (15), daughter, apprentice to factor, born Wolverhampton;
- [6] George A. Maddocks (14), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] Agnes Maddocks (7), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [8] Richard Maddocks (5), son, scholar, born New Village;
- [9] Minnie Maddocks (3), daughter, born New Village;
- [10] Thomas Maddocks (1), son, born New Village;
- [11] Mary Ann Jones (17), domestic servant, born Wolverhampton;

Joseph Fieldhouse – see also OLD BELL, Chapel Ash, Wolverhampton.

Benjamin Samuel Blower was also a file and rasp manufacturer. [1884]

Darlaston Weekly Times 22/11/1884

“William Gardener (46), of Ward Street, Ettingshall, was on Sunday morning last, discovered by his wife Hannah, hanging by a cord suspended by a hook in the ceiling of an outhouse. Assistance was obtained as quick as possible, and deceased was cut down, but life was quite extinct. Deceased had for some time been employed by Mr. Webb, ginger beer manufacturer, of Bilston Road, and was described as being a respectable and well-conducted man. No definite cause had yet been assigned for his rash act.

On Tuesday, Mr. W. H. Phillips, district coroner, held an inquest on the body of deceased at the OLD BUSH INN, Ward Street, Ettingshall. It was shown that some time ago deceased had his skull fractured by an accident, and in consequence of this he was at times very excitable, and took small affairs to heart too much. On the morning in question deceased rose early, and was not afterwards seen until discovered by his wife.

The jury returned a verdict that deceased committed Suicide whilst in a state of Temporary Insanity.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 20/3/1885

“Charles Roberts (22), a farm labourer, John Street, New Village, was remanded for a week on a charge of stealing a hen, the property of Sarah Ann Pettifer, of the BUSH INN, Ettingshall, on Wednesday. He had been drinking in the house, and shortly after his disappearance the fowl was missed, and subsequently seen in his possession.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 27/3/1885

“Charles Roberts, belonging to John Street, Ettingshall, was sent to prison for two months for stealing a fowl, the property of *William Pettifer*, of the BUSH INN, Ward Street, Ettingshall.”

1891 Census

22, Ward Street

- [1] *Samuel Henry Tilsley* (37), ironworker and publican, born Bilston;
- [2] *Sarah Ann Tilsley* (32), wife, born Tewkesbury;
- [3] *Samuel Tilsley* (10), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] *Sarah Jane Tilsley* (9), daughter, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [5] *Mary Ann Tilsley* (7), daughter, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [6] *Sarah Ann Tilsley* (5), daughter, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [7] *Esther Tilsley* (4), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [8] *Florence Tilsley* (1), daughter, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/10/1894

“From last night’s *London Gazette* Deeds of Arrangement.....

Arthur Smith, OLD BUSH INN, Ward Street, Priestfield, near Wolverhampton, victualler.

Trustee, *William J. Hipwood*, 21, Lichfield Street, Wolverhampton, accountant.

Liabilities unsecured, £121 5s 3d; estimated net assets, £56.

Composition of 2s 6d in the pound, payable within one month from date of deed, secured by assignment.

Dated September 27, 1894; filed September 29, 1894.”

1911 Census

50, Ward Street

- [1] *John Davies* (26), gas minder and publican, born Bilston;
- [2] *Minnie Davies* (26), wife, married 5 years, assists in public business, born Bilston;
- [3] *Florance Simms* (18), servant, born Bilston:

William Poole was fined £20 and costs for permitting consumption on the premises after 9pm, contravening the Defence of the Realm Act.

Birmingham Daily Post 18/11/1916

"William Poole, BUSH INN, Ward Street, Priestfield, was summoned before the Bilston magistrates yesterday for selling and supplying, and also for permitting to be consumed on his licensed premises, intoxicating liquor, contrary to the regulations of the Liquor Control Board. He was fined £20, and £3 8s 6d special costs, and Richard and Catherine Legge and Sarah Wilks and Martha Lavender, all of Priestfield, who were summoned for consuming liquor, were each fined 20s, and £1 5s 2d special costs.

Evidence was given that at 9.25pm, on October 29, two constables visited the BUSH INN. Mr. and Mrs. Legge had a jug three parts full of ale and a glass containing ale, Wilks had a quart bottle of ale in her hand, and Lavender was drinking out of a glass."

1921 Census

50, Ward Street

- [1] James Collins (63), licensed victualler, born Tewkesbury;
- [2] Elizabeth Collins (62), wife, housewife, born Bilston;
- [3] James Arthur Collins (39), boarder, widower, bricklayer, born Stafford;
- [4] Dora Elizabeth Collins (17), grand-daughter, servant, born Priestfield;
- [5] Alice May Collins (16), grand-daughter, factory, auto turning, born Priestfield;
- [6] Esther Gladys Collins (14), grand-daughter, factory, iron drilling, born Priestfield;
- [7] Florance Clara Collins (12), grand-daughter, school, born Priestfield;
- [8] Arthur Thomas Collins (11), grand-son, school, born Priestfield;
- [9] Doris Rosehannah Collins (9), grand-daughter, school, born Priestfield;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/4/1926

"A case of interest to the licensing trade was heard yesterday in the Bilston Police Court, when *Francis William Brooks*, licensee of the BUSH INN, Priestfield, was proceeded against for using his premises for the purpose of public music and singing without having first obtained a license.

For the prosecution Mr J. Sharp pointed out that the days of the offences were Sundays. Defendant had been cautioned by the police about playing the piano, and on 28 March two police officers visited the premises and found a nephew of the defendant at the instrument.

Defendant denied that piano playing was going on. His nephew went to the piano while defendant was in the cellar. The keys were sticking and the nephew came again to put them right.

The Stipendiary intimated he would give his decision in 14 days' time."

1939 Register

Ward Street – OLD BUSH INN (2 of 3)

- [1] Leonard Hillman, date of birth 10/5/1896, licensed victualler, married;
- [2] Lilian (Hillman) Shakespeare, dob 21/6/1904, unpaid domestic duties, married;

An application was made in 1998 for alterations.

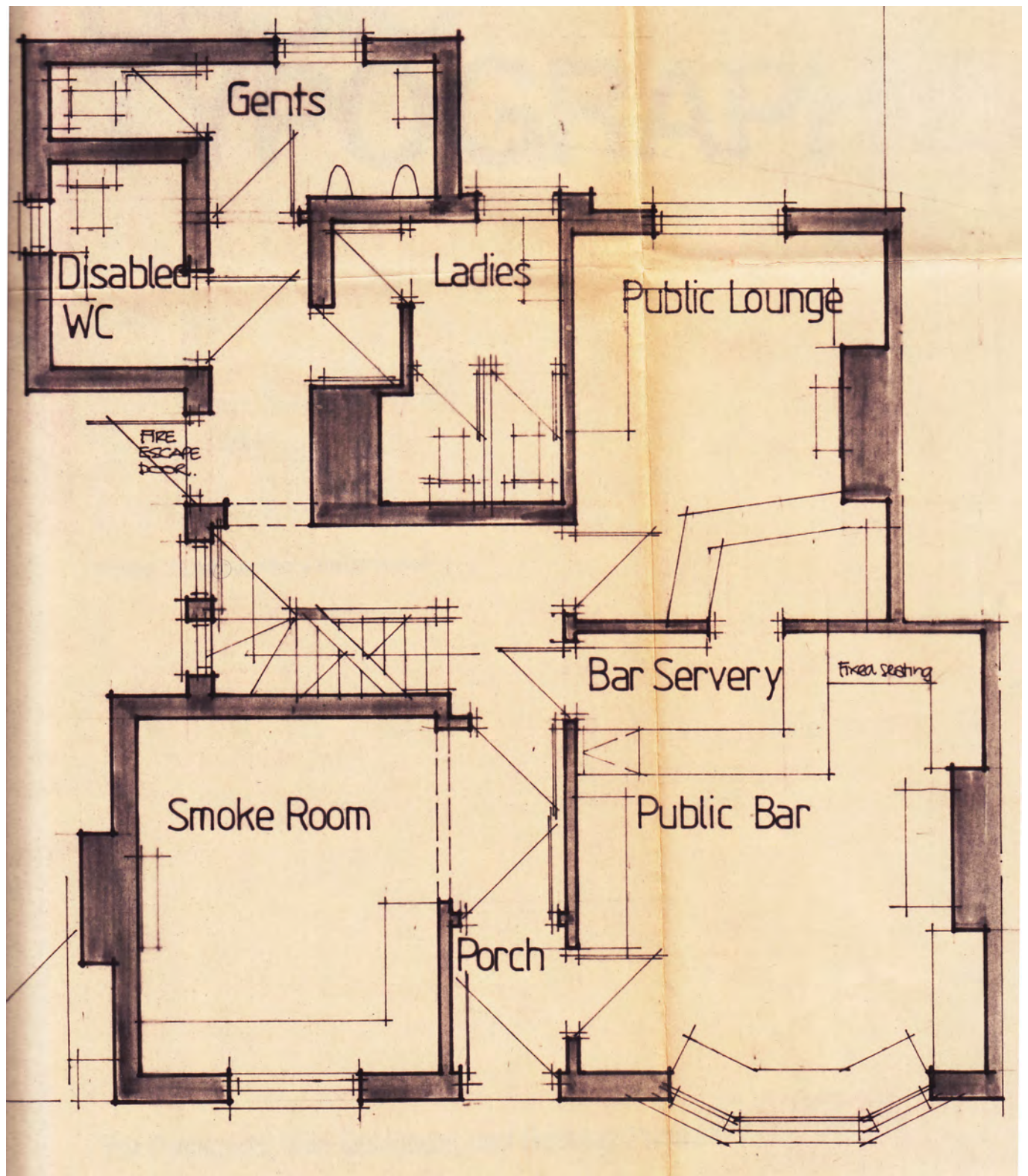
Gwendoline Neale died on 7th December 2010, aged 64.

[2010]

Closed [2011], [2019]

It was converted into retail outlets. [2022]

THE BUSH INN,
WARD STREET, NEW VILLAGE, NEAR BILSTON.
Without the slightest reserve.
MESSRS. WHITEHEAD and CADDICK
will SELL by AUCTION—the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,
Stock of ALE, large Ale Casks, Brewing Utensils, several Pockets
and Tumps of prime Sussex HOPS (1869), and other Effects, on
MONDAY NEXT, December 17, at Eleven o'clock precisely.
Catalogues at Offices and Auction Rooms, Mount Pleasant,
Bilston.



Plan 1998

OLD BUSH

70, (102), (103), Wolverhampton Street / Mill Street, Shift End, BILSTON

OWNERS

Mrs. Buckley
Fred Charles Perry, gentleman, Dunston
Henry Clarke, rent collector / licensed victualler, BOAT INN, Ettingshall
Herbert Marchant, excise officer, Priestfield, Bilston
Thomas Legge, beerhouse keeper, Moore Street
Benjamin Legge
Richard Andrew Harper, brewer, Bilston
R. A. Harper Ltd., Hall Park Brewery, Bilston [1921]
Eley's Stafford Brewery Ltd.
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1965]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

George Fellows [1808]
Job Hickman [1818] – [1830]
Thomas Hickman [1833] – [1842]
James Akers [1849] – [1856]
Miss Jane Sherry [1858] – 1878;
Alfred Akers (1878 – 1888);
Joseph Hunt (1888 – 1889);
Mrs. Ann Hunt (1889 – 1891);
Benjamin Legge (1891 – 1897);
Richard Jones (1897 – 1910);
Matthew Sidaway (1910 – 1915);
Joseph Hill (1915 – 1919);
Caroline Hill (1919 – 1920);
Charles Albert Cole (1920 – 1927);
Horace Edwin Price (1927 – 1932);
Joseph Ernest Marriott (1932 – [1940])

NOTES

BUSH [1822], [1851], [1862], [1874]
OLD BUSH [1834], [1835], [1842], [1908], [1912], [1916], [1940]

102, Wolverhampton Street [1861], [1862], [1864], [1865], [1868], [1870], [1871], [1873], [1874], [1881], [1884], [1892], [1896]
103, Wolverhampton Street [1891]
70, Wolverhampton Street [1904], [1908], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1921], [1932], [1940]

Wolverhampton, October 16 1808.
Notice to the late Daniel Fellows' Creditors.
THE several Creditors of DANIEL FELLOWS, late of Sedgley, in the County of Stafford, Pin-maker, deceased, are requested to meet at the House of George Fellows, the Bush, in Shift End, Bilston, in the said County of Stafford, on Friday the 4th Day of November next, at Eleven o'Clock in the Forenoon, to inspect the Accounts of the late Daniel Fellows, and to receive a Dividend on their respective Demands. All Persons who have not already delivered an Account of their Demands, are directed to forward the same to Mrs. Biffell, at Mr. Biffell's, in Dudle Street, Wolverhampton, Shoe-maker, previous to the Meeting; and all Persons who stand indebted to the Estate of the Deceased, are desired to pay the Amount of their respective Debts to the said Mrs. Biffell, before the said 4th Day of November next.

1808

BLACK MARE FOUND.
TAKEN UP, on the 3d of August, at Bilston, an aged BLACK MARE. Whoever owns her may have her again, upon giving a proper description, and paying all expenses. If not owned within fourteen days from this date she will be sold to defray the charges incurred.

Apply to Mr. THOMAS HICKMAN, Bush Inn, Bilston.

August 13, 1839.

1839

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 31/10/1808 - Advert

"Wolverhampton, October 26, 1808. Notice to the late Daniel Fellows' Creditors.

The several Creditors of Daniel Fellows, late of Sedgley, in the County of Stafford, Pin-maker, deceased, are requested to meet at the House of *George Fellows*, the BUSH, in Shift End, Bilstone, in the said County of Stafford, on Friday the 4th Day of November next, at Eleven o'Clock in the Forenoon, to inspect the Accounts of the late Daniel Fellows, and to receive a Dividend on their respective Demands. All Persons who have not already delivered an Account of their Demands, are desired to forward the same to Mrs. Bissell, at Mr. Bissell's, in Dudley Street, Wolverhampton, Shoe-maker, previous to the Meeting; and all Persons who stand indebted to the Estate of the Deceased, are desired to pay the Amount of their respective Debts to the said Mrs. Bissell, before the said 4th Day of November next."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/8/1839 - Advert

"Black Mare Found.

Taken Up, on the 3rd of August, at Bilston, an aged Black Mare. Whoever owns her may have her again, upon giving a proper description, and paying all expenses. If not owned within fourteen days from this date she will be sold to defray the charges incurred.

Apply to Mr. *Thomas Hickman*, BUSH INN, Bilston.

August 13, 1839."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/4/1849

"On Friday last an inquest was held at the OLD BUSH, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of William Smith, 37 years of age, who was killed on Wednesday afternoon, in a coal pit near Stokes Engine, on the Willenhall Road, the property of Philip Williams, Esq, by a large quantity of coal falling upon him while holing. The workmen were upwards of an hour before they succeeded in getting the body out. The deceased has left a wife and five children, and the wife is also near confinement. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/9/1849

"An inquest was held on Thursday, at the OLD BUSH, Shift End, on the body of Thomas Hughes, aged 31, a miner, whose death was occasioned on Tuesday by some bricks falling upon him while at work in a pit. Verdict, Accidental Death. The deceased has left a wife and three children in the greatest distress."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 11/9/1850

"An inquest was held on Thursday last at the OLD BUSH, Shift End, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of Edward Jones, about 50 years of age, who was killed on the previous day at Mr. Frost's sand mine near Moxley. He had, it appeared, charge of a cart and two horses, and stopped to speak to Joseph Highway, a labourer. As the fore horse hovered about the deceased struck at him with his whip, and the horses started off at full trot. The deceased followed them, and when they were at full trot, on the off side of the road, where the land shelves off suddenly, he made an attempt to lay hold of the bridle of the horse in the shafts, and in doing so fell or was knocked down by the shaft to the ground, and the near wheel went over his head, killing him on the spot. The deceased's skull was fractured. Verdict, Accidental Death."

1851 Census

Wolverhampton Street

[1] *James Akers* (56), licensed victualler, born Burton, Staffordshire;

[2] *Mary Ann Akers* (41), wife, born Wolverhampton;

[3] *Alfred Akers* (11), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[4] *William Akers* (4), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[5] *Harriet Sherry* (26), house servant, born Wolverhampton;

[6] *James Silvester* (42), lodger, book keeper, born Bilston:

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/1/1853

“On Monday last, T. M. Phillips, Esq, held an adjourned inquest at the OLD BUSH INN, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, on the body of John Sheffield, aged 48, a banksman, of Puddle Dock Lane, Shift End, in that town.

The inquiry was opened on Friday, when a married woman named Mary Jones, of Farthing Row, Shift End, deposed that about nine o'clock at night, on the 1st instant, she saw the deceased intoxicated, staggering past her house from the town of Bilston, in the direction of his house. He stumbled and fell opposite to her house. She afterwards heard that he was missed by his friends up to the Tuesday morning following, when his corpse was found in a disused coal pit, situated on the left hand side of Dock Lane, which lane he went up when she last saw him. This pit, she said, was the property of Mr. Henry Ash, clerk to an attorney. It was open at the top and without any proper fence.

Jeremiah Francis was the next witness. He said that he was a miner, and a neighbour of the deceased, who worked at Mr. Frost's fields. On Tuesday morning, Ann Sheffield, deceased's sister-in-law, came to him and said it was feared that John had fallen down a pit. He took a rope to Ash's old thick coal pit, where he found the deceased lying dead with a wound upon his head four inches in length. The pit was quite dry, and without any proper fence!

Both witnesses added that the pit lay out of the pathway to the deceased's house.

On Monday morning Francis stated that the pit was in as dangerous a state as when he found in it the body of Sheffield.

T. Wynn, Esq, the Government Inspector of Mines for this district, was present at the adjourned inquest, and spoke in terms of great indignation at the prevalence in South Staffordshire of open pits, long since disused which were now lying as monster traps for human life; but which, at the cost of a few shillings, might be made perfectly safe. He had not the slightest hesitation in saying that in the county of Stafford there were seven times more deaths from this cause than in all the other parts of England. He had written to many persons whose old pits were left unguarded, and the result had been that whilst some of the pits were closed others remained as before; so that there were at the present time a large number of pits in the same disgraceful state as that into which the unfortunate man Sheffield had been precipitated. Mr. Wynn gave it as his opinion that the best course which the widow and five orphans of the deceased could now take would be to sue the owner of the pit in the County Court, for damages under Lord Campbell's Act. He expressed his intention of specially reporting this case to the Secretary of State; and said that he should have taken measures for imposing here the fine of £10 – a penalty incurred by the proprietors of 'collieries' who, having an accident upon their premises, neglect to report the same to the Secretary of State – but Ash's pit having been worked out could not now be called a colliery.

The jury returned a verdict of Found Dead in a Pit.”

Birmingham Journal 22/1/1853 - Died

“On the 17th inst, very suddenly, aged 43 years, Mary, wife of Mr. *James Akers*, of the OLD BUSH INN, Bilston.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/11/1856 - Deaths

“On the 25th instant, Mr. *James Akers*, of the OLD BUSH INN, Bilston, aged 63.”

1861 Census

102, Wolverhampton Street

[1] *Jane Sherry* (40), unmarried, innkeeper, beershop, born Wolverhampton;

[2] *Harriet Sherry* (35), sister, house servant, born Wolverhampton;

[3] *Alfred Akers* (21), nephew, pattern maker, born Bilston:

1871 Census

102, Wolverhampton Street – OLD BUSH

[1] *Jane Sherry* (55), licensed victualler, born Wolverhampton;

[2] *Harriett Sherry* (46), sister, domestic servant, born Wolverhampton;

[3] *Alfred Ackers* (31), nephew, pattern maker, born Bilston:

Wellington Journal 19/7/1879

“Mr. W. H. Phillips, coroner, held an inquest on Saturday afternoon, at the OLD BUSH INN, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, on the body of Mary Jane Pitt, aged 21. The deceased had been in the service of Mr. Farmer, of the same street, for two years, and on Friday took a quantity of ‘mice powder.’ She afterwards went to a neighbour, informed her of the fact, and stated that she was much distressed in mind about several things. Dr. S. J. Smith, who was sent for, used every possible means to save the girl’s life, but unsuccessfully, and she died in great agony at about half-past three o’clock.

A verdict that the deceased died from the effects of poison taken whilst in a state of Temporary Insanity was returned.”

1881 Census

102, Wolverhampton Street – OLD BUSH INN

[1] Alfred Akers (41), licensed victualler, born Bilston;

[2] Mary A. Akers (31), wife, born Wolverhampton;

[3] Alfred J. Akers (4), son, scholar, born Wolverhampton;

[4] Edith M. Akers (2), daughter, born Wolverhampton;

[5] Harriet Sherry (55), general servant, born Wolverhampton:

Darlaston Weekly Times 1/4/1882

“The family and friends of Mr. James Henry Farmer, a retired butcher, residing in Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, were deeply shocked by the painful news of his suicide, on Saturday evening. For a few months past, Mr. Farmer has been in a desponding state of mind, and a competent man was employed to be with him. The deceased was an old inhabitant, and carried on a successful business as butcher for many years in Church Street, Bilston, being followed by his son, Mr. James Henry Farmer, junior, who still conducts the same business. He had been long connected with the Wesleyan denomination; and has a son a minister. Mr. Farmer was widely respected, and his death is deeply regretted. He took no interest in public matters; but was formerly ever attending to his business with an energy that secured for him a large trade.

The inquest was held on Wednesday morning, at the OLD BUSH INN, Wolverhampton Street, before W. H. Phillips, Esq, the borough coroner. Mr. W. Bishop was the foreman of the jury, by whom general sympathy was expressed with the family.

Harriet Evans, a domestic servant in the employ of Mrs. Farmer, stated that a keeper had been employed to watch the deceased, because he had recently been low and desponding, and seemed to be labouring under the delusion that he was in financial difficulties. She last saw him alive at 7.30 on Saturday evening, when she left him in the dining room. The keeper was with him. At 9.10 she returned, but deceased was missing, and Harris, the keeper, had gone out to look for him. She saw him brought home dead at 1.30 in the night time, he was partly dressed, and very wet. She laid the body out and noticed that water and foam oozed from the mouth. He had previously tried to destroy himself, having taken a carving knife into the garden; this was the morning the man came. She got the knife from him, and deceased said ‘they’ were going to take him away to an asylum.

Joseph Harris said he had been engaged by the son of the deceased to be with deceased continually. He had been with him for a fortnight. On Saturday, Mrs. Farmer gave him permission to go into town, promising to look after deceased during his absence. He returned in about 15 minutes, when he found the deceased gone. In company with Mr. James Farmer a search was made, and the clothes were found at the side of the pool. A further search revealed the body lying in the pool quite dead. Deceased was in the habit of swearing, and saying he was going to be sold up, but he always expressed the greatest horror of self-destruction, and was never violent.

Mrs. Farmer, widow of the deceased, stated that after giving permission to Harris to go to town, she saw her husband reclining in an easy chair, apparently dozing. Thinking him asleep, she went upstairs for some trifling article, leaving him alone in the room. When she came down stairs, he was absent, but she allowed some few minutes to elapse before becoming alarmed, as she thought he had gone to the back of the premises. It was by the request of Dr. Best that a keeper was provided.

Janes Henry Farmer, eldest son of the deceased, corroborated the previous testimony, adding that his father had wished him good bye the last time he saw him, and that his mind had been affected for a long time. There was no cause for despondency in reference to pecuniary affairs.

PS O’Brien testified to the finding of the body, and the coroner in summing up regretted that deceased had been left even a moment. The jury returned a verdict of Suicide when in a state of Temporary Insanity.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 19/7/1884 - Advert

“To Brewers, Malsters, Spirit Merchants, and others.

Important Sale of Valuable Freehold Full Licensed Houses and Dwelling House, in Wolverhampton Street, Green Lanes, and Temple Street, Bilston.

Messrs. J. Morrell & Sons are favoured with instructions to Offer for Sale by Auction, at the house of Mr. H. Baker, the GLOBE INN, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, on Tuesday, August 5th, 1884, at six for seven in the evening.....

Lot 1. All that valuable Freehold Full Licensed Public House and Premises, situate and known as the OLD BUSH INN, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, now in the occupation of Mr. *Alfred Akers*. The premises comprise large tap room 12 feet x 14ft 3in; smoke room 13ft x 12ft; bar parlour 14ft x 14ft; large and convenient brewhouse 15ft 6in x 11ft 6in, with side entrance to main street; four good chambers; extensive cellaring, one being 30ft x 11ft 6in, with barrel way from yard; wash-house; the usual outhouses and large enclosed yard with entrance from Mill Street. These premises have a frontage to Wolverhampton Street of 39ft 6in. Also three Freehold Dwelling Houses adjoining; Two having a frontage to Wolverhampton Street, of 23ft 6in, being Nos.100 and 101, and the other fronting Mill Street, now in the respective occupations of Smith, Powis, and Wallet. The property is well supplied with hard and soft water, and is in a good state of repair. This lot produces an estimated rental of £61 per annum.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 17/1/1885

“About half-past nine on Sunday morning, a child named Florrie Waddams, two years and seven months old, living with her parents at 78, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, received scalds that resulted in her death. Deceased, on the morning in question, caught hold of a cup of tea, and pulled it on to her, inflicting such injuries that she expired about 6-30 on Wednesday morning. Dr. Matthie was called in at the time of the accident, and attended the little sufferer throughout.

An inquest was held on the body at the OLD BUSH INN, Wolverhampton Street, on Thursday morning, before E. B. Thorneycroft, Esq, deputy coroner. The mother of the child and a neighbour were examined and proved the before mentioned facts.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 17/7/1886 - Advert

“Clearing-out Sale at the OLD BUSH INN, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston.

Messrs. J. Morrell & Sons have received instructions from Mr. *Alfred Akers*, who is leaving, to Sell by Auction, upon the premises as above, on Monday next, July 19th, the capital Household Furniture and Effects, comprising mahogany dining Table, mahogany stand Tables, handsome cabinet Pianoforte by Broadwood and Sons, capital mahogany sets of Chests of Drawers, oak two leaf dining Tables, oak, mahogany, and painted toilet Tables, iron and wood Bedsteads, Palliasses, feather Beds, Windsor and other Chairs, toilet Glasses, large pier Glasses in Gilt, mahogany framed Sofa, easy Chair, two weather Glasses, Prints, cornice Poles and Rings, large linen Chests, carpenter’s tool Chest and Tools, capital deal Counter with nine large stock Drawers, two partition flour Bin and other effect as detailed below.

Sale to commence at 11 o’clock.

Auctioneer Offices, Swan Bank.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 29/4/1887

“Mr. E. B. Thorneycroft the Deputy Coroner held an inquest on Wednesday at the OLD BUSH INN, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, touching the death of John Langston (miner), aged 64, of Shale Street.

From the evidence it appeared that deceased was taken suddenly ill on Saturday night last and expired on the Sunday morning following. Dr. Kennedy, surgeon, High Street, saw him but he was unable to take any medicine. Deceased had been hurt several times in the pits. The coroner said that everything seemed to have been done that could be done. The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

Joseph Hunt died on 10th September 1889.

1891 Census

103, Wolverhampton Street

- [1] *Ann Hunt* (53), widow, publican, born Bilston;
- [2] *Elizabeth Blaize* (77), mother, widow, born Bilston;
- [3] *Louisa Doughty* (20), domestic servant, born Bilston;
- [4] *John Johnson* (22), boarder, born Wolverhampton:

Birmingham Daily Post 31/5/1894

“Mr. A. B. Smith, deputy coroner, held an inquest at the OLD BUSH INN, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, yesterday afternoon, on the body of *David Jones* (71), of Seattle, Washington State, America.

The deceased was found dead in bed yesterday morning, at the house of *Alexander Turner Gripton*. *Jones* suffered from asthma, and had come to England in search of relatives and to recruit his health. On Tuesday his cough became worse, but he refused to have the advice of a medical man, and at half-past five yesterday morning he was found dead in bed.

Since he has been in Bilston letters have been written for him to *James Storoh*, 116, Commercial Street, Seattle City; *R. M. Becker*, 1906, Yester Avenue, Seattle; and *John Parson*, New England, Washington.

A verdict was returned that death had resulted from Natural Causes.”

1901 Census

70, Wolverhampton Street

- [1] *Richard Jones* (64), licensed victualler, born Broseley, Shropshire;
- [2] *Elizabeth Jones* (58), wife, born Hilton, Bridgnorth;
- [3] *Elizabeth Elwell* (10), niece, born Bilston;
- [4] *Elizabeth Norwood* (20), domestic servant, born Lane Head:

1911 Census

70, Wolverhampton Street

- [1] *Matthew Sidaway* (59), publican, born Netherton;
- [2] *Levinial Sidaway* (58), wife, married 39 years, assisting in the business, born Rowley;
- [3] *Wilfred Sidaway* (25), son, art metal fitter, born Netherton;
- [4] *Florence Hill* (15), grand-daughter, born Netherton;
- [5] *Harry Hill* (12), grand-son, school, born Netherton:

Matthew Sidaway – see also THREE SWANS, High Street, Dudley.

Birmingham Daily Post 19/4/1916

“At the Bilston Police Court yesterday a discharged soldier who gave his name as *Charles A. Kemp* (29), was charged in custody with stealing two watches and £39 in Treasury notes, belonging to *Joseph Hill*, OLD BUSH INN, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston.

The evidence showed that prisoner, who was in the same regiment as the son of Mrs. *Hill*, spent a short leave of absence at the BUSH INN last year. On March 20 he sent her a letter informing her that he was leaving hospital and wanted to stay with her a week or so. He arrived at mid-day on the same date, and stayed until the 4th inst, when he disappeared with the watches and notes.

When sentenced to six months’ imprisonment prisoner said, ‘I deserve the punishment and I will see that Mrs. *Hill* has all the money back when I come out.’”

1921 Census

70, Wolverhampton Street

- [1] *Charles A. Cole* (40), publican, born Gorton, Lancashire;
- [2] *Eliza Cole* (44), wife, born Cannock:

A music license was granted on 6th February 1925.

1939 Register

Wolverhampton Street – BUSH INN

- [1] Joseph Marriott, date of birth 25/3/1880, licensed victualler, married;
- [2] Sarah Marriott, dob 17/8/1881, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] Annie Victoria Ghetter, dob 1/12/1918, bar general, single;
- [4] William Siverns, dob 27/7/1903, enamel fuser, holloware, married;
- [5] Doris E. Siverns, dob 17/4/1906, unpaid domestic duties, married:

Letter to the Clerk to the Licensing Justices, Wolverhampton 26/6/1980

“OLD BUSH, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston.

The above fully licensed premises are affected by the proposed Bilston Town Centre By-Pass and the West Midlands County Council have agreed to take possession of the premises prior to their actual date of requirement.

This being the case, the premises ceased trading after permitted hours on Thursday 12th June, with the County Council having possession with effect from Saturday 14th June.

No doubt you will wish to amend your Licensing Register to this effect.

A copy of this letter has been forwarded to the Chief Superintendent of Police for his information.

Regional Estates Manager, Bass Mitchells & Butlers Limited.”

Closed

Demolished late 1983 / early 1984.

Lot 1.—All that valuable FREEHOLD FULL LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE and PREMISES, situate and known as the Old Bush Inn, Wolverhampton-street, Bilston, now in the occupation of Mr. Alfred Akers. The premises comprise large tap room 12 feet x 14ft 3in; smoke room 13ft x 12ft; bar parlour 14ft x 14ft; large and convenient brewhouse 15ft 6in x 11ft 6in, with side entrance to main street; four good chambers; extensive cellaring, one being 30ft x 11ft 6in, with barrel way from yard; wash-house; the usual outhouses and large enclosed yard with entrance from Mill-street. These premises have a frontage to Wolverhampton-street of 39ft 6in. Also three FREEHOLD DWELLING HOUSES adjoining: Two having a frontage to Wolverhampton-street, of 23ft 6in, being Nos. 100 and 101, and the other fronting Mill-street, now in the respective occupations of Smith, Powis, and Waiet. The property is well supplied with hard and soft water, and is in a good state of repair. This lot produces an estimated rental of £61 per annum.

1884

MONDAY, JULY 19th. 1886.

Clearing-out Sale at the “Old Bush Inn,” Wolverhampton Street, Bilston.

MESSE^{RS}. J. MORRELL & SONS have received instructions from Mr. Alfred Akers who is leaving, to SELL BY AUCTION, upon the premises above, on Monday next, July 19th. the capital

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE AND EFFECTS.

Comprising mahogany dining Table, mahogany stand Tables, handsome cabinet Pianoforte by Broadwood and Sons, capital mahogany sets of Chests of Drawers, oak two leaf dining Tables, oak, mahogany, and painted toilet Tables, iron and wood Bedsteads, Palisades, feather Beds, Wind-or and other Chairs, toilet Glasses, large pier Glasses in Gilt, mahogany framed Sofa, easy Chair, two weather Glasses, Prints, cornice Poles and Rings, large linen Chests, carpenter's tool Chest and Tools, capital deal Counter with nine large stock Drawers, two partition flour Bia and other effects as detailed below.

Sale to commence at 11 o'clock.
Auctioneer Offices, Swan Bank.

1886

Bass Mitchells & Butlers Limited

Cape Hill Brewery
P.O. Box 27
Birmingham B16 0PQ
Telephone: 021-558 1481
Telex: 335586

Ext: 2146

Your Ref:

Our Ref: E/W/K/47439

2 JUL 1980

C. R. Seymour, Esq.,
Clerk to the Licensing Justices
Town Hall
North Street
Wolverhampton

26th June 1980

Dear Sir

"Old Bush", Wolverhampton Street,
Bilston

The above fully licensed premises are affected by the proposed Bilston Town Centre By-Pass and the West Midlands County Council have agreed to take possession of the premises prior to their actual date of requirement.

This being the case, the premises ceased trading after permitted hours on Thursday 12th June, with the County Council having possession with effect from Saturday 14th June.

No doubt you will wish to amend your Licensing Register to this effect.

A copy of this letter has been forwarded to the Chief Superintendent of Police for his information.

Yours faithfully
BASSMITCHELLS & BUTLERS LIMITED

RH Geles.

Regional Estates Manager

Registered Notes.



OLD CROWN

Bridge Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Samuel Brawn [1818]
Thomas Fellows [1822]
Thomas Fowler [1828] – [1835]
Mrs. Ann Fowler [1841] – [1850]
Thomas Fowler [1851] – **1856**;
Mrs. Rebecca Fowler (**1856** – [1858])
Thomas Hall [1861]
Peter Nixon [1861] – [1866]
Thomas Legge [] – **1872**;

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

CROWN [1822], [1828], [1830], [1859], [1867], [1871], [1872]
THREE CROWNS [1858], [1861]

1841 Census

Bridge Street

- [1] Ann Fowler (45), victualler, born Staffordshire;
- [2] Henry Fowler (20), born Staffordshire;
- [3] Maria Fowler (15), born Staffordshire;
- [4] Thomas Fowler (15), born Staffordshire;
- [5] William Fowler (11), born Staffordshire;
- [6] Ann Fowler (3), born Staffordshire;
- [7] Phoebe Williams (25), f.s., born Staffordshire;
- [8] Harriett Steele (15), f.s., born Staffordshire;

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 3/12/1843

“Thomas Wilks, of Bilston, wishes to run James Perry, of Darlaston, from 120 to 200 yards, for £5 or £10 a side; if not accepted, he will run Simkiss or Garrington, of the same place, for the like sums, or any other in Darlaston. His money ready at the OLD CROWN, Bridge Street, Bilston.”

Ann Fowler – see also HORSE AND JOCKEY, Church Street.

1851 Census

Bridge Street

- [1] Thomas Fowler (25), furnace man, born Bilston;
- [2] Rebecca Fowler (29), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] John Fowler (1), son, born Bilston;
- [4] Maria Parker (29), sister, married, born Bilston;
- [5] Elizabeth Parker (3), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] Arthur Parker (1), son, born Bilston;

SALE OF FREEHOLD AND COPYHOLD
PROPERTIES,
SITUATE AT BILSTON, STAFFORDSHIRE.
MR. GEORGE BROWN will SELL by
AUCTION, at the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Oxford-
street, in BILSTON aforesaid, on Tuesday, the 8th day of February,
1859, at six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be
read, the following FREEHOLD and COPYHOLD PROPERTIES,
namely :—
Lot 1.—All those seven FREEHOLD MESSUAGES or DWEL-
LING-HOUSES, with the Yards, Brewhouses, and Premises
thereto belonging, situate in Bilston aforesaid, two of which
messuages front Hare-street, three are in the yard at the rear
thereof, and the remaining two of the said messuages are erected on
a separate piece of land, and have an approach from a road leading
into Hare-street aforesaid.
One of the messuages is occupied as a Retail Beerhouse, by
Simeon Butler, and the others are occupied by John Beavon
and others, and the whole produce an annual rental of £50 1s.
Lot 2.—All that valuable COPYHOLD MESSUAGE or DWEL-
LING-HOUSE, known as “The Crown Inn,” situate in Bridge-
street, in Bilston aforesaid, with the Brewhouse and Premises
thereto belonging, as now occupied by Rebecca Fowler.
And also the COPYHOLD MESSUAGE or DWELLING-
HOUSE, adjoining at the back thereof, with the Brewhouse thereto
belonging, as occupied by Philip Hartley.
And also all those three COPYHOLD MESSUAGES or DWEL-
LING-HOUSES, occupied by Richard Farrington and others,
situate in the yard at the back of the two last-mentioned messuages,
with the Yard belonging to the same five messuages, which is
approached by a good road from the street.
Annual rental of this lot, £57 17s. 4d.
Lot 3.—All those five COPYHOLD MESSUAGES or DWEL-
LING-HOUSES, situate in Green Croft-street, in Bilston aforesaid,
with the Yard and Premises thereto belonging, two of which
messuages front the said street, and the other three are in the rear
thereof, all which premises are now in the occupation of William
Aldritt and others, and produce an annual rental of £43 6s. 8d.
For further particulars, apply to Mr. J. F. ADAMS, Attorney,
Darlaston; or to the AUCTIONEER, Bilston.

1859

BILSTON.—THE OLD CROWN, BRIDGE STREET.—
Capital BEERHOUSE to LET: proprietor taking to
another house. The situation is good, being near to extensive
iron works and collieries, and a good business neighbourhood.
Rent low. Brewery Vessels, Stock, and Fixtures by valuation,
probably about £80. or £90.—Apply on premises, or to Samuel
Baker, Auctioneer, Bilston.

1866

Birmingham Journal 22/4/1854

“Thomas Underwood was, on Tuesday, fined 20s and costs, for committing an indecent assault on a young girl named Sarah Ford, at Bilston. The prisoner was again charged with assaulting Mrs. *Rebecca Fowler*, landlady of the OLD CROWN INN, Bridge Street. For this offence he was fined 40s and expenses, but being unable to pay, he was committed to prison for six weeks.”

Birmingham Journal 30/12/1854

“Henry Bate was on Tuesday charged at Bilston Police Court with attempting to utter two spurious half-crowns at the house of Mr. *Thomas Fowler*, the OLD CROWN, Bridge Street. On Saturday night the accused was drinking at the house in question, and tendered a base half-crown to the landlady, who quickly perceived it was a bad one, and told him so; he instantly offered another of a similar description, but was given into custody. When apprehended he was the worse for drink, and told Superintendent M‘Rea that he had changed half a sovereign in the house, and received the change from a prostitute who was there. He had since stated that a friend of his and another man were dancing; that he backed his friend to be the better dancer of the two; that the stakes were put down on the table, and that the changes must have been rung with his money. Mr. M‘Rea thought the latter supposition extremely probable, as he had reason to believe there were a gang of smashers in the house on the night in question, added to which, the defendant was a hard-working man of good character. Under these circumstances Mr. Leigh ordered him to find two sureties for his appearance at the Sessions, if called on.”

Birmingham Journal 1/11/1856 - Died

“On the 15th ult, after a short but severe illness, aged 30 years, Mr. *Thomas Fowler*, of the OLD CROWN INN, Bilston.”

Birmingham Journal 20/12/1856

“At the Police Court, on Tuesday the license of the OLD CROWN, Bridge Street, was transferred from the executors of the late *Thomas Fowler* to *Rebecca Fowler*, his widow.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 24/4/1858

“*Rebecca Fowler*, who keeps the THREE CROWNS INN, Bridge Street, Bilston, was fined £2 and costs of allowing girls of bad character in her house on the previous Sunday evening.”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/7/1858

“For selling ale after eleven o’clock on Sunday night, Reuben [sic] *Fowler*, of the OLD CROWN, Bridge Street, Bilston, was mulcted in £1 and costs.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/9/1858

“The annual licensing meeting for Bilston and its neighbourhood was held on Friday last.....

The following licenses were withheld until the adjourned licensing day for further consideration of the Magistrates, in consequence of the respective applicants having been convicted of offences against their license during the past year.....

Rebecca Fowler, OLD CROWN, Bridge Street, Bilston.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/10/1858

“Bilston Adjourned Licensing Day.....

The license of *Rebecca Fowler*, Bridge Street, suspended on the last occasion, was now withdrawn.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/10/1858

“At the Bilston Police Court yesterday (Tuesday), before J. Leigh, Esq, seven persons, named William Fellows, John Fellows, Mary Fellows, Mary Pearson, Joseph Pearson, *Rebecca Fowler*, and Elizabeth Cope, were charged with stealing a silver watch from the person of Mr. Henry Oliver, the landlord of the KINGS ARMS, Bilston. Mr. Henry Underhill was engaged for the prosecution, and Mr. Ebsworth for the defence.

The evidence of the prosecutor was to the effect that on Thursday night last, at about eleven o’clock, the prisoners were drinking in a room at his house; he went to the room to tell them that it was closing time, and sat down upon a chair next the door. While he was sitting there *Rebecca Fowler*, who is a widow, and keeps a beerhouse in Bilston, came and sat beside him. Shortly afterwards a quarrel commenced between Fellows and Pearson, which led to a

fight, and Mr. Oliver, after considerable difficulty, succeeded in getting them out of the house. As soon as they had gone he missed his watch, but he could not say which of the parties had taken it. At the time he first entered the room he pulled out his watch and told the parties it was closing time. The following day police constable M'Nulty took the prisoners to the prosecutor's house, when they admitted that the watch must have been taken by one of their number, but no one would acknowledge it. They were remanded for a week, to obtain additional evidence, bail being refused."

Birmingham Journal 8/1/1859

"Staffordshire Quarter Sessions. Yesterday.....

Elizabeth Cope, 40, William Fellows, 20, *Rebecca Fowler*, 34, Joseph Pearson, 48, Mary Pearson, 46, John Fellows, 43, and Mary Fellows, 42, who surrendered on bail, were indicted for assaulting Henry Oliver, at Bilston. Mr. Kenealy was counsel for the prosecutor, and Mr. Hill defended the prisoners.

The first witness was Henry Oliver, who deposed that he was a licensed victualler, keeping the KINGS ARMS, Bilston. On the 20th of October, about twenty minutes after eleven o'clock at night, he went into the smoke room and told the prisoners, who were drinking there, that it was time to shut up. John Fellows then requested him to sit down a few minutes, as it was not late, observing that there was no need for them to choke themselves. He then sat down close to the door, which he kept open with his knee. After remaining about five or six minutes, W. Fellows began to quarrel with J. Pearson, when he told him he would not have any bad language there, to which Fellows replied, 'If you stop me I'll strike you,' and he was then knocked down and struck several times, and his forehead was cut with a glass thrown at him. His female servant came to his assistance, and ultimately the prisoners were turned out.

There was an indictment charging them with stealing the prosecutor's watch, but this bill the Grand Jury had ignored. Mr. Hill addressed the Jury on behalf of the prisoners, and called several witnesses, who deposed that at the time named no disturbance took place at the KINGS ARMS; that the prosecutor was very drunk, and that on attempting to turn the prisoners out after midnight, he fell down and cut his forehead, and that the utmost that had been done was a slight resistance on the part of the prisoners to being turned out of the house.

The Jury returned a verdict of guilty of the graver charge of occasioning grievous bodily harm. The verdict of the Jury was received by a crowded Court with considerable surprise, which was not lessened when the whole of the prisoners were sentenced to six months' imprisonment with hard labour. (The female prisoners, who fully expected a verdict of acquittal, gave vent to their surprise in loud screams and lamentations.)"

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/1/1859 - Advert

"Sale of Freehold and Copyhold Properties, situate at Bilston, Staffordshire.

Mr. George Brown will Sell by Auction, at the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Oxford Street, in Bilston aforesaid, on Tuesday, the 8th day of February, 1859, at six o'clock in the evening.....

Lot 2. All that valuable Copyhold Messuage or Dwelling House, known as the CROWN INN situate in Bridge Street, in Bilston aforesaid, with the Brewhouse and Premises thereto belonging, as now occupied by *Rebecca Fowler*.

And also the Copyhold Messuage or Dwelling House, adjoining at the back thereof, with the Brewhouse thereto belonging, as occupied by Philip Hartley.

And also all those three Copyhold Messuages or Dwelling Houses, occupied by Richard Farrington and others, situate in the yard at the back of the last two last-mentioned messuages, with the Yard belonging to the same five messuages, which is approached by a good road from the street.

Annual rental of this lot, £57 17s 4d."

Rebecca Fowler (34), widow, married *Peter Nixon* (25), bachelor, carpenter, on 6th October 1859.

1861 Census

Bridge Street

[1] *Peter Nixon* (25), publican, born Cheshire;

[2] *Rebecca Nixon* (37), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *John Nixon* (11), son, born Bilston;

[4] *Sarah Nixon* (8), daughter, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 21/3/1863

“*Peter Nixon*, landlord of the OLD CROWN public house, Bridge Street, Bilston, was fined 5s and costs for having permitted disorderly conduct in his house on the preceding Tuesday.”

Peter and Rebecca Nixon – see also HORSE AND JOCKEY.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/11/1866 - Advert

“Bilston. The OLD CROWN, Bridge Street.

Capital Beerhouse to Let; proprietor taking to another house. The situation is good, being near to extensive iron works and collieries, and a good business neighbourhood. Rent low. Brewery Vessels, Stock, and Fixtures by valuation, probably about £80 or £90.

Apply on premises, or to Samuel Baker, Auctioneer, Bilston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 10/12/1866 - Advert

“Bilston. To be Let, the OLD CROWN, Bridge Street, a well-frequented Beerhouse, situate near to extensive Iron and Coal Works; good business neighbourhood. In-coming, by valuation, about £90. Satisfactory reasons for leaving.

Apply, Mr. *Nixon*, on Premises; or S. Baker, Bilston and Willenhall.”

[This was repeated later in the month with “In-coming, by valuation, about £70.”]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 1/5/1867 - Advert

“Bilston. The OLD CROWN, Bridge Street, doing an excellent Business, to be Let, with immediate possession. In-coming by valuation.

Apply on the Premises; or to Mr. Geo. Bayley, Auctioneer, Walsall.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 4/5/1867 - Advert

“The OLD CROWN INN, Bridge Street, Bilston, to be taken at a valuation. No Goodwill.

Apply on the Premises, or to Samuel Baker, Auctioneer, Bilston.”

THE OLD CROWN INN, Bridge Street, Bilston, to be taken at a valuation. No Goodwill.—Apply on the Premises, or to Samuel Baker, Auctioneer, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/7/1867

“By R. Wilson, This Day, by Auction, at the back of the CROWN INN, Bridge Street, Bilston.

Household Furniture (under a distress for rent), punctually at Two o'clock.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/1/1869 - Advert

“Bilston. OLD CROWN INN, Bridge Street.

To be Let, with immediate possession, the above long-established Beerhouse. In-coming about £16, or by fair valuation.”

BILSTON.—Old Crown Inn, Bridge Street.—To be Let, with immediate possession, the above long-established BEERHOUSE. In-coming about £16, or by fair valuation.

1871 Census

Bridge Street - CROWN INN - uninhabited

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/10/1872

“Bilston Adjourned Licensing Day.....

Coming to the ‘Black List’ of suspended applications for the renewal of licenses, the Bench said they had determined to withdraw the licenses of *Thomas Legge*, the CROWN; and of *Sarah Jones*, the ROEBUCK; both in Bridge Street.”

BILSTON.—To be LET, “THE OLD CROWN,” Bridge Street, a well-frequented Beerhouse, situate near to extensive Iron and Coal Works; good business neighbourhood. In-coming, by valuation, about £90. Satisfactory reasons for leaving.—Apply, Mr. *Nixon*, on Premises; or S. Baker, Bilston and Willenhall.

1866

BILSTON.—The OLD CROWN, Bridge Street, doing an excellent Business, to be LET, with immediate possession. In-coming by valuation.—Apply on the Premises; or to Mr. Geo. Bayley, Auctioneer, Walsall.

1867

OLD CROWN

4, Crown Street / Parliament Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Joseph Maybury [1818] – [1834]
Thomas Hazeldine [1835] – [1836]
Thomas Tomkinson [1841] – [1842]
Thomas Salt [1845] – [1854]
Elizabeth Salt [1858] – [1859]
William Morrall [1861] – [1862]
Joseph Linney [1871]

NOTES

Crown Street [1822], [1858]
Parliament Street [1850]

CROWN [1822], [1834], [1835]
OLD CROWN [1854], [1858]

Birmingham Journal 20/9/1828 - Marriages

“On Tuesday, at Wolverhampton, Mr. John Maybury, of the CROWN INN, Bilston, to Miss Mary Ann Smith, of the same place.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 20/3/1833 - Advert

“The OLD CROWN, Crown Street, Bilston.

To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, the above very desirable and old-established Public House, the business of which has been successfully carried on by the present occupier and his father for upwards of twenty years, but who is now leaving in consequence of other engagements. The Stock and Fixtures to be taken at a fair valuation.

The above presents one of the most desirable opportunities that has been offered for some time, to any person wishing to embark in the public business.

For Particulars apply to the occupier on the premises.

NB. A part of the purchase money may remain on approved security.”

THE OLD CROWN, CROWN-STREET BILSTON.

TO BE LET,

And may be entered upon immediately.

THE above very desirable and old-established PUBLIC-HOUSE, the business of which has been successfully carried on by the present occupier and his father for upwards of twenty years, but who is now leaving in consequence of other engagements. The Stock and Fixtures to be taken at a fair valuation.

The above presents one of the most desirable opportunities that has been offered for some time, to any person wishing to embark in the public business.

For Particulars apply to the occupier on the premises.

N. B.—A part of the purchase money may remain on approved security.

Thomas Hazeldine = Thomas Hazledine

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/3/1836 - Advert

"An Old Established Public House, and other Buildings, in Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett (by direction of the Assignees of Joseph Maybury and Sons, bankrupts) on Thursday the 31st day of March inst, at five o'clock in the afternoon, at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, subject to conditions then to be read.

All that excellent old established good accustomed Public House, known as the sign of the CROWN, situate in Crown Street, and a short distance from the Market Place, in Bilston aforesaid, and now in the occupation of Mr. *Thomas Hazledine*, together with a Brewhouse, Stable, and other outbuildings belonging thereto and occupied therewith; and also all those nine small Tenements adjoining to and in the rear of the said Public House, and now or lately in the respective occupations of Richard Bills, Ann Lee, William Thomas, Hannah Wall, Edward Bennett, Crispin Hartshorne, and others void; the whole of which are let at rents amounting to about £70 per year.

The above premises are copyhold of inheritance within the manor of Stowheath.

To view the same apply to the respective Tenants, and for further particulars to Messrs. Willim and Son, Solicitors, or to the Auctioneer, all of Bilston."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 24/10/1836 - Advert

"Unreserved Sale of an old established Public House, and Nine other Houses, near to the Market Place, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett (without reserve, by direction of the Assignees of Joseph Maybury and Sons, Bankrupts) on Tuesday, the 8th day of November, 1836, at the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Lichfield Street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, subject to conditions then to be produced.

All that old established and well accustomed Public House, known as the sign of the CROWN, situate in Crown Street, Bilston aforesaid, and now in the occupation of Mr. *Thomas Hazledine*, together with a Brewhouse, Stable, and other Outbuildings and Appurtenances thereto belonging; and also all those nine small Tenements adjoining to and in the rear of the said Public House, and now occupied by William Jones, Ann York, Widow Astley, Richard Bills, Widow Bishop, William Wittingham, William Bennett, Crispin Hartshorne, and Ann Lea, the whole of which are let at rents amounting to about £70 per year.

The above premises are Copyhold of Inheritance within the manor of Stowheath, and are but about eighty yards from the Market Place in Bilston aforesaid.

To view the premises apply to the respective Tenants, and for further particulars to Messrs. Willim and Son, Solicitors, or to the Auctioneer, all of Bilston aforesaid."

Northern Star and Leeds General Advertiser 26/12/1840

"Chartist Intelligence.....

The Council of the Wolverhampton National Charter Association not having been chosen, in consequence of the members not having met with a convenient room for general meetings, the committee of the late Charter Association met at Mr. Mogg's, in Oxford Street, on Sunday, the 20th inst, when it was resolved that a public meeting should be held in the school room belonging to the Baptist Chapel, in Duke Street, Wolverhampton, on Monday, the 28th of December, at six o'clock in the evening, for the purpose of memorialising the Queen for the speedy return of Messrs. Frost, Williams, and Jones, and that three hundred handbills should be printed to inform the public of the same. A public meeting will also be held at the OLD CROWN INN, Crown Street, Bilston, at eleven o'clock in the morning of the same day for the same purpose. Mr. Collins, of Birmingham, has kindly consented, if alive and well, to assist at both meetings, and other gentlemen from Birmingham are expected."

Sun (London) 2/1/1844

"Winter Assizes. Oxford Circuit. Stafford, December 30. (Before Mr. Baron Rolfe.)

Samuel Fellows, aged 19, Robert Purslow, 21, John Parry, 18, and Daniel Webb, 20, who were acquitted of the charge of having murdered Mary Jane Wild, on the 29th November last, were indicted for the violation of her person on the above day, at Bilston, in this county. Mr. Yardley and Mr. Huddleston conducted the prosecution; Mr. Allen defended the prisoners.

Mr. Yardley briefly opened the case to the jury, and called Ann, wife of Benjamin Willis, of Bilston, who stated that on the evening of Wednesday, the 29th November, she and the deceased went to Wolverhampton. They started about half past four o'clock, and remained there until eleven o'clock at night. When they got to Wolverhampton they were joined by the four prisoners and Thomas Haynes. They all went to Peter's gin-shop, where they had five pints of

ale, but had no spirits. They afterwards went to another gin-shop, where they had more ale. About eleven o'clock they started back to Bilston. When they got to the Gibbet Turnpike she and Haynes went across the road from the other party, and the four prisoners, with the deceased, proceeded in the same direction, on the other side of the road. In a short time Webb came across and asked her if she would submit to him, and made use of some very improper language. On her refusing he struck her on the mouth and knocked her down, and Thomas Haynes picked her up. When Webb struck her he said he would serve the other girl the same. He then joined his companions on the other side. In a short time afterwards witness asked the deceased to come to her, on which one of the four said, 'Nobody shall molest her; I will see her righted.' She and Haynes then went on to Bilston, and left the four men and the deceased together. She saw her again about half-past one o'clock when they brought her out of the pit. She was then quite insensible, and the surgeon was sewing up her head. She knew Fellows before, but not the others.

Thomas Haynes corroborated her testimony.

John Turner, shoemaker, said his house was on the Wolverhampton road, a short distance from Blaze's works. On the night of the 29th of November last he was called up by John Perry and Samuel Fellows. They said, 'Here is a woman in a pit down below; come and help us to get her out.' He asked them how they knew it, and they both said, 'We were walking up the road, and heard her shouting down the pit, and asked her if she had any bones broken, and she said, 'No.' Witness immediately went down to them, and said they had better send for a policeman; but they expressed themselves anxious to get her out themselves. He then accompanied them to the coal-pit, which is near to a footway leading out of the turnpike road. He called down, but no one answered. Perry and Fellows then procured a rope, and witness informed the police. Fellows went down the pit in what is called a 'horse,' and having placed the deceased in his lap, they were both drawn up, a piece of timber having been placed over the pit's mouth for that purpose. About twelve persons assisted to draw them up, and she was then removed to the CROWN public house, in Crown Street, Bilston (where she died), accompanied by Perry and Fellows, who said they knew where she lived. Witness did not hear her speak; she seemed unable, and to be very badly injured by the fall. The deceased's way home was not by the pit, but just the reverse. The height of the pit bank from the foot road is about three yards, and the pit is about twenty-eight yards deep.

Thomas Tomlinson, said he was a police-officer in Bilston, on the 29th and 30th days of November last, and was on duty on the first of those days, and met the two witnesses, Haynes and Willis, who made a charge of assault against Webb, who was in company with three other men and a young woman, on the Wolverhampton road. He soon after met Purslow and Webb, who asked if they had seen four young men and a girl coming from Wolverhampton, and Purslow said, 'No.' He then went back into the town, and met the last witness, and accompanied him to the pit. He there saw Purslow and Webb, who assisted to get the deceased out. They said, 'You saw us on the road; we were then going to get assistance, to fetch her out of the pit.' Fellows brought the deceased out of the pit, and he said, 'She slipped in as we were going by the pit, and I might as well have slipped in myself.' The deceased's dress was much disordered; she had a pair of drawers on, but they were over her heels and torn.

Elizabeth Salt, the landlady of the CROWN public house, at Bilston, recollected the deceased being brought to her house on the morning of the 30th of November, where she remained till her death. In her cross-examination she said that on asking the deceased, when she came to herself, how she got into the pit she answered, in a laughing manner, 'Why I tumbled in, to be sure.'

John Baldwin Esq, a Magistrate for the county, said that on the 22nd of December he went to the CROWN public house, at Bilston, to take the deposition of a woman who he understood to be in a dying state, from injuries received by having been thrown into a coal-pit. He found the deceased in bed, and the four prisoners in custody. He took her declaration, which she made in the immediate prospect of death. She signed it with a cross, and his clerk witnessed her signature.

The following deposition was then read by the officer of the Court.

'I am 18 years old, and have lived in Bilston, in the county of Stafford, about six months. I never was married. I went from Bilston to Wolverhampton on Wednesday last, in company with another girl, named Ann Willis. I came back with the same Ann Willis. That we were overtaken on the road by five men, who I shall know when I see them. That four of these men ill-used me. They pulled me out of the turnpike-road, and wanted to have 'concerns' with me, but I would not suffer them, and the same four men threw me down a pit because I would not suffer them to have concerns with me. That the fifth man never came from the turnpike-road with me, but he went along with Ann Willis. The man that was with Ann Willis never injured me at all. They pushed me into the pit, and I cannot recollect anything after that. It was late at night when this happened, and I was quite sober; and I make this declaration in the prospect of death soon taking place, and fully believe that I shall live but a short time through the injuries I have received. I was in service until the latter end of July last, and since then I have been on the town. The men said to me, before they pushed me into the pit, that if I would not let them have concerns with me, that that should be my

doom to be thrown into the pit. I did not think they would have put me in. I thought they were only threatening me. They took hold of me round the waist, and then pushed me into the pit. The four men are now present. I know them all, having seen them before, except John Perry. They are the same that were with me on Wednesday night. I had been with three of them previous to that night. There were four men went off the road with me, and one went back again, but I can't say which it was, I was so knocked about by them before they got me to the pit.'

Mr. Allen addressed the jury on behalf of the prisoners, who were all convicted of the crime imputed to them, and were sentenced by the Court to eighteen months' imprisonment, with hard labour."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/5/1845

"*Thomas Salt*, of the CROWN public house, in Bilston, was fined 20s and costs, for keeping his house open on Sunday, the 18th instant, during the usual hours of afternoon divine service."

Birmingham Journal 11/10/1845

"On Saturday last, about one o'clock, an accident, which proved fatal to a man named John Roberts, occurred in a pit belonging to Mr. Lester. While working in the mine, he was buried by a fall of coal, and after remaining for three quarters of an hour in this perilous position, he was extricated by his fellow-workmen. When taken out, he was not quite dead, but after lingering in agony for an hour, death put an end to his sufferings. An inquest was held on the body the same evening, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, Coroner, at the OLD CROWN, Crown Street, when a verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 7/3/1849 - Notice

"In the County Court of Staffordshire, at Wolverhampton.

Whereas a petition of *Thomas Salt*, at present and for four years and ten months last past residing in Crown Street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, carrying on there the trade or business of a licensed victualler and shoe maker, an insolvent debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, at Wolverhampton, and an interim order for protection from process having been given to the said *Thomas Salt*, under the provisions of the statutes in that case made and provided, the said *Thomas Salt* is hereby required to appear in Court before Nathaniel Richard Clarke, Esquire, serjeant at law, the Judge acting in the matter of the petition, on the Nineteenth day of March, 1849, at twelve o'clock at noon precisely, at the Court House, Queen Street, Wolverhampton aforesaid, for his First Examination, touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said statutes; and notice is hereby given, that the choice of assignees is to take place at the time so appointed.

All persons indebted to the said *Thomas Salt*, or who have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Charles Gallimore Brown, Esquire, official assignee, acting in the matter of the said petition, at his office, in Queen Street, Wolverhampton aforesaid.

J. W. Fleetwood, Solicitor, Queen Street, Wolverhampton."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/4/1849 - Notice

"In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton.

In the matter of the petition of *Thomas Salt*, at present and for four years and ten months last past residing in Crown Street, in Bilston, in the county of Stafford, carrying on there the trade or business of a licensed victualler and shoe maker.

Notice is hereby given, that Mr. Serjeant Clarke, the Judge of the County Court of Staffordshire, at Wolverhampton, acting in the matter of this petition, will proceed to make a Final Order thereon, at the said Court, on Tuesday, the 24th day of April, 1849, at twelve o'clock at noon, unless cause be then and there shown to the contrary.

J. W. Fleetwood, Solicitor, Wolverhampton."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/5/1849

"Insolvency Cases.....

Thomas Salt, of Bilston, licensed victualler and shoemaker, received his final order without opposition."

1851 Census

Crown Street

- [1] *Thomas Salt* (53), licensed victualler, born Ludlow;
- [2] *Elizabeth Salt* (64), wife, born Tettenhall;
- [3] *Gabriel Parker* (53), visitor, agricultural labourer, born Tettenhall;
- [4] *John Parker* (16), visitor, bricklayer, born Tettenhall:

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/9/1853

“Out of the twenty-three applications for new licenses made before the magistrates for the Bilston division, at their annual sitting, ten were granted. In five of these there was no opposition. On the same occasion the renewal of the licenses of the KINGS ARMS, the FOX, and the CROWN in Crown Street, against which houses complaints had been preferred by the police, was withheld, to be considered at the adjourned court on the 16th inst.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/9/1853

“At the Petty Sessions, on Friday.....

The licenses of the KINGS ARMS and FOX INNS, and also the OLD CROWN, in Crown Street, suspended at the late licensing meeting were renewed upon promise of amendment in conducting the respective houses.”

Elizabeth Salt died in the first quarter of 1859.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/2/1859 - Advert

“An Old Licensed Public House, at Bilston.

To be Disposed Of, the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of that Old-licensed Public House, situate in Crown Street, Bilston, and known as the OLD CROWN, for more than twenty years occupied by Mrs. *Elizabeth Sale* [sic], deceased. The Stock, Licenses, Fixtures, &c, to be taken to at a valuation. Coming-in about £60.

For particulars apply to Mr. Hatton, Flour Mill, or to Joseph Dawes, Auctioneer, both of Wednesbury.”

1861 Census

4, Crown Street – CROWN INN

- [1] *William Morrall* (53), carpenter and publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Louisa Morrall* (39), wife, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *William Morrall* (12), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] *Elizabeth Morrall* (11), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] *Richard Morrall* (10), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] *Louisa Morrall* (7), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] *George Morrall* (3), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [8] *John Cadley* (55), lodger, boat closer, born Ireland:

William Morrall, retailer of beer, Crown Street. [1862]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/1/1862 - Notice

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1861. Notice of Adjudication and First Meeting of Creditors.

In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton.

William Morrall, of Crown Street, Bilston, in the county of Staffordshire, Retailer of Ale, Porter, and Tobacco, also being employed as a Journeyman Pattern Maker, having been adjudged bankrupt under a petition of adjudication of bankruptcy, filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton, is hereby required to surrender himself to the Registrar of the said Court, at the First Meeting of Creditors to be held before the said Registrar on the 10th day of February, 1862, at twelve o'clock at noon precisely, at the Court House, Queen Street, Wolverhampton. Mr. C. G. Brown, of Wolverhampton, is the Official Assignee, and Mr. George Cresswell, of Willenhall, is the Solicitor acting in the bankruptcy.

Public sitting will be appointed by the Court for the said bankrupt to pass his last examination, of which sitting due notice will be given in the *London Gazette*. At the said first meeting of creditors 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. At the public sitting proofs of debts of creditors will also be received, and the said bankrupt will be required to submit himself to be examined, and to make a full disclosure and discovery of all his estate and effects, and to finish his examination.

Notice is also hereby given to all persons indebted to the said bankrupt, or that have any of his effects, not to deliver the same but to the Official Assignee whom the Court has appointed in that behalf, and give notice to the Solicitor acting in the bankruptcy.

C. G. Brown, Registrar; C. G. Megevan, High Bailiff.”

London Gazette 18/3/1862

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

In the Matter of *William Morrall*, of Crown-street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Retailer of Ale, Porter, and Tobacco, a bankrupt.

Whereas at a public sitting of the Court, held this day, the Court granted an Order of Discharge to the said Bankrupt. Notice is hereby given, that an Order of Discharge will be drawn up and delivered to the said bankrupt after the expiration of thirty days from this date, unless in the meantime an appeal be duly entered against the judgment of the said Court.

Dated this 7th day of March, 1862.”

Joseph Linney was a Chartist.

1871 Census

Parliament Street – CROWN

[1] Joseph Linney (62), market inspector, born Macclesfield;

[2] Sarah Linney (28), wife, born Bacup, Lancashire;

Joseph Linney – see also WHITE HORSE, High Street, and MALT SHOVEL.

AN OLD ESTABLISHED
**PUBLIC HOUSE AND OTHER BUILDINGS,
IN BILSTON.**
TO be SOLD by Auction, by **RICHARD CORBETT**,
(by direction of the Assignees of Joseph Maybury and
Sons, bankrupts) on Thursday the 31st day of March inst.
at five o'clock in the afternoon, at the **King's Arms Inn**,
Bilston, in the county of Stafford, subject to conditions
then to be read—all that excellent old established and
good accustomed Public House, known as the sign of the
CROWN, situate in Crown-street, and a short distance
from the Market-place, in Bilston aforesaid, and now in the
occupation of Mr. Thomas Hazledine, together with a Brew-
house, Stable, and other outbuildings belonging thereto
and occupied therewith; and also all those nine small Te-
nements adjoining to and in the rear of the said Public
House, and now or lately in the respective occupations of
Richard Bills, Ann Lee, William Thomas, Hannah Wall,
Edward Bennett, Crispin Hartshorne, and others void;
the whole of which are let at rents amounting to about £70
per year.

The above premises are copyhold of inheritance within
the manor of Stowheath.

To view the same apply to the respective Tenants, and
for further particulars to Messrs. Willim and Son, Solici-
tors, or to the Auctioneer, all of Bilston.

1836

UNRESERVED SALE
*Of an old established PUBLIC HOUSE, and Nine other
Houses, near to the Market-place, Bilston.*
TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by **RICH. CORBETT**,
(without reserve, by direction of the Assignees of
Joseph Maybury and Sons, Bankrupts) on Tuesday the
8th day of November, 1836, at the Spread Eagle Inn, Lich-
field-street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, subject to
conditions then to be produced—all that old established
and well accustomed Public House, known as the sign of
the **CROWN**, situate in Crown-street, Bilston aforesaid,
and now in the occupation of Mr. Thomas Hazledine, to-
gether with a Brewhouse, Stable, and other Outbuildings and
Appurtenances thereto belonging; and also all those nine
small Tenements adjoining to and in the rear of the said
Public House, and now occupied by William Jones, Ann
York, Widow Astley, Richard Bills, Widow Bishop, Wm.
Wittingham, William Bennett, Crispin Hartshorne, and
Ann Lea, the whole of which are let at rents amounting to
about £70 per year.

The above premises are Copyhold of Inheritance within
the manor of Stowheath, and are but about eighty yards
from the Market-place in Bilston aforesaid.

1836

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF STAFFORDSHIRE,
AT WOLVERHAMPTON.

19th day of February, 1849.

WHEREAS a petition of THOMAS SALT, at present and for four years and ten months last past residing in Crown-street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, carrying on there the trade or business of a licensed victualler and shoe maker, an insolvent debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, at Wolverhampton, and an interim order for protection from process having been given to the said Thomas Salt, under the provisions of the statutes in that case made and provided, the said Thomas Salt is hereby required to appear in Court before NATHANIEL RICHARD CLARKE, Esquire, serjeant at law, the Judge acting in the matter of the petition, on the NINETEENTH day of MARCH, 1849, at twelve o'clock at noon precisely, at the COURT HOUSE, QUEEN-STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON aforesaid, for his FIRST EXAMINATION, touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said statutes; and notice is hereby given, that the choice of assignees is to take place at the time so appointed.

All persons indebted to the said Thomas Salt, or who have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to CHARLES GALLIMORE BROWN, Esquire, official assignee, acting in the matter of the said petition, at his office, in Queen-street, Wolverhampton aforesaid.

J. W. FLEETWOOD, Solicitor,
Queen-street, Wolverhampton.

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF STAFFORDSHIRE,
HOLDEN AT WOLVERHAMPTON.

IN the matter of the petition of THOMAS SALT, at present and for four years and ten months last past residing in Crown-street, in Bilston, in the county of Stafford, carrying on there the trade or business of a licensed victualler and shoe maker;

Notice is hereby given, that Mr. Serjeant CLARKE, the Judge of the County Court of Staffordshire, at Wolverhampton, acting in the matter of this petition, will proceed to make a FINAL ORDER thereon, at the said Court, on TUESDAY, the 24th day of APRIL, 1849, at twelve o'clock at noon, unless cause be then and there shown to the contrary.

J. W. FLEETWOOD,
Solicitor, Wolverhampton.

1849

AN OLD-LICENCED PUBLIC HOUSE, AT BILSTON.
TO BE DISPOSED OF, the LICENCES, GOOD-WILL, and POSSESSION of that Old-Licensed Public House, situate in Crown-street, Bilston, and known as the OLD CROWN, for more than twenty years occupied by Mrs. Elizabeth Sale, deceased. The Stock, Licenses, Fixtures, &c., to be taken to at a valuation. Coming-in about £60.—For particulars apply to Mr. HATTON, Flour Mill, or to JOSEPH DAWES, Auctioneer, both of Wednesbury.

1859

THE BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1861.

NOTICE OF ADJUDICATION AND FIRST MEETING
OF CREDITORS.

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF STAFFORDSHIRE,

HOLDEN AT WOLVERHAMPTON.

WILLIAM MORRALL, of Crown-street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Retailer of Ale, Porter, and Tobacco, also being employed as a Journeyman Pattern Maker, having been adjudged bankrupt under a petition of adjudication of bankruptcy, filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton, is hereby required to surrender himself to the Registrar of the said Court, at the FIRST MEETING of Creditors to be held before the said Registrar on the 10th day of FEBRUARY, 1862, at twelve o'clock at noon precisely, at the COURT HOUSE, QUEEN-STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON.

Mr. C. G. BROWN, of Wolverhampton, is the Official Assignee, and Mr. GEORGE CRESSWELL, of Willenhall, is the Solicitor acting in the bankruptcy.

Public sitting will be appointed by the Court for the said bankrupt to pass his last examination, of which sitting due notice will be given in the *London Gazette*. At the said first meeting of creditors 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. At the public sitting proofs of debts of creditors will also be received, and the said bankrupt will be required to submit himself to be examined, and to make a full disclosure and discovery of all his estate and effects, and to finish his examination.

Notice is also hereby given to all persons indebted to the said bankrupt, or that have any of his effects, not to deliver the same but to the Official Assignee whom the Court has appointed in that behalf, and give notice to the Solicitor acting in the bankruptcy.

C. G. BROWN, High Bailiff,
C. G. BROWN, Registrar,

1862

OLD CROWN

12, Wootton Square, (Hall Street), (Hall Green), Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Ruscoe [1845] – [1848]
John Welch [] – **1850**;
Richard Talbot **(1850 – [1851]**
John Howells **(1851 – [1852]**
John Allen [] – **1853**;
George Merrett **(1853 – []**
Thomas Allen [1854]
John Walters [1862] – [1865]
James Walters [1865] – **1866**;
Samuel Nock **(1866 – []**
Benjamin Fellows [1868] – [1871]

Pursuant to the several Acts for the Relief of Insolvent Debtors in England.

The County Court of Warwickshire, holden at Coventry, the fifth day of June, 1848.

UPON the due filing of the schedule of JOHN RUSCOE, of the Old Crown Inn, Hall Green, in the parish of Sedgley, in the county of Stafford, licensed victualler, collier and hallier, formerly of Turner's Lane, in the said parish of Sedgley, retailer of ale and beer and hallier, a prisoner in the gaol of Coventry, in the county of Warwick, whose estate and effects have been vested in the provisional assignee by order duly made in that behalf; and upon reference of the petition and schedule of the said prisoner for hearing made to this Court by order of the Court for Relief of Insolvent Debtors pursuant to the said Act: it is ordered and appointed that the said prisoner shall be brought up to be dealt with according to the provisions of the said Acts before the Judge of the said County Court, at Coventry, in the said county, on the TWENTY-SEVENTH day of JUNE instant, at the hour of ten in the morning precisely.

JOHN FOWELL, Attorney,
156, Moor street, Birmingham.

1848

NOTES

[This pub was strictly in Sedgley, but is included here due to it being situated at Bradley.]

Hall Street [1864], [1870]
12, Wootton Square [1871]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/6/1848 - Notice

“Pursuant to the several Acts for the Relief of Insolvent Debtors in England.

The County Court of Warwickshire, holden at Coventry, the fifth day of June, 1848.

Upon the due filing of the schedule of *John Ruscoe*, of the OLD CROWN INN, Hall Green, in the parish of Sedgley, in the county of Stafford, licensed victualler, collier and hallier, formerly of Turner's Lane, in the said parish of Sedgley, retailer of ale and beer and hallier, a prisoner in the gaol of Coventry, in the county of Warwick, whose estate and effects have been vested in the provisional assignee by order duly made in that behalf; and upon reference of the petition and schedule of the said prisoner for hearing made to this Court by order of the Court for Relief of Insolvent Debtors pursuant to the said Acts; it is ordered and appointed that the said prisoner shall be brought up to be dealt with according to the provisions of the said Acts before the Judge of the said County Court, at Coventry, in the said county, on the Twenty-Seventh day of June instant, at the hour of ten in the morning precisely.

John Powell, Attorney, 156, Moor Street, Birmingham.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 15/5/1850

“James Law, a well-known character, by trade a file cutter, but who at one time kept a public house in the Horsefair, was charged with obtaining, under false pretences, four quarts of ale and half an ounce of tobacco, from Mr. *John Welch*, landlord of the CROWN, at Hall Fields, Bilston. It appeared that on the 6th of March the prisoner called at the CROWN, and stated that Joseph Sutton had sent him some ale and tobacco. He drank a pint and took away with him four quarts and half an ounce of tobacco. On Friday, the 29th of March, prosecutor gave Sutton a bill of the ale and tobacco, when Sutton said he had never authorised Law to order the ale. Joseph Sutton now proved that he had never given Law any order or authority to fetch ale or tobacco for him from *Welch's*. The prisoner was committed for trial at the next sessions.

It was stated that forty of fifty persons had suffered from the fraudulent acts of the prisoner, but, with this exception, they had all been so contrived as to give them more or less the character of a simple debt. One instance was mentioned to the Bench in which he had obtained, by means of a false character, employment from Mr. Richards, of

Dudley Port, and having been entrusted with £7 worth of files to cut, he erased Mr. Richards's name from them, and sold them as his own property. He was taken into custody five or six weeks ago, but managed to escape from the Bilston Police Station. He was retaken at Dudley."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/8/1850

"Transfer of Victuallers' Licenses. Monday last being the day appointed for the transfer of licenses in the division of Seisdon North, the county Magistrates granted the following transfers.....

John Welsh, of the CROWN, Hall Green, Sedgley, to *Richard Talbot*, of Bilston, bricklayer."

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/2/1851

"At Bilston Public Office, on Tuesday last, Thomas Lowe, of the DUKE OF YORK, Wolverhampton Road; Thomas Henshaw, of the CROWN AND ANCHOR, Cozeley Row; *Richard Talbot*, of the CROWN INN, Hall Fields; Isaac Riley, of the ROYAL EXCHANGE; and John Roscoe, of the MOUNT PLEASANT, were fined in sums varying from 10s to 40s and costs, for infringement of their licenses by keeping their houses open beyond the specified hours, or allowing card-playing &c."

1851 Census

Hall Green

[1] *Richard Talbot* (45), bricklayer and victualler, employing 20 men, born Brewood;

[2] *Mary Talbot* (43), wife, born Sedgley;

[3] *Mary Knott* (21), born Sedgley;

[4] *William Knott* (17), bricklayer, born Sedgley;

[5] *Sarah Talbot* (15), daughter, born Sedgley;

[6] *Elizabeth Talbot* (14), daughter, born Bilston;

[7] *Richard Talbot* (11), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[8] *Thomas Talbot* (9), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[9] *Henrietta Talbot* (4), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[10] *Lucy Parker* (67), sister-in-law, born Pelsall;

[11] *Henry Acton* (28) brewer and servant, born Wolverhampton:

London Gazette 15/1/1852

"Whereas a Petition of *John Howells*, now and for five years and upwards last past, residing at Hall-green, in the parish of Sedgley, in the county of Stafford, carrying on the trade or business of a Timber Dealer, at the Deepfields, in the parish of Sedgley aforesaid, and for the last five months of the above period also carrying on the trade or business of a Licensed Victualler, at the CROWN INN, Hall-green, in the parish of Sedgley, and county of Stafford aforesaid, an insolvent debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Worcestershire, at the Court-house, Priory-street, Dudley, and an interim order for protection from process having been given to the said *John Howells*, under the provisions of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said *John Howells* is hereby required to appear before Nathaniel Richard Clarke, Sergeant at Law, Judge of the said Court, on the 30th of January instant, at twelve at noon precisely, for his first examination touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said Statutes; and the choice of the creditors' assignees is to take place at the time so appointed. All persons indebted to the said *John Howells*, or that have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. Thomas Walker, Clerk of the said Court, at his office, at the County Court Offices, in Priory-street, Dudley, the Official Assignee of the estate and effects of the said insolvent."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/2/1852

"Dudley. County Court.....

John Howells, timer merchant and licensed victualler, Hall Green, Sedgley, passed his first examination; solicitor, Mr. Holland; opposition by Mr. T. M. Whitehouse, reserved."

Birmingham Journal 7/2/1852 - Notice

"In the County Court of Worcestershire, at Dudley.

In the matter of the Petition of *John Howells*, now and for five years and upwards last past residing at Hall Green, in the parish of Sedgley, in the county of Stafford, carrying on the Trade or Business of a Timber Dealer at the Deepfields, in the parish of Sedgley aforesaid, and for the last five months of the above period also carrying on the Trade or Business of a Licensed Victualler, at the CROWN INN, Hall Green, in the parish of Sedgley, and county of Stafford aforesaid, an Insolvent Debtor.

Notice is hereby given, that the County Court of Worcestershire holden at Dudley, acting in the matter of this Petition, will proceed to make a Final Order thereon, at the said Court, on the 20th day of February, 1852, at the hour of Twelve o'clock at noon precisely, unless cause be then and there shown to the contrary.

Henry Holland, Attorney, West Bromwich."

Birmingham Journal 13/12/1856 - Advert

"To Persons in want of an Old-Licensed House for a Little Money.

By Mr. F. Atree. To be Let, that noted Business Premises, the OLD CROWN, Hall Green, near Bilston, where a good trade may be done by any persevering couple.

The Premises are convenient, with Stables, Gardens, Piggeries, two Pumps of excellent Water, &c.

The Premises, Rent, Gas, and Taxes, under £35 per annum.

Full particulars will be given, by application to Mr. F. Atree, Auctioneer, Publican's Valuer, and Land Surveyor, Bilston. Established 1840."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/12/1856 - Advert

"Who will be Crowned?

Mr. F. Atree is instructed to dispose of the OLD CROWN, Hall Green, Bilston, at a very low figure, the proprietor having another business. This is an opportunity seldom to be met with, to get an Old Licensed House for so small a sum, with immediate possession.

Every particular at the Old Established Auctioneer's Offices, Oxford Street, Bilston."

WHO WILL BE CROWNED?
MR. F. ALTREE is instructed to dispose of the OLD CROWN, HALL GREEN, BILSTON, at a very low figure, the proprietor having another business. This is an opportunity seldom to be met with, to get an Old Licensed House for so small a sum, with immediate possession.—Every particular at the Old Established Auctioneer's Offices, Oxford-street, Bilston.

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 26/10/1862

"T. Rogers of Daisy Bank will run T. Baker of Coseley 100 yards, if he will give two yards start, or G. Guest of Sedgley the like distance level, for £5 a side. Money ready at Mr. *Walter's*, OLD CROWN, Hall Green, Bilston."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 21/6/1863

"T. Rogers of Daisy Bank and C. Whiteley of Wednesbury. These men have signed articles to run six score yards, for £5 a side, on Monday, June 29, at the New Ash Tree Grounds, Tividale, near Dudley. The next deposit to be made at Mr. *Walter's*, OLD CROWN, Hall Green, on Monday, June 22. T. Thomas of Tividale final stakeholder."

John Walters was also a grocer. [1864], [1865]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/10/1865

"*James Walter*, of the CROWN INN, Bradley, was fined in the mitigated penalty of £50 and costs, for not entering the amount of his brewing previous to commencing to brew."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 30/12/1865

"At Bilston Police Court yesterday, *James Walters*, of the OLD CROWN, Hall Green, was fined 10s and costs, for having fourteen men in his house before legal hours on Sunday last."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/5/1866 - Advert

"To be Let, an Old-licensed Public House, situate in Hall Green, the sign of the OLD CROWN INN, and now in the occupation of *James Walters*, and doing a first-class business. Income about £100.

Apply on the premises, to *James Walters*, OLD CROWN INN, Hall Green, near Bilston, Staffordshire."

TO be LET, an Old-licensed PUBLIC-HOUSE, situate in Hall Green, the sign of "The Old Crown Inn," and now in the occupation of *James Walters*, and doing a first-class business. Income about £100.—Apply on the premises, to *James Walters*, Old Crown Inn, Hall Green, near Bilston, Staffordshire.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1866

"The annual meeting for the renewal of existing licenses, and for receiving applications for fresh ones, was held at the Police Court, on Friday.....

At the commencement of the proceedings, the Superintendent of Police presented the following report.

Bilston Division, August 31, 1866.

'I beg to submit to the Magistrates the attached list of licensed victuallers who have been complained against during the year. Twenty-five have been convicted, and three have paid costs; one had been convicted three times, and five convicted twice. This is a large increase on last year's list; but I think it has arisen from the police being more particular in reporting cases of permitting drunkenness – as it was found to be an evil rather on the increase. I believe it has caused landlords to be more careful in supplying drink to persons intoxicated.'

H. McCrea, Superintendent.

Black List.....

James Walters, OLD CROWN, Hall Green, Sedgley left over until the adjourned licensing meeting on the 28th of September."

Birmingham Daily Post 29/9/1866

"Yesterday, the Bilston adjourned Licensing Session was held at the Police Court.....

The landlord of the OLD CROWN INN, Hallfields, was granted a license, the former proprietor, who had been fined, having left the house.

James Walters, who had been fined three times as keeper of the OLD CROWN, mentioned above, applied for a license to be renewed to the SPREAD EAGLE, Ladymore. The Bench, however, thought that they ought not to grant one, and *Walters* then said that rather than injure the house he would leave; and the Magistrates granted the license to the landlord, but that it should not be renewed until he had obtained a new tenant."

Benjamin Fellows = Benjamin Fellowes

1871 Census

12, Woottons Square – OLD CROWN

- [1] *Benjamin Fellows* (41), licensed victualler, born Tettenhall;
- [2] Catherine Agnes Fellows (42), wife, born Pelsall;
- [3] Edward Holt Fellows (10), son, scholar, born Brierley Hill;
- [4] Rebecca Jane Fellows (15), daughter, born Brierley Hill;
- [5] Catherine Agnes Fellows (14), daughter, born Brierley Hill;
- [6] Florence Fellows (7), daughter, born Brierley Hill;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/9/1871

"At Bilston Police Court, yesterday, the following publicans were summoned and fined for infringing the terms of their licenses.....

Benjamin Fellowes, OLD CROWN, Hall Green, for permitting drunkenness on Tuesday last week, £5 and costs. Mr. Ebsworth appeared for the defence. The case was proved by Police-constable Parsons."

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF WORCESTERSHIRE,
AT DUDLEY.
IN the Matter of the Petition of JOHN HOWELLS,
now and for five years and upwards last past residing at Hall Green,
in the parish of Sedgley, in the county of Stafford, carrying on the Trade
or Business of a Timber Dealer at the Deepfields, in the parish of Sedg-
ley aforesaid, and for the last five months of the above period also car-
rying on the Trade or Business of a Licensed Victualler, at the Crown
Inn, Hall Green, in the parish of Sedgley, and county of Stafford aforesaid,
an Insolvent Debtor.—Notice is hereby given, that the County
Court of Worcestershire holden at Dudley, acting in the matter of this
Petition, will proceed to make a FINAL ORDER thereon, at the said
Court, on the 26th day of February, 1882, at the hour of Twelve o'clock
at noon precisely, unless cause be then and there shown to the contrary.
6935 HENRY HOLLAND, Attorney, West Bromwich.

1852

TO PERSONS IN WANT OF AN OLD-LICENSED
HOUSE FOR A LITTLE MONEY.
BY Mr. F. ALTREE.—To be LET, that noted
BUSINESS PREMISES, "THE OLD CROWN," Hall Green,
near Bilston, where a good trade may be done by any persevering
couple.
The Premises are convenient, with Stables, Gardens, Piggeries, two
Pumps of excellent Water, &c.
The Premises, Rent, Gas, and Taxes, under £35. per annum.
Full particulars will be given, by application to Mr. F. Altree,
Auctioneer, Publican's Valuer, and Land Surveyor, Bilston. Estab-
lished 1840.

1856

OLD CROWN AND ANCHOR

Coseley Street, (Coseley Road), (Coseley Row), BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Thomas Hall [1818] – [1822]
John Hall [1828] – [1830]
Mary Turner [1833] – [1835]
William Caswell [1841] – [1842]
James Abbott [1845]
William Vaughan [1849] – [1850]
William Wobridge [] – **1850**;
Thomas Henshaw **(1850 – 1856)**;
William Williams **(1856 – 1858)**
Harper [1859]

NOTES

Coseley Row [1822], [1828]
Coseley Street [1841], [1842]
Coseley Road [1856]

CROWN AND ANCHOR [1822], [1830], [1849]
CROW AND ACORN [1833] [Typographical error?]
ANCHOR [1841], [1842]
OLD CROWN AND ANCHOR [1845], [1858]

It had a beerhouse license.

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/11/1834

“Pursuant to the Act for the Relief of Insolvent Debtors....

Mary Turner, late of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, widow, heretofore following the business of a Victualler, and lately following no business.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/12/1834

“Mr. Commissioner Law held a Court for the relief of Insolvent Debtors in the Stafford Shire Hall, on Wednesday and Thursday last.

The following were ordered to be discharged forthwith *Mary Turner*, Bilston.”

Mary Turner, retailer of beer, Coseley Street. [1835]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 13/12/1837 - Advert

“To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately.

An old-established Public House, known by the sign of the CROWN AND ANCHOR, Coseley Row, near the High Street Gate, Bilston. The above has been a public house for upwards of forty years, and has an extensive yard, cellaring, and other outbuildings complete for the business.

Further particulars may be known by applying to Mrs. Henrietta Moreton, Coseley Row, Bilston.”

TO BE LET,
And may be entered upon immediately.
AN old-established PUBLIC-HOUSE, known by the sign of “The Crown and Anchor,” Coseley-row, near the High-street Gate, Bil-ton. The above has been a public house for upwards of forty years, and has an extensive yard, cellaring, and other outbuildings complete for the business.
Further particulars may be known by applying to Mrs. HENRIETTA MORETON, Coseley-row, Bilston.

1837

THE HOPE AND ANCHOR, COSELEY-ROAD,
BILSTON,
(UNDER A BILL OF SALE).
TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by W. E. MAYNE, on Saturday next, April 1, commencing at half past ten—the whole of the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE and Effects on the above premises; comprising feather beds, blankets, wash-hand stands and dressing tables, capital four-post and other bedsteads, with chintz furniture, mahogany chest of drawers, eight-day timepiece, strong deal drinking tables, screens, and benches, four-pull ale machine and piping, nearly new; ale and liquor measures, twelve-bushel mash-tub, large coolers, eleven hogshead, half-hogshead, and quarter barrels, with the ale and beer therein; malt mill, four bags of malt, two tumps of hops, eighteen feet of 1½-inch lead piping, and other effects, as will appear in catalogues, to be had of the Auctioneer, 7, Coventry-road, and at the place of sale, on and after Wednesday next.

1848

1841 Census

Coseley Street

- [1] William Caswell (45), publican, born Staffordshire;
- [2] Arabella Caswell (35), born Staffordshire;
- [3] Eliza Caswell (3), born Staffordshire;
- [4] Jane Wasdell (10), f.s., born Staffordshire:

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 27/3/1848 - Advert

"The HOPE [sic] AND ANCHOR, Coseley Road, Bilston (under a Bill of Sale).

To be Sold by Auction, by W. E. Mayne, on Saturday next, April 1, commencing at half past ten.

The whole of the Household Furniture and Effects on the above premises; comprising feather beds, blankets, wash-hand stands and dressing tables, capital four-post and other bedsteads, with chintz furniture, mahogany chest of drawers, eight-day time piece, strong deal drinking tables, screens, and benches, four-pull ale machine and piping, nearly new; ale and liquor measures, twelve-bushel mash-tub, large coolers, eleven hogshead, half-hogshead, and quarter barrels, with the ale and beer therein; malt mill, four bags of malt, two tumps of hops, eighteen feet of 1½ inch lead piping, and other effects, as will appear in catalogues, to be had of the Auctioneer, 7, Coventry Road, and at the place of sale, on and after Wednesday next."

London Gazette 29/1/1850

"In the Matter of the Petition of *William Vaughan*, of Coseley-street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, theretofore of Saint Peters Square, in Wolverhampton, in the said county of Stafford, Brewer and Licensed Dealer in Tobacco, and at the same time travelling as a Commission Agent for Mr. Cotton Acutt, of Wolverhampton aforesaid, Hop Merchant, previously of the Dudley-road, Wolverhampton aforesaid, travelling as a Commission Agent for the said Cotton Acutt, and at the same time travelling as a Commission Agent for John Gallagher, of Wolverhampton aforesaid, Ale and Porter Dealer.

Notice is hereby given, that Nathaniel Richard Clarke, Esq, Judge of the County Court of Staffordshire, at Wolverhampton, acting in the matter of this Petition, will proceed to make a Final Order thereon, at the said Court, on the 12th day of February next, at twelve of the clock at noon, unless cause be then and there shewn to the contrary."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 16/10/1850

"At the special sessions for transferring Victuallers' Licenses, held at the Public Office, Bilston Street, in this town, on Monday last, by County Justices, the following licenses were transferred....

William Wobridge, of the CROWN AND ANCHOR, Coseley, Sedgley [sic], to *Thomas Henshaw*, of Lichfield Street, Wolverhampton."

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/2/1851

"At Bilston Public Office, on Tuesday last, Thomas Lowe, of the DUKE OF YORK, Wolverhampton Road; *Thomas Henshaw*, of the CROWN AND ANCHOR, Cozeley Row; Richard Talbot, of the CROWN INN, Hall Fields; Isaac Riley, of the ROYAL EXCHANGE; and John Roscoe, of the MOUNT PLEASANT, were fined in sums varying from 10s to 40s and costs, for infringement of their licenses by keeping their houses open beyond the specified hours, or allowing card-playing &c."

1851 Census

Coseley Street

- [1] *Thomas Henshaw* (48), victualler, born Eccleshall, Staffordshire;
- [2] *Harriett Henshaw* (37), wife, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *Susannah Wilcox* (13), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] *Mary Henshaw* (4), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] *Mariah Lloyd* (24), general servant, born Darlaston:

Worcester Journal 2/12/1852

“On the 16th instant, an inquest was held at the CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Coseley Street, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, on the body of Sarah Caddick, a married woman, aged 46, who met with her death under the following distressing circumstances.

Emma Caddick, daughter-in-law of the deceased, stated that about three o’clock on Monday afternoon she left the Deepfields, accompanied by the deceased, with the intention of going to Bilston. They had got as far as the Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton Railway, which crosses the bottom of Coseley Street, when they saw a man driving a horse attached to a waggon. The horse was going as fast as he could, and the driver was running by the side of it. When the waggon had reached the middle of the road the horse was unfastened, and the waggon allowed to go on. The deceased crossed the road, when some persons who were near shouted to her to go back and she heard them, but remarked that she should be over before the waggon reached her. She had crossed the road, when she became frightened at the horse, and was about to return again, when the waggon caught her, and pushed her three or four yards, when she fell, and the waggon passed over her neck, severing the head from the body.

Mr. Farwell, solicitor of Wolverhampton, attended on behalf of the contractors, and at the Coroner’s suggestion said a young man should in future be placed at the crossing to prevent persons passing, and that the horse should not be detached from the waggon until it had crossed the road.

The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death. The deceased has left ten children, the youngest only twelve months old.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/7/1856

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

Whereas a Petition of *Thomas Henshaw*, at present and for five years last past residing in Coseley Street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Retailer of Spirituous Liquors, Ale, Beer, and Tobacco, an Insolvent Debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, at Wolverhampton, and an Interim Order for Protection from Process having been given to the said *Thomas Henshaw*, under the provisions of the statutes in that case made and provided, the said *Thomas Henshaw* is hereby required to appear in Court before the Judge acting in the matter of the said Petition, on the 26th day of August, 1856, at ten o’clock in the forenoon, at the Court House, Queen Street, Wolverhampton aforesaid, for his First Examination touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said statutes; and notice is hereby given that the Choice of Assignees is to take place at the time so appointed.

All persons indebted to the said *Thomas Henshaw*, or who have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. Charles Gallimore Brown, the Official Assignee, acting in the matter of the said Petition, at his Office, in Queen Street, Wolverhampton, aforesaid.

James Wells, Attorney, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/11/1856

“The Magistrates on the Bench at Bilston Petty Sessions on Friday last were engaged for a considerable time in investigating several charges and cross charges arising out of a dispute concerning property.

In the first place *Thomas Henshaw* charged Charles James Abbott and Richard Abbott with assaulting and threatening him, and in return the Abbotts summoned *Henshaw* for wilful damage and threats.

Henshaw, it appeared, is landlord of the CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Coseley Row, Bilston, and the Abbotts are pattern makers, living near, and have, as it was said, some interest in the CROWN AND ANCHOR. With the consent of *Henshaw*, and upon certain specified conditions, a wall was erected to divide his yard so as to allow the Abbotts to have a portion of it. *Henshaw*, however, contended that the conditions had not been complied with, and said that the wall remained there on sufferance.

A Mrs. Williams, who has a further interest in the property, went to the public house and commenced to pull down the wall, stating that she had not given her permission for it to be erected. In the work of demolition *Henshaw* joined her and went upon the other portion of the yard. Here it was said that James Abbotts knocked him down and would have kicked him had not Mrs. Williams threatened that if he did so she would give evidence against him. The assault alleged against *Henshaw* was that he threw bricks at James Abbotts.

The Magistrates, after hearing witnesses on both sides, ordered the two Abbotts and *Henshaw* to be bound over to keep the peace.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/12/1856

“*William Williamson*, of the OLD CROWN AND ANCHOR, Coseley Road, Bilston, was fined £1 2s 6d, including costs, for keeping his house open on Sunday morning last.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 14/3/1857

“About noon on Monday, Henry Briggs, a porter at the Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton Railway Station at Bilston, while attempting to couple some waggons that were being shunted, got crushed between the buffers, and died in ten minutes afterwards. He has left a wife and two children. An inquest before W. H. Phillips, Esq, deputy coroner, held at the CROWN AND ANCHOR, Coseley Street, on Wednesday, terminated in a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Glasgow Herald 30/6/1859

“A man, named John Evans Price, a Welshman, better known throughout the Bilston district by the title of ‘Jack the Gate,’ was brought before the Rev. H. S. Fletcher and E. Best, Esq, at the Bilston petty sessions, on Friday last, on a charge of stealing a brass tap and a piece of lead piping from the CROWN AND ANCHOR public house, Coseley Row. The prisoner, who bears a bad character, is one of a gang of lazy vagabonds, always out of employment, and generally recognised by the somewhat expressive title of ‘Rodneys.’ On Thursday last, he gave himself into custody upon the above charge. The officer who apprehended him made inquiries, and having ascertained that such articles had been stolen, conveyed him to the police station. When at the station, the prisoner made a most extraordinary statement, to the effect that he had been implicated in the murder of a gamekeeper, at Liverpool, some years ago. He stated that on a certain night he, with another man, was out poaching, when they were interrupted by a gamekeeper, and in the quarrel that ensued the keeper was shot. The most extraordinary part of the story is, that the prisoner affirms that he held the gun, while his companion shot the keeper. He also states that his companion was arrested, and after undergoing his trial was executed at Liverpool, but that he (Price) made his escape. The offence with which he was now charged having been proved, the Magistrates committed him for one month on that charge; and in the meanwhile, further inquiries will be made into the truth of the above statement.”

[It appears Price fabricated the confession to remain in gaol.]

Hereford Times 3/12/1859 - Advert

“Insolvent Debtor to be heard before the Judge of the County Court of Herefordshire, holden at the Shirehall, Hereford, on Friday, the 23rd day of December, 1859, at 10 o’clock in the Forenoon precisely; *William Williams*, late of Brandlo Knowle, near Ledbury, in the County of Hereford, Miner and Excavator, in lodgings; previously of the CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Bilston, in the County of Stafford, Miner, Excavator, and Licensed Victualler.”

Hereford Journal 28/12/1859

“Hereford County Court.....

In re *William Williams*, late of Bramble Knoll, near Ledbury, Herefordshire, miner and excavator, in lodgings; previously of the CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Crosley Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, miner, excavator, and licensed victualler.

The insolvent petitioned for his discharge from the Hereford County Gaol, where he had been confined since 31st August last. The aggregate amount of his debts, contracted since January 1857, was £188 11s 11d, but for £9 15s of this he had received no consideration. The amount of debts owing to him was £72 11s 7d, of which £46 8s 9d was written ‘bad.’ Insolvent in his balance sheet said, ‘The cause of my present insolvency is badness of trade, having a number of debts due to me which I could not get in, and my being employed away from home, my wife was incompetent to manage the business.’ There was no opposition and insolvent was declared entitled to the benefit of the act, and ordered to be discharged from custody forthwith.”

Birmingham Journal 23/7/1859 - Advert

“Once I was Called the ‘Rug and Louse,’ now the CROWN AND ANCHOR.

By F. Altree and Son, to be Let, with immediate possession, that well frequented Old-licensed Public House, the CROWN AND ANCHOR, Bilston, doing a good Business. Rent under £20 per annum. In-coming between £60 and £70.

Address, enclosing stamp, to Altree and Son, Auctioneers, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/7/1859 - Advert

"CROWN AND ANCHOR, Coseley Street, Bilston.

Altree and Son are instructed to Dispose Of by Private Treaty, the above old licensed Inn. Weekly brewing, ten bushels; spirits, &c, in proportion. Any business person may soon double the amount taking. Licenses, Fixtures, Stock, &c, about £70. Rent £19 10s per annum.

Apply, inclosing stamp, to F. Altree and Son, Publicans Valuers, Bilston."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 10/8/1859 - Advert

"Sale at the OLD CROWN AND ANCHOR, Bilston.

Messrs. Altree and Son, will Sell by Auction, on Tuesday, August 16, 1859, the Licenses and Possession of the above noted old licensed house, the OLD CROWN AND ANCHOR, Coseley Street, Bilston, with stock of Ale, Porter, Gin, Rum, and Brandy, Malt, Hops, 150-gallon wrought iron Boiler, 100-gallon cast iron ditto, capital home-made Ale Casks, Vats and Piping, Coolers, Tubs, four-pull stop tap Ale Machine, Figured Spirit Jars, Drinking Tables, Screens, Seating, Gas Fittings, with the modern and useful Household Furniture, feather and flock beds, four-post and tent bedsteads, toilet and pier glass, chamber chairs, chests of drawers, and numerous other effects, the property of Mr. Harper, who is removing to a distance.

Sale to commence punctually at eleven o'clock am.

Catalogues at the Auctioneers Offices, Bilston."

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF STAFFORDSHIRE,
HOLDEN AT WOLVERHAMPTON.

21st day of July, 1856.

WHEREAS a Petition of **THOMAS HENSHAW**, at present and for five years last past residing in Coseley-street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Retailer of Spirituous Liquors, Ale, Beer, and Tobacco, an Insolvent Debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, at Wolverhampton, and an Interim Order for Protection from Process having been given to the said Thomas Henshaw, under the provisions of the statutes in that case made and provided, the said Thomas Henshaw is hereby required to appear in Court before the Judge acting in the matter of the said Petition, on the 26th day of August, 1856, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at the COURT HOUSE, QUEEN-STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON aforesaid, for his FIRST EXAMINATION touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said statutes; and notice is hereby given that the Choice of Assignees is to take place at the time so appointed.

All persons indebted to the said Thomas Henshaw, or who have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. CHARLES GALLIMORE BROWN, the Official Assignee, acting in the matter of the said Petition, at his Office, in Queen-street, Wolverhampton aforesaid.

JAMES WELLS, Attorney, Bilston.

1856

INSOLVENT DEBTOR to be heard before the Judge of the County Court of Herefordshire, holden at the SHIREHALL, Hereford, on FRIDAY, the 23rd day of DECEMBER, 1859, at 10 o'clock in the Forenoon precisely; **WILLIAM WILLIAMS**, late of Brandlo Knowle, near Ledbury, in the County of Hereford, Miner and Excavator, in lodgings; previously of the Crown and Anchor Inn, Bilston, in the County of Stafford, Miner, Excavator, and Licensed Victualler.

ONCE I WAS CALLED THE "RUG AND LOUSE,"
NOW THE CROWN AND ANCHOR.

BY F. ALTREE and SON, to be LET, with immediate possession, that well frequented Old-licensed PUBLIC HOUSE, the "Crown and Anchor," Bilston, doing a good Business. Rent under £20. per annum. In-coming between £50. and £70.—Address, enclosing stamp, to Altree and Son, Auctioneers, Bilston.

CROWN AND ANCHOR, COSELEY-STREET, BILSTON.

ALTREE and SON are instructed to **DISPOSE** OF by PRIVATE TREATY, the above old licensed INN. Weekly brewing, ten bushels; spirits, &c., in proportion. Any business person may soon double the amount taking. Licenses, Fixtures, Stock, &c., about £70. Rent, £19 10s. per annum.—Apply, inclosing stamp, to F. ALTREE and SON, Publicans' Valuers, Bilston. Established 1840.

SALE AT THE OLD CROWN AND ANCHOR, BILSTON.

MESSRS. ALTREE and SON will SELL by AUCTION, on Tuesday, August 16, 1859, the LICENSES and POSSESSION of the above noted old licensed house, "The Old Crown and Anchor," COSELEY-STREET, BILSTON, with stock of ALE, PORTER, GIN, RUM and BRANDY, MALT, HOPS, 150-gallon wrought iron BOILER, 100-gallon cast iron ditto, capital home-made ALE CASKS, Vats and Piping, Coolers, Tubs, four-pull stop tap ALE MACHINE, Figured Spirit Jars, Drinking Tables, Screens, Seating, Gas Fittings, with the modern and useful HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, feather and flock beds, four-post and tent bedsteads, toilet and pier glass, chamber chairs, chests of drawers, and numerous other effects, the property of Mr. Harper, who is removing to a distance.

Sale to commence punctually at eleven o'clock a.m.
Catalogues at the Auctioneers' Offices, Bilston.

1859

OLD ENGLISH GENTLEMAN

Thompson Street, Batch Croft, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

James Aley [1859]

Thomas Jones [1861] – [1863]

NOTES

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/12/1859 - Advert

“OLD ENGLISH GENTLEMAN, Batchcrofts, Bilston.

Mr. F. Altree will Sell by Auction, on the premises as above, on Friday next, 30th December, 1859, the Licenses, Possession, Fixtures, Fittings, the whole of the Household Furniture, excellent Brewing Plant, four-pull ale machine, drinking and other tables, chairs, sofas, French, mahogany, and tent bedsteads, feather and flock beds, sheets, blankets, counterpanes, handsome mahogany chests of drawers, with the usual chamber and kitchen requisites; 180 and 80 gallon iron boilers, pair large cooling vats, eight-bushel mash and other tubs, capital iron-bound ale casks, pegs, frame, and bowls, also numerous other effects, the property of Mr. *James Aley*, who is declining business.

Sale to commence at eleven o'clock am; Licenses and Possession will be offered at half-past.

N.B. The Premises are roomy, and conveniently adapted for any person requiring extensive premises.

The Freehold to be Let On Lease or Sold. Apply to the Auctioneer, Bilston.”

1861 Census

Thompson Street – OLD ENGLISH GENTLEMAN

[1] *Thomas Jones* (30), puddler and innkeeper, born Bilston;

[2] *Eliza Jones* (30), wife, born Wellington, Shropshire;

[3] *Phebe Jones* (9), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[4] *Thomas Jones* (7), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[5] *David Jones* (5), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[6] *Sarah J. Jones* (2), daughter, born Bilston;

[7] *Harriett Jones* (14 days), daughter, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/5/1861 - Advert

“Bilston. Valuable Freehold Property, situate in Thompson Street, Bilston.

To be Sold by Private Contract, all those valuable newly-built Freehold Premises, consisting of a Public House, known as the OLD ENGLISH GENTLEMAN, now in the occupation of Mr. *Thomas Jones*, with Butcher's Shop alongside, also bar parlour, taproom, large clubroom with partition, two bedrooms, two good cellars, maltroom, brewhouse, and good yard, the whole covering an area of 363 square yards or thereabouts, with a frontage of eleven yards in Thompson Street.

For particulars, apply to *Foster Gough*, Esq, Solicitor, King Street, Wolverhampton; or to Mr. R. Heseltine, Auctioneer, &c, Bilston.”

“OLD ENGLISH GENTLEMAN,” BATCHCROFTS,
BILSTON.
MR. F. ALTREE will SELL by AUCTION, on the premises as above, on Friday next, 30th December, 1859, the LICENSES, POSSESSION, FIXTURES, FITTINGS, the whole of the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, excellent BREWING PLANT, four-pull ale machine, drinking and other tables, chairs, sofas, French, mahogany, and tent bedsteads, feather and flock beds, sheets, blankets, counterpanes, handsome mahogany chests of drawers, with the usual chamber and kitchen requisites; 180 and 80-gallon iron boilers, pair large cooling vats, eight-bushel mash and other tubs, capital iron-bound ale casks, pegs, frame, and bowls, also numerous other effects, the property of Mr. *James Aley*, who is declining business.
Sale to commence at eleven o'clock a.m.; Licenses and Possession will be offered at half-past.
N.B.—The Premises are roomy, and conveniently adapted for any person requiring extensive premises.
The FREEHOLD to be LET ON LEASE or SOLD.—Apply to the AUCTIONEER, Bilston.

BILSTON.
VALUABLE FREEHOLD PROPERTY.
SITUATE IN THOMPSON-STREET, BILSTON.
TO be SOLD by PRIVATE CONTRACT, all those valuable newly-built FREEHOLD PREMISES, consisting of a PUBLIC-HOUSE, known as the “Old English Gentleman,” now in the occupation of Mr. *Thomas Jones*, with Butcher's Shop alongside, also bar parlour, taproom, large clubroom with partition, two bedrooms, two good cellars, maltroom, brewhouse, and good yard, the whole covering an area of 363 square yards or thereabouts, with a frontage of eleven yards in Thompson-street.
For particulars, apply to *FOSTER GOUGH*, Esq., Solicitor, King-street, Wolverhampton; or to Mr. R. *HESELTINE*, Auctioneer, &c., Bilston.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 24/7/1861 - Advert

“Freehold Investment. Public House, Butcher’s Shop, and Dwelling House, the OLD ENGLISH GENTLEMAN, Thompson Street, Bilston, in the County of Stafford.

Mr. R. Heseltine is instructed to Sell by Auction, at the KINGS ARMS HOTEL, Bilston, on Thursday, the 8th of August, 1861, at seven o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be produced.

The above capital Freehold Investment, comprising a double fronted House, the one part used as a Public House, known as the OLD ENGLISH GENTLEMAN, and the other part as a Butcher’s Shop, but adapted for any other business. In connection with the double frontage, there is Bar Parlour, Tap Room, large Club Room with portable petition, two Bed Rooms, two large Cellars, Malt Room, Brewhouse, and good Yard.

The whole covers an area of 363 square yards or thereabouts, and is not in the occupation of Mr. *Thomas Jones*.

Further particulars may be obtained of Mr. Foster Gough, Solicitor, King Street, Wolverhampton; or of the Auctioneer, at his offices, Midland Counties Auction Rooms, Bilston.”

Thomas Jones, retailer of beer, Thompson Street. [1862]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/8/1863

“*Thomas Jones*, a beerhouse keeper, in Batch Croft, was summoned before the Bench, yesterday, for permitting gambling in his house. A witness named Partridge proved that he was present in defendant’s house on Saturday night last, when he saw a number of men adjourn to a bowling alley, which adjoins the house, and play for several quarts of ale. The defendant was standing by the whole of the time, and he made bets with some of the spectators as to the results of the game. The Magistrates ordered him to pay a penalty of 40s.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 19/8/1863

“*Thomas Jones*, of the OLD ENGLISH GENTLEMAN public house, Thomas [sic] Street, Bilston, was charged with having allowed gambling in his house. The case was proved by the Policeman Partridge, who stated that on the night of Saturday last he had found the defendant and others bowling for ale and betting threepences on the event. Superintendent McCrea said that the house was a notorious resort of gamblers.

For the defence, two witnesses were called to deny the truth of the policeman’s statements. The Bench, however, inflicted a fine of 40s and costs, and cautioned the defendant that a repetition of the offence would be visited by an infliction of the full penalty.”

Birmingham Daily Post 15/8/1867 - Advert

“Freehold Property, at the Batchcrofts, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Samuel Baker (by direction of the Mortgagees, with power of sale), at the GREAT WESTERN INN, Hall Street, Bilston, Tomorrow (Friday), August 16, at Six o’clock in the Evening , subject to conditions then to be read.

All that Messuage, situate in Thompson Street in Bilston, lately occupied by Mr. *Thomas Jones*, as a Retail Beerhouse, and then known by the sign of the OLD ENGLISH GENTLEMAN, containing two capital Cellars, with outroad, Tap Room, Bar, Smoke Room, Kitchen, Pantry, Entrance Passage, Club Room, and three Bed Rooms; good Brewhouse, with Malt Room, Soft Water Cistern and Pump, two Privies, convenient Yard, with entry into street.

The Property has a frontage of 11 yards to Thompson Street, and contains in the whole a superficial area of 363 yards of Land; has Gas and Water Piping laid down, and is estimated to produce a rental of at least £20 per annum.

Further particulars may be obtained from Messrs. Holden, Andrews, and Holden, Solicitors, Bolton; or the Auctioneer, Bilston.”

FREEHOLD INVESTMENT.
PUBLIC HOUSE, BUTCHER'S SHOP, AND
DWELLING HOUSE,
"THE OLD ENGLISH GENTLEMAN,"
THOMPSON STREET, BILSTON, IN THE COUNTY OF
STAFFORD.

MR. R. HESELTINE is instructed to **SELL**
by AUCTION, at the KING'S ARMS HOTEL, BILSTON,
on Thursday, the 8th of August, 1861, at seven o'clock in the
evening, subject to conditions then to be produced—

The above capital **FREEHOLD INVESTMENT**, comprising a
double fronted **HOUSE**, the one part used as a Public House,
known as "The Old English Gentleman," and the other part as a
Butcher's Shop, but adapted for any other business. In connection
with the double frontage, there is Bar Parlour, Tap Room, large
Club Room with portable petition, two Bed Rooms, two large
Cellars, Malt Room, Brewhouse, and good Yard.

The whole covers an area of 363 square yards or thereabouts, and
is now in the occupation of Mr. Thomas Jones.

Further particulars may be obtained of **MR. FOSTER GOUGH**,
Solicitor, King-street, Wolverhampton; or of the **AUCTIONEER**, at
his offices, Midland Counties Auction Rooms, Bilston.

1861

FREEHOLD PROPERTY,
AT THE BATCHUROFTS, BILSTON.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

BY Mr. SAMUEL BAKER (by direction of the Mortga-
gee, with power of sale) at the Great Western Inn, Hall
Street, Bilston, **TO-MORROW (Friday)**, August 16, at Six o'clock in the
Evening, subject to conditions then to be read—all that **MESSUAGE**,
situate in Thompson Street in Bilston, lately occupied by Mr. Thomas
Jones, as a Retail Beerhouse, and then known by the sign of "THE
OLD ENGLISH GENTLEMAN," containing two capital Cellars, with
outroad, Tap Room, Bar, Smoke Room, Kitchen, Pantry, Entrance
Passage, Club Room, and three Bed Rooms; good Brewhouse, with
Malt Room, Soft Water Cistern and Pump, two Privies, convenient
Yard, with entry into street.

The Property has a frontage of 11 yards to Thompson Street, and
contains in the whole a superficial area of 363 yards of Land; has Gas
and Water Piping laid down, and is estimated to produce a rental of
at least £20 per annum.

Further particulars may be obtained from Messrs. Holden, Andrews,
and Holden, Solicitors, Bolton; or the Auctioneer, Bilston.

1867

OLD HOUSE AT HOME

16, (102), (101+102), Temple Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Thomas Jones
William Butler and Co. Ltd.

LICENSEES

Isaac Beckett [1857] – [1858]
Mrs. Sarah Beckett [1861] – [1863]
Thomas Jones [1871] – **1899**);
Henry Cox (**1899 – 1909**):

NOTES

101+102, Temple Street [1861], [1871], [1881], [1891]
102, Temple Street [1862], [1896]
16, Temple Street [1901], [1904]

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 23/8/1857

“Ambrose Corser of Bilston will run any man of the same place 140 yards, and give him one yard start; or he will run Bissell of Hilltop the same distance, level; or Hadley of Wednesbury 140 up to 440 yards; or Dangerfield of Darlaston, Jervis of Willenhall, or Paget of Wolverhampton 140 yards, and give them two yards start. Any of the matches can be made for £10 a side, to come off in one month from drawing up articles. Money ready at *Isaac Beckett's*, OLD HOUSE AT HOME, Temple Street, Bilston, any night next week.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 4/4/1858

“Joseph Jarvis of Broad Lanes, near Bilston, hearing that Samuel Ellis of Princes End will fly a pigeon against any other within five miles of the same place, from Nelson’s monument, Birmingham, he will fly his blue cock Sidener against him, providing he will allow him three minutes for the distance, or if that does not suit he will fly him a home and home match. Either of the matches can be made, for £5 a side, any night next week at *Isaac Beckett's*, the OLD HOUSE AT HOME, Temple Street, Bilston.”

Isaac Beckett – see also COTTAGE SPRING.

Sarah Beckett = Sarah Becket = Sarah Beckitt

1861 Census

101+102, Temple Street
[1] Sarah Beckett (35), widow, publican, born Darlaston;
[2] Fanny Beckett (7), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
[3] Betsy Beckett (4), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
[4] Jane Beckett (3), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
[5] Harriot Hyde (17), housemaid, born Bilston:

Sarah Becket, retailer of beer, 102, Temple Street. [1862]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 20/5/1863

“At Bilston Public Court, yesterday, *Sarah Beckett*, beerhouse keeper, Temple Street, was summoned for keeping her house open during prohibited hours on Sunday last.

The charge was clearly proved by Police-constable Goodhall, and the defendant, who had been previously convicted, was fined 40s and the expenses.”

Sarah Beckett married *Thomas Jones* in the 4th quarter of 1863.

1871 Census

101+102, Temple Street – OLD HOUSE AT HOME INN

[1] *Thomas Jones* (40), stock-taker in iron works and beerhouse keeper, born Welchampton, Shropshire;

[2] *Sarah Jones* (43), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *John Jones* (4), son, born Bilston;

[4] *Martha Jones* (2), daughter, born Bilston;

[5] *Sarah Jones* (7), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[6] *Fanny Beckett* (18), step-daughter, works in tin factory, born Bilston;

[7] *Elizabeth Beckett* (16), step-daughter, general servant, born Bilston;

[8] *Jane Beckett* (13), step-daughter, scholar, born Bilston:

1881 Census

101+102, Temple Street – OLD HOUSE AT HOME

[1] *Thomas Jones* (49), publican, born Welsh Hampton, Shropshire;

[2] *Sarah Jones* (52), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Sarah Jones* (17), daughter, servant, born Bilston;

[4] *John Jones* (14), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[5] *Martha Jones* (12), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[6] *James Corbett* (50), lodger, baker, born Snowhill, Gloucestershire:

Birmingham Daily Post 26/12/1887

“An inquest was held on Saturday, at the OLD HOUSE AT HOME, Temple Street, Bilston, touching the death of *John Cahill* (67), labourer, of Temple Street. Evidence showed that on Sunday evening, the 18th inst, the deceased was knocked down by a horse and trap in Oxford Street as he was coming out of church. He sustained a shock to the system, from which he died on Friday. The driver of the vehicle, who drove away immediately after the accident, was not known. A verdict in accordance with the evidence was returned.”

1891 Census

101+102, Temple Street – OLD HOUSE AT HOME

[1] *Thomas Jones* (57), publican, born Welsh Hampton, Shropshire;

[2] *Sarah Jones* (61), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Martha Jones* (22), daughter, barmaid, born Bilston;

[4] *Joseph Welch* (30), boarder, mill furnaceman, born Ireland:

Thomas Jones, beer retailer, 102, Temple Street. [1896]

1901 Census

16, Temple Street

[1] *Henry Cox* (48), iron moulder and publican, born Bilston;

[2] *Drucilla J. Cox* (45), wife, born Tettenhall;

[3] *Clara Cox* (17), daughter, born West Bromwich;

[4] *Florence M. Cox* (11), daughter, born West Bromwich;

[5] *Drucilla B. Cox* (9), daughter, born Tipton;

[6] *Ethel K. Cox* (6), daughter, born Tipton;

[7] *Harry Fennah* (38), boarder, iron moulder, born Smethwick:

Henry Cox, beer retailer, 16, Temple Street. [1904]

Henry Cox – see also KING WILLIAM, Great Bridge Street, West Bromwich, DOG AND GUN, Tipton, and GLOBE, Union Street, Tipton.

Staffordshire Advertiser 13/2/1909

“Bilston annual licensing sessions were held on the 5th inst.....

The following houses were referred for consideration for compensation on the ground that they were not required.....
OLD HOUSE AT HOME, Temple Street.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/5/1909

“Notice is Hereby Given, that the Principal Meeting to be held pursuant to the Licensing Rules, 1904, by the Compensation Authority for the County of Stafford, will be held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, at 10.30 o’clock am, on Friday, the 11th day of June, 1909.

And Notice is Hereby also Given, that the Compensation Authority will at the Meeting be prepared to hear, with reference to the Renewal of the Licences of the several Premises specified in the subjoined list, all those Persons to whom under the Licensing Act, 1904, they are bound to give an opportunity of being heard.....

OLD HOUSE AT HOME, Temple Street, Bilston. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *Henry Cox*.”

The License renewal was refused by the Compensation Authority on 11th June 1909.

Lichfield Mercury 18/6/1909

“The members of the Staffordshire Licensing Committee sat on Friday at the Shirehall, Stafford, to consider the question of the renewal of the licenses of the sixty-eight public houses referred to them under the Licensing Act, 1904.....

No opposition was offered in the cases of OLD HOUSE AT HOME, Temple Street, Bilston and the renewal of the licenses was refused.”

Lichfield Mercury 7/1/1910

“The Quarter Sessions of the peace for the county of Stafford commenced on Tuesday at the Shirehall, Stafford.....

The principal meeting of the Compensation Authority was held on the 11th June, and by adjournment on the 12th and 17th June, when the Committee, after careful consideration of each case referred, refused to renew 62 licenses. The Committee, at a supplemental meeting, went in great detail into all the figures submitted to them upon which the persons interested claimed compensation, and heard, upon oath, evidence put forward by the claimants. The Committee consider that the amounts of compensation agreed upon are satisfactory, both from the point of view of the parties interested and the Compensation Fund. In the following 60 cases the committee fixed the compensation.....

OLD HOUSE AT HOME, Temple Street, Bilston, £350.

.....the money has been apportioned amongst the interested parties.”

Compensation of £350 was paid on 4th December 1909.

OLD MERMAID

33, (18), (17+18), Salop Street, (Shropshire Row), (Highfields), Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

William Hazledine, butcher, Shropshire Row
James Rawson, Crewe
Messrs. Humby, brewers, Stafford
Eley, Nesbitt and Co., brewers, Stafford
Eley's Stafford Brewery Ltd.

LICENSEES

William Hazeldine [1818]
Richard Hall [1828] – [1835]
William Hazeldine [1845] – **1864**;
William Knott **(1864 – 1866)**;
Job Dolphin **(1866 – 1876)**;
Samuel Hazeldine **(1876 – 1879)**;
John Archer **(1879 – 1881)**;
Jacob Tate **(1881)**;
Alfred Key **(1881 – 1888)**;
William Edwin Cole **(1888 – 1890)**;
Mrs. Annie Walmsley **(1890 – 1891)**;
Thomas Shinton **(1891 – 1921)**;
Thomas Davies **(1921 – [1938])**
James Davies [1939] – [1955]

NOTES

Shropshire Row [1828], [1830], [1850]
17+18, Salop Street [1861], [1881], [1901]
Salop Street [1865], [1866], [1868]
18, Salop Street [1891]
33, Salop Street [1908], [1911], [1912], [1921], [1932], [1939], [1940], [1955]

MERMAID [1818], [1827], [1828], [1830], [1850], [1862], [1865], [1866], [1868], [1873], [1875], [1901], [1946], [1956]
MERMAN [1875]
YE OLD MERMAID [1891]
OLD MERMAID [1904], [1908], [1912], [1932], [1940]

It had a beerhouse license.

William Hazeldine was also a butcher. [1818]

Richard Hall, retailer of beer, Highfields. [1835]

DESIRABLE
FREEHOLD MESSUAGES AND PREMISES,
IN SHROPSHIRE ROW,
In the Township of Bilston, in the County of Stafford.
TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by JOHN MASON,
at the house of Mr. William Hazeldine, the Mermaid
Inn, in Shropshire Row, Bilston, on FRIDAY NEXT, the 9th
day of July, 1847, at Six o'clock in the evening, in one or more
lots as may be agreed upon at the time of sale, and subject to
conditions then to be read—all those Two substantially-built
FREEHOLD MESSUAGES or DWELLING HOUSES, situate
in Shropshire Row, in Bilston aforesaid, together with about Sixty
Yards of LAND adjoining thereto, and now in the occupations of
George Fellows and Hugh Jones.
The front House consists of front Shop, Kitchen, three Sleep-
ing Rooms, and Pantry, and is now used as a Huckster's Shop,
and is well situated to carry on a general retail trade. The back
House comprises Kitchen, Brewhouse, and two Sleeping Rooms.
The respective Tenants will show the Premises; and for further
particulars, apply to Mr. Mason, Solicitor, or at the Office of the
Auctioneer, Hall Street, Bilston.

1847

THE BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1861.
IN THE COUNTY COURT OF STAFFORDSHIRE,
HOLDEN AT WOLVERHAMPTON.
WILLIAM KNOTT, late of the Mermaid Inn, Salop Row, in
the Township of Bilston, in the County of Stafford, Licensed
Vintner, Dealer and Chapman, and residing in lodgings in
King-street, in the said Township of Bilston, out of business,
having been adjudged bankrupt in Wolverhampton, on the 24th day
of September, 1866, is hereby required to surrender himself to
CHARLES GALLIMORE BROWN, Esq., a Registrar of the County
Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton, at the FIRST
MEETING of CREDITORS to be held on the 12th day of October,
1866, at twelve o'clock at noon precisely, at the COURT HOUSE,
QUEEN STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON.
Mr. F. W. TOPHAM, of West Bromwich, 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
signees 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.

CLIFTON N. CURTIS, High Bailiff.

1866

William Hazeldine = William Hazledine = William Haseldine

1841 Census

Salop Row

- [1] *William Hazledine* (35), butcher, born Staffordshire;
- [2] Maria Hazledine (30), born Staffordshire;
- [3] William Hazledine (2), born Staffordshire;
- [4] George Hazledine (1 month), born Staffordshire;
- [5] Martha Griffiths (25), f.s., born Staffordshire;
- [6] Sarah A. Turner (10), f.s., born Staffordshire:

William Hazeldine was also a butcher. [1845], [1849], [1850], [1851], [1854]

Birmingham Journal 25/7/1846

“On Tuesday last, an inquest was held at the house of Mr. *Hazeldine*, MERMAID, Shropshire Row, Bilston, on the body of Evan Langley, a boy five years old, who fell into the canal, near the Pot House Bridge, on Sunday afternoon last. The Jury returned a verdict of Found Drowned, as no evidence was given to show how the child got into the water.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/2/1848

“An inquest was held on Friday last, before W. W. Ward, Esq, coroner (acting for T. M. Phillips, Esq), at the sign of the MERMAID, Bilston, on the body of Luke Dando, a collier, who was killed by an explosion of fire damp, while at work at a coal pit in Mr. Baldwin’s New Field. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

1851 Census

Salop Row

- [1] *William Haseldine* (48), butcher, born Sedgley;
- [2] Maria Haseldine (42), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Harriet Haseldine (19), daughter, dressmaker, born Bilston;
- [4] William Haseldine (11), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] George Haseldine (9), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] Mary Ann Haseldine (7), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] *Samuel Haseldine* (4), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [8] Ann Holleybak (15), house servant, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 15/12/1858

“A youth named George Hazledine was brought before the Magistrates, at the Wolverhampton Police Court, on Wednesday last, charged with committing a rape upon a young woman named Ann Turner. Mr. Green James was engaged for the defence, at whose request all females were ordered out of court.

Ann Turner on being sworn stated that she was formerly a servant at the MERMAID INN, at Bilston, kept by the defendant’s father. On the previous Wednesday the defendant in a jocular manner asked her to leave her bed room door open at night, but thinking that he meant nothing she took no notice of it. She went to bed about eleven o’clock and latched the bed room door, but did not bolt it, as she was not then aware there was a bolt on the door. Some time after she had been in bed she was awoke by the defendant, who came into the room and got into bed to her. She resisted as well as she was able, but she was so excited that she could not cry out, and ultimately the defendant had connection with her. He remained with her about ten minutes. She did not tell her mistress, but she mentioned what had occurred, on the Friday, to Mary Nichols, the person to whom she went after she left her situation. The prosecutrix said she had neither father nor mother, nor any friends in Bilston. Mr. James cross-examined the prosecutrix, when she admitted that other men had had criminal connection with her.

The Magistrates said there appeared to have been no alarm raised and very little disposition to resist on the part of the prosecutrix. The evidence was therefore insufficient to support a charge of so grave a nature.

Mr. James wished it to be publicly stated that the defendant positively denied that there was the slightest foundation for the charge.”

1861 Census

17+18, Salop Row

[1] William Hazledine (58), publican and butcher, born Bilston;

[2] Maria Hazledine (52), wife, born Bilston;

[3] William Hazledine (21), son, butcher, born Bilston;

[4] George Hazledine (19), son, wire drawer, born Bilston;

[5] Samuel Hazledine (14), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[6] Harriett Perry (18), servant, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/2/1862

“Wolverhampton County Court.....

The plaintiff was John Pritchard, Shropshire Row, Bilston, and the defendant was *William Hazledine*, MERMAID INN, Shropshire Row, who was sued as the husband of the treasurer of a Woman’s Funeral Society, held at his house. Mr. J. Walker appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Thurstans for the defendant.

The amount claimed was £5, alleged to be due to the plaintiff on account of his wife’s death, she being a member of the society. For the plaintiff it was contended, and the facts supported in evidence, that a member of this Woman’s Funeral Society, named Banks, proposed the plaintiff’s wife, and paid the usual proposal fee of 1s 3d; the same woman subsequently made two monthly payments of behalf of Pritchard’s wife, and a day or two afterwards Mrs. Pritchard died.

The secretary of the club, a stout buxom old lady, named Cox, was acquainted of the death, and she gave an order on the treasurer, the defendant’s wife, to pay the funeral money, £5. This order was conveyed to Mrs. Hazledine by the woman Banks, but as the letter had not got a receipt stamp, the £5 was not paid over to her. Mrs. Banks thereupon went in search of a stamp, and when she returned she found a committee of women discussing the case; after a lengthy and talkative deliberation, the conclusion they arrived at was to offer £2 10s instead of £5, because Mrs. Pritchard had so recently joined the club. The £2 10s was afterwards withdrawn, and it was determined to make no offer at all. The society possessed two stewards, and this committee meeting was called by one of them; the other was unable to attend, she being out washing. The proceedings of the committee led to a dispute, and the matter was taken into court.

Mr. Thurstans, for the defendant, denied that the woman had been received into the club at all. She failed to show herself after the proposal, according to the rules, and therefore her club money was refused – though thrust upon the secretary by Mrs. Banks, it was not handed to the society’s fund. The decision of the ladies committee was quite in accordance with the rules, which directed that disputes should be settled by members of the society. The society was not enrolled, but it was agreed to put in the rules, and to make them evidence. They were, however, quite incomprehensible, excepting that a very fair proportion of the money raised by the club should be devoted to the purchase of ale. Forfeitures were to be disposed of in this manner. Three half-pence were to be disbursed at every monthly meeting by each contributor; members refusing to act as stewards should be fined 2d; and, as though aware of the ungovernable property of a woman’s tongue, the heaviest penalty of the club (6d) was imposed on any member beginning a quarrel in the club room. Another very sapient rule was, ‘If any member commit suicide, she shall not be entitled to the funeral money.’ For giving notice of a funeral, the stewards were each to be rewarded with a pint of ale; and once a year –Bilston Wake Thursday – the club should sit down to its annual dinner, to which every member should pay, whether she were present or not. As to the benefits of the society, the rules spoke of them very ambiguously. In the case of the death of a member’s child, under 12 years of age, such member shall be entitled to £2 10s; over 12 years of age £5. Not a single rule referred to the claims in case of the death of a grown-up member; and the objects of the society were further mystified by this proviso, ‘No member shall be entitled to this benefit, except father or mother, or children unmarried.’ Mrs. Cox, the secretary, was asked to explain that rule, for, as the Judge observed, it would exclude a husband claiming club money on the death of his wife. Mrs. Cox explained, with more readiness that the Court seemed able to comprehend, that the club looked on husband and wife in the light of father and mother. The rules that had been handed in, she said, had been in force for 17 years, and the club had never been disgraced by having its integrity called into question.

The Judge observed that the club must indeed be a happy company, for no one could enter it if they had affliction in the family, and this happiness was the more remarkable when one considers the peculiar element of the club. The Judge said he certainly thought that justice abided with the plaintiff, but he did not see how he could give him a verdict, for it was utterly impossible to understand the rules. The strongest point in his favour, and the one by which he (the Judge) felt disposed to decide, was the retention of the order from the secretary, which, he thought, amounted to an admission of liability.

Mr. Thurstans explained that that order, being unstamped, was an illegal document; and as a committee could settle all disputes, the order was over-ruled.

The case was ultimately adjourned, with a view to its settlement out of Court.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 14/1/1865

“Yesterday, James Cole was committed to the Sessions for trial, charged with assaulting James Gill, and robbing him of 15s. The parties met at the MERMAID INN, Shropshire Row, where there was much drinking, and a great deal more of what is called ‘haggling,’ and in the midst of the squabble prosecutor had his purse and 15s taken from him. Prisoner was apprehended at Birmingham, with the purse upon him.”

William Knott = William Nott.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 30/12/1865

“At Bilston Police Court yesterday, *William Knott*, of the MERMAID, Shropshire Row, was fined 2s 6d and costs, for having his house open after hours.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1866

“The annual meeting for the renewal of existing licenses, and for receiving applications for fresh ones, was held at the Police Court, on Friday.....

At the commencement of the proceedings, the Superintendent of Police presented the following report.
Bilston Division, August 31, 1866.

‘I beg to submit to the Magistrates the attached list of licensed victuallers who have been complained against during the year. Twenty-five have been convicted, and three have paid costs; one had been convicted three times, and five convicted twice. This is a large increase on last year’s list; but I think it has arisen from the police being more particular in reporting cases of permitting drunkenness – as it was found to be an evil rather on the increase. I believe it has caused landlords to be more careful in supplying drink to persons intoxicated.’

H. McCrea, Superintendent.

Black List.....

William Knott, MERMAID, Salop Street, Bilston License renewed.”

AND

“Application was made by Mr. Best on behalf of John Smith, an innkeeper, living in John Street, Bradley. Mr. Thurstans opposed on behalf of Mr. *Nott*, the occupier of the MERMAID. The application was refused.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/9/1866 - Notice

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1861. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton.

William Knott, late of the MERMAID INN, Salop Row, in the Township of Bilston, in the County of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, Dealer and Chapman, and residing in lodgings in King Street, in the said Township of Bilston, out of business, having been adjudged bankrupt in Wolverhampton, on the 24th day of September, 1866, is hereby required to surrender himself to Charles Gallimore Brown, Esq, a Registrar of the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton, at the First Meeting of Creditors to be held on the 12th day of October, 1866, at twelve o’clock at noon precisely, at the Court House, Queen Street, Wolverhampton.

Mr. F. W. Topham, of West Bromwich, 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.

Clifton N. Curtis, High Bailiff.”

THE BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1861.

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF STAFFORDSHIRE,

HOLDEN AT WOLVERHAMPTON.

In the Matter of WILLIAM KNOTT, late of the Mermaid Inn, Salop Row, in the township of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, Dealer and Chapman, and residing in lodgings in King Street, in the said township of Bilston, out of business, adjudged bankrupt on the 24th day of September, 1866.

An ORDER of DISCHARGE will be delivered to the Bankrupt after the expiration of thirty days from this date, unless an appeal be duly entered against the Judgment of the Court, and notice thereof be given to the Court.

Dated this 10th day of December, 1866.

CLIFTON N. CURTIS, High Bailiff.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/12/1866 - Notice

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1861. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton.

In the matter of *William Knott*, late of the MERMAID INN, Salop Row, in the township of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, Dealer and Chapman, and residing in lodgings in King Street, in the said township of Bilston, out of business, adjudged bankrupt on the 24th day of September, 1866.

An Order of Discharge will be delivered to the Bankrupt after the expiration of thirty days from this date, unless an appeal be duly entered against the Judgement of the Court, and notice thereof be given to the Court.

Dated this 10th day of December, 1866. Clifton N. Curtis, High Bailiff.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 29/6/1867

“Young Jack Pittam of Bilston, hearing that Johnny Hayward (late of Australia) is not satisfied with the last fight, is willing to give him a chance to retrieve his lost laurels, and will fight him at catch weight, for £5 or £10 a side, and will be at Mr. *Job Dolphin*’s, MERMAID INN, Salop Street, Bilston, on Monday next, prepared to stake and draw up articles.”

1871 Census

Salop Street

[1] *Job Dolphin* (37), licensed victualler, born Sedgley;

[2] *Julia Dolphin* (36), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *Esther Dolphin* (13), daughter, born Bilston;

[4] *George F. Dolphin* (4), son, born Bilston;

[5] *Mary E. Dolphin* (2), daughter, born Bilston;

[6] *Richard H. Dolphin* (3 months), son, born Bilston;

[7] *Sarah Nicholls* (18), servant, born Bilston;

[8] *Fanny Meek* (14), servant, born Bilston:

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 19/8/1871

“At the Police Court, Wolverhampton, yesterday, before Mr. I. Spooner (Stipendiary), Patrick Hanman (22), labourer, living in Carribee Island, was charged with having, in company, with several other men, violently assaulted *Job Dolphin*, landlord of the MERMAID INN, Salop Street, Bilston, and stolen £4 10s from him. Mr. Barrow appeared for the prosecution.

Prosecutor attended the races on Tuesday last. At the close of the racing he was assisting a friend to lift a barrel into a cart when he observed the prisoner strike an old woman a violent blow in the face with his fist. There was a ‘row’ going on close by, and prisoner had been taking an active part in it. On seeing prisoner strike the woman, prosecutor remarked to his friend upon the cowardly and unmanly nature of the act. Prisoner evidently overheard the remark, and without saying a word he rushed at prosecutor and dealt him a blow with his fist on the left side of the head with such force as to knock him down flat upon the ground. Whilst prosecutor lay on the ground the prisoner and several other men treated him most brutally. They beat and kicked him in the face and other parts of the body, and finally the prisoner took two sovereigns and five half sovereigns from his waistcoat pocket. Prosecutor called out for help, and one of his assailants placed his hand over his mouth, whilst the other ruffians continued kicking and punching him till he became insensible. He was much bruised about the face, both his eyes were blackened, and one of his teeth knocked out. Eventually he was recused by some of his friends, and his assailants succeeded in getting clear away. Prisoner was arrested by Police-constable John Wild on Sunday morning, and prosecutor, on seeing him, instantly identified him as being the man who first attacked him.

Prisoner admitted that he was in the ‘bother,’ but denied all knowledge of the robbery.

He was committed for trial at the Sessions.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 7/12/1872

“Canine Fancy. Goodreid’s Sailor will run Bray’s Lass of Bilston, Burrow’s Zeff of Ettingshall, Brindley’s Prince of Willenhall, or Aston’s Lady of Tipton, to give or take two yards and a half to the pound, for £20 or £25 a side. Money ready any night next week at *J. Dolphin*’s, MERMAID INN, Salop Street, Bilston; or Sailor will take 10 yards start of Brown’s Fly of Swinford, at catch weight, for a like amount.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 17/5/1873

“S. Tolley of Bilston, in answer to all challenges, states that he will run Magness 100 yards with six yards start, or seven in 120 yards, for £10 or £15 a side; or will run Cooper of Willenhall 100 yards level, for £10 a side; or R. Bollus of Willenhall can have a match on of 100 or 120 yards, for £15 or £20 a side. Money ready at Mr. *Dolphin*’s, MERMAID INN, Salop Street, Bilston, for either match.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/7/1874

“Permitting gambling was the charge preferred against *Job Dolphin*, landlord of the MERMAID INN, Salop Street, Bilston, at the Police Court, yesterday, before the Stipendiary Magistrate. Mr. C. Barrow (instructed by the Licensed Victuallers’ Association) defended, and the interest evinced in the case was shown by the crowded attendance.

Hugh McGowan, hollow-fireman, of Canal Street, Wolverhampton, deposed that he was at the defendant’s house on the 4th inst, between eight and nine in the evening. A man named Meek was spinning a teetotum on the kitchen table for ‘glasses round.’ Afterwards Meek ‘spinned’ for money. Witness staked, and lost nearly £4.

In cross-examination, witness acknowledged that he had met the landlord before he began to gamble, and that he had promised him, as the landlord had to go to the house of a dying relative, to remain quiet, and see that all went straightforward. The defendant had got the same promise from a companion of witness, named Emerson. He saw two men, named George Lowe and Samuel Hazeldine, get a plate, on which they deposited the stakes, and the landlord’s daughter took it away, and the men then obtained another. Witness prevaricated on being asked whether when the plate had been taken away the defendant’s daughter had not prohibited gambling. He admitted that he had not spoken to the landlord about the matter for six and to the police for twelve days after it had happened.

William Emerson, iron refiner, of Wolverhampton, said that he was in the house when the gambling for sums varying from 1s to 5s took place, but after he had lost 1s, he declined to further participate in the ‘spinning.’ Witness saw the defendant’s daughter fetch the plate away, and heard her desire the men not to gamble.

In defence, Mr. Barrow asked his Worship to take a fair and reasonable view of the case. He contended that his client had not broken the spirit of the law. The circumstances were special and peculiar. The landlord had been unexpectedly called away, and he had enjoined the two men who had lost the money to assist his daughter in preserving order. Mr. Barrow maintained that McGowan was actuated not so much by a desire to secure justice as the restitution of his money. He called the daughter of the defendant, who stated that she had removed the plate several times, and expostulated with the men.

Mr. Spooner said he believed that the men with the teetotum were sharpers, and that they had fleeced McGowan of his money. The girl should have sent for a policeman when the men would not stop gambling. He was afraid that if he dismissed the case it might be regarded as a dangerous precedent for leaving girls to manage houses who were unable to properly attend to business.

Mr. Barrow again pleaded that the peculiar circumstances caused of the defendant to adopt precautions which in calmer moments he would not have thought sufficient.

One of the witnesses expressing his belief that McGowan had not lost more than £2, and McGowan admitting that the landlord had given him 30s, the Stipendiary allowed the case to be withdrawn on the defendant undertaking to pay the costs and give an additional 10s to McGowan.

Mr. Barrow subsequently applied for summonses against McGowan and Emerson for having gambled on licensed premises.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 10/2/1875

“John [sic] *Dolphin*, of the MERMAID, Bilston, was summoned by Police-constable Eden for permitting drunkenness in his house. Mr. Barrow appeared for the defence.

Mr. Spooner, after hearing the evidence, said he thought the constable had failed to prove his case, and the summons was dismissed.”

London Gazette 19/3/1875

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

In the Matter of Proceedings for Liquidation by Arrangement or Composition with Creditors, instituted by *Job Dolphin*, of Salop-street, Bilston, 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 PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, on the 3rd day of April, 1875, at twelve o’clock at noon precisely.

Dated this 15th day of March, 1875.

Wm. Bowen, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, Attorney for the said Debtor.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 7/4/1875

“A meeting of the creditors of *Job Dolphin*, of the MERMAN INN, Bilston, was held at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, on Saturday, the 3rd ult. The principal creditors were represented by Mr. T. G. Stallard, solicitor, and Mr. D. Shaw, of this city. The liabilities were estimated at £650, and assets £162. An offer of 5s in the £ was proposed and accepted, Mr. D. Shaw being appointed trustee.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/10/1875

“At Wolverhampton County Court, today, before A. Martineau, Esq, (Judge), Mr. Thorne (of the firm Thorne, Smith and Thorne) mentioned to his Honour a case in which a High Bailiff (Mr. Curtis) had thought it desirable to summons two men named John Smith, beerhouse keeper, and *Job Dolphin*, licensed victualler, of Shropshire Row, Bilston, for having threatened and assaulted a bailiff named Samuel Potts, whilst in the execution of his duty.

Mr. Thorne apologised to his Honour for troubling him with the matter, because as the offence was to all intents and purposes a criminal one, it ought, in his opinion, to be adjudicated upon by a magistrate. The chief bailiff was, however, to some extent prohibited from taking this course, as one learned magistrate on the Wolverhampton Bench had, on two or three occasions when cases of this kind been taken before him, not only expressed his disinclination to deal with them, but had stated distinctly that the Judge of the County Court was the proper person before whom such cases should be taken. He (Mr. Thorne) might state that the complainant Potts was not a regular officer of the Court, but had been specially engaged in this matter by the High Bailiff to levy an execution on the goods of the defendant Smith, for a sum of £23 2s 8d, at the suit of Mr. Whitehouse, brewer, of Tipton. Since the assault was committed both Smith and Dalton [sic] had expressed to the High Bailiff their regret for what they did, and under these circumstances Mr. Curtis had no desire to press the case against them. On behalf of the High Bailiff, he (Mr. Thorne) would suggest, if it met with his Honour’s approval, that an apology from the men should be accepted, together with payment of a nominal sum, say 5s each, as a fine, and the costs of those proceedings, including his (Mr. Thorne’s) fee.

His Honour expressed his desire to hear the particulars of the case, and the complainant, Samuel Potts, was then sworn. He said he went to Smith’s house, on Friday, he first saw the daughter. Afterwards Smith himself came in, to whom he stated his business, and exhibited to him his authority. After looking at it, Smith said there was some mistake, and he would go and see Mr. Whitehouse (the plaintiff in the suit) about it. He then went away and returned in about three hours, between six and seven in the evening. He then commenced to threaten him (Potts), and said if he did not go away he had a gun upstairs, and he would fetch it downstairs and shoot him. He went to fetch the gun, but did not bring it, because he said the door of the room was locked where it was. He, however, threatened to knock his (Potts’s) brains out if he did not go away, and sent to some works close at hand for some men to come and help him turn him out. He continued his threats to such an extent, and became so violent in his conduct, that witness became frightened, and he called in a policeman to protect him. After the policeman came Smith was quiet for a bit, but when the policeman went away he again began to threaten him. About midnight the other defendant, *Dolphin*, who is a neighbour of Smith’s, came into the house and asked witness to let him look at his authority, pretending that if he would do so, and it was alright, he would pay him the money. Witness, however, doubted what he said, and refused to produce his authority. He did afterwards show it to the policeman, when he came in a little later, and when the policeman was handing it him back again, *Dolphin* tried to snatch it from him. The policeman then left, and the two men again commenced to threaten him to get him to go out. As he refused to leave, Smith went and opened the door, and then *Dolphin*, who is a tall, powerful man, seized hold of him and threw him, or pushed him, out of the house.

The Judge said the offence was a very serious one, and one which he could not allow to be compromised in the way suggested.

Mr. Barrow, on behalf of the defendants, said they acted under a mistaken notion, and now desired, through him, to express their deep contrition for what they had done.

His Honour said what made the matter worse in regard to *Dolphin* – by whom it appeared the actual assault was committed – was that he had no business to interfere in the matter at all. They had both committed an offence of a very grave character, and as the officers of that Court had a right to be protected in the execution of their duty, he should order that the defendant *Dolphin* pay a fine of £2 and costs, and Smith £1 and costs. His Honour at the same time expressed his concurrence with Mr. Thorne that cases of this character, the offence being a criminal one, should be dealt with by a criminal tribunal, such as Magistrates Court, for although a magistrate himself as well as a County Court judge, still he was not so well acquainted with the criminal law as those who daily administer it.”

Samuel Hazeldine = Samuel Haseldine

Birmingham Daily Post 19/3/1878 - Advert

FOUND, black-and-tan Bitch. If not owned in three days will be sold, to pay expenses.—Apply, Samuel Hazeldine, Mermaid Inn, Salop Street, Bilston.

“Found, black-and-tan Bitch. If not owned in three days will be sold to pay expenses.
Apply, *Samuel Hazeldine*, MERMAID INN, Salop Street, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 12/3/1879

“*Samuel Haseldine*, licensed victualler, of Salop Street, Bradley, was summoned for having assaulted Police-constable Tracey. On the night of the 7th instant, the officer saw defendant drunk in the street and attempting to break open the door of a house adjoining his public house. He had a stick in his hand, and on Tracey speaking to him he threatened to strike him with the stick. The officer took defendant into custody, and the defendant then committed the assault by striking him.

Sureties of the peace and payment of costs were ordered against the defendant.”

1881 Census

17+18 Salop Street

- [1] *John Archer* (40), publican and grocer, born Birmingham;
- [2] *Mary A. Archer* (37), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Samuel Archer* (16), son, commercial clerk, born Bilston;
- [4] *Henry Archer* (14), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] *Harriet Archer* (13), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] *George Archer* (10), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] *Minnie Archer* (8), daughter, scholar, born Warrington, Lancashire;
- [8] *John B. Archer* (6), son, scholar, born Warrington, Lancashire;
- [9] *Emmie Archer* (5), daughter, scholar, born Warrington, Lancashire;
- [10] *Ethel Archer* (3), daughter, scholar, born Warrington, Lancashire;
- [11] *Samuel Hazeldine* (33), lodger, butcher, born Bilston;
- [12] *Mary Cherrington* (20), general servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 24/12/1881

“At the Bilston Police Court, yesterday, the following licenses were fully transferred.....
Jacob Tate, MERMAID INN, Bradley, to *Alfred Key*, carpenter.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 28/4/1883

“*Alfred Key*, landlord of the MERMAID, Salop Street, Bilston, was charged with permitting gaming in his house on the evening of the 7th of April. Mr. Bowen appeared for the defendant.

Most contradictory evidence was given in this case.

Key was fined 40s and costs and license endorsed.”

William Edwin Cole – see also BLANKMAKERS ARMS and ROYAL ARTILLERY.

Birmingham Daily Post 12/7/1890 - Advert

“Important to Brewers and Others. In Salop Street, Bilston.

Valuable Old-established and Fully-licensed Public House, together with a Shop and Cottages.

To be Sold by Auction, by Thos. J. Barnett, at the STAR AND GARTER HOTEL, Wolverhampton, on Monday, the 21st day of July, 1890, at Five for Six o'clock in the evening prompt, in one lot, and subject to conditions of sale to be then produced and read, and which may be inspected at the Office of the Vendor's Solicitor three days prior to the day of sale.

All that Old-established, Fully-licensed Public House, called the MERMAID INN, situate in and fronting Salop Street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford. The House contains Vault, Bar, Snug, large Smoke Room, Kitchen, good Cellars, large Club Room, four Bed Rooms, two-stalled Stable, and other Outbuildings, and is now in the occupation of Mrs. *Annie Walmsley*.

Together also with the Lock-up Shop adjoining, now in the occupation of Mr. T. Ady, Butcher; and the Seven Dwelling Houses at the rear thereof, now in the respective occupations of Mrs. Caddick and Messrs. G. Portman, J. Caddick, G. Jones, J. Hood, J. Millington, and one untenanted.

The Inn is reputed to be one of the oldest and best business houses in Salop Street. It is surrounded with Ironworks, and has good front, side, and back entrances. The whole of the property has recently been put in good repair, is well tenanted, and affords to capitalists, Brewers, and anyone desiring a compact block of property and a free Public House an opportunity for investment seldom to be met with.

All the premises are freehold of inheritance.

For further particulars apply to the Tenant of the Inn; Mr. J. Woods, Estate Agent, Regent Street, Bilston; Mr. J. Rawson, Oak Farm Hotel, Crewe; the Auctioneer, Wolverhampton; or to S. Yearsley, Vendor's Solicitor, Crewe."

1891 Census

18, Salop Street – YE OLD MERMAID INN

- [1] *Thomas Shinton* (37), licensed victualler, born Daisy Bank;
- [2] *Harriet Shinton* (35), wife, assistant in business, born Daisy Bank;
- [3] *Ada N. Shinton* (8), daughter, scholar, born Daisy Bank;
- [4] *May Shinton* (6), daughter, scholar, born Daisy Bank;
- [5] *Joseph Shinton* (4), son, scholar, born Daisy Bank;
- [6] *Lilley Shinton* (2), daughter, born Daisy Bank;
- [7] *Edith Collidge* (13), domestic servant, born Birmingham:

Thomas Shinton, beer retailer, 18, Salop Street. [1896]

1901 Census

17+18, Salop Street – MERMAID INN

- [1] *Thomas Shinton* (47), licensed victualler, born Bradley;
- [2] *Harriet Shinton* (46), wife, born Bradley;
- [3] *Nellie Shinton* (18), daughter, born Bradley;
- [4] *May Shinton* (16), daughter, born Bradley;
- [5] *Joseph Shinton* (14), son, born Bradley;
- [6] *Lily Shinton* (11), daughter, born Bradley;
- [7] *Sidney Shinton* (6), son, born Bradley;
- [8] *Elizabeth Caddick* (16), domestic servant, born Bradley:

Ada Nellie Shinton married *James Davies* in the 3rd quarter of 1907.

1911 Census

33, Salop Street

- [1] *Thomas Shinton* (57), licensed victualler, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Harriet Shinton* (56), wife, married 28 years, born Sedgley;
- [3] *May Shinton* (25), daughter, assistant, born Sedgley;
- [4] *Joseph Shinton* (22), son, assistant, born Sedgley;
- [5] *Lilly Shinton* (20), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [6] *Sidney Shinton* (16), son, born Bilston:

1921 Census

33, Salop Street

- [1] *Thomas Shinton* (67), widower, licensed victualler, born Sedgley; [crossed out]
- [2] *Joseph Shinton* (32), son, chauffeur, born Sedgley:

1939 Register

33, Salop Street

- [1] *James Davies*, date of birth 20/4/1881, licensed victualler, married;
- [2] *Ada N. Davies*, dob 14/10/1882, unpaid domestic duties, married:

A team from here took part in the Bradley Crib League. [1946]

A team from here took part in the Bradley Darts League, First Division. [1946]

1955 Probate

"James Davies of MERMAID INN, 33 Salop Street, Bradley, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 21 February 1955. Probate Birmingham 25 April to Ada Nellie Davies, widow. Effects £2,637 13s 2d."

Tipton Herald 3/11/1956

"A bicycle, worth £6, which was taken from outside the MERMAID INN, Salop Street, Bradley, on the night of September 29th, was found dismantled and hidden in different rooms when police visited the house of John Samuel Parker (32), of 17, Turton Road, Princes End, the Stipendiary Magistrate (Mr. Kenneth Wood), was told at Tipton on Tuesday.

Parker, who admitted stealing the machine, the property of Bert James Organ, of 25, Church Green, Stowlawn Estate, Bilston, was fined £20.

He was also fined £2 for stealing 12s 8d from a pre-payment gas meter at his home, and ordered to repay the stolen money to the West Midland Gas Board.

Parker was given 21 days to pay the fines and restitution or 56 days imprisonment in default.

Parker, who was said to have four previous convictions for breaking and entering and theft, told police in a statement that he stole the bicycle and money because he was out of work, and desperately short of money to support his wife and family."

Important to Brewers and Others.—In Salop Street, Bilston.—
Valuable Old-established and Fully-licensed PUBLIC-HOUSE;
together with a SHOP and COTTAGES.—To be sold by Auction,

BY Mr. THOS. J. BARNETT, at the Star and Garter
Hotel, Wolverhampton, on MONDAY, the 21st day of July,
1890, at Five for Six o'clock in the evening prompt, in one lot, and subject
to conditions of sale to be then produced and read, and which may be
inspected at the Office of the Vendor's Solicitor three days prior to
the day of sale—all that Old-established, Fully-licensed PUBLIC-
HOUSE, called "THE MERMAID INN," situate in and fronting
Salop Street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford. The House contains
Vault, Bar, Snug, large Smoke Room, Kitchen, good Cellars, large
Club Room, four Bed Rooms, two-stalled Stable, and other Out-
buildings, and is now in the occupation of Mrs. Annie Walmsley.
Together also with the Lock-up SHOP adjoining, now in the
occupation of Mr. T. Ady, Butcher; and the Seven DWELLING
HOUSES at the rear thereof, now in the respective occupations of
Mrs. Caddick, and Messrs. G. Portman, J. Caddick, G. Jones, J.
Good, J. Millington, and one untenanted.

The Inn is reputed to be one of the oldest and best business
houses in Salop Street. It is surrounded with Ironworks, and has
good front, side, and back entrances. The whole of the property has
recently been put in good repair, is well tenanted, and affords to
capitalists, Brewers, and anyone desiring a compact block of property
and a free Public House an opportunity for investment seldom to
be met with.

All the premises are freehold of inheritance.

For further particulars apply to the Tenant of the Inn: Mr. J.
Woods, Estate Agent, Regent Street, Bilston; Mr. J. Rawson, Oak
Farm Hotel, Crewe; the Auctioneer, Wolverhampton; or to S.
Yearsley, Vendor's Solicitor, Crewe.

OLD ROUND OF BEEF

35, (17), High Street / Workhouse Fold, BILSTON

OWNERS

Sarah Hanson, widow, Broad Street, Bradley, Bilston
Thomas Cross, maltster, Bilston
James Cresswell, accountant clerk, Wolverhampton
William Northwood Reeves, eating house keeper, High Street, Bilston
Wordsley Brewery Co. Ltd.
Plant's Brewery Ltd., Netherton
Hereford and Tredegar Brewery Ltd.
Plant's Brewery Ltd.

LICENSEES

Mrs. Sarah Hanson [1851] – [1851]
George Gutteridge [1861]
Frederick Barber [1862] – [1865]
William H Hartland [1869] – **1871**);
Enoch Meacham **(1871 – 1873)**;
Alfred Lambden **(1873 – 1875)**;
William Northwood Reeves **(1875 – 1897)**;
Job Wilkes **(1897 – 1898)**;
Alfred Martin **(1898 – 1899)**;
John Richards **(1899 – 1905)**;
Louis Skelding **(1905)**;
George Cox **(1905 – 1906)**;
William John Baker **(1906 – 1907)**;
Horace John Elwell **(1907 – 1908)**;
John Biggs **(1908)**;
Edith Biggs **(1908 – 1913)**;
Charles Smith **(1913)**;

NOTES

17, High Street [1861], [1862], [1865], [1871], [1881], [1883], [1891], [1896]
35, High Street [1901], [1911]

NEW INN [1857], [1858], [1869], [1875], [1877], [1883], [1884]
SHOULDER OF MUTTON [1876]

It had a beerhouse license.



Ex Pub c1915

Sarah Hanson, beerhouse, High Street. [1851]

1851 Census

High Street

- [1] *Sarah Hanson* (56), widow, provision dealer and retail brewer, born Willenhall;
- [2] *Caroline Hanson* (29), daughter, at home, born Bilston;
- [3] *Charles Hanson* (27), son, shoemaker, born Bilston;
- [4] *Ann Preston* (16), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Journal 7/2/1857 - Advert

“High Street, Bilston. NEW INN TAVERN, with Eating House attached.

To be Disposed Of by Private Treaty, the Licenses and Goodwill of the above well-known Beer and Eating House, situate in the best thoroughfare in Bilston.

The Stock (which is reduced), Fixtures, and Brewing Vessels, to be taken at a fair valuation.

There is a first-rate business to the House, which has been successfully carried on by the present Proprietor for a number of years. Rent moderate.

To treat, and for further particulars, apply on the Premises; or to Mr. John Mason, Public House Agent, Bilston and Willenhall.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/5/1858 - Advert

“Old-Established Beer and Eating House.

Mr. F. Atree is instructed to Dispose Of that noted business premises, the NEW INN, High Street, Bilston, now doing a capital in and out-door trade. Takings weekly near £20. Proof: Any person may be on the premises a week or two to witness the business done; every satisfaction will be given.

Apply, 73, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston.”

1861 Census

17, High Street

- [1] *George Gutteridge* (54), iron roller and innkeeper, born Staffordshire;
- [2] *Julia Gutteridge* (53), wife, born Kings Bromley, Staffordshire;
- [3] *Emma Gutteridge* (29), daughter, shop assistant, born Sedgley;
- [4] *Martha Gutteridge* (23), daughter, shop assistant, born Sedgley;
- [5] *Sarah Gutteridge* (18), daughter, dressmaker, born Sedgley;
- [6] *John Gutteridge* (10), son, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [7] *Henry Gutteridge* (3), grand-son, born Staffordshire;
- [8] *Mary Thompson* (56), sister-in-law, married, born Kings Bromley, Staffordshire:

Frederick Barber, retailer of beer, 17, High Street. [1862]

Frederick Barber, eating house and beer retailer, 17, High Street. [1865]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/8/1869

“The annual licensing meeting for the Bilston division took place yesterday, at the Police Court.....

The following beerhouse keepers had been fined during the past five years.....

Permitting Drunkenness *William Hartland*, NEW INN, High Street, Bilston, 5s and costs.”

1871 Census

17, High Street

- [1] *William H. Hartland* (36), refreshment house keeper, born Ledbury, Herefordshire;
- [2] *Sarah Hartland* (35), wife, born Ashleworth, Gloucestershire;
- [3] *Emily Millard* (15), domestic servant, born Wolverhampton:

Alfred Lambden = Alfred Lampden

Birmingham Daily Post 28/8/1875

"Yesterday, there was an annual licensing meeting for the Bilston Petty Sessional Division.....

Chief-superintendent McCrea presented the 'black list.' The beerhouse keepers who had been fined during the year were.....

Alfred Lampden, NEW INN, permitting drunkenness, 10s and costs.....

All the old licenses would be renewed, excepting those of holders who had been convicted. Their applications would be deferred until the adjourned licensing day."

[Renewed with a caution at the adjourned brewster sessions.]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 30/12/1876

"*William Westwood* [sic] Reeves, landlord of the SHOULDER OF MUTTON INN, High Street, Bilston, was summoned for permitting drunkenness in his house, at half-past nine on the evening of Christmas day.

The offence was proved by Police-sergeant Walters, and defendant was fined 10s and costs.

John Hawkes, of Bilston, was fined 5s and costs for being drunk on *Reeves's* premises at the time mentioned."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/9/1877

"The annual licensing sessions for the Bilston division were held at the Public Office, Bilston, yesterday.....

The black list was as follows Beersellers.....

William Northwood Reeves, NEW INN, High Street, permitting drunkenness, 10s and costs.....

The whole of the licenses in the 'black list,' it was stated, would be held over until the adjourned sessions."

[Renewed with a caution at the adjourned licensing sessions.]

1881 Census

17, High Street

[1] *William N. Reeves* (39), refreshment house keeper, born Bilston;

[2] *Mary A. Reeves* (42), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Jane A. Perry* (12), niece, scholar, born Bilston;

[4] *Mary Howell* (18), general servant, born Bilston:

Darlaston Weekly Times 3/2/1883

"The annual club supper has just been held at Mr. *Reeves*, the NEW INN, High Street, Bilston, when a good repast was placed on the tables by the host. After supper, the chair was taken by Mr. J. Lamb, and the vice by Mr. J. S. Hill. A toast list, and an evening's harmony was much enjoyed by all present."

Darlaston Weekly Times 7/4/1883

"The half-yearly supper in connection with the money club held at the ROUND OF BEEF, High Street, Bilston, took place on Wednesday evening. A capital spread was placed on the tables by Host *Reeves*, and was done ample justice to....."

Darlaston Weekly Times 15/9/1883 - Advert

"The ROUND OF BEEF Judge and Jury Club, 17 High Street, Bilston.

This successful Club, with 88 Members, is held at the above house every Saturday, when any friend wishing to join will be cordially welcomed.

S. Jones, Judge; John Lee, Clerk; J. Wooldridge, Secretary.

The Supper will be held on Wednesday at 6.30."

Darlaston Weekly Times 10/11/1883

"On Tuesday evening, a free supper was given at the ROUND OF BEEF INN, High Street, Bilston, at which a considerable number were present. A good supply of 'creature comforts' was provided, and done ample justice to. After supper the chair was taken by Mr. S. Jones, and the vice by Mr. W. Bassett. A good number of vocalists contributed to the harmony of the evening. Mr. Clark gave several concertina selections, and Mr. Purshouse presided at the harmonium. A feature of the evening was the proposal of birthday wishes on behalf of the host, and Mr. Aney, in honour of whom the supper was given."

Darlaston Weekly Times 29/12/1883

“Margaret Durkin and Ellen Cooper, her daughter, of Quarry Lane, were each charged by PC Jackson with drunken and disorderly conduct in High Street, Bilston, on the 20th inst. The officer’s attention was called to the ROUND OF BEEF INN, and found the defendants creating a disturbance. They refused to go home, and it took four officers to convey the younger prisoner to the station. Durkin was fined 5s and costs, and Cooper 10s and costs.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 19/4/1884

“On Wednesday evening, the closing supper took place in connection with the money club held at the NEW INN, High Street, Bilston. A capital repast was served by the host, Mr. *W. Reeves*. The chair was occupied by Mr. W. Adams, and the vice-chair by Mr. H. Cole. After the usual loyal and patriotic toasts had been duly honoured, several of the company contributed to the enjoyment of the evening by their musical talents.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 7/6/1884

“On Tuesday, the members of the Judge and Jury Club held at the ROUND OF BEEF INN, High Street, Bilston, took their annual excursion to Bridgenorth, where a very pleasant day was spent.....”

Darlaston Weekly Times 28/2/1885

“On Saturday evening, the members of the No.1 ROUND OF BEEF Judge and Jury Club, held at the house of Mr. *W. N. Reeves*, High Street, Bilston, assembled to welcome the members of the Netherton Judge and Jury Club, who came to Bilston in brakes, to the number of sixty, accompanied by the Woodside Brass Band.....”

Darlaston Weekly Times 2/1/1886

“On Saturday last the members of the ROUND OF BEEF Judge and Jury Club held their annual dinner and supper, when upwards of thirty members sat down to an excellent spread, served up by the host, Mr. *W. N. Reeves*.....”

1891 Census

17, High Street – OLD ROUND OF BEEF

- [1] *William N. Reeves* (49), refreshment house keeper, born Bilston;
- [2] *Mary A. Reeves* (55), wife, born Ocker Hill;
- [3] *Jane Ann Perry* (22), niece, born Bilston:

William Northwood Reeves, beer retailer, 17, High Street. [1896]

1901 Census

35, High Street

- [1] *John Richards* (63), beer retailer, born Bradley;
- [2] *Mary A. Richards* (59), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Lucy Richards* (26), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] *Minnie Richards* (23), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] *Lilly Richards* (20), daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] *Mary Richards* (17), daughter, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/2/1903

“At the Bilston Licensing Sessions yesterday.....

Wine licenses were granted to *John Richards*, of the ROUND OF BEEF INN, Bilston.”

1911 Census

35, High Street – ROUND OF BEEF

- [1] *Edith Biggs* (37), wife, married 10 years, beerhouse keeper, born Middleton in Chirbury;
- [2] *Arthur Cliff* (30), boarder, labourer, born Tipton:

Edith Biggs was fined £3 and costs, on 30th July 1912, for permitting drunkenness.

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/3/1913

"Bilston magistrates granted a renewal of the license of the OLD ROUND OF BEEF INN, Bilston In connection with the question of scheduling the OLD ROUND OF BEEF, it was stated that there were 54 houses within 500 yards. The house was scheduled for compensation."

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.....

OLD ROUND OF BEEF, Bilston. Beerhouse, ante 1869, and Wine. Licensee, *Edith Biggs*."

License refused by Compensation Authority on 24th July 1913.

Staffordshire Advertiser 26/7/1913

"The principal meeting of the Staffordshire Licensing Compensation Authority was held at the Shirehall, Stafford, on Thursday.....

Seven houses were scheduled in Bilson division.....

OLD ROUND OF BEEF, Bilston, ante 1869 beerhouse.....

Renewal was formally applied for and refused."

Staffordshire Advertiser 16/8/1913 - Notice

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

Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Compensation Authority for the above area, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on the 24th day of July, 1913, to Refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below, all Persons Claiming to be Interested in the said Premises for the purpose of the Payment of Compensation under the said Act (other than the Licensee and the Registered Owner of the said Premises) are required to send to the Compensation Authority Notice of their Claims before the 7th day of September, 1913, for the purpose of enabling the Compensation Authority to ascertain in manner provided by the Licensing Rules, 1910, the Persons entitled to Compensation under the said Act, in respect of the said Premises.....

OLD ROUND OF BEEF, Bilston. Beerhouse ante 1869, and Wine. Licencee, *Edith Biggs*. Registered Owner, Plants Brewery Ltd."

Birmingham Daily Post 7/1/1914

"The annual report of the County Licensing Committee.....

At the principal meeting of the compensation authority the committee refused to renew 31 licenses. At the supplemental meeting the committee went in great detail into all the figures submitted to them upon which the persons interested claimed compensation, and heard evidence put forward by the claimants. The committee consider that the amounts of compensation agreed upon were satisfactory, both from the point of view of the parties interested and the Compensation Fund. In the following 27 cases the committee fixed the compensation.....

OLD ROUND OF BEEF, Bilston, £300."

Compensation of £300 was paid on 24th December 1913.

License extinguished on 31st December 1913.

The building became dining rooms.

It was later [1986] occupied by Heath's grocers.

HIGH STREET, BILSTON.
NEW INN TAVERN, WITH EATING HOUSE
ATTACHED.

TO be DISPOSED OF by PRIVATE TREATY,
the LICENSES and GOODWILL of the above well-known
BEER and EATING HOUSE, situate in the best thoroughfare in
Bilston.

The Stock, (which is reduced,) Fixtures, and Brewing Vessels, to be
taken at a fair valuation.

There is a first-rate business to the House, which has been success-
fully carried on by the present Proprietor for a number of years. Rent
moderate.

To treat, and for further particulars, apply on the Premises; or to
Mr. John Mason, Public House Agent, Bilston and Willenhall.

1857

THE "ROUND OF BEEF"
JUDGE AND JURY CLUB,
17 HIGH STREET, BILSTON.

This successful Club, with 88 Members, is held at
the above house every SATURDAY, when any
friend wishing to join will be cordially welcomed.

S. JONES, Judge,

JOHN LEE, Clerk,

J. WOOLDRIDGE, Secretary.

The Supper will be held on Wednesday at 6.30.

1883

OLD-ESTABLISHED BEER and EATING-
HOUSE.—Mr. F. Altree is instructed to DISPOSE OF
that noted business premises, the NEW INN, High-street,
BILSTON, now doing a capital in and out-door trade. Takings
weekly near £20. Proof: Any person may be on the premises
a week or two to witness the business done; every satisfaction
will be given.—Apply, 73, Wolverhampton-street, Bilston.

1858

OLDE SHOPPE

John Street, (Priestfield), Ettingshall, BILSTON

OWNERS

William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1946]

LICENSEES

Godfrey [1930s]

Arthur Latham []

Joe Archer [] last

NOTES

It was also known as JOHN STREET BEERHOUSE.

It was William Butler's first pub.

A team from here took part in the Butlers (Bilston) Darts League. [1946]

Joe Archer was married to Doris.

It closed in 1964 due to the redevelopment of Ettingshall New Village.
Demolished

OLDE WHITE ROSE

20, Lichfield Street, (20, (102), (103), Church Street), Swan Bank, BILSTON

OWNERS

Joseph Best
George C. Peters
Elijah Price
Henry Plant and Son [1896]
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1904], [1921]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.
Enterprise Inns Ltd. [1991]
John Denston (acquired in 1997)
Greene King [2016]

LICENSEES

George Banks [1818] – [1822]
Sarah Banks [1828] – [1830]
William Smith [1829]
Joseph Best [1834] – [1839]
Robert Hollyman [1841] – [1842]
Thomas Caddick [1858]
Elijah Price [1845] – [1884]
Elijah Price [1891] – **1893**);
Frederick William Plant (**1893 – 1906**);
Stephen Allen Corbett [1895]
Albert Simpson [1901]
John Docker (**1906 – 1909**);
George Wilcox (**1909 – 1919**);
Charles James Webb (**1919 – 1929**);
Mrs. Mary Ann Webb (**1929 – [1940]**)
I Bhattia [1988]
Anant R Jhalli [1995]
John Denston (**1997 – [2011]**)

NOTES

Church Street [1818], [1828], [1830], [1834], [1841], [1842], [1860], [1904]
103, Church Street [1871]
102, Church Street [1865], [1873], [1875], [1880], [1881], [1891], [1892]
20, Church Street [1901], [1908], [1916], [1939], [1940]
20, Swan Bank [1911]
20, Lichfield Street [1994], [2014]

ROSE [1818], [1822], [1829], [1834], [1835], [1839], [1841], [1842], [1858], [1862]
OLD ROSE [1828], [1830]
ROSE AND CROWN [1838], [1839], [1849], [1860], [1865]
WHITE ROSE [1880], [1901], [1904], [1908], [1911], [1953]



1997



It has a Grade II listed frontage.

It was a coaching inn. [1834]

Coach office [1835]

Coaches to Birmingham ran from here twice a day.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 5/10/1829 - Advert

"Important Situations in Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by R. Corbett, on Friday next, the 9th day of October, at five o'clock in the afternoon, at the house of Mr. Timothy Brookes, the VINE INN, near the Market Place, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, subject to conditions then to be read.

All those two adjoining substantially built Messuages or Tenements, with the Outbuildings, Appurtenances, and very extensive enclosed back Yards (in which is a well of water) to the same belonging, situate at Swan Bank, Church Street, Bilston aforesaid, one of them known as the ROSE Public House, in the occupation of Mr. *William Smith*, and the other as a Grocer's Shop, occupied by Mr. Joseph Best, Coach Proprietor, &c, as tenants at will, both of whom are under notice to quit.

The above are the most important and desirable situations for business in the town of Bilston, being on the line of the great Holyhead road, at the junction of several streets, near to the Public and Post Offices, and possess the advantage of a back way for gigs, carts, &c, from a certain road called the Orchard.

The whole of the premises are so built as to be converted at a small expense into one establishment for an Inn, Grocery, Mercery, or other business requiring extensive premises with good conveniences.

To view the same apply to the respective Tenants; and for further particulars to Mr. Mason, Solicitor, or to the Auctioneer, both of Bilston aforesaid."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 13/6/1838 - Advert

"A Coronation Dinner will take place at Mr. *Joseph Best's*, of the ROSE AND CROWN, Bilston, to celebrate the Coronation of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, on Thursday, the 28th instant, under the presidency and vice-presidency of Mr. W. S. Bickley, President; Mr. Job H. Lester, Vice President.

Dinner and dessert, 5s, on the table at two o'clock, on which occasion they will be happy to have the company of any friend of the town or neighbourhood."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/5/1839 - Notice

"Whereas a Fiat in Bankruptcy is awarded and issued forth against *Joseph Best*, of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, victualler, coach proprietor, dealer and chapman, and he being declared a bankrupt is hereby required to surrender himself to the commissioners in the said Fiat named, or the major part of them, on the 18th day of May next, at one in the afternoon, and on the 7th day of June following at eleven in the forenoon, at the SWAN HOTEL, Wolverhampton, in the county of Stafford, and make a full discovery and disclosure of his estate and effects; when and where the creditors are to come prepared to prove their debts, and at the first sitting to choose assignees, and at the last sitting the said bankrupt is required to finish his examination, and the creditors are to assent to or dissent from the allowance of his certificate. All persons indebted to the said bankrupt, or that have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to whom the commissioners shall appoint, but give notice to Mr. Charles Gallimore Brown, of Bilston aforesaid, solicitor; or to Messrs. Williamson and Hill, No.4, Verulam Buildings, Grays Inn, London."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/6/1839 - Advert

"Sale of Bankrupt's Effects.

To be Sold by Auction, by John Batte, on Monday and Tuesday, the 17th and 18th days of June, 1839, by order of the Assignees of Mr. *Joseph Best*, of the ROSE INN, Church Street, Bilston.

All the genteel Household Furniture, Liquors, Wines, six pockets of prime Sussex Hops, Liquor Fount and Counter, Brewing Utensils, Barrels, Beer Machine, light Gig, Sow in-pig, Malt Mills, Copper, Boilers, and other effects.

Catalogues with particulars are in circulation, and may be had of Mr. Nokes, printer, or at the Auctioneer's, Lichfield Street, Bilston."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 11/9/1839 - Advert

“Bilston. Excellently Situated Inn and Liquor Shop, with Stables and extensive Premises, being a valuable Copyhold Property, with the Licenses, Possession, and an old established Business.

To be Sold by Auction, by E. and C. Robins, at the house of Mrs. Pratt, the FOX INN, in Bilston, by direction of the Assignees of Mr. *Joseph Best*, on Monday, the 16th day of September instant, at four o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions.

All that valuable, extensive, and centrally situated Property in Bilston, known by the sign of the ROSE AND CROWN, for many years occupied by Mr. *Best* as a general Tavern and Coach Inn, and for an extensive wholesale and retail Liquor Trade.

For further information apply to Mr. Whitehead, Bilston, or to Mr. Fuller, junior, distiller, Birmingham, the assignees; to Messrs. Arnold and Haines, solicitors, Birmingham; Mr. Brown, solicitor, Bilston; or to the Auctioneers, Birmingham.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/12/1839 - Notice

“The Commissioners in a Fiat in Bankruptcy is awarded and issued against *Joseph Best*, of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, victualler and coach proprietor, dealer and chapman, intend to meet on the 20th day of December next, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, at the SWAN HOTEL, in Wolverhampton, in the said county of Stafford, in order to audit the accounts of the Assignees; and also at the same place, and same day, at twelve o'clock at noon, to make a first and final dividend of the estate and effects of the said Bankrupt, when and where the Creditors who have not already proved their debts are to come prepared to prove the same, or they will be excluded the benefit of the said dividend; and all claims not then proved will be disallowed.

Charles G. Brown, Solicitor to the Assignees.

Bilston, November 21, 1839.”

1841 Census

Church Street, Swan Bank

[1] *Robert Hollyman* (30), wine merchant;

[2] *George Wilson* (15), shop;

[3] *Catharine Cherry* (25), f.s.:

Birmingham Journal 27/6/1846

“On Tuesday last, at Bilston Police Court, Andrew Howell, a collier, appeared before the Bench to complain of the conduct of Mr. *Elijah Price*, spirit merchant, of the Swan Bank, Bilston. It appeared from the statement of the complainant, that about nine o'clock on Monday morning he went into the shop of Mr. *Price* for a half-quartern of rum. There were two men tossing, and they asked for a cake each. He also asked for a cake, but Mr. *Price* held the cake and he said he had no money. Complainant replied that he would bet him all the silver he had in his pocket that he had got more money about him than he had, if he would not go to any drawer. Mr. *Price* then went to a drawer, and took out a four-square staff, or mallet, with which he struck complainant on the arm. He was then going to strike him again, when complainant picked up a stool to ward off the blow, and with it knocked two or three glasses off the table. In consequence of the injury he received upon the arm, Howell said he had been unable to work for five days, and had been obliged to pay a man 5s 3d a day to do his work.

In defence, Mr. *Price* said he was in the shop, and was tossing for gin. He grumbled about the measure, and wanted to bet with him, but he refused, and Howell threatened to throw a handful of silver in his face. He then struck him in his own defence, upon which Howell picked up a stool, which he threw at him, and bent the gas pipe, which was damaged to the amount of 2s 6d.

The Bench said the assault had been committed under great provocation, and fined Mr. *Price* in the mitigated penalty of 1s and cost. A summons which was taken out against Howell, calling on him to find sureties, was dismissed.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 10/7/1850

“Staffordshire Midsummer Sessions To be imprisoned twelve months.....

Thomas Smith (pleaded guilty), for stealing four half-crowns and three sixpences, the moneys of *Elijah Price*, at Bilston.”

1851 Census

Swan Bank

- [1] *Elijah Price* (34), spirit dealer, born Clent;
- [2] Matilda Price (28), wife, born London;
- [3] Henry Usher (21), house servant, born Bodicoot, Oxfordshire;
- [4] James Farmer (22), house servant, born Barndley, Worcestershire;
- [5] Caroline Jukes (23), house servant, born Wolverhampton;

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/7/1851

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions To be imprisoned three days.....

Margaret Davis, for stealing a jug and glass, the property of *Elijah Price*, at Bilston.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 14/2/1852

“At Bilston Public Office on Tuesday, Betsy Jarvis, Margaret Fellows, Ruth Wardle, and Henry Lawley were charged with assaulting Henry Usher, foreman to Mr. *Elijah Price*, spirit merchant, of Swan Bank. Lawley, Fellows, and Wardle, were each fined 10s and costs, in default to be committed for one month; Jarvis was fined 20s and costs, in default to be committed for a like period.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 6/7/1853 - Advert

“Wine and Spirit Establishment, Dudley Street, Wolverhampton.

Elijah Price, begs respectfully to inform the inhabitants of Wolverhampton and the surrounding neighbourhood that having purchased from the Executors of the late Mr. George Hardwick, with a view of conducting the same in connection with his Old Establishment at Bilston, earnestly solicits a continuance of that support which has been so kindly conferred upon his predecessor, pledging himself to keep none but articles of first-rate qualities, thereby insure that confidence and satisfaction which will ever be his study to merit.

NB. Brenan, Price and Co's, Dublin Porter.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 11/10/1854

“Charles Price was brought up at Bilston Public Office, before J. Leigh, Esq, on Thursday, to answer the charge of stealing, on Thursday evening, a brass tap, belonging to Mr. *Elijah Price*, the proprietor of some liquor vaults, at Swan Bank. It appeared the accused asked a female servant of the prosecutor to permit his having a swill, and that another servant saw him take away the property. It was stated that Mr. *Price* was unwilling to proceed with the case, as he did not wish to have his own and his servant's time taken up at the Quarter Sessions. Mr. Leigh, in committing the prisoner for trial, observed that he could make no distinctions in favour of trade, and that he wished he had the power of sending the prisoner for ten days, as it would be much better for the prisoner himself and the country that such trifling charges should be adjudicated upon summarily. The accused, a blacksmith by trade, said he was so drunk he did not know what he was about at the time.”

Staffordshire Sentinel 21/10/1854

“Staffordshire October Sessions.....

The Grand Jury returned ‘not a true bill’ in the case of.....

Charles Price, indicted for stealing a brass tap, the property of *Elijah Price*, at Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 8/11/1854 - Advert

“Wanted, a steady Man as Brewer, and to look after a horse.

Apply to Mr. *E. Price*, wine merchant, Bilston.”

WANTED a steady MAN as BREWER, and to look after a horse.—Apply to Mr. E. PRICE, wine merchant, Bilston.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/6/1855 - Advert

“Notice is hereby given that the Partnership heretofore subsisting between us the undersigned, as Wine and Spirit Merchants, at Wolverhampton and Bilston, in the county of Stafford, under the style of Price and Higgs, was this day Dissolved by mutual consent. The undersigned *Elijah Price* will in future carry on business on his own private account, at Bilston aforesaid, and the undersigned William Gibbs Higgs will in future carry on business on his own private account at Wolverhampton aforesaid.

Dated this twenty-fifth day of June, 1855.

Elijah Price, William G. Higgs. Signed in the presence of Thomas Waterhouse, solicitor, Bilston.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/9/1860

“The election of five commissioners, under the Bilston Improvement Act, took place on Thursday.....
The following retired by rotation Mr. *Elijah Price*, spirit merchant (who is a very old member of the board).”

Elijah Price, wine and spirit merchant, Church Street. [1861]

Elijah Price, wine and spirit vaults, 102, Church Street. [1865]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 17/6/1865 - Advert

“Church Street, Bilston.

Notice of Sale of Important Freehold Public House Property. By Roderick and Son.

To be Sold by Auction (by direction of the Executors of the late Mr. George C. Peters), at the Acorn Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, on Thursday, July 6, 1865, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then read. A highly-important, valuable, and improving Freehold Property in Church Street, Bilston; comprising the well-known ROSE AND CROWN Wine and Spirit Vaults, with commodious Dwelling House, and extensive Yards and Premises, capable of being used for Building, Brewing, and other purposes, commandingly situated in the most central and best business part of the town, and for the last twenty years occupied by Mr. *Elijah Price*, who is now the annual tenant thereof.

The prominent central position and extent of this Property render it safe and highly-improving as an investment, and the old-established and lucrative business attached adds still further and greatly to its value, if purchased with a view to occupation.

For plans and further particulars, apply to Messrs. Harrison and Wood, Solicitors, 25, Waterloo Street, or to the Auctioneers, 35, Cherry Street, all of Birmingham.”

[The annual rent was £100.]

1871 Census

103, Church Street

[1] Sarah Price (26), daughter, assistant at spirit merchants and public house, born Bilston;

[2] *Elijah Price* (19), son, spirit merchant's assistant, born Bilston;

[3] Elizabeth Butler (22), servant, spirit merchant's assistant, born Wolverhampton;

[4] Harriet Whalley (22), domestic servant, born Sedgley;

[5] John Evenson (21), servant, porter at public house, born Ellesmere, Shropshire:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 21/10/1875

“The Willingsworth Colliery Company Limited has been registered this week.....

The capital of the company is £20,000, divided into 2,000 shares of £10 each, and the subscribers are.....

Elijah Price, 102, Church Street, Bilston, wine merchant, 25 shares.”

Elijah Price, WHITE ROSE and wine and spirit merchant, 102, Church Street. [1880]

1881 Census

102, Church Street

[1] *Elijah Price* (64), widower, wine and spirit dealer, born Clent;

[2] Esther Price (22), daughter, born Dudley;

[3] Alice Price (18), daughter, born Wolverhampton;

[4] Clara Newbolt (24), barmaid, born Burton on Trent;

[5] Martha Evans (20), general servant, born Bilston;

[6] George Campion (22), porter, born Sedgley:

Birmingham Daily Post 6/9/1882

“For the first time during the past twenty years, the annual election of Township Commissioners for Bilston will this year pass over without a poll. There are four vacancies to be filled, caused by the retirement by rotation of Messrs. H. W. Larkin, John Rogers, Stephen B. Cole, and T. Morrell, and the election is fixed for tomorrow. These four gentlemen have been renominated, and twelve new nominations were also sent in. All the new candidates have, however, retired, and the old members will, therefore, tomorrow be declared elected without opposition. The new candidates who retired were.....

E. Price, spirit merchant, Swan Bank.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 5/4/1884

“We deeply regret to announce the death, at the early age of twenty-one, of Miss Alice Price, the daughter of our townsman Mr. *Elijah Price*, of Swan Bank. After a comparatively short illness, during which she was most assiduously attended by ‘troops of friends,’ she quietly passed away on Tuesday afternoon, greatly to the grief and regret of many who knew her. Miss Price, by her energetic assistance in the work of St. Luke’s Sunday School, was familiar to all connected with that place of worship, and her speedy recovery was most earnestly wished for; and we feel sure all who knew her will regret that she has been thus early ‘called away’.....”

Elijah Price – see also THREE CROWNS, Dudley Street, Wolverhampton.

1891 Census

102, Church Street

- [1] *Elijah Price* (39), spirit merchant, born Bilston;
- [2] Clara Price (38), wife, born Birmingham;
- [3] Harold Price (10), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] Frances Elikington (16), niece, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] Mary Cartmale (32), barmaid, born Lichfield;
- [6] Martha Weaver (20), domestic servant, born Montgomery;
- [7] William Gill (19), porter, born Horseley, Staffordshire;

Elijah Price was also a maltster and hop merchant of Oxford Street, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 8/2/1894 - Advert

“Barmaid. Wanted, young Lady for quick counter trade.

Apply, H. Plant and Sons, the WHITE ROSE, Swan Bank, Bilston.”

BARMALD.—Wanted, young Lady for quick counter trade.—
Apply, H. Plant and Sons, The White Rose, Swan Bank,
Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 4/9/1895

“At the Police Court, yesterday, Esther Ward (17), domestic servant, of 2 Court, Old Moxley, was charged with stealing a money-box containing 23s, a ring, and a brooch, the property of *Stephen Allen Corbett*, landlord of the WHITE ROSE INN, Swan Bank, Bilston.

On May 23 the prisoner was charged at Wednesbury with stealing boots, and ordered to come up for judgement when called upon. The police court missionary obtained a situation for her, but she only stayed two days, and refused to go to another situation he secured for her; and she then went to the WHITE ROSE INN. From this place she disappeared, and then the box was missed. The prisoner was afterwards apprehended at the Bilston Theatre. She was now sent to gaol for two months, with hard labour.”

Stephen Allen Corbett – see also GLOBE, Mount Pleasant, and GREAT WESTERN, Hall Street.

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/3/1901

“Staffordshire County Council Triennial Election Unopposed Returns.....

Bilston (South). *Frederick William Plant*, Bilston, wine and spirit merchant.”

1901 Census

20, Church Street – WHITE ROSE

- [1] Albert Simpson (40), licensed victualler, born Portsmouth;
- [2] Annie Simpson (41), wife, born Paddington, London;
- [3] Annie Griffiths (18), domestic servant, born Bilston:

1911 Census

20, Swan Bank – WHITE ROSE

- [1] George Wilcox (59), hotel manager, born Stone Easton, Somerset;
- [2] Elizabeth Wilcox (59), wife, married 29 years, born Bilston;
- [3] Elizabeth Danks (29), niece, at home, born Bilston:

1921 Census

Church Street – WHITE ROSE INN

- [1] Charles James Webb (46), licensed victualler, born Walsall;
- [2] Mary Ann Webb (46), wife, assistant, born Walsall;
- [3] James William Webb (5), son, school, born Walsall;
- [4] Ada Cameron (19), niece, assistant, born Bilston:

Application for the removal of the license of the BULL AND MOUTH to the WHITE ROSE was granted on 8th February 1929.

It was confirmed at Stafford on 13th April 1929.

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/4/1929

“County Licensing Committee.....

Mr. F. L. Steward, of Wolverhampton, applied on behalf of *Charles James Webb* for the removal of the full license of the BULL AND MOUTH, Bilston, to premises known as the WHITE ROSE INN, Bilston. He explained that the WHITE ROSE had a full license for six days only, whilst the BULL AND MOUTH held a seven day license. Both houses had come into the same ownership of combined companies, Messrs. Eley's (Stafford) Brewery Co. and Messrs. W. Butler & Co. Ltd. Many years ago a seven day license was attached to the WHITE ROSE, but the former owner voluntarily surrendered his right to sell on Sundays. The brewery company felt that if the application were granted, not only would the licenses of the district be reduced, but it would be a public convenience, because the WHITE ROSE was situated in the centre of the town, and in a very prominent position, and would be open on Sundays.

Replying to the Chairman, Mr. Steward said the BULL AND MOUTH was not so good structurally as the WHITE ROSE, which was nearly opposite the Town Hall, Bilston.

The committee confirmed the decision of the local justices, and granted the application.”

Charles James Webb died in the 3rd quarter of 1929.

Charles James Webb see also ROYAL GEORGE.

1939 Register

20, Church Street

- [1] Mary A. Webb, date of birth 29/6/1874, manageress, public house, widowed;
- [2] William Wright, dob 2/11/1885, builders merchant's traveller, married;
- [3] Maud Wright, dob 3/9/1885, housewife, married;
- [4] Rose (Screen) Dudley, dob 8/3/1919, barmaid, single;
- [5] Violet (New) Perkins, dob 30/4/1921, bar general, single:

Birmingham Mail 25/2/1939 - Advert

“Large ground floor Shop with Office at the rear, centre of Bilston.

Keys and enquiries, WHITE ROSE, Swan Bank, Bilston.”

LARGE ground floor Shop with Office at rear, centre of Bilston.—Keys and enquiries, White Rose, Swan Bank, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 1/8/1953

“Inns in Midland counties which have been scheduled during the past twelve months by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government as being of outstanding historical and architectural interest.....
WHITE ROSE, Church Street, Bilston, Staffordshire.”

Serious structural defects meant the pub required a complete rebuild in 1958.

It was granted grade II listed building status on 3rd February 1977.

[1986]

Closed [1997]

It reopened in December 1997 as OLDE WHITE ROSE.

John Denston was born in Wednesbury, c.1958.

He was brought up in Cheltenham.

He was married to Clare.

www.mysteriousbritain.co.uk

“The OLDE WHITE ROSE, Bilston, is a 16th century building with extensive cellars. It was in the cellar system early one morning that landlord *John Denston* clearly witnessed an apparition. At the end of a long disused cellar was a drop which was convenient for lifting empty barrels up to ground level. Early one morning in 1998 *John* clearly saw a figure exit the drop and stand at the end of the cellar. He was wearing old fashioned and quite scruffy clothes. After standing stock still for a few moments staring at his upturned palms the swarthy and unkempt looking man disappeared into a side tunnel. By this time *John* realised it was an apparition he had seen as the side tunnel actually went nowhere. It was securely bricked up at the end.”

Wolverhampton CAMRA Town Pub of the Year 1999 and 2005.

Bierkeller opened in 2002.

Express & Star 12/6/2008

“In Bilston the OLDE WHITE ROSE in Lichfield Road has recently won planning permission to transform a former printworks next door into a new hotel. More than £650,000 will be ploughed into the venture which will feature en-suite bedrooms, each with a flat-screen TV. The development is the brainchild of *John Denston*, who has owned the CAMRA award-winning pub for the past 10 years and transformed it into one of the region’s finest for traditional ales.”

A former printing works to the rear of the pub was purchased and converted into a hotel facility which opened in August 2010.

[2018]

Closed [2021], [2023]



2007



2016

IMPORTANT SITUATIONS IN BILSTON.
TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by R. CORBETT, on Friday next, the 9th day of October, at five o'clock in the afternoon, at the house of Mr. Timothy Brookes, the Vine Inn, near the Market-place, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, subject to conditions then to be read—all those two adjoining substantially built Messuages or Tenements, with the Outbuildings, Appurtenances, and very extensive enclosed back Yards (in which is a well of water) to the same belonging, situate at Swan-bank, Church-street, Bilston aforesaid, one of them known as the ROSE Public House, in the occupation of Mr. William Smith, and the other as a Grocer's Shop, occupied by Mr. Joseph Best, Coach Proprietor, &c. as tenants at will, both of whom are under notice to quit.
 The above are the most important and desirable situations for business in the town of Bilston, being on the line of the great Holyhead road, at the junction of several streets, near to the Public and Post-offices, and possess the advantage of a back way for gigs, carts, &c. from a certain road called the Orchard.
 The whole of the premises are so built as to be converted at a small expence into one establishment for an Inn, Grocery, Mercery, or other business requiring extensive premises with good conveniences.
 To view the same apply to the respective Tenants; and for further particulars to Mr. Mason, Solicitor, or to the Auctioneer, both of Bilston aforesaid.

1828

A CORONATION DINNER will take place at Mr. JOSEPH BEST'S, of the ROSE AND CROWN, BILSTON, to celebrate the CORONATION of Her Most Gracious Majesty QUEEN VICTORIA, on Thursday, the 28th instant, under the presidency and vice-presidency of Mr. W. S. BICKLEY, *President*.
 Mr. JOB H. LESTER, *Vice President*.
 •• Dinner and dessert, 5s. on the table at two o'clock, on which occasion they will be happy to have the company of any friend of the town or neighbourhood.

1838

WHEREAS a Fiat in Bankruptcy is awarded and issued forth against JOSEPH BEST, of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, victualler, coach proprietor, dealer and chapman, and he being declared a bankrupt is hereby required to surrender himself to the commissioners in the said Fiat named, or the major part of them, on the 18th of MAY next, at one in the afternoon, and on the 7th day of JUNE following at eleven in the forenoon, at the SWAN HOTEL, WOLVERHAMPTON, in the county of Stafford, and make a full discovery and disclosure of his estate and effects; when and where the creditors are to come prepared to prove their debts, and at the first sitting to choose assignees, and at the last sitting the said bankrupt is required to finish his examination, and the creditors are to assent to or dissent from the allowance of his certificate. All persons indebted to the said bankrupt, or that have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to whom the commissioners shall appoint, but give notice to Mr. CHARLES GALLIMORE BROWN, of Bilston aforesaid, solicitor; or to Messrs. WILLIAMSON and HILL, No. 4, Verulam-buildings, Gray's-inn, London.

SALE OF BANKRUPT'S EFFECTS.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY JOHN BATTE,
On Monday and Tuesday, the 17th and 18th days of June, 1839, by order of the Assignees of Mr. Joseph Best, of the Rose Inn, Church-street, Bilston.

ALL the genteel HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, Liquors, Wines, six pockets of prime Sussex Hops, Liquor Fount and Counter, Brewing Utensils, Barrels, Beer Machine, light Gig, Sow in-pig, Malt Mills, Copper, Boilers, and other effects.
 Catalogues with particulars are in circulation, and may be had of Mr. NOKES, printer, or at the AUCTIONEER'S, Lichfield-street, Bilston.

1839

BILSTON.
EXCELLENTLY SITUATED INN AND LIQUOR
SHOP,

With Stables and extensive Premises, being a valuable Copyhold Property, with the Licenses, Possession, and an old established Business.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY E. AND C. ROBINS,

At the house of Mrs. Pratt, the Fox Inn, in Bilston, by direction of the Assignees of Mr. Joseph Best, on Monday, the 16th day of September instant, at four o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions.

ALL that valuable, extensive, and centrally situated Property in Bilston, known by the sign of the ROSE and CROWN, for many years occupied by Mr. Best as a general Tavern and Coach Inn, and for an extensive wholesale and retail Liquor Trade.

For further information apply to Mr. WHITEHEAD, Bilston, or to Mr. FULLER, jun. distiller, Birmingham, the assignees; to Messrs. ARNOLD and HAINES, solicitors, Birmingham; Mr. BROWN, solicitor, Bilston; or to the AUCTIONEERS, Birmingham.

THE Commissioners in a Fiat in Bankruptcy awarded and issued against JOSEPH BEST, of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, victualler and coach proprietor, dealer and chapman, intend to meet on the 20th day of DECEMBER NEXT, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, at the SWAN HOTEL, in WOLVERHAMPTON, in the said county of Stafford, in order to audit the accounts of the Assignees; and also at the same place, and same day, at twelve o'clock at noon, to make a first and final dividend of the estate and effects of the said Bankrupt, when and where the Creditors who have not already proved their debts are to come prepared to prove the same, or they will be excluded the benefit of the said dividend; and all claims not then proved will be disallowed.

CHARLES G. BROWN,
 Solicitor to the Assignees.

Bilston, November 21, 1839.

1839

WINE AND SPIRIT ESTABLISHMENT, DUDLEY STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON.
ELIJAH PRICE

BE respectfully to inform the inhabitants of Wolverhampton and the surrounding neighbourhood that, having purchased from the Executors of the late Mr. GEORGE HARDWICK, with a view of continuing the same in connection with his old establishment at BILSTON, recently received a stock of wine and spirits which has been as kindly conferred upon his predecessors, pledging himself to keep them at the same low prices, thereby insuring that confidence and satisfaction which will ever be his study to merit.

N.B.—BRENAN, PRICE AND CO.'S DUBLIN PORTER.

1853

NOTICE is hereby given that the PARTNERSHIP heretofore subsisting between us the undersigned, as Wine and Spirit Merchants, at Wolverhampton and Bilston, in the county of Stafford, under the style of "PRICE and HIGGS," was this day DISSOLVED by mutual consent. The undersigned Elijah Price will in future carry on business on his own private account, at Bilston aforesaid, and the undersigned William Gibbs Higgs will in future carry on business on his own private account at Wolverhampton aforesaid.—Dated this twenty-fifth day of June, 1855.

ELIJAH PRICE,
WILLIAM G. HIGGS.

Signed in the presence of THOS. WATERHOUSE,
 solicitor, Bilston.

1855

CHURCH STREET, BILSTON.

NOTICE OF SALE

OF

IMPORTANT FREEHOLD PUBLIC-HOUSE
PROPERTY.

BY RODERICK and SON.—To be SOLD by AUCTION (by direction of the Executors of the late Mr. George C. Peters), at the Acorn Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, on THURSDAY, July 6, 1865, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then read—

A highly-important, valuable, and improving FREEHOLD PROPERTY in Church Street, Bilston; comprising the well-known "Rose and Crown" WINE and SPIRIT VAULTS, with commodious DWELLING HOUSE, and extensive Yards and Premises, capable of being used for Building, Brewing, and other purposes, commandingly situated in the most central and best business part of the town, and for the last twenty years occupied by Mr. Elijah Price, who is now the annual tenant thereof.

The prominent central position and extent of this Property render it safe and highly-improving as an investment, and the old-established and lucrative business attached adds still further and greatly to its value, if purchased with a view to occupation.

For plans and further particulars, apply to Messrs. Harrison and Wood, Solicitors, 25, Waterloo Street, or to the Auctioneers, 35, Cherry Street, all of Birmingham.

1865

Bilston's Premier Cask Ale Pub

The Olde White Rose

Lichfield Street
 (A 41)

Ten handpumps -- fine food

1999

Olde White Rose

20 Lichfield Street
 Bilston
 01902 498339



Wolverhampton CAMRA's

1999 Town Pub of the Year

12 ever changing real ales
Food from noon till nine
(except Sundays)
Sunday Lunches

10p pint discount for Card
Carrying CAMRA Members

2001

THE OLDE WHITE ROSE

20 Lichfield Street, Bilston, West Midlands, WV14 0AG,
Telephone: 01902 498339

**Wolverhampton CAMRA's
1999 Town Pub of the Year
and 2002 Pub of the Year**

New Carvery now open
Adult Meal only £4.95
Food Served All Week 12 noon - 9p.m.

12 ever-changing real ales

*10p pint discount
for card-carrying
CAMRA members*

2004



THE OLDE WHITE ROSE
20 Lichfield Street, Bilston

The pub is a meeting place for Real Ale enthusiasts and they have ever changing guest beers on twelve hand pulls at most times ranging from bitters and milds to porters and stouts. Something for everyone's tastes - hoppy, sweet, fruity and malty.

You can "try before you buy" to make sure our ales and beers suits your palate.

This CAMRA Award winning Free House is sure to have something to suit and located in the centre of Bilston, not 50 metres from the Bus and Metro station and concert venue Robin 2.

10p off a pint for CAMRA members

Call John or Steve
01902 498338

WHITE ROSE HOTEL

Fancy stopping over? In August 2010 they opened a brand new hotel at the Olde White Rose in Bilston. With a separate entrance and linked to the pub via a new conservatory area and fully refurbished dining areas. With 13 bedrooms furnished to the highest standards and very reasonable rooms and rates it is sure to satisfy tourists, business people and gig followers alike.

Try our other Real Ale pubs:-
The Port & Ale, Horseley Heath, Great Bridge
The Villiers Arms, Villiers Square, Bilston

2011



THE OLDE WHITE ROSE
20 Lichfield Street, Bilston

The pub is a meeting place for Real Ale enthusiasts and they have ever changing guest beers on twelve hand pulls at most times ranging from bitters and milds to porters and stouts. Something for everyone's tastes - hoppy, sweet, fruity and malty.

You can "try before you buy" to make sure our ales and beers suits your palate.

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Try our other Real Ale pubs:-
The Port & Ale, Horseley Heath, Great Bridge
The Villiers Arms, Villiers Square, Bilston

2012

ORANGE TREE

56, (32), (19), Ward Street, (Gibbet Lane), (Priestfield), (New Village), Ettingshall, BILSTON

OWNERS

Edward Powers, licensed victualler, Upper Penn
Frank Myatt Ltd.
Eley's Stafford Brewer Ltd. [1912]
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1946]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1972]
Black Country Traditional Inns

LICENSEES

Silvanus Sower [1851]
Mrs. Mary Ann Sower [1858] – [1868]
Jacob Braban [1871]
George ? [1873] – **1875**;
Alfred Caswell **(1875 – 1884)**;
Matthew Rhodes **(1884 – 1890)**;
Adam Bailey **(1890 – 1891)**;
James Parkes **(1891 – 1895)**;
Charles Fernihough **(1895 – 1902)**;
Benjamin Biggs **(1902 – 1903)**;
Joseph Edward Chatterton **(1903)**;
Ernest Harold Rhodes **(1903 – 1918)**;
Annie Rhodes **(1918 – 1926)**;
William Ball **(1926 – 1931)**;
Joseph Leadbetter **(1931 – 1934)**;
Martin Butler **(1934 – [1957])**
Horace Davies [1961]
Neville J Taylor [1987] – **1995**;
Maurice Twigg **(1995 – [])**
Jacqueline Donna Walker [2005]

NOTES

Gibbet Lane [1851]
19, Ward Street [1871], [1881], [1891]
32, Ward Street [1901]
56, Ward Street [1911], [1921]

It had a beerhouse license.

It had a pigeon fliers club.



2007



2023

1851 Census

Gibbet Lane

- [1] *Silvanus Sower* (67), retail brewer, born Bilston;
- [2] *Mary Sower* (57), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *James Sower* (24), son, japanner, born Bilston;
- [4] *Edward Sower* (23), son, iron roller, born Bilston;
- [5] *Catharine Sower* (20), daughter, dressmaker, born Bilston:

Silvanus Sower died on 19th April 1853.

Mary Ann Sower, beerhouse, Ward Street, New Village. [1858]

Mrs. Mary Ann Sower, beer retailer, Ward Street, New Village. [1860]

1861 Census

Ward Street – ORANGE TREE

- [1] *Mary Ann Sower* (68), widow, retail brewer, born Bilston;
- [2] *James Sower*, (35), son, japanner, born Bilston;
- [3] *Catherine Sower* (30), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] *Elizabeth Sower* (26), daughter, born Bilston:

Mary A. Sower, retailer of beer, Ettingshall. [1862]

Mary Ann Sower, beer retailer, Ward Street, Ettingshall. [1865]

Mrs. Mary Ann Sower, beer retailer, Ward Street, New Village. [1868]

1871 Census

19, Ward Street

- [1] *Jacob Braban* (43), licensed victualler, born Halesworth, Suffolk;
- [2] *Ann Braban* (32), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Clara Braban* (7), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] *Margaret E. Braban* (6), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] *Lucy Braban* (3), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] *Margaret Tamms* (70), mother-in-law, widow, born Bilston:

1881 Census

19, Ward Street – Public House

- [1] *Alfred Caswell* (29), fitter and publican, born Bilston;
- [2] *Joanna Caswell* (26), wife, born Priestfield;
- [3] *Alfred E. Caswell* (5), son, scholar, born Priestfield;
- [4] *Mabel A. Caswell* (2), daughter, born Priestfield;
- [5] *Eliza E. Caswell* (5 months), daughter, born Priestfield;
- [6] *Martha Hill* (13), domestic servant, born Priestfield:

Birmingham Daily Post 8/2/1884 - Advert

“Beer and Pawnbroking Business to Let. Good connection. Immediate possession.

Apply, *Alfred Caswell*, Priestfield, near Wolverhampton.”

BEEER and Pawnbroking Business to Let. Good connection. Immediate possession.—Apply, *Alfred Caswell*, Priestfield, near Wolverhampton.

Alfred Caswell – see also WHITE LION, Bilston Street, Sedgley.

Matthew Rhodes – see also VINE, John Street, HEN AND CHICKENS, George Street, and BULL AND MOUTH.

1891 Census

19, Ward Street – Public House

[1] Adam Bailey (41), beerhouse keeper, no birthplace given;

[2] Mary Bailey (40), wife, no birthplace given;

[3] Sarah Wilkes (15), general servant, no birthplace given:

Adam Bailey – see also HOPE AND ANCHOR, Bank Street.

Staffordshire Advertiser 24/8/1895

“Bilston Brewster Sessions.....

The police opposed the renewal of the licenses attached to the NEW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston; the MALT SHOVEL INN, Oxford Street Bilston; the RED LION INN, Bilston, the FOUNTAIN INN, Parliament Street, Bilston; and the ORANGE TREE INN, Ettingshall. Infringement of the licensing laws were the grounds of the objection in each case, with the exception of the ORANGE TREE INN, the landlord of which had been sentenced to two months' imprisonment for assaulting his wife. The whole of the licenses were renewed with the exception of the FOUNTAIN INN, the consideration of which was to be held over until the adjourned licensing sessions.”

1901 Census

32, Ward Street

[1] Charles Fernihough (41), iron moulder, born Hanley, Staffordshire;

[2] Mary J. Fernihough (30), wife, born Stafford;

[3] Florence M. Fernihough (3), daughter, born Ettingshall;

[4] Charles B. Fernihough (1), born Ettingshall:

Ernest Rhodes, beer retailer, 32, Ward Street. [1904]

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/3/1908

“Bilston Licensing Business.....

The license of the ORANGE TREE INN, Priestfield, was opposed on the ground of the structural part of the house being bad. The owners had tried to obtain a small plot of land adjoining it, but failed. The license was renewed and the magistrates stated that in the coming year the house and premises must be put in a clean condition, otherwise it might be serious for the owners.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 13/2/1909

“Bilston annual licensing sessions were held on the 5th inst.....

The following houses were referred for consideration for compensation on the ground that they were not required.....
ORANGE TREE, Ward Street.”

1911 Census

56, Ward Street – ORANGE TREE INN

[1] Ernest Harold Rhodes (28), beerhouse keeper, born Coseley;

[2] Annie Rhodes (30), wife, married 5 years, assisting in business, born Hanley, Staffordshire;

[3] Mabel Louisa Rhodes (4), daughter, born Bilston;

[4] Gladys Ethel Rhodes (1), daughter, born Bilston:

Staffordshire Advertiser 17/2/1912

“Bilston Annual Licensing Sessions were held on the 9th inst.....

Plans were sanctioned for improving the domestic portion of the ORANGE TREE INN, Priestfield, owned by Messrs. Eley and Co, brewers, Stafford, on condition that no increased claim should be made in future for compensation.”

Ernest Harold Rhodes was granted a billiard license on 7th February 1913.

Ernest Harold Rhodes – see also GATE.

Annie Rhodes was granted a billiard license on 8th March 1918.

1921 Census

56, Ward Street

[1] Ernest Harold Rhodes (39), clerk, flour mill, born Coseley;

[2] Annie Rhodes (40), wife, home duties, born Hanley, Staffordshire;

[3] Mabel Louisa Rhodes (14), daughter, born Bilston;

[4] Gladys Ethel Rhodes (11), daughter, school, born Bilston:

Annie Rhodes – see also GATE.

William Ball was granted a billiard license on 5th March 1926.

John Leadbetter was granted a billiard license on 3rd July 1931.

Martin Butler was granted a billiard license on 9th February 1934.

1939 Register

Ward Street – ORANGE TREE

[1] Martin Butler, date of birth 19/1/1884, licensed victualler, married;

[2] Prudence Butler, dob 21/2/1881, unpaid domestic duties, married:

Prudence Butler died in the 2nd quarter of 1942.

A team from here took part in the Butlers (Bilston) Darts League. [1946]

Martin Butler married Ellen May Howell in the 3rd quarter of 1951.

1957 Probate

“Martin Butler of the ORANGE TREE INN, Ward Street, Priestfield, near Bilston, Staffordshire, died 13 June 1957. Administration Birmingham 1 August to Ellen May Butler, widow. Effects £1,480 18s 4d.”

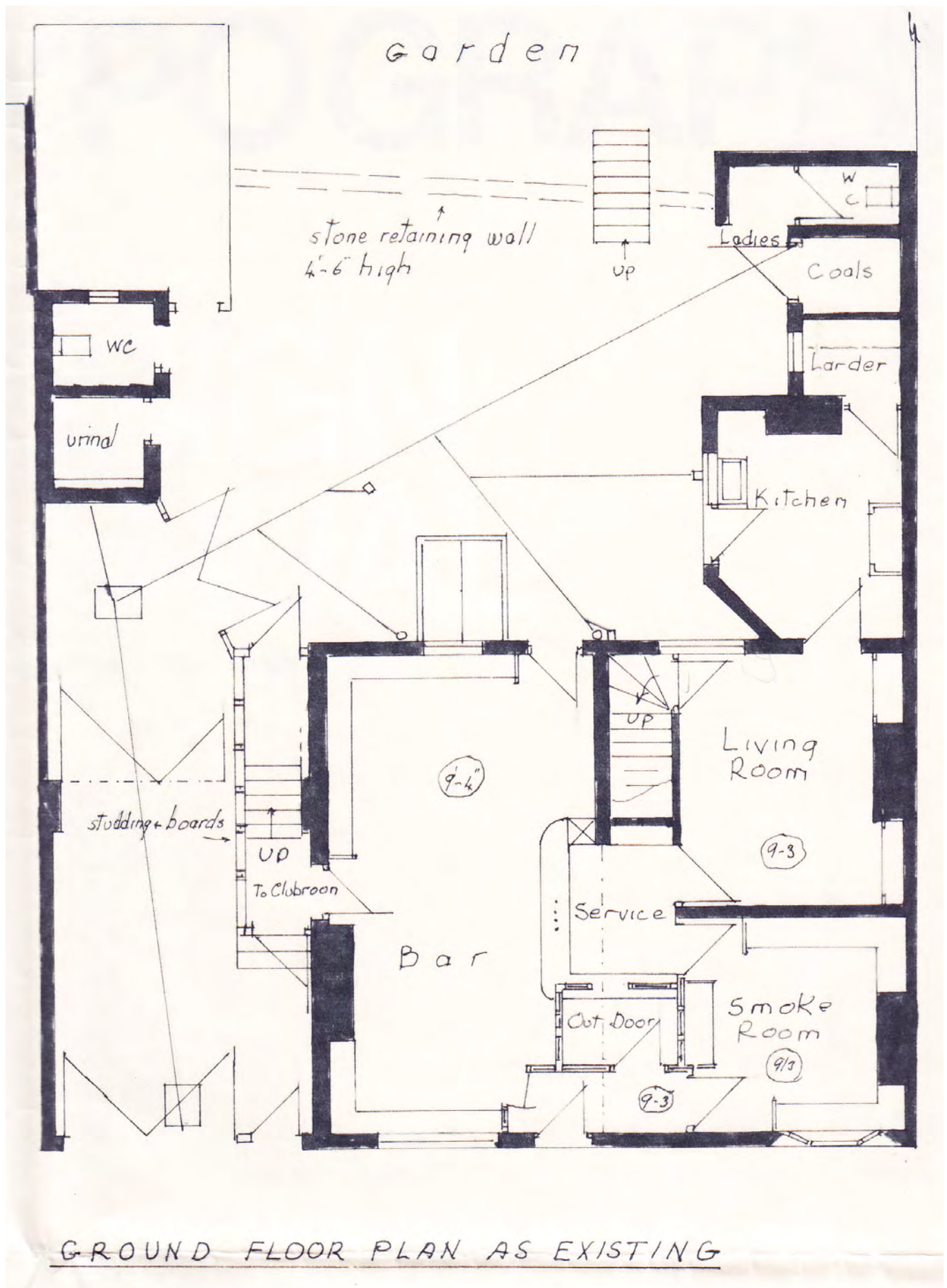
Horace Davies was granted a billiard license on 6th October 1961.

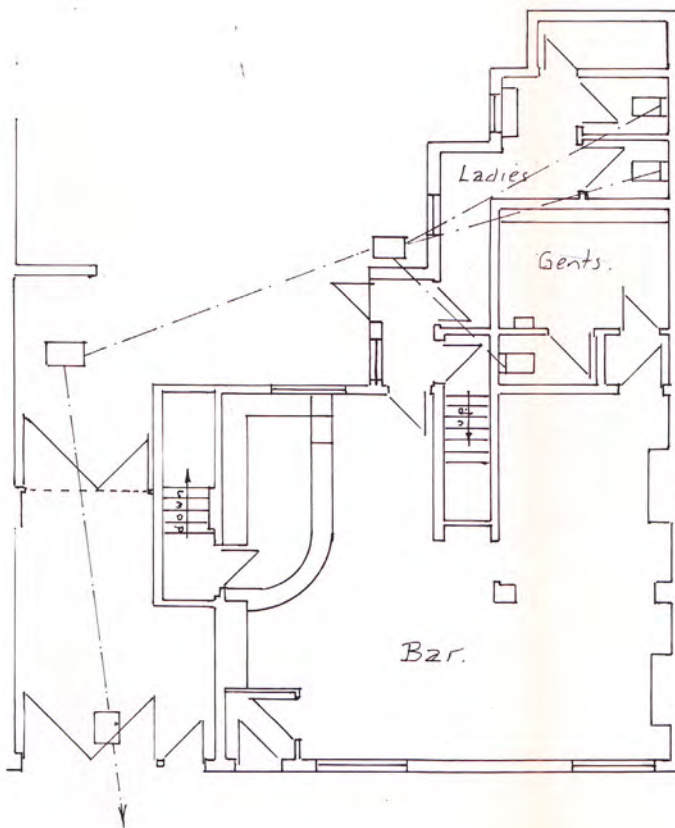
An application was made in 1989 for alterations.

An application was made in 2005 for alterations

The pub was extensively renovated in 2022, reopening on 16th December.

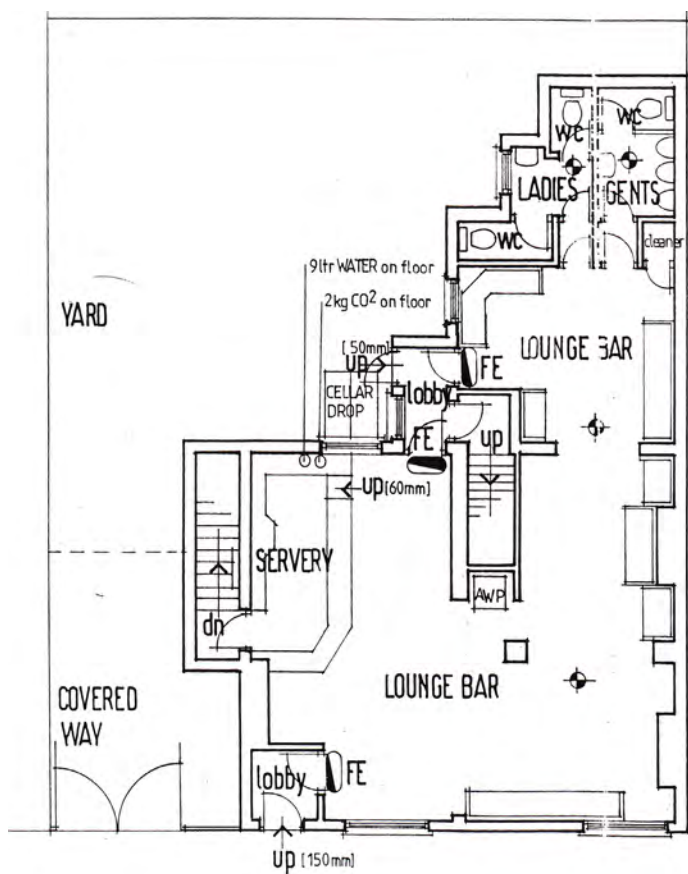
[2023]





Ground floor plan as existing.

Plan 1989



Plan 2005

83, (37), (36), (36a), Oxford Street, (Oxford Road) / Brook Street, New Town, BILSTON

OWNERS

Mr. Anderson [1878]
David Riley, contractor, Bilston
Chesters Brewery Co. Ltd., Manchester [1889]
North Worcestershire Breweries Ltd.
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. (acquired in 1909)

LICENSEES

Sarah Robinson [1818] – [1822]
Elizabeth Fellows [1828] – [1830]
Joseph Maybury [1833]
Aaron Martin [1834]
Joseph Maybury [1835]
Elizabeth Fellows [1841] – [1842]
Miss Mary Fellows [1845]
Mrs. Fellows [1847]
John Fellows [1848]
Miss Sarah Fellows [1849] – [1851]
Mrs. Mary Fellows [1851] – **1855**;
John Fellows **(1855 – [1858])**
Daniel Parsons **(1859 – 1861)**
Sarah Hill [1862]
Richard Hill [1862]
Joseph Guest [1863] – [1865]
William Hadley [] – **1866**;
Elisha Clay **(1866)**;
William Poole **(1866 – [])**
Thomas Evans [1867]
John Henry Watkiss [1868] – [1871]
John Mack [1873] – **1876**;
David Evan Williams **(1876)**;
Matthew Marston **(1876 – 1877)**;
John Tranter **(1877 – 1878)**;
Charles Matthew Anderson **(1878 – 1879)**;
Frank Finch **(1879 – 1880)**;
Isaac Richardson **(1880)**;
Richard Hall **(1880 – 1884)**;
John Stoker [1881] manager
Joseph 'Joe' Holberry [1882]
J Sowrey [1883] manager
Joseph 'Joe' Holberry [1885] manager
John Gardner **(1884 – 1885)**;
Richard Hall **(1885 – 1889)**;
John Beebee **(1889 – 1890)**;
Joseph Goodwin **(1890 – 1891)**;
Edward Benjamin Horton **(1891 – 1893)**;
William Turner **(1893 – 1894)**;

DESIRABLE FREEHOLD PUBLIC HOUSE,
*Called The Waterloo Inn, with Cooper's Shop, and other
extensive premises, New Town, Bilston.*

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY W. ASTON,

*On Thursday, April 1, 1847, at the King's Arms Inn,
Bilston, at six o'clock in the evening, subject to such
conditions as will be produced at the time of sale,*

ALL that eligible FREEHOLD MESSUAGE, with
the outbuildings and appurtenances, known by the
sign of "The Waterloo Tavern," with Cooper's Shop ad-
joining, situate fronting Oxford-street, New Town,
Bilston, and now in the occupation of Mrs. Fellows.

The house is conveniently fitted with every requisite
for carrying on the excellent business now attached to it,
having a sufficiency of bed rooms, two parlours, two tap
rooms, bar, roomy cellars, a brewhouse, and large malt
room at back, together with an extensive yard and range
of Work Shops, fronting to Brooke-street the length of
forty-four yards, and the whole of the premises occupy-
ing a site of 660 square yards or thereabouts.

Further particulars may be had of W. C. SMITH,
Esq. 5, Southampton-buildings, London, or of the Auc-
tioneer, North-street, Wolverhampton.

THE "WATERLOO INN," NEW TOWN
BILSTON.

THE public is respectfully informed that the SALE
of the above property, advertised to take place on
THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1847, at the King's Arms, at
Bilston, WILL NOT BE HELD, the whole of the
Messuage and Appurtenances having been Sold by
Private Treaty.

W. ASTON,
Auctioneer.
March 25, 1847.

1847

WATERLOO INN, BILSTON.

TO be DISPOSED OF, the LICENSES and
POSSESSION of the above old-accustomed and well-established
PUBLIC INN and LIQUOR VAULTS, situated at the corner of
Oxford Street, leading to the Railway Station. There is excellent
accommodation, and commodious Stabling, and this presents a desir-
able opportunity for any persons desirous of entering into the Publi-
c Business. The present Proprietor is leaving owing to other engage-
ments.

Apply to John G. Wright, Auctioneer and Valuer, &c., Dudley.

1860

Albert Charles Clarke (1894 - 1895);
 Edith Hickman (1895 - 1896);
 Frank William Ratcliffe (1896 - 1898);
 William Henry Edward Dutton (1898);
 Alfred Guest (1898 - 1899);
 Benjamin Biber (1899);
 Bert Evans (1899 - 1900);
 Henry Connor (1900 - 1901);
 Alfred John Pardoe (1901 - 1902);
 Stephen Malkin (1902 - 1903);
 Joseph Hankins Mutlow (1903 - 1904);
 John Thomas Wilson (1904);
 Thomas Marshall (1904 - 1907);
 Samuel Cook (1907 - 1908);
 Ernest Jones (1908);
 John Griffiths (1908 - 1909);
 Thomas William Marshall (1909 - 1910);
 James Collins (1910 - 1911);
 Harry Reynolds (1911);

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF STAFFORDSHIRE,
 HOLDEN AT WOLVERHAMPTON.

The 22nd day of June, 1861.

WHEREAS a Petition of **DANIEL PARSONS**,
 at present and for about ten weeks now last past residing at
 the Fieldhouse, in the parish of Tettonhall, in the county of Stafford,
 Licensed Victualler, Retail Brewer, and Dealer in Tobacco, and
 during about the first six weeks of such time carrying on the same
 trades or businesses, also that of a Licensed Retailer of Wines, at
 the Waterloo Inn, Oxford-street, Bilston, in the said county of Staf-
 ford, his Wife during the whole of such time residing at and keeping a
 School at Codsall Wood, Codsall, in the said county of Stafford; pre-
 viously and for about seventeen months residing at the Waterloo Inn,
 Bilston aforesaid, carrying on there the same trades or businesses as
 aforesaid; his Wife also residing at and keeping a School at Codsall as
 aforesaid; previously and for about three years residing at Dudley
 Port, in the parish of Tipton, in the said county of Stafford, Licensed
 Victualler, Retail Brewer, and Dealer in Tobacco, and occasionally
 working as a Stock Taker, his Wife during all such time residing at
 and keeping a School at Much Wenlock, in the county of Salop, an
 Insolvent Debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Stafford-
 shire, at Wolverhampton, and an Interim Order of Protection from
 Process having been given to the said Daniel Parsons, under the
 provisions of the statutes in that case made and provided, the said
 Daniel Parsons is hereby required to appear in Court, before the
 Judge acting in the matter of the said Petition, on the twelfth day
 of JULY, 1861, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, at the COURT HOUSE,
 QUEEN-STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON aforesaid, for his FIRST
 EXAMINATION touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be
 further dealt with according to the provisions of the said statutes;
 and notice is hereby given that the Choice of Assignees is to take
 place at the time so appointed.

All persons indebted to the said Daniel Parsons, or who have any
 of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. CHARLES
 GALLIMORE BROWN, the Official Assignee, acting in the matter of the
 said Petition, at his Office, in Queen-street, Wolverhampton afore-
 said.

WILLIAM WARD, Attorney, Wolverhampton.
 C. G. MEDEVAN, High Bailiff.

1861

NOTES

Brook Street [1818]
 Oxford Road, New Town [1828], [1830]
 36, Oxford Street [1858], [1868], [1870], [1871], [1874], [1881]
 37, Oxford Street [1861], [1864], [1865], [1896], [1901]
 36a, Oxford Street [1891]
 83, Oxford Street [1901], [1908]

It was originally the WATERLOO.
 WATERLOO HOUSE [1818], [1858]
 WATERLOO INN [1830], [1835], [1860]

Tokens were issued for WATERLOO MUSIC HALL.

Staffordshire Advertiser 28/4/1832

"Commitments to Stafford County Gaol.....

Sarah Small, charged with uttering a false and counterfeit sixpence to Elizabeth Fellows, at Bilston."

[At Staffordshire Assizes Sarah Small was sentenced to one year's imprisonment.]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/11/1832 - Married

"On the 27th inst at the Collegiate Church, in this town, by the Rev. T. Walker, Mr. *Joseph Maybury*, to Miss *Elizabeth Fellows*, both of Bilston."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/3/1843

"The following inquisitions have been held before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner.....

On the 23rd, at the WATERLOO INN, Bilston, on John Lawley, a miner, who had been killed by a fall of rubbish in a coal pit. Verdict, Accidental Death."

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/8/1843

"Inquests before T. M. Phillips, Esq, Coroner.....

On Saturday last, at the WATERLOO INN, Bilston, on the body of Robert Griffiths, and elderly man, employed as a watchman at some furnaces in the neighbourhood, who was suffocated by the sulphur which escaped through the brick wok of the furnaces."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/3/1845

“The following inquisitions have been taken before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner.....

At the WATERLOO INN, Bilston, on the body of John Pinner, a child about eight months old, who died while in bed with his mother. Verdict, died by the Visitation of God.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 16/4/1845

“The following inquisitions have been held before T. M. Phillips, Esq, Coroner.....

At the WATERLOO INN, at Bilston, on the body of John Blower the younger, a boy about fourteen years of age. It appeared that the deceased and two other boys were at work in a coal and ironstone pit in Baldwin’s colliery, Bilston, on the 11th of February last, when an explosion took place, by which he and they were very badly burned. There was, it seemed, a powder can near the spot, and by some means the powder unfortunately exploded. One of the boys, named Mullard, died in consequence of his wounds, and the other is now in Birmingham Hospital. The deceased was taken to his home and lingered until the 10th instant, when he died. He said he did not know how the powder got fired, unless one of the candles dropped into it, as the lid was off; he did not blame any one. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 10/3/1847 - Advert

“Desirable Freehold Public House, called the WATERLOO INN, with Cooper’s Shop, and other extensive premises, New Town, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by W. Aston, on Thursday, April 1, 1847, at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, at six o’clock in the evening, subject to such conditions as will be produced at the time of sale.

All that eligible Freehold Messuage, with the outbuildings and appurtenances, known by the sign of the WATERLOO TAVERN, with Cooper’s Shop adjoining, situate fronting Oxford Street, New Town, Bilston, and now in the occupation of Mrs. *Fellows*.

The house is conveniently fitted with every requisite for carrying on the excellent business now attached to it, having a sufficiency of bed rooms, two parlours, two tap rooms, bar, roomy cellars, a brewhouse, and large malt room at back, together with an extensive yard and range of Work Shops, fronting to Brooke Street the length of forty-four yards, and the whole of the premises occupying a site of 660 square yards or thereabouts.

Further particulars may be had of W. C. Smith, Esq, 5, Southampton Buildings, London, or of the Auctioneer, North Street, Wolverhampton.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/3/1847 - Advert

“The WATERLOO INN, New Town, Bilston.

The public is respectfully informed that the Sale of the above property, advertised to take place on Thursday, April 1, 1847, at the KINGS ARMS, at Bilston, Will Not Be Held, the whole of the Messuage and Appurtenances having been Sold by Private Treaty.

W. Aston, Auctioneer. March 25, 1847.”

Birmingham Journal 22/7/1848

“On Saturday an inquest was held before T. M. Phillips, Esq, at the WATERLOO INN, Bilston, on the body of Stephen Linney, about twenty years of age, a miner, who was at work on the previous morning in the hollows of a coalpit, at Bunkers Hill, where a large quantity of coal suddenly fell upon him and covered his body. He was taken out as soon as possible and conveyed to his lodgings in Bilston, where he was attended by Mr. Best, surgeon, but died about four o’clock in the afternoon. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Birmingham Journal 23/12/1848

“An inquest was held on Wednesday, at the house of Mr. *John Fellows*, sign of the WATERLOO, by T. M. Phillips, Esq, Coroner, on the body of a child named Elizabeth Lowe, three years of age, who was killed on Monday afternoon by a cart belonging to Mr. Richard Marsh, grocer, of Bilston, which ran over its head in Oxford Street, causing immediate death. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned. Mr. Marsh very kindly gave the mother of the child a sum of money towards burying it, as did also Mr. Phillips and several of the Jury. There was no blame to be attributed to Thomas Wellings, the young man who was with the cart when the accident occurred.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/11/1849

“Yesterday (Tuesday) T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, held an inquest at the WATERLOO INN, Bilston, on the body of Samuel Harper, thirty-four years of age, who met with his death on Saturday under the following circumstances. Harper and eleven other persons, including boys, were upon of the bank of a coalpit in Mr. Philip Williams’s field on the Willenhall Road, Bilston, for the purpose of descending the pit to work. The banksman pushed the waggon over the mouth of the pit, the engineer lowered the skip upon it, and the men and boys got in it, when the waggon, by some means, slipped back about half a yard, and the deceased and the others jumped off, but Harper slipped down and fell into the pit. It is supposed that the catch of the waggon gave way in consequence of some boys, who were running round the pit at the time, and treading upon the catch, causing it to spring up, and letting the waggon run back. No blame was attributed by the witnesses to the banksman. It appeared that the unfortunate deceased was brought up the pit shortly afterwards, when it was found that both his legs were broken, and that his skull was fractured. He was quite dead. The other persons, who were in the skip at the time, had a very narrow escape of their lives. Many of them were married men with families. The deceased was a married man. The jury gave a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/12/1849

“An inquest was held on Friday last at the WATERLOO INN, Bilston, before W. W. Ward Esq, officiating for T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of a girl named Emma Davis, who died on Wednesday last, from the effects of having fallen into the reservoir at Hickmans Field. It appeared that she had been sent there with dinner for a man, and in returning, saw a piece of coal by the side of the reservoir, when she stooped to pick it up, and fell in. When rescued and taken home, she exclaimed, ‘O! Mother, I am scalded, the skin is all off me,’ she never left her bed afterwards, and died on the 19th instant. She was the daughter of Joseph Davis, labourer, Bilston. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/2/1850

“An adjourned inquest was held on Monday last at the WATERLOO INN, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of Mary Quinton, ten months old, who had died rather suddenly at a lodging house in Old Meeting Street. It appeared that the child had first been taken to a druggist and subsequently to Mr. Hancox, surgeon, who gave the mother some medicine for the infant, under the impression that it was suffering from inflammation of the lungs. The child died at half-past four on the following morning. In the course of the day the father called on Mr. Hancox and asked for a certificate to take to the registrar. He gave him one, certifying that the child had died from inflammation of the lungs. The father then asked him to give another certificate to send to Liverpool that he might get some money from a burying society in which the child had been entered. Mr. Hancox then suspected that the child might not have died from natural causes and reported the case to the coroner, who subsequently directed a post mortem examination of the body to be made, and Mr. Hancox at the adjourned inquest deposed that on making the post mortem examination he found that the cause of death was inflammation of the lungs brought on by natural causes. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence.”

AND

“An inquest was held on Saturday last, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, at the WATERLOO INN, Bilston, on the body of Thomas Nowland, 22 years of age, who had his leg broken on the previous day by the falling of a large quantity of clod in the workings of a stone pit in Mr. Frost’s field, and expired almost directly afterwards. It was stated by Thomas Lloyd, a collier, that there was plenty of timber in the pit for the purpose of propping, but the part from which the clod fell upon the deceased could not, from its situation, have been propped. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 16/11/1850

“Inquests at Bilston before T. M. Phillips, Esq.....

On Wednesday, at the WATERLOO INN, on the body of Samuel Higginbottom, a miner, aged 26, who was killed by a fall of coal in Messrs. Gibbons’s field on the 6th ult. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 25/1/1851

“On Saturday last, T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, held an inquest at the WATERLOO TAVERN, Oxford Street, upon the body of Mary Machin, wife of a blacking manufacturer, living in Rowlings Square, Gozzard Street. The deceased it appeared died from the effects of arsenic which she had taken herself. No cause can be ascribed for the deceased committing suicide. The inquest was adjourned till yesterday, to allow of a post mortem examination being made.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/2/1851

“Inquests held before T. M. Phillips, Esq, Coroner.....

The inquest on the body of Mary Mackin, who committed suicide by swallowing arsenic, was resumed, at the WATERLOO INN, Bilston, on Monday. P. H. Harper, Esq, surgeon, having made a post mortem examination, stated that he found a large quantity of arsenic in the stomach, which was the cause of death. There being no further evidence as to the motive for the commission of the rash act, the jury returned the following verdict. That the deceased died from the effects of poison administered by herself, but whether in a sound or unsound state of mind there was no evidence to show.

The same day, at the WATERLOO INN, Bilston, on the body of Robert Parry, aged 13, who met with his death under the following circumstances. It appeared that on the 27th November last the deceased, accompanied by two other lads, named Daniel Walters, aged 9, and John France, 13, stole a quantity of powder from a pit, belonging to a person named Sheppard, after which they went to the cinder floor at Messrs. Hickman’s furnaces, where they laid a train of the powder, which the lad France fired, and which, coming into contact with the deceased, ignited a quantity he had in his pocket, severely burning him. He lingered until Monday, when he died. Verdict, Accidental Death.

At the same time and place, on the body of George France, aged 36, a miner. It appeared from the evidence of John France, brother to the deceased, that they both worked together at a pit in Messrs. White and Lester’s field; about five o’clock on Friday evening they left work, and the deceased having arranged the water barrel for drawing water for the night, they both proceeded towards home. They had not gone far, when the deceased, without saying anything, turned back towards the pit; directly afterwards witness heard a scream, and on hastening to the spot he missed his brother. A skip was immediately lowered, and in about twenty minutes he was brought up quite dead. Witness was not aware that his brother had any reason for returning to the pit. The jury, after a lengthened inquiry, returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/2/1851

“On Monday last an inquest was held at the WATERLOO INN, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of Francis Seager, twenty-five years of age, a miner, who was killed on Friday morning, by the fall of about twenty tons of coal, whilst he was in the act of cutting out one of the coal props or pillars in the hollows of a pit at Broad Water Field, in the parish of Darlaston. Charles Kendrick, who was working with the deceased, was also killed upon the spot by the fall of the coal. It was stated at the inquest that there was plenty of timber in the workings for the purpose of propping. The inquiry was adjourned.”

[At the adjourned inquest no further evidence was adduced and the verdict was Accidental Death.]

Mary Fellows = Mary Fellowes

1851 Census

Oxford Street – WATERLOO

- [1] John Fellows (54), constable, born Bilston;
- [2] Mary Fellows (53), wife, born Colton, Warwickshire;
- [3] William Fellows (20), son, clerk to mine owner, born Bilston;
- [4] Sarah Fellows (18), daughter, innkeeper, born Bilston;
- [5] William Page (27), general servant, born Hooghly, Shropshire;
- [6] Sarah Massy (25), general servant, born Bridgnorth;

Bilston District Illustrated Almanac and Advertiser for 1933

“The following story dates back to about the forties of the last century Jacky Fellows, the parish constable of the WATERLOO INN, in Oxford Street, Bilston.....”

Morning Advertiser 4/9/1851

“Yesterday a very deplorable occurrence took place at the steps of the Pier, at Hungerford Market. Mrs. *Fellowes*, the proprietor of the WATERLOO INN, at Bilston, Staffordshire, has been for a short time on a visit to the metropolis, for the purpose of seeing the Exhibition, and the other sights of London, and was staying at 23, Albany Street, Regents Park. Yesterday she was going down the steps of Hungerford Market, in order to take a short trip by a steam-boat, when she unfortunately slipped, and it was evident a very severe injury had been sustained. As the Charing Cross Hospital was near at hand, she was conveyed there, and seen by Mr. Dalton, the house-surgeon, who discovered that one arm was extensively fractured, and other mischief was perceptible. The fractured limb was soon successfully set, and, at her own request, she was sent home to her friends in Albany Street, where, however, the medical officers of the hospital kindly told her, she should be attended to by them until sufficiently recovered to return home. Mrs. *Fellowes*, it was said, is most respectably connected; but, while her friends will deeply regret the accident, they must be pleased at the kind attention she has received. She is going on most favourably.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/12/1851

“An inquest was held on Wednesday (by adjournment), at the house of Mr. John Fellowes, WATERLOO INN, Bilston, on view of the body of Peter Saunders, a miner, residing in Temple Street, who was killed on the 18th instant by a fall of coal while at work in a pit at Willingsworth colliery, the property of Sir Horace St. Paul. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned

At the same time and place an inquest was held on the body of Anthony Rowland, aged 16, who was killed in a pit at Mobs Bank colliery, on the 16th. A similar verdict was returned.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/3/1854

“Staffordshire Lent Assizes.....

James Hogan, 25, labourer, was indicted for killing and slaying John Fellowes, on the 26th December last, at Bilston. Mr. Corbett prosecuted; the prisoner was undefended by counsel.

The first witness called was Obadiah Bratt, who stated that he was a parish constable at Bilston, and knew the deceased, who, when alive, kept the WATERLOO INN in that place. On the evening of the 26th December, between eight and nine o'clock, in consequence of a disturbance having taken place in the house, he (witness) was sent for to assist in quelling it. The deceased, however, had succeeded in putting a stop to it before he arrived, but he was requested to turn the prisoner out of the house. Witness laid hold of him to do so, and at first he seemed disposed to go away quietly, but he almost immediately broke out into some very violent language against a female who was sitting in the room. Almost at the same moment the prisoner seized a jug from the table and threw it over witness's shoulder, in a contrary direction to where the woman was, and witness did not see whom it struck. On turning round, however, he saw the deceased standing up with his hand to his head, which was bleeding. The deceased was a parish constable as well as witness.

Joseph Ashforth, a shingler, deposed that he was present on the evening in question, and saw the prisoner throw the jug which struck Mr. Fellowes on the head.

Mr. W. M. Hancox, surgeon, Bilston, stated that he was sent for, after the occurrence, to attend the deceased. He found he had received a slight wound on the left side of the head; and at that time he did not in the least apprehend serious consequences from so trivial an injury. Two days afterwards, however, erysipelas supervened, from the effects of which the deceased died on the 14th January. The deceased was predisposed to erysipelas. He received every care and attention during his illness.

The prisoner, when called upon for his defence, said he did not throw the jug with the intention of hurting anybody, and that when Mr. Fellowes appeared against him before the Magistrates for the assault, he expressed his belief that he (the prisoner) did not throw it at him wilfully.

The learned Judge told the jury that it was an unlawful act on the part of the prisoner to throw a jug in the manner pointed out by the evidence, and whoever caused death by occasion of an unlawful act was legally guilty of manslaughter, although at the time the offender did not intend to commit an injury. Applying that rule to this case, if the jury were of opinion, upon the evidence adduced, that the prisoner threw the jug, that that missile inflicted a wound upon the deceased, who died from the effects of erysipelas produced by that wound, they must find the prisoner guilty. The jury accordingly found the prisoner guilty, but strongly recommended him to mercy. His Lordship sentenced him to three months' imprisonment with hard labour.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/1/1855

“An inquest was held on Thursday last, at the WATERLOO INN, Bilston, on the body of John Laffey, collier, who was killed by a fall of coal in a coal-pit at Baldwins Field, near Bilston, on Wednesday. A collier named Ford deposed to having properly propped the roof immediately before it fell. About 13cwt of coal fell on the deceased, who was killed on the spot. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/1/1855

“On Tuesday an adjourned inquest was held at the WATERLOO INN, Bilston, before W. H. Phillips, Esq, on the body of John Toole, a rag and bone collector, who, on Thursday morning week, about five o’clock, was found lying in the snow on the canal bridge, at Moxley, by some men who were proceeding to their work, in a state of insensibility. His shoes were missing, and his pockets turned inside out. He was carried to an adjoining hovel, and those who found him endeavoured to restore him by rubbing and other remedies. He was afterwards conveyed to his house, where he died the same night at six o’clock.

The inquest had been adjourned for the purpose of a post mortem examination being made, the result of which was the discovery of a violent wound on the left temple, apparently the result of a blow, which Mr. Hancox, surgeon, who made the examination, believed to be the cause of death.

It appeared that the deceased and Michael Dolan, a partner in the trade, had been the day before at Tipton, selling scrap iron, and that they had been drinking at almost every public house they passed. At night they called at a beerhouse at Gospel Oak, kept by John Moon. They had some ale there, and left about nine o’clock, in a state of intoxication. The bridge where the deceased was found was not far from Moon’s house. Dolan, on being asked what had become of Toole, said he did not know; they were both drunk, and he was unable to give any account of what occurred after they had left Moon’s house.

Moon was on the Tuesday following charged before Mr. Leigh, at the Petty Sessions, with allowing drunkenness in his house in the case of the deceased and Dolan, but as the charge rested entirely on the evidence of the latter, who limited himself almost entirely to saying that he and the deceased were very drunk, it was dismissed. A man who was in the house, and who was called for the defence, said the deceased and Dolan walked straight into the house, and did not appear to be much intoxicated. They had two pint jugs of ale between them. When those were emptied the deceased got up and went to call for another jug of ale, but as he did so he fell against the screen. The landlady then perceiving him to be tipsy refused to draw any more ale, and the two went away together. A number of witnesses were examined, but no evidence tending to show by what means the deceased met with his death was adduced.

At the resumed inquiry yesterday, Mr. Hancox, surgeon, added to his former evidence that he had reason to think the injury the deceased had sustained was caused by direct violence, and he did not think that such consequences could have been produced by a simple fall. Such a blow would have produced instant insensibility; and he did not think a man, after receiving such an injury, could have walked a distance of a mile.

The coroner very briefly directed the jury, who, after some consultation, returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased died from extravasation of blood upon the brain, produced by external injuries, but how such injuries were received did not appear to the jurors.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/1/1855

“On Friday last, at the house of Mr. *Fellows*, the WATERLOO INN, Bilston, T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, held an inquest on the body of John M’Cue, aged eighteen, a miner, who met with his death under the following circumstances. On the Wednesday deceased was on the bank of a coal pit, the property of S. H. Blackwell, Esq. Isaac Bennett and William Roberts were emptying water from a barrel which had just come up the pit, and just as the signal given to the engineer to ‘pull up’ deceased took hold of the barrel while it was swinging over the pit, and he was pulled into the pit, and fell to the bottom, a distance of about seventy-five yards. Bennet and Roberts immediately descended the pit, and found deceased in a dying state at the bottom. He was drawn up, and carried in a chair to his lodgings, where he expired immediately on his arrival. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the evidence.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 13/2/1856

“On Friday last, T.M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, held an inquest at the house of Mr. *John Fellows*, WATERLOO INN, Bilston, on the body of William Jones, a collier, about ten years of age, son of Richard Jones. The deceased was employed in a stone pit, at Moxley, belonging to Benjamin Gibbons, Esq, iron and coal master, and on the Wednesday previously, whilst pursuing his avocation in the pit, a piece of stone fell from the roof upon him, inflicting some severe cuts upon his head, and causing instant death. Witnesses who gave evidence stated that there was plenty of timber set where the stone fell, and that they thought the place was quite secure. The doggy had the same morning inspected the workings. There was plenty of timer in the pit, which was carefully and properly worked. It was most difficult to prevent slips of stone. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased came to his death by Accidental Means.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 20/8/1856

“Yesterday (Tuesday) T. M. Phillips, Esq, Coroner, held an inquest at the WATERLOO INN, Bilston, on the body of Patrick Higgins, aged fourteen years. The deceased was employed in a coalpit in Mr. Blackwell’s field, near Bilston, to carry dirt and to do other work, and on Saturday last, about six o’clock in the evening, whilst carrying some tools in the direction of the gate-road three or four cwts of coal fell from the roof near a tree, knocked the deceased down and against some iron rails with great violence. He was immediately taken from under the coal, but was found to be in a dying state. The doggy was in the pit at the time of the occurrence, and he had previously examined the place from which the coal fell. There was plenty of timber in the pit. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the evidence. The Mine Inspector (L. Brough, Esq), surveyed the pit and workings after the occurrence.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 7/4/1858

“On Monday last W. H. Phillips Esq, deputy coroner, opened an inquest at the WATERLOO INN, Bilston, on two men named Michael Conniff and Michael Kelly, who, with George Hudson, a fellow workman, had been killed in a pit at the Fiery Holes Colliery, belonging to Messrs. Fletcher, Rose and Co., on the previous Saturday, by a fall of coal adjourned.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 17/4/1858

“During the week the boy Lamb, who, with Michael Cuniff and Michael Kelly, was buried under a fall of coal in the pit of Messrs. Rose and Fletcher, near Bilston, but was extricated alive, has died of the injuries he then received. The inquest on the two men who were killed at the time having been adjourned on account of Mr. Brough, the Government Inspector, having expressed his doubts as to the pit being properly propped, was resumed before Mr. W. H. Phillips, deputy coroner, on Monday last.

The evidence of Mr. Brough, the result of an inspection of the place on the day after the accident and subsequently, was that he found the stall five yards wide. The fire-clay coal had been extracted and taken away. The bat or shale also had been brought down, and the new mine-holers were in course of removal. That left the ‘four foots’ hanging over the head, which ought to have been supported by timber on each side of the railroad. There was only one tree set up, and that a very ineffectual one in strength, whereas the stall demanded at least six trees instead of one for the protection of the loaders – that was to say, three trees ought to have been stuck up on each side of the railroad, and thus the men would have been saved.

Mr. Cope, the mine agent, deposed that he examined the pit two days before the accident, and saw nothing to indicate the necessity for further propping, and he said that the cause of the accident, the working of two seams at an angle, could not then be perceived.

Joseph Lunn, the doggy, and John Branaghan, a collier, who was at work close to the spot when the fall took place, gave evidence to the effect that the roof appeared to have been sufficiently propped before the accident occurred.

The coroner then put the case to the jury in brief terms, saying that he could not advise them to return any other verdict than that of Accidental Death, and after a lengthened deliberation the jury returned that verdict. A similar verdict has been returned in the case of Lamb and Hudson, killed by the same accident, the inquests on whom have been held before Mr. Hinchliffe, at Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Journal 1/12/1860 - Advert

“WATERLOO INN, Bilston.

To be Disposed Of, the Licenses and Possession of the above old-accustomed and well-established Public Inn and Liquor Vaults, situated at the corner of Oxford Street, leading to the Railway Station. There is excellent accommodation, and commodious Stabling, and this presents a desirable opportunity for any person desirous of entering into the Public Business. The present Proprietor is leaving owing to other engagements.

Apply to John G. Wright, Auctioneer and Valuer, &c, Dudley.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/1/1861

“John Guest was charged with having stolen two bagatelle balls, the property of *Daniel Parsons*, publican, of Bilston. The prisoner was the last customer in the room on Saturday night, and the gas was put out before he left. The balls were safe a few minutes before, and he was seen to put his hand towards the bagatelle board. Directly upon his leaving they were missed. The prisoner denied the charge, but was committed for trial.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/3/1861

“At the Police Court on Friday last, an Irishman, named John Brennan, was charged with violently assaulting Mr. *Daniel Parsons*, of the WATERLOO INN, Bilston, on the 17th of December last. On the night in question the prisoner and a number of other Irishmen were creating a disturbance at the house of Mr. *Parsons*, and while Mr. *Parsons* was attempting to turn them out of doors, Brennan attacked him. He struck him on the forehead with a gutta percha life preserver, inflicting a dangerous wound, and by reason of which, Mr. *Parsons* was under medical treatment for some time after. Brennan absconded, but was apprehended at a house in Temple Street, on Sunday night. The magistrates considered the case too serious for them to deal with, and committed the prisoner for trial at the sessions.”

Staffordshire Sentinel 13/4/1861

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

John Brannon, 23, miner, indicted for violently assaulting *Daniel Parsons*, at Bilston, pleaded guilty to the charge, and was sentenced to four months' imprisonment, with hard labour.”

1861 Census

37, Oxford Street

[1] *Daniel Parsons* (34), married, innkeeper, born Netherton;

[2] Matthew Parsons (12), son, scholar, born Kates Hill;

[3] Mary Bennitt (27), housekeeper, born Toll End:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/6/1861 - Notice

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

Whereas a Petition of *Daniel Parsons*, at present and for about ten weeks now last past residing at the FIELDHOUSE, in the parish of Tettenhall, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, Retail Brewer, and Dealer in Tobacco, and during about the first six weeks of such time carrying on the same trades or businesses, also that of a Licensed Retailer of Wines, at the WATERLOO INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, in the said county of Stafford, his Wife during the whole of such time residing at and keeping a School at Codsall Wood, Codsall, in the said county of Stafford; previously and for about seventeen months residing at the WATERLOO INN, Bilston aforesaid, carrying on there the same trades or businesses as aforesaid, his Wife also residing at and keeping a School at Codsall as aforesaid; previously and for about three years residing at Dudley Port, in the parish of Tipton, in the said county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, Retail Brewer, and Dealer in Tobacco, and occasionally working as a Stock Taker, his Wife, during all such time residing at and keeping a School at Much Wenlock, in the county of Salop, an Insolvent Debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, at Wolverhampton, and an Interim Order of Protection from Process having been given to the said *Daniel Parsons*, under the provisions of the statutes in that case made and provided, the said *Daniel Parsons* is hereby required to appear in Court, before the Judge acting in the matter of the said Petition, on the twelfth day of July, 1861, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, at the Court House, Queen Street, Wolverhampton aforesaid, for his First Examination touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said statutes; and notice is hereby given that the Choice of Assignees is to take place at the time so appointed.

All persons indebted to the said *Daniel Parsons*, or who have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. Charles Gallimore Brown, the Official Assignee, acting in the matter of the said Petition, at his Office, in Queen Street, Wolverhampton aforesaid.

William Ward, Attorney, Wolverhampton. C. G. Megevan, High Bailiff.

22nd day of June, 1861.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 10/7/1861

“The following insolvents have filed their schedules to appear for their first examination, at the County Court, on Friday next.....

Daniel Parsons, licensed victualler, FIELD HOUSE, Tettenhall, and formerly of Bilston and Dudley Port; debts £200 15s 3d, credits £140 12s 1d.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/7/1861

“Wolverhampton County Court. Friday, July 12.....

Daniel Parsons had his petition dismissed.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/2/1862 - Advert

“Preliminary Announcement.

Mr. George Brown has received instructions to Offer for Sale by Public Auction, on Tuesday, the 18th day of March next, upon the Premises, at six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions, all that Old-established Public House, with Yard, Shopping, Stable, Outbuildings, and Appurtenances thereto belonging, known by the sign of the WATERLOO INN, situate in Oxford Street, Bilston, together with the two Messuages or Dwelling Houses in the rear thereof.

The above Premises are situate in the centre of Bilston, and within one minute's walk of the Great Western Railway Station.

For further particulars see handbill; or apply to the Auctioneer, or Mr. C. G. Brown, Solicitor, of Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/3/1862 - Advert

“Important to Wholesale and Retail Winer Merchants and Others.

Mr. George Brown will Sell by Auction, on Tuesday, the 18th day of March, 1862, upon the Premises, at six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions of sale then to be read (by order of the Mortgagees), all that well-accustomed Old-established Freehold Public House and Wine and Spirit Vault, known by the sign of the WATERLOO INN, situate in Oxford Street, Bilston, together with the small Shop adjoining thereto, lately used as a Cooper's Shop, and also the extensive Stabling, Shedding, Bowling Alley, Yard, and Premises at the back of the said public house, and adjoining Brook Street. The whole of the Premises occupy a site of 680 square yards, and offer every accommodation and facility for carrying on an extensive wholesale and retail wine and spirit trade. The whole produce an annual rental of £65.

For further particulars apply to the Auctioneer, or to Mr. C. G. Brown, Solicitor, both of Oxford Street, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/5/1862 - Advert

“To Licensed Victuallers and Others.

To be Let, with immediate possession, the well-known Liquor Vaults and Premises, known as the WATERLOO INN, situate in Oxford Street, Bilston. The house has been for years noted for doing a good business, and is in the most populous part of the town, well adapted for wholesale and retail purposes. Fixtures inexpensive; rent moderate.

For further particulars apply to Mr. William Fellows, Priory Street, Dudley; or on the premises.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/6/1862 - Advert

“Sale at the WATERLOO INN, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Hawkins, This Day (Thursday), June 12th.

The whole of the superior Spirit Shop Fixtures, excellent Counter, seven-tap Spirit Fountain, and Casks, capital Beer Machine, Shelving, Stove and Piping, rail-back Forms, Gas and Water Piping, Stock of Spirits, and Ale Brewing Vessels, Copper Furnaces, Mashing Tub, Vats, Malt Crushers, Ale Casks; part of the Household Furniture, and other useful effects, by order of the Trustees of the late Mr. *Richard Hill*.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.

Catalogues may be had at the place of sale, or from the Auctioneer, Brierley Hill.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/8/1862

“At Bilston police court yesterday, two boys named William Bamford and Michael Killogan were charged with stealing a quantity of lead from the WATERLOO INN, Oxford Street, which is at present unoccupied. The lead was stripped off the roof at the back of the premises on Sunday night, and was found at the shop of Patrick O’Malley, a marine store dealer, in Temple Street. Bamford sold the lead on Monday, and when apprehended, said the other prisoner gave it him to sell, but as this was the only evidence against Killogan he was discharged. Bamford was fined 10s, or in default, a month’s imprisonment.

Bridget O’Malley, wife of the marine store dealer, who had purchased the lead, was then charged under the recent statute with having stolen metal in her possession, and for which she could not satisfactorily account.

The prisoner Bamford was put into the box, and swore that he went to the female defendant and asked her whether she would buy some old lead. She asked him where it was from, and he said from some old building. He then fetched it, and she bought it. She was fined 10s and costs, and an order was made for her husband to register his house, which involves keeping an account of all metals bought, and liability to constant inspection by the police. The defendant said she could not keep books, as she could not write, and the magistrates said in that case she must get some one who could.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 1/7/1863

“Martin Doyle, man of all work at the house of Mr. *Guest*, the WATERLOO INN, Bilston, was charged with robbing Aaron Tompowski of a watch and two sovereigns. On Wednesday the prosecutor put up at the above house, and before he went to bed he secured the door of the room in which he slept, but when he got up the next morning, though he found the door still secured on the inside, yet some one had entered during the night and carried off his watch and the amount in question. On examination he found in a partition that divided the once larger room into two, a door, which formed an inlet and outlet to his room. The chief evidence connecting the prisoner with the robbery was the finding the candlestick Tompowski took upstairs to his room in that of the prisoner. He endeavoured to explain this by saying he saw it alight in Tompowski’s room, and took it out to prevent fire. He was committed for trial.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/7/1863

“At Bilston Police Court, on Tuesday, a man named Martin Toole was charged with having stolen a silver watch and two sovereigns, belonging to a Jew named Aaron Tombusco. It appeared that on the previous Wednesday night, Mr. Tombusco took up his lodging at the WATERLOO INN, kept by Mr. *Joseph Guest*, in Bilston, where the prisoner was that time employed as a general kind of waiter. When prosecutor retired to bed he took the precaution of locking his room door, but when he arose on the following morning he found that some person had by some means got into his room and stolen the above property out of his pocket. Suspicion fell upon the prisoner, and although neither the money nor the watch could be found, the suspicion was strengthened by the fact that the prosecutor’s candlestick was found in his bedroom. The Bench committed him for trial.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 4/7/1863

“Staffordshire Midsummer Quarter Sessions.....

The Grand Jury ignored the bill against Martin Toole, 19, brewer, charged with stealing a silver watch, a gold chain, and the sum of £1, the property of Aaron Tompowski, at Wolverhampton.”

London Gazette 1/11/1864

“*Joseph Guest*, of Oxford-street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, having been adjudged bankrupt under a Petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy, filed in Her Majesty’s Court of Bankruptcy for the Birmingham District, on the 27th day of October, 1864, is hereby required to surrender himself to Alfred Hill, Esq, a Registrar of the said Court, at the first meeting of creditors to be held before the said Registrar, on the 14th day of November 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 Messrs. H. and J. E. Underhill, of Wolverhampton, and Mr. W. A. Green, of Birmingham, are the Solicitors acting in the bankruptcy.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 23/11/1864 - Advert

“WATERLOO INN, Newtown, Bilston.

In re *J. Guest*, a Bankrupt. Tomorrow (Thursday), November 24, 1864.

Mr. T. Skidmore will Sell by Auction, on the premises as above.

The whole of the Sock-in-Trade, Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession, Brewing Plant, Spirit Shop Fittings, about 400 gallons of Ale, two capital Ale Machines, Spirit Fountain and Spirit Barrels, Spirit Counter, Shelving, Drinking Tables, Benches, Wood Screen, Household Furniture, and other Effects.

Sale punctually at eleven o'clock in the morning.

Catalogues may be had upon application to George Kinnear, Esq, Official Assignee, Waterloo Street, Birmingham; Messrs H. and J. E. Underhill, Solicitors Exchange Street, or the Auctioneer, 2, Bilston Street, all of Wolverhampton.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 23/11/1864 - Notice

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1861. In the Court of Bankruptcy for the Birmingham District.

Joseph Guest, of Oxford Street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, having been adjudged bankrupt, under a petition for adjudication of bankruptcy filed in her Majesty's Court of Bankruptcy, at Birmingham, on the 27th day of October, 1864, a Public Sitting for the said bankrupt to pass his Last Examination, and make application for his discharge, will be held before George William Sanders, Esq, a Commissioner of the said Court, on the 12th day of December, 1864, at the said Court, at Birmingham, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely, the day last aforesaid being the day limited for the said bankrupt to surrender.

Mr. G. Kinnear, of 17, Waterloo Street, Birmingham, is the Official Assignee; and Messrs. H. and J. E. Underhill, of Wolverhampton, and Mr. W. A. Green, of Birmingham, the Solicitors acting in the Bankruptcy.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 17/12/1864

“Birmingham Bankruptcy Court.....

In re *J. Guest*, Bilston, victualler. Last examination and discharge.

The amount due to unsecured creditors was £644 14s 6d; to creditors holding security, £700; due on accommodation bills, £12; to creditors to be paid in full, £17 5s; total £1,373 19s 6d. Assets, good debts, £23 2s 8d; property given up to assignees, £121; property in the hands of creditors, £750; deficiency, £479 16s 10d. Mr. Griffin appeared for the bankrupt, and Mr. J. E. Underhill for the assignees. A settlement of property on the bankrupt's wife was referred to. Mr. Underhill said he had seen the settlement. It was a settlement of the wife's own property upon herself and her children. The bankrupt had no interest in it.

The Commissioner said the bankrupt seemed to have been ruined by ill-health. Discharged.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/3/1865

“On Friday, at Bilston Police Court, John Doughton, John Holmes, and Samuel Jones, were committed for trial at the assizes for an assault on George Roberts, in Salop Row, Bilston, on the 9th inst, and robbery from his person. The parties had been drinking together. Afterwards Doughton knocked the prosecutor down, Jones struck him on the left temple and Holmes stood by. Prosecutor was robbed of his waistcoat, shoes, handkerchief, etc. Doughton and Jones were afterwards found sleeping together and the prosecutor's waistcoat was on the bed. Mr. Hancox, surgeon, said that the prosecutor was severely injured; he was at first senseless, having sustained concussion of the brain.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/7/1865

“Staffordshire Summer Assizes.....

Samuel Jones, 25, miner, John Doughton, 22, miner, and John Holmes (on bail), were indicted for feloniously assaulting George Roberts on the 8th of March, 1865, at the township of Bilston, and stealing from his person one waistcoat, and one pair of shoes, his property. Mr. Staveley Hill conducted the case for the prosecution. Mr. Brindley defended the prisoner Holmes, and Mr. Young defended the prisoner Doughton. The other prisoner was undefended.

It appeared that the prosecutor and the prisoner were drinking together on the day in question at the WATERLOO public house, Bilston, that they left there and went to the BULLS HEAD in Wolverhampton Road, and that after the prosecutor leaving there, the prisoners followed and committed the offence with which they were now charged. The evidence was very conflicting, and therefore the jury returned a verdict of not guilty.”

Birmingham Daily Post 1/12/1865 – Advert

“Wanted, immediately, a Man, used to the Poultry and Potato Trade.
Apply, WATERLOO INN, Oxford Street, Bilston.”

WANTED, immediately, a **MAN**, used to the Poultry and
Potato Trade.—Apply, Waterloo Inn, Oxford Street,
Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 28/3/1866

“An inquest was opened yesterday, at the WATERLOO INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, on the body of Julia O’Neale, the wife of a miner living in the same street. It had been alleged to the Coroner that the husband of the deceased was accustomed to drink to excess, and then ill-treat his wife. Further, that shortly before her death she had insufficient food. To allow time for a post mortem examination, the inquest was adjourned till next Monday.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/4/1866

“The post mortem examination of Mary O’Neil, of Oxford Street, Bilston, left no doubt that whatever might have been the misconduct of her husband towards her, that she had died from natural causes, and the jury returned a verdict accordingly.”

Birmingham Daily Post 11/10/1866 - Advert

“Excellent Old-Licensed, the WATERLOO, Oxford Street, Bilston.

By John Gray. To be Disposed Of, the Goodwill, Licenses, and Possession of this excellent Liquor Vaults, capitally situated in the best business part of Bilston, and now doing a very large, constant, and rapidly-increasing business. A profitable trade in the Hay and Straw line is attached to the House, and has a very extensive well-established connection. This is decidedly one of the most genuine Houses now in the Market.

Further particulars of John Gray, Valuer and Auctioneer, Cannon Street, Birmingham.”

Walsall Advertiser 2/3/1867 - Advert

“WATERLOO INN, Oxford Street, Bilston.

Clearing-out Sale of the whole of the Effects, in and upon the above-named premises, comprising 33 Gallons of Brandy; 21 Gallons of Whiskey; 27 Gallons of Sherry; 18 Gallons of Port Wine; 6 Gallons of Rum; 300 Gallons of Ale and Porter; also the Brewing Plant, consisting of a 220 Gallon Copper Furnace, 50 Gallon Iron ditto, large Mash Tub and Coolers, 10 capital Ale Casks, from 56 Gallons to 300 Gallons; all the Liquor Shop Fittings, Public-house Fixtures, with the whole of the Household Furniture, which will be Sold by Auction, by R. L. Courtney, on Tuesday next, the 5th day of March, 1867, belonging to Mr. *Thomas Evans*, who is declining the public business.

Sale to commence at Eleven o’clock.

The Premises to be Let, and immediate possession may be had.

Auctioneer’s Offices, High Street, Westbromwich, and 34, Station Street, Walsall.”

Birmingham Daily Post 31/8/1867

“Yesterday, the inquest upon the body of Benjamin Silvester (30), of Temple Street, who died on the 25th inst, after receiving injuries from fighting at the races, was resumed at the WATERLOO INN, before Mr. W. H. Phillips (Deputy Coroner). The post mortem examination showed that the deceased died from apoplexy, brought on by drinking. The surgeon could not in any way attach the death of Silvester to the injuries he received when fighting at the races, and a verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/12/1867

“Yesterday an inquest was held at the WATERLOO INN, Bilston, on the body of John Cayno. The deceased was a collier, and employed at the pits of Messrs. Williams, at Deepfields. On Wednesday last he was working in one of those pits when a large clod of earth fell upon his neck, breaking his collar-bone, and severely injuring him on other parts of his body. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Post 1/1/1868

“Yesterday, at Bilston Police Court, Elijah Walley, of The Lunt, was charged with assaulting his cousin, James Walley. Both the men were drinking at the WATERLOO INN, on Monday night, when they quarrelled during a dispute as to who could sing the best, and the defendant struck the complainant a violent blow on the head with a poker. He was very badly hurt, and it was as much as he could do to appear in Court. The case was remanded for further evidence.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 4/1/1868

"Yesterday, at Bilston Petty Sessions, James Walley was fined 20s and costs, and ordered to find sureties of the peace, under the following circumstances. He was with a number of others the worse for drink in the WATERLOO public house on the night of the 30th ult. There was a general quarrel as to the vocal abilities of some of the company, when defendant declared that he was a b——y Fenian, and seizing a poker struck in blind wrath at his own cousin, Elijah Walley, severely wounding him upon the head. The blood flowed freely, and the injured man was taken at once to Mr. Gilbert, surgeon, who dressed the wound."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/2/1868 - Advert

"To Capitalists, Investors, and Others. Valuable Freehold Public House and Premises, Oxford Street, Bilston, Staffordshire.

Mr. John Bent will Sell by Auction, on Tuesday, the 11th day of February, 1868, upon the Premises, at Six o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions to be then read.

All that Old-established and well-accustomed Public House and Wine and Spirit Vaults, known by the sign of the WATERLOO INN, situate in Oxford Street, Bilston, together with the small Shop adjoining thereto, formerly used as a Cooper's Shop, and also the extensive Stabling, Shedding, Bowling Alley, Yard, and Premises at the back of the said Public House, and adjoining Brook Street. The whole of the said Premises occupy a site of 680 square yards, and offer every accommodation and facility for carrying on an extensive Wholesale and Retail Wine and Spirit Trade. The whole Premises produce an annual rental of £50.

For further particulars, apply to the Auctioneer, or to Mr. Joseph Stokes, Solicitor, both of Dudley; or to Messrs. Brown and Fellows, Solicitors, Bilston."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/7/1868

"Yesterday, at the Police Court, before Mr. I. Spooner (Stipendiary), a lad named Samuel Ellis was committed for trial for stealing 6s 6d from a till in the shop of *John Henry Watkiss*, a publican, of Oxford Street. Prisoner had gone into the bar of prosecutor's house, taken the money out of the till, and ran away. He was followed, however, and given into custody."

Staffordshire Advertiser 25/7/1868

"Staffordshire Summer Assizes.....

Samuel Ellis, 17, miner, pleaded guilty to stealing 6s 6d, the moneys of his master, *John Henry Watkiss*, at the township of Bilston, on the 3rd of July. He stated that he had taken the money to buy himself food with. His Lordship sentenced him to six months' imprisonment."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 19/12/1868

"Yesterday, an inquest was held at the WATERLOO INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, on the body of John Casey, aged 14, who was killed by a quantity of coal falling on his head when at work in a coal pit at the Barn Farm Colliery, at Willenhall, on Monday. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

1871 Census

36, Oxford Street

[1] *John H. Watkiss* (30), licensed victualler, born Dawley, Shropshire;

[2] Seraphina Watkiss (30), wife, born Bilston;

[3] Lizzie Watkiss (5), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[4] Mary Kelsall (20), domestic servant, born Bilston:

John Henry Watkiss – see also SHIP AND RAINBOW.

John Mack was married to Mary Ann.

Midland Examiner 6/2/1875

"In the Divorce Court, on Wednesday, the Staffordshire case of Mack v Mack came before Sir James Hannen. It was a petition presented by the wife for dissolution of her marriage on the ground of adultery and cruelty of the respondent, *John Mack*, the proprietor of the WATERLOO INN, at Bilston. The respondent denied the adultery. Dr. Dean, QC, and Mr. Underhill appeared for the petitioner; Mr. G. Brown appeared for the respondent.

At the date of their marriage, which was solemnised in June 1872, the petitioner was a widow with two children; the respondent a widower, also with two children. After the marriage they took a tavern at Bilston, in the county of Stafford, and lived together on indifferent terms until June 1874, when the petitioner, who had condoned numerous acts of violence which she had suffered at the hands of the respondent, who had been a police-constable, finally separated from him on discovering that he had also been guilty of adultery. The respondent denied both charges, but on the close of the petitioner's case, his counsel virtually admitted that he could not maintain the denial in the face of the body of evidence adduced in support of the petition.

The Court held that both charges had been fully established, and pronounced a decree nisi, with costs."

Midland Examiner 13/11/1875

"For being disorderly while in the WATERLOO INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, Michael Smith and John Toole were fined, the former 20s, and the latter 10s and costs."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 28/3/1876

"John Toole (22) was brought up on a charge of stealing 20s in silver from the house of *John Mack*, WATERLOO INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, on Saturday last. Prosecutor stated that whilst in the house on Saturday he heard a noise in the bar, and on going there he saw the prisoner leaving. He seized him, and found that he had got a sovereign's worth of silver in his hand. He afterwards handed him over to the police.

The prisoner who is an old offender, was committed to the Sessions."

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/4/1876

"Staffordshire Easter Sessions.....

John Toole, 22, labourer, was indicted for stealing £1, the money of *John Mack*, at Bilston.

The prosecutor is a licensed victualler at Bilston. On the 25th of March, about half-past eleven in the evening, his attention was attracted by a noise proceeding from a room in which he had deposited his cash-box, containing about £5. He immediately went to the room. No person was there, but he found that a packet containing a pound in silver had been removed from the box, and on searching the premises he discovered the prisoner concealed in the passage, with the packet of money in his possession. He compelled the prisoner to deliver up the money, which he did very reluctantly, at the same time remarking, as if to palliate his offence, that he might have taken all the cash in the box if he had felt disposed.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty.

It appeared that though the prisoner had not been previously convicted of felony he was a man of violent and worthless character.. He was sent to gaol for eight months."

The Era 9/6/1878 - Advert

"Wanted, an Engagement as Pianist, one well up in the Concert Hall Business, to open on Monday, June 24th.

Please address, Mr. Jabez F. Bloomer, WATERLOO Music Hall, Bilston, Staffordshire

WANTED, an Engagement as PIANIST, one well up
in Concert Hall Business, to open on Monday, June 24th.
Please address, Mr JABEZ F. BLOOMER, Waterloo Music Hall, Bilston,
Staffordshire.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 21/9/1878

"The Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

Attention was then directed to the complaints made by Chief-superintendent McCrea at the annual licensing sessions respecting the performance of music at certain public houses in Bilston on each week day evening.....

Mr. Loveridge remarked that the chief cause of complaint was the fact of music being played in the public houses every night during the week except Sunday, and he and his brother magistrates had received a letter from the Board of Commissioners on the same subject.....

With reference to music playing at the WATERLOO INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, kept by *John Tranter*, Mr. Willcock said that Mr. Anderson, the owner of the house, had taken the matter into consideration, and had arranged to have the music played in the assembly room at the rear of the house License renewed."

Birmingham Post 1/4/1879 - Advert

“Barmaid. Wanted Re-engagement, by an experienced young Person.
Address, C. E. M., WATERLOO VAULTS, Bilston.”

BARMAID.—Wanted. Re-engagement, by an experienced young Person.—Address, C. E. M., Waterloo Vaults, Bilston.

The Era 20/7/1879 - Advert

“Wanted, for WATERLOO Music Hall, Bilston, Staffordshire, Artistes. Must be Comical. Trapeze excepted. Small Hall. Also, Pianist, up to Concert Business. To open Monday, July 28th. Happy to hear from old Worcester favourites.

Address, *Frank Finch*, WATERLOO HOTEL, Bilston.”

WANTED, for Waterloo Music Hall, Bilston, Staffordshire, ARTISTES. Must be Comical. Trapeze excepted. Small Hall. Also, Pianist, up to Concert Business. To open Monday, July 28th. Happy to hear from old Worcester favourites.
Address, FRANK FINCH, Waterloo Hotel, Bilston.

Isaac Richardson – see also MALT SHOVEL, Oxford Street.

1881 Census

36, Oxford Street – WATERLOO INN

- [1] *John Stoker* (33), hotel manager, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] *Esther M. Stoker* (28), wife, manageress, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *Amy E. Stoker* (9), daughter, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] *Annie L. Stoker* (8), daughter, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] *Albert Stoker* (6), son, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [6] *William Hopley* (27), visitor, iron puddler, born Wolverhampton;
- [7] *Elizabeth Hopley* (31), wife, born Wolverhampton;
- [8] *Elizabeth Hill* (54), visitor, domestic servant, born Wolverhampton:

Darlaston Weekly Times 8/4/1882

“Thomas Timmins, a miner, Coseley, was charged by Mr. *Holberry*, landlord of the WATERLOO INN, Oxford Street, with stealing 1s from the counter on Saturday night. Mr. *Fellows*, who appeared for the complainant, asked that the case might be withdrawn, and this was agreed to.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 8/4/1882 - Advert

“WATERLOO New Music Hall, Oxford Street, Bilston. Manager, Joe Holberry.

Every Saturday, Monday and Tuesday. Glorious Success! Crowded Houses!!

Lottie Bates, Charming Serio Comic.

Leon Barrett, late of Sam Hagne’s Minstrels (Tenor Vocalist).

Still They Come. Admission Free.

Choice Ales, Wines, Spirits and Cigars at the Bar.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 3/3/1883 - Deaths

“On Sunday, the 25th ult, William Cresswick, aged 54, manager of the WATERLOO MUSIC HALL, Oxford Street, Bilston. Deeply lamented.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 30/6/1883 - Advert

“Important to Friendly Societies and Others.

In consequence of the WATERLOO CONCERT HALL, Oxford Street, Bilston, being permanently closed for that Business, it has been made suitable for Friendly and Other Societies and Public Meetings, and is to be Let to any of the above.

Apply, *J. Sowrey*, Manager, WATERLOO VAULTS.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 1/12/1883

“A painfully sudden death occurred at Bilston on Tuesday morning, Mrs. Ann Sowrey (44), wife of the manager of the WATERLOO MUSIC HALL, Oxford Street, having been found dead in bed. It appears that beyond a little failing health, Mrs. Sowrey retired to rest in her usual health on Monday night, and her husband on coming down on Tuesday morning, left her apparently sleeping. As she did not rise at her usual hour, Mr. *Sowrey* instructed the servant to call her mistress. She was about to do so, when Mr. *Sowrey* went upstairs, and was distressed to find his wife dead in bed as stated. Death is stated to have resulted from heart disease, to which she had been subject for three years.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 29/3/1884

“George May, Temple Street, Bilston, was charged by Detective Hayward with creating a disturbance in the WATERLOO INN, Oxford Street, on Saturday afternoon. Fined 10s 6d.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 24/5/1884

“On Tuesday evening, a concert was given by a number of local musicians, at the WATERLOO CONCERT HALL, Oxford Street, Bilston, on behalf of the widow and children of the late Charles Gray, of Bilston, who recently died suddenly. There was a large attendance, and an excellent performance was given. Amongst those who volunteered their services were the Misses Fowler, Messrs. J. Gardener, J. Caswell, G. Proffitt, and R. Vann.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 24/10/1885 - Advert

“Notice. Grand Re-opening of the WATERLOO CONCERT HALL on Monday, October 26, 1885.
A Powerful Company of Talented Star Artistes will appear each evening; including Mons. Nimrod, the King of the Cannon Ball, in conjunction with Madame Nimrod, in their great juggling and variety entertainment.
Refreshments at Town Prices. New Stock of choice Spirits, Wines, Cigars, &c. The best glass of ale in town.
Admission: Front Seats 4d, Back Seats 3d. To Commence at Seven o'clock.
Manager, Mr. Joe Holbury. Pianist, Miss P. Hardy.”

London Gazette 24/11/1885

“*Joseph Holberry*, late the BROWN JUG INN, Birmingham-street, Oldbury, Worcestershire, now 28, Brook-street, Bilston, Staffordshire, late Licensed Victualler, now Licensed Victualler's Manager. Date of Order November 21, 1885.”

Birmingham Daily Post 8/12/1885

“Bankruptcy Proceedings.....

At the Wolverhampton County Court, yesterday, *Joseph Holberry*, manager of the WATERLOO INN, Brook Street, Bilston, came up before Mr. Registrar Sanders for his examination. The debtor's statement of affairs showed his liabilities to be £278, and his assets nil. He was formerly a journeyman toolmaker, but in September 1882, went into business on his own account at the BROWN LION INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury. This business he carried on until May, 1885, when he found that owing to bad debts, bad trade, and other circumstances he could not make it pay. Since then he had been waiting for an improvement in trade, when he hoped to pay off his debts. The debtor was allowed to pass his examination.”

Darlaston Weekly News 2/1/1886 - Advert

“Public Notice.

WATERLOO CONCERT HALL, Oxford Street, Bilston. Manager, Mr. Joe Holberry.
A Grand Select Tea Party and Ball will be held at the above Hall, on Monday, January 4th, 1886.
A String Band will be in attendance. Tea on the Table at 6 o'clock. Admission, 1s; after Tea, 6d.”

The Era 16/1/1886 - Advert

“Bilston. WATERLOO CONCERT HALL.

Vacant dates from Monday next, for Dioramas, Minstrels, or good Variety Companies. The only place of amusement in the Town. Inhabitants, 23,000.

Apply, *Joseph Holberry*, WATERLOO BAR, Oxford Street, Bilston, Staffs.

Darlaston Weekly Times 20/3/1886

“On Tuesday evening Mr. Holberry gave a miscellaneous concert at the WATERLOO CONCERT HALL on behalf of the poor of Bilston. A strong array of talent was placed upon the stage for the occasion, but in consequence of the weather and other attractions in the town the same night, the audience was not so large as could have been wished; nevertheless, Mr. Holberry was enabled to distribute on Friday 130 4lb loaves of bread to the necessitous poor.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 19/6/1886

"The Bilston Royal X.L.C.R. Amateur Dramatic Society has given a series of entertainments in the WATERLOO CONCERT HALL during the present week.....

As regards the impersonation of each and every character, it would not be exaggerating to say that the company have acquitted themselves in a very creditable style, which would compare favourably with some professionals, although the majority of them are respectable working men."

Darlaston Weekly Times 9/10/1886 - Advert

"WATERLOO CONCERT HALL, Oxford Street, Bilston.

Select Dancing Party every Saturday and Monday Evening.

Patronage Solicited."

Darlaston Weekly Times 13/11/1886 - Advert

"The Place to Spend a Pleasant Evening is the WATERLOO, Oxford Street, Bilston.

Good Music – Good Singing – Good Beer – Good Liquors – Good Cigars, and above all Good Company and Conduct.

Vide the Press.

Manager, Mr. Joe Holberry.

Sacred Music every Sunday Evening."

Darlaston Weekly Times 4/3/1887

"A three nights entertainment, consisting of comical ventriloquism, conjuring, &c, is being given at the WATERLOO CONCERT HALL, Bilston, by Nimrod, the well-known ventriloquist, assisted by several celebrated artistes. The entertainment is one which should be well patronised by the working men of the town."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 12/4/1889

"An application was made for the transfer of the license of the WATERLOO INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, from *Richard Hall* to *John Beebee*.

In reply to Chief-superintendent Longden, *Beebee* said that he was not the actual tenant, but was a manager to Chesters Brewery Company, at a salary of 25s a week.

Mr. Longden said that they had been selling at the inn for the last twelve months without a license, in the name of *Hall*, and had been convicted for it. He objected to the transfer, because very likely tomorrow they would take out

Mr. *Beebee*, and intoxicants would be sold in his name while he was living perhaps at Wolverhampton or Manchester.

Mr. S. Tovey, JP, agent for Chesters Brewery Company, said that *Beebee* was in the house under the same terms as the other managers and under a month's notice. Besides his salary he had commission.

The application was refused, and Mr. Tovey expressed his intention of appealing against the decision."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 18/4/1889

"At Bilston Court today, Mr. C. A. Loxton, of Walsall, applied for a temporary authority for *John Beebee* to sell at the WATERLOO INN. He said that the case had been before the Bench on several occasions, and objections had been raised each time. The last objection was that *Beebee* was only a manager, and not a tenant. They were quite ready that *Beebee* should be a tenant. Chief-superintendent Longden then said that if were the case he would have no objection. If the proceedings had been regular there would have been no objection to the application. The application was granted."

Birmingham Daily Post 18/9/1890 - Advert

"Concert Hall. To Let, for the season or on a permanent tenancy, the spacious and handsome Concert Hall or Assembly Room at the WATERLOO, Bilston. Distinct and apart from the house.

For particulars, apply on the premises; or at 63, Vicarage Street, Walsall."

CONCERT-HALL.—To Let, for the season or on a permanent tenancy, the spacious and handsome Concert Hall or Assembly Room at the Waterloo, Bilston. Distinct and apart from the house. —For particulars, apply on premises; or at 63, Vicarage Street, Walsall.

1891 Census

36a, Oxford Street – WATERLOO INN

- [1] Joseph Goodwin (35), licensed victualler, born Bolton, Lancashire;
- [2] Frances Goodwin (25), wife, born Birmingham;
- [3] Lawrence Goodwin (3), son, born Birmingham;
- [4] Olive V. Goodwin (10 months), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] Sarah Marchetti (68), mother-in-law, widow, living on own means, born Birmingham;
- [6] Nellie Green (23), cousin, general servant, born Birmingham;
- [7] Frank Green (13), cousin, scholar, born Scarborough;
- [8] James Curley (22), boarder, sheet iron worker, born Bilston:

Frances Goodwin – see SAMPSON AND LION, Green Croft.

The Stage 8/3/1894

“It is with regret that we announce the death of Mrs. Holberry, wife of Mr. Joseph Holberry. The deceased was well known in theatrical and music hall circles, having about seven years ago, in conjunction with her husband, managed the Holberry Concert Hall, Oldbury, and two years later the WATERLOO MUSIC HALL, Bilston. For the last three or four years Mr. and Mrs. Holberry have kept the TALBOT INN, Dudley. Deceased was apparently in her usual health up to Thursday morning last, when at about 8’clock she was seized with a paralytic stroke, and expired about eighteen hours after.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 8/8/1898

“An inquiry touching the death of James Mead (62), of 162, Oxford Street, Bilston (who was found dead in an outhouse on Saturday morning, under circumstances already reported in our columns), was held on Saturday evening at the WATERLOO INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, by Mr. A. B. Smith (deputy coroner), when the jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

1901 Census

83, Oxford Street

- [1] Henry Connor (36), married, manager of tavern, born Birmingham;
- [2] Ted Connor (20), son, barman, born Birmingham;
- [3] Joe Tompson (23), barman, born Darlaston:

The name was changed to OXFORD c.1902.

Alfred John Pardoe was convicted on 11th March 1902 for two cases of permitting drunkenness.

Birmingham Weekly Post 15/3/1902

“At the Bilston Police Court on Tuesday, *Alfred J. Pardoe*, landlord of the OXFORD INN, Bilston, was summoned for permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises. Mr. A. Turton prosecuted on behalf of the police, and Mr. R. A. Willcock defended. It appeared that a woman named Hall found her husband drinking in the house, and mentioned the circumstances to the police, who visited the place and found three men the worse for drink. A fine of £10 and the costs, £13 6s 6d in all, was imposed. For a like offence committed on the following day a fine of £1 and the costs was imposed. Fines were inflicted on two women found drunk on the premises. Hall and another man, it was stated, had absconded.”

Birmingham Mail 26/9/1904

“An extraordinary tale of domestic infidelity was unfolded at the Tipton Police Court today, the defendant being *John Thomas [Wilson]*, who was summoned by his wife for a maintenance order. The parties were married at Handsworth, and had three children. Defendant was now the licensee of the HORSELEY TAVERN, Tipton, but formerly was landlord of the OXFORD INN, Bilston. Whilst at Bilston he became acquainted with Rose Waldron, licensee of the DOG AND PARTRIDGE INN, Bilston. Subsequently he told his wife that he loved Waldron, and should have nothing more to do with her, adding that he wished she was a corpse. The wife stated that in consequence of his intimacy with the woman she went to reside with a nephew, and her husband took Rose Waldron to the HORSELEY TAVERN, where, it was alleged, she still lived with him. Defendant had sent sums of money to his wife amounting to £7. Defendant was ordered to contribute 30s weekly, his wife being allowed the custody of the children.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/9/1904

“At Tipton Police Court yesterday *John Thomas Wilson*, licensee of the HORSELEY TAVERN, was summoned by his wife for maintenance.....”

Indenture 28/10/1909

“All that messuage or dwelling-house public house and premises situate at New Town in Bilston formerly known as the WATERLOO INN and now known as the OXFORD INN. And also the stabling yard gardens and outbuildings adjoining thereto and at the back thereof together with the loft or room erected and now projecting over part of the said yard.....”

1911 Census

83, Oxford Street – OXFORD INN

[1] Joseph Shaw (31), coal miner, hewer, born Moxley;

[2] Harriet Shaw (24), wife, married 2 years, born Bilston:

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.....

OXFORD, Oxford Street, Bilston. Full Licensee. Licensee, *James Collins*. Registered Owner, Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Limited.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 14/10/1911

“At a recent meeting of the Staffordshire County Licensing Compensation Authority, held at Stafford, the claims for the total amount of compensation to be paid in respect of licenses refused at the principal meeting in July last were dealt with. The following are the decisions arrived at in the various cases.....

OXFORD, Bilston, £500.”

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.....

OXFORD, Bilston, full, £500.

The money has been apportioned among the interested parties and paid.”

Compensation of £500 was paid on 16th December 1911.
The license was extinguished on 23rd December 1911.

Bilston & Willenhall Times 18/10/1924

"Mr. Cyril H. Green, FNAA, auctioneer, Bilston, conducted a successful sale of freehold properties, de-licensed houses, and land, situate in Bilston, Priestfields, and Bradley, at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, on Tuesday evening..... The freehold dwelling houses, formerly the OXFORD VAULTS in Oxford Street, Bilston, a freehold piece of building land in Thompson Street, Bilston, and two dwelling houses in Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, were sold privately previous to the sale and realised respectively £550, £183, and £380."

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT.

MR. GEORGE BROWN has received instructions to OFFER for SALE by PUBLIC AUCTION, on Tuesday, the 18th day of March next, upon the Premises, at six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions, all that Old-established PUBLIC HOUSE, with the Yard, Shopping, Stable, Outbuildings, and Appurtenances thereto belonging, known by the sign of the "Waterloo Inn," situate in Oxford-street, Bilston, together with the two MESSUAGES or DWELLING HOUSES in the rear thereof. The above Premises are situate in the centre of Bilston, and within one minute's walk of the Great Western Railway Station. They produce an annual rental of £—.

For further particulars see handbill; or apply to the AUCTIONEER, or Mr. C. G. BROWN, Solicitor, of Bilston.

IMPORTANT TO WHOLESALE AND RETAIL WINE MERCHANTS AND OTHERS.

MR. GEORGE BROWN will SELL by AUCTION, on Tuesday, the 18th day of March, 1862, upon the Premises, at six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions of sale to be then read (by order of the Mortgagees), all that well-accustomed Old-established FREEHOLD PUBLIC HOUSE and WINE and SPIRIT VAULT, known by the sign of the "Waterloo Inn," situate in Oxford-street, Bilston, together with the small SHOP adjoining thereto, lately used as a Cooper's Shop, and also the extensive Stabling, Shedding, Bowling Alley, Yard, and Premises at the back of the said public house, and adjoining Brook-street. The whole of the said Premises occupy a site of 680 square yards, and offer every accommodation and facility for carrying on an extensive wholesale and retail wine and spirit trade. The whole produce an annual rental of £65.

For further particulars apply to the AUCTIONEER, or to Mr. C. G. BROWN, Solicitor, both of Oxford-street, Bilston.

TO LICENSED VICTUALLERS AND OTHERS.

TO BE LET, with immediate possession, the well-known Liquor Vaults and Premises, known as the WATERLOO INN, situate in Oxford-street, Bilston. The house has been for years noted for doing a good business, and is in the most populous part of the town, well adapted for wholesale and retail purposes. Fixtures inexpensive; rent moderate.—For further particulars apply to Mr. WILLIAM FELLOWS, Priory-street, Dudley; or on the premises.

SALE AT THE WATERLOO INN, BILSTON.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION.

BY Mr. HAWKINS, THIS DAY (Thursday), June 12th—the whole of the superior SPIRIT SHOP FIXTURES, excellent Counter, seven-tap Spirit Fountain, and Casks capital Beer Machine, Shelving, Stove and Piping, rail-back Forms, Gas and Water Piping, Stock of SPIRITS, and ALE BREWING VESSELS, Copper Furnaces, Mashing Tub, Vats, Malt Crushers, Ale Casks; part of the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, and other useful effects, by order of the Trustees of the late Mr. Richard Hill. Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock. Catalogues may be had at the place of sale, or from the Auctioneer, Brierley Hill.

1862

WATERLOO INN, NEW TOWN, BILSTON.

In re J. GUEST, a Bankrupt.

TO-MORROW (THURSDAY), NOVEMBER 24, 1864.

MR. T. SKIDMORE will SELL by AUCTION, on the premises as above, the whole of the STOCK-IN-TRADE, LICENSES, GOODWILL, and POSSESSION, Brewing Plant, Spirit Shop Fittings, about 400 gallons of ALE, two capital ALE MACHINES, Spirit Fountain and Spirit Barrels, Spirit Counter, Shelving, Drinking Tables, Benches, Wood Screen, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, and other Effects.

Sale punctually at eleven o'clock in the morning.

Catalogues may be had upon application to GEORGE KINNEAR, Esq., Official Assignee, Waterloo-street, Birmingham; Messrs H. and J. E. UNDERHILL, Solicitors, Exchange-street, or the AUCTIONEER, 2, Bilston-street, all of Wolverhampton.

THE BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1861.

IN THE COURT OF BANKRUPTCY FOR THE BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT.

JOSEPH GUEST, of Oxford-street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualier, having been adjudged bankrupt under a petition for adjudication of bankruptcy filed in her Majesty's Court of Bankruptcy, at Birmingham, on the 27th day of October, 1864, a Public Sitting for the said bankrupt to pass his LAST EXAMINATION, and make application for his discharge, will be held before GEORGE WILLIAM SANDERS, Esq., a Commissioner of the said Court, on the 12th day of December, 1864, at the said Court, at Birmingham, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely, the day last aforesaid being the day limited for the said bankrupt to surrender.

Mr. G. KINNEAR, of 17, Waterloo-street, Birmingham, is the Official Assignee; and Messrs. H. and J. E. UNDERHILL, of Wolverhampton, and Mr. W. A. GREEN, of Birmingham, the Solicitors in the bankruptcy.

1864

EXCELLENT OLD-LICENSED, THE "WATERLOO," OXFORD STREET, BILSTON.

BY JOHN GRAY.—To be DISPOSED OF, the GOODWILL, LICENSES, and POSSESSION of this excellent LIQUOR VAULTS, capital situated in the best business part of Bilston, and now doing a very large, constant, and rapidly-increasing business. A profitable trade in the Hay and Straw line is attached to the House, and has a very extensive well-established connection. This is decidedly one of the most genuine Houses now in the Market. Further particulars of John Gray, Valuer and Auctioneer, 35, Cannon-street, Birmingham.

1866

**WATERLOO INN,
OXFORD STREET, BILSTON.**

CLEARING-OUT Sale of the whole of the **EFFECTS**, in and upon the above-named premises, comprising 33 Gallons of **BRANDY**; 21 Gallons of **WHISKEY**; 27 Gallons of **SHERBERRY**; 18 Gallons of **PORT WINE**; 6 Gallons of **RUM**; 300 Gallons of **ALE** and **PORTER**; also the **BREWING PLANT**, consisting of a 220 Gallon Copper Furnace, 50 Gallon Iron ditto, large Mash Tub and Coolers, 10 capital Ale Casks, from 56 Gallons to 300 Gallons; all the **LIQUOR SHOP FITTINGS**, Public-house Fixtures, with the whole of the Household **FURNITURE**, which will be Sold by Auction, by **R. L. COURTNEY**, on Tuesday next, the 5th day of March, 1867, belonging to **Mr. Thomas Evans**, who is declining the public business.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.

The Premises to be Let, and immediate possession may be had.

Auctioneer's Office,

High Street, Westbromwich, and 34, Station Street, Walsall.

1867

**TO CAPITALISTS, INVESTORS, AND OTHERS.
VALUABLE FREEHOLD PUBLIC HOUSE AND
PREMISES,**

OXFORD STREET, BILSTON, STAFFORDSHIRE.

M**R. JOHN BENT** will **SELL** by **AUCTION**, on Tuesday, the 11th day of February, 1868, upon the Premises, at Six o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions to be then read:—

All that Old-established and well-accustomed **PUBLIC HOUSE** and **WINE** and **SPIRIT VAULTS**, known by the sign of the "Waterloo Inn," situate in Oxford Street, Bilston, together with the small **SHOP** adjoining thereto, formerly used as a Cooper's Shop, and also the extensive **Stabling**, **Shedding**, **Bowling Alley**, **Yard**, and Premises at the back of the said Public House, and adjoining Brook Street. The whole of the said Premises occupy a site of 680 square yards, and offer every accommodation and facility for carrying on an extensive **Wholesale** and **Retail Wine** and **Spirit Trade**. The whole Premises produce an annual rental of **£50**.

For further particulars, apply to the **AUCTIONEER**, or to **Mr. Joseph Stokes**, Solicitor, both of Dudley; or to Messrs. **Brown and Fellows**, Solicitors, Bilston.

1868

**WATERLOO NEW MUSIC HALL,
OXFORD STREET, BILSTON.**

Manager ... **JOE HOLBERRY.**
Every SATURDAY, MONDAY and TUESDAY.
Glorious Success! Crowded Houses!!

LOTTIE BATES, Charming Serio Comic.
LEON BARRETT, late of Sam Hagne's Minstrels,
(Tenor Vocalist).
Still They Come.
Admission Free.

Choice Ales, Wines, Spirits and Cigars at the Bar

1882

**IMPORTANT TO FRIENDLY SOCIETIES
AND OTHERS.**

In consequence of the
**WATERLOO CONCERT HALL, OXFORD ST.,
BILSTON,**
Being permanently closed for that Business, it has
been made suitable for
**FRIENDLY & OTHER SOCIETIES & PUBLIC
MEETINGS,**

And is to be **LET** to any of the above.
Apply, **J. Sowrey**, Manager, Waterloo Vaults.

1883

NOTICE.

G**R****A****N****D** **R****E****-****O****P****E****N****I****N****G**
O**F** **T****H****E**
W**A****T****E****R****L****O****O** **C****O****N****C****E****R****T** **H****A****L****L**,
O**N** **M****O****N****D****A****Y**, **O****C****T**. **26**, **1885**.

A POWERFUL COMPANY
of Talented Star Artists will appear each evening ;
including :
MONS. NIMROD,
The King of the Cannon Ball in conjunction with
MADAME NIMROD,
In their great juggling and variety entertainment.

REFRESHMENTS AT TOWN PRICES.
New Stock of choice Spirits, Wines, Cigars, &c.
The best glass of ale in town.

ADMISSION : Front Seats 4d., Back Seats 3d.
To Commence at Seven o'clock.

Manager - - **Mr. Joe Holbury.**
Pianist - - **Miss P. Hardy.**

1885

PUBLIC NOTICE.

**WATERLOO CONCERT HALL,
OXFORD STREET, BILSTON.**
Manager - - - **MR. JOE HOLBERRY.**

A Grand Select

T**E****A** **P****A****R****T****Y** **A****N****D** **B****A****L****L**

Will be held at the above Hall,

O**N** **M****O****N****D****A****Y**, **J****A****N****U****A****R****Y** **4****T****H**, **1886**.

A STRING BAND will be in attendance.

T**e****a** on the Table at 6 o'clock.

A**d****m****i****s****s****i****o****n**, **1****s**.; after **T****e****a**, **6****d**.

BILSTON. — WATERLOO CONCERT
HALL.—Vacant dates from Monday next, for Dioramas,
Minstrels, or good Variety Companies. The only place of
amusement in the Town. Inhabitants, 23,000. Apply, **JOSEPH**
HOLBERRY, Waterloo-bar, Oxford-street, Bilston, Staff.

W**A****T****E****R****L****O****O** **C****O****N****C****E****R****T** **H****A****L****L**,
O**X****F****O****R****D** **S****T****R****E****E****T**, **B****I****L****S****T****O****N**.

S**E****L****E****C****T** **D****A****N****C****I****N****G** **P****A****R****T****Y**

E**v****e****r****y** **S****a****t****u****r****d****a****y** **a****n****d** **M****o****n****d****a****y** **E****v****e****n****i****n****g**.

 *Patronage Solicited.*

The place to Spend a Pleasant Evening is

T**H****E** **W****A****T****E****R****L****O****O**.
O**X****F****O****R****D** **S****T****R****E****E****T**, **B****I****L****S****T****O****N**.

G**O****O****D** **M****U****S****I****C**—**G****O****O****D** **S****I****N****G****I****N****G**—**G****O****O****D** **B****E****E****R**
—**G****O****O****D** **L****I****Q****U****O****R****S**—**G****O****O****D** **C****I****G****A****R****S**, **A****N****D**
A**B****O****V****E** **A****L****L** **G****O****O****D** **C****O****M****P****A****N****Y**
A**N****D** **C****O****N****D****U****C****T**.

Vide the Press.

M**A****N****A****G****E****R** ... **M****R**. **J****O****E** **H****O****L****B****E****R****R****Y**
S**a****c****r****e****d** **M****u****s****i****c** **e****v****e****r****y** **S****u****n****d****a****y** **E****v****e****n****i****n****g**.

1886

PARKFIELD TAVERN

715, Parkfield Road, (18, Parkfield Road), Ettingshall, BILSTON

OWNERS

Thomas Johnson
Elizabeth Johnson, widow
Sarah Johnson
Alice Roper, 716, Parkfields Road
Johnson and Phipps, Lichfield Street, Wolverhampton
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.
Avebury Taverns Ltd. (acquired in 1999)
Swinder Bath [2003]



LICENSEES

Ravencroft [1852]
Thomas Johnson [1859] – **1887**;
Isaac Johnson **(1887 – 1889)**;
Mrs. Sarah Johnson **(1889 – 1916)**;
Elizabeth Johnson **(1916 – 1936)**;
George Prosser **(1936 – 1938)**;
John Leonard Jones **(1938 – [1940]**
Harblas Rai [1994] – [1995]



1997

NOTES

[This pub was strictly in the parish of Sedgley, but is included here due to other pubs in the proximity coming under Bilston.]

18, Parkfield Road [1871], [1881], [1891]

715, Parkfield Road [1901], [1911], [1912], [1921], [1939], [1940], [1997]

It had a beerhouse license.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/6/1852 - Advert

“Beerhouse near Goldthorn Hill, Wolverhampton.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. R. S. Walker, at the FIGHTING COCKS INN, Goldthorn Hill, on Monday, the 21st day of June instant.

All that well-built and commodious House, used as a Beerhouse, and called the OLD PARKFIELD TAVERN, situate fronting the road leading from Goldthorn Hill to Bilston, consisting of cellars, parlour, bar, kitchen, with club room and good bed rooms, also an excellent brewhouse, with hard and soft water pumps, and other conveniences thereto, the whole enclosed with a brick wall, now occupied by *Ravencroft*.

For further particulars apply to Mr. Manby, solicitor, or the Auctioneer, Wolverhampton.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/8/1859

“Yesterday a special sessions was held at the Public Office, Bilston, for the renewal and granting of victuallers’ licenses.....

Mr. Bowen applied for a license for Mr. *T. Johnson*, of the PARKFIELD TAVERN, Parkfield, which was refused, one ground of refusal being that the applicant was a butty collier, and that it was most mischievous for persons in his position to keep public houses.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/8/1859

“The annual meeting of Magistrates for the purpose of the renewal and granting of licenses for the township of Bilston and the neighbourhood was held at the Bilston Police Court on Friday last.....

Application was made by Mr. Bowen for a license to the PARKFIELD TAVERN, kept by Mr. *Thomas Johnson*. It was stated that the applicant was a butty in the employ of the Parkfield Colliery, from whom he had received a very excellent testimonial. The Bench refused the application upon two grounds, first that it was not advisable to entrust victualling licenses to persons holding situations as butty colliers, and next because the locality was not at present sufficiently populated to necessitate another licensed house.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/3/1870

“Staffordshire Lent Assizes.....

Woolley v Johnson. This was an action for false imprisonment. Mr. S. A. Hill, QC, MP, and Mr. Macnamara were for the plaintiff, and Mr. Powell, QC, and Mr. Underhill for the defendant.

The plaintiff is a chemists and druggists assistant, living near Bilston, and on the 25th August last he visited the PARK FIELD TAVERN, Bilston, which is kept by the defendant, and called for a glass of ale. He tendered a sixpence in payment, the only money he had with the exception of a halfpenny, and defendant’s daughter gave him what she believed to be fourpence in change. Shortly afterwards the defendant’s daughter missed a half-crown from the till, near to which the plaintiff was, and she called to the servant, and was about to question her concerning it, when it was recognised in the plaintiff’s hand, and, simultaneously with it being seen, it was stated the plaintiff called out not to blame the girl, that it was Miss Johnson’s own mistake. Plaintiff, however, was retained till a policeman was sent for, and he was given into custody on a charge of stealing it. He was taken to the police station, and was, after being detained a short time, admitted to bail. He was afterwards brought up before Mr. Spooner at the Bilston Petty Sessions, and was discharged.

For the plaintiff it was contended that he had received the half-crown in change, and that he did not know he had received it until he pulled it out of his pocket, and that before he had time to return it he was taken into custody. For the false imprisonment the plaintiff now claimed compensation.

It was pleaded on behalf of the defendant that he had reasonable grounds for giving the plaintiff into custody. The jury found a verdict for the defendant.”

1871 Census

18, Parkfield Road – PARKFIELD TAVERN

[1] *Thomas Johnson* (63), coal miner and licensed victualler, born Shropshire;

[2] *Elizabeth Johnson* (61), wife, born Wolverhampton;

[3] *William Johnson* (33), son, coal miner, born Sedgley;

[4] *Mary Smart* (24), general servant, born Sedgley:

Thomas Johnson, beer retailer, Parkfields. [1872]

1881 Census

18, Parkfield Road

[1] *Thomas Johnson* (73), public house, born Oakengates, Shropshire;

[2] *Elizabeth Johnson* (71), wife, born Wolverhampton;

[3] *Mary Taylor* (16), domestic servant, born Sedgley:

Thomas Johnson died on 12th September 1887.

Isaac Johnson was the son of *Thomas*.

He married *Sarah Cooksey* in the 4th quarter of 1867.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 12/3/1889

“Staffordshire Adjourned Quarter Sessions.....

Edward McHale (37), locksmith, was indicted for stealing, on February 8th, a clock, value 30s, belonging to *Isaac Johnson*, of the PARKFIELD TAVERN, Parkfield Road, Sedgley. Mr. Harvey appeared for the prosecution.

Prisoner and a companion visited prosecutor's public house, and were served with liquor by Mrs. *Johnson*. Shortly afterwards she missed a clock, which had hung in the kitchen, and, on inquiring about it, the two men ran out and up the lane, with Mrs. *Johnson* in pursuit, prisoner being caught by a young man named Powis, the other runaway escaping. The clock was found on the kitchen screen.

Prisoner now denied having touched the article, and he was found not guilty and discharged.

The Chairman pointed out that the prisoner had been in trouble eight times before.”

Isaac Johnson died on 4th December 1889.

Cannock Chase Courier 7/12/1889

“Fatal Colliery Accident in Wolverhampton.

Isaac Johnson (49), chartermaster and landlord of the PARKFIELD TAVERN, Parkfield Road, was killed on Wednesday morning in his own pit. He had gone into the workings between ten and eleven o'clock to see that all was right, when a large quantity of coal, perhaps a ton's weight, fell upon him from the roof, and injured him so severely that he died in about a quarter of an hour before medical aid could be obtained. The pit is situated at the back of the ASH TREE INN, Dudley Road. The body of the deceased was removed home. He leaves a widow and six children.

Deceased was very well known in this district. As a young man he was a very clever pugilist, but did not pursue it very much, in deference to his parents wishes. At one time he was in partnership with his brother-in-law in the Sedgley Park, but they afterwards dissolved partnership, deceased taking the Cockshead pit, where he employed about a dozen men. His father was a chartermaster before him.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 7/12/1889

“Mr. E. B. Thorneycroft, deputy coroner, held an inquiry today (Saturday), at the PARKFIELD TAVERN, Parkfield Road, Sedgley, relative to the death of the landlord of the house, *Isaac Johnson* (49), who was also the owner of the Dudley Road Colliery. The deceased, it will be remembered, was killed in his own pit on Wednesday last by a fall of coal. Mr. W. B. Scott, Government Inspector of Mines for the district, was present.

The coroner before proceeding asked whether any of the jury had any personal interest in the colliery at which the deceased was killed. Police-constable Clarke, who had summoned the jury, replied that most of the jurors had been employed by the deceased at his colliery; and Mr. Scott stated that the whole of the pit's company were included. He further pointed out that no person working at a colliery at which a fatal accident had occurred was qualified to serve on the jury inquiring into the matter. The coroner said he could not take the present jury, and another one must be summoned. Police-constable Clarke replied that he had been all morning in getting the requisite number of jurymen, and he would be obliged to get any new ones from the borough, the PARKFIELD TAVERN being a few yards over the borough boundary. At length, with the assistance of Police-constable Parsons, of the borough force, a new jury was obtained, and the inquiry proceeded.

Joseph Walters, miner, deposed that on Wednesday morning he was working in the Dudley Road Pit, with the deceased. At about eleven o'clock a fall of coal occurred, about a ton of the mineral descending from the roof upon the deceased and killing him instantly. On examining the coal afterwards witness noticed a 'fault,' which had not previously been perceptible. Emanuel Dainty supported this statement.

The coroner remarked that the evidence showed that no blame could be attached to anyone, as it was the deceased's duty to have fixed timbers if necessary, and to have taken whatever precautions were required. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

1891 Census

18, Parkfield Road – Public House

- [1] *Sarah Johnson* (48), married, publican, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] *Alice Johnson* (21), daughter, dressmaker, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *Lizzie Johnson* (19), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] *Benjamin Johnson* (17), son, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] *Sarah Johnson* (15), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [6] *Jane Johnson* (13), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [7] *Emily Cooksey Johnson* (7), born Wolverhampton:

Mrs. *Sarah Johnson*, beer retailer, Parkfield Road. [1896]

1901 Census

715, Parkfield Road

- [1] *Sarah Johnson* (58), widow, publican, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Ben Johnson* (27), son, married, barman, born Sedgley;
- [3] *Elizabeth Johnson* (29), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [4] *Sarah Sparrow* (25), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [5] *Charles D. Sparrow* (26), son-in-law, commercial clerk, born Shrewsbury;
- [6] *Thomas Smith* (41), boarder, striker, hurdle making, born Tipton:

Birmingham Journal 12/2/1910

“Mr. T. A. Stokes (county coroner) held an inquest at the GREEN DRAGON, Upper Gornal, on Monday evening, on the death of *Thomas Smith* (33), no fixed abode, formerly a blacksmith employed at Wolverhampton, whose lifeless body was found in a ditch in a field. The evidence showed that *Smith* had been recently employed in doing odd jobs at the PARKFIELD TAVERN. Last Friday he visited some friends at Upper Gornal, and complained that he had lost his situation. He was provided with food, and subsequently he stated that he was going to Bilston, intimating that he should go a near way to Woodsetton across some fields. A woman named *Martha Jeavons* urged him to go by the main road, but he did not follow her advice. He left the house at about 8pm to go across the fields. At about nine o’clock the following morning his body was found in a ditch in a field about forty yards from the footpath. There was a depth of water in the ditch of about four inches, and the man’s legs and body were embedded in the mud to the extent of 3ft. The head was quite free of either the mud or water. There was a severe frost during the night in question.

The jury returned a verdict of Death from Exposure, the result of Misadventure.”

1911 Census

715, Parkfield Road

- [1] *Sarah Johnson* (68), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Elizabeth Johnson* (39), daughter, assistant in the business, born Sedgley;
- [3] *Ben Johnson* (37), son, married, assistant in the business, born Sedgley;
- [4] *Stanley Davies* (8), grand-son, born Wolverhampton:

Mrs. *Sarah Johnson*, beer retailer, 715, Parkfield Road. [1912]

Sarah Johnson died on 22nd May 1916.

1916 Probate

“*Sarah Johnson*, of the PARKFIELD TAVERN, Parkfield Road, Wolverhampton, widow, died 22 May 1916. Probate London 6 October to *Alice Roper* (wife of *Thomas Roper*) and *Elizabeth Johnson*, spinster. Effects £1,930.”

1921 Census

715, Parkfield Road

[1] *Elizabeth Johnson* (49), licensed victualler, born Wolverhampton;

[2] *Thomas Koper* (57), brother-in-law, fitter, born Tipton;

[3] *Alice Koper* (51), sister, home duties, born Wolverhampton;

[4] *Harry George Johnson Koper* (25), nephew, fitter, born Wolverhampton;

[5] *Fred Koper* (7), nephew, born Wolverhampton:

South Staffordshire Times 8/3/1924

"The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Bilston Division were held yesterday, before a full Bench of Justices, Mr. E. Hickman presided....

Considerable opposition was offered to the provisional application for a license to new premises it was proposed on land in Parkfield Road. Mr. Skidmore made the application. Mr. Turton opposed on behalf of the owner and tenant of the RED LION, Parkfield Road, and Mr. J. F. Bourke (instructed by Messrs. Landon and Barrows) on behalf of the owner and licensee of the PARKFIELD TAVERN. The application was opposed by the Rev. W. E. Richardson, Primitive Methodist Church, Parkfield Road; the Vicar of Ettingshall (Rev. W. H. R. Gipps); Mrs. Hodgetts on behalf of herself and neighbours; Mr. Geo. Watkins, on behalf of the Vicar of Blakenhall; Mr. Staghouse, on behalf of the trustees of the Primitive Methodist Church, Parkfield; and Mr. Joseph Hatley, on behalf of the residents and trustees of Parkfield Primitive Methodist Church.

Mr. Skidmore, in his remarks to the justices, said the proposal was to remove the GIFFORD ARMS, Codsall Wood, which was a rural district and already well served, to a proposed site in Parkfield Road. The site to which it was proposed to transfer the license was a different proposition. The site was directly opposite the new estate which was being developed by the Wolverhampton Corporation and a large number of houses had been run up there. The new road to Birmingham would run within a very few yards of the site. He knew it was unusual to ask for the removal of a license in one district to another, and the justices might say that Codsall would lose one license and this district get one more. If the justices granted the removal of the license of the GIFFORD ARMS, the applicant was prepared to give up the license of the ROYAL EXCHANGE, Queen Street, Bilston, an 'on' beer license. So at any rate they would get rid of one license in the county for nothing. They would get a license transferred from a place where it was not particularly required, to a site where it would be of great public convenience, and he ventured to suggest that the justices should not take too narrow a view. Mr. Skidmore added he should produce plans by which it would be seen that the house it was proposed to erect upon the site was most modern and up-to-date in every way.

Mr. Tomlins, Wolverhampton, explained the plans and spoke of the increase in dwellings which would take place by a housing scheme which was being pressed forward.

Mr. F. B. Housiaux, the owner of the estate upon which it was proposed to build the new premises, said he was a general dealer and he approached Mr. Myatt with a scheme suggesting it would make a good site for a licensed house, and agreed to sell it to him.

Mr. Bourke, in his opposition to the application, emphasised the fact that the justices were asked to remove a license which was outside, into their district. Much had been said on housing and the new road, but under the present conditions he urged that the district was well supplied with licensed houses.

Mr. Turton expressed the opinion that the present was not a suitable time to grant such an application.

The Rev. W. E. Hutchinson, speaking on behalf of the petitioners against the granting of a license, said one point was that there were sufficient licensed houses in the neighbourhood to meet requirements. They felt the future should take care of itself and they asked the justices to wait and see what may be the conditions in the future. Within half a mile of the proposed site were seven places where refreshments could be obtained. Nearly seventy-five per cent of the people living in the new houses had signed a petition against it.

The Justices retired, and after a brief absence, the chairman announced that they had given careful attention to the application, and the petition against it, and were unanimous in declining it."

Evening Despatch 12/4/1939

"Dog Show Awards.....

A show attended by a large gallery was held at the PARKFIELD TAVERN, Parkfield, near Wolverhampton.

A Dalmatian, owned by Mr. Cooper, of Wolverhampton, was judged by Mr. Campbell, who judged the whole show, to be the best exhibit....."

1939 Register

715, Parkfield Road

[1] John L. Jones, date of birth 31/12/1902, retail beerhouse manager, married;

[2] Annie W. Jones, dob 14/11/1902, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] Thelma M. (Jones) Timmins, dob 17/10/1925, at school, single;

[6] Ceridwen A. (Jones) Harvey, dob 8/7/1936, under school age, single:

An application was made in 1991 for alterations.

[1997]

Closed

It was converted into two shops in 2004.

**BEERHOUSE NEAR GOLDTHORN HILL,
Wolverhampton.**
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY MR. R. S. WALKER,
At the Fighting Cocks Inn, Goldthorn-hill, on Monday,
the 21st day of June instant,
ALL that well-built and commodious HOUSE, used
as a BEERHOUSE, and called "The Old Park-
field Tavern, situate fronting the road leading from
Goldthorn-hill to Bilston, consisting of cellars, parlour,
bar, kitchen, with club room and good bed rooms, also
an excellent brewhouse, with hard and soft water pumps,
and other conveniences thereto, the whole enclosed with
a brick wall, now occupied by — Ravencroft.
For further particulars apply to Mr. MANN, so-
licitor, or the AUCTIONEER, Wolverhampton.

PATCH BOX

Willis Pearson Avenue, Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.
Enterprise Inns Ltd. [1991]

LICENSEES

Charles Joseph 'Charlie' Taylor **(1966 – 1974)**
Derick Hubble []
G Evans [1988] – [1989]
Brian Harry Swinnerton [1994] – [1995]

NOTES

It was rebuilt in 1964.

Charles Taylor was married to Nancy.

Sandwell Evening Mail 11/8/1979 - Advert

"Bilston. The Patch Box Bradley.
Derek and Kath extend you a warm welcome.
Good beer and company."

London Gazette 2/6/1987

"*Derick Hubble*, of 4 Sheldon Avenue, Wednesbury, unemployed, lately carrying on business at the PATCH BOX, Bradley, Bilston both in the metropolitan county of West Midlands as a Publican.

Court - Dudley.

No. of Matter - 4 of 1982.

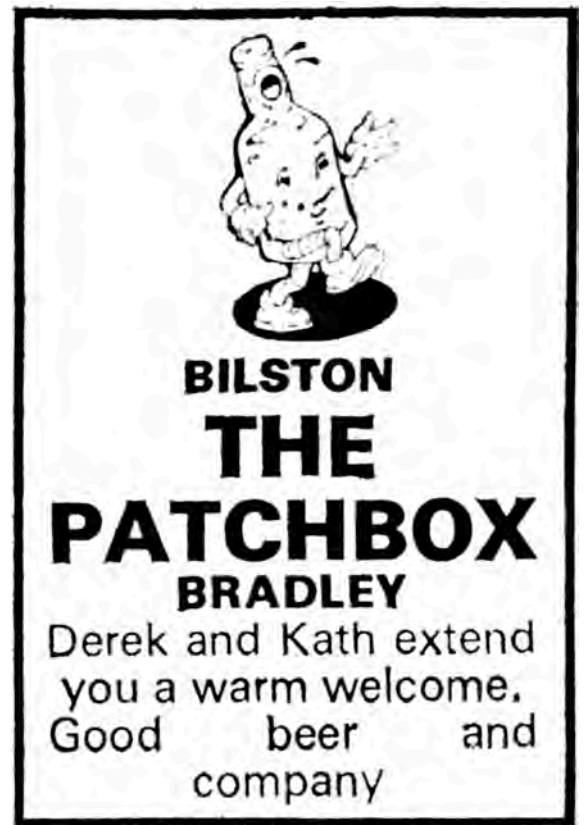
Date of Order - 18th March 1987.

Nature of Order made - Discharge granted."

It closed in 1999.

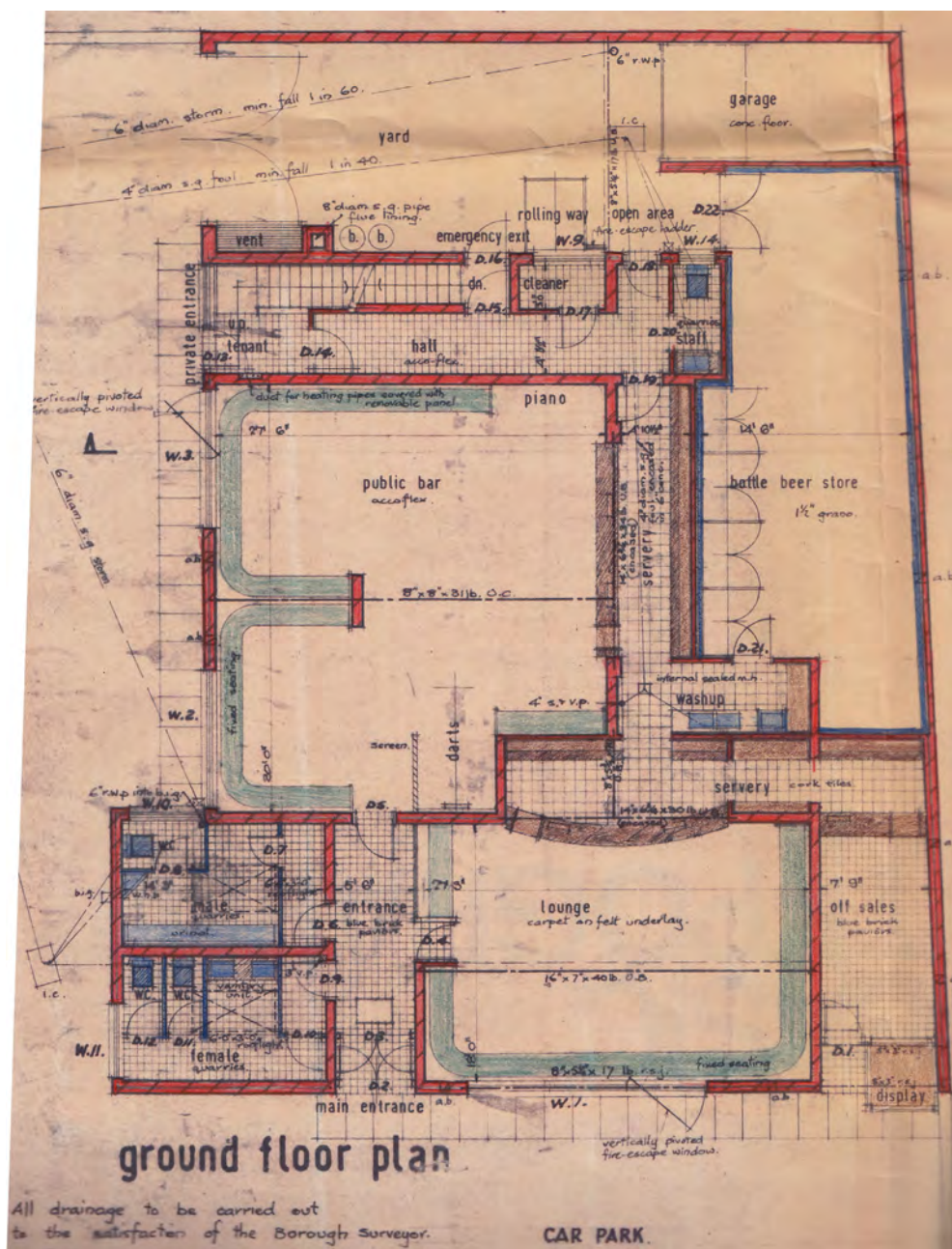
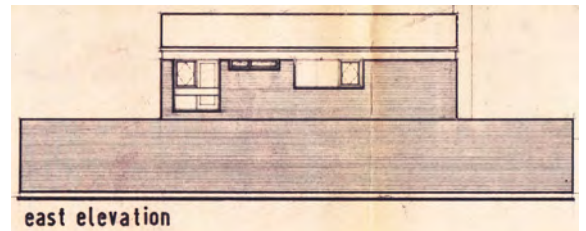
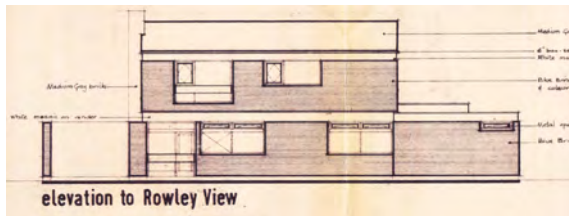
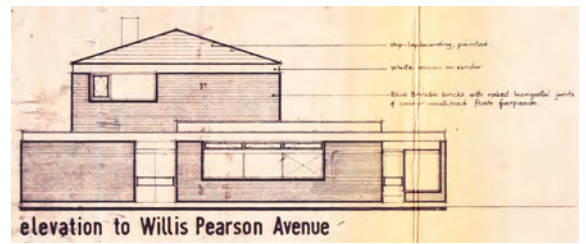
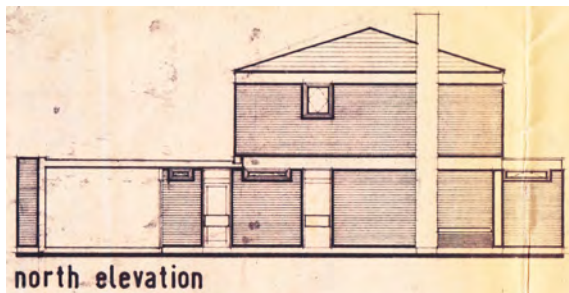
It was badly damaged in an arson attack in October 1999.

It was demolished in August 2001.



1979





PEACOCK

Catchems Corner, Ettingshall, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Joseph Taylor [1851] – [1861]

NOTES

[This pub was strictly in the parish of Sedgley, but is included here due to other pubs in the proximity coming under Bilston.]

It had a beerhouse license.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/12/1841

“John Woodham and Thomas Jones were charged with stealing two half-crowns, two shillings, and three handkerchiefs from the person of John Toy.

The prosecutor stated that he was a boatman, and lived at Parkfields. Last Monday he was in company with the prisoners for some hours, at the PEACOCK beer shop, in Sedgley parish. About six o'clock he fell asleep, and was awoke by the prisoner Woodham attempting to get his hand out of his (witness's) pocket. Witness said to him, 'Don't take my money, Jack; call for a quart of ale, and I'll pay for it.' Witness got up and missed his money, namely two half-crowns, two shillings, and three pence halfpenny. He asked Woodham for it, and he said he had not got it. Witness then saw Jones with one of his handkerchiefs, and then discovered that he had lost three handkerchiefs, namely a cotton one and two silk ones. Jones admitted having one of his (prosecutor's) handkerchiefs. Corroborative evidence was given by Samuel Cartwright, Mary Smart, and Fenn, the constable, and the prisoners, who said nothing in reply to the charge, were committed.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/1/1842

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

John Woodham, alias Williams, and Thomas Jones, were indicted for stealing from the person of John Fox, at the parish of Sedgley, two half-crowns, two shillings, and three handkerchiefs. The prisoner Woodham was found guilty, and a previous conviction being proved against him, the court sentenced him to transportation for ten years; Jones was acquitted.”

1851 Census

Catchems Corner

[1] Joseph Taylor (53), cordwainer and retailer of beer, born Claverley, Shropshire;

[2] Mary Taylor (54), wife, born Sedgley;

[3] Joseph Taylor (26), son, shingler, born Sedgley;

[4] Elizabeth Taylor (18), daughter, born Sedgley;

[5] Jane Taylor (10), daughter, born Sedgley;

[6] William Rowe (18), apprentice cordwainer, born Neighton, Radnorshire;

[7] Antony Roberts (14), apprentice cordwainer, born Chester:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 15/2/1860

“Ann Cooper, a banks-girl, was charged with embezzling 15s 9d, the moneys of George Cosley, a butty at the Parkfield Colliery. Cosley stated that he was in the habit of giving the girl a sum of money every two or three days to pay for the pit beer, which she used to fetch from Mr. *Taylor*’s, the PEACOCK beerhouse, at Catchems Corner. Last Tuesday Mr. *Taylor* sent in a bill for 15s 9d, all of which the prosecutor had previously given to the prisoner to pay off the ale scores. *Joseph Taylor* proved the supply of ale to the amount of 15s 9d for which he had not been paid. The quantity of beer amounted to 158 quarts, at 1d per quart, and eight quarts of ale. The prisoner pleaded guilty, but in extenuation said that *Taylor* had agreed to take the money fortnightly instead of day by day. She was committed to Stafford for one month, with hard labour.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/10/1859

“The following beerhouse keepers were summoned before the Bilston Magistrates yesterday for keeping their houses open during the hours of Divine service on Sunday.....

Joseph Taylor, Catchems Corner, was fined 5s and costs.”

1861 Census

Catchems Corner – PEACOCK Public House

- [1] *Joseph Taylor* (64), publican and shoe maker, born Claverley, Shropshire;
- [2] *Mary Taylor* (61), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] *Joseph Taylor* (36), son, iron shingler, born Sedgley;
- [4] *Thomas Wileman* (22), son-in-law, labourer, iron furnaces, born Sedgley;
- [5] *Jane Wileman* (20), wife, born Sedgley;
- [6] *Mary Wileman* (9 months), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [7] *William Ward* (33), son-in-law, widower, blank tray maker, born Bilston;
- [8] *William Ward* (2), son, born Sedgley;
- [9] *Thomas Plant* (15), grand-son, boot and shoe maker, born Sedgley:

PHEASANT

20, (76), (167), Broad Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Thomas Roper, mine agent, Salop Street, Bilston
Millward Brothers, maltsters, Lea Brook, Wednesbury [1921], [1922]

LICENSEES

James Merrick [1865] – **1877**);
Mrs. Mary Merrick (**1877 – 1891**);
Mrs. Sarah Harriet (Price) Walker (**1891 – 1895**);
Joseph George (**1895 – 1897**);
James Elsegood (**1897**);
John Fowler (**1897 – 1899**);
Lucy Dunn (**1899 – 1900**);
Henry Gould (**1900**); [1901]
William Thomas Mallin (**1900 – 1902**);
Joseph William Smith (**1902 – 1903**);
William Thomas Davies (**1903 – 1904**);
Martha (Davies) Maddock (**1904 – 1909**);
Frederick John Burton (**1909 – 1912**);
Thomas Boulton (**1912 – 1913**);
Charles Henry Thornley (**1913 – 1914**);
Charles Dickenson (**1914**);
Samuel Doughty (**1914 – 1915**);
Elijah Pountney (**1915 – 1922**);
Frank Ernest Millward (**1922**):

NOTES

167, Broad Street [1873]
76, Broad Street [1881], [1891], [1896]
20, Broad Street [1901], [1911], [1921], [1922]

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/12/1864

“At Bilston Police Court, yesterday, before Mr. I. Spooner.....

James Merrick, of the PHEASANT, Broad Street, was fined 10s and costs for selling ale after hours.”

James Merrick, beer retailer, Broad Street. [1865], [1868]

He married Mary Hartill on 16th November 1856.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/8/1869

“The annual licensing meeting for the Bilston division took place yesterday, at the Police Court.....

The following beerhouse keepers had been fined during the past five years.....

For keeping open during prohibited hours *James Merrick*, PHEASANT, Broad Street.”

1871 Census

Broad Street – PHEASANT

- [1] James Merrick (46), publican, born Shrewsbury;
- [2] Mary Merrick (54), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Mary Hartill (23), daughter, unmarried, dressmaker, born Bilston;
- [4] Martha Hartill (22), daughter, unmarried, dressmaker, born Bilston:

James Merrick died in the 3rd quarter of 1877.

1881 Census

76, Broad Street – PHEASANT

- [1] Mary Merrick (60), widow, publican, born Bilston;
- [2] Mary Hartill (32), daughter, born Bilston;
- [3] Mary J. Poole (12), grand-daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] Alice Miller (16), general servant, born Amblecote:

Darlaston Weekly Times 7/10/1882 - Advert

"To Let, a House in Cambridge Street, 4 Bedrooms, Drawing Room, Dining Room, Kitchen, Private Yard, Hard and Soft Water.

Apply, Mrs. Merrick, Broad Street, Bilston."

Darlaston Weekly Times 6/6/1885

"Mrs. Mary Merrick, Broad Street, had a narrow escape on Thursday evening, by the sudden explosion of a ginger-beer bottle, which struck a large glass bell over the gas, and other glasses, shattering all into hundreds of pieces over Mrs. Merrick's head. Fortunate the glass fell always, except upon her head."

1891 Census

76, Broad Street

- [1] Mary Merrick (75), widow, licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] Martha Jones (46), daughter, widow, living on her own means, born Bilston;
- [3] Mary J. Poole (22), grand-daughter, dressmaker, born Bilston;
- [4] Elizabeth Jones (10), grand-daughter, scholar, born Birmingham;
- [5] George H. Jones (8), grand-son, scholar, born Birmingham;
- [6] John A. Jones (4), grand-son, born West Bromwich;
- [7] Ellen Williams (21), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Sarah Harriet Price married Charles Henry Walker on 29th January 1893.

Charles Henry Walker – see ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, Oxford Street, and BROWN LION, Oxford Street.

Mrs. Sarah Walker, beer retailer, 76, Broad Street. [1896]

Sarah Harriet Walker – see also BARREL, Mill Street.

1901 Census

20, Broad Street – Tavern

- [1] Henry Gould (59), beerseller, born Oldswinford;
- [2] Frances B. Gould (54), wife, born Oldswinford:

William Thomas Davies, beer retailer, Broad Street. [1904]

1904 Probate

"William Thomas Davies of the PHEASANT INN, 20 Broad Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 28 October 1904. Probate Lichfield 29 November to Martha Davies, widow. Effects £124 5s."

Martha Davies married William Edward Maddock on 11th March 1906.

1911 Census

20, Broad Street – PHEASANT INN

- [1] *Frederick John Burton* (40), publican, born Dudley;
- [2] *Louise Jane Burton* (33), wife, married 11 years, assisting in the business, born Wellington, Shropshire;
- [3] *Frederick Charles Burton* (11), son, born Bilston;
- [4] *Edward Henry Burton* (8), son, born Bilston;
- [5] *Leslie John Burton* (7), son, born Bilston:

1921 Census

20, Broad Street

- [1] *Elijah Pountney* (47), licensee, beerhouse, and general labourer, born Bilston;
- [2] *Alice Gertrude Pountney* (46), wife, home duties, born Wallbrook;
- [3] *J. E. Pountney* (17), son, leather bag maker, unemployed, born Wallbrook;
- [4] *E. C. Reynolds* (48), boarder, general labourer, unemployed, born Wallbrook:

South Staffordshire Times 22/4/1922

"All Bilston district was horrified on Sunday evening when it became rumoured that a woman had been murdered in Broad Street, Bilston, in the early part of the afternoon. The news, unfortunately, afterwards received what appeared to be convincing affirmation. In a small, unattractive licensed house, there had lived, for the past six years a man named *Pountney*, manager, aged 50; his wife *Alice Gertrude Pountney*, aged 47; their only son, *John Henry Pountney*, aged about 20 years, and one or two other persons. Previous to going to Broad Street, Mr. and Mrs. *Pountney* lived at the RAILWAY INN, Wallbrook, Coseley, where both of them were well known. *Pountney* at one time also worked as a blacksmith at Bradley. More recently, in addition to having the management of the PHEASANT INN, he had been employed as a labourer at the Tarmac Works, Ettingshall.

The actual facts of the terrible affair could not be disclosed until the inquest has been completed, or full magisterial proceedings had been taken, but from communications made to the police, and statements made by people who saw most of what transpired at the time of the alleged crime, a dispute of some description arose between *Pountney* and his wife at mid-day on Sunday, but nothing unusual was observed by the few customers present until shortly before two o'clock, the time for closing. Mrs. *Pountney* was then in the back kitchen, peeling potatoes for dinner. With her was her only son, *John Henry Pountney*. As a customer, named *Joseph Henry Norton*, of 5, Sankey Street, Bilston, was about to leave the house, the others in the kitchen were joined by *Elijah Pountney* himself, Norton called and asked the latter what time he proposed closing, but he made not reply. It was stated that Mrs. *Pountney* herself then called out 'Come here, Joe,' and when Norton got to the kitchen, she said, 'He (her husband) has accused me that I am going to have a baby.' She added, 'If he don't know, who should know. That's why he has been so sulky with me for a long while.' Norton asserted that the woman had a knife in her hand with which she had been peeling potatoes, and that she said, 'If it wasn't for this lad (meaning her son), I'd' but the sentence remained unfinished.

Pountney turned away, and walked a few yards, but turning about, so it is alleged, he put his arm around his wife's shoulders in a caressing manner (as Norton thought), and said, 'Come here,' exactly as though he was about to kiss her. Norton, however, alleges that he had then perceived a razor in *Pountney's* other hand, and although he sprang forward and tried to seize it, he was not quick enough to prevent *Pountney* from drawing the blade across his wife's throat.

It was afterwards noticed that the arteries and the windpipe had been severed, and a stream of blood gushed from the wound. Norton saw the woman stumble for several yards into a verandah and then fall to the ground. He rushed off to the nearest surgery, and on the way he saw PCs Piddock and Maw at the corner of Broad Street and Church Street. He quickly related what had occurred and the police officers went to the house, Dr. Matthews following within a few minutes. The woman however was then dead, the police finding her lying face downwards on the verandah floor in a pool of blood.

Maw was at once dispatched to the police station, and Superintendent Higgs and Sergeants Cartwright and Daniels joined Piddock at the PHEASANT. It was ascertained that *Pountney* had left the house immediately after the tragedy, and had been seen to go in the direction of Bradley. The police therefore took up pursuit.

At Bankfield, midway between Bilston and Bradley, they learned that a lad named *William Doughty*, of 5 court, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, had been proceeding along the road with friends named *Jesse* and *Leonard Hamblett*, and that on arriving at the canal bridge the former's attention was called to a bottle floating on the water. He went to the parapet intending to throw at it when he perceived a man in the water apparently wedged between two boats

alongside Mr. J. Toole's coal wharf. He was then up to the armpits in water. The boys called the attention of two youths to the man's position, and together they succeeded in getting him out.

Doughty stated that *Pountney* – for it was he – wanted them to leave him on the wharf, but they led him on to the road. They asked where he lived, but he is stated to have replied, 'I don't know; but I can find my way.'

He walked a few yards, and the youths then saw him go down the other side of the bridge, but before he reached the water he collapsed, apparently from exhaustion.

The police arrived almost immediately, and PCs Piddock and Royce resorted to artificial respiration, which they afterwards carried on under the superintendence of Drs. Waddell and Acheson, who had been summoned. At length the man showed signs of consciousness, and a motor belonging to Mr. F. W. Collins, which was passing, was requisitioned to convey him to the police station. Upon arrival there was found necessity to continue artificial respiration for a period.

Some time later he was formally charged by PS Cartwright with causing the death of his wife, and acting on medical advice, the man was afterwards removed to the infirmary at New Cross, Wednesfield, to be kept under observation until brought before the magistrate.

There were two other persons living at the PHEASANT INN, in addition to *Pountney* and his wife and son. These included a man who was stated to have been in bed at the time and a brother of the woman – Arthur Cornelius Reynolds. In a statement made by the latter he asserted that soon after he got up he heard his sister to say to her husband, 'You are opening your mouth too wide.' He did not hear anything else until the son called him, and he saw the latter with his mother in his arms and blood streaming profusely from her throat. Reynolds also alleged that he heard *Pountney*, when in drink, make use of threats concerning himself and his wife.

It was expected that the husband would be brought up at Bilston Police Court on Tuesday morning and charged with the wilful murder of his wife, but Supt. Higgs stated that he had an intimation that owing to his physical condition it had been deemed advisable to detain him in the infirmary a little longer.

The inquest on the deceased was formally opened by Mr. J. T. Higgs at Bilston Police Court, on Tuesday afternoon, Mr. Hewitt being foreman of the jury.

The coroner said he did not intend to proceed with the inquiry that afternoon, but to take evidence of identification only, and then adjourn the enquiry till Friday, to enable the husband to be present.

John Henry Pountney, framemaker, only son of deceased, said he saw his mother alive and well on Sunday morning, and saw her dead a little after two o'clock. She was 47 years of age.

The inquest was then adjourned.

Continuing his evidence at the adjourned inquest last evening, John Edward Pountney said that at 1.40pm on the 16th inst, he was in the back kitchen of the house. Deceased was there paring potatoes for dinner. His father came in and said something to his mother, but witness could not hear what it was. His mother said, 'What? In front of my son?' and he said, 'Yes; in front of him.' His father then left the kitchen and went to another part of the house. About 1.55 his father returned to the back kitchen. Joseph Norton followed him in. His father then pushed his (witness's) mother towards Norton, and said, 'Kiss her Joe; it might be the last time.' Norton replied, 'If that's it, I'm going home.' His father then said, 'Don't take offence, I don't mean anything,' and walked toward the door, but he soon came back, and sat on a chair. A few moments afterwards he got up, put his arms round his wife's neck, as if he were going to kiss her, and witness heard Norton say, 'Oh!' and he then noticed blood flowing from his mother's neck. Witness caught hold of her, and walked with her to the verandah. She then fell down, and he saw a terrible wound in her throat. He saw his father standing in the passage, wiping his hands on a piece of newspaper which he threw down. He then said to witness, 'Do you want any money, or do you want the bank book?' His father then left the house by the front door. Witness handed the newspaper to PC Piddock. His mother died in a few seconds.

Joseph Henry Norton said he was a bedstead caster, and lived at 5, Sankey Street, Bilston. He went to the PHEASANT INN about 12.25, and sat down in the kitchen, where *Pountney* was sitting. *Pountney* served him with a drink. Witness remained there till about half-past one and then went into the back yard. Mrs. *Pountney* was in and out of the kitchen all the time. Witness returned to the same room and had another drink, remaining there till about three minutes to two. Then he got up to leave, and at the door, he said to *Elijah Pountney*, '*Elijah*, what time are you shutting up?' *Pountney* was then in the big kitchen with his wife and son. *Pountney* and his wife were arguing about something, but what it was he could not say, as he was 'hard-hearing.' *Pountney* did not answer witnesses question, but Mrs. *Pountney* called, 'Come here Joe.' Witness then went toward her, and put his hand on her shoulder, and she said, 'He has accused me that I am going to have a baby. If he didn't know, why should I know? That's why he has been sulky with me a long time.' She was paring potatoes at the time. With the knife in her hand, she pointed to *Pountney* and said, 'If it wasn't for the lad I would.' She did not say what. *Pountney* moved a bit away, and the turned back and caught hold of her round the neck with one hand, and said, 'Come here,' as though

to kiss her. Witness then saw a razor in his other hand, and jumped up to grab hold of it, but he had drawn it across her throat. She did not speak after he had done that. When she was talking to witness she was speaking close to his ear, because of his deafness. *Pountney* and the son could hear every word she was saying. She staggered out to the verandah, her son having held her all the time. Then she fell down, slipping from the arms of her son. Witness went for a doctor, but his opinion was that Mrs. *Pountney* was dead before witness had left the house. The blood was gushing from her throat. Witness and Mrs. *Pountney* as children were brought up together. It was why he used to go there. They were friends and nothing more. That was the only suggestion he could offer why she called to tell him of her trouble.

Edmund McCann, bricklayer, who had his lodging at the PHEASANT INN for about six months, said that about November last *Pountney* and his wife were quarrelling. He heard *Pountney* say, 'I shall do you in, before the night is out.' Witness did not know the cause of the quarrel. On many occasions since he had heard them quarrelling. On the Saturday night previous to the tragedy witness went to sleep in the kitchen and did not go to bed with the other residents. He could not say what time he went to bed. He did not get up on Sunday until he was called, after the tragedy. Replying to further questions by the Coroner, witness said he had rarely ever seen *Pountney* sober, and he was under the influence of drink on Sunday morning.

The other witnesses, recalled, also spoke of *Pountney*'s intemperate habits, but said that on Sunday morning he was well able to serve customers, although he had had drink.

PS George Cartwright said that at 2pm on the 16th inst, he went to Bradley in search *Elijah Pountney*. Arriving at the canal bridge, he saw him there, and assisted in the artificial respiration. *Pountney* was afterwards removed to Bilston Police Station and Dr. Waddell examined him. Witness afterwards accompanied the doctor to the PHEASANT INN, and was present when he made an external examination of deceased. Later the same day witness charged *Pountney* with murdering his wife, by cutting her throat with a razor. He cautioned *Pountney* and he replied, 'It's correct, I have had cause for it.' Owing to his physical condition *Pountney* was removed to the New Cross Infirmary, and witness went with him.

Dr. Charles Hope Waddell said that at the PHEASANT INN he examined the body of Mrs. *Pountney*. He found an incised wound four inches long, extending right across the front of the neck. All structures lying in front of the vertebral column, including the trachea, were severed. In his opinion death would take place in a few moments from haemorrhage and shock. On the 17th inst, he made a post-mortem examination, in order to ascertain if there was any foundation for the statement that she was pregnant, and the result was that he found she was not.

Pountney was found guilty of wilful murder.

Pountney was brought before Messrs. B. Adams and J. A. Jordan yesterday morning, charged with the wilful murder of his wife. Prisoner, whose appearance would suggest that he is one of the most harmless men alive, was perfectly composed, and on being asked if would have any objection to remand he said he had not, as 'it would have to be gone into later on.'

PS Cartwright said that at Bilston Police Station he charged prisoner with the murder of his wife, and he replied, 'Quite correct I had cause for it.'

On the application of Superintendent Higgs prisoner was then remanded for a week.

Mr. T. R. J. Tildesley, representing the owners of the PHEASANT INN, asked for the license to be temporarily transferred to Mr. Edward Pountney (son of prisoner). He said arrangements had been made for him to carry on the business, and he would have the assistance of an uncle who had been living at the house. The application was granted.

The funeral of the deceased woman took place Coseley early yesterday afternoon and a large crowd assembled to witness the interment."

South Staffordshire Times 22/4/1922

"At Bilston Police Court, yesterday, before Messrs. J. A. Jordan and G. H. Sankey, *Elijah Pountney*, 48, formerly licensee of the PHEASANT INN, Broad Street, Bilston was brought up on remand, charged with the wilful murder of his wife, Alice Gertrude Pountney.

Mr. Paling represented the Director of Public Prosecutions, and Mr. J. A. Sharpe represented the prisoner, who seemed to have recovered from his immersion in the canal, and was perfectly composed in appearance.

Mr. Paling said he did not propose to make an opening statement but would at once call evidence.

John Edward Pountney, son of prisoner, said that about 1.10pm, on the 16th inst, he was in the back kitchen of the house. Deceased was there preparing potatoes for dinner. His father came in and said something to his mother, but witness could not hear what it was. His mother said, 'What? In front of my son?' and he said, 'Yes in front of him.' His mother then left the kitchen and went into another part of the house. About 1.55 his father entered the back

kitchen, Joseph Norton followed him in. His father then pushed the witness's mother toward Norton, and said, 'Kiss her, Joe, it might be the last time,' Norton replied, 'If that's it, I'm going home.' His father then said, 'Don't take offence,' and walked towards the door, but he soon came back, and sat on a chair. A few moments afterwards he got up, put his arms round his wife's neck, as if he were going to kiss her, and witness heard Norton say, 'Oh!' and he then noticed blood flowing from his mother's throat. Witness caught hold of her, and walked with her to the verandah. She then fell down, and he saw a terrible wound in her throat. He afterwards saw his father standing in the passage, wiping his hands on a piece of newspaper, which he threw down. Witness went upstairs and called a lodger named McCann, his father then left the house by the front door. Witness afterwards saw a razor on the floor.

Cross-examined by Mr. Sharpe:

Was Norton a relative of yours? – No he was an old friend of the family, and very often came to the house.

Who is McCann? – He was a lodger, and had been there about six months.

Where was he when the tragedy occurred? – In bed.

Had your father been drinking a good deal? – Yes.

Did he that morning appear very strange in his manner? – No.

Did he appear to be suffering from the effects of drink? – Yes.

Norton was in the kitchen all the time when this happened? – Yes.

He would see everything that took place as well as you? – I cannot say.

Was your mother peeling potatoes at the time? – Yes.

And she had a knife in her hand? – Yes.

Did you hear her threaten your father? – No.

Did you see her raise the knife? – No.

Was there any unpleasantness at all, leading up to this occurrence? – No, nothing at all.

But there had been unpleasantness between them, before that morning? – Yes.

Over a lodger? – Not that I am aware of.

Did you know that there had been quarrelling that morning over money? – No.

Examined by Mr. Paling:

I think your mother lent some money to somebody. – Yes.

Was it not to McCann? – No, somebody else.

And your father appeared to be suffering from the effects of drink. Had he been serving in the bar that morning? – Yes.

And he could walk and talk all right? – I think so.

Would you say he was drunk or sober? – I would say he was drunk.

You have been asked about the lodger, McCann. As far as you have seen has McCann's conduct in the house been everything that could be desired? – Yes.

Have you seen the slightest thing to cause your father to be jealous regarding your lodger and mother? – No.

Has your father ever shown the slightest sign of insanity? – No.

Would you describe him as a perfectly sound man? – Yes.

As well as being licensee of the house he went to work regularly? – Yes.

By Mr. Sharpe: Did your father meet with an accident about twelve months ago at the works? – Yes.

His head was cut? – Yes.

Was he at home about two months? – I forget the length of time. I do not think he had to stay at home.

Joseph Henry Norton said he was a bedstead caster, and lived at 5, Sankey Street, Bilston. On Sunday the 16th inst, he went to the PHEASANT INN about half-past one, and there he went into a back yard. Mrs. *Pountney* was in and out of the kitchen all the time. Shortly before two o'clock Mrs. *Pountney* called, 'Come here Joe.' Witness then went towards her and she put her hand on his shoulder and said, 'He has accused me that I am going to have a baby. If he don't know, who should know. That's why he has been so sulky with me for a long time.' She was peeling potatoes at the time. With the knife in her hand she pointed to *Pountney* and said, 'If it wasn't for the lad I would' She did not say what. *Pountney* moved a bit away. He turned back and caught hold of her round the neck with one arm and said, 'Come here,' as though to kiss her. Witness then saw a razor in his hand, and jumped up to catch hold of it, but he had drawn it across her throat. She did not speak after he had done that. *Pountney* was not quite sober then, but witness could not say he was drunk. He could walk and talk all right. Witness had not seen any signs of insanity in the prisoner. He remembered prisoner meeting with an accident around twelve months ago, but did not notice any strangeness in him after that.

Cross-examined by Mr. Sharpe: Your expression before the Coroner was that prisoner that morning seemed to be 'dozy?' – Yes.

So he did not appear to be quite in his right mind at the time? Evidently he had been drinking? – But I had not seen him having any.

Edward McCann, bricklayer, said he had been lodging at the PHEASANT INN for about six months. He had heard the prisoner threaten his wife. That was about the second week after he went there. He struck her, and knocked her down, saying, ‘That is not all you will have. I shall do you in before the night is out.’ Witness did not know the cause of the quarrel. On many occasions he had heard them quarrelling. On the Saturday night previous to the tragedy witness went to sleep in the kitchen, and did not go to bed with the other residents. He could not say what time he went to bed. He did not get up on the Sunday until he was called, after the tragedy.

Cross-examined by Mr. Sharpe:

Were you on friendly terms with both Mr. and Mrs. *Pountney*? – Yes, we had been drinking together on Saturday night.

The prisoner had been drinking heavily? – I have never seen him sober since I have been there.

Did you tell the Coroner anything about the prisoner knocking his wife down? – He did not ask me that.

Did you tell him you heard him threaten his wife the first fortnight you were there? – Yes.

Had she lent you any money? – No.

None at all? – No, never.

I understand she had lent money to someone else, and there had been a lot of ‘tiffs’ about it.

Do you know that was partly the cause of the quarrels? – No. I think drink was the cause of it all.

Do you say both of them were quarrelsome? – Yes. Six of one and half-a dozen of the other.

There was not much difference, so far as their quarrelling went. Have you ever seen her assault him? – On occasion, with cause.

When there was any cause she would not be backward in assaulting him? – She always took her own part.

Re-examined by Mr. Paling:

Was she a very hard working woman? – Yes.

You have never seen her drunk? – No.

William Doughty, 5, court, 26 house, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, gave evidence as to seeing the prisoner in the canal near Bradley, and calling for assistance.

PS Piddock stated that having received information of the tragedy, he went to the PHEASANT INN, and there he found deceased lying on her face in a pool of blood. She was quite dead.

PS George Cartwright said at 2.30pm on the 16th inst he went to Bradley in search of the prisoner. Arriving at the canal bridge, he saw him there, and assisted in the artificial respiration. *Pountney* was afterwards removed to Bilston Police Station, and Dr. Waddell examined him. Witness afterwards accompanied the doctor to the PHEASANT INN, and was present when he made an external examination of the deceased. Later the same day witness charged *Pountney* with murdering his wife, by cutting her throat with a razor. He cautioned *Pountney* and he replied, ‘It’s correct. I have had cause for it.’ Owing to his physical condition *Pountney* was removed to the New Cross Infirmary, and witness went with him. On the way to the Infirmary, ‘They had been up before me, having oysters and drinking beer and stout, and when I got up and asked for my breakfast she said the bacon was in the kitchen and I could go and get my own. There is a bank-book in the house and when I was going down the cellar for some beer, I heard her and McCann arranging to go away together. If she ain’t in trouble, a post-mortem will prove it.’

PS Westbury said that on Friday, March 3rd, prisoner went into the police station and said, ‘Do you mind sending an officer up to my place, the PHEASANT INN, I have got a lodger I want putting out.’ Witness asked, ‘Cannot you put him out?’ and prisoner replied, ‘No, he’s too big for me. My wife encourages him there. I’m not going to be dominated over by them any longer. If he stays any longer I shall do her in. I’m sure to kill her.’ Witness told him he must not talk like that. As prisoner walked away he said, ‘Well, you’ll see, I shall find you a job.’ He then left the place. Witness sent two constables to the inn, and they afterwards reported on their visit.

Dr. Charles Hope Waddell said that at the PHEASANT INN he examined the body of Mrs. *Pountney*. He found an incised wound, four inches long, extending right across the front of the neck. All structures lying in front of the vertebral column, including the trachea, were severed. In his opinion death would take place in a few moments, from haemorrhage and shock. On the 17th inst he made a post-mortem examination, in order to ascertain if there was any foundation for the statement that she was pregnant, and the result was that he found she was not.

This concluded the evidence, and prisoner, who reserved his defence, was committed to take his trial at the next Assizes.”

South Staffordshire Times 8/7/1922

"The trial of *Elijah Pountney* (48), labourer, indicted for the wilful murder of his wife Alice Gertrude Pountney, at Bilston, on April 16th, opened at Stafford Assizes on Friday morning before Mr. Justice Shearman.

Mr. Graham Milward and Mr. Vachell prosecuted, and Mr. A. J. Long defended.

'I don't remember anything,' said prisoner, in pleading not guilty to the indictment.

In opening Mr. Graham Milward said the case was not a long one; it was quite a short and simple tale. Prisoner and his wife kept the PHEASANT INN at Bilston, and prisoner also worked at the Tarmac Works. A man named McCann came to lodge at the house in the early part of the year and there was trouble between prisoner and his wife. He knocked her down, McCann was present and took the woman's part, and from that time prisoner felt anger against McCann. As time went on prisoner got into his mind that there was a wrong relationship between the lodger and his wife, and he remarked to a police officer, 'If the lodger stays much longer, I shall do her in.'

On the day of the alleged crime prisoner came home having apparently had some drink and he said to a man named Norton who was in the house, 'Kiss her Joe; it may be for the last time.' Subsequently he put his arm round her neck and cut her throat with such violence with a razor that she died almost immediately. Prisoner afterwards attempted to commit suicide by throwing himself into the canal.

John Edward Pountney, son of prisoner, first gave evidence, and said after committing the crime his father wiped his hands on a piece of paper. Witness afterwards saw a razor on the floor.

Mr. Long: While your father was at work something like twelve months ago, did something happen to him? – Yes, a piece of cinder fell on his head.

Since that time he has been continually drinking more than was good for him? – Yes.

Have you observed any changes in his manner since he had this blow? – Yes. He said things to mother, and when asked what he meant, he has turned round and said he never said anything.

Since the accident a very little drink has a great deal of effect on him? – Yes.

Did he suggest sometimes that there was improper relationship between McCann and your mother? – Yes. Witness added that his father had never suggested it to him, but he had overheard him say to his mother that she had kissed McCann or that McCann had kissed her.

Counsel: Was there the slightest foundation for such a suggestion? – No.

McCann, the lodger, said in his opinion drink was the cause of all this trouble. There was no truth in the suggestion that there was any impropriety between prisoner's wife and witness.

William Doughty, a boy, of Bilston, spoke of seeing prisoner in the canal. He was got out, and he asked them not to make any bother about it.

PS Cartwright said when he charged the prisoner with murdering his wife he replied, 'It's correct, I have cause for it.'

Dr. C. H. Waddell, in reply to Mr. Long, said when he saw prisoner he formed the conclusion that he had taken a considerable quantity of alcohol.

Sentence of death was passed."

Staffordshire Sentinel 24/7/1922

"The Criminal Appeal Court today dismissed the appeal of *Elijah Pountney*, innkeeper at Bilston, against the death sentence passed at Stafford Assizes on July 7th for wife murder. The Court said any question of the prisoner's mind would be dealt with by the Home Secretary."

Elijah Pountney was hanged at Winson Green Prison on 11th August 1922. The executioner was Ellis.

1922 Probate

"*Elijah Pountney* of 20 Broad Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 11 August 1922. Administration Lichfield 21 September to John Edward Pountney, frame maker. Effects £457 18s 6d."

Elijah Pountney – see also BRITANNIA, Hall Green Street.

The license renewal was refused by the Compensation Authority on 20th July 1922.

South Staffordshire Times 27/7/1922

“The principal meeting of the County Licensing Committee was held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, on Thursday morning.....

No opposition was offered to the closure of the PHEASANT, Bilston (licensee *Frank E. Milward*), and the license was refused on the ground of redundancy.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/8/1922

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

Notice as to sending in Claims to be treated as Persons Interested in Licensed Premises.

Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Compensation Authority for the above area, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on 20th day of July, 1922, to Refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below.....

PHEASANT, Bilston. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *Frank E. Millward*. Registered owners, Millward Brothers Ltd.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 14/10/1922

“A Supplementary Meeting of the Staffordshire Compensation Authority under the Licensing Act, 1910, was held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, on Tuesday. The Committee approved the following awards of compensation.....

PHEASANT, Bilston, beerhouse, ante 1869, £800.”

Compensation of £800 was paid on 23rd December 1922.

The license was extinguished on 30th December 1922.

PHEASANT

Walsall Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Henry Beebee [1857]

NOTES

Birmingham Journal 5/9/1857

“The annual licensing meeting for Bilston and its neighbourhood was held on Friday.....

Mr. Waterhouse applied for a license to the PHEASANT, Walsall Street, Bilston, on behalf of Mr. *Henry Beebee*. Refused.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/9/1858

“On Monday night last a young man was in company with his sweetheart, Jane Bowdley, about eighteen years of age, of Gibbet Lane, somewhere in the neighbourhood of a pool at Priestfield, when a quarrel took place between them, and the young woman ran off towards the pool, declaring that she would drown herself. She plunged into the water, and was immediately followed by her lover, who attempted to save her, but was unable to do so. John Beebee, about twenty years of age, a journeyman saddler, at Monmore Green, son of *Henry Beebee*, of Walsall Street, Bilston, also went to the girl’s assistance; but in his efforts to rescue her both he and the young woman were unhappily drowned. The pool was dragged as soon as possible after the occurrence, but the bodies were not found until four o’clock yesterday morning.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/12/1858 - Advert

“Copyhold Properties, in Walsall Street, Bilston.

William P. Tomkys, Senior, will Sell by Auction, on Tuesday, January 4th, 1859, by order of the Mortgagee, at the house of Mr. George Hyde, SPREAD EAGLE INN, Lichfield Street, Bilston, at six o’clock in the evening, the following Properties.....

Lot 1. All those five Messuages or Dwelling Houses, situate on the west side of Walsall Street, with the Outbuildings, Stable, Yard, Brewhouses, &c; one being a Public House, known as the PHEASANT INN, and the whole being in the occupations of C. B. Perry, C. Gamer, Joseph Hedges, and others. The Stable, &c, in the occupation of E. Taylor. The site occupies an area of 560 square yards or thereabouts.”

COPYHOLD PROPERTIES, IN WALSALL STREET, BILSTON.

WILLIAM P. TOMKYS, SEN., will SELL by AUCTION, on Tuesday, January 4th, 1859, by order of the Mortgagee, at the house of Mr. George Hyde, SPREAD EAGLE INN, LICHFIELD STREET, BILSTON, at six o’clock in the evening—the following PROPERTIES, subject to conditions to be then produced :—

LOT 1.—All those five MESSUAGES or DWELLING HOUSES, situate on the west side of Walsall-street, with the Outbuildings, Stable, Yard, Brewhouses, &c. ; one being a Public House, known as the “Pheasant Inn,” and the whole being in the occupations of C. B. Perry, C. Gamer, Joseph Hedges, and others. The Stable, &c., in the occupation of E. Taylor.

The site occupies an area of 560 square yards or thereabouts.

LOT 2.—Those two COPYHOLD MESSUAGES or DWELLING HOUSES, situate near to the last lot, now in the occupation of Daniel Evans and William Harley, occupying a site of 50 square yards or thereabouts.

For further particulars apply to T. WATERHOUSE, Esq., Solicitor, or to the AUCTIONEER, both of Bilston.

PIPE HALL

27, Hall Street / The Orchard, BILSTON

OWNERS

John Coulson Bull
Edward Pugh, gentleman, Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton
Arthur Charles Kerrison
Peck and Kerrison [1881], [1896]
Bent's Brewery Co. Ltd. [1904], [1934]

LICENSEES

John Coulson Bull [] - **1873**;
Edward Pugh (**1873 - 1874**);
William Peck (**1874 - 1881**);
Arthur Charles Kerrison (**1881 - [1896]**);
John Sprawson Iliffe [] - **1899**;
Selina Annie Iliffe (**1899 - 19__**); [1901]
William Henry Matthews [1902] - **1912**); manager
William James Vaughan (**1912**);
Arthur Edward Hewitt (**1912 - 1922**);
Clothilda Hannah Lenora Hewitt (**1922 - 1926**);
William Robert Vowles (**1926 - 1935**);
Florence Ethel Vowles (**1935 - 1936**);
William Robert Holland (**1936**);
Edgar John Adey (**1936 - [1939]**)
John McArdle [1940] - [1955] manager
J Cooper [1959] manager
Mohinder Singh Mondair [1981]
John Wilkins (**1986 - []**)
Swinder Singh Batth [] - **2009**

NOTES

PIPE HALL VAULTS [1876], [1950s]
PIPE HALL HOTEL [1896], [1904], [1940]

It dates to c.1810.

It was formerly a private residence and later a private school.

It stood close to the railway bridge.

Black Country Bugle 13/1/2021

'What was brewing in Bilston? Recalling lost pubs and brewers.' by Steve James

"Opposite the Post Office in Hall Street was the PIPE HALL HOTEL, originally built in 1810 for the local Pipe family and now a listed building (Grade II). In 1869 it became a private girls school and eventually became a hotel.....

Peck & Kerrison brewed at the PIPE HALL HOTEL from 1874 to 1916."

PIPE HALL COMMERCIAL HOTEL, BILSTON.

PROPRIETORS—BECK AND KERRISON,

The above admirable and most pleasantly-situated HOTEL in the district is NOW OPEN, where every accommodation will be provided.

DINNERS, &c., AT SHORTEST NOTICE.

P.S.—Within two minutes' walk of Great Western Railway Station.

1874



2008

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/9/1862

“The Annual Licensing Meeting. This meeting was held in the Police Court on Friday last.....

Mr. Whitehouse then applied on behalf of Mr. *John Rogers*, hairdresser, news agent, and collector of assessed taxes, for a license to premises he is erecting by PIPE HALL. Mr. Whitehouse remarked that he was well aware that the Bench were of opinion that the number of public houses in Bilston was sufficiently great already; but his client had expended £700 in the purchase of the ground and the erection of a house, which would provide accommodation for the important class of the community, commercial travellers, which he declared was afforded by no public house in Bilston. Mr. Underhill, who opposed on behalf of Mr. Elkington, of the ANGEL, argued that the best proof that no such house was wanted, was that neither the railway company nor Mr. Pugh had used the license for PIPE HALL. The application was refused.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/9/1863

“The meeting for the renewing and granting of licenses was held on Friday, at Bilston police office.....

Mr. Waterhouse, solicitor, of Bilston, made an application for a license to be granted to Mr. George Rodgers, landlord of the GREAT WESTERN INN, Market Street. It appeared that when the Great Western Railway Company constructed their line of railway through Bilston, some years ago, some land, on which stood two old licensed houses, known by the names of the GLOBE and HOP POLE, were taken in by the company, and the license of the former house was subsequently transferred to PIPE HALL, a large and commodious house near the Great Western Railway Station. Mr. Bull, the owner of the house, had never availed himself of the license, but had let the house to a schoolmaster, and it was now used as an educational establishment, and called the Pipe Hall Academy. The applicant had purchased a piece of land formerly belonging to PIPE HALL, and as he had extensive accommodation, and was so close to the railway station he (Mr. Waterhouse) thought there was great necessity that the house should be licensed.....

Mr. Rodgers, in answer to the Bench, guaranteed that in a very short time he would be in a position to give accommodation for at least six horses and conveyances, and with this understanding, and also taking into consideration the applicant's previous good character, the application was granted.”

It was still a school in the 1871 census.

Birmingham Daily Post 24/7/1874 - Advert

“PIPE HALL COMMERCIAL HOTEL, Bilston. Proprietors, Beck [sic] and Kerrison.

The above admirable and most pleasantly-situated Hotel in the district is Now Open, where every accommodation will be provided.

Dinners, &c, at Shortest Notice.

PS. Within two minutes' walk of Great Western Railway Station.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 12/6/1875

“On the 3rd inst, three of the directors of the Towns Manure Company inspected their newly-erected works at Millfields. The Bilston Township Commissioners and their officers were present, having been invited to meet the directors of the company. The works are carried on in such a manner as not to be a nuisance. A contract has been entered into with the Bilston Township Commissioners to collect the night-soil, &c, of the town for a term of 21 years, for which the company are to receive a subsidy of £400 per annum The company afterwards adjourned to the PIPE HALL, where an excellent dinner was served up.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 4/12/1875 - Advert

“Land and Houses, at Bilston, Staffordshire, immediately opposite the entrance to the Great Western Railway Station.

To be Offered for Sale by Auction, on the 21st day of December, 1875, at 6pm, at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston.....”

Forest of Dean Examiner 10/12/1875

“At a large and influential meeting of mine-owners who work within the area of the South Staffordshire Mines Drainage Act, held at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, on Monday evening last, a Masters Miners Mines-rating Protection Association was duly formed. The movement originated owing to the fact of many persons working mines within the area mentioned being of opinion that there was a need of such an agency for the purpose of effective co-operation by the smaller class of master miners who were individually very helpless. Theree preliminary meetings were held, and at the second the following resolutions were passed.

‘That it is desirable to form an association, having for its objects. 1. Watching proceedings under the Mines Drainage Act. 2. Resisting the imposition of any tax, being either unauthorised, excessive, not properly graduated, or not levied with proper discrimination, as to benefits or burdens. 3. Co-operating generally, for the common advantage of the members as master miners.’

A committee was also appointed for the purpose of drawing up rules for the regulation of the association. At a meeting held on the 24th of November those present signed a memorandum that the association be registered under the Joint Stock Companies Act. The meeting on Monday evening last was convened for the purpose of receiving the report of the registration of the association and to determine upon future operations. Mr. J. W. Hall, solicitor, of Bilston, was appointed solicitor to the company and secretary pro tem, and he reported to the meeting that the registration of the association had been accomplished. The directors, seven in number, were next appointed, and they were directed to take steps for obtaining the opinion of counsel as to the validity of the proceedings under the South Staffordshire Mines Drainage Act. After the transaction of some formal business several persons applied for shares in the company, and the whole of the applications were complied with.”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/12/1875 - Advert

“Billiards. As Marker, a respectable Youth, about 18, willing to make himself useful.

Address, PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston.”

BILLIARDS.—As Marker, a respectable Youth, about 18, willing to make himself useful.—Address, Pipe Hall Hotel, Bilston.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 26/1/1876

“The twelfth annual meeting of the Staffordshire Joint Stock Bank Limited was held yesterday (Tuesday) in the Board-room of the Town Hall, Bilston The shareholders afterwards adjourned to the large hall, where they partook of an excellent luncheon, provided by Mr. *Kerrison*, of the PIPE HALL HOTEL.”

Dudley Herald 13/5/1876

“At Bilston Police Court on Tuesday, a woman, named Eliza Campbell (47), was charged with having stolen the sum of £2 11s 6d from the person of Mary Ann Cross. Whilst the prosecutrix was in the market on Monday she was taken ill, owing to which she adjourned to the PIPE HALL VAULTS, and got something to drink. She became worse in the vaults, and the prisoner, who was present, kindly volunteered to unloose the prosecutrix’s dress. In doing so she took off a loose pocket, in which was a purse containing £2 11s 6d. After extracting the money, prisoner placed the pocket in a basket belonging to the prosecutrix. Soon afterwards Cross missed her purse and charged the prisoner with stealing it. She denied the charge and left the place. Cross followed her, and in Church Street, after much trouble, prisoner gave up the purse and the money.

The Bench designated the case as one of a heartless character, and sentenced the prisoner to three months’ imprisonment with hard labour.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 12/4/1879 - Advert

“Man and Wife Wanted, to Manage Old-licensed House; man must be a good brewer, and give first-class references and security.

Apply, PIPE HALL, Bilston.”

MAN and Wife Wanted, to Manage Old-licensed House; man must be good brewer, and give first-class references and security.—Apply, Pipe Hall, Bilston.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 14/4/1879 - Advert

“Lost, on Saturday last, near PIPE HALL, Bilston, pair of Fox-terriers (dog and bitch); white, with black spots on head and shoulders; about six months old. Finder will be handsomely rewarded.

Apply, *A. Kerrison*, PIPE HALL, Bilston.”

LOST, on Saturday last, near Pipe Hall, Bilston, pair of Fox terriers (dog and bitch); white, with black spots on head and shoulders; about six months old. Finder will be handsomely rewarded.—Apply, *A. Kerrison*, Pipe Hall, Bilston.

The Sportsman 30/4/1880

“Billiards Fixtures April 30 – Herbert Roberts and an Amateur, PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston.”

William Peck died on 20th September 1881.

1881 Census

Hall Street

- [1] Arthur C. Kerrison (41), unmarried, hotel keeper, born East Harling, Norfolk;
- [2] Catherine E. Biss (48), manageress, born Birmingham;
- [3] Anne Swain (22), assistant manageress, born Tipton;
- [4] Arthur G. Cowles (14), nephew, waiter, born Attleborough, Norfolk;
- [5] John Price (18), barman, born Bilston;
- [6] Ann Brown (30), widow, housekeeper, born Sedgley;
- [7] Florence Armstrong (15), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Dudley and District News 7/5/1881 - Advert

"Sale of valuable Ungotten Mines and Minerals, also Freehold and Old-established Boiler and Girder Manufactory, Plots of Building Land, Dwelling-house, Tenements and Premises, at Bradley, in the Township of Bilston, in the County of Staffordshire.

Messrs. Walker and H. J. Lloyd are instructed to Dispose of by Auction, on the 9th day of May, 1881, at the house of Messrs. Peck and Kerrison, called PIPE HALL HOTEL, Hall Street, Bilston, at Six o'clock in the evening...."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 31/8/1881

"Proposed Conservative Club for Bilston.

At a meeting of the sub-committee of this proposed club, held at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, last (Tuesday) evening – C. Wells, Esq, in the chair – it was resolved to take some commodious premises in Church Street. Trustees were appointed, and arrangements were made for adopting the premises for club purposes. From the interest taken by the chairman and the various members of the committee there is no doubt the Club will be an acquisition to the town, and of great utility to the party. The Club will be opened as soon as possible, and we understand endeavours will be made to obtain some notable speakers for the occasion."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 29/12/1881 - Advert

"Messrs. Peck and Kerrison, Sole Agents in South Staffordshire for Ind Coope and Co.'s Burton Ales, beg to announce that in consequence of the demand for their Ales in small casks they now have in stock a selection of the October Brewings in Nine Gallon Casks, for which they respectfully solicit a trial.

Orders sent to Peck and Kerrison, PIPE HALL, Bilston, or Cheapside, Wolverhampton, will receive immediate attention."

Darlaston Weekly Times 23/9/1882

"Bilston Orpheus Society. On Tuesday evening, a number of vocal gentlemen met in the large room, PIPE HALL, to consider the question of forming a society in Bilston. Mr. Beavon occupied the chair, and Mr. Wynn the vice. After some discussion, upwards of thirty members were enrolled. Officers were selected, with Mr. Beavon as conductor. Alfred Hickman, Esq, has consented to be president; and some other gentlemen are being solicited as vice-presidents. The society meets every Tuesday evening for practice; and intend during the coming season to give concerts, in aid of any worthy object. All particulars can be obtained of Mr. George Thompson."

Darlaston Weekly Times 21/10/1882

"The annual inspection of the Bilston and Darlaston Volunteers took place on Monday afternoon in the Police Station Yard, Bilston.....

After the inspection, the annual dinner was held in the drill hall, where an excellent and ample repast was admirably placed on the tables by Messrs. Peck and Kerrison, of PIPE HALL, Bilston....."

Darlaston Weekly Times 18/11/1882 - Advert

"Bilston Orpheus Society.

The Annual Dinner will be held at PIPE HALL on Wednesday, November 29, 1882, at 6-30, when Alfred Hickman, Esq, will preside.

Members and Friends are respectfully invited to attend.

G. Thompson, Hon. Sec."

Darlaston Weekly Times 23/12/1882 - Advert

“Bilston Orpheus Society.

Strictly Non-Political and Unsectarian.

Rehearsals Every Tuesday Evening, at 8 o'clock.

Vacancies for Altos and High Tenors.

Apply to Hon. Sec. Mr. G. Thompson, 88, Dudley Street; or PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 23/12/1882 - Advert

“Peck & Kerrison, Importers of Wines & Spirits, PIPE HALL, Bilston, and Cheapside, Wolverhampton.

Sole Agents in South Staffordshire for Ind Coope and Co's Burton Ales, and Watkins and Co's Extra Dublin Stout.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 31/5/1884 - Advert

“Wanted, a Good General Servant, from 20 to 25 years of age.

Apply, PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston.”

WANTED, A GOOD GENERAL SERVANT,
from 20 to 25 years of age.—Apply, Pipe
Hall Hotel, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 29/1/1885 - Advert

“Wanted, by a highly respectable Widow, Situation as Manageress or Housekeeper. 20 years' experience.

Address, Manageress, PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston.”

WANTED, by a highly respectable Widow, Situation as Manageress or Housekeeper. 20 years' experience, —Address, Manageress, Pipe Hall Hotel, Bilston.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 30/1/1885

“The first annual ball under the auspices of the tradesmen of Bilston was held in the Town Hall, on Thursday night, and was attended by a select company Refreshments were provided by Messrs. Peck and Kerrison, of the PIPE HALL HOTEL.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 14/2/1885

“The second annual soirée of the members and friends of the Bilston Conservative Club was held in the Town Hall, on Friday night, and was attended by about 150 persons The refreshments were supplied by Messrs. Peck and Kerrison, PIPE HALL HOTEL.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 9/5/1885 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale of capital Brewing Utensils, Light Spring Trap, Sets of Pony Harness, Lead Pumps, large Sign, 35 Scaffold Poles, and effects, in the Yard, at PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston.

Messrs. J. Morrell and Sons are favoured with instructions from Messrs. Peck and Kerrison (who have no further use for the same), to Sell by Auction, in the above Yard, on Tuesday Next, May 12th, 1885, without reserve.

Twenty-two Capital Ale Casks, large and small Coolers, Wort Spouts, four capital Mash Tubs, two capital Malt Mills, two Lead Pumps and Lead Piping, Gathering Tubs, Copper Betwells, Excellent Large Sign, 16ft 6in x 6ft 6in; two sets of Pony Harness, very useful Light Spring Trap, 35 Scaffold Poles, and other effects.

Sale at 11am prompt.

Auction and Valuation Offices, Swan Bank, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 13/5/1885 - Advert

“Bilston. Freehold Flour Mill and Freehold and Copyhold Dwelling Houses.

Messrs. Nock and Chase will Sell by Auction, on Friday Next, the 15th day of May, at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, at 6.30 for 7 o'clock in the evening.....”

Darlaston Weekly Times 30/1/1886

“On Friday (22nd inst), through the generosity of J. L. Gibbons, Esq and Mrs. Gibbons, of Wolverhampton, over 400 poor people sat down to an excellent dinner in the large schoolroom, which was tastefully decorated for the occasion The dinner, consisting of roast beef and plum pudding with a choice of beverages, was served up in the most praiseworthy style by Messrs. Peck and Kerrison. The guests did their duty to the fare, many of the poor people remarking that they had not tasted such a dinner for many years. After dinner, under the presidency of the host, a few very happy hours were spent.....”

Darlaston Weekly Times 4/12/1886

“The first ball of the season took place in the Town Hall, Bilston, last (Thursday) evening, and proved in every respect a gratifying success. It was the annual ball of the Bilston Lawn Tennis Club, which is regarded as one of the most pleasant reunions of the district. There were about 30 couples present, and it is needless to say that one and all thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Dancing commenced about 9-30pm, and was kept up with unflagging spirit until an early hour this (Friday) morning. Mr. Howard Baker officiated as MC, and efficiently discharged his duties in that capacity. Mr. Underwell’s band occupied the orchestra, and Messrs. Peck and Kerrison, of the PIPE HALL HOTEL, supplied the refreshments, which were of a character well calculated to sustain the high reputation which this well known establishment possesses. The arrangements from first to last were carried out with complete success, and a most enjoyable evening was the result.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 11/12/1886

“To Let, Houses Nos. 21 and 24, Tame Street, Bilston; rent 3s 3d and 3s per week; all rates paid.
Apply, Kerrison, PIPE HALL.”

TO LET Houses Nos. 21 and 24, Tame Street, Bilston; rent 3s. 3d. and 3s per week; all rates paid.—Apply, Kerrison, Pipe Hall.

Peck and Kerrison brewed here. [1888], [1916]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/1/1889 - Advert

“Wanted Man and Wife (without Family preferred) to Manage an Old-licensed House; good references and previous experience indispensable.
Apply at Office, PIPE HALL, Bilston.”

WANTED Man and Wife (without Family preferred) to Manage an Old-licensed House; good references and previous experience indispensable.—Apply at Office, Pipe Hall, Bilston.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 3/6/1889

“The worst hailstorm in the memory of the oldest inhabitants of the town was experienced at Bilston on Sunday afternoon. Between seven and nine o’clock on Sunday morning hail came down with great force, but this storm was nothing compared with the visitation about three o’clock in the afternoon. At that time hail again commenced falling, and presently the storm raged with intense fury. The hailstones were of an extraordinary size....
Several large-sized windows were beaten in at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, and one side of the greenhouse is a wreck.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/6/1889 - Advert

“Wine Merchant’s Clerk (experienced, trustworthy) Wanted; young married man preferred; to reside in Wolverhampton. Undeniably good references required; must also give good security.
Apply at Office, Peck and Kerrison, PIPE HALL, Bilston.”

WINE-MERCHANT’S Clerk (experienced, trustworthy) Wanted; young married man preferred; to reside in Wolverhampton. Undeniably good references required; must also give good security.—Apply at Office, Peck and Kerrison, Pipe Hall, Bilston.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 26/7/1889 - Advert

“Manager Wanted for an Old Licensed House, unexceptional references, and must have had previous experience.
Apply, personally, at Office, PIPE HALL, Bilston.”

MANAGER Wanted for an Old Licensed House, unexceptional references, and must have had previous experience.—Apply, personally, at Office, Pipe Hall, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 21/8/1890 - Advert

“Quantity of Old Ale for Sale.
Apply, Peck and Kerrison, PIPE HALL, Bilston.”

QUANTITY of Old Ale for Sale.—Apply, Peck and Kerrison, Pipe Hall, Bilston.

1891 Census

Hall Street – PIPE HALL HOTEL

- [1] Arthur C. Kerrison (50), unmarried, brewer and wine and spirit merchant, born East Harling, Norfolk;
- [2] William W. Cowles (17), nephew, builder’s apprentice, born Rockland, Norfolk;
- [3] Harry F. Cowles (14), nephew, scholar, born Cambridgeshire;
- [4] James Probert (33), boarder, railway porter, born Hereford;
- [5] Sarah Silvester (23), servant, born Great Bridge;
- [6] Elizabeth Barker (48), servant, born Claverley, Shropshire;
- [7] Sarah Unitt (32), servant, born Bilston;
- [8] Emma O. Parker (21), servant, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Post 6/10/1891 - Advert

“Bilston. Sale of Valuable Freehold Shops and Dwelling Houses.

Messrs. Hawkins & Son have received instructions to Sell by Public Auction, This Day (Tuesday), October 6, at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, at Six for Seven o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then read, in the following or such Lots as may be determined upon at the time of sale.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/11/1895

“The annual exhibition of the Wolverhampton Chrysanthemum Society was opened yesterday, in the Drill Hall, Stafford Street, and will remain open today.....

Mr. *A. C. Kerrison*, PIPE HALL, Bilston, carried off the first local prize for twelve Japanese varieties.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/3/1898

“Bradley Brewery Company has just been registered with a capital of £5,000 in £1 shares, to acquire and take over as a going concern the business carried on at Bradley, Staffordshire, by Peck and Kerrison, and to carry on the business of brewers, maltsters, ale, beer, and porter merchants and bottlers, corn and hop merchants, wine and spirit merchants, distillers, licensed victuallers, &c.....”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 26/8/1898

“The sixth annual picnic of the central district, which includes Bilston, Wednesbury, Darlaston, and Coseley, of the Midland Hairdressers' Association took place on Thursday, when about a hundred members and friends were conveyed in brakes to Ounsdale, via Penn and Wombourn. An excellent tea was provided at the Mount Pleasant Hotel, and after indulging in a stroll through the beautiful grounds and the various walks in the district the party re-assembled in the large concert-room, where an excellent programme of harmony was ably rendered by the various artistes. The return journey was resumed about 8.30 and headquarters, the PIPE HALL HOTEL, were reached about 9.30.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 11/11/1898

“At the PIPE HALL HOTEL, on Thursday evening, six gentlemen of West Bromwich competed with the same number of Bilston gentlemen in six games of 200 up at billiards. The largest break was sixty-six, and several fifties were made on both sides. A very exciting contest resulted in a draw, each party being successful in winning three games.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 3/12/1898

“Football Bilston Charity Cup.

The draw for the first two rounds of the above Cup, together with medals for the runners up, which are being put up for the first time this season in aid of the local charities, took place at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, on Thursday evening.....”

South Wales Daily News 29/4/1899

“At Bilston Police Court, near Wolverhampton, yesterday, Alfred Smith, collier, of Ebbw Vale, was charged with attempting to commit suicide. The prisoner came from South Wales to Wolverhampton two months ago in search of work, and lived first with his brother and then at an inn at Darlaston, where, it is alleged, he paid attentions to a barmaid. After attempting suicide by drowning at Kettenhall on the 19th inst, and creating a great sensation by stating that he had been robbed and thrown into the canal, he went to Bilston and cut his throat at the PIPE HALL HOTEL.

Mary Chinnock, waitress at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, said the prisoner engaged a bedroom at 10 o'clock on the 20th, and at 7 the next morning rang his bell and said, ‘Send for a police officer. A gentlemen here is going to cut his throat.’

Constable Finney found the prisoner sitting in a chair. He said, ‘Lock me up, officer; I have cut my throat, and there's the razor.’ He was taken into custody. Dr. Smith sewed the wound up. It was not serious. The prisoner was much depressed, and said, ‘I am guilty of wilfully cutting myself, but not with the intention of taking my life. I was not in a fit state of mind.’

The prisoner was committed for trial.

The prisoner's mother and sister from Ebbw Vale, where the father is a tin-plate worker, were present, and also the young woman referred to from Darlaston, all much affected.

At the close of the Court and affecting scene took place between the prisoner and his mother, the prisoner throwing his arms round her neck and exclaiming, 'Oh, mother, what shall I do? They've committed me for trial.' He, however, told her to go home to his father. He should be all right, and was much better now.

The prisoner told our correspondent he had been betting, but the mother said drinking. As he left in company of a police officer his sister called after him, 'Cheer up Alfred, for the family's sake.'"

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 24/4/1999

From the Past 100 Years Ago.

A man named John James, aged about 28 and a stranger to the town, is thought to have attempted suicide at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, yesterday. He rang his bell and informed a chambermaid that 'a gentleman intended to take his life.' Police were called and found him pacing up and down his room with a gash on his throat. He was taken into custody."

AND

Bridgnorth Journal 1/7/1899

"Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

The following prisoners pleaded guilty, and received the sentences named.....

John Jones, of no occupation, attempted suicide at Bilston on April 21, one day."

1899 Probate

"*John Sprawson Iliffe* of Hall Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 7 March 1899. Administration Lichfield 7 April to *Selina Annie Iliffe*, widow. Effects £77."

1901 Census

PIPE HALL HOTEL

[1] *Selina Annie Iliffe* (37), widow, hotel manageress, born Welford on Avon, Warwickshire;

[2] Sydney L. S. Iliffe (15), son, born Leamington;

[3] Victor M. Iliffe (14), son, born Leamington;

[4] Kathleen McPherson (24), domestic servant, born Birmingham;

[5] Marion Whittingham (24), domestic servant, born Wolverhampton;

[6] Elizabeth Tennant (17), domestic servant, born Bilston;

[7] Nellie Hughes (17), domestic servant, born Walsall:

Wednesbury Leader 20/7/1901

"The annual meeting of the Bilston Charity Football Association was held at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, on Friday evening. Mr. J. M. Lloyd (chairman) presiding over a large attendance....."

William Henry Matthews = Henry William Matthews

Evening Despatch 26/2/1902

"Victuallers at Billiards.....

A. L. Bonas, ODDFELLOWS ARMS, West Bromwich (received 110) beat *H. Matthews*, PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston (owes 60) 250 to 213. *Matthews* made a break of 29, the highest in the tournament so far."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/7/1902

"Wolverhampton District Electric Tramways Trial Trip.

A preliminary trial trip over the Parkfield, Coseley, Moxley, Bilston, and Willenhall sections of the track recently constructed by the British Electric Traction Company, was conducted last evening. Invitations had been forwarded to the members and officials of the Urban District Councils, situated within the area, and which included Sedgley, Coseley, and Bilston, and two of the company's double-decker cars were placed at the disposal of the party. Commencing from their Sedgley terminus in the afternoon, the cars conveyed the guests over the various lines, making double journeys over each one. A halt was called at Bilston, where the party adjourned to the PIPE HALL HOTEL to partake of a champagne luncheon After luncheon the party resumed their journey and completed the tour, which throughout gave every satisfaction."

Staffordshire Advertiser 17/10/1903

“James Rogers, of Free Street, Bilston, was charged with stealing a waistcoat, value 3s 11d, belonging to Frederick Chaplin, hatter and hosier, of Church Street, and with assaulting George Gibbons, the ostler at the PIPE HALL HOTEL. He was sent to gaol for three months’ hard labour.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/1/1903

“Second round of the Birmingham and District Licensed Victuallers billiards handicap.....

H. F. Machin (Mermaid, Sparkbrook), receives 140, beat *H. W. Matthews* (PIPE HALL, Bilston), owes 15, by 250 to 151.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 1/3/1905

“The fourth round of the Birmingham and District Licensed Victuallers billiard handicap was concluded yesterday.....

H. W. Matthews (PIPE HALL, Bilston), rec. 30, met J. Dale-Rodgers (Swan Hotel, Yardley), rec. 250. The game proved a most interesting one. *Matthews* did not catch his opponent until 384, but ran out winner by 8 points. *Matthews* made breaks of 26, 43, 33, 24 and 20. Scores *Matthews* 400, Rodgers 392.”

[*Matthews* went on to win the competition.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/3/1908

“The semi-final heats in the Birmingham and District Licensed Victuallers billiard handicap were contested yesterday.....

H. W. Matthews (PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, owes 50) met R. Jones (Central Hotel, Cannock, rec. 190). The last-named won the handicap two years ago, when he also secured the Sporting Buff trophy. *Matthews* has had to fight hard in every heat, and for the veteran to figure in the penultimate stage was indeed a fine performance. Yesterday afternoon Jones played soundly, never taking the least risk, and *Matthews*’s position became a hopeless one Jones’s safety tactics were the means of his winning by the big margin of 181 points.”

[Jones lost in the final.]

North Wales Weekly News 16/10/1908 - Advert

“Lady (young) wanted for hotel bar; good appearance, good reference required.

Mrs. *Matthews*, PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston.”

LADY (young) wanted for hotel bar: good appearance, good reference required.—Mrs. *Matthews*, Pipe Hall Hotel, Bilston.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/12/1909

“Messrs. John Male and Son, auctioneers, of Bilston, submitted for sale at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, on Tuesday evening, 50 ‘A’ shares and 120 ‘B’ shares, all of £5 each, in the Bilston Gas Light and Coke Company and 30 ‘D’ shares of £10 each in the Willenhall Gas Company; and it says much for the popularity of the companies that the whole were snapped up within half an hour. They were offered in 25 lots, and bidding was of the most spirited character. The highest price reached for five ‘A’ in the Bilston Company was £12 3s, and the whole of the remainder were knocked down at £12 1s. Lots of ten ‘B’ shares in the same company reached the sum of £8 11s, while the £10 shares in the Willenhall Company found buyers at £16, £15 18s, and £15 4s.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 2/12/1909

“At the PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, on Wednesday evening, in a room profuse in decoration, the Chairman of the Urban District Council of Bilston (Mr. Walter Hughes) entertained his colleagues on the Council, the members of the Education Committee, and the officials to dinner, the same being of a recherche character.....”

1911 Census

PIPE HALL HOTEL

- [1] *Henry William Matthews* (56), hotel manager, born Pattingham;
- [2] *Mary Ann Matthews* (56), wife, married 33 years, assisting in the business, born Aston, Warwickshire;
- [3] *Lillie Bates* (27), hotel barmaid, born Burton on Trent;
- [4] *Elizabeth Harvey* (27), hotel cook, born Bilston;
- [5] *Alice Kettle* (25), hotel waitress, born Moxley;
- [6] *Agnes Langston* (22), general servant, born Bilston;
- [7] *Thomas Roderick Hammerton Price* (41), boarder, secretary, political, born Bowness, Westmorland:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 30/10/1912 - Advert

“To Let, HORSELEY FIELDS TAVERN; fully licensed; immediate possession.
Apply, Bent’s Brewery Company, PIPE HALL STORES, Bilston.”

TO Let, Horseley-fields Tavern: fully licensed; immediate possession. — Apply, Bent's Brewery Company, Pipe Hall Stores, Bilston.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 6/12/1912

“In connection with the Bilston District of the Royal London Assurance Company a dinner was given to the agents and their wives by the superintendent, Mr. W. Bowdler, at the PIPE HALL HOTEL. This was followed by a splendid concert.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/4/1914 - Advert

“Barmaid Wanted, immediately, for hotel bar; good appearance, must have good references.
PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, Staffordshire.”

Birmingham Daily Post 24/2/1915 - Advert

“Barmaid (Hotel Bar), good appearance and address, able to give good references. Personal application preferred.
PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, Staffs.”

BARMAID (Hotel Bar), good appearance and address, able to give good references. Personal application preferred.— Pipe Hall Hotel, Bilston, Staffs.

Birmingham Daily Post 2/8/1915 - Advert

“Barman for Vaults Bar; reference required. Good wage.
Apply, personally, PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, Staffs.”

BARMAN for Vaults Bar; reference required. Good wage.— Apply, personally, Pipe Hall Hotel, Bilston, Staffs.

Police Gazette 11/7/1916

“Absentees under the Military Service Act.....
George Fletcher, age 31, last known address PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/11/1916 - Advert

“Barmaid (experienced), for Hotel Bar. Good wages.
PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, Staffs.”

BARMAID (experienced), for Hotel Bar. Good wages.— Pipe Hall Hotel, Bilston, Staffs.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/3/1919

“The second round of the Birmingham and District Licensed Victuallers billiards handicap was continued yesterday.....
J. H. Lewis, NAGS HEAD, West Bromwich (rec. 180) beat *A. E. Hewitt*, PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston (rec. 190) by 400 to 390.”

South Staffordshire Times 1/5/1920

“The butchers of Bilston spent a very enjoyable time at the PIPE HALL HOTEL on Thursday evening, on the occasion of the annual dinner of the local Butchers Association.....”

South Staffordshire Times 2/10/1920

“A billiards match was played at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, on Wednesday evening, between two well-known local amateurs, Messrs. R. Smith and H. W. Matthews. The game was 400 up, which Mr. Smith obtained in under an hour, making breaks of 110, 69 and 53. The final scores were Smith 400, Matthews 212.”

1921 Census

Hall Street – PIPE HALL HOTEL

- [1] *Arthur Edward Hewitt* (49), hotel manager, born Coalbrookdale, Shropshire;
- [2] *Clotild Hannah Lenora Hewitt* (41), wife, hotel manageress, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] Gladys Hewitt (19), daughter, invoicing typist, born Perry Bar;
- [4] Nellie Hewitt (16), daughter, home duties, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] Marjorie Hewitt (8), daughter, school, born Bilston;
- [6] Doris Langley (21), barmaid, born Wolverhampton;
- [7] Nellie Owen (20), domestic servant, born Wednesfield;

South Staffordshire Times 8/10/1921

“The proprietor of the PIPE HALL HOTEL applied for an hour’s extension at night beyond ordinary time, for the purpose of supplying alcoholic drinks to people who had meals at the hotel. He said a large number of dinners were provided at nights, especially in the winter months.

The Chairman said the Bench had decided not to grant the application that morning, but would adjourn it till the annual licensing meeting, when the application could be renewed.”

1922 Probate

“*Arthur Edward Hewitt* of PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 12 September 1922. Administration Lichfield 4 October to *Clothilda Hannah Leonora Hewitt*, widow. Effects £263 16s 7d.”

Arthur Edward Hewitt – see also SPREAD EAGLE.

South Staffordshire Times 9/2/1924

“The third annual open exhibition of Roller Canaries, promoted by the Bilston and District Canary Club, was held on Wednesday and Thursday at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston. In every respect the show was a decided success. The exhibits, which were sent from many parts of England, and also from Scotland, numbered close to 100, and included many high class breeds.....”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 7/11/1925

“The Bilston Roller Canary Club has now become one of the most important in the country. The membership includes not only local breeders, but fanciers all over the country, in Scotland and in Wales, while former residents, who have gone overseas, continue their interest. For the fifth annual open exhibition, held at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, on Wednesday and Thursday last there were 323 entries, and many valuable birds were staged.....”

Dudley Chronicle 31/12/1925

“The annual show of the Bilston and District Roller Canary Club is followed in due course by the annual dinner of members, and this pleasant gathering took place at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, on Saturday evening week. There was a large attendance of canary fanciers. The President (Mr. W. G. Bird) spoke of the interest which the members took in the working of the Society and the pleasant anticipations of the annual gatherings. The Bilston Club, he said, was second to none in England in the roller fancy.....”

Dudley Chronicle 18/11/1926

“Particulars of the sound position and of the activities of the Midland Counties Mutual Benefit ‘Holloway’ and ‘Approved’ Societies, and also the progress of the local branch, were given at the annual dinner and musical evening in connection with the Bilston District of the Society, held at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston.....”

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/12/1927

“Supt. J. Higgs, after 41 years in the Staffordshire Constabulary, the last six of which were spent at Bilston, recently retired, and on December 2nd he was entertained at Bilston Town Hall, and was presented with an illuminated address and a wallet of notes. Mrs. Higgs received a good chain and pendant and brooch. Councillor J. E. Downs presided, and a smoking concert at PIPE HALL HOTEL followed.”

Walsall Observer 31/12/1927

“Wednesbury Police Court, December 23.....

Stated to have been found at 3.20am on December 16 asleep in his car, with the engine running, and his foot on the accelerator, but with the gears in neutral, Leonard William Hatton Ward (33), commercial traveller, was summoned for being drunk in charge of a motorcar After a hearing lasting some hours, defendant was fined £20, with £5 15s special costs.

.....He set out for Bilston to take home a Mr. *Vowells*, the licensee of an hotel there *William Robert Vowells*, licensee of the PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, and his son, Allen Walter, said defendant had no drink at their home; nor was he drunk when he left.....”

A music and dancing license was granted on 6th January 1928.

Bilston and Willenhall Times 10/3/1928

“Bilston Horticultural Society celebrated on Thursday evening at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, a record financial year, by holding their first annual dinner. There was a large gathering over which Councillor J. E. Downs (president of the society) presided.....”

Bilston and Willenhall Times 22/12/1928

“For the 8th annual open exhibition organised by the Bilston and District Roller Canary Club, held at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, on Wednesday and Thursday, there were 300 entries, about the same as in last year.....”

London Gazette 11/11/1930

“The Companies Act, 1929. Regent Malleable Castings Limited.

At an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Members of the above named Company, duly convened, and held at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, on the 30th day of October, 1930, the following Extraordinary Resolution was duly passed. ‘That it has been proved to the satisfaction of this Meeting that the Company cannot, by reason of its liabilities, continue its business, and that it is advisable to wind up, and accordingly that the Company be wound up voluntarily.’

John Toole, Chairman.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/1/1931

“It is claimed of the tenth annual exhibition of canaries promoted by the Bilston and District Roller Canary Club and opened yesterday at PIPE HALL HOTEL that it is the largest roller canary show in the country. The entries, numbering 365, are a record, and the birds are the cream of their class and are highly priced. The show is not only well supported by local breeders, but entries came from all parts of the country. Birmingham is well represented. Birds were entered from Yorkshire and Lancashire towns, from breeders in Sussex, Essex, Nottingham, London, and as far distant as Glasgow and Edinburgh. Numerous prizes were offered and there were eight cups and a bowl for competition.....”

Miss Sadler’s Dance Classes were held here. [1931]

Dudley Chronicle 9/6/1932 - Marriages

“On May 28th, at St. Luke’s Church, Bilston, by the Rev. J. W. Ronayne, John H. Pym, son of Mr. C. H. Pym of Wednesbury, to Barbara, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. *W. R. Vowles*, PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston.”

Bilston and Willenhall Times 20/1/1934

“A most enjoyable evening was spent by the men’s and women’s committees of the New Town Ward, Bilston, Unionist Association, on Thursday evening, when a supper was given at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, by the ward members of the Town Council.

There were upwards of 50 present, including Alderman and Mrs. J. T. Baker, Alderman T. R. Wood, CC, JP, Councillor and Mrs. G. H. Plant, Councillor and Mrs. R. Smith, Mrs. John Toole, Mr. C. E. Clarke, and Mr. R. G. Sawyer (Unionist agent).....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/9/1934

“‘There is only one verdict, and that is Accidental Death,’ said the Coroner (Mr. J. T. Higgs) at an inquest on *William Robert Vowles*, aged 55, manager of the PIPE HALL HOTEL, Hall Street, Bilston.

The widow said that about four and a half years ago, on a night after closing time, her husband went into the cellar. She had gone to bed, and when he came upstairs he said that he had slipped on ‘the old step’ and had had a fall; that he had been calling for help for a quarter of an hour, and that no one had heard him. Next morning a doctor was called, and after a time her husband underwent an X-ray examination. Tuberculosis in the spine supervened and he died last Monday. Up to the time of the accident her husband had been a very healthy man. Medical evidence was that death was due to acute toxæmia, from tuberculosis; that the condition was due to the tubercular condition of the spine, and that the condition was set up by the injury.

Mr. H. J. Pritchett, who represented Bent’s Brewery Co., owners of the hotel, said that the company much regretted the death of Mr. *Vowles*, who had been a very good servant.”

1934 Probate

"*William Robert Vowles* of PIPE HALL HOTEL, Hall Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 24 September 1934. Administration Birmingham 23 October to *Florence Ethel Vowles*, widow. Effects £358 1s 3d."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/5/1936

"A casual glance by a police-constable as he was passing the PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, on the night of Saturday, 25 April, resulted in the licensee *William Robert Holland*, his wife *Florence Ellen Holland*, and four customers being summoned at Bilston yesterday for offences under the licensing regulations.

Holland was fined £5 with 5s special costs on one summons for supplying intoxicating liquor during non-permitted hours and ordered to pay 4s costs on each of seven further summonses – three of supplying and four for aiding and abetting customers in consuming the liquor. His wife was fined £2 for aiding and abetting him in supplying in the first case and ordered to pay 4s costs on each of three further summonses for aiding and abetting. For consuming intoxicating liquor during non-permitted hours *Victor Robinson*, 25, Windsor Street; *Howard McGregor*, Alexandra Place, Mountford Lane; *Edward Probert*, Wynstay, Millfields Road; and *George Winyard*, 49, Mount Pleasant, all of Bilston, were each ordered to pay 25s costs."

Rugeley Times 28/8/1937

"Mr. A. H. Baldwin (Stationmaster at Wednesbury) presented the awards in connection with Bilston G.W.R. Ambulance at the PIPE HALL HOTEL. Mr. Baldwin referred to the way the Company encouraged first aid work and spoke of the sacrifices made by Councillor Dr. J. Wells (surgeon-instructor) in giving up so much of his time for the work. The class had been running for over 20 years and Dr. Wells had been instructor for the whole of the time."

Walsall Observer 30/10/1937 - Advert

"Salaried and progressive position open to keen and adaptable Man, age 22-48. Must be of good appearance. Call at PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, on Wednesday next, 10.30 to 12.30."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/11/1937

"*Alfred Victor Griffiths*, aged 40, a lorry driver, of 221, Hammersmith Road, London, was charged at Bilston with obtaining food to the value of 7s 6d by false pretences from the PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, and with stealing a purse and contents of the total value of £5 9s 4d, the property of *Gladys Maddocks*, from the same hotel.

The licensee, *Edgar John Adey*, said that Griffiths went to the hotel on 19 May and asked for bed and breakfast. He was accommodated and the next morning said he would be staying for a day or two. He returned at night and on the morning of the 21st had breakfast and left the hotel without paying and was never seen again. Witness added that Griffiths told him he was buying scrap steel for *Stewarts and Lloyds*.

Det. C. E. V. Jones said the matter was reported to the police but Griffiths' identity was not known at the time. He examined the room which had been occupied by him at the hotel and found some pieces of paper in a fire grate. These were pieced together with some difficulty and made a postal letter card which was addressed to a woman at Wolverhampton and signed Vic. Further inquiries were made and Mr. *Adey* identified Griffiths from a number of photos shown to him.

On the charge of theft, *Gladys Maddocks*, barmaid at the hotel, said she went to bed on 20 May, taking her handbag which contained the money. Griffiths' bedroom was on the same landing. The following morning she went downstairs taking her handbag with her and found the money missing.

Griffiths pleaded guilty to both charges and asked for another charge for false pretences at Wolverhampton to be taken into consideration.

Det.-Con. Jones said Griffiths was a married man and had been courting a young woman in London who came of a good family, to whom he had posed as a well-to-do business man. The Metropolitan Police felt strongly about this because there could have been another charge against him.

Supt. Orland read out a list of previous convictions which included two terms of three years' penal servitude for fraud and larceny from lodgings.

Griffiths was sent to goal for six months on each charge, the sentences to run consecutively, 12 months in all."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 20/1/1938

"Bilston and District Roller Canary Club held their 17th annual open exhibition of roller canaries last night at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, when the entries numbered 220...."

Evening Despatch 28/2/1939 - Advert

“Permanent Salaried Position Open to keen, ambitious Man (25 to 50) for Sales Work in Wednesbury and Bilston area. Only men of smart appearance and good character considered for these positions. Interviews will be given at the GEORGE HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Wednesday, between 2.0 and 3.30pm, or the same day at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, between 4.0 and 5.30pm.”

1939 Register

Hall Street – PIPE HALL HOTEL

- [1] Edgar J. Adey, date of birth 29/11/1889, hotel manager and caterer, married;
- [2] Hilda Adey, dob 24/8/1895, hotel manageress, married;
- [3] Hannah M. Adey, dob 16/9/1860, no occupation, widowed;
- [4] Robert Thompson, dob 5/5/1903, company secretary, certified accountant, married;
- [5] Ronald (Donald) Phimister, dob 23/6/1898, iron foundry manager, single;
- [6] Susannah A. (Hardie) (State) Potter, dob 24/10/1918, barmaid, single;
- [7] Lilian (Jones) (Baugh) (Cummings) Luke, dob 1/11/1917, bar general, single:

Rugeley Times 20/1/1940

“The second annual meeting of the local branch of the Old Contemptibles Association was held at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, on Wednesday, when the hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr. A. S. Hill, was able to report a year of continued success on the part of the organisation.....”

John McArdle was born on 5th October 1907.

He was married to Ethel.

He was a devout Catholic.

He was called up for service in 1941 with the WT Reserve as NAAFI manager.

He died in 2000.

[The Black Country Bugle ran a series of articles, following his wartime diary, from 14/1/2010.]

John McArdle – see also GLOBE, Mount Pleasant.

Bilston and Willenhall Times 21/9/1946

“A bring and buy sale, organised by the members of Bilston Inner Wheel Club, was held at the PIPE HALL HOTEL on Tuesday, when about £35 was raised for various charities. Visitors were members from No.6 District Inner Wheel Club, and Mrs. Louie Taylor, district chairman opened the sale. Mrs. Gameson, national representative, was also present.”

Bilston and Willenhall Times 19/10/1946

“Mr. T. Radford, secretary to the Birmingham Branch of the International Friendship League, explained the League’s aims at a meeting of Bilston Inner Wheel Club, held at the PIPE HALL HOTEL on Tuesday.”

It was listed Grade II on 20th June 1952 (amended in March 1992).

Birmingham Daily Post 1/8/1953

“Inns in Midland counties which have been scheduled during the past twelve months by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government as being of outstanding historical and architectural interest.....

PIPE HALL HOTEL, Hall Street, Bilston, Staffordshire.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/1/1955

"A copy of the American Declaration of Independence may seem a strange thing to hang in the bar of a Staffordshire hotel; but Mr. *John McArdle* has given it this place of honour for two good reasons. First of all, Mr. *McArdle*, who is licensee of the PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, has been presented with this copy by American friends while on a visit to the USA. Secondly the Declaration has a very definite 'local connection.' For the second of the 56 men who signed it on that historic day in July, 1776, was Button Gwinnett, who belonged to a wealthy Wolverhampton family, was married in the town, and was once a governor of the former Blue Coat School there.

Recently Mr. *McArdle* was in America to visit his brother-in-law who farms in Ohio. A member of Bilston Rotary Club, he travelled 380 miles to Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and back, to renew a friendship with an American Rotarian. He was invited to address the Carlisle Rotary Club and his talk was recorded on a tape, which was given to him as a souvenir. One of the Rotarians, who knew of Gwinnett's Wolverhampton origin, also gave him the copy of the Declaration, printed on parchment in Washington in 1902....."

Birmingham Daily Post 16/2/1955

"Today's Events.....

Conservative Association Annual Meeting, PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, 7.30."

Birmingham Daily Post 22/2/1958 - Advert

"Borough of Bilston. Sale of the Valuable Freehold Property formerly known as St. Luke's Old C.E. School, Market Street, Bilston (with a return frontage to Pinfold Street) with Vacant Possession.

Total Site Area – 2,300 square yards or thereabouts. Total Covered Floor Area – 5,000 square feet approx.

Zoned for Principal Shopping Purposes in the Draft Town Map.

Messrs Fox & Harrison will Offer the above Freehold Property for Sale by Public Auction at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, on Tuesday, 4th March, 1958, at 6.30pm....."

Birmingham Daily Post 2/11/1959

"A Bilston timber merchant and five of his customers narrowly escaped injury when part of the roof of a hotel bottle store adjoining his premises collapsed on Saturday. Shoppers were walking through The Orchard, which links Market Street and Lichfield Street in the centre of Bilston, when the accident occurred near by at the rear of the PIPE HALL HOTEL. The roof of the bottle store caved in and several tons of slates and bricks fell on to several thousands of pounds worth of stock on the ground floor. Debris also showered into the timber yard of Mr. H. A. Freeman, where he was serving customers. As bricks began to fall, he shouted a warning and the customers ran to safety into a workshop. Police cordoned off The Orchard while the rest of the store was examined by Bilston Corporation officials and made safe.

Mr. *J. Cooper*, the hotel manager, said afterwards that the question of renovating the store, which was part of the original PIPE HALL, was under discussion only on Friday. The collapse was thought to be due to vibration from trains on the neighbouring Western Region main line."

Staffordshire Sentinel 20/12/1962 - Advert

"Christmas and New Year Quality Wines and Spirits etc.....

Obtainable at all Bent's Houses and the following Out-Door Shops and Wine Stores.....

PIPE HALL HOTEL Shop, Hall Street, Bilston. Tel. Bilston 41691."

Black Country Bugle 27/11/2014

Letter from Reg Summerfield

".....I remember going on a regular weekly basis to the PIPE HALL HOTEL The night many of us attended was a regular 'live' music night in the early 60s which featured resident entertainers The Harry Powers Trio plus compere/entertainer Don Tighe....."

Birmingham Daily Post 22/5/1964

“A cardboard box containing what appeared to be a home-made bomb was found last night at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, Hall Street, Bilston. About half an hour before closing time Bilston police received a 999 call. The caller said that a bomb had been planted in the PIPE HALL VAULTS, a public bar about 20 yards away from the main building. Police went to the hotel and made a search after customers had been asked to leave. Near the rear entrance they found a shoe-box containing a metal tube marked ‘Danger. T.N.T.’ followed by what appeared to be a chemical formula. The device was wired in a manner similar to the ‘bomb’ planted in a hoax at Dudley on Monday. The box was left in the vaults under a police guard to await examination by an Army explosives expert called from the Donnington Ordnance Depot.”

Staffordshire Sentinel 14/12/1967 - Advert

“Save Money at Bent’s Off-Licenses and Wine Stores.....

PIPE HALL HOTEL Shop, Hall Street, Bilston. Tel. Bilston 41691.”

It was renamed CAROUSEL [pre 1971]

[1971]

Sandwell Evening Mail 15/9/1981

“A Bilston licensee assaulted a 15-year-old schoolboy who he believed had damaged his car with a gang of other teenagers, Mr. Michael Garrett, prosecuting, alleged at Wolverhampton Crown Court. *Mohinder Singh Mondair*, upset and annoyed at the damage to his vehicle wrongly accused David Mountford of being involved it was said. He caught hold of the boy, said Mr. Garrett, dragged him inside his public house, and punched him in the face with his fists, knocking him into a chair and onto the floor. *Mondair*, of the PIE HALL public house in Hall Street, Bilston, pleaded not guilty to assaulting the boy causing him actual bodily harm.

Mr. Garrett said that when questioned by police, *Mondair* told officers that he did not know whether or not the boy was one of the gang of youths who had damaged his car. He said that he thought that Mountford was one of the gang ‘because he was there’ and added, ‘He must have been one of them.’ *Mondair* then denied hitting the boy and he said that he must have been injured when he pulled him into the public house. (Proceeding).”

AND

Sandwell Evening Mail 17/9/1981

“A 43-year-old Black Country licensee has been cleared of punching a schoolboy he thought was one of a gang who damaged his parked car. *Mohinder Singh Mondair*, of the PIPE HALL public house in Hall Street, Bilston, had denied causing actual bodily harm to 15-year-old David Mountford. It had been alleged at Wolverhampton Crown Court that *Mondair* suspected the boy of causing damage to his car and had taken him into the lounge of the public house. The prosecution said he punched the boy in the face.

In a statement to police, the boy said *Mondair* hit him while another man had poured beer over his head. But in evidence *Mondair* told the jury that he had left the boy in the lounge while he telephoned the police about the damage to his car. When he returned the boy was injured. He had not hit him.”

PIPE HALL [1982]

Closed [1984]

MESSRS PECK AND KERRISON,

Sole Agents in South Staffordshire for

IND, COOPE AND CO.'S BURTON ALES,

Beg to announce that in consequence of the demand for their Ales in small casks they have now in stock a selection of the October Brewings in NINE GALLON CASKS, for which they respectfully solicit a trial.

ORDERS SENT TO

PECK AND KERRISON,

PIPE HALL, BILSTON, OR CHEAPSIDE,

WOLVERHAMPTON,

WILL RECEIVE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION.

1881

It became TOP CATS night club.

Sandwell Evening Mail 14/11/1986 - Notice

“Licensing Act 1964.

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

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

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

Sandwell Evening Mail 13/3/1992 - Advertising Feature

“Glamour comes to the Black Country with the opening of ALEXANDER’S in Hall Street, Bilston town centre. The plush bar near the new town centre bus station occupies an imposing Grade II listed building, known as the PIPE HALL, set in the heart of Bilston.

Midlands company LM Enterprises has spent £250,000 refurbishing the ground floor as a luxury executive meeting spot for smartly-dressed over 25s. A smaller, cosier champagne room provides the setting to impress with a range of cocktails and champagnes while a larger, public room features a laser display and an impressive satellite monitor system.

Courage Brewers will supply the ales, lager and stouts and for the smart set there will be trendy bottled lagers such as Sol and Grolsch as well as the more John Smith bitter, Holstein export and Beamish stout.

ALEXANDER’S will open 7-11 Sunday-Wednesday and 5.30pm-11.30pm Thursday-Saturday with happy hour specials and free buffet 5.30-7.00pm Thursday-Saturday.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 13/3/1992 - Advert

“ALEXANDER’S

Public Opening Thursday 12th March

The Black Country Celebrity Haunt

Laser Display Thursday-Sunday

Over 25s - Smart Dress Only (the management reserve the right to refuse admission)

To Celebrate that Special Occasion enjoy a Romantic Evening in our Luxurious Champagne Lounge. Bottle of Moët £21.50.

As the Partners are acquainted with people from the Film, Pop and Sporting World you can Expect to See Many Famous Faces Frequenting the Premises.

Happy Hours - Thursday, Friday and Saturday 5.30pm-7pm. Free Finger Buffet.

All Drinks - Doubles for the Price of Singles - Beers and Lagers 20p Less.

Courage Brewers supply Ales, Lagers and Stouts.

Also on sale Yuppie Bottled Lagers such as Sol and Grolsch, John Smith Bitter, Holstein Export and Beamish Stout.

Opening Hours Sunday-Wednesday 7pm-11pm, Thursday-Saturday 5.30pm-11pm.

Hall Street, Bilston Town Centre (Adjacent New Bus Station).

Put your suits on.”

ALEXANDER’S night spot [1994]

ALEXANDER’S night club [1995]

It reopened as ROAR. [2003]

Closed [2008]

It reopened as GAVIN’S SPORTS BAR. [2009]

Swinder Singh Batth was married to Palwinder.

Express & Star 3/8/2009

“Seven people who appeared in court charged with the murder of a Bilston man shot dead outside his pub have been remanded in custody. The group of seven appeared at Wolverhampton Magistrates Court on Saturday, and are jointly-charged with the murder of *Swinder Singh Batth*, who was gunned down outside GAVIN’S SPORTS BAR in Bilston just after midnight last Tuesday.....

It has also emerged that father-of-four Mr. *Batth*, who was aged 47 and ran the bar with son Gavin, was a world class Kabaddi player and former professional wrestler. Kabaddi is a sport where participants aim to wrestle each other to the ground, and is staged in the UK by Indian promoters.

On the Kabaddi.org forum, a poster said, ‘He was one of the best stoppers in England over the years. He went toe-to-toe with much heavier men and was a big crowd favourite.’

His nickname during Kabaddi bouts was Shina Batth. A banner has now been placed across the website’s message board saying ‘RIP legend of UK Kabaddi’ to pay tribute to him.

The first message posted on the topic says, ‘With very sad news that we have deep regret in reporting that UK Kabaddi Legend Shinda Amli was shot dead outside his bar in Wolverhampton. Our thoughts are with his family.’ Another fan wrote, ‘What a tragedy. Great player of the game, but more so, he was well known for being one of the truly great characters. And one more wrote, ‘RIP. He was a real character who will be a big loss for all the Kabaddi world.’

Mr. *Batth*, a well known businessman in Bilston, who lived with his family in Moxley, died in his son Gavin’s arms following the shooting. Family members have told how the 18 year-old had cradled his dying father as he waited for police and ambulance crews to arrive at the scene.

Police say Mr. *Batth* was hit with a bullet in the chest.”

In August 2010 two men were found guilty of *Swinder Singh Batth*’s murder.

Express & Star 26/4/2011

“A bar where an innocent landlord was shot dead is to be sold at auction. GAVIN’S SPORTS BAR in Bilston has been closed since the fatal shooting of *Swinder Singh Batth* following a trivial row over a laser pen almost two years ago. It is now to be sold at auction with a guide price of £225,000 and community leaders in the town hope that the Hall Street venue can be transformed into a positive attraction. Bilston councillor Susan Constable said she wanted to see new owners turn the building into a business that would help to attract investment and people to the area. ‘It used to be a hotel many years ago,’ she said. ‘It is right on the Metro line, and I think it could be put to good use as a restaurant or a hotel. That would be better than a pub. Pubs seem to have fallen out of favour and attract the sort of things we are trying to dissuade.’

Mr. *Batth*, who was from Moxley and ran the pub with his son Gavin, was shot dead by Sukwinder Sanghera on July 28, 2009. Sanghera had been recruited by Jasbir Takhar to take revenge on whoever had shone the laser beam at his girlfriend. During a trial at Birmingham Crown Court, jurors were told that two vehicles carrying nine men and a woman pulled up outside the bar at about midnight on the night of the fatal shooting. Takhar and another defendant argued with a man called Craig Martin on the steps of the bar. Jurors heard that he was the likely target of Sanghera, who got out of one of the cars and fired the shot, which hit Mr. *Batth* in the chest. Sanghera, aged 24, of West Bromwich, and accomplice Takhar, 23, are serving life for the murder. Five other men and a woman were found guilty of conspiracy to commit violent disorder. Two other men were found guilty of intimidating a witness. They were given jail terms ranging from 195 days to three-and-a-half years. The Grade II listed building is being sold by Cottons Chartered Surveyors.”

Closed [2012]

Express & Star 5/3/2018

A ‘menacingly dangerous’ Wolverhampton bar where a landlord was gunned down almost a decade ago will not be knocked to the ground, council planning chiefs have ruled. Developers wanted to demolish the former GAVIN’S SPORTS BAR in Bilston after claiming it had become a ‘magnet for vandals and squatters’ since *Swinder Singh Batth*’s murder. But Wolverhampton council denied developers the chance to flatten the Grade II listed building, also known as PIPE HALL, after declaring it can be preserved. Councillor for Bilston East Stephen Simkins said he was ‘all for’ proposals which would bring the historic building back into use for the community. He added, ‘PIPE HALL is iconic for lots of people in Bilston. For a lot of families, their parents got married and held receptions there. It’s really precious to people in Bilston. It’s right next to the tram stop so there should be lots of business opportunities which could bring employment to people living in Bilston. It does look like it’s tired. Everything should be done to bring this building back into use. We can’t afford to have it lay empty for another ten years. But if it’s unsafe, that has got to be addressed. The developers should talk openly and frankly with our officers so we can get the best for Bilston.’

Property development company WV14 LTD claimed the site, next to the Bilston Central tram stop, had fallen into a ‘grave state of disrepair’ after closing following Mr. *Batth*’s death in 2009. Heantun Housing Group bought the site and proposed to transform it into a cafe and job training centre but was unable to secure a government grant needed for restoration. In their application to the council, developers said they wanted to ‘clear the eyesore building’ to create a ‘very promising future development’ at the site but did not reveal any detailed plans. They added, ‘It is necessary to demolish the building as it has been established that there is no economical or viable use today or in the foreseeable future for this property.’ In a structural report commissioned last June, Daniel Paul claimed the derelict building was ‘menacingly dangerous and hazardous’ and in need of extensive structural repair and renovation. Wolverhampton South East MP Pat McFadden has called for a further assessment of the building’s condition, adding, ‘This is a valued local building and the issue in recent months has been trying to get a professional independent view of the condition of the building. The owner wants to knock it down but I don’t believe local people would want to see it knocked down if there is a viable alternative that would mean it could be repaired and brought back into productive use.’

A Wolverhampton council spokesman said Historic England objected to the proposals after stating demolition would cause ‘the loss of a significant heritage asset.’ The council added, ‘Following this, the council rejected the planning application and has strongly advised the applicant to put forward a restoration plan, or consider marketing the property, to achieve a development solution that conserves its heritage value and contribution to the conservation area. There are many acceptable uses for this building, including residential.’”

Express & Star 7/2/2020

“A bar in Bilston which has lain derelict for more than a decade after its landlord was gunned down will be redeveloped, it has been revealed. The PIPE HALL building, the former home of GAVIN’S SPORTS BAR, closed in 2009 after *Swinder Singh Batth*’s murder. But now the Hall Street site, which dates back to 1810, has been bought by the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) – in a bid to kick-start the town centre’s regeneration.

West Midlands Mayor Andy Street said, ‘Truthfully, we’ve not yet decided but the critical point is that it’s been lying derelict for well over a decade. It’s of huge significance and I would describe it as a monument – it’s a symbol of the decline which we want to stop. It could be for business start-up hub which is my personal favourite suggestion. The WMCA is using the cash to intervene where no one else has stepped in and I’m proud to get on and sort it out. It’s quite right we should get on with the regeneration.’

The building dates back to 1810 and was originally built for the Pipe family, but it became Pipe Hall Academy, a private girl’s school, in 1869.

Councillor Harman Banger, Wolverhampton Council’s cabinet member for city economy, said the authority had been working closely with WMCA to make the purchase happen. The building, which was converted into a hotel and pub, will now undergo urgent remedial work.....”

Closed [2023]

BILSTON ORPHEUS SOCIETY.

THE ANNUAL DINNER will be held at PIPE HALL, on WEDNESDAY, NOV. 29, 1882, at 6-30, when ALFRED HICKMAN, Esq. will preside. Members and Friends are respectfully invited to attend. G. THOMPSON, Hon. Sec.

BILSTON ORPHEUS SOCIETY.

STRICTLY NON-POLITICAL AND UNSECTARIAN.

REHEARSALS EVERY TUESDAY EVENING, At 8 o'clock.

VACANCIES FOR ALTOS & HIGH TENORS.

Apply to Hon. Sec. MR. G. THOMPSON, 88, Dudley Street; or Pipe Hall Hotel, Bilston.

PECK & KERRISON,
IMPORTERS OF WINES & SPIRITS,
PIPE HALL, BILSTON,
And CHEAPSIDE, WOLVERHAMPTON.

SOLE AGENTS in South Staffordshire for

Ind, Coope and Co's Burton Ales, and
Watkins and Co's Extra Dublin Stout.

1882

Unreserved Sale of capital Brewing Utensils:-
Light Spring Trap, Sets of Pony Harness, Lead
Pumps, large Sign, 35 Scaffold Poles, and effects,
In the Yard, at PIPE HALL HOTEL, BILSTON.

MESSES. J. MORRELL & SONS are favoured
with instructions from Messrs. Peck and
Kerrison (who have no further use for the same), to
SELL BY AUCTION, in the above Yard, on
Tuesday Next, May 13th, 1885, without reserve,

Twenty-two

CAPITAL ALE CASKS,

Large and small Coolers, Wort Spouts, Four
Capital MASH TUBS, two capital Malt Mills,
Two Lead PUMPS and Lead PIPING, Gathering
Tubs, Copper Betwells, Excellent Large SIGN,
16ft. 6in. x 6ft. 6in.; two sets of Pony Harness,
very useful Light Spring Trap, 35 Scaffold Poles,
and other effects.

SALE AT 11 A.M. PROMPT.

Auction and Valuation Offices, Swan Bank,
Bilston.

1885

ALEXANDER'S

PUBLIC OPENING
THURSDAY 12th MARCH

THE BLACK COUNTRY CELEBRITY HAUNT
LASER DISPLAY THURSDAY - SUNDAY
OVER 25'S - SMART DRESS ONLY
(the management reserve the right to refuse admission)

TO CELEBRATE THAT SPECIAL OCCASION
ENJOY A ROMANTIC EVENING IN OUR
LUXURIOUS CHAMPAGNE LOUNGE.
BOTTLE OF MOET £21.50



AS THE PARTNERS ARE AQUAINTED WITH PEOPLE FROM THE
FILM, POP AND SPORTING WORLD YOU CAN EXPECT TO SEE
MANY FAMOUS FACES FREQUENTING THE PREMISES.

HAPPY HOURS - THURSDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY 5.30pm - 7pm

FREE FINGER BUFFET

ALL DRINKS - DOUBLES FOR THE PRICE OF SINGLES - BEERS AND LAGERS 20% LESS
COURAGE BREWERS SUPPLY ALES, LARGERS AND STOUTS
ALSO ON SALE YUPPIE BOTTLED LARGERS SUCH AS SOL AND GROLSCH
JOHN SMITH BUTTER, HOLSTEN EXPORT AND BEAMISH STOUT

OPENING HOURS

SUNDAY - WEDNESDAY 7pm - 11pm. THURSDAY - SATURDAY 5.30pm - 11pm

HALL STREET, BILSTON TOWN CENTRE
(ADJACENT NEW BUS STATION)

PUT YOUR SUITS ON

1992

PLOUGH

82, (47), (46), (45), High Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Ann Hickman, spinster, Bilston
Edgbaston Brewery Co. Ltd., Five Ways, Birmingham [1891]
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.
Atkinsons Brewery Ltd, Aston Park Brewery, Birmingham [1921]
Peter Walker and Co. Ltd, brewers, 31, Colmore Row, Birmingham

LICENSEES

Sophia Hickman [1848]
Richard Hickman [1849] - **1854**;
Samuel Shotton **(1854 - [1858])**
Mrs. Margaret Shotton [1860] - [1861]
James Cook [1861] - **1865**;
Reuben Robert Humphries **(1865 - [1870])**
Frederick Higgett [1869] - **1870**;
Miss Ann Hickman **(1870 - [1871])**
Thomas Maddocks [1872] - **1875**;
Richard Hill **(1875 - 1877)**;
Benjamin Clarke **(1877 - 1878)**;
Matthew Ward **(1878 - 1881)**;
Thomas Collins **(1881)**;
Joseph Ellwell **(1881 - 1882)**;
Francis Harper **(1882 - 1884)**;
John Millward **(1884 - 1885)**;
John George Kidson **(1885)**;
George Reynolds **(1885 - 1886)**;
Albert Lovatt **(1886 - 1887)**;
William Millett **(1887 - 1888)**;
Frederick Gardner **(1888 - 1889)**;
Herbert Stringer **(1889)**;
Walter Smith **(1889 - 1890)**;
Alfred Newton **(1890 - 1891)**;
James Maddox **(1891 - 1892)**;
Thomas 'Tom' Robinson **(1892 - 1894)**;
Mark Robinson **(1894 - 1895)**;
Edward Green **(1895 - 1897)**;
William Bickley **(1897)**;
John Evans **(1897 - 1911)**;
William Evans **(1911)**;
Thomas Goodall **(1911 - 1913)**;
Alfred Evans Hodson **(1913 - 1915)**;
Joseph Herrington **(1915)**;
George Maddox **(1915)**;
James Collins **(1915 - 1917)**;
Ada Mary Collins **(1917 - 1920)**;
John Davis **(1920 - 1921)**;
Annie Whittaker **(1921 - 1922)**;

PLOUGH INN, BILSTON.
TO be DISPOSED OF, the LICENSES and
POSSESSION of the above well-known and well-established
PUBLIC HOUSE, which has only changed hands once for many
years. There is a good money-making business now being done, and
has been successfully conducted by Mrs. Shotton for many years. The
Stock, Fixtures, &c., to be taken to by valuation.
Apply to Mr. John G. Wright, Auctioneer and Publican's Valuer,
Dudley.

1861

SALE BY MR. JOHN SKIDMORE.
TUESDAY NEXT, JUNE 16.

PLOUGH INN, HIGH STREET, BILSTON.
MR. JOHN SKIDMORE will SELL BY
AUCTION upon the date and premises as
above, by direction of Mr. John Millward (who has
given up the business) the whole of the
BREWING PLANT
and effects,
Including a 120 gallon Wrought Iron Boiler and
underwork, small Wrought Iron Boiler and under-
work, Brewing Vats, Fermenting Vessels, two
Coolers and other small Tubs, nine Ale Barrels,
corper bottom Sieve, Hop Press, Sign Board,
THREE CAPITAL BEER MACHINES,
Viz.: 4, 6, and 7 Pulls, with Piping, &c., complete,
Wine Bin, also a few lots of
HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,
Comprising a mahogany Centre Table, three
Mahogany Chairs (in horsehair), two eight-day
Clocks in mahogany case, Pictures, &c., a capital
WRINGING AND MANGLING MACHINE,
Two Umbrella Stands, Croquet Set, &c., &c., also
USEFUL GIG, 2 STRONG SPRING TRAPS,
(suitable for a pony & hands)
FURNITURE VAN BODY & UNDERWORK,
Two 50in. Spider Wheel Bicycles, and other effects.
Sale to COMMENCE at 11 o'clock Prompt.
Auctioneer's Office, 7, Lichfield Street, Bilston.

1885

Albert Bradley (1922 – 1925);
Howard Freeman (1925 – 1929);
William Henry Southall (1929 – 1931);
George Amos Fox (1931 – 1934);
Richard Bettelly (1934 – 1936);
William Robert Holland (1936 – 1938);
Arthur James Stringer (1938 – [1944])

NOTES

47, High Street [1858], [1861], [1862], [1864], [1865], [1871], [1872], [1874], [1881], [1892], [1896], [1900], [1904]

46, High Street [1870]

45, High Street [1891]

82, High Street [1901], [1911], [1916], [1921], [1921], [1932], [1939], [1940]

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 19/12/1847

“Joseph Bell of Bilston states that he attended, according to the challenge of Alfred Badger of Wolverhampton but Badger informed him that he had neither money nor friends to back him. Bell will run either him or T. Earp of Wolverhampton, one mile, for from £1 to £20. The money will be ready any night next week at the PLOUGH INN, High Street, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 8/3/1848 - Advert

“Bilston and District Banking Company.

Persons of whom the Company or Partnership consists.....

Sophia Hickman, Bilston, victualler.”

Sophia Hickman died on 12th May 1848.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/2/1849 - Advert

“Bilston and District Banking Company.

Names of Persons of the whom the Company or Partnership consists.....

Richard Hickman (Executor to *Sophia Hickman*), Bilston, publican.”

1851 Census

High Street

[1] *Richard Hickman* (47) stone mason and victualler, born Bilston;

[2] *Ann Hickman* (48), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Edwin Hickman* (19), son, stone mason, born Bilston;

[4] *William Hickman* (12), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[5] *Ann Hickman* (5), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[6] *Elisabeth Marten* (22), house servant, born Tipton:

Birmingham Journal 21/1/1854 - Advert

“Stone Quarry to be Let.

To be Let, with immediate possession, a capital Stone Quarry, now in full work, situate at Darlaston Green, and late in the occupation of Mr. Job Hickman, senior. The Stock and Plant to be taken at a fair valuation.

For particulars, apply to Mr. *Richard Hickman*, High Street, Bilston; or to Mr. Price, Auctioneer and Valuer, Wolverhampton.”

STONE QUARRY TO BE LET.
TO be LET, with immediate possession, a capital
STONE QUARRY, now in full work, situate at Darlaston
Green, and late in the occupation of Mr. Job Hickman, sen. The
Stock and Plant to be taken at a fair valuation.—For particulars, apply
to Mr. Richard Hickman, High Street, Bilston; or to Mr. Price,
Auctioneer and Valuer, Wolverhampton.
1854

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/7/1854

"An adjourned inquest was held on Monday last, before W. H. Phillips, Esq, deputy coroner, at the PLOUGH INN, High Street, Bilston, on the body of an infant illegitimate child of a woman named Mary Ann Jones, of Wynns Court, Bilston, which had died very suddenly on Wednesday, at the age of four days. As this was the woman's second illegitimate child that had died, the inquest had been adjourned for a post mortem examination of the body to be made. Mr. Cooper, surgeon, of Bilston, gave it as his opinion that the child had died from convulsions, produced by pressure on the brain. The jury gave a verdict in accordance with the evidence."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 9/12/1855

"Thomas Price of Bilston will fight Malpas of Dudley, at catch weight, for £10 a side, and will meet him at Mr. Shotton's, PLOUGH INN, High Street, Bilston, on Monday evening next."

Birmingham Journal 13/3/1858

"On Wednesday, an inquest was held at the PLOUGH INN, High Street, Bilston, on the body of Elizabeth Wilkins, aged twelve years, whose parents live in Quarry Lane. On the 24th ult, the deceased was picking coal at Mr. Sparrow's works, and went to warm herself at a coke fire, when her clothes caught fire, and she jumped into the canal. The poor girl died at two o'clock on Wednesday morning, in consequence of injuries received."

Staffordshire Advertiser 24/4/1858 - Deaths

"On the 18th instant, in the 45th year of his age, Mr. *Samuel Shotton*, PLOUGH INN, Bilston."

Margaret Shotton (43), widow, married *James Cook* (46), widower, moulder, on 26 June 1859.

Birmingham Journal 2/3/1861 - Advert

"PLOUGH INN, Bilston.

To be Disposed Of, the Licenses and Possession of the above well-known and well-established Public House, which had only changed hands once for many years. There is a good money-making business now being done, and has been successfully conducted by Mrs. *Shotton* for many years. The Stock, Fixtures, &c, to be taken to by valuation. Apply to Mr. John G. Wright, Auctioneer and Publicans Valuer, Dudley."

Birmingham Journal 9/3/1861 - Advert

"PLOUGH INN, Bilston.

To be Disposed Of, the Licenses and Possession of the above well-known Inn and well-established Public House, which had only changed hands once for many years. There is a good money-making business now being done, and has been successfully conducted by Mrs. *Shotton* for many years. There are two Lodges attached to the House, numbering one hundred members each.

Apply to John G. Wright, Auctioneer and Valuer, Dudley."

James Cook = *James Cooke*

PLOUGH INN, BILSTON.
TO be DISPOSED OF, the LICENSES and
POSSESSION of the above well-known INN and well-established PUBLIC HOUSE, which has only changed hands once for many years. There is a good money-making business now being done, and has been successfully conducted by Mrs. *Shotton* for many years. There are two Lodges attached to the House, numbering one hundred members each.—Apply to John G. Wright, Auctioneer and Valuer, Dudley.

1861 Census

47, High Street

- [1] *James Cooke* (49), iron founder, born Bilston;
- [2] *Margaret Cooke* (44), wife, born Bushbury;
- [3] *John Cooke* (17), son, iron moulder, born Bilston;
- [4] *Ann Cooke* (16), daughter, dressmaker, born Bilston;
- [5] *Thomas Cooke* (14), son, iron moulder, born Bilston;
- [6] *Mary Cooke* (12), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] *John Shotton* (12), step-son, iron moulder, born Middlesex;
- [8] *Samuel Shotton* (7), step-son, scholar, born Werges;
- [9] *Thomas Shotton* (5), step-son, scholar, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/5/1866

“At Bilston yesterday, before the Stipendiary, Richard Giles, trustee of No.3 Lodge of the Royal Victoria Order of Odd Fellows, appeared on a summons, charging him under the Benefit Society Act, with withholding the funeral regalia of the lodge, consisting of bands, scarfs, and gloves, in a box, value in the whole £11. The box and regalia up to the time of Miss *Cook* leaving the PLOUGH INN, where the society was held, was kept in her bed room, but Giles, a trustee, held the key. In November last the box was given to Giles’s wife that she might examine and brush the things to prevent or remove spots. At the next monthly meeting of the club, when Miss *Cook* delivered herself of her stewardship in relation to the club, defendant acknowledged the receipt of the regalia, and said it was all right. On the 6th of March he informed his co-trustee, James Raybould, that he had neglected to examine the box until the previous day, and then found that all the regalia had disappeared, except the gloves and scarfs ties. There was a want of technical proof that the regalia was in the box when it was delivered to defendant’s wife, and the Stipendiary said he could not make an order upon the defendant to deliver up what he had not got. There might be a case under the Bailee Act. The summons was dismissed.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/12/1866

“On Friday last, an inquest was held at the PLOUGH INN, High Street, Bilston, before W. H. Phillips, Esq, Deputy Coroner, on the body of Emily Hipkiss, a child two years of age, who had died from burning. The child lived with its parents, in the Black Horse yard, High Street, and it appeared from the evidence that on Monday evening, the 19th instant, the father of the deceased left her sitting on a sofa, whilst he went into the back yard. There was a lighted candle on the table, and the only other person in the house besides the deceased was a boy about seven years of age, whom the father told to look after the child in his absence. In about two minutes afterwards piercing screams were heard, and on two of the neighbours rushing into the house to see what was the matter, the little girl was found by herself with her clothes on fire. The flames were at once extinguished, but the child was found to be very severely burnt about the arms and neck. The burns were dressed with oil &c, and the child was afterwards attended to by a woman who resided in the neighbourhood, and as the child seemed to be going on well up to Sunday last no medical man was called in. On Monday morning the child seemed so much worse that the father called in Mr. Best, surgeon, but although that gentleman prescribed for it, the little sufferer never rallied, and died on Tuesday morning. The father gave as another reason why he did not get the assistance of a doctor earlier that he had been out of work for some time, and could not afford the expense, but the Coroner told him that was not sufficient excuse when his child’s life was in danger, and especially as he might have had the parish doctor free of charge. There was no one who could give any evidence as to how the child got on fire, but it was supposed that the little boy having left the house the little girl was trying to reach the candle, and pulled it on to its clothes, as the house was in darkness when the two neighbours rushed in. The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

County Express 23/2/1867

“On Friday week, an inquest was held at the PLOUGH INN, Bilston, before Mr. W. H. Phillips, deputy-coroner, on the body of a girl, aged 16, named Hannah Reynolds, of Wallbrook, who was found in the canal, near to Messrs. Sparrows works, on the Wednesday previous. From the evidence of her mother, it appeared the girl left home on Friday, the 8th inst, to go to her aunt’s in Can Lane, and it is supposed that, on returning at night, the brightness of the fires in the works dazzled her eyes, and being rather near-sighted, she walked into the canal. A verdict of Found Dead was recorded.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/5/1868

“Yesterday *Reuben Robert Humphries*, landlord of the PLOUGH INN, High Street, appeared at Bilston Police Court in answer to a summons charging him with permitting drunkenness in his house.

At about three o’clock on the morning of Tuesday the 19th instant, Sergeant Hall visited the defendant’s house, and on going inside he found several persons there drunk and making a noise, and one or two of them were so intoxicated that they could hardly stand.

Mr. Sheldon, who appeared on behalf of the defendant, contended, in reply to the charge, that the men did not get the drink in his client’s house; but that they got it elsewhere before coming there.

There was a previous conviction recorded against him, and the defendant was ordered to pay a fine of £5 and costs.”

Birmingham Journal 12/9/1868 - Advert

“To be Let, the PLOUGH INN, High Street, Bilston. Immediate possession may be had. For particulars, apply to Miss *Ann Hickman*, Union Street, Bilston.”

TO be LET, the PLOUGH INN, High Street, Bilston. Immediate possession may be had.—For particulars, apply to Miss *Ann Hickman*, Union Street, Bilston.

Frederick Higgett = Frederick Higgot = Frederick Higgold

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/8/1869

"The annual licensing meeting for the Bilston division took place yesterday, at the Police Court.....

The licenses of the following publicans were suspended until the adjourned licensing meeting.....

Frederick Higgold, PLOUGH."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 11/9/1869

"Yesterday, *Frederick Higgett*, of the PLOUGH INN, Bilston, was charged with having permitted disorderly conduct in his house.

On Saturday night, the 28th ult, Sergeant Lightfoot and Police-constable Chaplin visited defendant's house at half-past ten and a quarter to twelve o'clock, and on both occasions found, in the club room, 40 girls and boys dancing. They were all between 13 and 20 years of age. A large portion of them were drunk, and were creating a great disturbance.

Inspector M. Williams said that the house had been very badly conducted, and at the last licensing meeting the license had been suspended until the adjourned meeting, and then the present charge would be brought before the magistrates,

The Bench said that it was a very bad case, and the worst one that had been before them for some time past. They should fine defendant £5 and costs, or in default he would have to be imprisoned for two months with hard labour."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 25/9/1869

"The adjourned licensing meeting for Bilston was held at the Police Court.....

The following persons had their licenses refused for not having conducted their houses properly.....

Fred Higgett, PLOUGH, High Street, Bilston."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 27/8/1870

"The annual sessions for the renewal of existing and the granting of new licenses to licensed victuallers and beersellers in Bilston and Sedgley, was held yesterday at the Police Court, Bilston.....

All the applications for renewal of licenses were granted except the following, who had been fined for various offences during the year, and whose applications for renewal were adjourned until the adjourned licensing day, November 30 Licensed Victuallers.....

Frederick Higgot, PLOUGH, High Street."

AND

"There were six applications for new licensed victuallers' licenses.....

Mr. Best applied on behalf of Miss *Hickman* for a license for the PLOUGH INN, High Street. The house was formerly an old-licensed house, but in consequence of the misconduct of the tenant at the time the license was withdrawn. Miss *Hickman* was the owner of the premises. The application was granted."

1871 Census

47, High Street – PLOUGH

[1] *Ann Hickman* (25), unmarried, publican employing 1 assistant, born Bilston;

[2] *Mary Wilcox* (68), housekeeper, born Bilston:

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/2/1875 - Advert

"'Defensio, Non Provocatio.' Caution.

The Licensed Victuallers' Tea Association, Southwark Street, Borough, London.

This Association, having prosecuted and convicted a Grocer, at Bradford, at the Leeds Assizes, under the 'Merchandise Marks Act, 1862,' and also prosecuted a man at Chester Assizes, who was sentenced to six months' imprisonment for fraudulently counterfeiting and imitating their Trade Mark, and having obtained a decree for a perpetual injunction against a Tea Company (Limited), restricting the said Company from selling or exposing for sale Tea packed in covers or wrappers made in imitation of those used by the Licensed Victuallers' Tea Association, or not materially differing therefrom, or in any 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 said Association.

Thompson and Son, 60, Cornhill, Solicitors for the Licensed Victuallers' Tea Association.

Agents For Staffordshire.....

Bilston: S. Wilkes, TALBOT INN, Oxford Street; *T. Maddocks*, PLOUGH INN, High Street."

1881 Census

47, High Street – PLOUGH

[1] *Matthew Ward* (30), engine smith and beerhouse keeper, born Stanton, Derbyshire;

[2] *Mary Ward* (30), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Bernard Ward* (7), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[4] *Winifred Ward* (6), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[5] *Gertrude Ward* (4), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[6] *Austin Ward* (3), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[7] *Mary Ward* (1), daughter, born Bilston;

[8] *Ann Gallagher* (20), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 24/12/1881

"At Bilston Police Court, yesterday, the following licenses were fully transferred.....

Thomas Collins, PLOUGH INN, High Street, to *Joseph Elwell*, licensed victualler."

Darlaston Weekly Times 1/7/1882

"Anchor Bicycle Club, Bilston. This recently-formed club celebrated their opening, at the headquarters, the PLOUGH INN, High Street, Bilston, on Tuesday evening. A capital supper was provided, and done ample justice to. The cloth having been withdrawn, Mr. J. Clark, the captain of the club, was elected to the chair, and Mr. J. Evans to the vice-chair. The toast of the evening 'Success to the Bilston Anchor Bicycle Club,' was drunk with enthusiasm, and an admirable speech in response was made by the hon. secretary, Mr. W. Richardson, who foreshadowed the ultimate success of the club, by the statement that although it had only been started five weeks, it already possessed 25 paying members, and many others were waiting to join. Other toasts followed, and the remainder of the evening was very agreeably spent in songs, readings, recitations, &c."

Darlaston Weekly Times 15/12/1883

"On Thursday, the members of the Bilston Bicycle Club celebrated their final run by a 'toast,' which was held at the PLOUGH INN, High Street, Bilston. The chair was taken by Mr. J. T. Lloyd, and during the evening, social harmony was engaged in by several of the members, a pleasant evening being spent."

Darlaston Weekly News 29/12/1883 - Advert

"Bilston Anchor Bicycle Club, held at the PLOUGH INN, High Street, Bilston.

The Committee of the above have decided to alter its constitution so as to admit the Membership of athletes. It will be known in the future as 'The Bilston Anchor Bicycle and Athletic Club,' and will re-commence on Thursday, January 3rd, 1884, at the above house.

Any gentleman willing to join, will oblige by sending in his name to the Secretary, Mr. W. Richardson."

BILSTON ANCHOR BICYCLE CLUB, HELD AT THE PLOUGH INN, HIGH STREET, BILSTON.

The Committee of the above have decided to alter its constitution so as to admit the Membership of athletes. It will be known in the future as "THE BILSTON ANCHOR BICYCLE AND ATHLETIC CLUB,"

And will re-commence on
THURSDAY, JANUARY, 3rd, 1884,
At the above house.

Any gentleman willing to join, will oblige by sending in his name to the Secretary,

MR. W. RICHARDSON.

Darlaston Weekly Times 13/6/1885 - Advert

“Sale by Mr. John Skidmore. Tuesday next, June 16.

PLOUGH INN, High Street, Bilston.

Mr. John Skidmore will Sell by Auction upon the date and premises as above, by the direction of Mr. *John Millward* (who has given up the business) the whole of the Brewing Plant and effects.

Including a 120 gallon Wrought Iron Boiler and underwork, small Wrought Iron Boiler and underwork, Brewing Vats, Fermenting Vessels, two Coolers and other small Tubs, nine Ale Barrels, copper bottom Sieve, Hop Press, Sign Board, Three Capital Beer Machines, viz, 4, 6, and 7 Pulls, with Piping &c, complete, Wine Bin, also a few lots of Household Furniture, comprising a mahogany Centre Table, three Mahogany Chairs (in horsehair), two eight-day Clocks in mahogany case, Pictures, &c, a capital Wringing and Mangling Machine, two Umbrella Stands, Croquet Set, &c, &c, also Useful Gig, 2 Strong Spring Traps (suitable for a pony 14 hands), Furniture Van Body and Underwork, two 50in Spider Wheel Bicycles, and other effects.

Sale to Commence at 11 o'clock prompt.

Auctioneer's Offices, 7, Lichfield Street, Bilston.”

Nottingham Guardian 24/12/1889 - Advert

“Pianist (Female) Wanted, at once; vocalist preferred.

State age and salary to PLOUGH INN, Bilston.”

PIANIST (Female) Wanted, at once ; vocalist preferred.
—State age and salary to Plough Inn, Bilston. 22601c

1891 Census

45, High Street – PLOUGH INN

[1] *Alfred Newton* (32), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] *Mary W. Newton* (31), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *Jessie C. Newton* (6), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 27/10/1891 - Advert

“Bilston. PLOUGH INN, High Street; full-licensed House, doing good trade under management; might be doubled by an energetic proprietor.

Apply, Edgbaston Brewery Co. Limited.”

BILSTON.—Plough Inn, High Street; full-licensed House, doing good trade under management; might be doubled by an energetic proprietor.—Apply, Edgbaston Brewery Co. (Limited).

Sporting Life 18/5/1892

“Victoria Grounds, Rough Hills. Conclusion of Mr. J. Russell's All-England 130 yards Pedestrian Handicap.

Victory of Veteran M. Steward.

Undoubtedly one of the most sensational and best-framed pedestrian handicaps ever launched under the regime of the present proprietor, Mr. John Russell, was that brought to a satisfactory and successful conclusion here on Saturday evening last.....

The winner as well supported by Mr. *Tom Robinson*, of the PLOUGH INN, Bilston.”

Sporting Life 23/7/1892

“The proposed match between Charles Athersmith, of Bloxwich, the well-known right wing of the Aston Villa Football Club, and Harry Smith, of Willenhall, who were to have run 120 yards, Athersmith with one yard and a half start, for £50 a-side, open for £100 a-side is off. The backers of the men met at Mr. W. Daniels, the VINE INN, Bloxwich, on Tuesday night last, but the backers of Athersmith failed to go with the match, which, after so much bombast on the part of the latter, caused no little surprise amongst the many who attended. However, Smith is still open to run Athersmith from 120 yards to 200 yards for £50, £100, or £500 a-side. A deposit to the *Sporting Life*, and articles to Mr. *T. Robinson*, PLOUGH INN, Bilston, will receive attention. *Sporting Life* to be stakeholder and appoint officials.”

Sporting Life 22/9/1892

“Alexandra Grounds, Bloxwich. H. Smith and C. Jackson, for £20. An Exciting Race.

These grounds were occupied on Monday last with an important pedestrian match, the contestants being Harry Smith, of Willenhall, and Charles Jackson, of Walsall Wood, who had signed articles to run 110 yards, Jackson to receive two yards start, for £20. Both men are considered high flyers in the Midlands.

Smith is twenty-three years of age, stands 5ft 7in in his boots, and scaled 10st 8lb in his clothes For this match he trained from Mr. *Tom Robinson*’s, PLOUGH INN, Bilston.

Jackson is twenty-three years of age, 5ft 5in high, and scaled 9st 10lb This was his first match for which he was backed by Mr. J. Dudley, of the TRAVELLERS REST, Darlaston.

The weather was very dull during the day, but nevertheless a good muster of spectators assembled. When the men toed their marks fully 800 spectators were present, and speculation was of a brisk nature, ruling at 6 to 4 and 2 to 1 on Smith. Mr. W. Lewis, of Birmingham, appointed by the *Sporting Life*, despatched the men to a beautiful start, and an exciting race ensued. Jackson at one time looked all over a winner, but Smith came with a splendid rush in the last twenty yards, and getting alongside five yards from home, he managed to get up in the last few strides, and won on the tape by six inches.

We have received a letter from H. Smith, in which he states that if Jackson is not satisfied with the result, he (Smith) will run him again, on the same terms, for £25, £50, or £100 a-side, on any fair track in the Midlands; or Smith will run A. Stokes, of Bloxwich, or C. Athersmith, of Bloxwich, and concede either of them 2 yards inside 120 yards, for from £25 up to £100 a-side. Either of these matches can be made by calling any time at Mr. *Thomas Robinson*’s, PLOUGH INN, Bilston.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 21/1/893

“Samuel Proffitt, commission agent, Thompson Street, was charged with wilfully damaging a window, to the value of £3 at the PLOUGH INN, High Street, Bilston. Mr. R. Tildesley prosecuted, and Mr. Rhodes defended.

Evidence was given that the defendant threw a brick, covered with gas-tar, through the plate-glass window and ran away. He was found hiding near, and his hands had gas-tar on them. He called a witness to say that he was at home at the time the window was broken. The magistrates fined him £1 and costs, and the damage, £3, or, in default, one month’s hard labour. An application to allow him time to pay the money was refused.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/9/1894

“Bankruptcy Proceedings.....

Re *Thomas Robinson*, licensed victualler, lately of the PLOUGH INN, Bilston, and now of Shale Street, Bilston.

A receiving order has been issued against this debtor, and the return has been fixed for the 8th October.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/10/1894

“Bankruptcy Proceedings.....

Re *Thomas Robinson*, licensed victualler, Shale Street, Bilston.

A meeting of the creditors was held at the Official Receiver’s office, Wolverhampton, yesterday.

Liabilities £356 18s 7d, and assets £3 4s 9d.

The debtor was an engine-driver until 1883, when he became tenant of the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Broad Lanes, Bilston, having borrowed £100 from his brother. He left in 1888 owing £1,800, and the creditors agreed to accept a composition of 7s 6d in the pound. The bankrupt afterwards took to the CHURCH INN, High Street, Bilston, and subsequently the PLOUGH INN, High Street, Bilston, but gave up possession to a brewery company, and subsequently filed his petition. His failure was, he said, due to want of capital, bad trade, and bad debts.

The estate was left in the hands of the Official Receiver.”

Thomas Robinson – see also GEORGE AND DRAGON, Broad Lanes, Sedgley, and CHURCH, Bilston.

1901 Census

82, High Street

- [1] *John Evans* (53), coal miner (hewer) and publican, born Bilston;
- [2] *Jane Evans* (52), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *John Evans* (22), son, ironworker, born Bilston;
- [4] *Lizzie Evans* (17), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] *Thomas Evans* (14), son, bricklayer's assistant, born Bilston;
- [6] *William Evans* (5), grand-son, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 19/5/1903

"At Wolverhampton County Court, yesterday, before his Honour Judge Howland Roberts, an action was tried in which *John Evans*, of the PLOUGH INN, High Street, Bilston, sought to recover £8 as damages from the Midland Railway Company. The case for the plaintiff was that he was driving with a friend in a trap when it collided with a lorry belonging to the company, and they were thrown out. It was alleged that the man in charge of the lorry was to blame. His Honour gave judgment for the amount claimed."

1911 Census

82, High Street

- [1] *Thomas Goodall* (52), publican, born Bloxwich;
- [2] *Emma Goodall* (49), wife, married 30 years, born Bloxwich;
- [3] *David Davis* (36), son-in-law, builder's bricklayer, born Bloxwich;
- [4] *Jane Davis* (27), daughter, married 5 years, born Bloxwich:

Thomas Goodall – see also LAMP, Bloxwich, Walsall.

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/1/1914

"Mark Jones, Quarry Street, Bilston, was charged with assaulting *Joseph Herrington*, of the PLOUGH INN, High Street. Defendant went to the house and was seen to be the worse for drink. He was asked to leave, but refused. Complainant went to find a policeman, and defendant followed and struck him in the face. He was fined 20s and costs."

1921 Census

82, High Street – PLOUGH INN

- [1] *Annie Whittaker* (48), widow, manageress, born Walsall;
- [2] *Ivy Whittaker* (22), servant, born Walsall;
- [3] *Thomas Whittaker* (17), son, apprentice fitter, born Walsall;
- [4] *Vera Whittaker* (15), daughter, at home, born Walsall:

A music license was granted on 2nd March 1928.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/3/1937

"Bilston Licensing Sessions, yesterday.....

The Bench refused an application by *John Thomas Statham* for the removal of the full transfer from the PLOUGH INN, High Street, Bilston, to proposed new premises at Stowheath Lane, Bilston."

Application for removal of license to premises to be erected in Stowheath Lane, Bilston was granted on 3rd March 1939.

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/4/1939

"An adjourned meeting of the Staffordshire County Licensing Confirmation Committee was held on Tuesday at the Shirehall, Stafford, when consideration was given to the confirmation of license removal orders granted earlier in the year by local licensing justices.....

Other applications approved by the committee were as follow.

Removal of the full license of the PLOUGH INN, High Street, Bilston, to premises proposed to be erected in Stow Heath Lane, Bilston, to be known as the MANOR."

1939 Register

82, High Street (3 of 4)

[1] *Arthur J. Stringer*, date of birth 21/12/1897, loch ship, married;

[2] Lily Stringer, dob 20/6/1902, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] Andrew Green, dob 18/12/1884, general labourer, widowed;

Birmingham Mail 25/2/1944

“What the prosecution described as wholesale thefts of beer were alleged at Birmingham Police Court today against five draymen employed by Atkinsons Brewery Ltd. Five licensees of Atkinsons’ houses and the wife of one of them were also summoned for receiving the beer.

Accused were all charged with stealing various quantities of beer. Summoned for receiving beer were George Evans, of the TURKS HEAD, West Bromwich; *Arthur James Stringer*, of the PLOUGH INN, Bilston; Sydney Buckle and Nellie Buckle, of the RAILWAY TAVERN, Tipton; Clement Euclid Walker, of the Star and Garter, Coventry; and Samuel Thomas Watkins, of the PLOUGH INN, Willenhall. All pleaded guilty, and Mr. M. P. Pugh (prosecuting) said that altogether the brewery had lost beer to the value of some £1,500. ‘I am not suggesting,’ he added, ‘that these men have been responsible for the whole of this, but it is clear that these thefts have taken place to a great degree by these men, though it may be there are others who are also stealing from their employers.’

Mr. Pugh explained that in pre-war days the brewery had a very effective system of checking the stock of beer handed to draymen for delivery, but owing to the depletion of staff during wartime the system had not been so efficient, and the accused had taken advantage of the conditions. One of the accused’s statements said that extra barrels were rolled off the deck unchecked on to the lorry. Generally speaking, the stolen barrels of beer, which normally were sold at well over £12, had been sold to the receivers for about £6, a figure which would not even pay the tax on it. Mr. John Leslie Kimberley, house manager at the brewery, said the tax on beer was about £8 per barrel, but the Government would not be the losers because they had the tax before the beer left the brewery.

On behalf of Buckle and his wife, Mr. Colin Coley said the beer was acquired, not so much to make a profit, as a means of keeping up the reputation of their house and satisfying the customers, who had been grumbling at that time about a shortage of beer.

.....Evans was sentenced to one month’s hard labour; *Stringer*, Mrs. Buckle, Wager and Watkins were each fined £50, and Buckle £20.”

[The draymen’s sentences ranged from £10 fine to seven months’ hard labour.]

It closed in 1956.

Demolished

PLOUGH

Shropshire Row, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Parr [1839]

NOTES

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/10/1839 - Advert

“To Publicans and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett, on the premises, on Tuesday, the 15th day of October, 1839.

The Stock of about 1,000 Gallons of Prime Old Ale, the whole of the barrels, brewing utensils, Household Furniture, five pockets of excellent Hops, and other effects, of Mr. *John Parr*, at the PLOUGH public house, Shropshire Row, Bilston, the county of Stafford, who is leaving the premises; particulars of which will appear in catalogues to be distributed, and may be had on the premises, or at the office of the Auctioneer, New Town, Bilston.

The sale to begin at ten o'clock in the morning, and at two o'clock in the afternoon.”

TO PUBLICANS AND OTHERS.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, BY RICHARD CORBETT,

*On the premises, on Tuesday, the 15th day of October,
1839,*

THE Stock of about 1,000 Gallons of Prime OLD ALE, the whole of the barrels, brewing utensils, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, five pockets of excellent Hops, and other effects, of Mr. JOHN PARR, at the Plough public house, Shropshire-row, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, who is leaving the premises; particulars of which will appear in catalogues to be distributed, and may be had on the premises, or at the office of the Auctioneer, New Town, Bilston.

The sale to begin at ten o'clock in the morning, and at two o'clock in the afternoon.

PLOUGH AND HARROW

Stafford Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

George Withers [1835]

POINT OF WAR

High Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Freeth [1833] – [1834]

PRINCE OF WALES

17, Highfields Road / Wright Street, (Hallfields Road), (Sydney Village), (Upper) Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

Thomas Holland
John Holmes
Frederick William Plant, wine and spirit merchant, Bilston
William Butler and Co. Ltd.
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Thomas Holland [1865] – **1877**);
Robert Owen Nicholls (**1877 – 1878**);
Richard Edward Lewis (**1878 – 1884**);
John Holmes (**1884 – 1892**);
Frederick William Plant (**1892**);
Ann Maria Holmes (**1892 – 1897**);
Joseph Danks (**1897 – 1915**);
William Edwin Harrison (**1915 – 1921**);
Annie Elizabeth Harrison (**1921 – 1923**);
Edwin George Smith (**1923 – 1925**);
William Butler (**1925 – [1940]**)
Stanley Horne [1939]
J S Rowley [1983]



c1932

LOST, in Walsall, an **EAR-RING CAMEO**.
A Reward is offered upon returning the
same to **Mrs. NICHOLLS, Prince of Wales Hotel,**
Bradley, near Bilston.

1877

NOTES

[This pub was strictly in Sedgley, but is included here due to it being situated at Bradley.]

Shropshire Row [1865]
Highfields [1872]
Hallfields, Daisy Bank [1873]
Hallfields Road [1901]
17, Highfield Road [1891], [1911], [1921], [1932]
17, Highfields Road [1904], [1908], [1912], [1940]

It had a beerhouse license.

Birmingham Daily Post 26/8/1865

“Yesterday, the annual licensing meeting for the Bilston division of the county of Stafford was held.....

Mr. Fellows, solicitor, applied for a license on behalf of *Thomas Holland*, the owner and occupier of the **PRINCE OF WALES**, Shropshire Row. The house had been put on land near to Mr. Perry’s foundry, and amongst some eighty houses that had been built in the past two years. The only opposition was from the owner, not the occupier, of the **LAMB AND FLAG**, situated some seventy or eighty yards off; but that house was notoriously incommodious, especially for the holding of inquests and the like, and Mr. Ball, the keeper, had been several times summoned before the magistrates for offences against his license. Mr. *Holland*, on the contrary, had kept his house without any complaint being made against him, and he had obtained a certificate of character from the Churchwardens and other respectable people of the locality.

Mr. Underhill, in opposing the application, admitted that the house was a good one, but said that inasmuch as Mr. *Holland* was a member of the firm of Brereton and Co, the magistrates would scarcely believe that it was likely that he would carry on the house. He (Mr. Underhill) apprehended that before their worships granted the application, they would require to know by whom it was intended it should be kept.

Mr. Fellows: It is for no other person than Mr. *Holland*.

Mr. Underhill, continuing, said that his clients were the Barbor's Field Company, who were the owners of the LAMB AND FLAG. Besides which house, there were some three other licensed houses, the CROWN, the CROWN AND CUSHION, and the ROLLING MILLS, all within 100 yards away. Mr. Fellows contended that they were 250 yards away. Application granted."

Staffordshire Advertiser 13/1/1866

"On Monday the coroner held an inquest at the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Hallfields, on view of the body of William Amos, aged 52. Deceased was a miner, and while at work on Saturday in one of Messrs. Lloyd's pits, at Moxley, a quantity of coal fell upon him and killed him. The evidence showed that no blame attached to any person and a verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

Thomas Holland, beer retailer, Upper Bradley. [1868], [1870]

1871 Census

High Fields Road – PRINCE OF WALES HOTEL

[1] *Thomas Holland* (48), iron master, born Tipton;

[2] *Prudence Holland* (45), wife, born Sedgley;

[3] *William Holland* (20), son, born Sedgley;

[4] *Ann Plant* (39), general servant, born Bilston:

Staffordshire Advertiser 12/4/1873

"Hannah Kempson, aged 20, was sentenced to a month's imprisonment for having stolen a brooch, the property of Eliza Clark. The prosecutrix is a domestic servant in the employ of Mr. *Holland*, of the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Bradley. On Monday she met the prisoner, who requested permission to examine a brooch she was then wearing. Prosecutrix permitted her to do so, when the prisoner pulled off the brooch and ran away with it."

Walsall Advertiser 20/3/1877 - Advert

"Lost, in Walsall, an Ear-ring Cameo. A Reward is offered upon returning the same to Mrs. *Nicholls*, PRINCE OF WALES HOTEL, Bradley, near Bilston."

Evening Express 13/1/1881

"The annual supper of the sick club of the Bradley Iron and Tin-plate Works (Messrs. Hatton and Sons) took place on Saturday, at the PRINCE OF WALES HOTEL, Sydney Village. Upwards of sixty persons were present. The chair was taken by Mr. Joseph Parker, of Hallfields, who, after the cloth was drawn, gave several toasts, and said he was very glad to find that the club had gone on so prosperously during the past year, and to find that they had banded themselves together to help each other in the present year should any require such help. The rest of the evening was spent in singing, &c, the proceedings closing with the National Anthem.

Income of the club for the year 1880, £121 17s 10d; payments, £32 9s 9d; balance to be divided, £89 8s 1d."

1881 Census

Highfield Road

[1] *Richard Edward Lewis* (55), licensed victualler, born Worthen, Shropshire;

[2] *Mary Lewis* (50), wife, born Horsehay, Shropshire;

[3] *Mary Ann Butler* (17), domestic servant, born Sedgley:

Darlaston Weekly Times 5/8/1882

"The Bilston Wake.....

The friends of Mr. *Richard Lewis*, PRINCE OF WALES INN, Bradley, organised a trip to Enville, on Tuesday, and a pleasant day was spent by those who accompanied the party."

Dudley and District News 25/10/1884

“At Oldbury County Court, yesterday, *Richard Edwin [sic] Lewis*, of the GREAT WESTERN INN, Rabone Lane, Smethwick, sued *Isaiah Dicken*, maltster, Wallbrook, Bilston; *Richard Walton*, 19, Regent Street, Woodsetton, bailiff; *William Church*, 19, Regent Street, Woodsetton, bailiff; and *William Short*, Stone Street, Dudley, auctioneer, to recover £50 damages for wrongful and illegal distraint on the plaintiff's goods on the 24th of April last. Mr. R. C. E. Plumptre, instructed by Mr. R. A. Willcock, of Wolverhampton, appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. W. Shakespeare defended.

Mr. Plumptre, in opening the case, stated that the plaintiff was a farmer and publican, and he formerly kept the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Bradley, Bilston. On the 8th of April he sold the business to a man named *Holmes*, and he took to the GREAT WESTERN TAVERN. On the 24th of April the two bailiffs entered the GREAT WESTERN, and made a distraint upon the plaintiff's goods and effects for £4 7s 6d, alleged to be due for rent for the PRINCE OF WALES. After the distraint, means were taken to sell the goods, the district was placarded announcing the sale, which caused great alarm amongst plaintiff's creditors and with his banker.

After the plaintiff had been examined, a private consultation took place between the parties, after which Mr. Shakespeare stated they had agreed to settle the matter. The terms were, that he, on behalf of his client, consented to a verdict for £5 and the costs, including the counsel's fee. Mr. Dicken had signed an apology expressing regret for having made the distraint, and acknowledging that he was legally wrong. A verdict was entered accordingly.”

1891 Census

17, High Field Road

[1] *John Holmes* (40), licensed victualler, born Sedgley;

[2] *Ann M. Holmes* (36), wife, born Sedgley;

[3] *Mary E. Holmes* (16), daughter, barmaid, born Bilston;

[4] *Amy M. Holmes* (12), daughter, born Bilston;

[5] *Edward J. Holmes* (10), son, scholar, born Sedgley;

[6] *Edith M. Holmes* (6), daughter, scholar, born Sedgley;

[7] *Alfred Holmes* (4), son, born Sedgley:

John Holmes was married to *Ann Maria*.

He died in 1892.

Runcorn Guardian 22/2/1893

“On Saturday night a meeting of the Birmingham branch of the Association of Iron and Steel Workers of Great Britain was held at the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Bradley, Bilston, to take into consideration the rate of wages paid for certain work by a local firm.

Mr. W. Walker, the president of the branch, occupied the chair, and stated that the majority of the masters had offered to support the men (applause) but although he deprecated any resort to a strike, the men who were receiving the full schedule wages could not allow other ironworkers in the neighbourhood to be paid less than the standard wage without remonstrance.

Mr. Sutherland, having explained the rate of payment that should be given for certain classes of work according to the recognized schedule, Mr. Summers said the schedule had been in operation for eighteen months, and he complained that there were some men receiving 25 per cent less than had been paid them by other employers.

A resolution was passed to support the men if they came out on strike. It transpired that there were only twelve men affected, and that they were willing to leave their work unless the list rate of wages was paid. Should a strike take place the underhands will be supported as well as the tonnage men.”

1901 Census

Hallfields Road – PRINCE OF WALES INN

- [1] Joseph Danks (46), victualler, born Bradley;
- [2] Ann Danks (44), wife, born Warwick;
- [3] Joseph Danks (21), son, roll turner, born Bradley;
- [4] Laura Danks (18), daughter, born Bradley;
- [5] William Clarke (17), step-son, engine fitter's apprentice, born Princes End;
- [6] Frances Clarke (16), step-daughter, school teacher, born Princes End;
- [7] Eliza Danks (16), daughter, school teacher, born Bradley;
- [8] Ethel Danks (7), daughter, born Princes End;
- [9] Selina Carter (19), domestic servant, born Leabrook:

1911 Census

17, Highfield Road

- [1] Joseph Danks (56), licensed victualler, born Bradley;
- [2] Ann Danks (54), wife, married 21 years, born Warwick;
- [3] Eliza Danks (26), daughter, assistant in business, born Bradley;
- [4] Ethel Danks (17), daughter, born Princes End;
- [5] Sylvia Best (20), domestic servant, born Wolverhampton:

Joseph Danks – see also NAVIGATION, Salop Street, Bradley.

1921 Probate

“William Edwin Harrison of 17 Highfield Road, Bradley, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 9 March 1921. Administration Lichfield 8 April to Annie Elizabeth Harrison, widow. Effects £374 5s 10d.”

1921 Census

17, Highfield Road – PRINCE OF WALES

- [1] Annie Elizabeth Harrison (50), widow, licensed victualler, born Huntingdonshire;
- [2] Sarah Ann Stokes (32), barmaid, born Shropshire;
- [3] Eliza Brown (62), widow, general servant, born Shropshire:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/10/1925

“Cross-Country Runs.....

Tipton Harriers fixture today is a social run from the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Bradley, near Bilston. Start 3.15.”

1939 Register

Highfields Road – PRINCE OF WALES (4 of 6)

- [1] Stanley Horne, date of birth 4/11/1899, lathe turner, steel, heavy work, married;
- [2] Elsie L. Horne, dob 16/6/1903, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] William H. Horne, dob 21/8/1925, school, single;
- [4] Stanley Horne, dob 5/11/1929, school, single;

Birmingham Weekly Mercury 1/10/1978

“The fourth annual *Sunday Mercury* Masters Darts tournament gets under way during the next fortnight.

A tremendous total of 249 five-person teams begin the first-round assault on the Masters.....

Saracens Z (Brierley Hill) v PRINCE OF WALES A (Bradley).

PRINCE OF WALES B (Bradley) v Princes End Ex-Service.”

Closed

It became a shop.

PRINCE OF WALES

Lichfield Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Conway [1847] – [1851]

NOTES

Birmingham Journal 2/10/1847 - Advert

“Valuable Property, in Lichfield Street and Bow Street, in Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by W. Parkes on Monday, the 4th day of October, 1847, at the house of Mr. Thomas Manning, known by the name of the GLOBE TAVERN, subject to conditions then to be produced.

All that well-established Public House, with the Appurtenances thereto, called the PRINCE OF WALES, situate and fronting Lichfield Street, in Bilston aforesaid, and now in the occupation of *John Conway*, at the low rate of £24 per annum.

Also, all those Ten Messuages or Dwelling Houses, with the Appurtenances, situate at the back of the said Public House, and called ‘The Berry,’ in the several occupations of Mary Llewellyn, William Tennant, Richard Evans, Joseph Jones, Mary Banks, George Yates, Jane Thomas, Emma Brigg, William Reynolds, and Robert Hanson.....”

1851 Census

Lichfield Street

[1] *John Conway* (41), beer shop keeper, born Great Haywood, Staffordshire;

[2] *Sarah Conway* (48), wife, born Staffordshire;

[3] *Thomas Conway* (15), son, scholar, born Great Haywood, Staffordshire;

[4] *John Bentley* (23), servant, born Aston, Warwickshire:

PRINCE OF WALES

24, Queen Street, (Duck Lane), BILSTON

OWNERS

Isaac Bruerton, gentleman, Walsall
M J Fanning, wine merchant, Solihull
John William Hall, solicitor, Bilston
John Price Hilton
William Butler and Co. Ltd.
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Jacob Brereton [1818]
Thomas Walton [1828] – 1849);
Mrs. Ann Walton (1849 – 1852);
Isaac Brereton (1852 – 1856);
John Evans (1856 – [1858]
Henry Perry [1862]
John Harthill Palmer [] – 1865);
Thomas Griffiths (1865 – 1878);
Daniel/Samuel Rogers (1878 – 1880);
Joseph Edward Hand (1880);
George Joseph Richards (1880 – 1886);
Richard Kinsey (1886);
George Thomas Simkin (1886 – 1887);
James Lawley (1887);
Sarah Lawley (1887 – 1888);
William Michael Murty (1888 – 1889);
James Ball (1889 – 1890);
William Corkhill (1890 – 1891);
Alfred Fellows (1891 – 1892);
Edwin Humphries (1892 – 1902);
John Hilton [1896]
John Price Hilton (1902 – 1933); [1901]
Richard Harold Hilton (1933 – [1952]
Sydney George Kettle [1972]
KJ Grainger [1976]
Graham Fisher (1977 – [1983]
M D Fisher* [1988]
Margaret Fisher* [1995]

NOTES

Duck Lane [1828], [1830], [1833]
Queen Street [1858], [1862], [1868]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 16/7/1856

“To be Sold by Auction.....

All that Messuage or Tenement, situate in and fronting to Queen Street (formerly Duck Lane), in Bilston.....”

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF STAFFORDSHIRE,
HOLDEN AT WOLVERHAMPTON.
15th day of April, 1858.
WHEREAS a Petition of **JOHN EVANS**, at present and for about one year and seven months last past residing at the Hope and Anchor, in Queen-street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, and carrying on there during the whole of such period the business of a Licensed Victualler and Dealer in Tobacco, and for about the first three months of such period being also a Furnace Manager, and being also a Furnace Manager, from about the month of August last to the end of December last, an Insolvent Debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, at Wolverhampton, and an Interim Order of Protection from Process having been given to the said John Evans, under the provisions of the statutes in that case made and provided, the said John Evans is hereby required to appear in Court before the Judge acting in the matter of the said Petition, on **FRIDAY**, the 14th day of **MAY**, 1858, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at the Court House, QUEEN-STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON aforesaid, for his **FIRST EXAMINATION** touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said statutes; and notice is hereby given that the Choice of Assignees is to take place at the time so appointed.
All persons indebted to the said John Evans, or who have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. **CHARLES GALLIMORE BROWN**, the Official Assignee acting in the matter of the said Petition, at his Office, in Queen-street, Wolverhampton aforesaid.
R. H. BARTLETT, Attorney, Wolverhampton.
C. G. MEEHAN, High Bailiff.

1858

BILSTON
ANCHOR BRASS AND REED OR STRING
BAND.
Conductor, Mr. William Slater (late Band Master Bilston Volunteers); Leader of String Band, Mr. William Wootton.
The above Bands are open for Engagements for Picnics, Parties, and Balls. Excursions, Fetes and Galas. For terms, apply Richard Kinsey, Secretary, Hope and Anchor Inn, Queen-street, Bilston.

1886

ANCHOR [1818], [1858], [1867]

HOPE AND ANCHOR [1834], [1835], [1851], [1862], [1870], [1873], [1892]

[The Godfrey maps (Staffordshire 62.16) confirm that the PRINCE OF WALES was formerly the HOPE AND ANCHOR. In the same position on Queen Street is HOPE AND ANCHOR (1884) and PRINCE OF WALES (1901).]

1841 Census

Duck Lane

[1] *Thomas Walton* (55), publican, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Ann Walton* (65), born Staffordshire;

[3] *Sarah Hill* (15), servant, born Staffordshire;

[4] *Rhoda Foster* (8), servant, born Staffordshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 6/6/1849

“Transfer of Innkeepers’ Licenses. The following licenses have been transferred by the Magistrates within the last few days.....

The license of the ANCHOR, Duck Lane, Bilston, lately held by *Thomas Walton*, has been transferred to his widow, *Ann Walton*.”

1851 Census

Duck Lane – HOPE AND ANCHOR INN

[1] *Ann Walton* (77), widow, licensed victualler, born Bilston;

[2] *Richard Foster* (20), grand-son, painter, born Bilston;

[3] *Rhoda Foster* (17), grand-daughter, straw bonnet maker, born Bilston;

[4] *Charles Foster* (5), grand-son, scholar, born Bilston;

[5] *Emma A. Tinsley* (14), visitor, schoolmistress, born Edmonton, Middlesex:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 13/10/1852

“Victuallers licenses the following changes took place.....

Ann Walton, of the ANCHOR, Bilston, to *Isaac Brereton*, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/9/1853

“An inquest was held on Thursday, at the ANCHOR INN, Duck Lane, Bilston, on the body of *Ann Wheeler*, 60 years of age, who was burned in her own house whilst intoxicated, through her clothes taking fire, by some burning tobacco falling from her pipe. This happened on Sunday, the 11th instant, and she died on the 20th instant. Mr. *Hancox*, surgeon, attended her. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/11/1856

“On Thursday night last, about nine o’clock, a cigar box containing about £150 was stolen from the ANCHOR INN, Queen Street, Bilston, under extraordinary circumstances. It appears that two men went into the house and had two glasses of brandy each. One of them gave Mrs. *Evans*, wife of Mr. *Evans*, the landlord, a sovereign in payment, and the landlady went upstairs for the purpose of procuring change. The £150 was then safe. She came down stairs, gave the person the change, and the two men shortly afterwards left the house in company. Subsequently an alarm was raised that a man had been seen to jump from one of the bedroom windows into the street, join another man, and they both ran away into the fields. A search was made upstairs and it was found that the drawer in which the cash was kept had been broken open, and the cigar box and money stolen. The thieves have not been captured.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/4/1858 - Advert

"In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton. 15th day of April, 1858.

Whereas a Petition of *John Evans*, at present and for about one year and seven months last past residing at the HOPE AND ANCHOR, in Queen Street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, and carrying on there during the whole of such period the business of a Licensed Victualler and Dealer in Tobacco, and for about the first three months of such period being also a Furnace Manager, from about the month of August last to the end of December last, an Insolvent Debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, at Wolverhampton, and an Interim Order of Protection from Process having been given to the said *John Evans*, under the provisions of the statutes in that case made and provided, the said *John Evans* is hereby required to appear in Court before the Judge acting in the matter of the said Petition, on Friday, the 14th day of May, 1858, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at the Court House, Queen Street, Wolverhampton aforesaid, for his First Examination touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said statutes; and notice is hereby given that the Choice of Assignees is to take place at the time so appointed.

All persons indebted to the said *John Evans*, or who have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. Charles Gallimore Brown, the Official Assignee acting in the matter of the said Petition, at his Office, in Queen Street, Wolverhampton aforesaid.

R. H. Bartlett, Attorney, Wolverhampton. C. G. Megevan, High Bailiff."

Birmingham Journal 15/5/1858

"Insolvents Adjournments.....

John Evans, publican, HOPE AND ANCHOR, Bilston."

Shrewsbury Chronicle 24/12/1858

"*John Evans*, furnace manager, at Madeley Court Works, Staffordshire, and late of the HOPE AND ANCHOR, Bilston, came up for his discharge, supported by Mr. Bartlett, of Wolverhampton, and opposed by Mr. Whitehouse (Whitehouse and Son), of Wolverhampton, for Mr. England, brewer, the detaining creditor. The grounds of opposition were – the defective nature of the schedule, reckless trading, fraudulent preference to creditors, making away with and concealment of property. Some time since the insolvent had filed a petition in the Wolverhampton County Court, which was dismissed, owing to some informality. Insolvent had left the management of the public house (which was taken to at the end of 1856) to his wife, and the concern soon brought them into difficulties. Not being able to obtain the protection of the Wolverhampton Court, the insolvent betook himself to Shropshire, and was apprehended near Oakengates, and lodged in Salop gaol. His Honour commented strongly upon the custom of parties going into counties where the debts were not contracted, and obtaining friendly arrests, and said he looked upon such transactions with the greatest suspicion. The examination was a somewhat lengthy one, but Mr. Bartlett succeeded in showing that the insolvent had fairly stated the situation he was in, and had not concealed anything. Mr. Whitehouse pointed out several adverse statements which the insolvent had made. He was, however, discharged."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 13/5/1863 - Advert

"To be Disposed Of, that Old Licensed House, the HOPE AND ANCHOR, Queen Street, Bilston. Coming-in may be reduced to suit purchasers.

For particulars apply on the premises."

TO BE DISPOSED OF, that Old LICENSED
HOUSE, "THE HOPE AND ANCHOR," Queen-street, Bilston.
Coming-in may be reduced to suit purchasers.—For particulars
apply on the premises.

John Harthill Palmer = John Hartill Palmer

London Gazette 7/11/1865

"*John Hartill Palmer*, of the HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Queen-street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, and previously thereto of the RED COW INN, Bridge-street, Bilston aforesaid, Licensed Victualler, Retail Brewer, and Dealer in Tobacco, and also working as a Mill Furnaceman, having been adjudged bankrupt under a Petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy, filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton, on the 30th day of October, 1865, is hereby required to surrender himself to Charles Gallimore Brown, Esq., a Registrar of the said Court, at the first meeting of creditors to be held before the said Registrar, on the 20th day of November instant, at twelve o'clock at noon precisely, at the said Court. Charles Gallimore Brown, Esq., of Wolverhampton, is the Official Assignee, and Mr. N. B. Jackson, of Bilston, is the Solicitor acting in the bankruptcy."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 24/1/1866

"Bankruptcy. At the Wolverhampton County Court, on Monday, before A. M. Skinner, Esq, QC (Judge), *John Harthill Palmer*, ex-publican, of Bilston, supported by Mr. Jackson, for Mr. Cresswell, came up at the County Court for his final order, as a publican. Mr. Langman opposed for a creditor named Austin, and elicited that out of £187, bankrupt owed Austin £112 8s 4d. £25 of that amount was for a gig, which bankrupt said he bought to drive his wife out in for the benefit of her health. Mr. Langman asked that the discharge should be conditional upon bankrupt paying something out of his income, as a forgerman, for the benefit of his creditors. The learned Judge said the Court was placed in a most anomalous position. There he had been sitting all the morning compelling people to pay their debts, and now he was sitting in the same Court to administer a legal machinery by which people were relieved from the necessity of doing so. He put it to the bankrupt whether such a state of things was not as abominable as anomalous, and whether he would not make his creditors an offer. After some hesitation defendant offered to pay £25 in twelve months. The offer was accepted, and bankrupt was conditionally discharged."

Staffordshire Advertiser 28/12/1867

"Frank Millar, who had been previously convicted, was fined 40s and costs for Sunday trading, at the OLD CROWN INN, Bilston. *Thomas Griffiths*, of the ANCHOR, Bilston, was fined a similar amount for a like offence."

1871 Census

Queen Street – HOPE AND ANCHOR

- [1] *Thomas Griffiths* (54), publican, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Sarah Griffiths* (54), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *George Griffiths* (26), son, gun lock filer, born Darlaston;
- [4] *John Griffiths* (22), son, millman, born Darlaston;
- [5] *James Griffiths* (10), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Sarah Howell* (24), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [7] *John Howell* (24), step-son, mill furnace man, born Bilston;
- [8] *Samuel Howell*, (1 month), grand-son, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 31/8/1878

"Bilston Annual Licensing Sessions.....

The following is the list of licensed victuallers and beerhouse keepers who had been summoned during the year for offences against the Licensing Act Licensed victuallers.....

Thomas Griffiths, HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Queen Street, permitting drunkenness on the 1st March 1878, fined £5 and costs."

AND

Wolverhampton Express and Star 21/9/1878

"The Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

The persons who had been convicted during the last twelve months for offences against their licenses, the renewals of which were withheld until today, now appeared before the Bench, and there being no further complaint as to the conduct of their houses in the interval the magistrates granted the renewals."

Birmingham Daily Post 26/5/1880

"From last night's *London Gazette* Liquidations by Arrangement.....

D. Rogers, in lodgings, Gough Street, Willenhall, lately of Queen Street, Bilston, licensed victualler, now of no occupation."

Evening Express 6/1/1881 - Advert

"Dance at HOPE AND ANCHOR, Queen Street, Bilston, Tuesday, at 7; string band in attendance."

1881 Census

Queen Street – ANCHOR INN

- [1] *Joseph Richards* (60), chartermaster, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] *Mary Ann Richards* (54), wife, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *Herbert Richards* (26), son, labourer in coalfield, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] *Mary Garbett* (20), domestic servant, born Toll End:

Birmingham Daily Post 29/7/1881 - Advert

“Manageress or Housekeeper. Wanted, by a highly respectable Person, Situation in good Business House; experienced in all branches. Highest references.

Address, B. L. D., HOPE AND ANCHOR, Queen Street, Bilston.”

MANAGERESS or Housekeeper.—Wanted, by a highly respectable Person, Situation in good Business House; experienced in all branches. Highest references.—Address, B. L. D., Hope and Anchor, Queen Street, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 10/8/1881 - Advert

“Management of Luncheon Bar or Vaults Wanted, by an experienced Person, capable of undertaking the entire management of a large establishment. Age 30 years. Good references.

Address, HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Queen Street, Bilston.”

MANAGEMENT of Luncheon Bar or Vaults Wanted, by an experienced Person, capable of undertaking the entire management of a large establishment. Age 30 years. Good references.—Address, Hope and Anchor Inn, Queen Street, Bilston.

Darlaston Weekly Times 24/4/1886 - Advert

“Bilston Anchor Brass and Reed or String Band.

Conductor, Mr. William Slater (late Band Master Bilston Volunteers); Leader of String Band, Mr. William Wootton.

The above Bands are open for Engagements for Picnics, Parties, and Balls. Excursions, Fetes, and Galas.

For terms, apply *Richard Kinsey*, Secretary, HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Queen Street, Bilston.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 25/9/1886

“Ellen Danks was charged with having on Sunday night assaulted Lucy Clark and Harriet Kinsey.

Complainant stated that she was staying at the HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Duck Lane. On Sunday night shortly after ten o’clock, and after the house was closed, there was a commotion in the street in front of the house. She heard Mrs. *Kinsey*, the landlady, shout, and she went out to see what was the matter. She was met by the defendant, who struck her without any provocation. Mrs. *Kinsey*’s story was of similar character. She said defendant struck her in the face, and also used bad language. Complainant’s sister gave corroborative evidence.

Defendant, on being asked if she wished to question witness, said she never saw either witness or complainant.

Elizabeth Reynolds, called for the defence, said she saw nothing, but she admitted that she was fifty yards away.

Defendant said what caused the disturbance was the fact that her son frequented the house and spent nearly all his money there, giving her little or nothing, although he had a blind father.

Arthur Upton said he was present on the occasion in question, and saw defendant holding her son, who was under the influence of drink. Witness took him home, but he did not see defendant strike any one.

Defendant said she was sent for to fetch her son home, but when she got to the house she found that they had all been turned out. Mrs. *Kinsey* used abusive language towards her, but she denied having assaulted either of the complainants.

Mr. Tildesley said it appeared that defendant had received a good deal of provocation, but still she ought not to take the law into her own hands. She would be fined 1s, and she would have to pay 6s costs in each case.”

James Lawley died on 17th November 1887.

1891 Census

Queen Street – HOPE AND ANCHOR

[1] *Alfred Fellows* (32), licensed victualler, born Bilston;

[2] *Eliza Fellows* (26), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Lilly Fellows* (5), daughter, scholar, born Bilston:

1901 Census

24, Queen Street – PRINCE OF WALES INN

[1] *John P. Hilton* (48), public house manager, born Bilston;

[2] *Louisa J. Hilton* (50), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *James L. Hilton* (24), son, barman, born Bilston;

[4] *John H. Hilton* (18), son, brewer’s cellarman, born Bilston;

[5] *Richard H. Hilton* (13), son, born Bilston:

Evening Despatch 9/6/1909

"An inquiry into the death of Zechariah Bayliss (62), miner, of 32, Beckett Street, Bilston, which occurred suddenly whilst on his way home from work at the Dairy Farm Colliery, Bilston, on Monday, was opened by the County Coroner, Mr. T. A. Stokes, at the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Queen Street, Bilston, yesterday.

Mrs. Bayliss said that her husband was in his usual health when he left for work at 6am on Monday. In reply to a juror witness said he had several times complained of fire-damp at his work, and she thought he would have died on Saturday if they had not got him some brandy. He also complained that his work made his heart bump very bad.

Joseph Shortland a driver for Messrs. Thompson Bros, said he found Bayliss sitting by the roadside in an exhausted condition. He asked for a lift in the cart, and witness assisted him into it. Shortly afterwards he became prostrate, and witness tried to force brandy into his mouth, but he would not take it. He died soon afterwards.

George Smith, underground manager at the colliery, said that Bayliss had never complained to him of damp in the pit, and witness had never traced its presence. Deceased complained to him on Monday of feeling poorly, so he told him he could spare him from his work, and the cager took him to the surface.

The colliery manager, William Mansell, said he saw Bayliss several times during the morning, and also when he was brought to the surface, but he made no complaint of damp.

Mr. Pritchard, who appeared for deceased's relatives, submitted that it was a case where a post mortem should be made.

The Coroner: A probable cause of death is sufficient for me. I am prepared to take a verdict of Natural Causes. He had, with some trouble, tried to find if there had been any trace of fire-damp in the pit, but there was no record in the colliery book of any instance where the ventilation of the pit was anything but perfect.

Mr. Pritchard said it was not the idea of compensation. Deceased had complained of fire-damp, and it was not unreasonable that the family should wish the matter clearly settled.

Eventually the inquest was adjourned until today."

1911 Census

24, Queen Street – PRINCE OF WALES INN

- [1] *John Hilton* (58), licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *Louisa Hilton* (60), wife, married 35 years, assistant in business, born Bilston;
- [3] *Leonard Hilton* (34), son, grocer, born Bilston;
- [4] *Nellie Hilton* (33), daughter, worker at home, born Bilston;
- [5] *Harry Hilton* (28), son, grocer out of employment, born Bilston;
- [6] *Dirk Hilton* (23), son, mechanic, motor car body makers, born Bilston;
- [7] *Alice Lashbury* (15), domestic servant, born Bilston:

John Price Hilton was president of St. Leonards FC.

John Price Hilton was fined £1 and costs, on 5th May 1916, for selling beer exceeding measure called for.

1921 Census

24, Queen Street – PRINCE OF WALES INN

- [1] *John Price Hilton* (68), licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *Louisa Jane Hilton* (72), wife, home duties, born Bilston;
- [3] *Edith Harris* (36), domestic servant, born Trescott, Staffordshire:

AND

37, Ashley Street

- [1] *Richard H. Hilton* (33), assisting father in business as licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *Laura Hilton* (33), wife, home duties, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Mary Hilton* (4), daughter, school, born Bilston;
- [4] *John P. Hilton* (2), son born Bilston:

Louisa Jane Hilton died in the 2nd quarter of 1924.

Bilston & Willenhall Times 20/12/1924

"Mr. *John Hilton*, who has been the landlord of the PRINCE OF WALES, Queen Street, Bilston, for 33 years received many congratulations from very many friends on the anniversary of his 73rd birthday on Thursday last."

1933 Probate

"*John Price Hilton* of 39 Queen Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 13 December 1932. Probate Birmingham 11 March to James Leonard Hilton, grocer; *Richard Harold Hilton*, licensed victualler; and Sarah Ellen Worden, widow. Effects £6,402 12s 10d."

1939 Register

Queen Street – PRINCE OF WALES INN

- [1] *Richard H. Hilton*, date of birth 4/11/1887, licensed victualler, married;
- [2] *Laura Hilton*, dob 10/2/1888, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] *Mary Hilton*, dob 21/11/1916, elementary school teacher, single;
- [4] *John P. Hilton*, dob 10/4/1919, draughtsman, heating engineer, single;
- [5] *Sarah E. Worden*, dob 29/12/1877, unpaid domestic duties, widowed:

1952 Probate

"*Richard Harold Hilton* of the PRINCE OF WALES HOTEL, 24, Queen Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 31 October 1952 at the Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton. Probate Birmingham 10 December to *Laura Hilton*, widow. Effects £946 5s 7d."

Sports Argos 11/12/1971

"Inn-Quiz.....

The match between the SWAN (Cradley Heath) and the PRINCE OF WALES (Bilston) was not played because some of the PRINCE OF WALES players got lost in the fog. The competition committee have decided to allow the game to be played on Thursday."

1973 Probate

"*Sydney George Kettle* of the PRINCE OF WALES, Queen Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 19 July 1972. Administration Birmingham 26 March. Effects £9,709."

Birmingham Daily Post 24/4/1973

"Mr. *Sydney George Kettle*, of the PRINCE OF WALES, Queen Street, Bilston, left £9,709 (£9,075 net)."

Sandwell Evening Mail 9/3/1979

"Nearly 50 Bilston Buffs will next month be travelling to Amsterdam for a weekend at Holland's Tulip Festival. The 48 members of the Royal Antedeluvian Order of Buffaloes, who meet at the PRINCE OF WALES pub, Queen Street, leave for Holland on April 6, and return on Monday April 9."

Birmingham Weekly Mercury 14/2/1993 - Notice

"Friendly Societies Act 1974.

Notice of Cancellation of Registration pursuant to section 91 of the said Act.

Notice is hereby given that the Chief Registrar has this day cancelled the registration of Prince of Wales Permanent Money Society, the registered office of which is at PRINCE OF WALES HOTEL, Queen Street, Bilston, West Midlands, on the ground that the society has ceased to exist. The Society ceases to be entitled to 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 cancellation had not taken place.

D. W. Lee. Acting for Chief Registrar. 4 February 1993."

* probably the same person

Margaret Fisher was married to *Graham*.

It closed in 2003.

It was attacked by arsonists March 2004, who caused a fire in the cellar.

It was demolished c.2005.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES
Act 1974. Notice of Cancellation of Registration pursuant to section 91 of the said Act. Notice is hereby given that the Chief Registrar has this day cancelled the registration of Prince of Wales Permanent Money Society (Register No. 43SAL) the registered office of which is at Prince of Wales Hotel Queen Street Bilston West Midlands WV14 7ER on the ground that the society has ceased to exist. The Society ceases to be entitled to 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 cancellation had not taken place. D W Lee. Acting for Chief Registrar. Date: 4 February 1993.

1993



Ex Pub 2016

QUEENS ARMS

10, (13), (25), Wellington Road (Street), (Wolverhampton Street (Road)), (Lichfield Street) / Short Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

John Grainger, builder, Darlaston Green
Richard Andrew Harper, brewer, Bilston
R. A. Harper Ltd., Hall Park Brewery, Bilston [1921]
Eley's Stafford Brewery Ltd.
William Butler and Co. Ltd.
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.
Totally Fair Pub Co. [2000]

LICENSEES

John Granger [1850] – **1855**;
Miss Harriet Booth **(1855 – 1860)**;
Thomas Wright **(1860 – [])**
Charles Wright [1860] – [1866]
Charles Woodin [1868] – **1873**;
James Henry Shepherd **(1873 – 1875)**;
Frank Lloyd **(1875)**;
William Wright **(1875 – 1876)**;
James Wright **(1876 – 1877)**;
Samuel Thomas **(1877 – 1880)**;
Walter Dovey **(1880 – 1881)**;
Catherine Sturge **(1881 – 1882)**;
George Walker **(1882 – 1884)**;
David Ashmole **(1884 – 1885)**;
Elizabeth Evans **(1885)**;
Alfred Stone **(1885 – 1886)**;
Helen Stone **(1886)**;
Mrs. Mary Ann Richards **(1886)**;
William Scott **(1886 – 1897)**;
Mrs. Mary Jones **(1897 – 1901)**;
Edward Henry Till **(1901 – 1910)**;
Griffith Evans **(1910 – 1925)**;
Miss Marion Jane Richardson **(1925 – [1940])**
L Ram [1989]
Robert Michael Collins [2005]

NOTES

Lichfield Street [1850], [1851]
Wolverhampton Street [1851], [1862], [1868], [1870], [1872]
Wellington Street [1858], [1860]
25, Wellington Road [1871]
13, Wellington Road [1873]
13, Wellington Street [1880], [1891]
10, Wellington Road [1901], [1911], [1921], [1939], [1940]



1997



2007



2009

QUEENS ARMS HOTEL [1861], [1862]

Commercial and family hotel [1862]

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/3/1848

“Staffordshire Adjourned Sessions.....

Joseph Goodwin, aged 28, a boatman, was indicted for stealing at Bilston, from the person of John Drake, an Irish pig dealer, one £5 note, ten sovereigns, and several pieces of silver. Mr. Kynnersley conducted the prosecution, and Mr. Rupert Kettle the defence.

It appeared, from the evidence for the prosecution, that on the 10th of December last the prisoner met with the prosecutor in the neighbourhood of Tipton, and walked with him a distance of nine miles, after which they separated; that at a subsequent part of the day the prisoner looked into the tap windows at the QUEENS ARMS, in Bilston, where the prosecutor was sitting, and that prosecutor called him into the tap room, when they both had some ale and beer together. In the course of the conversation the prisoner complained to the prosecutor that he was very poor. Prosecutor fell asleep, and remained in that state for some time Prosecutor found that he had been robbed of his purse. He had taken out his purse in the presence of the prisoner, before he fell asleep.

Prosecutor, on discovering his loss, immediately gave information to the police, and described the person and dress. The prisoner, in the course of the night, was taken to the police station in consequence of being found drunk in the street. He was not at first recognised by Inspector Thompson to be the man who had been described by the prosecutor, as he then had on a new flannel boatman's shirt over his other clothes. It was, however, subsequently discovered that his under garments corresponded with the description given by the prosecutor.

Thompson made inquiries, and ascertained that on the evening of the robbery the prisoner had bought a new flannel shirt, and also a silk handkerchief, at the shop of Mr. Edward Maybury, at Bilston, clothier. He offered a £5 note in payment for those articles. Mrs. Maybury sent the note to be changed at the shop of Mr. Howes, grocer, and afterwards gave the prisoner £4 7s 9d change, retaining 12s 3d for the articles which he had bought. It was also ascertained that on the same evening the prisoner purchased a flannel shirt and a waistcoat at the shop of Mr. Thomas Jones, at Bilston. He paid for them in silver, but took a purse (which contained sixteen sovereigns and a half) from his old waistcoat, and put it into the new one, which he then put on.

The prosecutor swore to the note produced by Inspector Thompson, who had received it from Mr. Howes. He identified it by the letter 'D' written in red ink. Mrs. Maybury could not swear positively to the note, but recollected that the one she received from the prisoner was a note with the word Wolverhampton at the top, and that it was one issued by the Bilston Banking Company.

Mr. Kettle addressed the jury at some length on behalf of the prisoner, and called the mother of the prisoner to prove that on the day before the robbery she gave her son sixteen sovereigns and a half, which would at once account for the fact of his having been in possession of so much money.

Mr. Kynnersley replied, remarking on the nature of the defence, which, he submitted, was a most improbable story, taking into consideration the position in life of the prisoner's mother.

Major Chetwynd (before whom this case was tried) having summed up the evidence, the jury turned round, and after consulting together for about a minute, returned a verdict of guilty.

The learned Chairman, in passing sentence, told the prisoner that although he had not been previously convicted, yet that was not the first time he had been in the county prison. At a sessions in 1842, he was accused of stealing some articles at Pattingham, but he was not then convicted. The offence of which he had now been found guilty was very common, and was rather on the increase in this county; it was one of a serious nature, and must be visited with an adequate punishment. It was necessary that the Court should make an example of him, in order that others might be deterred from the commission of similar offences. The sentence of the Court was that he be transported for seven years.”

John Granger = John Grainger

John Granger, beer retailer, Lichfield Street. [1850]
He was also a builder. [1851]

1851 Census

Lichfield Street

- [1] John Granger (38), builder and licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] Jane Granger (40), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Mary Granger (16), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] George Granger (14), son, born Bilston;
- [5] Daniel Granger (12), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] Eliza Granger (10), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] Isabella Granger (8), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [8] Jane Granger (6), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [9] William James Granger (3), son, born Bilston;
- [10] Mary Ann Peters (18), servant, born Oswestry, Shropshire:

TO IRONMASTERS, COALMASTERS, & ENGINEERS.
TO be SOLD, the following BRIGHT WORK,
for a 3-horse power Steam Engine, with a 5 feet stroke: 1 Beam,
geared, complete; 2 Centre Carriages, with Brasses, &c., to ditto, com-
plete; 1 Parallel Motion, complete; 1 Piston Rod and Cap; 1 Crank
and Pin; all in good condition, and may be seen at the Britannia Iron
Works, Oldbury.
Also, a Piece of valuable FREEHOLD LAND to be LET, adjoining
the abovenamed Works, with a Canal Frontage, suitable for Chain or
Anchor Works.
For further particulars, apply to Mr. John Granger, Queen's Arms,
Bilston; or Mr. George Powers, High Street, West Bromwich.

Birmingham Journal 25/8/1855 - Advert

"To Ironmasters, Coalmasters, and Engineers.

To be Sold, the following Bright Work, for a 30-horse power Steam Engine, with a 5 feet stroke; 1 Beam, geared, complete; 2 Centre Carriages, with Brasses, &c, to ditto, complete; 1 Parallel Motion, complete; 1 Piston Rod and Cap; 1 Crank and Pin; all in good condition, and may be seen at the Britannia Iron Works, Oldbury.

Also, a Piece of valuable Freehold Land to be Let, adjoining the above-named Works, with a Canal Frontage, suitable for Chain or Anchor Works.

For further particulars, apply to Mr. John Granger, QUEENS ARMS, Bilston; or Mr. George Powers, High Street, West Bromwich."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/12/1855

"Housewarming at the QUEENS ARMS INN.

The opening dinner of Miss Booth, the hostess of the QUEENS ARMS INN, Bilston, was on Tuesday evening celebrated with much eclat. Upwards of forty gentlemen sat down to dinner, amongst whom were comprised many of the most respectable tradesmen of the town The repast was served up in excellent style. Numerous toasts were proposed, during which the 'Allied Commanders in the Crimea' figured prominently, and some excellent songs and recitations were delivered by Messrs. John Whitehead, W. Fellows, John Baker, O. Batte, &c. The healths of 'The Emperor and Empress of the French' were also proposed, and heartily responded to. The dinner comprised all the delicacies of the season, and a well-deserved tribute of grateful feeling was accorded to Miss Booth, after her health had been duly toasted."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/12/1857

"The anniversary of the Loyal Lodge of United Brothers was celebrated on Saturday last, at Bilston. About seventy persons enjoyed an excellent dinner at the QUEENS ARMS, and afterwards passed a very pleasant evening, under the presidency of Mr. Mills, supported by Mr. Sabury, the secretary of the society, in the vice-chair. The society is in a flourishing state, having upwards of £300 in the bank."

The Era 24/4/1859

"On Wednesday last a large number of the respectable inhabitants of Bilston met at the QUEENS ARMS, Bilston, to celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Shakspeare. Mr. Waterhouse, solicitor, occupied the chair, and Mr. Batte the vice-chair. After amply justice had been done to a capital dinner, and the usual loyal and patriotic toasts given, the Chairman, in an able speech, proposed 'The immortal memory of Shakspeare.' Regretting as he did that the works of the great bard were sometime blemished by coarseness – a defect belonging to the character of the times he lived in, not to that of the man – he pointed out the universal appreciation of his writings as the best evidence of the greatness of a genius of which not only England but the world had reason to be proud....."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 8/6/1859

“About half-past twelve o’clock on Saturday last a fall of coal occurred in Mr. W. H. Sparrow’s colliery at Beasecroft, near Bilston, by which four men working in a gate road were completely entombed. The rest of their comrades escaped, and raised an alarm. A number of men set vigorously to work, and about one o’clock on Sunday morning succeeded in extricating John Clayton, residing in Bilston, who, however, survived but a short time. In a little while after they managed to open a communication with other two, who had been at the farther end of the gate road, and to pass food, drink, light, and tobacco to them; and about four on Sunday morning they were also got out, uninjured. The body of the fourth man, Jabez Hough, of Portobello, was not reached until Monday afternoon. It was evident from the nature of the injuries that in this case death must have been instantaneous. The body of this man now lies at Portobello awaiting a coroner’s inquiry, which will be held this day (Wednesday).

The inquest on the body of John Clayton was held at the QUEENS ARMS, Bilston, yesterday (Tuesday) afternoon before W. H Phillips, Esq.

Thomas Lloyd, a miner, who was employed in ‘holing’ down the pit, about four yards from the spot where the accident occurred, deposed that the deceased and Jabez Hough were engaged in building a ‘cog’ up when suddenly a mass of coal gave way, completely burying them beneath it. There was plenty of timber about the spot where the accident occurred, and witness considered it pretty safe to working. There had been a fall of coal on the Friday night, and the deceased was putting up the cog on the further side of the hole to prevent another fall.

Joseph Langham, one of the two men who were extricated alive, stated that he had been engaged by the bailiff to cleanse the air shaft. At the time witness was passing the hole to go to his work the deceased man, Jabez Hough, said, ‘Hurry through that hole lad, for it is na very safe.’ Witness was in the windway at the time the accident occurred, and did not know he was closed in until three o’clock, when he was going to dinner, and ascertained there had been a fall.

In answer to a question by the Coroner, the ground bailiff stated that the Inspector of Mines had not yet examined the pit, and the inquiry was accordingly adjourned for a week.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 15/6/1859

“The adjourned inquest on the body of John Clayton, who, with two other men, was killed by a fall of coal and dirt, in a pit at Peacroft Colliery, at Portobello, belonging to Mr. Sparrow, was held at the QUEENS ARMS INN, Bilston, on Friday last, before W.H. Phillips, Esq, deputy-coroner. The only additional witness examined was Mr. Longridge, the Government Inspector of Mines for the district, who stated that he had examined the pit, and there did not appear to be any lack of timber therein; but he thought that if the timber had been used with ‘settings’ instead of with ‘lids,’ this would have tended to prevent the fall, or at least to have given the deceased notice to get out of the way before the fall. He had, however, no reason to believe that the accident was the result of negligence on the part of the doggy or any one else. He had recommended to Mr. Williams, the ground bailiff, that ‘settings’ should be used in future, and he had promised to carry out the suggestion, not only in the pit in question, but in all the others belonging to Mr. Sparrow in which the roof was not good.

The Jury, without hesitation, returned a verdict of Accidental Death, but wished the Coroner to inform Mr. Williams that they were desirous that the recommendation of the Government Inspector should be carried out.

Mr. Williams was called in, and the Coroner conveyed to him the recommendation of the Jury, adding that it was particularly important that every exertion should be used in the pit to prevent any further loss of life, as Clayton’s was the third or fourth death that had occurred in the same mine.

Mr. Williams said that the wish of the Inspector should be carried out, and Mr. Sparrow wished him to say so.

It appeared, from an observation made by the Coroner, that a good deal of feeling has existed at Portobello in reference to the accident, it having been rumoured that there was not sufficient timber in the pit at the time of the accident.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 7/12/1859

“One of the most melancholy instances of sudden death which it has ever been our lot to record took place in Bilston on Friday night last. A number of gentlemen, among whom was Mr. Samuel Mallin, builder, had been spending the evening at the QUEENS ARMS INN, and Mr. Mallin became somewhat the worse for drink. Shortly after eleven o’clock he appeared very drowsy, and his companions endeavoured to rouse him, but without effect. At length it became evident that his drowsiness was something more serious than they at first supposed, and he was wrapped in blankets and conveyed to his own home. Mr. Best, surgeon, was sent for, and was in attendance almost immediately, but death ensued before his arrival. It was generally known that deceased was of very intemperate habits, and on that very morning he was seen in the streets in a state of inebriety.

An inquest was held at the SHIP AND RAINBOW, on Monday morning last, and the first witness called was Isaac Cole, who stated that the deceased was his brother-in-law. He was a very healthy person, and although witness had known him for thirty years he had never known him to have a serious illness.

Maria Vernon, servant at the QUEENS ARMS, proved the fact of the deceased having been at that house on the night referred to, and that she waited upon the company with whom the deceased was spending the evening. Deceased had two glasses of ale for his supper, and three or four glasses of whisky afterwards, but the last glass was scarcely tasted. After the deceased became drowsy witness applied wet cloths to his temples, but could not waken him, and at last his friends agreed to take him home. A barrow was then procured, and a rug and his great coat being put in it the deceased was lifted in and placed with his head towards the wheel. Mr. Viles started with the barrow, and another gentleman was then supporting deceased's head. The barrow was used because there was nothing else at hand. Mr. Bowen, Mr. Viles, Mr. Whitehead, Mr O. Batte, and Mr. Guyon left with the deceased.

A girl named Sayliss, servant at deceased's house, deposed to the fact of her master having been brought home in the barrow described, and said that he never breathed or moved after he was laid on the sofa.

At this stage of the inquiry the inquest was adjourned until Friday next for a post mortem examination. Mr. O. Batte volunteered a statement, but the Coroner declined to receive it until after the post mortem examination."

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/12/1859

".....Mr. Henry Best, surgeon, who had made the post mortem examination, states that he found the brain very much congested, and the stomach and liver much diseased. His opinion was that the deceased had died from congestive apoplexy, induced by the excessive use of intoxicating drinks. There was no mark of external injury. The jury returned a verdict accordingly, adding a censure on the conduct of the parties in whose company the deceased had been, and who had conveyed him home."

Birmingham Daily Post 8/3/1860 - Advert

"QUEENS ARMS, Bilston. Notice.

Charles Wright, late of the Fountain Inn, New Street, Birmingham, and formerly of the COACH AND HORSES INN, Wolverhampton, begs to inform his Friends and the Public in general, that he has taken the above-named well-known Inn, where he provides a good Ordinary every day at quarter-past One o'clock, charge 1s.

Home-brewed Ale; every Article of the very best Quality; the right man in the right place, and *Wright* at Home.

NB. Stabling and Coach-house."

Birmingham Daily Post 9/4/1860 - Advert

"Shakspeare's Birthday. Notice.

The Annual Dinner will take place, in celebration of this great event, at the QUEENS ARMS INN, Bilston, on Wednesday, April 25th, 1860. Tickets 5s, including Dessert. As a large party is expected early application for Tickets is very desirable. Dinner on table at Five o'clock precisely.

Charles Wright, Host."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 7/7/1860 - Advert

"Railway Surplus Lands (Fifth Sale), Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction by E & C Robins, on Tuesday, the 31st day of July inst, at Four o'clock in the afternoon, at the QUEENS ARMS INN, Wellington Street, Bilston, subject to conditions to be produced.

Various lots of valuable Freehold Building Land, Dwelling Houses, Retail Shops, and other Property, including Pipe Hall, situated on and near to the line of the Railway between the Station at Bilston Town and the Junction at Priestfield, and having frontages to the main streets and thoroughfares of the town, and to the Great Shrewsbury and Holyhead Turnpike Road, between Bilston and Wolverhampton....."

Birmingham Journal 22/9/1860 - Advert

"Deportment, Exercises, and Dancing.

Mr. Hile begs to announce his intention to Re-Assemble his Classes for Instruction and Practice, at the new and spacious Assembly Room, QUEENS HOTEL, Wellington Street, Bilston, on Wednesday, October 3rd.

Terms obtained from the Hotel, or Mr. Hile's Residence, Dudley Road, where also his Pupils attend for Instruction privately, or in Classes, on the Tuesday and Friday in each week.

NB. Schools and Families attended.

Dudley Road, Wolverhampton, September, 1860."

1861 Census

Wellington Street

- [1] Charles Wright (55), publican, born London;
- [2] Elizabeth Wright (30), wife, born London;
- [3] Arthur George Wright (9), son, scholar, born Coventry;
- [4] Elizabeth Adelaide Wright (6), daughter, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] Zillah Maria Wright (5), daughter, scholar, born Birmingham;
- [6] Sophia Amelia Wright (3), daughter, born Birmingham;
- [7] Elizabeth Williams (54), mother-in-law, widow, no occupation, born Radnorshire;
- [8] Sophia Garbett (20), barmaid, born Princes End;
- [9] Hanna Cartwright (20), housemaid, born Wolverhampton;
- [10] Samuel Charles (24), manservant, born Lenton, Nottinghamshire:

Birmingham Daily Post 10/6/1861 - Advert

WANTED, a respectable YOUTH as BILLIARD MARKER, and to make himself generally useful in the House.--Apply personally, at the Queen's Arms Hotel, Wellington Street, Bilston.

"Wanted, a respectable Youth as Billiard Marker, and to make himself generally useful in the House. Apply personally, at the QUEENS ARMS HOTEL, Wellington Street, Bilston."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/11/1861

"A case of Francis Udall, a publican living in Bilston [ELEPHANT AND CASTLE], against Mr. C. Wright, occupier of the QUEENS HOTEL, in the same town, was argued today on an important point raised by Mr. Thurstans, the defendant's attorney. The plaintiff was supported by Mr. Claydon.

The facts were simply these. In November, 1857, Udall, Wright, and a man named Burgess became sureties for a Mr. Hobdy, who has since left the country, on two promissory notes of £70 and £30. Udall was afterwards called upon to fulfil the bond, and he did so, paying the whole, or nearly the whole of the £100. Burgess afterwards undertook to repay his share, and Udall now sought to recover £31 12s, the share of the other co-surety.

In defence, Mr. Thurstans argued that defendant was protected by a certificate in Bankruptcy, under the date of January, 1860; the petition, it should be added, was filed in May, 1859. Mr. Claydon argued, first that the certificate afforded no protection whatever, but subsequently he maintained, and it was on this point the case was decided, that the certificate only afforded partial protection. Nearly two-thirds of the £100 were paid by Udall before defendant filed his petition, and the Court could consider that money to be the shares of Udall and Burgess; the remaining third was paid after defendant's bankruptcy, therefore defendant was liable. The 52nd section of the Bankruptcy Act would not apply in a case like the present – between surety and co-surety, only between surety and principal, and in support of this he cited the case of 'Clements and Longman.' Mr. Thurstans maintained the 117th sec. of the 13 and 14 Vic. provided the debts payable on contingency could be assessed by the Court of Bankruptcy; and the Act further provided that where they were not assessable, the only remedy of the creditor would be to prove his debt, and receive dividends in case the contingency arose, and those dividends should be given without disturbing former dividends, payable to other creditors. Mr. Thurstans further argued that the defendant was only liable at the most for one-third the amount paid after the bankruptcy. His Honour considered that the section of Victoria referred to by Mr. Thurstans was a re-enactment of a section in the case cited by Mr. Claydon. He was, however, of opinion that it was not competent to the plaintiff to appropriate payments he had paid before the bankruptcy in discharge of his own liability only, but he was entitled to prove under the bankruptcy for the defendant's share of that amount. He should consequently give judgement for a third of the sum paid by plaintiff since defendant's bankruptcy, which would be £13 15s 8d."

Slaters Directory 1862 - Advert

"QUEENS ARMS HOTEL, Commercial and Family, Wellington Street, Bilston, Staffordshire.

Chas. Wright, Proprietor.

C. W. begs most respectfully to inform Commercial Gentlemen, Families, and Tourists visiting, or on Commercial Business, that they will find first-class accommodation at the above Hotel, now the only one in Bilston kept entirely as an Hotel, and, whilst the charges are moderate, every attention will be paid to their comfort and convenience.

Private Dinners Provided. Ordinaries Every Day at a Quarter Past One.

Billiard Room. Private Sitting Rooms, &c. Wines and Spirits of superior quality.

NB. The above Hotel is in the Town, situated in an open and healthy locality."

Birmingham Daily Post 13/1/1862

"On Friday last an inquest was held before T. M. Phillips, Coroner, at the QUEENS ARMS, Wellington Street, on the body of Thomas Price, aged thirty-four years, of Caledonia Street, Bilston, who fell down dead whilst working in one of the pits in the Lunt Colliery on Wednesday last. The Jury returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/5/1862

"Mr. *Charles Wright*, the landlord of the QUEENS ARMS HOTEL, Bilston, was charged at the Police Court, yesterday, with having his house open at illegal hours last Sunday morning. The case was fully proved, and the defendant ordered to pay costs."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/10/1862

"At Bilston Police court, on Friday, a man named Seth White was charged with having stolen several billiard balls from a public house at West Bromwich, kept by a Mr. George W. Bayley, where the prisoner had been employed as a billiard marker in the billiard-room. He suddenly disappeared from Mr. Bayley's a few weeks ago, and as it appears afterwards obtained a similar post, as billiard marker, at the house of Mr. *Wright*, the QUEENS ARMS public house, in Bilston. He sold the balls he had stolen from West Bromwich to Mr. *Wright*, and after remaining in his new situation a few days he again absconded, and after he had gone a silk dress belonging to Mrs. *Wright* was missing. Information was given to the police, and they succeeded in apprehending the prisoner a few days ago, and evidence was now brought forward to show that he had been dealing with the dress above referred to shortly after he left his situation at the QUEENS ARMS. This formed a second charge against him. He pleaded guilty to both charges, and was sentenced to two months' imprisonment for each offence."

Birmingham Daily Post 8/1/1863 - Advert

"Wanted, a respectable young Person, with good reference, as Barmaid and Waitress.

Apply at Mr. *Wright's*, QUEENS ARMS HOTEL, Bilston."

WANTED, a respectable young Person, with good reference, as BARMAID and WAITRESS.—Apply at Mr. Wright's, Queen's Arms Hotel, Bilston.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 3/10/1863 - Advert

"Wanted, a Commission in Cigars, &c, by a respectable Man representing a first-class London firm in the Wine Trade.

Address, X., QUEENS ARMS, Bilston."

WANTED, a COMMISSION IN CIGARS, &c., by a respectable Man representing a first-class London firm in the Wine Trade.—Address, X., Queen's Arms, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/1/1864 - Advert

"Wanted, a General Female Servant for a respectable Hotel, between 20 and 25 years of age.

Apply at QUEENS ARMS HOTEL, Bilston."

WANTED, a GENERAL FEMALE SERVANT for a respectable Hotel, between 20 and 25 years of age.—Apply at Queen's Arms Hotel, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 23/10/1865 - Advert

"Wanted, a respectable young Person, as Barmaid and Waitress.

Apply, personally, at the QUEENS ARMS HOTEL, Bilston."

WANTED, a respectable young Person, as BARMAID and WAITRESS.—Apply, personally, at the Queen's Arms Hotel, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/5/1866

"Yesterday, before the Stipendiary, Mr. *Wright*, of the QUEENS ARMS, Wolverhampton Road, Bilston, was fined 1s, it being his first offence, for permitting drunkenness and fighting in his house, the QUEENS ARMS INN."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/8/1866 - Advert

"Billiard, Billiards. To be Sold, bargain, having two, an excellent Billiard Table. Price, £25.

Apply, QUEENS ARMS HOTEL, Bilston."

BILLIARDS, BILLIARDS —To be SOLD, bargain, having two, an excellent BILLIARD TABLE. Price, £25.—Apply, Queen's Arms Hotel, Bilston.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1866

“The annual meeting for the renewal of existing licenses, and for receiving applications for fresh ones, was held at the Police Court, on Friday.....

At the commencement of the proceedings, the Superintendent of Police presented the following report.

Bilston Division, August 31, 1866.

‘I beg to submit to the Magistrates the attached list of licensed victuallers who have been complained against during the year. Twenty-five have been convicted, and three have paid costs; one had been convicted three times, and five convicted twice. This is a large increase on last year’s list; but I think it has arisen from the police being more particular in reporting cases of permitting drunkenness – as it was found to be an evil rather on the increase. I believe it has caused landlords to be more careful in supplying drink to persons intoxicated.’

H. McCrea, Superintendent.

Black List.....

Charles Wright, QUEENS ARMS, Wellington Street, Bilston License renewed.”

1871 Census

25, Wellington Road – QUEENS ARMS

[1] *Charles Woodin* (42), innkeeper, born Towcester, Northamptonshire;

[2] *Ellen Cecilia Woodin* (42), wife, born Binfield, Berkshire;

[3] *Esther Jane Deller* (73), mother-in-law, farmer’s widow, born Binfield, Berkshire;

[4] *Charles Frederick Estall* (12), nephew, born Birmingham;

[5] *Emma Greenfield* (15), domestic servant, born Wolverhampton:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 7/10/1875 - Advert

“To Hotel Proprietors, Publicans and Others.

Important and Unreserved Sale, under the Bill of Sale.

Messrs. J. Morrell and Son, have received instructions to Sell by Auction, upon the premises of the QUEENS ARMS INN, Wellington Street, Bilston, on Friday Next, October 8th, 1875.

The whole of the Superior Household Furniture, Stock-in-Trade, Public House Fixtures, and other Effects, consisting of drawing-room suite, in rosewood and velvet; mahogany-framed sofa, mahogany sideboard, large birch-framed dining table, large dining table, large pier glass, in gilt frame; Oil Paintings, in gilt frames; Water-colour Drawings, prints, in gilt and other frames; mahogany bar tables, splendid Pianoforte, in walnut, by J. Durrant; arm chairs, eight-day clock, Windsor and cane-seated chairs, capital parrot and cage, cornice pole and rings, Venetian blinds, four-post bedsteads, with cornicing; iron French and other bedsteads, feather beds, palliasses, bed linen, large toilet glasses, birch and painted toilet tables, mahogany chest of drawers, mahogany cabinet washstand, bar fittings, consisting of seating round room, covered in leather; metal-top table, six-pull beer machine, glass shelves, liquor cupboard, ale, wine, and spirit glasses; decanters, two excellent Billiard Tables, with marking board, pool marker, cues and cue stands, balls, &c. The Stock-in-Trade comprises champagne, port, and sherry wines, gin, whisky, ale, &c; bay Mare, Dog-cart, and harness; together with other numerous Effects, described in catalogues, to be obtained at the place of Sale, at the Office of the Auctioneers, Swan Bank, Bilston; at the Office of the *Daily Post*, Birmingham; at the Offices of the *Chronicle* and *Express*, Wolverhampton; or post free on application.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/8/1878 - Advert

“Bilston. To be Disposed of by private treaty, the Licenses, Goodwill, Fixtures, Stock-in-Trade of that well-known Hotel, the QUEENS ARMS INN, Bilston.

Apply, J. Morrell and Son, Auctioneers, Bilston.”

BILSTON.—To be Disposed of by private treaty, the Licenses, Goodwill, Fixtures, Stock-in-Trade of that well-known Hotel, the Queen's Arms Inn, Bilston.—Apply, J. Morrell and Son, Auctioneers, Bilston.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 31/8/1878

“Bilston Annual Licensing Sessions.....

The following is the list of licensed victuallers and beerhouse keepers who had been summoned during the year for offences against the Licensing Act Licensed victuallers.....

Samuel Thomas, QUEENS ARMS, Wellington Street, Bilston, permitting drunkenness, 2nd August, 1878, fined 5s and the costs.”

AND

Wolverhampton Express and Star 21/9/1878

"The Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

The persons who had been convicted during the last twelve months for offences against their licenses, the renewals of which were withheld until today, now appeared before the Bench, and there being no further complaint as to the conduct of their houses in the interval the magistrates granted the renewals."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/5/1879

"During the night of the 25th, or in the morning of the 26th March last, the booking office of the Great Western Railway Station at Tipton was broken into and two five pound Bank of England notes, £5 3s 6d in cash, two bags and a timepiece were carried off. On the 27th March the two notes were passed within an hour or so to two clothiers in Birmingham residing within a few doors of each other. One of these notes it has been discovered was given for a suit of clothes by *Samuel Thomas*, landlord of the QUEENS ARMS INN, Wellington Road, Bilston, and this circumstance, connected with certain contradictory statements which have been made, has induced the railway detectives who have the case in hand to obtain a warrant, and Mr. *Thomas* was arrested on Friday afternoon by Inspector Evans, of the Bilston division. Later on in the evening he was taken before Mr. W. H. Rogers, one of the county justices at Wolverhampton, where he was charged with breaking and entering the Tipton station on the date mentioned above and stealing the two notes and other articles. The prisoner was admitted to bail, and is to appear before the Bilston magistrates on Friday next."

Walsall Advertiser 15/3/1881 - Advert

"Very powerful Cart Horse; master of great weight, back or draw 3 tons; been used to shafts or chains. Sold for no fault, having no further use for it. Would take 16 guineas, and give warranty with it and a week's trial. Apply, QUEENS ARMS HOTEL, Wellington Street, near Railway Station, Bilston, Staffordshire."

1881 Census

Wellington Street

[1] *Walter Dovey* (29), commission agent, born Kidderminster;

[2] *Polley Dovey* (20), wife, born Stourbridge;

[3] *Ada Young* (15), niece, born Stourbridge:

VERY powerful CART HORSE; master of great weight, back or draw 3 tons; been used to shafts or chains. Sold for no fault, having no further use for it. Would take 16 guineas, and give warranty with it and a weeks' trial.—Apply, Queen's Arms Hotel, Wellington Street, near Railway Station, Bilston, Staffordshire.

Darlaston Weekly Times 12/8/1882 - Advert

"QUEENS ARMS HOTEL, Wellington Street, Bilston.

George Walker, junior, late of the Bulls Head Hotel, Wellington, begs to notify that he has taken to the above House, and having laid in an Entire new Stock of Choice Ales, Wines, and Spirits, of the Finest Quality, will be glad to be favoured with the patronage and support of the Inhabitants of the Town and surrounding Neighbourhood."

Darlaston Weekly Times 5/5/1883 - Advert

"QUEENS ARMS HOTEL, Bilston.

Mr. *G. Walker* begs to return thanks to his numerous friends and customers for their generous support during the winter season, and hopes to merit a continuance of their favours.

The Large Room will be open for Dancing, as usual, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays.

Dancing to commence each evening at 8.0 prompt.

Conductor, Mr. Edwards. Pianist, Mr. Clements. Violinist, Mr. Emberton.

During Whit-week the room will be open each evening, except Friday.

A choice stock of Ales, Wines, Spirits, and Cigars."

QUEEN'S ARMS HOTEL, BILSTON.

MR. G. WALKER

Begs to return thanks to his numerous friends and customers for their generous support during the winter season, and hopes to merit a continuance of their favours.

THE LARGE ROOM

Will be open for Dancing, as usual, on MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, & SATURDAYS. Dancing to commence each evening, at 8.0 prompt.

Conductor MR. EDWARDS.

Pianist MR. CLEMENTS.

Violinist MR. EMBERTON.

During Whit-week the room will be open each evening, except Friday.

A choice stock of ALES, WINES, SPIRITS, AND CIGARS.

Birmingham Daily Post 4/4/1884 - Advert

“QUEENS ARMS HOTEL, Bilston; perfectly free; doing splendid rapidly increasing trade. Large dancing classes regularly held. Nice little house. Every convenience. In-going very low. Grand opportunity. Mr. T. Stephens, Hotel Valuer, Worcester.”

QUEENS Arms Hotel, Bilston; perfectly free; doing splendid rapidly increasing trade. Large dancing classes regularly held. Nice little house. Every convenience. In-going very low. Grand opportunity.—Mr. T. Stephens, Hotel Valuer, Worcester.

Midlands Evening News 16/4/1884 - Advert

“The QUEENS ARMS INN, Wellington Street, Bilston.

Mr. Thomas Skidmore is in receipt of instructions to sell by auction, without reserve, on the above premises in the occupation of Mr. *George Walker*, the whole of the Public House Fixtures and Effects, comprising in the spirit vault, fixed and loose seats, with stuffed backs; mahogany and oblong drinking tables, 8-day English timepiece, 6-pull ale machine, with stop taps and piping, 8-tap spirit fountain, piping, taps and barrels, metal drainer, measures, funnels, ranging, glass shelving, mahogany top counter, with fittings, counter at back, half glazed door, jugs, cups, glasses, bottles, window blinds, gas fittings and piping, 30 gallons wines and spirits, 250 gallons ale, several boxes of cigars etc. The smoke room fittings are 11 birch arm smoking chairs, capital mahogany table, another oblong table, chimney glass, oil cloth, Windsor chairs etc. The other public house effects, comprise 3 table tops, seats with backs, slate bottom bagatelle board, full size, with balls and cues, set of skittles and bowls, in good condition; outside lamp and ironwork etc, also an assortment of household furniture.....”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 16/1/1885 - Advert

“A Dancing Class will be held at the QUEENS ARMS HOTEL, Wellington Street, Bilston, on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday evenings.”

A Dancing Class will be held at the Queen's Arms Hotel, Wellington-street, Bilston, on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday evenings.

Alfred Oswin G. Stone died in the 3rd quarter of 1885.

Darlaston Weekly Times 19/9/1885

“We have to record the death of Mr. *Alfred Osborne Gartside Stone*, late of the QUEENS ARMS HOTEL, Lichfield Street, Bilston. Mr. *Stone*, who is a native of the neighbourhood of Wednesbury, when quite a young man went out to the Colonies, where he remained until some three months ago. His health then failing he was advised by his medical attendant to return to England to try the effect of his native air. He thereupon took his residence in Bilston, where he was attended by Dr. Larkin. This did not, however, produce the desired change, and he died on the 2nd inst, leaving a widow and six children to mourn his loss. The body was interred on the 5th, at Wednesbury Cemetery, where several of the deceased gentleman's friends are buried. Mr. George Edwards supplied the oak coffin.”

AND

Darlaston Weekly Times 4/9/1886

“We have received an interesting letter from Mrs. *Stone*, the second person of that name who occupied the QUEENS ARMS, announcing her safe arrival, with her family, at Timarn, in New Zealand. Mrs. *Stone*, some year and a half ago, kept the leading hotel, which is her own property, in Timarn, and made a voyage to this country on the recommendation of a medical practitioner, with a view to the restoration of her husband's health. The voyage was of temporary benefit only, and the late Mr. *Stone* died in Bilston within a few months of his arrival in this country. After enjoying so long the more genial climate of New Zealand, and the greater facilities of doing remunerative business which exist in colonial communities, Mrs. *Stone* found residence in England unattractive, and so she shipped berths for herself and family in one of the P and O's steamers in May last, and as we now learn has reached her destination.....”

Darlaston Weekly Times 19/6/1886 - Advert

“Sale by Messrs. Morrell and Sons. Tuesday Next, June 22nd, 1886.

Unreserved Clearing out Sale of Capital Public House Fittings and Fixtures, Household Furniture, License, and Effects.

QUEENS ARMS INN, Wellington Street, Bilston.

Messrs. J. Morrell and Sons are instructed by Mrs. *Mary Ann Richards*, who has taken to another business, to Sell by Auction, upon the premises, on Tuesday Next, June, 22nd, the whole of the capital public house Fittings and trade Utensils, comprising Eleven polished birch smoke room Chairs, tall back Screens, fixed seatings, Partitions, gas fittings, rail-back Benches, upholstered in leather, ledged Forms, oblong deal and mahogany drinking Tables, mahogany-top panelled Counter, with shelving and drawers, excellent six-pull beer Machine, piping and taps, eight-tap spirit Fountain, ranges of bottle and glass Shelving, Measures, Jugs, Glasses, &c, &c.

The modern Household Furniture, massive mahogany dining Table, mahogany-framed Sofas, in hair and leather, chimney Glasses, in gilt and rosewood, Prints, Oleographs and Engravings, mahogany-case eight-day Clock, mahogany-frame Chairs, deal and mahogany Tables, easy Chairs, strong brass-mounted iron French Bedsteads, Mattresses, handsome birch a-la-duchesse toilet and wash Stands, mahogany chest of Drawers, cane-seated Chairs, Fenders, fire irons, and the usual kitchen and culinary effects.

Sale at 11am prompt.

Auction and Valuation Offices, Swan Bank, Bilston.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 16/10/1886 - Advert

“The QUEENS ARMS, Wellington Road, will be opened on Thursday Nest, October 21st, 1886.

William Scott.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 23/10/1886 - Advert

“*William Scott*, our Old and Respected Townsman, has reopened the QUEENS ARMS, Wellington Road, Bilston, after extensive alterations.

Splendid Billiard Room, fitted with every comfort.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 14/1/1887

“On Monday evening a customer in the back smoke room of the QUEENS ARMS INN, Bilston, after lighting his pipe flung the light behind him as he thought into the fire grate. It, however, accidentally caught some hangings on the mantle-shelf which instantly ignited. Had it not been for the prompt assistance rendered by the inmates of the room serious consequences might have ensued. As it was, slight damage was done.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 11/3/1887 - Advert

“Bilston Town Cricket and Football Club.

A Grand Concert will be held at the Town Hall, Bilston, on March 17th, 1887.....

Tickets may be obtained from Mr. *W. Scott*, QUEENS ARMS HOTEL, Wellington Street.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 1/4/1887 - Advert

“To Let, a house in Shale Street, Bilston, with green house and garden.

Apply, *W. Scott*, QUEENS ARMS HOTEL, Bilston.”

1891 Census

13, Wellington Street – QUEENS ARMS

[1] *William Scott* (60), publican, born Bilston;

[2] *Hannah Scott* (50), wife, born Bloxwich;

[3] *Herbert Scott* (24), son, bricklayer, born Bilston;

[4] *Deborah Badger* (25), niece, general servant, born Bloxwich;

[5] *Kate Banks* (23), general servant, born Bilston:

William Scott was also a builder. [1892], [1896]

1901 Census

10, Wellington Road – QUEENS ARMS INN

- [1] Mary Jones (58), widow, hotel keeper, born Birmingham;
- [2] Helen Jones (26), visitor, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] Mary Shore (19), domestic servant, born Brierley Hill:

Birmingham Daily Post 28/4/1906

“Mr. T. H. Stokes held an inquest yesterday at the QUEENS ARMS, Bilston, touching the death of Horace Bowen (26), Wellington Road, Bilston, who inflicted fatal injuries upon himself with a razor at his home on the 25th inst. The deceased was the organist at St. Luke’s Church, Bilston, and had resided with his widowed mother and his brothers. Mr. Roland Tildesley, of Willenhall represented the relatives of the deceased.

Mr. K. Bowen stated that on the 17th inst his brother cut his throat with a razor in his bedroom. Several stitches were sewn in the wound. Satisfactory progress was made, the deceased keeping to his bed until Wednesday afternoon last, when he went downstairs and played the piano. Later in the evening, witness stated, the maid went upstairs and asked the deceased if he required anything. He replied, ‘No,’ and his voice was then very weak. The witness then went into the bedroom and found his brother in an armchair. He said, ‘Don’t worry, I’ve done it properly this time. I’ll do it again.’ Death took place a few minutes later.

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

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/9/1910

“John Davies, aged 27, alias Simeon Raistrick, who said he came from Bradford, was charged with stealing money. He went into the bar of the QUEENS ARMS INN, Wellington Street, Bilston, and sat down without asking for refreshment. A few minutes afterwards the landlord went into another room, and on returning he saw the prisoner leaning over the counter and taking money from the till. He seized him and made him drop 1s 6d from his hand and ordered him to leave. The prisoner soon afterwards was seen by Walter Carson trying to force his way into a house and told him to desist. Prisoner then went up an entry, Carson following him. Prisoner next got on to a wall and was seized by Carson, and they both fell into an ashpit. Police-constable Wright arrived on the scene and arrested prisoner, on whom 3s 9d was found. He stated that he had been trying to earn a living and that ‘he would lose nine months ticket of leave.’ He was committed for trial at the Staffordshire Quarter sessions.”

Evening Despatch 19/10/1910

“Staffordshire Sessions.....

John Davies (29), labourer, alias Simeon Raistrick, for theft of 4s from *Griffith Evans* at Bilston, was sentenced to six months’ imprisonment.”

1911 Census

10, Wellington Road – QUEENS ARMS

- [1] *Griffith Evans* (41), licensed victualler, born Guilsfield, Montgomeryshire;
- [2] Charlotte Evans (37), wife, married 12 years, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] Griffith Walter Evans (10), son, born Bilston;
- [4] Edgar Evans (6), son, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] Frederick William Evans (3), son, born Bilston:

1921 Census

10, Wellington Road

- [1] *Griffith Evans* (52), licensed victualler, born Middletown, Montgomery;
- [2] Charlotte Evans (47), wife, household duties, born Heath Town;
- [3] Edgar Evans (17), son, clerk, GWR goods department, born Heath Town;
- [4] Frederick Evans (13), son, school, born Bilston:

Dudley Chronicle 8/11/1923

“The popular winter pastime of football has always claimed many adherents at Bilston, and the townspeople have always had the advantage of seeing it played under very favourable auspices. Formerly there were two clubs – the Bilston Town FC, and the Bilston Athletic – running as very competitive interests. On occasions when the two clubs met, probably in one or other of the cup competitions, very keen local rivalry existed, not only between the players themselves, but amongst their respective supporters and admirers. In the background was another club which continued many years, this being known as the Bilston Wanderers The Town and Athletic Clubs at length came to realise they could not run as separate organisations, and in 1893 a meeting was held at the club-house – the QUEENS ARMS INN, Wellington Road – and the outcome was the birth of the present Bilston United, each club agreeing to give equal support to the new combination. For a season they ran as a non-Association club, but in 1894-5 the joined the Association and were elected to the Walsall League.....”

1939 Register

10, Wellington Road

[1] Marion J. Richardson, date of birth 4/10/1873, licensed victualler and licensee, single;

[2] Harriet Brooks, dob 2/5/1901, assistant in bar and housework, single:

Marion Jane Richardson – see also WHITE LION, Millfields Road.

It was renamed HAWKS BAR in 2000.

[2007]

Closed [2008]

It reopened as the B4 BAR. [2009]

It was renamed NEW QUEENS ARMS. [2009]

Closed

It was converted into housing. [2012]

QUEEN'S ARMS, BILSTON.—NOTICE.—
CHARLES WRIGHT, late of the Fountain Inn, New Street, Birmingham, and formerly of the Coach and Horses Inn, Wolverhampton, begs to inform his Friends and the Public in general, that he has taken the above-named well-known Inn, where he provides a good Ordinary every day at quarter-past One o'clock, charge 1s. Home-brewed Ale; every Article of the very best Quality; the right man in the right place, and Wright at Home. N.B.—Stabling and Coach-house.

SHAKSPERE'S BIRTH-DAY.

NOTICE.

THE ANNUAL DINNER will take place, in celebration of this great event, at the Queen's Arms Inn, Bilston, on WEDNESDAY, April 25th, 1860. Tickets 5s., including Dessert. As a large party is expected early application for Tickets is very desirable. Dinner on table at Five o'clock precisely.

614

CHARLES WRIGHT, Host.

QUEEN'S ARMS HOTEL,



COMMERCIAL AND FAMILY,
Wellington Street, BILSTON, Staffordshire,
CHAS. WRIGHT, PROPRIETOR.

C. W. begs most respectfully to inform COMMERCIAL GENTLEMEN, FAMILIES, and TOURISTS visiting, or on Commercial Business, that they will find first-class accommodation at the above Hotel, now the only one in Bilston kept entirely as an Hotel, and, whilst the charges are moderate, every attention will be paid to their comfort and convenience.

PRIVATE DINNERS PROVIDED. ORDINARIES EVERY DAY AT A QUARTER PAST ONE
Billiard Room. Private Sitting Rooms, &c. Wines and Spirits of superior quality.
N.B.—The above Hotel is in the Town, situated in an open and healthy locality.

1862

DEPARTMENT, EXERCISES, AND DANCING.

M. R. HILE begs to announce his intention to RE-ASSEMBLE his CLASSES for INSTRUCTION and PRACTICE at the new and spacious Assembly Room, Queen's Hotel, Wellington Street, Bilston, on WEDNESDAY, October 3rd. Terms obtained from the Hotel, or Mr. Hile's Residence, Dudley Road, where also his Pupils attend for Instruction privately, or in Classes, on the Tuesday and Friday in each week.

N.B.—Schools and Families attended.

Dudley Road, Wolverhampton, September, 1860.

1860

TO HOTEL PROPRIETORS, PUBLICANS, and Others.—
Important and Unreserved Sale, under Bill of Sale.

MESSRS. J. MORRELL and SON have received instructions to SELL by AUCTION, upon the premises of the QUEEN'S ARMS INN, WELLINGTON STREET, BILSTON, on FRIDAY NEXT, October 8th, 1875, the whole of the Superior HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, Stock-in-Trade, Public-House Fixtures, and other Effects, consisting of drawing-room suite, in rosewood and velvet; mahogany-framed sofa, mahogany sideboard, large birch-framed dining table, large dining table, large pier glass, in gilt frame; Oil Paintings, in gilt frames; Water-colour Drawings, prints, in gilt and other frames; mahogany bar tables, splendid Pianoforte, in walnut, by J. Durrant; arm chairs, eight-day clock, Windsor and cane-seated chairs, capital parrot and cage, cornice pole and rings, Venetian blinds, four-post bedsteads, with cornicing; iron French and other bedsteads, feather beds, palliasses, bed linen, large toilet glasses, birch and painted toilet tables, mahogany chest of drawers, mahogany cabinet washstand, bar fittings, consisting of seating round room, covered in leather; metal-top table, six-pull beer machine, glass shelves, liquor cupboard, ale, wine, and spirit glasses; decanters, two excellent Billiard Tables, with marking board, pool marker, cues and cue stands, balls, &c. The Stock-in-Trade comprises champagne, port, and sherry wines, gin, whisky, ale, &c.; bay Mare, Dog-cart, and harness; together with other numerous Effects, described in catalogues, to be obtained at the place of Sale, at the Office of the AUCTIONEERS, Swan Bank, Bilston; at the Office of the *Daily Post*, Birmingham; at the Offices of the *Chronicle* and *Express*, Wolverhampton; or post free on application.

1875

QUEEN'S ARMS HOTEL, WELLINGTON STREET, BILSTON.

GEORGE WALKER, JUNR.,

Late of the Bull's Head Hotel, Wellington, begs to notify that he has taken to the above House, and having laid in an Entire new Stock of

CHOICE ALES, WINES, AND SPIRITS,
OF THE FINEST QUALITY,

Will be glad to be favoured with the patronage and support of the Inhabitants of the Town and surrounding Neighbourhood.

1882

SALE BY MESSRS. MORRELL & SONS

TUESDAY NEXT, JUNE 22nd., 1886.

Unreserved Clearing out Sale of Capital Public House, Fittings and Fixtures, Household Furniture, Licenses, and Eff. etc.

QUEEN'S ARMS INN, WELLINGTON ST., BILSTON.

MESSRS. J. MORRELL AND SONS are instructed by Mrs. Mary Ann Richards, who has taken to another business, TO SELL BY AUCTION, upon the premises, on Tuesday Next, June 22nd, the whole of the capital public house Fittings and trade Utensils, comprising, Eleven polished birch smoke room Chairs, tall back Screens, fixed seatings, Partitions, gas fittings, rail-back Benches, upholstered in leather, ledged Forms, oblong deal and mahogany drinking Tables, mahogany-top panelled Counter, with shelving and drawers, excellent six-pull beer Machine, piping and taps, eight-tap spirit Fountain, ranges of bottle and glass Shelving, Measures, Jugs, Glasses, &c., &c. The modern

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,

massive mahogany dining Table, mahogany-framed Sofas, in hair and leather, chimney Glasses, in gilt and rosewood, Prints, Olographs and Engravings, mahogany-case eight-day Clock, mahogany-frame Chairs, deal and mahogany Tables, easy Chairs, strong brass-mounted iron French Bedsteads, Mattresses, handsome birch e-la-ductee toilet and wash Stands mahogany chest of Drawers, cane-seated Chairs, Fenders, fire irons, and the usual kitchen and culinary effects.

Sale at 11 a.m. prompt

Auction and Valuation Offices, Swan Bank, Bilston

THE QUEEN'S ARMS, WELLINGTON ROAD,

Will be opened on

THURSDAY NEXT, OCTOBER 21st, 1886.

WILLIAM SCOTT.

WILLIAM SCOTT,
OUR OLD AND RESPECTED TOWNSMAN,
HAS REOPENED

the Queen's Arms, Wellington Road, Bilston, after extensive alterations.

SPLENDID BILLIARD ROOM,
fitted with every comfort.

1886

RAILWAY

3, (5), Brook Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

William Barnett, butcher, Bilston
Mary Ann Taylor, Perton Court, Wolverhampton
Richard Andrew Harper, brewer, Bilston
R. A. Harper Ltd., Hall Park Brewery, Bilston [1921]
Eley's Stafford Brewery Ltd.
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1930]

LICENSEES

James Davenall [1860] – [1868]
Thomas Harrison [] – **1870**;
Joseph Cooper **(1870 – 1881)**;
Samuel Gaunt **(1881 – 1893)**;
Alfred Hall **(1893 – 1897)**;
Sarah Hyde **(1897 – 1898)**;
William Briggs **(1898 – 1930)**;

LOT 3.—A FREEHOLD PUBLIC HOUSE and PREMISES, in Brook Street, known by the sign of "THE RAILWAY TAVERN," with two Brewhouses, Yard, and Outbuildings, in the occupation of Mr. James Davenall.

1867

NOTES

5, Brook Street [1861], [1868], [1871], [1881], [1891]
3, Brook Street [1901], [1911], [1921]

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

James Davenall = James Davenhall = James Devenall = James Devenhall

Birmingham Daily Post 12/12/1860 - Advert

"To Hairdressers.

To be Let, with immediate possession, an Old-established Shop, in Oxford Street, Bilston.

Apply to *James Davenall*, RAILWAY TAVERN, Brook Street, Bilston."

[In the 1851 census *James Davenall* is a hairdresser in Oxford Street.]

TO HAIRDRESSERS.
TO be LET, with immediate possession, an Old-established SHOP, in Oxford Street, Bilston—Apply to James Davenall, Railway Tavern, Brook Street, Bilston.

1861 Census

5, Brook Street

- [1] *James Davenhall* (41), publican, born London;
- [2] *Mary Davenhall* (38), wife, born Shropshire;
- [3] *Henry Davenhall* (18), son, born Bilston;
- [4] *Bessy Edwards* (18), general servant, born Shropshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/8/1861 - Advert

"Freehold Investment, in Temple Street, Bilston.

Mr. S. Powell will Sell by Auction, on Tuesday next, the 27th day of August, 1861, at the house of Mr. *James Davenall*, RAILWAY TAVERN, Brook Street, Bilston, at six o'clock in the evening....."

James Davenall, retailer of beer, Brook Street. [1862]

James Davenall, beer retailer, Brook Street. [1865]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 25/5/1867 - Advert

"Sale of Valuable Property, in Bilston.

Mr. Thomas Richards will Offer for Sale by Auction, on Tuesday, the 11th day of June next, at the GREAT WESTERN INN, Hall Street, Bilston, at Six o'clock in the evening.....

Lot 3. A Freehold Public House and Premises, in Brook Street, known by the sign of the RAILWAY TAVERN, with two Brewhouses, Yard, and Outbuildings, in the occupation of Mr. *James Davenall*."

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/12/1867

"The following cases of accidental injury were brought to the South Staffordshire Hospital, Wolverhampton, on Tuesday night.....

William Acock, who, while standing on a pair of steps cleaning the shop windows of a publican named *Davenall*, fell down and broke his leg."

James Davenall, beer retailer, 5, Brook Street. [1868]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/8/1869

"The annual licensing meeting for the Bilston division took place yesterday, at the Police Court.....

The following beerhouse keepers had been fined during the past five years.....

For keeping open during prohibited hours *James Devenhall*, RAILWAY TAVERN, Brook Street, Bilston, to pay costs."

James Davenall – see also TOWN HALL STORES.

1871 Census

5, Brook Street – RAILWAY TAVERN

[1] *Joseph Cooper* (57), beerhouse keeper, born West Bromwich;

[2] *Phoebe Cooper* (50), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *William Cooper* (24), son, forge labourer, born Bilston;

[4] *Samuel Cooper* (22), son, moulder, iron works, born Bilston;

[5] *Edwin Cooper* (19), son, bundler, iron works, born Bilston;

[6] *Elijah Cooper* (15), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[7] *Joseph Cooper* (9), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[8] *Alfred Cooper* (5), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[9] *Selina Cooper* (17), daughter, born Bilston;

[10] *Edward Pugh* (12), grand-son, scholar, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/9/1877

"The annual licensing sessions for the Bilston division were held at the Public Office, Bilston, yesterday.....

The black list was as follows Beersellers.....

Joseph Cooper, RAILWAY INN, Brook Street, permitting drunkenness, 20s and costs.....

The whole of the licenses in the 'black list,' it was stated, would be held over until the adjourned sessions."

[Renewed with a caution at the adjourned licensing sessions.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/3/1877

"At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *Samuel Gaunt*, lodging at the RAILWAY INN, Brook Street, Bilston, was charged with working a horse in an unfit state and while the animal was suffering from illness, on the 3rd inst. Defendant said Mr. Hackwood, veterinary surgeon, of Wednesbury, had told him last December to work the horse; it would do it good. The magistrates refused to believe anything of the kind, and sentenced the defendant to pay a fine of 40s and costs, or to suffer six weeks' hard labour."

AND

Wolverhampton Express and Star 14/3/1877

".....*Samuel Gaunt*, general dealer, Brook Street, Bilston, was fined 40s and costs, or six weeks' imprisonment. He pleaded that he had had the horse in the stables for three months, and that he had only recently taken it out again by the orders of the veterinary surgeon."

1881 Census

5, Brook Street – RAILWAY INN

- [1] *Samuel Gaunt* (27), publican and general dealer, born Bilston;
- [2] *Selina Gaunt* (28), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Agnes Gaunt* (2), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] *Samuel Gaunt* (1), son, born Bilston;
- [5] *Selina Gaunt* (8 months), daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] *Frederick Curtis* (19), servant, born Bilston;
- [7] *Alfred Cooper* (15), servant, born Bilston;
- [8] *Isaac Morgan* (15), servant, born Willenhall:

1891 Census

5, Brook Street – RAILWAY INN

- [1] *Samuel Gaunt* (37), general dealer and publican, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Selina Gaunt* (36), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Agnes Gaunt* (12), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] *Samuel Gaunt* (11), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] *Selina Gaunt* (10), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] *Mary Gaunt* (9), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] *Edith Gaunt* (5), daughter, scholar, born Bilston:

1901 Census

3, Brook Street

- [1] *William Briggs* (34), tube grinder, iron works, born Birmingham;
- [2] *Mary A. Briggs* (29), wife, born Bilston:

William Briggs, beer retailer, Brook Street. [1904]

1911 Census

3, Brook Street

- [1] *William Briggs* (44), tube worker, born Birmingham;
- [2] *Mary Ann Briggs* (39), wife, married 14 years, assisting in business, born Bilston:

1921 Census

3, Brook Street

- [1] *William Briggs* (55), licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *Mary Ann Briggs* (49), wife, home duties, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/3/1930

“At the adjourned annual Licensing Sessions yesterday of the Bilston Division four houses were referred for compensation on the grounds of redundancy....

Of the RAILWAY INN, Brook Street, Bilston, it was stated that the trade averaged two barrels of beer a week and two dozen bottles.”

License refused by Compensation Authority, on the ground of redundancy, on 28th July 1930.

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/8/1930 - Notice

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

Notice as to sending in Claims to be treated as Persons Interested in Licensed Premises.

Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Compensation Authority for the above area, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on the 28th day of July, 1930, to Refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below.....

RAILWAY INN, Bilston. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *William Briggs*. Registered Owner, *William Butler & Co.*”

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/1/1931

“County Quarter Sessions Report of the County Licensing Committee for 1930.....

At the Principal Meeting of the Compensation Authority, on July 28, 14 licenses out of 16 referred were refused, and at the Supplemental Meeting the committee fixed the compensation sums as follows.....

RAILWAY INN, Bilston, beerhouse, ante 1869, £1,275.”

Compensation of £1,275 was paid on 20th December 1930.

RAILWAY

4, Hill Street, (64, Hall Street), (Queen Street), Hallfields, Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

Samuel Holloway
Francis Light, blacksmith, Burslem
Samuel Salt, brewer, Dudley
Chater and Co., brewers, Wolverhampton
J. and J. Yardley and Co. Ltd.
The Old Wolverhampton Breweries Ltd.
Frank Myatt Ltd. [1921]
Ansells Ltd.

LICENSEES

John Richards [1840] – [1842]
Samuel Holloway [1843] – [1860]
Mrs. Sarah Holloway [1861] – **1868**;
John Baker **(1868 – 1870)**;
Samuel Holloway Leech **(1870 – 1886)**;
Thomas Butler **(1886 – 1892)**;
Mrs. Eliza Butler **(1892 – 1921)**;
James Brown **(1921)**;
Frederick Cowerne **(1921 – 1923)**;
Joseph Challenger **(1923 – 1929)**;
Samuel Higgins **(1929 – 1933)**;
Harry Richards **(1933 – 1937)**;
George Henry 'Harry' Percival **(1937 – [1940])**
Leonard John 'Len' Hunt []

ELIGIBLE MESSUAGES AND PREMISES,
At HIGHFIELDS, SEDGLEY, and HALL FIELDS, BILSTON,
In the County of STAFFORD.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY Mr. H. W. GREATER, at the house of Mr.
John Light, the Beehive Inn, Highfields, in the parish of
Sedgley, in the county of Stafford, on FRIDAY, the 18th day of
June, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be
read.
Lot 1.—All that Old-established PUBLIC-HOUSE, known by
the sign of "THE BEEHIVE INN," situate fronting the road leading
from Ladymoor to Bradley, and near the Canal Bridge at High-
fields, in the said parish of Sedgley, now in the occupation of John
Light.
Also all that other MESSAGE or DWELLING HOUSE,
adjoining on one side to a Messuage and Premises belonging to Mr.
Francis Light, and fronting the said road, leading from Ladymoor
to Bradley, now in the occupation of Mary Higgins.
Also those Two MESSUAGES and PREMISES, Plot of LAND
or Garden Ground, and IRONFOUNDRY, situate in the rear of
the before-mentioned Dwelling Houses, and now or late in the occu-
pation of George Leadbetter and others.
Lot 2.—All that small Plot of LAND situate at Hallfields afore-
said, on the other side of the said road leading from Ladymoor
to Bradley, with the Building standing thereon, and now unten-
anted.
Lot 3.—All that PUBLIC HOUSE, known by the sign of the
"RAILWAY TAVERN," situate at Hallfields, in the township of Bilston
aforesaid, with Yard, Stabling, and Out-buildings thereto belong-
ing now in the occupation of Mrs. Holloway, at the annual
rental of £18.
To view the Premises, apply to the respective tenants, and for
further particulars at the Offices of Messrs. Mason and Holmes,
Solicitors, Bilston; or to the Auctioneers, Willenhall.

1868

NOTES

Queen Street [1851], [1860]
64, Hall Street [1861], [1871], [1881], [1891]
4, Hill Street [1904], [1911], [1916], [1921], [1932], [1940]

RAILWAY TAVERN [1862], [1864], [1865], [1868], [1871], [1873], [1881], [1896], [1908], [1932], [1946]
RAILWAY INN [1940]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/9/1840

"An adjourned meeting of Magistrates was held on Friday at the Public Office, for the purpose of considering the applications for public house licenses, and new licenses were granted to the following applicants.....
John Richards, Hall Fields, Bilston."

Samuel Holloway was also a boat builder.

Staffordshire Advertiser 28/10/1843

“The Matters of the Petitions and Schedules of the undermentioned Insolvents are appointed to be heard at the Court House, at Stafford, on Monday, the 20th of November, 1843, at ten o’clock in the forenoon precisely.....

Samuel Holloway, late of Bilston, in the Parish of Wolverhampton, in the county of Stafford, Boat Builder, Licensed Brewer and Retailer of Beer and Tobacco, sued with John Holloway, the elder, of Bilston aforesaid, being co-partners in trade in the business of Boat Builders.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/11/1843

“A court for the relief of Insolvent Debtors was held on Monday and Tuesday, in the Shire Hall, Stafford, before John Greathed Harris, Esq. commissioner, when the following cases were heard and disposed of.....

Discharged forthwith *Samuel Holloway*.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 22/2/1846

“T. Lowe of Bilston had a Novice he will back to run any novice of the same place a quarter of a mile, for from £3 to £5 a side.

William Harrison of Shropshire Row will run John Shorthouse of Hall Green six score yards, for from £1 to £3 a side.

The matches can be made at Mr. *Samuel Holloway*’s, RAILWAY TAVERN, Hall Fields, near Bilston, tomorrow (Monday) night, between seven and ten o’clock.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 6/2/1848

“Bob Hill of Bradley will fight Thomas Corno of Darlaston, for £15 or £20 a side, at 8st 10lb or 8st 11lb; and if this does not suit, he will accommodate Samuel Newell of Manchester on the same terms. Either of the above matches can be made on Friday next, between the hours of seven and ten o’clock in the evening, at the RAILWAY TAVERN, Hall Fields, near Bilston.”

Shrewsbury Chronicle 21/12/1849

“On Monday last an inquest was held at the RAILWAY TAVERN, Hall Fields, near Bilston, before W. W. Ward, Esq. officiating for T. M. Phillips, Esq. coroner, on the body of John Baldwin, butty collier at Heathen Coalpit, in Bradley Lodge, about thirty-nine years of age, who was killed on the previous Thursday by falling down a pit through the breaking of the chain of the skip in which he was ascending the shaft. It appeared that when he got about half way up the chain broke, and the unfortunate man fell to the bottom. As he was falling one of the witnesses heard him say ‘Oh, Lord!’ and when he got to the bottom he said ‘Amen’ twice. Another collier was called to the spot, and he found deceased lying on his back, with his feet on the skip, and the tackle across his feet. There was a wound underneath his chin. He breathed a few times, and then expired. One of the workmen had noticed some time ago that the foot hook link was bent, and considering it unsafe, mentioned the circumstance to deceased. On the Tuesday preceding the accident three men and two boys were drawn up by the same chain out of the pit. It was stated at the inquest that it was the duty of the butty to report to the bailiff when the chains were unsafe. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1851 Census

Queen Street, Hallfields

- [1] *Samuel Holloway* (48), boat builder, born Sedgley;
- [2] Sarah Holloway (48), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Samuel Holloway (20), son, boat builder, born Bilston;
- [4] Ruth Holloway (18), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] Horatio Holloway (15), son, blacksmith, born Bilston;
- [6] Thomas Holloway (13), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] Sarah Ann Doleman (12), house servant, born Bilston:

Staffordshire Advertiser 14/8/1852

"An inquest was held on Saturday morning last by T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, at the RAILWAY TAVERN, Hall Green, on the body of Martin Walters, a miner, about 45 years of age, who was killed by a fall of 'bat' while at work in the Walbrook colliery. The deceased's back was broken, and he died on the following day. Verdict, Accidental Death."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/1/1853

"At Bilston Public Office, on Tuesday, Thomas Humpage, a miner, residing at Darlaston, was committed to the sessions for stealing a pair of stockings and a glass, the property of Mr. *Samuel Holloway*, RAILWAY TAVERN, Hall Green. The prisoner went to the house of the prosecutor about seven o'clock on the morning of the 23rd of December, under pretence of lighting his pipe, and during the absence of the servant from the taproom, managed to steal the articles in question, and leave the house. The prisoner was apprehended about an hour afterwards, near the works of Messrs. Thorneycroft, with the property in his possession."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/1/1853

"Staffordshire General Quarter Sessions To be imprisoned one month.....

Thomas Humpage (pleaded guilty), for stealing a pair of stockings and a goblet, the property of *Samuel Holloway*, at Bilston."

Staffordshire Advertiser 25/8/1855

"On Friday week, at Bilston Police Court, Thomas Kirkham, charged with stealing a jacket, a pair of spectacles, and a bottle of rum, from the house of *Samuel Holloway*, licensed victualler, at Hall Green, was committed for trial."

Staffordshire Sentinel 8/9/1855

"Staffordshire Adjourned Quarter Sessions.....

Thomas Kirkland, 18, shingler, was indicted for stealing, on the 25th of August, one pair of spectacles and one bottle containing three half pints of rum, the property of *Samuel Holloway*; also one black cloth jacket and one pair of gloves, the property of Thomas Holloway, at Bilston. Mr. Kenealey conducted the prosecution; the prisoner was undefended.

The prosecutor keeps a public house, at Bilston, and on the night in question the prisoner, who was drinking there, was seen by a person named John Pierce, in the house at the time, to pick up a pair of spectacles and put them in his pocket. In consequence of information given by the witness, the prisoner was taken into custody, and afterwards the other articles mentioned in the indictment were traced to him, and identified as having been stolen.

The jury found the prisoner guilty. He was, however, recommended to mercy by the prosecutors, and the Court, in consideration of this being his first conviction, sentenced him to two months' imprisonment with hard labour."

Birmingham Journal 29/11/1856 - Advert

"To Iron Masters, Carriers, and Others.

On Sale by Private Treaty, a capital new Oak Cabin Boat, with Iron Knees; may be seen at Highfield Dock Yard.

For particulars, apply to Mr. *Samuel Holloway*, upon the Premises."

TO IRON MASTERS, CARRIERS, AND OTHERS.
ON SALE by PRIVATE TREATY, a capital
new OAK CABIN BOAT, with Iron Knees; may be seen at
Highfield Dock Yard. For particulars, apply to Mr. Samuel Holloway, upon the Premises. 4944

Birmingham Daily Post 28/9/1858 - Advert

"To Boat Builders.

Enclosed Dockyard to be Let, on reasonable terms, with immediate possession, at High Fields, near Bilston, containing Lifting Jacks, Winches, Chains, Blocks, Stove, and every convenience.

Apply to Mr. *Holloway*, RAILWAY TAVERN, Hall Fields, Bilston."

TO BOAT BUILDERS.

ENCLOSED DOCKYARD to be LET, on
reasonable terms, with immediate possession, at High Fields,
near Bilston, containing Lifting Jacks, Winches, Chains, Blocks,
Stove, and every convenience.—Apply to Mr. Holloway, Railway
Tavern, Hall Fields, Bilston.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/8/1859

“The annual meeting of Magistrates for the purpose of the renewal and granting of licenses for the township of Bilston and the neighbourhood was held at the Bilston Police Court on Friday last.....

Mr. Bowen applied for a license for the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE at Hall Fields, occupied by Mr. Brywood. Mr. Bowen dwelt at some length upon the requirements of the district, and with respect to the house itself said it was commodious, was provided with ample stabling, and in every way adapted for a licensed house.

Mr. Shipman, who was instructed to oppose the application, said that within half a mile of Mr. Brywood's house there were already two licensed houses, besides a number of beerhouses. The persons for whom Mr. Shipman opposed were Mr. Knight and Mr. *Holloway*, both of whom occupy licensed houses in the same street as the present applicant. Refused.”

Birmingham Journal 7/4/1860 - Died

“On the 30th ult, aged 59 years, Mr. *Samuel Holloway*, of the RAILWAY TAVERN, Queen Street, Hall Fields, Bilston; sincerely regretted.”

1861 Census

64, Hall Street – RAILWAY TAVERN

- [1] *Sarah Holloway* (58), widow, victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *Thomas Holloway* (22), lodger, puddler, born Bilston;
- [3] *Matilda Holloway* (22), wife, born Worsley Coverbrook;
- [4] *Samuel Thomas Holloway* (7 son months), born Bilston:

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 6/6/1868 - Advert

“Eligible Messuages and Premises, at Highfields, Sedgley, and Hall Fields, Bilston, in the County of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. H. W. Greaser, at the House of Mr. John Light, the BEEHIVE INN, Highfields, in the parish of Sedgley, in the county of Stafford, on Friday, the 19th day of June, at Six o'clock in the evening.....

Lot 3. All that Public House, known by the sign of the RAILWAY TAVERN, situate at Hallfields, in the township of Bilston aforesaid, with Yard, Stabling and Out-buildings thereto belonging, now in the occupation of Mrs. *Holloway*, at the annual rental of £18.”

Samuel Holloway Leech = Samuel Holloway Leach

Samuel Holloway Leech was born in the 2nd quarter of 1843, in Bilston, the son of John Leech and Elizabeth, nee Holloway, daughter of *Samuel Holloway*.

He married Ann Carthy on 20th June 1863 in Wolverhampton.

1871 Census

64, Hall Street – RAILWAY TAVERN

- [1] *Samuel H. Leech* (28), iron roller and publican, born Bilston;
- [2] *Ann Leech* (27), wife, born Lichfield;
- [3] *John H. Leech* (3), son, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] *Samuel Leech* (10 months), son, born Bilston;
- [5] *Sarah Holloway* (68), grand-mother, annuitant, born Bilston;
- [6] *Emily Leech* (12), sister, domestic servant, born Wolverhampton:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 22/9/1875

“At Bilston Police Court yesterday, George Dudley, a young man, was brought up in custody and charged with having stolen a hen and a duck, the property of Mr. *Leach*, RAILWAY TAVERN, Hall Green. The prisoner had been drinking at the prosecutor's house on Monday night, and after he left the poultry mentioned were missed. A visit was made to his residence, where the missing birds were found.

Prisoner pleaded guilty, and stated that he took the property whilst he was drunk.

He was sentenced to one month's imprisonment with hard labour.”

Birmingham Daily Post 24/10/1878 - Advert

“Shearer Wanted in a Sheet Mill, a competent, steady, and industrious Man.
Apply at Mr. *S. Leech*’s, RAILWAY TAVERN, Hall Street, Bradley, Bilston.”

SHEARER.—Wanted, in a Sheet Mill, a competent, steady, and
industrious Man.—Apply at Mr. *S. Leech*’s, Railway Tavern,
Hall Street, Bradley, Bilston.

1881 Census

64, Hall Street – RAILWAY TAVERN

- [1] *Samuel H. Leech* (38), licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *Ann Leech* (37), wife, born Lichfield;
- [3] *Jennie Leech* (15), daughter, born Walsall;
- [4] *John H. Leech* (14), son, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] *Samuel Leech* (10), son, born Bilston;
- [6] *Mary Leech* (9), daughter, born Bilston;
- [7] *Lucy H. Leech* (3), daughter, born Bilston;
- [8] *Harriet Leech* (7 months), daughter, born Bilston;
- [9] *Sarah Holloway* (78), grand-mother, born Bilston:

Sarah Holloway died in 1881.

Bristol Times 3/4/1886

“From the *London Gazette*. Bankrupts. Adjudications.....

Samuel Holloway Leech, RAILWAY TAVERN, Hall Street, and Queen Street, Bradley Bilston, licensed victualler and iron worker.”

Birmingham Daily Post 21/4/1886

“Bankruptcy Proceedings.....

At the Wolverhampton County Court, yesterday, *Samuel Holloway Leech*, licensed victualler, RAILWAY TAVERN, Hall Street, Bradley, attended for his public examination. Mr. Lister represented the debtor.

The statement of affairs showed the liabilities to be £431, and the assets £84. The debtor commenced business as a licensed victualler in 1869. In 1877 he purchased the RAILWAY TAVERN for £500, which he mortgaged for £450, and subsequently sold the house for £415. From 1880 to January last he was also employed as an iron roller. The debtor knew that he was insolvent in September last, but thought he would be able to pay his debts when trade revived. It was to bad trade and bad debts that he attributed his failure.

The examination was adjourned until May 13.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/5/1886

“Bankruptcy Proceedings.....

Samuel H. Leech, licensed victualler, Bradley, came up at Wolverhampton Court for examination and was allowed to pass.”

Samuel Holloway Leech died in 1894, in West Bromwich.

County Express 6/11/1886

“Dudley County Court.....

Thomas Butler, landlord of the RAILWAY INN, Bradley, sued Richard Mason, coal owner, for £7, for detention of a trap. Mr. Hooper appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. Butlin for defendant.

It was stated by plaintiff that in 1883 defendant borrowed the trap and had never returned it, and on one occasion it was damaged. Defendant said it was Mr. Richard Mason, deceased, who borrowed the vehicle.

Verdict for the plaintiff for £4.”

1891 Census

64, Hall Street – RAILWAY TAVERN

- [1] *Thomas Butler* (46), publican, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Eliza Butler* (45), wife, born Birmingham;
- [3] *May Butler* (22), daughter, born Birmingham;
- [4] *Mary A. Butler* (15), daughter, born Birmingham;
- [5] *George F. Butler* (13), son, born Great Bridge;
- [6] *Ellen Stewart* (10), niece, born Birmingham;

1892 Probate

“*Thomas Butler* of 64 Hall Street, Hall Fields, Bradley, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 25 June 1892. Probate Lichfield 13 July to *Eliza Butler*, widow. Effects £120.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/4/1894 - Advert

“The Estate of the late Mr. Samuel Salt, Brewer, Deceased.

To Brewers and Others. Highly important Sale by Auction of the Kates Hill Brewery, Maltings, Stores, and Land, together with Twelve Freehold and Two Leasehold Public Houses, in and around Dudley.

Alfred W. Dando has been favoured with instructions from the Trustee of the late Mr. Samuel Salt, to Sell by Auction, at the DUDLEY ARMS HOTEL, Dudley, on Tuesday Next, May 1 (unless an acceptable offer for the whole is in the meantime made), at Seven o'clock in the evening precisely, subject to conditions of sale then to be produced.....

Lot 11. The Fully-Licensed Well-situated Property, known as the RAILWAY INN, Bradley, containing first-class accommodation for a large trade, and now in the occupation of Mrs. *Butler*.

N.B. The whole of the foregoing houses were purchased by the late Mr. Samuel Salt with excellent judgement, and are nearly all occupied by respectable and old tenants under agreements (copies of which may be seen upon application), and are well worth the attention of brewers desirous of increasing their trade and private individuals wishing to start in the public business.....

Further particulars and plans may be obtained at the Offices of Messrs. A. G. and S. Hooper, Solicitors; or the Auctioneer, all of Dudley.”

County Advertiser 5/5/1894

“On Tuesday evening, at the DUDLEY ARMS HOTEL, Dudley, Mr. Alfred W. Dando, auctioneer and valuer, of Dudley, offered for sale by auction valuable properties belonging to the estate of the late Mr. Samuel Salt, brewer. There was a large attendance. The biddings throughout were very spirited, and the sale was a very successful one. The total amount realised was £8,941.....

RAILWAY INN, Bradley, sold for £700.”

1901 Census

Hill Street

- [1] *Eliza Butler* (53), widow, publican, born Birmingham;
- [2] *George T. Butler* (23), son, joiner, born Toll End;
- [3] *Philip E. F. Whitehouse* (28), son-in-law, ironworker, born Bradley;
- [4] *Mary A. Whitehouse* (25), daughter, born Birmingham;
- [5] *Philip S. Whitehouse* (2), grand-son, born Bradley;

1911 Census

4, Hill Street

- [1] *Eliza Butler* (64), widow, licensed victualler, born Birmingham;
- [2] *Philip Edward Firmstone Whitehouse* (39), son-in-law, galvaniser, iron sheets, born Bradley;
- [3] *Mary Ann Whitehouse* (35), daughter, born Birmingham;
- [4] *Phil Sirdar Whitehouse* (12), grand-son, school, born Bradley;
- [5] *Frederick Whitehouse* (9), grand-son, school, born Bradley;

1921 Census

4, Hill Street

[1] *Frederick Cowern* (33), publican, born Wombourne;

[2] *Florence May Cowern* (30), wife, home duties, born Lincoln;

[3] *William J. F. Cowern* (1), son, born Lincoln:

1939 Register

4, Hill Street – RAILWAY TAVERN

[1] *George H. Percival*, date of birth 5/4/1878, licensee, married;

[2] *Mary A. Percival*, dob 12/1/1882, unpaid domestic duties, married:

George Henry Percival – see also COMMERCIAL, Ash Street.

A team from here took part in the Bradley Crib League. [1946]

Bilston and Willenhall Times 16/3/1946

“At Bilston Adjourned Licensing Sessions, on Friday of last week, among the applications was one for the removal of the license of the RAILWAY INN, Bradley, to premises proposed to be erected at the junction of Burton Road and Broadway, Sedgley, or alternatively, for a new license at the site.

It was intimated that there was opposition from local residents, who appointed Mrs. J. L. Cort, of 270, The Broadway, to speak for them. Mr. A. D. Dallow also opposed on behalf of the GREEN DRAGON, a licensed house some 700 yards away.

Mr. O. L. Bergendorff, who appeared for the applicants, said a canvas in the area had been taken and this showed an overwhelming majority of people in favour of a public house being erected on the site and he submitted that a more ideal spot for one could not be found.

After hearing witnesses for the applicants and also the opposition, the justices declined to sanction the removal for a new license.”

Leonard John Hunt was married to *Edna* (Vi).

See also HAMEMAKERS ARMS, Walsall.

Closed

License removed to new house to be built at Ellowes Road, Lower Gornal - February 1957.

Demolished

RECRUITING SERGEANT

High Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Joseph Harthill [1818] – [1835]

NOTES

SERGEANT [1827]

It had a beerhouse license.

Joseph Hartill, retailer of beer, High Street. [1835]

RED COW

3, (5), Bridge Street, (4, Fraser Street) / Stone Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

James Caddick
John Proffitt
Samuel Hughes
John William Hall, solicitor, Bilston
Matthew Smith, brewer, Dudley
Julia Hanson and Son Ltd. [1921]

LICENSEES

Noah Caddick [1818] – [1822]
Edward Evans [1828] – [1831]
James Caddick [1833] – **1852**;
Mrs. Ann Caddick **(1852)**;
William Grove **(1852 – 1853)**;
William Stretton **(1853 – [1855]**
Thomas Hinton [] – **1857**;
Joseph Moreton **(1857 – [1861]**
Edward Jones [1862] – **1863**;
John Harthill Palmer **(1863 – [1865]**
George Calloway [] – **1866**;
John Proffitt **(1866 – 1883)**;
John Palmer [1868] – [1870]
George Holmes [1879]
George Proffitt **(1883 – 1884)**;
Charles Smith **(1884 – 1885)**;
John Garner Parker **(1885 – 1886)**;
Samuel 'Sam' Hughes **(1886 – 1893)**;
William Price **(1893 – 1894)**;
Charles Carpenter **(1894 – 1895)**;
George Lawrence **(1895 – 1896)**;
William Clay **(1896 – 1898)**;
Enoch Burton Waterfield **(1898)**;
Arthur Bagnall **(1898 – 1899)**;
Alfred Guest **(1899 – 1901)**;
William and Catherine Williams **(1901 – 1902)**;
John Owen **(1902)**;
John Jones **(1902 – 1908)**;
George Henry White **(1908)**;
William Edwards **(1908 – 1909)**;
John Lewis **(1909)**;
William Edwards **(1909)**;
John Thomas Lloyd **(1909 – 1911)**;
Mrs. Elizabeth Millard **(1911 – 1916)**;
Henry Flavell **(1916 – 1922)**;
George Richards **(1922 – 1923)**;
George William Newbould **(1923)**;

AT THE RED COW INN, BILSTON.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY WALTER N. HALES,

On the Premises,
On **THURSDAY, MARCH 24th, 1831;**

ALL the **HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE**, Brewing Utensils, Barrels, Stock of Ale, Spirituous Liquors, Licences, Good will, and immediate possession, and other effects, the property of **Mr. EDWARD EVANS**, who is changing his residence.

The Sale to commence at 10 o'clock in the morning and two in the afternoon.

1831

VALUABLE PUBLIC HOUSE.

TO be Sold by Private Treaty, the valuable **PUBLIC HOUSE**, known as the **RED COW**, in Bridge-street, Bilston; with the Land and Shopping thereto belonging.

For further particulars apply to **Mr. ALLEN**, silversmith, or to **Mr. ROBINSON**, solicitor, Wolverhampton.

AN OLD ESTABLISHED PUBLIC HOUSE,

Bridge-street, Bilston.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY RICHARD CORBETT,

On *Friday, the 6th day of September, 1839, at the Red Cow, in Bilston aforesaid, at five o'clock in the afternoon,*

ALL that old established and well accustomed **PUBLIC HOUSE**, known as the sign of **THE RED COW**, situate in Bridge-street, Bilston, with brewhouse, large range of shopping, piggeries, and other outbuildings, together with a large plot of **LAND** in front thereof, and an enclosed back yard; the whole of the land, including the site of the buildings, measures upwards of eight hundred superficial yards, and is now in the occupation of **Mr. James Caddick**, publican and brassfounder, at the low rent of **26l.** per year.

To view the premises apply to the tenant; and for further particulars apply to **Mr. ROBINSON**, of Wolverhampton, solicitor; or to the **AUCTIONEER**, New Town, Bilston.

1839

THE RED COW INN, OLD ROAD, BILSTON.

TO BE DISPOSED OF, the **LICENSES**, **GOODWILL**, and **POSSESSION** of the above desirable **OLD LICENSED INN**, with spacious yard adjoining; in a first-rate situation, and doing a good business. The stock and fixtures to be taken by valuation.

For particulars apply on the premises, or to **Mr. J. MASON**, auctioneer, Hall-street, Bilston.

1855

NOTES

5, Bridge Street [1871], [1874], [1881], [1892], [1896]

3, Bridge Street [1904], [1908], [1912]

4, Fraser Street [1911], [1921]

Fraser Street [1916], [1921], [1922]

It was known locally as "The Red Curtains".

It was used by theatricals.

Noah Caddick was also a cabinet lock maker. [1818]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 23/3/1831 - Advert

"At the RED COW INN, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Walter N. Hales, on the Premises, on Thursday, March 24th, 1831.

All the Household Furniture, Brewing Utensils, Barrels, Stock of Ale, Spirituous Liquors, Licenses, Goodwill, and immediate possession, and other effects, the property of Mr. *Edward Evans*, who is changing his residence.

The Sale to commence at 10 o'clock in the morning and two in the afternoon."

James Caddick was also a brass and iron founder. [1833]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/5/1839 - Advert

"Valuable Public House.

To be Sold by Private Treaty, the valuable Public House, known as the RED COW, in Bridge Street, Bilston; with the Land and Shopping thereto belonging.

For further particulars apply to Mr. Allen, silversmith, or to Mr. Robinson, solicitor, Wolverhampton."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/8/1839 - Advert

"An Old Established Public House, Bridge Street, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett, on Friday, the 6th day of September, 1839, at the RED COW, in Bilston aforesaid, at five o'clock in the afternoon.

All that old established and well accustomed Public House, known as the sign of the RED COW, situate in Bridge Street, Bilston, with brewhouse, large range of shopping, piggeries, and other outbuildings, together with a large plot of Land in front thereof, and an enclosed back yard; the whole of the land, including the site of the buildings, measures upwards of eight hundred superficial yards, and is now in the occupation of Mr. *James Caddick*, publican and brassfounder, at the low rental of £26 per year.

To view the premises apply to the tenant; and for further particulars apply to Mr. Robinson, of Wolverhampton, solicitor; or to the Auctioneer, New Town, Bilston."

1841 Census

Bridge Street or Bridge Road

[1] *James Caddick* (50), brass founder, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Ann Caddick* (45), born Staffordshire;

[3] *James Caddick* (15), iron labourer, born Staffordshire;

[4] *Ann Caddick* (15), born Staffordshire;

[5] *Esther Caddick* (15), born Staffordshire;

[6] *Joseph Caddick* (15), born Staffordshire;

[7] *Maria Caddick* (13), born Staffordshire;

[8] *Ann Caddick* (8), born Staffordshire;

[9] *Sarah Moore* (8), f.s., born Staffordshire:

James Caddick was described as being also a brassfounder. [1845], [1849]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/9/1846

“An inquest was held on Thursday last, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, at the sign of the RED COW, Bilston, on the body of James Painter, a child aged about three years and six months old, who was run over by the Greyhound coach, while it was passing through Oxford Street, Bilston, on the previous Saturday evening. The coach was going at the rate of about five miles an hour, and the deceased came suddenly from behind a waggon, for the purpose of crossing the road; the near leader of the coach knocked him down, and the near hind wheel of the coach went over his body. He was much hurt, and notwithstanding medical aid, died on Tuesday last. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/11/1848

“On Wednesday morning last one of those fatal occurrences so common in mining districts – death from the fall of a large quantity of coal – took place in a coalpit in Sparrow’s field, near Bilston. Two men and the doggy of the pit went down a little before six o’clock. One of the men, Benjamin Rowley, was requested by the doggy to prop with timber that part of the pit where he was about to commence work. Rowley tried the spot, and said it was safe enough without propping. He then commenced his work, which was ‘holing,’ but in about a quarter of an hour afterwards a large quantity of coal fell upon him from the roof of the pit, the removal of which occupied three quarters of an hour. Rowley was found to be quite dead, being dreadfully bruised and crushed. At the inquest held on the body on Friday last, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, at the RED COW INN, Bilston, one of the men who was at work in the pit said it was the duty of the deceased to prop the roof, and no blame could be attached to the doggy or the owners of the pit. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 6/12/1848

“On Wednesday last an inquest was held at the RED COW, Bridge Street, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of Henry Howell, five years of age, who on that day fortnight accidentally set fire to his clothes whilst playing with a stick, the end of which he put into the grate during the absence of his mother. The child lingered until the following Sunday, when death took place from the injuries he has received. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Journal 26/1/1850

“On Saturday an inquest was held before T. M. Phillips, Esq, at the house of *James Caddick*, RED COW INN, Bilston, on the body of Benjamin Turner, a puddler, aged 37 years, who was killed in consequence of his puddling-bar slipping off a ball of iron and striking him on the left breast, at the works of Philip Williams, Esq, Princes End. The inquiry was adjourned until yesterday, but we have not learned the result.”

1851 Census

Stone Street

- [1] *James Caddick* (60), victualler and brass founder, born Staffordshire;
- [2] *Ann Caddick* (56), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *James Caddick* (32), son, born Bilston;
- [4] *Joseph Caddick* (25), son, butcher, born Bilston;
- [5] *Ann Caddick* (23), daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] *Maria Caddick* (18), daughter, born Bilston;
- [7] *Mary Duamate* (18), servant, born Ireland;
- [8] *Phoebe Richards* (14), servant, born Bilston:

James Caddick died on 30th January 1852.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/4/1852

“At an adjourned special sessions for the transfer of victuallers’ licenses, within the division of Seisdon North..... RED COW, Bilston, from *James Caddick* to *Ann Caddick*, widow.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 13/10/1852

“Victuallers licenses the following changes took place.....

Ann Caddick, of the RED COW, Bilston, to *William Grove*, Bilston.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 26/2/1853 - Deaths

"On the 20th instant, at Bilston, aged 58, *Ann*, relict of Mr. *James Caddick*, brass founder, and landlord of the RED COW, in Bilston."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/4/1853

"On Monday the following licenses were transferred.....

William Groves, RED COW, Bilston, to *William Stretton*, late of Wolverhampton, victualler."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/8/1855 - Advert

"The RED COW INN, Old Road, Bilston.

To be Disposed Of, the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession, of the above desirable Old Licensed Inn, with spacious yard adjoining; in a first-rate situation, and doing a good business. The stock and fixtures to be taken by valuation. For particulars apply on the premises, or to Mr. J. Mason, auctioneer, Hall Street, Bilston."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/10/1855 - Advert

"Important Sale at The RED COW, Old Road, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Aلتree, on Monday and Tuesday, the 12th and 13th days of November, 1855.

The Licenses and Possession of that well known Old Licensed Premises, together with all Fixtures, Fittings, excellent Brewing Utensils, Household Furniture, large Stock of prime Old Ale and Spirits, two tumps of excellent Hops, four-pull Ale Machine, Piping and Taps, Lead Water Piping and Brass Taps, Sofas, Screens, Seating, Chairs, Tables, Forms, 26 and 16 bushel Mash Tubs, Copper Betwell, Brass Taps, pair of Vats, massive Lead Piping and Brass Tap, 120 gallon Copper, 160 gallon Iron Boiler, 20 gallon Iron Boiler, 25 capital iron-bound Ale Casks, &c, &c.

Handsome Mahogany High Press and other Bedsteads, Feather Beds, Mahogany Chests of Drawers, Mahogany Corner and other Cupboards, with all the usual Chamber and Kitchen Requisites, the property of Mr. *W. Stretton*, who has taken another business.

The sale to commence each morning at ten o'clock. The Licenses will be offered at eleven o'clock on Monday. Catalogues may be had at the Auctioneer's, Bilston."

Birmingham Journal 6/9/1856 - Advert

"RED COW, Bilston.

To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, that Old-licensed and good accustomed Public House, the RED COW, Bilston, now doing a good business. The present Proprietor is leaving solely in consequence of other engagements.

Apply upon the Premises."

RED COW, BILSTON.

TO be LET, and may be entered upon immediately, that Old-licensed and good accustomed PUBLIC HOUSE, the "RED COW," Bilston, now doing a good business. The present Proprietor is leaving solely in consequence of other engagements.—Apply upon the Premises.

Birmingham Journal 9/5/1857 - Advert

"Bilston. By W. P. Tomkys.

To be Let, with immediate possession, that old-established Business House, the RED COW, centrally situated, with extensive Yard and out-offices. Coming-in low. Fixtures at a valuation.

Apply to the Auctioneer, Stamp Office; or upon the premises."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/6/1858

"An inquest was held on Monday last at the RED COW INN, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips Esq, on the body of Thomas Foy, aged 50, a miner, who was accidentally killed by a fall of coal, whilst working in a pit belonging to Mr. Blackwell. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

BILSTON.

BY W. P. TOMKYS.—To be LET, with immediate possession, that old-established Business House the "RED COW," centrally situated, with extensive Yard and Out-offices. Coming-in low. Fixtures at a valuation.—Apply to the Auctioneer, Stamp Office ; or upon the Premises.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 7/7/1858

"On Friday last, T. M. Phillips, Esq, Coroner, held an inquest at the RED COW INN, Bilston, on the body of Enoch Williams, a miner, aged nineteen years. On Wednesday last, the deceased was employed at the bottom of Richard Rudge's coal pit, in the coalfield of Mr. D. Jones, taking out the curb and bricks, for the purpose of filling up the shaft, the pit being an old one. Rudge had been down the shaft several times in the course of the day, assisting the deceased, but in the afternoon, when Williams was alone, the whole of the brickwork lining the shaft suddenly fell in and upon him. The banksman was at the mouth of pit at the time, and the weight of the brickwork falling upon the 'bowk' caused the earth where he was standing to give way, and the windlass struck him with great force and knocked him down, a quantity of soil falling down the pit. Five men were immediately set to work to extricate the deceased, and between three and four o'clock on the following morning they came near to his head, when Williams said, 'Lads, I'm all right, but my legs feel stiff.' Almost immediately, a quantity of 'running sand' broke in on the side of the shaft, and smothered the deceased. The workmen were with difficulty rescued, but the body of the deceased was not recovered until Thursday morning. It appears that when the bricks and curb fell, the shaft was not more than six or seven yards deep, and that the deceased filled up the shaft as he took the bricks from the side of the pit. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 8/2/1860 - Advert

"Bilston. Copyhold Property in Bridge and Stone Streets.

Mr. W. P. Tomkys, senior, will Sell by Auction, at the RED COW INN, Bridge Street, at seven o'clock in the evening of the 28th of February, 1860, under instructions from the Trustees and Executors of the late *James Caddick*, subject to conditions to be then and there produced, all that commodious well situated Public House, known as the RED COWN [sic] INN, now in the occupation of *Joseph Moreton*, with the outbuildings, appurtenances, and conveniences belonging thereto, together with three newly-erected Dwelling Houses, erected near unto, now in the occupation of Daniel Jones, Joseph Hawkins, and Hannah Molyneux, the whole of the property producing an annual income of £56.

For further particulars apply to the Auctioneer, 27, Wellington Street, Bilston."

1861 Census

Bridge Street

- [1] Josh Moreton (37), iron roller, born Bilston;
- [2] Mary Moreton (36), wife, born Willenhall;
- [3] M. A. Morton (15), niece, born Bilston;
- [4] Mary Watkins (18), house servant, born Wem, Shropshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 11/9/1861 - Advert

"RED COW INN, Bridge Street, Bilston.

To be Let, with immediate possession, the above old-established Inn, now in the occupation of Mr. *Joseph Moreton*, who is retiring in consequence of ill health. The Premises consist of Smoke Room, Bar, Bar Parlour, large Club Room (with two Clubs attached), Stabling for twelve Horses, Piggeries, large Shed, Brewhouse, Pipe Manufactory (which is let off) and Bowling and Marble Alley. The Brewing Utensils, Fixtures, and Stock may be taken to at valuation.

For particulars apply to Mr. R. Heseltine, Auctioneer and Valuer, Midland Counties Auction Rooms, Bilston."

AND

"Gospel End. A First-Rate Public House.

To be Let, the Sign of the SPRING COTTAGE.....

For further particulars apply to *Joseph Moreton*, RED COW INN, Bilston; or on the Premises."

Birmingham Daily Post 9/9/1862 - Advert

"By Altree and Son, This Day.

Household Furniture, Brewing Plant, Horse, Two Carts, Harnesses, &c, at the RED COW, Bridge Street, Bilston."

**BY ALTREE and SON, THIS DAY--HOUSE-
HOLD FURNITURE, BREWING PLANT, HORSE, Two
CARTS, Harnesses, &c., at the Red Cow, Bridge St., Bilston. 1173**

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/9/1862 - Advert

"Old Licensed House for £20. By Altree and Son.

To be Let, the RED COW, Bilston, containing nine rooms, large yard, stabling &c. Rent, £19 per annum.
Apply, 159, Horsley Fields, Wolverhampton."

**OLD LICENSED HOUSE FOR £20.
BY ALTREE and SON.—TO BE LET, the
RED COW, Bilston, containing nine rooms, large yard,
stabling, &c. Rent, £19 per annum.—Apply 159, Horsley-fields,
Wolverhampton.**

John Harthill Palmer = John Hartill Palmer

Birmingham Journal 5/3/1864 - Advert

“Bilston, Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Auction, by Joseph Whitehouse, on Monday, March 14, 1864, at the RED COW INN, Bridge Street, Bilston, at Seven o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions of Sale to be then produced.

Lot 1. All that desirable Copyhold Property, at the junction of Bridge and Stone Streets, Bilston, and know by the name or sign of the RED COW, and having a frontage to Bridge Street of 38 feet 6 inches, and Stone Street of 60 feet 8 inches, and containing 675 square yards or thereabouts, and now in the occupation of Mr. *John H. Palmer*, at a low annual rental of £20.

The House and Premises contains a large and well fitted-up Tap-Room, Parlour, Bar, Bar Parlour, Club Room, two Chambers, two Attics, three Cellars, and Brewhouse, with large lock-up Yard, Stable, Pigstyes, Coach-house, Shedding, and Pipe Manufactory, which is in the occupation of Mr. John Brindley, at a low rental of £5 4s per annum. This lot has a Joint Right of Road through the Entry of Lot 2.

Lot 2. All those Three Messuages or Dwelling Houses, with the Outbuildings thereto belonging and adjoining Lot 1, and now in the occupation of William Howell and others, at low rental of £23 2s per annum.

For further particulars apply to Mr. Norfolk B. Jackson, Solicitor, Bilston; or the Auctioneer, Wednesbury, where Plans of same may be seen.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/9/1864

“Yesterday the magistrates sat in Special Sessions, for the consideration of the applications for the renewal of old and the granting of new licenses to victuallers.....

The following houses and their landlords had been complained against and fined during the year.....

John H. Palmer, RED COW, Bridge Street.”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/11/1864

“An inquest was held at the RED COW INN, Bilston, yesterday, on the body of a man, 32 years of age, named Edward Bate, who lived in Stone Street, and who met his death in one of the pits, at the Lunt, on Saturday last. Deceased was driving a loaded skip, when the horse ran against a ‘tree’ that supported the roof of the pit. The roofing fell in, and Bate was killed on the spot. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

London Gazette 7/11/1865

“*John Hartill Palmer*, of the HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Queen-street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, and previously thereto of the RED COW INN, Bridge-street, Bilston aforesaid, Licensed Victualler, Retail Brewer, and Dealer in Tobacco, and also working as a Mill Furnaceman, having been adjudged bankrupt under a Petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy, filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton, on the 30th day of October, 1865, is hereby required to surrender himself to Charles Gallimore Brown, Esq., a Registrar of the said Court, at the first meeting of creditors to be held before the said Registrar, on the 20th day of November instant, at twelve o'clock at noon precisely, at the said Court. Charles Gallimore Brown, Esq., of Wolverhampton, is the Official Assignee, and Mr. N. B. Jackson, of Bilston, is the Solicitor acting in the bankruptcy.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 24/1/1866

“Bankruptcy. At the Wolverhampton County Court, on Monday, before A. M. Skinner, Esq, QC (Judge), *John Harthill Palmer*, ex-publican, of Bilston, supported by Mr. Jackson, for Mr. Cresswell, came up at the County Court for his final order, as a publican. Mr. Langman opposed for a creditor named Austin, and elicited that out of £187, bankrupt owed Austin £112 8s 4d. £25 of that amount was for a gig, which bankrupt said he bought to drive his wife out in for the benefit of her health. Mr. Langman asked that the discharge should be conditional upon bankrupt paying something out of his income, as a forgerman, for the benefit of his creditors. The learned Judge said the Court was placed in a most anomalous position. There he had been sitting all the morning compelling people to pay their debts, and now he was sitting in the same Court to administer a legal machinery by which people were relieved from the necessity of doing so. He put it to the bankrupt whether such a state of things was not as abominable as anomalous, and whether he would not make his creditors an offer. After some hesitation defendant offered to pay £25 in twelve months. The offer was accepted, and bankrupt was conditionally discharged.”

George Calloway = George Galloway

Birmingham Daily Post 8/2/1866

“At the Police Court, on Monday, before Mr. Spooner, *George Calloway*, landlord of the RED COW INN, Bilston, was fined on the information of Mr. Allcorn, Supervisor of Excise, £50 and costs, for attempting to defraud the revenue by making a false entry in the sheet supplied to him by the Excise for marking down the quantity of malt brewed.

The defence was that *Calloway*’s wife had made the entry, in the absence of her husband; but the Stipendiary said that the defendant was responsible for his wife’s actions.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1866

“The annual meeting for the renewal of existing licenses, and for receiving applications for fresh ones, was held at the Police Court, on Friday.....

At the commencement of the proceedings, the Superintendent of Police presented the following report.

Bilston Division, August 31, 1866.

‘I beg to submit to the Magistrates the attached list of licensed victuallers who have been complained against during the year. Twenty-five have been convicted, and three have paid costs; one had been convicted three times, and five convicted twice. This is a large increase on last year’s list; but I think it has arisen from the police being more particular in reporting cases of permitting drunkenness – as it was found to be an evil rather on the increase. I believe it has caused landlords to be more careful in supplying drink to persons intoxicated.’

H. McCrea, Superintendent.

Black List.....

George Galloway, RED COW, Bridge Street, Bilston left over until the adjourned licensing meeting on the 28th of September.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/10/1866

“Yesterday, at Bilston Police Court, *John Proffitt*, keeper of the RED COW INN, was summoned for allowing drunkenness in his house. The offence was proved by a police officer, who visited the defendant’s house on Saturday last, and found several persons creating a disturbance there.

The Magistrates imposed a fine of 10s and costs.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 21/12/1867

“Dick Bradbury of Bilston is surprised at W. Dickin challenging him, when he (Dickin) is aware Bradbury is 55 years of age, but, nevertheless, Dickin can be accommodated up to £20 a side. Money ready any night next week at the RED COW INN, Bilston.”

John Proffitt and *John Palmer* appear in the same 1868 Directory.

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/12/1868

“Staffordshire Winter Assizes.....

Joseph Gundry, 25, puddler, and William Cox, 23, labourer, were indicted for feloniously assaulting Joseph Cotterill, at the township of Bilston, and stealing from his person the sum of 3s, a key, and pair of boots, a jacket, and other articles. Mr. Young conducted the prosecution.

The prosecutor is deaf and dumb, and his brother was sworn to interpret his evidence, which was given by means of the usual signs. The prosecutor’s statement was that on the evening of the 7th of November he was at the RED COW public house, at Bilston, and saw the prisoners there. He left about half-past eleven, and the two prisoners went out with him. They took him a distance of about 100 yards and then stripped him of his clothes, with the contents of his pockets, and threw him over a wall. Having done this they ran away and left him. It was a very cold night and he suffered much from exposure. Having lain some time where he was thrown, he made the best of his way home. The prisoners were apprehended four days afterwards by Sergeant Chatfield and Superintendent M’Crea.

The prisoner Grundy, on being called on for his defence, said Mr. James Harper, one of the jury, could speak to his character. Mr. Harper having been sworn, said he was manager of the works where Grundy was employed, and he knew nothing against him. Nothing was known against Grundy before.

The jury found both prisoners guilty, but recommended them to mercy on account of their character.
The Judge (to the jury): What do you think of throwing him over the wall?
The foreman said it appeared in evidence that both prisoners were in a state of intoxication at the time.
The Judge: When the drink is in, the true character comes out. It was a most cruel act. It was very cold weather at the time.
The prisoners begged for mercy.
The Judge: What mercy did you show that unfortunate man when you threw him over the wall? I will defer sentence. I have every desire to pay respect to the recommendation of the jury, but I should like to punish both of you for your cruelty.
The prisoners were afterwards sentenced to six months' imprisonment each."

1871 Census

5, Bridge Street

- [1] John Proffit (60), innkeeper, 2 assistants, born Willenhall;
- [2] Mary Proffit (60), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Thomas W. Smith (23), son-in-law, engine fitter, born London;
- [4] Mary W. Smith (19), wife, born Bilston;
- [5] George W. Smith (8 months), born Bilston;
- [6] Ann Owen (21), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 28/1/1873 - Advert

"Engine (two-horse), with boiler and fittings, shafting, banding, 4-feet grindstone, &c.
Apply, RED COW, Bilston."

ENGINE (two horse), with boiler and fittings, shafting, banding, 4-feet grindstone, &c.—Apply, Red Cow, Bilston.

Bee-Hive 14/7/1877

"Trades Union Directory.....

Amalgamated Society of Engineers Branches.....

RED COW, Bridge Street, Bilston."

PUBLIC-HOUSE.—The Freehold of an Old-licensed Public House, with three Houses, &c., and large yard, for Sale by private treaty—the Red Cow Inn, top of Oxford Street, Bilston. Large and well fitted up concert hall and smoke room. Rare opportunity for a man musically inclined. Proprietor retiring. Not changed hands for twelve years.—Apply, Edward Ellis, Auctioneer, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 30/9/1878 - Advert

"Public House. The Freehold of an Old-licensed Public House, with three Houses, &c, and large yard, for Sale by private treaty – the RED COW INN, top of Oxford Street, Bilston. Large and well fitted up concert hall and smoke room. Rare opportunity for a man musically inclined. Proprietor retiring. Not changed hands for twelve years.
Apply, Edward Ellis, Auctioneer, Wednesbury."

County Advertiser 15/3/1879 - Advert

"Friday, March 28th, 1879. To Maltsters, Publicans, Brewers, and Others.

Highly Important Sale of Valuable Freehold Old-Licensed Premises, the RED COW INN, situated in Bridge Street, Bilston.

Messrs. J. Morrell and Son have been favoured with instructions to Sell by Auction, on Friday, March 28th, 1879, upon the above Premises, at Six o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions then and there to be produced and read, and which may be seen at the Office of the Vendor's Solicitor three days previous to the day of Sale, and which will incorporate the Common Form Conditions of the Wolverhampton Law Association.

All that very valuable Freehold Old-Licensed Inn, called the RED COW INN, having a frontage of 23 yards or thereabouts to Bridge Street, Bilston aforesaid, and also a frontage to Stone Street with gateway entrance, containing on the Ground Floor large Smoke Room, with Concert Hall over; Bar, Tap Room, Front Kitchen, and three large and commodious Sleeping Rooms, with capital Cellaring, large and commodious Brewhouse Stabling, and other Out-houses.

Also, Three Freehold Dwelling Houses, producing also, at low rentals, £28 12s.

The above Property is centrally situated, and capable of doing a large and extensive trade. Immediate possession may be had.

For further particulars, apply to Mr. Robert Willcock, Solicitor, 49, Queen Street, Wolverhampton; or the Auctioneers, Swan Bank, Bilston."

1881 Census

5, Bridge Street – RED COW

[1] John Proffit (70), innkeeper, born Willenhall;

[2] Mary Proffit (70), wife, born Bilston;

[3] Eliza Bull (22), niece, general servant, born Dudley:

Evening Express 17/5/1881

“An inquest was held on Monday afternoon at the RED COW INN, Bridge Street, Bilston, before W. H. Phillips, Esq, touching the death of an infant named John Sanders, whose parents reside in Stone Street, Bilston.

William Henry Sanders, the father, said deceased was about three months old. He was taken to bed on Tuesday night last, and about half past four was found dead. The child had been delicate from birth, and as long as its mother was able to attend to it she did so, but she was very ill, and its grandmother had recently brought it up by hand. The witness had made no application to the parish for relief for the child, but the mother was now being attended to by the parish doctor. He had been out of work, and when in work he had been doing but a day, or two days a week. The deceased was their first baby.

Hannah Harper, the grandmother, who had attended on the child, gave corroborative evidence.

In reply to the Coroner, the husband said they had but one blanket in the house.

The Jury returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes, accelerated by want of proper nourishment.

The Coroner said the wife, who was lying in the house on a bench, and was evidently in a critical condition, ought to be removed to the union, where she could be kept warm and properly fed and looked after. The woman would die for want if some such course was not taken. If she was left as she was, the husband would be responsible for what happened, and he (the Coroner) strongly urged upon them to consent to her removal.”

County Advertiser 4/6/1881 - Advert

“Bilston. Tuesday, June 14th. Important Freehold Old-Licensed Public House (with Concert Room) and Three Dwelling Houses, situate in Bridge Street, Bilston.

Mr. Thomas Skidmore has received instructions to Sell by Auction, on Tuesday, June 14th, 1881, upon the Premises, the RED COW INN, Bridge Street, Bilston, at Seven o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions of sale which embody the common form condition of the Wolverhampton Law Association.

All that Valuable Freehold Old-Licensed Public House, called the RED COW INN, Bilston, containing large Smoke Room 26ft long by 17ft wide, and 9ft 9in high; Concert Room, 22ft long by 17ft wide, and 9ft 9in high, Bar, Tap Room, Front Kitchen, Three large Bed Rooms, Store Room, Four Cellars, large Brewhouse, Stabling, and Out-buildings, large Yard with Gateway Entrance. Also Three Messuages or Dwelling Houses, in Stone Street, Bilston, adjoining, producing a rental of £28 12s per annum.

The Property has a frontage of 69ft to Bridge Street, and contains, with the site of the buildings, _ square yards of land or thereabouts. The premises are centrally situated, are quite free, a good in and out trade is now being done, and immediate possession can be given.

The greater portion of the purchase money can remain if required.

For further particulars, apply, Mr. Robert Willcock, Solicitor, Queen Street; or to the Auctioneer, 2, Bilston Street, both of Wolverhampton.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 25/3/1882 - Advert

“A Free and Easy will be held every Monday and Saturday, in the Large Smoke Room, at Mr. John Proffit's, RED COW INN, Bridge Street, Bilston, Commencing March 11th.”

A FREE AND EASY will be held every Mon, day and Saturday, in the Large Smoke Room, at Mr John Proffit's, Red Cow Inn, Bridge Street, Bilston, Commencing March 11th.

Darlaston Weekly Times 10/3/1883

“The workmen employed at the Japan works of Messrs. Lawley, Market Street, Bilston, held their annual feast at the house of Mr. John Proffit, the RED COW INN, Bridge Street. The large room was well filled with a jovial assemblage, and the good things provided disappeared like magic under the attacks made on them. After the feast, the chair and vice-chair were ably filled, and the remainder of the evening was spent in proposing various toasts, and the enjoyment of the musical talent displayed by the company.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 24/4/1886 - Advert

“Bilston. Monday, May 3rd, 1886.

Important Freehold Old Licensed Public House, with Concert Room, situate in Bridge Street, Bilston.

Messrs. J. Morrell and Sons have received instructions to Sell by Auction, on Monday, the 3rd day of May, 1886, upon the Premises, the RED COW INN, Bridge Street, Bilston, at seven o'clock in the Evening (subject to conditions which will incorporate the common form conditions of the Wolverhampton Law Association).

All that Valuable Freehold Old Licensed Public House, called the RED COW INN, Bilston, containing large Smoke Room, 26ft long by 17ft wide, and 9ft 9in high; Bar, Tap Room, Front Kitchen, three large Bedrooms, two large Attics, Store Room, four Cellars, large Brewhouse, Stabling, Outbuildings, and large Yard with gateway entrance. The Property has a good frontage to Bridge Street, is centrally situated, and in and out trade is now being carried on. For further particulars apply to Mr. Robert Willcock, or the Messrs. Riley & Kettle, both of Queen Street, Wolverhampton, Solicitors; or to the Auctioneers, Swan Bank, Bilston.”

Sporting Life 17/7/1886

“Mr. *S. Hughes*. This well-known Bilston penciller wishes to inform his pedestrian and dog-racing friends that he has removed from the ROYAL GEORGE INN, to more commodious premises, the RED COW INN, Bilston, where he will be glad to receive a call from old and new friends.”

Sporting Life 24/7/1886

“Step Dancing. An amateur dancing contest, promoted under the auspices of that well-known Bilston sportsman and penciller, Mr. *S. Hughes*, of the RED COW INN, Bilston, was brought to a satisfactory termination on Tuesday night last, and the large and beautiful saloon was crowded to excess, and after some splendid dancing the winner turned up in young Fellows, the pedestrian, of Bilston. This was followed on Wednesday night by the old custom, house warming, in the shape of a splendid supper, which was well served up by the host and hostess in the good old English style. All the leading gentlemen and sportsmen of Bilston and district honoured the proprietor with their presence. Mr. *Hughes* wishes to return thanks to all those who attended.”

Sporting Life 23/10/1886

“J. Legg, of Bilston, is rather surprised at the challenge of P. Dilmore, of Bilston, in last Saturday's *Sporting Life*, asking for one yard start in 100 yards, and two yards start in 120 yards. If Dilmore will give Legg one yard start in 120, he can rely upon making a match by calling at Mr. *S. Hughes*, RED COW, Bridge Street, Bilston, for £10, £15, £25, or £50 a side.”

Sporting Life 13/11/1886

“A pigeon flying sweepstakes, projected by Mr. *S. Hughes*, of the RED COW INN, Bridge Street, Bilston, was brought to a termination on Monday. The conditions were one measured mile. Eleven of the fancy entered their champions, at 10s each bird. The weather was sadly against fast timed being made.....”

[Mr. Flavil's bird won in 1 minute 10 seconds.]

Darlaston Weekly Times 29/7/1887

“It will be seen from our advertising columns that the members of the local Foresters courts have made arrangements for holding a demonstration and fete on a grand scale, in Hall Park recreation grounds, Prouds Lane, Bilston, on Monday next. We may say that brother Joseph Holiberry, of the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Church Street, has charge of the stage amusements; and that brother *S. Hughes*, of the RED COW INN, has been appointed referee for the foot races. There will be a grand procession headed by the Bilston Brass and Reed Band. The committee and members have done all in their power to make the fete a success, and it is earnestly hoped that the public will show their appreciation of their praiseworthy efforts by extending to them a liberal patronage. Should the weather be fine the fete cannot fail to prove a great attraction.”

Sporting Life 9/5/1888 - Advert

“Hall Park Recreation Grounds, Bilston.

Free Gardeners Annual Fete and Sports.

The annual fete and sports in connection with the above ancient order will take place at the above grounds on Whit Monday, May 21, when the committee will give £5 to be run for in an all-England 120 yards professional handicap, to start and finish same day. First prize, £4; second, 15s; third, 5s. Entrance 6d each. All entries must be forwarded to Mr. *S. Hughes*, RED COW INN, Bridge Street, Bilston. Entries close on Tuesday, May 15. Wednesday morning's post in time. Handicapper and starter, Mr. *S. Hughes*, RED COW INN, Bilston.

NB. All competitors to run in amateur costume. Time of running will be announced on programmes, which can be obtained at Mr. *Hughes's*, the above.”

Sporting Life 24/7/1889

“Articles of Agreement entered into this the 19th day of July, 1889, between Thomas Withers, of Dudley, and Patrick Kelly, of Wednesbury, for £40 a-side, wherein the said Thomas Withers agrees to box the said Patrick Kelly thirty rounds with ordinary sized boxing gloves. The match to take place on August 26, 1889. To box under Queensbury rules, three-minute rounds. £5 a-side is now deposited with the *Sporting Life*. The remainder of the money as follows: £5 a-side at Mr. H. Brown's, the PARROT INN, Dudley, on July 24, 1889; £5 a-side at Mr. *S. Hughes's*, the RED COW INN, Bilston, on July 31, 1889; £5 a-side at Mr. H. Brown's, the PARROT INN, Dudley, on August 7, 1889; £5 a-side at Mr. *S. Hughes's*, the RED COW INN, Bilston, on August 14, 1889; and the final deposit of £15 a-side must be made good at Mr. H. Brown's, the PARROT INN, Dudley, on August 21, 1889. All deposits to be made good between the hours of six and nine pm. The men to be in the ring at seven o'clock pm. In the event of question arising which may not be provided for in these articles the referee to have full power and authority to decide such question, his decision to be final conclusive and subject to no appeal in any court of law. The stakeholder shall in any and every case be exonerated from any responsibility upon obeying the direction of the referee. Mr. George Probert (of Birmingham) to officiate as referee, and the *Sporting Life* final stakeholder, the match to take place within ten miles of Wolverhampton. The *Sporting Life* to appoint the place of boxing. Either party failing to comply with any or all of these articles to forfeit all moneys down.

Thomas Withers, Patrick Kelly. Witnesses: Harry Brown, *Samuel Hughes*.”

[Kelly knocked Withers out in the eighth round. *Samuel Hughes* was Kelly's principal backer.]

Sporting Life 26/7/1889

“Pigeon Flying. Challenge to the World.

Mr. *S. Hughes*, of the RED COW INN, Bridge Street, Bilston, will match Mr. Noah Davies's pigeon, of Bilston, Staffordshire, to fly any pigeon in the world on the following terms. To fly 200 yards in any enclosed ground in England, for £25 a side. Will give or take expenses. The *Sporting Life* to be stakeholder and appoint timekeepers and judge. A deposit sent to the *Sporting Life*, and fair articles to the above address, will receive prompt attention.”

Birmingham Daily Post 15/4/1890

“The strike in the iron-plate trade of the Birmingham and Wolverhampton district was renewed yesterday, when the men at a number of works came out in opposition to the enforcement of a new list of wages.....

Yesterday a meeting of operatives on strike in the iron-plate trade was held at the RED COW INN, Bilston. Mr. Edward Dallow, who presided, said that one employer in Wolverhampton had that morning torn the list from the wall, and told the men to return to work at the price they came out at. He further stated that he believed the masters' association was nearly, if not quite, broken up. In Birmingham and Wolverhampton, he added, employers were giving way, and, as far as Bilston was concerned, he felt convinced that the men would not return to work unless they obtained the old price and 10 per cent on it. Some of the men at Bilston had determined to wait on the masters and demand a 10 per cent advance.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/4/1890

“Another meeting of the men on strike in the iron-plate trade was held yesterday at the RED COW INN, Bilston. There were about 300 present. Mr. Stokes (Birmingham) said that the masters' representatives would not consent to grant the concessions they were contending for. That seemed to be the result, so far as the consultation with the employers' representatives in Birmingham on Thursday was concerned. A resolution pledging the men to play on until their demands are conceded was passed unanimously.”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/9/1890

“Last night a meeting of miners was held at the RED COW INN, Bridge Street, Bilston, for the purpose of considering the advisability of forming a lodge in connection with the West Bromwich Miners Wages Board. Mr. P. Curley presided, and addresses were delivered by Mr. Rust and Mr. Henry Barnes (secretary of the Wages Board) on the benefits accruing from the formation of such a lodge and the advantages to be derived from a union of men. At the close of the meeting it was resolved to form a lodge.”

Sporting Life 26/11/1890

“Wolverhampton and District. Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury.

Mr. *S. Hughes*’s Bendigo and Mr. Dangerfield’s Spot, for £20.

The bill of fare issued at this arena on Saturday last consisted of a sixty yards £10 pedestrian spin and a fox terrier rabbit coursing engagement, and although the atmosphere was anything but encouraging a fair company of the Black Country knights put in an appearance. The first item brought on the grass was the coursing match, the bobtails engaged being that well-known Bilston sportsman, Mr. *S. Hughes*, of the RED COW INN, Bridge Street, Bilston, dog, Bendigo, and Mr. Dangerfield’s bitch, Spot, of Roseville, who were matched to contest the best of 11 courses, for £10 a-side. Speculation during the progress of the match was of a very fluctuating character. Some splendid working fur was put down, and from the first rabbit spotted to the last one the affair was of a very close and exciting character. Spot drew the first blood by killing the first, and she then gained the first knockdown blow by capturing the second. The bold Bendigo then commenced to use killing powers by gathering the third, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh in succession. Spot, however, was not done with, but raised the hopes of Villeites by killing the eight and ninth. Bendigo then put the kybosh on the affair by securing the tenth, and won.”

1891 Census

Bridge Street – RED COW INN

[1] *Samuel Hughes* (40), publican, born Bilston;

[2] *Esther Hughes* (39), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Joseph Hughes* (10), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[4] *Elizabeth Dale* (20), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Sporting Life 23/5/1891

“Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury.

On Monday next, May 25, Mr. T. Heath’s fox terrier Rose, of the Royal Exchange, Chase Town, and Mr. *S. Hughes*’s fox terrier Bendigo, of the RED COW, Bilston, course the best of twenty-one rabbits, for £20. *Sporting Life* stakeholder. Spot, half-past two o’clock.

After the match is over there will be a fox terrier leger, entrance 5s each. Usual conditions.”

[Rose beat Bendigo 11-10.]

Sporting Life 26/9/1891

“Wolverhampton and District. Victoria Grounds, Rough Hills. Mr. T. Jones and Mr. *S. Hughes*, for £20.

Perhaps no grounds in the Black Country have played a more prominent part in the drama of pedestrianism than the old-established ‘Vic’ and Wednesday night another important pedestrian spin was added to the long list of interesting matches decided here, when two noted sports met to decide a novel kind of match, the two actors being that well known Midland sportsman and supporter of all kinds of outdoor amusements, Mr. *S. Hughes*, mine host of the RED COW INN, Bridge Street, Bilston, and Mr. Thomas Jones, a well-known local bookmaker of Bilston (late Wolverhampton), who were matched to run the short distance of thirty yards, for £10 a side, Mr. *Hughes* being allowed four yards start inside. The affair, though only ratified the same week, crated considerable excitement amongst the sporting fraternity. At one time, be it said, Mr. *Hughes* could fairly well hold his own at this business, many matches and handicaps having fallen to his share. Of late years, however, he has been proprietor of the RED COW INN, Bilston, and scales about 16st, whilst his opponent, Mr. Jones, only scales some 10st 4lb. The latter, too, is not only well known, but has figured in many handicaps and matches. His last appearance was only a few weeks ago, when Mr. Jones met W. Pearson, of Willenhall, in a sixty yards spin, at these grounds, for £50. Jones, however, had to play second fiddle after a slashing spin. Both men were very sanguine, and on disrobing Mr. *Hughes* presented the appearance of being on the heavy side. However, he and his numerous friends were confident, and

odds of 6 to 4 were freely laid on him. Both were very unsteady on their marks, but eventually they were despatched to a good start, and at one time it looked as though Mr. *Hughes* would land the odds; Jones, however, got up, and won, amidst excitement, on the post. Mr. John Dudley, of Darlaston, was starter, and that well known Bilston sport and backer of Joe Darby (Champion Jumper of the World), Mr. Tom Robinson of the CHURCH INN, Bilston, was stakeholder and referee.”

Sporting Life 17/8/1892

“Hall Park Recreation Grounds Bilson.

Complimentary Benefit and Presentation to Mr. E. Pike.

Monday last was set down for the benefit of Mr. E. Pike, which was under the distinguished patronage of Mr. R. K. Fox, proprietor of the New York Police Gazette, and all the leading sportsmen of the Midlands. The programme, which was a lengthy one, consisted of football, pedestrianism, a jumping contest, and performances by the renowned wonder, Joseph Darby, the champion jumper of the world, who was billed to do some special feats. Prior to the commencement a procession was formed at Mr. *Sam Hughes*’s, the RED COW INN, and, headed by the Blackenhall Heath Star Brass Band, paraded the principal streets of the town, and it was late ere the procession reached the grounds.....

The benefit could hardly be considered a great success, as only about 1,800 paid gate. To make matters worse, owing to the late start, half the programme was only gone through, mainly to the football brigade taking up more time than was necessary.

Darby, who was to have accomplished some special feats, failed to do so on account of darkness coming on. His chief feats were as follows. Jumped off a brick over a chair on to another brick, and cleared a bar 5ft 6in. For this feat he received tremendous applause. Darby also cleared eight chairs in one leap and nine chairs in one leap. Darby’s best feat, however, was jumping over a bar 6ft 6in high, for which he received a rare Black Country ovation.....

At the conclusion of the sports all those concerned in the welfare of Mr. E. Pike adjourned to Mr. *Sam Hughes*, the RED COW INN, where the presentation was made. This consisted of a splendid diamond ring, which was handed to him by Joe Darby, who in a neat speech said he had known Mr. Pike for several years, and had never met a more straightforward man. Mr. Pike responded in a few well-chosen words. Other speeches followed by Mr. John Taylor and Mr. Bacharah, a well-known Dudley sportsman. The evening ended in harmony. The healths of Joe Darby and Mr. Pike were drunk with much enthusiasm.”

[Mr. E. Pike, of Walsall, was a *Sporting Life* correspondent who also officiated at sporting contests.]

Birmingham Daily Post 20/12/1892

“The Strike in the Iron-plate Trade.

There appears to be very little chance of this dispute being brought to a speedy close.....

A meeting of the men out on strike was held at the RED COW INN, Bilston, yesterday afternoon; Mr. Shorthouse (local secretary) presiding. There were also present Mr. Stokes (president of the society), Mr. Fookes (secretary of the Tinsplate Workers Society, Birmingham), Mr. Stringer (delegate from the Lye district), Mr. Ben Cooper (general secretary of the Birmingham Galvanisers Tinnners Trade Society), and others.

The Local Secretary pointed out that on Wednesday those out on strike would march in procession through the town. He was pleased to state that all the men would receive their strike pay regularly.

Mr. Stokes complimented the men on the fact that although they had been out on strike for several weeks their conduct had been such as to elicit the admiration of the press. The Mayor of Birmingham had done all he could to bring about a settlement, and they had sufficient evidence to show that their opponents – the employers – were not honourable in the matter. They said they would not only defeat the men, but tread upon them. It was not only a question of the 10 per cent bonus, as the employers had stated that there would have to be further concessions.

Mr. Fookes said that the strike affected no less than 1,300 human beings – namely, 450 men, with wives and families. Everything that could be done by the men from a conciliatory, honourable, and reasonable point of view had been resorted to, and still the employers were stubborn.....

The following resolution was carried unanimously: That this meeting pledges itself to remain firm against a reduction of 10 per cent bonus.”

The Era 29/4/1893

“RED COW Music Hall, Bilston. Proprietor, Mr. *S. Hughes*; Manager, Mr. George Fox. Miss Maggie Doyle, burlesque actress and vocalist, is the attraction here this week, in addition to Mr. G. Fox, P. Doyle, J. Conway, S. Proffit, and J. Hughes.”

The Era 6/5/1893

“RED COW Music Hall, Bilston. Proprietor, Mr. *S. Hughes*; Manager, Mr. G. Fox. Good houses have been the rule here this week. The additional arrival is Miss Pauline Wilson, who is popular as a serio-comic.”

Samuel Hughes – see also GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL.

Birmingham Daily Post 28/4/1894

“Deeds of Assignment.....

William Price, the RED COW INN, Bilston, victualler. Deed of composition dated 20th and filed 21st inst, which provides for payment of 4s in the pound, payable at three months from date hereof, secured by assignment upon trust until default. Mr. Thomas Skidmore, Wolverhampton, auctioneer, is trustee. Liabilities, £307 11s 5d; assets, £126 19s 3d.”

London Gazette 14/1/1896

“*George Lawrence*, lately residing at the ROYAL GEORGE INN, Church-street, Bilston, Staffordshire, and trading there and at the RISING SUN INN, Amblecote, Stourbridge, Worcestershire, now residing and trading at the RED COW INN, Bridge-street, Bilston aforesaid, Licensed Victualler.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/3/1898

“At the Police Court, yesterday, *William Clay*, landlord of the RED COW INN, Bridge Street, Bilston, was summoned for permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises, on the 5th of March, and further, for supplying beer to an intoxicated person; and John Bryan, of Bridge Street, was also charged with being drunk on the premises. Bryan was fined 10s and the costs; and *Clay* was fined 20s and the costs for permitting drunkenness, the other charge being dismissed.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/6/1898

“Bankruptcy Proceedings.....

Re *William Clay*, of the RED COW INN, Bridge Street, Bilston, and residing at Bond Street, Nuneaton, and carrying on business as a boot-repairer. This debtor came up for his public examination before Mr. Deputy Registrar Kettle at the Wolverhampton County Court yesterday. The liabilities were set down as £236 16s 8d, and the deficiency at £194 16s 8d.

The debtor was examined by Mr. C. Hoult, the Deputy Official Receiver, and stated that he was a boot repairer, living in Bond Street, Nuneaton. In January 1896, a petition was filed in the Wolverhampton County Court against his brother-in-law, *George Lawrence*, of the RED COW INN, Bilston, and he (*Clay*) then purchased from the trustee the stock, furniture, and fixtures of the public house, and the license was transferred to him. *Lawrence* continued to manage the house, but all the goods were purchased in *Clay*’s name. No account was rendered by *Lawrence*, and the debts accumulated until witness had to consult his solicitors, and the petition was filed. He attributed his failure to taking the public house. The debtor was examined at some length as to moneys which were alleged to belong to his wife and to the business carried on by her, and as the answers were not considered satisfactory, the examination was adjourned.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 26/8/1898

“Bilston annual licensing sessions.....

Formal objection was made against the renewals of the RED COW INN, Bilston on account of convictions.....”
AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/8/1898

“The annual Licensing Meeting of the Petty Sessional Division of Bilston was held yesterday.....

Enoch Waterfield, RED COW, Bilston applied for the renewal of their licenses, which were objected to by the Superintendent of Police. Renewed.”

1901 Census

Bridge Street – RED COW INN

- [1] James Williams (33), engine driver (stationary), born Darlaston;
- [2] Catherine Williams (28), wife, born London;
- [3] Frank Williams (3), son, born Darlaston;
- [4] Horace J. Williams (1), son, born Tipton;
- [5] Violetta Grice (24), sister-in-law, single, blind from birth, born London:

Staffordshire Advertiser 11/10/1902

“John Owen, of the RED COW INN, Bridge Street, Bilston, was fined 10s and costs for being drunk in his own house.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 13/6/1906

“John Jones, licensee of the RED COW INN, Bridge Street, Bilston, was at the Police Court there yesterday fined 20s and costs for selling whisky which was 4 per cent under the limit allowed for dilution by the Act of Parliament. Defendant said the cork must have been left out of the bottle.”

1911 Census

4, Fraser Street – RED COW

- [1] George Millard (66), assistant in business, born Eversholt, Bedfordshire;
- [2] Elizabeth Millard (29), wife, married 9 years, licensed victualler, born Margam, South Wales;
- [3] Elsie Millard (9), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] Gwindoline Millard (2), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] Jane Burleigh (20), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 23/12/1912

“There are few Liberal publicans who have the courage to express their views on current topics so freely, or so forcibly, as did Mr. George Millard, of the RED COW INN, Bilston, whose death occurred at about five o’clock this (Monday) morning. Mr. Millard, who had attained his 66th year, was taken with pneumonia in an acute form nine days ago, and his condition early gave rise to anxiety. Dr. Wells paid him repeated visits, but made it known to Mrs. Millard some days ago that there was no hope of recovery. A well-known figure is thus lost to Bilston. Travellers from all parts of the country got to know him well, and his smokeroom, in which hung a large portrait of the late Mr. W. E. Gladstone, and another of Garibaldi, the freer of Italy, in his familiar red shirt, was frequently the venue for discussion of the politics of the day.”

George Millard – see BARREL VAULTS, LION and SPREAD EAGLE.

1921 Census

4, Fraser Street

- [1] Henry Flavell (45), license holder, born Sedgley;
- [2] Emily Flavell (45), wife, assistant and housewife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] Henry Flavell (16), son, fitter working on lathe, born Bilston;
- [4] Alexander Flavell (13), son, school, born Bilston:

South Staffordshire Times 16/12/1922

“At Bilston Police Court, yesterday morning, before Messrs. Tom B. Adams and C. W. Harris, *George Richards*, licensee of the RED COW INN, Fraser Street, Bilston, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises on November 28th; with selling drink to a drunken person; with selling intoxicating liquor in contravention of Section 4 of the Act of 1921; with supplying intoxicating liquor under same section; and with supplying intoxicating liquor to a person on credit. There were also summonses against the following persons for consuming intoxicating liquor on licensed premises after 10pm: Sidney Jasper, 35, Upper High Street, Wednesbury; Leonard Taylor, 18, Oxford Street, Bilston; Elizabeth Taylor, same address; Gladys Dennis, 39, Thompson Street, Bilston; Ralph Draisey, 21, Bow Street, Bilston; Frederick Thomas Jeavons, 37, Bilston Road, Wolverhampton; Albert Rogers, 3, Bridge Street, Bilston; John Davies, 23 court, Bridge Road, Bradley; William Hubble, High Street, Bilston; and William Cole, 19, Great Bridge Road, Bradley.

Mr. J. A. Sharpe appeared to prosecute on behalf of the police; Mr. Glover represented Dennis, Leonard Taylor, Edith Taylor, and Sydney Jasper; and Mr. Rhodes appeared for *Richards*, Draisey, Cole, and Jeavons; Mr. Green watched on behalf of the owners of the house. Rogers, Davies, and Hubbard were not legally represented.

Outlining the circumstances, Mr. Sharpe said observations on the RED COW INN, of which *Richards* had been tenant for eleven months, were kept from a disused burial ground near the Wesleyan Church, directly opposite the RED COW INN. It was a quiet neighbourhood in the daytime, and it was owing to *Richards*' activities that it had become a somewhat notorious neighbourhood at night. For some time past the police had had reason to believe that *Richards* had been conducting the house in a disgraceful manner, and the present proceedings were the outcome of it.

Detective-constable Thorpe explained how he and Detective-constable Nixon took up positions in the Wesleyan burial ground. He said he kept observation, and from time to time the other officer made notes of what was seen. At 10.15pm he saw that the doors in the passage inside the house were open. Several men were in the smokeroom. He could tell that by the shadows on the blind. The landlord crossed the passage from the bar to the smokeroom carrying a tray which had glasses on it. About 10.20pm the men left the smokeroom and went into a room at the rear of the bar. The middle and front doors of the house were then closed by the landlord. At 10.25pm a male and female entered the house. At 10.35 witness and Nixon left the hiding place and went under bar window. Witness then distinctly heard movements in the bar, the jingle of glasses, and someone operating the bar pump. Witness tried to see who was actually in the bar, but was unable to do so because of the blinds. About 10.50 witness and Nixon were joined by a number of uniformed men. Witness then knocked at the front door of the inn. It was opened by the landlord, and witness said to him, 'We are police officers, and have reason to believe that drinking is taking place on your premises.' The landlord replied, 'My God.' Witness and other officers then went into the room at the rear of the bar. There were 14 persons in the room. These included the landlady, her son, and his fiancée. There were glasses containing intoxicating liquor on the table on left-hand side of the room, and also others containing liquor over the fire-place. One glass contained port wine. The glasses were then within the reach of all the persons there. At this point the landlady called out to somebody, 'You are all right; there has been no drink served after 10 o'clock.' She also said that Sidney Jasper, Gladys Dennis, Leonard Taylor, and Edith Taylor were staying there, but as witness was taking the names Dennis said, 'No; we are not staying here.' Leonard Taylor had a glass in front of him which contained stout, Edith Taylor had a glass of whisky and lemonade, Gladys Dennis had a glass of beer and lemonade, and Jeavons drank up something from his glass which smelt of intoxicants. Jeavons was sitting at the time with the glass in front of him. Jeavons then got up and staggered towards witness, who said to him, 'You are drunk, and you will be locked up for being drunk on licensed premises.' He was afterwards taken to the Police Station. Sergeant Daniels took the names of William Cole, John Davis, Arthur Rudge, William Hubble, and also that of a man who was being called as a witness. Witness ascertained that there were three adults and a child staying at the inn, and they were in bed at the time. Witness told the landlord that he should report him for selling intoxicating liquor during prohibited hours. The landlord replied, 'I am sorry this has happened; but I have not served a drink after ten o'clock. I can give away as much as I like.' Witness called attention to Jeavons' condition, and told the landlord that he should report him for permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises. To that the landlord made no reply. During the whole of the time witness and Nixon had the house under observation there was a motor car, the property of William Cole, standing in the open ground in front of the house. Witness told the customers in the house that they would be reported for consuming intoxicating liquors on licensed premises. The only one who made a reply was Hubble, who said, 'I have had nothing to drink.'

Mr. Glover: Were Gladys Dennis, Edith Taylor, Leonard Taylor, and Sidney Jasper sitting by themselves, and not mixing up with other people? – Witness: Yes.

Mr. Glover: So far as you know there has been no previous charges against them? – Witness: Not to my knowledge. Cross-examined by Mr. Rhodes, witness said he presumed that the landlord must have had a previous good character, or he would not have been granted the license of the RED COW. Witness knew the landlord had been in the habit of providing board and lodging for theatrical people, and that some of them went to the house after ten o'clock at night.

Mr. Rhodes: Have you ever made any complaint to Mr. *Richards*, regarding the way he has conducted the house? – Witness: I reported to the superintendent, but not complained to Mr. *Richards* himself.

Mr. Rhodes: Then the first time he had any knowledge that there was any suggestion that the house was not properly conducted was when you and your fellow officers went in on the night of the 28th inst. – Witness: That is so.

Mr. Rhodes: So far as Mr. *Richards* is concerned, you have always known him to be a thoroughly straightforward man? – Witness: A very decent fellow.

Mr. Rhodes: A man whose word can be relied upon? – Witness: I have had no dealings with him before this.

Mr. Rhodes: I suggest to you that this particular night the bar was closed at ten o'clock? – Witness: No it was not.

Mr. Rhodes: And that the lights were put out in the bar a moment or two after ten? – Witness: No.

Mr. Rhodes: Also that after the landlord had cleared the glasses from the smokeroom, just after ten, no one entered the house until the officers arrived. – Witness: I saw several men leaving the smokeroom and going into the room at the rear about 10.20.

Mr. Rhodes: I suggest that when you arrived you found the bar door locked? – Witness: No, the bar door was slightly open.

Mr. Rhodes: You had seen Jeavons before that night? – Witness: No.

Mr. Rhodes: Weren't you in the theatre bar that night? – Witness: Yes.

Mr. Rhodes: I put it to you that you saw Jeavons there? – Witness: No, I did not.

Mr. Rhodes: And you recognised him at the RED COW? – Witness: Certainly not.

Mr. Rhodes: Did you not make the remark that you were surprised to find Jeavons at the RED COW? – Witness: No.

Mr. Rhodes: Did you know he was a friend of the family? – Witness: No.

Mr. Rhodes: Did you know he had been in the habit of staying nights with the landlord's son? – Witness: No.

Mr. Rhodes: Did you hear Mrs. Cole say, 'Mind you we have had no drink.'? – Witness: I did not.

Detective-constable Nixon and Sergeant Daniels gave similar evidence as to what had transpired, and as to the identity of the persons charged with consuming on the premises.

Frank William Hind, who said he was in lodging in Bilston, stated that he was at the RED COW on the night in question. He got there about 9.20. He went into the smokeroom and had something to drink, but finished it off before ten o'clock. He did not leave the premises until some minutes afterwards. There were several other people there, and after ten o'clock he saw them having something to drink. He particularly noticed that Jeavons was intoxicated. About 10.30 he saw Jeavons supplied with a drink by the landlord's son. It was not paid for then. Jeavons told the landlord's son to bring in a drink for himself as well. This he did, but Jeavons did not pay for it then. It was bitter beer. Jeavons said he could not pay for the drinks then, but they could be put down to him. Later on witness saw the landlord go into the bar, and afterwards he brought in four glasses of beer and a port. Witness was there when the police came in. He heard the landlady say to some of the people there, that they were all right as they were staying there.

Replying to Mr. Rhodes, witness said he had been subpoenaed to give evidence.

Mr. Rhodes: I submit that at ten o'clock the landlord called, 'Time!' and immediately removed the glasses from the tables? – Witness: That is not correct.

Mr. Rhodes: I submit that you did not see a single drink served after ten? – Witness: I say I did.

Mr. Rhodes: Where was the landlord when his son served the drinks referred to? – Witness: In the bar.

This concluded the case for the prosecution.

For the defence, Mr. Rhodes again submitted that as he had pleaded guilty to two charges, the other might be allowed to be withdrawn. With regard to Jeavons he said he had been drinking elsewhere prior to closing time, and went to the RED COW to ask *Richards's* son if he could stay the night. Mr. Glover said while he pleaded guilty on behalf of Dennis, the Taylors, and Jasper, he expressed sincere regret on their behalf. The first three were members of the theatrical profession, and Jasper was the son of a respectable Wednesbury butcher. Certain statements had been made of what was going on at that hour on this night, which he described as mere idle gossip without foundation. Cole and Draisey gave evidence denying that they consumed any drink after closing time.

Mr. T. B. Adams intimated that the Bench had decided to convict in all cases, and after retiring they ordered *Richards* to pay £10 or a month's imprisonment for permitting drunkenness, £10 or a month's imprisonment for selling liquor to a drunken person, and £20 or a month's imprisonment for selling during prohibited hours, together with £11 5s special costs. On the other summonses he was ordered to pay costs.

In the cases of consuming liquor during prohibited hours, Hubble was ordered to pay 5s 6d costs, and the others 10s 6d each.

For being on the premises in a drunken state Jeavons was fined 10s.

Mr. Sharpe undertook to withdraw seven summonses against *Richards* in respect of previous dates on payment of costs.

Richards's total amounted to £53 3s 6d."

South Staffordshire Times 30/12/1922

"Mr. Green made an application for the transfer of the license of the RED COW INN, Fraser Street, Bilston, from *George Richards* to *George William Newbould*. He said that Mr. *Newbould* had previously held licenses at Wednesbury, Bilston, and Darlaston, and his character was good.

Superintendent Higgs referred to recent proceeding against *Richards*, and said that the penalties imposed, amounting to about £50, had not yet been paid. He therefore asked the Bench to take that into consideration before consenting to the transfer.

Mr. Green pointed out that Mr. *Newbould* was already in possession.

The Magistrates' Clerk (Mr. Pratt): That is at his own risk.

Superintendent Higgs said he had no objection to Mr. *Newbould* personally, as his references were perfectly satisfactory, but he must ask for the point he had raised to be considered.

After a short adjournment of the application, Mr. Green observed that *Richards* was given a fortnight in which to pay £20 of the fines, and extended time for the balance. On behalf of his client he (Mr. Green) was now willing to pay the first £20.

On this condition the transfer was granted."

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/12/1922

"The Bilston magistrates were asked yesterday to consent to the transfer of the RED COW INN, the licensee of which was convicted and heavily fined recently for offences. It was stated that the man had removed, but the police objected to the transfer because the fines had not yet been paid. The magistrates at first refused the application, but subsequently granted it on payment of £20 towards the fines, the money being found by the licensee's wife."

South Staffordshire Times 20/1/1923

"*George Richards*, former licensee of the RED COW INN, Frazer Street, Bilston, who several weeks ago was fined £50 for offences against the Licensing Acts, now applied for an extension of time in which to pay the fine. He said he was out of work, and had no money. As soon as he got employment he would pay the fine as quickly as possible. Applicant was allowed another month in which to pay."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/2/1923

"There was an echo of the recent raid by the police on the RED COW INN, Bilston, in the Wolverhampton Bankruptcy Court yesterday, when the former licensee, *George Richards*, now of Southwick Place, Bilston, came up for his public examination. The statement of affairs showed liabilities expected to rank of £174 16s 4d, and a deficiency of £171 17s 7d. Debtor, referring to the recent raid, said he was fined £53 4s on charges of permitting drunkenness and supplying intoxicants during prohibited hours. Further financial difficulties arose in respect of the purchase of a motor-lorry, in respect of which he declared he only signed as bondman not as the purchaser. Eventually the proceedings were adjourned."

The license was refused at the annual licensing meeting, on 9th February 1923, on the grounds of ill conduct.

South Staffordshire Times 10/2/1923

"Bilston Licensing Sessions.....

Mr. Green on behalf of Mr. *Newbould*, licensee of the RED COW INN, Fraser Street, Bilston applied for renewal of the license.

Mr. A. J. Sharpe said he had been instructed by the Chief Constable to oppose renewal on the ground it had been badly conducted. The former licensee, *George Richards*, was on December 15th last, fined for a series of offences against the Licensing Acts, committed at the house. Those all had relation to incidents on the 28th November. There were several summonses issued for offences previous to that date, but those were withdrawn on payment of costs. The police were now entitled to call the whole of the evidence to enable the Bench to see that there had been systematic mismanagement of the house. He (Mr. Sharpe) had not a word to say against Mr. Raybould [sic], the present licensee, except that he was exceedingly indiscreet in taking over a house with such a record as that had got. It was the house itself that he (Mr. Sharpe) was dealing with.

Detective-constable Thorpe then gave evidence in regard to watching the house on successive nights between 21st and 28th November. He said almost every night, between ten and eleven, he saw men and women going into the house and coming from it. Sometimes they came in motor cars, which were often left outside. Frequently after ten he heard the rattling of glasses, the jingling of money, and music. He had also seen drink carried from one room to

another. Witness repeated his previous evidence as to what took place on the night of the 28th of November, and all of his statements were corroborated by PC Nixon.

Replying to Mr. Green, the witness said there had not been any complaint against the present licensee. He kept proper time and conducted the house well.

Mr. Green said he did not in any way belittle the gravity of the offences committed by *Richards*, for which *Richards* was heavily fined, but he was there that day on behalf of the owners of the house and its present tenant, whose character was everything that could be desired. As soon as the owners knew of the charges against *Richards* they took steps to get rid of him immediately, and had done everything they could to retrieve the character of the house. They would do everything they possibly could to ensure its being well conducted in future.

The Bench retired to consider their decision and on returning the Chairman said they were unanimously of the opinion that there had been most flagrant acts of mismanagement, and they must refuse the license."

AND

"Bilston Police Court.....

Last week the Licensing Magistrates refused the renewal of the RED COW INN, Fraser Street, Bilston, and Mr. Green now appeared to make application to the Bench to fix the necessary recognisances for an appeal which it was intended to make at the Quarter Sessions against the decision of the licensing Justices.

The Bench fixed the recognisance of Mr. *Newbould*, the present tenant of the house, at £100 and two sureties at £50 each.

Subsequently, the former tenant of the house, Mr. *George Richards*, applied for an extension of time to pay the fine imposed upon him for offences against the Licensing Acts, while he was tenant of the RED COW INN, and which amounted to over £50. He said he had paid £20, and would pay the balance as soon as he could. He was out of work, had filed his petition, and had no means at his disposal.

The Bench allowed another month's time, but advised applicant to do his best to pay something."

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/4/1923

"County Quarter Sessions.....

An appeal was heard against the refusal of the Bilston justices to renew the license to sell intoxicating liquors on the premises known as the RED COW, Bilston, the appellants being *George William Newbould* and Julia Hanson and Sons Ltd. Mr. Graham Milward (instructed by Mr. F. W. Green, of Dudley) appeared for the appellants, and Mr. W. J. Wylie (instructed by Mr. H. S. Pratt, of Bilston) was for the respondent justices.

Mr. Wylie stated that on December 15 last *George Richards*, who was then licensee of the RED COW INN, was convicted of a number of offences – permitting drunkenness, selling intoxicating liquor during prohibited hours, selling to a drunken person, and so on upon various dates from November 22 to November 28, 1922, and fined varying sums in some cases, and in other cases ordered to pay the costs. The license was afterwards transferred to *Newbould*, and renewal was subsequently refused by the justices.

The evidence showed that the premises were raided by the police on the night of November 28. For several nights previous a police constable had seen people entering and leaving the premises after 10pm, which was closing time. *Richards*, who was then the licensee, was seen carrying glasses of beer on trays. When the premises were raided at 10.50pm on November 28, 12 or 14 people were found in the house. Most of them had some kind of intoxicating liquor in front of them. One man was so drunk that he had to be taken to the police station.

PC Thorpe said he kept watch on the premises at night from November 21st to November 28th. On each night he saw people entering and leaving the premises after 10pm. Sometimes there were motor cars outside. On November 25 the last person did not leave the house until 1.17am. On the night the premises were raided witness took up observation with PS Daniels and PC Nixon. Whilst under the bar window he heard the clink of beer glasses and also money being jingled. When the door was opened by *Richards*, the landlord, witness said he had reason to believe that men and women were on the premises, and that drinking was taking place. *Richards* exclaimed, 'My God.' In a room at the rear of the premises witness found 14 persons, including the landlady and her son. Each person had got intoxicating liquor in front of them. One man was in a very drunken condition, and he was locked up. When told he would be reported, *Richards* said, 'I can give as much away as I like.'

Mr. Milward said the matter came as an absolute surprise to the owners, and therefore he was not in a position to cross-examine the witness.

Supt. Higgs, who was called by Mr. Wylie at the request of Mr. Milward, was questioned with reference to the original characters of *Richards* given to the police when the latter became tenant of the RED COW. Witness said he did not raise any objection at petty sessions to *Richards* having the license. Since the transfer of the license to *Newbould* the house had been properly conducted.

Mr. Wylie asked for production of the character given to the police when *Richards* applied for the license, and addressing witness, said: Having that character in your possession, did you say anything to the brewers about it? – No.

Did you at any time while *Richards* was in the house mention to the owners or the brewery company that you had any suspicion of his conduct? – No.

Lord Hatherton (to witness): Will you explain to the Court how it was that with a character such as this you raised no objection to *Richards* being allowed to go into the house? – I could not say from memory whether I told the Court his character exactly as it stood, but the Court had discretion.

Had the court at petty sessions knowledge of this character? – I am not prepared to say from memory. I think he was holding the license at that particular time. Witness added that *Richards* held a license at Wolverhampton up to 1920, and when he went to Bilston there was no objection because he was not asked to give up his tenancy at Wolverhampton or proceeded against.

Thomas Hanson, director and secretary of the appellant company, was then called by Mr. Milward, and said the RED COW was a house they were anxious to retain. Prior to filling the vacancy in tenancy they wrote to the Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd., in whose employ *Richards* had been, and received a reply stating that they considered *Richards* a fit and proper person to hold a license. Having received that letter and knowing that the character papers had gone to the police, they appointed *Richards* with thorough confidence in his honesty and straightforwardness, he having previously held a license for some time. *Richards* conducted the house properly at first. Witness had never heard a word about the late hours business at the RED COW until the police proceedings. When *Richards* left he owed the firm between £70 and £80. Witness added that there had been no conviction against the house until the present trouble.

Mr. Milward, for the appellants, said the question for the Court was whether they thought there was any necessity to punish the owners to the extent of taking away the license. There was no question that a fully-licensed house was a valuable property. This was one of those curious cases where the purely human factor came in. The owners took all precautions necessary before putting *Richards*'s name forward as tenant of the house, but the man seemed to have behaved like a perfect fool, and kept the house open long after hours. The police watched the premises for several nights, but they did not conceive it to be their duty to apprise the owners of what was going on. The question was, where did the duty of the police end? Ought they to have let the owners know what was going on? Ought they to prevent crime, or ought they to catch criminals, or ought they to try and do both? Counsel submitted that the owners had been 'let down' by *Richards*, who had jeopardised the license.

Mr. Wylie, in reply, said the State not only looked to the licensee but the owners to see that a licensed house was properly conducted. He suggested that if the owners had made inquiries of the Wolverhampton police as to *Richards*'s character at the time the license was transferred to him, they would have known exactly what was known today with regard to his character.

Lord Hatherton said the Court felt that they ought to dismiss the appeal, though they came to that decision with a certain amount of reluctance. They had some doubt as to whether what was in the minds of the police ought not to have been communicated to the owners."

It closed in 1923.

It became a lodging house.

IMPORTANT SALE AT THE RED COW, OLD ROAD,
BILSTON.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by Mr. ALTREE,
on Monday and Tuesday, the 12th and 13th days of November, 1855.—The LICENSES and POSSESSION of that well known Old Licensed Premises, together with all FIXTURES, FITTINGS, excellent BREWING UTENSILS, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, Large Stock of prime OLD ALE and SPIRITS, two tumps of excellent HOPS, four-pull ALE MACHINE, Piping and Taps, Lead Water Piping and Brass Taps, Sofas, Screens, Seating, Chairs, Tables, Forms, 26 and 16 bushel Mash Tubs, Copper Betwell, Brass Taps, pair of Vats, massive Lead Piping and Brass Tap, 120 gallon Copper, 100 gallon Iron Boiler, 20 gallon Iron Boiler, 25 capital iron-bound Ale Casks, &c., &c.

Hand-some Mahogany High Press and other Bedsteads, Feather Beds, Mahogany Chests of Drawers, Mahogany Corner and other Cupboards, with all the usual Chamber and Kitchen Requisites, the property of Mr. W. Stretton, who has taken another business. The sale to commence each morning at ten o'clock. The Licenses will be offered at eleven o'clock on Monday. Catalogues may be had at the Auctioneer's, Bilston.

1855

BILSTON.
COPYHOLD PROPERTY IN BRIDGE AND STONE
STREETS.

MR. W. P. TOMKYS, sen., will SELL by
AUCTION, at the RED COW INN, BRIDGE-STREET, at seven o'clock in the evening of the 28th of February, 1860, under instructions from the Trustees and Executors of the late James Caddick, subject to conditions to be then and there produced, all that commodious well situated PUBLIC HOUSE, known as the "Red Cow Inn," now in the occupation of Joseph Moreton, with the outbuildings, appurtenances, and conveniences belonging thereto, together with three newly-erected DWELLING HOUSES, erected near unto, now in the occupation of Daniel Jones, Joseph Hawkins, and Hannah Molyneux, the whole of the property producing an annual income of £56.

For further particulars apply to the AUCTIONEER, 27, Wellington-street, Bilston.

1860

RED COW INN.

BRIDGE STREET, BILSTON.

TO BE LET, with immediate possession, the above old-established INN, now in the occupation of Mr. Joseph Moreton, who is retiring in consequence of ill-health. The Premises consist of Smoke Room, Bar, Bar Parlour, large Club Room (with two Clubs attached), Stabling for twelve Horses, Piggeries, large Shed, Brewhouse, Pipe Manufactory (which is let off) and Bowling and Marble Alley. The Brewing Utensils, Fixtures, and Stock may be taken to at valuation.—For particulars apply to Mr. R. HESKELT, Auctioneer and Valuer, Midland Counties Auction Rooms, Bilston.

1861

BILSTON, STAFFORDSHIRE.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION.

BY JOSEPH WHITEHOUSE, on MONDAY March 14, 1864, at the Red Cow Inn, Bridge Street, Bilston, at Seven o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions of Sale as then produced:—

Lot 1.—All that desirable COPYHOLD PROPERTY, at the junction of Bridge and Stone Streets, Bilston, and known by the name or sign of the "Red Cow," and having a frontage to Bridge Street of 33 feet 8 inches, and Stone Street of 60 feet 3 inches, and containing 875 square yards or thereabouts, and now in the occupation of Mr. John H. Palmer, at a low annual rental of £30.

The House and Premises contains a large and well fitted up Room, Parlour, Bar, Bar Parlour, Club Room, two Chambers, no Attics, three Cellars, and Brewhouse, with large lock-up Yard, Stable, Piggeries, Coach-house, Shedding, and Pipe Manufactory, which is in the occupation of Mr. John Brindley, at a low rental of £5 4s. per annum.

This lot has a Joint Right of Road through the Entry of Lot 2.

Lot 2.—All these Three MESSUAGES or DWELLING HOUSES, with the Outbuildings thereto belonging and adjoining Lot 1, and now in the occupation of William Howell and others, at low rental of £23 8s. per annum.

For further particulars apply to Mr. Norfolk B. Jackson, Solicitor Bilston; or the Auctioneer, Wednesbury, where Plans of same may be seen.

1864

FRIDAY, MARCH 28TH, 1879.

TO MALTSTERS, PUBLICANS, BREWERS, and OTHERS.—Highly Important Sale of Valuable FREEHOLD OLD LICENSED PREMISES, "THE RED COW" INN, situated in BRIDGE-STREET, BILSTON.

MESSRS. J. MORRELL and SON have been favoured with instructions to **SELL BY AUCTION**, on **FRIDAY, MARCH 28th, 1879**, upon the above Premises, at Six o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions then and there to be produced and read, and which may be seen at the Office of the Vendor's Solicitor three days previous to the day of Sale, and which will incorporate the Common Form Conditions of the Wolverhampton Law Association—

All that very valuable **FREEHOLD OLD-LICENSED INN**, called "THE RED COW" INN, having a frontage of 23 yards or thereabouts to Bridge-street, Bilston aforesaid, and also a frontage to Stone street with gateway entrance, containing on the Ground Floor large Smoke Room, with Concert Hall over; Bar, Tap Room, Front Kitchen, and three large commodious Sleeping Rooms, with capital Cellaring, large and commodious Brewhouse, Stabling, and other Out-houses.

Also, Three **FREEHOLD DWELLING-HOUSES**, producing also, at low rentals, £28 12s.

The above Property is centrally situated, and capable of doing a large and extensive trade. Immediate possession may be had.

For further particulars, apply to Mr. Robert Willcock, Solicitor, 49, Queen-street, Wolverhampton; or the Auctioneers, Swan Bank, Bilston.

1879

BILSTON.—TUESDAY, JUNE 14TH.—IMPORTANT FREEHOLD OLD-LICENSED PUBLIC-HOUSE (with Concert Room) and Three **DWELLING HOUSES**, situate in Bridge-street, Bilston.

MR. THOMAS SKIDMORE has received instructions to **SELL BY AUCTION**, on **TUESDAY, JUNE 14th, 1881**, upon the Premises, the **RED COW INN, BRIDGE-STREET, BILSTON**, at Seven o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions of sale which embody the common form conditions of the Wolverhampton Law Association.

All that Valuable **FREEHOLD OLD-LICENSED PUBLIC-HOUSE**, called the Red Cow Inn, Bilston, containing large Smoke Room 26ft. long by 17ft. wide, and 9ft. 6in. high; Concert Hall, 22ft. long by 17ft. wide, and 9ft. 9in. high; Bar, Tap Room, Front Kitchen, Three large Bed Rooms, Store Room, Four Cellars, large Brewhouse, Stabling, and Out-buildings, large Yard with Gateway Entrance. Also Three **MESSUAGES or DWELLING-HOUSES**, in Stone street, Bilston, adjoining, producing a rental of £28 12s. per annum.

The Property has a frontage of 69ft. to Bridge-street, and contains, with the site of the building, square yards of land or thereabouts. The premises are centrally situated, are quite free, a good in and out trade is now being done, and immediate possession can be given.

The greater portion of the purchase money can remain if required.

For further particulars, apply, Mr. Robert Willcock, Solicitor, Queen street; or to the Auctioneer, 2, Bilston-street, both of Wolverhampton.

1881

BILSTON.

MONDAY, MAY 3RD, 1886.

Important Freehold Old Licensed **PUBLIC HOUSE**, with Concert Room, situate in Bridge-street, Bilston.

MESSRS. J. MORRELL AND SONS have received instructions to **SELL BY AUCTION**, on Monday, the 3rd day of May, 1886, upon the Premises, the

RED COW INN, BRIDGE STREET, BILSTON

At seven o'clock in the Evening (subject to conditions which will incorporate the common form conditions of the Wolverhampton Law Association), all that Valuable Freehold Old Licensed

PUBLIC HOUSE,

Called the

"RED COW INN," BILSTON,

Containing large Smoke Room, 26ft. long by 17ft. wide, and 9ft. 6in. high; Concert Hall, 32ft. long by 17ft. wide, and 9ft. 9in. high; Bar, Tap Room, Front Kitchen, three large Bedrooms, two large Attics, Store Room, four Cellars, large Brewhouse, Stabling, Outbuildings, and large Yard with gateway entrance.

The Property has a good frontage to Bridge-street, is centrally situated, and in and out trade is now being carried on.

For further particulars apply to
MR. ROBERT WILLCOCK,

Or to

MESSRS. RILEY & KEFTLE,
Both of Queen-street, Wolverhampton, Solicitors;
Or to the Auctioneers, Swan Bank Bilston.

1886

RED CROSS KNIGHT

11, Brook Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Thomas Strange Hatton, gentleman, Wednesbury
Messrs. Scott and Harris, japanners, Bilston

LICENSEES

Elizabeth Smith [1861]
John Smith [1862]
William Beards [1868] – [1871]
Job Porter [1873] – **1874**;
Jonathan Dyke (**1874 – 1885**);
Daniel Darke (**1885 – 1887**);
William Till (**1887 – 1893**);

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

1861 Census

11, Brook Street

- [1] *John Smith* (50), machiner's clerk, born Bilston;
- [2] *Elizabeth Smith* (47), wife, beerhouse keeper, born Bilston;
- [3] *Mary Smith* (24), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] *Stephen Smith* (19), son, plasterer's labourer, born Bilston;
- [5] *Agnes Smith* (16), daughter, dressmaker, born Bilston;
- [6] *Charles Smith* (14), son, solicitor's junior assistant, born Bilston;
- [7] *Margarett Smith* (9), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [8] *Lucy L. Smith* (7), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [9] *Terese Ugene Smith* (5), daughter, scholar, born Bilston:

John Smith, retailer of beer, 11, Brook Street. [1862]

William Beards, beer retailer, 11, Brook Street. [1868]

1871 Census

11, Brook Street – RED CROSS KNIGHT

- [1] *William Beards* (46), coal miner and beer seller, born Bilston;
- [2] *Elizabeth Beards* (47), wife, born Dawley, Shropshire;
- [3] *William Beards* (19), son, coal miner, born Bilston;
- [4] *Elizabeth Beards* (15), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] *John Beards* (11), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] *Michael Dunning* (74), father-in-law, formerly coal miner, born Dawley, Shropshire;
- [7] *John Dunning* (28), boarder, coal miner, born Bilston:

1881 Census

11, Brook Street – RED CROSS KNIGHT

- [1] *Jonathan Dyke* (34), publican and miner, born Bilston;
- [2] *Martha Dyke* (34), wife, born Coseley;
- [3] *Mary Dyke* (9), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] *Hannah Dyke* (7), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] *William Dyke* (4), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] *Martha Dyke* (3), daughter, born Bilston;
- [7] *Elijah Dyke* (6 months), son, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 18/10/1884

“Thomas Burton, puddler, Temple Street, and Benjamin Parks, labourer, Hall Street, were each sentenced to three months’ hard labour for stealing £3 3s from the RED CROSS KNIGHT INN, Brook Street, Bilston.”

1891 Census

11, Brook Street

- [1] *William Till* (38), maker of fittings, gas tube works, born Heath Town;
- [2] *Hannah Till* (39), wife, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *Edward Till* (14), son, labourer in gas tube works, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] *Samuel Till* (12), son, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] *William Till* (9), son, scholar, born Wolverhampton:

The license was abandoned at the Licensing Meeting in 1893.

RED LION

32, Brierley Lane, (New Street), (Batmans Hill), (Daisy Bank), Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

Ann Townsend, Brierley Lane, Bradley
Dennis George Round, coalmaster, Edgbaston
W. B. Collins and Co., colliery masters, Stourbridge
John and Joseph Townsend

LICENSEES

Edward Smith [1828] – **1852**;
Elizabeth and Ann Smith (**1852** – []
Thomas Townsend [1861]
Thomas Price []
Miss Esther Wise [1871]
Enoch Walters [1873]
Sarah Ainsworth (**1873**);
Enoch Walters (**1873** – **1875**);
Samuel Busby (**1875** – **1879**);
John Roberts (**1879** – **1881**);
Joseph George (**1881** – **1883**);
William Stone (**1883** – **1906**);
Simon Isaac Daniel Paul (**1906** – **1910**);
Louisa Paul (**1910** – **1912**);

NOTES

[This pub was strictly in Sedgley, but is included here due to it being situated at Bradley.]

Daisy Bank [1849]

MONKEY INN [1891]

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 13/10/1823 - Advert

“To Maltsters.

Wanted immediately, a steady sober Man, well acquainted with his business, and can bring a good character.
Apply in person to the RED LION, Daisy Bank, near Bilston.”

1841 Census

Daysy Bank

- [1] Edward Smith (65), victualler, born Staffordshire;
- [2] Phoebe Smith (60), born Staffordshire;
- [3] Elizabeth Smith (40), born Staffordshire;
- [4] Ann Smith (20), born Staffordshire;

TO MALTSTERS.
WANTED immediately, a steady sober Man,
well acquainted with his business, and can
bring a good character.—Apply in person to the RED
LION, Daisy Bank, near Bilston.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/5/1850

“On Friday last an inquest was held at the RED LION, Daisy Bank, Coseley, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of Henry Turner, forty-eight years of age, who died on Wednesday morning from injuries sustained on the preceding afternoon, by a large quantity of coal falling upon him whilst he was at work in a coal pit. The jury gave a verdict of Accidental Death. The deceased has left a widow and four children.”

1851 Census

Daisy Bank – RED LION

- [1] *Edward Smith* (78), licensed victualler, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Phoebe Smith* (72), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] *Elizabeth Smith* (55), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [4] *Ann Smith* (30), daughter, born Sedgley;

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/5/1851 - Died

“May 15, aged 72, *Phoebe*, wife of Mr. *Edward Smith*, of the RED LION, Daisy Bank, Coseley.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 11/9/1852 - Deaths

“On the 1st instant, in the 80th year of his age, Mr. *Edward Smith*, of the RED LION, Daisy Bank, Coseley.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 13/10/1852

“Victuallers licenses the following changes took place.....

Edward Smith, deceased, of Daisy Bank, Sedgley, to *Elizabeth and Ann Smith*, spinsters, of the same place.”

1861 Census

Batmans Hill

- [1] *Thomas Townsend* (45), beer seller, born Bilston;
- [2] *Hannah Townsend* (45), wife, born Hayhead, Staffordshire;
- [3] *Joseph Townsend* (21), son, iron roller, born Sedgley;
- [4] *Thomas Townsend* (18), son, brewer, born Sedgley;
- [5] *John Townsend* (17), son, iron roller, born Bilston;
- [6] *Hannah Townsend* (15), daughter, servant, born Bilston;
- [7] *Martha Townsend* (13), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [8] *Sarah Townsend* (10), daughter, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [9] *Eliza Townsend* (9), daughter, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [10] *Louisa Townsend* (7), daughter, scholar, born Sedgley;

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/9/1861

“Annual meeting for the renewal and granting of spirit licenses.....

Mr. *Thomas Townsend*, of the RED LION, Batmans Hill, applied for a license to his house, supported by Mr. H. Underhill. This was unopposed Refused.”

London Gazette 22/11/1870 - Notice

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1869. In the County Court of Worcestershire, holden at Dudley.

In the Matter of Proceedings for Liquidation by Arrangement or Composition with Creditors, instituted by *Thomas Price*, of Wesley-street, Bradley, in the parish of Sedgley, in the county of Stafford, Shingler, previously thereto residing in Ohio, in the United States of America, Shingler, and formerly of the RED LION INN, Batmans-hill-road, Bradley aforesaid, Shingler and 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 office of Mr. Joseph Stokes, No.1, Priory-street, Dudley, in the county of Worcester, on the 5th day of December next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 19th day of November, 1870.

Jos. Stokes, No.1, Priory-street, Dudley, Attorney for the said Debtor.”

1871 Census

32, Brierley Lane

- [1] *Esther Wise* (34), unmarried, tailoress and beer seller, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Mary Wise* (26), sister, milliner, born Sedgley;
- [3] *Arthur Wise* (66), father, labourer (ill), born Sedgley;
- [4] *Sarah Wise* (62), mother, born Sedgley;

Birmingham Daily Post 30/8/1873

"Yesterday the annual licensing meeting for Bilston and the neighbourhood was held in the Petty Sessions Court..... The proceedings opened by Chief Superintendent McCrea presenting his annual 'black list.' In doing so he remarked that it only indicated eleven offenders, whilst a twelvemonth ago there were twenty-nine. This comparison, he considered, was the clearest substantiation of the beneficial operation of the recent Licensing Act. The names of the offending beerhouse keepers were.....

Enoch Walters, RED LION, Bradley.....

The committee stated that the licenses of all the persons contained in the 'list' would be suspended until the adjourned licensing sessions, to be held on the 26th proximo."

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1873

"Bilston Adjourned Annual Licensing Sessions were held yesterday.....

The undermentioned beerhouse licenses were renewed.....

Enoch Walters, RED LION, Bradley.....

All the above applicants had been convicted during the past two years, and the Bench cautioned them."

London Gazette 25/5/1875

"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 *Enoch Walters*, late of the RED LION INN, New-street, Batmans Hill, in the parish of Sedgley, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler and Shopkeeper, but now in lodgings at Mrs. Sarah Hensworth, of New-street, Batmans Hill aforesaid, Widow, and out of business.

Notice is hereby given, that a First General Meeting of the creditors of the above-named person has been summoned to be held at the office of Mr. John E. Fellows, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, on the 4th day of June, 1875, at three o'clock in the afternoon precisely.

Dated this 19th day of May, 1875.

Jno. E. Fellows, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, Attorney for the said Debtor."

Evening Express 16/2/1881 - Advert

"A Splendid new Bicycle (52½in) to be Sold cheap, or to be Ballotted for.

S. Smith, RED LION INN, Daisy Bank, Bradley, near Bilston."

A Splendid new Bicycle (52½in.) to be Sold cheap, or to be Ballotted for —S. Smith, Red Lion Inn, Daisy Bank Bradley, near Bilston.

1881 Census

32, Brierley Lane

- [1] *Joseph George* (31), beerhouse keeper and furnace builder, born Tipton;
- [2] *Betsy George* (29), wife, born Netherton;
- [3] *Alice George* (6), daughter, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [4] *Minnie George* (3), daughter, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [5] *Joseph J. George* (9 months), son, born Sedgley;
- [6] *Rose McQuire* (19), domestic servant, born Bristol;

Evening Express 7/11/1881 - Advert

"Wanted, a Pianist, for Saturday and Monday evenings next.

Apply, at once, RED LION INN, Bradley."

WANTED, a Pianist, for Saturday and Monday evenings next.—Apply, at once, Red Lion Inn, Bradley

Evening Express 14/12/1881 - Advert

"Wanted, a Pianist, for Saturday and Monday Evenings; also Comic Singer.

Apply, *J. George*, RED LION, Bradley."

WANTED, a Pianist, for Saturday and Monday Evenings; also Comic Singer.—Apply, J. George, Red Lion, Bradley.

1891 Census

32, Brierley Lane – MONKEY INN

- [1] William Stone (47), publican, born Bilston;
- [2] Sarah Smith Stone (49), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] Sarah Jane Stone (13), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [4] Emily Fletcher (14), domestic servant, born Sedgley:

William Stone, beer retailer, Brearley Lane, Bradley. [1896], [1900], [1904]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 17/9/1898

“Football Notices.....

Bradley Cup and Medals (value 6 guineas) for non-association teams; entrance fee 4s each team.

For further particulars, apply, Mr. *W. Stones*, RED LION INN, Brierley Lane, Bradley, Bilston.”

1901 Census

32, Brierly Lane

- [1] William Stone (57), publican, born Sedgley;
- [2] Sarah S. Stone (59), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] Sarah J. Stone (23), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [4] Alice M. Cole (17), domestic servant, born Sedgley:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/11/1909 - Deaths

“On the 29th inst, *Simon J. D. Paul*, at the RED LION INN, Brierley Lane, Bradley, Bilston, after a painful illness.”

1911 Census

32, Brierley Lane

- [1] *Louisa Paul* (48), widow, licensee of public house, born Coseley;
- [2] Maud Fellows (20), general servant, born Coseley;
- [3] John Townsend (33), boarder, sheet dragger, galvanise works, born Coseley:

Staffordshire Advertiser 17/2/1912

“Bilston Annual Licensing Sessions were held on the 9th inst.....

The licenses of RED LION INN, Brierley Lane were referred to the compensation authority for closing as not being required.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/6/1912

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

Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Principal Meeting to be held pursuant to the Licensing Rules, 1910, by the Compensation Authority for the above Area, will be held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, at Eleven o’clock am, on Thursday, the 18th Day of July, 1912.

And Notice Is Hereby Also Given, that the Compensation Authority will at the Meeting be prepared to hear, with reference to the Renewal of the Licenses of the several Premises specified in the subjoined list, all those Persons to whom under the Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910, they are bound to give an opportunity of being heard; that is to say, the Persons interested in any Licensed Premises in question, and, unless it appears to the Compensation Authority unnecessary, any other persons appearing to them to be interested in the question of the renewal of the license of those premises (including the Justices of the Licensing District). List of Licensed Premises.....

RED LION, Bradley. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *Louisa Paul*.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/8/1912 - Notice

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

Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Compensation Authority for the above area, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on the 18th day of July, 1912, to Refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below, all Persons Claiming to be Interested in the said Premises for the purpose of the Payment of Compensation under the said Act (other than the Licensee and the Registered Owner of the said Premises) are required to send to the Compensation Authority Notice of their Claims before the 26th day of August, 1912, for the purpose of enabling the Compensation Authority to ascertain in manner provided by the Licensing Rules, 1910, the Persons entitled to Compensation under the said Act, in respect of the said Premises.....

RED LION, Bradley. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *Louisa Paul*. Registered Owner, John Townsend and Joseph Townsend.”

Lichfield Mercury 3/1/1913

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

The County Licensing Committee presented the following report.....

The committee went in great detail into all the figures submitted to them upon which the persons interested claimed compensation, and heard evidence put forward by the claimants. The committee consider that the amounts of compensation agreed upon are satisfactory, both from the point of view of the parties interested and the compensation fund.

In the following twenty-five cases the committee fixed the compensation.....

RED LION, Bradley, beerhouse ante 1869, £350.....

The money has been apportioned amongst the interested parties and will be paid out on the 21st of December.”

Compensation of £350 was paid on 21st December 1912.

RED LION

49, (26), (25+26), (31), (30), (23), Dudley Street (South), BILSTON

OWNERS

Mrs. Elizabeth Legge
John Smith, beerhouse keeper, Salop Row, Bradley, Bilston
Solomon Fellows
Samuel Leadbetter
William Butler and Co. Ltd. (acquired 1886) [1965]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Charles Foden [1852] – **1855**;
Haden **(1855 – [])**
John Taylor [1858] – **1861**;
Peter Rudge **(1861 – 1863)**;
Thomas Smart **(1863 – 1866)**;
Thomas Richards **(1866 – 1876)**;
William Richards **(1876)**;
Solomon Fellows **(1876 – 1880)**;
Samuel Leadbetter **(1880 – 1886)**;
Joseph Onions **(1886 – 1887)**;
Thomas Hill **(1887 – 1888)**;
James Gilbert **(1888 – 1893)**;
Samuel Leadbetter **(1893)**;
Jemima Leadbetter **(1893 – 1894)**;
Thomas Woodhouse **(1894 – 1896)**;
William Millard Whitehouse **(1896 – 1906)**;
Mrs. Martha Annie Whitehouse **(1906 – 1912)**;
James Elwell **(1912 – 1913)**;
Job Foster **(1913 – 1921)**;
Fred William Baker **(1921 – 1922)**;
John Edward Currin **(1922 – 1933)**;
William Edward Leach **(1933 – [1940])**
Frank Poole [1954]

NOTES

23, Dudley Street [1858], [1861], [1862], [1864], [1865]
30, Dudley Street [1871], [1872]
31, Dudley Street [1873], [1874]
25+26, Dudley Street [1881], [1891]
26, Dudley Street [1892], [1896]
49, Dudley Street [1901], [1904], [1906], [1908], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1921], [1932], [1939], [1940]

LION [1868], [1870]

It had a beerhouse license.

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF STAFFORDSHIRE, HOLDEN AT WOLVERHAMPTON.

20th day of January, 1855.
WHEREAS a petition of CHARLES FODEN, at present and for five days last past residing in lodgings in Bilston, in the county of Stafford, in no business or occupation; previously and for one year and about two months residing in Bilston aforesaid, licensed retailer of spirituous liquors, ale, beer, and tobacco, and occasionally working as a plate and sheet iron roller; previously and for about two years residing in Bilston aforesaid, licensed retailer of ale, beer, and tobacco, and occasionally working as a plate and sheet iron roller; and formerly and for two years residing at Hall Fields, near Bilston aforesaid, plate and sheet iron roller, an Insolvent Debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, at Wolverhampton, and an interim order for protection from process having been given to the said Charles Foden under the provisions of the statutes in that case made and provided, the said Charles Foden is hereby required to appear in Court before the Judge acting in the matter of the said petition, on the 20th day of FEBRUARY, 1855, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at the Court House, Queen-street, Wolverhampton aforesaid, for his FIRST EXAMINATION touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said statutes; and notice is hereby given, that the choice of assignees is to take place at the time so appointed.

All persons indebted to the said Charles Foden, or who have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. CHARLES GALLIMORE BROWN, the official assignee, acting in the matter of the said petition, at his office, in Queen-street, Wolverhampton aforesaid.

JAMES EDWARD UNDERHILL,
Attorney, Wolverhampton.

1855

Charles Foden = Charles Fordern

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/9/1852

"The annual licensing day for the division of Seisdon North was held at the Public Office, Bilston Street, Wolverhampton, on Thursday last.....

There were about forty applications for new [spirit] licenses, of which eight were granted.....

Application made by Mr. Underhill on behalf of Mr. *Charles Foden* for a house in Dudley Street, Bilston, was, after some discussion, refused."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/1/1855 - Notice

"In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton.

Whereas a petition of *Charles Foden*, at present and for five days last past residing in lodgings in Bilston, in the county of Stafford, in no business or occupation; previously and for one year and about two months residing in Bilston aforesaid, licensed retailer of spirituous liquors, ale, beer, and tobacco, and occasionally working as a plate and sheet iron roller; previously and for about two years residing in Bilston aforesaid, licensed retailer of ale, beer, and tobacco, and occasionally working as a plate and sheet iron roller; and formerly and for two years residing at Hall Fields, near Bilston aforesaid, plate and sheet iron roller, an Insolvent Debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, at Wolverhampton, and an interim order for protection from process having been given to the said *Charles Foden*, under the provisions of the statutes in that case made and provided, the said *Charles Foden* is hereby required to appear in Court before the Judge acting in the matter of the said petition on the 20th day of February, 1855, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at the Court House, Queen Street, Wolverhampton aforesaid, for his First Examination touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said statutes; and notice is hereby given, that the choice of assignees is to take place at the time so appointed.

All persons indebted to the said *Charles Foden*, or who have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. Charles Gallimore Brown, the official assignee, acting in the matter of the said petition, at his office, in Queen Street, Wolverhampton aforesaid.

James Edward Underhill, Attorney, Wolverhampton."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/2/1855

"Insolvents.....

Charles Fordern, innkeeper, passed his first examination, supported by Mr. H. Underhill; and opposed by Mr. Hayes, for Mr. J. Chapman, brewer, Westbromwich, and Mr. Harper, carrier, Bilston; but opposition was deferred until final examination."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 20/2/1861 - Advert

"I Am Going To The Lion!

To Be Let, by Aintree and Son, the RED LION, Dudley Street, Bilston, containing tap, bar, kitchen, club, and three sleeping rooms, brewhouse, malt room, stable, piggeries, yard, &c. Rent £22 per annum. May be converted into a Spirit Vault at a trifling outlay; is doing a profitable business in Spirits, Wines, Ales, Porter, &c. Licenses, Stock, and effects at a valuation.

Apply at the old-established Auctioneers and Publicans' Valuers, opposite St. Luke's Parsonage, Bilston."

1861 Census

23, Dudley Street

[1] *John Taylor* (38), coal miner and victualler employing 16 men and 5 boys and 2 girls, born Bloxwich;

[2] *Mary Taylor* (43), wife, born Lincolnshire;

[3] *Emma Taylor* (8), niece, scholar, born Bilston;

[4] *Joseph Taylor* (21), brother, coal miner, born Bilston;

[5] *Ester Davies* (17), house servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 7/8/1862 - Advert

"RED LION, Dudley Street, Bilston.

By Aintree and Son. To be Disposed Of, the above well-frequented Premises, doing a profitable in and out-door business in Spirits, Ales, &c. Cause of Disposal the Proprietor returning to Australia.

Apply at 159, Horsley Fields, Wolverhampton."

"RED LION,"
DUDLEY STREET, BILSTON.
BY ALTREE and SON.—To be DISPOSED OF,
the above well-frequented PREMISES, doing a profitable in
and out-door business in Spirits, Ales, &c. Cause of disposal the
Proprietor returning to Australia.—Apply at 159, Horsley Fields,
Wolverhampton.

Birmingham Daily Post 25/8/1862 - Advert

“Sale, RED LION, Dudley Street, Bilston.

Messrs. Altree will Sell by Auction, Tomorrow (Tuesday) August 26th.

The Licenses and Possession of the above Premises, Public-house Fixtures, Fittings, Ale Machine, Spirit Casks, 28, 60, and 120 gallon Coopers' made Ale Barrels, Mash Tubs, Coolers, Vats, Boilers, Malt Crusher, Hop Press, Tables, Chairs, massive mahogany four-post and iron Bedsteads, Mattresses, Feather Beds, mahogany Chests of Drawers, Wash Stands, Dressing Tables, Toilet and Pier Glasses, handsome Eight-day Timepiece, Glass Shade; 450 Gallons Prime Ale and Porter, 25 Gallons Brandy, Gin, Rum, and Whiskey; Malt, Hops, &c; the Property of Mr. Binks. Commencing at Eleven o'clock am.

Auctioneers Offices, 159, Horsley Fields, Wolverhampton.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 25/2/1863

“*Legge v Rudge*. At the Wolverhampton County Court, on Thursday last, before A. M. Skinner, Esq. (Judge), an action was tried before a Jury, in which the plaintiff, Mrs. Elizabeth Legge, the owner of the RED LION public house in Bilston, sought to recover from Mr. *Peter Rudge*, the bona fide tenant of the above house, the sum of £5 10s for one quarter's rent, due in September last. Mr. Thurstans appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Bartlett for the defendant. The hearing of the case lasted about three hours, but the facts are simply these.

It appeared that *Rudge* entered into the tenancy of the house in the early part of June, 1861, and that being the middle of the quarter, he received from the outgoing tenant, named *Taylor*, the amount of rent then due. *Rudge* continued to occupy the house, and to pay the rent for it up to June in last year, when he sublet it to a man named Binks, who afterwards sold up and left the country. No rent had been received by the plaintiff in respect of the house since June, 1862, and the only question for the Jury to decide was whether or not plaintiff recognised and accepted Binks as her tenant. For the plaintiff it was sworn that although she was on several occasions requested to accept Binks as her tenant she always refused, and never recognised any other person as the bona fide tenant of the house but *Rudge*. For the defence witnesses were called to prove that the plaintiff did accept Binks as tenant, and in recognition of him made certain repairs and improvements in the house in accordance with the wishes of Mr. Binks. This was also denied by the witnesses for the plaintiff, and the witnesses for the defendant contradicted each other to such a degree as to render their evidence quite unreliable.

His Honour having carefully summed up, pointing out the various discrepancies of the case, the Jury retired, and shortly returned into court with a verdict for the plaintiff.

As *Rudge* has never given the plaintiff notice of his intention to quit the house, which at present remains closed, he is still, by this decision, regarded as the actual tenant, and liable to be sued for the rent now accruing.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/4/1864 - Advert

“Friday, May 6th, 1864. Desirable Freehold & Copyhold Properties, in Dudley Street, Bilston, in the County of Stafford.

Mr. Samuel Baker will Offer for Sale by Auction, on Friday, the 6th day of May, 1864, at the house of Mr. *Thomas Smart*, the RED LION INN, Dudley Street, Bilston, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be read.

Lot 1. All that Freehold Messuage or Dwelling House, being an Old Licensed Public House, known by the sign of the RED LION INN, situate in and fronting to Dudley Street, in Bilston aforesaid, now in the occupation of Mr. *Thomas Smart*, containing two spacious and lofty cellars, tap-room, bar, kitchen, club-room, and three bed-rooms, brewhouse, malt-room, stable, and other necessary outbuildings in yard. The annual rental of this house is £22. And also all that other Messuage or Dwelling House, adjoining the last described Messuage, and fronting to Dudley Street, in the occupation of Francis Taylor, containing cellar, parlour, and kitchen, three bed-rooms, and brewhouse, and producing an annual rental of £10 8s.....

The above Messuages are substantially built, regardless of expense, are well supplied with hard and soft water, and occupied by respectable tenants.

The tenants will show the respective Lots, and for further particulars apply at the Offices of Messrs. Mason and Holmes, Solicitors, or the Auctioneer, all of Bilston.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/3/1866

“On Saturday afternoon last two boys employed at Mr. Perry’s foundry were sliding on the ice over a pond formed by a swag in Riley’s field, when the ice gave way, and the lads were in imminent danger of drowning, but were eventually rescued from their perilous position by Samuel Smart, son of the landlord of the RED LION in Dudley Street. The brave young fellow was several times in great peril, and his hands were much cut and bruised by the ice.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 12/3/1866 - Correspondence

“To the Editor of the *Daily Post*.

Sir, You will extremely oblige me and also many others by publishing the undermentioned, as it may be a caution. A near escape of life took place on Saturday, the 3rd instant, between four and five o’clock pm. A number of boys were on a pool of water – which I have learned since to be of considerable depth – and there were two boys amusing themselves by throwing a glass bottle backwards and forwards across the ice, and the boys were very nigh a hole which was broken in the ice, and they stood in great danger. A youth observing them, named Samuel T. Smart, RED LION INN, Dudley Street, Bilston, aged nineteen, who was skating on a sheet of ice some distance from them, shouted to them to caution them of their danger, but they could not hear him. So, seeing that they stood in great danger, he volunteered to snatch them from the place, but in so doing they all three went down under the ice. Smart coming up first to the surface of the ice, being one who could swim, immediately commenced breaking the ice from around the lads – one of the lads could swim apparently – and after being in the water some ten minutes, he managed to get out, with the assistance of Smart. The other boy, William Johnson, age twelve years, residing in Coseley Street, Bilston, was struggling his last, apparently. Smart seized him, and held him up for three minutes, with his left arm, whilst he was breaking the ice and treading the water, which buoyed him up, until assistance could be rendered. I also saw the blood running from his hands, and he, Smart, had been in the water fifteen minutes. I am, sir, yours, &c, an eye-witness of the scene. Bilston, March 5, 1866.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/11/1868

“At the Police Court, yesterday....

Thomas Richards, licensed victualler, of the LION INN, Dudley Street, Bilston, was fined 10s and costs for refusing to admit Police-constables Moffat and Hughes to his house on Sunday night last.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 28/8/1869

“The annual licensing meeting for the Bilston division took place yesterday, at the Police Court.....

The following is the list of the licensed victuallers who have been fined during the year.....

Refusing to Admit Police *Thomas Richards*, RED LION, Dudley Street, Bilston, 10s and costs.”

1871 Census

30, Dudley Street

[1] *Thomas Richards* (41), widower, publican, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Thomas H. Richards* (14), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[3] *Samuel Richards* (6), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[4] *Alfred Richards* (4), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[5] *Nancy Richards* (68), mother, widow, born Wednesbury;

[6] *Sarah Smith* (18), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/6/1871 - Correspondence

“To the Editor of the *Daily Gazette*.

Sir. Under the head ‘Willenhall,’ your reporter was in error in stating that *Thomas Richards*, publican, Bilston, was fined 10s and costs for causing some obstruction in the footpath on the Willenhall Road. It should have read *Thomas Rogers*, SHAKESPEARE INN, Bilston. Myself and *John Richards*, of the ANGEL INN, Bilston, never having kept any dogs, we should wish it to be fully stated in your tomorrow’s paper that neither I, *Thomas Richards*, nor *John Richards*, innkeepers, of Bilston, had anything to do with the case.

Yours truly, *Thomas Richards*, RED LION INN, Dudley Street. *John Richards*, ANGEL INN, Hall Street. Bilston, May 30.”

Thomas Richards died on 8th July 1876.

Samuel Leadbetter = Samuel Ledbetter

1881 Census

25+26, Dudley Street – RED LION INN

[1] Samuel Leadbetter (46), colliery manager, born Bilston;

[2] Jemima Leadbetter (46), wife, born Bilston;

[3] Harriett Richards (15), domestic servant, born Sedgley:

Evening Express 10/8/1881

“An inquest was held this morning, at the RED LION INN, Dudley Street, Bilston, before Mr. W. H. Phillips, district coroner, touching the death of a child, about two years of age, named Mary Cadman, who was drowned on Monday under circumstances already reported.

Matilda Cadman, the mother of the deceased, stated that she took the child into a neighbour’s yard to play with some other children, and a few minutes afterwards, on going into the yard for the purpose of putting her hat on, she found that the deceased had fallen head foremost into a low tub of water which stood near the brewhouse. She took her out and carried her home, and every effort was made to bring her to consciousness without avail.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 15/7/1882 - Advert

“Wanted, a General Servant, about 17 or 18, one from the country preferred.

Apply, RED LION, Dudley Street, Bilston.”

WANTED, A GENERAL SERVANT, about
17 or 18, one from the country preferred.
—Apply, ‘Red Lion,’ Dudley Street, Bilston.

Darlaston Weekly Times 21/6/1884

“On Tuesday morning, Enoch Hughes, the infant son of John and Sarah Hughes, of Dudley Street, Bilston, was found dead in bed. An inquest was held on Wednesday morning, at the RED LION INN, Dudley Street, before W. H. Phillips, Esq, district coroner.

Sarah Hughes, the mother, stated that the child was eight weeks old, and had slept very much since his birth. He was a seven months child. On Tuesday morning she found him dead in bed, with his face upwards, and his hands clenched. He had suffered from convulsions from his birth. A medical certificate stated that the child had died from convulsions, but the surgeon not having seen the child for six weeks before its death, the coroner said he wished it to be understood that he could not regard certificates where the doctor had not seen the deceased for so long a time. The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 8/1/1885

“On Wednesday afternoon an inquiry was opened at the RED LION INN, Dudley Street, Bilston, by Mr. W. H. Phillips, touching the death of a girl, named Sarah Ann Howes, aged eight years (daughter of Thomas Howes, painter, of 58, Dudley Street, Bilston), who met with her death, as already reported, by burns received on Sunday morning last. Janes Howes, the mother of the child, stated that her husband was in the habit of bringing oranges and other trifles home for the child on Saturday night, and on Sunday morning last the deceased went down in her night-dress to get what her father had brought her. Her husband had lit the fire and went out for a few minutes, leaving the child alone. Witness’s attention was attracted from upstairs by the screams of the child, and on going to her assistance she found her in flames. She was much burnt before the flames could be extinguished, and although a doctor was sent for the child died the same evening. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 11/2/1885 - Advert

“Wanted, a good Servant, 18 to 20, used to public business.

Apply, RED LION, Dudley Street, Bilston.”

WANTED, a good Servant, 18 to 20, used to public
business.—Apply, Red Lion, Dudley-st., Bilston.1451

Darlaston Weekly Times 4/9/1886 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale of Surplus Furniture, Handsome Pianoforte, Splendid Light Trap, Bay Cob, Harness, Avery’s Weighing Machine, &c, &c.

RED LION INN, Dudley Street, Bilston.

J. Morrell and Sons are favoured with instructions From Mr. *S. Ledbetter*, who is leaving (in consequence of the RED LION INN being taken to by Messrs. Butler and Co, Brewers, Wolverhampton), to Sell by Auction, upon the premises, on Monday, September 13th, 1886, the whole of the Surplus Furniture, sets of iron French bedsteads, mattresses, feather and flock beds, toilet glasses, toilet tables, chest of drawers, Windsor and other chairs, walnut whatnots, prints framed, ornaments, brilliant-toned Full Compass Pianoforte, in handsome walnut case, by Sewell and Sewell; music stool, Splendid Light Sandringham Trap, walnut body, lancewood shafts and hickory wheels, with lamps and cushions complete, capital brass mounted harness, horse rugs, brushes, manger, Handsome Bay Cob, by ‘Cupid the Second,’ very fast, 14.1, age 5, Avery’s weighing machine to 4cwt, wringing and mangling machine, 24 and 13 round ladders, set Whitworth thread screw tackle, from 2 inch down to $\frac{1}{3}$ inch, sash window complete, and other effects.

Auction Valuation Offices, Swan Bank, Bilston.”

1891 Census

25+26, Dudley Street – RED LION

- [1] *James Gilbert* (50), public house manager, born Kingswinford;
- [2] *Eliza A. Gilbert* (54), wife, born Brierley Hill;
- [3] *Benjamin Gilbert* (27), son, clerk in factory, born Kingswinford;
- [4] *Samuel Gilbert* (26), son, stationary engine fireman, born Kingswinford;
- [5] *William Gilbert* (24), son, hairdresser, born Bilston;
- [6] *Emily Gilbert* (18), daughter, domestic servant, born Bilston;
- [7] *Edith Talbot* (8), niece, scholar, born Smethwick;
- [8] *John Fletcher* (15), nephew, stationary engine fireman, born Bilston;
- [9] *Fanny Fletcher* (14), niece, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 21/7/1891

“Mr. W. H. Phillips, Coroner held an inquest at the RED LION INN, Dudley Street, Bilston, yesterday, touching the death of *George Hall* (6), son of a puddler, of Dudley Street. The evidence showed that the deceased was bathing in a swag on Saturday, when he got out of his depth and was drowned. The Coroner expressed the opinion that many lives might be saved if school children were taught to swim. A verdict of Accidentally Drowned was returned.”

Samuel Leadbetter died on 24th November 1893.

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/3/1894

“*Jemima Leadbetter*, of the RED LION INN, Dudley Street, Bilston, was charged with permitting drunkenness on her licenses premises. The defendant was fined 20s and costs.”

Jemima Leadbetter died on 21st March 1894.

Staffordshire Advertiser 24/8/1895

“Bilston Brewster Sessions.....

The police opposed the renewal of the licenses attached to the NEW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston; the MALT SHOVEL INN, Oxford Street Bilston; the RED LION INN, Bilston, the FOUNTAIN INN, Parliament Street, Bilston; and the ORANGE TREE INN, Ettingshall. Infringement of the licensing laws were the grounds of the objection in each case, with the exception of the ORANGE TREE INN, the landlord of which had been sentenced to two months’ imprisonment for assaulting his wife. The whole of the licenses were renewed with the exception of the FOUNTAIN INN, the consideration of which was to be held over until the adjourned licensing sessions.”

1901 Census

49, Dudley Street – RED LION INN

- [1] William Whitehouse (45), publican, born Tipton;
- [2] Martha Whitehouse (35), wife, born Holyhead, Anglesey;
- [3] William T. Whitehouse (9), son, born Bilston;
- [4] Grace S. Whitehouse (5), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] Margaret G. Whitehouse (3), daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] Lily Green (21), domestic servant, born Manchester:

1906 Probate

“William Millard Whitehouse of 49 Dudley Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 21 April 1906. Administration Lichfield 13 August to Martha Annie Whitehouse, widow. Effects £107 10s.”

William Millard Whitehouse – see also BOARD, Church Street, and ROYAL ARTILLERY.

1911 Census

49, Dudley Street – RED LION INN

- [1] Martha Whitehouse (45), widow, licensed victualler, born Holyhead, Anglesey;
- [2] William Whitehouse (19), son, tank manufacturer's clerk, born Bilston;
- [3] Grace Whitehouse (15), daughter, assisting in the business, born Bilston;
- [4] Margaret Whitehouse (13), daughter, school, born Bilston;
- [5] Jane Guy (39), domestic servant, born Sedgley:

Martha Annie Whitehouse died in the 3rd quarter of 1912.

1921 Census

49, Dudley Street

- [1] Fred William Baker (58), publican, born Willenhall;
- [2] Adelaide Baker (54), wife, housewife, born Walsall;
- [3] Fred William Trubshaw Baker (17), son, no employment, born Leicester:

Bilston and Willenhall Times 14/1/1928

“A smoking concert of lodges 384 and 456 of the Caledonian Corks, attended by upwards of sixty members, was held at the RED LION INN, Dudley Street, Bilston, to welcome district officials....”

1939 Register

49, Dudley Street

- [1] William E. Leach, date of birth 27/2/1875, licensed victualler, married;
- [2] Emma Leach, dob 24/2/1878, assistant to above, married;
- [3] Irene May Leach, dob 28/4/1908, paid domestic duties, single;
- [4] Marjorie (Leach) Maddock, dob 27/7/1918, blanking and holing on press, single;
- [5] Vera Sandland, dob 4/3/1912, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [6] Leslie Sandland, dob 6/2/1910, plater, constructional engineering, married;
- [7] Gladys Brookes, dob 23/3/1913, telephone operation, married;
- [8] Leonard Brookes, dob 28/12/1908, retail and wholesale bread salesman, married:

A team from here took part in the Butlers (Bilston) Darts League. [1946]

Frank Poole – see also BRITANNIA, Bradley.
He was married to Violet.

[1966]

Closed

It was demolished c.1970.

I AM GOING TO THE LION!

TO BE LET, by ALTREE and SON, the Red Lion, Dudley-street, Bilston, containing tap, bar, kitchen, club, and three sleeping rooms, brewhouse, malt room, stable, piggeries, yard, &c. Rent £22 per annum. May be converted into a Spirit Vault at a trifling outlay; is doing a profitable business in Spirits, Wines, Ales, Porter, &c. Licenses, Stock, and effects at a valuation.—Apply at the old-established Auctioneers and Publicans' Valuers, opposite St. Luke's Parsonage, Bilston.

1861

SALE, "RED LION,"

DUDLEY STREET, BILSTON.

MESSRS. ALTREE will **SELL by AUCTION, TO-MORROW (Tuesday), August the 20th—the LICENSES and POSSESSION** of the above PREMISES, Public-house Fixtures, Fittings, Ale Machine, Spirit Casks, 28, 60, and 120 gallon Coopers' made Ale Barrels, Mash Tubs, Coolers, Vats, Boilers, Malt Crusher, Hop Press, Tables, Chairs, massive mahogany four-post and iron Bedsteads, Mattresses, Feather Beds, mahogany Chests of Drawers, Wash Stands, Dressing Tables, Toilet and Pier Glasses. Handsome French Eight-day Timepiece, Glass Shade; 450 Gallons Prime ALE and PORTER, 25 Gallons BRANDY, GIN, RUM, and WHISKEY; MALT, HOPS, &c.; the Property of Mr. Binku. Commencing at Eleven o'clock, a.m.

Auctioneers' Office, 159, Horsley Fields, Wolverhampton.

1862

FRIDAY, MAY 6th, 1864.

DESIRABLE FREEHOLD & COPHOLD PROPERTIES, IN DUDLEY-STREET, BILSTON, IN THE COUNTY OF STAFFORD.

MR. SAMUEL BAKER will Offer for **SALE** by **AUCTION**, on Friday, the 6th day of May, 1864, at the house of Mr. Thomas Smart, the **RED LION INN**, Dudley-street, Bilston, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be read,—

LOT 1.—All that **FREEHOLD MESSUAGE** or **DWELLING-HOUSE**, being an Old Licensed Public House, known by the sign of the Red Lion Inn, situate in and fronting to Dudley-street, in Bilston aforesaid, now in the occupation of Mr. Thomas Smart, containing two spacious and lofty cellars, tap-room, bar, kitchen, club-room, and three bed-rooms, brewhouse, malt-room, stable, and other necessary outbuildings in yard. The annual rental of this house is £22. And also all that other **MESSUAGE** or **DWELLING-HOUSE**, adjoining the last described Messuage, and fronting to Dudley-street, in the occupation of Francis Taylor, containing cellar, parlour, and kitchen, three bed-rooms, and brewhouse, and producing an annual rental of £10 8s.

LOT 2.—All those Two substantially built **COPYHOLD MESSUAGES** or **DWELLING-HOUSES**, fronting to Dudley-street, and adjoining on one side to the Himley Arms Inn, now in the respective occupations of Mr. William Legg and William Hodgetts. Each house comprises cellar, parlour, and kitchen, two bed-rooms, brewhouse, stable, and other outbuildings, and produce an annual rental of £26.

The above Messuages are substantially built, regardless of expense, are well supplied with hard and soft water, and occupied by respectable tenants.

The tenants will show the respective Lots, and for further particulars apply at the Offices of Messrs. **MASON and HOLMES**, Solicitors, or the **AUCTIONER**, all of Bilston.

1864

Unreserved Sale of Surplus Furniture. Handsome Pianoforte, Splendid Light Trap, Bay Cob, Harness, Avery's Weighing Machine, &c., &c.

Red Lion Inn, Dudley Street, Bilston,

J MORRELL and SONS are favoured with instructions from Mr. S. Leibetter, who is leaving (in consequence of the Red Lion Inn being taken to by Messrs. Butler and Co., Brewers, Wolverhampton), to **SELL by AUCTION**, upon the premises, on Monday, September 13th, 1886, the whole of the **SURPLUS FURNITURE**, sets of iron French bedsteads, mattresses, feather and flock beds, toilet glasses, toilet tables, chest of drawers, Windsor and other chairs, walnut whatnots, prints framed, ornaments, brilliant-toned

FULL COMPASS PIANOFORTE, in handsome walnut case, by Sewell and Sewell; music stool,

SPLENDID LIGHT SANDRINGHAM TRAP, walnut body, lancewood shafts and hickory wheels, with lamps and cushions complete, capital brass mounted harness, horse rugs, brushes, manger **HANDSOME BAY COB**, by "Cupid the Second," very fast, 14.1, age 5, Avery's weighing machine to 4 cwt., wringing and mangling machine, 24 and 13 round ladders, set Whitworth thread screw tackle, from 2 inch down to 1/4 inch, sash window complete, and other effects.

Auction Valuation Offices, Swan Bank, Bilston.

1886

RED LION

39, (34), George Street, (Ettingshall Lane), (Chapel Street), (Priestfield), (New Village), Ettingshall, BILSTON

OWNERS

Benjamin Benton, labourer, George Street, New Village
William Butler and Co. Ltd.

LICENSEES

Ann Marson [1833] – [1835]
George Marston [1841] – [1842]
Benjamin Benton* [1851]
Margaret Benton [1851]
Benjamin Baton* [] – **1852**;
Joseph Beaton **(1852 – [])**
Enoch Morpus [1861]
Moses Vine [] – **1865**;
John Micklewright **(1865 – [1867])**
Edward Flowers [1868] – [1870]
James Evans [1871] – **1878**;
Edward Ratcliffe **(1878 – 1895)**;
Albert Higgs **(1895 – 1898)**;
Mrs. Ellen 'Nell' Higgs **(1898 – 1901)**;
Robert Theophilus Reynolds **(1901 – 1904)**;
Thomas Howell **(1904 – 1905)**;
Edward Stambridge **(1905 – 1910)**;
David Lloyd **(1910 – 1914)**;
Samuel Hadley **(1914)**;
William Turner **(1914 – 1933)**;
Samuel Thomas Stanley **(1933 – 1937)**;
Sidney Purslow **(1937 – [1940])**

THE RED LION INN, GEORGE STREET, NEW VILLAGE,
NEAR BILSTON.
MESSRS. CATLIN and POOLE have the above
first-rate OLD LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE TO LET, in
consequence of the Proprietor having other engagements. Coming-
in about £50 only. Large and convenient premises, well-accu-
tomed, and rent low.
Apply for further particulars at the Offices, Market-street, Wol-
verhampton.

1857

TO be LET, "THE RED LION INN," New
Village, near Wolverhampton. This is an old-established
House and well adapted for trade, and possesses every convenience.
Rent and Coming-in low.—Apply on the Premises.

1863

NOTES

Ettingshall Lane [1833], [1841], [1864]
Chapel Street [1851], [1867]
34, George Street [1861], [1871], [1891]
39, George Street [1901], [1911], [1921], [1939], [1940]

OLD RED LION [1892], [1896], [1901], [1904], [1908], [1912]

Ann Marson, retail brewer, Ettingshall Lane. [1833]

George Marston = George Mason = George Marson

1841 Census

Ettingshall Lane

[1] *George Marston* (30), publican, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Eliza Marston* (20), born Staffordshire;

[3] *Elizabeth Marston* (50), independent means, born Staffordshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/8/1849

“An inquest was held on Thursday, at the RED LION INN, Ettingshall, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of David Pitchford, a boy of 13 years of age, who was killed by falling down a pit shaft in Priestfields, while flying his kite on the previous day. The pit had been worked out for some time, but notwithstanding the fearful deaths which occur every few months from this very cause, and the many warnings which mine owners receive through the press, the proprietor of the pit in question had neglected to take any means whatever to fence or enclose it. One of the jurymen wished to return a verdict on Manslaughter against the owner of the pit, and was so resolute that the coroner had to adjourn the inquest.

On Tuesday the inquiry was resumed, when, after a consultation of two hours, the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, exonerating the owner, Mr. Loxdale, or his agent, of any blame; but the jury, at the same time, expressed a hope that all worked-out pits would be carefully guarded, and recommended iron plates as more secure than brickwork.

We have been informed that the pit in question was properly secured and arched over with brickwork in 1842, when the land in which it is situate was let to, and has ever since been occupied by the present tenant. Unless, therefore, notice of the dangerous state of the pit had been given to the owner or his agents (which was not the case in this instance), he would not be legally or morally responsible.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 6/2/1850

“Inquests held before T. M. Phillips, Esq, Coroner.....

At the RED LION, Ettingshall New Village, yesterday (Tuesday) on the body of Mary Payne, thirteen years of age, who died on Sunday from her clothes catching fire, on Saturday, whilst sleeping, it is believed, in front of a kitchen fire. The jury returned a verdict that deceased died from burns caused by her clothes taking fire, but by what means there was not sufficient evidence to show.”

Benjamin Benton was also a blacksmith. [1851]

1851 Census

Ettingshall

[1] *Benjamin Benton* (45), blacksmith, born Darlaston;

[2] *Margaret Benton* (46), wife, victualler, born Bilston;

[3] *Josiah Benton* (20), son, blacksmith, born Bilston;

[4] *Emma Benton* (18), daughter, dressmaker, born Bilston;

[5] *Thomas Benton* (16), son, blacksmith, born Bilston;

[6] *Rebecca Benton* (14), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[7] *Elizabeth Benton* (10), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[8] *Louisa Benton* (8), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[9] *Sarah Jones* (14), house servant, born Bilston;

[10] *Thomas Baker* (86), visitor, coal miner, born Wednesbury:

*probably the same person

Wolverhampton Chronicle 13/10/1852

“Victuallers licenses the following changes took place.....

Benjamin Baton, of the RED LION, New Village, Bilston, to *Joseph Beaton*, New Village, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/7/1857 - Advert

“The RED LION INN, George Street, New Village, near Bilston.

Messrs. Catlin and Poole have the above first-rate Old Licensed Public House to Let, in consequence of the Proprietor having other engagements. Coming-in about £50 only. Large and convenient premises, well-accustomed, and rent low.

Apply for further particulars at the Offices, Market Street, Wolverhampton.”

1861 Census

34, George Street – Public House

[1] *Enoch Morpus* (38), stone miner, born Wolverhampton;

[2] *Eliza Morpus* (38), wife, born Shropshire;

[3] *Ellen Morpus* (13), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[4] *Enoch Morpus* (11), son, clerk, born Bilston;

[5] *John Morpus* (9), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[6] *Sarah A. Morpus* (7), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[7] *David Morpus* (6), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[8] *Eliza H. Morpus* (4), daughter, born Bilston;

[9] *Maria Morpus* (3), daughter, born Bilston;

[10] *Mary A. Cooper* (14), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/10/1861 - Advert

“RED LION INN, George Street, New Village.

W. Ashcroft and Son will Sell by Auction, on Monday next, November 4th, 1861.

120-gallon Boiler and underwork, capital Mashtub and oval Coolers, nine Brewing Tubs, fourteen Ale Barrels, copper wire Sieve, Wort Spout, 4-pull Beer Machine, Tap Table, Spirit and Beer Measures, Screens, Benches, large Tables, Spittoons, and a portion of the Household Furniture, Licenses, and Possession, and Effects, on the premises as above.

Sale to commence at 11 o'clock.

The House To Be Let.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/10/1863 - Advert

“To be Let, the RED LION INN, New Village, near Wolverhampton.

This is an old-established House and well adapted for trade, and possesses every convenience. Rent and Coming-in low.

Apply on the Premises.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/10/1864 - Advert

“Sales by Auction This Day (Friday). At the OLD RED LION INN, New Village, Ettingshall Lane.

By Charles Bayley, a quantity of Household Furniture, and excellent Brewing Utensils.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock in the morning.

Auctioneer's Office, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.”

1871 Census

34, George Street

[1] *James Evans* (55), publican and butcher, born Ettingshall;

[2] *Catherine Evans* (54), wife, born Stow Lawn;

[3] *John Evans* (26), son, striker for blacksmith, born Ettingshall;

[4] *Polly Evans* (22), daughter, born Ettingshall;

[5] *George Evans* (21), son, striker for blacksmith, born Ettingshall;

[6] *Lydia Evans* (19), daughter, born Ettingshall;

[7] *David Evans* (16), son, striker for blacksmith, born Ettingshall;

[8] *Kezia Evans* (12), daughter, scholar, born Ettingshall;

[9] *Samuel Evans* (9), son, scholar, born Ettingshall:

Morning Post 21/9/1875

"An accident of frightful character occurred at what is known as Hot Holes, or Spring Vale Furnaces, near Wolverhampton, on Saturday morning last, as was briefly reported yesterday. The furnaces in question belong to Mr. Alfred Hickman, and are situate between Ettingshall Station, on the London and North-Western Railway, and Bilston, being not very far from Deep Fields, where a frightful boiler explosion took place a few years ago. The works in question consist of three blast furnaces, constructed upon the most modern principles, all of which are at work, turning out an average of 200 or 300 tons of pig iron per week. About twelve o'clock on Friday night, or rather early on Saturday morning, an accident of a terrible character occurred in connection with the top furnace. It seems that about 40 tons of molten metal had been run out of the furnace into a bed, and four men were engaged raking out the cinder, preparatory to the next charge, when an explosion took place, and the four men were frightfully burned by the molten metal, which was scattered in all directions. The explosion occurred through the bursting of the tuyere, which is supposed to have originated through the clay in the tuyere having been burnt away and allowed the water to come in contact with the molten iron. A man named Enoch Lewis, who was near to the place where the metal is tapped, was blown a considerable distance, and part of his remains (which were burnt to a cinder) were taken out of an iron waggon which is used for the purpose of conveying the refuse from the furnaces. His death must have been instantaneous. Three other men were also badly burnt, and they were conveyed to the Wolverhampton Hospital, where one of them, William Eccleston, died soon after being admitted. Although every attention was paid the other two patients, they both expired on Saturday night from the injuries received. The names of the unfortunate men are Enoch Lewis, Priestfield; William Eccleston (34), Ward Street, Priestfield; Thomas Hanan (29), blast-furnaceman, Ward Street, Priestfield; William Cooksey, Blakenall. The body of Lewis was conveyed to the RED LION INN, Ettingshall, where the inquest will be held. He was quite a stranger in the place, and it is stated came from the Potteries only a week ago. Eccleston leaves a wife and three young children, and Cooksey eight or nine children. On Sunday the scene of the accident was visited by a number of people, and the men were busy at work blowing out the furnace in order to make the necessary repairs. The damage occasioned to the plant is not very great."

[At the inquest on Enoch Lewis a verdict of Accidental Death was returned. The inquest on the other three men was held at the NEW MARKET INN, Wolverhampton, and again Accidental Death was returned.]

James Evans – see also HEN AND CHICKENS, George Street.

Edward Ratcliffe = Edward Radcliffe

1881 Census

George Street – RED LION

- [1] *Edward Radcliffe* (49), licensed victualler, born Goldthorn Hill;
- [2] *Mary Radcliffe* (47), wife, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *Richard Radcliffe* (25), son, furnaceman, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] *Emila Walters* (17), general servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Mail 11/5/1887

"Last night a young girl went into a house at Ettingshall, near Bilston, occupied by an old man named James Davenport, and found the latter hanging by a rope attached to a nail on the staircase, quite dead. The deceased's wife ran away from him after a violent quarrel three weeks ago, since which time he has been living in the house by himself. It is supposed that his inability to discover his wife's whereabouts preyed on his mind and caused him to commit suicide."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 12/5/1887

"The body of James Davenport (64), an ironworker, was found on Tuesday afternoon hanging from a door in his house in George Street, Ettingshall. The body was immediately cut down, but life was found to be extinct. The deceased has for some time been in a despondent state, and had threatened to kill himself."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 13/5/1887

"Mr. W. H. Phillips, coroner, held an inquest at the RED LION INN, George Street, concerning the death of James Davenport (63), chainmaker, late of George Street, who hanged himself on the 10th inst. Evidence was given to the effect that deceased had quarrelled with his wife, from whom he had consequently separated, and that he was in great poverty. A verdict of Suicide whilst Temporarily Insane was returned."

1891 Census

34, George Street – RED LION INN

- [1] *Edward Ratcliffe* (59), licensed victualler, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] *Mary Ratcliffe* (57), wife, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *Flora Heeley* (19), general servant, born Wolverhampton:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 13/12/1898 - In Memoriam

“In loving memory of *Albert*, beloved husband of *Ellen* (Nell) *Higgs*, of the RED LION, Priestfield, who died December 12, 1897. Gone from sight, but to memory ever dear.”

1901 Census

39, George Street – OLD RED LION Public House

- [1] *Robert Reynolds* (46), publican innkeeper and iron roll turner, born Brierley Hill;
- [2] *Ada Reynolds* (30), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] *Theophilus Reynolds* (4), son, born Bilston;
- [4] *Winifred Reynolds* (2 months) daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] *Eunice Dunkey* (22), domestic servant, born Liverpool:

1911 Census

39, George Street

- [1] *David Lloyd* (52), joiner, born Bilston;
- [2] *Annie Lloyd* (52), wife, married 16 years, born Halesowen;
- [3] *Annie Lloyd* (23), daughter, born Walsall:

William Turner was fined £1 and costs, on 5th May 1916, for selling beer exceeding measure called for.

1921 Census

39, George Street

- [1] *William Turner* (53), licensed victualler, born Wednesfield;
- [2] *Elizabeth Turner* (60), wife, assisting in business, born Wednesfield;
- [3] *Caroline Hadley* (74), wife's sister, widow, home duties, born Wednesfield:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/9/1934

“A verdict of Accidental Death was returned at yesterday's inquest on *Thomas Heardmun*, aged 22, 16, Junction Street, Brades Village, Oldbury, a lamp-lighter, who met with fatal injuries on the night of Sunday, 19 August, in a collision with a pedestrian, *Sidney Heythorpe*, aged 32, of 613, Parkfield Road, near the RED LION INN, Ettingshall. *Ernest France*, 20, Martin Street, stated he and Heythorpe left the RED LION INN at ten o'clock. When in the centre of the road he heard the sound of a motor-horn and saw a motor-cycle with powerful headlights approaching from about 40 yards distance. Witness stopped to let the cycle pass, and when he turned round to look for Heythorpe he saw him moving to the pavement. He shouted, 'Come back, Sid,' put out his hand to pull him back, but he was out of reach. The motor-cycle struck Heythorpe. The front wheel went between his legs, the lamp struck him on the chest and was smashed, he was thrown some distance and fell like a 'bundle of rags.' The motor-cycle was overturned and he saw the driver lying on the pavement.

Dr. T. S. Crowther stated that Heardmun died about a quarter of an hour after the accident, and death was due to a broken neck.

Heythorpe said he did not remember anything after leaving the pavement, and *Samuel Butlery*, 25, Dudley Road, Brades Village, who was riding pillion on Heardmun's cycle, and had a leg injured, said he did not see any pedestrians in front.

The jury returning their verdict recommended that the attention of the authorities be called to the lighting of the right side of Parkfield Road.”

1939 Register

39, George Street – RED LION

[1] *Sidney Purslow*, date of birth 10/5/1888, licensee, married;

[2] Sarah E. (Purslow) Phillips, dob 4/1/1886, assisting licensee and domestic, married;

[3] Dorothy E. (Purslow) Leadbetter, dob 4/1/1919, shorthand typist, single:

Closed

Demolished

RED LION

121, (120), (119), Parkfield Road, (29, Goldthorn Hill Road), (Rough Hills), (Catchems Corner), Ettingshall, BILSTON

OWNERS

Thomas Skidmore, auctioneer, Dudley
Thomas Hampton
John Young
Sarah Young
The Brewers Investment Cooperative Ltd.
Showells Brewery Ltd. [1921]
Ind Coope and Allsopp (leased)
Ansells Ltd.
Burtonwood Brewery Plc. [1996]

LICENSEES

Benjamin Smith [1833]
George Jones [1838] – [1851]
William Jones [1851] – **1876**;
Enoch Cooper **(1876 – 1878)**;
Thomas Hampton **(1878 – 1880)**;
John Young **(1880 – 1881)**;
Sarah Young **(1881 – 1884)**;
Joseph Jefferson Boston **(1884 – 1886)**;
Henry Francis Griffiths **(1886 – 1887)**;
Charles Robert Junior **(1887)**;
Charles Freeman **(1887 – 1888)**;
Samuel Sprason **(1888)**;
Robert Bevan **(1888 – 1889)**;
Jeremiah Skidmore **(1889 – 1893)**;
Lewin Ellis **(1893 – 1903)**;
Mrs. Sarah Jane Gardom **(1903 – 1911)**;
William Herrington **(1911 – 1919)**;
Thomas Kent **(1919 – 1922)**;
Donald David Leary **(1922 – 1930)**;
James Henry Clark **(1930 – [1940])**
Aaron William Myatt []
Harminder Singh Dhami [1987]
Harminder Singh [1988]
S Dalhu [1989]
Baldev Chand [1995]

THE RED LION PUBLIC HOUSE,
Rough Hills, near Bilston.
TO be SOLD by AUCTION, on the Premises,
by ISAAC FARROR, on Tuesday the 16th
Day of June instant, at Three in the Afternoon (if
not previously disposed of by private Contract, of
which due Notice will be given) the valuable Good-
will and Licences of that desirable old established
Public House, well known by the Sign of the RED
LION, situated at Rough Hills, within one Mile and
a Half from Bilston, Staffordshire.
The present Occupier, who is Proprietor of the Pre-
mises, and who will grant a Lease to a Purchaser if
required, is leaving the same owing to other Engage-
ments.
The above House is in good Repair, and contains
suitable convenient Lodging Rooms, Parlour, and Tap
Room, good Cellaring, Brawhouse, Stabling, Pig-
gery, &c. &c. is in the Centre of a great Population,
surrounded by numerous extensive Works employing
several Thousand Pair of Hands, in Addition to which
a Field, directly opposite the Premises, is immedi-
ately to be opened, likely to employ 500 Persons, se-
curing to a Purchaser an extensive and certain Trade.
The usual Effects to be taken at a fair Valuation.
For further Particulars apply at the Premises; or
to the Auctioneer, 28, New Street, Birmingham.

1818

TEN SHILLINGS REWARD.
LOST, on Monday, the 23d ult. a Blue Bitch
GREYHOUND, middle size, with a white throat
and a few small white spots or ticks upon her; answers
to the name of "Fly." Whoever has found the same,
and will apply to Mr. G. JONES, Red Lion Inn, Rough
Hills, near Wolverhampton, shall receive the above
reward.

1839

NOTES

Catchems Corner [1833]
Penn Road [1841]
29, Goldthorn Hill Road [1861]
Goldthorn Hill Road [1871], [1881]
120, Parkfield Road [1912]
119, Parkfield Road [1912], [1916]
121, Parkfield Road [1921], [1932], [1939], [1940], [1998]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 8/6/1818 - Advert

"The RED LION Public House, Rough Hills, near Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, on the Premises, by Isaac Farror, on Tuesday the 16th Day of June instant, at Three in the Afternoon (if not previously disposed of by private Contract, of which due Notice will be given).

The valuable Goodwill and Licenses of that desirable old established Public House, well known by the Sign of the RED LION, situated at Rough Hills, within one Mile and a Half from Bilston, Staffordshire.

The present Occupier, who is Proprietor of the Premises, and who will grant a Lease to a Purchaser if required, is leaving the same owing to other Engagements.

The above House is in good Repair, and contains suitable convenient Lodging Rooms, Parlour, and Tap Room, good Cellaring, Brewhouse, Stabling, Piggeries, &c, &c, is in the Centre of a great Population, surrounded by numerous extensive Works employing several Thousand Pair of Hands, in Addition to which a Field, directly opposite the Premises, is immediately to be opened, likely to employ 500 Persons, securing to a Purchaser an extensive and certain Trade.

The usual Effects to be taken at a fair Valuation.

For further Particulars apply at the Premises, or to the Auctioneer, 28, New Street, Birmingham."

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/12/1838

"On Tuesday, Mr. *George Jones*, of the RED LION INN, Rough Hills, Bilston, had his housewarming. About forty gentlemen sat down to a most excellent dinner, consisting of a great variety of dishes, prepared and served up with considerable taste. John Buckley, Esq, presided, and Henry Harris, Esq, officiated as vice. The wines were of excellent quality, and the occasion was celebrated in a manner alike satisfactory to the party and the worthy host."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/4/1839 - Advert

"Ten Shillings Reward.

Lost, on Monday, the 23rd ult, a Blue Bitch Greyhound, middle size, with a white throat and a few small white spots or ticks upon her; answers to the name of 'Fly.' Whoever had found the same, and will apply to Mr. *G. Jones*, RED LION INN, Rough Hills, near Wolverhampton, shall receive the above reward."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 25/5/1840 - Advert

"To Parish Clerks, &c, &c.

Five Pounds Reward to any one who will produce the authentic copy of the Marriage Register of George Oldridge and Ann Allport, who are suspected to have been Married from forty to sixty years ago at or within fifteen miles of Walsall, Staffordshire.

The above reward will be paid by Mr. *George Jones*, RED LION, Rough Hills, near Catchems Corner, near Bilston, Staffordshire, to any one producing the above."

TO PARISH CLERKS, &c. &c.
FIVE POUNDS REWARD to any one who will produce the authentic copy of the **MARRIAGE REGISTER** of **GEORGE OLDRIDGE** and **ANN ALLPORT**, who are suspected to have been Married from forty to sixty years ago at or within fifteen miles of Walsall, Staffordshire.
The above reward will be paid by Mr. *George Jones*, Red Lion, Rough Hills, near Catchems Corner, near Bilston, Staffordshire, to any one producing the above.

1841 Census

Penn Road, Bilston

- [1] George Jones (45), publican, born Staffordshire;
- [2] Ellen Jones (40), born Staffordshire;
- [3] William Jones (20), mining labourer, born Staffordshire;
- [4] John Jones (20), mining labourer, born Staffordshire;
- [5] Thomas Jones (18), mining labourer, born Staffordshire;
- [6] Louisa Jones (15), born Staffordshire;
- [7] Betsey Jones (14), born Staffordshire;
- [8] Ellen Jones (12), born Staffordshire;
- [9] George Jones (11), born Staffordshire;
- [10] Gabriel Jones (9), born Staffordshire;
- [11] Samuel Jones (7), born Staffordshire;
- [12] Robert Brown (35), mining labourer, born Staffordshire;
- [13] John Toy (20), mining labourer, born Staffordshire;
- [14] Thomas Evans (25), mining labourer, born Staffordshire;
- [15] George Blower (15), mining labourer, born Staffordshire;
- [16] Mary Jones (23), born Staffordshire;
- [17] Henry Jones (7 months), born Staffordshire;

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/12/1842

“Inquisitions before T. M. Phillips, Esq.....

On Monday, at the RED LION, Rough Hills, on the body of William Fellows, a miner, whose death was caused by the fall of a large quantity of clod and earth upon him, whilst at work. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/4/1847

“Bankrupts. From Friday’s *Gazette*.....

George Jones, late of Rough Hills, Bilston, Staffordshire, victualler.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/5/1847

“Bankruptcy Court.....

In re *George Jones*, of Round Hills, Bilston, victualler.

This was a meeting for the choice of assignees, which was adjourned at the wish of Mr. Bartleet, who stated that the fiat was about to be annulled, the creditors agreeing to receive a composition.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/5/1847

“Bankruptcies Annulled.....

George Jones, Bilston, Staffordshire, licensed victualler.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/11/1847

“Samuel Harris was charged with breaking into the house of *William Jones*, publican, near Parkfields works, on the night of the 4th instant, and stealing a pair of shoes and several other articles. The house was entered by lifting up the parlour window, and some tobacco, 4lbs of sugar, several loaves of bread, and the pair of shoes in question were stolen. The shoes were pledged by the prisoner at the shop of Messrs. Langman, in this town, in the afternoon of the 5th instant. He represented that they were his own shoes, and pledged them in the name of Edward Jones. He afterwards obtained some ale on the pledge ticket. On being charged by Subinspector Butler with the stealing shoes, he replied, ‘Is that all?’ Upon being subsequently charged with stealing the shoes from *Jones*’s RED LION, near Parkfield Ironworks, he said, ‘Oh, well.’ The prisoner was committed for trial at the next assizes.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/3/1848

“Staffordshire Spring Assizes.....

Samuel Harris, 22, was charged with burglary at the house of *William Jones*, at Bilston, and stealing one pair of boots. The house of the prosecutor, a publican at Bilston, was broken into by the parlour window being forced open, on the night of the 4th of November, and a pair of boots were stolen from the bar. On the following day the prisoner pledged a pair of boots at the shop of Messrs. Langman, at Wolverhampton, for 3s 6d. giving at the time the name of Edward Jones. The boots were identified, and the prisoner being found guilty, after a previous conviction, was sentenced to be transported for seven years.”

1851 Census

Goldthorn Hill, Bilston

- [1] George Jones (53), contactor and publican, born Shropshire;
- [2] Ellen Jones (53), wife, born Shropshire;
- [3] Thomas Jones (30), son, contactor, born Bilston;
- [4] Gabriel Jones (20), son, contractor, born Bilston;
- [5] Samuel Jones (17), son, contractor, born Bilston;
- [6] Mary Ann Shelton (29), general servant, born Bilston;
- [7] Mary Shinton (10), visitor, scholar, born Bilston;
- [8] William Jones (19), visitor, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 25/10/1854

“The inquest upon the body of the unfortunate man, George Fletcher, who was killed by the explosion of a boiler at Parkfield Ironworks, on Thursday, the 12th instant, was held at the RED LION, Parkfields, before the coroner, T. M. Phillips, Esq.

The facts given in evidence went to show that the care of the boiler was left to the deceased for a short time by the engineer, who gave him strict orders not to touch the boilers; but that during his absence one of the boilers exploded. On his return he was able to find the deceased, but discovered that the stop valve had been screwed down, which previously to his going away was screwed up and open. The only way in which he could account for the occurrence was that the deceased had screwed it down instead of up from ignorance. The effect of the stop valve being screwed down was that an excess of steam was caused, which occasioned the explosion of the boiler. The boiler was considered to be a good one.

The deceased was seen upon the top of one of the boilers about nine o’clock, by a man named John Lewis, who was also employed at the works.

The boiler had been examined by William Pearson, a man unconnected with the Parkfield Works, who spoke at the inquest to the efficiency of the engineer, and of the size and character of the boilers.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/10/1859

“The following beerhouse keepers were summoned before the Bilston Magistrates yesterday for keeping their houses open during the hours of Divine service on Sunday.....

A summons against *William Jones*, of Rough Hills, for a similar offence, was adjourned for a week, the defendant having been several times previously fined.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/9/1860 - Advert

“To Mr. *William Jones*, of the RED LION INN, Parkfields, near Wolverhampton.

Notice. Unless you, the said *William Jones*, will Pay me the Expenses for the keep and trouble of a Horse, left at my House on the 8th of September, Messrs. Ashcroft and Son will Sell the said Horse by Auction, in the Cattle Market, Wolverhampton, on the 19th day of September instant, at noon, for the expenses incurred.

Isaiah Groom.”

[Isaiah Groom – see FOUNTAIN, Dudley Road, Wolverhampton.]

TO MR. WILLIAM JONES, OF THE RED LION INN, PARK-FIELDS, NEAR WOLVERHAMPTON.
NOTICE.—Unless you, the said William Jones, will PAY me the EXPENSES for the keep and trouble of a HORSE, left at my House on the 8th of September, Messrs. ASHCROFT and SON will SELL the said HORSE by AUCTION, in the CATTLE MARKET, WOLVERHAMPTON, on the 19th day of September instant, at noon, for the expenses incurred.
ISAIAH GROOM.

1861 Census

29, Goldthorn Hill Road – RED LION

- [1] William Jones (44), victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] Mary Ann Jones (43), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Henry Jones (20), son, driver of horses, born Bilston;
- [4] John Jones (12), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] William Jones (10), son, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [6] Samuel Jones (8), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] Sarah Griffiths (18), house servant, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/6/1861 - Notice

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

Whereas a Petition of *William Jones*, now and for two years and six months last past residing at Rough Hills, in the parish of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler and Dealer in Tobacco, also a Labourer a portion of the said period, likewise being a Contractor for Horse Work, and for seven days of the said period being a prisoner confined for debt in the Gaol at Stafford, in the county of Stafford, an Insolvent Debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, at Wolverhampton, and an Interim Order of Protection from Process having been given to the said *William Jones*, under the provisions of the statutes in that case made and provided, the said *William Jones* is hereby required to appear in Court, before the Judge acting in the matter of the said Petition, on the 12th day of July, 1861, at nine o'clock in the forenoon precisely, at the Court House, Queen Street, Wolverhampton aforesaid, for his First Examination touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said statutes; and notice is hereby given that the Choice of Assignees is to take place at the time so appointed.

All persons indebted to the said *William Jones*, or who have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. Charles Gallimore Brown, the Official Assignee, acting in the matter of the said Petition, at his Office, in Queen Street, Wolverhampton aforesaid.

R. H. Bartlett, Attorney, Wolverhampton. C. G. Megevan, High Bailiff.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 10/7/1861

“The following insolvents have filed their schedules to appear for their first examination, at the County Court, on Friday next.....

William Jones, licensed victualler, Rough Hills; debts £293 7s 9d, credits £3 18s.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 17/8/1861

“In Wolverhampton County Court yesterday, the following insolvents came up and passed their final examination.....

William Jones, licensed victualler, Rough Hills, supported by Mr. Bartlett, and opposed by Mr. Claydon and Mr. Thurstans; opposition reserved. Debts £285 13s 9d, credits £3 18s.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/1/1871

“At the Wolverhampton Police Court, yesterday, before the Mayor (Mr. James Walker), and Mr. John Ford, William Booth, alias John Wright, a tramp, was charged with obtaining goods by false pretences. Mr. Stratton was for the prosecution.

On the 14th ult, the prisoner went to Mr. E. B. Jukes's boot and shoe shop, Snow Hill (now of Station Street, Walsall), and said he wanted a pair of boots for Mr. W. Jones, of Spring Vale Colliery. The boots were given to him

Mr. Jones, contactor, said he did not know a person of the name of Jones working at Spring Vale Colliery, and he never authorised the prisoner to obtain the boots. The boots were pawned at the shop of Mr. H. Casswell, Horseley Fields, for 4s.

The prisoner was next charged with a seconds offence of the same character.

Mr. J. Lily, grocer, of Victoria Street, Wolverhampton, said the prisoner came to No.35, in that street, on the 10th ult, and, as the shopman did not know him, he took him to another shop belonging to him (the prosecutor) in the same street, and where he was at the time. Prisoner said that Mr. *William Jones*, of the RED LION INN, near the Spring Vale Furnaces (Park Field), had sent him for a pound of tea and a pound of tobacco. He asked him why it was that Mr. *Jones* sent him for groceries to a shop so far away, when he said that he was dissatisfied with the groceries that he was at present supplied with, and if he liked the articles, he would be a good customer. He next inquired how it was that Mr. *Jones* used such a large quantity of groceries, and prisoner said this was owing to his being a contractor

for a number of works, and the men had their meals at his house. He referred to the directory, and found that the address given him by the prisoner was a correct one, upon which he supplied him with the articles he required, the value of which amounted to 7s 6d. Prisoner then produced a memorandum book, on which his (prosecutor's) name was written, and in which he entered the articles supplied.

The prisoner was committed for trial at this day's Sessions (Friday), on both charges."

AND

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 7/1/1871

"Wolverhampton Quarter Sessions.....

John Wright, alias Booth, a labourer, aged 52, was sentenced to seven years' penal servitude for obtaining a pair of boots, on the 14th December last, at Wolverhampton, the property of E. B. Jukes; and 1lb of tobacco and 1lb of tea, on the 10th December, the property of John Lilley."

1871 Census

Goldthorn Hill Road – Public House – RED LION INN

[1] William Jones (53), contractor employing 9 men, born Wolverhampton;

[2] Maryan Jones (53), wife, born Bilston;

[3] Sarah Ann Jones (24), daughter, born Wolverhampton, blind;

[4] Samuel Jones (17), son, labourer in field, born Wolverhampton;

[5] Margaret Bromley (25), visitor, born Darlaston, blind;

[6] George Jones (14), nephew, labourer at iron works, born Shipley, Staffordshire;

[7] Rachel Wotton (10), niece, born Wednesbury;

[8] Mary Kenyon (49), domestic servant, born Newcastle, Northumberland:

Midland Examiner 27/4/1878

"John Withington, a strong and vicious looking fellow with no fixed residence, was charged with burglariously breaking into the house of *Thomas Hampton*, and stealing therefrom a quantity of articles of the value of £10. Mr. Langman appeared for the prosecution.

Thomas Hampton said: I live at Park Field, Rough Hills, and am landlord of the RED LION INN. Last night I went to bed about 12 o'clock and locked and bolted all the doors previously. I got up this morning about six o'clock and found the house had been broken into. The witness further stated that he missed a quantity of articles, and identified those produced as his property.

Police-constable Ray said he received information this morning from Charles Lawrence, timekeeper, Monmore Green, to the effect that he saw the prisoner go by with something very bulky. He then went in search of him and traced him to Wednesfield Heath, where he came upon him near the canal side. He, with the assistance of Lawrence, searched the prisoner and found upon him various articles, consisting of four bottles, a large quantity of tobacco, a number of cigars, a watch, £4 15s 11d in loose money, a gold ring, a girl's hat, and a purse. They then took him into custody, but the prisoner became very rough and they had great trouble. When they got to the Low Level Station he lay down and said he would not go any farther.

The Bench then decided, on the application of Mr. Langman, to adjourn the case until Friday."

[He was committed to the Assizes.]

Birmingham Daily Post 15/7/1878

"Staffordshire Midsummer Assizes.....

John Withington (37), labourer, was sentenced of fourteen years' penal servitude, for breaking into the dwelling house of *Thomas Hampton*, on the 23rd of April, at Wolverhampton, and stealing a silver watch and other articles therefrom."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/9/1880

“On Saturday afternoon two brothers named Henry and Alfred Gregory, aged 18 and 16 respectively, sons of William Gregory, horsenail maker, of High Street, Sedgley, were drowned in the reservoir adjoining the Parkfield Furnaces of Messrs. Williams, at Bilston. About six o'clock two suits of clothes were found on the banks of the reservoir, and suspecting that the owners had been drowned the person who found them gave information to Police-constable Snow, of Ettingshall, who caused the water to be searched, and the bodies were discovered. They were removed to the RED LION INN, Parkfield Road, where they were identified later on by their father. It transpired that the youths had been seen fishing earlier in the afternoon in a neighbouring pool, and it is supposed that they afterwards proceeded to bathe in the reservoir and go out of their depth, the water being very deep where the bodies were discovered. An inquest will be held.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 29/9/1880

“On Tuesday afternoon, W. H. Phillips, Esq, coroner, held an inquest at the RED LION INN, Ettingshall, near Bilston, on the bodies of the two lads named Henry and Alfred Gregory, late of Sedgley, who were drowned in the pool near Parkfield furnaces, on Saturday last.....

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned, and the jury recommended that a notice should be posted near the pool stating the depth of the water.

The deceased were the only support of their aged father, whose case is one deserving of sympathy on the part of the charitably disposed. We are glad to learn that Mr. F. A. Homer, of Sedgley, where the parents of the unfortunate youths reside, has kindly started a subscription on their behalf. The vicar, Mr. Homer, and a number of other residents have already subscribed, and we are informed that from the respectable character of both the parents and the deceased youths, as well as certain painful surroundings of the case, subscriptions could scarcely be more worthily bestowed.”

Evening Express 21/2/1881

“On Saturday evening the annual dinner of the Ettingshall branch of the Wolverhampton Liberal Association was held in the RED LION INN, Parkfield Road, Ettingshall, when about 80 members sat down to a substantial spread which was excellently served up by the host. After the removal of the cloth the chair was taken by Mr. George Adams, president of the branch.....”

1881 Census

Goldthorn Hill Road – RED LION INN

- [1] John Young (59), licensed victualler and brewer, born West Bromwich;
- [2] Sarah Young (37), wife, born Stafford;
- [3] Lizzie Young (12), daughter, scholar, born Wigan, Lancashire;
- [4] Annie Young (10), daughter, scholar, born Birmingham;
- [5] Sarah Young (14), niece, born Bilston;
- [6] Emma Davis (18), general servant, born Bilston:

John Young died in the 2nd quarter of 1881.

Evening Express 30/5/1881 - Advert

“A Great Variety of Bedding-out Plants, Bouquets, &c, for Sale, at the RED LION Pleasure Gardens, Park Fields, near Wolverhampton.”

A Great Variety of Bedding-out Plants, Bouquets, &c, for Sale, at the Red Lion Pleasure Gardens, Park Fields, near Wolverhampton.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 7/6/1881

“This morning W. H. Phillips, Esq, borough coroner, held an inquest at the RED LION INN, Rough Hills, near Monmore Green, on the body of a woman who was found drowned in the canal at Rough Hills, on Monday morning. John Overton, boiler-tube maker, residing at the Rough Hills, said that on Monday morning he was called by a boatman to the canal side at the Bridge Hole, Rough Hills, when he saw the body of the deceased in the water. They got it out, but life was extinct. She did not appear to have been in the water very long. Deceased was about 35 years of age.

Police-constable Nagington said he was called to the deceased after her body was recovered from the water. She wore a brown body jacket, and violet stuff dress skirt, a black velvet bonnet trimmed with flowers and satin, a pair of elastic-side boots, and brown stockings, striped with white-coloured rings. She had a common ring on her wedding finger, and 2½d in a leather purse in her pocket. Witness had been unable to learn who she was.

The inquiry was adjourned until Monday morning next.

The deceased has since been identified as Mary Climes, wife of James Climes, of Townwell Fold, Wolverhampton."

Evening Express 15/11/1881 - Advert

"Camelias, white, from 6d each; Chrysanthemum Blooms, 2d each; Wreaths, &c, made.

RED LION Pleasure Gardens, Parkfields."

CAMELIAS, white, from 6d. each ; Chrysanthemum Blooms, 2d. each ; Wreaths, &c., made.—Red Lion Pleasure Gardens, Parkfields.

Evening Express 15/11/1881 - Advert

"Wanted, strong, domesticated young Woman (good references), at the RED LION, Parkfields, near Wolverhampton."

WANTED, strong, domesticated young Woman (good references), at the Red Lion, Parkfields, near Wolverhampton.

Darlaston Weekly Times 21/10/1882

"At Wolverhampton County Court, on Tuesday.....

A jury was sworn in a case in which Mr. John Huxley, haulier, of Parkfield, sought to recover £50 as compensation for loss and injury sustained through the bite of a dog belonging to Mrs. *Sarah Jane Young*, of the RED LION INN, Parkfield. Mr. Plumptre (instructed by Mr. S. Walker) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. J. W. Hall, of Bilston, defended.

On the 23rd of May the plaintiff went to the defendant's premises on business. On returning he passed a dog kennel, out of which a savage dog sprang and seized him by the leg, biting it severely. He had to obtain medical aid, and was unable to attend to his business for several weeks. It was proved that the dog had previously bitten another person.

For the defence, Mr. Hall contended that the plaintiff had no right on the premises, but his Honour overruled the objection, and held that the premises were public. In defence to the action it was further contended that the dog was kept chained within enclosed palisading four feet high, but it had transpired that there was a hole in the palisading through which the dog got, and the chain was sufficiently long to allow the animal to reach the plaintiff.

The judge pointed out that the law compelled the owner of the dog to keep it absolutely away from anyone, whether that person was indiscreet enough to go on premises where he had no right or not. The jury gave a verdict for 16 guineas and costs, but the judge refused to certify for costs on the higher scale."

Birmingham Daily Post 20/9/1883

"At Wolverhampton Police Court, yesterday, John Peakman (62), carpenter and pattern-maker, was charged with stealing property worth £30 from the Imperial Tubeworks, Monmore Green, of Mr. John Brotherton, where he had been employed for ten years. Mr. J. E. Underhill prosecuted, and Mr. H. Saunders defended.

Detective Hayward, of Bilston, stated that, on the 6th inst, he searched the defendant's house to discover whether the defendant had any stolen cucumbers from a frame belonging to Mrs. *Young*, licensed victualler, of Parkfield. He found a quantity of unworked brass, iron, lead, and steel, some timber, and iron and copper screws, brass oiltaps, machinists' and gas fittings, and also several new wheel barrows made out of his employer's materials.

Mr. Brotherton deposed that when he engaged the prisoner he knew he had been in trouble previously, but he had taken him on because he promised to be honest in future. The prisoner had been in his employ for ten years, and he had placed such faith in him that he had sent him to Amsterdam to erect a show-case at the recent exhibition.

When charged with the thefts Peakman admitted them, but stated that a fellow-workman named Eccleston had assisted him to carry away the timber, and they had agreed to share the proceeds.

The prisoner reserved his defence, and was committed for trial at the Borough Sessions."

[John Peakman pleaded guilty, John Brotherton asked for a light punishment, and one year's hard labour was sentenced.]

Darlaston Weekly Times 9/6/1883

"Seldom have Messrs. Morrell and Son had the opportunity of offering for sale by auction a more valuable and rare lot of plants than is to be brought under the hammer on Tuesday, at the RED LION Pleasure Grounds, Parkfield, the property of Mrs. S. Young. Above ten thousand greenhouse plants, with two capital greenhouses, are included in the catalogue."

Darlaston Weekly Times 23/2/1884 - Advert

“RED LION INN and Pleasure Gardens, Parkfields, near Bilston.

The Large Room has just been Handsomely Re-Decorated by Mr. Walter Campbell, Scenic Artist at the Theatre Royal, Bilston; and is worthy of a visit.

The Decorations include General well-executed Views of Dudley Castle, Shakespeare’s House, Ann Hathaway’s Cottage, &c, &c.

The Grand Organ Re-Tuned.

Ales in Splendid Condition. Wines and Spirits of the Finest Quality. Direct from Dock.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 21/8/1885

“On Thursday evening Mr. W. H. Phillips, coroner, held an inquest at the RED LION INN, Parkfield Road, Ettingshall, relative to the death of Elizabeth Poole (63), late of Parkfields. On Wednesday, about mid-day, deceased complained that she felt very ill, and had a pain in the stomach, and she died several hours afterwards. The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 30/7/1889 - Advert

“Sale at the RED LION, Parkfields, Bilston.

Messrs. Hawkins and Son have received instructions from the Brewers Investment Corporation Limited, to Sell by Auction, on Friday, August the 2nd, 1889, upon the Premises as above.

The excellent Household Furniture, mahogany half-tester bedsteads, horsehair-seated sofa, easy chairs, horsehair, cane-seated, and other chairs; dressing tables, washing stands, feather beds, chiffonnières, mahogany-centre, and square tables, proof engravings, 13, 6ft 6in; rail-back forms, four drinking tables, pianoforte, in walnut, by Allison and Allison; mechanical organ, in mahogany case, with five barrels, plays 36 tunes; stage, 14ft by 6ft; pewter quart, pint, and half-pint jugs; 120-gallon boilers, mashing tub, fermenting tub, nineteen 9-gallon casks, five 18-gallon casks, four 30-gallon casks, five 36-gallon casks, seven 60-gallon casks, four 100-gallon casks, and other effects, in and upon the premises.

Sale to commence at 11 o’clock.

Auctioneers Offices: 26, Temple Street, Birmingham; Great Bridge, and Brierley Hill.”

1891 Census

Parkfield Road – RED LION

[1] *Jeremiah Skidmore* (31), public house manager, born Sedgley;

[2] *Elizabeth Skidmore* (28), wife, born Sedgley;

[3] *Emma Bird* (19), servant, born Sedgley:

Lewin Ellis = *Lewis Ellis*

Birmingham Daily Post 6/8/1894

“On Saturday afternoon, Mr. A. B. Smith (deputy county coroner) held an inquest at the RED LION INN, Parkfield Road, Ettingshall, on the body of James Whitehouse (73) a horse-slaughterer, of no fixed home.

Thomas Tildesley, horse-slaughterer, of Green Lane, Wolverhampton, stated that the deceased had worked for him occasionally for about twenty years. As no one would accept him as a lodger, owing to his filthy habits, he was allowed to sleep in the slaughter-house. Deceased left his situation about a fortnight ago.

Alfred Light, millwright, Parkfield Road, said he saw the deceased on Thursday night sitting on the doorstep of a house in course of erection in that thoroughfare. Deceased seemed to be ill, and said he had had nothing to eat since the previous Saturday. Witness gave him 3d, and advised him to go to Wolverhampton. Later on witness saw the deceased sitting in the same place, and asked him if would have some brandy, but he made no reply.

Edward Russell, miner, Parkfield Road, spoke to the man dying on the doorstep at a quarter to ten o’clock.

Police-constable Parsons said he found no money or food upon the deceased, but only an old pipe, some tobacco, and a comb.

A verdict was returned that death had resulted from Natural Causes, and had probably been accelerated by want of food.”

1901 Census

Parkfield Road

- [1] *Lewin Ellis* (49), publican, born Stourport;
- [2] *Emma Ellis* (38), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Harry Ellis* (12), son, born Bilston;
- [4] *Bertha Ellis* (9), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Adelaide Smallman* (42), visitor, born Bilston;
- [6] *Nelly Attwood* (17), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Mail 8/2/1908

“A mysterious affair took place at Ettingshall last night. A man named John Perks left home apparently in his usual health, but as he did not return home his son made search for him. Entering an outhouse he encountered a sight which confirmed his suspicions. On the floor was a blood-stained table knife. The floor was covered with blood, and the stains marked the ground at intervals from the door. Following these ghastly traces the son eventually found that they led to a pit near which a steam machine is at work on the Parkfields estate. In the pit was the dead body of Perks. An examination showed that a wound had been inflicted in the throat. This, however, was only skin deep, and not sufficiently severe to have caused death, which appears to have been due to a fracture of the skull caused by Perks falling from a bridge into the pit, a distance of about fifty feet. It is surmised that he threw himself over, although he may have been dazed through loss of blood and did not know where he was walking.”

AND

Birmingham Mail 10/2/1908

“At the RED LION INN, Parkfield Road, Ettingshall, today, Mr. Stokes, County Coroner, held an enquiry into the circumstances surrounding the death of John Perks, aged sixty-six, a blacksmith, of Ettingshall, who on Friday night, it was alleged, cut his throat and then threw himself down an embankment, breaking several bones.

The son, who discovered the body, in answer to the coroner, said that although his father was in no trouble of any sort financially he had been suffering from pains in his head. He had attended the hospital, but they had not cured it, as it was a chronic complaint.

A juryman said the man had grown terribly depressed in the last two years, and his complaint lay in the fact that he was continually nodding his head.

A witness said that he saw him after he had cut his throat, and Perks replied to his salutation.

The hole in which the body was found was fifty feet deep, and he was trespassing at the time.

A verdict that deceased committed Suicide whilst Temporary Insane was returned.”

1911 Census

Parkfield Road – RED LION

- [1] *Sarah Jane Gardom* (60), widow, licensed victualler, manageress, born Dorking, Surrey;
- [2] *Sidney Christie Gardom* (22), son, barman, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *Harriet Wesley* (21), domestic servant, born Bilston:

1921 Census

121, Parkfield Road – RED LION

- [1] *Thomas Kent* (45), manager, licensed victualler, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] *Catherine Kent* (46), wife, home duties, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *Thomas Kent* (19), son, scrap cutter, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] *Nellie Kent* (20), daughter, barmaid, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] *Olga Kent* (16), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [6] *John Kent* (13), son, school, born Wolverhampton;
- [7] *Frank Kent* (11), son, school, born Wolverhampton;
- [8] *Kenneth Jeavons* (1), grand-son, born Bilston:

South Staffordshire Times 8/3/1924

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Bilston Division were held yesterday, before a full Bench of Justices, Mr. E. Hickman presided.....

Considerable opposition was offered to the provisional application for a license to new premises it was proposed on land in Parkfield Road. Mr. Skidmore made the application. Mr. Turton opposed on behalf of the owner and tenant of the RED LION, Parkfield Road, and Mr. J. F. Bourke (instructed by Messrs. Landon and Barrows) on behalf of the owner and licensee of the PARKFIELD TAVERN. The application was opposed by the Rev. W. E. Richardson, Primitive Methodist Church, Parkfield Road; the Vicar of Ettingshall (Rev. W. H. R. Gipps); Mrs. Hodgetts on behalf of herself and neighbours; Mr. Geo. Watkins, on behalf of the Vicar of Blakenhall; Mr. Staghouse, on behalf of the trustees of the Primitive Methodist Church, Parkfield; and Mr. Joseph Hatley, on behalf of the residents and trustees of Parkfield Primitive Methodist Church.

Mr. Skidmore, in his remarks to the justices, said the proposal was to remove the GIFFORD ARMS, Codsall Wood, which was a rural district and already well served, to a proposed site in Parkfield Road. The site to which it was proposed to transfer the license was a different proposition. The site was directly opposite the new estate which was being developed by the Wolverhampton Corporation and a large number of houses had been run up there. The new road to Birmingham would run within a very few yards of the site. He knew it was unusual to ask for the removal of a license in one district to another, and the justices might say that Codsall would lose one license and this district get one more. If the justices granted the removal of the license of the GIFFORD ARMS, the applicant was prepared to give up the license of the ROYAL EXCHANGE, Queen Street, Bilston, an ‘on’ beer license. So at any rate they would get rid of one license in the county for nothing. They would get a license transferred from a place where it was not particularly required, to a site where it would be of great public convenience, and he ventured to suggest that the justices should not take too narrow a view. Mr. Skidmore added he should produce plans by which it would be seen that the house it was proposed to erect upon the site was most modern and up-to-date in every way.

Mr. Tomlins, Wolverhampton, explained the plans and spoke of the increase in dwellings which would take place by a housing scheme which was being pressed forward.

Mr. F. B. Housiaux, the owner of the estate upon which it was proposed to build the new premises, said he was a general dealer and he approached Mr. Myatt with a scheme suggesting it would make a good site for a licensed house, and agreed to sell it to him.

Mr. Bourke, in his opposition to the application, emphasised the fact that the justices were asked to remove a license which was outside, into their district. Much had been said on housing and the new road, but under the present conditions he urged that the district was well supplied with licensed houses.

Mr. Turton expressed the opinion that the present was not a suitable time to grant such an application.

The Rev. W. E. Hutchinson, speaking on behalf of the petitioners against the granting of a license, said one point was that there were sufficient licensed houses in the neighbourhood to meet requirements. They felt the future should take care of itself and they asked the justices to wait and see what may be the conditions in the future. Within half a mile of the proposed site were seven places where refreshments could be obtained. Nearly seventy-five per cent of the people living in the new houses had signed a petition against it.

The Justices retired, and after a brief absence, the chairman announced that they had given careful attention to the application, and the petition against it, and were unanimous in declining it.”

1939 Register

121, Parkfield Road

- [1] James H. Clark, date of birth 28/9/1875, public house manager, married;
- [2] Elizabeth Clark, dob 26/7/1877, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] William H. Aston, dob 13/6/1902, pneumatic dresser, steelworks, married;
- [4] Hilda A. Aston, dob 2/3/1903, unpaid domestic duties, married:

Aaron William Myatt died in the 2nd quarter of 1964.

Birmingham Daily Post 23/7/1964

“Aaron William Myatt, licensee of the CASTLE INN, Church Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, formerly of the RED LION, Parkfields, Staffordshire, £3,778 (£2,890 net).”

Aaron William Myatt see also CASTLE, Church Street.

Permission to make alterations was granted in 1968.

Sandwell Evening Mail 24/6/1987

“A pub licensee received hospital treatment for a head wound after being set upon by a gang of a dozen West Indians wielding sticks. *Harminster Singh Dhami*, aged 30, was working behind the bar at the RED LION, Parkfields Road, Wolverhampton, last night when he was attacked. Sgt. Barry Phillips said police believe the attack may have been a reprisal after Mr. *Dhami* banned another young West Indian from the pub recently.”

*possibly the same person

Harminster Singh filed for bankruptcy on 4th July 1988.

In October 1996, Burtonwood Brewery advertised for experienced people to take on the tenancy of this pub.

It was closed temporarily in June 1997 after the licensee was dismissed.

Closed

It was converted into a restaurant. [2007]

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF STAFFORDSHIRE, HOLDEN AT WOLVERHAMPTON.

29th day of May, 1861.

WHEREAS a Petition of **WILLIAM JONES**, now and for two years and six months last past residing at Rough Hills, in the parish of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler and Dealer in Tobacco, also a Labourer a portion of the said period, likewise being a Contractor for Horse Work, and for seven days of the said period being a prisoner confined for debt in the Gaol at Stafford, in the county of Stafford, an Insolvent Debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, at Wolverhampton, and an Interim Order of Protection from Process having been given to the said William Jones, under the provisions of the statutes in that case made and provided, the said William Jones is hereby required to appear in Court, before the Judge acting in the matter of the said Petition, on the 12th day of JULY, 1861, at nine o'clock in the forenoon precisely, at the COURT HOUSE, QUEEN-STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON aforesaid, for his FIRST EXAMINATION touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said statutes; and notice is hereby given that the Choice of Assignees is to take place at the time so appointed.

All persons indebted to the said William Jones, or who have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. CHARLES GALLIMORE BROWN, the Official Assignee, acting in the matter of the said Petition, at his Office, in Queen-street, Wolverhampton aforesaid.

R. H. BARTLETT, Attorney, Wolverhampton.
C. G. MEEHAN, High Bailiff.

1861

RED LION INN AND PLEASURE GARDENS, PARKFIELDS, Near BILSTON

THE LARGE ROOM

has just been

HANDSOMELY RE-DECORATED

By MR. WALTER CAMPBELL,
Scenic Artist at the Theatre Royal Bilston;
And is worthy of a visit.

The Decorations include Several well-executed
Views of

DUDLEY CASTLE, |

SHAKESPEARE'S HOUSE,

ANN HATHAWAY'S COTTAGE, &c. &c.

THE GRAND ORGAN RE-TUNED.

ALES IN SPLENDID CONDITION.

WINES AND SPIRITS of the Finest Quality.

Direct from Dock.

1884

SALE AT RED LION, PARKFIELDS, BILSTON.
MESSRS. HAWKINS and SON have received instructions from the Brewers' Investment Corporation, Limited, to SELL by AUCTION, on FRIDAY, August the 2nd, 1889, upon the Premises at above, the excellent HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, mahogany half-tester bedsteads, horsehair-seated sofa, easy chairs, horse-hair, cane-seated, and other chairs; dressing tables, washing stands, feather beds, chiffonnières, mahogany-centre, and square tables, proof engravings, 12, 6ft. 6in.; rail-back forms, four drinking tables, pianoforte, in walnut, by Allison and Allison; mechanical organ, in mahogany case, with five barrels, plays 36 tunes; stage, 14ft. by 6ft.; pewter quart, pint, and half-pint jugs; 120-gallon boilers, mashing tub, fermenting tub, nineteen 9-gallon casks, five 15-gallon casks, four 30-gallon casks, five 36-gallon casks, seven 60-gallon casks, four 100-gallon casks, and other effects, in and upon the premises.

Sale to commence at 11 o'clock.

Auctioneers' Offices: 25, Temple-street, Birmingham;
Great Bridge, and Brierley Hill.

1889



RED LION INN PARKFIELD ROAD, PARKFIELD, WOLVERHAMPTON

Burtonwood Brewery Plc is currently looking to recruit hardworking, experienced people to take on the tenancy of the above.

Only people who have the drive and commitment to succeed need apply for this demanding yet, rewarding career.

Some capital investment is required

Interested parties should telephone Karon Lamb, Tenancy Recruitment on 01925 228459 quoting reference AD-14 or apply in writing to:

Tenancy Recruitment, Burtonwood Brewery Plc., Bold Lane, Burtonwood Village, Warrington WA5 4PJ

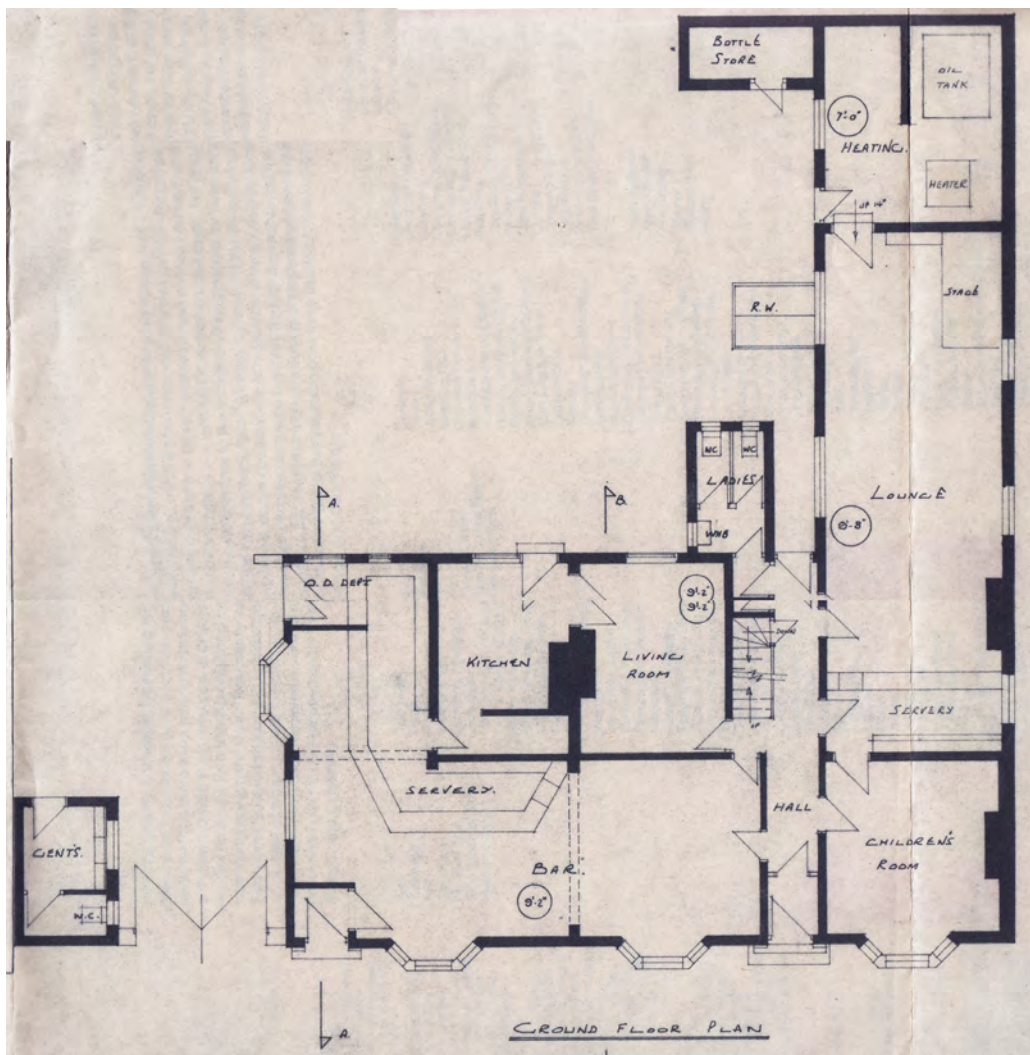
1996



Ex Pub 2007



Plan 1968



Plan 1968

RISING SUN

Church Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

J Richards [1858]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/4/1858 - Advert

“Who Would Have Thought It?

That Old-Established Beer and Eating House, opposite the CASTLE INN, Church Street, Bilston, is to be Let.

By Mr. F. Altree. To be Disposed Of, near the Market Place, that noted old-established Business premises, the “RISING SUN,” brewing eight bushels weekly, eatables in proportion.

Valuation only required, as the proprietor is leaving on account of ill-health.

Apply to F. Altree, Auctioneer, and old-established Valuer, 73, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/4/1858 - Advert

“RISING SUN Beer and Eating House, Church Street, Bilston.

Mr. F. Altree will Sell by Auction, on Monday, 3rd May, 1858, the Licenses, Possession, all Fixtures, Gas and other Fittings, excellent Brewing Plant, stock of Ale, Malt, Hops, Household Furniture, and numerous other effects, the property of Mr. J. Richards, who is declining business.

Sale to commence punctually at two o'clock pm.

Descriptive catalogues may be had at the place of sale, and at the Auctioneer's, 73, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston.”

RISING SUN BEER AND EATING HOUSE,
CHURCH-STREET, BILSTON.

MR. F. ALTREE will SELL by AUCTION,
on Monday, 3rd May, 1858, the LICENSES, POSSESSION,
all FIXTURES, GAS and other FITTINGS, excellent BREWING
PLANT, stock of ALE, MALT, HOPS, HOUSEHOLD FURNI-
TURE, and numerous other effects, the property of Mr. J. Richards,
who is declining business.

Sale to commence punctually at two o'clock p.m.

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AUCTIONEER'S, 73, Wolverhampton-street, Bilston.

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT IT?
THAT OLD-ESTABLISHED BEER AND EATING HOUSE,
Opposite the Castle Inn, Church-street, Bilston,

IS TO BE LET.

BY Mr. F. ALTREE.—To be DISPOSED OF,
near the Market place, that noted old-established Business
premises, the “RISING SUN,” brewing eight bushels weekly,
eatables in proportion.
Valuation only required, as the proprietor is leaving on account
of ill-health.

Apply to F. ALTREE, Auctioneer, and old-established Valuer, 73,
Wolverhampton-street, Bilston.

RISING SUN

Cross Street, Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

James Adams

LICENSEES

Benjamin Bumford [1854]

Thomas Adams [1861]

Mrs. Charlotte Worldridge [1864]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Birmingham Journal 29/9/1860 - Advert

“RISING SUN, Bradley. By Altree and Son.

To be Let, the above noted Old-established Beer House, Brewing forty bushels per month. Valuation about £50. Rent £16. Parlour, two Kitchens, Pantry, Brew and Washhouse, Piggeries, entire Yard, &c. The Proprietor is retiring. Apply to the Auctioneers, St. Luke's Place, Bilston.”

“RISING SUN,” BRADLEY.
BY ALTREE and SON.—To be LET, the above noted Old-established BEER HOUSE, Brewing forty bushels per month. Valuation about £50. Rent £16. Parlour, two Kitchens, Pantry, Brew and Washhouse, Piggeries, entire Yard, &c. The Proprietor is retiring.
Apply to the Auctioneer's, St. Luke's Place, Bilston.

Thomas Adams, beer retailer, Upper Bradley. [1861]

1861 Census

Cross Street – RISING SUN

[1] Thomas Adams (55), publican, born Wednesbury;

[2] Mary Ann Adams (57), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] Thomas Adams (25), son, fitter, born Wednesbury;

[4] James Adams (21), son, fitter, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/9/1864 - Advert

“Important Sale of Freehold Property, situate at Hall Fields and Bradley, in the Township of Bilston.

Mr. Thomas Richards will Sell by Auction (by order of the Trustees of the late Mr. James Adams), Tomorrow (Tuesday, September the 27th), at the House of Mr. Arthur Wright, the CROWN AND CUSHION INN, Hall Fields, at Six o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions then to be produced, the under-mentioned valuable Freehold Properties.....

Lot 7. All that Public House and Premises known by the name of the RISING SUN INN, situate in Cross Street, Bradley, with the Brewhouse, Yard, and Outbuildings thereto belonging, in the occupation of Mrs. *Charlotte Worldridge*, together with two Houses at the back, and fronting to Adam Street, in the respective occupations of James Smith and Mason, the whole producing an annual rental of £23 14s.”

Lot 7.—All that PUBLIC HOUSE and PREMISES known by the name of the “RISING SUN INN,” situate in Cross Street aforesaid, with the Brewhouse, Yard, and Outbuildings thereto belonging, in the occupation of Mrs. Charlotte Worldridge, together with two Houses at the back, and fronting to Adam Street, in the respective occupations of James Smith and — Mason, the whole producing an annual rental of £23. 14s.

ROBIN HOOD

161, (76), (75+76), Oxford Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

William Mellor, pork butcher, Darlaston
William Butler and Co. Ltd.

LICENSEES

Richard Walker [1858]
John Jones [1861] – **1876**);
George Bullock (**1876 – 1878**);
Thomas Price (**1878 – 1879**);
George Martin (**1879 – 1881**);
George Rose (**1881 – 1882**);
John Jones (**1882 – 1883**);
Arthur Faulkner Williams (**1883 – 1885**);
Thomas Leadbetter (**1885 – 1886**);
John Unitt (**1886 – 1893**);
William Davis (**1893 – 1907**);
Emma Davis (**1907 – 1910**);
John Thomas Davis (**1910 – 1913**);
Mary Louisa Davis (**1913 – 1914**);
Joshua Sillitoe (**1914 – 1919**):

NOTES

76, Oxford Street [1861], [1891]
75+76, Oxford Street [1871]
161 Oxford Street [1901]

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Richard Walker, beerhouse keeper, 76, Oxford Street. [1858]

1861 Census

76, Oxford Street
[1] John Jones (36), beer shop keeper, born Bolas, Shropshire;
[2] Martha Jones (35), wife, born Lane End, Cheshire;
[3] John Jones (3), son, born Bilston;
[4] Benjamin Jones (1), son, born Bilston;
[5] Elizabeth S. Jones (3 weeks), daughter, born Bilston;
[6] Isaac Anderton (18), boarder, puddler, born Bilston;
[7] Ann Evans (14), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/4/1861

“At the Police Court, Wolverhampton, on Wednesday last, before S. Cartwright and R. H. Briscoe, Esqs, a man named Benjamin Silvester was charged by Joseph Green, a collier, living at Bilston, with having picked his pocket of half-a-crown on the previous Monday night. The prisoner was drinking at the ROBIN HOOD beerhouse, Oxford Street, and the prisoner, who was seated by his side, deliberately picked his pocket of half-a-crown. Policeman Grant was called in, and on making a search the missing half-crown was found against the ‘fountain,’ near the place where the prisoner had been sitting. Committed for 21 days’ imprisonment.”

John Jones, retailer of beer, 76, Oxford Street. [1862]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/3/1862

“Staffordshire Lent Assizes.....

Thomas Halford, 50, was indicted for attempting to murder Phoebe Corfield, at Bilston, on the 16th of February. Mr. Hill prosecuted, and having briefly stated the case, proceeded to call the following evidence.

Phoebe Corfield deposed that she was a widow, and on the 15th of February, which was Saturday, she was living with the prisoner, as his wife, at Salop Row, Bilston. On the evening of that day she was with the prisoner at the ROBIN HOOD INN, Bilston. They left that place between ten and eleven o’clock, and went across the street to the house of Samuel Tonks, with whom they stayed till a few minutes before twelve o’clock, when they started for home. On reaching their own house they went into the kitchen, where were her two sons, the elder of whom was asleep. After they had been seated a short time the prisoner charged her with being too intimate with Samuel Tonks, and after a lengthy conversation he said, ‘You d—— well want hanging,’ and taking a rope from round his neck he placed it over a hook in the ceiling of the kitchen. He then pulled the woman into the middle of the kitchen, lifted her off her feet, and fastened the noose of the rope round her neck. Her two sons were present, but neither of them interfered; in fact the eldest remained sleeping. When the rope was placed round her neck she became insensible, and when she recovered herself she was laid on the floor of the house, with a neighbour administering restoratives. Prosecutrix first thought the man was joking with her, and the rope was too tight to allow her to cry out.

Cross-examined by prisoner: Prosecutrix was by the side of prisoner when he put the noose round her. He then dragged her to the middle of the room, and put the rope over the hook in the ceiling.

Willian Brown, son of the prosecutrix, stated that he was at the prisoner’s house on the night in question. A few minutes after his mother and the prisoner got home the prisoner took the rope from his waist, placed a noose over her head, carried her to the middle of the floor, and placed the end of the rope over a hook in the ceiling. The woman was then hanging by the neck, with her feet about 12 inches from the ground. When the prisoner had done this he sat down, and began to laugh at the woman. Witness cried out for help, and the prisoner threatened to cut his throat. Witness took no notice of him, but awoke his brother, who ‘broke’ his mother down. Mary Ford, a neighbour, was then called in, and a policeman sent for.

Cross-examined by prisoner: The woman struggled before she was hanged up. Witness did not go to sleep before the woman was hanged.

Henry Brown, the elder son of Phoebe Corfield by her first husband, and brother of the last witness, proved that when his mother and the prisoner came home on the night in question he was asleep. He remained in that state till called up by his brother. When the brother awoke witness the prisoner was threatening to cut the brother’s throat, and got up from his chair to ‘set about him.’ Witness broke the rope by which his mother was suspended, and she fell on the floor, insensible. After that witness called on Mrs. Ford, and she came in; a policeman was also sent for. Mary Ford stated that when she was called into the prisoner’s house by the last witness she found Phoebe Corfield on the floor of the kitchen in a state of insensibility. Witness asked the prisoner how the affair happened. He replied, ‘If she had hung for a week, I would not have cut her down.’

Police-constable Craddock proved that on the morning of the 16th of February, he went to the house of the prisoner Halford. Witness heard the prisoner ask Mrs. Corfield whether she did not hang herself. She replied, ‘No.’ The prisoner then said, in explanation, that they had been quarrelling; Corfield told him she was tired of living with him, and he recommended her to go and hang herself. She then asked for some cord, and prisoner gave her his waist-rope. She then placed it round her neck, got into a chair, fastened the rope to a hook, and kicked the chair from under her. The hook was six feet seven inches from the floor, and witness believed that the prisoner could reach it as he stood on the ground. The rope produced (a piece of thin tarred cord), was given to witness by Mrs. Ford.

Mrs. Corfield, recalled, denied having got into a chair as the prisoner alleged.

William Brown, recalled, also denied that his mother got into a chair to swing herself from.

In defence the prisoner said that when he went into the house he sat by the fire, and the boys fell asleep. After smoking a pipe he pulled his rope off, and went to sleep also, and he remained in that state till the arrival of the police.

Louisa Higginson, was called in defence, and she proved going into the prisoner's house before Mrs. Ford. Mrs. Corfield was in a corner of the room, and witness asked what was the matter. William Brown replied that the old b—— in the corner had given his mother a rope, and she hung herself, kicking the chair from under her.

In reply to questions from witness Henry Brown stated that the rope broke after the woman had hung herself.

Mary Knight proved hearing Mrs. Corfield represent that she had said she would hang herself, and the prisoner flung her the rope.

The statements of these witnesses were denied in toto by both the Browns, Mrs. Corfield, and May Ford.

The jury found the prisoner guilty, and in passing sentence his Lordship remarked on the enormity of the offence. Had it occurred a few months ago he would have been liable to forfeit his life for it. It was a most serious case; an attempt to murder a woman, who, though not his wife, had behaved to him most affectionately – at least such might be gathered and presumed. The sentence of the court would be a term of 20 years' penal servitude."

John Jones, beer retailer, 76, Oxford Street. [1865], [1868]

1871 Census

75+76, Oxford Street

[1] *John Jones* (43), publican, born Bolas, Shropshire;

[2] *Martha Jones* (43), wife, born Madeley, Cheshire;

[3] *John Jones* (14), son, born Bilston;

[4] *Benjamin Jones* (12), son, born Bilston;

[5] *Alfred Jones* (7), son, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 6/6/1878 - Advert

"Brewer's House. To Let, ROBIN HOOD, Oxford Street, Bilston.

Apply, Richard Rolinson, New Brewery, Netherton."

BREWER'S House.—To Let, Robin Hood Inn, Oxford Street, Bilston.—Apply, Richard Rolinson, New Brewery, Netherton.

1881 Census

75+76, Oxford Street - uninhabited

Wolverhampton Express and Star 12/9/1885

"Wanted, and experienced Millwright, for a short time.

Apply, ROBIN HOOD, Oxford Street, Bilston."

WANTED, an experienced Millwright, for a short time.—Apply, Robin Hood, Oxford-st., Bilston.

1891 Census

76, Oxford Street – ROBIN HOOD

[1] *John Unitt* (51), sheet iron shearer, born Kings Arley, Worcestershire;

[2] *Hannah Unitt* (51), wife, born Acton Trussell, Staffordshire;

[3] *John Humpage* (17), nephew, sheet iron furnace helper, born Wolverhampton;

[4] *George Humpage* (13), nephew, scholar, born Wolverhampton;

[5] *Lilly Unitt* (2), grand-daughter, born Willenhall;

[6] *Charles Morton* (50), boarder, bright tinner, born Birmingham:

William Davis = *William Davies*

1901 Census

161, Oxford Street – ROBIN HOOD

[1] *William Davies* (63), publican, born Sedgley;

[2] *Emma Davies* (61), wife, born Tipton;

[3] *William Davies* (23), son, iron worker, puddler, born Moxley;

[4] *Mary A. Marr* (17), domestic servant, born Bilston:

William Davis, beer retailer, 161, Oxford Street. [1904]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 12/7/1909

"The death occurred very suddenly on Sunday of Enoch Harrison (50), who lived at 59, Greencroft, Bilston. He went for a walk during the morning, and called at the ROBIN HOOD INN, Oxford Street, where he complained that his breath was bad. He was given some water, but almost immediately fell back and expired. Dr. Kendrick was speedily sent for, but could only pronounce life to be extinct. Police-constables Brown and Bennett subsequently removed the body to its late home, and the former notified the occurrence to the Coroner. It is stated the deceased had suffered for some time past from bronchitis."

John Thomas Davis = John Thomas Davies

1911 Census

Oxford Street – ROBIN HOOD

- [1] *John Thomas Davies* (42), beerhouse keeper, late ironworker, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Mary Louisa Davies* (36), wife, married 14 years, born Tipton;
- [3] *Archibald Joseph Davies* (10), son, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] *Harold Davies* (9), son, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] *Percy George Skidmore Davies* (2 months), son, born Bilston;
- [6] *Gertrude Davies* (6), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [7] *William Davis* (32), brother, insurance agent, late ironworker, born Wednesbury;
- [8] *Emma Childs* (19), domestic servant, born Wolverhampton:

License refused by Compensation Authority on 24th July 1919.

Staffordshire Advertiser 26/7/1919

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

ROBIN HOOD, Oxford Street, Bilston, ante-'69 beerhouse, referred for compensation on the ground of redundancy. Formal application for renewal was made."

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/11/1919

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

ROBIN HOOD, Oxford Street, Bilston, beerhouse, ante 1869, licensee, *Joshua Sillitoe*, registered owners, W. Butler and Co. Ltd., £1,450."

Compensation of £1,450 was paid on 20th December 1919.

License extinguished on 27th December 1919.

Demolished

ROCKET POOLS

Rocket Pool Drive / 1, School Drive, Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. [1980]
Union Pub Co. (Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.)

LICENSEES

Albert Matthews []
Dennis Jones []
Ken Page [1986]
Martin Childs [1994] – [1995]
Christine Vera Hickinbottom [2000]
Phuman Singh Sanghera [2005]
Sunjit Singh Sanghera [2007]

NOTES

School Drive [1994]
Rocket Pool Drive [1990], [1997], [2001]

The Rocket Pool housing estate was built in the mid 1960s.

The pub was built in 1967 for Wolverhampton and Dudley Brewery and opened on 20th July 1967.
The architect was Hickton, Madley and Salt.

Black Country Bugle 21/1/1999

Letter from Mrs. Mary Matthews (nee Morrall)

“.....My father-in-law, Mr. *Albert Matthews*, used to play football in the 1930s. He used to be landlord of the OLD BUSH in Bradley Lane, the ROCKET POOLS, Bradley, and also the HOP POLE in Dudley Street, Bilston, with my mother-in-law Ethel Matthews until their retirement.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 16/6/1986

“A youth had a lucky escape when he found an unexploded bomb at the bottom of a pool on a Black Country housing estate – and hurled it to the bank. It was discovered after members of a local angling club drained the pool on the Rocket Pool Estate at Bilston. The youngster, who was helping to clear rubbish from the bottom of the pool, picked up the bomb and threw it onto the bank behind him. Mr. *Ken Page*, licensee of the nearby ROCKET POOL pub, which had to be evacuated, said, ‘It’s very lucky the thing didn’t go off.’ The bomb was found on Saturday as members of the Rocket Pool angling club were clearing the pool in order to build a couple of islands for wildlife.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 15/2/1994

“A licensee was pushed to the ground and robbed of £2,000 takings in the Black Country. The 51-year-old man was leaving the ROCKET POOL, School Drive, Bilston, to deposit his takings in the Post Office when he was attacked in the pub doorway at about 11am yesterday. Police are appealing for witnesses”



Birmingham Mail 19/12/1994

“A grand-mother today told how she rescued her four-year-old grand-son seconds before fire swept through her Midland home. Firemen praised the ‘extraordinary’ quick-thinking and courage of 64-year-old widow Mrs. Muriel Childs after she plucked Stephen Childs to safety.....

Stephen’s father, Mr. *Martin Childs*, aged 39, keeps the ROCKET POOL pub at Bradley, Bilston.

Firemen said the blaze was caused by an electrical fault.”

A newly refurbished bar opened in March 1997.

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.....

ROCKET POOL Lounge, Rocket Pool Drive, Bradley, Tue 7.00pm.”

It was the headquarters of the Princes End Racing Pigeon Club. [2000]

It was refurbished in April 2007.

Express & Star 21/8/2008

“A landlord known for ‘pulling the best glass of beer in Wolverhampton’ has died aged 88.

Dennis Jones was today described as a ‘true gentleman,’ having stood behind the bar of the FORGE HAMMER in Lanesfield for a decade from 1974 to 1984. He also worked at the ROCKET POOL and OLD BUSH in Bradley and the DOG AND PARTRIDGE in Bilston. Mr. *Jones*, of Bamber Close, Bradmore, was married to Pat, who died five-and-a-half years ago. They had five children, David, now 64, Alan, 62, Brenda, 56, Andrew, 53, and Mark, 45.

Daughter Brenda, who lives in Lanesfield, said her father was a well-known member of the community. ‘He was a very quiet man,’ Mrs. Paddock said today. ‘Mum was the bubbly one behind the bar but dad was well-known for pulling the best glass of beer in the city. People would always tell him that. He was a meticulous landlord and a true gentleman.’

Mr. *Jones* died of a heart problem on August 13. He moved into the pub trade aged 51 after working as a tool maker at firms including Villiers and Jone Hawk Engineers.

Mrs. Paddock added, ‘He was a wonderful dad. He never told us what to do – just gave out advice when we needed it. He very rarely raised his voice, because he didn’t need to. He commanded such respect. He was a very amiable person and was very well-read and articulate. He enjoyed working behind the bar and meeting people but I think he moved into the trade for mum really.’ Mrs. Paddock said her father enjoyed gardening and reading. ‘He also loved his animals and was very upset when his dogs and cats passed away,’ she added. Mrs. Paddock had been her father’s full-time carer for two-and-a-half years.

His funeral will take place at Bushbury Crematorium on Wednesday at 2pm.”

Dennis Jones – see also FORGE HAMMER, Lanesfield, OLD BUSH, Bradley, and DOG AND PARTRIDGE.

It was refurbished in 2013.

www.needadisco.com/venues/wm/67722

“The ROCKET POOLS INN Venue Hire.

Is the ROCKET POOLS INN suitable for a Private Function? – YES! needadisco.com has recently received enquiries for catering, photography, DJs, dancefloors, giant light-up letters and other entertainment services for clients holding birthday parties, anniversaries, engagements etc at the Rocket Pools Inn

Can I hold a Children’s Party at the ROCKET POOLS INN? – YES! At needadisco.com we frequently see enquiries for children’s entertainers, DJs, party food, mascots and other entertainment services for kids birthday parties, school discos and proms etc at the ROCKET POOLS INN.”

Express & Star 1/7/2021

“A Wolverhampton pub could lose its licence after allegedly putting customers ‘at risk’ by committing a number of Covid-19 safety breaches. Officers are calling on of Wolverhampton’s licensing sub-committee to strip ROCKET POOLS INN, on Rocket Pool Drive in Bradley, of its licence when it meets next week. Evidence submitted by authority licensing officers and West Midlands Police states coronavirus regulations were breached on different occasions in August and December last year and again in April this year. Alleged offences include overcrowding, failure to wear face masks, people drinking standing up, more than six people at a table and a failure to implement a number of prevention control measures. Officers also said CCTV footage obtained from the premises showed a clear breach of the regulations and an inability to manage or challenge customers.

Charlotte Rose, the council environmental health Covid compliance officer, said, ‘There has been a flagrant disregard to uphold the licensing objectives, comply with conditions of licence, and ensure that the premises were Covid secure by continuing to flout the requirements set by law during the emergency period. Patrons were unnecessarily put at risk with a clear lack of management. I propose a revocation of the licence.’

Aimee Taylor, West Midlands Police licensing and regulatory officer, added, ‘The Premise License Holder has failed to comply with the conditions on their license and failed to ensure their premise is Covid Secure. From my experience dealing with this premises, it is clear that the Premise License Holder does not manage this premises to the standard West Midlands Police Licensing would expect. I do not believe the Premise License Holder has involvement in the running of this premise and therefore this causes concern. West Midlands Police fully support this application for a review.’

The call for a review of the licence has also been supported by the city’s public health department. Members of the committee could choose to revoke the licence or impose a suspension for up to three months when it meets on Tuesday.”

[2023]



2007



2016



2011



2023

NOW OPEN

The ROCKET POOLS

School Drive, Bradley, Bilston, Telephone: 01902 493963

**Our newly refurbished bar is NOW open.
Come along and sample the friendly and
traditional atmosphere.**

- Traditional Cask Conditioned Ales including Banks's, Banks's Bitter, Kronenbourg and Harp Lager
- A full range of wines, spirits, soft & low alcohol drinks also available
- Large screen TV
- Bar games including pool, darts and cribbage and dominoes

**Visit The
Rocket Pools soon!**




1997

THE ROCKET POOLS

Bradley, Bilston

RECENTLY REFURBISHED

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

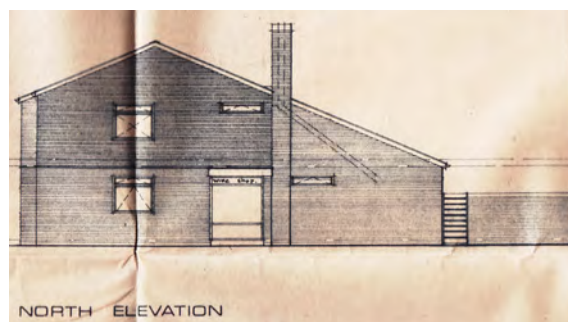
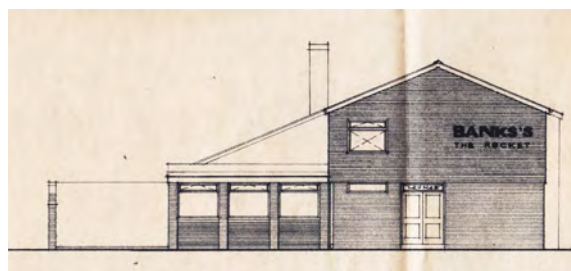
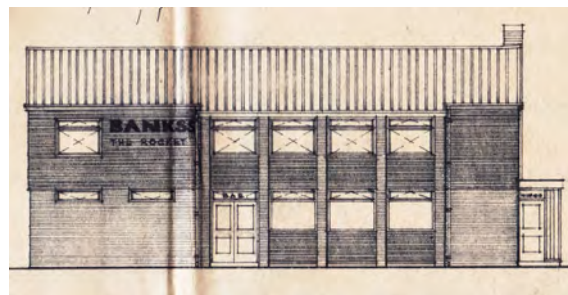
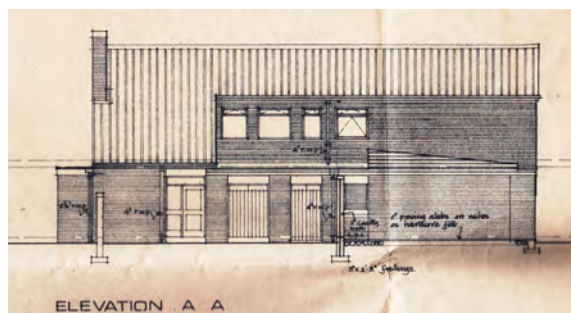
**Every Wednesday and Sunday Evening
Includes Karaoke -
Singers + Comedians etc**

**Every Tuesday Curry + A Pint
For £3.99 Until 10.30 pm**

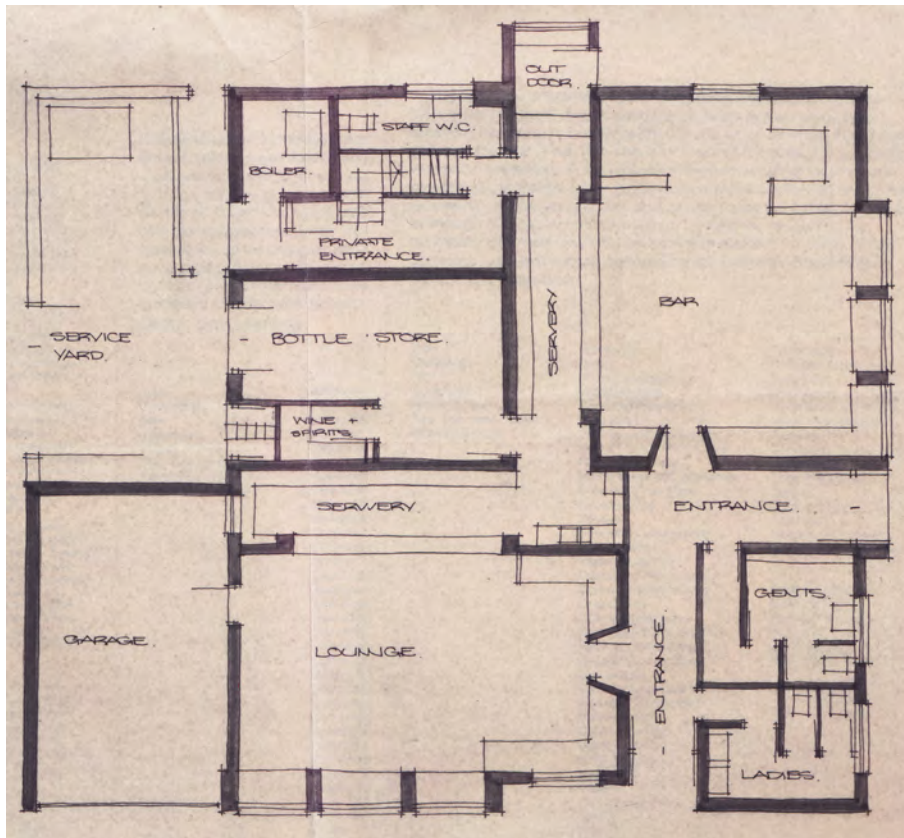
BIG SCREEN TV + CCTV SECURITY

**More Information:
01902 493963**

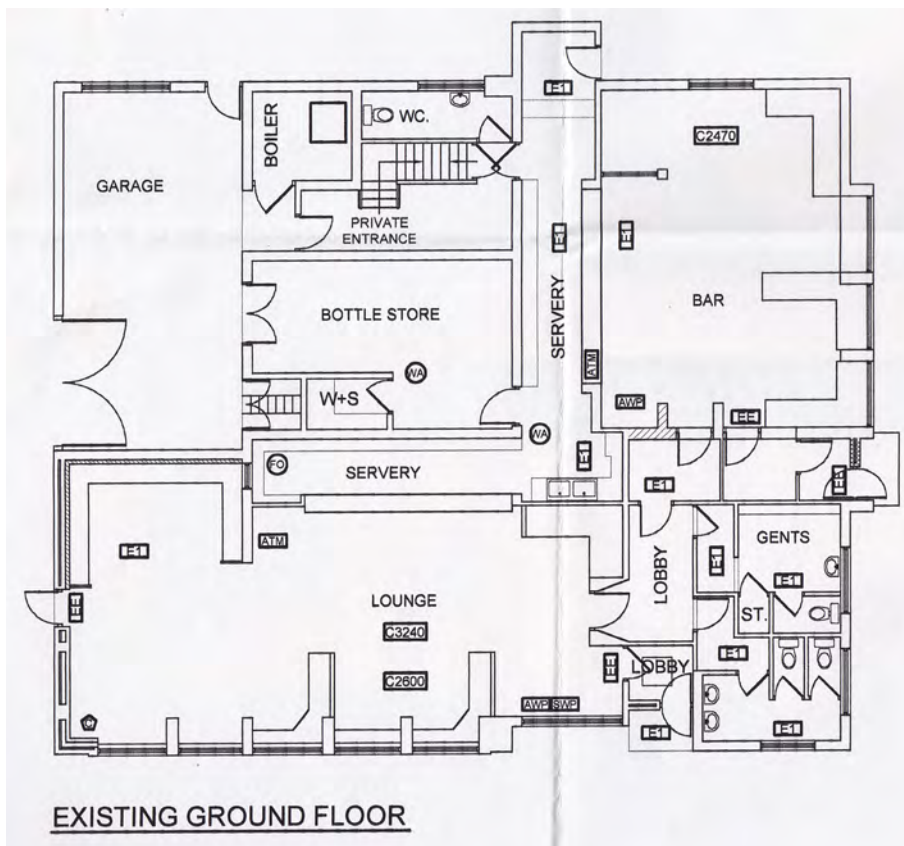
2007



Plans 1965



Plan 1980



Plan 2005

ROEBUCK

50, Bridge Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Theophilus Morrell, auctioneer, Bilston

LICENSEES

Mrs. Crumpton [1811]
John Hall [1818] – [1822]
James Nash [1828] – [1830]
Joseph Carter [1833] – [1834]
Ann Fowler [1851]
Gabriel Collear [] – **1848**);
Benjamin Owen (**1848 – 1852**);
David Owen (**1852 – []**)
Samuel Jones [1861] – [1865]
Mrs. Sarah Jones [1868] – **1872**):

NOTES

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 24/6/1811 - Advert

“To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, that old established Public House, the Sign of the ROEBUCK, situate in Bridge Street, Bilston. The Stock of Ale, Household Furniture, Brewing Utensils, &c to be taken at a fair Valuation.

For Particulars apply to Mrs. *Crumpton*, on the Premises.”

TO be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, that old established Public House, the Sign of the ROEBUCK, situate in Bridge Street, Bilston. The Stock of Ale, Household Furniture, Brewing Utensils, &c. to be taken at a fair Valuation. For Particulars apply to Mrs. Crumpton, on the Premises.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 15/6/1831 - Advert

“To Publicans and others.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett, on the premises, on Tuesday, the 21st day of June, 1831.

The whole of the Household Furniture, excellent iron-bound ale barrels, copper and iron furnaces, large and small mashing tubs, fixtures, and other effects, at the ROE BUCK public house, Bridge Street, Bilston; particulars of which will be distributed in due time, or may be had on applying at the office of the Auctioneer, New Town, Bilston; where there is on sale a large copper furnace and a four-pull ale machine, with pipes, &c.

The sale to begin at ten in the morning.”

To Publicans and others.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, BY RICHARD CORBETT,

On the premises, on TUESDAY, the 21st day of JUNE, 1831:—

THE whole of the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, excellent iron-bound ale barrels, copper and iron furnaces, large and small mashing tubs, fixtures, and other effects, at the ROE BUCK public house, BRIDGE STREET, BILSTON; particulars of which will be distributed in due time, or may be had on applying at the office of the Auctioneer, New Town, Bilston; where there is on sale a large copper furnace and a four-pull ale machine, with pipes, &c.

The sale to begin at ten in the morning

Staffordshire Advertiser 13/7/1850 - Notice

"In the County Court of Staffordshire, at Wolverhampton.

Whereas a petition of *Benjamin Owen*, at present and for one year and eight months now last past residing at the sign of the ROEBUCK, Bilston, in the parish of Wolverhampton, in the county of Stafford, carrying on there the business of a Licensed Victualler, and during such period being in partnership with Elijah Kitson, as Miners, and for five years previously thereto residing at Bilston aforesaid, carrying on business as a Licensed Victualler, and for about 12 months of such last mentioned period being also in partnership with one John Pervis, as Miners, and the remainder part of the said five years being a Miner on his own separate account, an Insolvent Debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire at Wolverhampton, and an interim order for protection from process having been given to the said *Benjamin Owen*, under the provisions of the statutes in that case made and provided, the said *Benjamin Owen* is hereby required to appear in Court before Nathaniel Richard Clarke Esq, Sergeant at Law, the Judge acting in the matter of the said petition, on the 18th day of July 1850, at 12 o'clock at noon precisely, at the Court House, Queen Street, Wolverhampton aforesaid, for his first examination touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said statutes; and notice is hereby given, that the choice of assignees is to take place at the time so appointed.

All persons indebted to the said *Benjamin Owen*, or who have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Charles Gallimore Brown Esq, official assignee, acting in the matter of the said petition, at his Office, in Queen Street, Wolverhampton aforesaid.

W. Bowen, Solicitor, Stafford."

1851 Census

Bridge Street

- [1] *Benjamin Owen* (55), ironstone miner, born Dawley, Shropshire;
- [2] *Mary Owen* (45), wife, born Wellington, Shropshire;
- [3] *David Owen* (21), son, cordwainer, born Bilston;
- [4] *Sarah Owen* (8), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] *Elizabeth Jones* (79), visitor, widow, born Wenlock, Shropshire;
- [6] *John Morris* (44), lodger, farmer's labourer, born Llanshelter, Wales;
- [7] *Mary Morris* (45), lodger, born Oswestry, Shropshire;
- [8] *John Povey* (21), lodger, ironstone miner, born Wolverhampton;
- [9] *Sarah Dyke* (14), lodger, works on pit banks, born Bilston;

Staffordshire Advertiser 21/8/1852

"At the weekly sessions held on Monday last, the following licenses were transferred.....

ROEBUCK, Bridge Street, Bilston, from *Benjamin Owen* to *David Owen*, of the same place, cordwainer."

Benjamin Owen – see also ROYAL OAK, Wolverhampton Street.

1861 Census

Bridge Street

- [1] *Samuel Jones* (48), publican, born Bilston;
- [2] *Sarah Jones* (46), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Richard Jones* (18), son, puddler, born Bilston;
- [4] *George Jones* (16), son, caster, born Bilston;
- [5] *Ann Jones* (14), daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] *Eliza Jones* (11), daughter, born Bilston;
- [7] *Lydia Jones* (3), daughter, born Bilston;

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF STAFFORDSHIRE, AT WOLVERHAMPTON.

10th day of July, 1850.

WHEREAS a petition of **BENJAMIN OWEN**, at present and for one year and eight months now last past, residing at the sign of the Roebuck, Bilston, in the parish of Wolverhampton, in the county of Stafford, carrying on there the business of a Licensed Victualler, and during such period being in partnership with Elijah Kitson, as Miners, and for five years previously thereto residing at Bilston aforesaid, carrying on business as a Licensed Victualler, and for about 12 months of such last mentioned period being also in partnership with one John Pervis, as Miners, and the remainder part of the said five years being a Miner on his own separate account, an Insolvent Debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire at Wolverhampton, and an interim order for protection from process having been given to the said Benjamin Owen under the provisions of the statutes in that case made and provided, the said Benjamin Owen is hereby required to appear in Court before **NATHANIEL RICHARD CLARKE Esq.**, Sergeant at Law, the Judge acting in the matter of the said petition, on the 18th day of July 1850, at 12 o'clock at noon precisely, at the Court House, Queen-street, Wolverhampton aforesaid, for his first examination touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said statutes; and notice is hereby given, that the choice of assignees is to take place at the time so appointed.

All persons indebted to the said Benjamin Owen, or who have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to **CHARLES GALLIMORE BROWN Esq.**, official assignee, acting in the matter of the said petition, at his Office, in Queen-street, Wolverhampton, aforesaid.

W. BOWEN, Solicitor, Stafford.

Staffordshire Advertiser 26/4/1862

“Thomas Jukes and Lucy Banks were charged with stealing 18s 6d and a purse from Luke Nicholls, of Wednesbury, a working man, who deposed that having gone from Wednesbury to Bilston to see the wreck after the boiler explosion at Millfields Works, he was drinking at the ROEBUCK, Bridge Street, in company with the two prisoners, when he felt Jukes put his hand in his pocket, and take out his purse and money. He followed him and the girl to a house of bad character, and saw his purse in the girl’s hand, and tried to recover it. The result was that he fought Jukes, who had the best of it, and then informed the police. Jukes and the girl were arrested on the same night. The prisoners were remanded to Wolverhampton on Wednesday next.”

[For further on the boiler explosion see under KINGS ARMS.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/6/1863

“*Samuel Jones*, landlord of the ROEBUCK INN, was yesterday summoned to the Police Court for using threatening language towards Thomas Hincks. The complainant said that on the 30th ult, he was in Bridge Street; when the defendant seized him from behind by the hair, called him a cur, and asked why he had sworn falsely against the Jukeses (some fellows recently convicted of felony). The complainant added that he went in fear of his life. The Bench ordered the defendant to find a surety for his keeping the peace for the next six months.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 29/8/1863

“At Bilston Public Office, yesterday, the undermentioned licenses were suspended.....

Samuel Jones, ROEBUCK, Bilston.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/9/1863

“The meeting for the renewing and granting of licenses was held on Friday, at Bilston police office.....

The following is a list of those who had been proceeded against and fined in the past year.....

Saul [sic] *Jones*, ROEBUCK INN, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/9/1863

“The adjourned licensing meeting for the Bilston division of the county was held on Friday.....

Licenses suspended at the annual licensing meeting were now renewed to the following houses, the landlords being cautioned to conduct them more creditably for the future.....

ROEBUCK, Bilston, kept by *Samuel Jones*.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 25/5/1867

“Mr. R. Jones of the ROEBUCK, Bridge Street, Bilston, will match his young blue pigeon Fooley to fly 70 or 80 miles on the Great Western line against Ralph Small, or any other fancier within five miles of Bilston, for £5 a side. A match can be made any night next week as above.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 6/6/1868

“R. Jones of the ROEBUCK INN, Bridge Street, Bilston, will match his blue pigeon to fly from Oxford station against any fancier, for £5 or £10 a side; or he will match his dun pigeon to fly from Chester, for the like sum, and will give or take any reasonable time from the drop. A match can be made any time as above.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/11/1869

“Yesterday, at the Police Court, Eliza Harding, a girl aged about 19, was charged with having stolen twelve sovereigns, the property of her mistress, Mrs. *Sarah Jones*, landlady of the ROEBUCK INN, Bridge Street, Bilston. Mr. H. Langman defended.

On the 29th of October the prisoner went to live with Mrs. *Jones* as a domestic servant. On the 11th of November Mrs. *Jones* missed twelve sovereigns from a box in her bedroom, and as the prisoner had been in the habit of going into that room, she was accused of having stolen the money, but denied any knowledge of it. Inspector M’Williams was sent for, and questioned prisoner about the matter, but she again protested that she did not know anything about the money. The inspector did not then take her into custody, but made certain inquiries, which led him to go to her father’s house in Queen Street, Bilston. On searching there he found a large quantity of new furniture, including iron bedstead and mattress, sofa, tables, looking glass, and a number of other articles. The father said that they had been there for some years, and that they belonged to another daughter. Inspector M’Williams ascertained, however, that this was not correct, but that they had been purchased by prisoner for £7, a few days previous, from Mr. Pateman,

auctioneer, of Bilston, to whom she gave an order for them to be left at her father's house. Prisoner had also purchased a water-proof cloak, a bonnet, and several other articles of wearing apparel. Inspector M'Williams also ascertained that she was engaged to be married to a young man in a short time, and that the proceeds of her theft were to go towards setting up housekeeping.

Prisoner pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to two months' imprisonment."

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/5/1870

"Martha Thompson was sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment for stealing 7s 6d from the person of John Wright, of Dudley, on Saturday night. The prisoner was with prosecutor at the ROEBUCK INN, Bilston, and the prosecutor accompanied her home. On leaving the public house he missed his money, and had her taken into custody, and on her being searched the money was found in her boot."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 27/8/1870

"The annual sessions for the renewal of existing and the granting of new licenses to licensed victuallers and beersellers in Bilston and Sedgley, was held yesterday at the Police Court, Bilston.....

All the applications for renewal of licenses were granted except the following, who had been fined for various offences during the year, and whose applications for renewal were adjourned until the adjourned licensing day, November 30 Licensed Victuallers.....

Sarah Jones, ROEBUCK, Bridge Street."

[Renewed at the adjourned licensing meeting.]

1871 Census

Bridge Street – ROE BUCK INN

[1] *Sarah Jones* (55), widow, publican, born Bilston;

[2] *John Jones* (32), son, moulder, born Bilston;

[3] *Richard Jones* (31), son, puddler, born Bilston;

[4] *Lydia Jones* (13), daughter, scholar, born Bilston:

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/10/1872

"Bilston Adjourned Licensing Day.....

Coming to the 'Black List' of suspended applications for the renewal of licenses, the Bench said they had determined to withdraw the licenses of *Thomas Legge*, the CROWN; and of *Sarah Jones*, the ROEBUCK; both in Bridge Street."

Birmingham Daily Post 2/1/1873

"Staffordshire Epiphany Sessions.....

Refusal to Renew a License. *Job Jeavons v The Licensing Justices of Bilston*.

This was an appeal against a refusal to renew a license for the ROEBUCK INN, at Bilston. Mr. Underhill was for the appellant, and Mr. Young and Mr. J. R. Rose for the respondents.

The public house in question had been a licensed house for seventy years, and about August last it was vacated by a Mrs. *Jones*. The appellant then took the premises, and when the application for the transfer of the license was made in October, the Magistrates refused it. The majority of the Bench were of opinion that as the appellant had allowed the regular licensing meeting to pass without submitting his application, the license would, if granted, have been a new one within the meaning of the Licensing Act of the last session. The appeal was dismissed, with costs. On the application of Mr. Underhill, a case was granted. After the Chairman had announced the decision of the Bench, Mr. Spooner (one of the Magistrates) expressed his dissent from the opinion of the other Justices."

ROLLING MILL

12, Highfield Road, (High Street), Highfields, (Ettingshall), Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

Mrs. Lloyd, Pennfields, Wolverhampton
William Taft
Hannah Taft
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. [1921]

LICENSEES

Edward Jones [1818] – [1842]
Anthony Rolinson [1845] – [1854]
John Ellis []
Whitmer Lathe [1860] – [1865]
John Skidmore [] – **1866**;
Anthony Rollason (**1866**);
Emily Jane Rollason (**1866** – [])
William Stokes [1868] – [1870]
Mrs. Catherine Stokes [1871] – [1872]
Richard Shuttleworth [] – **1873**;
William Taft (**1873** – **1890**);
Mrs. Hannah Taft (**1890** – **1896**);
Henry 'Harry' Moseley (**1896** – **1901**);
Mark Knight (**1901** – **1902**);
Joseph Edward Chatterton (**1902**);
Patrick 'Pat' Walsh (**1902** – **1906**);
John Joseph Turner (**1906** – **1907**);
Thomas Holmes Pardoe (**1907** – **1917**);
George Williamson (**1917** – **1923**);
Thomas Bowyer (**1923** – **1927**);
Arthur Hall (**1927** – **1932**);
William Ball (**1932** – **1938**);
Percy Mills Lloyd (**1938** – [1940])

NOTES

[This pub was strictly in Sedgley, but is included here due to it being situated at Bradley.]

Ettingshall [1828], [1860]
High Street [1845], [1849]
12, Highfield Road [1891]

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
At the house of Mr. Bowen, the Angel Inn, in Bilston, on Thursday, the 14th day of November next, at five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be produced,

ALL that desirable well established Licensed **FREE-HOLD PUBLIC HOUSE**, with the outbuildings, yard, and other appurtenances thereto belonging, situate at the Highfields, in the parish of Sedgley, called the **ROLLING MILL**, and now in the possession of Mr. Edward Jones, who will show the same; and further particulars may be had on application to Mr. BENNETT, solicitor.

Craddock's Walk, October 29, 1839.

1839

OLD LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE.
At Highfields, near Bilston.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY MR. W. ASTON,

Upon the premises known by the sign of the Rolling Mill Inn, situate at Highfields, near Bilston, on Thursday, the 18th day of May, 1848, at six o'clock in the afternoon, and subject to conditions then to be produced,

ALL that old established and well-accustomed **PUBLIC HOUSE**, known by the sign of the **ROLLING MILL INN**, with the outbuildings, yard, and appurtenances thereto belonging, situate at Highfields, in the parish of Sedgley, in the county of Stafford, and now in the occupation of Anthony Rowlinson. And also all that small **MESSUAGE** or **TENEMENT** adjoining thereto, and in the occupation of — —

The above premises are situate adjoining the turnpike road leading from Sedgley to Bilston, and are in the immediate neighbourhood of several ironworks, are doing a good scope of business, and (with the exception of a small portion thereof) are freehold of inheritance.

☞ For further particulars apply to Mr. JOHN RILEY, solicitor, or the **AUCTIONEER**, both of Queen-street, in Wolverhampton.

1848

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/7/1833 - Married

“On the 24th ult, at Wednesbury, by the Rev. T. Clarkson, Mr. John Jones, youngest son of Mr. *Edward Jones*, of the ROLLING MILL INN, Ettingshall, to Miss Ann Copeland, late of Burslem.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/10/1839 - Advert

“To Be Sold By Auction, at the house of Mr. Bowen, the ANGEL INN, in Bilston, on Thursday, the 14th day of November next, at five o’clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be produced.

All that desirable well established Licensed Freehold Public House, with outbuildings, yard, and other appurtenances, situate at Highfields, called the ROLLING MILL, and now in the possession of Mr. *Edward Jones*, who will show the same; and further particulars may be had on application to Mr. Bennett, solicitor.

Craddock’s Walk, October 29, 1839.”

1841 Census

Highfield

[1] *Edward Jones* (62), victualler;

[2] *Stephen Jones* (18), born Staffordshire;

[3] *Elizabeth Conn* (50), f.s.;

[4] *Eliza Banks* (18), f.s.:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/4/1843

“The following inquests have been held before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner.....

On the 28th ult at the ROLLING MILL, Bradley, near Bilston, on *Elijah Guest*, who came to his death by a pit frame falling upon him. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Anthony Rolinson = *Anthony Rowlinson*

Wolverhampton Chronicle 10/5/1848 - Advert

“Old Licensed Public House, at Highfields, near Bilston.

To Be Sold By Auction, by Mr. W. Aston, upon the Premises known by the sign of the ROLLING MILL, situate at Highfields, near Bilston, on Thursday, the 18th day of May, 1848, at six o’clock in the afternoon, and subject to conditions then to be produced.

All that old established and well-accustomed Public House, known by the sign of the ROLLING MILL, with the outbuildings, yard, and appurtenances thereto belonging, situate at Highfields, in the parish of Sedgley, in the county of Stafford, and now in the occupation of *Anthony Rowlinson*. And also all that small Messuage or Tenement adjoining thereto.

The above premises are situate adjoining the turnpike road leading from Sedgley to Bilston, and are in the immediate neighbourhood of several ironworks, are doing a good business, and (with the exception of a small portion thereof) are freehold of inheritance.

For further particulars apply to Mr. John Riley, solicitor, or the Auctioneer, both of Queen Street, in Wolverhampton.”

1851 Census

Highfields

[1] *Anthony Rolinson* (34), roll turner and licensed victualler, born Kingswinford;

[2] *Jane Rolinson* (29), wife, born Sedgley;

[3] *Edwin Rolinson* (9), son, born Bilston;

[4] *Emily Rolinson* (6), daughter, born Sedgley;

[5] *Ann Elizabeth Rolinson* (1), daughter, born Sedgley;

[6] *Edward Jones* (72), wife’s father, formerly licensed victualler, born Willey, Shropshire;

[7] *Ann Gardener* (20), house servant, born Sedgley;

Birmingham Journal 11/6/1859 - Married

“On the 2nd inst, at the Old Church, Wolverhampton, (by the Rev. M. Addison). Mr. Robert York, engineer and ironfounder, of Pelsall, near Walsall, to Mrs. Mary Ellis, widow of Mr. *John Ellis*, of the ROLLING MILL INN, Highfield, near Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 23/9/1863

"At the Police Court, on Friday, before J. Perks and R. Bagnall, Esqs, a man named Edwin Legg, a clerk in the employ of Messrs. T. J. Perry and Sons, ironfounders, Highfields, was brought up on remand, charged with having obtained by false pretences, the sum of £5 12s. It was stated that there were other charges against him, both of embezzlement and forgery. Mr. Waterhouse appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Fellowes for the prisoner.

The first charge taken was that of having obtained money under false pretences. The facts relating to this charge, were briefly as follows. It appears that near Messrs. Perry's works is a public house, kept by a person named *Whitmore Lathe*. The workmen employed at the works are usually paid their wages by Messrs. Perry's cashier, Mr. David Walters, or in his absence by a clerk named Smith, and as on these occasions Walters is often short of change, he had, with Mr. Perry's authority been in the habit of going across to the house of *Lathe* for whatever sums as change he might require, and with which Mrs. *Lathe* was in the habit of accommodating them, she received in return an I.O.U. for the amount, signed either by Walters or Smith, they being the only persons authorised to do so. These notes for change had generally been sent by one of the junior clerks, and on several occasions they had been taken by the prisoner, but whenever so sent he had always delivered to him an I.O.U. for the amount required, bearing with the signature of Walters or Smith. On Saturday, the 29th of August, the prisoner was sent to Mrs. *Lathe*'s for £10 worth of change, which he received, after having given the usual note from Walters. A short time after he went again to the house of Mrs. *Lathe* for a further £2 2s, which he said was wanted by Walters, but produced an I.O.U. written and signed by himself. Mrs. *Lathe* said she was unable to accommodate him with so much small change, but could give him £3 in gold, which he agreed to take, and at once altered the figures in the note to the amount in her presence. The prisoner went to his place of business at Messrs. Perry's about once or twice after, but ultimately absented himself altogether, and in the interval obtained from Mrs. *Lathe*, in the name of his employers, three several sums of 19s, __, 5s, and 15s, for which he gave her the usual I.O.U.s, but written and signed by himself. On the 10th instant, some days after the prisoner had absented himself from the office, the cashier, Mr. Walters, received a letter from him, in which he confessed that he had borrowed the sum of £5 12s from his employers name, for his own use, and enclosed a sum of £3, which, he said, with the wages due to him since the money was obtained, would make up the entire amount, desiring that credit might be given him for paying off the I.O.U.s in the hands of Mrs. *Lathe*. On further inquiries being instituted, other transactions of a more serious nature were brought to light, and a warrant was then issued for the prisoner's apprehension.

Mr. Walters and Mrs. *Lathe* were then called, and proved in evidence the above facts.

In cross-examination, Mr. Walters stated that he had, on a previous occasion taken up an I.O.U. given by the prisoner to Mrs. *Lathe*, and he then cautioned him against doing anything of the sort again. Witness identified several I.O.U.s produced by Mrs. *Lathe* as being in the prisoner's hand-writing.

Mr. T. J. Perry, the proprietor of the works at Highfields, also gave evidence as the prisoner having no authority to borrow money off Mrs. *Lathe*, on behalf of the firm, except when deputed to do so by Walters or Smith.

This being the case for the prosecution, Mr. Fellowes, on behalf of the prisoner, contended that the fact that the prisoner having sent in his letter of the 10th inst the sum of £3, and requested that £2 12s due to him as wages might be added to it, to make up the amount he had borrowed, showed that no fraud was intended by him at the time he obtained the money, and he (Mr. Fellowes) also submitted that no fraud had been committed.

The Bench, however, expressed a different opinion, and committed the prisoner to take his trial at the next assizes."

[Edwin Legg appeared at Stafford on 5th December 1863, charged with embezzlement, he was found guilty and sentenced to six months' imprisonment.]

Whitmer Lathe – see also UNION, Wallbrook, Sedgley.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 12/11/1864 - Advert

"To Let, that old-established Licensed Victualler's House, known as the UNION INN, Wallbrook, with Pork Shop attached. Premises extensive, with Slaughterhouse, Stabling, Sausage Machine, and all conveniences for the business, which has been carried on for the last twelve years by the present Proprietor, who can give satisfactory reasons for leaving.

Apply to Mr. John Skidmore, ROLLING MILLS INN, Highfields, near Bilston."

TO LET, that old-established Licensed Victualler's House, known as the "UNION INN," Wallbrook, with Pork Shop attached. Premises extensive, with Slaughterhouse, Stabling, Sausage Machine, and all conveniences for the business, which has been carried on for the last twelve years by the present Proprietor, who can give satisfactory reasons for leaving.—Apply to Mr. John Skidmore, Rolling Mills Inn, Highfields, near Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 25/10/1865 - Advert

“To be Sold, a first-class Chopping Machine and Filling Machine, all complete; will chop 50lbs.
Apply to *J. Skidmore*, ROLLING MILL INN, Highfields, near Bilston.”

AND

“Wanted, a good strong, active Servant Girl.

Apply at *J. Skidmore*’s, ROLLING MILL INN, Highfields, near Bilston.”

John Skidmore – see also UNION, Wallbrook, Sedgley, and COMMERCIAL, Bradley, Bilston.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/10/1866

“At the Police Court on Friday, applications were made for the transfer of the following licences.....

ROLLING MILL, Highfields, from the executors of *Anthony Rollason* to *Emily Jane Rollason* granted.”

1871 Census

Highfield Road – ROLLING MILL INN

- [1] *Catherine Stokes* (33), widow, born Hall Green;
- [2] *Catherine Stokes* (14), daughter, born Hall Green;
- [3] *John Stokes* (9), son, born Hampstead, London;
- [4] *Lisa Stokes* (7), daughter, born Hampstead, London;
- [5] *William Stokes* (3), son, born Bilston;
- [6] *William Priest* (27), lodger, blacksmith, born Bristol:

1881 Census

Highfield Road – ROLLING MILL INN

- [1] *William Taft* (49), maltster and brewer, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Hannah Taft* (49), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] *Hannah Line* (14), domestic servant, born Sedgley;
- [4] *Ann Potts* (20), domestic servant, born Sedgley;
- [5] *Sarah Turley* (28), barmaid, born Sedgley:

Evening Express 10/6/1881

“On Tuesday the members of Court Merry Woodmen, No.3305 A.O.F., partook of their annual dinner at the court house, the ROLLING MILL INN, Highfields Road, near Bilston. About 80 members sat down to an excellent spread, and, after ample justice had been done to it, Dr. Larkin, the surgeon of the court, was called upon to preside, the vice chair being taken by Brother John F. Caddick.

After the usual loyal and patriotic toasts had been duly honoured, the toast, prosperity to Court Merry Woodmen was proposed and responded to by the secretary of the court, PDCR Walter Hughes, who said that, when he was appointed secretary, some twenty years ago, the number of members on the books was fifty, and the amount of the court’s funds £4 0s 5d; but at the present time there were 126 financial and 9 honorary members, the amount of the funds invested being £925, of which £800 was invested at 4 per cent, the balance being in the Post Office Savings Bank.....”

Evening Express 27/8/1889

“On Saturday the workmen at the Ettingshall Works, numbering about 200, headed by the Prince of Wales Band, marched to the grounds at Bradley Park, kindly lent them by Mr. J. Smallman. Arriving there they sat down in a large marquee to a most substantial dinner, provided through the liberality of Mr. J. Butler, the manager. The men and boys having regaled themselves to the good things provided, the wives of the workmen partook of tea, generously thought of by Mrs Butler. During the afternoon hearty votes of grateful thanks were proposed by Messrs. Wm. Jones, Fred Craddock, and J. Salt, to Mr. and Mrs. Butler for the treat to all, to Mr. Smallman for allowing the use of his grounds, and to Mrs. *Taft*, of the ROLLING MILL INN, who so well catered for them. These were vociferously responded to. Then followed old English games and dancing to the merry strains of the band. The National Anthem having been played and sung, all went home, having thoroughly enjoyed themselves.”

1891 Census

12, Highfield Road – ROLLING MILL INN

[1] *William Taft* (58), riveter and brewer, born Coseley;

[2] *Hannah Taft* (58), wife, born Coseley;

[3] *Alex Taft* (20), son, roll turner, born Bilston;

[4] *Matilda Taft* (18), daughter, born Bilston;

[5] *Florence Whitehouse* (16), grand-daughter, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 14/6/1892

“Strike Of Ironworkers.

A meeting was held yesterday at the ROLLING MILL INN, Highfields, Bilston, of the men who have struck work at Bradley, near Bilston, owing to a firm asking them to work with slack instead of coal, and to do ‘doubling’ without the recognised 6d extra per ton. It was reported that one of the masters was asked whether an interview could take place between them and Mr. Aucott, the president of the National Iron and Steel Workers’ Association, but the employers expressed the opinion that no good would come of the interview. A resolution was passed by which the men agreed to keep firm, and regret was expressed that the employers had declined to meet Mr. Aucott.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 26/8/1898

“Bilston annual licensing sessions.....

Formal objection was made against the renewals of the ROLLING MILL, Bradley.

Superintendent Walters objected on the ground of a hole being in the wall, through which communication could be made to an ironworks. The superintendent said two years ago objection was taken to a hole, which had since been remedied, this second hole being made. A speaking tube had also been put in the house.

Mr. R. Tildesley said there was no offence against the house, and everything had been done openly, and nothing with the intention of evading the law. It was a convenience to the men, as a letter from Messrs. Davis Brothers and Co. Ltd. (produced), showed. The letter was as follows. ‘Our works manager, Mr. Granger, informs us that from his experience of nearly twelve years he finds the hole in the wall from which our men obtain refreshment from the ROLLING MILL to be a great convenience; it prevents the men leaving the works, and after having a drink they go back to work; but if they go outside they meet with acquaintances and are often induced to stay longer than necessary, when he has to send after them, with sometimes a difficulty in finding them.’ Mr. Rochelle said the hole could be seen from the road with little difficulty.....”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/8/1898

“The annual Licensing Meeting of the Petty Sessional Division of Bilston was held yesterday.....

In the case of *Harry Moseley*, the ROLLING MILL, Bradley, Superintendent Walters said at the back of the premises was a large square hole, which looked out on some works. There was also a speaking tube, so that the men at the works so that the men could ask for what they wanted, and it was supplied through the hole.

Mr. Pratt (Magistrates Clerk) said two years ago the license was renewed on condition that the hole was built up.

The Bench decided to renew all the licenses to which Superintendent Walters had objected with the exception of the ROLLING MILL, Bradley. That would come up again at the Adjourned Licensing Sessions, and the Bench wished the owner of the house to be informed that the license would be absolutely refused unless the hole referred to was hermetically sealed to the satisfaction of the licensing justices.”

AND

Wolverhampton Express and Star 27/9/1898

“The adjourned licensing sessions for the township of Bilston were held today (Tuesday).....

The license of the ROLLING MILL INN, Bradley, was renewed by the Bench. The case was referred to the adjourned licensing sessions because a hole at the back of the house had not been bricked up. Mr. R. Tildesley, who appeared on behalf of the applicant, said that the hole had now been closed up, and the superintendent of the police offered no objection.”

Walsall Advertiser 2/8/1902

“Walsall Bankruptcy Court.....

Mark Knight, beerhouse keeper, of the OLD OAK INN, Upper Hall Lane, Walsall, appeared for public examination. The statement of affairs showed liabilities expected to rank £102 2s 6d. In reply to the Official Receiver (Mr. Sam Wells Page) debtor stated that for four years prior to December, 1900, he lived in Lower Hall Lane, and was employed by Messrs. Shannon. From December, 1900, to January, 1902, he was at the ROLLING MILL INN, Bradley, and since that time he had been at the OLD OAK INN, where he purchased the stock, license and fixtures for £35. He did not have a previous valuation, however. Shortly after going into the OLD OAK debtor found that he was unable to pay his debts as they became due. He had been disappointed in the house. He attributed his insolvency to want of capital, bad debts, and bad trade.

The examination was adjourned to August 27th. Mr. J. Armstrong appeared for the debtor.”

Thomas Holmes Pardoe (24), bachelor, married *Selina Lane* (24), spinster, on 3rd June 1900.

Selina Lane was the daughter of *Joseph James Lane* – see *GLOBE*, Ash Street, Bradley.

1911 Census

Highfield Road

[1] *Thomas Holmes Pardoe* (34), licensed victualler, born Birmingham;

[2] *Selina Pardoe* (34), wife, married 10 years, assists in business, born Coseley;

[3] *Vincent Leslie Pardoe* (10), son, school, born Coseley;

[4] *Marjorie Pardoe* (5), daughter, born Coseley;

[5] *Ellen Lane* (20), niece, general servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 31/3/1917

“Mutual recriminations were made by husband and wife in an application for a license transfer at Bilston yesterday. Mrs. Charlotte Emma Brooks applied for the transfer of the ROLLING MILL INN, Bradley, to herself, but eventually the Bench refused the application.

Mr. J. S. Sharpe said Mrs. Brooks’s husband was in the army. They formerly kept the SPREAD EAGLE, Wednesbury, but subsequently Mrs. Brooks kept the STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT, Darlaston. He understood the husband was in court, being over on short leave, for the purpose of making allegations against his wife, and under those circumstances he was bound to say that before the husband enlisted Mrs. Brooks had led an unhappy life. She accused her husband of misconduct, in consequence of which he ill-treated her.

Mrs. Brooks said she was bringing a divorce suit against her husband.

The latter, who was in khaki, went into the box and made serious allegations against his wife as to her conduct both before and after he enlisted.

Mrs. Brooks, recalled, described her husband’s allegations as infamous lies.

The Bench said apart from her husband’s allegations they did not consider the applicant a suitable one to have a license.”

1921 Census

Highfield Road

[1] *George Williamson* (45), publican, born Pelsall;

[2] *Ada Annie Williamson* (44), wife, home duties, born Cannock;

[3] *Edward George Williamson* (20), son, blast furnace man, born Walsall;

[4] *Marion Williamson* (17), daughter, domestic duties, born Walsall;

[5] *Sarah Jane Williamson* (7), daughter, school, born Bloxwich:

Thomas Bowyer was fined 25s, on 23rd May 1924, for selling beer, in a vessel not corked or sealed, to a child under 14 years.

On 26th December 1926, he was fined £5 for supplying intoxicating liquor during non permitted hours, and £2 for aiding and abetting the consumption of intoxicating liquor during non permitted hours.

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.....

An application for the removal of the full license of the ROLLING MILL INN, Highfields, Bradley, to the BIRD IN HAND INN, Bradley, Bilston, the latter being a beerhouse, was refused.”

1939 Register

Highfields Road – ROLLING MILL INN

[1] Percy M. Lloyd, date of birth 11/4/1889, public house manager, married;

[2] Laura Lloyd, dob 21/7/1894, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] Marjory (Lloyd) Quinn, dob 1/8/1920, packer, hardware warehouse, single;

[4] Leslie M. Lloyd, dob 19/10/1922, grocer's shop assistant, single;

[5] Arthur Lloyd, dob 26/7/1926, at school, single:

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/4/1946

“Col. A. F. Nicholson (chairman) presided at a meeting of the County Licensing Confirmation Committee at Stafford, on Wednesday.....

Removal orders in respect of three Bilston full licenses – the BROWN JUG INN, Temple Street, to premises proposed to be erected on the Birmingham-Wolverhampton new road at Lanesfield, Coseley; the BOARD INN, Church Street, to premises to be built in Bunkers Hill Lane; and the ROLLING MILL INN, Highfields, Bradley, to premises to be erected at the junction of Great Bridge Road and Bull Lane, Moxley –were approved by the committee.”

ROLLING MILL

Millfields Road, (Mill Street), (Mill Lane) / Union Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Richard Cross
William Hugh Sparrow
Enoch Wild
Martha Wild
James Cahill, brewer, Heath Town, Wolverhampton
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1921], [1965]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Richard Cross [1867] – [1871]
William Edwards [1873] – **1874**);
Richard Cross **(1874 – 1877)**;
Michael Delmore **(1877 – 1883)**;
Richard Cross **(1883 – 1892)**;
Mary Wild **(1892 – 1893)**;
Enoch Wild **(1893 – 1905)**;
Martha Wild **(1905 – 1910)**;
Eli Cresswell **(1910 – 1923)**;
John Fellows **(1923 – 1927)**;
Arthur John Edwards **(1927 – 1933)**;
John Beards **(1933 – 1937)**;
Arthur Weekes **(1937 – [1950s]**
G B Garrett [1976]

NOTES

It was originally called BRITANNIA.
BRITANNIA ARMS [1881]

It had a beerhouse license.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/11/1867

“*Richard Cross* of the BRITANNIA beershop, Mill Street, Bilston, has been several times fined for selling ale during illegal hours on Sunday, yet last Sunday morning, when Acting-sergeant Chatfield visited his house, he found him busy serving many customers. This being proved yesterday, to the satisfaction of the Stipendiary, he fined him £3 and costs.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/8/1869

“The annual licensing meeting for the Bilston division took place yesterday, at the Police Court.....

The following beerhouse keepers had been fined during the past five years.....

For keeping open during prohibited hours *Richard Cross*, BRITANNIA, Union Street, Bilston, 20s and costs, and another occasion 60s and costs.”

1871 Census

21, Union Street

- [1] *Richard Cross* (39), carpenter, born Bilston;
- [2] *Ellen Cross* (38), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Moses Cross* (2), son, born Bilston;
- [4] *Priscilla Cross* (10), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] *Clara Cross* (4 months), daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] *Emma Philips* (12), domestic servant, born Bilston;
- [7] *Richard Beaton* (27), lodger, labourer, ironworks, born Wolverhampton;
- [8] *Robert Williams* (27) lodger, labourer, ironworks, born Montgomeryshire:

1881 Census

22, Union Street – BRITANNIA ARMS

- [1] *Michael Delmore* (48), furnace labourer, born County Galloway, Ireland;
- [2] *Mary Delmore* (47), wife, born County Mayo, Ireland;
- [3] *Annie Delmore* (20), daughter, home assistant, born Walsall;
- [4] *Patrick Delmore* (15), son, ironworks labourer, born Bilston;
- [5] *Bridget Delmore* (12), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] *Michael Delmore* (10), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] *Kate Delmore* (8), daughter, scholar, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 12/7/1886

“An inquest was held at the ROLLING MILL INN, Mill Lane, on Saturday, touching the death of George Meacham, aged nine weeks, whose parents live at Mill Lane. On Friday morning the child was found dead in bed, the mother having accidentally overlain him. A verdict to this effect was returned.”

1891 Census

Union Street – ROLLING MILL

- [1] *Richard Cross* (59), carpenter, born Bilston;
- [2] *Ellen Cross* (58), wife, publican, born Bilston;
- [3] *Clara Cross* (19), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] *Richard Cross* (17), son, labourer in iron foundry, born Bilston;
- [5] *Priscilla Cholmes* (14), domestic servant, born West Bromwich:

1893 Probate

“*Mary Wild* of the ROLLING MILL beerhouse, Union Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, widow, died 2 March 1893. Probate Lichfield 6 June to Richard Wild, brewer, and Edwin Potts, licensed victualler. Effects £325 3s.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/9/1893

“Mr. A. B. Smith (deputy coroner) held an inquest at the ROLLING MILL INN, Millfields Road, Bilston, yesterday, touching the death of Mary Ann Cartwright (65), of No.3 Millfields Road, who was burnt to death on Monday night. In opening the proceedings, the Coroner said a regrettable circumstance in connection with the unfortunate affair had come to his knowledge. It appeared that when the deceased was first found with her clothing on fire she was allowed to remain until a police officer was sent for, and there seemed to be an idea prevailing in the district that no one ought to interfere in a case of the kind until an officer appeared on the scene. Such a proposition was nonsensical in the extreme. In this case probably the life of the woman could not have been saved, but the neighbours might have prevented her being roasted almost beyond recognition. Not long ago the life of a man who hanged himself might have been saved if he had been cut down when first seen.

The evidence showed that the deceased suffered from the effects of a paralytic stroke, and in the absence of her husband a woman named Pumphrey was employed to attend to her. On Monday night Pumphrey left the woman for a short time, and during her absence deceased's clothing ignited, and the flames were extinguished by neighbours. Police-constable Currie said he was called to the house by a boy, who said the woman was still burning, and that the

neighbours were under the impression that they could not touch her until a policeman arrived. When he reached the place he found a crowd of people around the door, and they might have moved the body, instead of allowing it to get cooked. The deceased was lying with her head near the grate, in which there was a bright fire up to the top bar. The body of the deceased was still being roasted when he reached the house. A verdict was returned that the woman came to her death Accidentally.”

The name was altered to ROLLING MILL in the licensing register on 29th August 1899.

Enoch Wild = Enoch Wilde

E. Wild issued tokens from here.

1901 Census

Millfields Road

- [1] *Enoch Wild* (29), brewer and publican, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Martha Wild* (27), wife, born Smethwick;
- [3] *Mary Wild* (8), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] *James Wild* (6), son, born Bilston;
- [5] *John Wild* (4), son, born Bilston;
- [6] *Evelyn Wild* (2), daughter, born Bilston:

Enoch Wild, beer retailer, Millfields Road. [1904]

1911 Census

Millfields Road – ROLLING MILL INN

- [1] *Eli Cresswell* (31), manager of beerhouse, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Mary Ann Cresswell* (34), wife, married 8 years, assisting in business, born Coseley;
- [3] *Bessie Cresswell* (8), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [4] *Elsie Cresswell* (6), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [5] *Doris Cresswell* (4), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [6] *Sydney Eli Cresswell* (2), son, born Sedgley;
- [7] *Hubert Cresswell* (2 months), son, born Bilston;
- [8] *Ethel Cresswell* (25), sister, worker in warehouse, iron foundry, born Sedgley;
- [9] *Mabel Cresswell* (22), sister, assisting in housework, born Sedgley:

Eli Cresswell, beer retailer, Millfields Road. [1912], [1916]

County Express 19/7/1913 - Advert

“Highly Important Announcement of Sale by Auction of Fourteen Freehold Fully-Licensed and On-Beerhouse Properties, in and around Coseley, Bilston, Darlaston, Sedgley, and Tipton.

Alfred W. Dando & Co. have received instructions to Sell by Auction, at the STAR AND GARTER HOTEL, Wolverhampton, on Tuesday, July 22nd, 1913, at 6.30 for 7 o'clock in the Evening precisely, subject to Conditions of Sale then to be produced, as follows.....

Lot 1. The SWAN INN, Darkhouse Lane, Deepfields, Coseley (fully-licensed), as occupied by Mr. Davies, together with the Two Dwelling Houses adjoining, being Nos.10 and 16, Darkhouse Lane.

Lot 2. The PAINTERS ARMS INN, Avenue Road, Coseley (fully-licensed), as occupied by Mr. Davies.

Lot 3. The RED LION INN, Castle Street, Coseley (Beerhouse-on), with large area of Land, as occupied by Mr. John Groves.

Lot 4. The IVY HOUSE INN, Ivy House Lane, Coseley (fully-licensed) as occupied by Mr. Cahill or his under-tenant, together with the Dwelling House, Numbered 23, Ivy House Lane, occupying a large area of land.

Lot 5. The SUMMER HOUSE INN, School Street, Roseville, Coseley (Beerhouse-on), as let to Mr. G. W. Davies.

Lot 6. The ROLLING MILL INN, Millfield Road, Bilston (Beerhouse-on), extending to and fronting Union Street, with large area of Land, as occupied by Mr. *Eli Cresswell*.

Lot 6a. Union Street. Two Unnumbered Dwelling Houses adjoining the above, with large walled-in Yard and Outbuildings, as let to John Beaton and David Lloyd.

Lot 7. The BARLEY MOW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston (Beerhouse-on), as occupied by Mrs. Sarah Hughes.

Lot 8. The CALIFORNIA INN, Hatton Street, Bradley, near Bilston(Beerhouse-on), as occupied by Mr. John Morgan, with the Five Dwelling Houses, being No.38, California Street, and Nos.1 to 7 (odd numbers), at the rear of same.

Lot 9. The PRINCE OF WALES, Walsall Road, between Darlaston and Wednesbury (Beerhouse-on), as occupied by Mr. Thomas Burfoot.

Lot 10. The NEW INN, The Green (opposite Horton Street), Darlaston (6-day Licence Beerhouse-on), as occupied by Mrs. Snape.

Lot 11. The MINERS ARMS INN, Ruiton Street, Lower Gornal (fully-licensed), as let to Mr. Enoch Smart.

Lot 11a. Nos.90 and 91, Ruiton Street, Lower Gornal. Two Excellent Cottages adjoining the above, with pleasant Gardens and the usual Outbuildings.

Lot 12. The SHAKESPEARE INN, Kent Street, Upper Gornal (fully-licensed), as occupied by Mr. Isaac Smart.

Lot 13. The CABIN INN, Kent Street, Upper Gornal (Beerhouse-on), as occupied by Mr. Joshua Bradley.

Lot 14. The BOAT INN, Boat Row, off Park Lane West, Tipton (fully-licensed), as occupied by Mr. John Johnson, with the Dwelling House, No.14 adjoining.

Auctioneers' Notes: The foregoing 14 Licensed Houses, 6 of which are Fully-licensed and 8 On-Beerhouses, form as a whole, one of the most important lots of Licensed Properties brought under the hammer in the district within recent years. They have been carefully acquired from time to time, and are situate in well-populated localities, for the most part within easy distance of the largest works in Staffordshire.

The Houses are held either on short tenancies or under management, and in most cases possession may be had of the goodwill of the various businesses upon completion of the purchases; a fine opportunity therefore presents itself to Brewers wishing to increase their barrelage, or to private individuals desiring to embark in the trade. The Houses as a whole are in good order, commodious, well arranged, and doing genuine trades.

Further detailed particulars may be obtained from of Messrs. Hall, Pratt and Pritchard, Solicitors, Bilston; or the Auctioneers, Dudley."

Birmingham Daily Post 8/5/1915 - Advert

"Under A Deed Of Assignment.

Re Richard Sidney Wilson, trading as R. S. Wilson & Son.

Preliminary Announcement Of Sale By Auction of Eleven Freehold, Fully-Licensed and On-Beerhouse Properties, Brewery Premises & Dwelling Houses in and around Darlaston, Sedgley, Coseley, Bilston, Tipton, Ackleton, and Bridgnorth.

Alfred W. Dando & Co. have received instructions from R. H. Jonson, Esq. (Messrs. Muras and Co., Chartered Accountants, Wolverhampton), the Trustees as above, to Sell by Auction early in June, the following Properties.

The PRINCE OF WALES INN, Walsall Road, between Darlaston and Wednesbury (Beerhouse-On).

The MINERS ARMS INN, Ruiton Street, Lower Gornal (Fully Licensed), and Two Cottages.

The SWAN INN, Darkhouse Lane, Deepfields, Coseley (Fully Licensed), and Two Dwelling Houses.

The BARLEY MOW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston (Beerhouse-On).

The ROLLING MILL INN, Millfield Road, Bilston (Beerhouse-On), and Two Cottages.

The CALIFORNIA INN, Hatton Street, Bradley, near Bilston (Beerhouse-On), and five Dwelling Houses.

The BOAT INN, Boat Row, off Park Lane West, Tipton (Fully Licensed).

The RED LION INN, Castle Street, Coseley, (Beerhouse-On).

The SUMMER HOUSE INN, School Street, Roseville, Coseley (Beerhouse-On).

The CABIN INN, Kent Street, Upper Gornal (Beerhouse-On).

The Folly Inn, Ackleton, 5½ miles from Bridgnorth and Albrighton, and about 10 miles from Wolverhampton (Beerhouse-On), with Cottage Residence.

The Castle Brewery, Bridgnorth, with Fixed Plant.

Further particulars will appear in future announcements.

Auctioneer's Offices, 193, Wolverhampton Street, Dudley. (Tele.56)."

Catalogue for Auction on 2/6/1915

“Under a Deed of Assignment. Re Richard Sidney Wilson, trading as R. S. Wilson & Son.

Highly Important Announcement of Sale by Auction of Eleven Freehold Fully Licensed and On-Beerhouse Properties, Brewery Premises and Dwelling Houses.....

The following Eleven Licensed Houses, Three of which are Fully-Licensed and Eight On-Beerhouses, together with the Brewery, form as a whole, one of the most important lots of Licensed Properties brought under the hammer in the district within recent years. They have been carefully acquired from time to time and are situated in well populated localities, for the most part within easy distance of some of the largest works in Staffordshire, and as they are being offered by direction of the Trustee under a Deed of Assignment, a fine opportunity presents itself to Brewers wishing to increase their barrelage or to private individuals desiring to embark in the trade, of acquiring houses which as a whole are in good order, commodious, well arranged, doing genuine trades, and possession of which may be obtained in most cases upon completion and otherwise at early dates afterwards.....

Lot 5. The ROLLING MILL INN, Millfield Road, Bilston (Beerhouse-On).

Let on short tenancy at a rental of £40 0s 0d per annum. A valuable old-fashioned corner property extending to and fronting Union Street, close to the works of Messrs. Alfred Hickman Ltd, on the main road between Bilston and the Fighting Cocks with a great and constant passing traffic, the accommodation comprising Entrance Passage, Smoke Room front 14' x 11', Tap Room 12' x 12', Bar 12' x 10', Living Kitchen, Scullery, Two Bedrooms and Cellars, together with Three-floor Brewery, Stabling, Piggeries, large open yard and the usual Outbuildings, the Property being entirely walled in; also the two unnumbered brick-built and tile-roofed Four-roomed Dwelling Houses fronting Union Street, let and together producing the gross annual rental of £14 1s 4d.”

Birmingham Daily Post 4/6/1915

“At Wolverhampton on Wednesday Messrs. W. Dando and Co. of Dudley offered for sale a number of licensed houses in the Black Country, and the lots disposed of realised a total of £6,835.....

The ROLLING MILL INN, Millfield Road, Bilston, an on-beerhouse, together with two four-roomed dwelling houses fronting Union Street, fetched £900.”

1921 Census

Millfields Road – ROLLING MILL INN

- [1] Eli Cresswell (41), manager public house, born Sedgley;
- [2] Mary Ann Cresswell (44), wife, born Coseley;
- [3] Bessie Cresswell (18), daughter, machine slotter, born Sedgley;
- [4] Elsie Cresswell (16), daughter, office clerk, born Sedgley;
- [5] Doris Cresswell (14), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [6] Sydney Eli Cresswell (12), son, school, born Bilston;
- [7] Hubert Cresswell (10), son, school, born Bilston;
- [8] Arthur Leonard Cresswell (9), son, school, born Bilston;
- [9] Mary Elizabeth Cresswell (4), daughter, born Bilston;
- [10] Mabel Cresswell (33), sister, home duties, born Sedgley;

John Beards = John Beard

He was married to Comfort Alice.

He was ex-works manager for M. B. Wild.

He died on 7th February 1937, aged 62.

1939 Register

Millfields Road – ROLLING MILL

- [1] Arthur Weekes, date of birth 24/2/1897, licensed victualler, married;
- [2] Elizabeth Weekes, dob 25/8/1901, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] Annie E. (Weekes) Cadman, dob 10/7/1931, at school, single;
- [5] John Brittle, dob 22/1/1905, steel tubular scaffolder, heavy work, married;
- [6] Henry W. Davey, dob 2/1/1911, steel tubular scaffolder, heavy work, married;

Bilston and Willenhall Times 12/1/1946

"In connection with the crib club held at the ROLLING MILL INN, Millfields Road, Bilston, the annual supper was held last Thursday, when there was a large attendance. An excellent Christmas repast was served and afterwards there was a concert....."

Closed

It was demolished circa 1980.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT OF SALE BY AUCTION
— of —

***ELEVEN Freehold Fully Licensed and
On-Beerhouse Properties, : : : :
Brewery Premises and Dwelling Houses***

IN AND AROUND

DARLASTON	TIPTON
SEDGLEY	ACKLETON
COSELEY	and
BILSTON	BRIDGNORTH

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION BY

Alfred W. Dando & Co.

AT THE

STAR & GARTER HOTEL, WOLVERHAMPTON
:: :: On WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2nd, 1915, :: ::

At 6.30 for 7 o'clock in the Evening precisely, subject
to Conditions of Sale then to be produced.

TRUSTEE:

R. H. JOHNSTON, Esq.
(Messrs. MURAS & Co.),
Chartered Accountants,
Wolverhampton.

Auctioneers' Offices,
193, Wolverhampton St.,
DUDLEY.

SOLICITORS:

Messrs. HALL, PRATT & PRITCHARD, Bilston;
Messrs. SLATER & Co., Darlaston;
Messrs. W. A. & H. M. FOSTER, Wolverhampton;
Messrs. TILDESLEY & HARRIS, Willenhall.

The "Rolling Mill" Inn,
Millfield Road, Bilston
(Beerhouse-On).

Let on short tenancy at a rental of **£40 : 0s. : 0d.** per annum. A valuable old-fashioned corner property extending to and fronting Union Street, close to the works of Messrs. Alfred Hickman, Ltd., on the main road between Bilston and the Fighting Cocks with a great and constant passing traffic, the accommodation comprising Entrance Passage, Smoke Room front 14' x 11', Tap Room 12' x 12', Bar 12' x 10', Living Kitchen, Scullery, Two Bedrooms and Cellars, together with Three-floor Brewery, Stabling, Piggeries, large open yard and the usual Outbuildings, the Property being entirely walled in; also the two unnumbered brick-built and tile-roofed Four-roomed **DWELLING HOUSES** fronting Union Street, let and together producing the gross annual rental of **£14 : 1s. : 4d.**

ROPEMAKERS ARMS

BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

NOTES

[1827]

ROSE AND CROWN

(Middle) Field Lane, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Joshua Granger [1818] – [1834]
Thomas Almond [1835]

NOTES

Joshua Granger = Joshua Grainger

Joshua Granger was also a tray manufacturer. [1818]

Birmingham Journal 15/10/1825 - Marriages

“On the 7th inst, Mr. *Joshua Granger*, of the ROSE AND CROWN, Bilston, to Miss Sarah Ball, of the same place.”

ROSE AND CROWN

41, Temple Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Benjamin Owen [1861]

NOTES

1861 Census

41, Temple Street – ROSE AND CROWN

[1] *Benjamin Owen* (65), stone miner, born Dawley, Shropshire;

[2] *Mary A. Owen* (55), wife, born Dawley, Shropshire;

[3] *Sarah Owen* (18), daughter, born Bilston;

[4] *Abraham Roper* (34), lodger, stone miner, born Broseley, Shropshire;

[5] *Phebe Roper* (32), wife, born Bilston:

ROUGH HILLS TAVERN

Rooker Avenue, (8, Rough Hills), (Rough Hills Lane), Parkfields, BILSTON

OWNERS

Edwin Dixon [1871]
Mr. William Fenn [1878]
John Edward Stephens [1880]
Thomas Skidmore [1892]
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. [1900], [1997]

LICENSEES

James Trevitt [1866] – [1871]
William Jones [1874]
James Trevitt [1876] – **1880**;
John Edward Stephens (**1880** – [1881]
Samuel Walters (**1882 – 1885**);
Richard Bates (**1885** – [1887]
Benjamin Asbury (**1887 – 1891**)
John Russell [1898] – [1916]
Elison Russell [1921]
Ziah Jones []
Arthur Gascoyne [1926] manager
Joseph Leonard Washbrook [1932] – [1940]
Wilf Workman [1950s]
Martin Stackhouse [1995]
Harbhajan Singh Padda [2004]
R Kumar [2005]



NOTES

[This pub was strictly in Wolverhampton, but is included here due to it being situated at Rough Hills.]

Rough Hills Lane [1871]
8, Rough Hills [1901]
Rooker Avenue [1932], [2005]

It had a beerhouse license.

Birmingham Daily Post 16/9/1862

“On Sunday morning a man named William Trevitt was found drowned in the Birmingham Canal, near Rough Hills, Wolverhampton. The deceased, who was a keeper, and who was to have opened a beerhouse called the ROUGH HILLS TAVERN, at Rough Hills, on Saturday, was missed on the previous Wednesday. Late on the night of that day he parted with a man named Bickers, in the Green Lanes. There can be no doubt that the deceased, being then intoxicated, must afterwards have accidentally fallen into the canal, as he had not been robbed, his money being in his pocket when he was found.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 10/1/1866

“*James Trevitt*, beerhouse keeper, Roughhills, was charged upon a summons, issued under the authority of the Inland Revenue Board, with having sold one gill of spirits on the 25th of November, without having a license authorising him so to do. Mr. Allcorn, supervisor, supported the summons, and Mr. J. E. Underhill appeared for the defence. It appeared from the evidence of two common informers, named Richard Bray and Paul Roper, that in consequence of a communication received from Mr. Allcorn, they went to the defendant’s beerhouse about five o’clock in the afternoon of the 23rd of November, and after having some ale, Bray asked the defendant’s wife for a quarter of rum, handing her a bottle to put it in. She went upstairs and brought the rum, for which she charged sixpence. The witness, in answer to Mr. Underhill, said they had previously laid informations for the Excise, and had received compensation for so doing, generally consisting of half the penalty, less expenses. They sat in the tap-room, and no one was present except the landlady, the servant, and some little children, who were in and out of the room. This was the whole of the evidence, and Mr. Allcorn, in reply to the Bench, said the onus of proving that he had a license lay upon the defendant.

Mr. Underhill, for the defence, complained that in this case, which was in the nature of a criminal proceeding, the summons did not furnish full information of what the defendant had to answer, as it ought to do. He said that the Excise had acted disgracefully towards the defendant, for they had refused, upon a written application from him (Mr. Underhill) to state who supplied the rum, to whom it was served, and at what hour. Under these circumstances the object of the Excise must be to get a conviction whether the defendant was guilty or not. It might be said that if such information were given evidence for the defence might be manufactured, but the duty of the Bench was to sift the evidence brought before them. The law prevented him from calling the defendant’s wife, but she instructed him to say that she never sold a particle of rum in the house in her life. Mr. Underhill asked the Bench not to convict on the uncorroborated evidence of two common informers, who had a pecuniary inducement to seek to get convictions in cases of this kind. He then called Ann Carney, who was servant at the house on the day in question, and she said she had lived at the defendant’s twelve weeks, and never saw any rum sold there. She was at the house all day on the 25th of November, was in and out of the tap-room, and did not see the informers.

Stephen Davis, a butty miner, under Mr. Aston, stated that he was in the tap-room of the house from about half-past one until about half-past seven on the day in question, and saw no men, except his own workpeople, come in during that time, and no spirits sold.

This was the last witness, and the Magistrates said they must convict. The full penalty was £50, but they would mitigate it to one-fourth that amount, £12 10s.”

[Richard Bray and Paul Roper, the prosecution witnesses, appear in a similar case against *Eli Reynolds*, beerhouse (unnamed) keeper, Moseley Village, Wednesfield.]

Birmingham Daily Post 18/8/1870

“The annual special sessions of Wolverhampton Borough Justices, for the granting and renewal of licenses for the sale of spirituous liquors, and for the granting of certificates under the Wine and Beerhouse Act, is announced to be held at the Public Office, Garrick Street, on the 30th instant. The following is a list of persons who have given the usual notices of their intention to apply for new licenses on that day.

For wine or beer certificates.....

James Trevitt, of the ROUGH HILLS TAVERN, Rough Hills, for beer, &c, on the premises.”

[The application was granted.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/10/1870

“An inquest was held at the ROUGH HILLS TAVERN, Wolverhampton, on Saturday, by Mr. W. H. Phillips, on the body of Sarah Cooper, aged 15 years, who died suddenly on Thursday night, about seven o’clock, under somewhat peculiar circumstances. Deceased was the daughter of George Cooper, who is employed at Mr. Bayliss’s, and on Tuesday she came home ill. She complained of a pain in her stomach, grew worse, and died on the day named, after suffering from vomiting. It was proved that no medical evidence had been called in, and the Coroner said he would adjourn the enquiry for a post mortem examination.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/10/1870

“On Monday the borough Coroner concluded his inquiry touching the death of Sarah Cooper, aged 15, of Rough Hill, who died under circumstances that led to the stomach being sent to Dr. Hill, of Birmingham, who now proved the absence of all poison, and that the deceased died from inflammation of the stomach, the result of natural causes. The jury returned a verdict accordingly.”

1871 Census

Rough Hills Lane – ROUGH HILLS TAVERN

- [1] James Trevitt (36), publican, born Sheriff Hales, Staffordshire;
- [2] Hannah Trevitt (41), wife, born Barwell, Leicestershire;
- [3] Clara Trevitt (13), daughter, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [4] James Trevitt (10), son, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] George Trevitt (8), son, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [6] Alfred J. Trevitt (7), son, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [7] Tom Trevitt (5), son, scholar, born Wolverhampton:

Staffordshire Advertiser 28/6/1873

“About nine o’clock on Saturday morning the dead body of a woman was found in the basin adjoining the Birmingham Canal. It was afterwards discovered to be the body of a woman named Jane Smith, aged 60. An inquest was held at the ROUGH HILL TAVERN, on Monday, at which it was thought that the deceased had accidentally fallen into the water. A verdict was returned accordingly.”

Midland Examiner 8/1/1876

“Samuel Silvey, labourer, was charged under a warrant, for having failed to attend to the summons, with having assaulted Hannah Trevitt, landlady of the ROUGH HILLS TAVERN, on the 11th September.

According to complainant’s statement, on the day in question, defendant went to her house, and not calling for anything to drink, immediately gave her a blow and knocked her down. She called a woman to support this statement.

Defendant, in answer to the charge, said the complainant gave some men a quantity of beer to throw on his house, and he was otherwise greatly annoyed. He went to the tavern to lodge a complaint, when the men who had thrown the beer set on him with others, ‘knocking both him and his wife almost to pieces.’ He at once informed Police-constable Ray, and afterwards applied for six summonses, but not having the money could not obtain them. He called Police-constable Ray who said the defendant had complained to him, as stated, and he had evidently been ‘in the wars.’

The Bench considered the assault proved, but that there was provocation, and they imposed the mitigated penalty of 1s and costs, or 14 days. The defendant said he had no money. Capt. Segrave remarked that during the last twelve months the defendant had suffered five months imprisonment for assault, and been also bound over to keep the peace.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 21/8/1879

“The annual Brewster Sessions for the borough of Wolverhampton were held this morning.....

Mr. Joseph Underhill (instructed by Mr. Stirk) made an application under such circumstances as he said he did not recollect to have heard of in his previous experience.

For many years past and up to 1878 there had been a license in existence for a house called the ROUGH HILLS TAVERN at Rough Hills, within the borough. The house and land originally belonged to Mr. E. Dixon, who some time ago sold the property to Mr. Fenn. During 1877 and 1878 the house fell into a dilapidated condition, and whilst in that condition the license was transferred to *James Trevitt*. At the Licensing Sessions last year no notice of objection to the renewal was made, and the magistrates granted the renewal. There was no one present on behalf of *Trevitt*, the house being then disused and pulled down, and when subsequently application was made to the magistrates clerk for the document of renewal which the magistrates had signed, the clerk said that having kept it until after the 10th October, when the previous license lapsed, he had destroyed the document. The delay in the application was owing to the illness of Mr. Fenn, who was interested in the license, and who was intending to have it transferred from *Trevitt* to himself, and the contention of Mr. Umbers that the license had fallen through had caused an inconvenient complication of affairs, because Mr. *John Edward Stevens*, who had purchased a portion of the land from Mr. Fenn, and had levelled some old mounds, was going to build a first-class property near to the disused tavern, and make an oasis in the desert of Rough Hill, and it was intended to have the license passed over to this new house. He (Mr. Underhill) contended that Mr. Umbers was clearly wrong in tearing up a document signed by the magistrates, but if the licensing justices held that the license had lapsed, then he applied for a provisional license to Mr. *Stevens*.

[A license was not granted to *Stevens* nor was the license renewed to *Trevitt* as the magistrates did not consider there was one to renew.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/3/1880

“At the Police Court yesterday, Mr. Joseph Underhill (instructed by Mr. Stirk) again appeared in support of the application for the transfer of the license of the ROUGH HILLS TAVERN from Mr. *Trevitt* to Mr. *Stevens*. Mr. H. Underhill (instructed by the Chief of Police under the authority of the Watch Committee) opposed the transfer.

It may be remembered that the old house was pulled down owing to its subsidence by reason of the underground mining operations, and the new tavern was built some yards away from the original site. At the last Licensing Sessions the Bench refused to grant the renewal of the license, and an appeal was made to the Quarter Sessions and a license was granted. Since that time Mr. *Trevitt* has been selling under the license obtained from the Excise authorities.

The Town Clerk now asked that the case should be adjourned in order that the transferor might be summoned for selling excisable liquors on unlicensed premises. If the magistrates then decided that the new house was substantially the same as the old one there would be no conviction, and the question at issue would be settled. The case was then adjourned until the 16th inst, when it is understood that both the charge of illegally selling and the application for transfer will be heard.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 16/3/1880

“*James Trevitt*, of the ROUGH HILLS TAVERN beerhouse, was summoned for selling a pint of ale on unlicensed premises. Mr. Henry Underhill (town clerk) appeared to prosecute on behalf of the police authorities, and Mr. Joseph Underhill (instructed by Mr. Stirk) defended.

The Town Clerk, in explaining the facts for the prosecution, stated that at a former court an application was made for the license held by the defendant to be transferred from him to Mr. *J. E. Stephens*, but it was adjourned until the present Court, in order that the real question should be decided as to whether the new house, which had been erected, was licensed or not. The magistrates decision on that point would rule the application for the transfer. Up to four or five years ago there was situate on the Rough Hills estate, which was between Monmore Green and the Parkfield Road, an old beerhouse known as the ROUGH HILLS TAVERN, which was originally licensed by the Excise authorities before the magistrates had jurisdiction over beerhouses. Mr. *J. E. Stephens* has since become the owner of the property. Owing to the mining operations in that locality the old house became in such a dilapidated state that it was pulled down, and a new house had since been erected. At the last licensing sessions for the borough, the magistrates refused either to grant a license for the new house which was not then built, or to renew the license for the old house which had at that time been pulled down. The defendant appealed to the succeeding Staffordshire Quarter Sessions when the Court reversed the borough magistrates decision, and granted a license for what they described as ‘the ROUGH HILLS TAVERN,’ although there was no such house in existence at the time. The point for the Magistrates now to decide was whether the new house could be considered as a restoration of the old house in the shape of a substitution of the new house. The Town Clerk went on to argue that as the new house had not been built on the site of the old house it could not be considered a substitution for the old one, and therefore it could not be deemed to be licensed.

Police-constable Thomas Smith was then called and proved the sale of a pint of ale by the defendant’s wife in the new house on the 1st instant.

Police-sergeant Day said the new house had been erected 60 yards from the spot where the old house stood, and was that distance nearer to the road which ran near to the property. When the old house became in a ruinous state, there were numerous sinkings of the surface from mining operations, but some of them had since been filled up and the surface levelled.

Thomas Hampton, landlord of the LION public house, Parkfield Road, said the new house occupied by the defendant had been built within 100 yards of his house. The ground surrounding the old house was all open, and not fenced in. There was, however, a road which led by the defendant’s house, from which a cart-road branched off on to the Parkfield Road.

Henry Gwillam, miner, of Rough Hills, said he had known that locality for many years. The old road which went past the defendant’s house was at one time a tram road between Ettingshall Colliery and the old Wolverhampton furnaces, now pulled down, besides being used generally by the public.

Cross-examined: There was a bowling green by the side of the old house, but not the side nearest the new house.

Mr. Joseph Underhill, for the defence, said he failed to understand the continuous litigation and extraordinary opposition in this case. The public had been benefitted by the old house having been pulled down and an excellent new house erected in its place. The owner of the property had invested his capital and provided a new house without any intimation being given him that the license would be withheld from him. The only reason given for it was that he had not built upon the ruinous foundation of the old house, but had chosen instead those of a safe and sound

foundation 60 yards away from the old site. At the time the annual Borough Licensing Sessions were held the old ROUGH HILLS TAVERN was not in existence, but the holders of licenses were told that their licenses would be renewed. When, however, the license was asked for, it turned out that it had been destroyed. The learned counsel went on to refer to the appeal to the Quarter Sessions, when the borough magistrates' decision was reversed.

Mr. Umber (magistrates clerk) said the Court of Quarter Sessions refused to hear witnesses on behalf of the magistrates.

Mr. Joseph Underhill said that all that the Court of Quarter Sessions refused to do was when it was proposed to go into the question of rating, they said only the question of the old license was at issue and not that of a new license, and, therefore, the value of rental was irrelevant to the question. There was no concealment because the Court was informed that the license was for the new house, and he complained bitterly of the opposition in the case. The Court of Quarter Sessions refused a case for appeal because a question of fact only was at issue, though the borough magistrates had a right of certiorari, but they did not avail themselves of it.

A long discussion took place between the learned counsel and the Town Clerk, during which the latter contended that 'where a licensed house ceased to exist the license lapsed also,' the remedy for which was the erection of a new house and a new license altogether.

Mr. Joseph Underhill then submitted that the new house was a substitution for the old house, and called Mr. William Fenn, coalmaster, the former owner of the property, who said he worked a portion of the mines under this property within 18 yards of the surface. It would have been very unsafe to build on any portion of the ground between the old and new house. The mines were got from under the new house 25 years ago, and therefore all the subsidence there had taken place.

The magistrates then retired to consider their decision. On returning into court after a long absence, Sir John Morris said they had decided to dismiss the case.

The license was afterwards transferred from Mr. *Trevitt* to Mr. *J. E. Stephens*, the owner."

John Edward Stephens = John Edward Stevens

Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/8/1880

"The annual Licensing Sessions for the borough of Wolverhampton was held at the Town Hall yesterday.....

The bench refused applications made on behalf of.....

John Edward Stevens, ROUGH HILLS TAVERN, for wine license."

Black Country Bugle

Letter from H. T. Peplow of Sedgley

"One of the best known pubs in the Black Country was the ROUGH HILLS TAVERN at Parkfields, Wolverhampton, near the Bilston boundary. At the back of the pub was an enclosed piece of ground known far and wide as the running grounds. The grounds had a straight track of 200 yards in length and an oval track with a circuit of a quarter mile. Here many runners met in competition There were other sports at the grounds besides running. One of the most popular was coursing, when two dogs chased after a rabbit....."

Sporting Life 26/1/1881 - Advert

"To Capitalists, Public Caterers, Sportsmen, Brewers, and Others.

To be Let or Sold, the ROUGH HILLS TAVERN, situate at Parkfield, one mile from Wolverhampton or Sedgley, and two miles from Bilston. The premises are recently erected and substantially built, and comprise a lofty bar, 40ft 6in by 17ft; smoke room, kitchen, entrance hall, large clubroom, bedrooms, domestic offices, landings, &c. The extensive Pleasure Grounds adjoining contain bar, 40ft by 12ft, dancing room over bowling alley, straight pedestrian track, 240 yards long; grand stand, level track, five laps to the mile, and having 260 yards straight, suitable for bicycling, coursing, shooting, football, cricket, &c; dressing shed, stabling, shedding, pigstyes, closets, ashpits, &c, all enclosed, and, being situate within such an easy distance of the above towns, offers an enterprising man an opportunity seldom to be met with.

NB. The whole premises supplied with hard and soft water, and gas, and the Freehold, if sold, will include the mines and minerals underneath.

For further particulars apply, Thomas Skidmore, Auctioneer and Valuer, Wolverhampton."

1881 Census

ROUGH HILL TAVERN

[1] *John E. Stephens* (42), widower, beer retailer, born Wolverhampton:

Sporting Life 3/9/1881 - Advert

“PEACOCK HOTEL, Snowhill, Wolverhampton. Monday, September 12, 1881.

Mr. Thomas Skidmore has received instructions to Offer for Sale by Auction, on Monday, September 12, at the PEACOCK HOTEL, Snowhill, Wolverhampton, at six for seven o'clock prompt, subject to condition of sale.

All that Freehold Public House and Recreation Grounds called the ROUGH HILLS TAVERN, Ettingshall, near Wolverhampton, with about 6½ acres of land, now laid out with bicycle course, 352 yards round; pedestrian track, 220 yards long; cricket, football and running grounds, grand stand, &c, the whole being enclosed with a very substantial wooden fence, 12ft high.

The House contains large Refreshment Saloon, with bay window, 41ft 6in by 17ft wide; ale and porter vault, 36ft by 14ft; dancing room over, 55ft by 14ft; entrance hall, 38ft by 5ft; smoke room, with bay window; club room, 36 ft by 17ft; four bedrooms, cooking kitchen, yard, outbuildings, and kitchen garden.

Notice. From its central position this property presents a fine opportunity to a business man of making a fortune in a few years. It is situated about one mile from Wolverhampton, one mile from Bilston, one mile from Sedgley, four miles from Dudley, and two miles from Willenhall, and within an easy distance of other large towns; is about two minutes' walk from Ettingshall Station, London and North-Western Railway. Part of the purchase money can remain if required.

For further particulars apply to M. John Riley, Solicitor; Mr. Thomas Dalton, Solicitor; or the Auctioneer, all of Wolverhampton.”

Samuel Walters = Samuel Waters

Birmingham Daily Post 12/9/1882

“Yesterday, at Wolverhampton Borough Police Court, *Samuel Walters*, ROUGH HILLS TAVERN, appeared upon three summonses charging him with permitting gambling on his licenses premises. Mr. Brevitt (town clerk) prosecuted for the Watch Committee; and Mr. Dallow defended.

The offences were alleged to have taken place on the 19th, 26th, and 28th ult, and they were proved mainly by Policeman John Astle (a new member of the force) and Police-constables Naginton and Bennett.

Astle deposed to betting at ninepins on the 19th, as much as 5s passing from hand to hand. Defendant was present, and remarked that Naginton was about. When Naginton appeared the betting was suspended, but renewed when he had left. There was a running track attached to the house, and at seven in the evening defendant took away the bowls, because a race was coming off. Witness heard one man say that he had lost a sovereign, and another that he had lost his week's wages, all but one shilling. Later in the evening six men were playing cards in the bar in the defendant's presence. A quart of ale and afterwards sixpence were the stakes. A second lot of men also obtained cards from the defendant, and ale was played for. Dice were used on the 26th, the defendant being present. Policeman Bennett came in, and the defendant saying, 'Here's a copper,' took away the dice. When Bennett had left witness saw a bookmaker booking bets on a race, and he heard half a crown to a penny staked as to Bennett being a policeman. On the 28th there was card playing for money or money's worth.

Mr. Dallow complained that his client had not until the 8th inst received any intimation that he would have to account for proceedings happening on the 19th August. Defendant, doubtless, had been guilty of misconduct, but he desired to conduct his house within the strict letter of the law, and on race days he engaged a policeman to enforce order and keep down betting, which he prohibited by placard.

Defendant, upon being sworn, said he was the mortgagee of the premises, and in October last entered to defend his interests. Whenever he saw betting he stopped it, and did not know that during card playing stakes were played for. He proposed to close the bowling alley forthwith.

In cross-examination by the Town Clerk, defendant admitted that he had been three times warned by the police about betting.

The magistrates imposed a penalty of £5 in each of the three cases, and endorsed defendant's license in respect of one case.”

Sporting Life 28/11/1883

“Old Diamond, of Wolverhampton, will run Crack, of Sedgley, one mile, level, for £5 a-side, on the Monday before Christmas, and he will take twenty yards of Beech, of Sedgley, in one mile, for £5; to run on the day after Christmas Day. To be run at Rough Hills. Both matches can be made any night at the ROUGH HILLS TAVERN.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/9/1883

“At the Wolverhampton adjourned licensing sessions yesterday.....

The following licenses, which had been suspended owing to offences under the Licensing Acts, were renewed.....

Samuel Walters, ROUGH HILL TAVERN, Rough Hills.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/4/1885

“Wolverhampton Bankruptcy Court.....

Mr. Dallow, solicitor, applied to his Honour, Judge Griffith, for a discharge in the case of *Samuel Waters*, late of the ROUGH HILLS TAVERN, near Monmore Green, on whose bankruptcy an unfavourable report had been made to the Court by the Official Receiver. Mr. Dallow said that the bankrupt was formerly engaged in the cabinet trade, in which he acquired a considerable sum of money. He disposed of that business and took to the ROUGH HILLS TAVERN, and also spent £4,000 in building a manufactory and two houses for Mr. Beard, japanner, Temple Street, who had himself since become a bankrupt. By Mr. Beard's failure Mr. *Waters* had lost rather heavily; and he had also had sustained other reverses in the timber trade. He had handed over all his property for the benefit of his creditors. It was stated that the committee of inspection did not object to the discharge being granted. The Official Receiver opposed the application on the ground that the debtor's books had not been kept properly. After going into the style of book-keeping, his Honour held that the bankrupt had not had fraudulent intention, but that he had been careless in his book-keeping. He suspended the grant of the discharge for three months.”

Richard Bates = Richard Bate

Richard Bates was proprietor of the Victoria Grounds, Rough Hills.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 4/6/1885

“Wolverhampton Sessions for the renewal and issue of music and dancing licenses.....

Mr. Rhodes applied for a music license for the ROUGH HILLS TAVERN and Grounds. He explained that Mr. *Richard Bate*, the present occupier, was desirous of having brass band contests in his grounds, and also to have music at bicycle races. He was determined not to revive the low demoralising sports which took place at the grounds under a former occupier, and the Bench might rest assured that nothing but what was respectable and elevating would be introduced.

Major Hay inquired if the applicant desired to have a license for dancing as well. Mr. Rhodes replied that Mr. *Bate* did not intend to have dancing as a regular thing, but he would nevertheless like to have the license.

Major Hay said he should strongly oppose dancing, but he did not objection to music. Mr. Rhodes said that his client would be satisfied with a music license, and the Bench thereupon granted the application.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 14/7/1885

“This afternoon an inquest was held before W. H. Phillips, Esq, coroner, at the RED LION INN, Bilston Road, Wolverhampton, respecting the death of William Ward (49), of Cable Street, Monmore Green, who was employed at Messrs. Wright and Sons ironworks as a messenger, and who died suddenly in the ROUGH HILLS TAVERN, kept by Mr. *Richard Bates*, on Saturday night. Deceased, who had been a soldier, and was in India for 19 years, had suffered from illness for a considerable period, and had pains in the left side. He had gone into the tavern and ordered some ale to be put in bottles, but before it was drawn he fell down and expired. The jury were of opinion that death resulted from Natural Causes.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 29/7/1885 - Advert

“A.O.F. Greets Green and Wednesbury District Foresters Fete and Demonstration, at the Rough Hills Recreation Grounds, on Monday, August 31st.

Tenders for Shooting Galleries, Swingboats, Hobbyhorses, Roundabouts Cocoanut Bowling, &c, &c, may be sent to *R. Bate*, ROUGH HILLS TAVERN.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 19/10/1885

“Forestry. The 20th anniversary of Court Flag of Liberty, 4768, was celebrated on Saturday evening, at the ROUGH HILLS TAVERN, by a dinner, to which a large number of members and friends sat down. The chair was taken by Councillor R. R. Rhodes, and the vice-chair by Mr. J. C. R. Bond. The usual loyal and complimentary toasts were duly honoured, and a very enjoyable evening was spent.”

Sporting Life 29/12/1885

“Wolverhampton and District. Victoria Grounds, Rough Hills.

Ever since Mr. *Richard Bates* became proprietor of these spacious grounds he has spared neither money nor trouble in making them fit for any branch of sport.....”

Sporting Life 5/4/1887

“Yesterday, at the Wolverhampton Borough Police Court, *Richard Bate*, landlord of the ROUGH HILLS TAVERN, Rough Hills, and the occupier of the adjoining grounds, known as the Victoria Running Grounds, was charged with unlawfully permitting the enclosure to be used for the purpose of betting upon the occasion of certain foot races. Mr. H. Brevitt (Town Clerk) appeared to prosecute, and Mr. Alfred Young (Birmingham) defended.

On the case being called, Mr. Young observed that it was practically impossible for the case to be determined that day, inasmuch as certain alterations would require to be made in the form of summons. Mr. Young said the summonses as they now appeared enclosed no offence in law, and, in point of fact, the magistrates had no jurisdiction to investigate what did not appear in the charges. Mr. Umbers (magistrates clerk) suggested that the summonses might be amended at once. Mr. Young objected, and declined to enter into the case at this, the eleventh hour. The Bench allowed the summonses to drop, and ordered fresh ones to be issued on the original information.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/4/1887

“Yesterday, at the Police Court, *Richard Bates*, proprietor of the Victoria Running Grounds, Rough Hills, was charged with unlawfully permitting betting at that place on February 21 and 22. Mr. A. Young (instructed by Mr. R. A. Willcock) defended.

Major Hay said that he would, with the permission of the Bench and because of certain promises on Mr. *Bates*’s behalf by his solicitor, withdraw the charge. Mr. Young pointed out that Mr. *Bates* had already taken precautions to prevent betting, and that, by a ruling of Mr. Justice Hawkins, responsibility for betting did not attach to the owner of any grounds unless he wilfully permitted the practice. On the understanding that defendant would publish notices in his grounds that all persons found betting would be ejected, the Bench permitted the case to be withdrawn.”

Benjamin Asbury was proprietor of the Victoria Grounds, Rough Hills.

Sporting Life 11/9/1889

“Wolverhampton and District. Victoria Grounds, Rough Hills.

An All-England 100 Yards Dog Handicap, for fox terriers only, promoted by Mr. *Benjamin Asbury*, proprietor, was commenced and finished at these grounds on Saturday evening last. The weather was beautifully fine, and the attendance very fair considering the many counter attractions.....”

1891 Census

ROUGH HILL TAVERN

- [1] *Benjamin Asbury* (37), beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Jane Asbury* (35), wife, born Walsall;
- [3] *Sydney Asbury* (11), son, scholar, born Walsall;
- [4] *Gertrude Asbury* (8), daughter, scholar, born Walsall;
- [5] *Benjamin Asbury* (5), son, scholar, born Walsall;
- [6] *Benjamin Burnes* (25), lodger, living on his means, born Darlaston;
- [7] *Joseph Durms* (21), lodger, weaver, born Edinburgh;

Lichfield Mercury 24/7/1896

“Bankruptcy. Re *Benjamin Asbury*, Lichfield Road, Walsall Wood, formerly of the LEATHERN BOTTLE, Church Hill, Walsall, licensed victualler; the ROUGH HILLS TAVERN, Wolverhampton, beerhouse keeper; and other places.

The public examination of this debtor took place at the Walsall Bankruptcy Court on Wednesday, before Mr. Registrar Clarke; Mr. E. Evans appearing on the bankrupt's behalf.

The statement of affairs showed liabilities to the amount of £235 9s 6d, and a deficiency of £222 9s 6d. The bankrupt was an ironworker until 1883, when he became a licensed victualler at the LEATHERN BOTTLE INN, and remained there until 1887, when he removed to the ROUGH HILL TAVERN, but returned to the other inn in 1891. He gave that up in September last, and afterwards filed his petition. In October he married Mrs. Cornforth, a widow, who in May took to the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Walsall Wood, on her own account, her husband going to live with her there. He attributed his failure to the illness of his first wife and bad trade.

The examination was adjourned until the 10th August.”

John Russell was proprietor of the Victoria Grounds, Rough Hills.

Sporting Life 12/2/1898

“Mr. George Sheldon (of the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Great Bridge, Tipton), Mr. *John Russell* (proprietor of the Victoria Grounds, Rough Hills, Wolverhampton), and Mr. Frank Lloyd (proprietor of the Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury) run fifty yards on Monday next, for £15; Mr. *Russell* and Mr. Sheldon to receive 2 yards 22½ inches start. This meeting between these well-known sportsmen and knights of the bung is creating a keen lot of interest amongst the sporting schools of the Black Country. Mr. F. Lloyd has been a ped of first-class merit, Mr. Sheldon, too, has in bygone days performed in many sprint handicaps in the Midlands, whilst nothing is known of the sprinting abilities of Mr. *Russell*. He is, however, the 18 yards champion quoit player of England, and is considered one who knows what he is doing. A close race, however, is sure to be witnessed between these veterans. The *Sporting Life* is stakeholder, and appoints pistol firer and referee. To be on their marks at 11am prompt.”

Sporting Life 16/2/1898

“.....Mr. Lloyd highly fancied his chance. Unfortunately, however, for him and his friends, whilst having a trial with a well-known Midland pedestrian Mr. Lloyd's leg suddenly gave way. This breakdown of Mr. Lloyd's was more serious than thought for, consequently he had no other alternative than forfeit his money down.

.....This was followed by a match between two licensed victuallers, Mr. *Russell*, and Mr. Geo. Sheldon. Odds of 5 to 2 were freely laid on Mr. *Russell*. Mr. Sheldon being too anxious to get away, got over, and was, to the chagrin of his followers, penalised one yard. At the second attempt both got well away. *Russell*, however, soon showed that he could run as well as play at quoits, he finally winning by three yards.”

1901 Census

8, Rough Hills – ROUGH HILLS TAVERN

- [1] *John Russell* (43), licensed victualler, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Elison Russell* (40), wife, born Bloxwich;
- [3] Jane Russell (17), daughter, born Hednesford;
- [4] Florry Russell (16), daughter, born Hednesford;
- [5] Thomas E. Russell (12), son, born Hednesford;
- [6] Ruth Russell (11), daughter, born Hednesford;
- [7] Elison Russell (8), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [8] John W. Russell (6 months), son, born Wolverhampton:

Sporting Life 8/4/1903

“Victoria Grounds, Rough Hills, Wolverhampton.

Mr. *John Russell's* (proprietor) next All-England £5 Rabbit Coursing Sweepstakes will start and finish here on Easter Wednesday, April 15, for few or many dogs, at 5s per share; weigh in, one yard to the pound; to course the best of three courses, 60 yards law, the final the best of five. First rabbit spotted at 2pm.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/4/1907

“About three o’clock yesterday morning the landlord of the ROUGH HILLS TAVERN, Rough Hills, Wolverhampton, was awakened by the barking of dogs, and on going downstairs he discovered that an entrance had been effected to the premises by means of a broken window. The thieves had decamped with some clothing, three pairs of boots, and a gold watch, while a silver cup (value £20), the property of the Wolverhampton and District Junior Football League, was found in the grounds, having been dropped by the thieves in their flight.”

1911 Census

Rough Hills – ROUGH HILLS TAVERN

- [1] *John Russell* (53), beerhouse keeper, born Parkfields;
- [2] *Elison Russell* (50), wife, married 31 years, born Bloxwich;
- [3] Thomas Edwin Russell (22), son, iron founder’s labourer, born Hednesford;
- [4] Ruth Russell (21), daughter, domestic, born Hednesford;
- [5] John William Russell (10), son, school, born Rough Hills;
- [6] Henry George Russell (7), son, school, born Rough Hills:

1916 Probate

“*John Russell* of ROUGH HILLS TAVERN, Wolverhampton, died 26 April 1916. Administration Lichfield 30 May to *Elison Russell*, widow. Effects £220.”

Sporting Chronicle 4/12/1916

“Tom Russell, of ROUGH HILLS TAVERN, Wolverhampton, will match his bitch Rags to run anything in England, both to scale inside 15½lb, for £25 a side; weigh in, give or take one yard to the pound; to run at Rough Hills, Wolverhampton, three weeks after signing articles. A reply through the *Sporting Life* will lead to business.”

1921 Census

ROUGH HILLS TAVERN

- [1] *Elison Russell* (60), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Bloxwich;
- [2] Thomas Edwin Russell (33), son, iron moulder, out of work, born Hednesford;
- [3] John William Russell (20), son, iron turner, out of work, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] Henry George Russell (17), son, apprentice coach builder, born Wolverhampton:

Ziah Jones later had a chip shop on Dudley Road [c.1922]

Staffordshire Advertiser 17/7/1926

“Between 9 and 10 o’clock on Tuesday night the roof and part of a wall of old stables adjoining the ROUGH HILLS TAVERN, Parkfield Road, collapsed. As a result John Fellows (18), 53, Bank Street, Bradley; Harry Akers (21), 172, Wednesfield Road, Wolverhampton; Stanley Whitehouse (18), 73, Ettingshall Road, Wolverhampton; and Samuel Heath (52), 32, North Street, Wolverhampton, were injured. They were taken to the General Hospital, where on arrival Fellows was found to be dead. Akers, suffering from scalp wounds and concussion, was detained, and the other two were sent home after treatment.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 31/7/1926

“The Wolverhampton Borough Coroner on Tuesday inquired further into the death of John Edward Fellows (18), 53, Bank Street, Bradley, which followed injuries resulting from the collapse of a roof and wall of a stable at the ROUGH HILLS TAVERN.

Ernest Henry Akers, 172, Wednesfield Road, said on the night of July 13th, six of them went to Rough Hills running ground to practice running. They changed in the stable. They had finished running and had gone back into the stable to get into their ordinary clothes when he heard the roof crash. He ran for the door, but when he got outside he remembered nothing more. The landlord had given them permission to use the stable.

Samuel Heath said he was there to train the boys. As they went to the door part of the roof caught some of them. Some bricks fell on Fellows.

Arthur Gascoyne, manager of the tavern, said he knew the boys had been using the stable, but it was not with his permission.

Mr. Marcus Brown, architect, Wolverhampton, who inspected the premises the day after the accident, said the roof had been wrongly constructed in the first instance. The pressure outwards had been going on ever since it was put up 47 years ago. It had eventually pushed out the weakest wall.

For the owners (the Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries), Mr. F. L. Steward said plans for alterations with a view to improving the house had been made before the accident. These would have involved the pulling down of the building in question.

The Coroner said he did not think the jury would think there had been any negligence which amounted to criminal liability. The jury found a verdict of Accidental Death."

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/3/1929

"Wolverhampton Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

An application for the removal of the license of the ROYAL OAK, Stafford Street, to the ROUGH HILLS TAVERN, was granted."

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 13/4/1929

"The Wolverhampton borough justices sitting on Tuesday as a confirming authority granted applications for new inns at Newbridge and Merry Hill. The removal of the full license of the ROYAL OAK, Stafford Street, to the ROUGH HILLS TAVERN, Rough Hills, was granted."

Evening Despatch 3/1/1931

"Wolverhampton Licensing Sessions today.....

Objection was made in the case of the ROUGH HILLS TAVERN on the ground that a conviction had been recorded against it during the year, but after consideration the renewal was agreed to."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/8/1935

"*Joseph Leonard Washbrook*, aged 47, licensee of the ROUGH HILLS TAVERN, Wolverhampton, was fined £5 and 10s costs at Wolverhampton, yesterday, for selling liquor by his servant otherwise than during permitted hours to Bridget Screen, of 17, Rooker Avenue, Wolverhampton. Elizabeth Saunders, aged 37, of 4, Sedgley Street, Wolverhampton, was fined 40s on a similar summons, and Fred Perry, aged 37, of Rooker Avenue, Wolverhampton, was fined 40s for consuming during unpermitted hours.

Mr. Gore (prosecuting) said that on 3 August Detective-sergeant Marsh and Detective-constable Butcher kept observation on the house at 10.15pm. One sale they observed was made to a girl, Bridget Screen, who was only 16, and had not, therefore, been summoned. Evidence was given by the two detective officers that two women were served beer after 10 o'clock. The bar was full of men and women. *Washbrook*, when questioned, said, 'I admit there has been a little laxity on the part of the servants. I shouted 'Time' at 10 o'clock, but you know what it is to get them out.' When asked to explain the number of people in the house at 10.20pm he said, 'Only that it's Bank Holiday. I'm sorry this has happened.'

Cross-examined by Mr. F. L. Steward (for the defence), Detective-sergeant Marsh said *Washbrook* told him that the girl who served Miss Screen was a domestic servant.

Washbrook said so far as he was aware beer drinking definitely ceased at 10 o'clock. He was not in the bar between 10.1pm and 10.19pm. He said the domestic servant had definite instructions never to touch the beer pulls. Mr. Steward said *Washbrook* had been a licensed victualler for ten years and there had been no proceedings against him before. Mr. Steward said it must be proved that the offence had been committed either by the licensee himself or by his servant or agent. That servant must mean an authorised servant, and if the magistrates accepted *Washbrook's* evidence, the girl was not a barmaid and not authorised to sell beer.

Fines as stated were imposed."

Staffordshire Advertiser 11/3/1939

"Wolverhampton adjourned licensing sessions.....

The licensing Justices on Monday granted applications in respect of removals..... from the ROUGH HILLS TAVERN to proposed premises in Rookery Avenue."

Birmingham Daily Post 12/4/1939

“A meeting of the whole body of the Borough Justices acting as that Confirming Authority will be held at the Justices Court, Town Hall, on Monday, the 1st day of May 1939, at 11am for the purpose of hearing Applications for the Confirmation of the following Orders granted by the Licensing Justices at the Annual Licensing Meeting on the 7th February 1939 and at the Adjourned General Annual Licensing Meeting on the 6th of March 1939.....

A provisional grant of an order granted to *Joseph Leonard Washbrook*, of the ROUGH HILLS TAVERN, Wolverhampton, sanctioning the removal of the Justices license for the sale of intoxicating liquor by retail for consumption either on or off the premises held by him in respect of the ROUGH HILLS TAVERN from such premises to a house and premises proposed to be erected on a piece of land fronting to Rooker Avenue.”

1939 Register

ROUGH HILLS TAVERN (3 of 4)

[1] *Joseph Leonard Washbrook*, date of birth 16/8/1889, licensed victualler, married;

[2] *Mary Washbrook*, dob 24/12/1888, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Edna May (Washbrook) Bradburn*, dob 1/2/1920, iron core maker, single;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 22/12/1952

“A husband offered to pay a £25 fine imposed on his wife at the rate of £1 a week at Wolverhampton on Saturday but the magistrates allowed only two months in which to pay the fine. The alternative was three months’ imprisonment. The fine was imposed on *Doris Matilda Webster* (48), of Rooker Avenue, Wolverhampton, who admitted fraudulently converting to her own use £60 6s received on behalf of the ROUGH HILLS TAVERN Burial and Dividend Society. Webster pleaded guilty to six charges and asked for 29 similar offences to be taken into consideration, including the fraudulent conversion of £19 11s 6d belonging to Rough Hills Savings Club. Her husband offered to help her pay back the money.”

It was demolished in September 1963.

It was rebuilt in 1964.

A team from here played in the Wolverhampton and District Sunday Football League. [1981], [1982]

The finals for Wolverhampton area in the News of the World Darts Championship were held here in 1988.

Sandwell Evening Mail 16/11/1988

“Regulars from two Black Country pubs have raised £650 for the Compton Hospice, Wolverhampton. The ROUGH HILL TAVERN and SILVER BIRCH, both Wolverhampton, ran three knock-out contests in pool, darts and tug of war and a disco at the ROUGH HILL pub.’

Burntwood Post 25/1/1990

“The Staffordshire area of the News of the World Darts Championship gets underway this month.....

The men’s Wolverhampton area finals on January 31st at the ROUGH HILLS TAVERN.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 17/7/1992

“Gig Guide Tonight Pure Instinct (ROUGH HILLS TAVERN, Bilston).

Express and Star 24/11/1997 - Advert

“Large estate pub – bar, function room, small lounge. Well known popular community pub.”

Black Country Bugle 1/4/1999

“The pub in this faded photograph might be familiar to some of our Ettingshall readers. Brought in by Bob and Pat Wright, of Durberville Road, on the Rough Hills Estate, the pub in the picture is the old ROUGH HILLS TAVERN, which once stood on Rooker Avenue, before being replaced by a newer establishment of the same name. ‘The chap who kept the pub four of five years ago had this photo up behind the bar,’ Mr. Wright told us, and I talked him into letting me borrow it to get a copy done. The old alehouse evokes particularly fond memories for the Wrights – it was there that their son Gary got his first taste of beer – by dipping his dummy in a pint of Banks’s!”

Express and Star 9/8/1999 - Advert

"3 room community operation. Lounge, Bar and Function Room. Car park and outside drinking area. 3 bedroom private accommodation. Last 12 months wet trade – 150 barrels. Tenancy. Approximate ingoings £15,000 (purchase plan available for fixtures and fittings)."

Harbhajan Singh Padda filed for bankruptcy on 5th November 2004.

[2005]

Closed [2007], [2013]

Express & Star 22/5/2013

"Almost 100 new homes will be built on the sites of two former pubs and a factory in Wolverhampton after the plans were given the go-ahead. Councillors waved through applications to demolish the empty ROUGH HILLS TAVERN in Rooker Avenue, in Parkfields, and the former LINTHOUSE INN in Wednesfield at a meeting of the city council's planning committee. They held no discussion at all on the proposals for 15 properties on the Parkfields site, which includes four three bedroom houses and 11 two bedroom homes. Eight houses would front on to Rooker Avenue, with the rest on either side of a new cul-de-sac at right angles to the main road....."

Demolished [2014]

Housing was built on the site.

TO CAPITALISTS, PUBLIC CATERERS, SPORTSMEN,
BREWERS, and OTHERS.
TO BE LET OR SOLD, the ROUGH HILLS TAVERN. situate at Parkfield, one mile from Wolverhampton or Sedgely, and two miles from Bilston. The premises are recently erected and substantially built, and comprise a lofty bar, 40ft. (110. by 17ft.); smoke room, kitchen, entrance hall, large clubroom, bedrooms, domestic offices, landings, &c. The extensive Pleasure Grounds adjoining contain bar, 40ft. by 12ft., dancing room over bowling alley, straight pedestrian track, 240 yards long; grand stand, level track, five laps to the mile, and having 20 yards straight, suitable for bicycling, coursing, shooting, football, cricket, &c.; dressing shed, stabling, shedding, pigstyes, closets, ashpits, &c., all enclosed, and, being situate within such an easy distance of the above towns, offers an enterprising man an opportunity seldom to be met with. N.B. – The whole premises supplied with hard and soft water, and gas, and the Freehold, if sold, will include the mines and minerals underneath.
For further particulars apply, **THOMAS SKIDMORE, Auctioneer and Valuer, Wolverhampton.**

PEACOCK HOTEL, SNOWHILL, WOLVERHAMPTON.
MONDAY, September 12, 1881.
MR. THOMAS SKIDMORE has received instructions to OFFER FOR SALE BY AUCTION, on **MONDAY, September 12,** at the Peacock Hotel, Snowhill, Wolverhampton, at six o'clock prompt, subject to conditions of sale, all that **FREEHOLD PUBLIC HOUSE and RECREATION GROUNDS** called the **ROUGH HILLS TAVERN, Ettingshall, near Wolverhampton,** with about 64 acres of land, now laid out with bicycle course, 352 yards round; pedestrian track, 220 yards long; cricket, football, and running grounds, grand stand, &c., the whole being enclosed with a very substantial wood fence, 12ft. high.
The House contains large Refreshment Saloon, with bay window, 41ft. 6in. by 17ft. wide; ale and porter vault, 30ft. by 14ft.; dancing room over, 55ft. by 14ft.; entrance hall, 38ft. by 5ft.; smoke room, with bay window; club room, 56ft. by 17ft.; four bedrooms, cooking kitchen, yard, outbuildings, and kitchen garden.
Notice.—From its central position this property presents a fine opportunity to a business man of making a fortune in a few years. It is situated about one mile from Wolverhampton, one mile from Bilston, one mile from Sedgely, four miles from Dudley, and two miles from Willenhall, and within an easy distance of other large towns; is about two minutes' walk from Ettingshall Station, London and North-Western Railway. Part of purchase money can remain if required.
For further particulars apply to **Mr. JOHN RILEY, Solicitor; Mr. THOMAS DALTON, Solicitor; or the Auctioneer—all of Wolverhampton.**

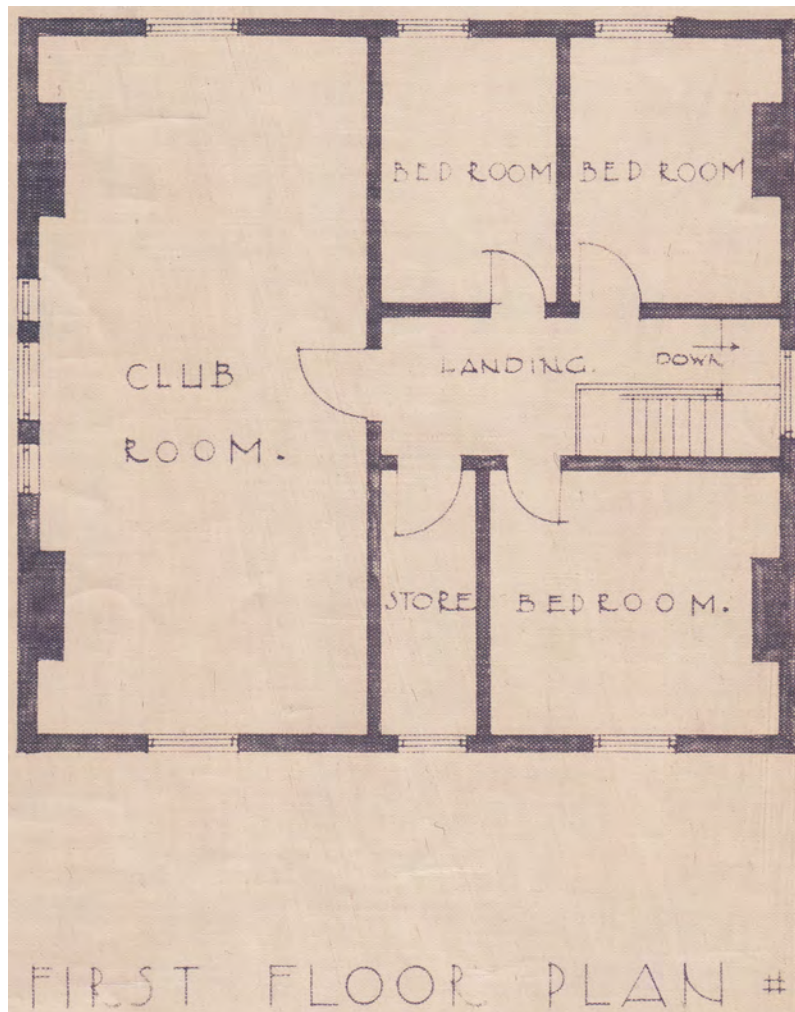
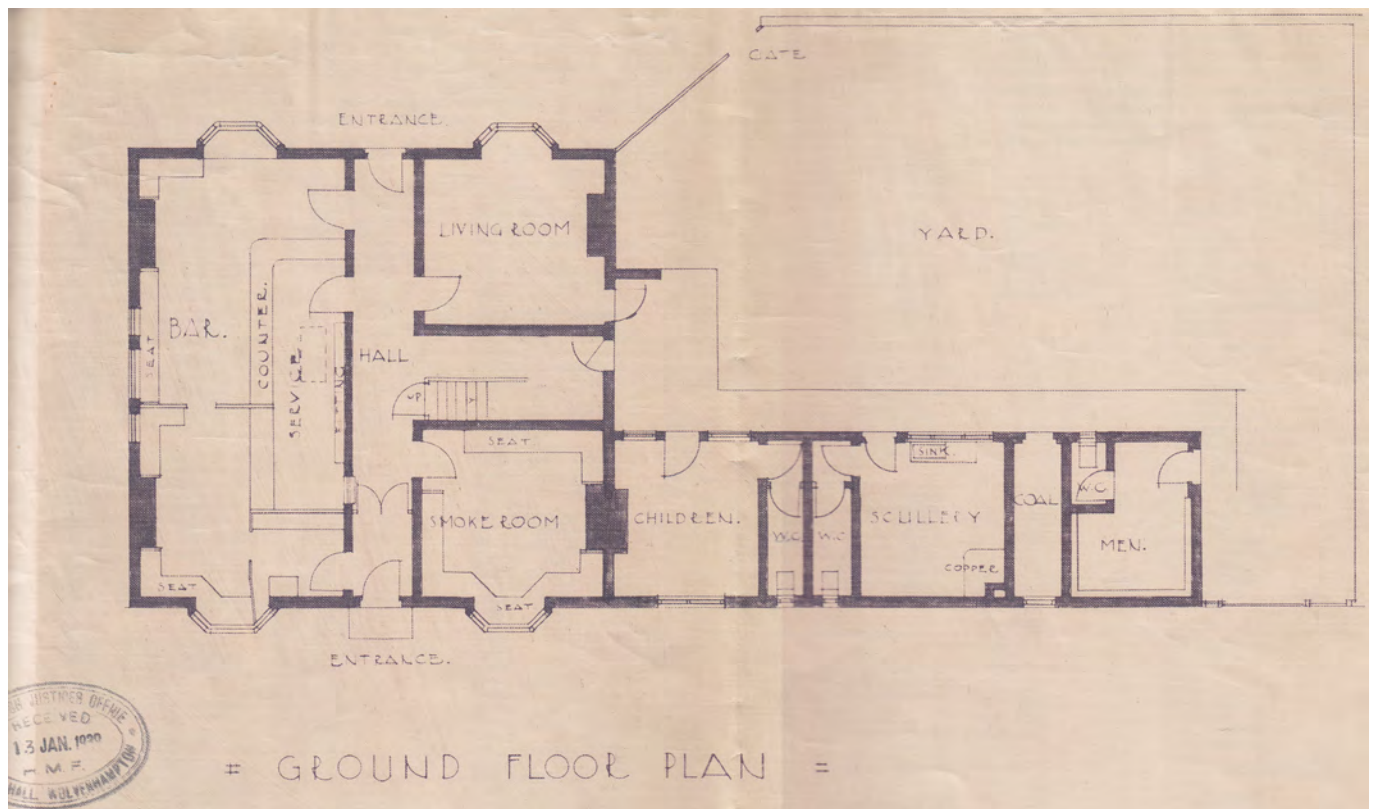
1881

A. O. F.—Greet's Green and Wednesbury District FORESTERS' FETE and DEMONSTRATION, at the Rough Hills Recreation Grounds, on MONDAY, August 31st.—TENDERS for Shooting Galleries, Swingboats, Hobbyhorses, Roundabouts, Coconut Bowling, &c., &c., may be sent to R. BATE, Rough Hills Tavern.

1885



2009



ROUND COUNTER

1, (4), Rose Street, (Batmans Hill), Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

John Venton [1885]
Ambrose Roberts
Ambrose Hughes, grocer, Cross Street, Bradley, Bilston
Thomas Homer, Brierley Hill
Atkinsons Brewery Ltd. [1918]

LICENSEES

John Venton [1871] – 1890);
Mrs. Eliza Venton (1890 – 1892);
Ambrose Roberts (1892 – 1893);
Eliza (Martin) Paul (1893 – 1897);
Samuel Marlow (1897 – 1900);
Mrs. Emma Harris (1900 – 1902);
Rowland Thomas (1902 – 1905);
John Grainger (1905);
John Grainger (1905 – 1907);
James Harris (1907 – 1910);
Joseph Campion Churms (1910 – 1913);
William Brown (1913 – 1915);
Henry Brown (1915 – 1918);

COUNTY OF STAFFORD.
To the Overseers of the Poor, and Constables of
the Parish of Sedgley, in the County of Stafford,
and to all whom it may concern.
I JOHN VENTON, by trade a beerhouse-
keeper, now residing at Bradley, in the
Parish of Sedgley, in the County of Stafford, and
for six months last past having resided at Bradley,
Sedgley, in the County aforesaid, do hereby give
notice, that it is my intention to apply at the
General Annual Licensing Meeting, to be holden
at the Public Office, at Bilston, in the County of
Stafford, on the 28th day of August, 1885, for a
licensee authorising me to keep, at a house situate
at No. 4, Rose Street, Bradley, in Sedgley, afore-
said (of which house I am owner and occupier),
public billiard tables, and bagatille boards.
Dated this Third day of August, 1885,
JOHN VENTON.

1885

NOTES

[This pub was strictly in Sedgley, but is included here due to it being situated at Bradley.]

It had a beerhouse license.

1871 Census

4, Rose Street
[1] John Venton (45), beerhouse keeper, born Exeter;
[2] Eliza Venton (48), wife, born Crediton, Devon;
[3] Elizabeth Venton (23), daughter, born Exeter;
[4] John Venton (18), son, labourer, born Exeter;
[5] Alfred Venton (17), son, labourer, born Exeter;
[6] Frank Venton (15), son, labourer, born Exeter;
[7] Mary Ann Venton (9), daughter, born Winscombe, Gloucestershire:

1881 Census

4, Rose Street
[1] John Venton (56), publican, born Exeter;
[2] Eliza Venton (58), wife, born Crediton, Devon;
[7] Mary Venton (19), daughter, born Winhouse, Gloucestershire:

Darlaston Weekly Times 8/8/1885 - Notice

"County of Stafford.

To the Overseers of the Poor, and Constables of the Parish of Sedgley, in the County of Stafford, and to all whom it may concern.

I, *John Venton*, by trade a beerhouse keeper, now residing at Bradley, in the Parish of Sedgley, in the County of Stafford, and for six months last past having resided at Bradley, Sedgley, in the County aforesaid, do hereby give notice, that it is my intention to apply at the General Annual Licensing Meeting, to be holden at the Public Office, Bilston, in the County of Stafford, on the 28th day of August, 1885, for a license authorising me to keep, at a house situate at No.4, Rose Street, Bradley, in Sedgley, aforesaid (of which house I am owner and occupier), public billiard tables, and bagatelle boards.

Dated this Third day of August, 1885, *John Venton*."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 28/8/1885

"Bilston general annual licensing meeting.....

John Venton, the holder of an 'on' beerhouse license at Rose Street, Bradley, made an application for a billiard license. Granted."

John Venton died on 20th August 1890.

Birmingham Daily Post 18/10/1890

"At Bilston Police Court, yesterday the following licenses were transferred.....

ROUND COUNTER, Bradley, from *John Venton* to his executors, *Eliza Venton* and two others."

1891 Census

4, Rose Street – ROUND COUNTER INN

[1] *Eliza Venton* (69), widow, publican, born Crediton, Devon;

[2] *George Venton* (13), grand-son, born Bradley;

[3] *Alice Maud Venton* (9), grand-daughter, born Bradley;

[4] *Eliza Venton* (23), visitor, born Ireland:

Birmingham Daily Post 14/3/1892 - Advert

"To Brewers, Capitalists, and Others.

Valuable Freehold Licensed House and other Dwelling Houses, at Batmans Hill, Bilston.

Messrs. J. G. Wright & Son will Sell by Auction, at the GREYHOUND INN, Bradley, near Bilston, Tomorrow (Tuesday), 15th March, at Six o'clock in the evening, the following Properties, subject to conditions.

Lot 1. All that Valuable Beerhouse, called the ROUND COUNTER, with front Shop, Bagatelle and Club Room, Parlour, Kitchen, Cowhouse, and usual Outbuildings, situate in Rose Street, Batmans Hill aforesaid; together with Six other Dwelling Houses adjoining thereto, numbered 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10.

Lot 2. All that Shop and Dwelling House adjoining Lot 1, with Stable and Outbuildings thereto, situate in Rose Street, with Three other Dwelling Houses adjoining, bounded by Cross Street.

Lot 3. All those Two Dwelling Houses in the rear of the said ROUND COUNTER, Nos.3b and 3c, with the Outbuildings thereto.

For further particulars, apply to the Auctioneer, or to Mr. S. Ward, all of Dudley."

Eliza Martin married *James Paul* on 19th May 1895.

To Brewers, Capitalists, and Others. — Valuable FREEHOLD LICENSED HOUSE and other DWELLING-HOUSES, at Batman's Hill, Bilston.

MESSRS. J. G. WRIGHT & SON will Sell by Auction, at the Greyhound Inn Bradley, near Bilston, TO-MORROW (Tuesday), 15th March, at Six o'clock in the evening, the following PROPERTIES, subject to conditions—

Lot 1.—All that Valuable BEERHOUSE, called "THE ROUND COUNTER," with front Shop, Bagatelle and Club Room, Parlour, Kitchen, Cowhouse, and usual Outbuildings, situate in Rose Street, Batman's Hill aforesaid; together with Six other DWELLING-HOUSES adjoining thereto, numbered 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10.

Lot 2.—All that SHOP and DWELLING-HOUSE adjoining Lot 1, with Stable and Outbuildings thereto, situate in Rose Street, with Three other DWELLING-HOUSES adjoining, bounded by Cross Street.

Lot 3.—All those Two DWELLING-HOUSES in the rear of the said Round Counter, Nos. 3b and 3c, with the Outbuildings thereto.

For further particulars, apply to the Auctioneers, or to Mr. S. Ward, all of Dudley.

South Wales Echo 2/6/1898

"A lamentable drowning case took place at Moxley, near Bilston, on Tuesday night. It appears that a young woman named Alice Richards (20), the daughter of James Richards, a locksmith, of Moffatts Lane, Willenhall, was keeping company with a man named Martin, who resides at the ROUND COUNTER INN, Bradley, Bilston, and on Tuesday night they went for a walk with a female friend. On reaching Moxley a quarrel occurred, and Richards took off a ring she was wearing and gave it to her female companion with the remark, 'Keep this in remembrance of me.' She then walked to the Birmingham Canal, a short distance away, and jumped in. So far as can be gathered, her companions did nothing to rescue her, and the body was taken from the water on Wednesday morning, after Martin had given information of the affair to the Willenhall Police. When questioned why he did not attempt to save the deceased, the excuse was given that he could not swim. The body was removed to the JUNCTION INN, Catherines Cross."

AND

Birmingham Mail 5/6/1898

"Yesterday afternoon Mr. H. A. Pearson (County Coroner) held an inquest at the JUNCTION INN, Catherines Cross, Darlaston, respecting the death of Alice Richardson (20), a single woman, residing in Walsall Street, Willenhall, who had committed suicide by drowning at Herberts Park under very distressing circumstances.

John Richardson, the father, said deceased had a child 17 months old, and a young man named Thomas Martin was alleged to be the father. Martin had promised to marry the deceased.

Thomas Martin, a miner, residing at Bradley, said he had known the deceased about three years. On the night of the 31st ult he accompanied the deceased and a young woman named Florence Ward, and in the presence of the deceased he was guilty of misconduct with Ward. Subsequently, on arriving at Herberts Park Canal, he saw the deceased throw off her hat and jump into the canal. He was unable to swim, and was consequently afraid to attempt to rescue her. He saw the deceased rise to the surface of the water twice, but he was unable to reach her.

Florence Ann Ward, who stated that she was 15 years of age and resided with her parents at Bilston, gave corroborative evidence.

The jury returned a verdict that the deceased committed Suicide when of Unsound Mind.

At the request of the jury, the Coroner severely censured Martin for his horrible and despicable conduct in the presence of the deceased, and also for his unmanly behaviour in making no attempt to rescue the deceased."

1901 Census

1, Rose Street

[1] Emma Harriss (60), widow, publican, born Sedgley;

[2] James Harriss (21), son, bootmaker, born Sedgley;

[3] Eliza Williams (14), domestic servant, birth place not known:

Tipton Herald 7/3/1903

"Objection was raised on the grounds that the license was not required and the house difficult of police supervision. Superintendent Walters said the necessary work had been commenced, and if carried out according to the plans, would be satisfactory. He withdrew the objection.

The license was renewed."

Rowland Thomas, beer retailer, 4, Rose Street, Bradley. [1904]

John Grainger was fined £2 and costs, on 24th November 1905, for permitting drunkenness.

Staffordshire Advertiser 13/2/1909

"Bilston annual licensing sessions were held on the 5th inst.....

The following houses were referred for consideration for compensation on the ground that they were not required.....
ROUND COUNTER INN, Rose Street, Bradley."

1911 Census

Rose Street – ROUND COUNTER

[1] Joseph Campion Churms (25), beerhouse manager, born Bradley;

[2] Lucy Churms (23), wife, married 2 years, house duties, born Great Bridge;

[3] Edwin Churms (1), son, born Woodsetton:

Joseph Campion Churms – see also ROYAL OAK, Salop Street, and SHOULDER OF MUTTON.

License refused by Compensation Authority on 3rd July 1918.

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.....

ROUND COUNTER, Rose Street, Bradley, Coseley. Beerhouse (ante 1869) License. Licensee, *Henry Brown*. Registered Owner, Atkinsons Brewery Ltd.”

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.....

ROUND COUNTER, Bradley, Coseley, £750.”

Compensation of £750 was paid on 21st December 1918.

License extinguished on 28th December 1918.

ROYAL ARTILLERY

9, (5), (3), High Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

David Jones Bache, gentleman, Bilston
Mrs. Mary Tudor, Langley, Oldbury
J. and J. Yardley and Co. Ltd.
The Old Wolverhampton Breweries Ltd.
Atkinsons Brewery Ltd.

LICENSEES

Mrs. Mary Bache [1858] – [1868]
David Jones Bache [1871]
Mary (Bache) Tudor [1872] – **1875**);
Joseph Siddons (**1875 – 1879**);
Frank Bostock (**1879**);
Ann Palmer (**1879**);
John Corbett (**1879 – 1882**);
George Roberts (**1882 – 1884**);
Samuel Fellows (**1884 – 1887**);
John Bailey (**1887 – 1888**);
William Thomas Goodway Locke (**1888 – 1889**);
Kate Roberts (**1889 – 1891**);
Daniel S Onions [1891]
William McDonnell (**1891**);
William Edwin Cole (**1891 – 1892**);
William Millard Whitehouse (**1892 – 1896**);
Thomas Woodhouse (**1896 – 1897**);
Job Webb (**1897 – 1906**);
William Benjamin Wood (**1906 – 1907**);
Arthur John Roden (**1907 – 1912**);
John Wright (**1912 – 1913**);
Arthur Frederick Hawkins (**1913 – 1914**);
Mrs. Annie Whittaker (**1914 – 1921**);

NOTES

3, High Street [1858], [1864], [1868], [1870], [1871], [1872], [1881]
5, High Street [1873], [1891], [1892], [1896], [1900], [1904]
9, High Street [1901], [1908], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921]

It was originally known as the BOARD. [1873], [1879]
Later it was the VAULTS.

Wine and spirit vaults [1864]

Mrs. Mary Bache, spirit vaults, 3, High Street. [1858], [1868]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 8/12/1858

“Ann Burke, described as a prostitute, was charged with uttering base coin, in the month of September last. Evidence was given to show that on a certain evening, in September last, she had passed a bad crown piece at Mr. *Bache's* liquor shop, in High Street, Bilston, and another at the HIMLEY ARMS, kept by Mr. Tombs; she also on the same night offered another at Mr. Peck's liquor shop in Oxford Street. She had absconded immediately afterwards, and was only recently arrested in Wolverhampton, where she was living, somewhere in the neighbourhood of the notorious ‘Cat-yard.’ She was remanded for a week to give time to communicate with the authorities at the Mint.

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/1/1859

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Ann Burke, alias Durkin, 21, no occupation, was indicted for uttering two counterfeit crown pieces, at Bilston, well knowing the same to be false and counterfeit. On the 22nd of September last the prisoner, late in the evening, went to Tome's liquor vaults, in High Street, Bilston, and called for a glass of porter, in payment for which she tendered a crown piece. The coin was taken, and was put by the daughter of the landlady into the till. On counting, the same evening, the money in the till, the landlady discovered that this crown piece was counterfeit, and having marked it, she gave it to the police. It was afterwards discovered that the same evening the prisoner went to Peck's liquor vaults, in Oxford Street, and called for a glass of ale, for which she tendered another counterfeit crown piece. On being told that it was counterfeit she said that it had been given to her by a gentleman, and that she did not know it was counterfeit. She paid for the ale with three half-pence, and then went to *Bache's* spirit vaults, and there offered another counterfeit crown piece in payment for some drink, repeating, on being told it was counterfeit, the same story that she had, told at Peck's. Information was given to the police, but as the prisoner had been allowed to leave, she made her escape, and was not apprehended until the 1st of December.

Mr. S. Hill, who appeared for the prisoner, submitted to the Jury, as the defence, that these counterfeit crown pieces had, as she stated, been really given her by a scoundrel who had been wicked enough to take advantage of the unhappy calling which the unfortunate woman followed, and contended that considering the facilities which unprincipled men had for passing off bad money under such circumstances, nothing could be more likely to be true than the story told by the prisoner.

The Jury found the prisoner guilty. The learned Chairman, in sentencing her to twelve months' hard labour, reminded that two and a half years previously she had been convicted of stealing money.”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/8/1863

“At Bilston Police Court yesterday.....

A mill furnaceman named Byrne, for creating a disturbance in *Bache's* Liquor Vaults, on the preceding night, was ordered to find sureties, or in default one month's imprisonment.”

1871 Census

3, High Street – Wine and Spirit Vaults

[1] David Jones Bache (73), widower, wine merchant employing 1 man, born Walsall;

[2] Mary Bache (70), sister, annuitant, born Walsall;

[3] Mary Bache (29), niece, domestic servant, born Birmingham;

[4] Agnes Bache (33), niece, domestic servant, born Walsall;

[5] Alice Jeavons (17), domestic servant, born Tettenhall;

[6] Sarah Stanley (32), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Miss Mary Bache, spirit vaults, 3, High Street. [1872]

1881 Census

3, High Street

- [1] John Corbett (58), licensed victualler, born Dawley, Shropshire;
- [2] Harriet Corbett (57), wife, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] John Corbett (22), son, die sinker, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] Mary Corbett (20), daughter, barmaid, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] Mathew Corbett (18), son, barman, born Wolverhampton;
- [6] Joseph Corbett (15), son, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [7] Sarah Turner (27), niece, domestic servant, born Wolverhampton;
- [8] Cecilia Linforth (3), grand-daughter, scholar, born Wolverhampton:

Darlaston Weekly Times 19/1/1884

“Michael Morgan, Coseley Street, Bilston, was charged by PC Jackson with drunken conduct on Saturday night. Defendant was found at the ROYAL ARTILLERY public house, where the defendant and another man had broken a pane of glass. William Pritchard, Coseley Street, the other man referred to, was also charged with a like offence, on the same date. Morgan was fined 10s and costs, and Pritchard 5s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/2/1891

“At Bilston, yesterday, an application was made for the transfer of the license of the BOARD INN, Bilston, from *Kate Roberts* to James Harvey. Chief-superintendent Longden opposed the application, on the ground that Harvey was not the resident occupier, and wished to put a manager in the house. The application was refused.”

1891 Census

5, High Street – ROYAL ARTILLERY

- [1] Daniel S. Onions (28), licensed victualler's manager, born Great Bridge;
- [2] Henrietta Onions (23), wife, born Willenhall;
- [3] James H. O. Onions (1 month), son, born Bilston:

William Edwin Cole – see also OLD MERMAID and BLANKMAKERS ARMS.

William Millard Whitehouse – see also BOARD, Church Street, and RED LION, Dudley Street.

1901 Census

9, High Street

- [1] Job Webb (62), publican, born Bilston;
- [2] Jane Webb (59), wife, fish dealer, born Tong, Shropshire;
- [3] William H. Satterthwaite (42), son-in-law, insurance agent, born Willenhall;
- [4] Emily H. Satterthwaite (33), daughter, barmaid, born Bilston;
- [5] Daniel H. Webb (32), son, barman, born Bilston;
- [6] Albert E. H. Webb (25), son, fish shop assistant, born Bilston;
- [7] Martha J. Satterthwaite (12), grand-daughter, born Bilston:

Job Webb died in the 3rd quarter of 1906.

1911 Census

9, High Street

- [1] Arthur John Roden (43), compositor and licensed victualler, born Wagbeach, Shropshire;
- [2] Harriett Roden (39), wife, assisting, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] Caroline Palk (36), sister-in-law, married, assisting, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] Arthur Joseph Palk (11), nephew, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] Daisy Stanley (5), niece, born Wolverhampton;
- [6] Annie Burgwin (18), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Application for removal of this license to the THREE CUPS INN beerhouse, Lanesfield, was granted on 7th March 1919. It closed on 20th March 1921. Demolished.

ROYAL EXCHANGE

26, (25), (27), Chapel Street, (Old Meeting Street), BILSTON

OWNERS

Jane Riley
Lucy Amelia Davies
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.
Avebury Taverns Ltd. (acquired in 1999)

LICENSEES

Isaac Riley [1851] – [1881]
Jane Riley [1883] – **1886**;
Mrs. Lucy Amelia Davies (**1886 – 1904**);
William Butler Slater (**1904 – 1905**);
Theresa (Platt) Griffiths (**1905 – 1912**);
Selina Jones [1911] manager
Alfred Blud (**1912**);
Sarah Pecey Hall (**1912 – 1913**);
Humphrey Willows (**1913**);
Charles Dickenson (**1913 – 1914**);
Samuel Morris (**1914**);
Henry Richard Adams (**1914 – 1915**);
Thomas Gateley (**1915 – 1927**);
David Cartwright (**1927 – 1930**);
John Knight (**1930 – 1934**);
George Scotto (**1934 – [1940]**)
F H Skett [1976] – [1983]
Maurice 'Mo' Davey (**1994 – []**)
Mrs. Doreen P Beaman [1995]
Kulwinder Singh Sahota [2005]

NOTES

25, Chapel Street [1861], [1865], [1868], [1881], [1891]
27, Chapel Street [1871]
26, Chapel Street [1904], [1921], [1940], [2005]

It had a beerhouse license.

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/2/1851

“At Bilston Public Office, on Tuesday last, Thomas Lowe, of the DUKE OF YORK, Wolverhampton Road; Thomas Henshaw, of the CROWN AND ANCHOR, Cozeley Row; Richard Talbot, of the CROWN INN, Hall Fields; *Isaac Riley*, of the ROYAL EXCHANGE; and John Roscoe, of the MOUNT PLEASANT, were fined in sums varying from 10s to 40s and costs, for infringement of their licenses by keeping their houses open beyond the specified hours, or allowing card-playing &c.”



2007

1851 Census

Old Meeting Street

- [1] *Isaac Riley* (41), shoe maker and retail brewer, born Bilston;
- [2] *Amelia Riley* (30), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Lucy Amelia Riley* (4), daughter, scholar, born Bilston:

1861 Census

25, Chapel Street – Beer House

- [1] *Isaac Riley* (51), publican, born Bilston;
- [2] *Amelia Riley* (40), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Lucy Riley* (13), daughter, born Bilston:

Isaac Riley, retailer of beer, Chapel Street. [1862]

Isaac Riley, beer retailer, 25, Chapel Street. [1865], [1868]

1871 Census

27, Chapel Street

- [1] *Isaac Riley* (61), widower, retail brewer, born Bilston;
- [2] *Lucy Riley* (23), daughter, born Bilston;
- [3] *Phoebe Brown* (14), general servant, born Bilston:

Lucy Amelia Riley, spinster, married *George Davies*, bachelor, draper, on 31st July 1873.

1881 Census

25, Chapel Street

- [1] *Isaac Riley* (71), widower, publican, born Bilston;
- [2] *Lucy A. Davies* (32), daughter, housekeeper, born Bilston;
- [3] *George Davies* (32), son-in-law, waiter, born Astley Abbots, Shropshire;
- [4] *Elizabeth Stubbs* (21), general servant, born Bilston:

Darlaston Weekly Times 3/6/1882 - Advert

“Wanted a good General Servant for Public House, age 20 to 25.
ROYAL EXCHANGE, Chapel Street, Bilston.”

WANTED a good GENERAL SERVANT for
Public House, age 20 to 25.—Royal Exchange
Chapel Street, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/12/1884

“Yesterday, Mr. W. H. Phillips, coroner, held an inquest at the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Little Chapel Street, Bilston, concerning the death of *Albert Jaques* (33), single, lately living in Temple Street, who died on Monday from injuries received through the boiler explosion at the works of the Staffordshire Steel and Ingot Iron Company, on November 5. After hearing the evidence of several witnesses, the jury returned the following verdict. That the deceased died on the 1st December from the affects of fractured ribs and several injuries caused on the 5th November, in consequence of an explosion of certain boilers at the works of the Staffordshire Steel and Ingot Iron Company.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 5/6/1886 - Deaths

“On the 31st ult, at the ROYAL EXCHANGE, Chapel Street, Bilston, *Isaac Riley*, aged 76 years. RIP.”

Jane Riley died in 1886.

Lucy Amelia Davies = *Lucy Amelia Davis*

Wolverhampton Express and Star 29/1/1889 - Advert

“Wanted, a strong Girl, for a public house, 18 or 20.
ROYAL EXCHANGE, Chapel Street, Bilston.”

WANTED, a strong Girl, for a public house, 18 or 20,
—Royal Exchange, Chapel-st., Bilston.

Birmingham Mail 7/2/1889

“At the West Bromwich (Borough) Police Court today, Abraham Lovesey (31), Church Street, was charged with embezzling 11s, the property of Isaac Wones and Co., of Pitt Street, West Bromwich, brewers chemists.

John Wones stated that prisoner entered the firm's service in March, 1886, and was engaged to deliver goods and solicit orders. In August defendant received 4s, but had not accounted for that amount. On the 5th of December he received from Mr. H. King 2s, which he had not accounted for. On the 12th of December he received 5s from Laura Townend, of Wednesbury, which he had also not accounted for. George Davies, landlord of the of the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Bilston, said he paid the prisoner 4s, for which he gave him the receipt produced. Henry King, of Leveretts Inn, Handsworth, stated that his wife received a receipt for 2s, which was paid to the prisoner. Laura Townend of the QUEENS HEAD, Wednesbury, said that she paid prisoner 5s, for which he gave her a receipt. Police-sergeant Ainsworth said that on the 4th he arrested prisoner upon a warrant, when he said he had nothing to say at present. Mr. F. W. Topham defended.

Mr. Wones, recalled, said that they had discovered defalcations amounting to between £30 and £40.

The Bench fined prisoner £5 and costs, or in default two months' imprisonment.”

1891 Census

25, Chapel Street – ROYAL EXCHANGE INN

[1] Lucy A. Davies (33), married, publican, born Bilston;

[2] Mary Riley (67), visitor, widow, housekeeper, born Bilston;

[3] Lizzie Haynes (23), visitor, school mistress, born Bilston:

1

Mrs. Lucy Davies, beer retailer, 25 Chapel Street. [1896]

1901 Census

Chapel Street – ROYAL EXCHANGE

[1] Lucy A. Davis (50), publican, born Bilston;

[2] Annie Meredith (14), domestic servant, born Bradley:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/10/1901

“At Bilston yesterday, Lucy Davis, of the ROYAL EXCHANGE beerhouse, Chapel Street, was summoned for keeping open during prohibited hours. The case was dismissed, and defendant was then charged with opening the premises for sale. This was also dismissed, as was a further charge of allowing liquor purchased before closing time to be consumed on the premises during prohibited hours.”

Mrs. Lucy Davies, beer retailer, 26, Chapel Street. [1904]

Theresa Platt married Thomas Griffiths on 1st February 1909.

1911 Census

Chapel Street – ROYAL EXCHANGE

[1] Selina Jones (29), manageress beerhouse, born Sedgley;

[2] Harold Jones (29), husband, married 7 years, cabinet maker, born Coseley;

[3] Susannah Harris (30), sister, barmaid, born Castleford, Yorkshire;

[4] Samuel Harris (20), brother, cabinet maker, born Castleford, Yorkshire;

[5] James Harris (17), brother, clerk, iron works, born Tipton;

[6] William Bradley (10), nephew, born Sedgley;

[7] Polly Cammies (19), servant, born Bilston:

Samuel Morris was born in Hurst Hill, Sedgley, in 1876.

He was married to Emma.

1921 Census

26, Chapel Street

- [1] *Thomas Gateley* (57), galvanizer and licensed victualler, born Walsall;
- [2] *M. A. Gateley* (51), wife, housewife, born Bilston;
- [3] *David Cartwright* (24), step-son, railway waggon repairer, born Bradley;
- [4] *Bernard Gateley* (19), son, woodwork machinist, out of work, born Bilston;
- [5] *Edith Cartwright* (18), step-daughter, assistant, boot shop, born Bradley;
- [6] *Norah Gateley* (15), daughter, home duties, born Bilston:

Evening Despatch 11/4/1929

“Exciting scenes were witnessed at Bilston today, when the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Chapel Street, was destroyed by fire. When the Bilston Brigade arrived, they found the building burning furiously. Flames were pouring from the doors and windows. The landlord and his family had escaped by jumping through the windows. The outbreak was discovered by a son of the landlord, who, feeling thirsty, got out of bed for a drink, and found the room full of smoke. He raised the alarm, and when the brigade arrived two minutes later, they found a serious task set before them. Adjoining the licensed house were a number of cottages, and to prevent the fire extending to these the firemen stripped the roofs. A policeman, who was assisting to fight the fire, fell through the roof of the house and sustained injury to his hands and legs. The ROYAL EXCHANGE was completely gutted and the contents of four rooms destroyed. The cause of the outbreak is at present unknown”

AND

Daily Mirror 12/4/1929

‘Wonderful bravery was displayed by Mrs. May Higgs, of the ROYAL EXCHANGE HOTEL, Chapel Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, when, with four of her children, she was trapped by fire in her bedroom yesterday. Although badly burned by the flames that leapt about her she threw her children one by one from the window to rescuers in the street. She then jumped to safety but immediately collapsed.’

[This was reported nationally.]

Bilston & Willenhall Times 1/4/1930

“At the Bilston Licensing Sessions, yesterday....

Mr. Stewart submitted plans for the re-construction of the ROYAL EXCHANGE, Chapel Street, Bilston, which was badly damaged by fire in April 1929. Mr. Stewart said that the plans provided for a new house, with excellent modern arrangements, and he hoped the plans would meet with the approval of the Bench. The Bench approved the plans.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/2/1932

“Ernest Clarence Whitehead, aged 36, against whom there were previous convictions, and who gave an address in Corser Street, Wolverhampton, was at Bilston yesterday sent to gaol for two months for obtaining 3s by false pretences from *John Knight*, licensee of the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Chapel Street, Bilston.

Evidence was that accused called at the inn and represented that he was consulting engineer to a company who were going to start on a job at Mount Pleasant, Bilston, and asked *Knight* to find him six men for excavation work, a boy about fourteen for odd jobs, and a girl about sixteen to answer the telephone. As a guarantee that he would get the men *Knight* handed over 3s.”

1939 Register

Chapel Street – ROYAL EXCHANGE

- [1] *George Scotto*, date of birth 4/9/1883, licensee, married;
- [2] *Alice Scotto*, dob 27/10/1883, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] *William Depledge*, dob 6/1/1908, metallurgical furnace builder, single:

George Scotto – see also CHURCH.

A team from here took part in the Bilston Crib League, Section A. [1946]

Alterations were made in 1986.

Sandwell Evening Mail 21/5/1994

“Down Your Local. The ROYAL EXCHANGE, Bilston.

Woe betide anyone who does not join in that Saturday night singalong at the ROYAL EXCHANGE – they’re likely to get a red hot poker where it hurts! It isn’t some strange Black Country ritual, but landlord *Mo Davy*’s attempt to get everyone to join in the fun. ‘Last Saturday, some of the old dears were not getting involved,’ said 42 year-old *Mo*. ‘So I chased them round the bar with a red hot poker. They soon joined in then! The other week I hit someone else with a piece of French bread, and they too soon got the message.’

Strange, you might say. But you’ve got to remember, this is deepest Black Country we’re talking about. *Mo*’s military background – he spent eight years in the Royal Navy – might explain his somewhat unconventional methods aimed at customer participation. ‘It’s obviously all done for a laugh and everyone takes it well,’ he said, adding, ‘Just as well really.’

Judging from the bar room banter he shares with his lunchtime customers, you would not think he’d been at the pub only three months. He has rapidly become a favourite for these diehard locals who are even prepared to overlook the fact that he and his wife Jan, age 42, are originally from Sussex. Prior to the ROYAL EXCHANGE, the couple, who have a one-year-old daughter, lived in Coventry for 12 years where *Mo*, a self-confessed motorbike freak worked for the local council on a motorcycle project. But they had harboured ambitions of running a pub for some time and were more than happy to move to Bilston where they have friends. ‘I’ve been in the pub trade only a couple of years,’ he said. ‘People I know in the business have been great and have taught me all I know. The pub has been well-known for years for one thing in particular – monster sarnies. Lorry drivers pull into a nearby haulage firm for a wash and brush up and then nip across the road for some tasty grub. ‘We pride ourselves on not serving any frozen food,’ said *Mo*. ‘Even the pork scratchings are home-made. It restricts what you can serve, but I believe you get too much of that frozen stuff in pubs nowadays.’

The ROYAL EXCHANGE is one of the town’s oldest pubs, dating back to the last century. It has a small lounge and slightly larger bar with real coal fire and wooden beams – plus a piano for those evening singalongs. The latest Black Country Good Beer Guide describes it as, ‘A superb, unspoilt pub. An example of what a pub should be like – long may it remain unspoilt by progress.’ It has won several awards from Father Hudson’s Homes for collecting the most money in the area over the years.

Pub Facts.

Price of Pint: Banks Mild £1.07, Banks Bitter £1.12, Harp lager £1.30, Hanson Mild £1, Kronenbourg lager £1.50.

Food: Toasted sandwiches 80p, home-made chilli con carne, beef curry, chicken casserole, all £2.50.

Parking: Car park at the rear.

Transport: WMT bus routes 78 and 79 (Wolverhampton to Birmingham) and WMT bus routes 6 and 9 (Walsall to Birmingham).

Opening Hours: 12.30pm to 3pm and 5.30pm to 11pm (Monday to Saturday); noon to 3pm and 7pm to 10.30pm (Sunday).”

[2012]

Closed [2014]

It was demolished in 2014.

ROYAL EXCHANGE

4, (57), Queen Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Edward Atkins, accountant, Wednesbury
Major George Cox, brewer, Broad Street, Bilston
John Rolison and Son Ltd. (leased from 1909)
Harmer and Co. Ltd. (leased)
Frank Myatt Ltd. (leased)
Frank Myatt Ltd. (acquired c.1924)

LICENSEES

Francis Hickinbottom [1861] – [1864]
Alfred Dimmock []
Thomas Dickinson []
Thomas Jones [1870] – **1873**;
Robert Hughes **(1873 – 1878)**;
William Bardell **(1878 – 1882)**;
Thomas Lloyd **(1882 – 1883)**;
George King **(1883 – 1884)**;
James Wright **(1884 – 1892)**;
Mrs. Ellen Wright **(1892 – 1894)**;
Henry Richard Adams **(1894 – 1905)**;
Arthur Taylor **(1905 – 1906)**;
Albert William Pugh **(1906)**;
Herbert Mounfield **(1906 – 1907)**;
Clara Aston **(1907 – 1908)**;
Joseph Hadley **(1908 – 1909)**;
Henry Richard Adams **(1909 – 1912)**;
Mary Jemima Bott **(1912 – 1913)**;
George Priest **(1913 – 1915)**;
Joseph Hadley **(1915 – 1917)**;
Thomas Fellows **(1917 – 1924)**;

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF STAFFORDSHIRE,
HOLDEN AT WOLVERHAMPTON.
IN the Matter of FRANCIS HICKINBOTTOM,
of Queen-street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed
Retailer of Ale, Beer, Porter, and Tobacco, a bankrupt.
Whereas, at a Public Sitting of the Court, held this day, the
Court granted an ORDER of DISCHARGE to the said bankrupt.
Notice is hereby given, that an Order of Discharge will be drawn
up and delivered to the bankrupt after the expiration of thirty days
from this date, unless, in the meantime, an appeal be duly entered
against the Judgment of the said Court.
Dated this 12th day of February, 1864.
CLIFFORD N. CURTIS, High Bailiff.

1864

NOTES

57, Queen Street [1861], [1871], [1881], [1892], [1896]
4, Queen Street [1911], [1912], [1921]

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

1861 Census

57, Queen Street – ROYAL EXCHANGE
[1] Francis Hickinbottom (35), retail brewer, born Breedon, Leicestershire;
[2] Mary Hickinbottom (33), wife, born Nalesworth, Warwickshire;
[3] Alice Burgess (14), general servant, born Bilston:

Francis Hickinbottom, retailer of beer, Queen Street. [1862]

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/1/1864

“From the *London Gazette* of Friday, the 2nd instant. Bankrupts.....
Francis Hickinbottom, Bilston, retailer of ale. January 14, at Wolverhampton.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/2/1864 - Notice

“In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton.
In the Matter of *Francis Hickinbottom*, of Queen Street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Retailer of Ale, Beer, Porter, and Tobacco, a bankrupt.
Whereas, at a Public Sitting of the Court, held this day, the Court granted an Order of Discharge to the said bankrupt. Notice is hereby given, that an Order of Discharge will be drawn up and delivered to the bankrupt after the expiration of thirty days from this date, unless, in the meantime, an appeal be duly entered against the Judgment of the said Court.
Dated this 12th day of February, 1864.
Clifton N. Curtis, High Bailiff.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/8/1869

“The annual licensing meeting for the Bilston division took place yesterday, at the Police Court.....
The following beerhouse keepers had been fined during the past five years.....
For keeping open during prohibited hours.....
Alfred Dimmock, ROYAL EXCHANGE, Queen Street, 10s and costs.
Thomas Hickinson, ROYAL EXCHANGE, Queen Street, Bilston, 5s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/4/1870

“At Bilston Police Court, yesterday.....
Thomas Jones, beerhouse keeper and collier, Queen Street, Bilston, was charged with refusing to admit the police. Police-constables Hughes and Challener stated that on Saturday night last, about half-past eleven, they went to defendant's house and heard talking inside. They knocked, and a female came and asked who was there, and they said, ‘Police.’ She then went away. Witnesses could not obtain admission.
Defendant was fined £2 and costs.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 27/8/1870

“The annual sessions for the renewal of existing and the granting of new licenses to licensed victuallers and beersellers in Bilston and Sedgley, was held yesterday at the Police Court, Bilston.....
All the applications for renewal of licenses were granted except the following, who had been fined for various offences during the year, and whose applications for renewal were adjourned until the adjourned licensing day, November 30 Beerhouse Keepers.....
Thomas Jones, ROYAL EXCHANGE, Queen Street.”
[Renewed at the adjourned licensing meeting.]

1871 Census

57, Queen Street
[1] *Thomas Jones* (26), bricklayer and publican, born Bilston;
[2] *Maria Jones* (28), wife, born Bilston;
[3] *Maria Jones* (8 months), daughter, born Bilston;
[4] *Maria Fleet* (20), domestic servant, public house, born Red Hill, Worcestershire: [Stourbridge?]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/9/1877

“The annual licensing sessions for the Bilston division were held at the Public Office, Bilston, yesterday.....
The black list was as follows Beersellers.....
Robert Hughes, ROYAL EXCHANGE, Queen Street, Bilston, open after hours, 10s and costs.....
The whole of the licenses in the ‘black list,’ it was stated, would be held over until the adjourned sessions.”
[Renewed with a caution at the adjourned licensing sessions.]

1881 Census

57, Queen Street - Stone Street

- [1] William Bardell (45), retail beer seller and bedstead fitter, born Birmingham;
- [2] Elizabeth Bardell (47), wife, born Birmingham;
- [3] William Bardell (23), son, bedstead stock fitter, born Birmingham;
- [4] Nellie Venton (6), grand-daughter, scholar, born Bilston:

Darlaston Weekly Times 25/3/1882 - Advert

"To Be Disposed Of, the ROYAL EXCHANGE, Beerhouse, Queen Street, Bilston.
Apply on the Premises."

TO BE DISPOSED OF, "THE ROYAL EX-
CHANGE," Beer-House, Queen Street, Bilston.
Apply on the Premises.

1891 Census

Queen Street – ROYAL EXCHANGE

- [1] James Wright (40), coal miner, born Bilston;
- [2] Ellen Wright (37), wife, born Moseley Village;
- [3] James Wright (14), son, carter, born Barnsley, Yorkshire;
- [4] Amy Wright (15), daughter, born Barnsley, Yorkshire;
- [5] William Wright (12), son, scholar, born Barnsley, Yorkshire;
- [6] George Wright (10), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] Thomas Wright (8), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [8] Blanche Nellie Wright (4), daughter, scholar, born Bilston:

Staffordshire Advertiser 21/11/1891

"James Wright, of the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Queen Street, Bilston, was fined 20s and costs for being drunk in his own house."

1892 Probate

"James Wright of 57 Queen Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, coal miner, died 28 July 1892. Probate Lichfield 16 August to Robert Hughes, engine driver, and John Evans, coal miner. Effects £478 9s 4d."

Birmingham Daily Post 12/12/1893

"His Honour Judge Griffith had before him at the Wolverhampton County Court, yesterday, an action in which *Ellen Wright*, a widow, of Queen Street, Bilston, sought to recover £5 from Stephen Winsper, of the HEN AND CHICKENS INN, Greencroft, Bilston, which, it was alleged, was due on the death of her husband. Mr. Taylor was for the plaintiff; and Mr. Pratt for the defendant.

It appeared that the defendant kept an unregistered death club, in which the husband of the complainant had been insured, but the agreement was only a verbal one. The defendant was secretary, and his mother was the treasurer. The plaintiff was non-suited, and Mr. Pratt said that there was a bona-fide defence as to the arrears of subscription."

Henry Adams, beer retailer, 57, Queen Street. [1896]

1901 Census

Bridge Street – ROYAL EXCHANGE Public House

- [1] Harry Adams (46), publican, born Sedgley;
- [2] Jane Adams (35), wife, born Portsmouth;
- [3] Fred Adams (12), son, born Bilston;
- [4] Edith Adams (8), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] Jane Adams (6), daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] Harry Adams (5), son, born Bilston;
- [7] Gertrude Adams (4), daughter, born Bilston;
- [8] Alice Adams (4 months), daughter, born Bilston;
- [9] Florrie Heywood (19), domestic servant, born Bilston:

1911 Census

4, Queen Street

- [1] *Henry Richard Adams* (57), publican, born Bilston;
- [2] *Jane Adams* (47), wife, married 24 years, assisting in the business, born Portsmouth;
- [3] *Frederick Adams* (23), son, fitter and turner, japan tin plate and general hollowware goods, born Bilston;
- [4] *Edith Adams* (18), daughter, siser, japan tray makers, born Bilston;
- [5] *Jane Adams* (16), daughter, black stover, japan tray makers, born Bilston;
- [6] *Harry Adams* (15), son, iron plater, bucket and hollowware makers, born Bilston;
- [7] *Gertrude Adams* (14), daughter, laker, iron bedstead company, born Bilston;
- [8] *Richard Adams* (9), son, school, born Bilston:

Henry Richard Adams, beer retailer, 4, Queen Street. [1912]

Mary Jemima Bott – see also THREE HORSESHOES, Oxford Street.

South Staffordshire Times 28/2/1920 - Advert

“A Highly Important Sale by Auction of Seven Licensed Properties finely situated in the heart of the Black Country – All Freehold.

By Order of Major G. Cox. Esq. with Possession On Completion.

The Ante '69 Beer Houses known as:

The STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT, Darlaston

The FORGE HAMMER, Lanesfield.

The TOWNHALL STORES, Bilston.

The ROYAL EXCHANGE, Bilston.

And Building Land near to the FORGE HAMMER, Lanesfield.

Solicitors: Messrs. Hall, Pratt and Pritchard, Bilston.”

1921 Census

4, Queen Street

- [1] *Thomas Fellows* (57), blank tray maker and publican;
- [2] *Emma Fellows* (55), wife, housework and publican's assistant;
- [3] *Martha Fellows* (20), daughter, machinist, motor fittings;
- [4] *Mary Ann Fellows* (18), daughter, stamper, hollowware;
- [5] *Katherine Fellows* (17), daughter, solderer, hollowware;
- [6] *Elizabeth Fellows* (14), daughter, school;
- [7] *Joseph Fellows* (10), son, school;
- [8] *Elizabeth Fellows* (34), daughter-in-law, widow;
- [9] *Thomas Fellows* (12), grand-son, school;
- [10] *Richard Fellows* (10), grand-son, school;
- [11] *John Fellows* (6), grand-son, school;
- [12] *Joseph Fellows* (3), grand-son;

South Staffordshire Times 8/3/1924

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Bilston Division were held yesterday, before a full Bench of Justices, Mr. E. Hickman presided.....

Considerable opposition was offered to the provisional application for a license to new premises it was proposed on land in Parkfield Road. Mr. Skidmore made the application. Mr. Turton opposed on behalf of the owner and tenant of the RED LION, Parkfield Road, and Mr. J. F. Bourke (instructed by Messrs. Landon and Barrows) on behalf of the owner and licensee of the PARKFIELD TAVERN. The application was opposed by the Rev. W. E. Richardson, Primitive Methodist Church, Parkfield Road; the Vicar of Ettingshall (Rev. W. H. R. Gipps); Mrs. Hodgetts on behalf of herself and neighbours; Mr. Geo. Watkins, on behalf of the Vicar of Blakenhall; Mr. Staghouse, on behalf of the trustees of the Primitive Methodist Church, Parkfield; and Mr. Joseph Hately, on behalf of the residents and trustees of Parkfield Primitive Methodist Church.

Mr. Skidmore, in his remarks to the justices, said the proposal was to remove the GIFFORD ARMS, Codsall Wood, which was a rural district and already well served, to a proposed site in Parkfield Road. The site to which it was proposed to transfer the license was a different proposition. The site was directly opposite the new estate which was being developed by the Wolverhampton Corporation and a large number of houses had been run up there. The new road to Birmingham would run within a very few yards of the site. He knew it was unusual to ask for the removal of a license in one district to another, and the justices might say that Codsall would lose one license and this district get one more. If the justices granted the removal of the license of the GIFFORD ARMS, the applicant was prepared to give up the license of the ROYAL EXCHANGE, Queen Street, Bilston, an ‘on’ beer license. So at any rate they would get rid of one license in the county for nothing. They would get a license transferred from a place where it was not particularly required, to a site where it would be of great public convenience, and he ventured to suggest that the justices should not take too narrow a view. Mr. Skidmore added he should produce plans by which it would be seen that the house it was proposed to erect upon the site was most modern and up-to-date in every way.

Mr. Tomlins, Wolverhampton, explained the plans and spoke of the increase in dwellings which would take place by a housing scheme which was being pressed forward.

Mr. F. B. Housiaux, the owner of the estate upon which it was proposed to build the new premises, said he was a general dealer and he approached Mr. Myatt with a scheme suggesting it would make a good site for a licensed house, and agreed to sell it to him.

Mr. Bourke, in his opposition to the application, emphasised the fact that the justices were asked to remove a license which was outside, into their district. Much had been said on housing and the new road, but under the present conditions he urged that the district was well supplied with licensed houses.

Mr. Turton expressed the opinion that the present was not a suitable time to grant such an application.

The Rev. W. E. Hutchinson, speaking on behalf of the petitioners against the granting of a license, said one point was that there were sufficient licensed houses in the neighbourhood to meet requirements. They felt the future should take care of itself and they asked the justices to wait and see what may be the conditions in the future. Within half a mile of the proposed site were seven places where refreshments could be obtained. Nearly seventy-five per cent of the people living in the new houses had signed a petition against it.

The Justices retired, and after a brief absence, the chairman announced that they had given careful attention to the application, and the petition against it, and were unanimous in declining it.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 16/2/1924

“Bilston Licensing Sessions, February 8th.....

During the ensuing business, it was intimated that the licenses of the NEW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, the ROYAL EXCHANGE, Bilston, and the WHITE LION, Cross Street, Bradley, would be referred to the Adjourned Sessions to be considered as redundant houses.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/3/1924

“At the adjourned Bilston licensing sessions yesterday.....

The NEW INNS, Oxford Street, Bilston; WHITE LION, Bradley; and the ROYAL EXCHANGE, Queen Street, Bilston, were referred for compensation.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/7/1924

“At a meeting under the Licensing Consolidation Act the Staffordshire Compensation Authority refused yesterday to renew the licences of fifteen houses on the ground of redundancy.....
ROYAL EXCHANGE, Queen Street, Bilston, 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.....
ROYAL EXCHANGE, Queen Street, Bilston.”

Lichfield Mercury 9/1/1925

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....
The County Licensing Committee, in their report for 1924, stated that they had fixed the compensation in respect of a number of houses as follows.....
ROYAL EXCHANGE, Bilston, £1,600.”

Compensation of £1,620 was paid on 24th December 1924.

ROYAL EXCHANGE

35, (19), Salop Street, (Shropshire Row), Hallfields, Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

Abraham Hazledine, iron worker, Scotland

John Leadbetter

Banks and Co., brewers, Wolverhampton

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. [1905], [1918]

LICENSEES

John Smith [1861]

John Leadbetter [1868] – 1889);

Richard Roberts (1889 – 1899);

Mrs. Rachel Roberts (1899 – 1907);

Arthur Edward George (1907 – 1915);

John Henry Williams (1915 – 1918):

NOTES

19, Salop Row [1861]

19, Salop Street [1881], [1891], [1896], [1901]

35, Salop Street [1904], [1911], [1912]

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Birmingham Journal 3/11/1855 - Advert

“ROYAL EXCHANGE TAVERN, Shropshire Row, Bilston.

To be Disposed Of, the Licenses and Goodwill, of the above well-known commodious Beer House and Premises, doing a good business. The Stock and Fixtures to be taken at a fair valuation. Rent moderate.

For particulars apply to Mr. John Mason, Auctioneer and Public House Agent, Hall Street, Bilston.”

Birmingham Journal 8/11/1856 - Advert

“ROYAL EXCHANGE, Shropshire Row, Bilston.

To be Let, that noted Business House, brewing sixteen bushels per week, replete with every convenience. Rent low.

For particulars, apply to Mr. F. Altree, Auctioneer, Publicans Valuer, and General Agent, Bilston.”

Birmingham Journal 16/7/1859 - Advert

“ROYAL EXCHANGE, Shropshire Row, Bilston.

By Mr. Altree. To be Let, the above well-frequented House of Business, brewing eight bushels weekly. Valuation about £120. Cause of disposal retiring from the business.

Apply, inclosing stamp to F. Altree and Son, Auctioneers and General Publicans Valuers, Bilston.”

1861 Census

19, Salop Row

[1] John Smith (32), publican, born Penkridge;

[2] Roseannah Smith (31), wife, born Staffordshire;

[3] Susannah Smith (9), daughter, scholar, born Staffordshire;

[4] James Smith (4), son, scholar, born Golds Green;

[5] Pricilla Smith (2), daughter, born Bilston:

“ROYAL EXCHANGE TAVERN,
SHROPSHIRE ROW, BILSTON.
TO be DISPOSED OF, the LICENSES and
GOODWILL of the above well-known commodious BEER
HOUSE and PREMISES, doing a good business. The Stock and
Fixtures to be taken at a fair valuation. Rent moderate.
For particulars apply to Mr. John Mason, Auctioneer and Public
House Agent, Hall Street, Bilston.

1855

ROYAL EXCHANGE,
SHROPSHIRE ROW, BILSTON.
TO be LET, that noted Business HOUSE, brew-
ing sixteen bushels per week, replete with every convenience.
Rent low.
For particulars, apply to Mr. F. Altree, Auctioneer, Publican's
Valuer, and General Agent, Bilston. Established 1840

1856

ROYAL EXCHANGE,
SHROPSHIRE ROW, BILSTON.
BY Mr. ALTREE.—To be LET, the above well-
frequented HOUSE of BUSINESS, brewing eight bushels
weekly. Valuation about £120. Cause of disposal retiring from the
business.—Apply, inclosing stamp, to F. Altree and Son, Auctioneers
and General Publicans' Valuers, Bilston. Established 1840.

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/11/1861

“*John Smith*, beerhouse keeper, of Shropshire Row, was charged with selling ale at midnight on the 4th inst. The case was adjourned from that day fortnight, when the police stated that having suspicions that the defendant was in the habit of selling ale after hours they watched the house, and saw some men who worked during the night take bottles to the house, and on their coming out they found that they were filled with ale. *Smith* called the men referred to, who swore that they never entered the house, but found the bottles filled outside. Today persons who lived opposite were called, who confirmed the evidence of the police, and swore positively to seeing the parties enter the house. *Smith* was fined 40s and costs.”

John Smith – see also BRADLEY FIELD HOUSE.

John Leadbetter = John Leadbeater

John Leadbeater, beer retailer, Salop Street, Hallfields. [1868]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/8/1869

“The annual licensing meeting for the Bilston division took place yesterday, at the Police Court.....

The following beerhouse keepers had been fined during the past five years.....

Permitting Drunkenness *John Leadbeater*, ROYAL EXCHANGE, Salop Street, 10s and costs.”

1871 Census

Salop Street

- [1] *John Leadbetter* (43), publican, born Sedgley;
- [2] Ann Leadbetter (39), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] James Leadbetter (17), son, born Bilston;
- [4] Sarah Leadbetter (15), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [5] Ann Leadbetter (14), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [6] Naomi Leadbetter (11), daughter, born Sedgley;

1881 Census

19, Salop Street

- [1] *John Leadbetter* (52), publican, born Bilston;
- [2] Ann Leadbetter (48), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] James Leadbetter (26), son, no occupation, born Bilston;
- [4] Angelena Leadbetter (5), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] Eliza Price (23), general servant, born Bilston;

Darlaston Weekly Times 15/9/1883

“Mr. W. H. Phillips, district coroner, held an inquest at the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Bradley, on Thursday afternoon, touching the death of Frederick William Murty, aged eight years, of Arthur Street, Bradley.

Deceased was crossing a plank placed across the Birmingham Canal, as a means of communication with the Caponfield furnaces, when (it is supposed) he fell into the water and was drowned.

William Murty, father of the deceased, said he last saw the lad at home on the morning of the occurrence, and he was about to go out gathering manure for some mushroom spawn he had. In about half an hour after, witness heard that the body of his son had been found in the canal, about 200 yards from his house. He had never known the boy go near the canal before, as the place was so very unsafe. A number of persons had been drowned by falling off a plank about two feet wide, placed as a bridge across the canal. It was almost a daily occurrence for some one to fall in the water there. Although he could not blame any one for his son's death, he strongly complained of such a trap being left.

Elijah Pickering, labourer, employed at Caponfield Works, said he was on the towing path of the canal near the stop, when he saw a small barrow laden with manure on the revolving plank across the canal. Part of the contents of the barrow were upset, and near was a quantity of water, as though there had been a splash. The handles of the barrow were partly in the water. The appearances caused him to think some one had fallen in the water. He got a boat shaft,

and dragged the water, when he found the body of the deceased about two yards from where the barrow was standing. Had any boat passed, the barrow would have been knocked into the water, as the plank was placed on a pedestal and revolved for the purpose of allowing boats to pass. The lock-keeper's house was about ten yards away, and the lock-keeper was at home. It was a very awkward place for a boy to cross.

William Amos, boatman, of Cross Street, Bradley, said he saw the boy picking manure, with a borrow, a few minutes before the body was taken out of the water. He was then on the tow path, and about three yards from the place where the body was got out. In a quarter of an hour afterwards, he saw the dead body got out, and recognised it as the boy he had previously seen, and who had in the meantime crossed the plank to come home. He heard no splash, but was positive that no boat had come by in the interim.

The jury explained to the coroner that the place was in a very defective state, and positively dangerous to any one crossing.

The coroner said he had held an inquest before on a person who was drowned in the same place, and a recommendation was then made that a rail should be placed along the plank.

The foreman of the Jury said the rail had been placed there, but the boats passing had knocked it to pieces. If the bridge were removed, the men would have to go a quarter of a mile round for their beer.

The coroner commented on the danger of the bridge, and the jury, in returning a verdict of Accidental Death, added a rider, urging an immediate alteration of the place."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 30/8/1889

"John Roberts, son of the landlord of the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Salop Street, Bradley, was charged with assaulting Daniel Turner.

Complainant said that he went to the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN on Sunday night, when defendant came up to him and gave him a punch in the eye. He turned, and defendant then gave him another blow in the face. Then defendant and his brother got him down and kicked him.

William Turner, of Salop Street, Bradley, was charged with assaulting Watson Roberts; Daniel Turner, of Salop Street, Bradley, and Alfred Turner, of Field Street, Bradley, and William Turner, of Salop Street, Bradley, were charged with being disorderly and refusing to quit. The evidence went to show that the Turners quarrelled in the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, and were ejected by the landlord. Daniel Turner then broke two panes of glass with his fist.

The charge against Roberts was dismissed, and the Turners were each fined 5s and costs."

1891 Census

19, Salop Street – ROYAL EXCHANGE INN

- [1] *Richard Roberts* (63), beerhouse keeper, born Lydbrook, Gloucestershire;
- [2] *Mary A. Roberts* (64), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *John Roberts* (30), son, tin mill roller, born Aberavon, Wales;
- [4] *Watson Roberts* (27), son, sheet mill furnaceman, born Lydbrook, Gloucestershire;
- [5] *Mary A. Price* (35), general servant, born Bilston;
- [6] *Mary A. Turner* (14), general servant, born Bilston;
- [7] *Alfred Roberts* (21), son, sheet tinner, born West Bromwich:

Richard Roberts married *Rachel* Blockley in the 1st quarter of 1895.

Richard Roberts, beer retailer, 19, Salop Street. [1896]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/9/1898

"Mrs. *Rachel Roberts*, landlady of the ROYAL EXCHANGE, Bradley, at Dudley County Court yesterday, sued Samuel Paskin, horse dealer, Tipton, for £11 11s 6d for damages for breach of warranty in the sale of a horse. His Honour held that the horse was lame when the warranty of soundness was given, and gave a verdict for plaintiff for the full amount claimed."

1899 Probate

"*Richard Roberts*, of the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Bradley, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 27 March 1899. Probate Lichfield 10 June to *Rachel Roberts*, widow. Effects £221 13s 9d."

1901 Census

19, Salop Street – ROYAL EXCHANGE

- [1] *Rachel Roberts* (51), widow, beer retailer, born Bilston;
- [2] *May Roberts* (28), daughter, domestic servant, born Bilston;
- [3] *Frederick T. Roberts* (22), son, hauler for iron works, born Bilston;
- [4] *Ada Roberts* (17), daughter, domestic servant, born Bilston;
- [5] *Eva M. Roberts* (13), daughter, born Bilston:

Mrs. Rachel Roberts, beer retailer, 35, Salop Street, Bradley. [1904]

Birmingham Mail 27/10/1905

“At Wolverhampton Police Court, this afternoon, *Frederick John Hibbell*, licensed victualler, of Wolverhampton and Coventry, and a town councillor of Coventry, was charged with embezzlement. The defendant was in the employ of the Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Company Ltd., as traveller, at £3 a week and commission. He obtained a large circle of customers in Wolverhampton and district, and in the course of his business he received money and allowed discount, eventually running his yearly income to £600. The prosecution, which was conducted by *Mr. R. T. Lawrence*, barrister, adduced the case of *Mrs. Roberts*, licensed victualler, of Bradley, upon whom the defendant called every week, and it was clearly proved that the defendant allowed a certain discount to the customer, but charged a larger one to his firm. In the case mentioned the overcharge was 4s 6d. There were several other cases, averaging from 2s to 10s 6d. In *Mrs. Roberts’s* case he was instructed to allow her 22½ per cent, but only allowed her 20 per cent discount. When brought before the directors of the company he said he was unable to give an account of the matter. The Stipendiary said it was a serious case, and defendant would have to go to Stafford for three months with hard labour.”

Rachel Roberts – see also SHAMROCK.

It was referred to Compensation Authority in February 1908.

1911 Census

35, Salop Street

- [1] *Arthur E. George* (33), beerhouse keeper, born Bradley;
- [2] *Harriet George* (32), wife, married 11 years, born Bradley;
- [3] *Arthur George* (10), son, born Bradley;
- [4] *Lizzie George* (6), daughter, born Bradley;
- [5] *Alice George* (4), daughter, born Bradley;
- [6] *Annie George* (1), daughter, born Bradley;
- [7] *Elise Ward* (15), domestic servant, born Bradley:

Arthur Edward George, beer retailer, 35, Salop Street. [1912]

Arthur Edward George – see also OLD BUSH, Cross Street, and WHITE HART, Salop Street.

License refused by Compensation Authority on 3rd July 1918.

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.....

ROYAL EXCHANGE, Salop Street, Bradley, Bilston. Beerhouse (ante 1869) License. Licensee, *John Henry Williams*. Registered Owner, Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries Ltd.”

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.....

ROYAL EXCHANGE, Bradley, Bilston, £800.”

Compensation of £800 was paid on 21st December 1918.

South Staffordshire Times 25/9/1920 - Advert

“Sale By Auction. At 6.30pm for 7pm promptly.

J. Southwick and Son have received instructions from the executors, and others, to submit for sale by auction at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, the following Valuable Freehold Properties, including Three commodious De-licensed Dwelling Houses and Premises.....

Lot 2. No.35 Salop Street, Bradley, formerly known as the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, together with two Dwelling Houses, being Nos.1 and 3 at the rear, Salop Street, Bradley.

The ROYAL EXCHANGE could easily be converted into two Dwelling Houses at a comparatively small Cost.”

ROYAL GEORGE

44, (92), Church Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Messrs. Lester, wine merchants, Bilston
William Appleby [1877]
William Appleby (acquired 23rd January 1878)
George Wilkinson and Co., brewers, Birmingham
Henry Plant and Sons [1896]
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1904], [1921]
Mitchells and Butler Ltd. [1960]

LICENSEES

George Rushbury [1791] – **1798**)
William Smith [1801] – [1827]
John Smith* [1828] – [1833]
John Fullard Smith* [1834] – [1835]
Thomas Haynes [1861] – [1862]
George Hyde [1863] – [1865]
Henry Plant [1868] – **1874**);
Frederick William Plant [1871]
Richard Harper (**1874 – 1877**);
William Appleby (**1877 – 1878**);
Matthew Moreton (**1878**);
William Pettifer (**1878 – 1884**);
Charles Paulton Plant (**1884 – 1891**);
Samuel Machin [1891]
George Lawrence (**1891 – 1895**);
William Maddocks (**1895 – 1897**);
James McNairnie (**1897 – 1900**);
George Tubb (**1900 – 1910**);
Charles James Webb (**1910 – 1919**);
Mrs. Mary Ann Dutton (**1919 – [1947]**)

NOTES

92, Church Street [1861], [1871], [1881], [1891], [1892], [1896], [1904]
44, Church Street [1901], [1908], [1911], [1916], [1921], [1921], [1932], [1939], [1940]

It was almost opposite the Town Hall.

It was formerly the BULLS HEAD [1818], [1834], [1835]
OLD BULLS HEAD [1791], [1864], [1865]
BLACK BULLS HEAD [1868], [1870], [1872], [1877]
It was also known as the CAT.
LESTER'S VAULTS [1873]

It had a total frontage about 23ft 9in.

FIRST-RATE
PUBLIC HOUSE AND LIQUOR SHOP,
The OLD BULL'S HEAD INN, Church-street, Bilston.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by R. CORBETT, on the premises, on Tuesday, December 18, 1827, at five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be read, the Good-will, Licences, and immediate Possession of the above-named old established Inn and Liquor Shop, now in the occupation of Mr. William Smith, the proprietor, who has secured an independence by the same, and is retiring on account of ill health, and will grant a lease of the premises to the purchaser at a moderate rental.

The purchaser must take to the stock of ale, wine, spirituous liquors, barrels, brewing utensils and fixtures, at a fair valuation.

The premises are replete with every convenience, and comprise four very extensive store cellars, two spacious parlours, and a liquor shop to the front, a tap-room, bar, and family-room, to the back, a commodious club-room, and five excellent bed-rooms, brewhouse, with malt-room over, stabling for eight horses, a dairy, an extensive range of shopping, various necessary outbuildings, and a large enclosed yard.

The situation is the most commanding in the town, and possesses advantages superior to most others, and, in addition to an extensive run of in and out-door business, there are two highly respectable societies (upwards of 200 members each) which have been established at this house about 20 years, also a respectable money club, and a great share of market and commercial business.

The amount of ale duty averages from £15 to £25 each sitting, and the payments for King's taxes and poor-rates are low.

The premises may be viewed by permission of Mr. Smith; and particulars known at the office of the Auctioneer, New Town, Bilston aforesaid.

SALE POSTPONED.

THE Public are respectfully informed, that the Sale of the Licences, Good-will, &c. of the Old Bull's Head Inn, Bilston, To-morrow (Tuesday) December 18, is POSTPONED till the latter end of January. Due notice will be given of its taking place.

RICHARD CORBETT, Auctioneer

1827

George Rushbury, victualler, OLD BULLS HEAD, and chape-maker, Bilston. [1791]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/1/1799 - Advert

"CROWN AND ANCHOR INN and Hotel, Bilston.

George Rushbury, gratefully sensible of the Favours conferred upon him, by a generous Public, at the OLD BULLS HEAD, returns his most sincere Thanks for the same, and respectfully informs the Gentry, Travellers, and Public at large, that he has taken and entered upon the above Inn (formerly the NEW BULLS HEAD, situate at the lower Part of the Town, leading to Birmingham) which he has fitted up in a neat and elegant Style for their Reception, and where he will use his utmost Endeavours to render their Accommodation both pleasant and satisfactory."

George Rushbury – see also BULLS HEAD, High Street.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 18/5/1801 - Advert

"Coal and Ironstone.

To be Sold by Auction, by Randle Walker, on Tuesday the 26th Day of May instant, at the House of *William Smith*, the OLD BULLS HEAD, in Bilstone, in the County of Stafford....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 24/9/1827 - Died

"On Monday, aged 50, Margaret, wife of Mr. *W. Smith*, of the BLACK BULLS HEAD INN, Bilston."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/12/1827 - Advert

"First-Rate Public House and Liquor Shop, the OLD BULLS HEAD INN, Church Street, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by R. Corbett, on the premises, on Tuesday, December 18, 1827, at five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be read, the Good-will, Licenses and immediate Possession of the above-named old established Inn and Liquor Shop, now in the occupation of Mr. *William Smith*, the proprietor, who has secured an independence by the same, and is retiring on account of ill health, and will grant a lease of the premises to the purchaser at a moderate rental.

The purchaser must take to the stock of ale, wine, spirituous liquors, barrels, brewing utensils and fixtures, at a fair valuation.

The premises are replete with every convenience, and comprise four very extensive store cellars, two spacious parlours, and a liquor shop to the front, a tap-room, bar, and family-room, to the back, a commodious club-room, and five excellent bed-rooms, brewhouse, with malt-room over, stabling for eight horses, a dairy, an extensive range of shopping, various necessary outbuildings, and a large enclosed yard.

The situation is the most commanding in the town, and possesses advantages superior to most others, and, in addition to an extensive run of in and out-door business, there are two highly respectable societies (upwards of 200 members each) which have been established at this house about 20 years, also a respectable money club, and a great share of market and commercial business.

The amount of ale duty averages from £15 to £25 each sitting, and the payments for King's taxes and poor-rates are low.

The premises may be viewed by permission of Mr. *Smith*; and particulars known at the office of the Auctioneer, New Town, Bilston aforesaid."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 17/12/1827 - Died

"On Thursday, aged 56, much regretted by his family and friends, Mr. *William Smith*, of the BLACK BULLS HEAD INN, Bilston."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 17/12/1827 - Advert

"Sale Postponed.

The Public are respectfully informed that the Sale of the Licenses, Good-will, &c, of the OLD BULLS HEAD INN, Bilston, Tomorrow (Tuesday) December 18, is Postponed, till the latter end of January. Due notice will be given of its taking place.

Richard Corbett, Auctioneer."

* possibly the same person.

John Smith was also a japanner and tin plate worker. [1833]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/12/1835 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale of an old-established Inn, Stock, Fixtures, Furniture, &c, at Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett, on Thursday, December 3, 1835, at five o'clock in the afternoon, at the House of Mr. *J. F. Smith*, known as the OLD BULLS HEAD INN, Church Street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford (which will be sold by virtue of a deed of assignment for the benefit of his creditors), subject to conditions there and then to be read.

One undivided Moiety of and in the above-named old-established and well-accustomed Inn, and also the interest of the said *J. F. Smith* in an agreement for a lease of the other Moiety thereof, upwards of two years of which are unexpired; and likewise the licenses, good-will, and immediate possession of the said Inn, the whole of which will be sold in one lot, and without reserve.

The house and premises are copyhold within the manor of Stowheath, and comprise four very good store cellars, two parlours, and a liquor shop to the front, a large tap room, bar, and a small parlour at the back, a large club room, and five convenient bed rooms, the whole very comfortably fitted up; there are also a small cooking kitchen, a spacious brewhouse, with malt room over, two good stables, with lofts over, and an extensive range of shopping, two stories high, heretofore used as a japanner's manufactory and warehouse, with other conveniences and appurtenances to the same belonging. The whole of the out-buildings are very compact in a well enclosed retired back yard.

The purchaser will not be expected to take to any part of the fixtures, stock, or furniture, by appraisement, the whole of which will be sold by auction, also without reserve, on the two following days, Friday and Saturday, the 4th and 5th days of December, to commence each morning at ten o'clock; printed particulars of which are in circulation, and may be had on the premises, or at the office of the Auctioneer, New Town, Bilston aforesaid, where further particulars may be obtained, as also at the office of Messrs. Willim & Son, solicitors, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/12/1835 - Notice

“This is to Give Notice, that by an Indenture dated the third day of December, 1835, *John Fullerd Smith*, of Church Street, in Bilston, in the county of Stafford, victualler and japanner, hath bargained, sold, assigned, and transferred, all his real and personal estate and effects whatsoever, to Adam Hill, of Bilston aforesaid, maltster, and Robert Bew, of the same place, druggist, two of the creditors of the said *John Fullerd Smith*, upon trust for the equal benefit of all the creditors of him the said *John Fullerd Smith* who shall execute the same indenture on or before the 10th day of February next, and that the said indenture was duly executed by the said *John Fullerd Smith*, on the said third day of December, and by the said Adam Hill and Robert Bew, on the fifth day of December aforesaid, and which said indenture was witnessed, as to the execution thereof by the said *John Fullerd Smith*, by John Willim the younger, of Bilston aforesaid, Attorney at Law, and as to the execution thereof by the said Adam Hill and Robert Bew, by John Bowen, clerk to Messrs. Willim and Son, solicitors, Bilston aforesaid. And this is further to give notice that the said deed of assignment is lying at the office of the said Messrs. Willim and Son, in Bilston aforesaid, for the signatures of such of the creditors of the said *John Fullerd Smith* who have not already executed the same, and that all the said creditors who shall refuse or neglect to sign the same, or assent thereunto in writing, on or before the said 10th day of February next, will be excluded all benefit and advantage arising therefrom.

Willim and Son, Bilston, Solicitors to the Trustees.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/1/1836 - Advert

“Sale by Private Treaty of an old-established Inn, Bilston.

To be Sold by Private Contract, the entirety of that old-established and well-accustomed Inn, called the OLD BULLS HEAD, situate in Church Street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, late in the occupation of Mr. *John Fullerd Smith*, together with the licenses, good-will, and immediate possession of the said Inn.

The Estate is Copyhold of Inheritance, within the Manor of Stowheath, and comprises four very good store cellars, an entrance, two parlours, and a liquor shop to the front, a large tap-room, bar, and a small parlour at the back, a large club room, and five convenient bed rooms.

There is also a cooking kitchen, a spacious brewhouse with a malt room over, two good stables with lofts over, and an extensive range of shopping two stories high, lately used as a japan manufactory and warehouse, with other appurtenances to the same belonging. The whole of the outbuildings are very compact, and in a well enclosed back yard.

To treat for the same apply to Messrs. Robert Bew, chemist, and Adam Hill, maltster, or to Messrs. Willim and Son, Solicitors, all of Bilston aforesaid.”

1861 Census

92, Church Street

- [1] *Thomas Haynes* (42), widower, wine and spirit merchant, born Stourbridge;
- [2] *Hannah L. Haynes* (6), daughter, born Bilston;
- [3] *Henrietta G. Harper* (23), visitor, born Dudley;
- [4] *Jane Nicholls* (31), servant, born Tipton;
- [5] *Sarah Edwards* (20), servant, born Wistanstow, Shropshire;
- [6] *Sarah Page* (20), servant, born Darlaston;
- [7] *Harrison Thomas* (21), porter, born Yorton, Shropshire:

Thomas Haynes, BULLS HEAD, 92, Church Street [1862]

Staffordshire Advertiser 11/4/1863

"The committee of gentlemen appointed to conduct local celebrations of the marriage of the Prince of Wales brought their labours to a very happy and imposing close on Wednesday evening last, by a complimentary dinner to their Chairman, and the Chairman of the Board of Town Commissioners. The repast, of excellent character, was served up by Mr. *George Hyde*, of the BULLS HEAD INN, at St. Leonard's Old Schoolroom, which had been so well decorated that its aspect was entirely changed, and bore a tasteful and most pleasant appearance. About eighty of the principal gentlemen of the town assembled to do honour to Mr. Wells....."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/6/1863 - Advert

"Valuable Freehold Shop in Church Street, and Messuages in Chapel Street, Bilston.

Messrs. Morrell and Griffiths will Sell by Auction, at the House of Mr. *George Hyde*, the BULLS HEAD INN, Church Street, Bilston, on Tuesday, the 30th day of June, 1863....."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/12/1863

"Yesterday, the adjourned inquest on the body of John Hollingsworth, the young man who, as reported in Monday's *Gazette*, was killed by being thrown out of a gig on the Bilston Road, was held at the BULLS HEAD, Church Street, Bilston, before Mr. T. M. Phillips, Coroner.

Mr. Pearce, landlord of the SPRINGFIELDS INN, Wolverhampton (where the deceased had been prior to starting on his drive), was called to prove that he left the house perfectly sober, and Mr. Best, surgeon, deposed that death resulted from fracture of the skull and depression on the brain, caused by the accident.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned, but the jury censured Butler, the publican, to whose house deceased was removed, and Price, the young man who was in the gig with him, for their lack of discretion in not having called in a medical man until several hours after the accident."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/3/1870 - Advert

"Sale of Valuable Freehold Liquor Vaults, the BULLS HEAD INN, 92, Church Street, Bilston.

By Mr. Samuel Baker, at the GREAT WESTERN INN, Hall Street, Bilston, at Seven o'clock in the evening.

Coldicott and Canning, Solicitors, Dudley."

1871 Census

92, Church Street

- [1] *Frederick William Plant* (22), spirit merchant employing 1 brewer and 2 assistants, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] *Sarah Vaughan* (29), barmaid, born Codsall Wood;
- [3] *Harriet Mary Stanley* (23), barmaid, born Birmingham;
- [4] *Mary Smith* (20), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/4/1875

"The following have been nominated to fill the eight vacancies for Bilston parish at the Board of Guardians.....

R. Harper, licensed victualler, Church Street."

[*Richard Harper* was not elected.]

Evening Express 14/4/1877

“James Nicholls (21), painter, Princess Street, was brought up in custody charged with stealing a gold brooch, a silk handkerchief, 62 cigars, and 2s 1d in money, belonging to *William Appleby*, victualler, Church Street.

The prisoner was painting at prosecutor’s house on Tuesday and Wednesday, and on the latter day the goods and money named were missed. The police were informed of the affair, and on prisoner’s house being searched the cigars were found. It subsequently transpired that he had given the brooch to a young woman, and the handkerchief was found in one of his pockets.

Prisoner pleaded guilty, and was committed to gaol for a month.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/11/1877 - Advert

“To Maltsters, Publicans, Brewers, and Others.

Highly Important Sale of valuable Freehold Old-Licensed Liquor Vaults and Premises, the ROYAL GEORGE INN, formerly called LESTER’S VAULTS, opposite the Town Hall, Church Street, Bilston.

Messrs. J. Morrell and Son have been favoured with instructions from Mr. *William Appleby* to Offer for Sale by Auction, on Tuesday, November 20, 1877, upon the above Premises, at Six o’clock in the Evening.....

All that very valuable Freehold Old-Licensed Inn, known as the ROYAL GEORGE INN, but formerly called LESTER’S VAULTS, having a frontage of 42ft 9in to Church Street, Bilston, aforesaid, with gateway and hall entrance, and containing on ground floor commodious Liquor Vaults, 46ft x 17ft, bar parlour, smoke-room, sitting-room, kitchen, wash-house, four-stall stable, with loft over, large and convenient yard, with gateway entrance. The upper stories contain drawing-room, billiard-room, five good bed-rooms, and wc, large spirit and malt rooms. The Cellaring consists of four lofty and well drained cellars.

The above Property is situated in the centre of the town and immediately opposite the Town Hall, and offers a rare opportunity of obtaining one of the largest and best situated vaults and premises in the town. The Stock and Fixtures to be taken to by the purchaser at a fair valuation. Possession may be had on completion of purchase.

For further particulars, apply to Messrs. Gough and Colebourn, Solicitors, King Street, Wolverhampton; Messrs. Robinson and Watts, Solicitors, Wolverhampton Street, Dudley; Mr. *William Appleby*, the Proprietor, on the Premises; or the Auctioneer, Swan Bank, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 21/9/1878

“The Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

Attention was then directed to the complaints made by Chief-superintendent McCrea at the annual licensing sessions respecting the performance of music at certain public houses in Bilston on each week day evening.....

Mr. Loveridge remarked that the chief cause of complaint was the fact of music being played in the public houses every night during the week except Sunday, and he and his brother magistrates had received a letter from the Board of Commissioners on the same subject.....

The license of *Thomas Pettifer*, of the ROYAL GEORGE INN, Church Street, Bilston, was renewed.”

1881 Census

92, Church Street

[1] *William Pettifer* (35), licensed victualler, born St. Neots, Huntingdonshire;

[2] Sarah A. Pettifer (36), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] Jane A. Pettifer (16), daughter, assistant barmaid, born Oldbury;

[4] Charles J. Pettifer (15), son, publican’s assistant, born Birmingham:

Birmingham Daily Post 12/8/1882

“At Bilston Police Court, yesterday, Noah Daniells, who appeared before the Bench for the seventeenth time, was fined £2 and costs for refusing to quit the ROYAL GEORGE, Church Street, on the 1st inst.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 15/12/1883 - Advert

“Wines and Spirits for Christmas.

H. Plant and Sons, Wholesale Wine and Spirit Merchants, Market Place, Bilston, supply Wines and Spirits, well matured, to Families and the Trade at very reasonable prices.

Wholesale and Family orders may be left at any of the following Branch Establishments.....

ROYAL GEORGE, Church Street, Bilston.....

H. P. & S. will be glad to forward to the Trade, in bond or duty paid, samples or prices.”

William Pettifer – see also HORSE AND JOCKEY, and SADDLE AND STIRRUPS.

1891 Census

92, Church Street

- [1] *Samuel Machin* (52), married, innkeeper, born Madeley, Shropshire;
- [2] *Mary Lewis* (58), sister, widow, living on her own means, born Dawley, Shropshire;
- [3] *Elizabeth Machin* (54), sister, living on her own means, born Dawley, Shropshire:

London Gazette 14/1/1896

“*George Lawrence*, lately residing at the ROYAL GEORGE INN, Church-street, Bilston, Staffordshire, and trading there and at the RISING SUN INN, Amblecote, Stourbridge, Worcestershire, now residing and trading at the RED COW INN, Bridge-street, Bilston aforesaid, Licensed Victualler.”

William Maddocks = *William Maddock*

James McNairnie – see also ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, Oxford Street.

1901 Census

44, Church Street – ROYAL GEORGE

- [1] *George Tubb* (41), licensed victualler, born Gloucester;
- [2] *Grace Tubb* (54), wife, born Scotland;
- [3] *Mabel Shaw* (23), step-daughter, barmaid, born Gloucester;
- [4] *Lily Tubb* (20), daughter, barmaid, born Gloucester:

George Tubb – see also ROYAL GEORGE, Willenhall, and TALBOT, Bilston.

1911 Census

44, Church Street – ROYAL GEORGE

- [1] *Charles James Webb* (36), publican, born Walsall;
- [2] *Mary Ann Webb* (36), wife, married 4 years, born Walsall:

Charles James Webb see also OLDE WHITE ROSE.

1921 Census

44, Church Street – ROYAL GEORGE

- [1] *Mary Dutton* (49), widow, manageress, born Birmingham;
- [2] *Doris Morrall* (24), daughter, home duties, born Oldbury;
- [3] *William James Morrall* (26), son-in-law, tailor, born Walsall;
- [4] *Elsie Dutton* (21), daughter, ledger clerk, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Dora Dutton* (17), daughter, drapers shop assistant, born Walsall:

1939 Register

44, Church Street (4 of 5)

- [1] *Mary A. Dutton*, date of birth 18/1/1871, licensee, manageress, widowed;
- [2] *William J. Morrall*, dob 29/9/1894, tailor's cutter, married;
- [3] *Doris Clara Morrall*, dob 18/12/1896, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [4] *Barrie T. Morrall*, dob 22/8/1922, clothes shop assistant, single;

1947 Probate

“*Mary Ann Dutton* of the ROYAL GEORGE INN, Church Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, widow, died 3 February 1947. Administration Birmingham 15 April to *Doris Clara Morrall* (wife of *William James Morrall*). Effects £443 0s 10d.”

Mary Ann Dutton – see also TEDDESLEY ARMS, Walsall.

Closed

Birmingham Daily Post 8/6/1960

"Six public houses owned by Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. in Wolverhampton are being offered for sale by auction in London on July 5. 'The houses are superfluous. Some of them are in shopping areas and there is already one public house owned by the brewery in the same street,' Mr. H. A. Walker, chief executive of the company, said yesterday. It was the policy of the company to sell any surplus public houses, he said. Those in Wolverhampton would probably be turned into shops. The six public houses are.....

ROYAL GEORGE, Bilston."

Birmingham Daily Post 11/6/1960 - Advert

"Healey & Baker (Established 1820) 29, St. George Street, Hanover Square, London, W1. Mayfair 9292.

Surveyors, Valuers, Auctioneers and Estate Agents.

For Sale by Auction, at the London Auction Mart, 155, Queen Victoria Street, EC4, on Tuesday, July 5, 1960 (unless previously sold).

Freehold De-Licensed Public Houses with vacant possession, ripe for immediate development or conversion as retail shops with offices or showrooms over. Occupying prime retail trading positions.....

ROYAL GEORGE INN, Church Street, Bilston."

Demolished

Unreserved Sale of an old-established Inn, Stock, Fixtures, Furniture, &c. at Bilston.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, BY RICHARD CORBETT,

On Thursday, December 3, 1835, at five o'clock in the afternoon, at the House of Mr. J. F. Smith, known as the Old Bull's Head Inn, Church-street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford (which will be sold by virtue of a deed of assignment for the benefit of his creditors), subject to conditions there and then to be read,

ONE undivided Moiety of and in the above-named old-established and well accustomed INN, and also the interest of the said J. F. Smith in an agreement for a lease of the other Moiety thereof, upwards of two years of which; are unexpired and likewise the licenses, good-will, and immediate possession of the said Inn, the whole of which will be sold in one lot, and without reserve.

The house and premises are copyhold within the manor of Stowheath, and comprise four very good store cellars, two parlours, and a liquor shop to the front, a large tap room, bar, and a small parlour at the back, a large club room, and five convenient bed rooms, the whole very comfortably fitted up; there are also a small cooking kitchen, a spacious brewhouse, with malt room over, two good stable, with lofts over, and an extensive range of shopping, two stories high, heretofore used as a japanner's manufactory and warehouse, with other conveniences and appurtenances to the same belonging. The whole of the out buildings are very compact in a well enclosed retired back yard.

The purchaser will not be expected to take to any part of the fixtures, stock, or furniture, by appraisement, the whole of which will be sold by auction, also without reserve, on the two following days, viz. Friday and Saturday, the 4th and 5th days of December, to commence each morning at ten o'clock; printed particulars of which are in circulation, and may be had on the premises, or at the office of the AUCTIONEER, New-town, Bilston aforesaid, where further particulars may be obtained, as also at the office of Messrs. WILLIM & SON, solicitors, Bilston.

1835

SMITH'S ASSIGNMENT.

THIS IS TO GIVE NOTICE, that by an Indenture dated the third day of December, 1835, JOHN FULLERD SMITH, of Church-street, in Bilston, in the county of Stafford, victualler and japanner, hath bargained, sold, assigned, and transferred, all his real and personal estate and effects whatsoever, to Adam Hill, of Bilston aforesaid, malster, and Robert Bew, of the same place, druggist, two of the creditors of the said John Fullerd Smith, upon trust for the equal benefit of all the creditors of him the said John Fullerd Smith who shall execute the same indenture on or before the 10th day of February next, and that the said indenture was duly executed by the said John Fullerd Smith, on the said third day of December, and by the said Adam Hill and Robert Bew, on the fifth day of December aforesaid, and which said indenture was witnessed, as to the execution thereof by the said John Fullerd Smith, by John Willim the younger, of Bilston aforesaid, Attorney at Law, and as to the execution thereof by the said Adam Hill and Robert Bew, by John Bowen, clerk to Messrs. Willim and Son, solicitors, Bilston aforesaid. And this is further to give notice that the said deed of assignment is lying at the office of the said Messrs. Willim and Son, in Bilston aforesaid, for the signatures of such of the creditors of the said John Fullerd Smith who have not already executed the same, and that all the said creditors who shall refuse or neglect to sign the same, or assent therunto in writing, on or before the said 10th day of February next, will be excluded all benefit and advantage arising therefrom.

WILLIM AND SON, Bilston,

Solicitors to the Trustees.

1835

*Sale by Private Treaty of an old-established Inn,
Bilston.*

TO BE SOLD BY PRIVATE CONTRACT,

THE entirety of that old-established and well-accustomed INN, called the OLD BULL'S HEAD, situate in Church-street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, late in the occupation of Mr. John Fuller Smith, together with the licenses, good-will, and immediate possession of the said Inn.

The Estate is Copyhold of Inheritance, within the Manor of Stowheath, and comprises four very good store cellars, an entrance, two parlours, and a liquor shop to the front, a large tap-room, bar, and a small parlour at the back, a large club room, and five convenient bed rooms.

There is also a cooking kitchen, a spacious brewhouse with a malt room over, two good stables with lofts over, and an extensive range of shopping two stories high, lately used as a japan manufactory and warehouse, with other appurtenances to the same belonging. The whole of the outbuildings are very compact, and in a well enclosed back yard.

To treat for the same apply to Messrs. ROBERT BEW, chemist, and ADAM HILL, maltster, or to Messrs. WILLIAM and SON, Solicitors, all of Bilston aforesaid.

1836

To MALTSTERS, PUBLICANS, BREWERS, and Others —
Highly Important SALE of valuable FREEHOLD OLD-
LICENSED LIQUOR VAULTS and PREMISES, the Royal
George Inn, formerly called Lester's Vaults, opposite the TOWN
HALL, CHURCH-STREET, BILSTON.

MESSRS. J. MORRELL and SON have been
favoured with instructions from Mr. William Appleby to
OFFER for SALE by AUCTION, on TUESDAY, November 20, 1877,
upon the above Premises, at six o'clock in the Evening, subject to
conditions then to be read, which may be seen at the Offices of the
respective Solicitors named below, three days previous, and will
incorporate the Common Form Conditions of the Wolverhampton
Law Association. —

All that very valuable FREEHOLD OLD-LICENSED INN,
known as the Royal George Inn, but formerly called Lester's Vaults,
having a frontage of 42ft. 9in. to Church-street, Bilston, aforesaid,
with gateway and hall entrance, and containing on ground floor
commodious Liquor Vaults, 46ft. x 17ft., bar parlour, smoke-
room, sitting-room, kitchen, wash-house, four-stall stable, with
loft over, large and convenient yard, with gateway entrance. The
upper stories contain drawing room, billiard room, five good bed-
rooms, and w.c., large spirit and malt rooms. The Cellaring con-
sists of four lofty and well drained cellars.

The above Property is situated in the centre of the town and
immediately opposite the Town Hall, and offers a rare opportunity
of obtaining one of the largest and best situated vaults and
remises in the town. The Stock and Fixtures to be taken to by the purchaser
at a fair valuation. Possession may be had on completion of
purchase.

For further particulars, apply to Messrs. GOUGH and COLEBOURN,
Solicitors, King-street, Wolverhampton; Messrs. ROBINSON and
WATTS, Solicitors, Wolverhampton-street, Dudley; Mr. WILLIAM
APPLEBY, the Proprietor, on the Premises; or the AUCTIONEERS,
Swan Bank, Bilston.

1877

Wines and Spirits for Christmas.

H. PLANT AND SONS,

WHOLESALE

WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS,

Market Place, Bilston,

Supply Wines and Spirits, well matured, to Families
and the Trade at very reasonable prices.

Wholesale and Family orders may be left at any of
the following Branch Establishments:—

- THE BALLOON, High Street, Bilston;
" ROYAL GEORGE, Church Street, Bilston;
" MALT SHOVEL, Oxford Street, Bilston;
" WAGGON AND HORSES, Oxford Street, Bilston;
" PIED BULL, Snow Hill, Wolverhampton;
" SHAKESPEARE, Horseley Fields, Wolverhampton;
" LORD RAGLAN, Brickkiln Street, "
" KING'S HEAD, Market Place, Willenhall;
" MALT SHOVEL, Upper High Street, Wednesbury;
" BULLS HEAD, High Street, Princes End.

H. P. & S. Will be glad to forward to the Trade, in bond
or duty paid, samples or prices.

1883

HEALEY & BAKER

(Established 1820)

29, ST. GEORGE STREET, HANOVER SQUARE, LONDON, W.1.

MAYFAIR, W.2C.

SURVEYORS, VALUERS, AUCTIONEERS & ESTATE AGENTS.

FOR SALE BY AUCTION

At the LONDON AUCTION MART, 155, QUEEN VICTORIA STREET, E.C.4,
on TUESDAY, JULY 5, 1960 (unless previously sold).

FREEHOLD DE-LICENSED

PUBLIC HOUSES

WITH VACANT POSSESSION

RIPE FOR IMMEDIATE DEVELOPMENT OR CONVERSION AS
RETAIL SHOPS WITH OFFICES OR SHOWROOMS OVER.

Occupying prime retail trading positions

WOLVERHAMPTON

THE DUKE OF YORK, PRINCESS STREET. THE BELL INN, CHAPEL ASH.
THE ODDFELLOWS ARMS, WORCESTER STREET. THE RED LION, SNOW HILL.

BILSTON

THE LION, CHURCH STREET. THE ROYAL GEORGE INN, CHURCH STREET.

NOTTINGHAM

DERBY

THE BLACK SWAN, GOOSE GATE. THE GEORGE AND DRAGON, ALBERT ST.

Joint Auctioneers' as to The Oddfellows Arms, Wolverhampton; The Red Lion,
Wolverhampton; The Lion Hotel, Bilston and The Royal George Inn, Bilston:—
NEALE & ALLDRIDGE and FOSTER & PARTNERS, 50, Newhall Street, Birmingham.
CENTRAL 2066-7-8-9.

1960

THE FREEHOLD PROPERTY

known as THE ROYAL GEORGE INN CHURCH STREET, BILSTON

The premises occupy a busy retail trading position close to Timothy Whites and Taylors, Ltd., Broadmead, Ltd., etc.

Brick built and comprising

DE-LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE

Designed on basement, ground floor and two upper floors together with

SHOP AND UPPER PART ADJOINING

Total frontage about 42 ft. Site depth about 168 ft.

The Royal George Inn

Frontage about 23 ft. 9 in.

Maximum built depth about 55 ft.

Site depth about 168 ft.

The upper floors are approached internally and comprise two rooms on the first floor and one room on the second floor having a total area of approximately 515 sq. ft. The basement is utilised for storage and has an area of about 850 sq. ft.

VACANT POSSESSION

of The Royal George Inn on completion.

The Justices and Excise Licences and all furnishings, trade fixtures and fittings, are excluded from the sale.

Shop premises adjoining (outlined in blue)

Frontage about 18 ft. 3 in. Shop depth about 46 ft. 6 in.

Built depth about 69 ft. Site depth about 108 ft.

The two upper floors are approached internally and provide two rooms on the first floor and three rooms on the second floor, one of which oversails the first floor of The Royal George Inn.

The property is **FREEHOLD**.

The shop premises are let on a full repairing and insuring lease for a term of 21 years from 24th June, 1959, to

MELIAS, LTD.

the well known multiple grocers and provision retailers, at the modest exclusive rental of

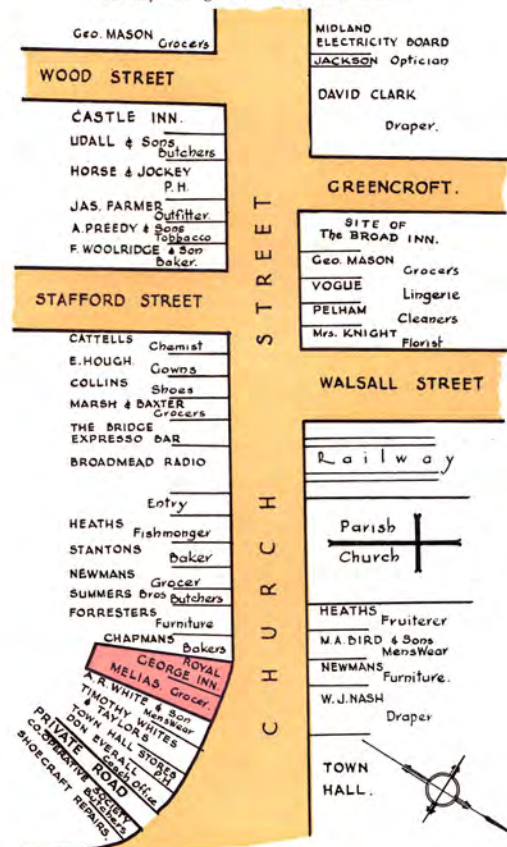
per **£200** annum

rising to ~~£300~~ per annum in 1966 and to £400 per annum in 1973.

THE ROYAL GEORGE INN IS

**RIPE FOR CONVERSION OR REDEVELOPMENT
AS RETAIL SHOPS WITH OFFICES OR SHOWROOMS
ABOVE.**

KEY PLAN
showing location of
The Royal George Inn, Church Street, Bilston.



ROYAL OAK

3, Ettingshall Road (20, (22), Ettingshall Lane), Ettingshall, BILSTON

OWNERS

Ann Fellows Owen

Mary Ann Lett, wife of Richard Lett, chartermaster, Bilston

Warren Lett

Clara Waller and Caroline Lett, 68, New Waverley Street, Stockton on Tees

C. Walker and C. Plummer [1921]

Atkinsons Ltd.

LICENSEES

Mrs. Ann Fellows Owen [1858] – **1874**);

Mary Ann Baker (**1874 – 1876**);

Richard Lett (**1876 – 1877**);

Richard Owen (**1877 – 1879**);

Richard Lett (**1879 – 1907**);

Warren Lett (**1907 – 1916**);

Caroline Lett (**1916 – 1918**);

John Walker (**1918 – 1924**);

James Plummer (**1924 – 1932**);

John Sheffield (**1932 – 1935**);

Charles Samuel Tedstill (**1935**);

Ernest Albert Taylor (**1935 – [1940]**)

Sidney Kettle [1969]

BROAD LANES COLLEBY
Near Bilston.

BEST THICK COAL.

Best Thick Coal	..	11s.	per ton.
Lumps	10s.	„
Rough Slack	6s.6d.	„
Engine Slack	4s.6d.	„

Weighed and Delivered in any part of Bilston.

RICHARD LETT,
Caponfield Colliery,
Royal Oak, Ettingshall Road, near Wolverhampton.

1886

NOTES

22, Ettingshall Lane [1871]

20, Ettingshall Lane [1881]

3, Ettingshall Road [1901], [1911], [1921], [1940]

It had a beerhouse license.

Ann F. Owen, beerhouse keeper, Ettingshall. [1858]

1861 Census

Ettingshall Lane

[1] Ann F. Owen (51), widow, victualler, born Welshpool;

[2] Mary Ann Owen, (18), daughter, dressmaker, born Bilston;

[3] John Owen (14), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[4] Richard Owen (9), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[5] Mary Ann Wood (12), niece, servant, born Bilston;

[6] Henry Wood (46), boarder, unmarried, boatman, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/12/1861

“Staffordshire Winter Assizes.....

Daniel Kyte, 25, pump maker, and Josiah Jackson, 24, joiner, were indicted for uttering two forged notes, at Sedgley, on the 23rd of September. Mr. Hill prosecuted, and Mr. Kenealy appeared in defence.

Mr. Hill opened the case by stating the facts as deposed by the following witnesses.

Mr. Baker, UNION MILLS INN, Catchems Corner, proved that the two prisoners, with a third man, and John Wedge, called at his house, on the 23rd of September. A note (Macclesfield Bank) was given him by his servant, and he took the change into the bar, and offered it to Wedge, whom he knew, but Wedge pointed to Jackson. Witness gave Jackson the change, and Jackson wrote the name ‘Williams’ upon it. The note also bore the name of Wedge.

John Wedge, Catchems Corner, said he saw the two prisoners in the street on the afternoon of the 23rd of September, one of whom he knew personally, and they asked him to get change for a £5 note on a distant (Macclesfield) bank. They told him it was good, and he took it to the house of a grocer named Eadie, but Eadie refused to change it. Witness then went home, and the prisoners followed him, and Kyte asked him to go and have something to drink. He went with them to Mr. Tippers’s, the BULLS HEAD, and a third man, who now joined the prisoners, offered the note again, but Mr. Tippers refused to change it. They then went to Mr. Baker’s, the UNION MILLS public house, but they did not stay there many minutes. Witness and the two prisoners next went to a foot race, at Sedgley, and when they returned they went to the ROYAL OAK. While there, Jackson offered another note, but the landlord would not change it. The next place they visited was Pennington’s, the BRIDGE INN, going afterwards to *Owen’s*, the ROYAL OAK, again. On the way Jackson asked what sort of house Tippers’s was, and made inquiries about the ‘strong box.’ In consequence of other conversation witness asked what had become of the first note they showed him, and they told him they had ‘passed’ it at Baker’s. In the course of this conversation Jackson placed a second note in witness’s hands, and witness told him he should keep it till he ascertained that the first was a good one. When this was told to Kyte and the third man, Kyte threatened to kill him. Witness said that unless he killed him outright he should appear against him. Kyte, Jackson, and the other man then attacked witness, and he became insensible. When he recovered himself he found his money gone – about £30 or £40. They did not, however, take the note he had just received from Jackson. This note was subsequently given to the police.

Cross-examined by Mr. Kenealy: The robbery took place in the ROYAL OAK INN. They did not offer witness any money to change the note; they told him that if he wanted a sovereign out of it he could have it, but he took no notice of them. When the first note was presented at the BULLS HEAD INN it had witness’s name upon it; it had been written in order to assist him in passing it.

By the Judge: The third man joined the two prisoners after they had been to Tippers’s.

Thomas Pennington, Bridge Street, proved that early in the afternoon of the 23rd, the prisoner Jackson offered him what he represented to be a £5 note. He considered it to be a bad one, and he told Jackson he didn’t like the look of it. Wedge was with Jackson when this occurred, and they were afterwards joined by Kyte and another man.

Cross-examined by Mr. Kenealy: Wedge seemed as anxious to change the note as the other man; he said he wanted 10s out of it.

William Vickers, WHITE HART INN, Bilston Street, Wolverhampton, proved that on the morning of the 23rd September, the two prisoners and a third man called at his house. The third man showed several notes in a handkerchief, and the prisoners asked witness to change them. They told him that if he offered £12 for three of them, they thought the man would take it. He was a simple man, they said, and wanted to spend his money, and subsequently they told witness that this third man had got the notes from his ‘woman,’ who ‘took’ them from a farmer. He had no money in the house, and he gave them no change.

Superintendent M’Crea produced the two notes – the one passed to Mr. Baker, and the other retained by Wedge.

Detective-officer Stokes proved having apprehended the prisoners in Park Street, Birmingham. A third man, named Brown, was apprehended, but the Magistrates discharged him. The prisoners told him they were aware the police were after them, and they could have got away if they desired.

In defence Mr. Kenealy alleged that the two prisoners were the victims of the third man, who had succeeded in making his escape. He pointed to different parts of the evidence to support this view, and especially to that of the witness Vickers.

The Judge returned a verdict of guilty, and the prisoners were each sentenced to ten years’ penal servitude.”

Mary Ann Owen (21), spinster, married Joseph Baker (22), bachelor, iron bucket maker, on 9th November 1863.

Mrs. Ann Fellows Owen, beer retailer, Ettingshall. [1865], [1868]

1871 Census

22, Ettingshall Lane

- [1] Ann F. Owen (64), widow, publican, born Bilston;
- [2] Mary A. Baker (29), daughter, widow, dressmaker, born Bilston;
- [3] Richard Owen (19), son, boat builder, born Bilston;
- [4] Harriet Hargett (17), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Ann Fellows Owen died on 10th August 1874.

Mary Ann Baker married Richard Lett in the 4th quarter of 1875.

1881 Census

20, Ettingshall Lane – ROYAL OAK

- [1] Richard Lett (49), coal master employing 10 men and 2 boys, born Bilston;
- [2] Mary Ann Lett (40), wife, born Ettingshall;
- [3] Julia Lett (16), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] Albert A. Lett (14), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] Clara Lett (5), daughter, scholar, born Ettingshall;
- [6] Herbert Lett (3), son, born Ettingshall;
- [7] Warren Lett (2), son, born Ettingshall;
- [8] Sarah Lett (19), domestic servant, born Sedgley:

Darlaston Weekly Times 16/8/1884

“On Saturday, at the ROYAL OAK INN, near Ettingshall Road Station, Mr. W. H. Phillips, district coroner, held an enquiry into the causes of the death of John Mowbray (55), platelayer, who was killed on the line on the previous Thursday.

William Mowbray, brother of the deceased, gave evidence as to his age, which he stated to be 55. Deceased was a platelayer, and for many years in the employment of the London and North Western Railway Company.

George Challenger, platelayer on the London and North Western Railway, who had been with the deceased when the accident happened, gave evidence showing that in avoiding a down goods train deceased had stepped on to the four-foot. The noise of the goods train prevented him from hearing an engine coming down the four-foot. Witness did not know whether the engine driver whistled. When the goods train was passing, witness's attention was drawn to it. After it had gone by he turned round, and saw Mowbray lying quite dead between the rails, on the four-foot. The accident occurred about twenty-five minutes to five pm.

By the Coroner: Witness had read the company's rules for platelayers. He was aware that they ought not to go on the four-foot.

After Moses Aston, platelayer, had given confirmatory evidence, the coroner said that the stationmaster could not too strongly impress on the company's servants the necessity for observing the rule not to go on the four-foot.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 31/7/1886 - Advert

“Broad Lanes Colliery near Bilston. Best Thick Coal.

Best Thick Coal, 11s per ton.

Lumps, 10s per ton.

Rough Slack, 6s 6d per ton.

Engine Slack, 4s 6d per ton.

Weighed and Delivered in any part of Bilston.

Richard Lett, Caponfield Colliery, ROYAL OAK, Ettingshall Road, near Wolverhampton.”

1891 Census

Ettingshall Lane – ROYAL OAK

- [1] *Richard Lett* (65), chartermaster, born Bilston;
- [2] *Mary Ann Lett* (49), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Albert Arthur Lett* (24), son, coal miner, born Bilston;
- [4] *Clara Lett* (14), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] *Herbert Lett* (13), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] *Warren Lett* (12), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] *Sarah Blakewell* (61), visitor, born Warwickshire:

Birmingham Daily Post 7/2/1895

“The Friezland Colliery, situate near to the gasworks, at Ettingshall, was the scene of an unfortunate accident yesterday afternoon, by which two men lost their lives. The colliery, which is only of small dimensions, is worked by Mr. *Richard Lett*, a beerhouse keeper, who resides at Ettingshall, but who has been the lessee of collieries at Spring Vale and Ettingshall for many years, and as an indication of the care with which he causes the working places and machinery to be inspected, there has not, until yesterday, been a fatal accident in any of the pits for thirty-two years.

The miners went to work about eight o’clock in the morning, after the ‘doggy’ had reported the working places to be in a safe condition, and the operation of coal-getting in the headings proceeded safely until about half-past one o’clock. At that time *Robert Hawkins* (37), a married man, of No.5, Nelsons Yard, Bridge Street, Bilston, and *John Tranter* (35), single, of Temple Street, Bilston, were working in a heading, when a quantity of coal fell and partially buried them. The noise of coal falling attracted the attention of four other men who were working near, and they at once hurried to the place and set to work to release their unfortunate fellow-workmen. The weight of coal was, however, so great that they could not be extricated until after half-an-hour’s hard work, and it was then found that both the men were dead. The bodies were removed to their late homes to await an inquest. The deceased man *Hawkins* leaves a widow and three small children.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 8/2/1895

“Mr. A. B. Smith (deputy county coroner) opened an inquest at the SHIP AND RAINBOW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, yesterday evening, touching the deaths of the two men, *Robert Hawkins* and *John Tranter*, who were killed in the Friezland Colliery at Ettingshall, under circumstances already reported. Mr. *Wassall* appeared for Mr. *Lett*, the owner of the colliery.

Mary Ann Hawkins, widow of *Robert Hawkins*, said she never heard her husband complain of anything at the colliery.

Mary Ann Bayley, housekeeper to *John Tranter*, to whom she was to have been married in a short time, also gave evidence to the effect that he had never complained about his work.

The inquest was then adjourned until Tuesday next.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 16/2/1895

“On Tuesday an inquest was held on the bodies of *John Tranter*, 64, Temple Street, and *Robert Hawkins*, 35, Bridge Street, both miners, who met with their deaths in the Friezland Colliery, Ettingshall, belonging to Mr. *Lett*, on the 6th inst, under circumstances already reported. Mr. *Wassall* represented the owner of the colliery. Mr. *Pickering*, assistant inspector of mines, was also present.

According to the evidence, the working places in the mine were properly examined before the men went to work, and the slip in the roof was quite unexpected, as the sprags were set within the distance required by the provisions of the Mines Regulation Act. Mr. *Pickering* said he did not think anyone was to blame, and a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

1901 Census

3, Ettingshall Road

- [1] *Richard Lett* (75), beerhouse landlord, blind, born Bilston;
- [2] *Mary A. Lett* (60), wife, born Ettingshall;
- [3] *Clara Lett* (24), daughter, born Ettingshall;
- [4] *Herbert Lett* (23), son, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] *Warren Lett* (21), son, fitter, iron foundry, born Ettingshall:

Richard Lett, beer retailer, Ettingshall Road. [1904]

Mary Ann Lett died in the 1st quarter of 1906.

Warren Lett married Caroline Cooper in the 3rd quarter of 1906.

1907 Probate

“Richard Lett of the ROYAL OAK INN, Ettingshall, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 5 May 1907. Probate Lichfield 10 June to Richard Lett, meat salesman, and Henry Rogers, engineer. Effects £3,003 14s.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 20/11/1909 - Advert

“Wanted, General, 18 to 20; character required.
Mrs. Lett, ROYAL OAK, Ettingshall.”

WANTED. General. 18 to 20; character required.—Mrs. Lett, Royal Oak, Ettingshall.

1911 Census

3, Ettingshall Road

- [1] Warren Lett (31), beerhouse keeper, born Bilston;
- [2] Caroline Lett (29), wife, married 4 years, born Bilston;
- [3] May Lett (3), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] Lilian Lett (1), daughter, born Bilston:

1916 Probate

“Warren Lett of the ROYAL OAK INN, Ettingshall Lane, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 11 October 1916. Administration Lichfield 31 October to Caroline Lett, widow. Effects £357.”

Caroline Lett married James Plummer in the 3rd quarter of 1918.

1921 Census

3, Ettingshall Road – ROYAL OAK

- [1] John Walker (75), public house manager, born Fazeley, Staffordshire;
- [2] Jenny Lucas (39), daughter, household duties, born Ettingshall;
- [3] Thomas James Lucas (39), son-in-law, steel safe maker, born Bradley;
- [4] Edna Lucas (9), grand-daughter, school, born Bradley:

1939 Register

Ettingshall Road – ROYAL OAK

- [1] Ernest A. Taylor, date of birth 13/4/1893, licensed victualler, married;
- [2] Ada Taylor, dob 1/1/1892, unpaid domestic duties, married:

Birmingham Mail 31/12/1969

“A post mortem examination was being held today on a 49-year-old woman who was found dead at a Bilston public house. She was Mrs. Patricia Kettle, wife of the licensee of the ROYAL OAK in Ettingshall Road. Her husband, Mr. Sidney Kettle, who was also found unconscious on the premises by a cleaner is now recovering in hospital. Workmen from the West Midland Gas Board were called to the public house after three other people, including a police constable, were overcome by fumes. They were all treated at the Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton, and later discharged. A spokesman for Wolverhampton Borough Coroner’s Office, said today, ‘A post mortem is to be carried out on Mrs. Kettle. We understand she had been suffering from flu, and although there is evidence of gas fumes being present, they may not have been directly responsible for her death.’”

ROYAL OAK

74, (30), Hill Street, (30, (31), (26), Hall Street), Hallfields, (Upper) Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

John Taylor, miner, Hallfields
Simon Paul
Julia Hanson and Son Ltd.

LICENSEES

Richard Talbot [1845] – [1848]
John Elwell [] – **1851**;
Richard Talbot **(1851 – [1854]**
Samuel Egerton [1854] – **1855**);
John Knight **(1855 – [1870]**
John Taylor [] – **1871**);
Thomas Paul **(1871 – 1884)**;
Simon Paul **(1884 – 1929)**;
Daniel Paul **(1929 – 1931)**;
Ernest William Baxter **(1931 – 1933)**;
Joseph Andrews **(1933 – 1934)**;
George Harry Thomas **(1934 – 1938)**;
Samuel Thomas Stanley **(1938 – []**
Mrs. Lily Stanley [1939] – [1940]

NOTES

31, Hall Street [1861], [1874], [1881], [1891]
26, Hall Street [1873]
30, Hall Street [1892]
30, Hill Street [1896]
74, Hill Street [1904], [1908], [1911], [1912], [1921], [1932], [1939], [1940]

Richard Talbot was also a shopkeeper. [1845]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/11/1848 - Advert

“Peremptory Sale at the ROYAL OAK, Hall Fields, Bradley near Bilston. To Publicans, Brokers and others.

Mr. C. Gray has received instructions from the assignees to the estate of Mr. *Richard Talbot*, ROYAL OAK, to offer for Sale by Auction, on the premises, on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 28 and 29, 1848.

The whole of the modern and useful Household Furniture, four post and tent bedsteads, with hangings, beds, linen, glass, china, mahogany chests of drawers, sofas, dining, loo, library, and other tables, floor carpets; the shop and house Fixtures, four-pull Beer Machine, stock of about 2,000 gallons of prime old Ale and Porter, Hops, Malt, 3,000 gallons of Casks, varying in size from half-hogsheads to 600 gallons; brewing requisites, malt mill, hopper and post, wrought iron boilers, pump, with 150 feet of two-inch lead piping, with extra taps, and piping to boilers; useful grey draught horse, four-and-half-inch wheel cart, set of cart harness, gig, signs over the door, Licenses, Goodwill and Possession and effects, and which are fully enumerated in Catalogues which are now ready, and may be had at the respective offices of Messrs. Motteram, Knight and Emmett, solicitors, *Journal* and *Midland Counties Herald*, of Birmingham; *Chronicle* and *Eagle*, Wolverhampton, or at the place of Sale, and of the Auctioneer, Hall Street, Dudley.

PEREMPTORY SALE AT THE ROYAL OAK, HALL FIELDS, BRADLEY NEAR BILSTON.

To Publicans, Brokers, and others.


MR. C. GRAY has received instructions from the assignees to the estate of Mr. Richard Talbot, Royal Oak, to offer for

SALE BY AUCTION,

On the premises, on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 28 and 29, 1848,

The whole of the modern and useful HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, four post and tent bedsteads, with hangings, beds, linen, glass, china, mahogany chests of drawers, sofas, dining, loo, library, and other tables, floor carpets; the shop and house FIXTURES, four-pull BEER MACHINE, stock of about 2,000 gallons of prime old ALE and PORTER, HOPS, MALT, 3,000 gallons of CASKS, varying in size, from half-hogsheads to 600 gallons; brewing requisites, malt mill, hopper and post, wrought iron boilers, pump, with 150 feet of two-inch lead piping, with extra taps, and piping to boilers; useful grey draught horse, four-and-half-inch wheel cart, set of cart harness, gig, signs over the door, Licenses, GOODWILL and POSSESSION and effects, and which are fully enumerated in Catalogues which are now ready, and may be had at the respective offices of Messrs. MOTTERAM, KNIGHT, and EMMETT, solicitors, *Journal* and *Midland Counties Herald*, of Birmingham; *Chronicle* and *Eagle*, Wolverhampton, or at the place of Sale, and of the AUCTIONEER, Hall-street, Dudley.

The Auctioneer requests a punctual attendance, as the whole will be sold in one day, if possible, and begs most respectfully to call the attention of Publicans to the cellars of excellent English oak casks, the whole being perfectly sweet and in good condition.

 Sale to commence at ten o'clock in the morning, to a minute. Conditions as usual.

1848

The Auctioneer requests a punctual attendance, as the whole will be sold in one day, if possible, and begs most respectfully to call the attention of Publicans to the cellars of excellent English oak casks, the whole being perfectly sweet and in good condition.

Sale to commence at ten o'clock in the morning, to a minute. Conditions as usual."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 27/11/1848 - Advert

"Staffordshire. Bilston, Hall Fields, and Hall Green. Freehold Property.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Charles Gray (by direction of the Trustees under a Deed of Assignment), this present Monday, November 27, at five o'clock in the evening, at the house of Mr. *Richard Talbot*, the ROYAL OAK INN, Hall Fields aforesaid, subject to such conditions as shall be then and there produced.

Lot I. All that old-licensed Public House and Premises, known by the sign of the ROYAL OAK, situate at Hall Fields, Bradley aforesaid, now in the occupation of Mr. *Richard Talbot*, consisting of Provision Shop, bar, bar parlour, front parlour, hall, passage, commodious tap-room, cooking kitchen, fitted up with every convenience, store-room, brewhouse, and enclosed Yard, two Stables and lower Yard, Outbuildings and Offices, five capital cellars, club-room, 60 feet by 14 feet, four chambers (commodious), two attics, pump of excellent water, and other appurtenances.

Estimated rental £35 per annum.

The Premises are substantially built, and in a capital situation for doing business.

Lot II. Also all those Three Messuages or Dwelling Houses, situate at Hall Green, Bradley aforesaid, in the respective occupations of Thomas Talbot, Thomas Pickering, and Edward Wennall, and producing at a rental the sum of £20 16s per annum.

To view the respective lots apply to the Landlord of the ROYAL OAK.

For further particulars apply at the offices of Messrs. Motteram, Knight and Emmet, Solicitors, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham, or to the Auctioneer, Hall Street, Dudley."

London Gazette 4/12/1849

"Whereas a Petition of *Richard Talbot*, now and for the last twelve months residing in lodgings at Hallfields, near Bilston, in the county of Stafford, carrying on business there as a Bricklayer, and for twelve years previously residing and carrying on business at Hallfields aforesaid as a Licensed Victualler, Grocer, and Bricklayer, an insolvent debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, at the Court-house, Queen-street, Wolverhampton, and an interim order for protection from process having been given to the said *Richard Talbot*, under the provisions of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said *Richard Talbot* is hereby required to appear before Nathaniel Richard Clarke, Esq, Serjeant-at-Law, the Judge of the said Court, on the 11th day of December instant, at twelve o'clock at noon precisely, for his first examination touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said Statutes; and the choice of the creditors assignees is to take place at the time so appointed. All persons indebted to the said *Richard Talbot*, or that have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. C. G. Brown, Clerk of the said Court, at his office, in Queen-street, Wolverhampton, the Official Assignee of the estate and effects of the said insolvent."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/12/1849 - Notice

"The County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton.

In the Matter of the Petition of *Richard Talbot*, now and for the last twelve months residing in lodgings at Hallfields, near Bilston, in the county of Stafford, carrying on business there as a bricklayer; and for twelve years previously residing and carrying on business at Hallfields aforesaid, as a licensed victualler, grocer, and bricklayer, an insolvent debtor; notice is hereby given, that Mr. Serjeant Clarke, the Judge of the County Court of Staffordshire, at Wolverhampton, acting in the Matter of this Petition will proceed to make a Final Order thereon, at the said Court, on Tuesday, the 15th day of January, 1850, at twelve o'clock at noon, unless cause be then and there shown to the contrary.

Mottram, Knight, and Hemmet, Solicitors, Birmingham."

Birmingham Journal 14/6/1851 - Advert

“Sale at Hall Green. To Innkeepers, Brokers, and Families Furnishing.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. William England, on Tuesday next, June 17th, at the ROYAL OAK INN, Hall Green, near Bilston.

All the Stock, Fixtures, and Household Furniture, and other Effects, the Property of Mr. *Elwell*, who is leaving the neighbourhood; comprising about 600 gallons of Ale, Brewing Utensils, Barrels, &c, all of which are in very good condition, and well deserving the notice of Purchasers. The whole will be sold without the least reserve.

The Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock in the morning.

The House, which is fitted up with every convenience for the business, is to be Let, particulars of which can be obtained of Mr. England, either at the time of sale, or at his residence, Vicar Street, Dudley.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 16/7/1851

“At a special and petty sessions the following transfer of victuallers licenses took place.....

ROYAL OAK, Hallfields, Bilston, from *John Elwell* to *Richard Talbot*, of Sedgley.”

Birmingham Journal 16/4/1853 - Advert

“Sale of Freehold Property, at the ROYAL OAK INN, Hallfields.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. John Mason, on Friday Next, the 22nd day of April, 1853, at Six o'clock in the evening, and subject to conditions then to be read.

All that established and well-accustomed Public House, known by the name or the sign of the ROYAL OAK, situate at Hallfields, in the township of Bilston, in the county of Stafford.

The House, which is in thorough repair, consists of large Tap Room, three Parlours, Bar, extensive Club Room, six Sleeping Rooms, Brewhouse, Malt Room, Stable, Appurtenances; together with a Messuage or Tenement adjoining the same.

The Tenant will show the Premises; and further particulars may be obtained from the Auctioneer, Hall Street, Bilston.”

Samuel Egerton = Samuel Eggerton

Wolverhampton Chronicle 6/9/1854

“Obadiah Batte, collector of taxes and a parish constable, was on Tuesday summoned on the charge of assaulting *Samuel Egerton*, landlord of the ROYAL OAK, Hall Fields. Mr. Waterhouse was retained for the defendant.

Complainant said he was in the house of Mr. Hollingsworth, about 12 o'clock on Saturday night; there were several other persons present, and amongst them the defendant. The latter began to upbraid him about leaving a tax paper at his (complainant's) house. Witness told him he was a liar, upon which the company fined him glasses round for using that language. Mr. Batte asked him whether he would had a d—d punch in the mouth, or pay glasses all round. The complainant replied he would have the punch in the mouth. The defendant then kicked his shins and struck him in the mouth, cutting his lip. The witness attempted to hit him in return, but was prevented by some of the gentlemen present. A scuffle, however, ensued, and three of four of them tumbled down together.

By Mr. Waterhouse: He had formerly resided at Dawley, and the defendant had served him with a process for unpaid taxes; there had been a bet made about closing his house at ten o'clock, and that was what the company at Hollingsworth's wanted him to spend. Mr. Hollingsworth had ordered him (the complainant) to quit the house, and the company said he was annoying them.

Mr. Loxdale observed that it was very discreditable and improper for a public officer to upbraid a man in a public house respecting his taxes.

Mr. Waterhouse urged that being called a liar three or four times by the complainant was enough to exasperate any one; he then called Mr. Skidmore, who stated that he was present on the occasion, and that the complainant was monopolising the whole conversation. He called Mr. Batte a liar three of four times, and then a scuffle took place.

The witness added that he was compelled to take the complainant away to the kitchen, his conduct was so bad.

The Magistrates inflicted a penalty of 2s 6d and costs.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/7/1855

“On Tuesday last *Samuel Egerton*, a licensed victualler, near Daisy Bank, was summoned by Charles Griffiths on a charge of assaulting him. The complainant went to have refreshment at the defendant’s house, and, according to his statement, the latter, without any provocation, approached him and struck him a violent blow on the eye. The defendant also struck him several violent blows on the face, by which he became insensible. A penalty of 40s and costs, or one month’s imprisonment, was inflicted.”

Birmingham Journal 13/10/1855 - Advert

“Sale at the ROYAL OAK INN, Hall Fields, near Bilson.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. S. Powell, upon the Premises, on Monday next, October the 15th.

All the superior and useful Brewing Utensils, Ale Casks, Glass, China, Knives and Forks, Beer Machine, Bagatelle Board, excellent mahogany Harpsichord, fine-toned Finger Organ, with Instruction Books; Plough and Cart, and a portion of the clean and genteel Household Furniture, Bedding, &c, belonging to Mr. *Egerton*, of the ROYAL OAK INN, Hall Fields, aforesaid, who is giving up the Business.

Sale to commence at Ten o’clock in the morning.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/8/1859

“The annual meeting of Magistrates for the purpose of the renewal and granting of licenses for the township of Bilston and the neighbourhood was held at the Bilston Police Court on Friday last.....

Mr. Bowen applied for a license for the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE at Hall Fields, occupied by Mr. Brywood. Mr. Bowen dwelt at some length upon the requirements of the district, and with respect to the house itself said it was commodious, was provided with ample stabling, and in every way adapted for a licensed house.

Mr. Shipman, who was instructed to oppose the application, said that within half a mile of Mr. Brywood’s house there were already two licensed houses, besides a number of beerhouses. The persons for whom Mr. Shipman opposed were Mr. *Knight* and Mr. Holloway, both of whom occupy licensed houses in the same street as the present applicant. Refused.”

1861 Census

31, Hall Street – ROYAL OAK

[1] *John Knight* (46), victualler, born Herefordshire;

[2] *Mary Knight* (56), wife, born Sedgley;

[3] *George Knight* (16), nephew, cow boy, born Sedgley;

[4] *Ann Caddick* (16), general servant, born Sedgley:

Birmingham Daily Post 29/10/1863

“Yesterday, the inquest on the body of the carter, Samuel Walker, of Hall Street, Bradley, who was killed on Monday afternoon, by the bursting of a high-pressure engine boiler, at the Bradley New Ironworks, in the tenancy of Mr. T. Rose, ironmaster, of the Millfield Works also, was opened at the ROYAL OAK, Bradley, before Mr. T. M. Phillips, Coroner. Mr. Waterhouse, solicitor, was present to represent Mr. Rose.

The works, we may remark, are used to make puddled bars only, and have in them ten puddling furnaces. There are two high-pressure engines there – one of eighteen and the other of about forty horse-power. To drive these there are three boilers, two firing and one furnace boiler. The firing boilers lie parallel, and the furnace boiler runs in a horizontal direction at one of the ends of the other two. All the boilers were connected, and the one that exploded was one of the firing boilers, No.1. It was a cylinder boiler of about 33 feet in length and 6 feet in diameter. Its sister boiler, No.2, is a British tube boiler of about 30 feet in length, and the furnace boiler, No.3, is of the tube construction, and is about 28 feet in length. The small engine is used for working the forge hammer, and the large one for driving the forge rolls. No.2 boiler was started at about two o’clock to work the hammer engine, and it ought to have been so employed when the accident happened; but about three minutes before the explosion the shinglers were obliged to gag-up the hammer for want of steam. During this time steam was being got up in No.1.

The first witness called was Samuel Walker, the engineer who had charge of the boiler up to one o’clock on Monday. He had been there all the day up to that time, and his fellow engineer, Joseph Hawthorne, was with him, and he left him in charge of the engine. Witness and Hawthorne were in the boiler and cleaned it out early on Monday morning. There was then very little scurf in it, and all the valves and the clack were in good working order. If there had been a crack in the boiler at that time he should have seen it, if it had been on the inside. Both of them examined the wheel and the water gauge buoys, and they were in perfectly good order. Water was turned in, and the fire put under

by half-past eight. At that time the stop-valve that communicated with No.2 and with the engine was screwed down, as was usual, until the steam was got up. Hawthorne would know when to open the connection by the blowing off of the steam through the steam clack or safety valve. This valve should blow off at 38lbs pressure, and the engines were worked at a pressure of 40lbs. All 3 clacks were in good order on Monday morning, for he tried them, and if they had remained in that condition, and the stop valve had been opened at the proper time, there would have been no explosion. On Monday No.1 would be fed with water from a tank. When he left the boiler at ten minutes to one there was water enough in the engine to keep it supplied without danger till he returned at night. He left the steam clack up at the same time.

The Coroner: Can you get the pressure up above 40lbs? Witness: I have known it up to 42lbs or 43lbs, when we have had the engines stopped; but the noise of the blowing off would be tremendous.

About six weeks ago (the witness continued) the boiler was repaired by Phillip Lloyd, who put two new plates in it near to the fire, and caulked with a hammer and chisel a seam near to them. When he got to work at six on Monday evening he found that some persons had been lowering and raising the stop valve; but Jacob Higgs told him that he was about the first who examined it after the explosion, and he found it raised, which would have enabled steam to escape from the boiler into No.2, and to the engine. Some of the plates were ripped through the solid, but most of them along the seams. He felt satisfied that the plates had not been red-hot....

Phillip Lloyd, boiler maker, of Hall Fields, said he repaired the boiler about three years ago, and several times since that date. The last occasion was about six weeks ago, when he took out two plates from over the fire and put in two other plates, and otherwise repaired it. He left everything in good working order. After the explosion he examined it. He attributed the bursting of the boiler to some one having interfered with the steam valves or the clack. The clack was blown away. When he arrived at the spot, ten minutes after the explosion, he saw Hawthorne on top of the boiler unscrewing the stop valve. Witness said to some men around him, 'That's wrong; neither valves nor clacks ought to be interfered with till they have been properly examined.' Witness had not time on the occasion he spoke of to examine the boiler thoroughly.

Mr. Bridgewater, the manager of the works, said that two months ago the boiler was examined by Mr. Martin, the engineer of the Midland Boiler Inspection and Assurance Company, but Mr. Rose determined not to put the boiler in the association. On Tuesday, Mr. Martin and the engineer of the Manchester association both examined the boiler after it had exploded.

The Coroner said there was strong circumstantial evidence of neglect, but upon that he would not at present make any remarks.

The inquest was adjourned till Tuesday next, to enable Mr. Martin to report upon the boiler to the Coroner and Jury."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/11/1863

"The adjourned inquest on the body of the man Samuel Walker, killed by the explosion of a boiler at the works of Mr. Thomas Rose, Bradley Bridge, was held at the ROYAL OAK INN, Bradley, before T. Phillips, Esq, coroner. The inquiry lasted nearly five hours, several witnesses having to be examined, but their evidence was in effect merely corroborative of the statements made on the first inquiry.....

Mr. Martin, engineer to the Boiler Assurance Association for this district, next read a report he had drawn up as to the state of the boiler. After explaining the position, size, and general character of the boiler, the original strength of which had been considerably reduced by frequent repairs, he said that from his examination of the boiler since the explosion, there did not appear any indication of a shortness of water, overheating, or corrosion, and there was very little scurf. In his opinion the cause of the explosion was owing to the boiler being exposed to a greater pressure than it would bear, and greater than the usual working pressure. There appeared no doubt that just before the explosion the steam was so unusually low that it would not even work the small hammer engine, and if all the boilers were connected then, No.1 must have exploded whilst exposed to a less pressure than ordinary, and this seemed scarcely likely. An unusual pressure could only be accounted for by supposing that the stop valve and safety valve did not act as usual.

The Jury then consulted together, and ultimately returned a verdict of Accidental Death, being of opinion that the boiler burst in consequence of an accumulation of gas occasioned by the safety valve between No.1 and No.2 boilers being opened out, and the steam got up in No.1, hence the explosion."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/8/1865 - Advert

"For Sale, a first-class Horse, suitable for any Wholesale Dealer. Stands 16 hands high, and warranted sound. Five years old, with splendid action.

May be seen any day at *John Knight's*, ROYAL OAK INN, Hall Street, Bradley, near Bilston."

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/6/1872

“Midsummer day 1872 will always be associated in this county, especially the midland and northern portions, with the recollection of one of the most terrific storms which have occurred during the present generation.....

At Bilston the storm was most severe at Hallfields, the lightning breaking down one end of the ROYAL OAK public house, knocking down three men seated in the club-room, destroying several feet of gas pipe and igniting the gas, and then passing out by the roof, shattering the spouting in its exit.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/12/1874

“*Thomas Paul*, landlord of the ROYAL OAK, Bradley, was, at Bilston Police Court, yesterday, before the Stipendiary, summoned for having permitted drunkenness in his house on the 26th inst.

Police-constable Parsons proved to having found three drunken men in the defendant’s premises at seven at night on the day in question.

Mr. R. A. Willcock, Wolverhampton, who defended, urged that, through illness, alike the defendant and his wife had been unable to attend to the business, which, therefore, mainly devolved upon servants, and he asked for the case to be treated leniently, as the defendant had conducted his business for three years without prior complaint. His Worship, under these circumstances, dismissed the case, with costs.”

1881 Census

31, Hall Street – ROYAL OAK

[1] *Thomas Paul* (41), licensed victualler, born Sedgley;

[2] *Eliza Paul* (35), wife, born Sedgley;

[3] *Thomas Paul* (16), son, labourer in iron works, born Sedgley;

[4] *Florance Paul* (14), daughter, scholar, born Sedgley;

[5] *Alexander Paul* (12), son, scholar, born Sedgley;

[6] *James Paul* (11), son, scholar, born Sedgley;

[7] *Elizabeth Paul* (5), daughter, scholar, born Bilston:

Thomas Paul – see also BRITISH OAK, Wesley Street, and BARREL, Chell Street.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 18/9/1885

“Dudley Bankruptcy Court, Thursday. (Before Mr. Deputy-Registrar Walker.)

Re *Thomas Paul*. The bankrupt was described as a shingler, of Rose Street, Batmans Hill, Bradley, formerly carrying on business as a licensed victualler, at the ROYAL OAK INN, Hall Street, Bradley.

The statement of affairs showed liabilities £254 19s 4d; assets £6 10s. A large amount of liabilities were in respect of ale supplied by brewers. The bankrupt said he had had transactions with money-lenders, re-paying loans at the rate of £29 for £20. In consequence of this high rate of interest he had to go on borrowing to pay off previous loans. He sold the public house for £100, £50 of which he handed to a creditor to divide among the others. The other creditors would not accept a composition, so the creditor who had the money kept it. He had had an altercation with a man named Anslow, in which he sustained a broken rib, and Anslow a fracture of the leg. Anslow brought an action against him, and recovered £28, which was not yet paid.

The bankrupt was allowed to pass.”

Liverpool Mercury 26/8/1886

“From the *London Gazette* of Tuesday night Notices of Dividends.....

Thomas Paul, Rose Street, Batemans Hill, Bradley, near Bilston, Staffordshire, formerly of the ROYAL OAK INN, Hall Street, Bradley, shingler, formerly licensed victualler. Dividend of 83/8d in the pound, payable August 24, at the official receiver’s, Dudley.”

Simon Paul was the brother of *Thomas Paul*.

1891 Census

31, Hall Street – ROYAL OAK

- [1] *Simon Paul* (46), publican, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Mary Paul* (45), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] *Isaac Paul* (23), son, inspector, mines drainage company, born Sedgley;
- [4] *Samuel Paul* (18), son, brewer, born Sedgley;
- [5] *Elizabeth Paul* (16), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [6] *Daniel Paul* (14), son, born Sedgley;
- [7] *Phoebe Paul* (9), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [8] *Cecilia Lewington* (15), general servant, born Wolverhampton:

Mary Paul died in the 4th quarter of 1900.

1901 Census

Hill Street – ROYAL OAK

- [1] *Simon Paul* (56), widower, publican, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Mary E. Paul* (26), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [3] *Daniel Paul* (23), son, brewer, born Sedgley;
- [4] *Phoebe Paul* (19), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [5] *Sarah Whitehouse* (16), domestic servant, born Sedgley:

Wednesbury Leader 20/4/1901

“On Tuesday evening a miners meeting was held at the house of Mr. *Simon Paul*, ROYAL OAK INN, Hill Street, Bradley, under the auspices of the South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire Amalgamated Miners Association, branch of the Miners Federation of Great Britain. Mr. R. Bainbridge presided.....”

1911 Census

74, Hill Street – ROYAL OAK

- [1] *Simon Paul* (66), widower, licensed victualler, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Daniel Paul* (32), son, brewer, born Princes End;
- [3] *E. M. Paul* (27), daughter-in-law, married 18 months, manageress, born Hednesford, Staffordshire:

Simon Paul was also a brewer. [1914], [1923]

1921 Census

74, Hill Street

- [1] *Simon Paul* (76), widower, licensed victualler, born Bradley;
- [2] *Daniel Paul* (43), son, brewer, born Princes End;
- [3] *Ethel May Paul* (36), daughter-in-law, home duties, born Hednesford, Staffordshire;
- [4] *Amy Turley* (15), domestic servant, born Bradley:

A music license was granted on 3rd February 1928.

Bilston and Willenhall Times 4/2/1928

“Mr. Harris made a similar application [for a music license] with regard to the ROYAL OAK INN, Bradley, with the addition of Sunday. At Bradley, he said, there was no form of entertainment on Sunday, and if the application was granted it would be greatly appreciated.

Superintendent Young objected to the license being extended to Sunday. Music in public houses on Sunday, he said, wanted cutting out.

The application for Sunday was refused, and a six-day license for singing was granted.”

Daniel Paul was also a brewer. [1930]

1930 Probate

"Simon Paul of the ROYAL OAK INN, Hill Street, Bradley, near Bilston, Staffordshire, died 13 October 1929. Probate Birmingham 9 April to Daniel Paul and Joseph Sidney Jones, licensed victuallers. Effects £1,869 14s 10d."

1939 Register

74, Hill Street – ROYAL OAK

[1] Lily Stanley, date of birth 17/4/1900, public house licensee, married:

STAFFORDSHIRE.

BILSTON, HALL FIELDS, AND HALL GREEN. FREEHOLD PROPERTY.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by Mr. CHARLES GRAY (by directions of the Trustees under a Deed of Assignment), this present Monday, November 27, at five o'clock in the evening, at the house of Mr. Richard Talbot, the Royal Oak Inn, Hall Fields aforesaid, subject to such conditions as shall be then and there produced—

LOT I.—All that old-licensed PUBLIC HOUSE and PREMISES, known by the sign of the ROYAL OAK, situate at Hall Fields, Bradley aforesaid, now in the occupation of Mr. Richard Talbot, consisting of Provision Shop, bar, bar parlour, front parlour, hall, passage, commodious tap-room, cooking kitchen, fitted up with every convenience, store-room, brewhouse, and enclosed Yard, two Stables and lower Yard, Outbuildings and Offices, five capital cellars, club-room, 60 feet by 14 feet, four chambers, (commodious), two attics, pump of excellent water, and other appurtenances.

Estimated rental 35*l.* per annum.

The Premises are substantially built, and in a capital situation for doing business.

LOT II.—Also all those THREE MESSUAGES or DWELLING HOUSES, situate at Hall Green, Bradley aforesaid, in the respective occupations of Thomas Talbot, Thomas Pickering, and Edward Wennall, and producing at a rental the sum of 20*l.* 16*s.* per annum.

To view the respective lots apply to the Landlord of the Royal Oak.

For further particulars apply at the offices of Messrs. Mottram, Knight, and Emmet, Solicitors, Bennett's-hill, Birmingham; or to the Auctioneer, Hall-street, Dudley.

1848

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF STAFFORDSHIRE,

HOLDEN AT WOLVERHAMPTON.

IN the Matter of the Petition of RICHARD TALBOT, now and for the last twelve months residing in lodgings at Hallfields, near Bilston, in the county of Stafford, carrying on business there as a bricklayer; and for twelve years previously residing and carrying on business at Hallfields aforesaid, as a licensed victualler, grocer, and bricklayer, an insolvent debtor; notice is hereby given, that Mr. SERJEANT CLARKE, the Judge of the County Court of Staffordshire, at Wolverhampton, sitting in the Matter of this Petition, will proceed to make a FINAL ORDER thereon, at the said Court on **TUESDAY, the 15th day of JANUARY, 1850, at twelve o'clock at noon, unless cause be then and there shown to the contrary.**

MOTTRAM, KNIGHT, and HEMMET,

Solicitors, Birmingham.

1849

SALE AT HALL GREEN. TO INNKEEPERS, BROKERS, AND FAMILIES FURNISHING.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

BY Mr. WILLIAM ENGLAND, on **TUESDAY** NEXT, June 17th, at the Royal Oak Inn, Hall Green, near Bilston—all the STOCK, FIXTURES, and HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, and other Effects, the Property of Mr. Elwell, who is leaving the neighbourhood; comprising about 600 gallons of Ale, Brewing Utensils, Barrels, &c., all of which are in very good condition, and well deserving the notice of Purchasers. The whole will be sold without the least reserve.

The Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock in the morning.

The House, which is fitted up with every convenience for the business, is to be LET, particulars of which can be obtained of Mr. England, either at the time of sale, or at his residence, Vicar Street, Dudley.

1851

SALE OF FREEHOLD PROPERTY, AT THE ROYAL OAK INN, HALLFIELDS. TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

BY Mr. JOHN MASON, on **FRIDAY NEXT**, the 2nd day of April, 1853, at Six o'clock in the evening, and subject to conditions then to be read—all that established and well-accustomed PUBLIC HOUSE, known by the name or sign of the "ROYAL OAK," situate at Hallfields, in the township of Bilston, in the county of Stafford.

The House, which is in thorough repair, consists of large Tap Room, three Parlours, Bar, extensive Club Room, six Sleeping Rooms, Brewhouse, Malt Room, Stable, and Appurtenances; together with a MESSUAGE or Tenement adjoining the same.

The Tenant will show the Premises; and further particulars may be obtained from the Auctioneer, Hall Street, Bilston.

1853

SALE AT THE ROYAL OAK INN, HALL FIELDS, NEAR BILSTON. TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

BY Mr. S. POWELL, upon the Premises, on **MONDAY NEXT**, October the 15th—all the superior and useful BREWING UTENSILS, Ale Casks, Glass, China, Knives and Forks, BEER MACHINE, Bagatelle Board, excellent mahogany Harpsichord, fine-toned PING-PONG ORGAN, with Instruction Books; Plough and Cart, and a portion of the clean and genteel HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, Bedding, &c., belonging to Mr. Egerton, of the Royal Oak Inn, Hall Fields aforesaid, who is giving up the Business.

Sale to commence at Ten o'clock in the morning.

1855

FOR SALE, a first-class HORSE, suitable for any Wholesale Dealer. Stands 16 hands high, and warranted sound. Five years' old, with splendid action.—May be seen any day at John Knight's, Royal Oak Inn, Hall St., Bradley, near Bilston.

1865

ROYAL OAK

20, (74), High Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Frederick Warren, pork butcher, Bilston
Ella Francis Evans, Grendon, Bradmore, Wolverhampton
Major George Cox, brewer, Broad Street, Bilston
John Rolinson and Son Ltd. (leased from 1909)
Harmer and Co. Ltd. (leased)

LICENSEES

Edwin Hooper [1873] – **1877**;
Hannah Chambers (**1877**);
William Downes (**1877 – 1878**);
John Cross (**1878 – 1880**);
James Clarke (**1880**);
Elizabeth Nicholls (**1880 – 1881**);
Elizabeth Bromley (**1881 – 1882**);
Mrs. Wainwright [1881] manager
William Henry Jones (**1882 – 1895**);
John Brereton [1882] – [1891] manager?
John ?? (**1895**);
Jesse Walsgrove (**1895**);
John ?? (**1895**);
George Frederick Coombs (**1895 – 1896**);
Harriet Messenger (**1896 – 1905**);
George Cox (**1905**);
Frederick John Burton (**1905 – 1907**);
William Haynes (**1907 – 1909**);
Bernard John Durnall (**1909**);
Henry Tertius Hodgkiss (**1909 – 1910**);
Mrs. Rose Hannah Taylor (**1910 – 1915**);

ROYAL OAK, HIGH STREET,
BILSTON.
This Old Established House has just been entirely
Renovated and taken to by
MR. JOHN BRERETON,
And is Now Open as
A LICENSED HOUSE,
Together with which is a well supplied
TOBACCO AND CIGAR BUSINESS.
CHOICE CIGARS, ALL KINDS OF
FANCY TOBACCOs of the best brands,
FANCY GOODS OF SPLENDID QUALITY,
And other necessaries of the Tobacco Trade
always on hand, and the
ALES AND BOTTLED STOUT
Will be found in Splendid condition.
1882

TO LET, at Christmas, or before, Eight-roomed
HOUSE, No. 19, Dudley Street; stabling,
coach house, gateway entrance, good drive, large
yard.—Apply, John Brereton, Royal Oak Inn,
High Street, Bilston.
1883

NOTES

74, High Street [1881], [1891], [1896]
20, High Street [1901], [1911], [1912]

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Elizabeth Bromley = Elizabeth Brownley

1881 Census

74, High Street

- [1] Elizabeth Bromley (44), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Sedgley;
- [2] Alfred Bromley (19), son, canal toll clerk, born Moxley;
- [3] Lizzie Bromley (16), daughter, born Moxley;
- [4] Anne Bromley (11), daughter, scholar, born Moxley;
- [5] Emily Bromley (8), daughter, scholar, born Moxley;

Worcester Journal 9/7/1881

“Worcestershire Assizes.....

Wilson v Wainwright. The plaintiff was Mr. Richard Wilson, and the defendant, Mrs *Wainwright*, formerly landlady of the Bell Inn, Pensax In 1879 Mr. Wilson became owner of the house. The allegation was that the defendant did not keep the house in repair, nor cultivate the lands, nor conduct the inn in an orderly manner.....

The defendant, who now manages the ROYAL OAK, High Street, Bilston, said that the house was in worse repair when she went into it than when she left it.....

The jury found a verdict for the defendant.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 13/12/1881

“Wolverhampton County Court. Hunt v Cattell.

In this case Mr. J. T. Hunt, auctioneer, Bilston, sought to recover from Mr. John Cattell, of Bradley, the sum of £45 on a promissory note. Mr. Haden Corser (instructed by Mr. Stratton) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Dallow for the defendant. There was a counter claim for £50 for damages alleged to have been sustained by the defendant.

The plaintiff offered the license, goodwill, and possession of the ROYAL OAK INN, High Street, Bilston, to the defendant Cattell for £50. Defendant paid £5 on deposit, and gave a promissory note for the balance, £45, on plaintiff undertaking to pay £12 10s due for rent and £3 4s 2d for gas. He, however, failed to pay either of these amounts, and after Cattell had removed to the house, his goods were distrained upon for the arrears, and on this account he made the counter claim.

Mr. Dallow contended, for the defence, that no consideration had been given for the promissory note, inasmuch as Hunt never got the license transferred to Cattell, who suffered considerably by the transaction.

His Honour gave judgement for the defendant on the original claim, and the counter claim was withdrawn.”

Birmingham Daily Post 24/12/1881

“At Bilston Police Court, yesterday, the following licenses were fully transferred.....

Elizabeth Brownley, High Street, to *William Henry Jones*, agent.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 23/12/1882 - Advert

“ROYAL OAK, High Street, Bilston.

This Old Established House has just been entirely Renovated and taken to by Mr. *John Brereton*, and is Now Open as a Licensed House, together with which is a well supplied Tobacco and Cigar Business.

Choice Cigars, all kinds of Fancy Tobaccos of the best brands.

Fancy Goods of Splendid Quality, and other necessities of the Tobacco Trade always on hand, and the Ales and Bottled Stout will be found in Splendid condition.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 15/12/1883 - Advert

“To Let, at Christmas, or before, Eight-roomed House, No.19, Dudley Street; stabling, coach house, gateway entrance, good drive, large yard.

Apply, *John Brereton*, ROYAL OAK INN, High Street, Bilston.”

1891 Census

74, High Street – ROYAL OAK

[1] *John Brereton* (43), publican, born Bilston;

[2] *Jane Brereton* (48), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Harry Brereton* (24), son, bicycle manufacturer, born Bilston;

[4] *Clara Holmes* (14), domestic servant, born Bilston:

George Coombs, beer retailer, 74, High Street. [1896]

1901 Census

20, High Street – ROYAL OAK INN

[1] *Thomas Messenger* (50), coal hewer below ground, born Bilston;

[2] *Harriet Messenger* (50), wife, beerhouse keeper, born Bilston;

[3] *Nellie Corley* (20), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Henry Tertius Hodgkiss – see also CROWN AND ANCHOR, Oxford Street, LEOPARD, Church Street, GATE, BLANKMAKERS ARMS, WHITE HART and SEVEN STARS.

Rose Hannah Taylor = Rosannah Taylor

1911 Census

20, High Street – ROYAL OAK INN

- [1] Rosannah Taylor (53), widow, born Bilston;
- [2] George Taylor (32), son, driver, steelworks, born Bilston;
- [3] Samuel Taylor (25), son, tinner, holloware manufacturers, born Bilston;
- [4] Alice Taylor (22), daughter, domestic, born Bilston;
- [5] Agnes Taylor (13), niece, born Bilston;
- [6] Rosannah Jones (10), niece, born Bilston:

Mrs. Rose Hannah Taylor, beer retailer, 20, High Street. [1912]

Staffordshire Advertiser 14/2/1914

“Bilston annual Licensing Sessions.....

STAR INN, Oxford Street; ROYAL OAK INN, High Street; and FOX INN, Ash Street, Daisy Bank; were ordered to be scheduled for closing.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/6/1914 - Notice

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

Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Principal Meeting to be held pursuant to the Licensing Rules, 1910, by the Compensation Authority for the above Area, will be held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, at 11.15 o'clock am, on Wednesday, the 29th day of July, 1914.

And Notice Is Hereby Also Given, that the Compensation Authority will at the Meeting be prepared to hear, with reference to the Renewal of the Licenses of the several Premises specified in the subjoined list, all those Persons to whom under the Licensing (Consolidation) Act 1910, they are bound to give an opportunity of being heard; that is to say, the Persons interested in any Licensed Premises in question, and, unless it appears to the Compensation Authority unnecessary, any other persons appearing to them to be interested in the question of the renewal of the license of those premises (including the Justices of the Licensing District).

List of Licensed Premises.....

ROYAL OAK, High Street, Bilston. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *Rose Hannah Taylor*.”

License refused by Compensation Authority on 29th July 1914.

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/8/1914

“At the Principal Meeting of the Staffordshire Licensing Compensation Authority, held at the Shirehall, Stafford, on Wednesday, 25 licenses which had been referred by justices from petty sessional divisions and boroughs came under review. Of these, no opposition to the refusal of the license was offered by the parties interested in 15 cases, eight which were opposed were refused renewal, and the remaining two were adjourned for evidence of the trade done at each house.....

In the Bilston division the licenses of the following ante-1869 beerhouses were not renewed on the ground of redundancy, there being no opposition.....

ROYAL OAK, High Street, Bilston.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/8/1914

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

Notice is Hereby Given that the Compensation Authority for the above area, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on the 29th day of July, 1914, to Refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below, all Persons Claiming to be Interested in the said Premises for the purpose of the Payment of Compensation under the said Act (other than the Licensee and the Registered Owner of the said Premises) are required to send to the Compensation Authority Notice of their Claims before the 7th day of September, 1914, for the purpose of enabling the Compensation Authority to ascertain in manner provided by the Licensing Rules, 1910, the Persons entitled to Compensation under the said Act, in respect of the said Premises.....

ROYAL OAK, High Street, Bilston. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *Rose Hannah Taylor*. Registered Owner, Miss Ella Francis Evans.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/1/1915

“Report of the County Licensing Committee for the year 1914.....

The committee of the Compensation Authority went in great detail into all the figures submitted to them upon which the persons interested claimed compensation, and heard evidence put forward by the claimants. The committee consider that the amounts of compensation agreed upon are satisfactory, both from the point of view of the parties interested and the Compensation Fund.

In the following 18 cases the committee fixed the compensation.....

ROYAL OAK, High Street, Bilston, beerhouse, ante-1869, £325.

The money has been apportioned amongst the interested parties, and will be paid on the 28th instant.”

Compensation of £325 was paid on 28th December 1914.

ROYAL OAK

1, St. Lukes Street / Pinfold Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

J Holmes [1858]
William Speakman [1871]
Thomas Speakman [1871]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

J. Holmes, beerhouse, 1, St. Lukes Street. [1858]

1871 Census

1, St. Lukes Street – ROYAL OAK INN

[1] *William Speakman* (48), innkeeper, born Elsmore, Shropshire;

[2] *Margaret Speakman* (47), wife, born Elsmore, Shropshire;

[3] *William Speakman* (21), son, born Staffordshire;

[4] *Sampson Gerrard* (47), boarder, miller, born Cubley, Derbyshire;

[5] *William Gerrard* (14), boarder, labourer in iron works, born Clifton, Derbyshire:

William Speakman – see also MITRE.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/9/1871

“At Bilston Police Court, yesterday, the following publicans were summoned and fined for infringing the terms of their licenses.....

Thomas Speakman, ROYAL OAK, Pinfold Street, for permitting drunkenness on the 6th inst, 40s and costs. Mr. Best was for the defence.”

ROYAL OAK

32, (84), (83), Salop Street, (83, Salop Row), (Shropshire Row), Hallfields, Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

Benjamin Beebee, painter, Bilston
John Skidmore, licensed victualler, Highfields, Bilston
The Holt Brewery Co. [1890]
Showells Brewery Co. Ltd.
Ind Coope and Allsopp (leased)

LICENSEES

James Johnson [1818]
James Clapperton [1828] – [1830]
William Russell [1834] – [1838]
Cheavril Welsh [1841] – [1842]
James Corradine [1845] – [1851]
Isaac Brereton [1857] – [1858]
Ingram Morris [1861] – **1862**;
Mrs. Elizabeth Pea **(1862 – [1870])**
William Harris [1871] – **1873**;
Edward Lawley **(1873 – 1877)**;
Thomas Skidmore **(1877 – 1878)**;
George Skidmore **(1878 – 1881)**;
Jeremiah Skidmore **(1881 – 1885)**;
William Kettle **(1885 – 1887)**;
Emanuel Roberts **(1887 – 1889)**;
George Ward **(1889 – 1890)**;
Daniel Ecclestone **(1890 – 1895)**;
William Cotton Jnr. **(1895 – 1896)**;
William Bennett **(1896 – 1898)**;
George Robinson **(1898)**;
James Mockford **(1898 – 1899)**;
John Henry Walters **(1899)**;
Alfred Roberts **(1899 – 1900)**;
Samuel Cotton **(1900 – 1901)**;
Francis Hodge **(1901 – 1902)**;
William Thomas Arnold **(1902 – 1904)**;
Lewin Ellis **(1904 – 1911)**;
Samuel Joseph Salt **(1911 – 1913)**;
James Harris [1911] – [1912]
James Harris **(1913 – 1915)**;
Joseph Campion Churms **(1915 – 1918)**;
Joseph Harold Davis **(1918 – 1919)**;
Florence Davis **(1919 – 1921)**;
Frederick George Robinson **(1921 – 1922)**;
William Henry Westwood **(1922)**;
Frederick Whittingham **(1922 – 1923)**;
Henry Frederick Reynolds **(1923 – 1924)**;
Charles Edwin Pitchford **(1924 – 1925)**;
John Bayley Robinson **(1925 – 1928)**;

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF STAFFORDSHIRE,
HOLDEN AT WOLVERHAMPTON.

4th day of December, 1857.

WHEREAS a Petition of ISAAC BRERETON, at present and for six months and upwards last past residing in Shropshire-row, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Retailer of Spirituous Liquors, Ale, Beer, and Tobacco, and Sheet Iron Roller, an Insolvent Debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, at Wolverhampton, and an Interim Order of Protection from Process having been given to the said Isaac Brereton, under the provisions of the statutes in that case made and provided, the said Isaac Brereton is hereby required to appear in Court before the Judge acting in the matter of the said Petition, on the 12th day of JANUARY, 1858, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at the COURT HOUSE, QUEEN-STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON aforesaid, for his FIRST EXAMINATION touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said statutes: and notice is hereby given that the choice of assignees is to take place at the time so appointed.

All persons indebted to the said Isaac Brereton, or who have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. CHARLES GALLIMORE BROWN, the Official Assignee, acting in the matter of the said Petition, at his Office, in Queen-street, Wolverhampton aforesaid.

JOHN WILLIAM HALL, Attorney, Bilston.

C. G. MEEHAN, High Bailiff.

1857

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF STAFFORDSHIRE,
HOLDEN AT WALSALL.

IN the matter of INGRAM MORRIS, formerly of Salop street, Bilston, in the County of Stafford. Licensed Victualler, afterwards of Wednesbury, in the same County, Retailer of Beer, and then and now of Chapel-street, Wednesbury aforesaid, Labourer, a Bankrupt.

Whereas at a public sitting of the Court, held this day the Court granted an Order of Discharge to the said Bankrupt. Notice is hereby given, that an Order of Discharge will be drawn up and delivered to the Bankrupt after the expiration of thirty days from this date unless, in the meantime, an appeal be duly entered against the Judgment of the said Court.—Dated this 17th day of June, 1863.

1863

FOR Sale, by Private Treaty, the well-known Public House called the "Royal Oak," Salop-street, Bilston. It is surrounded by large ironworks, and in a thickly-populated district. A portion of the purchase money can remain on the freehold.—For further particulars, apply to John Skidmore, Commercial Inn, Highfields, Bilston.

1881

William Munslow George **(1928 – 1933)**;
Frank Albert Stanford **(1933 – [])**; [1932]
William Henry Willett [] – **1937)**;
David Owen Jones **(1937 – 1938)**;
Robert Baden Walker **(1938 – 1939)**;
John Henry Fletcher **(1939 – [1940]**

NOTES

Shropshire Row [1818], [1828], [1833], [1850]
Salop Row [1841], [1851]
83, Salop Row [1861]
83, Salop Street [1862], [1871], [1881], [1891]
84, Salop Street [1901]
32, Salop Street [1911], [1939]

It was known locally as “The Long Pull”.

Cheavril Welsh = Cheavril Welch

1841 Census

Salop Row

- [1] *Cheavril Welch* (50), victualler, born Staffordshire;
- [2] Ann Welch (35), born Staffordshire;
- [3] Ann Hyde (19);
- [4] Sarah Wilson (18), born Staffordshire:

1851 Census

Salop Row

- [1] *James Corradine* (65), victualler, blind, born Burton, Staffordshire;
- [2] Elizabeth Corradine (70), wife, born Brewood;
- [3] James Corradine (37), son, sheet iron roller, born Burton on Trent;
- [4] Martha Corradine (33), wife, born Hall Green;
- [5] Emma Corradine (12), daughter, scholar, born Hall Green;
- [6] Eliza Corradine (6), daughter, scholar, born Scotland;
- [7] Edmund Corradine (4), son, born Scotland;
- [8] William Corradine (1), son, born Scotland;
- [9] Sarah Bradbury (23), house servant, born Wednesbury:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 16/12/1857

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

Whereas a Petition of *Isaac Brereton*, at present and for six months and upwards last past residing in Shropshire Row, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Retailer of Spirituous Liquors, Ale, Beer, and Tobacco, and Sheet Iron Roller, an Insolvent Debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, at Wolverhampton, and an Interim Order of Protection from Process having been given to the said *Isaac Brereton*, under the provisions of the statutes in that case made and provided, the said *Isaac Brereton* is hereby required to appear in Court before the Judge acting in the matter of the said Petition, on the 12th day of January, 1858, at ten o’clock in the forenoon, at the Court House, Queen Street, Wolverhampton aforesaid, for his First Examination touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said statutes; and notice is hereby given that the choice of assignees is to take place at the time so appointed.

All persons indebted to the said *Isaac Brereton*, or who have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. Charles Gallimore Brown, the Official Assignee, acting in the matter of the said Petition, at his Office, in Queen Street, Wolverhampton aforesaid.

4th day of December, 1857. John Willim Hall, Attorney, Bilston. C. G. Megevan, High Bailiff.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 13/1/1858

“Yesterday, at Wolverhampton County Court, the monthly insolvency cases were disposed of.....

The following passed their first examinations.....

Isaac Brereton, supported by Mr. J. W. Hall, opposed by Mr. J. G. James; the opposition in this case was reserved until the final examination.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/2/1858

“Wolverhampton County Court. Insolvency Cases. These were unusually numerous, and this department of the business of County Courts appears to be a progressive one.....

Isaac Brereton, of Shropshire Row, Bilston, licensed victualler, obtained his final order. Supported by Mr. Hall, of the firm of Willim and Hall, Bilston; the opposition by Mr. J. G. James being withdrawn.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/7/1861

“Staffordshire Summer Assizes Hardy v Holland and Another.

This was an action to recover the sum of £39 12s 10d upon a promissory note. The defendants pleaded that £20 had been paid on the note, and they paid the balance into Court. Mr. Huddleston, QC, Mr. Hill, and Mr. Henry James were counsel for the plaintiff; and Mr. Powell and Mr. Motteram for the defendants.

Mr. Huddleston, in opening the case, said the question for the jury to consider was a very simple one, and they would have to say whether £20 paid in the month of October, 1858, was paid on account of the promissory note upon which the action was brought or on account of money which was due at that date to a Mr. Thomas Fellowes by a Mr. *Isaac Brereton*. The note was dated January, 1858, was for £39 12s 10d, and was made by Jacob Brereton in favour of Thomas Fellowes, Thomas Hardy being the nominal, and Thomas Fellowes the real plaintiff in the present action

In November, 1857, *Isaac Brereton*, son of Jacob Brereton (who had since died, and whose executors were the defendants in the action), kept the ROYAL OAK, Bilston. He became insolvent, and there was a sale of his goods. Mr. Fellowes had known *Isaac Brereton*, and at the sale he purchased furniture of the value of £39 12s 10, and paid the money. He consented to allow *Isaac* to have the goods back, to enable him to carry on business at the ROYAL OAK, his father, Jacob Brereton, becoming security for the money, and giving the note of hand now under their consideration. In October, 1858, *Isaac Brereton* requested his wife to pay Mr. Fellowes £20 in respect of an account for coal, malt, hops, and other goods sold to him by Mr. Fellowes, which account commenced in 1856. Mrs. *Brereton* paid the money, and took a receipt for it on the general account, Mr. Fellowes also giving credit for it in his account book. This was denied by the defendants, the executors of Jacob Brereton; and the question for the jury was whether it was paid in respect of the money due by *Isaac* for the furniture [sic], or upon the promissory note.

Mr. Thomas Fellowes, stonemason, Shropshire Road, Bilston, deposed that in 1857 *Isaac Brereton* kept the ROYAL OAK, and he had a sale there. Witness purchased goods to the amount of £34 5s 4d at the sale, and afterwards paid £5 7s 6d for some other goods, all of which were removed to the premises of Jacob Brereton. He sold the goods to Jacob for the same amount that he purchased them at. A promissory note was given for the money, and the goods went back to the ROYAL OAK, where the business was carried on as before. Jacob Brereton died about a years ago, and had paid nothing upon the note. He supplied goods to *Isaac Brereton*, beginning in 1856, consisting of coal, slack, malt, hops, cheese, meat, &c. Upon that account there was a balance of upwards of £40 still due, and he had given credit in that account for £20 paid in the year 1858. It was paid to him by the wife of *Isaac Brereton*, who said it was on that account, and not on account of the promissory note, and who received a receipt acknowledging that it was paid in respect of the general account.

Elizabeth Harthill stated that she was present when Mrs. *Brereton*, wife of *Isaac Brereton*, paid the £20, and she remembered Mrs. *Brereton* saying it was paid on account of goods, and there was nothing said about the promissory note. There was no one present but herself, Mrs. *Brereton* and Mr. Fellowes. Mrs. *Brereton* looked at the receipt. Mr. Thomas Waterhouse, attorney for the plaintiff, deposed that the defendant’s attorney informed him that the defendant’s plea was that the note had been obtained by fraud, but that plea had been withdrawn.

That being the plaintiff’s case, Mr. Powell addressed the jury on behalf of the defendants. He said it was true that the defendants had originally denied their liability on the ground that the note was obtained by fraud, and did not carry it out for the simple reason that the defendants did not deny that Mr. Fellowes paid the money for the goods which *Isaac Brereton* had returned to him by Mr. Fellowes, and that notwithstanding the way in which the note was obtained it was irrelevant to the issue. He urged that the £20 had been paid in respect of the furniture for which the note had been given, and the balance had been deposited in the court, so that the real plaintiff, Mr. Fellowes, would not lose one farthing in respect of the note.

Mrs. *I. Brereton*, Mary Brereton, her daughter, and Miss Clara Crutchley, deposed that the witness Harthill was not present when the £20 was paid, and that it was given to Mrs. Fellowes with the distinct understanding that it was in respect of the promissory note. Mrs. *Brereton* added that there was nothing due from her husband in respect of anything but the note for the furniture; and she paid the money to satisfy the old man, who was anxious that the money should be paid.

Isaac Brereton stated that he never had any transactions to make him indebted to Mr. Fellowes, though his wife had dealings with him.

The learned counsel on either side having replied upon the case, His Lordship summed up, and the jury found a verdict for the plaintiff for £22 6s, which included interest upon the money due."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/7/1860 - Advert

"Molineux Ground, Waterloo Road, Wolverhampton.

The First Grand Fete of the Season! Grand Demonstration and Gala Festival, for the purpose of establishing a Fund for the Widows and Orphans belonging to the Wolverhampton and Tipton District of the Ancient Order of Foresters, will be held in the Grounds of C. E. Molineux, Esq, on Monday, July 30th, 1860.....

Tickets may be had of the Committee, and at the various Court Houses.....

ROYAL OAK, Salop Street, Bilston.

Ingram Morris, beer retailer, Bradley. [1861]

1861 Census

83, Salop Row – Public House

[1] *Ingram Morris* (40), victualler, born Ludlow;

[2] Elizabeth Morris (32), wife, born Princes End;

[3] Thomas Morris (14), son, born Salop Row;

[4] Sarah Morris (7), daughter, scholar, born Salop Row;

[5] William Morris (5), son, scholar, born Salop Row;

[6] Anne Morris (3), daughter, scholar, born Salop Row;

[7] Edward Morris (11), son, scholar, born Golds Green;

[8] Mary Morris (9), daughter, scholar, born Golds Green;

[9] John Morris (7), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[10] Rachel Tait (16), domestic servant, born Hallfields:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/6/1862

"At Bilston Police Court, on Friday, the following intermediate transfers were made.....

ROYAL OAK, *Ingram Morris* to *Elizabeth Pea*, widow."

Blackburn Standard 27/8/1862

"From Friday's *Gazette*, August 22 Bankrupts.....

Ingram Morris, victualler, prisoner for debt, Birmingham."

AND

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 6/9/1862

"Birmingham Bankruptcy Court.....

In re *Ingram Morris*, late of Wednesbury, victualler.

The bankrupt, who had been discharged from custody under the Bankruptcy Act, 1861, came up on his first hearing.

No creditor appearing to prove, the management of the estate was left in the hands of the official assignee; the 24th of October being fixed for the last examination of the bankrupt."

AND

Walsall Free Press 13/6/1863

"County Court Bankrupts.....

In Re *Ingram Morris* victualler, formerly of the ROYAL OAK, Bilston, and latterly beerhouse keeper, Wednesbury, came up for final examination, supported by Mr. Jackson. Mr. Ebsworth, the official assignee, pointed out some discrepancies in the bankrupt's statement of accounts. On promising to have these amended, the bankrupt was allowed to pass."

AND

Walsall Free Press 4/7/1863 - Notice

"In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall.

In the matter of *Ingram Morris*, formerly of Salop Street Bilston, in the County of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, afterwards of Wednesbury, in the same County, Retailer of Beer, and then and now of Chapel Street, Wednesbury aforesaid, Labourer, a Bankrupt.

Whereas at a public sitting of the Court, held this day, the Court granted an Order of Discharge to the said Bankrupt. Notice is hereby given, that an Order of Discharge will be drawn up and delivered to the Bankrupt after the expiration of thirty days from this date unless, in the meantime, an appeal be duly entered against the Judgment of the said Court.

Dated this 17th day of June, 1863."

Mrs. *Elizabeth Pea*, beer retailer, Bradley. [1868], [1870]

1871 Census

83, Salop Street

[1] *William Harris* (49), coal miner and publican, born Sedgley;

[2] *Sarah Harris* (43), wife, born Sedgley;

[3] *John Cumpston* (16), son, puddler, born Sedgley;

[4] *Thomas Cumpston* (14), son, mine labourer, born Sedgley;

[5] *Elizabeth Jackson* (12), niece, general servant, born Sedgley:

Birmingham Daily Post 31/8/1872

"Bilston Division Annual Licensing Sessions.....

The record of the Chief Constable showed that 28 licensed victuallers and 14 beersellers had been convicted of various offences against their licenses. Of these five publicans and one beerhouse keeper were only ordered to pay the costs. In the other cases the fines varied from £10 to 1s. The licenses of 210 licensed houses and a similar number of beerhouses were renewed.

The applications for the renewal of the suspended licenses were postponed till the adjourned licensing day, on the 27th September, but the certificates were granted to the five licensed victuallers and the beerseller who, as before mentioned, were previously only ordered to pay the costs. These were.....

William Harris, ROYAL OAK, Bradley."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/7/1875 - Advert

"Rare Chance. Capital Old-Licensed House, called the ROYAL OAK, Salop Street, Bilston. All at £80. Rent £15. Takings about £12 per week. Surrounded by Ironworks and Collieries.

Apply, Bailey Bros, Auctioneers, No.1, Temple Row West, Birmingham."

1881 Census

83, Salop Street – ROYAL OAK

[1] *George Skidmore* (30), licensed victualler, born Princes End;

[2] *George Skidmore* (1), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[3] *Hannah H. Skidmore* (29), wife, born Penn;

[4] *Sarah A. Pritchard* (22), general servant, born Bilston:

RARE Chance.—Capital OLD-LICENSED HOUSE, called "The Royal Oak," Salop Street, Bilston. All at £80. Rent £15. Takings about £12 per week. Surrounded by Ironworks and Collieries.—Apply, BAILEY BROS, Auctioneers, No. 1, Temple Row West, Birmingham.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 3/9/1881

"An inquest was held this (Saturday) morning at the ROYAL OAK INN, Salop Street, Bilston, by W. H. Phillips, Esq, district coroner, on the body of a child, eight months old, the daughter of John Brookes, of Salop Street, who was found dead in bed on Wednesday morning. Elizabeth Brookes, the mother, stated that the child had always been under her own control. At five o'clock on the Wednesday morning she gave the child the breast, and afterwards went to sleep. When she awoke at seven o'clock the child was dead. The bed clothes were not over its face. Deceased had cut three teeth, and had occasionally showed signs of convulsions. A neighbour named Chillington gave evidence of the child's tendency to convulsions, and the jury then returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 17/11/1881 - Advert

"For Sale, by Private Treaty, the well-known Public House called the ROYAL OAK, Salop Street, Bilston. It is surrounded by large ironworks, and in a thickly-populated district. A portion of the purchase money can remain on the freehold.

For further particulars, apply to John Skidmore, COMMERCIAL INN, Highfields, Bilston."

Birmingham Daily Post 24/12/1881

"At Bilston Police Court, yesterday, the following licenses were fully transferred.....

George Skidmore, ROYAL OAK, Salop Street, to *Jeremiah Skidmore*, agent."

Darlaston Weekly Times 17/6/1882

"A meeting of the ironworkers of the Bilston district was held at the ROYAL OAK INN, Salop Street, on Monday, to consider whether it would be advisable for them to join the Employers Liability Assurance Company Limited, and to hear explanations in reference thereto. Mr. Lloyd, a workman, presided, and expressed his conviction that recent legislation had stirred the masters up to take more care of their workmen's lives than they did before. He was in favour of the society, from which, for a small sum, men could receive benefits it would be impossible for them to get in any other way. Mr. Gibbs explained that in 19 out of every 20 accidents which occurred, the masters would be found not to be liable. The contributions to be paid were in proportion to the wages earned, and if no wages were earned, no contributions would have to be paid. Mr. Capper having spoken, all present voted in favour of joining the society. The meeting was then adjourned for a fortnight."

Sporting Life 1/7/1882

"Having heard that John Ball, of Wonmore [sic] Green, Wolverhampton, is in want of a match, J. Skidmore, of Salop Street, Bilston, will run him his own distance, for £10 a-side; and will accommodate, on the same terms, Thomas Richards (alias 'Boiler'), of Wolverhampton, with seven yards start in 120, for £15 or £20 a-side. An answer through the *Sporting Life* will oblige. Man and money ready any time at the ROYAL OAK, Salop Street, Bilston, to ensure a match."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 23/1/1885

"*Jeremiah Skidmore*, agent, Highfields, Bradley, was charged that he, being the bailee of a Post Office order for £2, the property of John Jones, Salop Street, Bradley, did fraudulently convert the same to his own purpose. Mr. R. Tildesley defended.

The evidence showed that Jones, who had since died, received a Post Office order for £2, which he entrusted to the defendant to cash. Defendant went to the Post Office, and returned, stating that the advice note had not come. In a day or two after, however, he cashed the order, but failed to give the money to the widow.

The defence was that Jones had borrowed the money from the defendant, and that the case was one for the County Court.

Upon the suggestion of the Bench, defendant agreed to pay the widow the £2 and costs."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 23/1/1885

"At Bilston Court today (Friday), George Jenkins, manager of the ROYAL OAK INN, Salop Street, Bradley, was charged with selling ale without a license on the 20th inst. Mr. R. A. Willcock defended.

Police-sergeant Hayward proved the case. Fined 5s and costs.

The transfer of the license was asked for and granted to Mr. *William Kettle*, of Wolverhampton."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 20/2/1885

"At Bilston Police Court today the following transfers of licenses were granted.....

ROYAL OAK INN, Salop Street, Bradley, from *Jeremiah Skidmore* to *William Kettle*."

Darlaston Weekly Times 4/9/1886

"Mr. E. B. Thorneycroft, deputy coroner, held an inquest at the ROYAL OAK INN, Bradley, on Friday morning, on view of the body of Sophia Fudge (37), late of Salop Street, Bradley. From the evidence it appeared that the woman had for some time been suffering from breast disease, and had been to the Hospital on Monday last. On Wednesday morning she was found dead in bed by a neighbour, while her husband was at work. A verdict of Natural Causes was returned."

Birmingham Daily Post 12/7/1887

"Yesterday, at the ROYAL OAK INN, Bradley, Mr. W. H. Phillips (borough coroner) held an inquest as to the death of Emanuel Simpkins (11) and Elias Simpkins (9), late of Salop Street, who were drowned in a disused claypit 10ft deep, at Thorneycroft's field, on Sunday.

Joseph Hall, a lad, stated that he was with the two boys on the afternoon of the 10th inst. The younger lad got into the water first, and immediately began to sink. His brother went to his assistance, but, as he also was unable to swim, both were eventually drowned. Witness had never seen anyone bathe in the pond before. There was no notice against bathing in the pool.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

In reply to a suggestion from the coroner, the foreman said that he did not think any recommendation as to the posting of a notice was needful, since the pond was a considerable distance from the road.

Another juryman remarked that there were a number of such dangerous pools about the district – pits from which fireclay or coal had been taken.

The Coroner observed that such places were of necessity dangerous, since their formation made it difficult for a bather to get out. He was of opinion that swimming should be made an article of education in all Board schools. He believed that at some places it was already taught; but the practice should be universal."

Birmingham Daily Mail 30/12/1887

"An inquest was held yesterday at the ROYAL OAK INN, Salop Street, Bradley, touching the death of Annie Elizabeth Anslow (19), who was found drowned on Tuesday morning in the Birmingham Canal, at Bradley.

George Anslow, galvaniser, of Bridge Street, Bradley, said that he had scolded the deceased, who was his daughter, for staying out at night, and on Christmas morning she left home and did not return.

Emma Jones, of Union Street, deposed to seeing the deceased on Monday night, when she told witness that she would do away with herself, as her parents were against her. Her father, she said, would never forgive her, as she left home in defiance of him.

Fanny Atkins, a girl, said that she saw the deceased going in the direction of the canal on Monday or Tuesday morning. Deceased said to her, 'Good night, Fanny; you won't see me anymore. God bless you. I shall do something to myself before the night is over.'

Other evidence having been given, the jury returned a verdict that the deceased committed Suicide whilst in a state of Temporary Insanity."

Daniel Ecclestone = Daniel Eccleston

1891 Census

83, Salop Street

[1] *Daniel Eccleston* (46), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] Harriett Eccleston (45), wife, born Spondon, Derbyshire;

[3] Sarah Eccleston (21), daughter, born Wednesbury:

Daniel Ecclestone – see also SWAN, Bradley, and FOX, Bilston Street.

Sporting Life 13/1/1900

"Birmingham and District Licensed Victuallers' Billiard League.

The following are the entries and starts for the third billiard tournament, open to the beer and wine trade, promoted by Messrs. Burroughes and Watts.....

J. Roberts, ROYAL OAK INN, Bradley, 100."

1901 Census

84, Salop Street

[1] *Samuel Cotton* (28), publican, manager, born Kingswinford;

[2] Ellen Cotton (26), wife, born Wolverhampton;

[3] Cyril Cotton (3), son, born Sedgley;

[4] Edwin B. Cotton (1), son, born Sedgley;

[5] Mary Davis (20), domestic servant, born Sedgley:

1911 Census

32, Salop Street – ROYAL OAK INN

- [1] James Harris (32), licensed victualler, born Bradley;
- [2] Hetty Harris (27), wife, married 4 years, born Sutherlandshire;
- [3] Ernest Harris (8), son, born Tipton;
- [4] James Harris (6), son, born Tipton;
- [5] William Harris (4), son, born Tipton;
- [6] Stanley Harris (2), son, born Bilston;
- [7] Emma Harris (71), mother, born Bradley;

Joseph Campion Churms – see also ROUND COUNTER and SHOULDER OF MUTTON.

Florence Davis married John Winyard on 8th December 1920.

John Winyard – see KINGS HEAD, Broad Street.

1921 Census

Salop Street – ROYAL OAK HOTEL

- [1] William Henry Westwood (43), publican, born Quarry Bank;
- [2] Rachel Westwood (56), wife, home duties, born Netherton;
- [3] Albert Overton (27), son-in-law, erector, constructional, born Harts Hill;
- [4] Ethel L. Overton (28), daughter, home duties, born Netherton;
- [5] Albert H. Overton (under one month), grand-son, born Bradley;
- [6] Frederick G. Robinson (38), boarder, publican, out of work, born Darlaston;
- [7] Rachel Robinson (35), boarder, school teacher, out of work, born Willenhall;
- [8] Eric Alan Robinson (3), boarder, born Darlaston;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/5/1937

“The body of *William Henry Willetts*, aged 52, licensee of the ROYAL OAK INN, Salop Street, Bradley, Bilston, was recovered by Bradley police from Rocket Pool, Bradley, yesterday.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/5/1937

“It was revealed at an inquest at Bilston yesterday on *William Henry Willett*, aged 55, licensee of the ROYAL OAK, Salop Street, Bradley, whose body was recovered from the Rocket Pool, Bradley, on Tuesday morning, that he sent a telegram, ‘Come home at once, Dad’s gone,’ before committing suicide. This, the Coroner said, was most probably done to soften the blow to his wife.

Mrs. Clara Willett said that her husband went to the bank last Monday afternoon and when she went to open the house at 6pm she found an envelope addressed to her son in his handwriting. The Coroner read the note in the envelope. It stated, ‘Son and daughter. Look after Mum till you hear again. Reason in desk on counter. Dad.’ Mrs. Willett explained that there was a letter in the desk terminating his services, but he had not told her anything about it.

A verdict of Suicide while his mind was temporarily upset, was returned.”

1939 Register

32, Salop Street

- [1] John H. Fletcher, date of birth 17/4/1878, licensee, married;
- [2] Hannah M. Fletcher, dob 6/11/1880, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] Olive M. (Fletcher) (Griffin) Cooper, dob 17/10/1921, leather warehouse assistant, single;

[1950]

ROYAL OAK

Wolverhampton Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Joseph Preston [1841] – [1842]
Benjamin Owen [1845] – **1848**);
Joseph Ly_h (**1848** – []
John Bibbins [] – **1849**);
Joseph Lawley (**1849** – **1850**);
Richard Nicholls (**1850** – []

LOT II.—All that the above named PUBLIC HOUSE, known by the name of THE ROYAL OAK, situate in Wolverhampton-street, Bilston aforesaid, with two other DWELLING HOUSES adjoining thereto, in the respective occupations of Benjamin Owen, Widow Jenks, and Edward Beddoe; and also all those two DWELLING HOUSES, in the rear of the last described Messuages, and now in the occupations of Edward Davis and Francis Bradbury, together with the outbuildings and appurtenances thereto belonging, at rents producing 37*l.* per year.

NOTES

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/10/1845 - Advert

“Messuages and Buildings, in Wolverhampton Street, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett, by direction of the representatives of mortgagee, with power of sale, on Wednesday, the 22nd day of October, 1845.....

Lot II. All that Public House known by the name of the ROYAL OAK, situate in Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, with two other Dwelling Houses adjoining thereto, in the respective occupations of *Benjamin Owen*, Widow Jenks, and Edward Beddoe; and also those two Dwelling Houses, in the rear of the last described Messuages, and now in the occupation of Edward Davis and Francis Bradbury, together with the outbuildings and appurtenances thereto belonging, at rents producing £37 per year.....

The above properties are Copyhold of Inheritance within the Manor of Stowheath.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 25/10/1848

“The following licenses were transferred.....

ROYAL OAK, Bilston, from *Benjamin Owen* to *Joseph Ly_h*, of the same place, cordwainer.”

Benjamin Owen – see also ROEBUCK.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/12/1850

“At a special sessions for the hundred of Seisdon North, held on Monday last, at the office of the county magistrates, Bilston Street, in this town, the following victuallers’ licenses were transferred that of *Joseph Lawley*, of the ROYAL OAK, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, to *Richard Nicholls*, of Blakenall, Wolverhampton, retailer of beer.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/10/1858

“At the Petty Sessions, on Tuesday, Mr. Whitehouse applied for a transfer of the license of the ROYAL OAK, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, to the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, in Hall Fields, and from the tenant of the one house to the tenant of the other. The application was opposed by Mr. Shipman, on behalf of Mr. Millward, who has the reversion of the ROYAL OAK property on the death of his mother, an old woman nearly eighty years of age. The transaction was also opposed by the landlords of the adjoining public houses to that to which it was proposed to transfer the license, and by a person named Fellows, who has a mortgage to the extent of £350 on the property. It was stated on the part of applicant that owing to the effects of mining operations the house had been rendered unfit for an inn, and that the transfer was contemplated for the benefit of the life-renter. Mr. Shipman objected that the transaction was not bona fide, Legge, the tenant of the ROYAL OAK, being only the nominal tenant, not having occupied the premises for four or five years, his client, Millward, having kept up the licence during that period, except for the last year, when payment was forestalled by his mother, with a view to the present application. Mr. Shipman’s objections were sustained, and the transfer refused.”

Birmingham Daily Post 11/4/1863

“Yesterday, the following licences were granted by the Magistrates.....

ROYAL OAK, Wolverhampton Street, not possessing conveniences for an inn, the licence was ordered to be transferred to the HAND AND KEYS, of the same street.”

SADDLE AND STIRRUPS

121, (56), Oxford Street / Warwick Street, New Town, BILSTON

OWNERS

William Peck, spirit merchant, Coseley
Peck and Kerrison [1896]
Georgiana Peck, widow, Coseley
Bent's Brewery Co. Ltd. [1900], [1921]

LICENSEES

William Peck [1848] – [1858]
Thomas Rowley [1860] – [1863]
Philip H Fellows [1864] – [1865]
Benjamin Fellows [] – **1868**;
Elisha Fellows **(1868 – [])**
Mrs. Eliza Fellows [1868] – [1870]
John Buckley [1871] – **1877**;
Robert Hunt **(1877 – 1881)**;
Francis 'Frank' Bridgman **(1881 – 1886)**;
John Farmer **(1886 – 1889)**;
Samuel Hill **(1889)**;
John Silvester **(1889 – 1892)**;
William Pettifer **(1892)**;
Thomas Talbot **(1892 – 1909)**;
William Edwards **(1909 – 1926)**;
Alice Edwards **(1926)**;
Leonard Jeffries **(1926 – 1929)**;
Thomas Joseph Oakey **(1929)**;
George William Chilton **(1929 – 1931)**;
Jesse Hart **(1931 – 1933)**;
John Thomas Shelley **(1933 – 1937)**;
George Edward Large **(1937 – [1940])**
G E Morgan [1976]

NOTES

56, Oxford Street [1858], [1861], [1864], [1868], [1870], [1871], [1872], [1874], [1881], [1884], [1891]
121, Oxford Street [1911], [1921], [1939], [1940]

Birmingham Journal 16/1/1847

“At Bilston Police Court, on Tuesday, a long investigation took place respecting a dangerous affray which occurred on Saturday night. A woman named Price, who appeared with a large bruise on her forehead, charged Barnard, Margaret, and Peggy Cullen, with assaulting her with a poker on Saturday night. The complainant stated that about a quarter past eleven she was coming from the bottom of Hangmans Row, in Bilston, and heard a noise at the back of the defendants house. She went up the entry to see what was the matter, when the three defendants rushed on her and severely beat her with staffs and other weapons, one of them striking her with a poker upon the head, which cut it severely. Her cap, apron, and shawl, which she produced, were covered with blood.

ALE AND PORTER STORES,
56, OXFORD STREET, BILSTON.
WILLIAM PECK, WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANT,
begs to inform the Trade and Private Families that he has
OPENED STORES for the SALE of
MESSRS. IND, COOPE, AND CO.'S
CELEBRATED
EAST INDIA PALE AND OTHER BURTON ALES,
WATKINS AND CO.'S DUBLIN STOUT,
WINES AND SPIRITS,
All in the finest condition, which will be supplied at the lowest
Prices.
1857



Ex Pub 2007

In defence it was stated that the complainant went from the SADDLE AND STIRRUPS public house, to the door of the defendants, and tried to break it open; and that she caused a hundred people to assemble, and make a great disturbance, because some little difference had occurred between them between them.

The Bench fined each of the defendants 1s and costs.

Thomas Price, the husband of the complainant, then charged Barnard and Francis Cullen with assaulting him, but the case was dismissed.

John Marsden then charged the same defendants with assaulting him, and this case being made out the parties were fined 5s and costs."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/4/1847

"James Cartwright, a navigator, having been remanded a few days ago, was now brought up for examination on a charge of breaking and entering the dwelling house of Mr. John Parker, a pawnbroker, at Bilston, in the night of February last, and stealing therefrom a great quantity of wearing apparel, a gold ring, two silver watches, and some money. Henry Mason (a returned transport) and another man named Charles Hughes, were both tried and convicted at the late Stafford Lent Assizes, as participators in this burglary; Mason receiving a sentence of transportation for life, and Hughes for ten years. The evidence now produced against Cartwright was as follows.

Mr. John Parker stated that his dwelling house was feloniously entered on the night of Monday, the 22nd of February last (an entrance having been made through the window), and that two watches, a gold ring, and a large quantity of wearing apparel were stolen, and that the silver watch produced by Edward Thompson, police officer, was one of the watches stolen.

James Nash, a parish constable of Bilston, proved taking the prisoner into custody, in the SADDLE AND STIRRUPS public house, at Bilston, on the 7th instant, and that on asking him his name the prisoner said it was Cartwright, when witness told him that there was a charge of burglary against him for breaking into the house of John Parker. The prisoner asked witness when it was, but he could not then tell him the exact day. The prisoner said, 'It is what I expected.' Witness and Police Officer Thompson then took the prisoner to the shop of Mr. John Dean, at Bilston, to see if Mr. David Slater, the assistant of Mr. John Dean, knew the prisoner, and, upon seeing him, Slater said he (prisoner) was the man who had pledged a watch with him, in the name of Daniel Ross, the day following John Parker's robbery, whereupon the prisoner said, 'I will not deny it. I did; but I had it from a man named Daniel Ross, and I gave him the money in the passage adjoining the pawnshop.'

David Slater proved receiving the watch produced in pledge from the prisoner, on the 23rd of February last, about three o'clock in the afternoon; also that he pawned it in the name of Daniel Ross, and that he (witness) gave the prisoner a ticket to that effect; that the prisoner said he lodged near the new church at Bilston; that immediately the prisoner left the shop, witness saw Henry Mason join him, and they both went across the street into a butchers shop together. Witness gave up the watch to Thompson, police officer, on the 23rd of March last.

Edward Thompson produced the watch (which was identified by the prosecutor), and proved finding the pawn ticket of the same watch upon the said Henry Mason, when he apprehended him the day following the burglary; he also proved hearing the prisoner say that he pawned the watch for Daniel Ross, and that he gave him the money in the gateway at the pawnshop; also that when at the station the prisoner inquired from witness when the offence was committed, and on his telling him the 22nd of February, the prisoner said he could prove that he slept thirty miles off that night, and that on the day on which he pawned the watch he went straight to Dudley, and slept there, and that he never slept at Bilston in his life.

John Lewis, a labourer, of Bilston, proved that he saw the prisoner and Henry Mason in company together between nine and ten o'clock in the morning after Parker's robbery, in Church Street, at Bilston; that he (witness) spoke to Mason; that they went into the PRINCE OF WALES beershop, adjoining 'The Berry,' together; that between twelve and one o'clock the same day witness had occasion to go into the above beershop to look for a person, and saw them in there still; that they asked him to drink, but he refused; that about one o'clock on the following day witness saw the prisoner at Wolverhampton, near to the SWAN HOTEL.

Eliza Watkins, a servant at another beershop, in Bilston, kept by one Henry Whitaker (near to the above pawnshop), proved that the prisoner and Henry Mason were in company together drinking at her master's house, and dancing to music, about two o'clock in the afternoon of Tuesday (the day after Parker's robbery); that they had two jugs of ale, and left together. She never saw nor heard anything said about a watch by either of them.

William Heseldine, of Bilston, labourer, proved seeing the prisoner and Henry Mason eating steaks and drinking together in the MALT SHOVEL public house about three or four o'clock on the above Tuesday; that he heard the prisoner say to Mason, 'Harry, let's go to Wolverhampton.' This witness also spoke of seeing them together in the street at Bilston, tipsy, and going into the PRINCE OF WALES beershop, the same afternoon.

Catherine Jennings also spoke to the prisoner and Mason together, twice, in the night of the above Tuesday. The prisoner (who was much affected, as was his wife), on being asked if he had anything to say, admitted pawning the watch for Mason, and giving him the money in the passage. He said, however, that what Heseldine had sworn was true, but that what Lewis had said was not. Committed to the assizes.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 24/7/1847

“Staffordshire Summer Assizes.....

James Cartwright, charged with breaking into the dwelling house of John Parker, in the night of the 22nd of February last, at Bilston, and stealing two silver watches, a gold ring, and a quantity of wearing apparel, his property, was, after the examination of four witnesses, discharged, the evidence being insufficient to support the indictment preferred against him. The Jury, by the direction of the Court, returned a verdict of not guilty, and he was immediately discharged.”

Birmingham Journal 2/9/1848

“On Tuesday last, at Bilston Public Office, a miner, named William Rowley, was brought up on the charge of cutting and wounding, with intent to do grievous bodily harm, a journeyman blacksmith named John Walton, residing in Bilston. It appeared that on Saturday night the prosecutor and some of his companions had been in the SADDLE AND STIRRUP public house, where they remained for about half an hour, and while they were there, some Irishmen made some reflections upon the characters of the English, to which the prosecutor foolishly thought proper to reply. The prisoner, who was along with the Irishmen, asked the prosecutor what he had to do with them, and said if he interfered again he would give him a brace of pistols; but some uproar having been caused by this the prisoner and his party were turned out of the house. In about ten minutes afterwards the prosecutor and his companions left to go home, and while standing in the street for an instant, the prisoner came up to them. Angry words and blows having ensued, the prisoner took a knife from his pocket and struck the prosecutor several blows with it about the left groin, but it was afterwards found that only one wound was inflicted, the knife in this instance, however, having penetrated to the hip-bone to the depth of an inch and a half.

The prisoner was taken into custody the same night at his lodgings, by Inspector Thompson, although the door had to be broken open before this was done, and on being searched at the station a knife was found upon him.

Under the care of Mr. Hancox, surgeon, the prosecutor soon recovered from the loss of blood he had sustained.

The evidence of the several witnesses having been given, the Bench committed him to take his trial at the assizes. On the depositions being read over, he complained that they had been packed only for the purpose of transporting him, but said that if the Magistrates would not send him to gaol he would go off to Canada without putting the country to any trouble, and would take his two children with him!”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/9/1848

“Bilston Public Office on Tuesday.....

William Rowley, a rough-looking fellow, was charged by John Walton with stabbing him on Saturday night, at Bilston. It appeared from the evidence of the prosecutor and two young men, that the prosecutor went into *Peck's* public house, in New Town, Bilston, on Saturday night, where some Irishmen were abusing the English, whose cause he advocated, when the prisoner threatened him. Mr. *Peck* then turned the Irishmen out of the house, and upon the prosecutor and his companions leaving, the prisoner, who was waiting at the door, threatened to stab him, upon which the prosecutor struck him, and then walked away; but the prisoner followed after, and with something like a knife stabbed him.

Mr. Hancox, surgeon, who was immediately sent for, examined the prosecutor, whilst sitting in a chair in Gozzard Street, and stated that his clothes were torn, and saturated with blood, which flowed from a wound in the groin, about three-eighths of an inch in breadth and an inch and half in depth, and which had been caused by a stab from a sharp-pointed instrument.

Sub-inspector Thompson, who broke into the prisoner's house, and after a violent struggle apprehended him, stated that the prisoner acknowledged that he had stabbed the prosecutor, and, upon searching him, he found two pocket knives and a dagger knife. He was committed for trial to the assizes.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/9/1848

“Committed to the County Gaol, Stafford, for trial.....

William Rowley, charged with feloniously and maliciously cutting and wounding John Walton, at Bilston.”

AND

Birmingham Journal 17/3/1849

“Staffordshire Assizes.....

William Rowley, for cutting and wounding John Walton, at Bilston, on the 26th of August, was sentenced to twelve months’ imprisonment.”

Birmingham Journal 8/9/1849

“On Thursday morning last, a fellow who had been sleeping during the night at the BULLS HEAD, Wednesbury, decamped with a silver watch and gold guard chain, which he stole from off the table in a room adjoining his own. The owner of the watch heard some noise during the night, but did not miss his property until the morning, when he ascertained that the supposed thief had left as soon as the house was opened. He is supposed to be the same who stole £3 or £4 worth of jewellery, in a similar manner, from the house of Mr. *Peck*, of the SADDLE AND STIRRUPS INN, Bilston, on Saturday.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/1/1851

“At Bilston Public Office, on Tuesday, John Magrath, an Irish shoemaker, was charged with committing a violent assault on a man named Charles Worrall. Complainant stated that he lived with Mr. *Peck*, at the SADDLE AND STIRRUPS, Oxford Street. On the evening of Christmas-day the prisoner came into his master’s house, accompanied by several others, and without the least provocation assaulted several of the company. He was ordered by his master to turn the prisoner out of the house, and while doing so the prisoner struck him a violent blow across the head with a poker, which he carried in his sleeve. He became insensible from the blow, and had been attended by Mr. Hancox, surgeon, ever since. The prisoner was fined 40s and costs, or to be committed to Stafford for two months.

The prisoner was then charged with assaulting William Comby at the same time and place. Comby stated that he had been singing in the bar, when the prisoner came in, and after wishing him a merry Christmas, and a happy new year, he wanted to shake hands with him, and upon his declining that civility, the prisoner struck him a blow in the eye. For this offence he was fined 5s and costs, or to be committed fourteen days to hard labour.”

1851 Census

Oxford Street

- [1] *William Peck* (37), wine merchant, born Wymondham, Norfolk;
- [2] *Martha Peck* (45), wife, born Sarhing, Norfolk;
- [3] *Thomas Griffiths* (21), visitor, saddler, born Waters Upton, Shropshire;
- [4] *John Roberts* (24), brewer, born Wittingslow, Shropshire;
- [5] *Mary Ann Jones* (25), inn servant, born Giulsfield, Montgomeryshire;
- [6] *Mary Guest* (21), barmaid, born Liverpool:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/1/1853

“At Bilston petty sessions, on Tuesday, an Irish woman named Mary M’Cue was fined 20s and costs, and ordered to find peace sureties, for an assault upon Mr. *Peak* [sic], landlord of the SADDLE AND STIRRUPS, New Town. Having been ejected from the house for disorderly conduct on Saturday night, she threw a brickbat with such force at the complainant as to split his upper lip.

John Durkin was fined 10s and costs, for damage done to Mr. *Peak*’s coat.

Another Irish man, named John Prior, being unable to find sureties to keep the peace, was sent to gaol upon two committals of three months each. Residing near a public house, he was in the habit of standing at the mouth of an entry, and waylaying with a poker all who might come within his reach, running into the house after he had beaten a passer-by.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/4/1854

“At the Petty Session, on Tuesday last *William Peck*, spirit merchant were appointed overseers for Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/11/1854

“At the Petty Sessions, on Friday last, before Thomas Barker, Esq, John Davis and Joseph Mead were charged with assaulting *William Peck*, landlord of the SADDLE AND STIRRUPS, and also Obadiah Batte, a constable. The defendant went into the house of the complainant on Wednesday afternoon last, and called for something to drink. He was served with it. On the landlord going into the place where the defendant was sitting, he perceived that he was in liquor, and accordingly instructed his servant not to fill any more for him. The defendant shortly afterwards broke a glass, and the landlord asked him to pay for it. He refused to do so, and became disorderly, and eventually struck Mr. *Peck*. In the meantime the constable entered the house, and tried to persuade the defendant to pay for the glass. Instead of doing so, he struck the constable, and Davis subsequently bit the barmaid severely on the leg. Mr. Hancox pronounced the wound to be a serious one. The Magistrate, after commenting upon the disgraceful behaviour of the men, said he should have inflicted a heavy fine if another Magistrate had been on the Bench (assault cases requiring two Magistrates), but, under the present circumstances, he should order the defendant to find two sureties to keep the peace for six months, and to pay the surgeon’s bill and other expenses. The expenses amounted upwards of £2 each.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/2/1855

“An inquest was held before T. M. Phillips, Esq, Coroner, at the SADDLE AND STIRRUPS INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, on view of the body of Sarah Pitt, who had died on the previous Wednesday from the effects of burning. On the previous Monday morning the deceased, who was 5 years old, ran down stairs from her mother’s bedroom into the kitchen, when, by some means or other, her clothes became ignited, and she was so severely injured that, despite the attention of Dr. Hancox, surgeon, she died on the day above stated. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/10/1855 - Advert

“Public Notice.

Thomas Hall, Hearse, Car, and Pleasure Van Proprietor, Pipers Row, Wolverhampton, begs respectfully to inform the inhabitants of Wolverhampton, Bilston, Tettenhall, and surrounding Neighbourhoods that he will commence Running on Monday Next, the 15th day of October, 1855, Accommodation Omnibus from Wolverhampton to Tettenhall Wood and Back, thence from Wolverhampton to Bilston and Back.

Times of Starting and Fares as follows.....

The SADDLE AND STIRRUPS, Bilston, for Priestfields, Monmore Green, and Wolverhampton.

Will Leave Weekdays Morning, 10.30; Weekdays Evening, 7.30; Sundays Evening, 8.15.

Fares To Priestfields, 3d; Monmore Green, 4d; Wolverhampton, 6d.”

County Advertiser 10/5/1856

“On Tuesday, at the SADDLE AND STIRRUPS INN, Bilston, T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, concluded the inquest upon the body of Edmund Harris, one of the unfortunate persons who were killed by the boiler explosion at the works of Messrs. Rose, Higgins, and Rose, on the night of Monday, the 29th ult. The inquest had been adjourned from the Wednesday previous, in consequence of the opinion of the coroner and jury that the evidence before them on that occasion was defective and unsatisfactory, and that Mr. E. T. Wright, engineer, of Wolverhampton, who had examined the boiler, should be requested to attend, and give his testimony.

On Mr. Wright being called, he deposed that on the morning after the explosion he carefully examined the exploded boiler. The appearance of the rivetted joints of that portion which was exposed to the fire indicated that they had been red hot. The pieces of the boiler which he caused to be cut off and now produced, clearly indicated that the boiler had been without water, and the plates over the fire red hot at the moment of the explosion. The accident could not be strictly called an ‘explosion,’ because it resulted, not from any increase of pressure within, but from the weakening of the plates of the boiler by their being red hot, which rendered it incapable of sustaining the ordinary working pressure. It did not always follow that because the plates of an exploded boiler were red that the explosion took place from a scarcity of water in the boiler. Plates were often red, as were the pieces of the exploded boiler which he produced, but redness was often caused by the oxide of iron. It was from the appearance of the fracture of the iron that he judged the plates had been red hot. If the boiler had been filled at six o’clock in the evening, it could not have exploded at a quarter to seven from want of water. It would have taken two or three hours to work that boiler empty. He agreed with what had been said by other witnesses that it was equally the duty of the man who came to work an engine, as of a man who was leaving off, to see that the boiler was full of water. The exploded

boiler was a good one; and he should not have hesitated to work it at between sixty and seventy pounds to the square inch. Mr. Wright having finished his evidence, was thanked by the coroner and jury for his attendance. Mr. Wright said, that for the good of the public he felt a pleasure in being present.

William Plant, an engineer, deposed that he left the boiler which exploded in the care of William Tuckley, at four o'clock on Monday. It was then full of water, and the valves and buoy were in working order. He closed the steam valve, so that no steam could get from the other boilers into that which exploded, and also the water valve with which it was supplied with water, because Tuckley said he would not fire the boiler. He afterwards saw Tuckley firing. Henry Smith took charge of the boiler at six o'clock.

Mr. Stephen Thompson, boiler maker, and the manufacturer of the boiler in question, corroborated the evidence of Mr. Wright.

Henry Smith, having been cautioned in the usual manner before he made any statement, said that the boiler in question was as full when he came to his turn as it was regularly worked. About half a minute before the boiler exploded he thought that something told him to stop a distance from the boiler. He did so, and immediately afterwards the explosion took place.

The coroner conceiving this statement to exonerate Tuckley, called him as a witness. He stated that when he left the boiler at six o'clock it contained plenty of water, enough to last five or six hours. He left the valves open when he gave up the charge of the boiler to Smith.

This being the whole of the evidence, the coroner briefly summed up, pointing out the questions for the jury to consider.

After a short deliberation, the jury returned a verdict of Manslaughter against Henry Smith and William Tuckley, giving it as their opinion that the story told by them had been concocted between them. The coroner therefore made out his warrant for their committal to the assizes.

On Wednesday the adjourned inquest was held at the NAVIGATION INN, upon the bodies of Benjamin Plant and Joseph Hill, the two engineers at work at the time of the catastrophe. Similar evidence was given as in the other case, and the same verdict of Manslaughter returned against Smith and Tuckley."

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/7/1856

"Staffordshire Summer Assizes.....

.....His Lordship considered that the case against Smith should be decided by the jury; but with respect to Tuckley, who had given up the care of the engine before the explosion took place, he thought a verdict of not guilty might be returned.....

The learned Judge summed up the evidence favourably for the prisoner Smith, observing that before they could find him guilty of the serious offence with which he was charged, the death, from gross negligence, of the deceased, they must be satisfied that no other circumstance could have caused it, but that it resulted from the act and deed of the prisoner. His lordship then observed that the prisoner had received an excellent character for sobriety and steadiness, that there was no proof that he had absented himself from his work, and that it was scarcely probable, lamentable as the result was, that such result was caused from negligence.

The jury immediately afterwards returned a verdict of not guilty, and both prisoners were discharged."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/6/1856

"On Tuesday, at the SADDLE AND STIRRUPS, Bilston, T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, held an inquest on the body of Charles Morphey, a cooper, aged sixty-nine years. On the previous day the old man was seen walking down a yard in which John Banks lives. He told Mrs. Banks that he was ill, and she fetched him a chair, which he sat down upon. He coughed violently, and complained of pain at his stomach. Mrs. Banks gave him some wine, but he was unable to swallow it. He shortly afterwards expired. The deceased's wife, who attended the inquest, stated that her husband had been up to the Sunday previous to his death a healthy man, but had caught cold by having his clothes wet. Verdict, Death from Natural Causes."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 25/2/1857 - Advert

"Ale And Porter Stores, 56, Oxford Street, Bilston.

William Peck, Wine & Spirit Merchant, begs to inform the Trade and Private Families that he has Opened Stores for the Sale of Messrs. Ind Coope and Co.'s celebrated East India Pale and other Burton Ales, Watkins and Co.'s Dublin Stout, Wines and Spirits.

All in the finest condition, which will be supplied at the lowest Prices."

William Peck, spirit vaults, 56, Oxford Street. [1858]

Birmingham Daily Post 15/7/1858 - Advert

“*W. Peck's* Ale And Porter Stores, Oxford Street, Bilston.

W. Peck begs to inform his Friends, that in consequence of the great demand for Ind Coope and Co.'s Burton Ales last season, the stock was exhausted before the end of July, and consumers who had not purchased a sufficient quantity to last them till October, experienced much inconvenience.

As the enquiry for these Ales is so much increasing, *W. Peck* begs to state that he has made a selection of a Large Stock of Season-Brewed, which will be found perfectly sound, and of superior quality. He solicits early Orders for the same, which will receive immediate attention.

Agent for Watkin's Dublin Porter.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/11/1858 - Advert

“Sale of Valuable Copyhold Property, High Street, Bilston.

John Mason will Sell by Auction, on Friday, the 26th day of November, 1858, at the house of Mr. *William Peck*, SADDLE AND STIRRUPS INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, at six o'clock in the evening.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 8/12/1858

“Ann Burke, described as a prostitute, was charged with uttering base coin, in the month of September last. Evidence was given to show that on a certain evening, in September last, she had passed a bad crown piece at Mr. Bache's liquor shop, in High Street, Bilston, and another at the HIMLEY ARMS, kept by Mr. Tombs; she also on the same night offered another at Mr. *Peck's* liquor shop in Oxford Street. She had absconded immediately afterwards, and was only recently arrested in Wolverhampton, where she was living, somewhere in the neighbourhood of the notorious ‘Cat-yard.’ She was remanded for a week to give time to communicate with the authorities at the Mint.

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/1/1859

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Ann Burke, alias Durkin, 21, no occupation, was indicted for uttering two counterfeit crown pieces, at Bilston, well knowing the same to be false and counterfeit. On the 22nd of September last the prisoner, late in the evening, went to Tome's liquor vaults, in High Street, Bilston, and called for a glass of porter, in payment for which she tendered a crown piece. The coin was taken, and was put by the daughter of the landlady into the till. On counting, the same evening, the money in the till, the landlady discovered that this crown piece was counterfeit, and having marked it, she gave it to the police. It was afterwards discovered that the same evening the prisoner went to *Peck's* liquor vaults, in Oxford Street, and called for a glass of ale, for which she tendered another counterfeit crown piece. On being told that it was counterfeit she said that it had been given to her by a gentleman, and that she did not know it was counterfeit. She paid for the ale with three half-pence, and then went to Bache's spirit vaults, and there offered another counterfeit crown piece in payment for some drink, repeating, on being told it was counterfeit, the same story that she had, told at *Peck's*. Information was given to the police, but as the prisoner had been allowed to leave, she made her escape, and was not apprehended until the 1st of December.

Mr. S. Hill, who appeared for the prisoner, submitted to the Jury, as the defence, that these counterfeit crown pieces had, as she stated, been really given her by a scoundrel who had been wicked enough to take advantage of the unhappy calling which the unfortunate woman followed, and contended that considering the facilities which unprincipled men had for passing off bad money under such circumstances, nothing could be more likely to be true than the story told by the prisoner.

The Jury found the prisoner guilty. The learned Chairman, in sentencing her to twelve months' hard labour, reminded that two and a half years previously she had been convicted of stealing money.”

1861 Census

56, Oxford Street – SADDLE AND STIRRUPS

[1] Thomas Rowley (49), victualler, born Pattingham;

[2] Jane Rowley (42), wife, born Broseley, Shropshire;

[3] Eliza Williams (39), sister-in-law, assistant, born Broseley, Shropshire;

[4] Mary A. Collier (24), niece, general servant, born Coalport, Shropshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 11/12/1861

“On Friday, T. M. Phillips, Esq, Coroner, held an inquest at the SADDLE AND STIRRUPS INN, on the body of Andrew Mullan, a rag gatherer, aged about 56 years. On Wednesday last the deceased had been drinking with his wife and Mary Monagan, wife of a lodging house keeper, with whom he lived, and on the following morning he got up before any one else. When Monagan went down stairs she found the deceased hanging near the house door by a rope, attached to a nail in the wall. He was quite dead. The deceased was described as a man of contented disposition, and the witnesses said they were unaware of his mind having been affected. The Jury returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased committed Suicide whilst Temporarily Insane.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/6/1863

“The inquiry respecting the death of Timothy McCarthy, aged forty, an unmarried man, who, on Sunday night, met his death at the Bilston Brook Furnaces, now in the occupation of Mr. Benjamin Gibbons, junior, was yesterday opened by the Deputy Coroner, Mr. W. H. Phillips, at the house of Mr. *Rowley*, the SADDLE AND STIRRUP INN, Oxford Street. The Jury was composed of some of the most respectable inhabitants of the locality, Mr. D. Kendrick, chairman of the Wolverhampton Board of Guardians, being foreman.

The first witness called was Thomas Smith, who sated that he was a blast-furnaceman, and was acquainted with the deceased, whose body he had identified. The deceased was a fireman in the employment of Mr. Benjamin Gibbons, junior, and was engaged in his usual work on Sunday night. Witness heard an alarm, and on going to the ash-hole, which was full of water, found the deceased lying there very much scalded all over his body. Witness helped to get him out, and life was quite extinct. He (the witness) had never heard any complaints respecting the state of the boiler, and was of opinion that the accident had been caused by one of the plates suddenly leaking, and thus generating steam, out of the way of which the deceased was unable to get.

Mr. Enoch Phillips said he was principal engineer at the works, which had been in operation for about six months. The deceased was in charge of No.4 boiler, which supplied the blast furnace engine. It was his duty to be in the ash-hole, attending to the fire, on Sunday night. The boiler was an egg-shaped one, forty feet in length by eight feet in diameter, and it was usually examined and cleaned out every month. The last time it had been examined was a week yesterday (before the inquest), and there was then nothing the matter with it, and it was thought to be in good working order. Two months since the boiler had been repaired by having a new plate attached to the bottom of it, and this was the plate which had burst. Witness had examined the boiler that (yesterday) morning, and found that the plate in question had been ripped or burst, in two directions, in the middle, about fourteen inches in the one direction, and about eight inches in the other. It appeared as though there had been a slight flaw in the plate when put in, but such an one as could not be perceived. The plate was three-eighths of an inch in thickness. Witness had examined the boiler after it had last been repaired, and observed nothing to find fault with. The repairs had been executed in a workmanlike manner. The pressure was 15lbs to the square inch. The repairs to the boiler had been done by Mr. Clark, and the plate had been supplied from the works of Mr. Rose, at Millfields. Witness saw the plate after it had been attached to the boiler, and could observe no defect in it. He entertained no doubt that the bursting of the plate had caused the water to run into the ash-hole, and thus scalded the deceased. Witness was of opinion that the strength and thickness of the plate would have borne a pressure of twenty-five pounds.

Mr. Isaac Bradley, manager of the works, stated that they had been in operation for about five months, and that everything had been done at the commencement to ensure the safety of the men. It was beyond the power of the engineer to increase the pressure of fifteen pounds to the square inch, because the supply of water would not enable him to do so. Witness did not attribute the slightest blame to the manufacturer of the plate, as such a flaw might have occurred in any plate without being discernible.

The Deputy-Coroner having briefly but lucidly summed up the evidence, the jury, with one consent, returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

The Coroner requested the police to apprise the friends of the deceased, resident in Ireland, of the result of the inquiry.”

Thomas Rowley – see also WHEEL, Wolverhampton.

Philip H. Fellows was also an engineer, 73, Oxford Street. [1864], [1865]

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/9/1866

“On Monday, at the SADDLE AND STIRRUPS INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, Mr. W. H. Phillips, deputy coroner, held an inquest on the body of James Mosely, aged sixty. The old man went to Wednesbury on the previous Monday, where he was so crushed against a wall by a runaway horse belonging to the Darlaston Iron and Steel Company, that he died on Friday night. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Benjamin Fellows died in 1868.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 8/2/1868

“Yesterday, at Bilston Police Court, the following transfer of licenses were granted.
From the executors of *Benjamin Fellows*, to *Elisha Fellows*, the SADDLE AND STIRRUP, Bilston.”

Elisha Fellows was the son of *Benjamin*.

1871 Census

56, Oxford Street

- [1] John Buckley (55), innkeeper, born Brewood;
- [2] Eliza Buckley (50), wife, born Willey, Shropshire;
- [3] Thomas Boyer (60), brother, moulder, born Willey, Shropshire;
- [4] Sarah Jones (19), general servant, born Wednesbury;

John Buckley was also a farmer of Summerford, Stafford Road. [1874]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 13/5/1879

“H. Brevitt, Esq, deputy coroner, held an inquest this morning at the SADDLE AND STIRRUPS INN, Warwick Street, Bilston, touching the death of a child named Mary Prior, aged five months, who was found dead in bed on Sunday morning by her mother. The child had evidently been convulsed, and a verdict of Death by Natural Causes was returned.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 17/9/1879

“Betsy Oakley (43), Hall Street, and Mary Ann Ashley (27), Vine Street, married women, were charged with stealing an umbrella, the property of *Robert Hunt*, landlord of the SADDLE AND STIRRUPS, Oxford Street, Bilston. Prosecutor visited the BOARS HEAD INN, Church Street, on Thursday last, and, after being there some time, he went away, leaving his umbrella behind him. Returning about a quarter of an hour afterwards, he missed his umbrella from the place where he had left it. Information was given to the police, and the women were found in possession of the article trying to sell it. Each was sentenced to 14 days' imprisonment.”

Francis Bridgman = Francis Bridgeman

1881 Census

56, Oxford Street

- [1] Francis Bridgeman (35), publican, born Chaddesley, Worcestershire;
- [2] Eliza Jane Bridgeman (24), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Walter Bridgeman (3), son, born Bilston;
- [4] Alice Bridgeman (2), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] Elizabeth Stinton (21), domestic servant, born Bromyard;

Darlaston Weekly Times 9/12/1882

“At the Bilston Police Court, yesterday, four little girls, named Harriett Jones (15), Mary Ann Petley (14), Louisa Emberton (13), and Eliza Emberton (12), all of Bridge Street, were charged with stealing three dozen of scarves, value 10s, from the shop of John Nolan, general dealer, of Oxford Street, on the 15th ult.

Prosecutor stated that the goods were safe in the shop at two o'clock on the day in question, but at six o'clock they were missing.

John Toole, bailiff, of Gozzard Street, said he bought eight of the scarves from Petley in the SADDLE public house for fivepence.

Daniel Darby, licensed victualler, of Moxley, said he bought two of the scarves from Petley for sixpence, thinking this a fair value for them. He had previously bought matches from the same child.

The landlord of the SADDLE spoke to the prisoners Jones and Petley offering the scarves for sale in his house.

William Matthews, manager of an Oxford Street public house, was called as a witness, but Chief Superintendent Longden stated that the witness had said he'd see the Court d— before he gave evidence. A summons, however, was issued to compel his attendance.

Detective Hayward said he arrested Petley and Jones. They denied the offence at first but afterwards said that Eliza Emberton stole them, and they shared the money. The prisoner Eliza Emberton told him it was the fault of a woman named Sarah Jones, or Folden, who beat her until she went into the shop and stole. He, unfortunately, could not connect the woman with this particular case, although there was no doubt that the woman was the instigation of the thefts.

The case was adjourned for seven days, to compel Matthews's attendance, and the children in the meantime to be sent to the workhouse. Louisa Emberton was discharged.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 16/12/1882

“Yesterday, at the Bilston Police Court – before E. Dixon, F. A. Homer, and H. B. Whitehouse, Esquires – three little girls, named Harriet Jones, 13 years of age, Elizabeth Emberton, aged 11 years, and Mary A. Pethley, aged 14 years, were charged with stealing three dozen scarves, from the shop of John Nowlan, Oxford Street, under circumstances reported in our last issue.

The witnesses called last week recapitulated their evidence, and in addition, William Matthews, publican, of Oxford Street (who appeared on a summons), said Pethley came into the MALT SHOVEL alone, and offered several scarves for sale, some of which he bought, but he declined to swear whether the scarves (produced) were those he bought. He was not certain of the price he bought the scarves at, nor did he refuse to give them up to Detective Hayward when requested. He knew the child as a general hawker, having bought other things from her at different times.

The mothers of the children appeared before the Bench, and gave several versions of the matter, concluding by an appeal for mercy.

Emberton was discharged, Pethley and Jones were each fined 5s and costs, or 21 days' hard labour.

Matthews and Tool, the witnesses, were called before the Bench.

Detective Hayward stated that Matthews objected to produce the scarves, and when told that he would have to appear as a witness, said he would see the Court d— first.

Matthews denied this, and said that the officer had a spite against him.

Witnesses were severely reprimanded, and their expenses disallowed, the Bench stating that both witnesses seemed to be encouraging rather than repressing theft.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 15/12/1883

“Thomas John Ryan, Stafford Street, Bilston, was charged with committing a violent assault with a brass mounted whipstock, on John Gallagher of Oxford Street, in the SADDLE AND STIRRUPS INN, on the 8th instant. Ryan was arrested on a warrant on his return from the hunting field on Thursday.

Prosecutor stated that he was in the SADDLE AND STIRRUPS INN, when he made a jocular observation to the defendant, who then became violent, and in consequence of being further ‘aggravated’ by the prosecutor, struck him with the whipstock, necessitating medical attention, and keeping him to his bed for a week.

Remanded for a week.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 22/12/1883

“Thomas John Ryan, Stafford Street, Bilston, was charged on remand with assaulting John Gallagher, in the SADDLE AND STIRRUPS INN, Oxford Street, on Saturday the 8th inst. Mr. Huff (of Dudley) defended.

Gallagher and a witness named John Hayes testified to the assault, alleging that no provocation had been received. For the defence, Mr. *Bridgman*, the landlord, deposed that he saw Gallagher striking Ryan across the neck, and when he was prevented, rushed at Ryan again, when the latter struck him with the whip.

John Hayes, George Hayes, and John Gallagher were then charged with assaulting Ryan, by knocking him down on the night in question.

Ryan and the Hayes brothers were discharged, and John Gallagher was fined £2 6s, including costs.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 29/12/1883

“The members of the Britannia Lodge of Free Gardeners held their annual dinner at the SADDLE AND STIRRUPS INN (Mr. *Bridgman*’s) on Wednesday, when the host ably catered for a large number of members. District Master Sirett occupied the chair, and Bro. Banks the vice-chair. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts were drunk, and a most enjoyable evening spent.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 22/3/1884

“John Malia, labourer, of Warwick Street, Bilston, was charged with drunken and disorderly conduct, and also with committing an assault on his son, John Malia, a child five years old, on Monday night. The child appeared in court with a severe wound on its face.

The evidence showed that the defendant was celebrating St. Patrick’s day by a drinking bout. About seven o’clock at night PC Jackson was called to the defendant’s house, and there found him ‘raving mad’ with drink. In consequence of what he was told by a neighbour, the witness made enquiries, and ascertained that the defendant, on his return home, had been met by his little child, and had lifted his foot and kicked the poor little fellow into the street. When the child was seen by the officer, it was bleeding badly from a wound on the face, and was partially insensible. It was taken to the SADDLE AND STIRRUPS INN, and its injuries attended to, while the father was taken to the station.

In reply to the magistrate, defendant said he was mad drunk and did not know what he was doing. He promised never to repeat the offence.

Mr. Dixon said it did not appear that defendant was responsible for his actions, which was the consequence of the drunkenness of which there seemed to be an extraordinary amount in Bilston.

For the drunkenness, defendant was fined 5s and costs, and a like penalty was imposed for the cruelty.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 15/11/1884

“On Monday afternoon, W. H. Phillips, Esq, coroner, held an inquest at the SADDLE AND STIRRUPS INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, over the body of Eliza Ward, wife of Thomas Ward, of Warwick Street, Bilston.

From the evidence, it appeared that Ward arrived home early on Saturday evening, and gave his wife 11s, having earned 12s during the week. He again left home for Wednesbury, to secure some money owing to him. His wife went out of the house after his departure, for marketing, and returned shortly after nine, when she appears to have left her husband’s supper on the table, and gone upstairs to bed. Unfortunately, when at the top of the stairs, deceased’s feet must have gone from under her, and she fell down the stairs, partly injuring herself, and lay at the bottom. Ward returned home shortly after one on the Sunday morning, and had to force an entrance into the house, as he could not get any one to open the door. After striking a light, he perceived his wife lying on the floor, apparently resting her head on one hand, and snoring; and, as he thought, sleeping all right, a custom she had before adopted, after having had ‘a little drink.’ He did not attempt to arouse her, because on such occasions, it took so long to get her again to sleep. After partaking of supper, he went upstairs to bed, thinking that his wife was all right sleeping. He came downstairs about seven in the morning, and saw the body of his wife in the same position, but found that she was dead. He called in a neighbour, and also police-officer Buckley. The deceased had occasionally taken a little drink.

One witness, who resided next door, stated that about eleven o’clock she heard a great noise, like some one falling; and she wanted to get up but her husband advised her not. She also heard Ward knocking at the door early on Sunday morning, and heard him force open the door.

The body of the deceased was slightly injured, apparently from a fall.

The Jury returned a verdict that the deceased had come to her death by falling down the stairs.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 15/9/1885

“This (Tuesday) morning Mr. W. H. Phillips, district coroner, held an inquest at the SADDLE AND STIRRUPS INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, touching the death of Bernard McIlroy, aged 67, labourer, late of Warwick Street. Alfred Harthill, an ironworker, deposed that on Sunday morning he saw deceased walk towards a waggon in which he, with several other people, were about to proceed to Tenbury for hop-picking purposes. He was seated on the front of the waggon, when witness noticed him fall suddenly, and death ensued in a few minutes. Elizabeth McIlroy said the deceased, her husband, complained on the morning in question of feeling unwell, and had at different times suffered from a pain in the left side. He, however, left home apparently in his usual health, but a short time afterwards was brought home dead. The jury were of opinion that death arose from heart disease, and returned a verdict of Natural Causes.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 10/10/1885

“On Tuesday afternoon W. H. Phillips, Esq, coroner, held an inquest at the SADDLE AND STIRRUPS INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, touching the death of James Hayward, brewer, late of 49, Gozzard Street, Bilston. From the evidence of the widow, Sarah Hayward, it appeared that deceased was 66 years of age, and had formerly worked as a puddler, but of late years he had taken to the profession of brewing. On Monday he partook of his dinner as usual, and then lay down. He got up and whilst having his tea he complained of feeling unwell. Shortly afterwards he turned pale and fell on to the floor, dying immediately. Deceased was a member of the Free Gardeners. A verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned.”

Francis Bridgman – see also MINERS ARMS, Thompson Street.

Birmingham Daily Post 11/2/1887

“Staffordshire Adjourned Quarter Sessions.....

John Nicholls and George Brindley were charged with stealing 1s 2d, the money of *John Farmer*, of the SADDLE AND STIRRUPS INN, Oxford Street, Bilston. Being convicted, Nicholls was sentenced to fourteen days’ hard labour, and Brindley, who had been convicted ten times, to nine months’ imprisonment

Wolverhampton Express and Star 21/3/1889

“The Deputy Coroner (Mr. E. B. Thorneycroft) held an inquiry at the SADDLE AND STIRRUPS INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, into the circumstances touching the death of Maria O’Shaughanessey, aged four months, of 2, Warwick Street, Bilston. On the morning of the 19th inst, the mother of the deceased got up, leaving the child in bed. On returning a few minutes after, she found that it was in a convulsive fit. It died before medical aid could be obtained. Verdict, Natural Causes.”

1891 Census

56, Oxford Street – SADDLE AND STIRRUP

- [1] *John Silvester* (44), public house manager, born Bilston;
- [2] *Emma Silvester* (44), wife, born Liverpool;
- [3] *John Henry Silvester* (11), son, scholar, born Moxley;
- [4] *Louisa Silvester* (9), daughter, scholar, born Moxley;
- [5] *Thomas Silvester* (7), son, scholar, born Moxley;
- [6] *George Silvester* (6), son, scholar, born Moxley;
- [7] *Maria Wilks* (20), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

William Pettifer – see also ROYAL GEORGE, and HORSE AND JOCKEY.

Birmingham Daily Post 24/10/1894

“Mr. Neville (stipendiary) was occupied for a long time yesterday, at the Bilston Police Court, in hearing cases arising out of a raid on public houses in Bilston, Willenhall, and the neighbourhood.....

Thomas Talbot, landlord of the SADDLE AND STIRRUPS INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, was summoned for permitting drunkenness on his premises. Police-constable Insley spoke to finding a drunken woman in the house, and a companion of the woman said they had shared with others sixteen quarts of beer during the day. For the defence it was contended that there was no evidence of a sale of drink to the woman who was said to be drunk. The case was dismissed.”

1901 Census

Oxford Street – SADDLE AND STIRRUPS

- [1] *Thomas Talbot* (52), widower, publican, born Wyrley, Staffordshire;
- [2] *Ernest Stride* (22), nephew, married, brewer's carter, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *Sophia Stride* (22), niece, married, born Sedgley;

1911 Census

121, Oxford Street – SADDLE AND STIRRUPS

- [1] *William Edwards* (60), licensed victualler, manager, born Tipton;
- [2] *Sarah Ann Edwards* (58), wife, married 23 years, born Tipton;

1921 Census

121, Oxford Street

- [1] *William Edwards* (70), licensed victualler, born Tipton;
- [2] *Alice Edwards* (49), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Katherine Blakemore* (11), visitor, school, born Bilston;
- [4] *Olive Edwards* (2), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] *Winnie Concanon* (16), domestic servant, born Bilston;

SADDLE AND STIRRUP [1932]

Jesse Hart – see also BARREL, Temple Street.

1939 Register

121, Oxford Street – SADDLE AND STIRRUPS (3 of 4)

- [1] *George E. Large*, date of birth 23/6/1904, manager, fully licensed house, married;
- [2] *Sarah Ann Large*, dob 11/2/1909, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] *George William Large*, dob 7/3/1932, at school, single;

A team from here took part in the Bilston Charity Darts League. [1946]

A team from here took part in the Bilston Crib League, Section A. [1946]

[1982]

Closed

It was converted into a shop. [1986]

PUBLIC NOTICE.						
THOMAS HALL, Hears, Car, and Pleasure Van Proprietor, Piper's-row, Wolverhampton, begs respectfully to inform the inhabitants of Wolverhampton, Bilston, Tettenhall, and surrounding Neighbourhoods that he will commence RUNNING on MONDAY NEXT, the 15th day of OCTOBER, 1855, ACCOMMODATION OMNIBUS From WOLVERHAMPTON TO TETTENHALL WOOD and Back, thence from WOLVERHAMPTON TO BILSTON and Back. Times of Starting and Fares as follows:—						
Will leave	WEEK DAYS.			SUNDAYS.		
	Morn- ing.	Even- ing.	Even- ing.	To	To	To
Five Ways, Queen- street, for Chapel Ash, Tettenhall, and Tettenhall Wood, at	8 0	5 0	5 30	Chapel Ash, 2d.	Tetten- hall, 4d.	Tetten- hall Wood, 6d.
The Shoulder of Mutton Inn, Tet- tenhall Wood, for Tettenhall, Cha- pel Ash, and Wol- verhampton	8 45	5 45	6 30	Tetten- hall, 2d.	Chapel Ash, 4d.	Wolver- hampton, 6d.
William Jones' Spi- rit Vaults, Mar- ket Place, Wol- verhampton, for Monmore Green, Priestfields, and Bilston	9 30	6 30	7 15	Mon- more Green, 2d.	Priest- fields, 3d.	Bilston, 6d.
The Saddle and Stir- rups, Bilston, for Priestfields, Mon- more Green, and Wolverhampton ..	10 30	7 30	8 15	Priest- fields, 3d.	Mon- more Green, 4d.	Wolver- hampton, 6d.

SAMPSON AND LION

1, Green Croft, (Green Cross Street), BILSTON

OWNERS

Mary Ann Harris, widow, Bilston
William Butler and Co. Ltd.

LICENSEES

Joseph Hateley [1828] – [1838]
Mary Ann Hateley [1839]
William Howes [1841] – [1858]
Mary Ann Howes [1861] – [1862]
William Williams [1864] – [1865]
Mrs. Rebecca Williams [1868] – [1872]
John Williams [1871] – **1887**;
Alfred Smith (**1887 – 1889**);
William Sutley (**1889 – 1892**);
Josephus Simpson (**1892 – 1894**);
Thomas Tranter (**1894 – 1896**);
John Bowen (**1896 – 1909**);
Frances Eliza Goodwin (**1909 – 1911**);
George Cresswell (**1911 – 1923**);
Joseph Statham (**1923 – 1924**);

NOTES

Green Cross Street [1858]

SAMPSON AND THE LION [1862]

LION [1881]

SAMPSON AND LION [1896], [1908]

Joseph Hateley = Joseph Hatley

Joseph Hateley was also a shoeing and jobbing smith. [1833]

Worcestershire Chronicle 20/12/1838

“On Thursday last, as Mr. *Joseph Hateley*, landlord of the SAMPSON AND LION INN, at Bilston, was proceeding in a light spring cart, accompanied by two friends, to join a coursing party, the vehicle, on turning a corner of the road at Penn, near Wolverhampton, was upset, whereby Mr. *Hateley*, falling on his head, was killed on the spot, the collar-bone of one of his companions broken, and the other a good deal bruised.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/12/1838

“On Wednesday se’nnight a most distressing accident happened in the neighbourhood of Bilston, in which Mr. *Joseph Hateley*, keeper of the SAMPSON AND LION, Green Croft, Bilston, unfortunately lost his life. It seems that the deceased and Mr. Thomas Evans, a butcher, accompanied by two other persons, were proceeding in a cart driven by Evans, to a coursing match near Penn. When the party turned a corner near Penn, the wheel of the cart, either by accident or carelessness, was run up a bank and the cart was overturned, by which Mr. *Hateley*’s neck was



OLD-LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE.
“SAMPSON AND LION INN,” GREEN CROFT,
BILSTON.
THE above snug HOUSE of BUSINESS to be
LET, with immediate possession. The Stock-in-Trade and Fixtures
only to be taken to by valuation. The Business having been carried on
for the past thirty years by the present occupier, who is retiring from the
trade. Rent only £17. per annum.—For further particulars, apply to
Mr. John Caesere, Auctioneer and Public House Agent, 61, Snow
Hill, Wolverhampton.

1861

broken. He was much respected, and has left a wife and young family to deplore his loss. On Saturday last an inquest was held on the body, before H. Smith, Esq, coroner, but in consequence of the absence of a material witness, it was adjourned to yesterday.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/12/1838

“The following inquisitions have been held before H. Smith, Esq, coroner.....

On the 15th inst, and by adjournment on the 21st inst, at Bilston, on *Joseph Hateley* landlord of the SAMSON AND LION public house in that town. The deceased, who was about fifty-three years of age, was, it appeared, on the forenoon of Thursday, the 13th inst, proceeding with three other persons, named Evans, Lane, and Adderley, in a spring cart, from Bilston to Patshull, on a coursing excursion. Evans, who drove, is a butcher living at Bilston, and was a little tipsy; they stopped twice to have something to drink, at Penn, after which they continued their journey, and when they came near a place called Ox Barn, the cart was completely overturned in consequence of one of the wheels passing over a large stone which lay in the road. The deceased fell under the cart, and was killed almost instantaneously; and Lane was much injured.

The jury, after considerable deliberation, returned a verdict of Accidental Death; but considering there was great blame to be imputed to Evans, from his being in a state of intoxication; and considering also his former similar habits, and that the journey was a kind of larking and drunken excursion, they found the horse and cart a deodand, and adjudged the value thereof at £10.”

[deodand – ‘In old English law a personal chattel that had been the immediate accidental cause of the death of a human being, forfeited to the crown for pious uses.’ – *Chambers Dictionary*.]

Mary Ann Hateley = *Mary Ann Heatley* = *Mary Ann Hatlay*

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/3/1839

“On Tuesday last about seventy of the friends of Mrs. *Heatley*, of the SAMPSON AND LION INN, Bilston, dined together at her house. The dinner, which was excellent and abundant, was served up with considerable taste. Mr. Job Hickman Lester presided on the occasion. The evening was spent with the greatest cordiality and good feeling, and the company did not separate until a late hour.”

Mary Ann Hatlay, widow, victualler, married *William Howes*, widower, victualler, on 22nd May 1840.

William Howes = *William Howe* = *William Howiss*

1841 Census

Green Croft

[1] *William Howes* (55), victualler, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Mary Howes* (38), born Staffordshire;

[3] *John L. Howes* (15), carpenter, born Staffordshire;

[4] *Jane Howes* (6 months), born Staffordshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/9/1841 - Advert

“Freehold Buildings, New Town, Bilston, Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett, on Friday, the 24th day of September, 1841, at the house of Mr. *William Howiss*, the SAMSON AND LION public house, Green Croft, Bilston, at five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be read.

Three Freehold Messuages, Tenements, or Dwelling Houses, formerly the property of Mr. *Joseph Hateley*, deceased.....”

Northern Star and Leeds General Advertiser 11/1/1845

“The Bilston miners dined together on New Year’s day, at the SAMPSON AND LION, Green Croft, Bilston. The meeting was a happy, cementing closer the bonds of union, and affording the greatest satisfaction to all present.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/2/1845 - Advert

“Bilston Banking Company. Persons of whom the Company or Partnership consists.....

William Howe, Bilston, Victualler.”

Northern Star and Leeds General Advertiser 23/8/1845

“Staffordshire Miners. According to the announcement in last week’s *Star*, Mr. Roberts arrived on Monday last at the Wolverhampton station by half-past twelve, when a goodly number from various parts of the district were assembled to meet him. They moved on in procession to Bilston, with music playing and banners flying. A good substantial dinner was provided at the SAMPSON AND LION, Bilston, which being disposed of, all repaired to the place of meeting, where some thousands were already assembled. Mr. Linney was unanimously called to the chair. Messrs. Brown and Ramsay addressed the meeting in a very suitable manner, after which the chairman introduced Mr. Roberts, who said he had formerly been a public speaker, but was not now. Nevertheless, he would not hesitate to exert himself when called on by the working classes, and he was entirely wedded to them. He was there that day to ask them a simple question – Were they prepared to become members of the Miners Association? (Cheers.).....”

Northern Star and Leeds General Advertiser 15/11/1845

“.....The Miners Committee, Bilston, October 27th, 1845.

Subscriptions will be thankfully received at Mr. J. Linney’s, WHITE HORSE, and at Mr. H. [sic] *Howe*’s, SAMPSON AND LION, Green Croft.”

AND

Northern Star and Leeds General Advertiser 20/12/1845

“At a meeting of the Miners Victim Fund committee, held at Mr. J. Linney’s, WHITE HORSE INN, High Street, Bilston, on Sunday, December 14th, the accounts of the Law Fund were audited and found correct, the receipts being £51 9s 2½d, and the disbursements £47 16s 5d. Audited by John Hamnor and George Ramsay.”

Northern Star and Leeds General Advertiser 10/1/1846

“Bilston Miners. The next meeting of the victim fund committee will be held at the house of Mr. *William Howes*, SAMPSON AND LION, Greencroft, Bilston, on Wednesday evening, January 14th, at seven o’clock, when the following places are expected to send delegates: Wolverhampton, Bilston, Wednesfield Heath, Bloxwich, Darlaston, Wednesbury, Walsall, Tipton, and Oldbury.....”

Northern Star and Leeds General Advertiser 27/6/1847

“The Miners of Bilston. The members of the Law Fund Committee are requested to meet on Monday next, June 29, at seven o’clock at the SAMPSON AND LION, Greencroft, Bilston.”

1851 Census

Greencroft

- [1] *William Howes* (60), publican or innkeeper, born Bilston;
- [2] *Mary Ann Howes* (40), wife, born Stoke, Staffordshire;
- [3] *John Howes* (26), son, carpenter and joiner, born Bilston;
- [4] *Sarah Hatley* (18), daughter-in-law, dressmaker, born Bilston;
- [5] *Jane Howes* (10), daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] *Henry Howes* (8), son, born Bilston;
- [7] *Julia Howes* (6), daughter, born Bilston;
- [8] *Mary Howes* (4), daughter, born Bilston;
- [9] *Louisa Bayley* (14), servant, born Wellington, Shropshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 24/2/1858 - Advert

“Bilston District Banking Company. Persons of whom the Company or Partnership consist.....

Mary Ann Howes, wife of *William Howes*, Bilston, victualler, Administratrix of the late *Joseph Hatley* (deceased), Bilston, victualler.

William Howes, Bilston, victualler.”

William Howes died in the 2nd quarter of 1858.

1861 Census

1, Green Croft

- [1] Maryann Howes (55), widow, victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] Sarah Hately (27), step-daughter, born Bilston;
- [3] Jane Howes (20), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] Julia Howes (15), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] Mary Howes (13), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] Susannah Schofield (14), general servant, born Hull:

Birmingham Daily Post 19/9/1861 - Advert

“Old-Licensed Public House, SAMPSON AND LION INN, Green Croft, Bilston.

The above snug House of Business to be Let, with immediate possession. The Stock-in-Trade and Fixtures only to be taken to by valuation. The Business having been carried on for the past thirty years by the present occupier, who is retiring from the trade. Rent only £17 per annum.

For further particulars, apply to Mr. John Cassere, Auctioneer and Public House Agent, 51, Snow Hill, Wolverhampton.”

William Williams was also a tea dealer. [1864], [1865]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/9/1864

“Yesterday the magistrates sat in Special Sessions, for the consideration of the applications for the renewal of old and the granting of new licenses to victuallers.....

The following houses and their landlords had been complained against and fined during the year.....

W. Williams, SAMPSON AND LION, Green Croft.”

1871 Census

1, Greencroft – SAMSON AND LION

- [1] John Williams (25), innkeeper, licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] Jane Williams (31), sister, teacher, born Bilston;
- [3] Clara Higgins (15), general servant, born Bilston:

John Williams married Catherine Shale.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 4/3/1875

“On Tuesday evening last the members of Lilly of the Valley Lodge of the Independent Order of Oddfellows, Manchester Unity, met at their lodge house, the SAMPSON AND LION INN, Green Croft, Bilston, for the purpose of acknowledging the valuable services rendered to the lodge by their respected Host, Bro. *John Williams*; also Bros. Neale and Jones, for having introduced a great number of young members into the lodge during the past six months.....

PPGM Collins asked their respected Host to receive, in the name of the Lodge, the beautiful emblem of the Order, framed in so tasteful a manner, and hoped he would be long spared to see it adorn the walls of his house.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/5/1880

“Yesterday morning the adjourned inquest on the body of the boy John Kyte, who had died from injuries caused by his falling over a low wall on to the Great Western Railway, was resumed at the SAMPSON AND LION INN, Greencroft, Bilston, before Mr. H. Brevitt. The facts have been given, and a verdict was now returned of Accidental Death.

The inquiry had been adjourned for the production of evidence as to the ownership of the wall, but nothing definite was adduced, and at the request of the jury notices were given to Inspector Ledbrook, of the Great Western Railway Company, and to Messrs. Colley, the owners of the houses adjoining the wall, to take steps to prevent similar accidents occurring.”

Evening Express 1/3/1881 - Advert

“Pianist Wanted two nights a week.

Apply personally, SAMSON AND LION, Green Croft, Bilston.”

PIANIST Wanted two nights a week.—Apply personally.
Samson and Lion, Green-croft, Bilston.

1881 Census

1, Green Croft – LION

[1] *John Williams* (36), licensed victualler, born Bilston;

[2] *Catherine Williams* (25), wife, born Cheadle, North Staffordshire;

[3] *John Williams* (2), son, born Bilston;

[4] *Lydia Lawley* (21), general servant, born Sedgley:

Evening Express 5/4/1881

“James Russell, miner, lately of Clay Cross, Derbyshire, formerly of Darlaston, was charged with stealing a pair of trousers, the property of Samuel Snelus, groom, of Ettingshall.

The theft took place in the SAMSON AND LION public house, Green Croft, Bilston, while the parties and other people were there on Saturday afternoon, the 4th of December, the trousers being in a parcel which by some means got upon the floor; but it was only lately discovered what had become of them, the prisoner having sent them to pledge.

Prisoner pleaded guilty, and was ordered to pay 20s and costs, and to compensate prosecutor for the loss of the trousers.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 30/12/1882

“A complimentary match, for the benefit of Joseph Tetsall, a local player, who has recently been injured, was played on Tuesday at Prouds Lane Grounds, between the St. Luke’s Football Club, and the Wednesbury Wanderers. A large number of spectators were present, and the game was an enjoyable one. After some exciting play, Wednesbury won, scoring seven goals to nil.

After the match, a convivial gathering of the two teams was held at the club house, SAMPSON AND LION, Greencroft, where a capital spread was provided by the host, Mr. *J. Williams*, and thoroughly enjoyed. We understand that the profits from the game will be a welcome help to Tetsall.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 10/2/1883 - Correspondence

“To the Editor.

Sir, In consequence of certain injurious reports having been circulated, one that I am suffering from small-pox, and another that I died on Thursday, will you permit me to reassure my friends, and to say that although rheumatism has caused me some annoyance lately, small-pox has not visited my house at all, nor am I at present, at all events, dead, but on the contrary, alive and shall be glad to see old and new friends, none of whom need fear infection.

Yours truly, *John Williams*, SAMSON AND LION INN, Greencroft, February 9th 1883.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 21/7/1883

“The members of the ‘Bilston Assize Court’ held at the SAMPSON AND LION INN, Greencroft, Bilston, held their first annual club supper, at the lodge house on Thursday evening. The club was started as an improvement upon the Judge and Jury Clubs, of which so many existed in the district, and has been well attended by many of the tradesmen of the town. After partaking of an excellent spread provided by the host, Mr. *John Williams*, the secretary, Mr. E. Phillips, reported that after a three months existence, and after paying for the furniture, fittings, &c, of the lodge room, the club had a good balance in hand, and had a large number of members.....”

Darlaston Weekly Times 1/9/1883 - Advert

“Great Western Railway Company.

The Committee of the Wolverhampton and District Licensed Victuallers Incorporated Society have made arrangements with the above Company to run a Special Express Train to London (International Fisheries Exhibition).....

Tickets may be had from any of the undermentioned.....

John Williams, SAMSON AND LION INN, Greencroft, Bilston.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 8/9/1883

“The usual monthly meeting of the Bilston Night Watch Committee was held at the SAMSON AND LION INN, Greencroft, on Wednesday evening The watchmen reported that during the month they had discovered 23 places of business open or insecure. It was pointed out that this was the largest number for a considerable time.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 20/10/1883 - Advert

"SAMPSON AND LION INN, Greencroft, Bilston.

John Williams wishes to give notice that the above house has been Considerably Enlarged and Improved, and is now most Commodious, and suitable to the requirements of the trade.

Spacious Smoke Room. Quiet Snug. Comfortable Tap Room.

J. W. will be glad to see old and new friends, and the usual Good Quality of Ales etc, will be always kept in stock.

Good Music. Good Singing.

Free and Easy Saturdays and Mondays."

Darlaston Weekly Times 12/7/1884

"The Staffordshire Colliers Strike.

At a meeting of the colliers in the Bilston district, held at the SAMSON AND LION INN, Greencroft, Bilston, it was determined that work should not be resumed unless the employers concede the old rate of wages. A large number of names of miners have been submitted to the strike committee for 'strike pay.'"

Darlaston Weekly Times 18/10/1884

"On Tuesday evening, the 30th ult, a concert was given at the HOP POLE (Mrs. Sarah Evans, proprietress) to assist the miners on strike. After a most successful musical entertainment, and paying the necessary expenses, £3 17s 3d was kindly handed over by Mrs. Evans to the treasurer, Mr. *John Williams*, of the SAMPSON AND LION INN, to be divided amongst the men on strike. Mr. Curley, secretary, of Bilston, desires us to thank Mrs. Evans, on behalf of the committee, for her kindness, and also to thank all who attended the concert."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 10/2/1885 - Advert

"Canaries, Canaries, Canaries.

A few very good Hens for Sale, German and Norwich.

Apply, *J. Williams*, SAMSON AND LION INN, Green Croft, Bilston."

CANARIES, Canaries, Canaries.—A few very good Hens for Sale, German and Norwich.—Apply, J. Williams, Samson and Lion Inn, Green Croft, Bilston.

Darlaston Weekly Times 1/8/1885

"Bilston Wake Tuesday.....

The members of the Judge and Jury Club, held at the SAMSON AND LION, Bilston, to the number of 35, had an excursion to Bridgnorth. Arriving at Bridgnorth about noon the party put up at the Bandon Arms, Lower Town. The brakes were supplied by Mr. Whittaker, High Street."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 24/8/1885 - Advert

"Bicycle for Sale, 36in; price 33s; a very good roadster.

Apply, *John Williams*, SAMSON AND LION, Bilston."

BICYCLE for Sale, 36in. ; price 33s. ; a very good roadster.—Apply, John Williams, Samson and Lion, Bilston.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 14/9/1885 - Advert

"Found, on Thursday night, a Pug Dog, very fat; if not claimed in three days will be sold.

Apply, *J. Williams*, SAMSON AND LION, Green Cross, Bilston."

FOUND, on Thursday night, a Pug Dog, very fat; if not claimed in three days will be sold.—Apply, J. Williams, Samson and Lion, Green Cross, Bilston. 1885

Darlaston Weekly Times 3/6/1887 - Advert

"To Let, the old-established Licensed House, known as the SAMSON AND LION at Greencroft. In the family 26 years. Satisfactory reasons for leaving.

Apply, *J. Williams*, on the premises."

TO LET, the old-established Licensed House, known as the Samson and Lion, at Greencroft. In the family 26 years. Satisfactory reasons for leaving.—Apply, J. Williams, on the premises.

1891 Census

1, Green Croft

[1] *William Sutley* (59), publican, born Kidderminster;

[2] *Caroline Sutley* (50), wife, born Kidderminster;

[3] *Kate Sutley* (20), daughter, barmaid, born Kidderminster;

[4] *Amy Sutley* (12), daughter, born Kidderminster;

1901 Census

1, Greencroft

- [1] John Bowen (37), innkeeper, born Bilston;
- [2] Elizabeth Bowen (36), wife, born Brierley Hill;
- [3] Harriet Bowen (12), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] William Bowen (9), son, born Bilston;
- [5] Harold Bowen (7), son, born Bilston;
- [6] Ida Bowen (1), daughter, born Bilston:

1911 Census

1, Greencroft – SAMSON AND LION

- [1] Joseph Goodwin (53), house painter, born Bolton, Lancashire;
- [2] Frances E. Goodwin (45), wife, married 27 years, manager public house, born Birmingham;
- [3] Olive Vivian Goodwin (20), daughter, assists mother's business, born Bilston;
- [4] James Curley (42), boarder, cycle mechanic, born Bilston:

Joseph Goodwin – see OXFORD, Oxford Street.

George Cresswell was fined £1 and costs, on 21st January 1916, for selling beer exceeding measure called for.

1921 Census

1, Greencroft

- [1] George Cresswell (49), licensed victualler, born Sedgley;
- [2] Betsy Cresswell (46), wife, house duties, born Bradley;
- [3] Frank Harris (49), boarder, furnace hand, out of work, born Manchester;
- [4] Annie Harris (50), domestic servant, born Bradley;
- [5] May Harris (16), niece, holloware bucket maker's assistant, out of work, born Manchester;
- [6] Alexander Merrick (3), nephew, born Bradley;
- [7] Clara Graves (46), visitor, widow, house duties, born Bromsgrove:

South Staffordshire Times 4/3/1922

“At the adjourned Licensing Sessions, at Bilston, yesterday (Mr. Victor Hickman presiding) Mr. Graham Milward made application on behalf of Thomas Alfred Webb and Butler's Brewery Company, Wolverhampton, for the removal of the license of the SAMSON AND LION INN, Green Croft, Bilston, to a house yet to be built in the neighbourhood of Fraser Street, Bilston.

Mr. Milward said before proceeding to put his case to the Bench he would like to know if there were any objection to the application.

Mr. R. Tildesley said he appeared to oppose it on behalf of Mr. John Chilton, owner and licensee of the PRINCE OF WALES INN, George Davies, licensee of the COCK INN, Willenhall Road, and the owners of the same house.

Sister Josephine presented a petition from various temperance societies against the application.

Mr. Milward said he made a similar application a year ago, and it was then refused, but since that date there were a good many altered facts which placed the application that day in a much stronger position than it was before. Today they knew exactly what was the opposition to the application. With regard to that which was being made by the licensees or owners of other public houses, he accepted that as a compliment, because if it meant anything at all it meant that those licensees or owners knew that there were people using their houses because they could not go to any other in the neighbourhood which they would prefer if it were in existence, and because they felt that their houses would stand no chance if such a house as his client proposed to erect came into existence. With regard to the lady who had presented the petition from the temperance societies, they must always respect any feeling of that sort, but it was a question whether, when people signed petitions of that description, they were thoroughly acquainted with the circumstances. If his application was worth a snap of the fingers, it was essentially, an application for the betterment of the neighbourhood, and for the promotion of temperance rather than intemperance. It would remove that bogey that the granting of a license to the new house was going to spread intemperance. The license proposed to be removed to the new house was that of the SAMSON AND LION, Green Croft, Bilston. It was a valuable license, as the house was doing considerable trade, and would entail heavy compensation if taken away, but when they came to look at that locality they would find that there were so many licensed houses that the people would not

be penalised if the license of the SAMSON AND LION were removed. That appeared to be the view of the Licensing Justices, for they had already scheduled a house in Green Croft on the grounds of redundancy. It was proposed to build the new house at the corner of a large piece of bare ground near Fraser Street, and having access to Willenhall Road. A good road would be made through the land, and it would have excellent frontages, so that the land could be developed as a building estate, and there was not the slightest doubt that this would be due, although the brewery company only undertook the making of the road. Perhaps the most important point was as to what class of house was going to be put up, and what was the class of house already existing in Bilston. They knew perfectly well what the old idea was, when licensees wanted to sell drink and nothing else. They had a lot of small rooms on their premises – the more of them the better – in which people could go and sit drinking the whole of the time. They had plenty of such houses in Bilston today. The house his clients proposed to build was one of a different character. The rooms would be large and commodious, its appurtenances complete, and the whole could constitute the latest thing in public house architecture. There was no house in Bilston at present like what that would be. It would attract the most decent people and set a high standard. People would not want to go to the dirtier place. It was also proposed to have a bowling green attached to it, regardless of cost, for the purpose of recreation, and he understood that the Bilston people appreciated few things as much as a game of bowls. The Brewery Company would also surrender the license of another house in the division.

Plans were put in, and formal evidence was given on behalf of the application.

Mr. Tildesley said the opposition was similar to that of last year, and it ought not to be set aside. Some consideration should be given to the small owners of licensed houses. It was not quite fair for wealthy companies to come along, shaking their money bags, and to say that they were going to put up a house of a high standard to keep people from going to smaller houses. It was not fair that there should be a monopoly in the licensed trade by people who could afford to spend larger sums of money than anyone else. There were already in the neighbourhood referred to a number of houses in good condition and they were entitled to consideration.

The Justices retired to consider their decision, and afterwards the chairman said they had decided to grant the removal of the license.

Mr. Pratt (magistrates clerk) said it would be understood that the license would continue at the SAMSON AND LION until the new house was completed.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/4/1922

“The County Licensing Committee at Stafford yesterday granted an application for a provisional order for the removal of the SAMSON AND LION INN, Greencroft, Bilston, to a house proposed to be erected on land near Beckett Street, Bilston. Mr. V. Graham Milward, who made the application, said the Bilston justices had granted a similar application. The proposed site was in a very respectable and growing neighbourhood. There was a definite need for a house in that particular locality, in Bilston. Bilston, he said, was perhaps not very up-to-date in its public houses, but it was proposed to put up the latest type of house. A petition in favour of the application had been signed by 272 persons, and only two were against it.”

George Cresswell – see also KINGS HEAD, Broad Street, and GOLDEN CUP.

South Staffordshire Times 23/6/1923

“At Bilston Police Court, on Tuesday, before Messrs. C. W. Harris and G. W. Sankey.

Joseph Statham, licensee of the SAMSON AND LION, Greencroft, Bilston, was summoned for permitting music in a public room in his house, for which no license had been obtained, on 21st, 23rd, 27th and 28th May.

Mr. J. A. Sharpe, who prosecuted on behalf of the police, said part 4 of the Public Health Act provisions could be adopted by any district. That had been done in Bilston, and under them it became necessary that all licensed victuallers who wished to have public music in their houses must apply to the magistrates for a license. He understood that the Bilston magistrates were averse to granting such licenses, and defendant had taken the law into his own hands. He had not applied for a license, but, it was alleged, had permitted public music without one. He had a piano in the room, and a pianist was paid to play it.

PS Maddox stated that about 8.40pm on the 21st May he and PC Durrant went into the SAMSON AND LION to make inquiries about certain matters, and while there he heard a piano being played. In the presence of witness defendant asked the pianist her name and she said it was Florence Matton, and that she lived at Wolverhampton. He then asked her if she was employed by defendant to play the piano. She said she was, for three nights per week, and was paid for her services. On the 26th, 27th and 28th May witness and PC Durrant again visited the house, and on each occasion saw the same pianist playing the piano.

Mr. A. J. Glover, who appeared for defendant, asked witness if on any of the occasions on which he visited the house he told defendant it was an offence to allow the piano to be played in a public room without a license, and he replied that he did not.

Mr. Glover said that after very careful consideration of the circumstances he had advised his client to plead guilty to the charge. He (Mr. Glover) had been informed that in Bilston, although music, singing and dancing licenses should be applied for, up to the present time no such license had been granted. He had been further informed that within the last two or three months licenses had been applied for, but the justices had refused them. No application had been made by defendant at any time. To get a conviction in a case of this kind many things had to be taken into consideration. It was not an offence for a piano to be used on licensed premises for an impromptu concert which might be suggested by the customers amongst themselves, and for which no payment was made to the performers, but in the case before them it now seemed that Mrs. Matton was paid to play the piano on certain nights every week, and when he found that to be correct he could come to no conclusion other than in law defendant was guilty in allowing it to be done. He believed that was the first case in the district, and he thought justice would be met if the Bench dismissed the summonses on payment of costs. He had no desire to find fault with the police, but he thought that when they heard the piano on the first occasion they ought to have warned the landlord that he was committing an offence.

The Chairman said that he and his colleagues considered that if defendant did not know the regulations, he ought to have known them, and he would be fined £2 on each of the four summonses, with three guineas special costs."

AND

"*Joseph Statham*, defendant in the previous case, was then charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises on Sunday, May 20th.

Mr. Sharpe explained that on the night of May 20th, three young men – Joseph Patrick O'Connor, William Henry George Thompson, and William O'Connell – were seen by the police in a disgraceful state of drunkenness about 100 yards from the SAMSON AND LION. They were singing and tumbling about. The police gave them every opportunity of clearing off, but they were so much overcome by drink that they could not go home. They were arrested, locked up at the Police Station all night, bailed out the next morning, and brought before the magistrates on the 22nd May. They were then convicted for being drunk and disorderly. It was ascertained that on the night of the 20th May they had been visiting the SAMSON AND LION. That was a Sunday night. They went in about nine and remained till closing time. Evidence would be called to show that each man had about six glasses of ale during that time, and when they came out of the house they were drunk. It might be said in the defence that defendant did not see them, but the onus was on him. It was his duty to take reasonable precaution to prevent drunkenness on his premises.

John Patrick O'Connor (19), labourer, 3, Southampton Street, Wolverhampton, said he came to Bilston on the night of the 20th May with Thompson and O'Connell. They went into the SAMSON AND LION about nine o'clock and stayed till closing time. Witness had a least six half-pints of beer. He felt all right while in the house, but queer on getting outside. He and his companions were quite sober in the house, and he assumed the air got over them when they were outside. The room in which they had been sitting was hot and stuffy.

Mr. Sharpe drew witness's attention to a written statement which witness admitted he had made. He said it was read over to him, and he signed it. Mr. Glover objected to quotation being made from it, as witness had not shown himself to be in any way hostile. The Bench upheld the objection.

Continuing, witness again admitted that he felt a bit queer on getting outside the house. The other two men were also all right in the house, but seemed under the influence of drink when they got outside. They had been drinking in the public bar. The landlord came in once, about a quarter to ten. Witness had had no beer before he went to the SAMSON AND LION. He and his companions were afterwards brought before the magistrates and convicted.

Cross-examined by Mr. Glover, witness said that that was his first visit to the house. He and his friends left about ten minutes to ten, after 'time' had been called. Witness saw an assistant in the bar. It was not until witness got outside that he felt queer. When a policeman first went up to them in the street O'Connell was singing 'Blue Bird' and the officer said that it would be 'black eyes' not 'Blue Bird' if they did not get off. Witness and Thompson then got on a tramcar for Wolverhampton, but as O'Connell was staying behind, they got off the car and went for him. They then got too late for the car, and started to walk home. They had not gone far before they were arrested.

William Henry George Thompson (23), 10, Inkerman Street, Wolverhampton, gave similar evidence, he said he had only six glasses of beer at the SAMSON AND LION, and felt all right while he was there.

Mr. Sharpe: Do you remember making a statement to the police which you afterwards signed? – Witness: Yes.

Mr. Sharpe: Is that the statement (handed up)? – Witness: Yes.

Mr. Sharpe (to the Bench): This statement contradicts what the witness has just said, and I submit that I am entitled

to put it in, so as to show the nature of the contradictions.

After authorities had been quoted, the Chairman said they would allow Mr. Sharpe to put questions from the document.

Mr. Sharpe (to witness): In this statement you say, 'I only had beer. It made me queer. I was queer when I left the public house. I managed to get out without assistance. I was drunk, but not disorderly at all. I got drunk in the public house, the SAMSON AND LION.' – Witness: I did say that, but when I came out I could walk as straight as anyone. It must have overcome me when I got into the street.

The Clerk: You were quite sober when you left the house? – Witness: Yes; but when I made that statement I said I was queer.

Witness admitted that he fell down in the street, but that was owing to the slippery ground. When the police arrested him and the other men they were 'stumbling about a bit.'

Cross-examined by Mr. Glover, witness said he had had no intoxicants before going to the SAMSON AND LION, where they had bitter beer. He saw the landlord once or twice in the public bar, and also an assistant named Elliman. All the time witness was sitting down he felt all right, and did not feel queer until he got into the street. He gave no indication of having been drunk while in the house, and acted there in a perfectly rational manner.

PC Adams stated that about 10.15pm on May 20th he was in Church Street, accompanied by PC Durant. They saw the three men referred to. They were drunk, and singing and shouting. At that time they were about 30 yards from the SAMSON AND LION. Witness spoke to them about their conduct, and gave them every opportunity of going away. They went in the direction of the Town Hall, and when the Wolverhampton car came up two of them got on it, but afterwards got off and joined the one who remained behind. They all started to walk in the direction of Wolverhampton, and again began to sing and shout. PC Bates intercepted them, and in consequence of their conduct they were taken into custody.

Mr. Glover: When you first spoke to them in the street, you did not think it necessary to arrest them? – Witness: We believe in giving people a chance to go home.

PC Bates and PC Durrant gave similar evidence.

Sergeant Maddox said he was at the Police Station on the night of May 20th when the three men referred to were brought in. They were drunk. They were placed in the cells and bailed out the next morning.

Mr. Glover raised a point as to whether Sergeant Maddox and a constable visited the SAMSON AND LION on the night of the 20th May, but all the officers who had given evidence stated that they did not go in the house that night at all.

Supt. Higgs afterwards said that he had made enquiries, and could not find that any officers went into the house that night. Some of them visited it on other nights.

Addressing the Bench for the defence, Mr. Glover in the first place submitted that there was no case which defendant should be called upon to answer, but the Bench ruled against him. Mr. Glover then contended that there was not the slightest evidence to show that the three men were drunk on the licensed premises, and he thought that, when they had heard the evidence to be adduced, they would agree that his client took reasonable precautions to prevent drunkenness. They had heard that no officer visited the house on the night of 20th May, but he would call witnesses who would contradict that.

Defendant stated that on the 20th May he was assisting in the business at his house from 7 to 10pm. At different times he was in all the rooms of the house, and helped to serve customers in the public bar. During the whole of that time no person in the house showed any signs of drunkenness, or he would have noticed it. During the evening Sergeant Maddox and a constable came in, and looked through the house. That was about half-past nine. He asked the sergeant if everything was all right, and he said, 'Yes.' The sergeant and the constable then went out together. He (defendant) saw all the customers leave the house at closing time, and not one showed any signs of drunkenness. There was no staggering at all. There were between fifty and sixty people in all the rooms of the house.

In cross-examination Mr. Sharpe asked defendant how many rooms there were in the house in which drink was served, and he replied, 'that there was a tap room, a smoke, bar parlour, and a children's room.'

Mr. Sharpe: Do you serve drink in the children's room? – Defendant: Occasionally.

Mr. Sharpe: Do you mean that you serve the mothers with drinks while the children are there? – Defendant: Yes, sometimes.

Mr. Sharpe: That is very strange! How many mothers would be in the children's room when you had to serve on this night? – Defendant: About nine or ten.

Mary Jane *Statham*, wife of defendant, said she was assisting in the house from 7 to 10pm on May 20th. She served drinks at one of the bar-parlour windows, and a daughter served at the other. On that night she did not serve anybody who was drunk. Nobody who went to the windows for drink showed any signs of intoxication. She was very strict

on that point. She saw the customers as they left the house at closing time, and everyone was all right. The same night Sergeant Maddox and a constable came in, and looked through the house. She heard the sergeant say to her son-in-law (Elliman), 'You have a full house tonight.' That would be about half-past nine.

Cross-examined by Mr. Sharpe, witness said she did not go into the public bar that night, nor did she see who was there. She saw them going out, and they were all right.

Mabel *Statham*, daughter of the last witness, said that on the night referred to she was serving at one of the bar-parlour windows. She served nobody who was either drunk or showing any signs of it. She saw Sergeant Maddox and a constable there during the night, and she remarked to her mother, 'They are here again.' Both were in uniform. Joseph *Statham*, son of the defendant, said that on the night of May 20th, he was serving in the public bar and also in the children's room. He saw no customers who showed any signs of intoxication. He saw Sergeant Maddox and a constable going through the house. Witness saw all the customers as they left the house at closing time, and not one showed any signs of drunkenness.

Mr. Sharpe: Are women served in the children's room? – Witness: Sometimes.

Sidney Elliman, defendant's son-in-law, said he was assisting in the public bar and other rooms from 7 to 10pm on May 20th. Everyone who left the house at closing time was sober. He saw the sergeant and a constable in the house. The sergeant said to him, 'You have got a full house.' The sergeant made no complaint.

Mr. Sharpe: Do you sometimes serve in the children's room? – Witness: Yes, but the children are left outside on the verandah.

Florence Henrietta Matton said that in addition to playing the piano she helped to serve drink in the house on the night of May 20th. Nobody in the house on the night showed any signs of drunkenness.

A young man who gave his name as Frederick Wedge, said he was in the house on the night referred to, but saw nobody who showed any signs of intoxication.

This concluded the evidence for the defence.

After retiring to consider the decision, the Chairman said the Bench were of opinion that there was not sufficient corroborative evidence of drunkenness to justify a conviction, and the case was dismissed."

South Staffordshire Times 9/2/1924

"Bilston Licensing.....

Plans for erecting new premises on land leading from Fraser Street to Willenhall Road, passed on the 3rd March, 1922, were now completed, and an application for the removal of license of the SAMSON AND LION, Greencroft, Bilston, to these new premises was to be made that day. If granted, an undertaking was given by the owners to surrender the license of the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, Oxford Street, which would close simultaneously with the house in Greencroft.....

Mr. Wright gave particulars of the application for the license of the new premises in Fraser Street. The house to be known as the SAMSON AND LION, he said, satisfied the authorities, and it was necessary to get a final order. The ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, which was surrendered, and the SAMSON AND LION, Greencroft, Bilston, if the licenses were transferred to the new premises, would be closed at two o'clock that day.

The application for transfer of the license of the old SAMSON AND LION to Robert Collins Robson was granted."

It closed on 8th February 1924.

Dudley Chronicle 2/10/1924 - Advert

"Belcher and Son have received instructions from Messrs. W. Butler and Co. Ltd., to Sell by Public Auction.....

Lot 2. The Three-Storey Freehold Dwelling House and Premises, until recently known as the SAMSON AND LION INN (now de-licensed), together with Two Cottages adjoining, Numbered 1, 3 and 5, in Greencroft, Bilston.

The de-licensed Premises and No.5 are at present void, and vacant possession of these will be given on completion of purchase. No.3 is let to Mr. Samuel Aston at a weekly rental producing £9 15s gross per annum.

The Property has a frontage of 49ft to Greencroft, and contains an area of 280 square yards or thereabouts."

SAMPSON AND LION INN,
GREENCROFT, BILSTON.

JOHN WILLIAMS

Wishes to give notice that the above house has been
Considerably ENLARGED & IMPROVED,
And is now most Commodious, and suitable to the
requirements of the trade.

SPACIOUS SMOKE ROOM. QUIET SNUG.
COMFORTABLE TAP ROOM.

J.W. will be glad to see old and new friends, and
the usual GOOD Quality of ALES etc., will be al-
ways kept in stock. Good Music. Good Singing.

FREE & EASY : SATURDAYS & MONDAYS.

SAMPSON AND LION

34, Newbolt Road, BILSTON

OWNERS

William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1946]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.
Courage Ltd.
Inntreprenuer Ltd. [1995]

LICENSEES

Robert Colling Robson [1932] – [1940]
R W Johnson [1976]
D J Ratcliffe [1988] – [1989]
Brian Boden [1995]
Samantha Jeavons [2005]



2007

NOTES

The license was transferred from the SAMPSON AND LION, Green Croft.

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Mr. R. Tildesley said he appeared to oppose it on behalf of Mr. John Chilton, owner and licensee of the PRINCE OF WALES INN, George Davies, licensee of the COCK INN, Willenhall Road, and the owners of the same house.

Sister Josephine presented a petition from various temperance societies against the application.

Mr. Milward said he made a similar application a year ago, and it was then refused, but since that date there were a good many altered facts which placed the application that day in a much stronger position than it was before. Today they knew exactly what was the opposition to the application. With regard to that which was being made by the licensees or owners of other public houses, he accepted that as a compliment, because if it meant anything at all it meant that those licensees or owners knew that there were people using their houses because they could not go to any other in the neighbourhood which they would prefer if it were in existence, and because they felt that their houses would stand no chance if such a house as his client proposed to erect came into existence. With regard to the lady who had presented the petition from the temperance societies, they must always respect any feeling of that sort, but it was a question whether, when people signed petitions of that description, they were thoroughly acquainted with the circumstances. If his application was worth a snap of the fingers, it was essentially, an application for the betterment of the neighbourhood, and for the promotion of temperance rather than intemperance. It would remove that bogey that the granting of a license to the new house was going to spread intemperance. The license proposed to be removed to the new house was that of the SAMSON AND LION, Green Croft, Bilston. It was a valuable license, as the house was doing considerable trade, and would entail heavy compensation if taken away, but when they came to look at that locality they would find that there were so many licensed houses that the people would not be penalised if the license of the SAMSON AND LION were removed. That appeared to be the view of the Licensing Justices, for they had already scheduled a house in Green Croft on the grounds of redundancy. It was proposed to build the new house at the corner of a large piece of bare ground near Fraser Street, and having access to Willenhall Road. A good road would be made through the land, and it would have excellent frontages, so that the

land could be developed as a building estate, and there was not the slightest doubt that this would be due, although the brewery company only undertook the making of the road. Perhaps the most important point was as to what class of house was going to be put up, and what was the class of house already existing in Bilston. They knew perfectly well what the old idea was, when licensees wanted to sell drink and nothing else. They had a lot of small rooms on their premises – the more of them the better – in which people could go and sit drinking the whole of the time. They had plenty of such houses in Bilston today. The house his clients proposed to build was one of a different character. The rooms would be large and commodious, its appurtenances complete, and the whole could constitute the latest thing in public house architecture. There was no house in Bilston at present like what that would be. It would attract the most decent people and set a high standard. People would not want to go to the dirtier place. It was also proposed to have a bowling green attached to it, regardless of cost, for the purpose of recreation, and he understood that the Bilston people appreciated few things as much as a game of bowls. The Brewery Company would also surrender the license of another house in the division.

Plans were put in, and formal evidence was given on behalf of the application.

Mr. Tildesley said the opposition was similar to that of last year, and it ought not to be set aside. Some consideration should be given to the small owners of licensed houses. It was not quite fair for wealthy companies to come along, shaking their money bags, and to say that they were going to put up a house of a high standard to keep people from going to smaller houses. It was not fair that there should be a monopoly in the licensed trade by people who could afford to spend larger sums of money than anyone else. There were already in the neighbourhood referred to a number of houses in good condition and they were entitled to consideration.

The Justices retired to consider their decision, and afterwards the chairman said they had decided to grant the removal of the license.

Mr. Pratt (magistrates clerk) said it would be understood that the license would continue at the SAMSON AND LION until the new house was completed.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/4/1922

“Lord Hatherton, CMG, presided at a meeting of the County Licensing Committee, held at the Shirehall, Stafford on Tuesday afternoon.....

Mr. Graham Milward, on behalf of all parties interested, applied for confirmation of the removal of the full license of the SAMSON AND LION INN, situate at Greencroft, Bilston, to new premises proposed to be erected on a piece of land lying between Ashley Street and Beckett Street, Bilston, and belonging to Messrs. William Butler and Co., brewers, of Wolverhampton. The application had been twice before the justices at Bilston, who suggested certain small improvements, and it was eventually approved by a full bench. Counsel maintained that there was a definite need in the district for the license which it was proposed to transfer, and said it was a very respectable and growing neighbourhood. One advantage of the removal, if sanctioned, would be that 12 to 16 dwelling houses would be put up on the land. A contract had been signed for building the house and making the road. Bilston, said Mr. Milward, was not very up-to-date in regard to its public houses, and Messrs. Butler and Co. were going to erect the latest and most up-to-date house, to which a large bowling green would be attached. There was some opposition to the application before the justices, but there was none that day, because he inferred that those who then opposed had since seen the plans and proposals. A petition in support of the application was signed by 272 householders, and only two persons signed against it. The Brewery Company proposed, if the application were granted, to surrender an ante '69 'on' beerhouse in the neighbourhood, and this met with the approval of the local justices.

Replying to the Chairman, counsel said that none of the bedrooms in the new licensed premises would be available for the public, and with Wolverhampton and Birmingham in close proximity he did not think there was any call for hotel bed accommodation to be provided. The nearest public house, a full license, was 383 yards away.

Mr. Newman, in the employ of Messrs. Joynson, architects, gave details of the accommodation at the proposed new premises; and Mr. Lowe, estate manager at the Springfield Brewery, was also called. He said the agreement made provided for the laying out of the road, and the contractor was to have, in part payment thereof, the land fronting the road on either side.

Thomas Alfred Webb, prospective tenant of the house, said he was chief stocktaker at Messrs. Hickman's Ltd., where he had been employed 26 or 27 years. In the management of the house he would be assisted by his wife, who had had considerable experience.

In answer to Lord Hatherton, Mr. Milward said that after the license removal the old premises would be converted into a dwelling house.

The Committee granted the application for a provisional order for the removal of the license.”

South Staffordshire Times 9/2/1924

“Bilston Licensing.....

Plans for erecting new premises on land leading from Fraser Street to Willenhall Road, passed on the 3rd March, 1922, were now completed, and an application for the removal of license of the SAMSON AND LION, Greencroft, Bilston, to these new premises was to be made that day. If granted, an undertaking was given by the owners to surrender the license of the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, Oxford Street, which would close simultaneously with the house in Greencroft.....

Mr. Wright gave particulars of the application for the license of the new premises in Fraser Street. The house to be known as the SAMSON AND LION, he said, satisfied the authorities, and it was necessary to get a final order. The ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, which was surrendered, and the SAMSON AND LION, Greencroft, Bilston, if the licenses were transferred to the new premises, would be closed at two o'clock that day.

The application for transfer of the license of the old SAMSON AND LION to *Robert Collins Robson* was granted.”

It opened in 1924.

Bilston & Willenhall Times 25/4/1925

“The new Bilston Bowling Club, which was formed at the newly-erected SAMSON AND LION, New Market Street, Bilston, opened the season with 50 members. Mr. J. J. Yardley is the president, Mr. A. Roper captain, Mr. A. Rhones vice-captain, Mr. Herbert Davies hon. secretary, and Mr. *R. C. Robson* hon. treasurer. The green was opened by Major Addenbrooke, who referred to the opportunities it would afford for outdoor sport and sociability during the summer. He and Mr. A. Roper played a friendly game, which was followed by a match between the captain's and vice-captain's teams, the latter winning by 20 points.”

1939 Register

Newbolt Road – SAMSON AND LION

- [1] *Robert C. Robson*, date of birth 12/6/1876, licensed victualler, married;
- [2] *Catherine M. Robson*, dob 15/10/1893, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] *Dorothy Betty (Robson) Hughes*, dob 11/11/1916, assistant hairdresser, single;
- [4] *John C. Robson*, dob 30/7/1925, at school, single:

A team from here took part in the Butlers (Bilston) Darts League. [1946]

Birmingham Daily Post 7/9/1977

“Thousands of Midland drinkers will be forced to change their drinking habits next year – because of a Government report. Three major breweries are to swop 437 pubs – leaving drinkers to choose between their favourite public house or their favourite beer. The deal was announced yesterday by Ansells, owned by Allied Breweries, Mitchells and Butlers, owned by Bass Charrington, and Courage. The move, involving public houses valued at £11,000,000, was prompted by a Monopolies Commission report seven years ago which claimed that breweries had too much of a stranglehold in certain towns and cities Tenants and managers are being given the opportunity to stay on new terms or change to another establishment. Managers can also opt for voluntary redundancy.....

M & B tenanted houses transferred to Courage.....

SAMPSON AND LION, Newbolt Road, Bilston.”

Express & Star 17/5/2008

“The future of more landmark pubs in Wolverhampton was today in doubt after buildings and land were put up for sale.....

Property company Fleurets has put the lease for the SAMPSON AND LION pub in Newbolt Road, Bilston, on the market The SAMPSON AND LION pub in Newbolt Road, Bilston is currently open and has four resident darts teams.”

Closed [2009]

Planning permission was granted in 2011 to convert to housing.

Express & Star 21/8/2017

“It was once a bustling boozer at the heart of the community, but now it is a target for vandals and a shadow of its former self. The SAMSON AND LION, in Newbolt Road, Bilston, closed more than 15 years ago and has been derelict ever since. Last year, it appeared as if work was under way to replace the eyesore with flats, but to the frustration of nearby residents no work completed for months. The pub’s walls look as if they are falling away and the ground around the building has become a hotspot for fly-tipping.

Liz Swancutt, aged 47, who lives nearby, says the situation is now worse than ever and she is fearful of an arson attack. Speaking to the Express & Star, she said, ‘They had started doing work on it last year some time, but suddenly it all stopped, and that was some months ago now. It is now being used as a tipping site. Kids are coming there at night and are dragging out the mattresses and sofas that have been left there and are using them to play with. It is just not good at all. I am worried now that somebody is going to set it on fire. If that building goes up then all the houses around it will be affected and their windows are going to go.’

The SAMSON AND LION closed more than 15 years ago and has been derelict since. It has also been the target of several break-ins, where vandals have carried out significant internal damage. In 2009 a fence was set on fire by the pub in a suspected arson attack. Plans to transform it into five two-bedroom apartments and two one-bedroom apartments were approved in 2015, but the scheme has not come to fruition.

Wolverhampton South East MP Pat McFadden said: ‘The pub has been derelict for a long time and with derelict pubs they can often be a magnet for fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour. It is really important that the owners secure the site and keep it in a decent state because residents should not have to live next to a dumping ground.’

Bilston East councillor Stephen Simkins last year said the pub had once been at the heart of the community. He added, ‘It’s been a bit of a blight on the area for quite a long time because people regularly fly tip there, and we’re up there cleaning it quite a lot. I welcome the development because it will be good to get the site back in use, and that’s the name of the game. But seeing the pub go will leave me with a heavy heart, because I think it’s quite an iconic building in the area. It used to be a brilliant community pub in the 80s and 90s, but it must have been vacant for about 15 years now. It’ll be a bit sad to see another pub disappear.’”

Express & Star 9/9/2017

“An eyesore derelict pub targeted by vandals has been sold at auction for £200,000. The SAMSON AND LION, in Newbolt Road, Bilston, closed more than 15 years ago and has been derelict ever since. It is now hoped the new owner will breathe new life into the eyesore as it was sold with planning permission for 10 new homes. It was auctioned off on Wednesday by agents SDL Bigwood. Planning permission has already been granted for two one-bedroom apartments and five two-bedroom apartments as well as three two-bedroom houses. The buyers’ names have not yet been released, so it remains unclear as to whether the planning permission will be acted upon in this way.....”

It was converted into housing. [2023]



SEVEN STARS

24, (72), (73), (22), High Street / Dudley Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Ann Harper, widow, Queen Street, Wolverhampton
Richard Andrew Harper, brewer, Bilston
R. A. Harper Ltd. [1921]
Eley's Stafford Brewery Ltd.
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1961], [1965]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

James Beards [1781]
George Parker [1789] – [1811]
Mrs. Parker [1812]
George Beards [1813] – [1817]
Edward Beebee [1818] – [1824]
Thomas Rutter [] – **1827**
Thomas Busst [1827] – [1830]
Charles Gallimore [1833] – [1834]
Thomas Dickinson [1835] – **1874**;
Hannah Bell **(1874 – 1875)**;
Samuel Burrowes **(1875 – 1880)**;
John Samuel Dickinson **(1880 – 1882)**;
Francis Harper **(1882 – 1886)**;
Frederick John Hibell **(1886 – 1890)**;
Thomas Cook **(1890 – 1891)**;
Thomas Dixon **(1891 – 1895)**;
Henry Cox **(1895 – 1896)**;
Benjamin Talbot **(1896 – 1897)**;
Martha Horton **(1897)**;
William Cox **(1897 – 1898)**;
George Legge **(1898)**;
Emily Jones **(1898)**;
Thomas Harris **(1898 – 1901)**;
Edward Jones **(1901 – 1906)**;
Henry Herbert 'Harry' Nuttall **(1906 – 1913)**;
Richard Stoker **(1913)**;
Henry Tertius Hodgkiss **(1913 – 1915)**;
Harry Blatherwick **(1915 – 1916)**;
Charles Smith **(1916 – 1917)**;
Thomas Newell **(1917 – 1922)**;
Clarissa Price **(1922)**;
Bertram Studley Nokes **(1922 – 1925)**;
Harry Millington **(1925 – 1927)**;
Edward 'Ted' Wilkinson **(1927 – 1929)**;
Mrs. Phoebe Alice Wilkinson **(1929 – 1934)**;
Bernard Arthur Wright **(1934 – 1937)**;
Wilfred Edgar Bates **(1937 – [1940]**
Wally Davies []

RUN away from his Master, William Banks, in the Parish of Sedgley, near Bilston, **FREDERICK MORRIS**, an Apprentice, aged 20, five Feet five Inches high; had on a brown linsey Waistcoat, and smock Frock; broad set, black Complexion, and black Hair. Any Person employing him after this public Notice will be prosecuted as the Law directs. If discovered apply to G. Parker, at the Seven Stars, Bilston. He absconded on the 9th of November,

1789



Tarsem Lal Kainth [1983]

NOTES

72, High Street [1858], [1861], [1862], [1864], [1865], [1868], [1870], [1871], [1872], [1874], [1881], [1892], [1896], [1900]

73, High Street [1891]

24, High Street [1901], [1908], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1932], [1939], [1940]

22, High Street [1911], [1921]

YE OLD SEVEN STARS

OLD SEVEN STARS

SEVEN STARS HOTEL

The original building was part of a farm.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 19/2/1781 - Advert

"To be Sold. Three modern-built Freehold Dwelling Houses, with their Appurtenances belonging to them, situate and being at the Bottom of Canal Street, Wolverhampton.....

For Particulars enquire of the said Tenants, or of *James Beards*, at the SEVEN STARS, Bilstone, who will shew the Premises."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 7/12/1789 - Advert

"Run away from his Master, William Banks, in the Parish of Sedgley, near Bilston, Frederick Morris, an Apprentice, aged 20, five Feet five Inches high; had on a brown linsey Waistcoat, and Smock Frock; broad set, black Complexion, and black Hair. Any Person employing him after this public Notice will be prosecuted as the Law directs. If discovered apply to *G. Parker*, at the SEVEN STARS, Bilston. He absconded on the 9th of November."

George Parker, victualler, SEVEN STARS, and quarry-man, Bilston. [1791]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 8/6/1801 - Advert

"To be Sold by Auction, by Randle Walker, on Tuesday the 16th Day of June, 1801, at the House of Mr. *George Parker*, the SEVEN STARS, in Bilstone, in the County of Stafford, between the Hours of Three and Five o'Clock in the Afternoon, subject to Conditions then to be produced; three substantial Dwelling Houses, with the Appurtenances thereto belonging....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 23/12/1811 - Died

"On Friday, Mr. *Parker*, of the SEVEN STARS, Bilston."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/12/1812 - Died

"Suddenly, in the 61st year of her age, Mrs. *Parker*, of the SEVEN STARS, Bilston."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 15/2/1813 - Advert

"To be Sold by Auction (at a Time and Place to be mentioned in a future Paper, unless previously disposed of by private Contract) several Dwelling Houses and Pieces of Land, situate within the Town and Liberty of Bilston.....

Lot VI. All that well accustomed Public House, known by the Name of the SEVEN STARS, with the Appurtenances, and the front and back Land therewith occupied, situate in the most desirable Part of the Town of Bilston, late in the Occupation of the Widow *Parker*, but now of *Beards*."

LOT VI. All that well accustomed Public House, known by the Name of the SEVEN STARS, with the Appurtenances, and the front and back Land therewith occupied, situate in the most desirable Part of the Town of Bilston, late in the Occupation of the Widow *Parker*, but now of — Beards.

Staffordshire Advertiser 24/12/1814 - Notice

“By Order of the Court for the Relief of Insolvent Debtors, John Stokes, late of Darlastone, in the county of Stafford, Gun Lock Forger, and now a Prisoner in his Majesty’s Gaol of Stafford, in and for the county of Stafford, for Debt.....

List of the Creditors of the said John Stokes.....

George Beards, Bilston, Staffordshire, publican.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 17/11/1817 - Died

“On the 3rd instant, deservedly lamented by a numerous acquaintance, Mr. *George Beards*, of Bilston, innholder. His funeral was attended by the Bilston troop of Staffordshire Yeomanry, of which he was a member; on the body being lowered into the grave, three volleys were fired, and his remains received all the honours of a soldier’s funeral.”

Edward Beebee was also a stone mason. [1818]

Edward Beebee, bachelor, married Maria Beards, widow, on 28th April 1818.

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 23/11/1818 - Advert

“Notice to Creditors and Debtors.

All Persons having any Claim on the Estate of *George Beards*, lately of Bilston, in the County of Stafford, Stone Mason and Victualler, deceased, are desired to send in the Particulars of their respective Demands to Mrs. Beebee, of Bilston aforesaid, or Mr. *Charles Gallimore*, of Perry Barr, the Executrix and Executor, that the same may be examined and discharged; and all Persons indebted to the Estate of the said *George Beards*, are hereby required to pay the Amount of their respective Debts to the said Mrs. Beebee or Mr. *Charles Gallimore* immediately, otherwise they will be sued for the same.

Thomas Mole. Birmingham, November 20, 1818.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 26/7/1819 - Advert

“Notice. The Public are hereby informed, that I shall not be accountable for any Transaction either in paying or receiving Money on my Account, by Daniel Howard, Stone Mason, who is no longer in my Employ.

Edward Beebee. Bilston, July 24, 1819.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 2/8/1819 - Advert

“Notice. I Hereby authorise Daniel Howard, a trusty Servant of the late *George Beards*, of Bilston, Stonemason, to receive the outstanding Debts due to the Estate of the said *George Beards*. All Persons indebted to such Estate are desired immediately to pay the same to me, or the Executrix (now Mrs. *Edward Beebee*) or to the aforesaid Daniel Howard.

Charles Gallimore, Executor. Perry Barr, July 31, 1819.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 15/3/1824 - Advert

“Extensive Sale of Linen and Woollen Drapery, Silk Mercery, Hosiery, &c, at Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett, Tomorrow (Tuesday) and on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday next, the 16th, 17th, 18th, and 19th of March, at a large room, at Mr. *E. Beebee*’s, the SEVEN STARS INN, Bilston.....”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 10/5/1824 - Advert

“Notice. All Persons who stand indebted to the late *Edward Beebee*, Stone Mason and Victualler, of Bilston, are requested to pay their respective debts of the undersigned Executors of the said *Edward Beebee*; and all persons to whom he was indebted are requested to send in their accounts, that they may be examined and discharged.

John Law, Thomas Beebee, Executors. Bilston, May 10, 1824.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 5/12/1881

“Bilston Fifty Years Ago from a 1827 directory.....

The public ‘crib’ was at the top of Dudley Street, at the back of the SEVEN STARS, all prisoners of importance being taken to Wolverhampton for better security.”

Birmingham Journal 29/9/1827

“A melancholy and fatal accident happened on the evening Thursday week, to Mr. *Thomas Rutter*, of the SEVEN STARS, Bilston, who, as he was returning from the Stewponey, where he had attended a meeting of magistrates, was thrown out of his gig and killed.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 1/10/1827 - Advert

“Most Desirable Public House, High Street, Bilston.

Peremptorily to be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett, on the premises (by direction of the Trustees of the late Mr. *George Beards*, deceased) on Friday the 12th day of October instant, at five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be read.

The Licenses, Goodwill, and immediate Possession of that old established and well accustomed Public House, called the SEVEN STARS, situate in High Street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, and lately in the occupation of Mr. *Thomas Rutter*, deceased, and of which a lease for a term of years will be granted at a moderate rent.

The purchaser will be required to take to the whole of the Fixtures, Barrels and Brewing Utensils at a fair valuation. The annual consumption of malt for several years has averaged about 2000 bushels.

For particulars as to rent, &c, apply to Mr. John Mason, Solicitor, or the Auctioneer, both of Bilston.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 15/10/1827 - Advert

“Most Desirable Public House, High Street, Bilston.

To be Sold by private Contract (by directions of the Trustees of the late Mr. *George Beards*, deceased) the Licenses, Goodwill, and immediate Possession of that old established and well accustomed Public House, called the SEVEN STARS, situate in High Street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, and lately in the occupation of Mr. *Thomas Rutter*, deceased, and of which a lease for a term of years will be granted at a moderate rent.

The purchaser will be required to take to the Fixtures, Barrels, and Brewing Utensils, at a fair valuation, the estimate of which will not exceed the sum of £100.

The annual consumption of Malt for several years has averaged about 2000 bushels.

For particulars, and to treat for the same, apply to Mr. John Mason, Solicitor, Bilston.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 15/10/1827 - Advert

“Genteel Household Furniture, at Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by R. Corbett, on the premises (by order of the Trustees) Tomorrow (Tuesday) the 16th day of October, all the genteel, neat, and useful Household Furniture, Bedding, Linen, and other Effects of the late Mr. *George Beards*, deceased, at the SEVEN STARS INN, High Street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, particulars of which may be had on application at the office of the Auctioneer, New Town, Bilston aforesaid.”

Birmingham Journal 22/12/1827 - Advert

“Bilston, Staffordshire. Very valuable Freehold Property, desirably situated in Gower Street (near the new Church now erecting) in Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Edward Jukes (by direction of the Assignees of Messrs. Gibbins, Smith and Goode), on Friday Next, the 28th day of December, at four o'clock in the afternoon, at the house of Mr. *Thomas Busst*, known by the Sign of the SEVEN STARS, in Bilston, subject to conditions then and there to be produced.....”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 3/5/1830 - Died

“On the 25th ult, aged 39, Maria, wife of Mr. *Thomas Busst*, of the SEVEN STARS INN, Bilston.”

Thomas Dickinson = Thomas Dickenson

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 6/8/1837

“Pigeon Shooting. William Robinson, of Coseley, will shoot against David Bennett, of Bilston Street, Wolverhampton, at ten pigeons each, for £20 a side. His money is ready at the SEVEN STARS, Bilson.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/12/1839 - Advert

“An old-established Inn, in High Street, and eleven Freehold Houses, in Oxford Road, and Warwick Street, Bilston, Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett, on Friday, the 13th day of December, 1839, at the SEVEN STARS INN, High Street, Bilston aforesaid, at five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be read.

Lot I. All the above-named old-established and well-accustomed Inn and Tap House, which is in one of the best situations in the town for business, and is now in the occupation of Mr. *Thomas Dickinson* and his under tenant, comprising three excellent store cellars, with suitable partitions for ale, wine, and liquor vaults; on the ground floor three parlours, two kitchens, a bar, and a large shop fronting the street, formerly used as a retail wine and liquor shop, but now underlet to a hairdresser; on the chamber storey three convenient bed-rooms and a large and commodious club or lodge room, with two sets of wainscot partitions to divide it into three rooms occasionally, and on the attic storey three comfortable bed-rooms. The outbuildings and premises consist of a large cooking kitchen, occasionally used as a family kitchen and laundry, a store room, with malt room over it, a large convenient brewhouse, a stable for six horses, with hay room over, a spacious enclosed back yard, part of which is paved with freestone flagging, and in which is a small pleasure garden, having a neat brick and slate summer-house therein; there are also a well, a soft water cistern, a coal depot, detached sheds, piggeries, and other outbuildings and conveniences. The whole of the premises are in a good substantial state of repair, and the parochial and other payments low.

The above premises are copyhold within the manor of Stowheath, and will be found worthy the notice of persons desirous of a lucrative business, or a profitable and safe investment.”

1841 Census

High Street

- [1] *Thomas Dickenson* (50), publican, born Staffordshire;
- [2] *Ester Dickenson* (55), born Staffordshire;
- [3] *Joseph Dickenson* (25), born Staffordshire;
- [4] *Sarah Dickenson* (15), born Staffordshire;
- [5] *John Jones* (20), butcher, born Staffordshire;
- [6] *Edward Jones* (25) painter, born Staffordshire;
- [7] *Samuel Webb* (25), moulder, born Staffordshire;
- [8] *Eliza Harris* (22), f.s.;
- [9] *Samuel Jones* (20), m.s.:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/3/1846

“On Saturday last, an inquest was held by T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, at the SEVEN STARS, Bilston, on the bodies of Charles Cook and Samuel Woolley, miners, whose deaths occurred under the following circumstances.

The deceased were employed in putting a cub piece to the brickwork of a shaft at the Farmer's Glory colliery, and repairing it, in consequence of a body of fire being behind the brickwork. In consequence of their crying out they were drawn up, and found to be badly burnt and scalded; they soon after died. The occurrence, it is supposed, was caused by a body of fire falling into the water at the bottom of the shaft, and burning and scalding the men; the mine dust was red hot, and occasioned a large body of steam to come out of the mouth of the pit. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/8/1846

“An inquest was held on Friday week, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, at the SEVEN STARS, Bilston, on the body of Thomas Cooper, a miner, who lived in Wolverhampton Street, Bilston. The deceased, it appeared, was at work in a coal pit in the Bull Holes colliery, on Wednesday week, when a large quantity of clod fell upon him, and covered him. The clod was removed as soon as possible, when the deceased groaned once or twice, and immediately died. The deceased had been cautioned about the clod, but he said it was hard, and would not come down. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/1/1847

"An inquest was held on Saturday, the 26th ult, and by adjournment on Thursday last, at the SEVEN STARS INN, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of Charles Henry Hampton Perry, a puddler, whose death was occasioned by the explosion of a steam-boiler at the works of Mr. Vernon, the Stonefields Ironworks, Bilston, on Saturday, the 17th of December last. Mr. Brown, solicitor, of Bilston, attended the inquest on behalf of Mr. Vernon, and claimed to take part in the investigation as a matter of right, which the coroner refused to admit. Subsequently, at the adjourned inquiry, Mr. Serjeant Allen, attended to watch the proceedings on behalf of Mr. Vernon, mentioning that what questions he might ask would be put by permission of the coroner, but not as matters of rightful claim. The evidence was of great length, the inquiry lasting, on Thursday, from ten o'clock in the morning until ten o'clock at night.

The death of the deceased was shown to have arisen from scalding owing to the bursting of the boiler, which Robert Blaze, boiler-maker, and Thomas Lewis, David Cooper, Thomas Cornfield, and Samuel Busbery, workmen on the premises, declared to be unsafe. It was in some places only the sixteenth of an inch thick, and had been screwpatched instead of being properly repaired. Its condition, one of the witnesses (Cornfield) stated was known to Mr. Vernon. He had, he said, told Mr. Vernon and Mr. Banks, the manager, that the boiler was not safe, and Mr. Vernon said that the boiler must be screwpatched, and carried on that way until Christmas. Robert Probert, it appeared had screwpatched the boiler in August last, and had then told Mr. Vernon the boiler was safe to work. Other screwpatches had since been put on, but not in a workmanlike manner. John Wassall and Mr. Joshua Horton, and Mr. Thomas Horton, boiler-makers (who were examined at the instance of Mr. Serjeant Allen) were of opinion that the explosion was caused by want of water in the boiler. Verdict, Accidental Death."

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/2/1851

"Inquests held before T. M. Phillips, Esq, Coroner.....

On Monday, at the SEVEN STARS INN, Bilston, on the body of Joseph Harper, aged 29. It appeared that the deceased was at work at a pit in Messrs. White and Lester's field, about five pm on Friday. Harper, with another man named Joseph Parfitt, ascended the shaft, foolishly hanging on by the water barrel; when, about half-way up, the deceased jumped off on to the scaffolding, which immediately gave way, and he was thrown to the bottom. On being brought up, his neck was found to be dislocated. Verdict, Accidental Death."

1851 Census

High Street

- [1] *Thomas Dickenson* (61), licensed victualler, born West Bromwich;
- [2] *Esther Dickenson* (67), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] *Sarah Webb* (26), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] *Jane Dickenson* (18), niece, barmaid, born Tipton;
- [5] *Evan Evans* (42), hostler, born Welshpool;
- [6] *John Judge* (26), lodger, cheese factor, born Warwickshire;
- [7] *Vincent Roe* (18), lodger, labourer, born Great Houghton, Northamptonshire;
- [8] *Henry Roe* (19), lodger, boot and shoe maker, born Great Houghton, Northamptonshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 6/6/1855

"Yesterday (Tuesday) T. M. Phillips, Esq, concluded an inquiry at the SEVEN STARS, Bilston, into the death of Richard Millroy, who was alleged to have been killed by being run over by a gig driven by John Taylor, assistant to Mr. Baker, of Wolverhampton, on the 6th of May; and the principal circumstances will be found detailed in our report of the proceedings before the Borough Magistrates on Wednesday, when John Taylor was fined 40s for negligent driving. In addition to the evidence then given several witnesses were examined at the inquest to the effect that Taylor was driving at great pace, and that the horse was galloping, and ran against the deceased and knocked him down. The deceased was carried to Bilston on a door, and was attended by Mr. Cooper, surgeon, but died from the injuries he received. The Jury returned a verdict of Manslaughter against John Taylor."

[In July 1855 at the Staffordshire Summer Assizes, John Taylor was found guilty of manslaughter, the jury recommending mercy. He was imprisoned for six weeks, without hard labour.]

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/9/1855

"On Monday night a meeting, convened by placards headed 'The War for not against Russia,' was held at the SEVEN STARS, Bilston, the large room of which was about half filled. A collier named Samuel Hammersley occupied the chair, and the meeting was addressed by Messrs. Rafferty and Dalzeil and two other persons from Birmingham, connected with the 'Conference' of which Mr. Urquhart is the leader. The audience was chiefly composed of colliers and working men. Resolutions denouncing Lord Palmerston and the Government as traitors were passed. Towards the close of the meeting a few respectable individuals went into the room, and Mr. John Griffiths proposed a resolution to the effect that Lord Palmerston deserved support until the nation could find some one better able to conduct the government of the country, and supported it in a brief speech. The motion was seconded by Mr. Howl, and declared carried by its supporters, but the meeting abruptly terminated, with the announcement another meeting would be held on Monday week."

Birmingham Journal 1/11/1856 - Advert

"To be Let, an Old-licensed Public House, known by the name of the BLACK HORSE, situate at Kings Hill, near Darlaston, in the parish of Wednesbury. Good Stabling; rent low. Coming-in moderate, and business excellent. Apply to the present tenant, Mr. Benton; or to Mr. *Dickenson*, SEVEN STARS, High Street, Bilston."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/3/1857

"Representation of Wolverhampton. Meeting at Bilston of the Right Hon. C. P. Villiers and Thomas Thornley, Esq. A numerous and influential meeting of the friends of Mr. Villiers and Mr. Thornley was held on Thursday evening last, at the SEVEN STARS, Bilston, for the purpose of adopting measures to secure the re-election of those gentlemen as Members for the Borough. Both members attended the meeting by invitation, and were enthusiastically received....."

[Charles Pelham Villiers, MP, a Liberal, was the longest serving member of Member of Parliament – 1835-1898.]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 6/5/1857

"Wolverhampton Police Court....."

William Clark, who had been several times remanded, was brought up today and committed for trial for passing base coin. It appeared that he first attempted to put off a counterfeit florin at the house of Edward Foster, the LEOPARD INN, Bilston, on Monday, the 13th ult, but it being discovered to be a bad one it was returned to him. He then went to the SEVEN STARS INN, offered the coin in payment for something to drink, and it was received, and not discovered to be spurious until after he had left the house. On the same day he attempted to utter a bad shilling at the shop of Mr. Dangerfield, provision dealer, in the same town. The prisoner was apprehended by Sergeant Heath, but denied the charge."

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/5/1857

"Staffordshire Adjourned Sessions....."

William Clarke, 27, labourer, was indicted for uttering and putting off a false and counterfeit florin, well knowing the same to be false and counterfeit. Mr. Davis appeared on behalf of the authorities at the Mint; the prisoner was undefended.

From the evidence it appeared that the prisoner went to the provision shop of Joseph Dangerfield, at Bilston, and tendered a shilling in payment of some small purchases which he made. Mr. Dangerfield told the prisoner that the shilling was counterfeit and broke it with his teeth, upon which the prisoner tendered a good shilling, and appeared very desirous that the counterfeit coin should be returned to him, but this was not done. At a later period of the same day the prisoner went to the SEVEN STARS public house in Bilston, and called for a pint of ale, for which he tendered a florin, which was counterfeit, and which he had previously attempted to put off at a shop in Bilston, where he had been warned against trying to pass it at any other place.

The fact of the coins being clumsy counterfeits was proved by Mr. Lithgoe, of Stafford, who stated that the florins were without dates. In the many years experience which he had had in attending as a witness in cases of this description he had never before met with so singular a mistake.

The jury at once found the prisoner guilty, and he was sentenced to one year's imprisonment."

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/10/1857 - Deaths

"On the 1st instant, aged 73 years, Esther, wife of Mr. *Thomas Dickinson*, of the SEVEN STARS, High Street, Bilston."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 10/2/1858

“On Saturday evening some adroit pilferer contrived to abstract from the SEVEN STARS public house, in High Street, Bilston, a cheese of prime quality weighing 30lbs.”

Police Gazette 21/6/1858

“The House of Mr. *Thomas Dickenson*, SEVEN STARS INN, Bilston, was broken into on the night of the 17th instant, and 10s in Copper, viz, about 5s in Pence and Halfpence, and 5s in Farthings; also a quantity of Tobacco in pennyworths stolen therefrom. Information to be given to Superintendent M’Crea, Bilston, Staffordshire.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/9/1858

“A robbery of an unusually daring character was effected at the house of Mr. *Thomas Dickenson*, the SEVEN STARS, High Street, Bilston, on Monday night last, and, from the systematic manner in which it was accomplished, it would lead to the belief that the thieves were well acquainted both with the premises and the habits of the occupants. Access was obtained to the house by means of the chamber window, and thus a free range of the premises was secured. The following is a list of the articles carried off: A yellow bag containing 60 sovereigns in gold; about £23 in silver; £8 in crown pieces, old and dirty from not being used; three or four spade-ace guineas; two five-franc pieces; a pair of silver tongs; and several silver spoons. The house was not closed until a late hour, so that the thieves must have been at work while the house was full of customers. The police are actively engaged in tracing the offenders, and a reward of £10 has been offered for their apprehension.”

Wigan Observer 1/10/1858

“One hundred pounds, in gold and silver, were stolen from the SEVEN STARS INN, Bilston, kept by Mr. *Thos. Dickenson*.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 20/7/1859

“Yesterday, at the Police Court, before J. Leigh, Esq, Mr. Joseph Blewitt, the secretary, and Mr. *Thomas Dickinson*, described as the treasurer to a friendly society called the Nelsonic Crimson Oak Society, were summoned by one of the members, named William Homer, for the recovery of twenty-four weeks’ sick pay, at 7s 6d per week; the total amount claimed being £9. The society’s meetings are held at the SEVEN STARS INN, High Street, Bilston; and Mr. *Dickinson* being the landlord of that house, the monies belonging to the society are handed over to him by the treasurer. Mr. Waterhouse conducted the case for the complainant, and Mr. H. Langman for the defence.

According to the complainant’s statement it appeared that in October last year, he was one of the passengers in the excursion train, on the Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton Railway, when that well-remembered and fearful accident occurred, and he received such severe injuries that since he had been unable to follow his employment. In January, however, the Oxford, Worcester and Wolverhampton Railway Company gave the complainant £450, by way of compensation for the injuries he had sustained, and also allowed him £25 for medical expenses. Up to this time complainant had been receiving 10s a week from the society, but having been upon the sick funds more than twenty weeks the allowance was reduced to 7s 6d a week. After he had obtained compensation from the Railway Company he discarded the club surgeon (Mr. Sandford), and called in a Mr. Banks, from Stourbridge. The treasurer to the society refused to pay him any more money from this period, and it was for arrears of sick pay since then that the defendants were now summoned.

The defence was that after the change of surgeons the complainant had failed to comply with the 10th rule of the society, by not sending a printed note to the secretary or treasurer, signed by the surgeon every week. This, it appeared, had only been done occasionally.

Mr. Leigh considered the complainant had not strictly complied with the rules of the society, and made an order for 15s, the amount admitted to have been owing.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 10/8/1859

“An inquest was held at the SEVEN STARS INN, High Street, Bilston, on Friday, before the Deputy Coroner, on the body of Joseph Pitt, a boy only fifteen years of age. On the previous Wednesday the deceased with another lad went to bathe in the canal near a place called the Hot Holes, and got out of his depth. His companion gave an alarm, and deceased was rescued as promptly as possible, but he expired directly after he was taken out of the water. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Post 1/2/1860

“Yesterday, Mr. T. M. Phillips, the Coroner for the borough of Wolverhampton, opened an inquest at the BEE HIVE, Portobello, near that town, on the body of William Reece Burnisher, a collier, of Portobello, aged twenty-eight, whose dead body had been found in a pond of water near to the Machine Cottage, at Portobello, having marks of violence upon the throat as of strangulation.

It seemed, from the evidence of Mary Fox, Isaac Bennet, Selina Roberts, and Benjamin Egglinton, that the deceased had been drinking at the SEVEN STARS public house, Bilston, from eight till twelve o’clock on Saturday night last, in company with his wife, and Egglinton and his wife, and others; and that all these left the house at about the same time. On the road home, deceased, who was intoxicated, became unable to walk, and he was taken to the door of the Machine Cottage, and a request made that he might stay there till Egglinton could return from taking his wife home. Selina Roberts, the wife of James Roberts, who lives at the cottage, refused to admit him, saying, according to the statement of Egglinton, that she had ‘one drunken man in the house already, and did not want another.’ Deceased, however, was left at the door; but when Egglinton returned, he said in half an hour neither he nor others could find him, and Mr. Roberts professed to know nothing about him. On Sunday morning at about eight o’clock Mary Fox enquired if she had seen the deceased. She replied that on the overnight a drunken man had kicked at her door for two hours, till she thought he would have kicked it down. Whilst they were talking at the door, Mrs. Roberts said, ‘Look there,’ and pointed with her finger towards something black-looking in a pool of water twenty yards distance, and then added, ‘It looks funny, does it not?’ This turned out to be the body of the deceased.

Egglinton in concluding his evidence said, ‘I believe deceased’s death was caused by foul means. I noticed marks of violence upon the deceased’s neck after death; there are also scratches and bruises upon the deceased’s body. I believe the deceased was too drunk to get over the double-chain fence between the public road in which the Machine Cottage is, and the field in which the body was found.

Mrs. Roberts deposed that she told Egglinton that she was waiting up for her husband, and would not admit the deceased; and that she heard no more of his kicking at the door after. In two hours she heard voices in the road. Mrs. Roberts’s husband was away from home at the time in question, yet it is understood that there was a man in the house with her.

The Coroner and jury remarked upon the exceedingly suspicious character of the case, and the inquest was adjourned for a post mortem examination, and further evidence. In the meantime the police are investigating the matter.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 15/2/1860

“The enquiry into the death of James Robinson, miner (not William Reece, burnisher, as stated in the *Post* of February 1st), found drowned in a pool of water, near the Machine Cottage, on the morning of the 29th ult, was resumed at the PLOUGH INN, Portobello, on Monday.....

Mr. J. Hartill deposed that he had made a post mortem examination of the body of the deceased. He had found a contusion on the upper part of the left arm, and a bruise upon the left side of the neck, which, however, on dissecting he found to have been occasioned by the body lying in the position in which it was found. The internal appearances left no doubt that the deceased had been drowned. The Coroner observed that there was not a particle of evidence to warrant any other than an open verdict The Jury returned a verdict of Found Drowned.”

1861 Census

72, High Street

[1] *Thomas Dickinson* (70), widower, licensed victualler, born West Bromwich;

[2] *Ellen Dickinson* (15), grand-daughter, house servant, born Stourbridge;

[3] *Sarah Beardsmore* (18), grand-daughter, house servant, born Bilston;

[4] *John Judd* (37), lodger, hawker, born Warwickshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/5/1862

“On Friday last, at the Wolverhampton Police Court, W. Partridge, Esq, gave an order for the destruction of a carcase of pork which had been found by the Nuisance Inspector Owens, on the premises of Mr. *Thomas Dickenson*, SEVEN STARS INN.’

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/9/1862

“William Johnson, a youth, who described himself as having no occupation or fixed place of residence, was charged with having uttered a counterfeit half crown, in Wolverhampton Market Hall, on Friday last. The prisoner made a small purchase at the stall of Mrs. Elizabeth Hughes, fruiterer, and in payment he tendered a counterfeit half crown. Mrs. Hughes discovered it was base, informed the toll collector, and he giving information to a police officer, the prisoner was apprehended in Dudley Street. When taken into custody a second base half crown was found upon him; it had evidently been cast in the same mould as the coin tendered to Mrs. Hughes. In defence Johnson made a statement to the effect that he had found the half crowns on a table at the SEVEN STARS public house, Bilston, where he had been lodging. Adjourned for a week to ascertain whether the Mint intend to prosecute.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/10/1862

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

William Johnson, 21, factory worker, was sentenced to six months’ imprisonment with hard labour for having, on his own confession, uttered base coin at Wolverhampton.”

Birmingham Daily Post 2/7/1863

“On Friday evening the members of the Nelsonic Crimson Oaks Lodge, held at the SEVEN STARS, High Street, Bilston, meet to present a silver medal to their secretary, Mr. Joseph Blewitt, in recognition of his able services for the last twelve years.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/8/1863

“On Monday last a little child, aged three years, named Hadden, and residing with its parents in Dudley Street, Bilston, was seized upon in the yard of the SEVEN STARS INN by a ferocious dog, belonging to Mr. *Dickenson*, the landlord, and, but for, assistance, would have been worried to death. The child was much bitten and lacerated about the face.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 10/9/1864

“Yesterday the magistrates sat in Special Sessions, for the consideration of the applications for the renewal of old and the granting of new licenses to victuallers.....

The following houses and their landlords had been complained against and fined during the year.....

T. Dickenson, SEVEN STARS, High Street.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/1/1866

“On Friday, at Bilston Police Court.....

The following persons were summoned before the Bench and fined for offences against their licenses.....

Thomas Dickinson, licensed victualler, of the SEVEN STARS INN, High Street, was ordered to pay the costs, for permitting drunkenness.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1866

“The annual meeting for the renewal of existing licenses, and for receiving applications for fresh ones, was held at the Police Court, on Friday.....

At the commencement of the proceedings, the Superintendent of Police presented the following report.

Bilston Division, August 31, 1866.

‘I beg to submit to the Magistrates the attached list of licensed victuallers who have been complained against during the year. Twenty-five have been convicted, and three have paid costs; one had been convicted three times, and five convicted twice. This is a large increase on last year’s list; but I think it has arisen from the police being more particular in reporting cases of permitting drunkenness – as it was found to be an evil rather on the increase. I believe it has caused landlords to be more careful in supplying drink to persons intoxicated.’

H. McCrea, Superintendent.

Black List.....

Thomas Dickinson, SEVEN STARS, High Street, Bilston left over until the adjourned licensing meeting on the 28th of September.”

Birmingham Journal 19/12/1868

"On Monday, an inquest was held before Mr. W. H. Smith, Deputy Coroner, at the SEVEN STARS, Bilston, to investigate the cause of the death of Mrs. Mary Ann Bruce (23). The case caused considerable excitement in the town, and Chief-superintendent McCrea was present during the investigation.

The circumstances of the case, as shown by the evidence of Mrs. Maty Ann Anderson, were that the deceased was the widow of a Scotch gentleman, and she had been housekeeper to Mr. Larkin, surgeon. She was the daughter of James Kendon, of Hurst Street, Birmingham. On the 25th of October, deceased came to Mrs. Anderson's house, and said she was very poorly. Subsequently, on the same evening, she came again, and she was then under the influence of chloroform, or something else. She appeared to be in great trouble. A fortnight afterwards she again went to Mrs. Anderson's house, and asked to be allowed to lie down on the sofa. Permission was granted. Deceased appeared very ill, and Mr. Anderson gave her some brandy. Mrs. Anderson went to fetch Mr. Larkin, but he refused to come; but on a second application being made to him, he went to the house, and when he saw deceased he said she was suffering from typhoid fever. Mr. Larkin recommended that her parents should be written to. Afterwards Mr. Hancox, Mr. Malin, and Mr. Gray, the chemist, visited her. She had no medicine given to her but a few resting pills. A few days after deceased went to Mrs. Anderson's house, Mr. Larkin performed an operation upon her, and in a short time she had a miscarriage. In the progress of the enquiry it was elicited that the deceased begged Mr. Larkin to perform the operation himself, and that deceased's father said he should be satisfied if Mr. Larkin performed the operation. Some questions as to the paternity of the child were raised; but the Coroner said it was not his business to go into that, and it was not the subject of the enquiry. Mrs. Anderson stated that Mr. Malin told her that the operation was performed in consequence of deceased having a fistula, and it was decided to adjourn the enquiry to Thursday morning, in order that a post mortem examination might be made. The Coroner instructed the new house surgeon at the South Staffordshire Hospital to make the examination, assisted by another surgeon, and the Jury expressed their satisfaction at it being put in the hands of a medical man not connected with Bilston.

The enquiry was resumed, and concluded on Thursday. Mr. Waterhouse appeared on behalf of Mr. Larkin, who was in the room during the enquiry, together with Mr. Griffiths, surgeon, of Bilston, and Mr. Ballenden, junior, surgeon, of Sedgley. Mr. Malin, surgeon, and also Mr. Gray, chemist, were in attendance, and gave evidence.

Mr. J. H. Love, surgeon, Wolverhampton, gave particulars of the post mortem, which he had made at the instance of the Coroner, and conjointly with Mr. Delane his partner. The deceased, it was plain, suffered from a complication of maladies. These partly account for the intense pain which the woman Anderson described her to have been suffering before the surgical operation which was performed during life was made. Mr. Love's opinion was that deceased died from exhaustion consequent upon abscesses in the left lung and back. Witness would not think it reasonable, or discreet, or expedient to perform an operation when a woman was pregnant. It was one of the great maxims of the profession not to operate when a person was in that state.

Mr. Waterhouse: You say that you would consider it indiscreet to perform an operation when a women was enceinte. Do you lay that down as a general rule? Supposing the patient was suffering extreme pain from fistula, would you not have operated to relieve it?

Witness: I should not. The pain suffered from the fistula would not be so likely to cause miscarriage as the operation. The abscess itself would not cause premature birth. He had never know an operation for fistula performed whilst the woman was enceinte.

In answer to a Juror, the witness said that supposing there had been no miscarriage, he thought the woman would have been likely to have died from the abscess.

At the request of the Jury, Mr. Malin, surgeon, was examined. The witness said he considered an operation for fistula requisite in the case. When he visited the woman he did not know that she was pregnant, but he should not consider that pregnancy was a bar to the operation. The operation would not necessarily cause miscarriage.

Mr. Charles Gray, chemist, Bilston, said he had not prescribed for the deceased in any way. He saw the deceased, when he was in company with Mr. Larkin, a day or two after the first visit, and also about a fortnight after her confinement. In his opinion the pain she suffered was likely to have caused miscarriage.

James Kingdom, father of the deceased, was examined, at his own request. He stated the he last saw deceased alive about three weeks ago, at Mrs. Anderson's. After he knew that she was suffering from some disease, he came to Bilston three times a week to see her. She told him that the operation was about to be performed. After the operation she was much easier. He was in the house at the premature birth. She did not desire any other medical attendant than Mr. Larkin, between whom and his daughter there had been a long correspondence. Witness then handed to the Coroner some letters that his daughter had received. The Coroner read one, and said that everything in it was perfectly harmless; but there was no signature to the letter. Statements were then made by the witness, in reply to Jurors, and Mr. Waterhouse, as to the paternity of the child; but the Coroner more than once said that that question

was not being enquired into. The point seemed to be thought a great deal of by some of the Jury, but the Coroner was very prompt in checking any evidence on this point, which he said did not form part of his enquiry.

The Jury, after consulting half an hour, returned a verdict that the deceased died from exhaustion, consequent upon abscesses in her chest and back. The Jury accompanied their verdict with a written statement to the effect that 'Mr. Larkin acted indiscreetly in operating for fistula, when the patient was about again to become a mother.' The Coroner refused to take the addendum to the verdict, as the medical opinion upon which it was founded was contradicted."

Birmingham Daily Post 3/9/1869 - Advert

"Wanted, good Puddlers.

Steady men seeking Employment may apply at the SEVEN STARS INN, Bilston."

WANTED, good PUDDLERS.—Steady Men seeking Employment may apply at the Seven Stars Inn, Bilston.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 8/1/1870

"An inquest was held on Wednesday last, by the Borough Coroner, T. M. Phillips, at the SEVEN STARS INN, Bilston, kept by *Thomas Dickinson*, on the body of John Cooper, collier, aged 73, who was working in Mr. David Jones's colliery. On the 3rd of January he was found by Thomas Storkey, at 1.14pm, and taken home.

The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes."

Birmingham Daily Post 28/2/1870

"An inquest was held on Saturday, at the SEVEN STARS, High Street, Bilston, upon the body of Benjamin Johnson, about two years old, the son of a shoemaker, living in Dudley Street. On Friday week, the child, during its play, fell down a flight of stairs, and died from concussion, on Thursday last. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

1871 Census

72, High Street

- [1] *Thomas Dickinson* (84), widower, innkeeper, born West Bromwich;
- [2] *Isabella Dickinson* (23), grand-daughter, housekeeper, born Stourbridge;
- [3] *John Dickinson* (13), grand-son, scholar, born Stourbridge;
- [4] *Emma Webb* (22), grand-daughter, assistant, born Dudley;
- [5] *Henry Wilson* (42), boarder, traveller, NK;
- [6] *Joseph Gross* (70), boarder, traveller, NK;
- [7] *Francis Lloyd* (25), boarder, traveller, NK;
- [8] Not Known (50), boarder, traveller, NK;
- [9] *John Judge* (46), boarder, journeyman provision dealer, born Warwickshire:

Birmingham Daily Post 15/12/1873 - Advert

"£3 Reward.

Lost, between the SEVEN STARS, Bilston, and Lane Head, on December 8 last, a gold Stop-Watch, with brass chain, two keys and steel seal attached. 'J. Cohen, Birmingham' on dial. Number known.

Whoever has found and will return it to Mr. *Dickinson*, SEVEN STARS, Bilston, will receive the above reward."

Thomas Dickinson died in the 1st quarter of 1874.

£3. Reward.—Lost, between the Seven Stars, Bilston, and Lane Head, on December 8 last, a gold Stop-Watch, with brass chain, two keys and steel seal attached. "J. Cohen, Birmingham," on dial. Number known.—Whoever has found and will return it to Mr. *Dickinson*, Seven Stars, Bilston, will receive the above reward.

Birmingham Daily Post 18/4/1874

"At the Special license Transfer Sessions, Bilston, yesterday.....

SEVEN STARS, High Street, from the executors of *Thomas Dickinson* to *Joseph Bell*."

Birmingham Daily Post 19/5/1874 - Advert

"Chance seldom met with.

To be Sold, cheap, a four-wheeled Phaeton, nearly new.

Apply, Mr. *Joseph Bell*, SEVEN STARS INN, High Street, Bilston."

CHANCE seldom met with.—To be Sold, cheap, a four-wheeled Phaeton, nearly new.—Apply, Mr. *Joseph Bell*, Seven Stars Inn, High Street, Bilston.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 4/12/1875

“John Adamson, senior, of High Street, and John Adamson, junior, Oxford Street, were summoned for having assaulted William Gregory, the parish constable, on the 24th ult. There was also a summons against Gregory for having threatened the elder Adamson. Mr. Bowen appeared for the Adamsons, and Mr. Fellows for Gregory.

From the evidence at appeared that on the afternoon of the date named, the Adamsons were in the SEVEN STARS, public house, High Street, Bilston, when Gregory entered and informed the elder of the two that he had two executions for gas accounts against him. The three adjourned into the street, and high words were used. A young man named Tudor came up at the time and asked what was the matter, and he was at once knocked down by the younger Adamson, and on the latter being remonstrated with by Gregory he turned upon the constable, and struck and kicked him. It was alleged that the elder Adamson also assaulted Gregory, but it appeared rather that his interposition was more with a view to prevent further violence on the part of his son.

The summons against the elder Adamson, and also that against Gregory, was dismissed. The younger defendant was fined 40s and costs.

It will be remembered that he was last week fined 30s and costs for the assault on Tudor.”

Sporting Life 29/1/1876

“Birmingham and District. Royal Oak Grounds, Burnt Tree.

Mr. Nuttall, the proprietor, will give £10 for an all-England dog handicap, distance 200 yards, on Saturday and Monday, February 5 and 7; first prize £7; second prize £2; third prize £1. Entrance 1s each. Entrance to close on February 1. Entrance to be made at Mr. E. Darby’s, CROSS KEYS, Blue Lane, Walsall; Mr. E. Noble’s, DOCK INN, Dock Lane, Dudley; Mr. I. Baker’s, innkeeper, Westbromwich; Mr. W. Taylor’s, Dudley; or at Mr. *Samuel Burrows’s*, SEVEN STARS INN, Bilston. Conditions as usual. Admission to the grounds, 6d each.”

Sporting Life 19/2/1879

“S. Hughes, of Bilston, will take two yards start of J. Dudley, of Bilston, and run him any distance he likes to name, for his own sum. To run in one month or six weeks from signing articles. Man and money ready any time at the SEVEN STARS INN, Bilston.”

John Samuel Dickinson = John Samuel Dickenson

Birmingham Daily Post 11/1/1881 - Advert

“Bilston. To Let, Lease, or Sell, that noted Old-licensed free House, the SEVEN STARS INN, Bilston.

A really good opportunity.

For terms and to treat, apply, Edward Ellis, Auctioneer, Wednesbury.”

1881 Census

72, High Street – SEVEN STARS INN

[1] *John S. Dickenson* (22), licensed victualler, born Stourbridge;

[2] *Hannah Dickenson* (28), sister, domestic servant, born Stourbridge:

BILSTON.—To Let, Lease, or Sell, that noted Old-licensed free House, the Seven Stars Inn, Bilston. A really good opportunity.—For terms and to treat, apply, Edward Ellis, Auctioneer, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 29/12/1886 - Advert

“Hairdresser.

Young Man Seeks Engagement as Manager; quick and easy shaver; good haircutter, and can do umbrella work.

H. Burrows, SEVEN STARS, High Street, Bilston.”

HAIRDRESSER.—Young Man Seeks Engagement as Manager: quick and easy shaver; good haircutter, and can do umbrella work.—H. Burrows, Seven Stars, High Street, Bilston.

1891 Census

73, High Street – SEVEN STARS

- [1] *Thomas Cook* (44), licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *Elizabeth Cook* (43), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Ethel Cook* (12), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] *Janet Cook* (9), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] *Blanch Cook* (4), daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] *Elizabeth Cook* (16), daughter, born Bilston;
- [7] *Elizabeth Cox* (18), domestic servant, born Bilston;
- [8] *Jacob Fironick* (24), visitor, musician, born Basel, Switzerland;
- [9] *Jacob Buss* (22), visitor, musician, born Basel, Switzerland;
- [10] *George E. Bailey* (25), lodger, theatrical professional, born Oldham, Lancashire;
- [11] *Maggie Bailey* (22), lodger, theatrical professional, born Manchester;
- [12] *Peter Berst* (34), visitor, musician, born Hisuchan, Bavaria:

1901 Census

24, High Street – SEVEN STARS INN

- [1] *Thomas Harris* (28), licensed victualler and iron caster, born Bilston;
- [2] *Mary Ann Harris* (27), wife, born Old Hill;
- [3] *John Thomas Harris* (2), son, born Bilston;
- [4] *Arthur Harris* (8 months), son, born Bilston;
- [5] *Harriet Hayward* (20), domestic servant, born Bradley:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 13/6/1906

“At Bilston Police Court yesterday *Henry H. Nuttall*, of the SEVEN STARS INN, High Street, for selling rum 7 per cent below the allowed limit of dilution was fined 20s and costs. Defendant said his wife broke the spirits down and must have made a slight mistake.”

1911 Census

22, High Street – SEVEN STARS

- [1] *Henry Herbert Nuttall* (37), licensed victualler, born Dudley Port;
- [2] *Mina Nuttall* (38), wife, married 12 years, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *Tom Nuttall* (10), son, born Bilston;
- [4] *Elizabeth Nuttall* (8), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] *Lillie Bennett* (19), servant, born Wolverhampton:

Henry Herbert Nuttall – see also BIRD IN HAND, High Street, DOG AND PARTRIDGE, Broad Street, HEN AND CHICKENS, George Street, and UNION MILL, Manor Road.

Henry Tertius Hodgkiss – see also CROWN AND ANCHOR, Oxford Street, LEOPARD, Church Street, ROYAL OAK, High Street, GATE, BLANKMAKERS ARMS and WHITE HART.

1921 Census

22, High Street – SEVEN STARS HOTEL

- [1] *Clarissa Price* (62), widow, manageress public house, born Bilston;
 - [2] *Irene Newell* (17), grand-daughter, assistant in business, born Compton;
 - [3] *Clara Walters* (21), cousin to Irene Newell, general servant, born Bradley:
- [The form was signed by *Thomas Newell*.]

South Staffordshire Times 10/3/1923

“The tenant of the SEVEN STARS INN, High Street, Bilston, applied for a music license, this to be in operation during the whole time the house was open for business purposes.
The application was refused.”

South Staffordshire Times 7/6/1924

“The members of the Bilston Butchers’ Association, on Tuesday, received a visit from Mr. G. H. Collinge (Southport), President of the National Federation of Meat Traders, and Mr. Ben Turner (Wigan), a member of the Executive Committee. A large attendance at the SEVEN STARS, High Street, was presided over by Mr. E. C. Nicklin, president of the local association.....”

A music license was granted on 6th February 1925.

Harry Millington – see also NEW BULLS HEAD, Wellington Road, Bilston; GLADSTONE, North Street, Wolverhampton; and HEN AND CHICKENS, George Street, Bilston.

1929 Probate

“*Edward Wilkinson*, of the SEVEN STARS INN, High Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 8 July 1929. Administration Birmingham 22 August to *Phoebe Alice Wilkinson*, widow, and Selina Smith (wife of Thomas Leonard Smith). Effects £2,854 13s 1d.”

It was rebuilt in 1934.

Evening Despatch 12/8/1938

“Bilston and District AC hold their annual night trial on Sunday, 21 August, and, being a clear fixture, they are hoping for a good entry. There will be three classes – Solo motor-cycles, three-wheelers and sidecars, and cars..... If anyone is interested in this trial and cares to pay us a visit to our weekly club meeting tonight or Friday next, 19 August, we shall be pleased to give him every possible welcome and information pertaining to the same at headquarters, SEVEN STARS HOTEL, High Street, Bilston.”

Evening Despatch 12/12/1938

“There was a good entry for the trial organised by the Bilston and District Automobile Club, starting from the SEVERN [sic] STARS, Bilston, yesterday. The 50-mile course included six observed sections, each of which were inches deep in mud, with a particularly deep water-splash (which brought N. Cheshire (Standard) to a standstill) and a driving test which created many failures due to the depth of a rut concealed by water. Competitors, however, enjoyed their ‘mudlarking’....”

Evening Despatch 14/4/1939

“Bilston and District M.C.C.

We are running a main road event this Sunday. It will be run on novel lines, and we can assure any rider who cares to support it, a good afternoon’s outing. The Kinver and Midland Social Club have promised their support, and we hope that they turn out in their usual numbers. The start will be from headquarters, at 3 o’clock, and will finish at Bridgnorth about 5 We would welcome any new (or old) members to headquarters, SEVEN STARS, High Street, Bilston, any Friday night.....”

1939 Register

24, High Street

[3] Gertrude V. Bates, date of birth 18/7/1908, assists in business, married;

[4] Sarah E. Bates, dob 12/1/1876, unpaid domestic duties, widowed:

It closed in 1985.

It was converted into a shop.

Notice to Creditors and Debtors.

ALL Persons having any Claim on the Estate of **GEORGE BEARDS**, lately of Bilston, in the County of Stafford, Stone-mason and Victualler, deceased, are desired to send in the Particulars of their respective Demands to Mrs. Beebee, of Bilston aforesaid, or Mr. Charles Gallimore, of Perry Barr, the Executrix and Executor, that the same may be examined and discharged; and all Persons indebted to the Estate of the said George Beards, are hereby required to pay the Amount of their respective Debts to the said Mrs. Beebee or Mr. Charles Gallimore immediately, otherwise they will be sued for the same.

THOMAS MOLE.

Birmingham, Nov. 20, 1818.

1818

NOTICE.

THE Public are hereby informed, that I shall not be accountable for any Transaction either in paying or receiving Money on my Account, by **DANIEL HOWARD**, Stone Mason, who is no longer in my Employ.

EDWARD BEEBEE.

Bilston, July 24, 1819.

NOTICE.

I Hereby authorise **DANIEL HOWARD**, a trusty Servant of the late George Beards, of Bilston, Stonemason, to receive the outstanding Debts due to the Estate of the said George Beards. All Persons indebted to such Estate are desired immediately to pay the same to me, or the Executrix (now Mrs. Edward Beebee) or to the aforesaid Daniel Howard.

CHARLES GALLIMORE, Executor.

Perry Barr, July 31, 1819.

1819

NOTICE.

ALL Persons who stand indebted to the late **EDWARD BEEBEE**, Stone-mason and Victualler, of Bilston, are requested to pay their respective debts to the undersigned Executors of the said Edward Beebee; and all persons to whom he was indebted are requested to send in their accounts, that they may be examined and discharged.

JOHN LAW,
THOMAS BEEBEE, } Executors.

Bilston, May 10, 1824.

1824

**MOST DESIRABLE PUBLIC HOUSE,
HIGH-STREET, BILSTON.**

PEREMPTORILY to be SOLD by AUCTION, by **RICHARD CORBETT**, on the premises (by direction of the Trustees of the late Mr. George Beards, deceased) on Friday the 12th day of October instant, at five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be read;—the Licences, Good-will, and immediate Possession of that old established and well accustomed Public House, called the **SEVEN STARS**, situate in High-street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, and lately in the occupation of Mr. Thomas Rutter, deceased, and of which a lease for a term of years will be granted at a moderate rent.

The purchaser will be required to take to the whole of the Fixtures, Barrels and Brewing Utensils at a fair valuation.

The annual consumption of malt for several years has averaged about 2000 bushels.

For particulars as to rent, &c. apply to Mr. John Mason, Solicitor, or the Auctioneer, both of Bilston.

1827

**MOST DESIRABLE PUBLIC HOUSE,
HIGH-STREET, BILSTON.**

TO be SOLD by private Contract (by directions of the Trustees of the late Mr. George Beards, deceased) the Licences, Good-will, and immediate Possession of that old established and well accustomed Public House, called the **SEVEN STARS**, situate in High-street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, and lately in the occupation of Mr. Thomas Rutter, deceased, and of which a lease for a term of years will be granted at a moderate rent.

The purchaser will be required to take to the Fixtures, Barrels, and Brewing Utensils, at a fair valuation, the estimate of which will not exceed the sum of £100.

The annual consumption of Malt for several years has averaged about 2000 bushels.

For further particulars, and to treat for the same, apply to Mr. John Mason, Solicitor, Bilston.

1827

**GENTEEL HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,
AT BILSTON.**

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by **R. CORBETT**, on the premises (by order of Trustees) To-morrow (Tuesday) the 16th day of October, all the genteel, neat, and useful Household Furniture, Bedding, Linen, and other Effects of the late Mr. George Beards, deceased, at the Seven Stars Inn, High-street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, particulars of which may be had on application at the office of the Auctioneer, New-town, Bilston aforesaid.

An old-established Inn, in High-street, and eleven Freehold Houses, in Oxford-road and Warwick-street, Bilston, Staffordshire.

**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY RICHARD CORBETT,**

On Friday, the 13th day of December, 1839, at the Seven Stars Inn, High street, Bilston aforesaid, at five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be read:—

LOT 1.

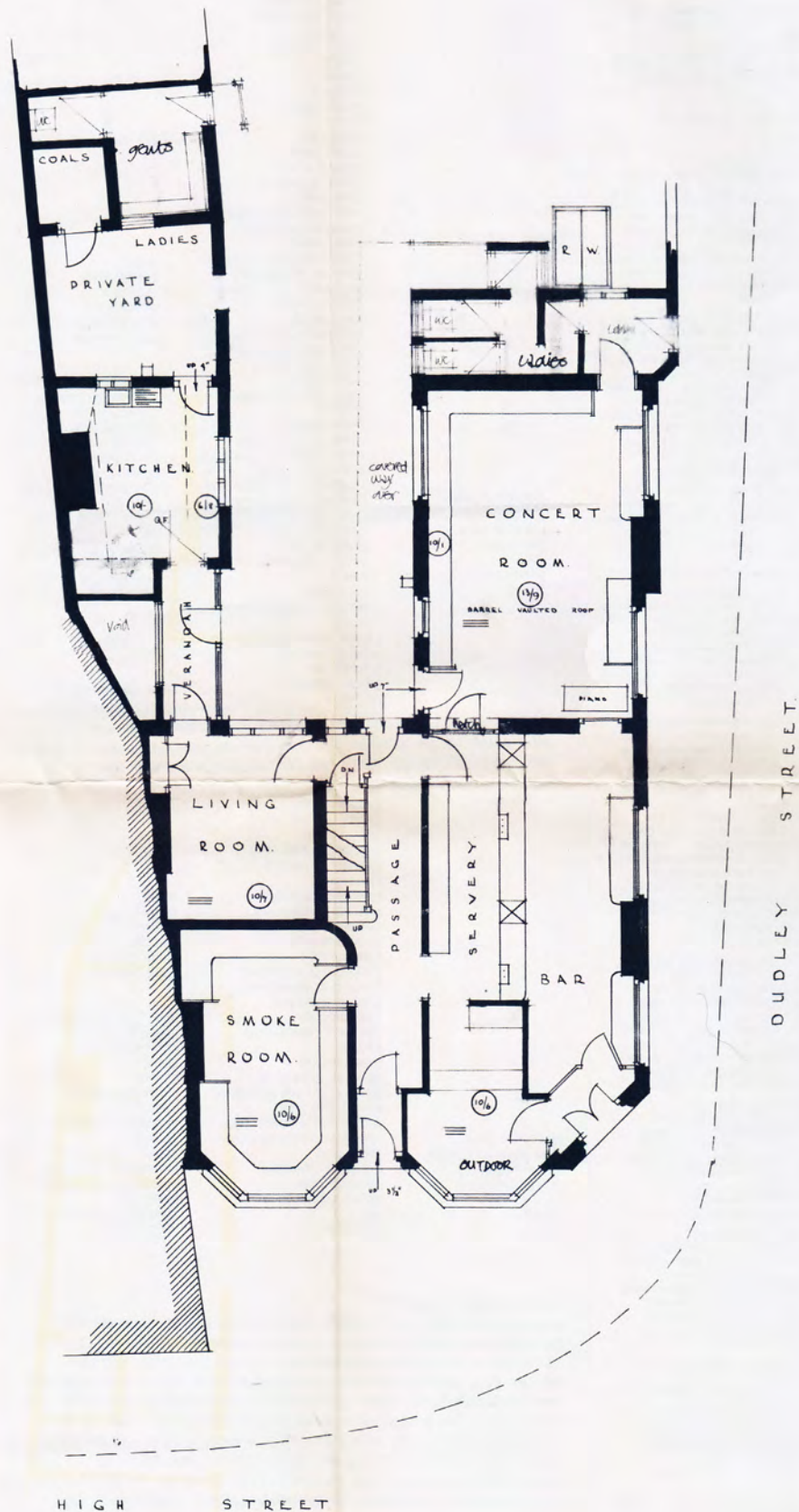
ALL the above-named old-established and well-accustomed INN and TAP HOUSE, which is in one of the best situations in the town for business, and is now in the occupation of Mr. Thomas Dickinson and his under tenant, comprising three excellent store cellars, with suitable partitions for ale, wine, and liquor vaults; on the ground floor three parlours, two kitchens, a bar, and a large shop fronting the street, formerly used as a retail wine and liquor shop, but now underlet to a hair dresser; on the chamber story three convenient bed-rooms and a large and commodious club or lodge room, with two sets of wainscot partitions to divide it into three rooms occasionally, and on the attic story three comfortable bed-rooms. The outbuildings and premises consist of a large cooking kitchen, occasionally used as a family kitchen and laundry, a store room, with malt room over it, a large convenient brewhouse, a stable for six horses, with hay room over, a spacious enclosed back yard, part of which is paved with freestone flagging, and in which is a small pleasure garden, having a neat brick and slate summer-house therein; there are also a well, a soft water cistern, a coal depôt, detached sheds, piggeries, and other outbuildings and conveniences. The whole of the premises are in a good substantial state of repair, and the parochial and other payments low.

The above premises are copyhold within the manor of Stowheath, and will be found worthy the notice of persons desirous of a lucrative business, or a profitable and safe investment.

1839

THE SEVEN STARS,

PLANS AS AT PRESENT.



SHAKESPEARE

29, (8), (6), Market Street, (Newmarket Street), (Hall Street) / Vine Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

James Cremonini, gentleman, Belle View Park, Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton [1853], [1862]
Dr. William Larkin, physician and surgeon, Alice Street, Bilston
Showells Brewery Co. Ltd. [1921]
Ind Coope and Allsopp (leased)
Johnson and Phipps

LICENSEES

John Shayshut [1828] – [1831]
George Jellicoe [1833] – [1834]
George Bishton [1835]
John Maybury []
Joseph Taylor [1841] – [1842]
George Davis [1845] – [1850]
Henry James Lester [1850] – [1851]
Richard Corbett [1851] – [1852]
Thomas Luther [1855]
Samuel Glover [1857] – **1860**;
Thomas Leake **(1860 – [1862])**
Mrs. Margaret Leake [1861]
Samuel Lloyd [] – **1863**;
Mrs. Margaret Leake **(1863 – [1870])**
Thomas Leake [1864] – [1865]
William Rogers **(1868 – [1869])**
Thomas Rogers [1870] – [1875];
Richard Andrew Harper **(187_ – [])**
Miss Catherine H Sturge [] – **1881**;
Matthew Ward **(1881)**;
Francis Harper **(1881 – 1885)**;
Reuben Valentine **(1885 – 1889)**;
George Anson **(1889 – 1905)**;
Samuel Watson **(1905 – 1906)**;
William Lloyd **(1906 – 1908)**;
Ernest Walter Gardom **(1908 – 1910)**;
Daniel Evans **(1910 – 1922)**;
Frank Thomas Parish **(1922 – 1923)**;
Frank Tophill **(1923 – 1924)**;
James Henry Clark **(1924 – 1930)**;
Edward John Cornforth **(1930 – [1939])**
Frederick G N Gleghorn [1940]
John Wallbank [] – **1952**;
Louis Victor Baker **(1952 – [])**
Jonah Spencer [1955] – [1956]

TO INNKEEPERS, WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANTS, AND OTHERS. VALUABLE COPYHOLD PREMISES, AT BILSTON.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by DANL. TAYLOR, upon the premises, in Bilston, in the county of Stafford, at four o'clock in the afternoon, on Tuesday the 3d day of November, 1829, subject to such conditions as will be then produced—all that valuable and excellent modern built Messuage or Dwelling House, known by the name of the SHAKESPEARE INN, situate in Market-street, Bilston, and now in the occupation of Mr. John Shayshutt; comprising three excellent parlours, bar, hall, back and front passages, kitchens, and extensive cellarage under the same, three bed-rooms, assembly room, sixty feet long by upwards of seventeen feet wide, five excellent attics, brewhouse, stable, extensive fires court and back premises, two wells of water, and soft water cistern, with suitable out-offices and other convenient appurtenances.

The whole of the premises are fitted up in a very superior manner, and well calculated for carrying on an extensive business, which their proximity to the Market-place must always command; and may, if required, at a moderate expence, be converted into two very eligible establishments.

Mr. Shayshutt, the tenant, will shew the premises, and other particulars may be had on application to the Auctioneer, at Wednesbury, or at the office of Mr. William Robinson, Solicitor, Dudley.

1829

THE SHAKESPEARE INN, BILSTON.

To be Sold by Private Treaty,

THE above newly-erected and substantially built INN, which is just completed; comprising on the Base one Cellar, 20 Feet by 15; one 38 Feet by 11½; and Brewhouse, 18½ Feet by 17; on the Ground Floor a Front Entrance Hall, a Tap Room, 16 Feet by 12½; Bar or Liquor Shop, 12½ Feet by 10½; Bar Parlour, 12½ Feet by 11; Kitchen, 19 Feet by 16½; Back Staircase; Front Parlour, 16½ Feet by 15½; large Side Entrance Hall, in which is a commodious Staircase, with Oak Hand-rail, and a Back Parlour, 13 Feet square; on the Chamber Floor a lofty Assembly or Club Room, 57 Feet by 17; large Lobby; Bed Room, 16½ Feet by 15½, and one Ditto 13 Feet square; on Attic Floor, five conveniently arranged and good sized Bed Rooms. The whole fitted up with washes and panelled Doors, a handsome cemented front, with one Front and three Side Entrances, and finished in a neat and substantial Manner. Appertaining and joining to which there are a Cooking Kitchen, with a Malt Room over; a Stable, with Loft, 25½ Feet by 12; an excellent full sized Fives' Court, paved with Barn Floor Bricks; a Skittle Alley; a large Cistern for Soft Water; a Well of good clean Water; and an entire enclosed Back Yard, sufficiently extensive for the Erection of a Gig-house and other Outbuildings.

The above spacious and substantial Premises are in every Respect suitable for a Market and Commercial Inn, and for a considerable Time (and whilst in an unfinished State, and in the Occupation of JOHN SHAYSHUTT,) enjoyed a good Run of Business.

The Licences have been regularly renewed, and will be sold with the Premises, which will enable a Purchaser to commence Business forthwith, with a Stock of his own Choice, and that without being encumbered with Payments for Good-will, Fixtures, or useless Stock.

To view the Premises apply to Mr. JOHN BOWEN, at the Angel Inn, Bilston, who is authorised, as is also R. CORBETT, of Bilston, Auctioneer, to treat for the same.

January 29, 1831.

1831

NOTES

Hall Street [1835], [1841], [1842], [1850], [1851]

6, Market Street [1858]

8, Market Street [1872], [1873], [1874], [1881], [1896]

29, Market Street [1911], [1916], [1932], [1939], [1940]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 29/9/1828 - Advert

“Valuable Building and Building Land, at Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by R. Corbett, on Friday, October 3, 1828, at five o'clock in the afternoon, at the SHAKESPEARE INN, New Market Street, Bilston, in the following lots.....

The building lots are marked out; to view the same apply to Mr. *John Shayshutt*, at the SHAKESPEARE INN aforesaid.....”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 2/11/1829 - Advert

“To Innkeepers, Wine & Spirit Merchants, and Others. Valuable Copyhold Premises, at Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Daniel Taylor, upon the premises, in Bilston, in the county of Stafford, at four o'clock in the afternoon, on Tuesday the 3rd day of November, 1829, subject to such conditions as will be then and there produced.

All that valuable and excellent modern built Messuage or Dwelling House, known by the name of the SHAKESPEARE INN, situate in Market Street, Bilston, and now in the occupation of Mr. *John Shayshutt*; comprising three excellent parlours, bar, hall, back and front passages, kitchens, and extensive cellarage under the same, three bed-rooms, assembly room, sixty feet long by upwards of seventeen feet wide, five excellent attics, brewhouse, stable, extensive fives court and back premises, two wells of water, and soft water cistern, with suitable out-offices and other convenient appurtenances.

The whole of the premises are fitted up in a very superior manner, and well calculated for carrying on an extensive business, which their proximity to the Market Place must always command; and may, if required, at a moderate expense, be converted into two very eligible establishments.

Mr. *Shayshutt*, the tenant will shew the premises, and other particulars may be had on application to the Auctioneer, at Wednesbury, or at the office of Mr. William Robinson, Solicitor, Dudley.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/2/1831 - Advert

“The SHAKESPEARE INN, Bilston.

To be Sold by Private Treaty, the above newly-erected and substantially built Inn, which is just completed; comprising on the Base one Cellar, 20 Feet by 15; one 38 Feet by 11½; and Brewhouse, 18½ Feet by 17; on the Ground Floor a Front Entrance Hall, a Tap Room, 16 Feet by 12½; Bar or Liquor Shop, 12½ Feet by 10½; Bar Parlour, 12½ Feet by 11; Kitchen, 19 Feet by 16¾; Back Staircase; Front Parlour, 16¼ Feet by 15¼; large Side Entrance Hall, in which is a commodious Staircase, with Oak Hand-rail, and a Back Parlour, 13 Feet square; on the Chamber Floor a lofty Assembly or Club Room, 57 Feet by 17; large Lobby; Bed Room, 16¼ Feet by 15¼, and one Ditto 13 Feet square; on Attic Floor, five conveniently arranged and good sized Bed Rooms. The whole fitted up with Sashes and panelled Doors, a handsome cemented Front, with one Front and three Side Entrances, and finished in a neat and substantial Manner. Appertaining and joining to which there are a Cooking Kitchen, with a Malt Room over; a Stable, with loft, 25¼ Feet by 12; an excellent full sized Fives Court, paved with Barn Floor Bricks; a Skittle Alley; a large Cistern for Soft Water; a Well of good clean Water; and an entire enclosed Back Yard, sufficiently extensive for the Erection of a Gig-house and other Outbuildings.

The above spacious and substantial Premises are in every Respect suitable for a Market and Commercial Inn, and for a considerable Time (and whilst in an unfinished State, and in the Occupation of *John Shayshutt*), enjoyed a good Run of Business.

The Licenses have been regularly renewed, and will be sold with the Premises, which will enable a Purchaser to commence Business forthwith, with a Stock of his own Choice, and that without being encumbered with Payments for Good-will, Fixtures, or useless Stock.

To view the Premises apply to Mr. John Bowen, at the ANGEL INN, Bilston, who is authorised, as is also R. Corbett, of Bilston, Auctioneer, to treat for the same.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 26/6/1841 - Notice

“An Insolvent Debtor to be heard at the Court House, at Lancaster, on Tuesday, the 20th day of July, 1841, at ten o’clock in the forenoon precisely.

John Maybury, formerly of Oxford Street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, at the same time carrying on business at Highfields, near Bilston aforesaid, Sheet Iron Manufacturer; afterwards manager to a Sheet Iron Manufacturer; then carrying on business, and occasionally residing at Wichnor, near Lichfield, in the said county, as Sheet Iron Manufacturer, in his own name, and sometimes in the names of John and Joseph Maybury, also Shareholder in a Lead Mine at Llanveras, near Ruthin, Denbighshire, North Wales; then of Old Meeting Street, Birmingham, Warwickshire, at the same time carrying on business in Princep Street, Birmingham aforesaid, Iron Manufacturer; afterwards out of business; then of the SHAKESPEARE INN, Market Street, Bilston aforesaid, Licensed Victualler; then a prisoner for debt in the County Gaol of Stafford; then of the SHAKESPEARE INN, Market Street, Bilston aforesaid, Licensed Victualler; then of Oxford Street, Bilston aforesaid, Cattle Dealer and Butcher; then of Whittenhall, near Bilston aforesaid, and occasionally a Lodger at the Garratt Inn, Garratt Road, Manchester, Lancashire, and late residing in Garratt Road aforesaid, and carrying on business in Co-partnership with Henry Thomas Smith, as Boiler, Plate and Sheet Iron Manufacturers, under the firm of Maybury and Smith, sued with the said Henry Thomas Smith, by the name of Henry Smith.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/9/1844 - Advert

“Eligible Building Investments.

SHAKESPEARE INN and Premises, with Five Dwelling Houses adjoining, situate and fronting New Market Street and Dwelling House, Crown Street, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Walker and Page, on Thursday, the 12th day of September, 1844, at the KINGS HEAD INN, at Bilston, at five o’clock in the afternoon, in the following or such other lots as may be agreed upon, and subject to such conditions as will be then produced and read.

Lot I. All those valuable and old licensed Premises, known as the SHAKESPEARE INN, fronting to New Market Street, and adjoining the New Market Square. The house contains large entrance hall, front and bar parlours, bar, tap room, kitchen, cooking kitchen, brewhouse, large club room, three chambers, and five attics; there is also a malt room, yard, extensive cellaring, stable, and various other appurtenances, the whole excellently arranged, and suitable for carrying on a large business. Also five newly-erected Dwelling Houses, at the back thereof, with brewhouse and other appurtenances, forming a most compact lot.

Lot II. All that Copyhold Messuage or Dwelling House, with the yard, garden, and premises, situate fronting the top of Crown Street, Bilston, now in the occupation of Mr. Munday, hair dresser.

Any further information may be had upon application to Messrs. Manby and Hawksford, solicitors, or to the Auctioneers, all of Wolverhampton.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/12/1845

“This being one of the special sessions appointed for the Hundred of Seisdon North, for the purpose of transferring and granting alehouse licenses a license of the SHAKESPEARE, at Bilston, which had been neglected to be renewed at the last general annual licensing meeting, was granted to *George Davis*, the present tenant.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/1/1849

“An inquest was held on Tuesday, at the SHAKESPEARE public house, Bilston, before Mr. Ward, coroner, on the bodies of James Davis and James Shaw, linkers, who were drowned in a water pit in Cappenfield colliery, belonging to Mr. Bagnall.

On Friday morning last the deceased, on going to repair the shaft of the pit, were cautioned not to descend, being slightly intoxicated at the time; they did so, however, and, in a few minutes, a quantity of bricks having fallen on the scaffold, it broke down, precipitating them into the water 50 yards below.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Henry James Lester = Henry James Lister

Staffordshire Advertiser 12/1/1850

“Bilston Petty Sessions, on Friday, the 4th instant.....

Edmund Bate, a puddler, was charged with attempting to utter a counterfeit shilling. George Parkes, an assistant to Mr. Banks, the HILL HOUSE, Shropshire Row, stated that on Thursday afternoon the prisoner came into his master's house and called for a pint of ale, in payment of which he tendered a shilling, which on examination proved to be counterfeit. On being told that it was bad, he produced a good one, paid for the ale, and left the house. Information was given to the police, and the prisoner was shortly afterwards apprehended, and on being searched, four counterfeit shillings were found in his pocket. Police-constable John Oldridge stated that he searched the prisoner's house the same evening, and found two counterfeit shillings in his clothes on the bed. They all appeared to have been made in the same mould. On searching the pantry he found a Britannia metal coffee-pot hid behind the lumps of coal, and upon making inquiries he found that it had been stolen from Mr. *Henry James Lester*, landlord of the SHAKSPERE INN, and that the prisoner had been drinking there the same day. The prisoner, who said nothing in defence, was remanded till Tuesday, in order to communicate with the Mint authorities.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 13/3/1850

“Staffordshire Adjourned Sessions.....

Edmund Bate, 22 (who yesterday pleaded guilty to a charge of having uttered a counterfeit shilling at Bilston), was charged with stealing a coffee-pot from the house of *Henry James Lister*, at Bilston. The prisoner was found guilty. A prior conviction at the Adjourned Epiphany Sessions of last year, for uttering counterfeit coin (when he was imprisoned for six months), was proved against the prisoner. For stealing the coffee-pot he was sentenced to one month's imprisonment; and for the uttering, twelve months' imprisonment, the sentence to commence at the expiration of the former.”

Richard Corbett = Richard Corbet

Richard Corbett was also a maltster and corn dealer. [1851]

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/3/1851

“At Bilston Public Office, on Friday, Charles Gough was charged with uttering two base shillings at the house of Mr. *Richard Corbett*, SHAKESPEARE INN, Hall Street. It having been ascertained that the Mint authorities would prosecute, the prisoner was committed to the sessions.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 12/4/1851

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Charles Gough, 37, was indicted for uttering and putting off at Bilston, two false and counterfeit shillings, with intent to defraud *Richard Corbet*. Mr. Kinnersley, with Mr. Gordon, prosecuted; the prisoner was undefended.

The prisoner, who has but one leg, was stated by Peter Hughes, a hostler and brewer, at the SHAKSPERE public house, Bilston, kept by Mr. *Richard Corbet*, to have come to his master's house, on the evening of the 17th of March, and called for a pint of ale. The ale being supplied, the prisoner handed him what purported to be a shilling, and received ninepence in change. This coin Hughes said he noticed had a peculiar mark upon it. From the testimony of Charles Roberts, a waiter at the SHAKSPERE, on the evening in question, it seems that in about ten minutes after passing the first shilling, the prisoner called for another pint of ale, and tendered a second shilling, which was immediately discovered to be a bad one. This led to the first shilling being more closely examined, when it was also found to be counterfeit. The prisoner was consequently transferred to the custody of police-constable Hall, who, on examining his pockets, found upon him a shilling and three sixpences in good silver coin, sixpence in copper, a box of mercurial preparation, and some whiting. Mr. Lithgoe, silversmith, of Stafford, proved that the coin was base and counterfeit, and explained in reference to the mercurial preparation, that it was calculated to impart to metals a temporary bright silvery appearance. The prisoner being found guilty, was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment.”

1851 Census

Market Street

- [1] *Richard Corbett* (30), unmarried, licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *Mary Horton* (42), sister, married, born Bilston;
- [3] *Thomas Horton* (15), nephew, born Tipton;
- [4] *Henry Wilden* (26), brewer, born Shropshire;
- [5] *William Stokes* (14), waiter, born Jamaica:

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/8/1851

“On Tuesday the Loyal Lodge of Friendly Fellows held their anniversary at the house of Mr. *Richard Corbett*, SHAKESPEARE INN, Hall Street, Bilston. After attending Divine service at the Wesleyans chapel, they perambulated the town, accompanied by an excellent band of music, flags, banners, &c. The proceedings of the day terminated in the utmost harmony and good feeling.”

Birmingham Journal 13/9/1851 - Married

“On Thursday, at St. Mary’s Church, Bilston (by the Rev. J. B. Owen), *Richard Corbett*, of the SHAKESPEARE INN, in that town, to Miss Ann Baker, niece of Mrs. Maria Thompson, of the Stamp Office.”
[Maria Thompson – see WAGGON AND HORSES, Oxford Street.]

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/12/1851

“An inquest was held on Thursday last, at the house of Mr. *Richard Corbett*, SHAKESPEARE INN, Bilston, before W. W. Ward, Esq, on the body of Thomas Price, aged three years, son of William Price, a miner, residing in Bristol Street. It appeared from the evidence, that on Tuesday morning the mother left home with her husband’s breakfast, leaving a child of 15 months old asleep in bed, and the deceased and an elder brother in the kitchen, when by some means his clothes caught fire. His brother opened the bed-room door (which is on the same floor), and the deceased crept under the bed. The sacking and bedding was instantly ignited; an alarm was raised, and a neighbour named Clamp ran in and rescued the infant from the bed, when it was surrounded by flames. The unfortunate child all this while lay under the burning mass, which had to be removed before he could be extricated. The poor little sufferer was literally roasted; he died in a few hours afterwards. A verdict in accordance with this evidence was returned. The youngest child, we are happy to state, is progressing favourably.”

London Gazette 14/1/1853

“Before the Judge of the County Court of Shropshire, holden at the Shirehall, at Shrewsbury, on the 25th day of January, 1853, at Ten o’clock in the Forenoon precisely.
Richard Corbett, heretofore of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Retailer of Wines, Spirituous Liquors, Ale, Beer, and Tobacco, and Dealer in Malt and Corn, afterwards of the same place, Licensed Retailer of Wine, Spirituous Liquors, Ale, Beer, and Tobacco, afterwards of the same place, in no business or occupation, and late of Newport, in the county of Salop, in no business or occupation.”

Shrewsbury Chronicle 28/1/1853

“In Re *Richard Corbett*. This insolvent applied for his discharge.....

The grounds upon which Mr. Whitehouse opposed were that the insolvent’s petition and schedule was incorrect, the withholding of books and papers, fraudulent preference, contracting debts without reasonable expectation of payment, and with having parted with the whole of his estate, so that he was not a person entitled to the benefit of the court within the meaning of the act. Mr. Edmonds likewise opposed on the same grounds.

The examination of the insolvent by Mr. Whitehouse and Mr. Edmonds lasted for several hours. The detaining creditor was James Dabbs, of Bilston, butty collier, to whom the insolvent owed a debt of £21 16s contracted by a bill and for a bacon pig. It appeared that the insolvent was in business at Bilston, as the landlord of the SHAKSPEARE public house, which he rented from Mr. Cremonini at the annual sum of £39, he also occupying another house at the rent of £30 in Newtown, Bilston. In October 1850, the insolvent had about £50 in cash, in furniture about £100, and eight copyhold and freehold houses worth £670, which realised about £60 per year. Shortly after that time he borrowed money upon mortgage of those houses, and was in the habit of drawing and accepting bills from various parties, until he became so involved, towards the close of the past year, that there were no less than nearly a dozen

executions and judgments against him. His system of trading, according to his own account, was by the bill system, and his transactions, which were pretty extensive, were very loosely kept, being merely copied from a board or slate into a small memorandum book.....

The insolvent was examined at great length regarding his bill transactions, and also respecting the book in which he said he had entered his accounts, which he said, after much fencing with the question, was at Mrs. Thompson's, the stamp office, Bilston. He had copied the items from it in order to enable Mr. Senior to make out the balance sheet. The whole of his good debts amounted to £7 10s 2d, and he had no ready money. Insolvent's debts and liabilities amounted to upwards of £700.....

The Judge said he should adjourn the case till Monday, in order to give the insolvent an opportunity of filing the book in which he stated he had entered his transactions, withholding any opinion of the case until that time."

Shrewsbury Chronicle 4/2/1853

"In Re *Richard Corbett*.....

His Honour was of opinion that the insolvent did not come within the meaning of the Insolvent Debtors' Act; and also having regard to the circumstances of this case, he could not do otherwise than dismiss his petition."

London Gazette 8/7/1853

"Notice is hereby given, that the County Court of Staffordshire, at Wolverhampton, acting in the matter of this Petition, will proceed to make a Final Order thereon, at the said Court, on the 23rd of July instant, at nine of the clock in the forenoon precisely, unless cause be then and there shewn to the contrary.

In the Matter of the Petition of *Richard Corbett*, at present and for nine months and twenty-four days last past residing at Bilston, in the county of Stafford, in no business or occupation, previously and for one year, seven months, and sixteen days, residing at Bilston aforesaid, Keeper of an Inn, Licensed Retailer of Wines, Spirituous Liquors, Ale, Beer, and Tobacco, and during a portion of such last-mentioned time being also a Dealer in Malt and Corn."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/8/1853

"At Wolverhampton County Court the following insolvency cases were heard.....

Richard Corbett, licensed victualler, Bilston, obtained his final order."

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/9/1854

"About 100 of the teachers and friends of St. Mary's Schools went together to Chillington Park on Tuesday last The party very much enjoyed a few hours boating upon the lake. There were also present at Chillington on Tuesday a party of about 150 persons, who had started from the SHAKSPERE, in Bilston. The latter were accompanied by a band of music."

Birmingham Journal 1/3/1856 - Advert

"SHAKSPERE INN AND SPIRIT VAULTS, Bilston.

Important to Innkeepers, Brokers, and Parties Furnishing.

To be Sold by Auction, by John Lloyd, on the Premises, as above, on Thursday, the 20th day of March, 1856.

The Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the above good old-accustomed and well-frequented Market Inn, successfully carried on for a number of years; also, all the Household Furniture, Ale Casks, Brewing Utensils, together with all the Conveniences in Spirit Vaults, &c, the property of Mr. *Luther*, who has taken another Inn.

Particulars and Catalogues to be had upon the Premises, and at the Office of the Auctioneer, Wednesbury."

SHAKSPERE INN AND SPIRIT VAULTS,
BILSTON.
IMPORTANT TO INNKEEPERS, BROKERS, AND PARTIES
FURNISHING.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY JOHN LLOYD, on the Premises, as above,
on THURSDAY, the 20th day of March, 1856—the LICENSES,
GOODWILL, and POSSESSION of the above good old-accustomed
and well frequented Market Inn, successfully carried on for a number
of years; also, all the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, Ale Casks,
Brewing Utensils, together with all the Conveniences in Spirit
Vaults, &c., the property of Mr. *Luther*, who has taken another Inn.
Particulars and Catalogues to be had upon the Premises, and at the
Office of the Auctioneer, Wednesbury.

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/5/1857

"At the Public Office, Wolverhampton, on Wednesday, before J. Leigh and S. Cartwright, Esqrs, William Skillett, butty collier, was summoned by Abraham Roper, miner, who had been in his employ, for paying the latter £1 14s wages on the premises of the SHAKSPERE INN, Bilston, on the 9th of May.

The inn was kept by Mr. *Glover*, son-in-law to the defendant, and according to Roper's statement the wages were paid in an unoccupied house at the back of the inn, never used for any other purpose. A little girl belonging to the inn, he said, attended at the pay table invariably and deducted sixpence from each of the men's wages, which was to be expended in ale. Roper also stated that he had been discharged without receiving the usual fourteen days notice on account of his being supposed to have been instrumental in bringing the condition of the pit before the Government inspector, a certificate from whom was read stating that it was in a condition which justified the complaint.

Mr. Bartlett appeared for the complainant; and for the defendant Mr. Clayton called two miners, each of whom deposed that the house where the wages were paid had for many years been occupied, and that they had never received their wages in the SHAKSPERE; and Mr. *Glover* deposed that the tenant of this house paid his rent to the same landlord as himself, totally independent of him.

The bench dismissed the case, but did not allow the defendant costs."

Thomas Leake = Thomas Leek

Margaret Leake = Margaret Leek

1861 Census

Market Street

[1] *Margaret Leek* (45), married, licensed victualler, born North Wales;

[2] *Edward Leek* (21), son, no occupation, born North Wales;

[3] *Mary Ann Leek* (15), daughter, no occupation, born Shrewsbury;

[4] *Esther Leek* (10), daughter, no occupation, born Shrewsbury;

[5] *Henry Thomas Leek* (8), son, no occupation, born Shrewsbury;

[6] *Eliza Leek* (6), daughter, no occupation, born Shrewsbury;

[7] *Susannah Bickley* (27), servant, born Wolverhampton:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/7/1861

"A daring burglary was committed last Sunday night, at the SHAKESPEARE INN, Market Street, Bilston. A thief got into the house through a back window which happened to be insecurely fastened, or the woodwork of which was rotten. The till was robbed of 12s, with which the fellow seems to have been satisfied. He left behind him a neat little bludgeon, showing that he was prepared for extremities."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/9/1861

"Annual meeting for the renewal and granting of spirit licenses.....

Licenses suspended.....

Thomas Leek, of the SHAKESPEARE INN, Bilston, all of whom had been fined in the previous year for various offences had their licenses suspended until the adjourned meeting on 20th September next."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 11/12/1861 - Advert

"A Favourable Opportunity.

To be Let or Sold, the SHAKESPERE INN, with Liquor Shop, adjoining the Market Place, Bilston.

Possession may be had at Christmas. No stock or fixtures to be taken to.

For particulars, &c, apply to James Cremonini, 3, Oxford Street, Bilston."

A FAVOURABLE OPPORTUNITY.
TO be LET or SOLD, the SHAKESPERE
INN, with Liquor Shop, adjoining the Market Place, Bilston.
Possession may be had at Christmas. No stock or fixtures to be
taken to.—For particulars, &c., apply to JAMES CREMONINI, 3,
Oxford-street, Bilston.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/4/1862

“Brown v Cremonini. This was a jury case heard at the County Court yesterday. The plaintiff was Mr. George Brown, auctioneer, Bilston, who was represented by Mr. Thurstans; and the defendant, Mr. Cremonini, a furniture broker of the same place, who was represented by Mr. Waterhouse, also of Bilston.

The claim was for £10, for services rendered under the following peculiar circumstances. In the early part of December last defendant was the owner of a public house at Bilston, called the SHAKESPEARE INN, which he had let to a man named *Glover*. This person sub-let the house to a person named *Leek*, and afterwards gave *Leek* notice to quit. *Leek* then found it would be necessary to sell the fixtures in the house, and other matters which he had, on entering, taken to from the previous tenant at a valuation. He being ill in bed at the time, his wife called in Mr. Brown for the purpose of making arrangements for the sale. As it was found that the fixtures would have to be sold at a great sacrifice, it was determined that plaintiff should wait upon the defendant as owner of the property, and ask him either to take the fixtures off *Leek*’s hands at a valuation, or accept him as tenant of the house. This defendant refused to do, but offered to sell *Leek* the house and premises adjoining for £1,250, and promised to give Mr. Brown £10 if he succeeded in effecting the bargain, as consideration for his thereby losing the commission he would have realised by having to sell the fixtures, &c. The plaintiff afterwards saw *Leek* and told him of the offer, which the latter agreed to accept, and by his instructions he called upon his (plaintiff’s) brother, Mr. Charles Brown, the solicitor, and gave directions for a draft of agreement to be prepared. Plaintiff did not consider it necessary to see Mr. Cremonini on the subject till some three days after, and when he did so and asked for his promised commission was astonished by the latter telling him that he did not consider he had anything to do with the matter, and that the agreement for the sale had in reality been effected through the agency of a hair-dresser and tax-collector, named Rogers. On this plea Mr. Cremonini refused to pay him any commission.

The defence was that the sale of the property had really been effected through Rogers, who called upon the defendant, on behalf of *Leek*, for the same purpose as Mr. Brown, the day following the first interview with that gentleman. It was contended by Mr. Waterhouse that if the plaintiff had been acting in the matter as the agent of defendant, it would have been his first duty after he had stated to *Leek* what Mr. Cremonini had offered, to have seen the latter gentleman at once, and let him have known the result of his interview, but instead of that he did not see him for several days after, when he came to claim commission. Mr. Cremonini also denied having ever made such an offer to Mr. Brown as had been stated.

Several witnesses were called on each side, and the Jury, after a short consultation, returned a verdict for the plaintiff.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 29/8/1863

“At Bilston Public Office, yesterday, the undermentioned licenses were suspended.....

Margaret Leake, SHAKSPERE, Bilston.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/9/1863

“The meeting for the renewing and granting of licenses was held on Friday, at Bilston police office.....

The following is a list of those who had been proceeded against and fined in the past year.....

Margaret Leek, the SHAKESPEARE INN, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/9/1863

“The adjourned licensing meeting for the Bilston division of the county was held on Friday.....

Licenses suspended at the annual licensing meeting were now renewed to the following houses, the landlords being cautioned to conduct them more creditably for the future.....

SHAKESPEARE, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/2/1864

“We have great pleasure in being able to announce what will be to many families the gratifying intelligence that the colliery proprietors in the Wolverhampton district, and also those ironmasters who are likewise the owners of coal mines, came to a resolution, at their meeting on Wednesday last, that the daily wages of the men in the Bradley district, in which thick and thin coal are both being worked, shall be 3s 6d a day, and increase of 3d upon the wages previously offered by the master; but they have also resolved that the wages in that portion of Wolverhampton district in which thin coal is being worked shall remain at 3s 6d a day, an increase of 3d upon the wages previously offered by the masters; but they have also resolved that the wages in that portion of the Wolverhampton district in which thin coal only is being worked shall remain at 3s 3d a day. By this resolution the difference of 6d a day, which has

hitherto existed between the men in the West Bromwich and thick coal district on the one hand, and the thin coal district on the other, is maintained, but a concession of 3d a day is thereby made to the men who work in the Bradley district in which thick and thin coal are found in the same field. There has been for some time past a movement, on the part of the men in the Wolverhampton district, to make the wages assimilate somewhat more nearly to those in the West Bromwich district; and by the decision thus come to by the masters this object has in a great measure been attained. At the time the resolution was passed, the colliers on strike in this neighbourhood were those employed by Messrs. G. B. Thorneycroft and Co., and as many as could be in the time were informed of the decision by Messrs. Thorneycroft's agents at Bradley, by communicating with the men in the usual way. Desirous of showing their gratitude for the concession thus made to them, the men themselves held a meeting at the SHAKESPEARE INN, Bilston, on Monday last, when the following resolution, moved by Enoch James, secretary of the District Association, seconded by Samuel Smith, was carried unanimously.

That we, the miners in the employ of Messrs. G. B. Thorneycroft and Co., upon returning to our work, desire to express our grateful satisfaction at the manner in which our employers have acceded to our wishes, and to assure them of our determination to use our best efforts to promote the interests of a firm which has for so many years found labour for a large number of hands, believing that as we best serve them, we shall best serve ourselves."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 15/6/1864

"At Bilston Police Court, yesterday, before the Stipendiary Magistrate, *Margaret Leake*, licensed victualler, of the SHAKESPEARE INN, Market Street, was fined, on the information of PC Harrison, £5 and costs, for keeping her house open after legal hours, and permitting drunkenness on the morning of Sunday last."

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/6/1864

"At the Police Court yesterday, a woman named Mrs. *Leek*, landlady of the SHAKSPERE public house, was charged with having her house open during improper hours. Mr. Fellowes defended.

Police-sergeant Harrison stated he was on duty in Market Street on Saturday morning last, about three o'clock, when he saw a drunken man sitting on the door-step of the defendant's house. While talking to this man he heard a noise in the house, as if some one was unlocking the house door. He waited, and presently a man came staggering out of the house. He took hold of him to prevent him from falling. He then went inside the house, and found a man asleep, with his head on the table.

For the defence, it was stated that the man who was in the house with his head upon the table was the auditor of the Working Men's Union, which was held at the house. The meeting carried on until a late hour, and the auditor was asked to stop and help the son of the landlady to brew. The auditor said he had not had any drink, but it was the fumes arising from the ale, while brewing, that had intoxicated him.

The defendant was fined £5 and costs. This makes the seventh time she had been convicted since 1861."

Thomas Leake died in the 3rd quarter of 1864.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/9/1864

"Bilston Annual Licensing Meeting.....

During the year the police had summoned before the Bench 32 publicans for various offences against their licenses, and out of that number the following, who were the worst of the lot, were suspended until the adjourned licensing day, on the 22nd inst.....

Margaret Leake, of the SHAKESPEARE, Market Street; had been fined once this and twice last year."

Birmingham Daily Post 24/9/1864

"Bilston Adjourned Licensing Day.....

All the licensed victuallers whose licenses had been suspended a fortnight ago were yesterday renewed."

London Evening Standard 17/10/1864

"The collier's strike, which has been languishing all the week, received its death-blow at a meeting of the men held this afternoon at Bilston. The meeting was called by the following handbill.

'A meeting of the Bilston colliers and miners will be held at the old ground at the back of the Market Place, at two o'clock this day, Saturday, October 15th. All men are requested to attend, as Mr. Samuel Griffiths will address the meeting on the present important juncture. The committee having resolved to ask this gentleman's advice, Mr. Griffiths has promised to be here. Robert Davies, sec.'

It is hardly necessary to add that the Mr. Samuel Griffiths in question is the well-known metal broker of that name, who is a native of Bilston, and highly popular with the working classes of the town and neighbourhood. Notwithstanding the shortness of the notice, between two and three thousand persons had assembled in the open space at the back of Bilston Market, facing the SHAKESPEARE, and it was resolved to address them from an open window.

Mr. Griffiths addressed the meeting at some length and in a speech replete with sound argument and good feeling told them that, while they were amply justified in striking, and while, with one or two exceptions, for which the general body of the colliers were not responsible, they had conducted themselves in a most exemplary manner, yet the iron trade, by which nearly the whole of the coal raised in the district was consumed, was in a condition that rendered any further continuance of the struggle hopeless.

The patient attention paid to this address was most remarkable. The truths told were evidently most unpalatable, but the upturned features alone told the feeling.

Mr. Lloyd, miner and member of the committee, moved 'That, subject to the approval of the central committee, held at the SHAKESPEARE INN, Bilston, the colliers and miners now on strike in the Bilston district do resume work on Monday next, the arguments brought forward by Mr. Samuel Griffiths that this is the best course to be adopted, in the present condition of the strike in Bilston, having proved so convincing.' This resolution was seconded by Mr. Benjamin Owen, another member of the committee.

If it was unpalatable for the men to hear this, it was still more unpalatable to these two leaders of the strike to commend the motion to their followers, and their evident trepidation was hailed with shouts of laughter several times renewed.

Mr. Griffiths then put the motion to the meeting, but to thus sign the death-warrant of the strike was more than they could do, and the proposition was received in dead silence, shortly followed by laughter at the puzzled look of Mr. Griffiths and some cries of 'We will play on' from the committee of miners of the Dudley district. Mr. Griffiths briefly thanked them for their attention and good behaviour, and retired below with the committee, who, after a brief consultation, resolved to follow in the humour of the meeting, to leave every man to do as he pleased, abnegating their functions.

So ends the strike as far as the Bilston district is concerned."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/11/1864

"On Friday at Bilston Police Court, before T. J. Perry and G. P. A. Pudsey, Esqs, a man, named Clement Styche, a collier, residing at March End, Willenhall, was charged with having stolen a bottle of gin and a decanter of wine, the property of Mr. [sic] *Leake*, landlord [sic] of the SHAKESPEARE INN, Bilston. It appeared that on Wednesday evening last the prisoner went to the prosecutor's house, and sat in a small room which adjoins the bar. Whilst he was there Mrs. *Leake*, who was the only person in charge of the bar, had occasion to leave it for a few moments and go into the kitchen, and on her return she at once missed from a shelf in the bar a bottle of gin and a decanter of wine. At the same time it was noticed that the prisoner was attempting to conceal something underneath his coat, and Mrs. *Leake*'s daughter being suspicious that he was the thief went and lifted up his coat and there found the missing bottle of gin. The prisoner then made his escape out of the house, but was immediately followed and caught and handed over to the custody of Police-constable Chatfield. A search was then made for the decanter of sherry, but this could not be found. The prisoner pleaded guilty to stealing the gin, and was sent to prison for one month."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 8/2/1865

"At Bilston Police Court, yesterday.....

Margaret Leake, of the SHAKESPEARE INN, for allowing drunkenness, was fined £5 and costs, and Mr. Spooner said it would be a matter for the consideration of the Justices whether they would renew her license, she having been fined in the same sum some months since."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/3/1865

"Two men, named John Barnett and John Layton, were yesterday charged at Bilston Police Court, with having stolen five bottles of spirits from the SHAKESPEARE INN. Barnett pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to two months' hard labour. Layton being a returned convict was committed for trial."

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/4/1865

“Staffordshire April Sessions.....

John Layton, 22, miner, was indicted for stealing five bottles of whisky and sherry, the property of *Margaret Leake*. Mr. Brindley conducted the prosecution.

It appeared that on the evening of the 24th ult, the prisoner and a man named John Barnett called at the SHAKESPEARE INN, Bilston, which is kept by the prosecutrix, and were supplied with some ale. They remained in the house about a quarter of an hour, and after they had left several bottles of whisky and sherry were missed from the bar. The men were followed and apprehended, and the bottles which they had emptied, were found on the road. On being taken before the magistrates Barnett admitted his guilt and was sentenced to two months' imprisonment. He now gave evidence against Layton.

The jury found the prisoner guilty, and it appeared that he had previously been convicted of felony, for which he was sentenced to three years' penal servitude. The Assistant-Chairman said this was the fifth time the prisoner had been convicted there, and he must now sentence him to be kept in penal servitude for seven years.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/8/1865

“Annual Licensing Meeting for the Bilston Division.....

The ‘black list’ handed in by the police contained the names of fourteen publicans who had been fined for offences against their license.....

Margaret Leakeall [sic], Bilston.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 7/10/1865

“Bilston Adjourned Licensing Meeting.....

The following, whose names had been placed on the ‘black list,’ had their licenses renewed.....

The following were refused.....

Margaret Leake, SHAKSPERE, Market Street.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1866

“The annual meeting for the renewal of existing licenses, and for receiving applications for fresh ones, was held at the Police Court, on Friday.....

At the commencement of the proceedings, the Superintendent of Police presented the following report.

Bilston Division, August 31, 1866.

‘I beg to submit to the Magistrates the attached list of licensed victuallers who have been complained against during the year. Twenty-five have been convicted, and three have paid costs; one had been convicted three times, and five convicted twice. This is a large increase on last year's list; but I think it has arisen from the police being more particular in reporting cases of permitting drunkenness – as it was found to be an evil rather on the increase. I believe it has caused landlords to be more careful in supplying drink to persons intoxicated.’

H. McCrea, Superintendent.

Black List.....

Margaret Leake, SHAKESPEARE, Market Street, Bilston left over until the adjourned licensing meeting on the 28th of September.”

AND

“Mr. Best applied on behalf of *Margaret Leake*, keeper of a beershop in the Market Place. Mr. Best proceeded to state that the house was formerly a licensed one. It had originally been kept by the applicant's husband, who had recently died, leaving the house as the sole support of his wife and family. The Magistrates said they need not go into the case, as they had quite made up their minds to reject the application.”

Birmingham Daily Post 31/8/1867

“Yesterday, the annual meeting of Magistrates for the granting of victuallers licenses, in the Bilston Police Division, was held at the Police Court in that town.....

Mr. Underhill, of Wolverhampton, applied on behalf of Mrs. *Margaret Leek*, for a license to sell excisable liquors, to the SHAKESPEARE INN, Market Street. Up to some two years ago, the SHAKESPEARE was an old-licensed house, when Mrs. *Leek* was fined £5, and had her license taken away, for permitting drunkenness. At the next licensing meeting the Magistrates refused to renew Mrs. *Leek*'s license. Mr. Underhill considered that having paid a penalty of £5, and having been two years excluded from a license, Mrs. *Leek* had been sufficiently punished.

Mr. Underhill also appeared on behalf of Mr. Cremonini, of Bilston, who is the mortgagee to a considerable extent

upon the SHAKESPEARE. Mr. Underhill handed in a testimonial in favour of the application, numerously signed by ratepayers; and Mr. Dimmock remarked that Mr. Hancock, surgeon, had attended for several ratepayers, and spoken to them (the Magistrates) in behalf of Mrs. *Leek*. There was no opposition Deferred to the adjourned licensing meeting.”

AND

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 31/8/1867

“Yesterday the annual Bilston Licensing Meeting was held at the Public Office.....

The first application for a new license was made by Mr. H. Underhill, who appeared on behalf of Mrs. *Leek*, of the SHAKSPERE INN, Market Street, Bilston. Mr. Underhill stated that the house in which the appellant resided had been kept by her husband for five years, but he died some time back, and she kept on the business in the stead of her husband. Some time after his death she was charged on a summons before the Stipendiary at Bilston with permitting drunkenness at her house. The Bench thought the case fully proved, and fined her the full penalty of £5 and costs. She had also been fined 1s for a similar offence. At the next licensing day her license was refused. She now kept open the place as an ordinary beerhouse, and he applied for a victualler's license for her. Considering the punishment that she had received in the heavy penalty which she had to pay, and the experience she had had in keeping a licensed house, he did not think that the Bench would refuse the application. The Bench stated that Dr. Hancox had attended at the Court on behalf of several ratepayers who resided in the neighbourhood in which the appellant lived, to request that the application for a license should be granted on the ground that a licensed house was greatly needed in the neighbourhood.....

The Bench deferred the consideration of the case until the adjourned licensing day.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/9/1867

“Bilston Adjourned Licensing Meeting.....

The applications for licenses to SHAKESPEARE INN, Market Street which were adjourned, were refused.”

London Gazette 24/12/1867

“*Margaret Leake*, for seven years last past of the SHAKESPEARE INN, Market-street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Widow, Licensed Brewer and Retailer of Beer and Tobacco, and Licensed to let Post Horses for Hire, having been adjudged bankrupt under a Petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy, filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton, on the 6th day of December, 1867, is hereby required to surrender herself to Charles Gallimore Brown, 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 January, 1868, at twelve o'clock at noon precisely at the said Court. Charles Gallimore Brown, Esq, of Wolverhampton, is the Official Assignee, and Mr. J. F. Thurstans, Esq, of Wolverhampton, is the Solicitor acting in the Bankruptcy.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/4/1868 – Advert

“Important Sale of Valuable Freehold Property, at Bilston, and Bank Shares.

Mr. Thomas Richards will Offer for Sale by Auction, at the house of Mr. John Rogers, the GREAT WESTERN INN, Hall Street, Bilston, on Friday, the 1st of May, 1868, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to Conditions of Sale then to be produced, the undermentioned Valuable Freehold Property and Bank Shares.

Lot 1. All that Public House and Premises, situate in Market Street, Bilston, with the Stables, Brewhouse, Yard, and Outbuildings together belonging, known by the sign of the SHAKESPEARE INN, formerly in the occupation of the late Mr. *Thomas Leake*. Together with the Seven Dwelling Houses adjoining, in the respective occupations of Richard Nutter, George Goodwin, Samuel Bray, Eliza Williams, George Spooner, John Ambridge, and one void, with the Outbuildings and Yards thereto belonging, the whole occupying an area of 933 square yards or thereabouts, and producing an annual rental of £90 9s.

Lot 2. 20 Shares of £20 each in the Shropshire Banking Company.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Offices of Messrs. Thurstans and Cartwright, Solicitors, 45, Queens Street, Wolverhampton; Mr. Thomas Waterhouse, Solicitor, Lichfield Street, Bilston; or the Auctioneer, 11, Queens Street, Wolverhampton.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/8/1868

“The annual Licensing Sessions for Bilston district was held yesterday, at the Police Court.....

Mr. Best applied for a license for Mr. *W. Rogers*, to the SHAKESPEARE INN, Bilston. The house had formerly been a licensed one, but in consequence of the misconduct of the then occupant it was withdrawn, on the intimation, however, that if a suitable tenant could be obtained the license would be renewed; hence the present application. Mr. Thurstans opposed on behalf of Mr. Evans, of the HOP POLE, a licensed house on the opposite side of the street..... In the case of *William Rogers*, the license would be granted on the promise that the part of the house now used as a lodging house should be added to the house.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/1/1869

“Bilston Township Commissioners.....

The Market Committee reported that Mrs. *Rogers*, of the SHAKSPERE INN, attended their meeting relative to the charge for the gate leading from the market to her house. It was resolved that it should be opened on market days for the sum of 1s per week, commencing from August 1st, 1868.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/2/1870 - Advert

“To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, the Old-licensed House, the SHAKSPERE INN, Market Street, Bilston, with good Stabling.

Apply on the Premises.”

TO be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, that Old-licensed House, the SHAKSPERE INN, Market Street, Bilston, with good Stabling.—Apply on the Premises.

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 23/4/1870

“Joe Dudley of Bilston will run Fletcher of Braidley [sic] 100 yards, with two yards start, or Venables of Hall Green the like distance level. Money ready at *T. Rogers*’s, SHAKSPERE INN, Bilston.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/10/1870

“John Pritchard, of the Willenhall Road, Bilston, was charged with assaulting *Thomas Rogers*, landlord of the SHAKSPERE INN. Complainant met the defendant coming out of the WATERGLADE public house on Saturday, and in a quarrel the defendant struck him. Defendant was fined 20s and costs.”

The Sportsman 23/3/1871

“Royal Oak, Burnt Tree, Dudley Port.

Jones’s Diamond, of Bilston, and Carter’s Nell, of Willenhall, are matched to run 200 yards for £5 a side, give or take three yards to the pound, on Monday, March 27. Mr. *Rogers*, SHAKESPEARE INN, Bilston, stakeholder.”

1871 Census

Market Street – SHAKESPEARE INN

- [1] *Thomas Rogers* (34), licensed victualler, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] *Matildia Rogers* (33), wife, born Willenhall;
- [3] *Clara B. Rogers* (2), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] *Jane Morgan* (21), domestic servant, born Sedgley;
- [5] *F. A. Wallace* (31), lodger, theatrical professional, born Stepney, Middlesex;
- [6] *Celia Wallace* (30), lodger, wife, theatrical professional, born Plymouth;
- [7] *William Evans* (39), lodger, sinking in pits, born Shropshire;
- [8] *James Rent* (35), lodger, sinking in pits, born Staffordshire;
- [9] *Robert Meller* (39), lodger, sinking in pits, born Elton, Derbyshire;
- [10] *Thomas Mappelbuck* (45), lodger, travelling showman, born Hull;
- [11] *Eliza Mappelbuck* (53), lodger, wife, born Devon;
- [12] *Thomas Mappelbuck* (15), lodger, son, born Hull;
- [13] *Arthur H. Mappelbuck* (11), lodger, son, born Leeds;
- [14] *Venea Mappelbuck* (6), lodger, daughter, born Hull;

The Sportsman 29/7/1871

“Royal Oak, Burnt Tree, Dudley Port.

Hancox’s Star, of Willenhall, and Fellowes’s Spark, of Bilston, run 200 yards, at catch-weight for £5 a side, on Monday next, July 31. Mr. *T. Rogers*, SHAKESPEARE INN, Bilston, stakeholder.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/5/1871

"Thomas Richards, publican, Bilston, and Jesse Evans, were summoned for obstructing the footpath in the Bilston Road. Inspector Gasson saw the defendants, in company with a lot of 'roughs,' setting dogs to race in the above road, on the 21st inst. Defendants were fined 10s and costs each."

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/6/1871 - Correspondence

"To the Editor of the *Daily Gazette*.

Sir. Under the head 'Willenhall,' your reporter was in error in stating that Thomas Richards, publican, Bilston, was fined 10s and costs for causing some obstruction in the footpath on the Willenhall Road. It should have read *Thomas Rogers*, SHAKESPEARE INN, Bilston. Myself and John Richards, of the ANGEL INN, Bilston, never having kept any dogs, we should wish it to be fully stated in your tomorrow's paper that neither I, Thomas Richards, nor John Richards, innkeepers, of Bilston, had anything to do with the case.

Yours truly, Thomas Richards, RED LION INN, Dudley Street. John Richards, ANGEL INN, Hall Street. Bilston, May 30."

Birmingham Daily Post 12/1/1872 - Advert

"Notice to Boatbuilders, a Meeting of the Trade will be held at the SHAKESPEARE INN, Market Street, Bilston, Tomorrow (Saturday), 13th inst, at Seven pm."

NOTICE to BOATBUILDERS, a MEETING of the TRADE will be held at the Shakespeare Inn, Market Street, Bilston. To-morrow (Saturday), 13th inst., at Seven p.m.

Birmingham Daily Post 3/6/1872

"At the Bilston Petty Sessions on Friday, before Captain Perry and Mr. W. Hatton, Christopher Pooler, fishmonger, of Kidderminster, was charged with assaulting his wife Elizabeth and causing her grievous bodily harm. The prosecutrix appeared in Court with her head bandaged, and in a very weak condition. She confirmed the depositions which she had previously given to the Magistrates' clerk. They were to the effect that a fortnight ago she left her husband, owing to his ill-treatment, and went to reside in Bilston, hoping that during her absence he would become better. On Tuesday morning, however, he went to the SHAKESPEARE INN, Market Street, where she was staying, and tried to persuade her to accompany him home. She declined at first, but afterwards consented, and they became reconciled. In the afternoon they went for a walk together in the town, and returned to the SHAKESPEARE INN about half-past seven. The prisoner was then, according to prosecutrix's statement, somewhat excited by drink. They sat down near the fire in the bar, no angry words having passed between them. The landlord told a servant to stir the fire, when the prisoner remarked, 'I will stir it,' and, taking up the poker, immediately turned round and struck his wife upon the top of her head. She was at once rendered insensible, and when she recovered her head was bleeding, and her shoulder was wounded.

The landlord (Mr. *Thomas Rogers*) corroborated the evidence of the prosecutrix, adding that, when the woman fell against the sofa from the first blow, the prisoner struck her a second time upon the shoulder. He then took the weapon from him and gave him into the custody of the police officers. When charged with attempting to murder his wife, he said, 'I have done it, and I hope she's dead.' He repeated these exclamations several times.

The prisoner, during the examination, displayed much contrition, and cried like a child. When asked by the Bench if he had any defence to make, he replied in the negative.

He was then formerly committed for trial at the Assizes."

[At Staffordshire Summer Assizes, in July 1872, Henry Pooler was charged with unlawfully wounding his wife, with intent to do her grievous bodily harm; he was found guilty and sentenced to six months' imprisonment.]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 7/9/1875

"Kate Burke, a domestic servant, was charged by *Thomas Rogers*, landlord of the SHAKESPEARE INN, Market Street, Bilston, by whom she was employed, with stealing 3d from a till at his house.

Prosecutor stated that having suspected theft for some time past, he yesterday marked some money and placed it in the till. The defendant afterwards came into the room and he went out, and on his return, in three minutes, he missed two pennies and two halfpennies. He called in Inspector Harrison, and charged the girl with the theft, and, after denying the charge, she ultimately took the missing coins out of her pocket, and gave them to him. Witness had no wish to press the charge, and the girl had been very well behaved as a rule, and he believed she had been incited to the theft by some unscrupulous relatives.

The defendant was ordered to find a surety for her appearance for sentence two months hence."

Midland Examiner 18/12/1875

“Bilston. Application for Extension of Hours at Christmas.

Mr. Daniel Evans, of the HOPPOLE, and Mr. *Rogers*, of the SHAKESPEARE, applied for an extension of hours; an extra hour of Christmas Eve, an hour on Monday the 27th, and an hour and a half on New Year’s Eve. The matter was adjourned until Tuesday.”

Birmingham Daily Post 10/5/1878 - Correspondence.

“Notice to Correspondents. When answers to questions are not given in the course of a day or two, the questioners will please to understand that we are unable to supply the information asked for. All letters intended for publication must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, but for the information of the Editor. We cannot return rejected communications....

SHAKESPEARE, Bilston. You must have a license from the magistrates for a dramatic performance.”

1881 Census

8, Market Street

[1] *Catherine H. Sturge* (37), unmarried, manager, hotel, born Wolverhampton;

[2] *Pheobe A. Clarke* (19), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 24/12/1881

“At the Bilston Police Court, yesterday, the following licenses were fully transferred.....

Joseph Ward (agent for *Matthew Ward*), SHAKESPEARE INN, to *Francis Harper*, silversmith.”

County Express 21/10/1882

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Matthew Ward, blacksmith, was charged with obtaining £7 10s by false pretences on account of a piano from Herbert Beach, furniture dealer, of Bilston, on November 4th 1881. Mr. Haden Corser prosecuted, and Mr. Little defended. It appeared that shortly before the day in question prisoner, at that time manager of the SHAKESPEARE INN, went to prosecutor and asked him to buy a piano. Prosecutor agreed to buy it for £13, of which he paid £7 10s down. When the prosecutor went to remove the piano he was prevented by Mr. *Harper*, the landlord of the inn, who stated that the piano was his. It was bought for him by a Mr. Casswell, a music teacher, of Bilston, to save commission. He had an old piano from the prisoner in payment of an old debt, and gave Casswell a cheque for £20 for payment for the piano. He had no papers about the debt.

Called for the defence, Joseph Caswell stated that he bought the piano of Messrs. Bishop and Son, of London, on behalf of prisoner, who was his son-in-law. He received 30s from the prisoner as commission.

In defence Mr. Kettle urged that the old piano had been given to Mr. *Harper* in part payment for the new piano. *Harper* paid the £20, and was thus £10 in debt to him; but the piano belonged to prisoner. Prisoner made the bargain with the prosecutor, but when the latter went to get the piano *Harper*, seeing that what was security while it remained in his house was being taken away, prevented it. He asked the jury to look upon it as merely a question of account between the prisoner and *Harper*.

A verdict of guilty, with a strong recommendation to mercy, was returned. Sentence was deferred.”

[*Matthew Ward* was required to enter into his own recognizances of £20 to come up for judgement when called upon.]

Darlaston Weekly Times 2/2/1884

“Thomas Ellitts, chimney sweep, Stafford Street, Bilston, was charged with stealing a gold watch, value £11, from the person of James Wigley, a carrier, of Horseley Heath, Great Bridge.

On the 25th instant, the prosecutor was drinking and treating a number of men in the SHAKESPERE INN, Market Street. Prisoner was among the number, and sat next to the prosecutor. After having been drinking for some time, prosecutor went outside, and prisoner followed. While outside prosecutor felt a tug at his watch chain, and missed his watch. A witness named Doyle, who knew the prisoner and saw him snatch the watch, gave information which led to his arrest.

When charged with having stolen the watch on his return to the liquor vaults, accused strongly denied the theft. The next morning accused sent his son with the watch to Mr. *Valentine*, the manager of the house, with a statement that as he was going out, he found the watch in a gutter at the back of the SHAKESPERE INN, and that it might be the one which the ‘bother had been about.

Detective Hayward stated that when he arrested the prisoner, the same statement was made, but on going to the place where the watch was stated to have been found, it proved to be one of the most frequented parts of the street. Prisoner was committed to the Sessions, bail being accepted; two sureties of £10 each, and a personal security of £25."

[At Staffordshire Sessions in April 1884 Thomas Ellitts was convicted and sentenced to 6 months imprisonment.]

Reuben Valentine was married to Elizabeth.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 18/2/1885

"Richard Porter, a miner, who came to Bilston from Spinnimore, Lancashire, on Tuesday, was fined 21s, or 21 days' imprisonment, with hard labour, for assaulting *Reuben Valentine*, manager of the SHAKESPEARE INN, Market Street, Bilston."

Darlaston Weekly Times 2/1/1886

"On Tuesday evening, the first annual dinner of the staff connected with the Shakspeare Printing Company, was held at the SHAKSPEARE INN, Vine Street, Bilston. A good number sat down to a capital meal, catered by Mr. *R. Valentine*, the host....."

Darlaston Weekly Times 20/3/1886

"A preliminary meeting of a number of gentlemen of the town of Bilston was held at a private room in the SHAKSPEARE INN last Thursday evening, at which it was resolved to form a Society under the name of 'The Bilston Debating Society,' for the discussion of scientific, social, political, and general subjects exclusive of those of a theological nature. It was arranged that members should be enrolled by the honorary secretary, Mr. A. Holland, on payment of a nominal annual subscription to meet the costs of printing. Temporary arrangements have been made with Mr. *Valentine* for the use of rooms, in which coffee and other refreshments will be supplied....."

Darlaston Weekly Times 8/5/1886

"Bilston Debating Society. The subject for discussion on Tuesday night next is Home Rule. The debate will commence at 8.30pm in the large room of the SHAKESPEARE INN, Vine Street."

Darlaston Weekly Times 30/10/1886

"George Perry was charged with being drunk and assaulting PC Allen in Vine Street, Bilston, on Saturday night last. PC Allen deposed that he met defendant coming from the SHAKSPEARE INN, drunk. He requested him to go home, but defendant would not and hit Allen on the eye. Defendant had been convicted before and for this offence was fined 2s 6d and costs in each case."

Birmingham Daily Post 10/5/1890

"At Bilston Police Court, yesterday....."

Mr. Tildesley applied for the transfer of the SHAKESPEARE INN, Market Street, from *George Anson* to Alfred Waters. *Anson* said he objected to the transfer simply from the manner in which he had been treated by Messrs. Showell, brewers, the owners of the house. Mr. Tildesley said *Anson* had agreed to the transfer of the license and signed the notices, but this *Anson* denied. A blank agreement with *Anson's* signature was thereupon produced, but *Anson* said he had not signed the papers within the last month. Mr. Hall's clerk explained that it was a practice with some brewers to get managers to sign blank forms, agreeing to the transfer of the license at the time when the transfer was made to them. The application was refused."

The Stage 24/5/1889 - Advert

"Wanted, for Ghost Illusion, young and useful People, Couple to share Lead and make themselves useful, Chambermaid, and Comedian, Painter to Act, two Musicians, Cornet, Euphonium. All must dress well on and off the stage, keep sober and respectable.

Sole Proprietor, William Perks, SHAKESPEARE, Bilston, Staffordshire."

WANTED, for Ghost Illusion, young and useful People, Couple to share Lead and make themselves useful, Chambermaid, and Comedian, Painter to Act, two Musicians, Cornet, Euphonium. All must dress well on and off the stage, keep sober and respectable.—Sole Proprietor, William Perks, Shakespeare, Bilston, Staffordshire.

1891 Census

Market Street – SHAKESPEARE INN

- [1] George Anson (51), licensed victualler, born Tettenhall;
- [2] Caroline Anson (46), wife, born Oaken, Staffordshire;
- [3] Alice A. Anson (21), daughter, draper's assistant, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] William J. Anson (19), son, grocer's assistant, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] Eleanor H. Anson (17), daughter, draper's assistant, born Wolverhampton;
- [6] Florence S. Anson (16), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [7] Mary E. Anson (13), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [8] Charles E. Anson (11), son, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [9] Lillian C. Anson (8), daughter, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [10] Georgina D. Anson (5), daughter, scholar, born Wolverhampton;

Birmingham Daily Post 28/2/1894 - Advert

"Bilston. Wednesday Next, March 7.

Sale of Valuable Full-Licensed Inn, adjoining the Market Place, Market Street, Bilston.

J. Morrell & Sons are instructed by the Trustees of the Will of the late Dr. H. W. Larkin, to Offer for Sale by Public Auction, at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Bilston, on Wednesday Next, March 7.

Lot 5. A Highly-important Freehold Full-Licensed Inn, known as the SHAKESPEARE INN, situate in Market Street, Bilston. The Premises are very extensive, comprising Spirit Vault, Parlour, Smoke Room, Kitchen, large Club Room, numerous Bed Rooms, Cellaring, with rolling way; Gateway Entrance and Yard, with Stabling for ten horses, and containing a total area of 625 square yards. This lot is close to the Bilston Market, and is let on lease for a term of twenty-one years from the 29th September, 1878, at an annual rental of £60.

For further particulars, apply to Mr. Rowland Tildesley, Solicitor; or to the Auctioneers, all of Bilston."

The Era 4/12/1897 - Advert

"Wanted, Large Rolling Globe. State size and particulars to permanent address, Chipperfield's International Circus, SHAKESPEARE HOTEL, Bilston, Staffs."

WANTED, Large Rolling Globe. State size
and particulars to permanent address, Chipperfield's
International Circus, Shakespeare Hotel, Bilston, Staffs.

1901 Census

Market Street – SHAKESPEARE HOTEL

- [1] George Anson (61), licensed victualler, born Tettenhall;
- [2] Caroline Anson (56), wife, born Codsall;
- [3] Florence S. Anson (26), daughter, barmaid, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] Charles E. Anson (21), son, iron tool maker, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] Mary E. Anson (23), daughter, typist in office, born Wolverhampton;
- [6] Lilian C. Anson (18), daughter, school teacher, born Wolverhampton;
- [7] Georgina D. Anson (15), daughter, typist in office, born Wolverhampton;
- [8] George Cooper (67), visitor, carpenter, born Northampton;

William Lloyd – see also CROWN AND ANCHOR.

1911 Census

29, Market Street

- [1] Daniel Evans (45), licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] Ann Maria Evans (41), wife, married 12 years, born Bilston;
- [3] Florence Harvey (29), domestic servant, born Bilston;
- [4] Marie Evans (10), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] Nora Evans (7), daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] Dan Evans (9), son, born Bilston;
- [7] Leo Evans (5), son, born Bilston;
- [8] Linda Evans (under 1 year), daughter, born Bilston;

1921 Census

Market Street – SHAKESPEARE INN

- [1] Daniel Evans (56), manager of public house, born Bradley;
- [2] Florence Evans (40), wife, assistant to husband, born Bilston;
- [3] Frederick Comer (23), son-in-law, wheelwright, born Bilston;
- [4] Ida Marie Poulton Comer (21), daughter, home duties, born Bilston;
- [5] Dan Evans (19), son, law clerk, born Bilston;
- [6] Nora May Evans (17), daughter, home duties, born Bilston;
- [7] Linda Evans (11), daughter, school, born Bilston;
- [8] Leo Evans (15), son, house painter's assistant, born Bilston;
- [9] Dorothy Evans (9), daughter, school, born Bilston;
- [10] Edna Evans (7), daughter, school, born Bilston:

South Staffordshire Times 21/10/1922 - Advert

"SHAKESPEARE INN, Market Street, Bilston. Under Entirely New Tenancy.

Consistency In All Quality Wines, Spirits and Beers Guaranteed. Parties Catered For, on Notice Being Given. Luncheons and Teas Provided In Commercial Room.

Billiards. Club Room Open and Available for Clubs, Lodges, Etc.

Frank Tophill (Late of Warwick)."

Bilston & Willenhall Times 4/7/1925

"Bilston Police Court.....

Mr. Glover asked for a singing and music license for the SHAKESPEARE INN, Market Street, Bilston. It was not the intention of the licensee, he added, to make the room anything like a music hall. His customers had frequently desired to have some music, and a band was being formed, the members of which wished to be able to practice in the club room.

The magistrates refused the application on the ground that the premises were at present unsuitable."

1939 Register

29, Market Street

- [1] Edward J. Cornforth, date of birth 6/11/1876, licensed manager, married;
- [2] Mary E. Cornforth, dob 19/7/1876, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] William J. Cornforth, dob 27/9/1907, hairdresser (manager), single;
- [4] Stanley Cornforth, dob 18/4/1917, shop assistant, gents outfitting, single:

Evening Despatch 12/12/1952

"Police objections were raised at Bilston Court today to the transfer of the license of the SHAKESPEARE INN, Bilston, from *John Wallbank* to Samuel Thomas Swinburne, of Wolverhampton. Inspector H. C. W. Bates said that Swinburne had a part-time job in the Territorial Army and had five previous convictions, the last being for assault whilst a licensee at Wolverhampton in 1946. Swinburne's application was dismissed, and a temporary license was granted to *Louis Victor Baker*, a licensed house supervisor, who said his brewery had no knowledge of the convictions."

Tipton Herald 6/8/1955

"Witness of an alleged attempt to snatch a wages bag from an elderly clerk, a Bilston publican changed his mind more than once, at the local court on Friday of last week, about the identity of the person who was alleged to have made the attack.

The prosecution alleged that the attack was made by John Baden Oakley (29), builder's labourer, 2, Grange Road, St. Chad's Estate, Coseley, and that when he was unsuccessful he made a getaway on the pillion seat of a motor cycle driven by Samuel Steen (21), general labourer, of 39, Denbigh Road, Denbigh Estate, Tipton.

Jonah Spencer, licensee of the SHAKESPEARE INN, Market Place, Bilston, at first identified Steen. He then hesitated and said that Oakley was the man. As his answer was about to be recorded, he again told the court he had identified wrongly and added, 'My eyesight is not very good this morning.'

Asked by Mr. J. R. Scott (defending): 'You cannot say definitely that either of the men here is the man you saw snatch the bag?' *Spencer* hesitated, and then, pointing to Steen, said, 'That's the chap.'

When Mr. Scott observed: 'Then that is Steen' *Spencer* said, 'Just a moment. He then pointed to Oakley and said, 'That's the chap I can tell now with the moustache, but he was wearing a dirty old mack at the time.'

Spencer was wearing spectacles which he removed several times, and, agreeing with Mr. Scott that he was not quite sure, said that his glasses had steamed up. He further agreed that after removing his spectacles he was still not quite sure of the identity of the man who was alleged to have made the attack. He explained that the man at the time of the alleged attack had a moustache and wore an old mackintosh.

Oakley and Steen elected to go for trial on a charge of attempting to steal from the person of Arthur Stanley Gould, a bag containing £281, the property of Perks and Gould Ltd., builders, Shale Street, Bilston.

Mr. Ernest Brown, (prosecuting) alleged that the two men conspired to waylay Mr. Gould following his weekly visit to Barclays Bank to draw wages for the employees. The incident, he said, took place at about 10.30am on July 7th when Mr. Gould, a man of 64, was walking along Market Street back to his firm's office.

Mr. Brown alleged that after the attack Oakley got on the pillion of a motor cycle on which Steen was waiting in Bankfield Road. At the bottom of Bankfield Road, Oakley's coat got entangled in the rear wheel of the motor cycle and the men abandoned it. They ran along Brook Street into Oxford Street where they caught a bus to Wolverhampton. There they were seen by the police in connection with a report which Steen had made that his motor cycle had been stolen. They were eventually brought to Bilston by PC Stirland and when charged, Steen said, 'I know nothing about it, and Oakley replied, 'I plead not guilty.'

Mr. Gould, who lives at 40, Dudley Walk, Goldthorn Park, Wolverhampton, gave evidence that as he crossed the mouth of Bankfield Road to the opposite footpath, he felt 'a very big tug or snatch' at the money bag which he had in his left hand. Holding on to the bag he turned and saw a man running down Bankfield Road. The man got on the pillion seat of a motor cycle which another man immediately drove away towards Bradley.

Gould said that he suffered from shock. A number of people gathered round and he eventually found himself in the fire station, where he was seen by the police.

Cross-examined, Gould said he would not recognise either man as he did not see their faces, or get a good look at the men.

Spencer, in his evidence, said he followed a young man whom he had seen acting suspiciously near the sleeping quarters opposite the fire station. Mr. Gould was a few yards ahead and the young man, said *Spencer*, attacked him from the rear and made a grab at the bag. When witness shouted the man looked round and ran down Bankfield Road.

Mrs. Irene Sweizy, a sweep shop assistant, of 31, Brierley Lane, Bradley, said she was cycling along Bankfield Road towards Bilston when she saw a man whom she had known by sight for four or five years run to a motor cycle. As soon as he got on the motor cycle it went off at a terrific speed. She added that she later picked out a photograph of Oakley at Coseley Police Station.

Chief Insp. W. E. T. Hinckley stated that an identification parade was held at Bilston Police Station on July 8th when Steen was picked out by two witnesses, Edward Arthur Simmons, 2, Bankfield Road, groundsman at Sankey's sports ground, and Jeffrey Lester Poole, carpenter and joiner, Electra, Mountford Lane, Bilston. No person picked out Oakley, the Chief Inspector added.

Simmons, in evidence, identified Steen as the driver of the motor cycle which he saw the two men abandon at the junction of Bankfield Road and Brook Terrace. There was a mackintosh entangled in the rear wheel of the motor cycle.

Poole said that he was working in the vicinity of Bankfield Road and saw Steen astride and revving up a stationary motor cycle. 'He seemed very anxious for something to happen, and kept looking behind him towards Market Street. He glanced towards me occasionally. After two or three minutes, another man came running down Bankfield Road and jumped on the back. The motor cycle moved off at a terrific pace.'

PC Hart (Wolverhampton) said that at 12.6pm on July 7th he was directed to a telephone box in Bilston Street, Wolverhampton. Steen came out of the kiosk, and with Oakley crossed the road, where Steen reported that his motor cycle had been stolen. Both men went to the police station.

PC Stirland said he saw the accused at Wolverhampton Police Station, and brought them to Bilston, where they were charged. Oakley, who was then wearing a moustache, said, 'I plead not guilty,' and Steen replied, 'I know nothing about it.'

Both men pleaded not guilty and reserved their defence. They were committed to Stafford Quarter Session in September."

[At the Staffordshire Quarter Session, in October 1955, John Baden Oakley and Samuel Steen, were found guilty and each sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment.]

".....Walsall Wood Working Men's Club's pile of pennies amounted to £50 at the official counting ceremony, which followed a knock-out punch to dismantle the pile by boxer Randolph Turpin on Saturday. Randolph Turpin was brought along to perform the knock-out by Mr. *Jonah Spencer*, of the SHAKESPEARE, Bilston The total proceeds from the pile of pennies, together with an on-the-spot effort, amounted to £54 10s, in aid of the Bedford Fund of the Walsall and District Infantile Paralysis Fellowship."

Closed

It was demolished c.1970.

AN INSOLVENT DEBTOR to be heard at the COURT HOUSE, at LANCASTER, on TUESDAY, the 20th day of July, 1841, at ten o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

JOHN MAYBURY, formerly of Oxford Street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, at the same time carrying on business at Highfields, near Bilston aforesaid, Sheet Iron Manufacturer; afterwards manager to a Sheet Iron Manufacturer; then carrying on business, and occasionally residing at Wichnor, near Lichfield, in the said county, as Sheet Iron Manufacturer, in his own name, and sometimes in the names of JOHN and JOSEPH MAYBURY, also Shareholder in a Lead Mine at Llanveras, near Ruthin, Denbighshire, North Wales; then of Old Meeting Street, Birmingham, Warwickshire, at the same time carrying on business in Princep Street, Birmingham aforesaid, Iron Manufacturer; afterwards out of business; then of the Shakespeare Inn, Market Street, Bilston aforesaid, Licensed Victualler; then a prisoner for debt in the County Gaol, of Stafford; then of the Shakespeare Inn, Market Street, Bilston aforesaid, Licensed Victualler; then of Oxford Street, Bilston aforesaid, Cattle Dealer and Butcher; then of Whittenhall, near Bilston aforesaid, and occasionally a Lodger at the Garratt Inn, Garratt Road, Manchester, Lancashire, and late residing in Garratt Road aforesaid, and carrying on business in Co-partnership with HENRY THOMAS SMITH, as Boiler, Plate and Sheet Iron Manufacturers, under the firm of "MAYBURY and SMITH," sued with the said HENRY THOMAS SMITH, by the name of HENRY SMITH.

1841

ELIGIBLE BUILDING INVESTMENTS.

Shakspeare Inn and Premises, with Five Dwelling Houses adjoining, situate and fronting to New Market-street and Dwelling House, Crown-street, Bilston.

**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY MESSRS. WALKER AND PAGE,**

On Thursday, the 12th day of September, 1844, at the King's Head Inn, at Bilston, at five o'clock in the afternoon, in the following or such other lots as may be agreed upon, and subject to such conditions as will be then produced and read,

LOT I.—**A**LL those valuable and old licensed PREMISES, known as the Shakspeare Inn, fronting to New Market-street, and adjoining the New Market-square, Bilston. The house contains large entrance hall, front and bar parlours, bar, tap room, kitchen, cooking kitchen, brewhouse, large club room, three chambers, and five attics; there is also a malt room, yard, extensive cellaring, stable, and various other appurtenances, the whole excellently arranged, and suitable for carrying on a large business. Also five newly-erected DWELLING HOUSES, at the back thereof, with brewhouse and other appurtenances, forming a most compact lot.

LOT II.—**A**ll that COPYHOLD MESSUAGE or DWELLING HOUSE, with the yard, garden, and premises, situate fronting the top of Crown-street, Bilston, now in the occupation of Mr. Munday, hair dresser.

Any further information may be had upon application to Messrs. MANBY and HAWKSFORD, solicitors, or to the AUCTIONEERS, all of Wolverhampton.

1844

FRIDAY, 1st MAY, 1868.

IMPORTANT SALE OF VALUABLE FREEHOLD PROPERTY,

AT BILSTON, AND BANK SHARES.

MR. THOMAS RICHARDS will OFFER for SALE by AUCTION, at the house of Mr. John Rogers, the GREAT WESTERN INN, HALL STREET, BILSTON, on Friday, the 1st May, 1868, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to Conditions of Sale then to be produced, the undermentioned Valuable FREEHOLD PROPERTY and BANK SHARES:—

LOT 1.—All that PUBLIC HOUSE and PREMISES, situate in Market Street, Bilston, with the Stables, Brewhouse, Yard, and Outbuildings together belonging, known by the sign of THE Shakespeare Inn, formerly in the occupation of the late Mr. Thomas Leake. Together with the Seven DWELLING-HOUSES adjoining, in the respective occupations of Richard Nutter, George Goodwin, Samuel Bray, Eliza Williams, George Spooner, John Ambridge, and one void, with the Outbuildings and Yards thereto belonging, the whole occupying an area of 933 square yards or thereabouts, and producing an annual rental of £290 9s.

LOT 2.—30 SHARES of £20 each in the SHROPSHIRE BANKING COMPANY.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Offices of Messrs. THURSTANS and CARTWRIGHT, Solicitors, 45, Queen Street, Wolverhampton; Mr. THOMAS WATERHOUSE, Solicitor, Lichfield Street, Bilston; or the AUCTIONEER, 11, Queen Street, Wolverhampton.

1868

Bilston. WEDNESDAY NEXT, March 7.—Sale of Valuable FULL-LICENSED INN, adjoining the Market Place, Market Street, Bilston.

J. MORRELL & SONS are instructed by the Trustees of the Will of the late Dr. H. W. Larkin to Offer for Sale by Public Auction, at the Great Western Hotel, Bilston, on WEDNESDAY NEXT, March 7.

LOT 5.—A Highly-important FREEHOLD FULL-LICENSED INN, known as "THE SHAKESPEARE INN," situate in Market Street, Bilston. The Premises are very extensive, comprising Spirit Vault, Parlour, Smoke Room, Kitchen, large Club Room, numerous Bed Rooms, Cellaring, with rolling way; Gateway Entrance and Yard, with Stabling for ten horses, and containing a total area of 625 square yards. This lot is close to the Bilston Market, and is let on lease for a term of twenty-one years from the 29th September, 1873, at an annual rental of £260.

For further particulars, apply to Mr. Rowland Tudley, Solicitor; or to the Auctioneers, all of Bilston.

1894

SHAKESPEARE INN, MARKET ST., BILSTON.

UNDER ENTIRELY NEW TENANCY.

CONSISTENCY IN ALL QUALITY WINES.
SPIRITS AND BEERS GUARANTEED
PARTIES CATERED FOR, ON NOTICE BEING
GIVEN.

LUNCHEONS AND TEAS PROVIDED IN
COMMERCIAL ROOM.

BILLIARDS.

CLUB ROOM OPEN AND AVAILABLE FOR
CLUBS, LODGES, ETC.

FRANK TOPHILL

Late of Warwick.

1922

SHAMROCK

91, (47+48), Temple Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Harriet Dean, widow, Bilston
Samuel Ginder (?), The Hough, Stafford
J. R. Downes, Penn Brewery
J. Whitehouse, Greenfield House, Penn (later at Smethwick)
Henry Chevalier Rigaud, 21, Regent Street, London

LICENSEES

Thomas Worlock [] - **1873**);
John William Waldron (**1873**);
Richard Shuttleworth (**1873 - 1874**);
Joseph Donoghue (**1874**);
Thomas Collins (**1874 - 1876**);
Stephen O'Connor (**1876 - 1888**);
William Kimberley (**1888**);
Richard Ball (**1888 - 1889**);
Richard Slater (**1889**);
Benjamin Powis (**1889 - 1891**);
Thomas Blockley (**1891 - 1892**);
Rachel Blockley (**1892** - [1893]
John Blockley [1896] - **1899**);
John Bowlby (**1899**);
George Powell (**1899 - 190_**);
Thomas Edmunds (**190_ - 1901**);
Sarah J Edmunds [1901]
Thomas Bayliss (**1901 - 1903**);
David Jones (**1903 - 1904**);
Emanuel Lavender (**1904 - 1905**);
William Chew (**1905 - 1911**);
Mrs. Rachel Roberts (**1911 - 1913**);
George Smith (**1913 - 1916**):

NOTES

47+48, Temple Street [1881], [1891]
91, Temple Street [1904], [1912]

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Cannock Chase Examiner 9/1/1875

“John Knight, of Bilston, a young man, was summoned for assaulting his mother, Mary Knight, a respectable looking woman, on the 28th December. Complainant at first did not desire to give evidence against her son, but the Stipendiary threatened to commit her to gaol if she refused. She then reluctantly stated that on the day in question her son merely pushed her, and she fell against the door, causing her to sustain the injuries she bore upon her face, which still had traces of considerable violence.

PC Smith said he saw complainant in Oxford Street the same evening, when she appeared very much exhausted. She complained that her son had struck her.

Complainant: I hope you will look over it this time.

Mr. Spooner: No, I cannot, but shall reduce the sentence according to your wishes, and he will be committed to gaol for six weeks, with hard labour, which is a small punishment for his wickedness.

Defendant was then charged with assaulting the police.

PC Owen Smith said he took the prisoner into custody upon a warrant for assaulting his mother at the SHAMROCK INN, Temple Street. Defendant came a short distance, when he became violent, and threw him down. PC Howard came up, but nearly half an hour elapsed before they could get him to the police station. He also threw Howard down. Witness had to go upon the sick list for a week afterwards.

Defendant: I don't remember anything at all about it.

Witness: He did not appear drunk, but was excited, and bit like a dog.

PC Howard gave corroborative evidence.

Defendant was, for these assaults, committed to six weeks' imprisonment, to commence at the termination of the other sentence.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/8/1875

“At the Sedgley Police Court, yesterday, before Mr. Isaac Spooner (Stipendiary), *Thomas Collins*, landlord of the SHAMROCK INN, Temple Street, Bilston, was summoned for adulterating ale, on the 22nd of June. Samuel Toy, assistant to Mr. J. G. Horder, inspector, said that on the day in question he visited the defendant's house, and was served with two quarts of ale by Mrs. *Collins*. He told her that he was having the ale for the purpose of being analysed, and sealed it up in her presence. Mrs. *Collins* told witness that the ale was out of a barrel from a brewery in Bilston. He afterwards took the ale to Mr. Horder. Mr. Horder proved receiving the ale, and forwarded it to Mr. Jones, county analyst, on the 23rd of June. He received, on the 19th ult, a certificate proving that the ale was adulterated with common salt, of which it contained 65.62 grains in the imperial gallon. Defendant said he only put a halfpenny worth of salt in the whole of the brewing, and did not know that he was doing any harm. Mr. Spooner said, as it was not a bad case, he should only fine defendant £2 and costs.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 13/11/1875

“John Skelly, of Temple Street, was summoned for assaulting a woman named Mary Curran, of the same locality. On Saturday night the woman went into the SHAMROCK public house, Temple Street, and the defendant, who was there, began to chaff her. She returned his chaff by calling him a ‘Grecian,’ whereupon he threw a jug of ale in her face. The Magistrates imposed a penalty of 20s and costs.”

1881 Census

47+48, Temple Street – SHAMROCK

[1] Stephen O'Connor (46), innkeeper, born Ireland;

[2] Ann O'Connor (36), wife, born Sedgley;

[3] Stephen O'Connor (16), son, born Dudley;

[4] Bridget O'Connor (14), daughter, nurse, born Dudley;

[5] Agnes O'Connor (6), daughter, scholar, born Dudley;

[6] Clara O'Connor (4), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[7] William O'Connor (3), son, born Bilston;

[8] Theresa M. O'Connor (3 months), daughter, born Bilston;

[9] Catherine McNealy (20), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Darlaston Weekly Times 4/11/1882

“*Stephen O’Connor*, landlord of the SHAMROCK INN, Temple Street, Bilston (who was defended by Mr. R. A. Willcock), was charged with being drunk on his own licensed premises.

PC Wilson stated that at 10-30 on the night of the 26th ult, he was called to a disturbance in Temple Street, when he found defendant inside the passage of the house quite drunk. Upwards of 50 persons were round the door. He was then charged with being drunk, and replied that he didn’t care if he was summoned.

Mr. Willcock contended that an animus existed on the part of the officer, and that defendant was only excited on account of a disturbance with his wife. The officer strenuously denied this.

PC Mountney corroborated, but admitted that he heard about the quarrel with the wife.

Defendant was put into the box, and swore that he complained to Mr. Longden about the annoyance of PC Wilson, on the morning of the alleged offence, and that the report was in consequence of this. He also swore that the officer never charged him with being drunk.

Superintendent Longden acknowledged that defendant did come and see him about Wilson, on the morning of the alleged offence, but that Wilson knew nothing of it.

A number of witnesses corroborated Mr. Willcock’s statement, one witness stating that ‘it was easy to get a crowd in Temple Street,’ and that women had a stubborn way of their own (laughter).

The bench said the officers could not be mistaken, and that the evidence of people who hung about a public house was worthless.

Defendant was fined £1 3s 6d including costs.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 25/11/1882

“*Stephen O’Connor*, beerhouse keeper, of Temple Street, Bilston, was charged with being drunk in the police station, on the 22nd instant. Defendant went to chief-superintendent Longden to prefer a charge against a police officer, but he was found to be so drunk that he was ordered into custody. Fined 19s or 14 days. PC Buckley proved the case.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 27/1/1883

“*Stephen O’Connor*, publican, of Temple Street, Bilston, and Timothy Noon, were charged with assaulting Thomas Brady. Complainant was at work at Messrs. Groucutt’s, Bradley, on Tuesday night, when *O’Connor* came up and charged him with being a teetotaler, who had run up a score, and left the house without paying, and threatened to ‘knock it out of him.’ *O’Connor* and Noon then set upon him and knocked him on some red hot iron, severely burning him on the wrist. *O’Connor* was fined 2s 6d and costs and Noon was discharged.

Stephen O’Connor was then charged by PC Johnson with being drunk and disorderly on the same night. The officer stated that he found defendant beastly drunk in the taproom of his own house. Defendant pleaded that he was so knocked about by the complainant in the last case that any policeman would think he was drunk. Defendant was fined 20s and costs or one month.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 29/9/1883

“William Forrester, Warwick Street, Bilston, was charged with being drunk on licensed premises. Defendant was found in the SHAMROCK INN, Temple Street, on the 22nd inst, by PCs Mannering and Johnson. Fined 5s and costs.

Stephen O’Connor, landlord of the SHAMROCK INN, Temple Street, was summoned for permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises. Mr. Fellows appeared for the defence. PC Johnson proved the case. Fined 20s and costs.”

1891 Census

47+48, Temple Street – SHAMROCK INN

- [1] Benjamin Powis (41), beerhouse keeper, born Hill Top, Staffordshire;
- [2] Emily Powis (44), wife, born Kidderminster;
- [3] Richard Powis (22), son, labourer in iron works, born West Bromwich;
- [4] Eliza Powis (20), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [5] Joseph Powis (15), son, born West Bromwich;
- [6] Harry Lane (21), lodger, labourer in iron works, born Kidderminster;

Thomas Blockley was married to *Rachel*.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/6/1892

"A sad death was yesterday the fate of a workman at the Britannia Ironworks of Mr. Harris, Bradley. A young man named George Henry Blockley (21), of the SHAMROCK INN, Temple Street, Bilston, was taking his father's place as a shingler, the father being absent from work through illness. He appeared to have put the 'staff' too far under a steam hammer, and the hammer caught it, with the result that the staff struck Blockley a fatal blow on the head, fracturing his skull, and killing him instantly."

Birmingham Daily Post 20/6/1892

"Mr. A. B. Smith (deputy coroner) held an enquiry at the SHAMROCK INN, Temple Street, Bilston, on Saturday, touching the death of George Henry Blockley (21), a shingler's assistant, who had lived with his parents at the above named house. Mr. T. Rose, of Bradley, appeared to represent the owners of the Britannia Works, Bradley.

On Thursday morning the deceased was working with Enos Stanley Salt, a shingler, at the works, when his foot slipped and he fell forward, and his head was struck by the steam-hammer, causing instantaneous death. No blame was attached to anyone, and a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.:

Thomas Blockley died intestate on 27th June 1892.

Rachel Blockley = *Rachael Blockley*

Rachel Blockley was convicted on 13th December 1893 for using unlawful measures.

Birmingham Daily Post 14/12/1893

"At the Wolverhampton Police Court, yesterday, *Rachael Blockley*, of the SHAMROCK INN, Temple Street, Bilston, was summoned for selling intoxicating liquors by retail in an unstamped measure.

Several months ago the Staffordshire County Council issued notices to publicans calling their attention to the law with regard to the necessity of selling drink by retail in stamped measures. The defendant was, however, found to be still using measures which did not bear a stamp, and a pint of ale so sold was found to be two ounces deficient. This was the first case of the kind that had come before the Stipendiary, and a fine of 20s and the costs only was imposed."

Rachel Blockley married *Richard Roberts* in the 1st quarter of 1895.

Birmingham Daily Post 26/11/1895

"An inquest was held yesterday, at the SHAMROCK INN, Temple Street, Bilston, on the body of *Julia Hart* (38), wife of *Patrick Hart*, bricklayer's labourer, of that thoroughfare, whose body had been found in the canal.

According to the husband's evidence, he had had no quarrel with her for months, but she had been subject to fits, and at times had been greatly distressed owing to the misfortunes of her children. When she went out on Saturday she told one of her children that she would not be seen again. As she did not return home witness made enquires, and, finding his wife's shawl on the towpath, had the canal dragged, and the body was discovered. The deceased had had fourteen children, the youngest being three months old.

Other witnesses having given evidence, a verdict of Suicide was returned."

John Blockley, beer retailer, 48, Temple Street, [1896]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 22/10/1898 - Advert

"To Brewers and Investors. Important Sale of Freehold Properties.

Charles H. Bees is favoured with instructions to Sell by Auction, at the Grand Hotel, Colmore Row, Birmingham, on Thursday Next, October 27, commencing at Six for 6.30 in the evening, the following Valuable Licensed Properties.....

Lot 3. A Freehold Tavern, known as the SHAMROCK, Temple Street, Bilston, together with Nine Houses, yielding at low rentals £70 per annum."

Lot 3.—A FREEHOLD TAVERN, known as the
"SHAMROCK," TEMPLE STREET, BILSTON.
together with Nine HOUSES, yielding at low rentals £70 per
annum.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/10/1898

“Mr. Charles H. Bees held a sale of licensed properties at the Grand Hotel.....

Other lots offered but not sold were.....

The SHAMROCK, a freehold tavern in Temple Street, Bilston (reserve £900).”

1901 Census

Temple Street – SHAMROCK INN

[1] Sarah J. Edmunds (37), married, publican, born Bilston;

[2] Harriet Edmunds (15), daughter, born Bilston;

[3] Thomas Edmunds (8), son, born Bilston;

[4] May Edmunds (2), daughter, born Bilston:

David Jones, beer retailer, 91, Temple Street. [1904]

Evening Despatch 16/4/1910

“William Chew, licensee of the SHAMROCK INN, Temple Street, Bilston, was summoned at Bilston yesterday for permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises, and for selling liquor to a drunken person, whilst George Hardwick, Shamrock Yard, Temple Street, Bilston, was summoned for being drunk on the licensed premises.

Mr. W. A. Foster, who appeared to prosecute, said that on April 2 Police-constables Craddock and Pitt were attracted to the SHAMROCK INN by the noise inside the bar. They found twenty men and women in the bar, shouting and behaving in a disorderly manner. Hardwick was one of the number, and he was in a drunken condition. He had a quantity of ale in front of him. At this time the business was being conducted by the landlady.

Police-constable Craddock said that when he entered the house he saw Hardwick staggering about with his arms round a woman's neck. When the landlady's attention was called to him she said, ‘He's not drunk. If he is I have not noticed it.’ Witness accused Hardwick of being drunk, and the latter replied, ‘I am sure I am not. I have only had three half pints. If I am drunk, lock me up.’ The landlady afterwards said that Hardwick had been putting some bunting across the street in preparation for the election.

In answer to Mr. T. H. Hunton Carter, who defended, witness said that when he went into the house defendant was trying to dance with a young woman, and a young man was playing the piano. He did not hear any talk about the election.

Police-constable Pitt said Hardwick was ‘palpably drunk to anyone.’

Mr. Carter: If a number of persons come today and say he was not drunk what would you say? – That they were not telling the truth. (Laughter.)

Superintendent Pilliner said that when Hardwick was brought to the police station he was ‘crying drunk.’ He leaned across a desk and was ‘blubbing like a child.’

For the defence Mr. Carter admitted that Hardwick had had some beer, but submitted that he was quite capable of taking care of himself. He contended that it must be shown that he was not capable.

The Magistrates' Clerk (Mr. Pratt): Where do you get that from? – Section 1 of the new Act.

Mr. Foster: I must say I have never heard such a theory put forward before. The prosecution is under Section 13 of the Licensing Act of 1872.

Dr. T. Ridley Bailey said he saw Hardwick at the police station. He was then under the influence of drink, but was not incapable and could speak coherently. He would not dispute the evidence of the police, however, as to his condition earlier in the evening.

Hardwick said he had only had ‘two pints’ at home. ‘Two pints’ meant two quarts, as they got the ‘long pull.’

The Magistrates' Clerk: That's another side-light on the licensing trade.

Chew was fined 40s and £3 2s 6d costs on one charge, the other being withdrawn, and Hardwick was fined 10s and costs.”

1911 Census

Temple Street – SHAMROCK INN

[1] Rachel Roberts (60), widow, manageress, beerhouse, born Bilston;

[2] Mary Blockley (38), daughter, assisting in business, born Bilston:

Mrs. Rachel Roberts, beer retailer, 91, Temple Street. [1912]

Walsall Observer 24/2/1912

“A case was brought by the Walsall Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals against Frederick Blockley, SHAMROCK INN, Bilston, for cruelly illtreating a mare on February 10th. Mr. H. A. Tucker appeared to prosecute on behalf of the society, and Mr. T. P. Haslam (Wolverhampton) defended.

Mr. Tucker explained that on Saturday morning, the 10th inst, the society’s inspector noticed a horse standing in Whittimere Street. His attention was attracted to it because the animal was resting its off foreleg, and appeared to be suffering pain. The defendant, who was the driver, was about to hook the mare on to the front of a four-wheeled waggon when the inspector intervened, and said he could not allow a horse to go on in that unfit condition. Blockley then said, ‘Yes, sir, it is very lame, but it was not lame when I left the stable. I hope you will summons me, and not the master.’ He also added that he first noticed that the animal was lame in Hollyhedge Lane, which was about a mile from where he was stopped. When examined by Mr. Paley (veterinary surgeon), it was found to be suffering from sprained tendons in the off foreleg.

The society did not allege that the mare was lame when it left the stable, but contended that when the defendant saw it was going lame, he should not have continued to work it.

Evidence was given by the society inspector (Abraham James) and Mr. A. E. Paley, who said the animal was in good condition, but was extremely lame on the off foreleg, caused by sprained tendons, the sprain being of recent occurrence.

Mr. Bayliss (presiding magistrate) said that Blockley would be fined 10s and costs.

Mr. Haslam: But you haven’t heard the defence yet. This is rather unusual. While you have been discussing, I have been waiting to proceed.

Eventually Mr. Bayliss directed him to proceed, and Mr. Haslam said that although it seemed that the Bench had made up their minds, he submitted that there was no case for him to answer. The evidence showed that there was a slight strain in the beginning, and that this gradually got worse, the animal eventually being taken to the veterinary surgeon’s and rested. What evidence was there to show that defendant had cruelly illtreated that horse?

Mr. Bayliss: There is evidence that the animal was brought from Hollyhedge Lane to Whittimere Street, when it was found to be in a lame condition. According to the evidence of the vet, the animal was going on three legs. It is a case of extreme cruelty. The Bench adhered to their decision.”

[Frederick Blockley was the son of *Thomas Blockley* and *Rachel (Blockley) Roberts*.]

Rachel Roberts – see also ROYAL EXCHANGE, Bradley.

Staffordshire Advertiser 31/7/1915

“*George Smith*, of the SHAMROCK INN, Temple Street, Bilston, was summoned by his wife, Gertrude, for assaulting her. She said that he assaulted her by striking her on the face because she refused to serve a woman with beer. He said that she got into a temper about serving a woman. They were struggling for a jug, when she caught her face against a window. He was fined 40s and costs.”

George Smith was fined £5 and costs, on 7th January 1916, for permitting a person to take intoxicating liquor from licensed premises during prohibited hours.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/1/1916

“At Bilston, yesterday, *George Smith*, licensee of the SHAMROCK INN, Temple Street, was fined £5 for a contravention of the Order of the Central Board of Liquor Control.

Mr. J. S. Sharpe, who prosecuted for the police, stated that at 10.45pm on 8 December two policemen saw a man named Frank William Connor, a miner, come out of defendant’s house and attempt to place a bottle in one of his pockets. On going up they found he had in his possession six bottles of stout. The landlord denied that he had served him, but Connor declared that he had, and defendant’s wife ultimately admitted that she served him but this was at 8.15.

For the defence Mr. W. A. Foster submitted that Connor received the stout in part settlement of an account for coal, early in the evening. After receiving it Connor went out, and returning just before eleven was served with an Oxo, the landlord being ignorant that he still had the stout with him.”

License refused by Compensation Authority on 8th July 1916.

Lichfield Mercury 14/7/1916

“The Staffordshire Licensing Committee held their principal meeting at Stafford on Saturday.....

The renewal of the licenses of the GATE INN, Ward Street, Coseley, the OLD HOUSE AT HOME, Chapel Street, Coseley, and the SHAMROCK INN, Temple Street, Bilston, in the Bilson Petty Sessional Division, were refused, it being stated that agreements had been entered into.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/8/1916

“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 8th day of July, 1916, 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.....

SHAMROCK, Temple Street, Bilston, Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee *George Smith*. Registered Owner, Henry C. Rigaud.”

Compensation of £400 was paid on 23rd December 1916.

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/1/1917

“Report for the year 1916 of the County Licensing Committee.....

The Supplemental Meeting was held on the 14th of October, and by adjournment on the 11th of November and 9th of December. The committee went in great detail into all the figures submitted to them upon which the persons interested claimed compensation, and heard evidence put forward by the claimants. The committee consider that the amounts of compensation agreed upon are satisfactory, both from the point of view of the parties interested and the Compensation Fund.

In the following nine cases the committee fixed the compensation.....

SHAMROCK, Temple Street, Bilston, beerhouse, ante 1869, £400.....

In all cases (except the two referred to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue) the money has been apportioned amongst the interested parties.”

Closed

Demolished

SHIP AND RAINBOW

42, (166), Oxford Street, (Oxford Road) / Queen Street, (Bow Street), BILSTON

OWNERS

William Jennings, builder, Bilston
John Henry Watkiss
The Manchester Brewery Co. Ltd.
Richard Andrew Harper, brewer, Hall Park Brewery, Bilston
R. A. Harper Ltd., Hall Park Brewery, Bilston [1921]
Eley's Stafford Brewery Ltd.
William Butler and Co. Ltd.

LICENSEES

Emmanuel Jennings [1818] – **1851**;
George Hyde **(1851 – [1862]**
William Peck [] – **1863**);
Thomas Proud **(1863 – [1867]**
Mrs. Mary Proud [1868] – [1870]
James Blackburn [1871]
John Henry Watkiss [1872] – **1897**);
Thomas Cook **(1897 – 1902)**;
Stephen Allan Corbett **(1902)**;
Albert Edmond Wells **(1902 – 1905)**;
David Pittam **(1905 – 1906)**;
Alfred Tennant **(1906 – 1919)**;
John Harris **(1919 – [1940]**



c1920



c1935

NOTES

Bow Street [1822]
Oxford Road [1828]
166, Oxford Street [1858], [1861], [1862], [1871], [1872], [1874], [1881], [1891]
42, Oxford Street [1901], [1911], [1916], [1921], [1921], [1932], [1939], [1940]

Emanuel Jennings was also a caddy lock manufacturer. [1818]

Birmingham Journal 22/12/1827 - Advert

“Very valuable Freehold Property, desirably situated in Gower Street (near the new Church now erecting) in Bilston. To be Sold by Auction, by Edward Jukes, on Friday Next, the 28th day of December.....

NB. Mr. *Jennings*, of the SHIP AND RAINBOW, near the Turnpike in Gower Street, Bilston, will show the property.”

1841 Census

Oxford Street
[1] *Emmanuel Jennings* (70), victualler, born Staffordshire;
[2] *Elizabeth Jennings* (65), born Staffordshire;
[3] *Catherine Jennings* (30), born Staffordshire;
[4] *Harriet Jennings* (14), born Staffordshire:

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 18/7/1841

“The Goldshill fancier has 29lb, 30lb, 32lb, 37lb, 23½lb, 20lb, 19lb, and 27lb dogs, and a 23½lb bitch he will fight as a main against the world, for £10 a battle and £160 the main. If no one accepts this challenge in the course of the week, the 29lb dog Venture will fight Wootton’s dog Caesar at his own weight, for £25 or £50 a side. The 30lb dog Cadger will also fight Bullet, of London, the same weight for £25 or £50 a side, give or take 3s 6d in the pound to fight at either Goldshill or London. The money is ready any time appointed for the main or the other two battles at the SAMPSON AND LION, Gospel Oak, Tipton; or at the SHIP AND RAINBOW, Bilston.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 8/8/1841

“A correspondent states that the Gospel Oak dog Cadger can be backed against Bullet, of London, or any other dog in the world at 30lb, for £25 or £50 a side, give or take 3s 6d in the pound for the fight to come off at either place. The needful is ready at Benjamin Fowell’s, Old Thomas Street; or the SHIP AND RAINBOW Bilston, near Birmingham.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 29/1/1843

“The Bilston dog Crib can be matched at 34½lb weight, for £10 a side, and may be heard of at the SHIP, Bilston; or the Jim Crow, Hill Street, Birmingham.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 5/11/1843

“The Gospel Oak dog Venture can be matched against the Manchester dog for £50 or £100 a side; Tom Spring to be final stakeholder. The match to come off within 50 miles of Manchester, on Tuesday, December 26. A letter will be attended to if addressed to Mr. *Jennings*, SHIP AND RAINBOW, Bilston, and £10 to be forwarded to Spring for the first deposit; neither dog to exceed 29lb.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/9/1844 - Died

“On the 4th instant, after a long and painful illness, aged 71, Elizabeth, wife of Mr. *Emanuel Jennings*, SHIP AND RAINBOW INN, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/6/1845

“Thomas Barnsley and Ricard Brazier were brought up to answer a charge of a serious assault upon Miss Catherine Jennings, at the SHIP AND RAINBOW, in Bilston, on the 21st inst. After the case had been heard, the complainant, although still having evident marks in her face of the nature of the assault, wished not to press the charge, when Mr. Baldwin told her she might forgive the defendants as far as she was concerned, but that the Court could not overlook it on public grounds, and fined Barnsley 2s 6d and costs. The other defendant, who had not committed himself so much as Barnsley, was discharged, on payment of expenses only.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/9/1845

“Bilston Public Office. Tuesday, September 16.....

The following ale-house and beer-shop cases were disposed of, all on the complaint of the police.....

Emanuel Jennings, of the SHIP AND RAINBOW public house, Bilston, was fined 5s and costs for selling on Sunday, the 7th instant. First offence.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 4/1/1846

“Richard Smith of Bilston will match his dog Trimmer against Jack Fox of Darlaston, and stake £100 to £80, or £50 to £40. If not accepted, any dog in England can be accommodated for £50 or £100 a side, at 32½lb, and go to any part in England with reasonable expenses paid. The money is ready at Peter Crawley’s, London; at John Tailby’s, Hill Street, Birmingham; or at Mr. *Jennings*’s, SHIP AND RAINBOW, Bilston.”

Birmingham Journal 16/1/1847

“At the Police Court, Bilston, on Tuesday, George Price, a sawyer, was charged by Mary Kerler, a German, with wilfully damaging a tambourine, her property. It appeared that the girl was a travelling musician, and on Monday night was at the SHIP AND RAINBOW, in Bilston, playing for the amusement of the company, when the complainant took hold of the instrument and broke it, causing damage to the amount of 2s. He was ordered by the Court to pay the damage and the costs.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/3/1847 - Advert

“Freehold Buildings, New Town, Bilston.

To be Sold by Private Contract, all those nine Freehold Dwelling Houses, known at the ‘Club Building,’ situated in Old Meeting Street, in Bilson aforesaid, six of which are in front of the said street, and three at the back thereof, containing about 1,200 square yards, together with all the Mines and Minerals under the same. The above property is in the occupation of Sarah Jones, Enoch Leadbetter, James Dolman, and others, producing a rental of £48 2s per annum.

For further particulars apply to Mr. *E. Jennings* SHIP AND RAINBOW, Oxford Street, Bilston.”

Birmingham Journal 12/8/1848

“The sitting Magistrate at Bilston Public Office, on Tuesday, was James Foster, Esq. There was an average amount of business, but none of the cases possessed any public interest. A most disgraceful exhibition, however, took place in the Court, in consequence of a number of prostitutes, residing in the sink of iniquity known as ‘The Berry,’ being brought up on the charge of being drunk and disorderly, and creating a disturbance in the streets. Their names were Hannah Pritchard, Elizabeth Bibbins, Mary Ann Clifton, Elizabeth Robinson, and Selina Yates. It appeared they had been drinking that forenoon at the SHIP AND RAINBOW public house, in Oxford Street, from which they were expelled by the landlord, who followed them to the street, where a great disturbance took place, and in the melee Yates gave him a very severe blow, which disfigured his face. Inspector Thompson and his men had them immediately taken before the Bench, but they used very obscene and disgusting language in Court, and behaved themselves in the most indecent manner conceivable. As they were all intoxicated, Mr. Foster ordered them to be brought up on Wednesday morning, and the Magistrates’ Clerk’s Office, when they were committed to the House of Correction for fourteen days, with hard labour.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/10/1848

“At the Public Office, on Tuesday, before John Leigh, Esq, *Emanuel Jennings*, landlord of the SHIP AND RAINBOW public house, Bilston, was summoned to answer a charge of uttering a counterfeit half-crown and a counterfeit shilling to a brassfounder named Thomas Kenworthy. The complainant had gone into a house kept by defendant’s daughter, for the purpose of having a quart of ale, and having a sovereign to pay for the liquor, the defendant offered to change it. The offer was accepted, but on the complainant giving the change to the person from whom he had received the sovereign, it was found that one of the half-crowns and a shilling were bad. Kenworthy immediately returned and told *Jennings*, who at first would have nothing to do with the bad money, but ultimately offered to bear one-half of the loss. This was refused, and the present charge was the consequence. The Bench ordered *Jennings* to enter into his own recognizances to appear to answer any charge which might be preferred against him at the sessions.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/12/1849

“On Friday last, at Wolverhampton Police Court, before J. Leigh, Esq, John Lewis was brought up on a charge of embezzlement.

Thomas Chapman, of Lichfield, gardener, stated that he attends Bilston market, with garden stuff for sale, and has been in the habit of employing the prisoner there to take it about the town to his usual customers; that he employed him on the 12th instant to sell, and receive the money for six bags of potatoes, delivered to him for that purpose, and with which he went with a horse and cart, of which a youth, who came with witness from Lichfield, had the care. The youth proved that the prisoner sold four bags of potatoes, one to each of four customers, and then sent him with the remaining two, with the horse and cart to the SHIP AND RAINBOW, where Chapman was, and said he would follow him directly. Chapman further stated that the prisoner never came there, and that he had never seen him since, till he was apprehended on a warrant obtained against him for embezzling the money for which he had never accounted to him. Three of the customers, to each of whom he had sold a bag of potatoes, one for 6s 3d and the others for 6s, each party buying them proved paying the money to the prisoner. A police constable of Bilston proved apprehending the prisoner under a warrant, and that on being charged he said he had first bought the potatoes from Chapman, which the latter now denied, and said he never on any occasion sold garden stuff to him, but had always employed him to sell it for him, for reward according to employed time. The prisoner was committed for trial at the sessions.”

AND

Birmingham Journal 5/1/1850

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

John Lewis, for embezzling the sum of 18s and upwards, belonging to his master, Thomas Chapman, a market gardener, who frequents Bilston market, was sentenced to seven years' transportation.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/11/1850 - Died

“November 19, aged 37, John, son of Mr. *Emanuel Jennings*, of the SHIP AND RAINBOW INN, Bilston.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/12/1850

“At Bilston Public Office, on Tuesday last, before J. Leigh, Esq, *Emmanuel Jennings*, licensed victualler, was fined 5s, and Sarah Marson and Charles Simms, beerhouse keepers, were fined, the former 5s and the latter 40s, with costs in each case, for offences against the Act.”

1851 Census

Oxford Street

[1] *Emanuel Jennings* (86), widower, victualler, born Bilston;

[2] Cath Jennings (45), daughter, born Bilston:

George Hyde was also a coal pit shaft sinker. [1851]

Birmingham Journal 11/9/1852

“An inquest was held by Thomas M. Phillips, Esq, on Wednesday afternoon, at the SHIP AND RAINBOW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, on the body of John Messenger, eighteen years of age, miner, who was killed by falling down a pit shaft in Mr. Bank's Field, about three o'clock on Tuesday afternoon. The deceased was pushing the empty skip towards the mouth of the pit, and somehow he overbalanced and fell down along with the skip. He was knocked to pieces before he got to the bottom, having met the full skip coming up the shaft. The enquiry was adjourned till Tuesday, to communicate with the Secretary of State in the meantime.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/10/1852

“On Tuesday, T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, held an inquest at the SHIP AND RAINBOW public house, on the body of Richard Rogers, a labourer, who sustained injuries in September last, whilst at work for Mr. Jones, on the New Field Colliery, Darlaston. A triangle, whence scales were suspended, gave way whilst deceased was near it. He received injuries of the collar bone and spine, was regularly attended at his dwelling, in Duck Lane, by Mr. Hancock, surgeon, but died on Sunday last. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/5/1854

“On Tuesday last, before J. Loxdale and J. R. Bagnall, Esqrs, Thomas Smith, charged with stealing a padlock from *George Hyde*, of the SHIP AND RAINBOW INN, Bilston, on Sunday night, was bound over to appear when called upon, Mr. *Hyde* not wishing to prosecute.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/8/1854

“On Sunday night, between eleven and twelve o'clock, Police Constables Blood and Johnson were called upon to quell a disturbance at the SHIP AND RAINBOW public house, in Oxford Street, Bilston. On reaching the house, they found a number of men outside, stripped for fighting. The constables expostulated with them, persuading them to go home. They appeared for a moment to act upon the advice, but when they had gone about a hundred yards, two of the men re-commenced fighting. The policemen were proceeding to take them into custody, and Blood had hold of Williams, one of the belligerents, when a man named Stanton struck him with a brick so violently that it cut through his hat, inflicting a serious wound on his head, and felled him senseless to the ground. Johnson attempted to seize Stanton, when he was likewise throw down. A cowardly attack was then made on the prostrate men, and with violent oaths, an intention was expressed of murdering them; when Police Constables Collins and Devonport opportunely came up, and after a desperate struggle succeeded in rescuing their brother officers. Blood lay all night in a critical condition, and has since been incapacitated from duty. Stanton and two of his companions have been arrested.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 20/12/1854

“Patriotic Fund. Bilston. Second List of Subscribers.

Previously advertised, £378 10s 6d.....

Mr. *G. Hyde*, SHIP AND RAINBOW, £0 12s 0d.....

Total, £574 14s 9d.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 7/11/1855 - Advert

“Important to Druggists, Drapers, Grocers, and Retail Shopkeepers.

Valuable Sites of Freehold and Copyhold Land and Buildings, in the most populous parts of Bilston, commanding the best Situations for General Business Purposes.

Lithographic Plans of the several lots will be published.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. John Mason, on Monday, the 19th day of November instant, at the SHIP AND RAINBOW, Oxford Street, Bilston aforesaid, at six o'clock in the evening.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/5/1856 - Deaths

“May 12, Mr. *Emmanuel Jennings*, formerly of the SHIP AND RAINBOW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/1/1858

“Celebration of the Royal Marriage.....

Monday being market-day at Bilston, no general demonstration took place, but the day was not suffered to pass unobserved At the SHIP AND RAINBOW, kept by Mr. *George Hyde*, about 40 gentlemen dined, Mr. Haines presiding, and Mr. O. Batte occupying the vice-chair.”

[The marriage of the Princess Royal of England with Prince Frederick William of Prussia.]

Birmingham Daily Post 14/1/1859

“On Tuesday last, a public dinner was given at the SHIP AND RAINBOW, Bilston, to Mr. B. Skidmore, an emigrant to Wisconsin, United States. Mr. Henry Duignan, banker, was in the chair. The dinner was exceedingly well served, as is customary in the SHIP AND RAINBOW. Mr. Skidmore, in returning thanks for the toast of his health, described the advantages offered to emigrants by Wisconsin. Many other toasts followed, and a very happy and social evening was spent.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 20/7/1859

“An inquest was held at the SHIP AND RAINBOW, Oxford Street, Bilston, before W. H. Phillips, Esq, Deputy-Coroner, on the body of Samuel Howells, a doggy, in Messrs. Baldwin's colliery, who was killed by a fall of stone on Saturday. It appeared that the occurrence was purely accidental, and the jury returned a verdict in accordance with the evidence.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/10/1859

“Yesterday, the adjourned inquest upon the body of a boy named John Farmer, eleven years of age, whose death had resulted from injuries received through an explosion in one of Messrs. Thorneycroft's pits, at Moxley, was resumed before W. H. Phillips, Esq, at the RAINBOW public house, Oxford Street. The evidence went to show that the deceased had incautiously gone down a disused part of the pit with a lighted candle in his hand, when an explosion occurred, and he was killed upon the spot. Mr. H. J. Longridge, the Government Inspector of Mines, stated that having examined the pit, he considered that no blame was to be attributed to the owners, but suggested that in places where there was any danger the road should be stopped up, and a board placed to indicate danger. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

An inquest into the death of Samuel Maullin was held here in December 1859 – see under QUEENS ARMS.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 11/4/1860 - Advert

“Sale of Valuable Freehold Messuages and Premises, in Oxford Street, Bilston.

Mr. John Mason will Sell by Auction, on Tuesday, the 1st day of May, 1860, at the house of Mr. *George Hyde*, SHIP AND RAINBOW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, by direction of the mortgagee, with power of sale, at six o'clock in the evening subject to conditions to be there read, all that substantial and well-built Messuage or Dwelling House, fronting Oxford Street, Bilston, together with two Workshops, two Stables, and other Outbuildings at the back thereof, lately in the occupation of Mr. Samuel Maullin, deceased, and now untenanted.....”

1861 Census

166, Oxford Street – SHIP AND RAINBOW

[1] *George Hyde* (47), miner and victualler, born Wolverhampton;

[2] *Sarah Hyde* (44), wife, born Sedgley;

[3] *Selina Hyde* (21), daughter, born Sedgley;

[4] *George Hyde* (19), son, mine agent, coal and iron, born Sedgley;

[5] *Sara Ann Hyde* (15), daughter, scholar, born Sedgley:

Birmingham Daily Post 8/7/1861

“Mr. Wequelin’s Bilston Canvassers. These gentlemen dined together at the SHIP AND RAINBOW, on Friday evening, and Mr. G. C. Browne was the chairman. Mr. W. Bowen, Mr. Griffiths’s solicitor for Bilston, was also present, on a cordial invitation given him by his friends. After dinner the unsuccessful as well as the successful candidates were toasted, and speeches showed a marked friendliness of feeling on the part of the diners towards those gentlemen who differ from them in political views. Mr Bowen gracefully reciprocated these expressions, and said it would be to his happiness to communicate them as well to Mr. Griffiths as to the gentlemen who had acted with him on that candidate’s committee.”

[T. M. Wequelin was a Member of Parliament c.1860s-1870s.]

George Hyde – see also UNION, Coseley Road.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/10/1862 - Advert

“The SHIP AND RAINBOW, Oxford Street, Bilston.

By Messrs. Aston and Sollom.

To Be Let, this well-accustomed and long established old-licensed House. Coming-in about £200. Rent moderate. Apply on the Premises; or at the Offices of Aston and Sollom, Darlington Street, Wolverhampton.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/7/1863

“Yesterday an inquest was held at the SHIP AND RAINBOW public house, Bilston, before Mr. W. H. Phillips, Deputy Coroner, on the body of William Matthews, aged 40, a carter, in the employ of Messrs. Dodd and Southall, coalmasters. On Thursday deceased went with a horse and cart, and accompanied by a master sinker in the employ of the same firm, named Samuel Richards, to the timber yard, near to Ettingshall Lane, kept by Mr. Cadman. Here deceased was in the cart, loading it with heavy poles, when by the passing of a train the horse took fright, threw him out of the cart, and one of the poles fell with so much force upon his chest that he could only gasp out, ‘Oh, Lord, heave it off,’ and then died. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 1/8/1863

“An Irish Row at the Wake. Philip Bartley, and Mary, his wife, Edward Martin, Bridget Martin, Patrick Clines, Catherine Clines, and Michael Connor, were charged with assaulting Catherine Larey, on the 27th of July. Mr. William Bowen defended Michael Connor.

Prosecutrix made a long statement, from which it appeared that the assault took place at the SHIP AND RAINBOW on the evening of the Wake Monday. One of the defendants came in selling some laces. A dispute arose amongst them, and then all of them pitched into the prosecutrix and her husband. The prosecutrix admitted that Michael Connor never struck her.

A cross summons taken out by Michael Connor against Larey, husband of the complainant in the last case, charged him with assaulting him that night. A witness named Witten said that he was standing near the door of the SHIP AND RAINBOW, about eight o'clock on the evening of the day in question. Connor was near the spot, and the defendant, as he came out of the house, struck him on the eye, fanged him by the hair of the head, and pulled him down to the ground.

The Bench said all were in fault, and dismissed both summonses."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/11/1865

"At Bilston Police Court, on Friday, before H. Ward and J. Perks, Esqs, a woman named Bridget Foy was charged with stealing 10s. It appeared that on one night during the week, the prisoner went to the SHIP AND RAINBOW public house, kept by Mr. *Thomas Proud*, in Oxford Street, and asked for a quatern of rum. She was attended to by the servant girl, to whom she gave a half-sovereign in payment. The latter, not having change, applied to Mrs. *Proud*, who went upstairs for some silver, and on returning handed to the prisoner 19s 6d, being, at the time, under the impression that she wanted change out of a sovereign, instead of a half-sovereign only. The mistake was discovered when the prisoner had left the house, but when applied to for the return of the extra money, she persisted in saying that the coin she tendered in payment was a sovereign. She repeated this statement before the Magistrates, but they being satisfied as to her guilt, committed her for trial."

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/1/1866

"Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Bridget Fahy, on bail, was indicted for stealing the sum of 10s, the moneys of *Thomas Proud*.

The facts of the case are rather peculiar. On the 20th of November the prisoner went to the prosecutor's public house at Bilston and tendered a half-sovereign in payment for some liquor. The barmaid placed the coin in the drawer and asked Mrs. *Proud* to give the prisoner change. Mrs. *Proud*, supposing that the prisoner had tendered a sovereign, handed her 19s 6d, and the prisoner then left the shop. Mrs. *Proud* afterwards discovered her mistake, and spoke to the prisoner about it upon the latter coming to the shop later in the day. The prisoner, however, refused to return the 10s and she was accordingly given into custody. The jury convicted the prisoner, but recommended her to mercy, and she was sentenced to 21 days' imprisonment."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/7/1869

"Yesterday, an inquest was held at the SHIP AND RAINBOW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, on the body of Thomas Morgan, who died on Tuesday last, under the following circumstances. Deceased, with a man named Joseph Watson, of Darlaston, were engaged on Saturday last in deepening the shaft of a pit on the Earl of Dudley's Rackett Colliery, and a shot was placed in some shale just below the present bottom of the shaft. The shot was fused, but before the men could get away it exploded, and the deceased received such injuries that he died on Tuesday. The other man was also severely injured, and the inquest was adjourned in order that he might attend."

1871 Census

166, Oxford Street – SHIP AND RAINBOW

- [1] James Blackburn (36), innkeeper, born Stafford;
- [2] Sarah Blackburn (40), wife, born Garreg, Montgomeryshire;
- [3] James Blackburn (17), son, ostler, born Bilston;
- [4] Elizabeth Blackburn (16), daughter, waitress at public house, born Bilston;
- [5] Alice Blackburn (8), daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] Emily Blackburn (5), daughter, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/11/1871 - Advert

"SHIP AND RAINBOW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston.

Unreserved Sale of Worcester and other Hops, removed to the above Premises for Sale (under an Advance).

J. Morrell and Son will Sell by Auction, upon the above Premises, Tomorrow (Tuesday), November 28, Fifteen Pockets of Worcester and other Hops, nine Half-Pockets, eleven Tumps, one Chest of Black Tea, two Tubs and one Barrel of Salt Butter, about 2cwt of American and English Cheese; also, four-bushel Mash Tub, Round Cooler, six thirty-gallon Barrels, Mash Rule, Ladder and Sieve, Tunpail and Gaun.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.

Auctioneers' Offices, Swan Bank, Bilston."

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/4/1872

"An inquest was held at the SHIP AND RAINBOW, Oxford Street, Bilston, on the body of a little boy named John Grange. Deceased was staying at his grandmother's in Oxford Street, and during her absence he went to the cupboard and drank some vitriol which was in a glass. Notwithstanding the efforts of Dr. Hancox, who immediately attended him, to save his life, he died. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

Staffordshire Advertiser 13/7/1872

"A child named Caroline Ratcliffe, aged five weeks, whose parents keep the SWAN INN, Gozzard Street, Bilston, was found dead in bed on Saturday morning. On Monday an inquest was held at the SHIP AND RAINBOW INN, Oxford Street, and a verdict of Accidentally Suffocated was returned."

Birmingham Daily Post 7/5/1873 - Advert

"Barmaid. Re-engagement Wanted, by a respectable young Person, age 23, in Wine and Spirit Vaults. Six years' reference. Birmingham preferred."

Address, G., SHIP AND RAINBOW, Oxford Street, Bilston."

BARMAID.—Re-engagement Wanted, by a respectable young Person, age 23, in Wine and Spirit Vaults. Six years' reference. Birmingham preferred.—Address, G., Ship and Rainbow, Oxford Street, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 17/12/1873

"An inquest was yesterday held, before Mr. W. H. Phillips, coroner, at the SHIP AND RAINBOW, Bilston, on the body of Joseph Lee, greengrocer, of 47, Oxford Street. The evidence showed that on Saturday the deceased, whilst driving in a trap from Bridgnorth to Bilston, was, through the breaking of the back-band, thrown out of the vehicle as it was passing Hilton. The trap passed over him, and he was found lying on the road by William Lloyd and Daniel Smith, who took him to his home, but though he was at once attended by Dr. Hancox, he died on Sunday morning. A verdict of Accidental Death was recorded."

Birmingham Daily Post 3/7/1874

"On Tuesday an inquest was held at the SHIP AND RAINBOW public house, Oxford Street, before Mr. W. H. Phillips, coroner, on the body of a miner named Roland Owen (18), who was drowned on the previous day. The deceased was bathing in the Birmingham Canal, and had been in the water about ten minutes, when a companion named Joseph Dean saw him sinking near a canal boat. He immediately ran to his assistance, but before he could reach the spot the deceased had sunk, and ten minutes elapsed before his body was recovered. There was a slight bruise upon the side of his mouth, and also his neck, that appeared to be the result of blows. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 7/1/1875

"Mr. W. H. Phillips, Borough Coroner, held an inquest, yesterday afternoon, at the SHIP AND RAINBOW INN, Bilston, touching the death of Elizabeth Smith, aged 78, who had died from severe burns received on Sunday last. Particulars of the sad event have already appeared in our columns, and no additional facts came to light at the inquest. Only one witness was examined, a neighbour of deceased's, named Eliza Smith. She was not present at the time the accident occurred, but on hearing the deceased's cries, ran in, and helped to put out the flames. When witness asked the deceased how she had been burnt, she said, 'I was striking a match, and a spark 'fled' on to my clothes.' After a brief consultation, the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/11/1879

"An inquest held yesterday (Friday), at the SHIP AND RAINBOW, Oxford Street, Bilston, touching the death of Thomas Green, shoemaker, an old man of 66, who for some time past lived by himself in a house in Stone Street. Deceased was found dead in his house on Tuesday morning last, at 6.30, by a man named Thomas Astley, who on the previous evening had spoken to him. The old man, it was believed, had had nothing to eat for two or three days, and had refused to eat food given to him by the neighbours. He had been at one time an out-patient at the Wolverhampton Hospital, as he suffered from skin disease. Lately he had not attended the hospital, and he had become dreadfully emaciated. He was destitute, but he declined to go to the Workhouse. There was no food in the house at the time of his death, and no bed. The jury believed no one was to blame in the matter, and a verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned."

Birmingham Daily Post 12/5/1880 - Advert

“Wolverhampton (NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, Berry Street).

To Let, in consequence of other engagements, this improving central House. A suitable man would soon realise an independency, as there is a great and rapidly-increasing traffic past the doors; and the business, which is now considerable, may be largely improved.

Apply, for particulars, to Mr. *Watkiss*, SHIP AND RAINBOW, Oxford Street, Bilston.”

1881 Census

166, Oxford Street – SHIP AND RAINBOW

[1] *John Henry Watkiss* (40), licensed victualler, born Dawley, Shropshire;

[2] *Seraphina Watkiss* (40), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Lizzie Helsall Watkiss* (15), daughter, born Moxley;

[4] *Gwen Ellen Watkiss* (7), daughter, born Bilston;

[5] *Sarah May Watkiss* (2), daughter, born Bilston;

[6] *Susan Kate Guy* (20), visitor, born Dawley, Shropshire;

[7] *Phoebe Anne Johnson* (19), domestic servant, born Tipton:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 5/9/1881 - Advert

“Bilston Horticultural Society. The First Exhibition of Flowers, Fruits, and Vegetables.....

Upwards of £40 in prizes. Special prizes for cottagers.

The splendid Military Band of the Walsall Rifle Corps is engaged.

Refreshments by Mr. *J. H. Watkiss*, SHIP AND RAINBOW INN.

A luncheon will be provided by Mr. *J. H. Watkiss*, at the Society’s first exhibition, on Tuesday, September 6th, 1881, at 2pm, to which ladies and gentlemen, friends of the society, are cordially invited by the committee. Tickets, 2s 6d each, may be obtained from the honorary secretary, or Mr. *Watkiss*, SHIP AND RAINBOW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, early application for which should be made, the space being limited.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 25/3/1882

“On Thursday evening, a large party including over 80 ladies and gentlemen, assembled in the large room of the Town Hall, by the invitation of Mrs. Williams; and shortly after eight, commenced dancing, when a most enjoyable night was spent; the party breaking up about five the following morning. Mr. Morris’s Quadrille Band did most ample service; and Mr. *Watkiss*, SHIP AND RAINBOW INN, catered liberally in the refreshment department.....”

Darlaston Weekly Times 15/7/1882

“On Thursday evening, the members of the SHIP AND RAINBOW (Oxford Street) money club, held their annual supper, when a large company was present, to enjoy the well-catered spread of Mr. *Watkiss*, whose liberal style is so well-known.....”

Darlaston Weekly Times 6/1/1883

“A most enjoyable evening was spent on Tuesday, at the annual party, connected with the dancing class of Mrs. Tomkys, Oxford Street. Although the rain was falling in torrents, over 80 assembled, and at ten, dancing commenced with spirit, and was continued until the early hours of morning. A most excellent quadrille band was present. Mr. *Watkiss* (SHIP AND RAINBOW, Oxford Street) gave every attention in the refreshment room.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 3/2/1883

“The large assembly room of Bilston Town Hall presented a charming, lively, and attractive scene on Thursday evening (strongly in contrast with the miserably wretched weather out-doors), when a grand quadrille party was held under the direction of Mrs. Williams, of Albrighton. In spite of the weather, over 120 guests were present.....

In the intervals between the exertions of the ‘giddy whirl’ the admirable catering for the inner man by Mr. *H. Watkiss*, of the SHIP AND RAINBOW INN, who had transformed the lecture hall into a capital retreat, in which was to be found all the good things necessary, was heartily appreciated. The whole arrangements were such as gave unqualified pleasure to all who were present.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 1/9/1883 - Advert

“Great Western Railway Company.

The Committee of the Wolverhampton and District Licensed Victuallers Incorporated Society have made arrangements with the above Company to run a Special Express Train to London (International Fisheries Exhibition).....

Tickets may be had from any of the undermentioned.....

J. H. Watkiss, SHIP AND RAINBOW, Oxford Street, Bilston.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 13/10/1883

“We regret to have to record a serious accident to our well-known local tradesman, Mr. *J. H. Watkiss*, of the SHIP AND RAINBOW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, by which he has sustained injuries of a very severe character. It appears that Mr. *Watkiss*, having been to Great Bridge on business, on the 5th inst, was returning homewards by way of Gospel Oak, in the evening, having with him a young man named Samuel Hadley. As they proceeded near Ocker Hill, a trap driven in the opposite direction ran into Mr. *Watkiss*’ trap, with such force as to completely sever the wheel from the body of the trap, smash the shafts, and do other damage. The occupants of the trap were thrown out, and Hadley fortunately fell without sustaining any injury beyond a severe shaking; Mr. *Watkiss* was not so fortunate. He was pitched out with such force that, through his head coming into contact with the curbing of the pavement, his ear was almost severed from his head. In addition to this he received severe internal injuries. He was promptly conveyed home, where Dr. Larkin examined him, and found that several ribs were dislocated if not broken, necessitating his confinement to his bed.

The horse, a young animal, was taken out on the following morning, and a trap was borrowed from Mr. James Nash, Hartshorn Street. In proceeding down Church Street, driven by Hadley, the animal bolted, and ran into a vehicle standing near Caddick’s butchers shop. The shaft of the borrowed trap was broken, and Hadley was pitched out with such force as to cause him to be confined to his bed several days.”

AND

Birmingham Mail 25/1/1884

“Stafford Assizes.....

John Watkiss, licensed victualler and mineral water manufacturer, of Bilston, claimed £150 damages from Henry Osborne, of Hill Top, West Bromwich, for injuries in a running down case. Mr. Underhill, QC, and Mr. Plumptre appeared for the plaintiff; and Mr. Alfred Young and Mr. Jesse Herbert for the defendant.

Plaintiff stated that he was driving in the evening from Great Bridge to Bilston, and when nearing Ocker Hill was met by defendant driving a gig in the middle of the road at a great pace. When about 20 yards away defendant pulled the wrong rein and ran into plaintiff. Plaintiff received extensive injuries, and the pony and trap were also damaged. The case was withdrawn by plaintiff, defendant made application for costs.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 2/2/1884

“The application of Mr. *J. H. Watkiss*, SHIP AND RAINBOW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, for a license to sell in the Town Hall, on the 17th instant, on the occasion of a soiree, was granted.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/3/1884

“On Wednesday Mr. W. H. Phillips (corner) held an inquest at the SHIP AND RAINBOW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, on the body of Anna Maria Astley, five months old, who died suddenly on Monday, at her parents’ home, in Bridge Street.

Mary Ann Astley, wife of Henry Astley, underhand-puddler, mother of the deceased, stated that the child had died from a cold, contracted on Sunday night.

The father deposed that he had applied several times for relief, but had been refused.

The Coroner remarked that the case was another example of the wretchedness peculiar to the township. The only piece of furniture in the house was a chair. The bed was on the floor, and its only covering was an old coverlet. There was a great necessity that some organisation should be promoted to provide such poor people with the needful requisites during a confinement.

The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes, and added a rider expressing surprise that the child had lived so long considering its surroundings.”

Birmingham Daily Post 21/3/1884

"A number of tradesmen and others met on Wednesday at the SHIP AND RAINBOW HOTEL, Oxford Street, Bilston, to establish a Ratepayers' Protection Society.

Mr. J. Noonan, who presided, announced that whilst the association was intended for looking after local interests and watching the actions of the ruling bodies, it would not necessarily act in a hostile manner to those authorities, but rather assist them to carry on the business of the town at the smallest expense to the ratepayers. Whilst he believed in the town being in complete harmony with its officers, the ratepayers must be protected; and when, as in Bilston, very good salaries were received by those officers, they must be taught that the town expected and would have a fair equivalent in work.

Mr. J. P. Hilton said the rates had been gradually increasing year by year without any corresponding increase in benefit. Taking occasion to refer to the Wolverhampton Union, he said the cost of officers' salaries there was a heavy item, amounting to as much as £4,674 a year.

Other speakers gave instances in which men who had been in receipt of regular wages of 15s and 34s a week respectively had received parish relief.

It was resolved to form a society, of which the president should be Mr. E. Cooper; the secretary, Mr. W. J. Knight; and the treasurer, Mr. *H. Watkiss*."

Darlaston Weekly Times 30/8/1884

"A meeting of the Bilston Ratepayers' Protection Society took place on Friday night, at the SHIP AND RAINBOW INN, Oxford Street, the president in the chair. The business of the meeting related to the pending election of Township Commissioners."

Darlaston Weekly Times 25/10/1884

"On Saturday, the members of the Sons of Freedom Court, of the Ancient Order of Foresters, held their annual dinner at the SHIP AND RAINBOW, Bilston, when Mr. *Watkiss* catered and served up one of his excellent spreads to a large company.....

Mr. *Watkiss* stated that it had been his custom to give a donation to the Court, and he handed again to the chairman 21s amidst many cheers....."

Darlaston Weekly Times 8/11/1884 - Advert

"Bilston Chrysanthemum Show.

A Chrysanthemum Show will be held in a Large Room kindly lent by *J. H. Watkiss*, SHIP AND RAINBOW, Oxford Street, Bilston, on Monday and Tuesday, the 24th and 25th days of November, 1884.

Suitable Prizes Given. The room will be open at 3pm each day. Admission 6d each.

Schedule on application to John Hilton, 33, Oxford Street."

Darlaston Weekly Times 29/11/1884

"The first chrysanthemum exhibition in Bilston was held in the assembly room at the SHIP AND RAINBOW HOTEL, Oxford Street, on Monday and Tuesday, kindly lent for the purpose by Mr. *Watkiss*. The exhibits were well staged, filling the room, and all visitors were astonished to view such a collection, as the specimen plants and cut blooms were far above the average....."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 13/5/1885

"The annual meeting of the Bilston Ratepayers' Protection Society was held, under the presidency of Mr. J. Bird, in the Old Reference Library at the Town Hall, on Tuesday night, when there was a crowded attendance.....

J. H. Watkiss re-appointed treasurer....."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 18/8/1885 - Advert

“Bilston Horticultural Society. The Fifth Exhibition of Flowers, Fruits, and Vegetables.....

Upwards of £85 in prizes. Special prizes for cottagers.

The Band of the Bilston Rifle Volunteer Corps is engaged.

Each evening there will be a Grand Display of Fireworks.

Special engagement of the celebrated Brothers Leandra, in their wonderful performances on the single and double trapeze, flying rings, and French clowns.

The Staffordshire Beekeepers Association will exhibit their tent of working bees.

Refreshments will be provided by Mr. *J. H. Watkiss*, SHIP AND RAINBOW INN, Oxford Street.

There will be a luncheon on the exhibition ground, on the first day of the show, at 2.30pm. Tickets 2s 6d each may be had from the purveyor, Mr. *J. H. Watkiss*, or from the hon. secretary.....”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 22/8/1885

“Mr. W. H. Phillips, district coroner, held an enquiry this (Saturday) afternoon, at the SHIP AND RAINBOW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, into the circumstances attending the death of John Kilavey (23), late of Stone Street, who died on Friday from the result of drinking a quantity of carbolic acid.

Margaret Walker, wife of James Walker, said the deceased, who was her half-brother, had lived with her in Stone Street, together with Mrs. Kilavey, since January. For some time he had been unable, through slackness of work, to follow out his employment as an ironworker. On Tuesday, the 18th inst, he appeared to be very cold and chilly, and gradually got worse until Friday morning, when he desired to have his bed carried downstairs. The request was complied with, witness being of opinion that deceased was suffering from fever. That morning he complained of lumps in his throat, and, getting out of bed, went upstairs, and directly afterwards Mrs. Kilavey, hearing a slight noise, ran into the room and found deceased lying on his stomach, there being marks of burns about his mouth. Witness also went upstairs and found in her mother’s hands a cup, which had been left in the back bedroom, containing carbolic acid, obtained from the Town Hall for the purpose of disinfection. She was satisfied deceased had taken the poisonous liquid.

Mrs. Kilavey gave corroborative evidence, adding that her son, who was subject to fits, was ill from fever, and on Thursday night appeared to be wandering in his mind.

Mr. Henry Gilbert, surgeon, deposed that he was called to see the young man on Friday morning, when he found that he had evidently swallowed a quantity of carbolic acid, from the effects of which he rapidly became unconscious, and died in less than an hour. He was suffering at the time from typhoid fever, a disease which, witness added, was very prevalent in the neighbourhood just now, and which might have affected deceased’s mind.

The jury returned a verdict to the effect that deceased poisoned himself by taking carbolic acid whilst he was in an unsound state of mind.”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/3/1886 - Advert

“Friday Next, March 19th.

Important Sale of Valuable Freehold Corner Liquor Vaults and Cottages, Oxford Street and Queen Street, Bilston.

Messrs. J. Morrell & Sons are favoured with instructions from Mr. *J. H. Watkiss* (who is retiring from the business), to offer for Sale by Public Auction, at the SHIP AND RAINBOW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, on Friday Next, March 19, at Six for Seven in the Evening.....

All that commanding, well-frequented Corner Spirit Vaults, known as the SHIP AND RAINBOW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, with a frontage to Oxford Street of 36ft 4in, and to Queen Street of 72ft 10in. The Premises comprise large and lofty Spirit Vaults, with entrance from Oxford Street, side entrance from Queen Street to Bottle Department, and large Smoke Room, Dining Room, good Kitchen, four capital Cellars, large Club Room, Sitting Room, and three good Bed Rooms. In the yard is Brewhouse, Coachhouse, and Stabling, with three Rooms over; Greenhouse, Aerated Water Manufactory and large Store Room over. The Yard is well paved and drained, and is approached by a pair of folding doors. The Property is supplied with soft water and waterworks water, conveniently arranged, in a good state of repair, and is now occupied by Mr. *J. H. Watkiss*.

Also Three Cottages at the rear.....

The Property contains in the whole 516 square yards or thereabouts, and is very compact and capially situated, commanding a lucrative indoor and outdoor trade, and offers a good opportunity for anyone requiring a genuine business premises.

For plans and further particulars, apply to Mr. J. D. Wassell, Solicitor, Wellington Street, Bilston; or to the Auctioneers, Swan Bank, Bilston.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 11/2/1887

“Last (Thursday) evening a money club supper was held at the SHIP AND RAINBOW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, to celebrate the 19th anniversary of the club. Upwards of 30 sat down to an excellent repast provided by the host, Mr. *J. H. Watkiss*.....”

Darlaston Weekly Times 4/3/1887

“On Saturday evening about 50 of the workmen of Messrs. J. E. East and Co, Bradley Hall ironworks, near Bilston, assembled at the SHIP AND RAINBOW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, and sat down to an excellent repast, the expense of which was defrayed by Christmas boxes given to the men, provided by the host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. *Watkiss*. After ample justice had been done to the good things provided, Mr. T. Loanes was voted to the chair, and in the course of his remarks spoke of the importance of men being sociable and united. The healths of the Queen, the Army and Navy, and their employers were drunk with much enthusiasm. Several songs and recitations were given, and a most enjoyable evening was spent.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 17/6/1887

“The members of St. Mary’s choir, Bilston, together with the vicar, church-wardens, and a few friends, had an excellent repast at the SHIP AND RAINBOW INN, catered for by Mr. *J. H. Watkiss*.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/3/1889

“At the Wellington Police Court, yesterday, before Mr. J. H. Anstice, William Woods, a coal-merchant, of Aston, Birmingham, was charged with perjury.

At the previous court, on March 18, Harry Boulton, the landlord of the Bucks Head, Wellington, was charged by the police with having allowed gambling on his premises. This he emphatically denied, and the case was dismissed. One of the witnesses was the present defendant, Woods, who swore that there had been gambling on Boulton’s premises on the 1st of March. At the conclusion of the case the Bench said that they had decided to dismiss the case against Boulton, and were further of opinion that there was a prima facie case for a charge of perjury against Woods; and therefore they bound the chief of police over to prosecute him. Mr. Vachell (instructed by Messrs. Fallows and Cochrane) now appeared for the defendant, and Superintendent Galliers prosecuted on behalf of the police.

Harry Boulton, the landlord, said he heard the defendant at the last court say in evidence that several persons had asked for cards at his house, and also that he (Boulton) offered to back a particular hand at cards. This was absolutely untrue. There had been a pigeon shooting match, and Woods claimed some portion of the stakes, to which he was not entitled. He would swear he never had a pack of cards in the house. He did not remember Woods saying that he would report him for allowing card-playing.

J. H. Edwards, a reporter representing the *Birmingham Gazette* and Wolverhampton papers, said he was at the shooting match and the subsequent proceedings, and saw no card-playing.

Evan Vaughan, Samuel Rowley, William Harper, and Thomas West all swore that, having been at the Bucks Head on the occasion in question, they saw no card-playing.

For the defence, *John Henry Watkiss*, of the SHIP AND RAINBOW, Bilston, said Woods claimed £4 out of the stakes, but they refused to pay him. At the bottom end of the room there were several playing at ‘nap’ – two from Birmingham, one from Wolverhampton, and a local man. Witness did not think Boulton knew about the card-playing. He heard Woods speak to Boulton about it. When Woods spoke, he thought the playing was stopped.

Henry Jones, landlord of the WHEATSHEAF, Wolverhampton, said he was at the shooting and the subsequent dinner. He saw the cards on the table, and saw several people around it. He saw no gambling. The cards were produced by a Birmingham man.

Johnston Holmes, a wholesale chemist and druggist, Wolverhampton, said he saw cards produced after dinner. He believed one of the Birmingham men brought the cards. He did not see the landlord there.

Solomon Harris, of Wellington, said he was playing cards, but he did not play for money.

The Bench subsequently dismissed the case.”

1891 Census

166, Oxford Street – SHIP AND RAINBOW

[1] John Henry Watkiss (50), licensed victualler, born Dawley, Shropshire;

[2] Seraphine Watkiss (50), wife, born Bilston;

[3] Annie Louisa Watkiss (18), daughter, born Bilston;

[4] Gwen Ellen Watkiss (16), daughter, born Bilston;

[5] Albert Thomas Guy (14), nephew, assistant, born Oakengates, Shropshire;

[6] Margaret Nock (18), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 30/12/1891

“Mr. W. H. Phillips (coroner) opened an enquiry at the SHIP AND RAINBOW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, yesterday, into the cause of death of George Cornelius Young, six weeks old, whose parents lodge in Bridge Street. On Friday night the parents of the child were going home, and on reaching Stone Street a quarrel took place between George Young, the father of the child, and a labourer named Peter Trennonian, alias Ryan.

Phoebe Young, the child’s mother, said she and her husband were insulted by Ryan and two more men, who began to fight. She pushed one of the men away from her husband, and the man stuck at her, but hit the child, which was lying across her breast.

Other witnesses spoke to the quarrel taking place, and Sarah Jane Pruden, a single woman, said that Ryan hit the child, whose nose began to bleed. She remarked to Ryan that he had killed the child, and he ran away. The child died shortly afterwards.

Mr. A. Smith, surgeon, who had made a post mortem examination of the body, deposed that there was a clot of blood in the nostrils, but no internal or external evidence of violence. He would not state the actual cause of death, but was of opinion that it was due to shock.

Other witnesses spoke to seeing the blow struck, and the enquiry was adjourned for a week for Ryan to call witnesses.

Mr. R. Tildesley appeared on behalf of Ryan, who was afterwards brought up at the police court, charged with causing the death of the child, and was remanded until January 7.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/1/1892

“Mr. W. H. Phillips (coroner) resumed the enquiry, at the SHIP AND RAINBOW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, yesterday, into the cause of the death of George Cornelius Young, aged six weeks, whose parents reside in lodgings in Bridge Street, Bilston. Mr. Tildesley watched the proceedings on behalf of Peter Tremonian, alias Ryan, who was last week remanded on a charge of causing the death of the child.

The evidence given previously was to the effect that the parents of the child were going home on Christmas night when a quarrel took place between the child’s father and Ryan. Mrs. Young, who was carrying the child, at her breast, interfered, and it was alleged that a blow intended for her by Ryan struck the child, who died almost immediately.

Mr. Ashley Smith, surgeon, who had made a post mortem examination of the infant, was unable to state the cause of death, but gave it as his opinion that it was the result of shock to the system.

Several witnesses were now called on behalf of Ryan. They spoke to the fight between the father of the child and Ryan, and to Mrs. Yong interfering; and John Jackson, a steelworker, of Bridge Street, said that Mrs. Young was scarcely able to walk, and that she dropped the child.

Lucy Ellen Jackson, wife of the last witness, said Mrs. Young was ‘beastly boozed,’ and fell with the child in her arms.

Other witnesses spoke to Mrs. Young being intoxicated; and Peter Ryan, after being cautioned, said that Mr. and Mrs. Young were passing him and talking about having some pudding, when he remarked, ‘Go home you — fool.’ Young replied, ‘What! I’ll break your — nose.’ He and witness then had a fight and fell.

A verdict of was returned that the child Died from Shock, the result of a fall; and Ryan was censured by the coroner, at the request of the jury, for commencing the disturbance. Had they been of opinion that he had caused the death of the child they would have returned a verdict of manslaughter against him.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/5/1892 - Advert

“SHIP AND RAINBOW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston.

Messrs. Lowe & Hooper will Sell by Auction, Tomorrow (Tuesday), May 10.

The Plant and Machinery of a Mineral Water Manufacturer, consisting of Gingerbeer Machine, patent Rack, Cork Rack, Generator and Purifier, and patent Bottling Machine, for filling any internal-stoppered bottles, by Hayward, Tyler, and Co., London; also hand-power Plant, suitable for hotel proprietor or chemist; two other Bottling Machines; horizontal high-pressure Steam Engine, with vertical boiler; enamelled Syrup Boiler, with brass tap; four large Syrup Pans; enamelled full-size Bath, by Clark, Wolverhampton; enamelled Wash-up Sink, Avery's Sack Scales and Weights, four-pull Beer Machine, Gas Stove, Cooking Range, Kitchen Grate, a quantity of Boxes and Bottles. Also a Quantity of Household Furniture, consisting of wood and iron Bedsteads, Palliasses, mahogany Chests of Drawers, mahogany Tables, Washstand and Dressing Tables, Toilet Glasses, Toilet Ware, Couch, Brussels Carpet, Tapestry Carpets, Chairs, Night Commode, Writing Desk, Safe (17in by 20in), Dinner Ware, quantity of Glass, Fenders and Fireirons, and other useful articles.

Sale at Eleven o'clock. Usual Conditions.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/2/1895

“The Friezland Colliery, situate near to the gasworks, at Ettingshall, was the scene of an unfortunate accident yesterday afternoon, by which two men lost their lives. The colliery, which is only of small dimensions, is worked by Mr. Richard Lett, a beerhouse keeper, who resides at Ettingshall, but who has been the lessee of collieries at Spring Vale and Ettingshall for many years, and as an indication of the care with which he causes the working places and machinery to be inspected, there has not, until yesterday, been a fatal accident in any of the pits for thirty-two years.

The miners went to work about eight o'clock in the morning, after the ‘doggy’ had reported the working places to be in a safe condition, and the operation of coal-getting in the headings proceeded safely until about half-past one o'clock. At that time Robert Hawkins (37), a married man, of No.5, Nelsons Yard, Bridge Street, Bilston, and John Tranter (35), single, of Temple Street, Bilston, were working in a heading, when a quantity of coal fell and partially buried them. The noise of coal falling attracted the attention of four other men who were working near, and they at once hurried to the place and set to work to release their unfortunate fellow-workmen. The weight of coal was, however, so great that they could not be extricated until after half-an-hour's hard work, and it was then found that both the men were dead. The bodies were removed to their late homes to await an inquest. The deceased man Hawkins leaves a widow and three small children.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 8/2/1895

“Mr. A. B. Smith (deputy county coroner) opened an inquest at the SHIP AND RAINBOW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, yesterday evening, touching the deaths of the two men, Robert Hawkins and John Tranter, who were killed in the Friezland Colliery at Ettingshall, under circumstances already reported. Mr. Wassall appeared for Mr. Lett, the owner of the colliery.

Mary Ann Hawkins, widow of Robert Hawkins, said she never heard her husband complain of anything at the colliery.

Mary Ann Bayley, housekeeper to John Tranter, to whom she was to have been married in a short time, also gave evidence to the effect that he had never complained about his work.

The inquest was then adjourned until Tuesday next.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 16/2/1895

“On Tuesday an inquest was held on the bodies of John Tranter, 64, Temple Street, and Robert Hawkins, 35, Bridge Street, both miners, who met with their deaths in the Friezland Colliery, Ettingshall, belonging to Mr. Lett, on the 6th inst, under circumstances already reported. Mr. Wassall represented the owner of the colliery. Mr. Pickering, assistant inspector of mines, was also present.

According to the evidence, the working places in the mine were properly examined before the men went to work, and the slip in the roof was quite unexpected, as the sprags were set within the distance required by the provisions of the Mines Regulation Act. Mr. Pickering said he did not think anyone was to blame, and a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

John Henry Watkiss – see also OXFORD.

1901 Census

42, Oxford Street

- [1] Thomas Cook (53), publican, born Bilston;
- [2] Elizabeth Cook (52), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] Ethel A. F. Cook (21), daughter, barmaid, born Bilston;
- [4] Ann J. Cook (18), daughter, barmaid, born Bilston;
- [5] Blanch Cook (14), daughter, barmaid, born Bilston;
- [6] Lily Ashcroft (6), grand-daughter, born Sedgley;
- [7] Eva E. Ashcroft (3), grand-daughter, born Bilston;

1911 Census

42, Oxford Street – SHIP AND RAINBOW INN

- [1] Alfred Tennant (46), publican, born Bradley;
- [2] Alice Tennant (44), wife, married 21 years, assisting in business, born Minworth;

1921 Census

42, Oxford Street

- [1] John Harris (38), manager of public licensed house, born Smethwick;
- [2] Elizabeth Harris (35), wife, assisting in business, born Birmingham;
- [3] Maurie William Harris (14), son, school, born Smethwick;
- [4] Olive Ellen Harris (14), daughter, school, born Smethwick;
- [5] John Alfred Harris (2), son, born Brierley Hill;
- [6] Julia Harris (49), sister, help in house, born Smethwick;

A music license was granted on 3rd February 1928.

1939 Register

42, Oxford Street – SHIP AND RAINBOW INN

- [1] John Harris, date of birth 15/4/1883, manager, licensed house, widowed;
- [2] John A. Harris, dob 1/6/1919, plumber, housing estate, single;

Closed

It was demolished c.1970.

**THE SHIP AND RAINBOW,
OXFORD STREET, BILSTON.
BY Messrs. ASTON and SOLLUM.—TO BE
LET, this well-accustomed and long-established old-licensed
HOUSE. Coming-in about £200. Rent moderate.
Apply on the premises; or at the Offices of ASTON and SOLLUM,
Darlington-street, Wolverhampton.**

1862

WOLVERHAMPTON (North-Western Hotel, Berry Street).—
To Let, in consequence of other engagements, this improving
central House. A suitable man would soon realise an independency,
as there is a great and rapidly-increasing traffic past the doors; and
the business, which is now considerable, may be largely improved.
Apply, for particulars, to Mr. Watkins, Ship and Rainbow, Oxford
Street, Bilston.

1880

**TO-MORROW (TUESDAY), NOVEMBER 23.
SHIP AND RAINBOW INN,
OXFORD STREET, BILSTON.
UNRESERVED SALE OF
WORCESTER AND OTHER HOPS,
Removed to the above Premises for Sale (under an
Advance).
J. MORRELL and SON will SELL by
AUCTION, upon the above Premises, TO-MORROW
(TUESDAY), November 23, Fifteen Pockets of Worcester and
other HOPS, nine Half-Pockets, eleven Tumps, one Chest of
Black Tea, two Tubs and one Barrel of Salt Butter, about
3 Cwt. of American and English Cheese; also, four-oushel Mash
Tub, Round Cooler, six thirty-gallon Barrels, Mash Rule, Ladder
and Sieve, Tumpail and Gaun.
Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.
Auctioneers' Offices, Swan Bank, Bilston.**

1871

BILSTON CHRYSANTHEMUM SHOW.
A CHRYSANTHEMUM SHOW will be held in a
Large Room kindly lent by J. H. Watkins,
SHIP & RAINBOW, OXFORD ST., BILSTON,
ON MONDAY, & TUESDAY,
the 24th and 25th days of NOVEMBER, 1884.
SUITABLE PRIZES GIVEN.
The room will be open at 3.0 p.m. each day.
ADMISSION 6d. EACH.
Schedule on application to John Hilton, 33, Oxford
Street.

1884

BILSTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

PRESIDENT: JOHN HARPER, Esq.

THE FIFTH EXHIBITION OF
FLOWERS, FRUITS, AND VEGETABLES

Will be held in

The GROUNDS of J. E. SPARROW, ESQ.,
Between WELLINGTON-STREET and WOLVERHAMPTON-STREET, kindly placed at the disposal of the Committee,

ON TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18 & 19, 1885.

UPWARDS OF £85 IN PRIZES.

SPECIAL PRIZES FOR COTTAGERS.

The BAND of the BILSTON RIFLE VOLUNTEER CORPS is engaged, by permission of Capt. Hickman.

Each Evening there will be a GRAND DISPLAY of FIREWORKS by Messrs. W. and J. Wilder, of Birmingham. Special Engagement of the

CELEBRATED BROTHERS LEANDRA.

In their Wonderful Performances on the Single and Double Trapeze, Flying Rings, and French Clowns.

THE STAFFORDSHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

Will exhibit their Tent of Working Bees.

The Exhibition Tents will be opened from 1 till 8.30 p.m. on the first day, and from 10 a.m. till 7.30 p.m. on the second day; the grounds will be cleared immediately after the close of the fireworks on each day.

Refreshments will be provided by Mr. J. H. Watkiss, Ship and Rainbow Inn, Oxford-street. There will be a Luncheon on the Exhibition Ground, on the first day of the Show, at 2.30 p.m. Tickets 2s. 6d. each, may be had from the Purveyor, Mr. J. H. Watkiss, or from the Hon. Secretary.

The Prizes will be distributed at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, August 19th, by Mrs. J. E. Sparrow, Springfield House, Bilston, at which hour all prize-takers must attend at the Committee Tent.

Admission up to 4 p.m. on Tuesday One Shilling, after that time Sixpence.

CORNELIUS T. MORRELL, Hon. Sec.

R. J. ROGERS, Assistant Hon. Sec.

Tramcars pass the Exhibition Ground.

1885

FRIDAY NEXT, MARCH 19TH.

IMPORTANT SALE OF VALUABLE FREEHOLD CORNER
LIQUOR VAULTS AND COTTAGES,

OXFORD STREET AND QUEEN STREET, BILSTON.

MESSRS. J. MORRELL & SONS are favoured with instructions from Mr. J. H. Watkiss (who is retiring from the business), to offer for Sale by Public Auction, at the Ship and Rainbow Inn, Oxford Street, Bilston, on FRIDAY NEXT, March 19, at Six for Seven in the Evening, subject to conditions then to be read, which will incorporate the Common Form Conditions of the Wolverhampton Law Association, all that commanding, well-frequented

CORNER SPIRIT VAULTS

Known as the

SHIP AND RAINBOW INN, OXFORD STREET, BILSTON, With a frontage to Oxford Street of 36ft. 4in., and to Queen Street of 72ft. 10in. The Premises comprise large and lofty Spirit Vaults, with entrance from Oxford Street, side entrance from Queen Street to Bottle Department, and large Smoke Room, Dining Room, good Kitchen, four capital Cellars, large Club Room, Sitting Room, and three good Bed Rooms. In the yard is Brewhouse, Coachhouse, and Stabling, with three Rooms over; Greenhouse, Aerated Water Manufactory and large Store Room over. The Yard is well paved and drained, and is approached by a pair of folding doors. The Property is supplied with soft water and waterworks water, conveniently arranged, in a good state of repair, and is now occupied by Mr. J. H. Watkiss. Also

THREE COTTAGES,

at the rear, with a frontage to Queen Street of 21ft., and being Nos. 53, Queen Street, and Nos. 27 and 28, Stone Street, with a frontage to Stone Street of 63ft., now in the occupation of Mr. R. Hughes, producing in a weekly rent an annual rental of £19. 10s.

The Property contains in the whole 516 square yards or thereabouts, and is very compact and capably situated, commanding a lucrative indoor and outdoor trade, and offers a good opportunity for anyone requiring a genuine business premises.

For plans and further particulars, apply to Mr. J. D. Wassell, Solicitor, Wellington Street, Bilston; or to the Auctioneers, Swan Bank, Bilston.

1886

Ship and Rainbow Inn, Oxford Street, Bilston.

MESSRS. LOWE & HOOPER will Sell by Auction, TO-MORROW (Tuesday), May 10 — the PLANT and MACHINERY of a MINERAL-WATER MANUFACTURE, consisting of Gingerbeer Machine, patent Rack, Cork Rack, Generator and Purifier, and patent Bottling Machine, for filling any internal-stoppered bottles, by Hayward, Tyler, and Co., London; also hand-power Plant, suitable for hotel proprietor or chemist; two other Bottling Machines; horizontal high-pressure Steam Engine, with vertical boiler; enamelled Syrup Boiler, with brass tap; four large Syrup Pans; enamelled full-size Bath, by Clark, Wolverhampton; enamelled Wash-up Sink, Avery's Sack Scales and Weights, four-pull Beer Machine, Gas Stove, Cooking Range, Kitchen Grate, a quantity of Boxes and Bottles. Also a Quantity of HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, consisting of wood and iron Bedsteads, Palliasses, mahogany Chests of Drawers, mahogany Tables, Washstand and Dressing Tables, Toilet Glasses, Toilet Ware, Couch, Brussels Carpet, Tapestry Carpets, Chairs, Night Commode, Writing Desk, Safe (17in. by 20in.), Dinner Ware, quantity of Glass, Fenders and Fireirons, and other useful articles.

Sale at Eleven o'clock.

Usual conditions.

1892

SHOULDER OF MUTTON

73, (83), Hall Green Street, Bradley, (Daisy Bank), BILSTON

OWNERS

Joseph White

Colonel Charles Smith, brewer, Worcester Street, Wolverhampton
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

LICENSEES

Joseph White [1873] – **1874**;

Thomas Hall (**1874 – 1876**);

David Cooper (**1876 – 1897**);

Samuel Tennant (**1897 – 1899**);

Joseph Reynolds (**1899 – 1904**);

Richard Davies (**1904 – 1913**);

Joseph Campion Churms (**1913**);

Albert Davies (**1913 – 1916**);

Edwin Davies (**1916**);

John Davies (**1916 – 1920**);

John Henry Williams (**1920 – 1930**);

Mrs. Florence Williams (**1930 – [1940]**)



c1920s - John Henry Williams

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

It was known locally as "The Fourpenny Shop".

Wolverhampton Express and Star 20/7/1878

"John Craddock, for being drunk and disorderly on Monday last, at the SHOULDER OF MUTTON beerhouse, Hall Green; for being drunk and riotous in the street, and also for refusing to leave the house and assaulting the landlord, was fined for each offence 5s and costs."

1881 Census

83, Hall Green Street

[1] David Cooper (43), agent and beerhouse keeper, born Tipton;

[2] Jane Cooper (45), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Daniel Cooper (20), son, clerk in iron works, born Sedgley;

[4] Sarah E. Cooper (11), daughter, scholar, born Sedgley;

[5] Ann M. Cooper (10), daughter, scholar, born Sedgley;

[6] Alice R. Cooper (5), daughter, scholar, born Sedgley;

1891 Census

73, Hall Green Street

[1] David Cooper (53), beer agent, born Tipton;

[2] Agness Cooper (38), wife, born Dudley;

[3] Emma Cooper (21), daughter, assistant, born Sedgley;

[4] Alice Reb Cooper (15), daughter, born Sedgley;

David Cooper, beer retailer, 73, Hall Green, Bradley. [1896]

1901 Census

73, Hall Green Street

- [1] Joseph Reynolds (31), packer at bedstead works, born Bradley;
- [2] Betsey Reynolds (29), wife, born Bradley;
- [3] John Reynolds (7), son, born Bradley;
- [4] Joseph Reynolds (5), son, born Bradley;
- [5] Richard Reynolds (1), son, born Bradley;
- [6] Mary Ann Mountford (19), domestic servant, born Bradley:

Joseph Reynolds, beer retailer, 73, Hall Green Street, Bradley. [1904]

Richard Davies = Richard Davis

1911 Census

73, Hall Green Street – SHOULDER OF MUTTON

- [1] Richard Davies (40), licensed victualler, born Coseley;
- [2] Phoebe Davies (29), wife, married 4 years, born Coseley:

Richard Davies, beer retailer, 73, Hall Green Street. [1912]

Joseph Campion Churms – see also ROYAL OAK, Salop Street, and ROUND COUNTER.

Albert Davies was also a brewer.

John Williams, beer retailer, 73, Hall Green Street. [1921]

1921 Census

73, Hall Green Street

- [1] John Henry Williams (44), coal miner, hewer, out of work, born Bilston;
- [2] Florence Williams (44), wife, home duties, born Bilston;
- [3] Florence Edith Williams (16), daughter, sizer, born Bilston;
- [4] Leonard Williams (13), son, at home, born Bilston;
- [5] May Williams (6), daughter, school, born Bilston:

1939 Register

73, Hallgreen Street – SHOULDER OF MUTTON INN (3 of 4)

- [1] Florence Williams, date of birth 4/10/1876, publican, manageress, widowed;
- [2] Thomas Downes, dob 3/8/1907, tagger and butt welder, tube works, married;
- [3] Florence E. Downes, dob 29/12/1904, unpaid domestic duties, married;

SIR HENRY NEWBOLT

45+47, High Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

J. D. Wetherspoon

LICENSEES

Stephen Craig [2001]
Karen Leach **(2001 - []**
Kirsty Bailey [2005]

NOTES

The building was originally a cinema.

It opened in July 2000.

Karen Leach – See also MOON UNDER WATER, Wolverhampton.

Express & Star 13/10/2014

“Beer enthusiasts from the city will be able to enjoy a range of ten real ales from across the world, alongside beers from the UK, during a 17 day festival held at Wetherspoons pubs in the Black Country. The overseas beers will be on offer at the MOON UNDER WATER in Lichfield Street, Wolverhampton, the ROYAL TIGER in High Street, Wednesfield and the SIR HENRY NEWBOLT in High Street, Bilston, have been sourced from brewers in New Zealand, the USA, Holland, Australia, Belgium and Italy. They will complement up to 40 beers from across the UK also being served in the pubs during the festival.....

The pubs will serve new, seasonal and speciality beers, including those flavoured with ginger, heather and honey, toffee, herbs and spices and cinnamon and nutmeg.

The festival will run from October 17 to November 2.”

Express & Star 30/9/2018

“Why the long face? A man brought a horse into this Wetherspoon pub in the Black Country – but he wasn’t going to be served. Stunned staff tried to shepherd the man and his horse out of the SIR HENRY NEWBOLT pub, in Bilston. People enjoying a quiet drink suddenly heard hooves only to turn around and see the horse among the tables. As people craned to get a better look, others tried to pose for pictures with the animal inside the High Street pub.”

[2023]



2007



2023

SOLDIER'S RETURN

Brook Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

James Purslow [1841] – [1849]
Sophia Purslow [1851]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

James Purslow was born in 1778 in Bilston.

He married *Sophia* Lester on 30th November 1800.

He joined the 1st Grenadier Guards in 1798 and served in the Peninsular War. He lost the sight of one eye at the Battle of Waterloo.

He returned to Bilston in 1816.

James Purslow, beer retailer, Brook Street. [1841], [1849]

1841 Census

Brook Street

[1] *James Purslow* (60), publican, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Sophia Purslow* (55), born Staffordshire;

[3] Ann Horne (17), f.s., born Staffordshire:

1851 Census

Brook Street

[1] *Sophia Purslow* (69), widow, retail brewer, born Bilston;

[2] Jane Purslow (18), grand-daughter, servant, born Bilston;

[3] Ann Morris (20), servant, born Bilston:

SPREAD EAGLE

37, (20), (5), Lichfield Street, (Mount Pleasant), BILSTON

OWNERS

George Hyde
Mary Ann Hyde
Showells Brewery Co. Ltd.
Ind Coope and Allsopp (leased)
Ansells Ltd.
Skittain Ales [1991], [1994]
Graham Watkins
Totally Fair Pub Co. [1997]

LICENSEES

William Taylor [1816] – [1842]
Mrs. Mary Taylor [] – **1845**;
Samuel Glover **(1845 – 1852)**;
George Hyde **(1852 – [1866]**
W Holmes **(1866)**;
George Hyde **(1866 – 1877)**;
William and Richard Hyde **(1877 – 1880)**;
Richard Hyde **(1880 – 1896)**;
George Millard **(1896 – 1911)**;
Arthur Edward Hewitt **(1911 – 1912)**;
Harry William Matthews **(1912 – 1924)**;
William Henry Ramsden **(1924 – 1932)**;
Mrs. Elsie Ramsden **(1932 – [1940]**
Percy Holdsworth [1939]
E Fishlock [1961]
Edmund Harry Underwood [] – **1967**;
Robert Victor Wright **(1967 – 1968)**;
Fred Moseley **(1968 – 1969)**;
Leslie Leonard Jones **(1969 – 1972)**;
Roy Lawrence Graham Hallam **(1972 – 1973)**;
Stewart Clive Mountford **(1973 – 1975)**;
Allan James Dunn **(1975 – 1976)**;
Gordon Simcox **(1976)**;
Frederick William Lewis **(1976 – 1980)**;
Lilian Maureen Ryan **(1980 – 1991)**;
Jean Skitt **(1991 – 1995)**
Graham Watkins **(1996 – [1997]**
Cheryl Clark [2001]
Tony Mandani [] – **2015**;

NOTES

5, Lichfield Street [1861], [1864], [1865], [1871], [1881], [1896], [1908], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1932], [1940]
20, Lichfield Street [1997]
37, Lichfield Street [2002], [2003]



1997



2009



2016

It was situated opposite to the Town Hall.

SPREAD EAGLE HOTEL [1900], [1919], [1920], [1957]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 19/2/1816 - Advert

"Bilston. To be Sold by Auction, by T. Walters (by Order of the Assignees of Richard Morgan, a Bankrupt) on Friday next, the 23rd Day of February, at the House of *William Taylor*, the SPREAD EAGLE, in Lichfield Street, Bilston, in the Count of Stafford, at Four o'clock in the Afternoon, subject to Conditions.

Lot I. A Plot of Copyhold Land, in Bilston aforesaid.....

Lot II. The Moiety or half Part or Share of a Seat or Pew in the Chapel of Bilston aforesaid....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 6/10/1823 - Advert

"Without Reserve, Rents of Copyhold Estate in Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by R. Corbett, this present Monday, the 6th of October, at the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, at five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be produced.

The Rents during the joint lives of Mr. Thomas Walter, of Willenhall, in the said county, aged about 71 years, and Mary his wife, aged about 61 years, arising from all those fourteen several Tenements or Dwelling Houses, with the appurtenances thereto belonging, situate in and near Lichfield Street, in Bilston aforesaid.....

To view the premises apply to Mr. *W. Taylor*, of the SPREAD EAGLE INN aforesaid....."

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/4/1824 - Advert

"Dancing and Deportment.

Mr. J. S. Taylor most respectfully informs his friends and the public, that his Academies are open for the reception of Youth of both sexes.

J. S. T. pledges himself to be thoroughly acquainted with every department of Dancing, as now prevalent in the fashionable world. Attendance.....

Tuesdays at Mr. *Taylor's*, SPREAD EAGLE INN, Bilston, from four till seven."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/5/1824 - Advert

"Lectures on Steam Engines.

Mr. N. Webster will commence a Course of Three Lectures on the Rise and Progressive Improvement of the Steam Engine, at the SPREAD EAGLE, Bilston, This Present Monday Evening, May 10, at half past seven o'clock. Second Lecture Tomorrow (Tuesday) Evening; and the Third on Wednesday. Three transferable tickets, 7s 6d, may be had of Mr. Bassford, Bookseller. Single admission, 3s.

The above Course will likewise commence at the TALBOT INN, Stourbridge, on Thursday, the 13th, Second Lecture on Friday the 14th, and the Third on Saturday the 15th instant, at half past seven o'clock.

Mr. W.'s Course of Six Lectures on Mechanical Philosophy will commence at the Town Hall, Kidderminster, on Tuesday the 18th, at seven o'clock.

And at the George Inn, Bewdley, on the Subject of Steam Engines, on Wednesday, the 26th instant, at seven o'clock."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 1/5/1826 - Advert

"Bilston New Association for the Prosecution of Felons.

Notice is hereby given, that the next Annual Meeting of the Members of the Bilston New Association for the Prosecution of Felons will be held at the house of Mr. *William Taylor*, SPREAD EAGLE INN, Bilston, on Thursday next, the 4th day of May, at twelve o'clock at noon, for the purpose of auditing the accounts of the past year; when any person desirous of becoming a member of the said Association is requested to attend.

Dinner on the table at two o'clock precisely

Bilston, May 1, 1826. John Mason, Solicitor."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 26/3/1832 - Advert

"Pasture Land.

To be Let, and entered upon immediately, all those three Fields of excellent Pasture Land, called the Lunts, most conveniently lying in the township of Bilston, and containing about nine acres.

For particulars apply (if by letter, post paid) to Mr. *William Taylor*, SPREAD EAGLE INN, or Mr. John Mason, Solicitor, Bilston."

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/9/1832

“Parsonage, Bilston, September 4, 1832.

In gratefully acknowledging the receipt of the following munificent donations in aid of my afflicted and destitute parishioners, I am quite at a loss how to express myself.....

W. Leigh, Incumbent of Bilston.

Additional Subscriptions.....

A Traveller (SPREAD EAGLE, Bilston), £1 1s 0d.”

[A total of £620 9s 3d had been received up to the morning of 12th September 1832.]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 11/5/1836 - Advert

“Young Man Missing.

Josiah Griffiths left his residence in Bilston, on Saturday night last, the 7th instant, about half-past ten o’clock, and has not since been heard of.

He is about twenty years of age, of a pale complexion, dark brown hair, has an impediment in his speech, and is about five feet in height.

When he left home he was dressed in a white baragon jacket, brown trousers, brown waistcoat, a white apron, a blue handkerchief round his neck, and a round blue cloth cap.

Any person who will restore him, or give any information respecting to him, to Mr. *William Taylor*, SPREAD EAGLE INN, Bilston, shall be handsomely rewarded for his or her trouble, and all expenses paid.

Bilston, May 10, 1836.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 21/5/1836

“The following inquisitions have been held before H. Smith, Esq, coroner.....

On the 16th instant, at Darlaston, on Josiah Griffiths, a young man who was found drowned on the Walsall canal.

Verdict, Found Drowned.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/5/1840 - Advert

“Eligible Situation for Business, Oxford Street, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett, on Tuesday, the 2nd day of June, 1840, at the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Bilston, at six o’clock in the afternoon, in one lot, subject to conditions then to be read.

All that substantially built Messuage, Tenement, or Dwelling House, adjoining the north side of the Primitive Methodist Chapel, in Oxford Street, Bilston aforesaid and lately occupied by Mr. Thomas Fieldhouse, as a Public House, but now void.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/11/1840 - Advert

“Manor of Stow Heath.

The Cottagers within the Manor of Stow Heath, are required to pay their Rents and Arrears to the Lord’s Bailiff.....

At the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Bilston, on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, the 16th, 17th, and 19th days of November instant.....

Between the hours of eleven and four o’clock.

Such persons as have already Grants or Leases of their Cottages for Lives or Years are desired to produce them.

Every tenant will be required to produce his last receipt.

By Order of his Grace the Duke of Sutherland, and Thomas William Giffard, Esq, Lords of the Manor.

Thomas Gibbons, Lords Bailiff. Wolverhampton, November 7, 1840.”

1841 Census

Lichfield Street

[1] *William Taylor* (68), innkeeper, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Mary Taylor* (82), born Staffordshire:

Birmingham Journal 22/4/1843 - Deaths

“On Monday, much respected, Mr. *William Taylor*, of the SPREAD EAGLE, Bilston, aged 72.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 7/6/1843 - Adverts

“First-Rate Situation,

To be Let, with immediate possession, that old established Public House, called the SPREAD EAGLE, situate in Lichfield Street, Bilston. The Stock, Fixtures, &c, to be taken at a valuation.

Apply to Edward Cresswell, Tipton Ironworks.

Bilston, June 5, 1843.”

AND

“Notice.

All persons having any claim against the estate of the late *William Taylor*, of the SPREAD EAGLE, Bilston, are requested to send their accounts to Edward Cresswell, of Tipton Ironworks, the executor, in order that the same may be discharged. All person who stand indebted to the estate of the said *William Taylor* are requested immediately to pay the same to the said Edward Cresswell.

Bilston, June 5, 1843.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/10/1844 - Advert

“SPREAD EAGLE INN, Bilston. To Publicans, &c.

To be Let, with immediate possession, the above Inn, situate in Lichfield Street, Bilston. The Stock and Fixtures to be taken at valuation. A Lease may be had if required.

Apply to Mr. Edward Cresswell, Harborne House, near Birmingham, or to Mr. Danks, Auctioneer, Dudley.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 13/11/1844 - Advert

“School Buildings, Dwelling House, &c, at Mount Pleasant, Bilston, Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett (by direction of the trustees) on Monday, the 25th of November, 1844, at the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Bilston aforesaid, at five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be read.

All those two large substantially built School Rooms, situate at Mount Pleasant, Bilston aforesaid, erected in 1833, for the express purpose and used as schools for the education of children whose parents fell victim of the cholera, during its dreadful visitation of this neighbourhood in the year 1832.....”

Birmingham Journal 14/6/1845 - Died

“On Saturday, Mrs. *Taylor*, of the SPREAD EAGLE, Bilston, in her 89th year.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/7/1845 - Advert

“SPREAD EAGLE INN, Bilston.

To be Let, (on lease if required), the above old established Public House.

Apply to Mr. Edward Cresswell, Harborne; or to Mr. Mason, solicitor, Bilston. Immediate possession may be had.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 20/8/1845 - Advert

“To Publicans, Brokers and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett, by direction of the executor, on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 2nd and 3rd days of September, 1845.

The whole of the neat and serviceable Household Furniture, bedding, linen, glass, china, and earthenware, about thirty very excellent iron bound ale barrels, from thirty to five hundred gallons each, stock of prime old ale and spirituous liquors, two large copper furnaces, wort vats, mashing, cooler, working, and other tubs, a capital four-pull beer machine, the neat public house fixtures, and other miscellaneous property and effects, of the late Mrs. *Taylor*, SPREAD EAGLE INN, Lichfield Street, Bilston, deceased.

Catalogues will be distributed, and may be obtained seven days preceding the sale, by applying on the premises, or at the offices of the Auctioneer, New Town, Bilston.

The sale to commence each day at 10am and 2pm.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 15/10/1845

“A special sessions was held at the Public Office, Wolverhampton, on Friday last.....

A victualler's license was granted to *Samuel Glover*, for the SPREAD EAGLE, Bilston, lately in the occupation of *Mary Taylor*, widow, deceased.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/3/1846

“Remarkable Death. On Monday last an inquest was held by T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, at the SPREAD EAGLE, Bilston, on the body of Richard Harvey, a blacksmith, about thirty years of age. The deceased, it appears, was on the top of a steam boiler, knocking out a rivet, when the boiler suddenly separated, and the deceased fell between; one part rebounded, and fell on the head of the deceased. Assistance was instantly procured, but the deceased died immediately from the cuts and fracture. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Journal 5/12/1846

“On Monday last, at Bilston, W. Mooney, a hawker, charged William Ward with robbing him of two silk and two cotton handkerchiefs. It appeared that on the 27th of November the prosecutor went to the SPREAD EAGLE in Bilston, and offered his goods for sale. Seeing Ward there, he sat down and treated him, and they stayed for some time. On Mooney leaving he was followed by Ward, who pushed him against the wall, and took the handkerchiefs out of his pocket. He then walked away, and next morning the prosecutor having ascertained his loss, gave information to the police, and the prisoner was taken into custody. In defence, he said that the prosecutor gave him the handkerchiefs. He was committed.”

Birmingham Journal 19/12/1846

“On the morning of Wednesday week, a most extensive robbery was effected at the house of Mr. *Samuel Glover*, SPREAD EAGLE INN, Lichfield Street, Bilston, by some daring thieves, who entered a room and carried off £110 in money. It appears that the money was deposited in a box in Mr. *Glover*’s bedroom, and consisted of a ten-pound note, £7 10s in crown pieces, five packets of silver, £5 in each, and the rest in gold. On the Tuesday night the money was quite safe, but on Wednesday morning it was missed. The box was opened with a chisel, and the marks left in forcing it corresponded with an iron chisel which Mr. *Glover* kept in his brewhouse. The entrance to the room was effected by some person opening a door in the brewhouse which led into a malt-room, from which there was a communication with the sleeping room next to the one where the money was deposited; and suspicion, from this circumstance, fell upon Mr. *Glover*’s brewer and his brother, named James and William Richardson, who were let in to brew on the Wednesday morning, at four o’clock. They were in consequence arrested by Sub-inspector Thompson, who, in company with Inspector Hogg, made every inquiry about the matter, but could obtain no evidence implicating the prisoners in the transaction, and on Tuesday last they were discharged, but ordered to enter into their own recognisances to appear when called for. Whoever committed the robbery must, we are informed, be well acquainted with the premises, and have effected it in the dark, as there was £130 in a handkerchief, lying upon the top of Mr. *Glover*’s clothes.”

Northern Star and Leeds General Advertiser 18/9/1847

“The Holytown miners are still nobly and firmly contesting the rights of labour; not a man has broken the peace, nor offered violence to any one. They appear to have but one object in view – the rights of labour, and that they are determined to have or die in the attempt to gain it.....

Subscriptions on behalf of the Holytown Miners.....

SPREAD EAGLE, Bilston, 2s 1d.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 1/10/1848

“The Westbromwich Sweep will fight Six Foot of Wolverhampton, Farrington, or Rathbone, for £15 or £25 a side, in a month from the first deposit. Money read at the SPREAD EAGLE, Bilston, on Monday week.”

1851 Census

Litchfield Street

[1] *Samuel Glover* (55), publican, born Broseley, Shropshire;

[2] *Marriah Glover* (38), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Ebnor Brian* (11), niece, scholar, born Glasgow;

[4] *John Tomkys* (20), general servant, born Birmingham;

[5] *Jane Brown* (21), servant, born Shropshire:

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/6/1851

“At Bilston Public Office, on Tuesday, Thomas Gibson, charged with tendering a base shilling to Mrs. *Glover*, of the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Mount Pleasant, was remanded.”

George Hyde = George Hide

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/9/1852

"The annual licensing day for the division of Seisdon North was held at the Public Office, Bilston Street, Wolverhampton, on Thursday last.....

There were about forty applications for new [spirit] licenses, of which eight were granted.....

Mr. Hayes applied on behalf of Mr. John Felton, LAMP TAVERN, Lichfield Street, Bilston. The application was opposed by Mr. Underhill on behalf of *George Hide*, the owner of the SPREAD EAGLE, Mr. Underhill stating that Mr. Felton's house was within thirty-one yards of the SPREAD EAGLE, and within 150 or 200 yards of eight other licensed houses. Application refused."

Birmingham Journal 29/1/1853 - Advert

"Freehold Houses and Land, at Bradley, near Bilston, Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. William Butler, at the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Lichfield Street, Bilston, on Tuesday Next, the 1st day of February at Six o'clock in the evening....."

Birmingham Journal 26/7/1856 - Advert

"To Forgemen. Wanted, a Hammer Man, for a new Work; must be capable of Forging Heavy and Light Uses. A steady good Workman will have good wages and constant employment; none others need apply.

Application to be made at Mr. *George Hyde*'s, SPREAD EAGLE INN, Bilston, on Thursday or Saturday night next, between Six and Eight o'clock."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 24/12/1856

"Yesterday (Tuesday) T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, held an adjourned inquest at the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Bilston, on the body of John Hughes, a collier, employed in a coalpit in Mr. Blackwell's colliery, whose death was caused by drowning in a 'sump' of water at the bottom of a coalpit, on the morning of Sunday, the 14th instant. The Mine Inspector, L. Brough, Esq, was present at the inquest, and in the course of the inquiry Thomas Walton, an engineer employed at the colliery in question, said he never saw any rules for his government at the pit. Verdict, Death by Drowning."

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 SPREAD EAGLE INN, at Bilston, on Mondays, July 19th, August 16th, and September 13th, 1858, at ten o'clock am.....

All persons residing in the said District desirous of having their Weights and Measures Stamped, may bring them or send them to any of the above places, for adjustment, as shall be most convenient; or to No.26, King Street, Wolverhampton, on any other than the days above appointed.

Persons within any local jurisdiction, for which a separate Inspector is appointed, cannot have their weights and measures examined or stamped by the County Inspector.

William Tullett, Inspector of Weights and Measures for the said district.

Wolverhampton, 7th July, 1858."

1861 Census

5, Lichfield Street – SPREAD EAGLE INN

- [1] *George Hyde* (46), licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *Mary A. Hyde* (49), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *George Hyde* (16), son, born Bilston;
- [4] *William Hyde* (14), son, born Bilston;
- [5] *Richard Hyde* (12), son, born Bilston;
- [6] *Naomi Hyde* (10), daughter, born Bilston;
- [7] *Elizabeth Hyde* (4), daughter, born Bilston;
- [8] *Harriet Potts* (16), servant, born Bilston;
- [9] *Emma Windsor* (17), servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Journal 1/3/1862 - Advert

“Property, in Oxford Street, Bilston.

Messrs. Richards and Turley will Sell by Auction (by order of the Trustees under the will of the late Richard Passon), on Wednesday Next, the 5th day of March, 1862, at the house of Mr. *George Hyde*, the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Lichfield Street, Bilston, at Seven o’clock in the evening.....”

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/3/1862

“A vestry meeting was held on Thursday at St. Leonard’s schoolroom, for the purpose of selecting a list of six names, to be submitted to the magistrates for the appointment of three persons as overseers.....

Ultimately six names were selected, the following three being recommended for appointment....

George Hyde, licensed victualler, Lichfield Street.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/7/1863

“The Ancient Free Gardeners’ Benefit Society, held at the house of Mr. *George Hyde*, the SPREAD EAGLE, Bilston, celebrated their annual festival on Tuesday, when sixty members, with Mr. Hancox, the medical officer, partook of an excellent dinner. The usual loyal, patriotic, and local toasts were duly drunk, and it was stated that, notwithstanding the loss occasioned by the recent defalcation in connection with the Bilston Savings Bank, the society was in a prosperous condition.”

George Hyde was also a tinsplate worker of Lichfield Street. [1864], [1865]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/4/1866 - Advert

“Notice to File Smiths.

At a Meeting held at Mr. Stokes’s, the COCK INN, on Monday, the 2nd day of April, amongst the File Smiths of Wolverhampton, and the surrounding districts, it was unanimously agreed to have a Meeting on Monday, the 9th of April, at the SPREAD EAGLE, Bilston, at Five o’clock in the evening, when all File Smiths are requested to attend.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/7/1867

“The 56th anniversary dinner of No.4 Loyal Lodge of Odd Fellows was held at the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Bilston, on Wednesday, Mr. J. Simms in the chair. Mr. Nash, the treasurer, who was in the vice-chair, stated that £1,461 had been paid by the society during the past seven years for sickness and deaths, and a surplus remained in the Post Office Savings Bank.”

George Hyde, was also a tinsplate worker of Lichfield Street. [1868], [1870], [1872]

1871 Census

5, Lichfield Street – SPREAD EAGLE

- [1] *George Hyde* (56), licensed victualler employing one man, born Bilston;
- [2] *Mary A. Hyde* (59), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Richard Hyde* (22), son, tin plate worker, born Bilston;
- [4] *Naomi Hyde* (19), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] *Martha Snape* (19), domestic servant, born Bilston;
- [6] *Emma Roper* (19), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/3/1872 - Notice

"County of Stafford. Weights and Measures, District C, or South Staffordshire.

Notice is hereby given, that I shall attend at the undermentioned times and places for the purpose of Comparing and Examining all such Weights and Measures as shall be brought to me for that purpose, and Stamping such of them as shall be found correct.....

At the SPREAD EAGLE INN, at Bilston, on Wednesdays, April 3rd, April 24th, and May 22nd, 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."

An inquest was held here in August 1876 concerning the death of the licensee of the CASTLE INN.

William Hyde died on 17th November 1880.

1881 Census

5, Lichfield Street – SPREAD EAGLE

- [1] Richard Hyde (32), unmarried, publican, born Bilston;
- [2] Eliza Hyde (31), sister-in-law, widow, born Bilston;
- [3] Elizabeth C. Hyde (9), niece, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] Clara Hyde (4), niece, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] William Hyde (3), nephew, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] Alice Hyde (2), niece, born Bilston;
- [7] Eliza Hyde (4 months), niece, born Bilston;
- [8] Lydia Jones (23), sister-in-law, unmarried, barmaid, born Bilston;
- [9] Maria Smith (17), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Evening Express 19/5/1881 - Advert

"Wanted, a good General Servant, one who understands bar duties.
Apply to the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Bilston."

George Hyde died on 5th August 1881.

Evening Express 10/8/1881 - Advert

"Wanted, a good General Servant.
Apply, SPREAD EAGLE INN, Bilston."

WANTED, a good General Servant.—Apply, Spread Eagle Inn, Bilston.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 27/4/1885 - Advert

"Bricks, 9,000 good second-hand, for Sale; 10 minutes' walk from Bilston Town.
Apply Mr. Hyde, SPREAD EAGLE INN, Bilston."

BRICKS, 9,000 good second-hand, for Sale : 10 minutes' walk from Bilston Town.—Apply, Mr. Hyde, Spread Eagle Inn, Bilston.

Darlaston Weekly Times 24/12/1885

"Christmas Show at Bilston. Once again the festive season of Christmas has come upon us, and, despite political agitation and commercial depression, the tradespeople, especially the meat vendors, made their usual exhibition, with quite as much success as in former years.....

Mr. S. Caddick made a very good display, amongst his exhibits being.....

Two Berkshire pigs, bred by Mr. Darby, and fed by Mr. Richard Hyde, SPREAD EAGLE, Bilston, each weighing 25 scores."

Birmingham Daily Post 19/6/1886 - Advert

"To be Sold, cheap, splendid Dog Trap, silver-mounted Harness, Pony about 12 hands, quiet and fast. Party requiring same would be sure to purchase.
Apply, SPREAD EAGLE INN, Bilston."

TO be Sold, cheap, splendid Dog Trap, silver-mounted Harness, Pony about 12 hands, quiet and fast. Party requiring same would be sure to purchase. Apply, Spread Eagle Inn, Bilston.

Darlaston Weekly Times 11/2/1887 - Notice

"Notice is hereby given that the Loyal Lodge of Good Fellows, No.4 Society, or lodge No.4 of Loyal Good Fellows, Register No.45, held at the SPREAD EAGLE, Bilston, in the County of Stafford, is Dissolved by Instrument, registered at this Office, the 29th day of January, 1887, unless within three months from the date of the *Gazette* in which this advertisement appears, proceedings be commenced by a member or other person interested in or having any claim on the funds of the Society to set aside such dissolution, and the same be set aside accordingly.

J. M. Ludlow, Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.

28, Abingdon Street, Westminster, the 29th day of January, 1887."

1891 Census

Lichfield Street

- [1] Richard Hyde (42), licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] Eliza Hyde (40), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Sarah Hyde (19), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] Clara Hyde (14), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] William Hyde (13), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] Alice Hyde (12), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] Eliza Hyde (10), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [8] Mary A. Hyde (4), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [9] Richard Hyde (3), son, born Bilston;
- [10] Herbert Hyde (2 months), son, born Bilston;
- [11] Annie Butler (21), general servant, born Sedgley;
- [12] Mary Hale (20), general servant, born Gornal Wood:

Birmingham Daily Post 6/7/1893 - Advert

"Wednesday Next, July 12. Important Sale of Valuable Freehold Full-Licensed Inn, Bilston.

J. Morrell & Sons are favoured with instructions to submit for Sale by Public Auction, at the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Lichfield Street, Bilston, on Wednesday Next, July 12, at Six for Seven in the evening, subject to conditions which will incorporate the common form conditions of the Wolverhampton Law Society, the following Valuable Freehold Property.

All that substantially-erected, Old-established and Well-accustomed Full-Licensed Inn, called the SPREAD EAGLE, situate in Lichfield Street, Bilston, together with early Possession and the Goodwill thereof.

The Premises known as the SPREAD EAGLE are conveniently arranged, and well adapted for carrying on a large business, and have always commanded an excellent trade.

The Property has a frontage of 34ft 6in to Lichfield Street, with ample accommodation. The Premises comprise large Front Parlour (26ft by 13ft 9in), Tap Room, large Bar, Back Parlour (19ft 9in by 10ft 9in), Pantry, Cooking Kitchen, four Bed Rooms, Brewhouse (32ft by 11ft 6in), Malt Room, Hop Room, Store, Cart-shed, Stable, extensive arched Cellaring, and large Yard, having a gateway entrance from Bow Street.

This Property, which had been in the occupation of the *Hyde* family for many years, and is now in the occupation of Mr. *Richard Hyde*, is situate in an excellent business position in the centre of the town, opposite the Town Hall, near to the Tramway Terminus, and presents an unusually good opportunity for anyone requiring a good genuine House. For further particulars and plans, apply to Mr. J. D. Wassell, Solicitor, Bilston; or to the Auctioneers, Swan Bank, Bilston."

The Stage 14/6/1900 - Advert

"Mr. Thomas Searle, 'General Fact-tot-em.'
SPREAD EAGLE HOTEL, Lichfield Street, Bilston."

MR. THOMAS SEARLE,
"General Fact-tot-em."
Spread Eagle Hotel,
Lichfield Street, Bilston.

1901 Census

Lichfield Street – SPREAD EAGLE

- [1] George Millard (56), widower, licensed victualler, born Eversholt, Bedfordshire;
- [2] Elizabeth Edwards (21), barmaid in public house, born Morgan, Glamorganshire;
- [3] Harriett Middleton (21), domestic cook, born Moxley;
- [4] Sarah Loydon (18), domestic housemaid, born Bilston;

George Millard – see also BARREL VAULTS and LION.

1911 Census

Lichfield Street – SPREAD EAGLE

- [1] Arthur Edward Hewitt (39), hotel manager, born Coalbrookdale, Shropshire;
- [2] Clotilda Hannah Lenora Hewitt (31), wife, married 10 years, assisting in business, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] Gladys Lenora Winifred Hewitt (9), daughter, born Handsworth;
- [4] Nelly Kathleen Hewitt (6), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] Hellan Samson Watson (21), domestic servant, born Bilston;

Arthur Edward Hewitt – see also PIPE HALL.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 8/10/1912 - Advert

“General Wanted; good reference required.

Apply, Mrs. Matthews, SPREAD EAGLE, Lichfield Street, Bilston.”

**GENERAL Wanted: good reference required.
—Apply, Mrs. Matthews, Spread Eagle,
Lichfield-st., Bilston.**

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/2/1916

“The first round of the Birmingham and District Licensed Victuallers’ Handicap was resumed yesterday at the Royal Exchange, Dale End, Birmingham. In the afternoon *H. Matthews*, SPREAD EAGLE, Bilston (scratch), beat *G. Carridine*, Clarendon Hotel, Temple Row (rec.210), by 112 pts. *Matthews* played a capital game, but *Carridine*, who has been out of touch with the game, did very little. *Matthews* caught and passed his opponent at 278. The break, the highest so far in the handicap, realised 56, and ended at 320. His other best breaks were 22 (twice), 23, 21 and 20. Scores, *Matthews*, 400; *Carridine*, 288.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/3/1916

“There were two notable breaks yesterday afternoon in the third round heat of the local Licensed Victuallers’ Handicap at the Royal Exchange, Dale End, Birmingham. *E. Bartlett*, the Bell, King Street, Aston, off the 225 mark, made a 46 break, which is a long way the best handicap break so far, and *Harry Matthews*, SPREAD EAGLE, Bilston, the veteran scratch player, who was beaten by *Bartlett* by 23 points, made the highest break of the handicap so far, 64. He played a fine uphill game.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/5/1919

“Trade Billiards. The second round of the Birmingham and District Licensed Victuallers’ Handicap was entered upon yesterday at the Hope and Anchor Hotel, Edmund Street. In the afternoon *H. Matthews*, SPREAD EAGLE HOTEL, Bilston (rec.10), played remarkably well against *H. Higgs*, White Swan, Sherlock Street (rec.220), winning by 400 to 375. *Matthews* gauged the strength beautifully from the outset, and always appeared to have the game in hand. Among his most attractive breaks were 36, 26 (twice), 24 and 21.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/5/1919

“Trade Billiards. Backmarkers put out in the semi-finals.....

In the afternoon *E. J. Peedle*, Old College Inn, Springfield, Birmingham (rec.245), beat *W. H. Mathews*, SPREAD EAGLE, Bilston (rec.10), by 400 to 214. The handicap proved too much for the backmarker, though he put on breaks of 32 and 28. He was not consistent enough, however, to overcome *Peedle*, who, while not making any break of note, was steady and enjoyed most of the luck in the run of the balls.”

Harry William Matthews sponsored Bilston United FC. [1920]

1921 Census

5, Lichfield Street – SPREAD EAGLE

- [1] *Harry William Matthews* (67), widower, licensed victualler, born Pattingham;
- [2] *Florence Annie Jeavons* (22), married, barmaid, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *Gertrude Murray* (22), widow, general servant, born Ettingshall;
- [4] *Constance Price* (15), visitor, born Bilston:

South Staffordshire Times 21/7/1923

“The annual meeting of the shareholders of Bilston United Football Club Ltd. was held at the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Bilston, on Tuesday evening, and there was a large attendance, under the presidency of Councillor T. R. Wood.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/4/1939

“The County Licensing Confirmation Committee for Staffordshire, at their meeting at Stafford yesterday.....

The following applications were granted.....

Percy Holdsworth, removal of the full license of the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Lichfield Street, Bilston, to premises proposed to be erected on the existing site and partly on land adjoining at the rear of the Midland Bank.”

1939 Register

Lichfield Street – SPREAD EAGLE

- [1] *Elsie (Ramsden) Cornforth*, date of birth 22/9/1899, licensee, manageress, single;
- [2] *John Ramsden*, dob 2/2/1910, steel melting shop clerk, married;
- [3] *Gwendoline Ramsden*, dob 22/9/1906, unpaid domestic duties, single;
- [5] *Kathleen (Hyde) Dawes*, dob 8/1/1918, bar general, single:

Plans for alterations were approved in February 1957.

Birmingham Daily Post 7/6/1957

“Drawing the first pint of beer after formally opening the rebuilt SPREAD EAGLE HOTEL, Bilston, last night, the Mayor of Bilston, Coun. E. Beards, handed it to Mr. Tom Webster, the famous cartoonist, who proceeded to toast ‘the revived pub.’ Mr. Webster was born at Bilston 65 years ago and the new lounge of the hotel is named after him. The last time he went to Bilston was to open the town flower show on 1921. Prominent among the contemporary furnishings is an original drawing of his famous racehorse Tishy, which always contrived to cross its legs. In the 1920s, Tishy was a national joke – it came home a comfortable winner even over Webster’s renowned ‘Chelsea director.’ Tom Webster was a railway booking clerk who became a cartoonist after winning competitions in local papers.”

Jean Skitt was married to Les.

See also BRITISH OAK, Salop Street, Dudley.

It closed in 1995.

It reopened in November 1996, after a £30,000 refurbishment.

Graham Watkins was married to Jan.

The Newly Refurbished SPREAD EAGLE New Carvery was reopened on 29th April 2005.

Express & Star 18/9/2007

“Two Black Country pubs have been rapped after complaints by neighbours about noise and yob behaviour. Bosses of the GOLDEN LION and SPREAD EAGLE in Bilston are being summoned before council chiefs and could face sanctions on their licence 23 complaints have been made against the SPREAD EAGLE on Lichfield Street, Bilston, since January last year.”

The building to the right of the pub was incorporated into the pub. [2007]

It closed on 16th May 2011.

The right hand part of the pub became LILLY MALONES. [2011]

It was renamed MALONES. [2012]

Express and Star 15/1/2016

“A bar has had its license revoked after CCTV footage revealed how staff did not respond to the brutal assault of a man inside the premises. MALONES BAR in Bilston, which had its license suspended following the incident on November 7th last year, was unable to convince council officials that the premises should keep its license in the meeting.

CCTV footage, which was provided by PC Mitch Harvey of the West Midlands Police licensing department, showed a young man being punched once in the face and hitting his head on the end of the bar as he fell to the floor....”

[There was also evidence of smoking being allowed inside, and drug taking.]

Express & Star 10/1/2022

“A once-popular pub near Wolverhampton that has been closed for more than ten years looks set to reopen after being purchased by a new owner. The SPREAD EAGLE in Lichfield Street, Bilston, closed suddenly in 2011 and has remained boarded up since. New owner Vijay Kumar has now applied to Wolverhampton Council for planning permission to build a new function room at the rear of the pub.

A report by Paul Simkin of Wolverhampton-based Thorne Architecture, sent alongside the application, said, ‘The existing pub has been derelict for years and has fallen into disrepair. Our client has recently purchased the premises and is currently undertaking renovation works. As the layout of the existing pub is cramped and has had a variety of small rear extensions over the years to provide additional room, these are not now adequate and are in a poor state of repair. The proposals are to demolish the existing rear extensions and incorporate the area in a new flat-roofed extension, providing kitchen and toilet facilities together with an additional restaurant and function room. There will also be a small rear deck area. Car parking facilities will remain unchanged. Also, the building extensions will use material to match the existing building and have no impact on neighbouring properties. The extensions will be lower than the height of the existing building and will have no detrimental impact on the surrounding area.’

When it finally closed in 2011, the pub was thought to have been struggling financially.”

Express & Star 9/6/2022

“A once-popular pub near Wolverhampton that has been closed for more than a decade is to be extended and converted into five new flats. The SPREAD EAGLE in Lichfield Street, Bilston, closed suddenly in 2011 and has remained boarded up since. New owner Vijay Kumar had initially planned to build a function room at the rear of the pub with a view to reopening, and was granted permission in February. However, a new application to develop the building into five two-bedroom apartments with a new rear boundary wall and gates was submitted this week.

A report by Paul Simkin of Wolverhampton-based Thorne Architecture, sent alongside the earlier application, said, ‘The existing pub has been derelict for years and has fallen into disrepair. Our client has recently purchased the premises and is currently undertaking renovation works. As the layout of the existing pub is cramped and has had a variety of small rear extensions over the years to provide additional room, these are not now adequate and are in a poor state of repair. The proposals are to demolish the existing rear extensions and incorporate the area in a new flat-roofed extension. Car parking facilities will remain unchanged. Also the building extensions will use materials to match the existing structure and have no impact on neighbouring properties.’

When it finally closed in 2011, the pub was thought to have been struggling financially. Planning chiefs will make a decision on the application in the near future.”

[Planning permission was granted.]

LECTURES ON STEAM ENGINES.

MIL. N. WEBSTER will commence a Course of Three Lectures on the Rise and Progressive Improvement of the Steam Engine, at the Spread Eagle, BILSTON, THIS PRESENT MONDAY EVENING, May 10, at half past seven o'clock. Second Lecture To-morrow (Tuesday) Evening; and the Third on Wednesday. Three transferable tickets, 7s. 6d. may be had of Mr. Bassford, Bookseller. Single admission, 3s.

The above Course will likewise commence at the Talbot Inn, STOURBRIDGE, on Thursday the 13th, Second Lecture on Friday the 14th, and the Third on Saturday the 15th instant, at half past seven o'clock.—Tickets may be had of Mr. Henning, Bookseller.

Mr. W.'s Course of Six Lectures on Mechanical Philosophy will commence at the Town Hall, KIDDERMINSTER, on Tuesday the 18th, at seven o'clock.

And at the George Inn, BEWDLEY, on the Subject of Steam Engines, on Wednesday the 26th instant, at seven o'clock.

1824

BILSTON NEW ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROSECUTION OF FELONS.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the next Annual Meeting of the Members of the Bilston New Association for the Prosecution of Felons will be held at the house of Mr. William Taylor, Spread Eagle Inn, Bilston, on Thursday next, the 4th day of May, at twelve o'clock at noon, for the purpose of auditing the accounts of the past year; when any person desirous of becoming a member of the said Association is requested to attend.

Dinner on the table at two o'clock precisely.
Bilston, May 1, 1826. JOHN MASON, Solicitor.

1826

PASTURE LAND.

TO be LET, and entered upon immediately, all those three Fields of excellent Pasture Land, called the LUNTS, most conveniently lying in the township of Bilston, and containing about nine acres.

For particulars apply (if by letter, post paid) to Mr. William Taylor, Spread Eagle Inn, or Mr. John Mason, Solicitor, Bilston.

1832

YOUNG MAN MISSING.

JOSIAH GRIFFITHS

LLEFT his residence in Bilston, on Saturday night last, the 7th instant, about half-past ten o'clock, and has not since been heard of.—He is about twenty years of age, of a pale complexion, dark brown hair, has an impediment in his speech, and is about five feet in height. When he left home he was dressed in a white haragon jacket, brown trousers, brown waistcoat, a white apron, a blue handkerchief round his neck, and a round blue cloth cap.

Any person who will restore him, or give any information respecting him, to Mr. WILLIAM TAYLOR, Spread Eagle Inn, Bilston, shall be handsomely rewarded for his trouble, and all expenses paid.

Bilston, May 10, 1836.

1836

MANOR OF STOW HEATH.

THE Cottagers within the Manor of Stow Heath, are required to pay their Rents and Arrears to the Lords' Bailiff—

At the Spread Eagle Inn, Bilston, on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, the 16th, 17th, and 19th days of November instant;

At the Swan Hotel, Wolverhampton, on Friday, the 20th day of November instant;

At the Neptune Inn, Willenhall, on Monday and Tuesday, the 23d and 24th days of November instant.

Between the hours of eleven and four o'clock.

Such persons as have already Grants or Leases of their Cottages for Lives or Years are desired to produce them.

Every tenant will be required to produce his last receipt.

By Order of his Grace the Duke of SUTHERLAND, and THOMAS WILLIAM GIFFARD, Esq. Lords of the Manor.
THOMAS GIBBONS,

Lords' Bailiff

Wolverhampton, November 7, 1840.

1840

FIRST-RATE SITUATION.

TO be LET, with immediate possession, that old established PUBLIC-HOUSE called "THE SPREAD EAGLE," situate in Lichfield-street, Bilston. The Stock, Fixtures, &c. to be taken at a valuation.

Apply to EDWARD CRESSWELL, Tipton Ironworks. Bilston, June 5, 1843.

NOTICE.

ALL persons having any claim against the estate of the late WILLIAM TAYLOR, of the Spread Eagle, Bilston, are requested to send their accounts to EDWARD CRESSWELL, of Tipton Ironworks, the executor, in order that the same may be discharged. All persons who stand indebted to the estate of the said William Taylor are requested immediately to pay the same to the said Edward Cresswell.

Bilston, June 5, 1843.

1843

SPREAD EAGLE INN, BILSTON.

TO PUBLICANS, &c.

TO be LET, with immediate possession, the above INN, situate in Lichfield-street, Bilston. The Stock and Fixtures to be taken at a valuation. A Lease may be had if required.

Apply to Mr. Edward Cresswell, Harborne House, near Birmingham, or to Mr. Danks, Auctioneer, Dudley.

1844

SPREAD EAGLE INN, BILSTON.

TO be LET (on lease if required), the above old established PUBLIC HOUSE.—Apply to Mr. EDWARD CRESSWELL, Harborne; or to Mr. MASON, solicitor, Bilston. Immediate possession may be had.

1845

**TO PUBLICANS, BROKERS, AND OTHERS.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY RICHARD CORBETT,**

*On the premises, by direction of the executor, on Tuesday
and Wednesday, the 2d and 3d days of September,
1845,*

THE whole of the neat and serviceable **HOUSE-
HOLD FURNITURE**, bedding, linen, glass,
china, and earthenware, about thirty very excellent iron
bound ale barrels, from thirty to five hundred gallons
each, stock of prime old ale and spirituous liquors, two
large copper furnaces, wort vats, mashing, cooler, work-
ing, and other tubs, a capital four-pull beer machine, the
neat public house fixtures, and other miscellaneous prop-
erty and effects, of the late Mrs. Taylor, Spread Eagle
Inn, Lichfield-street, Bilston, deceased.

Catalogues will be distributed, and may be obtained
seven days preceding the sale, by applying on the pre-
mises, or at the offices of the Auctioneer, New Town,
Bilston.

 The sale to commence each day at ten a.m. and
two p.m.

1845

**TO FORGEMEN.—WANTED, a HAMMER
MAN**, for a new Work; must be capable of Forging Heavy and
Light Uses. A steady good Workman will have good wages and con-
stant employment; none others need apply.—Application to be made
at Mr. George Hyde's, Spread Eagle Inn, Bilston, on Thursday or
Saturday night next, between Six and Eight o'clock.

1856

NOTICE TO FILE SMITHS.—At a Meeting
held at Mr. Stokes's the Cock Inn, on Monday, the 2nd day
of April, amongst the File Smiths of Wolverhampton, and the sur-
rounding districts, it was unanimously agreed to have a MEETING
on Monday, the 9th of April, at the SPREAD EAGLE, BILSTON,
at Five o'clock in the evening, when all File Smiths are requested
to attend.

1866

NOTICE is hereby given that the **LOYAL
LODGE OF GOOD FELLOWS, No. 4**
Society, or lodge No. 4 of Loyal Good Fellows,
Register No. 45, held at the Spread Eagle, Bilston,
in the County of Stafford, is Dissolved by Instrument,
registered at this Office, the 29th day of January,
1887, unless within three months from the date of
the Gazette in which this advertisement appears,
proceedings be commenced by a member or other
person interested in or having any claim on the
funds of the Society to set aside such dissolution, and
the same be set aside accordingly.

J. M. LUDLOW,
Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.

28, Abingdon-street, Westminster,
The 29th day of January, 1887.

1887

**WEDNESDAY NEXT, July 12.—Important Sale of Valuable
FREEHOLD FULL-LICENSED INN, Bilston.**

J. MORRELL & SONS are favoured with instruc-
tions to submit for Sale by Public Auction, at the Spread
Eagle Inn, Lichfield Street, Bilston, on **WEDNESDAY NEXT, July
12**, at Six for Seven in the evening, subject to conditions which
will incorporate the common form conditions of the Wolverhampton
Law Society—the following Valuable **FREEHOLD PROPERTY**,
viz.: All that substantially-erected Old-established and Well-
accustomed **FULL-LICENSED INN**, called the "**SPREAD
EAGLE**," situate in Lichfield Street, Bilston, together with early
Possession and the Goodwill thereof.

The Premises known as the Spread Eagle are conveniently
arranged, and well adapted for carrying on a large business, and
have always commanded an excellent trade.

The Property has a frontage of 34ft. 6in. to Lichfield Street, with
ample accommodation. The Premises comprise large Front
Parlour (26ft. by 13ft. 9in.), Tap Room, large Bar, Back Parlour
(19ft. 9in. by 10ft. 9in.), Pantry, Cooking Kitchen, four Bed Rooms,
Brewhouse (32ft. by 11ft. 6in.), Malt Room, Hop Room, Store, Car-
shed, Stable, extensive arched Cellaring, and large Yard, having a
gateway entrance from Bow Street.

This Property, which has been in the occupation of the Hyde
family for many years, and is now in the occupation of Mr. Richard
Hyde, is situate in an excellent business position in the centre of
the town, opposite the Town Hall, near to the Tramway Terminus,
and presents an unusually good opportunity for anyone requiring a
good genuine House.

For further particulars and plans, apply to Mr. J. D. Wassell,
Solicitor, Bilston; or to the Auctioneers, Swan Bank, Bilston.

1893



**THE NEWLY REFURBISHED
SPREAD EAGLE
NEW CARVERY**

**Re-opening
Friday 29th April 7pm
as the
New Spread Eagle Carvery**

*Come and have a look around.
Serving starts on Saturday*

Bookings are now being taken.

Monday til Wednesday £3.95 per head
Thursday til Sunday £4.95 per head
Children always £2.50 per head
offers include Sunday lunch

Offering food at good prices
 This is the best thing to happen to Bilston for a long time!
 All fresh vegetables, all fresh meat,
 no pre-packet foods

Lichfield Street, Bilston
01902 496183

2005

SQUARE AND COMPASSES

Oxford Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Edward Lloyd [1857]

NOTES

Edward Lloyd was also a carpenter.

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/5/1857

“Edward Lloyd, beerhouse keeper, Bilston, was fined 10s and costs, for keeping his house open during prohibited hours on Sunday.”

Edward Lloyd gave evidence in court concerning the death of Elizabeth Hopley.

Philip Clare was charged with her murder, and acquitted. He had been drinking in the SQUARE AND COMPASSES on the night of her death.

[For something on the murder see under SWAN, Twenty House Row, Bradley.]

SQUIRREL

Moorcroft, (10, Fire Holes), (Fiery Holes), (Lower) Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Samuel Carline [1859] – **1860**;
Samuel Whitmore (**1860** – [1861]
Thomas Wearing [1864] – [1865]
Henry Piggott [1866] – [1871]

NOTES

Samuel Carline = Samuel Carlyle

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/8/1859

“The annual meeting of Magistrates for the purpose of the renewal and granting of licenses for the township of Bilston and the neighbourhood was held at the Bilston Police Court on Friday last.....

The following publicans having been fined during the past year their licenses were suspended until the adjourned licensing day.....

Samuel Carline, SQUIRREL, Five [sic] Holes, Bradley.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/9/1860

“Bilston Annual Licensing Day.....

Of the licenses previously granted, the bench refused to renew that of *Samuel Carlyle*, of the SQUIRREL INN, who had been three times convicted of offences during the last year, and twice the year before.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1860

“The annual meeting for the renewal of spirit licenses, and also for hearing fresh applications for the same, was held at the Bilston Police Court on Friday last.....

There were altogether 215 applications for renewals, of which number thirty-four of the applicants have been fined during the past year for offences against their licenses. Out of these thirty-four the Magistrates withdrew the license from the SQUIRREL, at the Fiery Holes, kept by *Samuel Carline*.”

1861 Census

10, Fire Holes – SQUIRREL INN

[1] *Samuel Whitmore* (31), engine fitter, born Bilston;

[2] *Eliza Whitmore* (31), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Thomas Whitmore* (4), son, born Bilston;

[4] *George Shaw* (20), apprentice engine fitter, born Madeley, Shropshire;

[5] *Jane Williams* (15), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Thomas Wearing = Thomas Wareing = Thomas Waring

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/9/1864

“Yesterday the magistrates sat in Special Sessions, for the consideration of the applications for the renewal of old and the granting of new licenses to victuallers.....

The following houses and their landlords had been complained against and fined during the year.....

T. Wearing, SQUIRREL, Fireholes.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 28/1/1865

"At *T. Waring's*, the SQUIRREL INN, Bradley, near Bilston, on Monday, February 6, a first class pigeon gun (maker Mr. B. Thursfield of Birmingham) will be shot for by 12 members, at 10s each. Conditions: 3 sparrows each, 1½oz of shot, guns not to exceed ¾ bore. Shooting to commence at twelve o'clock."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 18/3/1865

"To be shot for on Monday, March 20, at *T. Wearing's*, the SQUIRREL INN, Bradley, near Bilston, two pigs, value £7, by 14 members, at 10s each, 3 pigeons each, on the usual shooting conditions; can have either pigs or money; first bird to be trapped at twelve o'clock. J. Hartill will supply the best blue rocks."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 22/4/1865

"J. Myatt of Bradley will shoot J. Bumford of the VICTORIA INN, Bottmans Hill, Bradley, at 9 sparrows each, with 1½oz of shot, 60 yards boundary, from £5 to £10 a side, at the SQUIRREL INN, Bradley. Money ready any night this week."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/5/1865

"Yesterday the following cases were heard and disposed of before I. Spooner, Esq, Stipendiary Magistrate.....
Thomas Waring, landlord of the SQUIRREL public house, Bilston, was convicted of permitting cock-fighting in his house on the 22nd instant, and was ordered to pay a penalty of £5 and costs.
A warrant was granted for the apprehension of a man named Charles Hollis, a tailor, who had also been summoned in connection with the same affair, but did not appear."

Birmingham Daily Post 26/8/1865

"Annual Licensing Meeting for the Bilston Division.....
The 'black list' handed in by the police contained the names of fourteen publicans who had been fined for offences against their license.....
Thomas Wareing, of the SQUIRREL, Fairy Holes, Bilston, who had been fined three times during the year."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 7/10/1865

"Bilston Adjourned Licensing Meeting.....
The following, whose names had been placed on the 'black list,' had their licenses renewed.....
The following were refused.....
Thomas Wearing, SQUIRREL, Fiery Holes."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/1/1866 - Advert

"The well-known Public House, the SQUIRREL INN, to be Let, situated at Bradley, near Bilston. Rental £12 12s. In-coming low."

THE well-known PUBLIC-HOUSE, the "SQUIRREL INN," to be LET, situated at Bradley, near Bilston. Rental £12. 12s. In-coming low.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1866

"The annual meeting for the renewal of existing licenses, and for receiving applications for fresh ones, was held at the Police Court on Friday.....
An application was made by Mr. Young on behalf of *Henry Pigott*, of the SQUIRREL INN, Fiery Holes, Bradley. Mr Young said the house had been in possession of a spirit license, but it had been suspended from the former tenant, and the applicant, who was the present occupier, wished it renewed. It was not granted."

1871 Census

Moorcroft

- [1] *Henry Piggett* (36), coal miner and publican, born Hilton, Staffordshire;
- [2] *Amelia Piggett* (36), wife, born Stanley, Shropshire;
- [3] *William H. Piggett* (6), son, scholar, born Aberley, Staffordshire:

STAG

5, (13), (1), (2), Crown Street / Parliament Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

William Pratt, grocer, Bilston
John Tart, grocer, Bilston
William Butler and Co. Ltd.

LICENSEES

Edward Clarke [1856] – [1861]
James Busby [1871] – **1874**
Mary Crump [1873] – **1875**;
Mrs. Elizabeth Busby (**1875 – 1878**);
Miss Annie Tilley (**1878 – 1882**);
William Morris (**1882 – 1883**);
Alfred Brown (**1883 – 1886**);
James Harrison (**1886 – 1887**);
George Lavender (**1887 – 1888**);
William Spate (**1888 – 1890**);
Albert Arthur Haycock (**1890 – 1891**);
Thomas Hunt (**1891 – 1892**);
William King (**1892 – 1894**);
Eugenie Ann Satterthwaite (**1894 – 1895**);
William Morris (**1895 – 1907**);
Mary Ann Elizabeth Morris (**1907 – 1910**);

NOTES

2, Crown Street [1861]
1, Crown Street [1881]
13, Crown Street [1891]
5, Crown Street [1901]

ROEBUCK [1861]

It had a beerhouse license.

VALUABLE PREMISES, FRONTING CROWN STREET,
CORNER OF PARLIAMENT STREET,
NEAR THE MARKET PLACE, BILSTON.
TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by Messrs. WALKER
and LLOYD, on Monday, the 22nd day of September, 1856, at
the house of Mr. Hollingsworth, called the RED LION INN,
BILSTON, at six o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions,
the following valuable PROPERTY, in one lot, namely, the STAG
PUBLIC HOUSE, fronting Crown-street, now in the occupation of
Mr. Edward Clark, consisting of a large kitchen, parlour, bar, tap
room, four bed rooms, club room, two closets, and two cellars; also
two brewhouses, stable, yard, and appurtenances; and also the
extensive WAREHOUSES adjoining formerly a Malthouse, with
the stable, yard, and appurtenances belonging thereto, extending to
Parliament-street, in the occupation of Mr. William Pratt, Pro-
vision Dealer. The whole of the property contains, with the site of
the buildings, 650 square yards of land or thereabouts. It has
valuable and extensive frontages to Crown-street, Parliament-street,
and a road or street at the back.
The Property is Copyhold of the Inheritance of the Manor of
Stowheath.
Further information may be obtained of Messrs. DEAKIN and
DENT, Attorneys-at-law, or the AUCTIONEERS, all of Wolver-
hampton.

1856

Edward Clarke = Edward Clark

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/9/1856 - Advert

“Valuable Premise, fronting Crown Street, corner of Parliament Street, near the Market Place, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Walker and Lloyd, on Monday, the 22nd day of September, 1856, at the house of Mr. Hollingsworth, called the RED LION INN, Bilston, at six o’clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions, the following Property, in one lot.

The STAG Public House, fronting Crown Street, now in the occupation of Mr. *Edward Clark*, consisting of a large kitchen, parlour, bar, tap room, four bed rooms, club room, two closets, and two cellars; also two brewhouses, stable, yard, and appurtenances; and also the extensive Warehouses adjoining (formerly a Malthouse), with the stable yard, and appurtenances belonging thereto, extending to Parliament Street, in the occupation of Mr. William Pratt, Provision Dealer. The whole of the property contains, with the site of the buildings, 650 square yards of land or thereabouts. It has valuable and extensive frontages to Crown Street, Parliament Street, and a road or street at the back.

The Property is Copyhold of the Inheritance of the Manor of Stowheath.

Further information may be obtained of Messrs. Deakin and Dent, Attorneys-at-law; or the Auctioneers, all of Wolverhampton.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 7/12/1856

“S. Wedge informs Haywood that he will run him 440 yards, provided he will give him five yards start; or he will run Hoskess of Carr Lane 200 yards level; or if Warner is not satisfied with his defeat, he will give him three yards in 300, or two yards in 440. Either of these matches, for £10 a side, can be made any night next week, at Mr. *Clarke*’s STAG INN, Crown Row, Bilston.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 5/7/1857

“Alfred Badger of Wolverhampton and John Adams of Bilston have signed articles to run 160 yards, for £10 a side, to come off on the 14th inst, at the Pleck, near Walsall, Adams to find stakes and Badger ropes. To go by mutual consent. If no start in 15 minutes, then to go by report of pistol. A deposit of £2 10s a side to be made tomorrow night to the stakeholder, Mr. *Clark*, STAG INN, Crown Street, Bilston, and the final deposit of £5 a side to be made next Wednesday evening, between eight and ten, at Mr. Miner’s (the referee appointed), the BLUE PIG, Monmare Green, Wolverhampton.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 17/4/1859

“The whole of the money between Williams of Greatbridge and Adams of Bilston was made good at Mr. Edwin [sic] *Clark*’s STAG INN, Bilston, on Tuesday last. The race is to take place at Shelford Common, near Walsall, on Monday next; the men to be at scratch by three o’clock; to start by mutual consent in 20 minutes; if no start is effected, to start by first pull of handkerchief; the race is 350 yards, for £15 a side, a first-rate race is anticipated, as each is reported to be in excellent condition.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 15/1/1860

“S. Holliss of Carr Lane, near Bilston, will run Johnstone (alias Shaver) of Wednesbury, or the Navvy, or D. Hoskiss (all of Wednesbury) six score yards, for £5 or £10 a side, or will take four yards in 120 of Lloyd of Hill Top, or will run Camlett of Darlaston or Fred Wright of Sedgley five or six score yards, for £5 or £10 a side. Either of the matches can be made any night next week, at *E. Clarke*’s, STAG INN, Crown Street, Bilston.”

1861 Census

2, Crown Street – ROEBUCK INN and Tailors Club House

- [1] *Edward Clarke* (41), retail brewer, born Bridgnorth;
- [2] *Caroline Clarke* (40), wife, born Bridgnorth;
- [3] *William Clarke* (11), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] *Caroline Clarke* (4), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] *Eliza Hallam* (17), general servant, born Bilston;
- [6] *William Jones* (54), lodger, tailor, born Glamorganshire;
- [7] *Joshua Jones* (22), lodger, tailor, born North Wales;
- [8] *Evan Evans* (21), lodger, tailor, born North Wales;
- [9] *Henry Binion* (43), lodger, tailor, born Shrewsbury;
- [10] *Robert Jones* (21), lodger, tailor, born Wellington, Shropshire;
- [11] *James Steward* (18), lodger, tailor, born Glasgow;
- [12] *Enoch Williams* (33), lodger, tailor, born Liverpool;
- [13] *Margaret Williams* (30), wife, born Liverpool;
- [14] *Maria Williams* (10), daughter, born Liverpool;
- [15] *Enoch Lavender* (47), lodger, widower, blacksmith, born Bilston;
- [16] *Emanuel Lavender* (14), son, born Bilston;
- [17] *George Cottage* (40), lodger, agricultural labourer, born Bilston;
- [18] *Joseph Maddox* (45), lodger, blacksmith, born Bilston;
- [19] *Jeremiah Wiggin* (59), lodger, tailor, born Kingswinford;

1871 Census

Crown Street – STAG INN

- [1] *James Busby* (38), sheet iron roller, born Bilston;
- [2] *Elizabeth Busby* (49), wife, born Broseley, Shropshire;

Birmingham Daily Post 23/12/1874

“Mr. *James Busby*, landlord of the STAG INN, Crown Street, Bilston, died suddenly on Sunday morning, between seven and eight o’clock. Deceased was in his usual health on the previous night, and retired to bed about half past eleven.”

1881 Census

1, Crown Street – STAG

- [1] *Annie Tilley* (25), unmarried, publican, born Much Wenlock;
- [2] *Elizabeth Busby* (61), aunt, widow, born Broseley, Shropshire;
- [3] *Emily Lloyd* (16), general servant, born Bilston;

Elizabeth Busby died in the 2nd quarter of 1882.

Darlaston Weekly Times 17/4/1886

“Grand Independent Order of Loyal Caledonian Corks.

On Tuesday, upwards of 100 officers and brothers attended at the STAG INN, Crown Street (Brother *Brown*’s) and walked in procession to the GLOBE HOTEL (Brother *Clark*’s), to open a Branch Lodge of the above Order, the officiating members being the officers of 384 Lodge held at Brother *Brown*’s. After the initiation of a good number of new members, Brother J. Stokes presided at the piano, and songs were given.....”

1891 Census

13, Crown Street

- [1] *Thomas Hunt* (24), beerhouse keeper, born Bilston;
- [2] *Sarah J. Hunt* (26), wife, born Bilston;

1901 Census

5, Crown Street

- [1] *William Morris* (47), publican, born Bilston;
- [2] *Mary A. E. Morris* (45), wife, born Much Wenlock;
- [3] *Annie Morris* (17), daughter, pawnbroker's assistant, born Bilston;
- [4] *William C. Morris* (13), son, born Bilston;
- [5] *Leonard Morris* (10), son, born Bilston:

William Morris, beer retailer, Crown Street. [1904]

William Morris – see also BARREL VAULTS.

The license was surrendered in 1910, on the granting of an off beer license in Green Lanes, Bilston.

It closed on 2nd May 1910.

STAR

31, (15), Church Street, (15, Lichfield Street), Swan Bank, BILSTON

OWNERS

William Blakemore
Sarah Blakemore
Richard Andrew Harper, brewer, Bilston
R. A. Harper Ltd., Hall Park Brewery, Bilston
Eley's Stafford Brewery Ltd.
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1946]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.
Bass, Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Thomas Jackson [1844]
John Conway [1858]
Peter Rudge [1861]
John Whittaker [1862]
Augustus Weatherstone [1865]
William Blakemore [1868] – **1879**;
Mrs. Sarah Blakemore **(1879 – 1893)**;
Major George Cox **(1893 – 1896)**;
Mrs. Jane Fletcher **(1896 – 1899)**;
William Whitfield **(1899)**;
Sarah Ann (Whitfield) Deakin **(1899 – 1910)**;
William Harper **(1910 – 1926)**;
William Sydney Hyde **(1926 – 1936)**;
Alfred James Draisey **(1936 – [1959])**

NOTES

15, Church Street [1858], [1861], [1862], [1868], [1881]
15, Lichfield Street [1865], [1871]
Lichfield Street [1885], [1903]
31, Church Street [1901], [1908], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1921], [1932], [1939], [1940]

STAR VAULTS [1912], [1916], [1921], [1932], [1940], [1946], [1967]

It had a beerhouse license.

TO DRAPERS, GROCERS, IRONMONGERS,
AND OTHERS.
Desirable Business Situation, in Church-street, Bilston.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY MR. RICHARD CORBETT,
At the King's Arms inn, Bilston, on a day to be named
in our next paper.
ALL that eligible and desirable MESSUAGE,
TENEMENT, or DWELLING-HOUSE, with
the brewhouse, spacious yard, and other appurtenances.
situate in Church-street, Bilston, near to St. Leonard's
church gates, and known as the STAR INN, and now oc-
cupied by Mr. Thomas Jackson.
And also the small MESSUAGE adjoining thereto,
and now used as a Pork-shop.
The above premises possess peculiar advantages, and
may, at a little expense, be made into one. The
situation is one of the best for business in the town,
and would always command tenants.
And also the Two several MESSUAGES at the upper
end of the yard, at the back of the said messuages, and
fronting Walsall-street, in Bilston aforesaid.
The above property is Copyhold of the Manor of Stow
Heath, and will be sold in one or more lots, to suit the
convenience of purchasers.
For further particulars apply to Mr. RICHARD LAW,
Bilston, Messrs. PHILLIPS and BOLTON, solicitors, Wol-
verhampton, or the AUCTIONEER, Bilston.

1844



1975

Wolverhampton Chronicle 8/5/1844 - Advert

“To Drapers, Grocers, Ironmongers, and Others.

Desirable Business Situation, in Church Street, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Richard Corbett, at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, on a day to be named in our next paper.

All that eligible and desirable Messuage, Tenement, or Dwelling House, with the brewhouse, spacious yard, and other appurtenances, situate in Church Street, Bilston, near to St. Leonard's church gates, and known as the STAR INN, and now occupied by Mr. *Thomas Jackson*.

And also the small Messuage adjoining thereto, and now used as a Pork-shop.

The above premises possess peculiar advantages, and may at a little expense, be made into one. The situation is one of the best for business in the town, and would always command tenants.

And also the Two several Messuages at the upper end of the yard, at the back of the said messuages, and fronting Walsall Street, in Bilston aforesaid.

The above property is Copyhold of the Manor of Stow Heath, and will be sold in one or more lots, to suit the convenience of purchasers.

For further particulars apply to Mr. Richard Law, Bilston, Messrs. Phillips and Bolton, solicitors, Wolverhampton, or the Auctioneer, Bilston.”

John Conway, beerhouse keeper, 15, Church Street. [1858]

1861 Census

15, Church Street – LAMB [sic]

- [1] *Peter Rudge* (32), beer seller, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Mary Rudge* (35), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Samuel Rudge* (13), son, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [4] *Peter Rudge* (10), son, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [5] *John Rudge* (6), son, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [6] *Mary J. A. Rudge* (4), daughter, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [7] *Alfred Rudge* (1), son, born Bilston;
- [8] *Jane Rudge* (11), daughter, nurse, born Sedgley;
- [9] *Nancy Parker* (52), married, house servant, born Shropshire:

John Whittaker, retailer of beer, 15, Church Street. [1862]

Augustus Weatherstone, beer retailer, 15, Lichfield Street. [1865]

William Blakemore, beer retailer, 15, Church Street. [1868]

1871 Census

15, Lichfield Street – STAR

- [1] *William Blakemore* (64), innkeeper, born Whiston, Staffordshire;
- [2] *Sarah Blakemore* (48), wife, born Macclesfield;
- [3] *Joseph Blakemore* (23), son, born Whiston, Staffordshire;
- [4] *Ann Blakemore* (19), daughter, born Whiston, Staffordshire;
- [5] *William Blakemore* (17), son, waggoner, born Whiston, Staffordshire;
- [6] *Richard Blakemore* (15), son, currier, born Whiston, Staffordshire;
- [7] *Emma Blakemore* (12), daughter, scholar, born Whiston, Staffordshire;
- [8] *Mary Blakemore* (11), daughter, scholar, born Whiston, Staffordshire;
- [9] *Henry Blakemore* (8), son, scholar, born Whiston, Staffordshire;
- [10] *Edwin Blakemore* (6), son, scholar, born Whiston, Staffordshire:

William Blakemore died in 1879.

1881 Census

15, Church Street – STAR

[1] Sarah Blakemore (57), widow, publican, born Macclesfield;

[2] Ann Blakemore (29), daughter, born Wiston, Staffordshire;

[3] Henry Blakemore (18), son, clerk in iron works, born Wiston, Staffordshire;

[4] Edward Blakemore (16), son, waiter, public house, born Wiston, Staffordshire:

Darlaston Weekly Times 29/3/1884

“Thomas Ross, Moxley, charged by Sergeant Connolly with drunkenness in the STAR INN, Swan Bank, Bilston, on the night of the 15th instant, was fined 2s 6d and costs.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 16/10/1885

“On Thursday evening, a young man, named William Blakemore, a private in the 38th Regiment, whose mother keeps the STAR INN, Lichfield Street, Bilston, attempted to commit suicide by cutting his throat with a razor. Shortly after tea he went upstairs, and in the course of a few minutes was found in an exhausted condition and blood flowing from a wound in his throat. As quickly as possible he was conveyed to the Wolverhampton Hospital, where, owing to his violent conduct, it was found necessary that a constable should remain with him. Blakemore had only returned to see his mother on Saturday, after going through the Soudan war, where he received wounds on the head and wrist. The attempt to destroy his life is attributed to his taking an excessive quantity of spirits, which affected his brain. Upon inquiries made at the Hospital this morning we learnt that Blakemore was progressing favourably.”

1891 Census

Church Street

[1] Sarah Blakemore (67), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Macclesfield;

[2] Ann Blakemore (40), daughter, born Whiston, Staffordshire;

[3] William Blakemore (38), son, married, paviour, born Whiston, Staffordshire;

[4] Henry Blakemore (28), son, single, draughtsman, born Whiston, Staffordshire;

[5] Edwin Blakemore (26), son, married, brewer, born Whiston, Staffordshire:

County Advertiser 9/7/1892 - Advert

“Bilston. To Brewers, Investors, Innkeepers, and Others.

Sale of a Most Important Centrally Situated Freehold Retail Tavern, the STAR INN, Church Street, Bilston.

Mr. Herbert Humphries begs to announce instructions from Mrs. *Sarah Blakemore*, who is retiring from Business, to Sell by Auction, at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, on Monday, July 18th, 1892, at Seven o'clock in the Evening, subject to Conditions to be then read.

All that splendidly-situated, Double-fronted, and Old-established, Retail Tavern, the STAR INN, Church Street, Bilston, now in the occupation of the vendor, and having the most central position in the town, opposite the Town Hall, and at the junction of Church Street and Lichfield Street, and Swan Bank, with the extra advantages of the Starting Place of Two Lines of Trams and Buses. The Premises comprise Three Attics, Three Bed Chambers, Malt and Store Room, Bar Parlour, Bar, large Tap Room, Back Kitchen, Brewhouse, Cellaring, and extensive out-buildings, with large private and retire Yard, and Side Entrance. This lucrative Business House has been in the hands of the vendor for the past 25 years, the preceding tenant having retired with a competency. The trade is well established, and is of a most profitable character, full prices being obtained, and nothing less than Six Ale being sold. It is perfectly Free, has an imposing elevation, and situation, as previously mentioned, is the very best in the Town. Further particulars may be obtained from Mr. Wm. Waldron, Solicitor, or the Auctioneer, both of High Street, Brierley Hill.”

Birmingham Daily Post 1/7/1893 - Advert

“Free Beerhouse; country; rent £18; splendid garden; nice trade. In-going £60.

Apply, first instance, *Cox*, STAR, Bilston.”

FREE Beerhouse; country; rent £18; splendid garden; nice trade. In-going £60.—Apply, first instance, *Cox*, Star, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 3/7/1893 - Advert

“Free Out-door, Grocery and Tobacco; thickly populated; rent £20. In-going £40.

Apply, *Cox*, STAR, Bilston.”

FREE Out-door, Grocery and Tobacco; thickly populated; rent £20. In-going £40.—Apply. *Cox*, Star, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 28/9/1895

“The adjourned licensing sessions for the district were held at the Public Office, Bilston, yesterday.....

An application by Mr. *Major Cox* for a license to sell spirits to be granted to the STAR INN, Swanbank, Bilston, was refused, it being stated that there were three fully-licensed houses within a short distance.”

Major George Cox, beer retailer, 15, Church Street. [1896]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 27/9/1898

“The adjourned licensing sessions for the township of Bilston were held today (Tuesday).....

Mr. R. Tildesley appeared to support the application of Mrs. *Fletcher*, landlady of the STAR INN, Swan Bank, for a full license in lieu of her wine license. He said that the house was largely patronised by the tram passengers, and a spirit license was badly needed.

Mr. R. A. Willcock supported the application on behalf of the owners.

The Bench refused the application.”

William Whitfield died on 3rd May 1899.

Sarah Ann Whitfield married *Richard Deakin* on 6th December 1900.

1901 Census

31, Church Street

- [1] *Richard Deakin* (31), iron plate worker, born Bilston;
- [2] *Sarah Ann Deakin* (37), wife, licensed victualler, born Birmingham;
- [3] *William Whitfield* (14), step-son, born Aston, Warwickshire;
- [4] *Howard Whitfield* (13), step-son, born Nechells, Warwickshire;
- [5] *Harry Whitfield* (11), step-son, born Birmingham;
- [6] *Frank Whitfield* (8), step-son, born Aston, Warwickshire;
- [7] *Amy Beach* (20), housemaid, born Birmingham:

A full license was confirmed in 1903. Removed from the BLACK HORSE.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/2/1903

“At the Bilston Licensing Sessions yesterday.....

Sarah Ann Deakin, STAR INN, Lichfield Street, applied for a provisional order for the removal of the license of the BLACK HORSE INN, High Street, which is to be pulled down for town improvements. It was stated that the owner of the house was paying £500 towards the public improvement. The application was granted.”

1911 Census

31, Church Street – STAR INN

- [1] *William Harper* (37), publican, born Bilston;
- [2] *Hannah Harper* (37), wife, married 15 years, born Bilston;
- [3] *Richard Harper* (14), son, school, born Bilston;
- [4] *Edith Wright* (21), servant, born Bilston:

1921 Census

31, Church Street

- [1] *William Harper* (47), publican, born Bilston;
- [2] *Hannah Eliza Harper* (48), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Richard Lionel Harper* (24), son, tool maker and die sinker, out of work, born Bilston;
- [4] *William Jabez Harper* (10), son, school, born Bilston:

A music license was granted on 3rd February 1928.

Daily Mirror 9/6/1930

“£5 Claims for Child Mishaps. Aid for Parents who were Wise, and Signed.

When children are romping they constantly run the risk of broken limbs – and broken limbs mean doctor’s bills.

Today’s long list of accident cases in which compensation has been paid under our great free insurance scheme emphasises how necessary it is that all should register for benefits.

These claims have been admitted, on behalf of the *Daily Mirror*, by the Eagle, Star, and British Dominions Insurance Company.....

Mr. W. S. Hyde (child), STAR VAULTS, Bilston, Staffs (cycling, thrown from machine, broken arm).”

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.”

1939 Register

31, Church Street

[1] *Alfred J. Draisey*, date of birth 1/2/1891, licensed victualler and boot repairer, married;

[2] *Alice L. Draisey*, dob 13/4/1895, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Alfred R. Draisey*, dob 7/8/1920, sheet metal worker, machinist improver, single;

[4] *Sylvia J. (Draisey) Wilkes*, dob 12/3/1926, at school, single:

A team from here took part in the Butlers (Bilston) Darts League. [1946]

A team from here took part in the Bilston Crib League, Section A. [1946]

Bilston and Willenhall Times 22/6/1946

“Charges of receiving a quantity of cigarettes, knowing them to have been stolen, were preferred against *Alfred James Draisey*, licensee of the STAR VAULTS, Swan Bank, Bilston, and his wife, *Alice Draisey*, at Bilston on Tuesday, when they were committed for trial at Staffordshire Assizes.

Mr. E. E. Brown outlined the case for the prosecution, and said that *Draisey* was alleged to have purchased a quantity of cigarettes from a man named *Walter Kendrick*, 24, Hickman Road, Bilston. Kendrick and his brother, *Alfred*, of 12, St. Johns Road, Darlaston, were last week committed for trial on charges of stealing cigarettes from the premises of *Mrs. Griffiths*, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston, and *Mr. T. E. Pursehouse*, Oxford Street, Bilston.

Mr. Brown went on to say that on a Sunday in April, a customer was told by *Mr. Draisey* that he had no cigarettes, whereupon *Walter Kendrick*, who was in the bar, said, ‘Do you want to buy some?’ and *Draisey* said, ‘Have you got some?’ and Kendrick replied, ‘Yes, I have got some here for another customer. You can have them if you like and I’ll get some more.’ A parcel was handed over and when opened was found to contain two cartons each containing 500 cigarettes. *Draisey* checked up the price from a bill which he had in the bar and said, ‘£3 19s 2d is the price,’ but Kendrick said, ‘£3 15s 0d is all I want,’ and this was the price paid over.

On a later date, May 3rd, to be exact, said Mr. Brown, Kendrick again called at the STAR VAULTS and asked *Draisey* if he wanted some more cigarettes. Later he brought 2,000, and was told to take them into the kitchen, where *Mrs. Draisey* paid him.

Mr. Brown then read out a statement made to the police by *Mrs. Draisey*, in which she said she thought the man was in the cigarette business. He did not give any receipt for the money he received. She did not ask him who he was or anything. It was the first time since the beginning of the war that they had bought any cigarettes from anybody except their regular dealer.

Evidence was given by *Mrs. Griffiths* that her shop was broken into on the night of April 13th and cigarettes stolen, and *Mr. Pursehouse* said that on the night of May 1st 15,000 cigarettes were stolen from his lock-up shop.

Walter Kendrick was called to give evidence and said he went to *Draisey*’s public house on a Sunday morning with some cigarettes, which he had had from *Mrs. Griffiths*’s shop. After hearing a customer refused cigarettes he told *Draisey* that he had some cigarettes with him and he could have half. He eventually had the lot, and on looking at a price list, said, ‘They are £3 19s 2d.’ Witness said, ‘You can have them for £3 15s 0d,’ and *Draisey* paid him that amount. He did not remember *Draisey* asking him where he had had the cigarettes from. He had been to the public house on two occasions since with cigarettes. On one of them *Mrs. Draisey* paid him for the cigarettes and remarked,

'Do you want it keeping dark?' and he replied, 'Yes.' These cigarettes which he sold had been taken from Mr. Pursehouse's shop. He had not purchased any of the cigarettes which he had sold to *Draisey*.

Cross-examined by Mr. J. F. Bourke, for the defence, Kendrick said that when he was first approached by the police he denied stealing any cigarettes but after they found something at his house, he admitted the theft.

In answer to a further question he said he sold some cigarettes to a publican at Willenhall at something under retail price.

PS H. Willetts said that he interviewed Mrs. *Draisey* and after she had made a statement he told her it would appear that her husband had bought cigarettes that had been stolen and that it would have to be considered in that light.

Cross-examined by Mr. Bourke witness said that of the 16,000 cigarettes alleged to have been stolen by Kendrick, 4,500 only were accounted for in the charges against the *Draiseys*, and 3,000 which were sold at Willenhall.

Mr. Bourke submitted to the Bench that on the evidence offered he had no case to answer. The only evidence they had heard that incriminated the *Draiseys* was that of a thief.

After retiring the Bench said that they had considered Mr. Bourke's submission, but in their opinion there was a case to answer.

Accused, who pleaded guilty, reserved their defence, and were committed to the Assizes for trial."

Bilston and Willenhall Times 6/7/1946

"Arising out of transactions concerning the cigarettes which Kendrick admitted stealing, *Alfred James Draisey* (55).....

It was stated that Kendrick had given the impression that he was a tobacco dealer, and had the *Draiseys* known the cigarettes were stolen they would never have purchased them. Both the *Draiseys* had unblemished characters....."

[The charges against them were dismissed.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/7/1956

"Mrs. *A. J. Draisey*, wife of the licensee of the STAR VAULTS, Bilston, went 'all of a tremble' to Bilston Magistrates' Court yesterday. Escorting her was a lanky Jamaican wearing a wide Texan hat and an almost baby blue suit. His name, it took the court more than five minutes to discover, was Alan Samues, and he is the organiser of Bilson's first Jamaican dance to be held in the Town Hall Assembly Rooms.

Mrs. *Draisey* was applying for a license for drinks to be sold at the dance between 8 and 11pm. She sat anxious-faced and listened tensely while the superintendent of police and the magistrates tried to find out all about the proposed dance. It was fixed for Friday, July, 27. There would be a Jamaican band. But would only Jamaicans be admitted? Would there be a colour bar in reverse? At first this seemed likely, but when the superintendent asked, 'Could I come to your dance?' Mr. Samues' black face beamed with pleasure; 'Yes, sir,' he answered eagerly. 'You can come.' 'Can other white people?' continued the superintendent. 'Oh yes, they can come,' and the Jamaican looked round the court as if to discover how many others might be applying for tickets.

It took quite a while for Mr. Samues to understand what was meant by the no-admission-after-10 rule, and the need for supervisors at the entrances.

Several attempts were made to find out whether the dance was being held in aid of some charity or what was to happen to the profits. Mr. Samues did not know about charity, and he didn't seem to be expecting any profit. 'We just want to dance,' he explained patiently.

Mrs. *Draisey* sat with wrinkled brow and troubled eyes. 'You know the conditions attaching to this license?' she was asked. 'Oh, yes,' she exclaimed, and added, 'I would not have asked for it, sir, only they asked me to help them and they might think I was spiteful if I refused.'

The license was granted."

Birmingham Daily Post 6/3/1959

"Bilston police investigating a stabbing incident in the yard of a public house are trying to trace a man who they think can help in their enquiries. The man was seen running from the rear of the STAR VAULTS, in the town centre, as Mrs. Florence Maud James, aged 31, of Clinton Road, Bilston, was found in the yard with arm and leg stab wounds. She received treatment at the Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton, but was not detained.

Mrs. James was found by Mrs. *A. L. Draisey*, wife of the licensee, who heard a scream. She also found an open clasp-knife, which was handed to the police."

Letter to the Clerk to the Justices, Wolverhampton 18/12/1978

"STAR VAULTS, Lichfield Street, Bilston.

We write to advise you that the above fully licensed premises were acquired by Wolverhampton Municipal Borough Council in connection with road widening proposals, as a consequence of which sale of the premises to the Local Authority has now been completed.

The effective date of closure of the premises for trading was the 15th January 1978, and we now herewith surrender the current Justices License."

It became a shop.

TO BREWERS, INVESTORS, INNKEEPERS, and Others.

SALE of a MOST IMPORTANT CENTRALLY-SITUATED FREEHOLD RETAIL TAVERN, "THE STAR INN," CHURCH-STREET, BILSTON

MR. HERBERT HUMPHRIES begs to announce instructions from Mrs Sarah Blake-more, who is retiring from Business, to SELL by AUCTION, at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, BILSTON, on MONDAY, JULY 18th, 1892, at Seven o'clock in the Evening, subject to Conditions to be then read :—

All that splendidly situated Double fronted, and Old-established, RETAIL TAVERN, the STAR INN, Church-street, Bilston, now in the occupation of the vendor, and having the most central position in the town, opposite the Town Hall, and at the junction of Church-street and Lichfield-street, and Swan Bank, with the extra advantages of the Starting Place of Two Lines of Trams and Busses. The Premises comprise Three Attics, Three Bed Chambers, Malt and Store Room, Bar Parlour, Bar, large Tap Room, Back Kitchen, Brewhouse, Cellaring, and extensive out-buildings, with large private and retire Yard, and Side Entrance. This lucrative Business House has been in the hands of the vendor for the past 25 years, the preceeding tenant having retired with a competency. The trade is well established, and is of a most profitable character, full prices being obtained, and nothing less than Six Ale being sold. It is perfectly Free, has an imposing elevation, and the situation, as previously mentioned, is the very best in the Town.

Further particulars may be obtained from Mr. Wm. Waldron, Solicitor, or the Auctioneer, both of High-street, Brierley-Hill.

1892



Letter - 1978

STAR

155, (72), (72+73), (73), Oxford Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Amelia Best, widow, Sandhills, Walsall
Samuel Thompson, Oxford Street, Bilston
George Short, gentleman, 24, Park Road, Forest Hill, London
John Froggatt, manufacturer, Wellington Road, Bilston

LICENSEES

Samuel Thompson [1873] – 1888);
Sarah Thompson (1888 – 1902);
Alfred Evans (1902 – 1903);
Joseph Colbourne (1903);
Mrs. Martha Horton (1903 – 1904);
Joseph Hall (1904 – 1905);
Charles Rowland Hill (1905);
Thomas Kelly (1905 – 1906);
John Henry Tate (1906 – 1907);
Daniel Paul (1907 – 1908);
John Lewis (1908 – 1909);
Bertha Lilian Griffin (1909 – 1910);
John Simmons (1910 – 1911);
Frederick John Thomas Caskew (1911 – 1914);
Oscar Bradshaw Whitehouse (1914);

NOTES

73, Oxford Street [1873], [1874], [1877], [1880]
72+73, Oxford Street [1881], [1891]
72, Oxford Street [1882], [1889]
155, Oxford Street [1904]

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 16/12/1865 - Advert

"Wanted, immediately, an Assistant Baker.
Apply, Samuel Thompson's, 73, Oxford Street, Bilston."

WANTED, immediately, an ASSISTANT BAKER.—Apply,
Samuel Thompson's, 73, Oxford Street, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/9/1867 - Advert

"To Bakers. Wanted, to the above trade, a respectable, steady, industrious young man, who well understands his trade, and is willing to make himself generally useful. Must have a good character from last employer. Will be required to live in the house.

Apply, Samuel Thompson, 73, Oxford Street, Bilston."

TWO BAKERS.—WANTED, to the above trade, a respectable, steady, industrious young MAN, who well understands his trade, and is willing to make himself generally useful. Must have a good character from last employer. Will be required to live in the house.—Apply, Samuel Thompson, 73, Oxford Street, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/3/1868 - Advert

"To Grocers. Wanted, immediately, a steady, active young Man of business habits, about 23 years of age, with a thorough knowledge of the Grocery and Provision Trades, to manage a Branch Shop. Must be able to give good references as to character and ability from former employer, and a guarantee for strict integrity, if required. Apply to *Samuel Thompson*, Family Grocer, 73, Oxford Street, Bilston."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/9/1870 - Advert

"To Bakers. Wanted, a strong, active Youth, accustomed to the Bakehouse. One who can mould well preferred. Will be required to give a good character and live in the house. Apply, personally, to Mr. *Samuel Thompson*, Baker, 73, Oxford Street, Bilston."

TO Bakers.—Wanted, a strong, active YOUTH, accustomed to the Bakehouse. One who can mould well preferred. Will be required to give a good character and live in the house.—Apply, personally, to Mr. Samuel Thompson, Baker, 73, Oxford Street, Bilston.

1871 Census

73, Oxford Street

- [1] *Samuel Thompson* (39), baker and grocer, employing 2 men, born Stourbridge;
- [2] *Sarah Thompson* (37), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] *Maryann Thompson* (75), mother, widow, born Kidderminster;
- [4] *John Thompson* (4), nephew, born Worcester;
- [5] *Eliza Shaw* (22), niece, born Cradley;
- [6] *James Corbett* (41), baker, born Evesham;
- [7] *John Whitesides* (45), baker, born Kempsey, Worcestershire:

Samuel Thompson was also a baker, grocer and provision dealer of 73, Oxford Street. [1873]

Birmingham Daily Post 30/8/1873

"Yesterday the annual licensing meeting for Bilston and the neighbourhood was held in the Petty Sessions Court..... The proceedings opened by Chief Superintendent McCrea presenting his annual 'black list.' In doing so he remarked that it only indicated eleven offenders, whilst a twelvemonth ago there were twenty-nine. This comparison, he considered, was the clearest substantiation of the beneficial operation of the recent Licensing Act.....

Applications were then considered.....

Mr. Fellows applied for a wine license for *Samuel Thompson*, of the STAR INN, Oxford Street Granted."

Birmingham Daily Post 24/2/1874 - Advert

"Bakers. Wanted, a strong Youth, in the Bakehouse, and to Groom a Horse. One who can mould plain bread preferred. Good character required.

Apply to *Samuel Thompson*, 73, Oxford Street, Bilston."

BAKERS.—Wanted, a strong Youth, in the Bakehouse, and to Groom a Horse. One who can mould plain bread preferred. Good character required.—Apply to Samuel Thompson, 73, Oxford Street, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 28/2/1874 - Advert

"Brewers. Wanted, a young Man, to live in the house, who understands Brewing, and willing to make himself useful. Good character required.

Apply, *Samuel Thompson*, Family Grocer and Baker, 73, Oxford Street, Bilston."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/7/1877 - Advert

"Wanted, an active Youth, to the Grocery and Provision Trade; good character required from last employer.

Apply, *Samuel Thompson*, 73, Oxford Street, Bilston."

WANTED, an active YOUTH, to the Grocery and Provision Trade; good character required from last employer.—Apply, Samuel Thompson, 73, Oxford Street, Bilston.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 31/8/1878

"Bilston Annual Licensing Sessions.....

Mr. Waterhouse, solicitor, applied on behalf of *Samuel Thompson*, beerhouse keeper, Oxford Street, Bilston, for a full license. The premises for which the application was made had been used as a beerhouse for twelve or thirteen years, for ten years of which time they had been held by the present applicant. Mr. Waterhouse said he based his application upon the accommodation afforded by the house for the convenience of the public. He wished it to be understood that he did not apply on order to make the premises into a drinking shop. A great deal of money had been spent in improving them, and he was sorry that the Bench had not been able to personally inspect the premises The Bench, without retiring, refused the whole of the applications."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 24/2/1880 - Advert

"Wanted, a good General House Servant; good character required. Apply, *Samuel Thompson*, 73, Oxford Street, Bilston."

WANTED, a good General House Servant; good character required.—Apply, Samuel Thompson, 73, Oxford-street, Bilston.

1881 Census

72+73, Oxford Street – STAR INN

- [1] *Samuel Thompson* (48), grocer, employing 4 servants, born Stourbridge;
- [2] *Sarah Thompson* (46), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] *Arthur E. Thompson* (7), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] *Charles W. Thompson* (43), brother, baker, born Stourbridge;
- [5] *Charles Shaw* (19), grocer and baker, born Quarry Bank;
- [6] *Jack Thompson* (15), nephew, grocer's apprentice, born Worcester;
- [7] *Annie Perks* (20), domestic servant, born Warwick;

Darlaston Weekly Times 17/6/1882 - Advert

"Great Curiosity. To be seen at *Samuel Thompson's*, STAR INN, 72, Oxford Street, Bilston, a Hen Egg, laid on Monday, April 24, with Clock Dial on it."

GREAT CURIOSITY.—To be seen at Samuel Thompson's, Star Inn, 72, Oxford Street, Bilston, a Hen Egg, laid on Monday, April 24, with Clock Dial on it.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 14/1/1889 - Advert

"Wanted, a good General House Servant, willing to work; good character required. Apply, *Mrs. S. Thompson*, 72, Oxford Street, Bilston."

WANTED, a good General House Servant, willing to work; good character required.—Apply, Mrs. S. Thompson, 72, Oxford-st., Bilston.

1891 Census

72+73, Oxford Street – STAR INN

- [1] *Samuel Thompson* (58), grocer and baker and beer retailer, born Stourbridge;
- [2] *Sarah Thompson* (56), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] *Arthur E. Thompson* (17), son, born Bilston;
- [4] *John Charles Shaw* (30), baker and grocer, born Quarry Bank;
- [5] *Emma Lillian Johnson* (20), housemaid, born Bilston;
- [6] *Annie Powis* (33), boarder, japanner polisher, born Bilston;

1901 Census

Oxford Street – STAR INN

- [1] *Samuel Thompson* (69), grocer, born Stourbridge;
- [2] *Sarah Thompson* (66), wife, publican, born Stourbridge;
- [3] *Arthur E. Thompson* (26), son, grocer's assistant, born Bilston;

Mrs. Martha Horton, beer retailer, 155, Oxford Street. [1904]

1911 Census

Oxford Street – STAR INN

- [1] *John Simmons* (40), licensed victualler, born Nantwich, Cheshire;
- [2] *Emma Simmons* (40), wife, married 18 years, born Manchester;
- [3] *Edith Mary Simmons* (17), daughter, book keeper, grocery and provisions, born Northwich, Cheshire;
- [4] *Elsie Simmons* (15), daughter, born Ashton under Lyne, Lancashire;
- [5] *Winifred Elizabeth Simmons* (10), daughter, born Ludlow, Shropshire;
- [6] *Albert Victor Elcock* (24), visitor, tailor, born Dudley;

John Simmons – see also LITTLE SWAN.

Staffordshire Advertiser 14/2/1914

"Bilston annual Licensing Sessions.....

STAR INN, Oxford Street; ROYAL OAK INN, High Street; and FOX INN, Ash Street, Daisy Bank; were ordered to be scheduled for closing."

Birmingham Daily Post 6/6/1914 - Notice

"The Licensing (Consolidation) Act 1910. County Of Stafford.

Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Principal Meeting to be held pursuant to the Licensing Rules, 1910, by the Compensation Authority for the above Area, will be held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, at 11.15 o'clock am, on Wednesday, the 29th day of July, 1914.

And Notice Is Hereby Also Given, that the Compensation Authority will at the Meeting be prepared to hear, with reference to the Renewal of the Licenses of the several Premises specified in the subjoined list, all those Persons to whom under the Licensing (Consolidation) Act 1910, they are bound to give an opportunity of being heard; that is to say, the Persons interested in any Licensed Premises in question, and, unless it appears to the Compensation Authority unnecessary, any other persons appearing to them to be interested in the question of the renewal of the license of those premises (including the Justices of the Licensing District).

List of Licensed Premises.....

STAR INN, Oxford Street, Bilston. Beerhouse and Wine, ante 1869. Licensee, *Oscar Bradshaw Whitehouse*."

License refused by Compensation Authority on 29th July 1914.

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/8/1914

"At the Principal Meeting of the Staffordshire Licensing Compensation Authority, held at the Shirehall, Stafford, on Wednesday, 25 licenses which had been referred by justices from petty sessional divisions and boroughs came under review. Of these, no opposition to the refusal of the license was offered by the parties interested in 15 cases, eight which were opposed were refused renewal, and the remaining two were adjourned for evidence of the trade done at each house.....

In the Bilston division the licenses of the following ante-1869 beerhouses were not renewed on the ground of redundancy, there being no opposition.....

STAR INN, Oxford Street, Bilston."

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/8/1914

"The Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910. County of Stafford.

Notice is Hereby Given that the Compensation Authority for the above area, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on the 29th day of July, 1914, to Refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below, all Persons Claiming to be Interested in the said Premises for the purpose of the Payment of Compensation under the said Act (other than the Licensee and the Registered Owner of the said Premises) are required to send to the Compensation Authority Notice of their Claims before the 7th day of September, 1914, for the purpose of enabling the Compensation Authority to ascertain in manner provided by the Licensing Rules, 1910, the Persons entitled to Compensation under the said Act, in respect of the said Premises.....

STAR INN, Oxford Street, Bilston. Beerhouse and Wine, ante 1869. Licensee, *Oscar Bradshaw Whitehouse*. Registered Owner, John Froggatt."

Compensation of £360 was paid on 28th December 1914.

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/1/1915

"Report of the County Licensing Committee for the year 1914.....

The committee of the Compensation Authority went in great detail into all the figures submitted to them upon which the persons interested claimed compensation, and heard evidence put forward by the claimants. The committee consider that the amounts of compensation agreed upon are satisfactory, both from the point of view of the parties interested and the Compensation Fund.

In the following 18 cases the committee fixed the compensation.....

STAR INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, beerhouse and wine, ante-1869, £360.

The money has been apportioned amongst the interested parties, and will be paid on the 28th instant."

TO Grocers.—Wanted, immediately, a steady, active young **MAN** of business habits, about 25 years of age, with a thorough knowledge of the Grocery and Provision Trades, to manage a Branch Shop. Must be able to give good references as to character and ability from former employer, and a guarantee for strict integrity, if required.—Apply to Samuel Thompson, Family Grocer, 73, Oxford Street, Bilston.

BREWERS.—Wanted, a young Man, to live in the house, who understands Brewing, and willing to make himself useful. Good character required.—Apply, Samuel Thompson, Family Grocer and Baker, 73, Oxford Street, Bilston.

STAR AND GARTER

1, (3), (8), Lester Street, (Leicester Street), BILSTON

OWNERS

Thomas Waterhouse, solicitor, Sedgley
Charles Kidson
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

LICENSEES

Job Smith Lester [1862] – [1871]
Charles Kidson [1873] – **1889**;
Edward Kidson **(1889 – 1900)**;
William Hardwick **(1900)**;
Mary Onions **(1900 – 1902)**;
James Edwin Potts **(1902)**;
John Owen **(1902 – 1906)**;
John Henry Williams **(1906 – 1908)**;
John Thomas Lloyd **(1908 – 1909)**;
Enoch Meese **(1909 – 1910)**;
Sarah Meese **(1910 – 1912)**;
Joseph Shaw **(1912 – 1921)**;

NOTES

8, Lester Street [1862], [1865], [1868], [1871],
3, Lester Street [1911]
1, Lester Street [1921]

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/2/1851 - Marriages

“On the 13th instant, at St. Leonard’s, Bilston, by the Rev. H. S. Fletcher, incumbent, Mr. *Job Smith Lester*, youngest son of the late Mr. Job Hickman Lester, to Phoebe, eldest daughter of Mr. Richard Colbourn, of the same place.”

1851 Census

Lester Street

- [1] *Job Smith Lester* (24), retail brewer, born Bilston;
- [2] Phebe Lester (22), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Jane Cornmell (20), general servant, born Newport, Shropshire:

1861 Census

8, Lester Street

- [1] *Job Smith Lester* (34), clerk to the gas company, born Bilston;
- [2] Phoebe Lester (32), wife, domestic, born Bilston;
- [3] Elizabeth Jane Lester (7), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] Florence W. Lester (2), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] Sarah Mercer (24), teacher, born Lea, Warwickshire;
- [6] Margaret Welch (18), servant, born Ireland:

Job S. Lester, retailer of beer, 8, Lester Street. [1862]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/9/1864

"Yesterday the magistrates sat in Special Sessions, for the consideration of the applications for the renewal of old and the granting of new licenses to victuallers.....

The following houses and their landlords had been complained against and fined during the year.....

J. S. Lester, STAR AND GARTER, Lester Street."

Job Smith Lester, beer retailer, 8, Lester Street. [1865], [1868]

1871 Census

8, Lester Street

[1] *Job Lester* (44), beer retailer and foreman at gas works, born Bilston;

[2] *Phoebe Lester* (42), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Florence Lester* (12), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[4] *Frank Lester* (9), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[5] *Jessie Lester* (6), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[6] *Caroline Harvey* (27), barmaid, born Bickenhall [Bickenhill?], Warwickshire;

[7] *Mary Southall* (20), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Job Smith Lester died in the 4th quarter of 1871.

Charles Kidson was also a chartermaster. [1873]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 28/3/1876

"About one o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, a little girl named Ann Turnpenny, of Lester Street, Bilston, was left in her mother's house along with another girl named Brittain. Turnpenny's clothes caught fire whilst she was in the act of warming some fat in a pan, and she was so severely burnt that she succumbed to her injuries about seven o'clock the same night.

An inquest was subsequently held at the STAR AND GARTER INN, Lester Street, when from the evidence then adduced it appeared that the mother of the deceased, being a charwoman, had left the child in charge of her sister, but at the time of the accident the sister was in the STAR AND GARTER, where the mother of the child also found her. The sister then went into the house and discovered the child in flames.

The jury, after consultation, returned a Open Verdict."

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/6/1878

"An official paper which has just been issued gives the names of the registered trade unions, showing those which have, and those which have not, made returns according to law, and, with regard to the former, the amount of their funds on the 31st of December, 1876, their income for that year, and the number of their members.....

Good Samaritan Branch (No.7) of the National Federation of Engineers' Protection Association of Great Britain and Ireland, STAR AND GARTER INN, Lester Street, Bilston, established November 5, 1874; funds not stated; annual income, £75; number of members, 26."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 4/6/1879

"Charles Plant, Pipes Meadow, Bilston, miner, was brought up in custody charged with stealing a hen fowl of the value of 2s 6d, the property of *Charles Kidson*, STAR INN, Leicester Street, Bilston.

At eight o'clock last night the prosecutor missed a fowl from his hen roost. Prisoner, who had been drinking about his premises during the day, was suspected, and information was given to Police-constable Kitson, who apprehended the prisoner, and found in his cellar the missing fowl dead, but quite warm.

Prisoner pleaded guilty, and attributed the theft to drink. Prosecutor asked for as lenient a sentence as possible, as the prisoner had worked for him for seven years, and had a wife and a large family dependent upon him. Prisoner was committed to hard labour for a month."

1881 Census

Lester Street – STAR AND GARTER

- [1] *Charles Kidson* (50), royalty master, born Bilston;
- [2] *Eliza Kidson* (47), wife, born Willenhall;
- [3] *Charles Kidson* (23), son, artificial flower maker, born Willenhall;
- [4] *Edward Kidson* (20), son, coal miner, born Willenhall;
- [5] *William Heath* (77), father-in-law, labourer, born Bushbury;
- [6] *Elizabeth Heath* (16), niece, general servant, born Bilston;
- [7] *Mary Pritchard* (15), general servant, born Bilston:

Evening Star 27/1/1882

“Michael Flinn, of Chapel Street, Bilston, was summoned for refusing to quit the licensed premises of the STAR AND GARTER INN, Leicester Street, belonging to *Charles Kidson*, on Saturday evening last.

The charge was proved by Police-constable Wilson, and the landlord.

Defendant had been convicted several times before and was now sentenced to one month’s imprisonment with hard labour.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 1/12/1883

“The first quarterly supper of the STAR AND GARTER Judge and Jury Club took place at the Club house, Lester Street, Bilston, on Saturday last.....

A cordial vote of thanks was given to the Host and Hostess, Mr. and Mrs. *Kidson*, for the able manner in which the supper was provided and served.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 6/9/1884

“The annual dinner of the Lily of the Valley Lodge, United Free Gardeners, took place at the lodge house, STAR AND GARTER INN, Lester Street, Bilston, where upwards of 40 members and friends partook of an ample repast, provided by the host Brother *Charles Kidson*.....”

Darlaston Weekly Time 11/7/1885

“On Wednesday morning W. H. Phillips, Esq, coroner, held an inquest at the STAR AND GARTER, Lester Street, Bilston, on the body of John Jeavons (42), blacksmith, Roseville, Coseley.

It appears from the evidence that deceased went on Saturday night to Hinton’s lodging-house, Oxford Street. On Sunday night he retired to bed in his usual good health, but shortly after nine o’clock on Monday morning he came running down stairs bleeding at the mouth, having apparently broken a blood vessel. He died shortly afterwards.

The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

1891 Census

Lester Street – STAR AND GARTER INN

- [1] *Charles Kidson* (61), colliery owner, born Bilston;
- [2] *Eliza Kidson* (59), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Edward Kidson* (30), son, widower, colliery manager, born Willenhall;
- [4] *Eva Kidson* (4), grand-daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] *Eliza Wilkes* (16), born Bilston:

1899 Probate

“*Charles Kidson*, of Lester Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 5 July 1899. Probate Lichfield 29 November to *Edward Kidson*, colliery proprietor. Effects £2,664 13s 6d.”

[There is a written note saying resworn June 1900 £3,824 13s 6d.]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/7/1899

“To be sold by private treaty by representatives of the late *Charles Kitson* the well-known full licensed freehold public house.....”

Staffordshire Advertiser 16/12/1899

“On Wednesday evening, Messrs. Skidmore and Son held a sale of properties at their Rooms, Lichfield Street, Wolverhampton.....

The STAR AND GARTER INN, Lester Street, Bilston, fetched £2,000.”

Edward Kidson was also a coal dealer, Lock Pits, Bradley Colliery.

William Hardwick – see also BRITANNIA, Oxford Street.

1901 Census

Lester Street – STAR AND GARTER

[1] Joseph Onions (29), teacher in school, born Wednesbury;

[2] Mary Onions (27), wife, publican manageress, born Wednesbury;

[3] Martha Slater (18), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/4/1903

“Before the Bilston magistrates yesterday, Mary Ann Groves, widow, of Oxford Street, Bilston, was charged with telling fortunes.

Evidence was given by a young woman named Davis to the effect that on Thursday she went with her sister to the accused’s house. They adjourned to the STAR AND GARTER INN, Lester Street, and Mrs. Groves produced a pack of cards. At her request witness shuffled them, and turned up the nine of diamonds, and prisoner then said she (witness) liked to court a young man between night and day, which was correct. Groves also told her that she had received a letter from her young man, and that she would receive another one; also correct. Prisoner further said that witness was a bit upset about her young man, and that both had strong tempers, which was not true. Prisoner told her that she would have to be very humble to him or he would not keep her. Witness paid sixpence for the information.

Nellie Davis, witness’s sister, spoke to cutting the cards and turning up the king. Mrs. Groves told her that she had a dark young man and she was jealous of him, and that another young man wanted her, but witness did not believe what the woman said. She was asked to pay sixpence, or ‘anything she liked.’

The Bench sent Groves to prison for three months.”

1911 Census

3, Lester Street – STAR AND GARTER

[1] Mrs. Sarah Meese (49), widow, manageress, hotel, born Wolverhampton;

[2] Benjamin Meese (26), son, galvanizer, factory, born Wolverhampton;

[3] Bert Meese (22), son, stock-taker, factory, ironworks, born Bilston;

[4] Dorothy Meese (20), daughter, barmaid, born Bilston;

[5] Elsie Meese (19), daughter, polisher, factory, brass, born Bilston;

[6] Sidney Meese (16), son, dresser, factory, iron plate works, born Bilston;

[7] Pauline Meese (14), daughter, born Bilston;

[8] Kate Meese (12), daughter, born Pontywryndd, South Wales;

[9] Gwendiline Meese (9), daughter, born Pontywryndd, South Wales;

[10] Joseph Henry Meese (6), son, born Wolverhampton:

License refused by Compensation Authority on 24th July 1919.

Staffordshire Advertiser 26/7/1919

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

STAR AND GARTER, Lester Street, Bilston, full licensed house, referred for compensation on the ground of redundancy. Formal application for renewal was made.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/11/1919

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

Two cases have been adjourned, those of the WHITE HORSE, Ward Street, Priestfield, Bilston, ante 1869 beerhouse, and the STAR AND GARTER, full license, Lester Street, Bilston, both owned by the Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Limited.”

1921 Census

1, Lester Street

[1] Joseph Shaw (41), foundry ladleman and licensee of public house, born Moxley;

[2] Harriet Shaw (34), wife, home duties, born Broad Lanes, Coseley;

[3] Winifred Sarah Shaw (7), daughter, school, born Bilston;

[4] Joseph Harold Shaw (6), son, school, born Bilston;

[5] Doris Mary Shaw (3), daughter, born Bilston;

[6] Eva Lilian Shaw (1 month), daughter, born Bilston:

Compensation of £1,600 was paid on 24th December 1921.

It closed on 31st December 1921.

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/1/1922

“Meeting of the Compensation Authority.....

The committee have received the awards of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue in the following cases submitted to them.....

1919 case STAR AND GARTER, Bilston (full licence). £1,600.

The amounts awarded have been apportioned amongst the interested parties and were paid on the 24th ult.”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 11/10/1924

“Tuesday Next, October 14th, 1924, at 7 o'clock in the Evening.

Important Sale of Freehold Properties and Land, and de-licensed houses, at Bradley and Priestfields, which Cyril H. Green, FNAA, has been instructed to submit for Sale By Auction, at the PIPEHALL HOTEL, Bilston, on the above Date, subject to conditions of sale to be then read, the under-mentioned Properties.....

Lot 6. Three Freehold Houses, Nos.1, 2, and 3, Lester Street, Bilston. Gross annual rentals £56 8s 10d.

No.1 Lester Street was formerly the licensed premises known as the STAR AND GARTER INN, but is now de-licensed.”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 18/10/1924

“Mr. Cyril H. Green, FNAA, auctioneer, Bilston, conducted a successful sale of freehold properties, de-licensed houses, and land, situate in Bilston, Priestfields, and Bradley, at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, on Tuesday evening.....

Three houses in Lester Street, one of which was formerly the STAR AND GARTER, £370.”

Demolished

STAR AND GARTER

7, (4), (5), Salop Street, (6, Salop Row), (Shropshire Row), Hallfields, Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

Abraham Duffield
Thomas Wood
Matilda Wood
William Butler and Co. Ltd.
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Abraham Duffield [1861] – 1875);
Thomas Johnson (1875 – 1876);
Thomas Wood (1876 – 1892);
Mrs. Matilda Wood (1892 – 1907);
Thomas Wood (1907 – 1913);
Andrew Gallantree Snr. (1913 – 1936);
Andrew Gallantree Jnr. (1936 – [1940]

NOTES

6, Salop Row [1861]
5, Salop Street [1881]
4, Salop Street [1891]
7, Salop Street [1904], [1912], [1921], [1939], [1940]

It had a beerhouse license.

Abraham Duffield, beer retailer, Bradley. [1861]

1861 Census

6, Salop Row
[1] *Abraham Duffield* (54), publican, deaf, born Bilston;
[2] *Esther Duffield* (38), wife, born Newport, Shropshire;
[3] *Edward Duffield* (20), son, born Bilston;
[4] *Hannah Briscoe* (17), servant, birth place not known:

Abraham Duffield, retailer of beer, Salop Street. [1862]
Abraham Duffield, beer retailer, Salop Street, Bradley. [1865]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 23/5/1866

“Yesterday, before H. Ward, Esq, *Abraham Duffield*, of Shropshire Row, was fined 1s and costs for permitting drunkenness in his house.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/8/1869

“The annual licensing meeting for the Bilston division took place yesterday, at the Police Court.....
The following beerhouse keepers had been fined during the past five years.....
Permitting Drunkenness *Abraham Duffield*, Salop Street, Bilston, 1s and costs.”



Pub Token

1871 Census

Salop Street

- [1] Abraham Duffield (64), publican, born Bilston;
- [2] Esther M. Duffield (47), wife, born Newport, Shropshire;
- [3] Fanny Westwood (15), servant, born Bilston:

1881 Census

5, Salop Street

- [1] Thomas Wood (44), publican, born Pelsall;
- [2] Matilda Wood (42), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Sarah A. Wood (21), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Thomas Wood (18), son, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Matilda Wood (12), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Elizabeth Mansell (17), general servant, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 4/2/1889 - Advert

"Wanted, a good General Servant, not under 20; good character indispensable.
STAR AND GARTER, Salop Street, Bradley."

WANTED, good General Servant, not under 20; good character indispensable. — Star and Garter, Salop-st., Bradley.

1891 Census

4, Salop Street – STAR AND GARTER INN

- [1] Thomas Wood (55), beerhouse keeper, born Pelsall;
- [2] Matilda Wood (53), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Thomas Wood (28), son, sheet mill shearers, ironworks, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Matilda Wood (21), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Annie Wilcox (20), servant, born Coseley:

1893 Probate

"Thomas Wood of Salop Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, beer retailer, died 22 December 1892. Probate Lichfield 19 January to Matilda Wood, widow. Effects £211 18s 6d."

Birmingham Daily Post 21/12/1895 - Advert

"Wanted, active reliable Woman, about 30, used to public business. Good references.
STAR AND GARTER, Bradley, Bilston."

WANTED, active reliable Woman, about 30, used to public business. Good references. — Star and Garter, Bradley, Bilston.

Mrs. Matilda Wood, beer retailer, Salop Street, Bradley. [1896]

1901 Census

Salop Street – STAR AND GARTER INN

- [1] Matilda Wood (60), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Kate Fellows (17), grand-daughter, born Bilston;
- [3] Annie Wild (20), domestic servant, born Sedgley:

Mrs. Matilda Wood, beer retailer, 7, Salop Street, Bradley. [1904]

1907 Probate

"Matilda Wood of Salop Street, Bradley, Bilston, Staffordshire, widow, died 12 April 1907. Probate Lichfield 13 May to Thomas Wood, beerhouse keeper; Edward Holt Fellows, schoolmaster; and George Butler, boot and shoe manufacturer. Effects £1,960 8s 1d."

WANTED, a strong Girl, at once, for kitchen work, about 15; from country preferred. — Apply, Star and Garter, Salop-st., Bradley, near Bilston.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 18/12/1909 - Advert

"Wanted, a strong Girl, at once, for kitchen work, about 15; from country preferred.
Apply, STAR AND GARTER, Salop Street, Bradley, near Bilston."

1911 Census

Salop Street – STAR AND GARTER

- [1] Thomas Wood (48), publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Sarah Wood (44) wife, married 20 years, landlady, born Stourbridge;
- [3] Sidney Silvester Wood (18), son, ironworker, born Moxley;
- [4] Thomas William Wood (17), son, hairdresser, born Bradley;
- [5] Frederick Wood (15), son, butcher, out of work, born Bilston;
- [6] Sarah Elizabeth Wood (14), daughter, at school, born Bradley;
- [7] Thomas Wood (11), son, at school, born Wednesfield;
- [8] Geffery Gurmley (16), adopted son, ironworker, born Liverpool;
- [9] Phoebe Sorrow (28), assistance in business, born Coseley;

Wolverhampton Express and Star 20/4/1911 - Advert

“Wanted, good General, one used to public house work, age 25.
STAR AND GARTER, Salop Street, Bradley.”

WANTED. good General, one used to public
house work, age 25.—Star and Garter,
Salop st., Bradley.

Thomas Wood, beer retailer, 7, Salop Street, Bradley. [1912]

1921 Census

7, Salop Street

- [1] Andrew Gallantree (58), publican, born Sheffield;
- [2] Amy Gallantree (53), wife, home duties, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] Andrew Gallantree (26), son, steel roller, out of work, born Woodhouse Mill, near Sheffield;

Andrew Gallantree Snr. died in 1936.

Gloucester Citizen 21/10/1936

“The body of *Andrew Gallantree* (73), licensee of the STAR AND GARTER INN, Salop Street, Bradley, Bilston, was recovered from the canal near his home early yesterday. It was found by a son who was searching for his father.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/10/1936

“Suicide whilst of Unsound Mind was the verdict recorded at the Bilston inquest yesterday on *Andrew Gallantree*, aged 73, licensee of the STAR AND GARTER INN, Salop Street, Bradley, whose body was recovered from a canal near his home on Tuesday. His son, *Andrew Gallantree*, of 8, William Street, Bradley, Bilston, said his father had been unwell for some time, often complaining of head pains.

The Coroner (Mr. J. T. Higgs), in recording the verdict, read a note left by the dead man, which stated, ‘Dear wife and family, I know you will take it hard, but I can’t stand the pain any longer. Dear old dad.’”

1939 Register

7, Salop Street

- [1] Andrew Gallantree, date of birth 12/7/1894, licensee, beerhouse, married;
- [2] Ellen M. Gallantree, dob 20/4/1896, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] Thomas O. Gallantree, dob 13/9/1923, general labourer, garage, single;
- [4] Frederick Gallantree, dob 23/10/1926, at school, single;

A team from here took part in the Bradley Crib League. [1946]

Birmingham Daily Post 20/2/1968

“Dart throwers at the STAR AND GARTER public house, Bradley, Bilston, hope to break the record for ‘a million and one up’ as part of the local gala day celebrations in June.”

[1974]

Demolished



Andrew and Any Galantree



Andrew Galantree

SWAN

59, (57+59), (19), Bank Street, (19, Bilston Street), (19, Lord Street), (Queen Street), Hallfields, (Upper) Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

Mr. Brookes, forgerman, Smethwick
Mazilla Johnson, grocer, Hallfields, Bradley, Bilston
William Henry Taylor, Church Street, Bilston
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1921]

LICENSEES

William Brooks [1840] – [1845]
Thomas Hall [1851]
William Brooks [1851] – [1854]
William George Keen **(1853 – 1855);**
William Griffiths **(1855 – 1865);**
David Griffiths **(1865 – [])**
Richard Heighway [1865] – [1874]
Richard Hughes [] – **1873);**
Joseph Strong **(1873 – 1874);**
Daniel Eccleston **(1874 – 1881);**
James Whitehouse **(1881 – 1883);**
Samuel Johnson **(1883 – 1899);**
Mrs. Catherine Johnson **(1899 – 1905);**
George Johnson **(1905 – 1906);**
Miss Sarah Ann Johnson **(1906 – 1908);**
Miss Elizabeth Johnson **(1908 – 1912);**
Betsy Jeavons **(1912 – 1914);**
George Edward Jeavons **(1914 – 1916);**
John Fletcher **(1916 – 1923);**
George Henry Shelley **(1923 – 1931);**
Thomas Roderick **(1931 – 1936);**
Thomas William Haynes **(1936 – [1940])**

NOTES

19, Bilston Street [1861], [1871], [1881], [1891], [1892], [1896]
Hallfields [1862]
Bilston Street [1865], [1868]
Queen Street [1851], [1873], [1883]
19, Lord Street
19, Bank Street [c.1901]
59, Bank Street [1904], [1908], [1911], [1921], [1921], [1932], [1940]
57+59, Bank Street [1939]

WHITE SWAN [1851], [1870], [1872]

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF STAFFORDSHIRE,
HOLDEN AT WOLVERHAMPTON.
17th day of October, 1855.
WHEREAS a Petition of **WILLIAM GEORGE REEN**, at present and for eight months now last past residing at Hall-fields, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, and for the last five months of such mentioned period carrying on business as a Newsvendor, and being also employed as a Journeyman Iron Bedstead Fitter, and the other three months in no business or occupation; previously and for one year six months and twenty-nine days residing at Hall-fields aforesaid, Licensed Retailer of Spirituous Liquors, Ale, Beer, and Tobacco; an Insolvent Debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, at Wolverhampton, and an Interim Order for Protection from Process having been given to the said William George Reen, under the provisions of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said William George Reen is hereby required to appear in Court before the Judge acting in the matter of the said Petition, on the 24th day of NOVEMBER, 1855, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at the COURT HOUSE, QUEEN-STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON aforesaid, for his FIRST EXAMINATION touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said statutes; and notice is hereby given that the Choice of Assignees is to take place at the time so appointed.
All persons indebted to the said William George Reen, or who have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. CHARLES GALLIMORE BROWN, the Official Assignee, acting in the matter of the said Petition, at his Office, in Queen-street, Wolverhampton aforesaid.
EDWIN JOHN HAYES, Attorney, Wolverhampton.

1855

William Brooks = William Brookes

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/9/1840

“An adjourned meeting of Magistrates was held on Friday at the Public Office, for the purpose of considering the applications for public house licenses, and new licenses were granted to the following applicants.....

William Brookes, Hall Fields, Bilston.”

1841 Census

Hall Fields

- [1] William Brookes (47), iron labourer;
- [2] Charlotte Brookes (49);
- [3] William Brookes (18), iron labourer;
- [4] Thomas Brooks (16), iron labourer, born Staffordshire;
- [5] Fanny Brooks (13), born Staffordshire;
- [6] Charlotte Brooks (7), born Staffordshire;
- [7] Elizabeth Brooks (44), servant;
- [8] Dorothy Cope (79):

Wolverhampton Chronicle 20/9/1846

“On Thursday last, and by adjournment on Monday last, an inquest was held at the sign of the SWAN, Hall Fields, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of Edward Reeves, a boy about ten years old. The deceased, who was a healthy boy, it appeared, had been sent to bed on Monday night without his supper, for disobedience. On Tuesday morning, between six and seven o’clock, he was called by his sister, and answered her in a manner which indicated that he was quite well. Between seven and eight o’clock his mother, finding he had not got up, went upstairs, and found him lying on his face across the bed, in a violent perspiration, and quite insensible. He seemed to be dying, and she sent immediately for Mr. Hancox, surgeon, who promptly attended; but the deceased remained insensible to the time of his death, which took place the same evening. In a room adjoining that of the deceased there were two bottles containing rum and brandy, each about a half a pint, and after the deceased was taken ill it was found that about half the contents of each bottle had been taken by some one. On a post mortem examination Mr. Hancox found in the stomach of the deceased about three ounces of spiritous fluid, which had caused congestion of the coats of the stomach and of the brain. In his opinion the deceased died from congestion of the brain, caused by having taken a large quantity of ardent spirits. Verdict accordingly.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/5/1848

“On Monday last an inquest was held at the WHITE SWAN, Hall Fields, near Bilston, on the body of Francis Oaks, an engineer, 67 years of age, who died suddenly on the previous Saturday morning. The deceased left the house of William Baker, of Shropshire Row, about seven o’clock on the previous evening, apparently very ill. He staggered but walked out of the house alone. He afterwards went to an engine house, where he was accused of being tipsy, but denied the charge. He was afterwards removed from the engine house to the boiler side, where another engineer talked with him about a quarter of an hour, but could not tell whether he was tipsy or not. Oaks then got up and walked down the engine steps as well as ever he did in his life. He was afterwards taken to a hovel and provided with a little hemp to lie upon. In the course of the night he coughed violently. About ten minutes before five on the following morning he was found dead, lying upon his back. Oaks had come to Hall Fields from Madeley Union, on the previous Tuesday. The jury returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased was Found Dead, but that there were no marks of violence on his body sufficient to cause death.”

1851 Census

Queen Street, Hallfields

- [1] William Brookes (57), victualler, born Sutton, Warwickshire;
- [2] Charlotte Brookes (58), wife, born Polesworth, Warwickshire;
- [3] C. Brookes (17), daughter, born Bradley;
- [4] Mary Browning (19), house servant, born Sutton, Warwickshire;
- [5] John Brookes (33), visitor, roller of iron, born Polesworth, Warwickshire;
- [6] Thomas Rudge (25), visitor, moulder, birth place not known;
- [7] Fanny Rudge (23), visitor, born Bilston;
- [8] Fanny Brookes (8), visitor, scholar, born West Bromwich:

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/8/1851

“On Monday the lodge No.12, Loyal Nelsonic Crimson Oaks, held their annual feast at the house of Mr. *Brooks*, SWAN INN, Hall Fields, Bilston, Watts, Esq. surgeon, in the chair. An excellent dinner was provided, which was served up in Mr. *Brooks*’s best style, and gave general satisfaction. The company did not separate until a late hour.”

William George Keen = William George Reen

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1855

“On Thursday last, at the SWAN INN, Hall Fields, near Bilston, T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, held an inquest on the body of Morris Browne, who was killed on the previous Monday evening, by being run over by a van near Moxley. Deceased had been to Darlaston wake, and was returning with a number of companions in a light spring cart. On nearing Moxley deceased got out into the road, and as he was about to reascend he fell, and before he could get up was run over by a van drawn by two horses, and so injured that he died before morning. It appearing that no blame attached to any one, the jury returned a verdict that the deceased had met his death accidentally.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/10/1855 - Notice

“In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton. 17th day of October, 1855.

Whereas a Petition of *William George Reen*, at present and for eight months now last past residing at Hall Fields, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, and for the last five months of such mentioned period carrying on business as a Newsvendor, and being also employed as a Journeyman Iron Bedstead Fitter, and the other three months in no business or occupation; previously and for one year six months and twenty-nine days residing at Hall Fields aforesaid, Licensed Retailer of Spiritous Liquors, Ale, Beer, and Tobacco; an Insolvent Debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, at Wolverhampton, and an Interim Order for Protection from Process having been given to the said *William George Reen*, under the provisions of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said *William George Reen* is hereby required to appear in Court before the Judge acting in the matter of the said Petition, on the 24th day of November, 1855, at ten o’clock in the forenoon, at the Court House, Queen Street, Wolverhampton aforesaid, for his First Examination touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said statutes; and notice is hereby given that the Choice of Assignees is to take place at the time so appointed.

All person indebted to the said *William George Reen*, or who have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. Charles Gallimore Brown, the Official Assignee, acting in the matter of the said Petition, at his Office, in Queen Street, Wolverhampton aforesaid.

Edwin John Hayes, Attorney, Wolverhampton.”

1861 Census

19, Bilston Street

- [1] William Griffiths (63), manager of tin works and licensed victualler, born Lachraze, Cardiganshire;
- [2] Sarah Griffiths (65), wife, born Laurmiten, Worcestershire;
- [3] David Griffiths (33), son, tin plate manager, born Gluster near Brook;
- [4] Susan J. Griffiths (6), niece, born Bilston;
- [5] Ann Millington (17), servant, born Bilston;
- [6] Emma Griffiths (17), grand-daughter, born Bilston, deaf and dumb from birth:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/7/1863

“Yesterday, Robert Gregory, late one of the trustees of the Royal Nelsonic Crimson Oaks Society, held at the SWAN INN, Hallfields, Bilston, was summoned before the magistrates by Charles Large, another member of the society, for refusing to deliver up the sum of £45, a portion of the funds belonging to the club. Mr. Longman appeared for the complainant, and Mr. N. B. Jackson for the defence.

It appeared that the society had fallen to pieces, and that the defendant, dubious as to whom he should deliver the money in his hands, had placed the amount in a bank.

The Bench made an order that he should give up the £45 and pay the costs, but desired it to be understood that they did not consider that there had been the slightest stain on his character in the transaction.”

Richard Heighway = Richard Highway

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 30/12/1865

“At Bilston Police Court yesterday, *Richard Highway*, of the SWAN, Hall Fields, was fined 2s 6d and costs, for selling ale during illegal hours.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/3/1866

“At Bilston Police Court on Tuesday, before Mr. Isaac Spooner, Stipendiary Magistrate, *Richard Highway*, licensed victualler, of the SWAN INN, Highfields, was fined in the mitigated penalty of £50 for omitting to make an entry of the quantity of malt he brewed in the form supplied to him for that purpose by the Inland Revenue. Mr. Allcorn, supervisor of Excise, proved the offence.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1866

“The annual meeting for the renewal of existing licenses, and for receiving applications for fresh ones, was held at the Police Court, on Friday.....

At the commencement of the proceedings, the Superintendent of Police presented the following report.

Bilston Division, August 31, 1866.

‘I beg to submit to the Magistrates the attached list of licensed victuallers who have been complained against during the year. Twenty-five have been convicted, and three have paid costs; one had been convicted three times, and five convicted twice. This is a large increase on last year’s list; but I think it has arisen from the police being more particular in reporting cases of permitting drunkenness – as it was found to be an evil rather on the increase. I believe it has caused landlords to be more careful in supplying drink to persons intoxicated.’

H. McCrea, Superintendent.

Black List.....

Richard Highway, SWAN, Hallfields, Bilston left over until the adjourned licensing meeting on the 28th of September.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/9/1866

“Yesterday, the Bilston adjourned Licensing Session was held at the Police Court.....

The following licenses were granted.....

Richard Highway, SWAN INN, Highfields.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/2/1870 - Advert

“Wanted to Purchase, a Basket Gig, very light, to suit a Pony 11 or 12 hands. Must be good.

Apply, SWAN INN, Hallfields, near Bilston.”

WANTED to Purchase, a BASKET GIG, very light, to suit a Pony 11 or 12 hands. Must be good—Apply, Swan Inn, Hallfields, near Bilston.

1871 Census

19, Bilston Street

- [1] Richard Heighway (43), licensed victualler, born Broseley, Shropshire;
- [2] Hannah Heighway (41), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] William Heighway (19), son, sheet iron shearer, born Bilston;
- [4] Sarah Heighway (18), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] Hannah Heighway (16), daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] George Heighway (14), son, helper at forge hammer, born Bilston;
- [7] Arthur Heighway (11), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [8] James Heighway (9), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [9] Julia Heighway (5), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [10] Albert E. Heighway (3), son, born Bilston;
- [11] Maud Heighway (3 months), daughter, born Bilston:

Joseph Strong was convicted in 1873 for selling intoxicating liquor to a drunken person.

Daniel Eccleston = Daniel Ecclestone

Wolverhampton Express and Star 10/2/1875

“Daniel Eccleston, of the SWAN INN, Hall Fields, appeared in answer to a summons charging him with permitting gaming in his house on the 13th January.

Police-constable Newman said that on the day named he visited the SWAN INN, in plain clothes, and in a room upstairs found a number of persons playing at bagatelle for checks, for which money was paid to the landlord.

The defendant expressed his sorrow for what had occurred, and said he did not know that it was illegal. He had only kept the house six months.

Mr. Spooner remarked that the offence was a very serious one, and fined the defendant £5 and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/8/1875

“Yesterday, there was an annual licensing meeting for the Bilston Petty Sessional Division.....

Chief-superintendent McCrea presented the ‘black list.’ The licensed victuallers who had been fined during the year were.....

Daniel Eccleston, SWAN INN, allowing gambling, £5 and costs.....

All the old licenses would be renewed, excepting those of holders who had been convicted. Their applications would be deferred until the adjourned licensing day.”

[Renewed with a caution at the adjourned brewster sessions.]

1881 Census

19, Bilston Street – SWAN INN

- [1] Daniel Eccleston (36), licensed victualler and coal dealer, born Darlaston;
- [2] Harriet Eccleston (35), wife, born Spounding, Derbyshire;
- [3] Hannah Eccleston (16), daughter, dressmaker, born Herefordshire;
- [4] Nathan Eccleston (13), son, scholar, born Barrow in Furnace [Barrow in Furness], Lancashire;
- [5] Sarah Eccleston (11), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;

Daniel Eccleston – see also FOX, Bilston Street, and ROYAL OAK, Salop Street.

Darlaston Weekly Times 27/1/1883

“James Whitehouse, landlord of the WHITE SWAN, Queen Street, Bradley, was charged with selling liquor after hours. Mr. J. E. Fellows prosecuted on behalf of the police.

PC Kinson said he was in defendant’s yard at 1-45 on the morning of the 20th inst, when he saw a woman come out of the house with a quart bottle of ale. He took her back, and in response to his enquiries the landlord said he had given the ale to the woman to reward some men who had been assisting a man in a fit. Defendant was ordered to pay costs, including solicitor’s fee.”

1891 Census

19, Bilston Street – SWAN INN

- [1] *Samuel Johnson* (40), licensed victualler, born Cookley, Worcestershire;
- [2] *Catherine Johnson* (37), wife, born Cookley, Worcestershire;
- [3] *Sarah A. Johnson* (6), daughter, scholar, born Staffordshire;
- [4] *Elizabeth Johnson* (5), daughter, scholar, born Staffordshire;
- [5] *Frederick Johnson* (1), son, born Staffordshire;
- [6] *Hannah Smith* (21), domestic servant, born Sedgley:

Samuel Johnson died on 29th June 1899.

1901 Census

Bank Street – SWAN INN

- [1] *Catherine Johnson* (47), widow, licensed victualler, born Cookley, Worcestershire;
- [2] *Sarah Ann Johnson* (16), daughter, born Bradley;
- [3] *Elizabeth Johnson* (15), daughter, born Bradley;
- [4] *Frederick Johnson* (11), son, born Bradley;
- [5] *Harriet Johnson* (9), daughter, born Bradley;
- [6] *George Johnson* (7), son, born Bradley:

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/2/1902

“*Catherine Johnson*, of the SWAN INN, Bradley, was charged with selling adulterated whisky. A sample bought at the house was found to contain 9 per cent of added water above the legal limit. She was fined 40s and costs.”

Catherine Johnson died on 17th December 1905.

George Johnson died on 1st August 1906.

1911 Census

59, Bank Street

- [1] *Elizabeth Johnson* (25), unmarried, licensed victualler, born Bradley;
- [2] *Frederick Johnson* (21), brother, licensed victualler, born Bradley;
- [3] *Maud Johnson* (19), sister, assistant to licensed victualler, born Bradley:

1911-1912 Directory

“Home Brewed Ales.”

Betsy Jeavons = *Betsey Jeavons*

1914 Probate

“*Betsy Jeavons* of the SWAN INN, Bank Street, Bradley, Bilston, Staffordshire, widow, died 6 March 1914. Probate Lichfield 12 May to *James Jeavons* and *Thomas Henry Jeavons*, labourers. Effects £1,859 17s.”

[There is a written note saying resworn £1,628 6s 10d.]

Betsy Jeavons – see also *BRITISH OAK*, Wesley Street, and *OLD BUSH*, Cross Street.

1921 Census

59, Bank Street

- [1] *John Fletcher* (63), licensed victualler, born Princes End;
- [2] *Maria Fletcher* (57), wife, assistant, born Willenhall;
- [3] *Tom Fletcher* (16), son, labourer, born Lye:

George Henry Shelley – see also *WHITE LION*, Temple Street.

1939 Register

57+59, Bank Street – SWAN INN

[1] *Thomas Haynes*, date of birth 9/7/1883, licensee, married;

[2] Sarah A. Haynes, dob 3/5/1889, unpaid domestic duties, married:

Teams from here took part in the Bradley Darts League. [1946]

[1950]

SWAN

108, Church Street, (108, Hall Street), Swan Bank, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Richard Jones [1785]
Nancy Jones [1791]
Francis Homer [1803]
Richard Morgan [1822]
John Lloyd [1830] – [1850]
Mrs. Jane Lloyd [1851] – **1863**;
John Lloyd (**1863** – [1873])

NOTES

Hall Street [1849], [1850], [1851], [1858], [1862], [1871]
Church Street [1860]
108, Hall Street [1861]
108, Church Street [1868]

It was built in the 17th century.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/10/1785 - Married

“Monday last, at Wolverhampton, Mr. Jackson, hairdresser, of Bilston, to Miss Mary Jones, of the same place, only daughter of Mr. *Richard Jones*, of the SWAN INN.”

Nancy Jones, victualler, SWAN, Bilston. [1791]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 5/9/1803 - Advert

“To be Sold by Auction, on Saturday the 17th Day of September inst, at Two o’Clock in the Afternoon, at the BULLS HEAD, in Bilston, in the County of Stafford, the following Copyhold Estates of Inheritance, holden of the Manor of Stow Heath, situate at Bilston aforesaid, in the following or such other Lots as shall be agreed upon at the Time of Sale, unless in the mean Time disposed of by private Contract, of which public Notice shall be given.

In Church Street.

Lot I. A Messuage, with the Offices, Shops, and Garden Ground, in the Possession of Mr. Samuel Hanson; also a Public House, known by the Sign of the SWAN INN, with the Brewhouse, Stable, and Appurtenances thereto belonging, in the Possession of Mr. *Francis Homer*; also another Dwelling House, in the Possession of the Widow Barnsley.....”

1841 Census

Church Street (Swan Bank)

- [1] *John Lloyd* (55), innkeeper, born Staffordshire;
- [2] *Jane Lloyd* (55), born Staffordshire;
- [3] *John Lloyd* (15), born Staffordshire;
- [4] *Emma Lloyd* (25), f.s., born Staffordshire;
- [5] *Eleanor Cotterill* (15), f.s., born Staffordshire;
- [6] *Alfred Lloyd* (4), born Staffordshire;

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, on Saturday the 17th Day of September inst. at Two o’Clock in the Afternoon. at the Bull’s Head, in Bilston, in the County of Stafford, the following COPYHOLD ESTATES of INHERITANCE, holden of the Manor of Stow Heath, situate at Bilston aforesaid, in the following, or such other Lots as shall be agreed upon at the Time of Sale, unless in the mean Time disposed of by private Contract, of which public Notice shall be given.

IN CHURCH-STREET.

LOT I. A Messuage, with the Offices, Shops, and Garden Ground, in the Possession of Mr. Samuel Hanson; also a Public House, known by the Sign of the Swan Inn, with the Brewhouse, Stable, and Appurtenances thereto belonging, in the Possession of Mr. Francis Homer; also another Dwelling House, in the Possession of the Widow Barnsley.

1803

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/8/1841 - Advert

“Freehold Buildings and Land, New Town, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Walker and Page, on Monday, the 16th day of August, 1841, at the house of Mr. Lloyd, SWAN INN, Bilston, at six o'clock in the evening.....”

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/1/1850 - Deaths

“On Wednesday, the 26th ult, Mr. *John Lloyd*, of the SWAN INN, Bilston, aged 69 years.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/1/1851 - Marriages

“On the 13th instant, at St. Mary’s, Lichfield, by the Rev. Mr. Greene, Richard, eldest son of the late Mr. *John Lloyd*, of the SWAN INN, Bilston, to Mary Anne, eldest daughter of Mr. James Hayward, of the Bell Inn, Colton.”

1851 Census

Hall Street

- [1] *Jane Lloyd* (69), widow, victualler, born Kingswinford;
- [2] *John Lloyd* (24), son, assistant, born Bilston;
- [3] *Emma Lloyd* (39), daughter-in-law, widow, inn servant, born Bilston;
- [4] *Jane Price* (9), grand-daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] *Mary Ashbury* (20), servant, born Polesworth:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/6/1853

“Mrs. *Jane Lloyd*, licensed victualler, of Bilston, pleaded guilty to an information, charging her with unlawfully using grains of paradise in brewing beer. Mr. Bolton, solicitor, who appeared for the defendant, said she was a widow, and seventy-three years of age; she had kept the house for thirty-three years, and never had had a charge of any kind preferred against her; and as to the present case, the fact was that she had used two ounces of grains of paradise, in brewing twenty-five gallons of beer for her own consumption.

The Bench convicted the defendant in the mitigated penalty of £50. Mr. Bolton earnestly urged the Magistrates, under the circumstances he had stated, to recommend to the Commissioners of Excise, that the penalty should be reduced to £30. Mr. Gillespie, collector of excise duties, said the defendant was in good circumstances, and the Bench declined to comply with Mr. Bolton’s request.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 4/4/1858

“Pigeon Shooting.....

At Mr. *John Lloyd*’s, SWAN INN, Bilston, to be shot for, tomorrow (Monday), April 5, a fat pig, value £15, by 30 members, at 10s each. Conditions, 3 birds, guns $\frac{3}{4}$ -boore, $1\frac{3}{4}$ oz of shot, 21 yards rise, double guns $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz of shot, allowed two yards, 80 yards boundary. No gentleman allowed to shoot more than two tickets, each shooter to bag his own bird. Shooting to commence at one o’clock. Crossbee will supply the birds.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 11/4/1858

“At Mr. *Lloyd*’s, the SWAN INN, Bilston, the list for the fat pig not filling, on Monday the following sweepstakes were shot for. 1st, by 7 members at 10s each, 1 bird each, won by Mr. Baggot; 2nd sweepstake, by same gentlemen, same terms, Mr. Baggot again won, killing 2; 3rd sweepstakes, by same parties, won by Messrs. Waring and Bang, killing 1 each, and dividing; 4th sweepstakes, won by Mr. Bang, killing 2; the 5th sweepstakes, by same parties, all the 7 members missed their bird and shot off, bird for bird, when Messrs. Baggot and Wright won, killing 1 each and dividing.”

1861 Census

108, Hall Street – SWAN INN

- [1] *Jane Lloyd* (80), widow, licensed victualler, born Kingswinford;
- [2] *John Lloyd* (34), son, brewer, born Bilston;
- [3] *Mary A. Price* (24), grand-daughter, barmaid, born Bilston;
- [4] *Jane Price* (19), grand-daughter, barmaid, born Bilston;
- [5] *Joseph Reeves* (45), lodger, labourer, born Colchester:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/11/1864

“An action was tried by a jury, on Friday, at the Wolverhampton County Court, before A. M. Skinner, Esq, judge, in which William Whitehouse, a working man, residing at Darlaston, sued *John Lloyd*, landlord of the SWAN public house, Bilston, to recover damages for injuries sustained by his wife by reason of her having been bitten by defendant’s dog. Mr. Young, of the Oxford Circuit, was counsel for the plaintiff, and Mr. H. Underhill appeared on behalf of the defendant.

The facts, as stated by Mr. Young, were simply as follows. On the 16th of April last, the plaintiff and his wife (the latter who had then been confined only three weeks previously) came together from Darlaston to Bilston to purchase some clothing for the children. After completing their purchases they both went into defendant’s house to warm themselves, and to obtain some refreshment. Shortly after they had entered the house plaintiff’s wife got up and went into the yard for the purpose of going to the water closet. When she got into the yard she saw some one like a servant girl come out of a door, which she accordingly went in. She had, however, as it appeared, made a mistake, and gone into a building where the defendant’s dog (a pointer bitch) was kept. Being a total stranger to the premises she did not at first discover the mistake which she had made, and whilst she was looking round, the dog, which she had not before perceived, suddenly flew at her and bit her in two or three places, underneath her arm and breast. Fortunately the animal had got to the length of its chain and the poor woman was enabled to shake it off and get back to the house, or, as Mr. Young put it, she might have been very seriously injured. The defendant, on hearing what had occurred, expressed his regret, and also gave her a note to his brother-in-law, a druggist, at Darlaston, to supply her with some ointment for the wounds at his expense. This was done, but as the wounds did not immediately heal up the plaintiff called in a regular surgeon, and he continued to attend her until she had recovered. In consequence of the injuries she had received she was, however, unable to attend to her domestic matters as she had done previously, and was obliged to get her sister, who had been attending her during her confinement, to stay with her seven weeks longer, paying her, in addition to her keep, the sum of 3s per week. When the defendant was applied to in the matter he refused to pay anything more than the doctor’s bill which amounted to £4, hence the present action.

After proving the above facts, Mr. Young, in order to show that the defendant was well aware that the dog was of a vicious nature, and in the habit of biting people, called a witness named Perry who proved that when he went, on plaintiff’s behalf, to see the defendant, and ascertain what he would give to settle the matter, the latter admitted that that was not the first time the dog had bitten people, as on one occasion it bit a policeman, and further that the brewer employed about the premises was himself so afraid of the dog, on account of its vicious nature, that he dare not go near it except when he took it some food. This was the case for the plaintiff.

The defence set up was, first, that the dog was not vicious; secondly, that plaintiff’s wife was told by the brewer that a dog was kept on the premises, and that he particularly directed her to keep on a certain side of the wall, and that if she had followed these directions she would not have made the mistake she did, and gone into a building which was private, and where she had no business to go.

After hearing the evidence and the arguments of the learned gentlemen on each side, his Honour briefly summed up, and the jury then returned a verdict for the plaintiff, damages £12, with costs.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/3/1867

“On Sunday night a fire broke out on the premises of Mr. *Lloyd*, of the SWAN INN, Bilston. It originated in a chimney, where a beam first became ignited, next some furniture and the floor of an adjoining room took fire, and the aid of the police was secured, who, with the assistance of a small hand water engine, extinguished the flames before any serious damage was done.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/12/1868

“Yesterday, at Bilston Police Court, before I. Spooner, Esq, John Smith, landlord of the BALL COURT INN, Stafford Street; Evan Griffiths, BRICKMAKERS [sic] ARMS, Greencroft Street; and *John Lloyd*, SWAN INN, Swan Bank, were charged, for that they being ale house keepers, did knowingly suffer gaming in their houses. Mr. Young, of the Oxford Circuit, instructed by Mr. Bowen, appeared on behalf of the defendants. The case against John Smith was heard first.

Police-sergeant Chatfield stated that at between seven and eight o’clock on the evening of Saturday, the 7th November, he visited the bowling alley of John Smith, in company with Police-constable Moffatt. When he went in, there were about ten or twelve persons (men and boys) there. Four of them were bowling, and the landlord was

present with a book in his hand, taking down the number of pins that each bowler knocked over. When they had done bowling the two losers paid the defendant twopence each, and he then gave the winners a brass 'cheque' each, similar to the one produced, which would entitle the holders to two penny worth of liquor in the defendant's house, or a cigar.

Cross-examined by Mr. Young: He was in the house about half an hour, and saw four or five games. He was known well there as a Bilston police officer, and notwithstanding his presence the defendant continued to superintend the bowling and to carry on the transactions with the cheques during the whole time he was there. He believed that the defendant's house had been well conducted; but he could not go so far as to say that it was as well conducted as any in the town. There had been no complaint made respecting it. There had been a bowling alley at the house for about six months. It was one of the first opened in Bilston, and they had been only recently introduced into the town. He had heard that the defendant was under the impression that his allowing the bowling for cheques was not illegal.

No other witness was called on the part of the prosecution, and Mr. Young, on behalf of the defendant, said that, as he had intimated at the commencement, he did not intend to plead 'not guilty' to the charge; but he was anxious that Mr. Spooner should have the facts in reference to the case brought before him, because it appeared to him to be very different to that class of cases where offences were committed rather in defiance than in ignorance of the law. There was no doubt that the defendant had committed the offence, but there was also no doubt that he did so under the impression that what was taking place in his house was not illegal, but on the contrary was a legal act. The law had been clearly laid down that bowling 'for money, or money's worth' was alike illegal, but the question in the present case, was whether, under the circumstances, the defendant was a person against whom anything like a severe penalty should be inflicted. There was no doubt, although they had not got at that in a strictly legal form, that it had come to the knowledge of the police-officer that the defendant had been acting under a wrong impression in the matter, before he visited the house. Bowling alleys had only been recently introduced into Bilston, and that probably might somewhat account for the ignorance of the law relating to them; but he was sure that after receiving this legal notice, as it were, of the illegality of such transactions as referred to, they should hear of no more offences of that character. Mr. Spooner said there had been no previous complaint against the defendant, and he should impose a fine of 1s and costs. That kind of thing must be put a stop to, however, and if it was continued the utmost penalty must be inflicted. Mr. Young observed that the cases as against the other two defendants were exactly similar.

Chief-Superintendent McCrea, in reply to Mr. Spooner, said he had received numerous complaints recently from the parents of boys who visited these bowling saloons.

The two defendants, Griffiths and Smith [sic], pleaded guilty, and the same penalty was imposed on each as in the previous case; but Mr. Spooner observed that he was empowered at once to fine them £10, and he was sure he should not hesitate if another case came before him, because, as had been shown, so much mischief was done by that kind of thing, and especially to boys."

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 12/12/1868

"John Smith, landlord of the BALL COURT INN, Stafford Street; Evan Griffiths, BRICKMAKERS [sic] ARMS, Greencroft Street; and *John Lloyd*, SWAN INN, Swan Bank, were all fined 1s and costs for permitting gaming in their houses."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/5/1869

"Yesterday, at the Police Court, before Mr. I. Spooner (Stipendiary), *John Lloyd*, of the SWAN INN, Bilston, was charged with having permitted gaming in his house by skittle playing. On the 18th inst, Police-constable Cockerell went to the defendant's house, and found a number of men there playing at skittles in his bowling alley and betting. Defendant had been previously fined for a similar offence, and was now ordered to pay £5 and costs."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/8/1869

"The annual licensing meeting for the Bilston division took place yesterday, at the Police Court.....

The following is the list of the licensed victuallers who have been fined during the year.....

Allowing Gambling *John Lloyd*, SWAN, Swan Bank, Bilston, 1s and costs, and another offence 40s and costs.

The licenses of the following publicans were suspended until the adjourned licensing meeting.....

John Lloyd, SWAN, Bilston."

1871 Census

Hall Street – SWAN INN

- [1] *John Lloyd* (44), licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *Marian Lloyd* (24), wife, born Stourbridge;
- [3] *Lucy P. Lloyd* (3), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] *Sarah A. Griffin* (16), general servant, born Worcestershire:

Birmingham Gazette 26/4/1871

“Yesterday, at Bilston Police Court, *John Lloyd*, landlord of the SWAN INN, Swan Bank, was summoned for selling beer during prohibited hours, on the 19th ult. The case was proved by Police-constable Curtis, and the defendant was fined 20s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/5/1871

“At Bilston Police Court yesterday.....

William Jones, *Benjamin Moran*, and *James Johnson*, were summoned for being in a public house during prohibited hours. It was shown that the defendants were at the house of *John Lloyd*, SWAN INN, Swan Bank, on the 10th of March, during improper hours. Mr. *Lloyd* has already been fined for allowing his house to be open. Defendants were each fined 10s and costs.”

Closed

It was demolished before 1880.

SWAN

84, (46), (44), High Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Rhoda Maybury, widow, Hall Green
Edwin Hickman, quarry master, The Quarries, Bilston
Matthew Rhodes, brewer, Priestfield
Johnson and Phipps Ltd., Lichfield Street, Wolverhampton
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. [1987]

LICENSEES

Thomas James [1818]
Thomas Tomes [1822] – [1823]
Ann Baker [1828] – [1830]
John Preston [1834]
Millard Thoms [1835]
Joseph Tomes [1841] – [1842]
Abraham Cross [1844]
Thomas Harper []
Henry Darroll [1847]
George Harper* [1849] – [1850]
George Harpin* [1851] – **1852**;
George Green **(1852)**;
William Ombler **(1852 – 1853)**;
Enoch Meacham **(1853 – [])**
Mrs. Elizabeth Line [] – **1856**;
William Lewis **(1856 – [1857])**
Joseph Baker [] – **1860**;
Solomon Cross **(1860 – [])**
Benjamin George Holton [1861] – [1865]
John Hollingsworth [1868] – **1879**;
Thomas Legge **(1879 – 1898)**;
Francis Rhodes **(1898 – 1899)**;
Richard Tildesley **(1899 – 1900)**;
Charles Fishburn **(1900 – 1901)**;
James Doody **(1901 – 1902)**;
James William Green **(1902 – 1903)**;
Joseph Freeman **(1903)**;
George Hassel **(1903 – 1905)**;
Henry Richard Adams **(1905 – 1906)**;
Charles William Garfield **(1906)**;
Owen Michael Horan **(1906 – 1907)**;
Zachariah William Neal **(1907)**;
John Fellows **(1907)**;
Thomas 'Tom' Robinson **(1907 – 1926)**;
Bert Burrows **(1926 – 1932)**;
John Albert Fantom Grainger **(1932 – [1940])**
Travers Turley [1967] – [1981]
Robert D Flatley [1995]
Robert Collins []



1997



2012



2016

Rosemary Frisby [2005]
Tony Brookes [2005]

NOTES

46, High Street [1862], [1871], [1896], [1900], [1904]

44, High Street [1891]

84, High Street [1901], [1908], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1932], [1936], [1939], [1940], [2003], [2006]

It was originally called GENERAL MOORE. [1818]

GENERAL SIR JOHN MOORE [1849], [1850], [1851], [1862], [1865]

SIR JOHN MOORE [1818], [1827], [1830], [1835], [1868], [1873], [1892], [1896]

It was known locally as "Tarpole's". *Thomas Robinson* (1860–1927) was known as "Tar Pole".

Boxing matches were held in an outbuilding at the rear of the pub.

Black Country Bugle 13/1/2021

'What was brewing in Bilston? Recalling lost pubs and brewers.' by Steve James

"The SWAN was a popular boxing venue, but it was rebuilt in 1898 and is known locally as the Tar Pole."

Thomas Tomes died in 1823.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 24/11/1823 - Advert

"Genteel Household Furniture, Stock of Ale, Hops, Barrels, Brewing Utensils, &c, at Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett, on Monday and Tuesday, the 1st and 2nd days of December, 1832, on the premises of the late Mr. *Thomas Tomes*, deceased, at the sign of GENERAL SIR JOHN MOORE, High Street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford; comprising a regular and extensive assortment of household furniture, bedding, and linen, a large stock of prime ale, ten pockets of excellent hops, iron-bound ale barrels, copper furnaces, brewing utensils, two fat pigs, and other effects.

Descriptive particulars are in circulation, and may be had at the place of sale, and at the Auctioneer's, New Town, Bilston.

The sale to commence each morning precisely at ten."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 23/10/1844 - Advert

"GENERAL MOORE, High Street, Bilston.

To be Let, and entered upon immediately, the above old established and well accustomed Public House, which has been successfully carried on for upwards of half a century.

The Stock and Fixture to be taken at a fair valuation.

For further particulars apply to Mr. *Abraham Cross*, on the premises."

Birmingham Journal 27/6/1846

"Coseley and the neighbourhood has been in a state of much excitement for the last two days, in consequence of the absence of Mrs. *Harper*, wife of Mr. *Thomas Harper*, late of the GENERAL SIR JOHN MOORE, Bilston. It appears that they quarrelled coming home from Wolverhampton market, on Wednesday, when Mrs. *Harper* threatened to throw herself into a pit. Her absence has excited much alarm, and the pits in the neighbourhood have been searched, but she has not yet been found."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/6/1847 - Advert

"Public House in Bilston.

To be Let, with immediate possession if required, the old-established and well-known Public House, known by the sign of the GENERAL SIR JOHN MOORE, situated in High Street, Bilston, and now occupied by Mr. *Henry Darroll*. The Stock and Fixtures to be taken to at a valuation.

For Rent (which is moderate), and other particulars, apply on the premises."

Staffordshire Advertiser 4/8/1849

“John Moore, landlord of the BLACK HORSE, Bilston, charged with keeping his house open after 12 o’clock on Saturday night last, was ordered to pay the costs of the information.

George Harper, landlord of the GENERAL SIR JOHN MOORE, for a similar offence, was fined 5s and costs.”

* possibly the same person

1851 Census

High Street

[1] *George Harpin* (41), victualler, born Sedgley;

[2] *Harriet Harpin* (40), wife, born Sedgley;

[3] *Thomas Harpin* (11), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[4] *Mary Smith* (24), house servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Journal 27/3/1852 - Advert

“Very Advantageous Opportunity. Old Licensed Public House to be Let.

The GENERAL SIR JOHN MOORE, High Street, Bilston.

To be Let, the above old-established House (in consequence of the Proprietor having other engagements).

It is well situated in one of the best thoroughfares in Bilston, and commands a good Trade. Rent £25 per annum.

The Fixtures and Effects to be taken at a fair valuation.

For particulars, apply to Mr. John Mason, Auctioneer, Hall Street, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/6/1852

“The following transfers of victuallers licenses took place.....

George Harpin, of the SIR JOHN MOORE, Bilston, to *George Green*, of Kidderminster.”

Birmingham Journal 10/7/1852 - Advert

“Old-Established Public House, High Street, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by John Mason, at the house of Mr. *George Green*, the GENERAL SIR JOHN MOORE, High Street, Bilston, on Friday Next, the 16th day of July, 1852, at Six o’clock in the evening, and subject to conditions then to be read.

All that the above-named old and well-established Public House, known by the sign of the GENERAL SIR JOHN MOORE, situate in and fronting to High Street, in Bilston aforesaid.

The House comprises Tap Room, large Kitchen, Parlour, Bar, four Sleeping Rooms, large Club Room, Malt Room, good Cellaring, Brewhouse, and Yard, with the Appurtenances thereto belonging.

The above Premises are Copyhold of inheritance, and are desirably situated for carrying on a profitable and increasing business.

To view the Premises, apply to the Tenant; and for further particulars, to the Auctioneer, or to Mr. John Mason, Solicitor, Bilston.”

Enoch Meacham = Enoch Meachem

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/7/1855 - Advert

“Old Licensed Public House.

To be Let, the Old Licensed Public House, known by the name of the GENERAL SIR JOHN MOORE, situate in High Street, Bilston. The house is well supplied with hard and soft water, and good stables are attached. Rent moderate.

For particulars apply to Mr. Daniel Maybury, shopkeeper, Hall Green.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/8/1855 - Advert

“The GENERAL SIR JOHN MOORE, High Street, Bilston.

To be Disposed Of the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the above desirable Old Licensed Public House, with Liquor Shop attached, situate in one of the best thoroughfares in Bilston, and doing a good business. The Stock may be reduced if requisite.

For particulars apply on the premises, or to J. Mason, auctioneer, Hall Street, Bilston.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/8/1856

"Mrs. *Elizabeth Line*, landlady of the GENERAL SIR JOHN MOORE, High Street, Bilston, was fined 5s and costs for permitting drunken and disorderly conduct in her house on the previous Monday. Many persons were found in the house tipsy and very turbulent, and one, William Smith, after frightening the rest by presenting to them a loaded pistol, threatened to shoot the police if they touched him. He was ordered to find sureties for six months."

Birmingham Journal 20/9/1856 - Advert

"GENERAL SIR JOHN MOORE, High Street, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. W. Ashcroft, on Tuesday Next, September 23rd.

All the Household Furniture and Stock-in-Trade; comprising Tables, Benches, Chairs, Screens, Doors, Bedsteads, Feather Beds, four-pull Beer Machine, twenty-four Spirit and Ale Casks, Counter, wood Partitions, 120-gallon Copper Furnace, Lead Pipes, Vats, Mash and other Tubs, Two Pockets of Worcester Hops (growth of 1855), Gas Piping and Appendages, and a great variety of useful Effects, of Mrs. *Line*, who is leaving.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock in the morning."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/8/1857 - Advert

"To be Let, with immediate possession, that Old Licensed House, known as the GENERAL SIR JOHN MOORE, High Street, Bilston. The valuation can be made agreeable to the in-coming tenant.

Apply to Mr. *Lewis*, on the premises."

TO BE LET, with immediate possession, that OLD LICENSED HOUSE, known as "The General Sir John Moore," High-street, Bilston. The valuation can be made agreeable to the in-coming tenant.—Apply to Mr. Lewis, on the premises.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/3/1859 - Advert

"To Parties Desirous of Entering into the Wine and Spirit Trade.

Messrs. W. Plant and Co. being about to retire from the Retail Trade, their Business in Oxford Street, Bilston, is for Disposal. This first-rate concern is too well known to need comment.

W. Plant and Co. will also Dispose of their concern the SIR JOHN MOORE, in High Street, Bilston.

None but principals need apply. Any parties with capital, would, if desired, be allowed to take the management of these establishments for six months previous to entering upon them, in order to test their value.

Apply to Messrs. H. Plant & Co., High Street, Bilston."

London Gazette 7/5/1861

"*Solomon Cross*, late of Spon-lane, in the parish of West-bromwich, in the county of Stafford, in lodgings and out of employment, previously of Bearwood-hill, in the hamlet of Smethwick, in the parish of Harborne, in the said county, Iron Safe and Bedstead Manufacturer, Iron Founder, Bill Broker, Commission Agent, and Ale and Porter Agent, formerly of the same place and occupations, and likewise carrying on the trades of Licensed Victualler and Dealer in Tobacco, at the GENERAL SIR JOHN MOORE INN, Bilston, in the said county."

Staffordshire Advertiser 25/5/1861

"In re *Solomon Cross*, of Spon Lane, Westbromwich.

This insolvent described himself as previously of Smethwick, iron safe and bedstead maker, ironfounder, bill broker, general agent, ale and porter agent, and licensed victualler at the SIR JOHN MOORE INN, Bilston.

The debts were £1,479 4s 1d, and the credits were put down at £423 13s.

Mr. Motteram and Mr. Young supported, Mr. Barber opposed for Messrs. Salt and Co., brewers, of Burton.

The insolvent was bankrupt in 1858. He was again insolvent last year, his debts then being £1,000, and he received his certificate in July last at Warwick. The present proceedings against him were taken in January last. It appeared that he had dealt in accommodation bills. He had represented himself as possessed of considerable means when he obtained credit from Messrs. Salt and Co.

The Judge said the debt to Messrs. Salt was evidently contracted without any reasonable prospect of payment, and remanded the insolvent for three months, so far as that debt was concerned. As, however, Messrs. Salt had not lodged a detainer against the insolvent he was at once released, but is liable to arrest by that firm."

Benjamin George Holton = George B. Holton = Houlton

1861 Census

High Street

- [1] Benjamin G. Holton (38), victualler, born Tingewick, Buckinghamshire;
- [2] Esther C. Holton (37), wife, born Birmingham;
- [3] Sarah J. Holton (7), daughter, born Coventry;
- [4] Catherine A. Holton (5), daughter, born Coventry;
- [5] Edith Jones (21), house servant, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Ann E. Scotman (15), nursemaid, born Willenhall;
- [7] Edward Holland (40), boarder, clerk in spirit store, birthplace not known:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/7/1863

"Henry Peplow and James Robinson were brought up at the Police Court, on Tuesday, charged with having stolen two pairs of boots, a German silver watch, a shirt, and several other articles from the house of a man named Cooper, at Princes End, with whom they had lodged. Peplow, who was defended by Mr. Jackson, was also charged with having stolen a two shilling piece from the till of Mr. *Houlton*, the GENERAL MOORE public house, High Street. It appears that one morning in Easter week the two went into the above house and called for some drink, and whilst the attention of the little girl who was attending them was attracted elsewhere, Peplow put his hand over the counter and into the till, and abstracted a florin. He was trying to repeat the theft, when the attention of the little girl was aroused, and she called out. The two prisoners then made off, and, as it afterwards appeared, went home to their lodgings, took the articles above referred to, and then absconded, and they were only apprehended a few days ago. Peplow was ordered to be imprisoned for 28 days for the till robbery, and was committed for trial along with the other prisoner on the second charge."

AND

Staffordshire Sentinel 4/7/1863

"James Robinson, miner, and William Peplow, engine fitter, were charged with stealing a watch and a quantity of wearing apparel belonging to William Cooper, of Tipton, in whose house they lodged. The evidence not being clear against Robinson, he was acquitted. Peplow was found guilty, and sentenced to twelve months' hard labour."

[Peplow had been convicted three times previously, which the Bilston magistrates were not aware of when they sentenced him.]

WANTED, an active, steady MAN, with a knowledge of Brewing, and to make himself generally useful. Good character required from last situation. - Apply to the General Sir John Moore Spirit Vaults, High street, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 11/1/1864 - Advert

"Wanted, an active steady Man, with a knowledge of Brewing, and to make himself generally useful. Good character required from last situation.

Apply to the GENERAL SIR JOHN MOORE SPIRIT VAULTS, High Street, Bilston."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/2/1864 - Advert

"Wanted, a steady young Man, to assist in Brewing, and to make himself generally useful. Good character required. Apply at the GENERAL SIR JOHN MOORE SPIRIT VAULTS, High Street, Bilston."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/9/1864

"Yesterday the magistrates sat in Special Sessions, for the consideration of the applications for the renewal of old and the granting of new licenses to victuallers.....

The following houses and their landlords had been complained against and fined during the year.....

B. G. Holton, GENERAL SIR JOHN MOORE, High Street."

1871 Census

46, High Street - GEN. SIR JOHN MORE

- [1] John Hollingsworth (40), licensed victualler employing one assistant, born Cubley, Derbyshire;
- [2] Mary Hollingsworth (44), wife, born Heighington, Lincolnshire;
- [3] Sarah Whitehouse (16), domestic servant, born Tipton:

John Hollingsworth was also a wine and spirit merchant.

London Gazette 19/9/1879

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

In the Matter of a Special Resolution for Liquidation by Arrangement of the affairs of *John Hollingsworth*, of the GENERAL SIR JOHN MOORE Public-house, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler.

The creditors of the above-named *John Hollingsworth* who have not already proved their debts, are required, on or before the 6th day of October, 1879, to send their names and addresses, and the particulars of their debts or claims, to me, the undersigned, William George Dixon, of 46, Queen-street, Wolverhampton, Accountant, the Trustee under the liquidation, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of the Dividend proposed to be declared.

Dated this 16th day of September, 1879.

Wm. Geo. Dixon, Trustee.”

Thomas Legge = Thomas Legg

1881 Census

46, High Street – GENERAL SIR JOHN MOORE

[1] *Thomas Legge* (41), licensed victualler, born Bilston;

[2] *Maud Legge* (39), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Alice Legge* (17), daughter, barmaid, born Bilston;

[4] *Emily Legge* (8), daughter, scholar, born Birmingham;

[5] *Thomas Legge* (11), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[6] *William Legge* (6), son, scholar, born Birmingham;

[7] *Fanny Legge* (4), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[8] *Edith Legge* (2), daughter, born Bilston:

Darlaston Weekly Times 1/4/1882

“*John Evans* (Moxley) was charged by Mr. *Legge* with taking a drinking glass from the GENERAL SIR JOHN MOORE INN, Bilston, on the evening of the 18th. The defendant denied the charge. The Bench, however, censured the defendant for the offence, and warned him for his future conduct, with an order to pay costs.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 19/5/1883

“Whitsuntide in the District.....

The annual trip of the Judge and Jury Club held at the SIR JOHN MOORE INN, Bilston, Mr. *Legg* (photographer), proprietor, took place on Tuesday. About 84 were conveyed in four-horse brakes and a four-horse coach, to Lichfield, each brake or coach being drawn by four greys or four chestnuts in splendid condition. Starting from the club house at 9.30 a pleasant ride was enjoyed, the party reaching Lichfield at one o’clock, a stop being made at Muckley Corner for the group to be photographed, which was taken in first-class style by Mr. *Legg*. An enjoyable day was spent in visiting the Museum, Cathedral, &c, and the party returned home at ten o’clock in the evening, thoroughly pleased with the day.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 24/11/1883

“*Maurice O’Brien*, High Street, Bilston, for creating a disturbance in the GENERAL SIR JOHN MOORE INN, and assaulting Mr. *T. Legg*, the landlord, on the 28th October, 1882, was fined 10s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 4/10/1884 - Advert

“£80 will Purchase the License, Possession, the whole of the Fixtures of Bar, Spirit Vaults, snug Smoke and Club Room; capital brewing plant. Rent £28.

SIR JOHN MOORE INN, High Street, Bilston.”

£80. will Purchase the License, Possession, the whole of the Fixtures of Bar, Spirit Vaults, snug Smoke and Club Room; capital brewing plant. Rent £28.—Sir John Moore Inn, High Street, Bilston.

1891 Census

44, High Street

- [1] Thomas Legge (49), widower, licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] Alice Legge (27), daughter, barmaid, born Bilston;
- [3] Emily Legge (18), daughter, barmaid, born Birmingham;
- [4] William H. Legge (16), son, assistant photographic printer, born Birmingham;
- [5] Fanny Legge (14), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] Edith Legge (12), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] Howard Legge (9), son, scholar, born Bilston:

Thomas Legge was also a photographer of Walsall Street. [1892]

The name was altered to SWAN in the licensing register on 31st October 1892.

Thomas Legge was also a photographer of Walsall Street. [1896]

1901 Census

84, High Street

- [1] Charles Fishburn (32), licensed victualler, born Henshaw, Yorkshire;
- [2] Alice Fishburn (33), wife, born Abbotts Bromley, Staffordshire:

Staffordshire Advertiser 11/10/1902

“*James William Green*, of the SWAN INN, High Street, Bilston, was charged with permitting betting on his premises on several dates. Police-constable Bradbury, disguised as a miner, visited the house and was allowed to make bets on horse races in the presence of defendant. A fine of £5 and costs was imposed and the license was endorsed.”

George Hassel = *George Harcel*

Boxing 10/12/1910

“Mr. *Thomas Robinson*, of the SWAN HOTEL, Bilston, wishes, through *Boxing*, to offer a purse of £10 for the 15 2min round contest between Preece (Darlaston) and Henry (Bilston), both of whom are requested to communicate with him at once.”

1911 Census

84, High Street

- [1] Tom Robinson (50), license holder, born Netherton;
- [2] Deborah Robinson (49), wife, married 26 years, born Bilston;
- [3] Sarah Robinson (24), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] Florrie Robinson (17), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] Jemima Robinson (14), daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] Beatrice Robinson (12), daughter, school, born Bilston:

Boxing 17/2/1912

“Matt Precious, at one time undisputed bantam-weight champion of Great Britain, having amassed wealth as a commission agent, and deservedly popular with sportsmen, has now turned his abilities to boxing promoting at the Drill Hall, Willenhall, and opens there on Monday next, 19th inst, with a 15 3min round contest between Harry Rosewarne (Wednesbury) and Albert Wolfindale (Birmingham). This will be one of the best drawing cards he could have picked, as the pair on a former occasion put up a rousing mill in Birmingham, which the greater experience of Rosewarne enabled him to win, though not by a large margin. The remainder of the programme at the time of writing these notes has not been made up, but will be mostly of contests between Black Country lads. M. Precious is anxious to have names, weights, and records of Birmingham and Black Country boxers desirous of matches. Particulars can be sent to him, care of *Boxing*, London; to me at 188, Corporation Street, Birmingham, or to Mr. *Tom Robinson*, the SWAN HOTEL, Bilston. Good purses will be given for matches with stake-money attachments, as he wants only the best kind of goods.”

Sports Argus 30/11/1912

“At the invitation of Mr. *T. Robinson* the players and committee of Bilston United FC were entertained to supper at the SWAN HOTEL, High Street, Bilston, on Thursday evening.....”

1921 Census

162, Wellington Road

- [1] *Thomas Robinson* (60), licensed victualler, High Street, born Dudley;
- [2] *Deborah Robinson* (59), wife, household duties, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *Florrie Robinson* (26), daughter, household duties, born Bilston;
- [4] *Jemima Robinson* (24), daughter, household duties, born Bilston;
- [5] *Beatrice Robinson* (22), daughter, shop assistant, born Bilston:

Bert Burrows was bantamweight boxing champion of the Midlands in 1912.
He later became a boxing promoter.

Dudley Chronicle 7/10/1926

“At a Transfer Sessions at the Bilston Police Court on Friday.....

Bert Burrows, SWAN INN, High Street, Bilston, applied for permission to provide an outlet through a wall to his private gymnasium. The application was refused.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/3/1928

“Wednesbury Harriers meet today for a road handicap race from the SWAN INN, High Street, Bilston. Members are requested to meet at the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, at 2.30pm.”

1939 Register

84, High Street

- [1] *John A. F. Grainger*, date of birth 4/4/1883, licensee, married;
- [2] *Amelia Grainger*, dob 25/4/1889, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] *Lila M. (Grainger) Langford*, dob 7/11/1919, boot machinist, single;
- [4] *Kenneth J. Grainger*, dob 15/5/1921, capstan lathe operator, single;
- [5] *Evelyn (Grainger) Danks*, dob 11/10/1923, boot machinist, single:

Birmingham Daily Post 10/10/1967

“With anything from free helpings of beer, absorbing mashed potatoes to a ‘protest trip’ in a horse and cart, landlords tried to woo Midland motorists to the pubs yesterday on the first day of the breathalyser tests. But by closing time it looked as if the breathalyser had won. Though by 11.15pm Birmingham police had still not used a breathalyser, most publicans had admitted to a drop in trade. The man in the horse and cart was Mr. *Travers Turley*, who runs the SWAN INN in Bilston High Street. Describing the new legislation as ‘an encroachment on personal freedom’ he drove to a neighbouring pub in a horse and cart borrowed from a friend. Said Mr. *Turley*, ‘Our freedoms are gradually being taken from us. What are they going to do next?’”

Sandwell Evening Mail 11/8/1981 - Advert

“*Turley’s* Private Hire, competitive rates and prices for airports, stations, etc.
SWAN INN, High Street, Bilston.”

Alterations were approved on 17th July 1987.

It was refurbished in the early 1990s.

TURLEY’S PRIVATE HIRE,
competitive rates and prices
for airports, stations etc. —
Swan Inn, High Street, Bilston.
Tel. 26 42428.

Birmingham Weekly Mercury 7/3/1999

“Former Wolves stars *Willie Carr*, *Phil Parkes* and *Mel Eves* will be back in action today with a new goal to help raise cash for the British Heart Foundation. The Wolves All-Stars will be taking on pub side the SWAN (2.00) at Bilston at Bilston United’s Rooker Avenue ground in Parkfields, Wolverhampton, in a tribute game to local referee *Jim Hurley*, who died after officiating a match at the ground in December. *Terry Jones*, one of the organisers, said, ‘We are hoping we can raise a four figure sum for the British Heart Foundation.’”

[2019]

Express & Star 25/10/2021

“A historic Bilston pub is facing demolition following proposals by supermarket giant Lidl to build a major new flagship store in the town. The SWAN in High Street, which dates back to 1898, will fall victim to bulldozers if the German-based retail chain is given the go-ahead to build a larger store on the site of its existing premises. Despite the landmark pub’s long existence, heritage bosses have said the once popular watering hole – which closed in June this year – is of little real significant historic interest.

In a report submitted to Wolverhampton Council planners alongside the application, Sarah Watt, Director of Asset Heritage, said, ‘The site lies over 400m from the boundary of the Bilston Town Centre Conservation Area and does not form part of its immediate physical setting. The majority of it is comprised of car parking with the existing food store. The SWAN is of relatively low heritage interest and demolition will result in better-defined access to the car park.

Lidl entered into pre-application discussions with the council in September 2020. The pub was previously owned by Marston’s Brewery and operated on a tenancy arrangement until it was purchased by the retailer in June 2021. In a further supporting statement Jake McLeod, from Cheshire-based Walsingham Planning, the agents acting on behalf of Lidl, added, ‘The site is currently occupied by the existing Lidl, a pharmacy and Subway fast food restaurant at ground floor level and office space at first floor level. An adjacent McDonald’s and its associated drive-thru and car park is also accessed via the site. The redevelopment will include two new commercial units to accommodate the pharmacy and Subway. The existing foodstore was formerly a Co-op and was one of Lidl’s first stores in the region. It is now very dated and offers a poor customer experience. As a consequence of this, Lidl has concluded that the appropriate approach is to provide a new, modern, purpose-built food store. The proposed new store will employ up to 40 staff. Lidl has a policy of employing local people from all backgrounds to work at their stores in a range of positions and levels of seniority. This allows for a short commute to work and a range of training opportunities for local people. The SWAN is a small pub and we understand from Marston’s that even prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, it was not a sustainable business. Beer sales were very low with average of 186 barrels per annum sold between 2016 and 2019. It had earnings of £30,000 before interest and tax per annum over the last five years, which is not profitable or viable.’

The plans also include allowance for 119 car parking spaces, seven disabled spaces, eight parent and child spaces, two electric vehicle charger spaces and 12 cycle storage bays. Wolverhampton planners will decide on the application in the near future.”

Closed [2023]

*General Household Furniture, Stock of Ale, Hops,
Barrels, Brewing Utensils, &c. at Bilston,*

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by RICHARD CORBETT, on Monday and Tuesday, the 1st and 2d days of December, 1823, on the premises of the late Mr. Thomas Tomes, deceased, at the sign of General Sir John Moore, High-street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford; comprising a regular and extensive assortment of household furniture, bedding, and linen, a large stock of prime ale, ten pockets of excellent hops, iron-bound ale barrels, copper furnaces, brewing utensils, two fat pigs, and other effects.

Descriptive particulars are in circulation, and may be had at the place of sale, and at the Auctioneer’s, New Town, Bilston.

The sale to commence each morning precisely at ten.

1823

GENERAL MOORE, HIGH STREET, BILSTON

TO be LET, and entered upon immediately, the above old established and well accustomed PUBLIC House, which has been successfully carried on for upwards of half a century.

The Stock and Fixtures to be taken at a fair valuation.

For further particulars apply to Mr. ABRAHAM CROSS, on the premises.

1844

PUBLIC HOUSE IN BILSTON.

TO be LET, with immediate possession if required, the old-established and well-known PUBLIC HOUSE, known by the sign of the GENERAL SIR JOHN MOORE, situated in High-street, Bilston, and now occupied by Mr. Henry Darroll. The Stock and Fixtures to be taken to at a valuation.

For Rent (which is moderate), and other particulars, apply on the premises.

1847

VERY ADVANTAGEOUS OPPORTUNITY.
OLD LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE TO BE LET.
"THE GENERAL SIR JOHN MOORE,"
HIGH STREET, BILSTON.

TO be LET, the above old-established HOUSE, (in consequence of the Proprietor having other engagement.) It is well situated in one of the best thoroughfares in Bilston, and commands a good Trade. Rent £24. per annum. The Fixtures and Effects to be taken at a fair valuation.
For particulars, apply to Mr. John Mason, Auctioneer, Hall Street, Bilston.

OLD-ESTABLISHED PUBLIC HOUSE,
HIGH STREET, BILSTON.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

BY JOHN MASON, at the house of Mr. George Green, the General Sir John Moore, High Street, Bilston, on FRIDAY NEXT, the 16th day of July, 1852, at Six o'clock in the evening, and subject to conditions then to be read—all that the above-named old and well-established PUBLIC HOUSE, known by the sign of the "GENERAL SIR JOHN MOORE," situate in and fronting to High Street, in Bilston aforesaid.

The House comprises Tap Room, large Kitchen, Parlour, Bar, four Sleeping Rooms, large Club Room, Malt Room, good Cellaring, Brew-house, and Yard, with the Appurtenances thereto belonging.

The above Premises are Copyhold of Inheritance, and are desirably situated for carrying on a profitable and increasing business.

To view the Premises, apply to the Tenant; and for further particulars, to the Auctioneer, or to Mr. John Mason, Solicitor, Bilston.

1852

OLD LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE.

TO BE LET, the OLD LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE, known by the name of the "General Sir John Moore," situate in High-street, Bilston. The house is well supplied with hard and soft water, and good stables are attached. Rent moderate.—For particulars apply to Mr. DANIEL MAYBURY, shopkeeper, Hall Green.

THE GENERAL SIR JOHN MOORE,
High-street, Bilston.

TO be DISPOSED OF the LICENSES, GOODWILL, and POSSESSION of the above desirable Old Licensed PUBLIC HOUSE, with Liquor Shop attached, situate in one of the best thoroughfares in Bilston, and doing a good business. The Stock may be reduced if requisite.—For particulars apply on the premises, or to J. Mason, auctioneer, Hall-street, Bilston.

1855

"GENERAL SIR JOHN MOORE,"
HIGH STREET, BILSTON.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION.

BY Mr. W. ASHCROFT, on TUESDAY NEXT, September 23rd—all the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE and STOCK-IN-TRADE; comprising Tables, Benches, Chairs, Screens, Doors, Bedsteads, Feather Beds, four-pull Beer Machine, twenty-four Spirit and Ale Casks, Counter, wood Partitions, 120-gallon Copper Furnace, Lead Pipes, Vats, Mash and other Tubs, Two Pockets of Worcester HOPS, (growth of 1855,) Gas Piping and Appendages, and a great variety of useful Effects, of Mrs. Line, who is leaving.
Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock in the morning.

1856

TO PARTIES DESIROUS OF ENTERING INTO THE WINE
AND SPIRIT TRADE.

MESSRS. W. PLANT and CO. being about to retire from the Retail Trade, their BUSINESS in OXFORD STREET, BILSTON, IS FOR DISPOSAL. This first-rate concern is too well known to need comment.

W. PLANT and CO. will also DISPOSE of their concern THE SIR JOHN MOORE, in HIGH STREET, BILSTON.

None but principals need apply. Any parties with capital, would, if desired, be allowed to take the management of these establishments for six months previous to entering upon them, in order to test their value.

Apply to Messrs. H. PLANT & Co., High-street, Bilston.

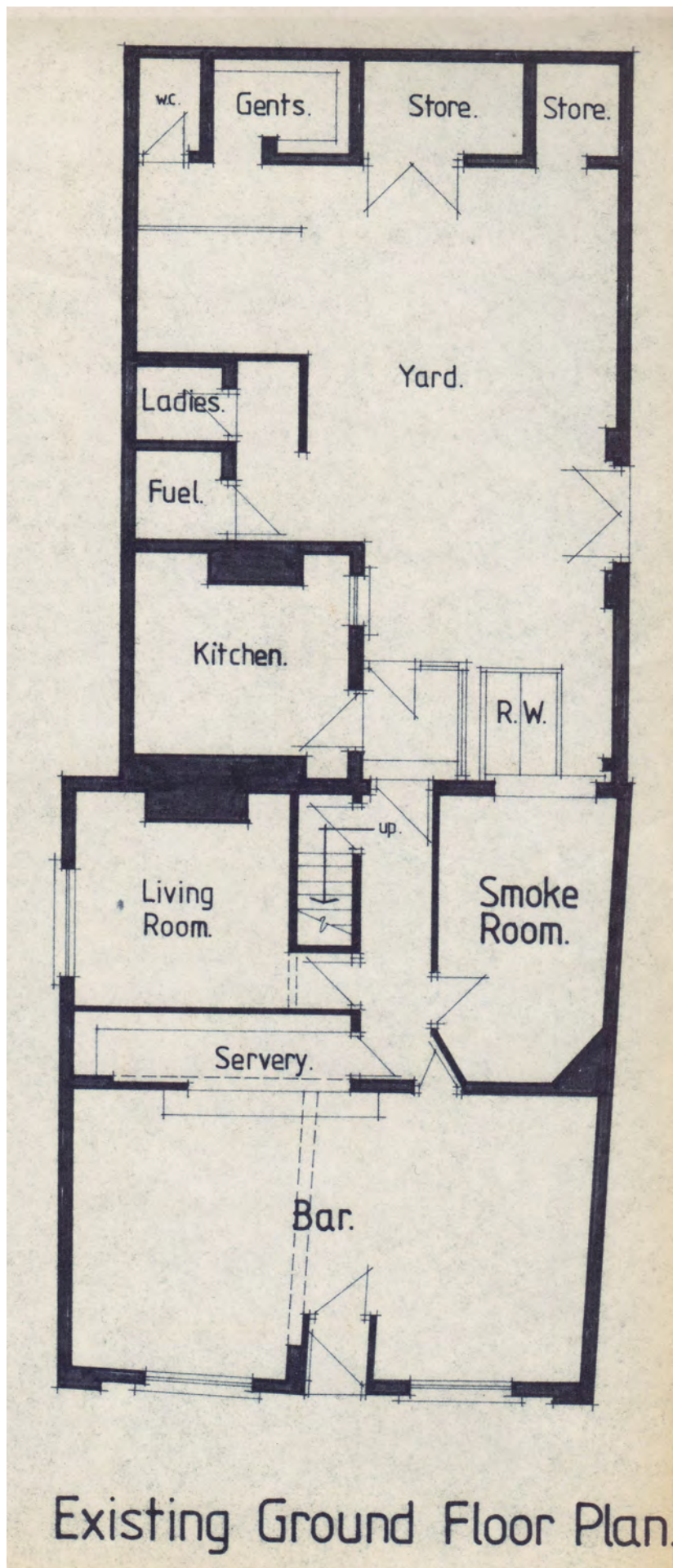
1859

WANTED: a steady young MAN, to assist in Brewing, and to make himself generally useful. Good character required.—Apply at the General Sir John Moore Spirit Vaults, High Street, Bilston.

1864



Thomas Robinson



Plan 1987



SWAN

1, John Street, New Village, (Priestfield), Ettingshall, BILSTON

OWNERS

Ann Holland, widow, New Village
Richard Tranter
William Butler and Co. Ltd.

LICENSEES

Thomas Holland [1851] – **1866**);
Richard Tranter (**1866** – [1867]
John Rogers [1868] – **1869**);
Thomas Wingfield (**1869** – **1876**);
Richard Seden Tysoe (**1876** – **1879**);
John Tomlinson (**1879** – **1881**);
Ezra Spittle (**1881** – **1892**);
Ezra Thomas Spittle (**1892** – **1905**);
Thomas Powell (**1905** – **1913**);
John William Eames (**1913** – **1915**);
Harriet Elizabeth Eames (**1915** – **1929**);
William Rowley (**1929** – **1943**);
Charlotte Rowley (**1943**)



c1900

NOTES

WHITE SWAN [1873]

New Village [1851], [1862], [1908]

1851 Census

Ettingshall

- [1] *Thomas Holland* (51), victualler, born Brewood;
- [2] *Mary Holland* (48), wife, born Shareshill, Staffordshire;
- [3] *Ann Holland* (21), daughter, born Brewood;
- [4] *Charles Beard* (37), brother, iron founder, born Shareshill, Staffordshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/10/1851 - Advert

“New-Erected Freehold Messuages or Dwelling Houses, situate at New Friezland, Ettingshall, in the township of Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. R. S. Walker, at the house of Mr. E. Dawes, the NEWMARKET HOTEL, Bilston Street, Wolverhampton, on Tuesday, November the 4th, 1851, at six o'clock in the afternoon precisely, in the following or such other lot or lots as shall be fixed at the time of sale (under a power of sale contained in a Mortgage Deed), and subject to conditions then to be produced.

Lot I. All those six new-erected Messuages or Dwelling Houses at New Friezland, Ettingshall, near Bilston, and adjoining Lot II.....

Lot II. All that new-erected Messuage or Public House now known by the sign of the SWAN INN at New Friezland, Ettingshall, near Bilston aforesaid, and now in the occupation of Mr. *Thomas Holland*.

The whole of the property is in an excellent state of repair, having been recently erected.

For further particulars apply to Mr. Foster, solicitor, or the Auctioneer, both of Wolverhampton.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 23/11/1853 - Advert

“Freehold Building Land and Buildings, in Bilston Street, Wolverhampton, and at the New Village, Ettingshall, near Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. R. S. Walker, at Mr. Edward Dawes’s, the NEW MARKET HOTEL, Bilston Street, Wolverhampton, on Thursday, the 1st day of December, 1853, at six o’clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be produced, unless previously disposed of by Private Contract, of which notice will be given....

Lot II. All those eleven newly erected Messuages, Tenements, or Dwelling Houses, situate at the New Village, Ettingshall, near Bilston, one of which is an old licensed public house, known by the sign of the SWAN, and now in the possession of Mr. *Thomas Holland*, and the others are in the occupations of Benjamin Instan, John Danbury, Thomas Baker, William Hodgkiss, Joseph Roland, Robert Roberts, James Cooper, Enoch Biggs, John Mannix, and William Rogers.

For further particulars apply to Mr. Foster, attorney, or the Auctioneer, Wolverhampton.”

Birmingham Journal 21/6/1856

“On Tuesday morning last, T. M. Phillips, Esq, the Coroner, held an inquest at the house of Mr. *Thomas Holland*, the SWAN INN, near Bilston, on the body of a man named Thomas Huggins, a guard, in the service of the Great Western Railway Company, who met with his death on Sunday last under circumstances of a peculiarly shocking character. It would appear that the deceased, who was a single man, about twenty-seven years of age, and who resided in Birmingham, has been in the service of the company for several years; he was employed in the first instance as porter, and afterwards as travelling porter, his duty in the latter situation being to ride with the express train on the tender of the engine, in order to see that no irregularity took place in the carriages. For some weeks past, however, he had fulfilled the duties of ordinary guard, and in this capacity he left Wolverhampton on Sunday, with a train departing thence to Birmingham, at one o’clock in the day. It would seem that shortly after entering the tunnel near Wolverhampton the deceased dropped his cap, and that as the train approached the end nearest Ettingshall Station, he, as is supposed, with a view of notifying this circumstance to the signal man on duty, placed his head through the window of the guard’s van. In some of the carriages on this line the guard’s box is placed in the centre of a third class carriage, so that the guard is visible to the passengers in the other compartments. On the train emerging from the tunnel one or two of the passengers had their attention directed to the deceased, and were horrified to find that the upper part of his skull was cloven open, and that a ghastly wound presented itself. The motionless attitude of the guard – his right arm and a portion of his body being half way out of the carriage door – convinced them that the man was dead, and on arriving at Ettingshall Station this was found to be the fact. The deceased was forthwith removed to the station, and a messenger was despatched for Mr. Chamberlain, surgeon, of Wolverhampton. That gentleman speedily arrived; but life must have been extinct some time prior to the deceased being first observed by the passengers. The outside of the guard’s van was besmeared with the scattered brains of the deceased, and on a search being made in the direction of the tunnel, spots of blood were discovered here and there for the whole distance; as also to a distance of one third of the tunnel towards Wolverhampton. It was also seen by the appearance of the brickwork that at this portion of the tunnel it must have been where the unfortunate deceased first projected his head from the carriage, for there were marks of blood, &c, on the side. Further on towards Wolverhampton the deceased’s cap was found. The deceased was stated to have been when he left Wolverhampton in a perfectly sober and fit state to undertake the duties of guard, and no other person was in the same compartment of that carriage. The train consisted of broad-gauge carriages, and these, it may be stated, necessarily project nearer to the wall of the tunnel than do the carriages on the narrow gauge. The witnesses examined at the inquest were Mr. Robert Bushel, the station master at the Great Western station at Ettingshall; John Mayne, pointsman at the same place; Cuthbert Davison, engine driver of the train; and Mr. W. J. Humphrey, superintendent of the Low Level, Wolverhampton. The opinion of the latter was, as stated above, that the deceased, having lost his cap, was preparing to call out to the signal man at the Ettingshall end of the tunnel to see that it was not lost. The Coroner considered it necessary to adjourn the enquiry in order to procure some of the persons travelling in the same carriage as the deceased, and the Jury concurring, the inquest was adjourned till Thursday.”

Birmingham Journal 13/11/1858 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Property, near Ward Street, in the New Village, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, on Wednesday Next, the 17th day of November, at the house of Mr. *Thomas Holland*, SWAN INN, John Street, in the aforesaid Village, at Six o’clock in the evening.....”

London Weekly Mail 6/2/1859

"An inquest has been held at the SWAN INN, New Village, Staffordshire, before W. H. Phillips, Esq, the deputy coroner, on the bodies of Emanuel Lees and George Jarvis, the sufferers by the accident on Tuesday morning week at the New Friesland Colliery, Ettingshall.

Michael Roper, a sinker, stated that the deceased were ten or eleven yards down the shaft when the chain broke. The pit is 30 yards deep. The deceased were let down by the butt. In witness's opinion the chain was broken by a jerk, caused by its slipping from the gin about two feet.

Lees lived about two hours after the accident, and Jarvis till about seven o'clock at night.

J. G. Longridge, Esq, her Majesty's inspector of mines, stated that the day after the accident he examined the gin and chains, and found them in a most insecure and dangerous state. All iron chains were liable to become dangerous, owing to the change of nature of the iron at the working part. The present chain had become quite crystalline at such parts, so that a jerk would break it like glass.

The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the facts adduced in evidence, accompanied by an opinion that the pit and machinery connected with it were in a very unfit state for work, and with a recommendation that all pits and machinery connected therewith should be inspected by her Majesty's inspector before being allowed to commence work."

1861 Census

1, John Street – Public House

[1] *Thomas Holland* (61), victualler, born Brewood;

[2] *Mary Holland* (57), wife, born Shareshill, Staffordshire;

[3] *Maria Wilkes* (19), general servant, born Bilston;

[4] *Charles Beard* (47), lodger, born Shareshill, Staffordshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/9/1861

"Annual meeting for the renewal and granting of spirit licenses.....

Applications For New Licenses.....

Richard Millington, the VINE TAVERN, New Village. Supported by Mr. Bowen; opposed by Mr. *Holland*, a rival publican. Refused."

Thomas Holland, retailer of beer, New Village. [1862]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 23/5/1866

"An inquest was held before W. H. Phillips, Esq, (Deputy Coroner), on Thursday, at the SWAN INN, Bilston, on the body of *Joseph Smith*, aged 62, a butt miner, employed at the Spring Vale Colliery. It appeared from the evidence that on Tuesday, the 8th inst, the deceased was at work on the pit bank assisting to take off and send down skips. An empty skip was hanging over a pit mouth, which was not covered at the moment with the waggon, when the deceased, apparently in ignorance of the circumstance, pushed forward a 'tram' to the top of the shaft, and the result was that he and 'tram' fell to the bottom, a depth of 150 yards. He was dead when picked up. The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/5/1867

"*Richard Tranter*, a publican, living at Priestfield, and *Richard Matthews*, formerly in the employ of the Great Western Company, were committed for trial charged with stealing a quantity of cloth, valued at £12, from a railway truck at Priestfield. The cloth had been consigned from Bristol to Mr. *Bishop*, draper, of Bilston. It was missed at Priestfield and one portion found in a hay-loft on *Tranter's* premises and the remainder at *Matthews's* lodgings. Sureties in £400 were offered and accepted as bail for the appearance of *Tranter*."

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/7/1867

"Staffordshire Midsummer Sessions.....

Richard Tranter, on bail, and *Richard Matthews*, 23, labourer, were indicted for stealing 50 yards of woollen cloth, the property of the Great Western Railway Company, at Bilston, on the 10th March. Mr. *Motteram* appeared to prosecute on behalf of the railway company; Mr. *Young* and Mr. *Bosanquet* defended *Tranter*, and Mr. *Browne* the prisoner *Matthews*.

During the night of the day in question, a package containing 25 yards of pilot cloth and 25 yards of quilted cloth, consigned from Bristol to Mr. Bishop, of Bilston, was stolen from a truck at Priestfields station. Matthews was employed at the station at the time, and was on duty that night in charge of the truck. *Tranter* kept an inn, which was his own freehold property, near the station. Suspicion became attached to Matthews and *Tranter*, and some pilot and quilted cloth was afterwards traced to their possession. This cloth, it was sought to show, was the same that was taken from the truck, but the prosecution failed to do so to the satisfaction of the jury, who returned a verdict of not guilty with respect to both prisoners. *Tranter* received a high character from a number of gentlemen.”

Thomas Wingfield = Thomas Winfield

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/5/1870

“Thomas Jones, alias ‘Red Tom,’ and David Findley were charged with stealing a ‘billycock’ hat, the property of *Thomas Winfield*, SWANN INN, New Village. On Sunday last the prisoners and another man were in the house and had some drink; prosecutor had left his hat in the room, and as soon as they were gone the hat was missed, but was found by Police-constable Denstone on Findley’s head. When charged with stealing it prisoner said it had been put on his head in the public house. Both prisoners were committed for trial. Jones was also committed on a charge of stealing a sheep belonging to Mr. Richard Pearson, butcher, of Bilston, from a field at the Lunt, on the 24th November, 1859. On the night in question prisoner went to the field and slaughtered the animal and stole the hind quarters, but hid the remainder in a hovel close by the place. He absconded immediately, and was not seen again till last Sunday.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/7/1870

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Thomas Jones, 37, fitter, and David Finley, 47, engine tender, were charged with having stolen a hat, the property of *Thomas Wingfield*, of the SWAN INN, Bilston, on the 1st of May. Finley was found guilty, and sentenced to twenty-one days’ imprisonment. Jones was found not guilty.

The same Thomas Jones was charged with having stolen a sheep, the property of Richard Pearson, butcher, Bilston, on the 24th of November, 1859. The sheep was stolen from the Lunt, Bilston, and a reward was offered for the discovery of the thief, who was supposed at the time to be the prisoner. He managed to keep out of the way till recently, and when apprehended he said he killed the sheep with a brick, and that it was an old tup. He was found guilty and sentenced to twelve months’ imprisonment.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 12/11/1870

“At the Petty Sessions, yesterday, before Messrs. E. B. Dimmack and W. Hatton, two puddlers, named Samuel Dodd and Henry Pearce, were charged with assaulting John *Winfield*, of the SWAN public house, Priestfields, and also with stealing three bagatelle balls. About two o’clock on Tuesday the prisoners, in company with three others, entered complainant’s house. Mr. *Winfield* was in the passage at the time, and in passing one of the party put his hand in complainant’s pocket. This aroused his suspicion, and on going into the room shortly after he missed three bagatelle balls. The prisoners then left, and he followed them up the street and asked for the balls, but they refused to give them up, and threatened the complainant with violence. He then went for the police, and during his absence one of the prisoners returned and replaced the balls.

As both prisoners had good characters they were discharged with a caution.”

1871 Census

1, John Street

[1] *Thomas Wingfield* (47), publican, born Kempsey, Worcestershire;

[2] Sarah Wingfield (44), wife, born Clifton on Tame, Worcestershire;

[3] Sarah A. Wingfield (14), daughter, scholar, born Pensax, Worcestershire;

[4] Catherine Higgs (16), domestic servant, born Gornall, Worcestershire:

Birmingham Daily Post 31/8/1872

“Bilston Division Annual Licensing Sessions.....

The application of Mr. *Wingfield*, landlord of the SWAN INN, Priestfield, for a special privilege of opening earlier and closing later during the Wolverhampton races, for the convenience of the employees of the Great Western Railway, near the Priestfield station of which his house was situated, was refused, on the plea that the word ‘races’ did not come under the term ‘market,’ or any word expressed in the Act.”

Birmingham Daily Post 31/5/1873 - Advert

“Lost, on 27th inst, a blue Greyhound Bitch Puppy. Anyone returning same to SWAN INN, Priestfield, Bilston, will be liberally rewarded; or detaining her after this notice will be prosecuted.”

LOST, on 27th inst., a blue Greyhound Bitch Puppy.—Anyone returning same to Swan Inn, Priestfield, Bilston, will be liberally rewarded; or detaining her after this notice will be prosecuted.

Dudley Guardian 20/6/1874

“Startling Revelations Respecting the Sanitary State of Bilston.....

Respecting the purity of water used for drinking purposes in the town, the Medical Officer reported.....

Water obtained from an iron pump at the back of the SWAN public house, Priestfield, would probably produce disease if it was used for drinking purposes.

The Board resolved to instruct the Clerk to give notice to the owners of the property mentioned, calling upon them to obtain a proper supply of water within fourteen days, and in the event of the notice not being complied with the surveyor was instructed to carry out the necessary work and charge the owners of property with the cost.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/8/1875

“Yesterday, there was an annual licensing meeting for the Bilston Petty Sessional Division.....

Chief-superintendent McCrea presented the ‘black list.’ The licensed victuallers who had been fined during the year were.....

Thomas Wingfield, SWAN INN, Ettingshall, permitting drunkenness, 10s and costs.....

All the old licenses would be renewed, excepting those of holders who had been convicted. Their applications would be deferred until the adjourned licensing day.”

[Renewed with a caution at the adjourned brewster sessions.]

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 19/8/1876

“*Thomas Winfield*, landlord of the SWAN INN, New Village, was summoned by Chief Superintendent McCrea for permitting drunkenness in his house on Saturday night last. Mr. C. Barrow, solicitor to the Licensed Victuallers’ Association, defended.

On Tuesday last a miner named Reuben Blunt, of New Village, was fined for being drunk in the defendant’s house, and on that occasion Mr. Homer, the presiding magistrate, ordered a summons to be issued against the defendant. This was done, and yesterday the man Reuben Blunt deposed that on Saturday night he was supplied by the defendant with a pint of ale, a glass of whiskey, and seven glasses of rum and peppermint. A number of witnesses were called, and eventually the magistrates fined the defendant 40s and costs, ordering the conviction to be endorsed on his license.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 23/9/1876

“The adjourned licensing session for the Bilston licensing division was held at the Bilston Police Court yesterday..... The license of the SWAN INN, New Village, was transferred from *Thomas Winfield* to *R. G. Tyson*.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 24/11/1877

“Adam Lee Richardson (24), was charged under remand with stealing 5s from a till at the house of *Richard Tysoe*, the SWAN INN, Priestfield. On the 19th inst the prisoner went into prosecutor’s house and asked for a pint of ale. He was served by Mrs. *Tysoe*, who gave him 9d out of a shilling which he tendered. Mrs. *Tysoe* left the bar for a short time, and on returning she saw the prisoner with his hand in the till. On seeing her he dropped some money on the counter and ran away. She called her husband down stairs and he at once started in pursuit of the prisoner, and after an exciting chase for three miles over colliery mounds he succeeded in catching him. Prisoner was brought back to the house and given into custody. In the meantime Mrs. *Tysoe* had discovered that the money he dropped amounted to 5s. Prisoner was committed to hard labour for a month.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/2/1878 - Correspondence

“Publicans and Grocers. To the Editor of the *Daily Post*.

Sir, On reading the leading article which appeared in your paper on Monday last, on the case decided in the Court of the Queen’s Bench on Friday last, *Arnold v Thatcher*, I felt very much the remark therein stated to have been made by the Lord Chief Justice, condemning, as he does, in one fell swoop, the whole of the publicans in this country with regard to the quality of wines and spirits sold by them. Now, sir, I maintain that, as a rule, articles sold by publicans are quite as good in quality, and as reasonable in price, as those sold by any other class of tradesmen; and if I thought for one moment that the publican was not quite as respectable as his neighbours, the baker, butcher, draper, or grocer, I would give up my calling as such at once. If the publican’s business is supposed not to be a legitimate one, let the Government say so, instead of demanding, for the benefit of the country, the chief part of his profits with one hand, and cutting his throat with the other.

Your, &c, *R. G. Tysoe*. SWAN INN, Priestfield, Wolverhampton.”

Yorkshire Post 22/7/1878 - Advert

“To be Let, a full-licensed old-established Inn (free from brewer and wine merchant), doing a good genuine trade; easily managed; first-class position, close to Priestfield Railway Station, near to Bilston and Wolverhampton; four bedrooms, bar and parlour, smoke-room, kitchen, good cellar, brew and malt houses, stabling, pigsties, and every convenience.

Apply to the Landlord, SWAN INN, Priestfield, near Wolverhampton.”

The Era 1/12/1878 - Advert

“SWAN Music Hall, Priestfield, near Wolverhampton.

Wanted, Professionals in the Music Hall Business, proceeding North or South (via this quarter), to know that they may break their journey here for Four or Eight Nights. Lowest possible terms. Address, *R. G. Tysoe*, Proprietor.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/3/1880 - Advert

“Priestfield. SWAN INN, free old-licensed; good trade; proofs given. Coming-in moderate.

Apply on premises.”

PRIESTFIELD.—*Swan Inn, free old-licensed ; good trade ; proofs given. Coming-in moderate.—Apply on premises.*

1881 Census

1, John Street – SWAN INN

[1] *John Tomlinson* (24), licensed victualler, born Gornal;

[2] *Elizabeth Tomlinson* (21), wife, born Barrow Hill, Derbyshire;

[3] *Eliza Tomlinson* (56), mother, widow, born Gornal;

[4] *Henry Tomlinson* (19), brother, carpenter, born Gornal:

Wednesbury Herald 22/4/1882

“Mr. W. H. Phillips, Coroner, held an inquest at the SWAN INN, Priestfield, on Monday afternoon on the body of *Thomas Bayliss* (62), nursery seedsman and florist, of *Pennfields*, near Wolverhampton, who met with his death on the Great Western Railway, at Priestfield, on Saturday morning, under very melancholy circumstances. Mr. W. H. Tinsley, of Sedgley, appeared for the relatives of the deceased, and Inspector Ledbrook watched the proceedings on behalf of the railway company.

Evidence was given as to the deceased passing over the level crossing at the station, the only means of reaching the centre platform, and to his being knocked down and run over by a fast goods train while standing in the four-foot. The only officials at the station were the stationmaster and a porter, and at the time of the accident there was only the porter on duty. During the past eleven years the stationmaster stated that no one had been killed, and he had always been able to work the station with one porter. Owing to many of the passengers having to cross the four sets of rails a foot-bridge would be very useful.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned, and the jury added a recommendation that the railway company should erect a foot-bridge over the lines, and always have two men on duty at the station.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/10/1882

“The SWAN INN, Ettingshall, was burglariously entered during Friday night, and several articles stolen. In retreating from the place, the burglar seems to have met with a bad accident, as a broken window, from which he appeared to have dropped, and the ground beneath, were bespattered with blood.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 10/2/1883

“The funeral of Alfred Bates, member of the Rose of Priestfield Lodge, No.773, held at the house of Bro. *Ezra Spittle*, SWAN INN, Priestfield, took place last Monday afternoon at Bilston Cemetery.....

After the burial service, DM Bro. Benjamin Graham, assisted by DDM Bro. Thomas Preece, read the burial ceremony belonging to the Grand United Order of Oddfellows.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 24/3/1883

“William Gough, of John Street, New Village, was charged with disorderly conduct and refusing to quit the house of Mr. *Ezra Spittle*, SWAN INN, New Village.

Complainant stated that on Sunday night, the defendant came into his house, in a drunken state, and asked to be supplied with ale. He refused to serve it, and defendant commenced to use abusive language, and threatened him. A gentleman standing near supported the landlord in his decision, and defendant then struck him, and declined to go out of the house till closing time.

As it was a first offence, defendant was fined 5s and costs 10s 6d.”

Sporting Life 11/9/1883

“Joel Jones (alias Cheeky Jarvis), of the New Village, near Wolverhampton, is quite surprised at seeing so many Birmingham middle-weight boxers issuing challenges through *Sporting Life* without getting on a match. To show who is the real Middle-weight Champion, Jones will box any man in the Midlands at 10st 10lb under the Marquis of Queensberry’s rules, for a prize value £5, £10, £15, or £20 a side. The *Sporting Life* to be final stakeholder and appoint the referee. A deposit to the *Sporting Life*, and articles to the SWAN INN, New Village, Ettingshall, near Wolverhampton, will ensure a match.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 22/9/1883

“On Saturday evening the annual meeting of the lodge Rose of Priestfield, No.773 of the Grand United Order of Oddfellows, was held at the SWAN INN, Priestfield, in the newly-erected and spacious club room.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 1/4/1890

“The adjourned inquest on the body of William Smith (36), Ward Street, Ettingshall, who died on the 22nd March, was held yesterday, at the SWAN INN, Priestfield, by the Coroner (Mr. W. H. Phillips). As has been already stated, the deceased was walking along the railway line at Spring Vale Works on the date named, when he fell, striking his head against an iron wheel, and died directly afterwards. Dr. Smith, of Bilston, deposed that he had made an examination, and that death had resulted from concussion of the brain, caused by a fall. A verdict was returned in accordance.”

Ezra Spittle married Sarah Ann Tomlinson.

1891 Census

1, John Street – SWAN INN

[1] *Ezra Spittle* (48), licensed victualler, born Dudley;

[2] Sarah Spittle (48), wife, born Sedgley;

[3] *Thomas Spittle* (23), son, hosier, born Sedgley;

[4] John Spittle (19), son, ironmonger’s assistant, born Dudley:

Ezra Spittle was married to Sarah Ann, nee Tomlinson.

Sarah Ann Spittle died in 1891.

Birmingham Daily Post 30/3/1892

“Mr. A. B. Smith, deputy coroner, resumed the enquiry at the SWAN INN, John Street, Priestfield, Bilston, yesterday evening, on the body of Alfred Cox Hodgkinson (9), son of Charles Hodgkinson, iron-plate worker, of John Street, who died on the 19th inst. The investigation had resulted from enquiries made by the inspector for the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and at the previous enquiry evidence was given to show that the deceased had been neglected.

The post mortem examination was stated to reveal that death had resulted from inflammation of the lungs.

The father of the deceased was recalled, and asked by the coroner whether he wished to amend his statement previously made that he had had little work to do, and only earned 13s per week. The witness said he did not wish to do so. The Coroner said he had received a statement from the witness's employer which showed that he could have had more work, but did not avail himself of the opportunity.

The jury returned a verdict that the deceased Died from Natural Causes, and the inspector for the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children intimated that legal proceedings would be instituted against the father of the child.”

Birmingham Daily Post 31/3/1892 - Advert

“General (good) Wanted; over 20; good character required; no washing.

Spittle, SWAN INN, Ettingshall, Wolverhampton.”

GENERAL (good) Wanted; over 20; good character required; no washing. — *Spittle*, Swan Inn, Ettingshall, Wolverhampton.

1901 Census

1, John Street – SWAN HOTEL

[1] *Ezra Thomas Spittle* (34), licensed victualler, born Sedgley;

[2] *Mary Spittle* (34), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Cissy Spittle* (6), daughter, born Bilston;

[4] *Dolly Spittle* (3), daughter, born Bilston;

[5] *Minie Leek* (20), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Bromyard News 23/10/1902

“Mr. T. A. Stokes held an adjourned inquest on Monday at the SWAN INN, Ettingshall, touching the death of George Marston, of 3, Ward Street, Priestfield.

The deceased was employed at the Spring Vale Steel Works of A. Hickman Limited as a bogey man. His duty was to assist in steering trolleys which carried pig-iron to various parts of the works. On October 6, while a trolley containing three hot blooms, weighing about 4cwt each, was being unloaded, the deceased, who was standing near the handle, fell dead. At the same time the handle, according to one witness, flew up.

Dr. Ashley Smith, who had made a post mortem examination, said there was a bruise on the man's right cheek and ear. The skull was slightly fractured, and there was evidence of extensive heart disease. There was no truth in the rumour that the man's neck was broken. With regard to the injuries, these would not, in his opinion, have caused sudden death if the man's heart had not been in a diseased condition.

The Coroner said there was no evidence to show how the injuries were sustained, but the jury, after deliberating in private, returned a verdict of Accidental Death, accelerated by heart disease.

The Coroner suggested that the jury should say death from heart disease, accelerated by an accident, but they refused to alter their verdict.”

Ezra Spittle, beer retailer and general dealer of 122, John Street, New Village. [1904]

1911 Census

1, John Street – SWAN INN

- [1] *Thomas Powell* (45), hotel keeper, born Blakenhall;
- [2] *Christiania Powell* (43), wife, married 20 years, house wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Horace Walter Powell* (15), son, clerk, lock manufacturer, born Bilston;
- [4] *Marion Evelyn Powell* (13), daughter, school, born Bilston;
- [5] *Alfred Norman Powell* (8), son, school, born Bilston;
- [6] *John Cooper* (87), grand-father, widower, old age pensioner, coal miner, hewer, born Snedshill, Shropshire:

1921 Census

1, John Street

- [1] *John William Eames* (53), licensed victualler, born Colwich, Staffordshire;
- [2] *Harriet Elizabeth Eames* (56), wife, household duties, born Dowlas, Monmouthshire;
- [3] *Albert Edward Danks* (29), step-son, hairdresser, out of work, born Bradley;
- [4] *Lemady Bate* (26), servant, born Lye:

John William Eames died in the 2nd quarter of 1925.

Harriet Elizabeth Eames died in the 2nd quarter of 1929.

Harriet Elizabeth Eames – see also THREE TUNS, Union Street, Wednesbury.

1939 Register

1, John Street – SWAN INN (5 of 6)

- [1] *William Rowley*, date of birth 13/9/1873, licensed victualler, married;
- [2] *Charlotte Rowley*, dob 4/3/1877, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] *Frank W. Harris*, dob 13/4/1907, bricklayer, steel works, married;
- [4] *Evelyn M. Harris*, dob 16/1/1903, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [5] *Donald F. N. Harris*, dob 9/1/1934, at school, single;

1943 Probate

“*William Rowley* of SWAN INN, 1 John Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 9 January 1943. Administration Birmingham 18 February to *Charlotte Rowley*, widow. Effects £365.”

1943 Probate

“*Charlotte Rowley* of SWAN INN, 1 John Street, Ettingshall, Bilston, Staffordshire, widow, died 28 May 1943 at Derbyshire Royal Infirmary, Derby. Administration Birmingham 28 August to *Evelyn Maude Harris* (wife of *Frank Wynn Harris*). Effects £444 8s 8d.”

[1964]

Closed

Demolished

NEW-ERECTED FREEHOLD MESSUAGES OR
DWELLING HOUSES,
*Situate at New Friesland, Ettingshall, in the township of
Bilston,*

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY MR. R. S. WALKER,

*At the house of Mr. E. Dawes, the Newmarket Hotel,
Bilston-street, Wolverhampton, on Tuesday, November
the 4th, 1851, at six o'clock in the afternoon precisely,
in the following or such other lot or lots as shall be fixed
at the time of sale (under a power of sale contained in a
Mortgage Deed), and subject to conditions then to be
produced:—*

LOT 1.—ALL those six new-erected MESSUAGES
or DWELLING HOUSES at New Friez-
land, Ettingshall, near Bilston, and adjoining lot II, and
now in the several occupations of Robert Roberts,
John Baker, Henry Morris, Henry Banks,
and Benjamin Instone.

LOT II.—All that new-erected MESSUAGE or PUB-
LIC HOUSE now known by the sign of the Swan inn,
at New Friesland, Ettingshall, near Bilston aforesaid,
and now in the occupation of Mr. Thomas Holland.

The whole of the property is in an excellent state of
repair, having been recently erected.

For further particulars apply to Mr. FOSTER,
solicitor, or the AUCTIONEER, both of Wolverhampton.

1851

**FREEHOLD BUILDING LAND AND
BUILDINGS,**

*In Bilston-street, Wolverhampton, and at the New Vil-
lage, Ettingshall, near Bilston.*

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY MR. R. S. WALKER,

*At Mr. Edward Dawes's, the New Market Hotel, Bilston-
street, Wolverhampton, on Thursday, the 1st day of
December, 1853, at six o'clock in the afternoon, subject
to conditions then to be produced, unless previously dis-
posed of by Private Contract, of which notice will be
given.*

LOT I.—ALL that desirable and valuable piece or
parcel of FREEHOLD BUILDING LAND,
adjoining Bilston street and Steelhouse-lane, in Wolver-
hampton, containing by measurement 880 square yards
or thereabouts. The land has a frontage to Bilston-
street of 113 feet and six inches, and of 124 feet to Steel-
house-lane.

LOT II.—All those eleven newly erected MESSUAGES,
TENEMENTS, or DWELLING HOUSES, situate at the
New Village, Ettingshall, near Bilston, one of which is
an old licensed public house, known by the sign of the
"Swan," and now in the possession of Mr. Thomas Hol-
land, and the others are in the occupations of Benjamin
Instan, John Danbury, Thomas Baker, William Hodg-
kiss, Joseph Roland, Robert Roberts, James Cooper,
Faneel Biggs, John Mauniz, and William Rogers.

For further particulars apply to Mr. FOSTER, at-
torney, or the AUCTIONEER, Wolverhampton.

1853

TO BE LET, a full-licensed old-established INN (free
from brewer and wine merchant), doing a good genuine trade;
easily managed; first-class position, close to Priestfield Railway
Station, near to Bilston and Wolverhampton; four bedrooms, bar
and parlour, smoke-room, kitchen, good cellar, brew and malt
houses, stabling, pigsties, and every convenience.—Apply to the
Landlord, Swan Inn, Priestfield, near Wolverhampton.

SWAN MUSIC HALL, PRIESTFIELD, near WOLVERHAMPTON.
WANTED, PROFESSIONALS in the Music Hall
Business, proceeding North or South (via this quarter), to know
that they may break their journey here for Four or Eight Nights.
Lowest possible terms. Address, R. G. TYSON, Proprietor.

1878

SWAN

9, (13), Twenty House Row, Cross Street, (Bradley Row), (Lower) Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

Lady Emily Foley and Sir E. D. Dolman Scott [1875]
Lady Emily Foley, Stoke Edith, Herefordshire
Paul Foley, Prestwood, Stourbridge
Lady Bateman Scott, Great Barr
Thomas Marsh, colliery proprietor, Bradley, Bilston

LICENSEES

Thomas Wall [1818] – [1851]
Ann Widow [1861]
Ann Wall [1862] – [1864]
David Cooksey [1864] – [1870]
Robert Myatt [] – **1871**;
John Myatt **(1871 – 1873)**;
Henry Cooper **(1873 – 1874)**;
Ann Cooper **(1874)**;
Thomas Barnbrook **(1874 – 1875)**;
Thomas Jackson **(1875 – 1880)**;
George Wellings **(1880 – 1883)**;
Thomas Barnbrook [1881] manager?
Thomas Barnbrook **(1883 – 1895)**;
Joseph 'Joe' Martin **(1895 – 1916)**;
Joseph Marsh **(1916)**;

NOTES

13, Twenty House Row [1861]
9, Twenty House Row [1871], [1881], [1891]
Bradley Row [1875], [1879]

WHITE SWAN [1857], [1864], [1868], [1870]. [1871]
NEW INN [1881]

1841 Census

Bradley
[1] Thomas Wall (45), manager, born Staffordshire;
[2] Nancy Wall (45);
[3] Joseph Wall (12), iron labourer, born Staffordshire;
[4] Jesse Wall (10), iron labourer, born Staffordshire;
[5] Emma Wall (4), born Staffordshire;
[6] Eliza Binsley (15), f.s., born Staffordshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/8/1842

“A meeting of magistrates for the purpose of granting public house licenses was held on Friday last.....
New licenses were granted to *Thomas Wall*, of Bentley [sic] House Row, Lower Bradley.”

Birmingham Journal 5/12/1846

“On Tuesday last, an inquest was held at the house of Mr. *Thomas Wall*, SWAN INN, Bradley, near Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, upon the body of Eliza Bullock, a girl seven years old, who was burned to death by her clothes taking fire on Monday morning, while standing by a cinder mound, near her father’s house.

On Thursday another inquest was held at the house of Mr. William Fellows, NOAHS ARK, on the body of Samuel Robinson, a child four years old, who also lost his life in a similar melancholy manner.

In both cases verdicts of Accidental Death were returned.”

Birmingham Journal 25/9/1847 - Advert

“Leasehold Property, at Bradley, near Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Walker and Page, on Monday, the 4th day of October, 1847, at Six o’clock in the Evening, at the house of Mr. *Thomas Wall*, the SWAN INN, Bradley.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/8/1850 - Advert

“Leasehold Dwelling Houses, at Bradley, near Bilston, in the county of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by John Mason, on Friday, the 30th day of August, 1850, at six o’clock in the evening, at the house of Mr. *Thomas Wall*, the SWAN INN, Bradley.....”

1851 Census

Bradley

[1] *Thomas Wall* (54), innkeeper, born Bilston;

[2] *Ann Wall* (55), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *Joseph Wall* (22), son, iron puddler, born Bilston;

[4] *Jason Wall* (20), son, iron puddler, born Bilston;

[5] *Emma Wall* (18), daughter, born Bilston;

[6] *Betsy Wall* (12), daughter, born Bilston;

[7] *Sarah Waller* (20), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/9/1851

“An inquest was held on Thursday last at the SWAN, Lower Bradley, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, on the body of Mary Adams, an old woman 72 years of age. It appeared that on Sunday the 21st inst, the deceased was cooking her dinner, when her clothes caught fire, and she was severely burnt. The poor creature lingered until Monday when she expired. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Brierley Hill Advertiser 20/6/1857

“On Tuesday last, W. H. Phillips, Esq, attended at the WHITE SWAN INN, at Bradley, for the purpose of resuming the adjourned inquest upon the body of Elizabeth Hopley, who was found drowned in the canal at Bradley, on the 29th of April last, under circumstances calculated to excite suspicions that she had met with her death by foul means. Owing, however, to the continued absence of the witness Powell, whom the unceasing exertions of the police have failed to discover, no additional evidence was offered. The inquest was therefore further adjourned for a month, and in the meantime a reward will, we understand, be offered for the apprehension of Powell, respecting whose absence various rumours are afloat in the neighbourhood, all of which are, however, we are informed upon the best authority, totally unfounded. On the same day the accused was placed before J. Bagnall and J. Lonsdale Esqrs, when Mr. Waterhouse, who appeared to watch the proceedings on his part, submitted to the magistrates that the seriousness of the charge against the accused was equalled by the improbability of any evidence being forthcoming to substantiate it. It was hard that his client should be continually kept in prison upon a charge of mere suspicion, for, in reality, the present charge amounted to no more than that.

Mr. Lonsdale, however, said that they did not consider themselves justified in incurring the responsibility of discharging the prisoner as the evidence on a former occasion had been taken before J. Leigh, Esq, and they would, therefore, remand him until the succeeding day, when the examination would be resumed at Wolverhampton.

Accordingly, next day prisoner was placed at the bar, before J. Leigh and S. Cartwright, Esqrs, and again further remanded for a week.”

[Several adjourned inquests were held up to September, when the Jury returned a verdict of Wilful Murder. He was committed to the Assizes. For the final inquest see WHITE LION, Bradley.]

Sheffield Independent 26/12/1857

"A remarkable case occurred at Stafford assizes. Philip Clare, a miner, was tried for the murder of Elizabeth Hopley, a young girl, at Bilston. Her body was found in a canal; death had resulted from suffocation. She might have accidentally fallen into the canal; such casualties are frequent thereabouts. She had worked for Clare at a pit's mouth, and they had a dispute about wages. The case against the prisoner rested almost entirely on the testimony of Samuel Wall. He swore that he had seen Clare knock the girl down, late at night, on a railway bridge, and then carry her body to the canal, where he thrust it under water. If the Jury believed this man, conviction was inevitable; but they did not believe his minutely circumstantial story, and at once acquitted the accused."

[Samuel Wall was also known as George Powell.]

1861 Census

13, Twenty House Row – SWAN INN

[1] Ann Widow (65), widow, victualler, born Darlaston:

[Could this be Ann Wall, widow of Thomas?]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/1/1865

"At Bilston Police Court yesterday, before Messrs. R. Bagnall and E. B. Dimmock, a young man named John Reynolds was brought up on a warrant charged with refusing to quit the house of *Ann Wall*, of the SWAN, Bradley. It was stated that on the evening of the 4th inst, the defendant was in the complainant's house. A lad went in with a horse's nose-bag. The defendant caught hold of it and picked it up. The lad began to cry, and another man taking up the cause of the boy, a fight ensued. The defendant was requested to leave the house many times, but he refused for a long time. In about half-an-hour he went out and created a disturbance. He soon came in again and behaved in an indecent manner, as he did also when the servant went out to put the shutters to.

For the defence it was alleged that the bag was taken up in a playful manner, that the defendant was first assaulted, that he was not ordered out of the house, but went of his own free will, and that the allegations of indecency were untrue.

The Magistrates fined the defendant 20s and costs.

At the close of the case the Magistrates re-called Mrs. Cooksey, the person who had charge of the house at the time, and said she had not done her duty either to the girls in her house or to the public, because if he (the defendant) had been proved guilty of the charges of indecency they would have sent him to prison for six months. She was responsible, and if she allowed such conduct in her house she was not fit to have it."

David Cooksey = David Cooksley

Wolverhampton Chronicle 13/5/1868 - Notice

"The Bankruptcy Act, 1861. In the Court of Bankruptcy for the Birmingham District.

David Cooksey, of the SWAN INN, Bradley, in the parish of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, Brewer, and Dealer in Spirits, Beer, and Tobacco, having been adjudged Bankrupt under a Petition for Adjudication in Bankruptcy, filed in her Majesty's Court of Bankruptcy for the Birmingham District, on the 11th day of May, 1868, is hereby required to surrender himself to Alfred Hill, Esq, a Registrar of the said Court, at the First Meeting of Creditors to be held before the said Registrar on the 29th day of May, 1868, at 12 o'clock at noon precisely, at the said Court at Birmingham.

Mr. George Kinnear, of Waterloo Street, Birmingham, is the Official Assignee; and Mr. U. Stratton, of Wolverhampton, the Solicitor acting in the Bankruptcy.

U. Stratton, Solicitor, 57, Queen Street, Wolverhampton."

THE BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1861.

IN THE COURT OF BANKRUPTCY FOR THE BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT.

DAVID COOKSEY, of the Swan Inn, Bradley, in the parish of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, Brewer, and Dealer in Spirits, Beer, and Tobacco, having been adjudged Bankrupt under a Petition for Adjudication in Bankruptcy, filed in Her Majesty's Court of Bankruptcy for the Birmingham District, on the 11th day of May, 1868, is hereby required to surrender himself to ALFRED HILL, Esq., a Registrar of the said Court at the FIRST MEETING of Creditors to be held before the said Registrar on the 29th day of May, 1868, at 12 o'clock at noon precisely, at the said COURT at BIRMINGHAM.

MR. GEORGE KINNEAR, of Waterloo-street, Birmingham, is the Official Assignee; and Mr. U. STRATTON, of Wolverhampton, the Solicitor acting in the Bankruptcy.

U. STRATTON, Solicitor, 57, Queen-street,
Wolverhampton.

Staffordshire Advertiser 4/7/1868

“Birmingham Bankruptcy Court.....

In re *David Cooksey*, Bradley, licensed victualler. Meeting for last examination and discharge.

Mr. Rowlands, who appeared for the trade assignee, stated that the bankrupt had given a bill of sale to Thomas Cresswell of Bilston, and after the bankruptcy the effects were sold off by auction. A large number of articles were missing, and the assignee was endeavouring to ascertain what had become of them, and of the goods which had been removed to the house of Mr. Guest, Wednesbury, only a few nights before the bankruptcy. The bankrupt had also been in the receipt of a good salary prior to his failure, and the creditors were anxious to have the deficiency fully accounted for. A cash account and a deficiency account were then ordered, and the meeting was adjourned to the 22nd July.”

Birmingham Journal 25/7/1868

“Birmingham Bankruptcy Court.....

In re *David Cooksey*, Bradley, licensed victualler. Adjourned last examination and discharge.

The liabilities amounted to £336, and the assets to £119; deficiency, £217. Mr. Rowlands appeared for the assignee, and said the cash and deficiency accounts, filed by order of the Court, were not correct. The bankrupt explained that he had not means to pay an accountant. A solicitor, Mr. Stratton, of Wolverhampton, made out the accounts gratis for him. The case was adjourned to September 11, in order that the bankrupt might in the meantime comply with the order of the Court by filing proper accounts.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 12/9/1868

“Birmingham Bankruptcy Court.....

In re *D. Cooksey*, Bradley, innkeeper. Adjourned meeting for last examination and discharge, attended by Mr. Stratton for the bankrupt, whose discharge, not being opposed, was granted.”

John Myatt = John Miatt

1871 Census

9, Twenty House Row

- [1] *John Myatt* (29), publican, born Birmingham;
- [2] *Selina Myatt* (26), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *Sussana Myatt* (6), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] *Lydia Myatt* (4), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] *John Myatt* (3), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] *Fanny Reynolds* (16), general servant, born Bradley;
- [7] *Elizabeth Moody* (17), general servant, born Bradley;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/4/1871

“At Bilston Police Court, yesterday, before the Stipendiary (Mr. I. Spooner), *John Miatt*, landlord of the SWAN INN, Lower Bradley, was summoned for permitting drunkenness in his house on Sunday, the 26th ult. The case was established, and the defendant was ordered to pay a fine of £5 and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/7/1871

“An inquest was held on Tuesday, at the SWAN INN, Lower Bradley, before Mr. W. H. Phillips (coroner), touching the death of *John Reynolds* (69), who lived at Lower Bradley. Deceased was a night watchman, in the employ of Messrs. Groucutt and Company, Moxley. On Saturday night he went into the engine-house, and his coat was caught by the machinery. The unfortunate man was drawn in between the wheels, and he was so dreadfully injured that he died on the following day from the effects. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/11/1873 - Deaths

“November 13, at the SWAN INN, Bradley, Bilston, after a long and severe illness, borne with Christian fortitude, Mr. *Henry Cooper*, late of Northwood, Hanley, in his 59th year; deeply lamented.”

Birmingham Daily Post 5/9/1874

“At the Bilston Police Court, yesterday, before Messrs. W. Hatton and F. A. Homer, *Thomas Barnbrook*, landlord of the SWAN INN, Bradley, was summoned for having permitted gambling and drunkenness on his premises.

The prosecution, which had been instituted by the police, mainly rested on the testimony of an old woman named Jones. From her statement it appeared that on the 25th ult her son left home early in the morning, and went with other companions to the defendant's house. At noon she went there and desired him to return home, as he had to go to work at two o'clock. At that time he and the majority of the others present were drunk, and they were tossing for quarts of ale. Her son refused to do as requested, and she then learned that the landlord had advanced him 1s 6d on his hat, so that he might continue the gambling. He remained drinking there until near closing time, when, owing to some disagreement about the payment of a bet, he became so obstreperous that Police-constable Lawrence had to be sent for to eject him from the premises. The officer was called, and spoke to Jones having been drunk.

Mr. Bowen, who defended, urged that the witnesses for the prosecution were prejudiced, and that the persons whom he called for the defence, and who repudiated the offences, were more reliable.

The Magistrates said that the case revealed a disgraceful state of things, and that if the defendant repeated such conduct they should have no hesitation in declaring him as a person wholly unfit to take charge of licensed premises. It was his duty, and he must have known it, to prevent the gambling; but, according to the evidence, not only had he sanctioned it, but he had participated in it. He would be fined £10 and the costs, the full amount that they could inflict.”

Birmingham Mail 16/10/1874

“At the Bilston Police Court today, *Thomas Barnbrook*, landlord of the SWAN, Bradley, was charged with selling liquor to a person under sixteen, and with permitting drunkenness. Some colliers had taken three girls to the defendant's house and treated them to hot brandy and water; one of them, aged fifteen, becoming intoxicated. The charge of selling to the girls was not proved, but on the other case defendant was fined.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 19/10/1874

“At Bilston Police Court, on Friday, before Messrs. W. Hatton and W. H. Rogers.....

Thomas Bolingbrook [sic], landlord of the SWAN INN, Bradley, was summoned for having sold liquor to a girl under sixteen, and also for having permitted drunkenness. Mr. Barrow (Wolverhampton) defended.

On the morning of the 5th inst, three colliers, with three girls, one under sixteen, went to the defendant's house, and the men paid for two glasses of spirits for the two elder girls, and they gave a portion of the liquor to the younger one, which made her intoxicated.

Mr. Barrow held that the liquor had not been sold to the girl, but to the men, and that it was given to the young girl without the knowledge of the landlord. The first charge was dismissed; for the second, however, Bolingbrook, already once convicted this year, was mulcted in £10, and had his license endorsed.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/8/1875

“Yesterday, there was an annual licensing meeting for the Bilston Petty Sessional Division.....

Chief-superintendent McCrea presented the ‘black list.’ The licensed victuallers who had been fined during the year were.....

Thomas Barnbrook, SWAN INN, Sedgley, thrice permitting drunkenness, £1 and costs, and £10 and costs twice.....

All the old licenses would be renewed, excepting those of holders who had been convicted. Their applications would be deferred until the adjourned licensing day. In the case of the SWAN and the FOX, both at Bradley, special applications for renewal must be made, for most probably the license of each would be revoked.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1875

“Bilston Adjourned Brewster Sessions.....

Mr. Joseph Underhill (Oxford Circuit) appeared for Lady Emily Foley and Sir E. D. Dolman Scott, the joint owners of the SWAN INN, Bradley; and Mr. A. Young (Oxford Circuit) represented the tenant, Mr. *Jackson*, the renewal of whose license the magistrates had intimated might be refused because of convictions. It was explained by counsel that the convictions related not to the applicant, but to a previous landlord License renewed.”

1881 Census

9, Twenty House Row – NEW [sic] INN

- [1] *Thomas Barnbrook* (59), innkeeper, born Worcestershire;
- [2] *Sarah Barnbrook* (56), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] *James Barnbrook* (21), son, labourer in ironworks, born Sedgley;
- [4] *Thomas Barnbrook* (18), son, labourer in ironworks, born Sedgley;
- [5] *Ann Barnbrook* (14), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] *Emma Pound* (19), niece, domestic servant, born Tenbury, Shropshire:

Darlaston Weekly Times 29/11/1884

“On Wednesday morning, W. H. Phillips, Esq, the district coroner, held an inquest at the SWAN INN, Lower Bradley, on the body of *John Davies* (57), a watchman in the employ of Messrs. Rose, ironmasters, Moxley, who had died from the effects of a fall.

On Sunday week the deceased went on to the top of one of the boilers at the works, although it appeared that he had been warned not to do so by the engineer. Shortly afterwards he was heard to cry out, and upon a fellow watchman going to him he was found in the ash-hole, and he then stated that he had fallen off the boiler on to some bricks on a barrow. His collar bone and some of his ribs were broken. He died on Saturday. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

1891 Census

9, Twenty House Row – SWAN INN

- [1] *Thomas Barnbrook* (69), general labourer, born Dudley;
- [2] *Sarah Barnbrook* (65), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] *James Barnbrook* (31), son, coal wheeler labourer, ironworks, born Sedgley;
- [4] *William Corbett* (23), boarder, coal wheeler labourer, ironworks, born Bilston;
- [5] *Sarah Sorrow* (16), general servant, born Sedgley:

Joseph Martin issued tokens from here.

Sporting Life 27/7/1896

“Newtown Recreation Grounds, Bilston.....

Young Bowen, of Bilston, and Young T. Riley, hailing from Bradley, met to test their superiority, over a distance of 120 yards, for £5 a side. Both lads were backed by the most knowing of Bilston sportsmen – Bowen by that genial sport, Mr. Groom, whilst Sam Hughes, in conjunction with *Joe Martin*, of the SWAN INN, Bradley, stood the Bradley ped. Bowen, who is by far the younger, being only a mere lad, was trained privately by the well-known Bilston ped, Tom Astley. Riley was trained by *Joe Martin* from the latter’s hostelry.

Over 400 spectators assembled, and so confident was each ped that they bet the gate money, &c. Speculation was of a very heavy nature considering the stake competed for, opening at 6 to 4 on Riley. This was gradually reduced to evens, and when the lads disrobed odds of 5 to 4 on Bowen were laid. Great was the excitement when the lads took their marks, and at the second attempt Charley Harper, champion pedestrian, despatched the contestants to a most even start. Riley assumed a slight lead, which he maintained amidst tremendous cheering from the Bradleyites, till twenty yards away from the worsted, when Bowen, with apparent ease, shot to the front, and with a look at his opponent, finally broke the worsted a winner by a yard and half. His partisans displayed great enthusiasm at the result.”

Sporting Life 6/10/1897

“Newtown Recreation Grounds, Bilston.

Opening Rounds of *Joe Martin*’s All-England 120 Yards Pedestrian Handicap.

The bill of fare at these grounds on Saturday evening last consisted the preliminary rounds of an all-England 120 Yards pedestrian handicap, the proprietor being that well-known Midland sportsman, Mr. *Joe Martin*, of the SWAN INN, Bradley.....”

1901 Census

Lower Bradley – SWAN INN

- [1] Joseph Martin (41), publican, born Bilston;
- [2] Sarah Ann Martin (25), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Phillip Martin (13), son, born Brierley Hill;
- [4] Esther Martin (11), daughter, born Brierley Hill;
- [5] Joseph Martin (8), son, born Brierley Hill;
- [6] Samuel Martin (6), son, born Brierley Hill;
- [7] Arthur Martin (3), son, born Bilston;
- [8] Frank Martin (1), son, born Bilston;
- [9] Earnest Martin (1 month), son, born Bilston;
- [10] Mary Harper (20), domestic servant, born Bilston;
- [11] Clara Wilkes (13), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Sporting Life 27/4/1901

“Pedestrianism. New Town Grounds, Bilston.

Mr. Sam Hughes’ 120 Yards Pedestrian Handicap will take place at these grounds on Saturdays, May 11 and 18. Entries to Mr. Joe Martin, LITTLE SWAN INN, Bradley.”

1911 Census

Lower Bradley – SWAN INN

- [1] Joseph Martin (51), licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] Sarah Ann Martin (34), wife, married 13 years, born Bilston;
- [3] Esther Martin (21), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] Joseph Martin (17), son, born Bilston;
- [5] Samuel Martin (16), son, born Bilston;
- [6] Frank Martin (11), son, school, born Bilston;
- [7] Ernest Martin (9), son, school, born Bilston;
- [8] Annie Martin (7), daughter, school, born Bilston;
- [9] Percy Martin (5), son, school, born Bilston;
- [10] Bertie Martin (4), son, born Bilston;
- [11] Mary Boden (17), domestic servant, born Bilston:

FOR Sale. The Swan, Lower Bradley, Bilston, Free Fully-licensed House, 10 Cottages, and about 23 acres of Freehold Mining Land.—Price and full particulars, Drew, 5, Coventry-st., Kidderminster.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 4/10/1912 - Advert

“For Sale. The SWAN, Lower Bradley, Bilston. Free Fully-licensed House, 10 Cottages, and about 23 acres of Freehold Mining Land.

Price and full particulars, Drew, 5, Coventry Street, Kidderminster.”

Joseph Martin died in the 4th quarter of 1915.

License refused at adjourned licensing meeting, on 10th March 1916, on the grounds of structural unsuitability. An appeal was heard at Stafford Quarter Sessions. It was dismissed.

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/4/1916

“Thomas Marsh and Joseph Marsh (the owners) appealed against the refusal of the Bilston justices to renew the license of the SWAN INN, Lower Bradley. Mr. J. Wylie appeared for appellants, and Mr. V. G. Milward represented the respondents.

Mr. Milward said that the license was refused on the ground that the house was structurally unsuitable. After a tenant named *Martin* died, the house ceased to be used for the sale of drink. A caretaker was put in, and when the police superintendent visited the house on January 10, 1916, he found it empty – no furniture, no drink, and no one living there, with the exception of a day caretaker. The house was in a most tumble-down condition. Mr. Milward put in a number of photographs of the building, and the Chairman remarked that they were extremely like pictures of the war they had had.

Supt. Robotham described the condition of the house, and said parts of it were dilapidated, dirty, and damp, and out of repair, there being a hole in the ceiling in one room.

Mr. C. H. Barnett, architect, of Wolverhampton, said the floor boards and the window sashes were rotten, rain was coming in through the roof, and the house was in a general state of dilapidation. The house had been damaged through mining operations.

For the appellants, Mr. Wylie said the late tenant had not carried out covenants to keep the house in good and substantial repair, and also to insure the license for £1,000. They had also had to pay £20 to the widow of the late tenant to get her out, and had spent £71 in putting the place in repair, but they were prepared to do more and put the house in a state satisfactory to the licensing authorities. The appellant Joseph Marsh, of Dudley, gave evidence as to the purchase of the house and of repairs done to it. They were prepared to put it in a satisfactory state.

Mr. A. T. Butler, architect, of Dudley, said the building was perfectly stable, and he considered it suitable for a licensed house. There would be no difficulty in putting the premises in a reasonable state of repair. Mr. Alfred Dando, architect, of Dudley, and Mr. J. B. Boswell, auctioneer and surveyor, Wolverhampton, gave similar evidence, the latter stating that the house was in a good state of repair, considering its age, with the exception of the outbuildings.

Replying to Mr. Milward, Mr. Boswell said that if he took learned counsel to 40 others in this district and brought him to this one he would want to settle down there. (Laughter.)

The appeal was dismissed, with costs.”

SWAN BANK TAVERN

3+5, Lichfield Street, (3, (2), Church Street) / Bow Street, Swan Bank, BILSTON

OWNERS

Frederick Warren, pork butcher, Bilston
Messrs. Banks and Co. Ltd., brewers, Wolverhampton
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. [1989]

LICENSEES

Whitehead []
Jackie Fellows [1820]
John Lloyd [1828]
Sarah Jane Lloyd [19th century]
Henry Parkes [1851]
Norris Best [1854]
Mrs. Best [1856]
William Jones [1858]
Richard Langford [1860]
David Jones [1861]
Robert Broughton [1865] – **1880**;
John Wallett **(1880 – 1882)**;
Thomas Oadams Clews **(1882 – 1883)**;
Job Ecclestone **(1883 – 1886)**;
Joseph Yeomans **(1886 – 1894)**;
Henry Nicholls **(1894 – 1895)**;
William Darbey **(1895 – 1910)**;
James Goodall **(1910 – 1913)**;
David Bragg Davis **(1913 – 1914)**;
James Goodall **(1914 – 1919)**;
Mabel Goodall **(1919 – 1920)**;
James Goodall **(1920 – 1939)**;
William Henry Venville **(1939 – [1940])**
Roy Gibbons [1995]
Jackie Anne Collins [2005]



1997



2007

NOTES

Swan Bank [1828]
2, Church Street [1858], [1861], [1865], [1868], [1871], [1881], [1896]
3, Church Street [1901], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1921], [1940]
3+5, Lichfield Street [2003], [2005]

SWAN [1828]

It was known locally as the "Blazing Stump".

It had a beerhouse license.

Jackie Fellows was the town constable. [1820]

Henry Parkes married Eliza Fantom on 11th April 1850.

1851 Census

Church Street

- [1] Henry Parkes (25), mechanic, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] Eliza Parkes (33), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Henrietta Parkes (4 months), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] Mary Fantom (11), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] Caroline Fantom (5), daughter, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/8/1854

“The annual meeting of Magistrates for granting and renewing publican’s licenses in the parish of Bilston and Sedgley was held on Friday last, in the Bilston Police Court.....

There were eleven applications for new licenses which were disposed of as follows.....

The application of Mr. Hall for a license to the SWAN BANK TAVERN, Bilston, in the occupation of Mr. *Norris Best*, was opposed by Mr. Waterhouse for the proprietor of the KINGS ARMS, and refused.”

Staffordshire Sentinel 13/9/1856

“At Bilston Police Court on Tuesday, before J. Loxdale and F. C. Perry, Esqrs, John McMahon, of the VINE, Market Place, was summoned on two informations, for selling, in a booth at the wake, porter and spirits without a license, on the Sunday. R. Dance, Esq, collector of inland revenue, Lichfield, conducted the prosecution. Both the charges were proved by Mr. Sergeant, supervisor of excise, and the mitigated penalties of £12 10s and £5 were inflicted, the magistrates intimating an intention to recommend a further mitigation by the Board of Inland Revenue.

Mrs. *Best*, of the SWANBANK TAVERN, Bilston, appeared to answer a similar information. The same witness established the charge, and the defendant was ordered to pay a penalty of £5.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 11/2/1857 - Advert

“SWAN BANK TAVERN, Bilston. By Mr. Altree.

To be Let, the above noted Retail Brewery, successfully carried on by the present proprietor for the last sixteen years. Cause for disposal, the proprietor retiring from the public business. Valuation under £40.

Apply to F. Altree, Auctioneer and Publicans Valuer, Bilston.”

William Jones, beerhouse keeper, 2, Church Street. [1858]

Birmingham Daily Post 12/12/1860 - Advert

“Bilston.

To be Let, that well-known and Old-established House, known as the SWAN BANK TAVERN, now doing a good trade. Coming-in about £25. Satisfactory reasons can be given for the present Proprietor leaving.

Also, an Old-Licensed House and Spirit Vaults, now doing a good trade. Coming-in about £200.

Apply to W. R. Taylor, Appraiser, &c, 13, Lichfield Street, Bilston.”

1861 Census

2, Church Street – SWAN BANK TAVERN

- [1] David Jones (42), shoe maker and beer seller, born West Bromwich;
- [2] Sarah Jones (43), wife, born Ludlow;
- [3] Kate Jones (16), daughter, servant, born West Bromwich;
- [4] Ann Jones (14), daughter, servant, born West Bromwich;
- [5] Matilda Jones (12), daughter, scholar, born Dudley;
- [6] Sarah A. Jones (9), daughter, scholar, born Tipton;
- [7] William Jones (7), son, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [8] John Jones (4), son, scholar, born Dudley;
- [9] David Jones (1), son, born Dudley:

Robert Broughton, beer retailer, 2, Church Street. [1865], [1868]

1871 Census

2, Church Street

[1] Robert Broughton (60), retail brewer, born Derby;

[2] Ann Broughton (45), wife, born S. Julian, Shropshire:

Birmingham Daily Post 27/11/1878 - Advert

"Bilston. SWAN BANK TAVERN, Church Street, for Sale. Apply on the premises."

BILSTON.—Swan Bank Tavern, Church Street, for Sale.—Apply on the premises.

1881 Census

2, Church Street – SWAN BANK TAVERN

[1] John Wallett (26), iron bedstead blacksmith, born Bilston;

[2] Elizabeth Wallett (25), wife, born Scotland;

[3] Edith Wallett (1), daughter, born Bilston;

[4] Martha Speakman (13), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 12/8/1882

"At Bilston Police Court, yesterday, Edmund Cureton, a compositor, of Bridgnorth, but who has been lately employed at Bilston, was fined £2 and costs for stealing 4s 8d from the tap room till of *Thomas Clews*, landlord of the SWAN BANK TAVERN, on Thursday. Prisoner pleaded that he was drunk at the time."

AND

Darlaston Weekly Times 12/8/1882

"Edmund Cureton, of Railway Street, Bilston, was charged with stealing 4s 8d from the till at the SWAN BANK TAVERN, on the 10th inst. Prisoner entered the house, and in a drunken freak emptied the contents of the till into his hand, being detected in the act. In consideration of a previous good character, a fine of 40s and costs was imposed."

Birmingham Daily Post 30/8/1884

"The Bilston annual Brewster Sessions took place yesterday.....

After consulting for a short time, the Bench decided to renew all the old licenses, with the exception of the following, whose holders have been fined during the past year, and who will have to apply again at the adjourned meeting on the 26th prox.....

SWAN BANK TAVERN, Bilston."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1884

"Yesterday Bilston adjourned Brewster Sessions was held.....

Chief Superintendent Longden presented the list of publicans who had been convicted during the year. The Bench, after severely cautioning the persons in question, agreed to renew the licenses."

Darlaston Weekly Times 9/10/1886 - Advert

"*Joseph Yeomans* having opened the SWAN BANK TAVERN, hopes to secure the patronage of old and new Customers.

Everything of the Best Quality."

Darlaston Weekly Times 6/5/1887

"*Joseph Yeomans*, landlord of the SWAN BANK TAVERN, Bilston, was charged with selling ale during prohibited hours. Detective Moreton stated that on Sunday the first of the present month, he watched the house, and at 10-15pm he saw a woman named Pearce knock the street door and then go and stand in the middle of the road. The landlord then came out, spoke to the woman, and re-entered the house. He returned immediately with the bottle produced, and gave it to the woman who placed it under her apron. The officer took the bottle from the woman, entered the house and asked the landlord how he accounted for filling the ale. He replied that the ale had been drawn some time. The officer however stated that the ale was quite fresh. The house was closed and in darkness. Defendant was fined 10s and costs."

1891 Census

Church Street

- [1] Joseph Yeomans (33), blacksmith, born East Hardsley, Yorkshire;
- [2] Harriet Yeomans (33), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] William Yeomans (6), son, born Moxley;
- [4] Priscilla Anslow (22), domestic servant, born Wolverhampton:

On 27th July 1894 *Joseph Yeomans* was convicted of being drunk and disorderly on his own premises.

William Darbey = William Darby

William Darbey, beer retailer, 2, Church Street. [1896]

1901 Census

3, Church Street

- [1] *William Darby* (37), beer retailer, born Bilston;
- [2] Emma Darby (33), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Joseph William Darby (11), son, born Bilston;
- [4] Arthur Darby (9), son, born Bilston;
- [5] Alice May Darby (6), daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] Winifred Darby (2), daughter, born Bilston;
- [7] Emma Probert (15), domestic servant, born Bilston:

William Darbey – see also CROWN AND ANCHOR.

1911 Census

3, Church Street – SWAN BANK TAVERN

- [1] *James Goodall* (26), publican, born Bloxwich;
- [2] Mabel Goodall (19), wife, married under one year, assisting in the business, born Walsall;
- [3] May Hall (39), mother-in-law, widow, draper, born Aldridge;
- [4] Agnes Powis (17), servant, born Blakenhall, Walsall:

George Goodall, beer retailer, 3, Church Street. [1912]

James Goodall, beer retailer, 3, Church Street. [1916], [1921]

1921 Census

3, Church Street

- [1] *James Goodall* (36), innkeeper, born Bloxwich;
- [2] Mabel Goodall (28), wife, home duties, born Walsall;
- [3] Dorothy Goodall (9), daughter, school, born Bilston;
- [4] Mabel Goodall (7), daughter, school, born Bilston;
- [5] Frances Plimmer (16), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Plans for structural alterations were approved in February 1925.

Full license transferred from the PIG AND WHISTLE, Sedgley on 8th April 1933.

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/4/1933

“Six applications for confirmation of provisional licences and removal orders were considered at a meeting of the Staffordshire County Licensing Confirmation Committee held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, on Saturday.....

‘You are extinguishing a very notable sign. It is very well known,’ remarked the Chairman when application was made by Mr. F. L. Steward, Wolverhampton, appearing on behalf of *James Goodall* for the removal of the full licence of the PIG AND WHISTLE INN, Sedgley, to premises known as SWAN BANK TAVERN, Bilston, which at present has a beerhouse licence.

Mr. Steward submitted a petition bearing 364 signatories in favour of the transfer.

‘I suppose you want the customers to ‘wet their whistles’ at the SWAN BANK INN,’ remarked the Chairman in intimating that the application was granted.”

James Goodall – see also VILLIERS ARMS.

1939 Register

Church Street – SWAN BANK TAVERN

[1] *William H. Venville*, date of birth 30/9/1896, publican, manager, married;

[5] *Audre Patricia (Venville) Cox*, dob 2/8/1932, at school, single:

A team from here took part in the Bilston Charity Darts League. [1946]

A team from here took part in the Bilston Crib League, Section A. [1946]

Alterations were made c.1990.

It closed in May 2008.

Closed [2016], [2023]

SWAN BANK TAVERN, BILSTON.
BY MR. ALTREE.—To be LET, the above noted RETAIL BREWERY, successfully carried on by the present proprietor for the last sixteen years. Cause for disposal, the proprietor retiring from the public business. Valuation under £40.—Apply to F. ALTREE, Auctioneer and Publicans' Valuer, Bilston.

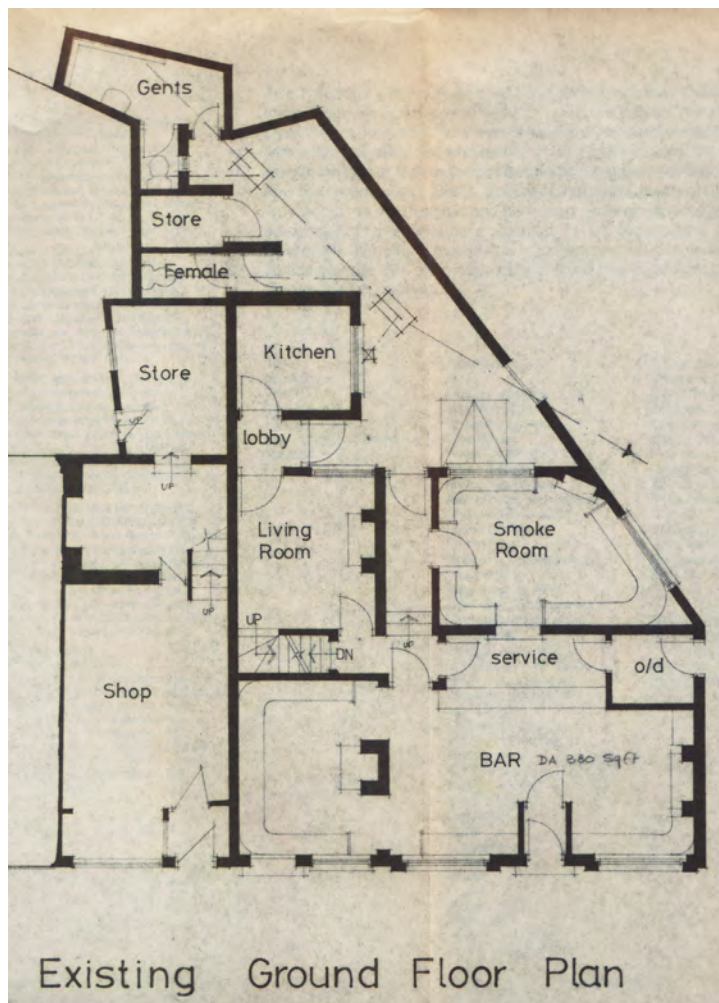
1857

BILSTON.
TO be LET, that well-known and Old-established HOUSE, known as the "SWAN BANK TAVERN," now doing a good trade. Coming-in about £35. Satisfactory reasons can be given for the present Proprietor leaving.—Also, an OLD-LICENSED HOUSE and SPIRIT VAULTS, now doing a good trade. Coming-in about £200.—Apply to W. R. Taylor, Appraiser, &c., 13, Lichfield Street, Bilston.

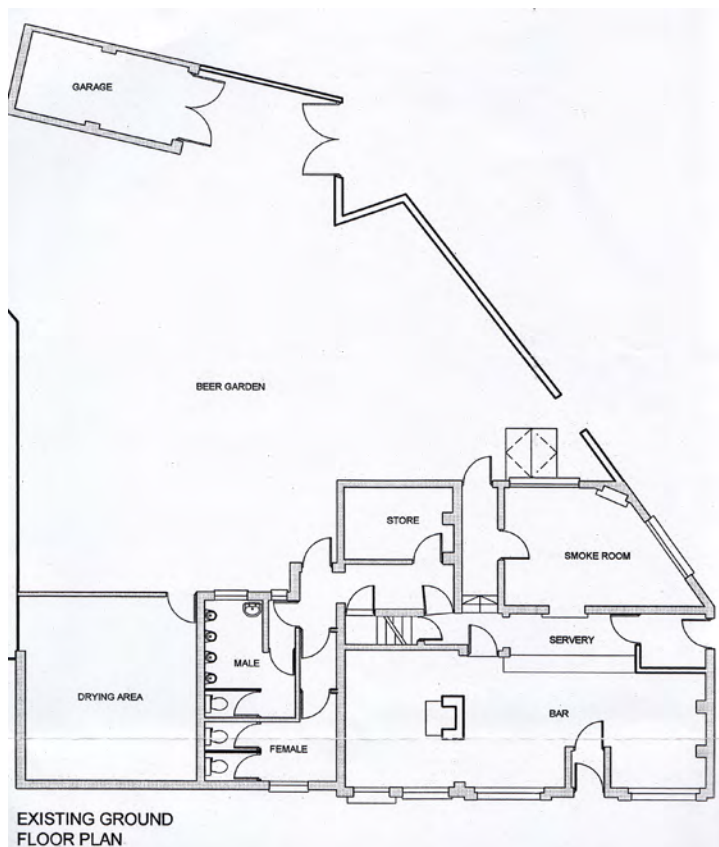
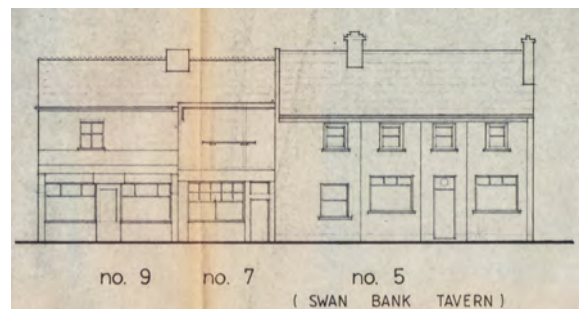
1860

JOSEPH YEOMANS
Having Opened the
SWAN BANK TAVERN,
Hopes to secure the patronage of old and new
Customers.
EVERYTHING OF THE BEST QUALITY.

1886



Plans 1989



Plan 2004

SYDNEY VILLAGE INN

21, (19), Wright Street, Hallfields, Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

John Humphries
Sarah Jane Fieldhouse

LICENSEES

John Humphries [1871] – **1874**);
Thomas Fieldhouse (**1874 – 1884**);
Mrs. Susan Jane Fieldhouse (**1884 – 1909**);
Thomas Fieldhouse (**1909 – 1918**);
Agnes Lucy (Fieldhouse) Green (**1918 – 1926**);
George Henry Wilkes (**1926 – 1927**);
Richard Yeoman (**1927 – [1940]**)

NOTES

[This pub was strictly in Sedgley, but is included here due to it being situated at Bradley.]

It had a beerhouse license.

John Humphries = John Humphreys

1871 Census

21, Wright Street – SYDNEY VILLAGE INN

- [1] *John Humphries* (54), widower, sinker and publican, born Shropshire;
- [2] *Mary Ann Humphries* (23), daughter, housekeeper, born Bilston;
- [3] *Sarah Humphries* (18), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] *Enoch Humphries* (13), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] *Eliza Humphries* (11), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] *John Taylor Humphries* (9), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] *Thomas Albert Humphries* (7), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [8] *John Preston* (41), visitor, boiler maker, born Bilston:

Dudley Herald 30/8/1879

“Swine fever having broken out amongst some pigs kept by Mr. George Cooper, CALIFORNIAN INN, Bradley, and by Mr. *Thomas Fieldhouse*, SIDNEY VILLAGE INN, Bradley, two of the animals have been slaughtered by order of the veterinary inspector. Mr. Cooper had a remaining pig killed that the infection should not spread to neighbouring styes.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 11/9/1879

“A supper, excellently served by the host, Mr. *T. Fieldhouse*, was given to the Bilston Hand Bell Ringers on Saturday night last, at the SIDNEY VILLAGE INN, Bradley. After ample justice had been done to the substantial old English fare provided, Mr. E. Hill was called to the chair, and the usual loyal toasts having been duly honoured, the remainder of the evening was spent in singing and in the performance of a number of selections on the hand bells belonging to the host. The health of the host and hostess having been duly honoured, the proceedings of a pleasant evening were brought to a close.”

1881 Census

Wright Street

- [1] *Thomas Fieldhouse* (43), moulder, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Susan A. Fieldhouse* (34), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Thomas Fieldhouse* (10), son, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [4] *John Fieldhouse* (8), son, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [5] *William F. Fieldhouse* (5), son, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [6] *George Fieldhouse* (3), son, born Sedgley;
- [7] *Eliza Humphries* (21), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Thomas Fieldhouse died on 23rd November 1883.

Darlaston Weekly Times 1/12/1883

"We have to record the death of Mr. *Thomas Fieldhouse*, of SIDNEY VILLAGE, Bradley, whose funeral took place at Coseley Church, on Wednesday, and was attended by many friends. Deceased was well known in the district as one of the oldest bellringers in the neighbourhood, and was specially identified with the campanological art at St. Martin's Church, Bradley, he having been assiduous in the labour of training the first band of bellringers there, after the gift of the peal of bells to the church. He leaves a widow and eight children, whose loss is shared by all who knew him. Accompanying the funeral were deputations from the United Order of Free Gardeners and Odd Fellows, of which the deceased was a member. The deputations were clad in appropriate regalia, and the usual ceremonies were gone through at the grave."

Darlaston Weekly Times 26/1/1884

"On the 17th instant upwards of 50 friends of the late Mr. *T. Fieldhouse* assembled at his late residence, SIDNEY VILLAGE INN, Bradley, and partook of an excellent repast, prepared by the hostess (his wife). After the cloths were drawn, Mr. Smith, of West Bromwich, took the chair, and Mr. T. Beech, of Bradley, the vice-chair. After several toasts had been submitted and duly honoured, the chairman referred in sympathetic terms to the purpose for which they were assembled, viz, to express their commiseration for the abrupt bereavement the hostess had sustained in the loss of her husband, and he felt assured that the goodly number present was indicative of their condolence. Mr. T. Beech and others ably responded, and hoped the wife and children so abruptly left would by their assiduity and united assistance of their many commiserators still continue to support themselves creditably and comfortably. The remainder of the evening was spent in harmony appropriate to the occasion."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 24/8/1885

"On Saturday evening, August 22nd, the members of the Water Lily Lodge of the Wolverhampton and Willenhall District of the National United Order of Free Gardeners held their third annual dinner at the SIDNEY VILLAGE INN, Bradley. Brother E. J. Hingley, of Bradley, was voted to the chair, and Mr. Gettings to the vice-chair. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts were proposed and suitably acknowledged. Brother T. Hodson said he was pleased to inform them that, notwithstanding the lamentable depression in trade, and the many extenuating circumstances to which some of their members had been subjected, that their lodge was in a healthy and prosperous condition, and he trusted that the same brotherly feeling which had characterised the members of the lodge for the last three years would still continue. He was exceedingly pleased to tell them that the order for the year ending December 31st, 1884, had made considerable progress. They had 91 districts, 721 lodges, and upwards of 45,000 members, and the aggregate worth of the Lodge and District Funds exceeded £117,000. He thought those figures spoke volumes as to the prosperity of the order (hear, hear)."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 30/3/1889 - Advert

"Wanted, a good Working Housekeeper, well domesticated.

Apply, *S. J. Fieldhouse*, SIDNEY VILLAGE INN, Wright Street, Bradley, Bilston."

WANTED, a good Working Housekeeper, well domesticated.—Apply, *S. J. Fieldhouse*, Sidney Village Inn, Wright-st., Bradley, Bilston.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 7/11/1889

“A general meeting of the workmen in the metallic bedstead trade was held on Wednesday night at the SYDNEY INN, Bradley, to support the branch already formed in Bilston, and to test the feelings of the operatives on the matter of a bonus of 15 per cent. An influential deputation from Birmingham attended, and addressed the meeting.

Mr. Swindel, one of the deputation, said the association had been formed to improve the condition of the working men in that trade by uniting themselves together, so that they would be able to resist the tyranny of unscrupulous employers. There had been a meeting in Birmingham, and they had resolved that the time had come when a demand should be made for an advance of 15 per cent. Some of the large employers had been waited upon on the subject, and they expressed their approval of it if it were made general in the trade.

Mr. Mills (secretary to the association) gave an outline of the objects of the society, and of the progress made.

Mr. Annan (vice president) said there had been a retrogression in the wages of the workmen in the bedstead trade for many years, caused by the disunion of the men. A man by himself could not stand against the onslaughts of an unscrupulous employer, for they knew the mean subterfuges he would resort to to grind him down to the lowest depths of poverty. As to the idea that all firms should pay the same rate of wages, he did not think that would be fair, because some employers had their work got up a great deal better than others.

The Chairman remarked that he had been requested to state that before an application for an advance would be entertained by their employers the workmen must be in a position to satisfy them that other firms were paying the same rate of wages as an advance would make theirs. If all employers paid the same rate of wages they could rest assured they would take care to have the work done well. He did not altogether agree that employers were ready to screw their workmen down to the lowest farthing. If an association like this was to be carried on with any degree of success it must be based upon sound and just principles. There must be a standard rate of day wages all through the trade, and a scale to regulate piece work, then such a society would command the sympathy of the employers, and be an advantage and blessing to workmen.

After further remarks, the following resolution was passed. That this meeting pledges itself to support the association in its endeavour to get an advance of 15 per cent, on December 1st.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/12/1889

“The Strike in the Bedstead Trade.....

About forty strikers arrived in Bilston at mid-day yesterday from Dudley. A visit was paid first to all to the works of Messrs. Perry and Son Limited, Highfields, and a deputation was appointed to ascertain from the heads of the firm whether they were willing to give the 15 per cent bonus, but nothing definite was decided upon. In the dinner-hour there was a meeting of the employés, at which the Dudley strikers were present. It was stated that a definite decision was very desirable, and a further deputation of six men were appointed, three from the iron department, and three from the brass, to wait upon the heads of the firm again in the course of the afternoon, and to report their answer to a meeting to be held when work was over in the evening. The men then proceeded with their work as usual.

The strikers next proceeded to the Atlas Works of Messrs. Wilkes; but Mr. Wilkes being away, they dispersed until two o'clock. At this hour they had an interview with that gentlemen. Mr. Wilkes afterwards called together all his workpeople, and stated that he was willing to give whatever advance was conceded by the Birmingham employers, and if the men would remain at work they could be paid as from Thursday. He was a member of the masters association, and he could not, therefore, break faith with the other members of that association by acting until he knew what the other masters were going to do. After some discussion the operatives left the factory in a body.

Before the operatives left work for the day at Messrs. Perry's they held a meeting on the premises, at which they resolved to remain at work another fortnight pending the issue of the revised price-list which has been promised by the masters in the bedstead trade within that time. About 200 men, women, and boys are interested in the matter at this works. Later on in the evening there was a joint meeting at the SYDNEY VILLAGE INN, Bradley, of the operatives at this establishment and of the Dudley strikers. The former put in a written copy of the resolution mentioned above, and announced their intention of abiding by it. Work will therefore be carried on as usual at Messrs. Perry's this morning.”

1891 Census

21, Wright Street

- [1] *Susan J. Fieldhouse* (44), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Bilston;
- [2] *Thomas Fieldhouse* (20), son, engine fitter, born Coseley;
- [3] *Annie Fieldhouse* (17), daughter, born Bradley;
- [4] *Arthur Fieldhouse* (9), son, scholar, born Bradley;
- [5] *Susan E. Fieldhouse* (7), daughter, scholar, born Bradley;

Mrs. *Susan Jane Fieldhouse*, beer retailer, Wright Street, Bradley. [1896], [1904]

1901 Census

21, Wright Street

- [1] *Susan J. Fieldhouse* (54), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Bilston;
- [2] *Thomas Fieldhouse* (30), son, mechanical engineer, born Princes End;
- [3] *John Fieldhouse* (28), son, grocer's assistant, born Bradley;
- [4] *George Fieldhouse* (23), son, checker in works, born Bradley;
- [5] *Susan E. Fieldhouse* (17), daughter, born Bradley;
- [6] *Emmie Thomas* (23), domestic servant, born Great Bridge;

Wolverhampton Express and Star 15/5/1905

"An inquiry was held today (Monday) at the SYDNEY VILLAGE INN, Wright Street, Bradley, Bilston, into the circumstances attending the death of *John Taylor* (48), a blind man, of Field Street, Bradley. It seemed that on Friday evening a son of the deceased was having his arm, which had been burnt, dressed by his mother. The lad fainted, and the mother called to the deceased to help her. He rose from his chair, and immediately stumbled, fell backwards, and expired. Dr. Tomlinson was called in, but he could only pronounce life to be extinct. A verdict of Natural Causes was returned."

1909 Probate

"*Susan Jane Fieldhouse* of SIDNEY VILLAGE INN, Wright Street, Bradley, Bilston, Staffordshire, widow, died 10 January 1909. Probate Lichfield 22 February to *Thomas Fieldhouse*, fitter; *James Fieldhouse*, works manager; and *Kempson Bullivant*, solicitor's clerk. Effects £2,647 14s 1d."

Thomas Fieldhouse married *Agnes Lucy Beaufoy* on 18th November 1909.

Birmingham Mail 14/1/1910

"At Bilston today, *Arthur Fieldhouse*, licensee of the BIRD IN HAND, Hill Street, Bradley, was committed to take his trial at the Assizes upon a charge of attempting to discharge a loaded revolver at his brother, *Thomas Fieldhouse*, licensee of the SYDNEY VILLAGE INN, Wright Street, Bradley. Twelve months ago prisoner's widowed mother died, leaving an estate, and prisoner, being dissatisfied with his share, took to drinking rather heavily. Shortly after midnight on Tuesday last prisoner, it was alleged, scaled the wall at the rear of his brother's premises, entered the house, and endeavoured to extract a promise from his brother, threatening, if it were not given, he would settle it by having his brother's life. As he levelled the revolver, however, prosecutor's wife knocked his hand down, and after a struggle the weapon was taken from him. He then snatched up a poker, but prosecutor's wife clung to him and held him while her husband called in assistance."

Staffordshire Sentinel 8/3/1910

"Staffordshire Assizes.....

Arthur Fieldhouse (28), publican, was charged with having committed an assault upon his brother, *Thomas Fieldhouse*, and his wife, at Coseley, on January 12th. On the advice of Mr. R. J. Lawrence, who defended, prisoner pleaded guilty.

Mr. V. G. Milward, prosecuting counsel, said that prisoner was a license holder, and he had been indulging very heavily in drink. At the time of the occurrence he was suffering very much from drink, and went to the house of the prosecutor, where there was a struggle with the brother and his wife. There was an assault, but the brother had no desire to press the case.

For the prisoner, Mr. Lawrence said that Fieldhouse had a very good character. Some years ago he had served in Thorneycroft's Horse in South Africa. Prisoner went to the house with a loaded revolver, but it was obviously a silly, drunken freak in an utterly absurd drunken frenzy. There was a struggle, but the prisoner refrained during the assault from firing the weapon.

Having regard to the appeal made for prisoner, the Judge said he would bind him over in £50 to come up for judgement if called upon."

1911 Census

21, Wright Street

- [1] *Thomas Fieldhouse* (40), beerhouse keeper, born Coseley;
- [2] *Agnes Lucy Fieldhouse* (31), wife, married 1 year, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *Thomas Beaufoy Fieldhouse* (2 months), son, born Bradley;
- [4] *Beatrice May Philips* (17), domestic servant, born Bradley:

1917 Probate

"*Thomas Fieldhouse* of SIDNEY VILLAGE INN, Wright Street, Bradley, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 21 November 1917. Probate Lichfield 22 December to *Agnes Lucy Fieldhouse*, widow. Effects £2,025 14s."

Agnes Lucy Fieldhouse married *William James Green* in the 3rd quarter of 1919.

1921 Census

19, Wright Street – SIDNEY VILLAGE INN

- [1] *William James Green* (32), beer brewer, born Ettingshall;
- [2] *Agnes Lucy Green* (42), beerhouse keeper, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *Thomas B. Fieldhouse* (10), step-son, school, born Bradley;
- [4] *William James Fieldhouse* (8), step-son, school, born Bradley;
- [5] *Helena A. T. Green* (11 months), daughter, born Bradley;
- [6] *Agnes Beaufoy* (64), visitor, retired, born Wolverhampton;
- [7] *Florence E. Davies* (38) domestic servant, born Bradley:

1939 Register

21, Wright Street (3 of 4)

- [1] *Richard Yeoman*, date of birth 24/6/1893, iron foundry furnaceman, heavy work, married;
- [2] *Elsie H. Yeoman*, dob 10/10/1897, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] *William H. Yeoman*, dob 23/11/1919, tool maker aero access, single;

Richard Yeoman – see also CROWN AND CUSHION.

A team from here took part in the Bradley Darts League, First Division. [1946]

Tipton Herald 24/3/1956

"Bilston Licensing Justices on Friday of last week refused to sanction a new public house at Lower Gornal after the brewery company had declined to close two of their houses at Bradley.

The application by Ansell's Brewery Limited was for a full license in respect of a new house to be erected at the junction of Ellowes Road and Park Road, Lower Gornal.

When the matter was originally before the justices a fortnight ago the brewery company offered to close the BULLS HEAD INN, John Street, Bradley, and pay £1,000 cash to make up the difference between the value of the license of the BULLS HEAD and the proposed new house. The Bench then announced that the application would be granted on the condition that the company closed the SIDNEY VILLAGE INN, Wright Street, Bradley, in addition to the BULLS HEAD, and the hearing was adjourned to allow Mr. Ernest Brown (for the applicants) to consult the brewery company.

Mr. Brown, on Friday last, said his instructions were that the SIDNEY VILLAGE could not be offered by the brewery company in addition to the BULLS HEAD. Mr. G. W. Cornwell, assistant managing director of Ansell's Brewery Limited, said that to comply with the justices' request would make the provision of the new house an uneconomical proposition. The District Licensing Valuer, he said, had estimated the value of the BULLS HEAD

license at £4,850, which was £1,000 less than the estimated value of the license of the proposed new house. The SIDNEY VILLAGE license was valued at £4,500, though the company's own estimate was £5,000. The company estimated the proposed new house would cost in the region of £29,000, as they did not want to build a shoddy place. 'But to have to surrender two licenses, which really means we are called upon to give another £4,000, becomes the last straw, and makes it totally uneconomic for us to proceed,' said Mr. Cornwell.

Questioned about the possibility of closing another house in place of the SIDNEY VILLAGE, Mr. Cornwell said that the company could not afford to, because all their houses in the Bilston area were good trading houses.

The justices retired to reconsider the application, and on their return the Chairman announced it would be refused."

TALBOT

31, (11), Oxford Street / Railway Street, New Town, BILSTON

OWNERS

Richard Colbourne, gentleman, Halesowen
Miss L. J. Colbourne, Speedwell Road, Edgbaston
Jessica Louisa Taylor, Wych Elm, Compton Road, Wolverhampton
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1921]

LICENSEES

John Bradshaw [1841] – 1856);
Mrs. Emma Bradshaw (1856 – [1858]
Arthur Wright and Co. [1861] – 1862);
Henry Stevens [1861] – [1870]
Samuel Wilkes [] – 1870);
Edwin Newton (1870 – [1871]
Mrs. Sarah Wilkes [1872] – 1879);
John Hands (1879 – 1880);
William George Dixon (1880);
Solomon Bryant (1880 – 1887);
Jethro Powderhill (1887 – 1891);
John Aston (1891 – 1892);
Joseph 'Joe' Edwards (1892 – 1893);
George Gwilt (1893);
Samuel Lloyd (1893 – 1894);
John Myatt (1894 – 1899);
John Knight [1896] [probably John Myatt]
Thomas Turvey (1899 – 1900);
Arthur Hinckley (1900 – 1901);
Sidney Arthur (1901);
Thomas Frederick Aston Ash (1901 – 1902);
Thomas Simpson Tunncliffe (1902 – []
Henry William Stanley [] – 1903);
Thomas Green (1903);
Richard Percy Phipps (1903 – 1911);
William Edward Smith [1903] manager
David Fisher [1911] manager
George Tubb (1911 – 1922);
William Arthur Williams (1922 – 1932);
Mrs. Sarah Jane (Williams) Lane (1932 – [1940]

**FIRST RATE BUILDING INVESTMENTS,
BILSTON, STAFFORDSHIRE.**
*An excellent Business Inn and Liquor Shop,
Grocery and Provision Depôt, Furniture
Warehouse, &c. &c.*

**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY RICHARD CORBETT,**

*On Friday, the 18th day of June, 1841, at the Talbot
Inn, Oxford road, Bilston, in the county of Stafford,
at five o'clock in the afternoon, in one, the following,
or such other lots as shall be agreed upon at the time
of sale, and subject to conditions then to be read:—*

LOT 1.

ALL that the above-named well-accustomed INN and
LIQUOR SHOP, situate at the corner of a street,
nearly opposite to the Independent Chapel, in Oxford-
road, Bilston aforesaid, comprising, on the basement,
convenient ale, wine, and liquor cellars, brewhouse, coal
depôt, and outbuildings; on the ground floor a spacious
wine and spirit shop, bar, tap room, two parlours, and a
malt-room; on the chamber floor a large sitting-room to
the front, over the liquor shop, a bed-room, and a club-
room, 47 feet by 14 feet; on the first attic story two ex-
cellent bed-rooms, and in the top attic one bed-room;
there is a well of excellent clean water, and a large soft
water cistern, with lead pumps to each, and the whole is oc-
cupied by Mr. John Bradshaw, under a lease for twenty-one
years, eighteen years of which are unexpired at Lady-day
next, at the very low rent of 54*l.* per year.

1841

NOTES

11, Oxford Street [1858], [1861], [1864], [1870], [1872], [1874], [1881], [1884], [1891], [1892], [1896]
31, Oxford Street [1901], [1904], [1908], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1932], [1932], [1939], [1940]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/4/1841

“The following inquests have been held before H. Smith, Esq, coroner.....

On the 24th inst, at Bilston, on Isaac Hartill, servant to Mr. *Bradshaw*, of the TALBOT INN. The deceased was pitching a bag of malt into a mashing tub, when the ladder on which he stood broke and he fell into the boiling water, by which he was so badly scalded that he died the same day. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

1841 Census

Oxford Street

[1] *John Bradshaw* (25), spirit merchant;

[2] *Emma Bradshaw* (20), born Staffordshire;

[3] *Rebecca Shaw* (15), f.s., born Staffordshire;

[4] *Ann Shaw* (15), f.s., born Staffordshire;

[5] *Mary Darby* (15), f.s., born Staffordshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/6/1841 - Advert

“First Rate Building Investments, Bilston, Staffordshire.

An excellent Business Inn and Liquor Shop, Grocery and Provision Depot, Furniture Warehouse, &c, &c.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett, on Friday, the 18th day of June, 1841, at the TALBOT INN, Oxford Road, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, at five o’clock in the afternoon, in one, the following, or such other lots as shall be agreed upon at the time of sale, and subject to conditions then to be read.

Lot I. All that the above-named well-accustomed Inn and Liquor Shop, situate at the corner of a street, nearly opposite to the Independent Chapel, in Oxford Road, Bilston aforesaid, comprising, on the basement, convenient ale, wine, and liquor cellars, brewhouse, coal depot, and outbuildings; on the ground floor, a spacious wine and spirit shop, bar, tap-room, two parlours, and a malt-room; on the chamber floor, a large sitting-room to the front, over the liquor shop, a bed-room, and a club-room, 47 feet by 14 feet; on the first attic story, two excellent bed-rooms, and in the top attic, one bed-room; there is a well of excellent clean water, and a large soft water cistern, with lead pumps to each, and the whole is occupied by Mr. *John Bradshaw*, under a lease for twenty-one years, eighteen years of which are unexpired at Lady-day next, at the very low rent of £54 per year.

Lot II. The adjoining Shop and Premises.....

Lot III. The adjoining Shop and Premises.....

Lot IV. All that substantially-built range of Buildings, three stories high, in the rear of lots I, II, and III, having a frontage to the street leading from Oxford Road to Pipes Meadow, and also a small Building, used as a chaff-house, with so much of the room over it as will remain when the fence wall that divides lots I, II, and III from these premises is raised to the apex of the roof, which the vendor will undertake to have done, all of which premises are used as warehouses, stabling, &c.....

There is a road 6 feet 6 inches wide from the street to the chaff-house, which is to be in common to lots I, II, III, and IV.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 8/11/1843

“The following inquests have been held before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner.....

On Wednesday, at the TALBOT INN, Bilston, on Henry John Bradshaw, the only child of Mr. *Bradshaw*, the landlord of the inn, who died in consequence of being scalded by a jug of hot water being upset by him whilst alone. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 16/4/1845

“Henry Oakley and William Smith, both of Bilston, were brought up by the police, and by the Bench ordered to find a surety each for their future good behaviour. The former defendant having been taken in the act of fighting at the TALBOT INN, Bilston, very late on the Saturday night, the 5th instant, and Smith having endeavoured to rescue the defendant Oakley from the police, and kicked the latter.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 12/9/1846

“Richard Hanley and Joseph Hanley were charged by police constable John Roe with fighting, on Sunday morning, at the TALBOT INN, Bilston.

It appeared that Richard Hanley and another man, named Evan Evans, were fighting, and Joseph Hanley was helping his brother, when the police officer, who was sent for, arrived and succeeded in taking the two defendants.

The defendants said Evans had struck first.

The Bench ordered Richard Hanley to find bail, and Joseph Hanley to pay the expenses.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/11/1848

“Committed to the County Prison, at Stafford, for trial.....

Thomas Chidlow, charged with stealing wine, the property of *John Bradshaw*, at Bilston.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/1/1849

“Staffordshire Epiphany Sessions.....

Thomas Chidlow, 39, was indicted for stealing two bottles of British wine, the property of *John Bradshaw*, at Bilston.

The prosecutor keeps the TALBOT INN, at Bilston. On the 29th of October the prisoner called there, and asked for a glass of rum and water, which was supplied. On his leaving the house, he was suspected of having taken something out of the window, and on being searched, two bottles of wine were found in his possession, which the prosecutor stated was his property.

Guilty; to be imprisoned four months.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 12/1/1850

“William Bevington, a labourer, was charged with embezzling £1 5s, the moneys of his master, James Barnes, a carter, living in Oxford Street, Bilston. It appeared that on Wednesday last, the prosecutor sent the prisoner to Wolverhampton market, with a horse to sell for 25s. The prisoner sold the horse, but, instead of giving up the money to his master, he got drunk, and on being taken in custody on the following day, he admitted that he had spent 8s, and that the remainder was in the hands of Mr. *Bradshaw*, landlord of the TALBOT. Committed to the Sessions.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 13/3/1850

“Staffordshire Adjourned Sessions.....

The Chairman briefly addressed the Grand Jury.....

There was one case in the calendar (that of William Bevington) in which the prisoner was charged with embezzling 8s 6d, the moneys of his master; but this charge, unless there was more evidence than appeared in the depositions, could not, in his opinion, be sustained. The circumstances were these. The master deputed his servant (the prisoner) to take a horse to a third party for him (the third party) to sell; but instead of taking the horse as directed, the prisoner himself sold the horse and appropriated a portion of the money to his own use in drinking at a public house. The prisoner had no authority to receive the money, but whatever other offence the prisoner might be charged with, he was not guilty of the offence of embezzlement.....

The bills against the following parties were ignored William Bevington.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 28/4/1850

“The Bilston Novice will fight Josiah Foster of Darlaston, or Benjamin Morpas of Dudley, at 10st 2lb, for £10 or £25 a side; or he will fight John Evans of Bilston, catch weight, for the like sum. Money ready at the TALBOT INN, New Town, Bilston.”

AND

“William Chambers will fight Thomas Jenks of Bilston, at 7st 6lb, and he will allow Thomas Jenks 6lb in weight, for £10 or £25 a side. Man and money ready at the TALBOT, New Town, Bilston, any time next week.”

John Bradshaw was also a wine and spirit merchant. [1851]

1851 Census

Oxford Street

- [1] *John Bradshaw* (44), wine and spirit merchant, born Crake, Yorkshire;
- [2] *Emma Bradshaw* (35), wife, born Melbourne, Derbyshire;
- [3] *Isabella Bradshaw* (6), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] *Thomas Bradshaw* (50), brother, land agent, born Crake, Yorkshire;
- [5] *Sarah Bradshaw* (15), niece, born Manchester;
- [6] *Fanny Shaw* (22), wife's sister, unmarried, waitress, born Bilston;
- [7] *William Henry Jukes* (33), servant, born Barbados;
- [8] *Ann Warmington* (16), servant, born Bilston;
- [9] *Martin Devaney* (17), servant, born Bilston;

Staffordshire Advertiser 13/9/1851

"The last show for the season of the Bilston Floral and Horticultural Society took place on Tuesday last, at St. Mary's School Rooms. The day was fine, and the company numerous and respectable. Many of the specimens shown were of great merit. There appears to be a growing feeling in favour of this infant society, which will, we hope, be more fully developed in a future season. Great praise is due to Mr. Chas. Tizzard, head gardener to W. Riley, Esq, of Millfields, and who is honorary secretary, and to Mr. *Bradshaw*, of the TALBOT INN, Oxford Street, treasurer, for the exertions they have made to promote the success of the society.....

At the close of the proceedings the committee, judges, and supporters of the society, to the number of sixty, sat down to an excellent dinner at the TALBOT INN, provided in Mr. *Bradshaw's* best style. A most agreeable evening was spent, and the company did not separate until a late hour."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 22/2/1852

"John Hayward of Bilston will run Thomas Nichols of Great Bridge 100 yards, for £5 or £10 a side. Money ready at Mr. *Bradshaw's*, TALBOT INN, Bilston, any night next week."

Birmingham Journal 14/1/1854 - Advert

"Twenty-Five First-Class Draught Horses, at Mr. *Bradshaw's*, TALBOT INN, Oxford Street, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. W. Ashcroft, on Friday Next, January 20, commencing at Twelve o'clock at noon, on the Premises, as above.

Twenty-five superior and powerful Draught Horses, in excellent condition, all well-known good workers, twenty-five sets of first-rate Shaft and Chain Gearing, brass mounted, eighteen Horse Cloths, one six-inch and one three-inch-wheel Carts, nearly new, two Stables, containing 4,300 feet of Boards and 400 feet of four-and-a-half-inch Brick Walls, Blacksmith's Hearth, Anvil, Bellows, Hammers, Vice, Benches, Pikes, Shovels, and Excavator's Tools, Hay Rack, capital Manger, 88 feet long, with posts, ten tons of Manure, and a variety of Effects, belonging to Mr. James Wallis, who has finished his contract on the Bilston and Dudley Railway.

Catalogues may be had at the Place of Sale, and at the Auctioneer's Office, Snow Hill, Wolverhampton."

Staffordshire Advertiser 28/7/1855

"Mr. H. Underhill, solicitor, appeared at the instance of the Association of Licensed Victuallers, to defend *John Bradshaw*, of the TALBOT INN, Bilston, who was charged by the Inland Revenue authorities with having in his possession and using grains of paradise. The extremity to which those authorities had pushed the recent case of Cotterill, had, Mr. Underhill said, caused his clients to determine to test the truths of the numerous charges which were now being preferred against members of their body; and to ascertain whether the evidence of chemists could be depended upon to prove the guilt or innocence of the parties so charged; they were ready, if necessary, to go to the Court of Exchequer. Mr. Underhill then applied for an adjournment of the case, as witnesses who had analysed the spent hops, from which the grains were alleged to have been taken, were not then present. No opposition was offered by the complainants and the application was granted."

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/9/1855

"*John Bradshaw*, landlord of the TALBOT INN, Bilston, was charged with having in his possession and using grains of paradise.....

Mr. Underhill said that he had Mr. Cooper, a talented surgeon of Bilston, present, who would give evidence that he subjected the samples submitted to him to a careful analysis and could discover no grains of paradise, but he (Mr. Underhill) could not prove that they were the same samples as were taken away by the excise.

The bench fined the defendant £100, being half the fine to which he was liable for the offence."

Staffordshire Sentinel 25/10/1856

"On Tuesday at Bilston Town Hall, the following intermediate transfer of licenses were granted.....

TALBOT INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, from the executors of the late *John Bradshaw* to *Emma Bradshaw*."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/4/1857

"On Friday last, at Bilston Police Court, Thomas Jewkes was charged with wilfully damaging the door of the TALBOT INN, Mrs. *Bradshaw*'s, on the previous Monday night. It seemed that the prisoner had been drinking at the house, that he went away, and returned demanding more drink. It was refused him, and he then kicked the door and damaged it. He was fined 10s, the value of the damage done, and costs."

Staffordshire Advertiser 24/10/1857

"Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Ann Bickerton, 31, was indicted for uttering and putting off at Bilston three counterfeit sovereigns, well knowing the same to be false and counterfeit. Mr. Davis conducted the prosecution, but no counsel appeared for the prisoner. Elizabeth Ralph, servant to Mrs. Elizabeth Taylor, stated that her mistress kept a wine and spirit vaults at Bilston. On the morning of the 30th of August, the prisoner called and purchased some liquor, tendering in payment a £5 note, and receiving the change. She (witness) then went to serve another customer, and the prisoner immediately afterwards returned a sovereign saying she did not like it. She (witness) then gave her two half-sovereigns, and on subsequently looking at the sovereign she was quite certain it was not the one she had given the prisoner.

Owen Smith, police officer, said he was sent for to Taylor's vaults to receive a counterfeit sovereign. On the 10th of September he had the prisoner in custody; and the last witness selected her from among a number of other persons as the person who had passed the counterfeit sovereign.

Henry John Holland, son of a grocer at Willenhall, stated that between three and four o'clock in the afternoon of the 10th of September, the prisoner came to his father's shop and purchased articles to the amount of 4s 11d, which she paid for with a £5 note. He gave her the change from the cash box, taking out all the gold, when she asked him to wrap the goods up in paper. He had to go to the end of the shop for paper, and on his return the prisoner threw a sovereign on the counter, saying she did not like it, as it had a flaw on it. He returned the sovereign to the cash box, and gave her change in silver.

Thomas Holland, father of the last witness, stated that he examined the cash box on the night of the 9th of September, and was quite satisfied that the gold in it was good. On going into the shop after the prisoner had left he saw a counterfeit sovereign in the cash box.

Emma Bradshaw, landlady of the TALBOT spirit vaults, at Bilston, was the next witness. She stated that about six o'clock in the afternoon of the 10th of September the prisoner came into the shop and asked for two half-pints of rum, for which she produced two bottles, and for which she paid with a £5 note. She (witness) gave her four sovereigns and eighteen shillings in silver in change for the note and rum, and as soon as she had served another customer the prisoner put a sovereign on the counter, and said she did not like the ring of it; to which she (witness) said, 'I should think not; I did not give you this.' She then had her detained, and gave her into custody.

Mr. Lithgoe was called, and after examining the three sovereigns which were produced, he stated that they were counterfeit, and had all been made from the same die.

The prisoner gave a general denial to the charge; but the jury returned a verdict of guilty.

The Chairman, in sentencing the prisoner to two years' imprisonment, told her that hers was one of the worst, and at the same time most ingenious, cases of the kind which had come before the Court."

[A solicitor subsequently arrived for the defence, saying he had been sent to the wrong court, amongst other issues. The Chairman pointed out that the prisoner did not mention that she was to be defended. Eventually it was ruled that the conviction was sound.]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/8/1858 - Advert

“To be Let, that excellent old-established Liquor Business, the TALBOT, Oxford Street, Bilston. Rent and coming-in moderate. £250 to £300 may remain for nine or twelve months on approved security. For further particulars apply to W. P. Tomkys, sen, Auctioneer, &c, 27, Wellington Street, Bilston.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/10/1858 - Advert

“TALBOT INN, Oxford Street, Bilston.

W. P. Tomkys, Sen, will Sell by Auction, on Tuesday and Wednesday next, October the 12th and 13th, 1858, all the Brewing Utensils, Barrels, Liquor Shop Fixtures, part of the useful Household Furniture, first-class Billiard Table, and other effects, the property of Mrs. *Emma Bradshaw*, who is retiring from business.

Sale to commence each day punctually at eleven o'clock.

Further particulars in catalogues, which may be obtained on Friday next, at the TALBOT INN, or the Auctioneer's, 27, Wellington Street, Bilston.”

1861 Census

11, Oxford Street

[1] *Henry Stevens* (30), publican, born Ludfield, Sussex;

[2] *Ann Stevens* (31), wife, born Cirencester, Gloucestershire;

[3] *Mary Tart* (7), niece, born Cirencester, Gloucestershire;

[4] *Ellen Cook* (21), general servant, born Oakengates, Shropshire:

Birmingham Daily Post 8/9/1862 - Advert

“An Opportunity Seldom to be Met With.

To be Disposed Of, that well-known Corner Wine and Spirit Vaults called the TALBOT INN, fronting Oxford Street and Railway Street, Bilston, in the greatest thoroughfare of the district, and within one minute's walk of the Great Western Railway Booking Office, at which Station there are no Refreshment Rooms. Now doing an excellent in and out-door and Counter Trade. Rent moderate. The House has long maintained the reputation of a Business House, having been established upwards of forty years, and changed hands but once for the last twenty-six years. The Premises are replete with every convenience. There is also a Commodious Room, calculated to hold 200 persons, and suitable either for a Saloon or Billiard Room. The Vaults are the largest in the district, and have lately been richly embellished. The Stock, Fixtures and other effects to be taken to at a fair valuation. The reason for the present Proprietor disposing of the Business is his other very pressing engagements.

Apply to Mr. Arthur Wright, CROWN AND CUSHION INN, Hallfields, Bilston, Staffordshire.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/10/1862 - Advert

“To be Disposed Of, the Licenses and Goodwill of that Old-established Corner Wine and Spirit Vaults known as the TALBOT INN, fronting to Oxford Street and Railway Street, Bilston, and now doing an excellent in and out-door trade. The stock can be reduced to suit the purchaser, and, if required, a portion of the purchase money may remain thereon, at interest. The reason for the present proprietor giving up the same is on account of having embarked in other business taking up the whole of his time. The house has only changed hands once for the last twenty-six years. Apply to Mr. Arthur Wright, Hallfields, Bilston.”

TO BE DISPOSED OF, the LICENSES and GOODWILL of that Old-established Corner Wine and Spirit Vaults known as the “TALBOT INN,” fronting to Oxford-street and Railway-street, Bilston, and now doing an excellent in and out-door trade. The stock can be reduced to suit the purchaser, and, if required, a portion of the purchase money may remain thereon, at interest. The reason for the present proprietor giving up the same is on account of having embarked in other business taking up the whole of his time. The house has only changed hands once for the last twenty-six years.—Apply to Mr. ARTHUR WRIGHT, Hallfields, Bilston.

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

"Wanted, a good General Servant.
Apply at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oxford Street, Bilston."

WANTED, a good GENERAL SERVANT.—Apply at the
Talbot Hotel, Oxford Street, Bilston.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/1/1866

"We have the pleasure in reporting the celebration of the annual supper of the Great Western Railway officials and employees of Bilston Station. It was held on Friday night, at Mr. *Stevens's*, TALBOT HOTEL, Oxford Street, and the spread was well served up by the proprietor. Mr. Owen was unanimously voted to the chair. The usual toasts, loyal and social, were given and responded to, and the evening passed off in a most agreeable manner. It is gratifying to see these evidences of good fellowship between the servants of a large Railway Company and the townspeople, and as unusual as pleasant. It must promise well for the traffic of Bilston Station. This was the ninth anniversary, but it has been held this year, for the first time at Mr. *Stevens's*, whose liberality and attention has insured the continuance of the celebration at his house in future. Several many influential townspeople were present. Many really good speeches were made, and some good songs were sung. The party broke up about twelve o'clock in an orderly and pleasing manner, with the farewell toast of the 'Ladies,' which was drunk with musical honours."

Birmingham Daily Post 1/10/1866 - Advert

"Retriever Dog for Sale, well bred, handsome, curly black Dog, age 15 months.
Apply to *H. Stevens*, TALBOT HOTEL, Bilston."

RETRIEVER DOG for SALE, well bred, handsome, curly black
Dog, age 15 months.—Apply to *H. Stevens*, Talbot Hotel,
Bilston.

London Gazette 12/5/1868

"*Henry Stevens*, of the TALBOT INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, Stafford, licensed victualler."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/7/1868

"Birmingham Bankruptcy Court.....

In re *Henry Stevens*, Bilston, licensed victualler.

Meeting for last examination and discharge, attended by Mr. Griffin for the trade assignee.

Creditors unsecured, £714 6s 10d; ditto to be paid in full, £35 19s 1d; total liabilities, £750 5s 11d.

Assets (property given up to assignees) £75; deficiency, £675 5s 11d.

There was no opposition, and the bankrupt was discharged."

1871 Census

11, Oxford Street

[1] *Edwin Newton* (48), licensed victualler employing one man, born West Bromwich;

[2] *Ann Newton* (47), wife, born Clapham;

[3] *Mary Davis* (40), visitor, born Gloucestershire:

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/2/1875 - Advert

"'Defensio, Non Provocatio.' Caution.

The Licensed Victuallers' Tea Association, Southwark Street, Borough, London.

This Association, having prosecuted and convicted a Grocer, at Bradford, at the Leeds Assizes, under the 'Merchandise Marks Act, 1862,' and also prosecuted a man at Chester Assizes, who was sentenced to six months' imprisonment for fraudulently counterfeiting and imitating their Trade Mark, and having obtained a decree for a perpetual injunction against a Tea Company (Limited), restricting the said Company from selling or exposing for sale Tea packed in covers or wrappers made in imitation of those used by the Licensed Victuallers' Tea Association, or not materially differing therefrom, or in any 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 said Association.

Thompson and Son, 60, Cornhill, Solicitors for the Licensed Victuallers' Tea Association.

Agents For Staffordshire.....

Bilston: *S. Wilkes*, TALBOT INN, Oxford Street; *T. Maddocks*, PLOUGH INN, High Street."

John Hands = John Hand

Wolverhampton Express and Star 8/4/1880 - Advert

“Irish Distress.

Mrs. Owen Powell, in conjunction with a committee of gentlemen, have the honour to announce that they will give an Entertainment and Soiree in aid of the above, on Wednesday, April 21st.....

Entertainment to commence at 7.30pm; Dancing at Nine o'clock.

As no money will be taken at the door, Tickets, 2s 6d and 1s each can be had from.....

Mr. *J. Hand*, TALBOT HOTEL, Oxford Street, Bilston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/5/1880

“A petition for liquidation was filed yesterday in the Wolverhampton County Court, by Mr. Robert Willcock, on behalf of *John Hand*, TALBOT INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, formerly of the OLD CLOG INN, Canal Street, Wolverhampton. The liabilities are estimated at £650; assets not yet ascertained. Mr. T. S. Hatton (Hatton and Muras), accountant, has been appointed receiver.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 16/10/1880

“At Bilston Police Court yesterday the following licenses were fully transferred.....

TALBOT INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, from the trustees of the late Mr. *John Hand* to *Solomon Bryant*.”

1881 Census

11, Oxford Street – TALBOT INN

[1] *Solomon Bryant* (30), master mariner and licensed victualler, born Bristol;

[2] *Emma Bryant* (30), wife, born Birmingham;

[3] *Minnie H. Bryant* (13), daughter, scholar, born Redditch;

[4] *Mary Wall* (21), general servant, born Bilston:

Evening Express 12/4/1881

“*Solomon Bryant*, landlord of the TALBOT INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, answered a summons charging him with permitting drunkenness in his house on the 26th ult.

Several police-officers proved drunkenness in the house on two occasions when visits had been made by them.

Chief Superintendent Longden informed the Stipendiary that the house had been badly conducted while in the hands of the defendant.

The offence was admitted by Mr. R. Willcock (Queen Street, Wolverhampton), who had been engaged to defend, and the defendant was fined 20s and costs.”

Evening Express 5/10/1881 - Advert

“Pianist Wanted.

Apply, TALBOT INN, Oxford Street, Bilston.”

PIANIST Wanted.—Apply, Talbot Inn, Oxford street, Bilston.

Darlaston Weekly Times 8/4/1882

“A sudden death, under very singular and painful circumstances, took place on Monday morning, in Oxford Street. It appears that a club is held at Mr. Kirby's house, the members of which attend to pay their contributions every Monday morning. An aged woman, who is well-known in the district as 'Nurse Roberts,' living in Railway Street, was at the shop for this purpose on Monday. Having completed her business, she asked permission to rest herself, as she felt rather tired. This being accorded, she sat down upon a chair in the shop. In about ten minutes afterwards, the person in charge, hearing a slight noise, turned round in time to see Mrs. Roberts fall forward. Thinking she was in a fit, he went for a glass of water, some women who were present, attending to the poor woman meanwhile. Before his return, however, the poor woman was dead. Medical aid was obtained, but of course it was of no avail. At the inquest held at the TALBOT INN, Oxford Street, on Wednesday morning, before W. H. Phillips, Esq, district coroner, a verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 10/4/1885

“At Bilston Court, this morning, *Solomon Bryant*, landlord of the TALBOT INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises. Sergeant Hayward deposed that late on the night of the 2nd inst he went to the defendant’s house and found a man named George Yeomans sitting there drunk. Witness drew the landlord’s attention to the fact. Fined 5s and the costs. A charge of having been drunk against Yeomans was withdrawn.”

Evening Express 20/4/1889 - Advert

“Wanted, Pianist, for two nights per week.
The TALBOT, Oxford Street, Bilston.”

WANTED, Pianist, for two nights per week. — The
Talbot, Oxford-st., Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 13/3/1890

“The Strike in the Hollow-Ware Trade.

A meeting of the turners, who are still on strike, was held at the TALBOT INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, yesterday, at which a letter was read from the secretary of the masters association. This was to the effect that it was useless for the men to discuss their privileges or the list, as these matters were decided by the arbitrators last year. The masters still adhered to their offer of 10 per cent advance on the arbitrator’s award. The men contended that if they were to resume work on the terms offered they would have less wages than they were receiving when they came out on strike. They therefore decided to play on.

We are informed that the employees of two firms in the hollow-ware trade have returned to work on the masters’ terms, and that the example is likely to be followed by others.”

1891 Census

11, Oxford Street – TALBOT INN

[1] *Jethro Powderhill* (54), licensed victualler, born Winchcomb, Gloucestershire;

[2] *Mary Powderhill* (50), wife, born Dublin;

[3] *Charlotte Powderhill* (19), daughter, born Dublin;

[4] *May Powderhill* (5), grand-daughter, born West Bromwich:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/7/1892

“An All-England 120 Yards £6 10s Pedestrian Handicap, provided by the well-known pedestrian, *Joe Edwards*, late of Derby, winner of two £100 Sheffield Handicaps, and now of the TALBOT VAULTS, Oxford Street, Bilston, was commenced at the New Town Recreation Grounds, Bilston, in the presence of a fair company. The programme showed the names of 109, arranged into 22 heats....”

Birmingham Daily Post 1/8/1892

“Mr. A. B. Smith, deputy coroner, opened an inquest at the TALBOT INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, on Saturday, touching the death of *Enoch Brown Firm*, 21, a stamper, of 13, Railway Street, Bilston, who was killed at the japanning works of Mr. J. Froggart. The evidence showed that whilst the deceased was following his employment, he was noticed to have his head under a stamp, and on a fellow-workman going to him he discovered that he was dead, the stamp by some means having fallen upon him. No explanation could be given as to how the accident had occurred, and the enquiry was adjourned for Captain Bevan, the inspector of factories, to make enquiries.”

Evening Express 9/9/1898 - Advert

“Wanted, General Servant, about 20, one used to public business, who would not object to serve in bar.
Apply, Mrs. *Myatt*, TALBOT INN, Oxford Street, Bilston.”

Staffordshire Sentinel 28/1/1899

“Messrs. Nock and Joseland conducted a sale of properties at Wolverhampton, on Wednesday. The copyhold, corner, full-licensed public house, known as the TALBOT HOTEL, Bilston, together with five copyhold dwelling houses was withdrawn at £1,900.”

1901 Census

31, Oxford Street

[1] Sydney Arthur (36), publican, born Walsall;

[2] Harriet E. Arthur (31), wife, born Walsall;

[3] Lynda A. Arthur (8), daughter, born Walsall;

[4] Nellie Arthur (7), daughter, born Walsall:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 22/3/1904

“Mr. Justice Wills and a jury, at Birmingham Assizes yesterday, heard an action in which Sarah Webster, residing with her married sister at Wednesbury, claimed damages from *Edward Smith*, of the CROSS KEYS, Wednesbury, for slander, which imputed to the plaintiff that she had robbed him of £1 13s.

Mr. Vachell laid plaintiff's case before the court. In August last year, he said, the owners of the CROSS KEYS asked the defendant to take charge of the TALBOT, in Bilston, and he engaged the plaintiff, who is his cousin, as a barmaid. She remained there until the date of the alleged slander, Christmas Day. On that occasion he accused her of having robbed the till of £1 13s on the previous night, and notwithstanding that charge, said Mr. Vachell, she was left in charge of the money all day. The defendant repeated the accusation in the presence of plaintiff's sister. ‘She is a thief; she has robbed me of £1 13s out of that drawer.’ These, said Mr. Vachell, were the words he used, and he called out in the presence of the people in the house that she had robbed him.

Mr. Disturnal, for the defence, urged that there could not possibly be any malice on the part of the defendant, considering that the parties were relatives. The money was counted by both the previous night, and put into a drawer. Next morning there was £1 12s 8d short, and the defendant had the honest belief that the plaintiff took the money. The defendant, in the course of his evidence, said he still believed that the plaintiff must have had the money. The jury found for the plaintiff, with £25 damages.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 26/3/1904

“At Birmingham Assizes, Sarah Webster claimed damages from *William Edward Smith*, of the CROSS KEYS, Wednesbury, for slander. The plaintiff is a first cousin of the defendant, and was engaged by him as a barmaid at the TALBOT INN, Bilston, of which he was the manager.....”

Richard Percy Phipps was fined £2 and costs, on 3rd July 1908, for permitting drunkenness.

1911 Census

31, Oxford Street

[1] *David Fisher* (31), public house manager, born Greets Green;

[2] *Lillian Fisher* (32), wife, married 11 years, born Wolverhampton;

[3] *George Albert Fisher* (10), son, born Wolverhampton:

Richard Percy Phipps was fined £5 and costs on 28th July 1911, for permitting drunkenness.

1921 Census

31, Oxford Street – TALBOT INN

[1] *George Tubb* (61), licensed victualler, born Gloucester;

[2] *Lily Tubb* (40), wife, home duties, born Bilston;

[3] *George Noah Tubb* (6), son, school, born Bilston:

George Tubb – see also ROYAL GEORGE, Bilston, and ROYAL GEORGE, Willenhall.

1932 Probate

"William Arthur Williams of 31 Oxford Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 26 January 1932. Administration Birmingham 18 February to Sarah Jane Williams, widow. Effects £275 13s."

Sarah Jane Williams married Arthur Lane on 28th May 1936.

1939 Register

31, Oxford Street

[1] Sarah J. Lane, date of birth 20/11/1887, manageress, licensed house, married;

[2] Amelia (Cross) Howell, dob 22/6/1918, bar general, licensed house, single:

A team from here took part in the Bilston Crib League, Section A. [1946]

Closed

Demolished

TWENTY-FIVE FIRST-CLASS DRAUGHT HORSES,
AT MR. BRADSHAW'S, TALBOT INN, OXFORD STREET,
BILSTON.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION.

BY Mr. W. ASHCROFT, on FRIDAY NEXT,
January 20, commencing at Twelve o'clock at noon, on the Premises, as above—Twenty-five superior and powerful DRAUGHT HORSES, in excellent condition, all well-known good workers, twenty-five sets of first-rate Shaft and Chain Gearing, brass mounted, eighteen Horse Cloths, one six-inch and one three-inch-wheel Carts, nearly new, two Stables, containing 4,300 feet of Boards and 400 feet of four-and-a-half-inch Brick Walls, Blacksmith's Hearth, Anvil, Bellows, Hammers, Vice, Benches, Pikes, Shovels, and Excavator's Tools, Hay Rack, capital Manger, 88 feet long, with posts, ten tons of Manure, and a variety of Effects, belonging to Mr. James Wallis, who has finished his contract on the Bilston and Dudley Railway.

Catalogues may be had at the Place of Sale, and at the Auctioneer's Office, Snow Hill, Wolverhampton.

1854

AN OPPORTUNITY SELDOM TO BE MET WITH.

TO be DISPOSED OF, that well-known Corner WINE and SPIRIT VAULTS called "THE TALBOT INN," fronting Oxford Street and Railway Street, Bilston, in the greatest thoroughfare of the district and within one minute's walk of the Great Western Railway Booking Office, at which Station there are no Refreshment Rooms. Now doing an excellent in and out-door and Counter Trade. Rent moderate. The House has long maintained the reputation of a Business House, having been established upwards of forty years and changed hands but once for the last twenty-six years. The Premises are replete with every convenience. There is also a Commodious Room, calculated to hold 200 persons, and suitable either for a Saloon or Billiard Room. The Vaults are the largest in the district, and have lately been richly embellished. The Stock, Fixtures, and other effects to be taken to at a fair valuation. The reason for the present Proprietor disposing of the Business is his other very pressing engagements.—Apply to Mr. Arthur Wright, Crown and Cushion Inn, Hallfields, Bilston, Staffordshire.

1862

BILSTON.

TO BE LET, that excellent old-established LIQUOR BUSINESS, "THE TALBOT," Oxford-street, Bilston. Rent and coming-in moderate. £250 or £300 may remain for nine or twelve months on approved security.—For further particulars apply to W. P. TOMKYS, sen., Auctioneer, &c., 27, Wellington-street, Bilston.

TALBOT INN, OXFORD-STREET, BILSTON.

W. P. TOMKYS, Sen., will SELL by AUCTION, on Tuesday and Wednesday next, October the 12th and 13th, 1858, all the BREWING UTENSILS, BARRELS, LIQUOR SHOP FIXTURES, part of the useful HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, first-class BILLIARD TABLE, and other effects, the property of Mrs. Emma Bradshaw, who is retiring from business.

Sale to commence each day punctually at eleven o'clock.

Further particulars in catalogues, which may be obtained on Friday next, at the Talbot Inn, or the AUCTIONEER'S, 27, Wellington-street, Bilston.

1858

THREE HORSESHOES

65, (28), Oxford Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Joseph Howell, greengrocer, Lichfield Street, Bilston
Richard Hyde, licensed victualler, Compton Road, Wolverhampton
Messrs. Millward Brothers, maltsters, Lea Brook, Wednesbury
Holt Brewery Co. Ltd.
Ansells Ltd.

LICENSEES

Mrs. Elizabeth Bate [1858]
Patrick Grealy [1862]
James Nash [1865] – [1869]
William Rogers [1871]
Thomas James Hall [] – **1873**;
William Attwood **(1873 – 1875)**;
Thomas Aston Legg **(1875 – 1879)**;
Lucy Legg **(1879 – 1885)**;
Clara Howell **(1885 – 1886)**;
William Bladon **(1886 – 1888)**;
Sarah Hill **(1888)**;
George Garratt **(1888)**;
Ralph Smith **(1888 – 1889)**;
Thomas Bernard Edwards **(1889 – 1890)**;
Arthur Ray **(1890 – 1891)**;
John Horton **(1891 – 1892)**;
John Halford **(1892 – 1894)**;
Jemima Done **(1894 – 1895)**;
Joseph Allport **(1895 – 1896)**;
Edward Palmer **(1896 – 1897)**;
Stratford Harrie Callon (?) **(1897 – 1898)**;
Richard Plumer Wilson **(1898 – 1906)**;
Mrs. Eliza Wilson **(1906 – 1913)**;
Mary Jemima Bott **(1913 – 1914)**;
Charles Dickenson **(1914)**;
George William Newbould **(1914 – 1915)**;
Samuel Doughty **(1915 – 1920)**;
William Roberts **(1920)**;
Titus Horton **(1920 – 1921)**;
Hannah Wright **(1921 – 1930)**;
John Plasher **(1930 – 1933)**;
Mrs. Naomi Southall **(1933 – [1940]**
J Lines [1976]



1982

NOTES

28, Oxford Street [1865], [1871], [1881], [1891], [1892], [1896]

65, Oxford Street [1901], [1904], [1908], [1911], [1912], [1921], [1921], [1939], [1940]

HORSE SHOES [1871]

It had a beerhouse license.

It was formerly the NEWTOWN TAVERN.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/9/1857 - Advert

"To Publicans, Parties about to Embark in Business, and Others.

To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, that desirable Public House, known as the NEW TOWN TAVERN, situate in Oxford Street, Bilston. Rental £26 per annum; Coming-in moderate.

For further particulars apply to Mr. W. P. Tomkys, Appraiser, 27, Wellington Street, Bilston."

TO PUBLICANS, PARTIES ABOUT TO EMBARK IN
BUSINESS, AND OTHERS.
TO BE LET, and may be entered upon immediately, that desirable PUBLIC HOUSE, known as the "New Town Tavern," situate in Oxford-street, Bilston. Rental £26 per annum; Coming-in moderate.
For further particulars apply to Mr. W. P. TOMKYS, Appraiser, 27, Wellington-street, Bilston.

Birmingham Journal 19/12/1857 - Advert

"Bilston.

To be Let, the NEW TOWN TAVERN, Oxford Street, and may be entered upon immediately, the present occupier leaving on account of illness.

Apply on the Premises."

BILSTON.
TO be LET, the NEW TOWN TAVERN, Oxford Street, and may be entered upon immediately, the present occupier leaving on account of illness.—Apply on the Premises.

Elizabeth Bate, beerhouse, 28, Oxford Street. [1858]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/9/1858

"The annual licensing meeting for Bilston and its neighbourhood was held on Friday last.....

Applications for new licenses.....

Mr. Waterhouse applied on behalf of Mrs. *Elizabeth Bate*, of the NEWTOWN TAVERN, Oxford Street, Bilston, for a license for that house. Mr. Waterhouse stated that the house was situated at the junction of Queen Street with Oxford Street, and offered great advantages to travellers passing through Bilston towards Birmingham, or to persons coming into the town from Wednesfield or Willenhall, in doing which they must necessarily pass the applicant's house. The applicant was a widow, entirely dependant for a livelihood upon the profits of that house. A plan was handed in, setting forth the accommodation afforded by the house, and a certificate signed by many respectable residents, and also by nearly every other owner or occupier of licensed houses in that street. There was no opposition to this application, but the Magistrates considered that there was already a larger number of licensed houses in Oxford Street than the requirements of the locality demanded, and accordingly refused the application."

Birmingham Journal 9/2/1861 - Advert

"NEWTOWN TAVERN, Bilston.

To be Let, the above named Public House, with a large Club Room, Bar, Tap Room, and Parlour, situate in the principal street of the town.

NB. No Stock or Fixtures to be taken to.

Apply at 29, Oxford Street."

[Joseph Howell, greengrocer, the owner, lived at 29, Oxford Street.]

1861 Census

28, Oxford Street - uninhabited

Patrick Grealy, retailer of beer, 28, Oxford Street. [1862]

James Nash, beer retailer, 28, Oxford Street. [1865], [1868]

NEWTOWN TAVERN,
BILSTON.
TO be LET, the above named PUBLIC HOUSE, with a large Club Room, Bar, Tap Room, and Parlour, situate in the principal street of the town. N.B. No Stock or Fixtures to be taken to.—Apply at 29, Oxford Street.

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 17/11/1866

“Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury.

The above new pedestrian and shooting grounds, in spite of the weather, were well attended on Monday to witness the two miles walking match, between H. Roberts and H. Lawley (both of Bilston), for £5 a side. To complete the distance the men had to make the circuit of the grounds 13 laps and 30 yards round. The betting was 6 to 4 on Roberts, who won the toss for sides, and at the signal went away with the lead, which he maintained up to the third lap, when Lawley passed him, and kept the lead for some distance, but the men passed each other alternately up to the twelfth lap, when Roberts spurted forward, got the lead, and gradually left Lawley in the rear, finishing a winner by 12 yards. Mr. *Nash* of the THREE HORSE SHOES, Bilston, was referee.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/6/1869 - Advert

“Phaeton, with turn-down Seat, for £7 10s, nearly new.
J. Nash, THREE HORSE SHOES, Bilston.”

PHAETON, with turn-down Seat, for £7. 10s., nearly new.—*J. Nash*, Three Horse Shoes, Bilston.

1871 Census

28, Oxford Street – THREE HORSE SHOES INN

- [1] *William Rogers* (58), locksmith and beer seller, born Shropshire;
- [2] *Mary Rogers* (57), wife, born Kidderminster;
- [3] *Elizabeth Jones* (23), daughter, born Willenhall;
- [4] *Emma Hall* (19), daughter, born Willenhall;
- [5] *Edward Rogers* (17), son, locksmith, born Willenhall;
- [6] *Mary Rogers* (15), daughter, born Willenhall;
- [7] *James Jones* (3), nephew, born Bilston, lost one eye;
- [8] *Mary J. Jones* (2), niece, born Bilston;
- [9] *Charles Hanson* (36), boarder, cordwainer, born Bilston:

Thomas Aston Legg = *Thomas Aston Legge*

Thomas Aston Legg – see also unnamed beerhouse, Bridge Street.

1879 Probate

“The Will of *Thomas Aston Legg*, late of Oxford Street, Bilston, in the County of Stafford, Retail Brewer, who died 12 March 1879 at Bilston, was proved at Lichfield on 12 June by *Lucy Legg* of Oxford Street, Widow, the Relict, the sole Executrix. Personal Estate under £50.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 24/5/1879

“At Bilston Public Office, yesterday, the following licenses and certificates were transferred.....
THREE HORSE SHOES, Oxford Street, from the executors of *Thomas Legge* to *Lucy Legge*, Moxley.”

Lucy Legg (23), spinster, married *James Wedge* (25), bachelor, roll turner, on 25th December 1880.

1881 Census

28, Oxford Street – THREE HORSE SHOES

- [1] *Lucy Legg* (50), publican, born Bilston;
- [2] *John Legg* (16), son, bucket maker, born Bilston;
- [3] *George H. Legg* (11), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] *Nelly Legg* (2), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] *Sarah Jane Smith* (12), niece, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] *James Wedge* (26), son-in-law, shearer in ironworks, born Bilston;
- [7] *Lucy Wedge* (23), daughter, born Bilston:

James and *Lucy Wedge* – see LORD NELSON, Bridge Street.

Evening Express 10/6/1881

"*Lucy Legg*, landlady of the THREE HORSE SHOES INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, was charged with having sold some ale during prohibited hours on the night of 4th instant.

Police-constable Wilson stated that he was on duty in Oxford Street on the night in question, about 12.45, when he saw a man and a woman up an entry adjoining the THREE HORSE SHOES. The woman was carrying the can produced, which contained a small quantity of ale. When she saw him she went back into the entry, and fell down, another woman, coming up at the time, falling over her, and he (witness) also falling. When he caught hold of the can it did not contain much ale, but when he examined the entry he found that some of it had been spilled there. The house was open at the back. *Lucy Legg* said the house was open because she was waiting for her son and another young man to come home by the last train. She denied the can belonged to her, or that she filled any ale in it after 11 o'clock. She also denied having fallen down.

Ann Holmes, the woman who carried the can, and daughter of the defendant, said she lived in Stone Street. The can was hers, and she had gone across to the back premises of her mother for some steam water for her sister, who was ill. The can had contained some ale, which she obtained before closing time, and it had not been washed when she took it for some water, and it might have had a little ale left in the bottom.

The Bench thought there was some doubt in the matter, and gave her the benefit of it. The case was dismissed.

Mr. Bowen defended."

Darlaston Weekly Times 17/11/1883

"Thomas and John Fellows were charged by John Thomas Legg, THREE HORSE SHOES INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, with assaulting him in Price Street, Bilston, on October 13th, when proceeding home with a female friend. Defendants violently assaulted him, and one kicked him on the ankle, and complainant had not been able since to work, as stated by witnesses. A number of witnesses were called on both sides, giving most contradictory evidence. The case was dismissed."

William Bladon = William Blayden

Darlaston Weekly Times 31/7/1886 - Advert

"Sale of Valuable Freehold Beerhouse, Business Premises, and Small Cottages, Oxford Street, Bilston.

J. Morrell and Sons are favoured with instructions from the Mortgagee to Offer for Sale by Public Auction, at the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Lichfield Street, Bilston, on Friday, August 6th, 1886.....

All that commodious Freehold Beerhouse and Premises, known as the THREE HORSE SHOES INN, situate and being No.28 in Oxford Street, Bilston, now in the occupation of Mr. *William Bladen*. The Premises comprise good Passage, large Tap Room, Smoke Room, Kitchen, two good Cellars, large and commodious Club Room, three Bedrooms, and Brewhouse, with two Boilers."

1891 Census

28, Oxford Street – THREE HORSE SHOES

- [1] *John Horton* (58), publican, born Tipton, lost one eye;
- [2] *Mary Horton* (55), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] *Frank Horton* (20), son, labourer in gas tube works, born Bilston;
- [4] *Benjamin Horton* (18), son, labourer in gas tube works, born Bilston;
- [5] *Minnie Horton* (13), daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] *Sarah Thomson* (17), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Joseph Allport was convicted on 25th February 1896 for permitting gaming on licensed premises.

Richard Plumer Wilson was convicted on 8th February 1898 for permitting drunkenness.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 26/8/1898

“Bilston annual licensing sessions.....

Formal objection was made against the renewals of the THREE HORSE SHOES, Bilston on account of convictions.....”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/8/1898

“The annual Licensing Meeting of the Petty Sessional Division of Bilston was held yesterday.....

R. P. Wilson, THREE HORSE SHOES, Bilston applied for the renewal of their licenses, which were objected to by the Superintendent of Police. Renewed.”

1901 Census

65, Oxford Street

[1] *Richard P. Wilson* (35), brewer and beerhouse keeper, born Redditch;

[2] *Eliza Wilson* (32), wife, born Walworth, London:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/7/1906

“Mr. *Wilson*, landlord of the THREE HORSE SHOES INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, went upstairs yesterday afternoon intending to write a letter. Shortly afterwards he was found lying dead on the bedroom floor.”

1906 Probate

“*Richard Plumer Wilson* of the THREE HORSE SHOES INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 16 July 1906. Administration Lichfield 10 September to *Eliza Wilson*, widow. Effects £2,769 5s 2d.”

1911 Census

65, Oxford Street – THREE HORSE SHOES INN

[1] *Eliza Wilson* (43), widow, brewer and beerhouse keeper, born Newington, London;

[2] *Ellen Adelaide Wilson* (13), daughter, school, born Marylebone, London;

[3] *Matilda Holmes* (45), sister, unmarried, helps in business, born Newington, London;

[4] *Emily Fullwood* (19), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Mrs. *Eliza Wilson*, beer retailer, 65, Oxford Street. [1912]

Mary Jemima Bott – see also ROYAL EXCHANGE, Queen Street.

1921 Census

65, Oxford Street

[1] *Hannah Wright* (45), licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Sarah Jane Wright* (42), sister, barmaid, born Wednesbury:

1939 Register

65, Oxford Street

[1] *William H. Southall*, date of birth 16/12/1890, iron moulder, married;

[2] *Naomi Southall*, dob 2/3/1892, licensed victualler, married;

[3] *Stanley Southall*, dob 6/1/1918, iron moulder, single;

[4] *Winifred (Southall) (Flanagan) Morris*, dob 17/3/1920, unpaid domestic duties, single;

[5] *Leslie Southall*, dob 5/10/1922, butchers shop assistant, single;

[6] *Ronald Southall*, dob 31/10/1932, at school, single:

A team from here took part in the Bilston Charity Darts League. [1946]

A team from here took part in the Bilston Crib League, Section B. [1946]

It closed in 1984.

It was demolished c.1987.

Friday, August 6th.

**Sale of Valuable Freehold Beerhouse, Business
Premises, and Small Cottages,
OXFORD STREET, BILSTON.**

J. MORRELL AND SONS are favoured with instructions from the Mortgagee, to OFFER FOR SALE by Public Auction, at the SPREAD EAGLE INN, LICHFIELD STREET, BILSTON, on Friday, August 6th, 1886, at six for seven in the evening, subject to conditions then to be read, which will incorporate the Common Form Conditions of the Wolverhampton Law Association, the following Valuable Property, viz.—All that commodious

FREEHOLD BEERHOUSE

And Premises, known as the "Three Horse Shoes Inn," situate and being No. 28 in Oxford-street, Bilston, now in the occupation of Mr. William Bladen. The Premises comprise good Passage, large Tap Room, Smoke Room, Kitchen, two good Cellars, large and commodious Club Room, three Bedrooms, and Brewhouse, with two Boilers, together with

THE RETAIL SHOP AND PREMISES

Adjoining, being No. 29, now in the occupation of Mr. Matthew Adams, ironmonger. These premises consist of large Retail Shop, large Kitchen, fitted up with Cupboards, good Cellar, four Bedrooms, and Brewhouse with Loft over. Also the

TWO COTTAGES

At the rear, being Nos. 1 and 2. Each House consists of two Bedrooms, Kitchen, Pantry, and Coal Hole, now occupied by J. Hyde and Job Corbett. There is a large and well paved Yard, with a 3 ft. 9 in. Entry from Oxford-street, and the usual out-houses. The Property has a frontage to Oxford-street of 39 ft., and produces an annual rental of £50 14s.

For further particulars apply to MR. J. E. FELLOWS, Solicitor; or to the AUCTIONEERS, all of Bilston.

THREE TUNS

55, (35), Bridge Street / Queen Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Thomas Shale
William Shale
Clara Shale
George Henry Harbach
Charles Darby, Dunkirk Brewery, Greets Green, West Bromwich
Darby's Brewery Ltd.
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Joseph Tomes []
Thomas Mumford Shale [1857] – 1896);
William Shale and Thomas Shale (1896 – 1902);
William Shale (1902 – 1906);
Mrs. Clara Shale (1906 – 1914);
Clara Harbach (1914);
George Henry Harbach (1914 – 1926);
Thomas Leonard Moorwood (1926 – 1927);
Thomas Bailey (1927 – 1931);
John Harold Poynton (1931 – 1939);
Horace John Saxon (1939 – [1940]
A R Bennett [1983]
Michael Dugmore []

NOTES

35, Bridge Street [1864], [1865], [1870], [1871], [1873], [1881], [1891], [1892], [1901]
55, Bridge Street [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1921], [1932]
Queen Street [1940]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/3/1857 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold and Leasehold Property.

To be Sold by Auction, by John Mason, on Friday, the 13th day of March, 1857, at the house of Mr. George Hyde, SHIP AND RAINBOW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, at six o'clock in the evening.

Lot. 1. All that Messuage, Tenement, or Dwelling House, with the Appurtenances thereto belonging, and known by the name or sign of the THREE TUNS, situate in Bridge Street, in Bilston aforesaid, and late in the occupation of Mr. *Joseph Tomes*, deceased, and comprising two large cellars, front tap room, large parlour, bar parlour, large pantry, spacious club room, three chambers, large brewhouse, malt room, piggeries, sheds and other conveniences; also soft and hard water cisterns, with two lead pumps, and piping complete, and producing the yearly rental of £21.

Lot 2. Also the adjoining Dwelling House, situate on the south-east side of Lot 1, comprising large kitchen and pantry at back, two large sleeping rooms, privy, and ash hole in the rear thereof, with a right of road up the entry to the same, and now in the occupation of Ellen Jennings, and producing a rental of £6 10s per annum.

These two Lots are held by the Lords of the Manor of Stowheath, for a term of 99 years, from 29th September, 1831, if three persons named in the lease (and who are now alive), or any of them, should so long live.”

VALUABLE FREEHOLD AND LEASEHOLD PROPERTY.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by JOHN MASON, on Friday, the 13th day of March, 1857, at the house of Mr. George Hyde, SHIP AND RAINBOW INN, OXFORD STREET, BILSTON, Staffordshire, at six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be read, and in the following or such other lots as may be decided at the time of Sale :—

LOT 1.—All that MESSUAGE, TENEMENT, or DWELLING HOUSE, with the Appurtenances thereto belonging, and known by the name or sign of the THREE TUNS, situate in BRIDGE-STREET, in BILSTON aforesaid, and late in the occupation of Mr. Joseph Tomes, deceased, and comprising two large cellars, front tap room, large parlour, bar parlour, large pantry, spacious club room, three chambers, large brewhouse, malt room, piggeries, sheds, and other conveniences; also soft and hard water cisterns, with two lead pumps, and piping complete, and producing the yearly rental of £21.

LOT 2.—Also the adjoining DWELLING HOUSE, situate on the south-east side of lot 1, comprising large kitchen and pantry at back, two large sleeping rooms, privy, and ash hole in the rear thereof, with a right of road up the entry to the same, and now in the occupation of Ellen Jennings, and producing a rental of £6 10s. per annum.

These two Lots are held of the Lords of the Manor of Stowheath, for a term of 99 years, from 29th September, 1831, if three persons named in the lease (and who are all now alive), or any of them, should so long live.

LOT 3.—All that Valuable FREEHOLD MESSUAGE, TENEMENT, or DWELLING HOUSE, situate at MONMORE GREEN, in the parish of Wolverhampton, and near the Railway Bridge, on the direct turnpike road leading from Bilston to Wolverhampton, comprising front parlour, with cellar under same, large back kitchen, and two large chambers; soft and hard water cistern, and piping complete; together with the appurtenances thereto belonging, and now in the occupation of John Evans, at the annual rent of £11 14s.

To view the property, apply on the premises; and for further particulars to Mr. THOMAS WATERHOUSE, Solicitor, or the AUCTIONEER, both of Bilston.

1857

Birmingham Journal 5/9/1857

“The annual licensing meeting for Bilston and its neighbourhood was held on Friday.....

Mr. Waterhouse applied for a license to the THREE TUNS, Bridge Street, Bilston, on behalf of Mr. *Shale*. Refused.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/9/1858

“The annual licensing meeting for Bilston and its neighbourhood was held on Friday last.....

Applications for new licenses.....

Mr. Waterhouse appeared to make application for a license for the THREE TUNS, Bridge Street, Bilston, kept by Mr. *Thomas Shale*. Mr. Waterhouse stated that the house was situated nearly opposite the works of Mr. David Jones. There were two or three other licensed houses in the same street, but the applicant’s premises were some distance off, and possessed much superior accommodation. There was no opposition. After some deliberation the Bench decided to postpone their decision until the adjourned day.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 4/9/1858

“Bilston Annual Licensing Day.....

The applications for new licenses from Bilston were four in number, all from retail brewers, and were all refused with the exception of that of *Thomas Mumford Shale*, Bridge Street, Bilston, which was adjourned to the 24th of September.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/10/1858

“Bilston Adjourned Licensing Day.....

A license was granted to Mr. *Shale*, for the THREE TUNS, Bridge Street.”

1861 Census

Bridge Street

- [1] *Thomas Shale* (43), publican, born Bilston;
- [2] *Sarah Shale* (40), wife, born Willenhall;
- [3] *William Shale* (10), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] *Thomas Shale* (7), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] *Eliza Jane Shale* (5), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] *Prudence Beckett* (17), house servant, born Willenhall;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 31/3/1864

“On Monday Mr. T. M. Phillips, Coroner, held an inquest at the THREE TUNS INN, Bridge Street, Bilston, on the body of Mathew Williams, a miner, about 20 years old, who died from the effects of an explosion of sulphur, which took place in the Bradley Colliery, the property of Messrs. Thorneycroft and Co., on the 9th instant. It appears that a part of the pit was fenced out, and the men had orders not to go near it; there was also a notice board fixed bearing the words ‘Danger here,’ and the deceased could read. On the day in question the deceased was quarrelling with another man, when he ran off in the direction of the place where the sulphur was with a lighted candle. An explosion immediately took place, and the deceased was dreadfully burnt about the head, face, neck, and arms. He was carried to his home, where he died on Friday last. The witnesses stated that the pit was well ventilated and properly worked, and the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death. The Government Inspector of Mines attended the inquiry.”

1871 Census

35, Bridge Street

- [1] *Thomas Shale* (53), licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *Sarah Shale* (50), wife, born Willenhall;
- [3] *William Shale* (20), son, apprentice joiner, born Bilston;
- [4] *Thomas Shale* (17), son, iron worker, forge, born Bilston;
- [5] *Eliza Jane Shale* (15), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

Wednesbury Herald 28/8/1880

“On Monday night, Mr. W. H. Phillips, Coroner, held an inquest at the THREE TUNS INN, Bilston, on the body of James Crook (50), wheelwright, of Church Street, who was run over by a brake belonging to Mr. Riley of Wednesbury. The evidence showed that on Saturday the workmen in the employ of Mr. Henry Smith, contractor, West Bromwich had been having a trip to Bridgnorth, and on returning through Bilston, about nine o’clock at night, the deceased was knocked down whilst crossing Oxford Street, and run over. He was removed home, but died a few minutes afterwards. It was admitted that he had had a quantity of beer during the evening, and the witness stated that he paid no attention when the driver called out to him. It was impossible for the driver to pull up in time to prevent the accident. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Evening Express 9/2/1881

“On Monday afternoon an inquest was held before W. H. Phillips, Esq, coroner, at the THREE TUNS INN, Bridge Street, Bilston, touching the death of an infant child of a woman named Elizabeth Bartley, of the same street, which died on Sunday. The child was in health up to Saturday night, when its mother put it to bed, and on the following morning, at half past seven, on waking up she found the infant dead by her side. A verdict of Died by Accidental Overlying was returned.”

1881 Census

35, Bridge Street – THREE TUNS INN

- [1] *Thomas Shale* (63), licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *Sarah Shale* (60), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *William Shale* (30), son, joiner, out of employ, born Bilston;
- [4] *Thomas Shale* (27), son, butcher, out of employ, born Bilston:

1891 Census

35, Bridge Street – THREE TUNS INN

- [1] *Thomas Shale* (73), licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *Sarah Shale* (69), wife, born Willenhall;
- [3] *William Shale* (40), son, carpenter, born Bilston;
- [4] *Thomas Shale* (37), son, butcher, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 4/7/1894

“Mr. A. B. Smith, deputy coroner, held an inquest at the THREE TUNS INN, Bridge Street, Bilston, yesterday, touching the death of Charles Palmer, 16, of Bridge Street, who had died from the effects of an accident at the Atlas Bedstead Works on the previous day.

The evidence showed that the deceased had been sent into an upper stock-room to lower some bedsteads through a trap-door. After he had been away about half an hour another employee went into the room, and found that a number of bedsteads which had been stacked against a pillar had fallen on to the deceased, who was pinned by the neck and had been suffocated. Medical assistance was obtained, but life was found to be extinct.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

1896 Probate

“*Thomas Mumford Shale* of Bilston, Staffordshire, licensed victualler, died 24 August 1896. Probate Lichfield 8 October to *William Shale*, joiner, and *Thomas Shale*, brewer. Effects £160 8s 6d.”

William Shale married *Clara Fellows* in the 3rd quarter of 1899.

1901 Census

35, Bridge Street – THREE TUNS INN

- [1] *William Shale* (50), licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *Clara Shale* (46), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Thomas Shale* (47), brother, licensed victualler, born Bilston:

Thomas Shale died in the 2nd quarter of 1902.

1906 Probate

"William Shale of the THREE TUNS INN, Bridge Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 18 June 1906. Probate London 11 July to Clara Shale, widow. Effects £449 12s 8d."

1911 Census

55, Bridge Street – THREE TUNNS INN

- [1] Clara Shale (56), widow, publican, born Bilston;
- [2] Beatrice Westmorland (18), niece, born Birmingham;
- [3] Eveline Westmorland (16), niece, milliner's shop assistant, born Chorley, Lancashire:

George Harbach brewed here.

1921 Census

55, Bridge Street

- [1] George Henry Harbach (46), licensed victualler, born Willenhall;
- [2] Clara Harbach (45), wife, house duties, born Willenhall;
- [3] Horace Henry Harbach (17), son, brewer, born Willenhall;
- [4] Beatrice Sarah Harbach (15), daughter, school, born Willenhall;
- [5] Harry Eric Harbach (9), son, school, born Willenhall;
- [6] Lily Mary Elizabeth Plant (15), adopted daughter, hollowware sizeing, born Willenhall;
- [7] Elizabeth Evans (32), domestic servant, born Willenhall:

1939 Register

Bridge Street – THREE TUNNS INN

- [1] Horace J. Saxon, date of birth 6/1/1902, licensed victualler, married;
- [2] Christine E. (Ellen C.) (Saxon) Hill, dob 17/9/1900, unpaid domestic duties, married:

A team from here won the Bilston Comforts Fund Darts League in 1946.

Teams from here took part in the Bilston Crib League in 1946.

London Gazette 22/11/1985

"Michael Dugmore, of 32 Lulworth Walk, Merry Hill, Wolverhampton, a Milkman, lately residing at 4 Linden Lane, Short Heath, Willenhall, lately carrying on business as a Tenant Publican at the THREE TUNNS INN, Bridge Street, Bilston, and formerly at the STATION INN, Shaw Road, Dudley, all in the metropolitan county of West Midlands, previously an Electrician residing at 36 Lingfields Drive, Great Wyrley in the county of Stafford.

Court - Wolverhampton.

Date of Order - 30th August 1985.

Nature of Order made - Discharge granted subject to consent to judgement in the sum of £500 to £5 a week over 2 years and £1.50 costs."

Sandwell Evening Mail 6/7/1987

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

Closed [1988]

Sandwell Evening Mail 8/2/1988

"Bilston firemen were called to rescue a dog that became stuck between floorboards at a derelict pub. The dog, belonging to the Colley family of Queen Street, Bilston, wandered into the former THREE TUNS pub in Queen Street. Firemen said the dog was stuck for about three hours before they were called and quickly released it."

Demolished [1998]

TIGER

Church Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Edward Salt [1845] – [1850]

NOTES

Check LEOPARD.

TOWN HALL STORES

36, (95), Church Street, (High Street), BILSTON

OWNERS

Edward Pearson, farmer, Oakengates, Shropshire
William Hanson Deakin, confectioner/licensee, Bilston
Major George Cox, brewer, Broad Street, Bilston
John Rolinson and Son Ltd. (leased from 1909)
Harmer and Co. Ltd.
Atkinsons Brewery Ltd., Aston Park Brewery, Birmingham [1921]
Peter Walker and Co. Ltd., 81, Colmore Road, Birmingham

LICENSEES

James Joseph Davenall [1873] – **1880**);
William Hanson Deakin (**1880 – 1894**);
Sarah Susannah Oliver (**1894 – 1896**);
John Bennett (**1896 – 1897**);
Mrs. Sarah Susannah Bennett (**1897 – 1898**);
William Charles Deakin (**1898 – 1899**);
William Henry Dexter (**1899 – 1901**);
Herbert Henry Goodwin (**1901**);
Charles Beynon (**1901 – 1909**);
Richard Henry Bennett (**1909 – 1910**);
Mrs. Elizabeth Baldwin (**1910 – 1912**);
Richard Henry Bettelley (**1912 – [1940]**)

NOTES

It was opposite to the Town Hall.

It was known locally as "Betley's".

It had a beerhouse license.

James Davenall = James Davenhall = James Devenall = James Devenhall

1871 Census

95, Church Street

- [1] *James Davenall* (52), confectioner employing 1 man and 1 woman, born London;
- [2] *Mary Davenall* (49), wife, born Hadley, Shropshire;
- [3] *Mary Guest* (16), domestic servant, born Tipton:

Midland Examiner 19/12/1874

"Eliza Bunting was sentenced to three months imprisonment for stealing a loaf of bread from the shop of *James Davenhall*, confectioner, Church Street, Bilston, on Friday last week."



Ex Pub 2016

Evening Express 20/9/1879

“Bilston Adjourned Annual Licensing Session.....

James Davenall, refreshment house keeper, of Church Street, Bilston, and the holder of a beer license, applied for a wine license, which was granted.”

James Davenall – see also RAILWAY, Brook Street.

1881 Census

95, Church Street

- [1] *William H. Deakin* (38), confectioner, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] *Ann Deakin* (40), wife, born Birmingham;
- [3] *William C. Deakin* (13), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] *William Jukes* (19), apprentice confectioner, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Sarah Wainwright* (19), general servant, born Bilston:

1891 Census

95, Church Street

- [1] *William H. Deakin* (48), confectioner, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] *Anne Deakin* (49), wife, confectioner's assistant, born Birmingham;
- [3] *Phoebe Burns* (20), domestic servant, born Tipton:

Sarah Susannah Oliver, 50, married *John Bennett*, 59, on 13th February 1896.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 27/9/1898

“The adjourned licensing sessions for the township of Bilston were held today (Tuesday).....

Mr. R. A. Willcock applied on behalf of *Mrs. Bennett*, of the TOWN HALL STORES beerhouse, Church Street, for a full license. He did not propose to submit that there was insufficient drinking accommodation in Bilston, but it was proposed to convert the house, at which confectionery was at present sold, into a regular restaurant. There was a great need for a full license.

The owner of the SPREAD EAGLE INN, situated thirty or forty yards away from the TOWN HALL STORES, opposed the application, which was refused.”

1901 Census

36, Church Street - uninhabited

Charles Beynon was married to *Clara*.

1911 Census

36, Church Street – TOWN HALL STORES

- [1] *James Baldwin* (55), house painter, born West Bromwich;
- [2] *Elizabeth Baldwin* (55), wife, married 33 years, manageress of beerhouse, born Newport, Monmouthshire;
- [3] *Charles Ernest Baldwin* (28), son, barman, born West Bromwich;
- [4] *William McParry* (15), adopted son, china packer, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] *Emily O'Brien* (59), visitor, housekeeper, born Burton on Trent;
- [6] *Edward Leadbetter* (30), boarder, engine fitter, born Dudley:

Mrs. Elizabeth Baldwin, beer retailer, 36, Church Street. [1912]

Richard Henry Bettelley was formerly a professional footballer.

He was a full back at Wolverhampton Wanderers and West Bromwich Albion.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/8/1919

“William Poole, aged 31, a discharged soldier, of Stone Buildings, Market Street, was summoned at Bilston yesterday for doing wilful damage to the plate-glass window at the TOWN HALL STORES, Church Street, and to jugs and glasses, to the total value of £5 18s 6d. Defendant was ordered to pay a fine of 20s and the amount of the damage, £5 18s 6d.”

South Staffordshire Times 28/2/1920 - Advert

“A Highly Important Sale by Auction of Seven Licensed Properties finely situated in the heart of the Black Country – All Freehold.

By Order of Major G. Cox. Esq, with Possession On Completion.

The Ante '69 Beer Houses known as:

The STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT, Darlaston

The FORGE HAMMER, Lanesfield.

The TOWNHALL STORES, Bilston.

The ROYAL EXCHANGE, Bilston.

And Building Land near to the FORGE HAMMER, Lanesfield.

Solicitors: Messrs. Hall, Pratt and Pritchard, Bilston.”

1921 Census

TOWN HALL STORES

[1] *Richard Henry Bettelley* (41), beerhouse manager, born Bradley;

[2] *Lydia Bettelley* (38), wife, home duties, born Bilston;

[3] *Richard Bettelley* (15), son, born Bilston:

A music license was granted on 3rd March 1928.

1939 Register

36, Church Street

[1] *Richard H. Bettelley*, date of birth 24/3/1880, licensed victualler, manager, married;

[2] *Lydia Bettelley*, dob 3/11/1882, unpaid domestic duties, married:

It closed c.1965.

It was converted into a shop.

TRAVELLERS REST

Spring Vale Wharf, Millfields Road, (Union Street), (Catchems Corner), BILSTON

OWNERS

Samuel Sellman, timber merchant, Penn
Harriet Frances Sellman, Penn
Miss Alice Elizabeth Westwood

LICENSEES

Pinfield [1857]
Isaac Bayliss [1861] – **1878**);
Joseph Westwood (**1878 – 1896**);
Mrs. Jane (Westwood) Gough (**1896 – 1906**);
Miss Alice Elizabeth Westwood (**1906 – [1954]**)

NOTES

Union Street [1871], [1881]
Millfields Road [1901], [1939]
Spring Vale Wharf [1940]

It had a beerhouse license.

Birmingham Journal 31/1/1857 - Advert

“To Coal and Iron Masters, Boat Builders, and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. F. Altree, on Monday Next, the 2nd day of February, at Mr. *Pinfield's*, the TRAVELLERS REST, Millfields, Bilston.

A substantial Gloucester-built Severn and Canal Cabin Boat, with three Kelsons, Floor, and Cloth complete; to carry 35 tons, and well adapted for Coal and Iron.

Sale to commence at Five o'clock precisely.

Frederick Altree, Auctioneer and Land Surveyor, Bilston.”

TO COAL AND IRON MASTERS, BOAT BUILDERS,
AND OTHERS.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION.
BY Mr. F. ALTREE, on MONDAY NEXT,
the 2nd day of February, at Mr. Pinfield's, the Traveller's Rest,
Millfields, Bilston—a substantial Gloucester-built Severn and Canal
CABIN BOAT, with three Kelsons, Floor, and Cloth complete; to
carry 35 tons, and well adapted for Coal or Iron.
Sale to commence at Five o'clock precisely.
Frederick Altree, Auctioneer and Land Surveyor, Bilston.

Isaac Bayliss = Isaac Baylis

1861 Census

Back of Mill Street – TRAVELLERS REST

- [1] *Isaac Baylis* (46), publican, born Upton on Severn, Worcestershire;
- [2] Eliza Baylis (39), wife, born Upton on Severn, Worcestershire;
- [3] William James Baylis (18), son, no profession, born Upton on Severn, Worcestershire;
- [4] Fanny Baylis (20), daughter, born Upton on Severn, Worcestershire;
- [5] William James Thomas Baylis (1), son, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 10/5/1865 - Advert

"The Bilston Colliery, Ettingshall.

Messrs. Walker and H. J. Lloyd will Sell by Auction, at the SWAN HOTEL, in Wolverhampton, on Wednesday, the 24th day of May, 1865, at Four o'clock, subject to conditions of sale.....

Lot 2. All that valuable piece of Wharf Land, lying on the west side of the Birmingham Canal, coloured pink and blue on the said plan, having a frontage thereto of 236 yards, and to Finneywell Lane 245½ yards, with the Public House erected on part of the said Land, the whole producing a rental of £29 10s, and containing 1a 3r 25p or thereabouts, together with the remaining Mines and Minerals lying under that portion of the Land which is coloured pink on the said plan, and under one-half of Finneywell Lane coloured purple, making a total of Mines of 1a 3r 24½p or thereabouts.

This Lot is in the occupation of Samuel Sellman and *Isaac Bayliss*."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 13/3/1871 - Advert

"Found, on the 3rd of March, a Scotch Terrier Dog. The owner can have it by paying expenses. If not owned in Three Days, will be Sold to defray expenses.

Apply to *Isaac Bayliss*, TRAVELLERS REST, Millfield, Bilston."

FOUND, on the 3rd of March, a Scotch Terrier DOG. The owner can have it by paying expenses. If not owned in Three Days, will be Sold to defray expenses.—Apply to Isaac Bayliss, Travellers' Rest, Millfield, Bilston.

1871 Census

Union Street

- [1] *Isaac Baylis* (55), publican, born Upton on Severn, Worcestershire;
- [2] *Eliza Baylis* (48), wife, born Hanley Castle, Worcestershire;
- [3] *William J. T. Baylis* (11), grand-son, scholar, born Bilston:

1881 Census

Union Street – TRAVELLERS REST

- [1] *Joseph Westwood* (57), labourer in furnace yard and beerhouse keeper, born Gospel End;
- [2] *Sarah Westwood* (54), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] *Joseph Westwood* (23), son, schoolmaster (board school), born Sedgley;
- [4] *Mary Ann Westwood* (21), daughter, born Millfields;
- [5] *Jane Westwood* (18), daughter, born Millfields;
- [6] *Alice E. Westwood* (13), daughter, scholar, born Millfields;
- [7] *Sarah Westwood* (9), daughter, scholar, born Millfields;
- [8] *Ellen E. Westwood* (12), daughter, scholar, born Millfields:

1896 Probate

"*Joseph Westwood* of Millfields, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 4 July 1896. Probate Lichfield 29 July to *Jane Westwood*, spinster. Effects £167 5s."

Jane Westwood married *Joseph Gough* in the 4th quarter of 1897.

1901 Census

Millfields Road

- [1] *Joseph Gough* (35), ironworker, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Jane Gough* (35), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Alice Gough* (3), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] *Harold Gough* (2), son, born Bilston;
- [5] *Ellen Gough* (10 months), daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] *Sarah Phillips* (14), niece, born Bilston:

1911 Census

Millfields – TRAVELLERS REST

- [1] *Alice E. Westwood* (43), innkeeper, born Millfields;
- [2] *Ellen E. Westwood* (42), sister, assistant, born Millfields;
- [3] *Sarah Westwood* (39), sister, assistant, born Millfields;
- [4] *Alice M. Gough* (13), niece, school, born Millfields:

1921 Census

Millfields – TRAVELLERS REST

- [1] Alice Elizabeth Westwood (54), beerhouse keeper, born Bilston;
- [2] Ellen E. Westwood (52), sister, home duties, born Bilston;
- [3] Sarah Westwood (49), sister, assisting in business, born Bilston;
- [4] Alice Mary Gough (23), niece, home duties, born Bilston:

1939 Register

Millfields Road – TRAVELLERS REST

- [1] Alice E. Westwood, date of birth 5/5/1867, beerhouse keeper, single;
- [2] Ellen E. Westwood, dob 5/2/1869, unpaid domestic duties, single:

A team from here took part in the Bilston Crib League, Section A. [1946]

1954 Probate

“*Alice Elizabeth Westwood* of the TRAVELLERS REST INN, Millfields, Bilston, Staffordshire, spinster, died 30 August 1954 at New Cross Hospital, Heath Town, Staffordshire. Probate Birmingham 12 October to Alice Mary Gough, spinster. Effects £1,622 9s 1d.”

LOT 2.—All that valuable piece of WHARF LAND, lying on the west side of the Birmingham Canal, coloured pink and blue on the said plan, having a frontage thereto of 236 yards, and to Finneywell Lane of 245½ yards, with the PUBLIC HOUSE erected on part of the said Land, the whole producing a rental of £29 10s., and containing 1a. 3r. 25p. or thereabouts, together with the remaining MINES and MINERALS lying under that portion of the Land which is coloured pink on the said plan, and under one-half of Finneywell Lane coloured purple, making a total of Mines of 1a. 3r. 24½p. or thereabouts.

This Lot is in the occupation of Samuel Sellman and Isaac Bayliss.

TRUMPET

58, (57a), (56), High Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Sarah Vaughan, beerhouse keeper, West Bromwich

William Fellows (acquired in 1861 for £160)

James Lawley, coal merchant (acquired in 1868 for £350)

Bruford and Co. Ltd., brewers, Wolverhampton [1888]

J. and J. Yardley and Co. Ltd. (acquired in 1899 for £680)

William Swan

Alice Swan

Herbert Beach, furniture dealer, Thornbury, Wolverhampton Road, Bilston

James Hewitson, High Street, Bilston

Holdens Brewery Co. Ltd. (acquired in 1970)

LICENSEES

Joseph Fellows [1833] – **1851**

Mrs. Mary Lester **(1851 – [1862])**

Joseph Cross [1869] – [1876]

William Fellows [] – **1877** (?)

Joseph Grise [1873] – **1877**;

James Lawley **(1877)**;

James Turner **(1877 – 1879)**;

Benjamin Rhodes **(1879 – 1880)**;

John Atkin **(1880 – 1884)**;

Maria Atkin **(1884 – 1891)**;

Thomas Edmunds **(1891 – 1899)**;

William Hassell **(1899 – 1900)**;

John Thomas Unitt **(1900 – 1901)**;

William Edwards **(1901 – 1902)**;

George Hassell **(1902 – 1903)**;

James Breedon **(1903)**;

William Swan **(1903 – 1915)**;

Mrs. Alice Swan **(1915 – 1929)**;

Arannah Charles Lewis **(1929)**;

Bert Wilson **(1929 – 1935)**;

Harry Porter **(1935 – 1936)**;

Joseph James Llewellyn **(1936 – 1937)**;

Lottie Rose Llewellyn **(1937 – 1938)**;

Joseph Thomas Dilger **(1938 – [1940])**

Les Megson **(1965 – 1983)**;

Ethel Megson **(1983)**;

Anthony William 'Tony' Swinnerton **(1983 – 1985)**;

Robert Francis Conway **(1985 – 1990)**;

Catherine M Duffy **(1990 – [1995])**

Rob Clee **(2000 – [])**

Mrs. Ann Smith [2005]

Musti Bouameur **(2006 – [2023])**



c1980s

NOTES

58, High Street [1858], [1861], [1862], [1872], [1901], [1911], [1921], [1937], [1939], [1940]

56, High Street [1871]

57a, High Street [1896]

It was originally called BUTCHERS ARMS

It was originally a butcher's shop, slaughterhouse and stable converted by William Fellows. [?]

It was known locally as the "Trumpet".

Black Country Bugle 17/8/2022

'Supping with the spirits at haunted hostelries' by Steve James

"In Bilston, the TRUMPET was originally the BUTCHERS ARMS dating from 1833, later renamed the ROYAL EXCHANGE and now a popular jazz venue. But cold spots appear, mysterious bangs can be heard and lights flash off and on. There's also the feeling of a foreign spirit in the cellar."

It had a beerhouse license.

Joseph Fellows = Joseph Fellowes

Joseph Fellows, retail brewer, High Street. [1833]

Joseph Fellows, retailer of beer, High Street. [1835]

1841 Census

High Street

[1] *Joseph Fellowes* (50), tinman, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Ann Fellowes* (50), born Staffordshire:

Joseph Fellows, beer retailer, High Street. [1849], [1850]

1851 Census

High Street

[1] *Joseph Fellows* (61), retail brewer, born Bilston;

[2] *Ann Fellows* (63), wife, born Belbroughton;

[3] *Fanny Fellows* (16), house servant, born Belbroughton:

Mary Lester was the eldest daughter of Samuel and Sophia Spencer of the CASTLE.

Mary Spencer (21), spinster, married *John Tobias Lester* (25), bachelor, maltster of Bilston, on 3rd April 1839.

John Tobias Lester died in the 3rd quarter of 1846.

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/11/1851

"John Smith, alias David Hogan, Rosannah Smith, and James Smith, were charged at Bilston Police Office on Tuesday with uttering base coin. Mrs. Ann Stretton, landlady of the TURKS HEAD, stated.....

The prisoners were also charged with uttering two base sixpences at the house of Mr. Rhodes, Middle Field Lane; also to Mrs. *Mary Lester*, High Street."

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/12/1851

"At Bilston Police Office, on Tuesday, Daniel Hogan, James Smith, and Rosana Smith (husband and wife), were charged with uttering counterfeit coin. It was clearly proved that Hogan had passed two base sixpences at the TURKS HEAD, High Street, kept by William Stretton, on Sunday night, and a bad shilling at the house of William Rhodes, the KINGS HEAD, Chain Lane, as well as 2s 6d, all in bad money, at the house of Mrs. *Lester*, in High

Street. The connection of the other prisoners with Hogan was also established. Inspector Thompson, in searching the house of the prisoners, discovered some other counterfeit coin, and the requisite materials for such nefarious manufacture. They were remanded until the decision of the mint authorities as to their prosecution should be known. The money was a very bad imitation.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/12/1851

“Daniel Hogan, Rosanna Smith, and John Smith, remanded from Tuesday, were brought before W. Baldwin, Esq, on Monday last, charged with uttering base coin, at the house of Mr. Stretton, TURKS HEAD, High Street, Bilston. The evidence being conclusive against Hogan, the Mint authorities were determined to prosecute, and he was committed to the sessions. The other prisoners were discharged.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/1/1852

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Daniel Hogden was charged with uttering counterfeit coins at Bilston, in November last, knowing them to be false and counterfeit. Mr. Kynnersley and Mr. Gordon conducted the prosecution.

Mr. Kynnersley opened the case, which was more fully detailed by the several witnesses, and also stated to the jury the law respecting the uttering of base coin.

It appeared that the prisoner, who is a labouring man, went to a beerhouse in Bilston kept by Mrs. *Lester*, about five o'clock in the evening of the 23rd of November, and, in company with another man, called for a pint of ale, which was given to them by the servant, Fanny Brevitt, and for which they gave her fourpence. They then asked for more ale, and gave Brevitt a base sixpence, which she subsequently marked and placed on the mantelpiece. About half an hour afterwards the prisoner returned with a bottle, and asked for a gallon of ale, putting down two base shillings in payment. Brevitt told him they were counterfeit, and took them to her mistress, during which time the prisoner decamped. Scarcely an hour had elapsed before the prisoner went to the TURKS HEAD public house, and Mrs. Stretton, the landlady, stated that he brought a bottle for half a gallon of ale, in return for which he gave her two sixpences, which she almost immediately discovered to be counterfeit. In less than an hour a woman brought the same bottle for half a gallon of ale, when Mrs. Stretton made some remarks to her about the bottle and the sixpences, upon which she went to the door, where it appeared the prisoner was standing, and returned with two good sixpences and paid for the ale. Mr. Stretton stated that whilst his wife was filling the bottle, he went round the house to the front door, when the prisoner ran away, but was almost immediately captured. When caught he spit a shilling out of his mouth, which, with three sixpences found in his pocket, were also counterfeit. The whole of the coins, which were marked, and produced by Inspector Thompson, were proved by Mr. Lithgoe, silversmith, of Stafford, to be counterfeit.

The prisoner, in his defence, said he had received the coins in changing some silver.

The jury found him guilty, and he was sentenced to be imprisoned one year to hard labour.”

[A few weeks after being discharged from prison Daniel Hogden was again passing counterfeit coins at Bilston. At the Sessions in March 1853 he was sentenced to eighteen months.]

Mary Lester, beer retailer, 58, High Street. [1858]

1861 Census

58, High Street

[1] *Mary Lester* (43), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Bilston;

[2] *Mary E. Lester* (19), daughter, born Bilston;

[3] *Fanny Lester* (18), daughter, born Bilston;

[4] *Sophia Spencer* (66), mother, widow, born Bilston;

[5] *Sarah Spencer* (26), sister, born Bilston;

[6] *George Spencer* (29), brother, broker, born Bilston;

[7] *Mary Nouns* (21), servant, born Leaton, Montgomeryshire:

Mary Lester, retailer of beer, 58, High Street. [1862]

Joseph Cross = Joseph Croft

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/8/1869

"The annual licensing meeting for the Bilston division took place yesterday, at the Police Court.....

The following beerhouse keepers had been fined during the past five years.....

For keeping open during prohibited hours *Joseph Cross*, BUTCHERS ARMS, High Street, Bilston, to pay costs, a remark of 'bad house' appended to his name.

The licenses of the following beerhouse keepers were suspended until the adjourned licensing meeting.....

Joseph Cross, BUTCHERS ARMS, High Street."

1871 Census

56, High Street

[1] *Joseph Cross* (42), butcher employing 1 servant, born Bilston;

[2] *Fanny Cross* (31), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Sarah Cross* (9), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[4] *Harriett Cross* (11), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[5] *Mary Evans* (16), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Joseph Cross, beer retailer and butcher, 58, High Street. [1872]

Birmingham Daily Post 21/3/1872

"From Tuesday night's *London Gazette* Liquidations by Arrangement.....

Joseph Cross, Bilston, butcher and retail brewer.

First meeting at the offices of Mr. J. E. Fellows, Bilston, April 6, at 11."

Midland Counties Evening Express 29/5/1875

"The following are among the announcements of liquidations, by arrangement in last night's *Gazette*.....

Joseph Cross, High Street, Bilston, beerhouse and eating house keeper.

First meeting at the offices of Mr. Barnes, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, June 19th at 3."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/9/1877

"The annual licensing sessions for the Bilston division were held at the Public Office, Bilston, yesterday.....

The black list was as follows Beersellers.....

Joseph Croft, BUTCHERS ARMS, High Street, Bilston, two convictions for permitting drunkenness, the first, in December last, being endorsed.....

The whole of the licenses in the 'black list,' it was stated, would be held over until the adjourned sessions."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/9/1877

"The annual licensing sessions for the Bilston division were held at the Public Office, Bilston, yesterday.....

Mr. Fellows applied on behalf of *James Lawley*, beerhouse keeper, High Street, Bilston, for a wine license Refused."

The name was changed to ROYAL EXCHANGE in 1877.

1881 Census

High Street – ROYAL EXCHANGE

[1] *John Atkin* (32), beerhouse keeper, born Stockport, Cheshire;

[2] *Maud Atkin* (46), wife, born Stockport, Cheshire:

John Atkin died on 14th January 1884.

Birmingham Daily Post 24/12/1884

"Yesterday, at Bilston Police Court, *John O'Brien* (23), High Street, and *George Jones* (32), Workhouse Fold, were remanded for a week upon a charge of stealing money and jewellery from Mrs. *Atkins*, landlady of the ROYAL EXCHANGE, High Street."

Darlaston Weekly Times 3/1/1885

“John O’Brien (28), Black Horse Yard, High Street, and George Jones (32), Workhouse Fold, were charged on remand with stealing the sum of £7, a gold brooch, a silver watch, and a pair of gold earrings, the property of *Maria Atkins*, landlady of the ROYAL EXCHANGE, High Street, Bilston. As, however, no further evidence was given on this charge, it was withdrawn.

Prisoners were then charged with being in possession of a skeleton key. Police Sergeant Hayward and Police Constable Moss gave evidence that on taking the prisoners into custody on the charge that had been withdrawn, they found, on searching O’Brien the skeleton key produced. Both prisoners had been previously convicted together on a similar charge, and they were now sentenced to two months’ hard labour each.”

1891 Census

High Street – ROYAL EXCHANGE

- [1] *Maria Atkins* (56), widow, publican, born Ashton under Lyne, Lancashire;
- [2] *Richard Hawkins* (50), boarder, widower, agent to British Workman Insurance, born Bilston;
- [3] *Hannah Hawkins* (27), boarder, book keeper, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Sarah Hawkins* (25), boarder, dressmaker, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Thomas Hawkins* (16), boarder, manufacturer’s clerk, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Edith M. Hawkins* (15), boarder, dressmaker, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Jane Glover* (19), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Post 6/12/1892

“Yesterday, Mr. A. B. Smith, deputy coroner, held an enquiry at the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, High Street, Bilston, on the body of *Benjamin Beasley* (40), a labourer, of Oatmeal Square, in that town, who had died from injuries received at the Spring Vale furnaces of *Sir Alfred Hickman*, MP. Mr. *Sedgwick*, inspector of factories, was present at the enquiry. The evidence showed that the deceased was crushed between two barrows, and was so seriously injured that he was unable to return to his employment.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Thomas Edmunds, beer retailer, 57a, High Street. [1896]

1901 Census

58, High Street – ROYAL EXCHANGE INN

- [1] *John Thomas Unitt* (40), publican and sadler, born Walsall;
- [2] *Sarah Ann Unitt* (39), wife, born Walsall;
- [3] *Marie Unitt* (14), daughter, born Walsall;
- [4] *Bernard Unitt* (12), son, born Walsall;
- [5] *Cicely Unitt* (10), daughter, born Walsall;
- [6] *Tresa Unitt* (8), daughter, born Walsall;
- [7] *Raymond Unitt* (4), son, born Walsall;
- [8] *Cyril Unitt* (2), son, born Walsall;

1911 Census

58, High Street

- [1] *William Swan* (48), iron plate worker, born Bilston;
- [2] *Alice Swan* (48), wife, married 27 years, born Tewkesbury;
- [3] *John Swan* (20), son, tram conductor;
- [4] *George Swan* (14), son, butcher’s errand boy;
- [5] *Maude Swan* (12), daughter;
- [6] *Elsie May Swan* (10), daughter;
- [7] *Sarah Ann Potts* (23), servant;
- [8] *William Collins* (30), boarder, bricklayer;

William Swan died on 1st October 1915.

William Swan – see also *GEORGE AND DRAGON*, Broad Lanes, Coseley, Sedgley.

Alice Swan = Alice Swann

1921 Census

58, High Street

- [1] Alice Swann (59), publican, born Tewkesbury;
- [2] John Henry Swann (30), son, despatch clerk, foundry, born Priestfield;
- [3] George Edwin Swann (24), son, fitter and machinist, out of work, born Priestfield;
- [4] Alice Maude Swann (22), daughter, house duties, born Ladymoor;
- [5] Elsie May Swann (20), daughter, grocer's assistant, born Ladymoor;
- [6] William Thomas Collins (40), brother, bricklayer, born Ettingshall;

Harry Porter was fined £5 and special costs of £7 7s 0d, on 20th August 1935, for aiding and abetting to consume beer during prohibited hours.

1937 Probate

“*Joseph James Llewellyn* of the ROYAL EXCHANGE, 58 High Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 14 January 1937 at New Cross Hospital, Heath Town, Wolverhampton. Administration Birmingham 9 April to *Lottie Rose Llewellyn*, widow. Effects £163 3s.”

1938 Probate

“*Lottie Rose Llewellyn* of the ROYAL EXCHANGE, High Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, widow, died 28 January 1938 at Sandfield House, Wordsley, Brierley Hill, Staffordshire. Administration Birmingham 23 February to Rosa Poxon, widow. Effects £378 17s 1d.”

1939 Register

58, High Street (5 of 7)

- [1] *Joseph T. Dilger*, date of birth 28/7/1868, licensee, manager, married;
- [2] Clara Louise Dilger, dob 15/3/1868, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] Arthur E. Jackson, dob 11/4/1896, furnace builder, married;
- [4] Adeline E. Jackson, dob 7/1/1895, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [5] Bernard Jackson, dob 23/8/1932, school, single;

Joseph Thomas Dilger – see also TRAVELLERS REST, St. John's Road, Darlaston.

A full license was granted on 7th January 1966.

Derby Telegraph 3/3/1975

“Going on stage in a pair of scruffy jeans and a tee-shirt may be OK for some pop stars – but not for Dave Hill, lead guitarist with Britain's chart-busting super-group Slade. On stage Dave dresses up to the nines because that, he believes, is what a showman owes his public In the past, Walsall-born Dave designed his own costumes and had them made in Kensington market, but now his outfits are designed by a young married couple he met in one of his favourite pubs, the TRUMPET in Bilston.....”

Sandwell Evening Mail 23/11/1978

“Customers have re-named their local pub without changing the sign outside. The name of the ROYAL EXCHANGE in the High Street did not suit the reputation the one-bar pub has gained in this country, in Europe and America, for live jazz – so now unofficially everyone calls it the TRUMPET. Landlord, *Les Megson*, has built the pub into one of the last outposts of grass roots jazz, renowned for its private jazz parties still going when Bilston workers pass by the pub in the early mornings.

‘We don't have darts, cards or dominoes here – just jazz,’ said *Les*, who has been at the pub for 14 years.

Bilston celebrity pianist-entertainer, Tommy Burton, was the first of many famous musicians to patronise the TRUMPET. And Wolverhampton-based pop group Slade, when not on tour, make the pub their local.....”

Express And Star 2/4/1983

‘Jazz With The Landlord And A Half’

“.....which often sees bemused visitors wandering around Bilston High Street asking ‘Do you know a pub called the Trumpet?’

When *Les Megson* took over the license of the ROYAL EXCHANGE in 1965 it had yet another name. BAD. Its reputation was so low that the pub couldn’t boast a single regular customer. Often a whole night would pass by without *Les* seeing a soul. With nothing to lose, he decided to enjoy himself in solitude as best he could. ‘I have been a jazz fan since the age of ten, and I had an old gramophone and a stack of records which I’d collected. It was nothing like the gear of today, there were no speakers or anything, but I just started to blast out the jazz.’

Fortunately for *Les*, someone passing by heard some of his favourite music and popped into the pub for a drink, a listen and a chat. It was none other than pianist, jazzman and comedian Tommy Burton – and that chance meeting saw a change in the fortunes of the TRUMPET Before long, jazz fans from around Wolverhampton were packing the place out to hear a combination of Tommy, *Les*’s collection of jazz records, and occasional visits from other jazzmen in the area Sadly for Bilston, and jazz fans everywhere, *Les* is retiring soon – but he’s leaving his pictures, the ceiling records, and 100 of his specially recorded tapes to his successor, *Tony Swinnerton*, his head barman, who has worked in the pub for the past 12 years.....”

Birmingham Mail 21/3/1985

“Black Country pop stars Slade are getting together a gallery of superstars tonight – at a Bilston pub. Special guests asked to the band’s pop star party include George Best, Oliver Reed, Eric Bristow, Jim Davidson, and Ian Botham. Others invited include Alex ‘Hurricane’ Higgins, Daley Thompson, John Conteh, David Essex, Freddie Star, and Stafford rock singer Ozzy Osbourne.

The stars have been asked along by Slade singer Noddy Holder, to celebrate the launch of a new album titled ‘Rogues Gallery.’ Noddy Holder said today, ‘We would like to make it clear that these people are friends who we really like. They are the sort of people – lovable rogues – we want at our party.’

The band shunned the bright lights of London when they decided to hold the party, and plumped for the ROYAL EXCHANGE in Bilston High Street, Noddy’s ‘regular’ for 14 years.

Delighted licensee *Tony Swinnerton* said, ‘It’s a great idea, and it’s going to be one hell of a night. Noddy has been drinking here for years because he likes the crowd and the jazz we put on.’”

Renamed TRUMPET. [1987]

The front of the building was replaced in 1988, due to rotting timbers.

Rob Clee was born in Bilston.

He was married to Julie.

Musti Bouameur played drums.

His partner was Diane Elcock.

Express & Star 28/5/2023

“As pubs continue to battle the cost of living crisis, the *Express & Star* continues its Love Your Local series which celebrates our local inns. The TRUMPET in Bilston is known as a jazz venue thanks to its rich history of playing the music in the pub since the late 1950s where owner at the time, *Les Megson* would play jazz records due to his love for the music genre. Today, the pub is run by *Musti Bouameur*, 75, who is a fascinating character with an incredible story on how he came to run the pub. *Musti*, originally born in Algeria, spent many years playing in bands in North Africa and Southern France, before moving to England, where he discovered the TRUMPET and eventually took over as landlord. Before becoming the landlord, *Musti* was a school teacher that would visit the pub several times a week to listen to the music, and he eventually started playing the drums there each week, and the tenancy became available and after some encouragement from friends, he went for it and has been there ever since— coming up to 17 years of running the pub this year. Thanks to the pub’s rich history with Jazz music, and *Musti*’s love for the music, he was recently interviewed on International Jazz day and he said that before becoming the landlord, he would tell himself that one day the pub would be his, but he meant it as in calling it his own as his local pub, but today, he is the landlord of the pub and loves every minute of running the establishment where he gets to celebrate his love for music and still to this day, he gets to play the drums. He runs the pub with the assistance of his partner,

Diane Elcock, 49, who is a teacher but helps out with the pub in the evenings. Speaking about the TRUMPET and its historic affair with jazz music, Diane said, ‘The big thing about the pub – before covid it was exclusively a jazz venue, but after covid it changed things a little. A lot of clients and musicians were a little reluctant to go out and as a consequence of that we have diversified to different genres of music and that has continued. It is now considered a jazz and blues club. Covid was a tough period for pubs everywhere and for us too of course. It affected everything, but every day we were allowed to open, we would open. Wolverhampton council allowed us to start doing gigs in the garden and so we were among the early adopters of socially distanced events with them taking place in the garden. We were fortunate to be able to do gigs in the garden, and in order to do that we have a massive help from our regulars, who helped paint fences, decorate the outdoors – everyone came together to make the garden beautiful.’ Diane has worked at the pub for around 10 years now, and she is very proud of *Musti* and his love and passion for the pub and the whole jazz music genre.....”

Express & Star 20/8/2023

“Bilston’s iconic TRUMPET pub could be forced to close after being burgled. Thieves stole the contents of the pub’s safe, the landlord’s 75th birthday presents and the musical equipment which helps the pub host its popular music nights. Musician *Musti Bouamdur* and Diane Elcock run the pub and have been heartbroken by the burglary earlier this week. The burglary was announced on the pub’s Facebook page and a Just Giving page has been set up to keep the venue open. The Facebook post said, ‘The TRUMPET Bilston has been burgled. We have been hit with a substantial loss by this; and both *Musti* and Diane are absolutely devastated. We are looking for contributions to help us get the venue out of the mire that this has caused.’”

Express & Star 25/8/2023

“A fundraising concert is being held at Bilston’s iconic jazz venue the TRUMPET this weekend. The High Street pub was burgled last week with the thieves stealing the contents of the safe and music equipment leaving the ‘venue in danger of closing.’ A GoFundMe crowd funding page has seen music fans from across the country donate cash to help keep the TRUMPET open. Slade fans have also been supporting the TRUMPET due to the role the pub played in the formation of the 1970s glam rock supergroup.....”

[2023]



1997



2023



Letter 1965



High Street, Bilston
Telephone: 01902 493723
Open Lunchtimes
12.00pm - 3.00pm
Evenings
7pm-11pm

Live Jazz Entertainment Programme for May 2000

Monday 1st Reg Keirle & Musti	Tuesday 2nd Blue Train jazz band	Wednesday 3rd Nova Bounce
Thursday 4th R.S.J.	Monday 8th Reg Keirle & Musti	Tuesday 9th Mell Hill & Archie Cotterill
Wednesday 10th Dutch Lewis & Archie Cotterill	Thursday 11th Phill Spapiro & All That Jazz	Friday 12th Swing Parade
Saturday 13th Central City Jazzmen	Sunday 14th Green Haze Jazz Men	Monday 15th Reg Keirle & Musti
Tuesday 16th S. Placito, J. Sparry, B. Watts	Wednesday 17th The Chase Jazz Men	Thursday 18th Bank ST Syncopators
Friday 19th Swing Parade	Saturday 20th Apex Jazz Band & Barbara	Sunday 21st Trent Valley Stompers
Monday 22nd Reg Keirle & Musti	Tuesday 23rd The Diane Edwards Jazz Band	Wednesday 24th Keith Bill Trio
Thursday 25th Mike Owens Woodland Jazz Band	Friday 26th Swing Parade	Saturday 27th Frank Bells Swing 5
Sunday 28th Terry Roberts & Archie Cotterill	Monday 29th Reg Keirle & Musti	Tuesday 30th Mell Hill's Jazz Junction
Wednesday 31st Phill Spapiro & All That Jazz	Bilston Charity Jazz Festival 22nd of July ask at bar fordetails	
Trumpet Polo Shirts on sale now! Ask at bar for detail	Sunday Lunchtimes: Pacitto, Keirle & Guests	

TURKS HEAD

11, (6), (4), (5), High Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

John Caddick, gentleman, Handsworth
Colonel Tudor, Wolverhampton
Samuel Burrows
Belle and Co, brewers, Burton on Trent
J. and J. Yardley and Co. Ltd.
Thomas Salt and Co. Ltd.
William Butlers and Co. Ltd.

LICENSEES

Hannah Price [1818]
Thomas Nagington [1822] – [1830]
Joseph Price [1833] – [1842]
John Caddick [1841] – **1851**);
William Stretton **(1851 – 1852)**;
Samuel King **(1852 – 1856)**;
Thomas Glover **(1856)**;
William Stretton **(1856 – [1858]**
George Reade [1859] – [1861]
Joseph Walker [] – **1863**);
David Richards **(1863 – 1866)**;
Harriet Chapman **(1866 – []**
Thomas Leahy [1868] – [1870]
George Legg [1871] – **1876**);
Richard Lett **(1876 – 1877)**;
Thomas Heighway **(1877 – 1881)**;
Samuel Burrows **(1881 – 1897)**;
Nathan Ecclestone **(1897 – 1898)**;
Arthur Wright **(1898 – 1899)**;
Frank Torr **(1899 – 1900)**;
George Davies **(1900 – 1901)**;
Thomas Clark **(1901 – 1902)**;
Samuel James Plimmer **(1902 – 1911)**;

NOTES

5, High Street [1868], [1870], [1872]
4, High Street [1871], [1874], [1881]
6, High Street [1873], [1896], [1904]
11, High Street [1901], [1908], [1911]

It had a full license.

THE TURK'S HEAD INN, HIGH STREET, BILSTON.

TWO be DISPOSED OF, the LICENSE and immediate possession of the above old established and well frequented PUBLIC HOUSE, now doing an excellent business. The present proprietor is leaving in consequence of other engagements. There are large clubs held at the house. The rental is moderate, and the coming in will be about 250*l*.

For further particulars, and to treat for the same, apply on the premises; or to Mr. THOMAS PAGE, house and land agent, Darlington-street, Wolverhampton.

1852

TO PUBLICANS AND OTHERS. UNRESERVED SALE AT "THE TURK'S HEAD," HIGH STREET, BILSTON.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

BY Mr. F. ALTREE, on TUESDAY NEXT, September 2nd, on the Premises as above—the LICENSES and POSSESSION of those Old-Licensed PREMISES, as above, with the capital BREWING PLANT; 120-gallon copper and iron Furnaces, well-seasoned iron-bound Ale Casks, Ale Machine, Stock of ALE and SPIRITS, Two Pockets of HOPS, (1855,) Ten Bags of MALT, Fixtures, Gas and other Fittings, all the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE and Effects of the Landlord, who is declining the Business.

Sale to commence at Ten o'clock a.m.

Catalogues at the Auctioneer's Offices, Bilston and Wednesfield Heath.

The Auctioneer respectfully solicits an early attendance, in consequence of the number of lots.

1856

SALE AT THE OLD TURK'S HEAD, HIGH STREET, BILSTON.

MR. ALTREE will SELL by AUCTION, the LICENSES, POSSESSION, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, Ale, Porter, Wines, Spirits, Malt, Hops, with the usual Effects belonging to the public business, the property of Mr. William Stretton, who is declining business.

The Sale will commence on MONDAY NEXT, the 11th instant, at Eleven o'clock a.m.

1858

Joseph Price and John Caddick both appear in the same Directory in 1841.

1841 Census

High Street

[1] John Caddick (25), victualler, born Staffordshire;

[2] Sarah Wild (15), f.s., born Staffordshire;

[3] Caroline Wild (15), f.s., born Staffordshire:

Birmingham Journal 12/6/1847

“On Saturday last an inquest was held at the BIRMINGHAM HOUSE, on the Bilston Road, by T. M. Phillips, Esq, Coroner, on the body of Benjamin Chilton. The deceased, who was fifty-nine years of age, was a pattern maker, and had been admitted into the Union Poor House, about the middle of April, in consequence of his being badly burned. He had, the night before he was admitted into the house, been drinking at the TURKS HEAD, Bilston, and afterwards gone to sleep under a boiler at an engine on the Willenhall Road. Upon awaking he found his clothes in flames; he put out the flames by rolling upon some slack. He lingered from the middle of April until Friday last, when he expired. Verdict, Accidental Death. The deceased had twice before been admitted into the Workhouse under similar circumstances.”

1851 Census

High Street – TURKS HEAD

[1] John Caddick (35), unmarried, licensed victualler, born Bilston;

[2] Elizabeth Ralph (75), aunt, widow, born Sedgley;

[3] Mary Ann Stokes (19), house servant, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/6/1851

“At a special sessions for the transfer of victuallers’ licenses within the hundred of Seisdon North, held on Monday last, the following transfers were made.....

TURKS HEAD, High Street, Bilston, from *John Caddick* to *William Stretton*, late of Somerford, farmer.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/11/1851

“John Smith, alias David Hogan, Rosannah Smith, and James Smith, were charged at Bilston Police Office on Tuesday with uttering base coin. Mrs. Ann Stretton, landlady of the TURKS HEAD, stated.....

The prisoners were also charged with uttering two base sixpences at the house of Mr. Rhodes, Middle Field Lane; also to Mrs. Mary Lester, High Street.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/12/1851

“At Bilston Police Office, on Tuesday, Daniel Hogan, James Smith, and Rosana Smith (husband and wife), were charged with uttering counterfeit coin. It was clearly proved that Hogan had passed two base sixpences at the TURKS HEAD, High Street, kept by *William Stretton*, on Sunday night, and a bad shilling at the house of William Rhodes, the KINGS HEAD, Chain Lane, as well as 2s 6d, all in bad money, at the house of Mrs. Lester, in High Street. The connection of the other prisoners with Hogan was also established. Inspector Thompson, in searching the house of the prisoners, discovered some other counterfeit coin, and the requisite materials for such nefarious manufacture. They were remanded until the decision of the mint authorities as to their prosecution should be known. The money was a very bad imitation.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/12/1851

“Daniel Hogan, Rosanna Smith, and John Smith, remanded from Tuesday, were brought before W. Baldwin, Esq, on Monday last, charged with uttering base coin, at the house of Mr. *Stretton*, TURKS HEAD, High Street, Bilston. The evidence being conclusive against Hogan, the Mint authorities were determined to prosecute, and he was committed to the sessions. The other prisoners were discharged.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/1/1852

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Daniel Hogden was charged with uttering counterfeit coins at Bilston, in November last, knowing them to be false and counterfeit. Mr. Kynnersley and Mr. Gordon conducted the prosecution.

Mr. Kynnersley opened the case, which was more fully detailed by the several witnesses, and also stated to the jury the law respecting the uttering of base coin.

It appeared that the prisoner, who is a labouring man, went to a beerhouse in Bilston kept by Mrs. Lester, about five o'clock in the evening of the 23rd of November, and, in company with another man, called for a pint of ale, which was given to them by the servant, Fanny Brevitt, and for which they gave her fourpence. They then asked for more ale, and gave Brevitt a base sixpence, which she subsequently marked and placed on the mantelpiece. About half an hour afterwards the prisoner returned with a bottle, and asked for a gallon of ale, putting down two base shillings in payment. Brevitt told him they were counterfeit, and took them to her mistress, during which time the prisoner decamped. Scarcely an hour had elapsed before the prisoner went to the TURKS HEAD public house, and Mrs. *Stretton*, the landlady, stated that he brought a bottle for half a gallon of ale, in return for which he gave her two sixpences, which she almost immediately discovered to be counterfeit. In less than an hour a woman brought the same bottle for half a gallon of ale, when Mrs. *Stretton* made some remarks to her about the bottle and the sixpences, upon which she went to the door, where it appeared the prisoner was standing, and returned with two good sixpences and paid for the ale. Mr. *Stretton* stated that whilst his wife was filling the bottle, he went round the house to the front door, when the prisoner ran away, but was almost immediately captured. When caught he spit a shilling out of his mouth, which, with three sixpences found in his pocket, were also counterfeit. The whole of the coins, which were marked, and produced by Inspector Thompson, were proved by Mr. Lithgoe, silversmith, of Stafford, to be counterfeit.

The prisoner, in his defence, said he had received the coins in changing some silver.

The jury found him guilty, and he was sentenced to be imprisoned one year to hard labour.”

[A few weeks after being discharged from prison Daniel Hogden was again passing counterfeit coins at Bilston.

At the Sessions in March 1853 he was sentenced to eighteen months.]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/6/1852 - Advert

“The TURKS HEAD INN, High Street, Bilston.

To be Disposed Of, the License and immediate possession of the above old established and well frequented Public House, now doing an excellent business. The present proprietor is leaving in consequence of other engagements. There are large clubs held at the house. The rental is moderate, and the coming in will be about £250.

For further particulars, and to treat for the same, apply on the premises; or to Mr. Thomas Page, house and land agent, Darlington Street, Wolverhampton.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 13/10/1852

“Victuallers licenses the following changes took place.....

William Stretton, of the TURKS HEAD, BILSTON, to *Samuel King*, of West Bromwich.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/7/1853

“An inquest wash held on Saturday morning, at the TURKS HEAD, High Street, Bilston, on the body of William Mokipp, a miner, who was killed on Thursday morning by a fall of coal at Capponfield colliery, near Bilston. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Journal 30/8/1856 - Advert

“To Publicans and Others. Unreserved Sale at the TURKS HEAD, High Street, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. F. Altree, on Tuesday Next, September 2nd, on the Premises as above.

The Licenses and Possession of those Old-Licensed Premises, as above, with the capital Brewing Plant; 120-gallon copper and iron Furnaces, well-seasoned iron-bound Ale Casks, Ale Machine, Stock of Ale and Spirits, Two Pockets of Hops (1855), Ten Bags of Malt, Fixtures, Gas and other Fittings, all the Household Furniture and Effects of the Landlord, who is declining the Business.

Sale to commence at Ten o'clock am.

Catalogues at the Auctioneer's Offices, Bilston and Wednesfield Heath.

The Auctioneer respectfully solicits an early attendance, in consequence of the number of lots.”

Birmingham Journal 9/10/1858 - Advert

"Sale at the OLD TURKS HEAD, High Street, Bilston.

Mr. Altree will Sell by Auction, the Licenses, Possession, Household Furniture, Ale, Porter, Wines, Spirits, Malt, Hops, with the usual Effects belonging to the public business, the property of Mr. *William Stretton*, who is declining business.

The Sale will commence on Monday Next, the 11th instant, at Eleven o'clock am."

George Reade = George Read

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/8/1859

"The annual meeting of Magistrates for the purpose of the renewal and granting of licenses for the township of Bilston and the neighbourhood was held at the Bilston Police Court on Friday last.....

The following publicans having been fined during the past year their licenses were suspended until the adjourned licensing day.....

George Read, TURKS HEAD, High Street, Bilston."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/9/1859

"At the Bilston petty sessions, on Friday, the following cases which had been reserved from the annual licensing meeting for further consideration in consequence of complaints having been made by the police against the applicants, were disposed of, the licenses being renewed conditionally that the respective occupiers are more circumspect in their conduct TURKS HEAD, High Street."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1860

"The annual meeting for the renewal of spirit licenses, and also for hearing fresh applications for the same, was held at the Bilston Police Court on Friday last.....

There were altogether 215 applications for renewals, of which number thirty-four of the applicants have been fined during the past year for offences against their licenses in the following cases the Magistrates deferred their decision until the adjourned licensing day, which is fixed to take place on the 21st of September.....

George Read, TURKS HEAD, High Street."

[Renewed at the adjourned licensing meeting, after being admonished by the magistrates.]

Birmingham Journal 29/9/1860 - Advert

"TURKS HEAD, Bilston. By Altree and Son.

To be Let, with immediate possession, the above Old-licensed Money-making Concern, situated in the centre of the town. Valuation only required.

Apply to the noted Publicans Valuer, Bilston."

"TURK'S HEAD," BILSTON.
BY ALTREE and SON.—To be LET, with immediate possession, the above Old-licensed Money-making CONCERN, situated in the centre of the town. Valuation only required.
Apply to the noted Publicans' Valuer, Bilston. Established 181

Birmingham Daily Gazette 13/3/1865

".....The proposition of the masters that one hundred puddlers should go into North Staffordshire was anything but favourably received by the puddlers in Bilston. They declare that they have done all they can do to convince their masters that they do not and will not countenance the strike in North Staffordshire, and to be not only locked out for the existence of circumstances over which they have not control whatever, but to be asked to leave their homes and risk their lives in a quarrel between masters and men at the other end of the county they regard as cruel and preposterous. There was a meeting of puddlers held at the TURKS HEAD, High Street, but it was of course private, and attempts on the part of our correspondent to glean some particulars resulted in no further information than that the men would not consent to go to North Staffordshire."

David Richards – see also BULLS HEAD, High Street.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/7/1867 - Advert

"To be Let, at fair valuation, with immediate possession, the TURKS HEAD INN, High Street, Bilston.

For other particulars, apply on the Premises."

TO be LET, at fair valuation, with immediate possession, the TURK'S HEAD INN, High Street, Bilston.—For other particulars apply on the Premises.

Thomas Leahy = Thomas Leah

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/6/1868

“Yesterday, at Bilston Police Court, *Thomas Leah*, of the TURKS HEAD INN, High Street, Bilston, was fined 60s and costs for permitting drunkenness in his house on the 1st inst.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/6/1869 - Advert

“To be Let, the TURKS HEAD INN, Bilston. That well-known Old-Licensed House, situate in the main thoroughfare of the town.

Apply to B. Beebee, High Street, Bilston.”

TO be LET, the Turk's Head Inn, Bilston. That well-known OLD-LICENSED HOUSE, situate in the main thoroughfare of the town.—Apply to B. Beebee, High Street, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/12/1869

“An inquest was held on Wednesday, at the TURKS HEAD, High Street, Bilston, on the body of John Hutton, aged 56, residing in High Street. He went soberly to bed on Sunday night. On Monday morning he got out of bed and went to the top of the stairs to call his son. While he was in the act of doing so he fell down stairs, and was taken up dead. The circumstances appeared to be quite accidental, and the jury returned a verdict accordingly.”

George Legg = George Legge

1871 Census

4, High Street – TURKS HEAD INN

- [1] George Legg (45), boiler maker employing 3 men and 2 boys, born Bilston;
- [2] Elizabeth Legg (28), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] John Legg (18), son, coal miner, born Bilston;
- [4] Richard Legg (17), son, coal miner, born Bilston;
- [5] Murray Legg (15), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] Sarah Legg (10), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] Eleanor Legg (7), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [8] George Legg (4), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [9] James Legg (2), son, born Bilston;
- [10] John Hughes (22), brother, coal miner, born Bilston;
- [11] Samuel Hughes (21), brother, coal miner, born Bilston;

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/1/1876

“Staffordshire Epiphany Sessions.....

Sarah Trevolte, on bail, was indicted for stealing a brown-paper parcel, containing 18 yards of velvet and other articles, the property of Richard Dyke, at Bilston, on the 29th of November. Mr. Bosanquet conducted the prosecution, and Mr. J. Rose appeared for the prisoner.

The prosecutor, a miner, of Sedgley, and his wife were at the TURKS HEAD INN, Bilston, on the evening of the day named, and the prisoner and some other people were there. Mrs. Dyke had with her a basket and the parcel in question. When she left she forgot the parcel, but afterwards sent her husband for it. The landlady (Mrs. Legge) informed him that the prisoner had taken it with her, and subsequently Mrs. Dyke and a Mrs. Yeomans visited the prisoner's house and there saw a piece of paper with a label upon it, which the former recognized as the paper in which her goods were wrapped. The prisoner's husband made a snatch at the paper, and succeeded in getting the greater part of it, which he immediately threw into the fire. When they left the prisoner followed them and told Mrs. Yeomans she had got the things, but would return them. She afterwards went to Mrs. Dyke and denied all knowledge of the parcel.

Mr. Rose, having addressed the jury for the defence, called William Bennett, who said the party at the TURKS HEAD were gambling with a machine like a clock. The parcel was passed into the bar to be taken care of until Mrs. Dyke left, and was received by the landlady. Both Mrs. Yeomans and Mrs. Dyke were drunk, and tried to sing and dance, but they could not – they were ‘rather too tight for the music to leave their tongues.’ When the prisoner left the house she only had her baby and a basket with her. He was certain she carried no parcel.

The jury found the prisoner guilty, but recommended her to mercy. She was sentenced to one month's imprisonment in the common gaol without hard labour.

The witness Bennett was called into the box, and the Assistant-Chairman, addressing him, said the jury had dealt with his evidence as he thought it deserved, and he only refrained from giving him into custody for perjury because he knew there might be a technical difficulty arising from the state of the law as to the materiality of the evidence on which an indictment is framed. He should consult the learned Chairman and other members of the Court on the matter, and although he refrained at present from ordering him into custody, yet if it was found that his evidence was material to the issue of the case he should have no hesitation in instructing the Clerk of the Peace to prosecute him for perjury.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 20/12/1876

“Last night’s *London Gazette* announces that the following persons have filed their petitions for liquidation.....
G. Legg, Bilston, licensed victualler, miner, and greengrocer.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 30/12/1876

“Bilston Police Court. Yesterday.....

This was a Special Session for the transfer of licenses, and the following were granted.....

TURKS HEAD, High Street, from *George Legg* to *Richard Lett*.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 29/5/1877

“During the last few days a number of bills have been posted in Bilston announcing that regular work and good wages would be given at the Bettisfield Colliery, Bagillt, near Chester, to a number of miners, and offering also, as an additional inducement, that comfortable cottages, with gardens attached, should be found.....

Mr. Kendrick, the agent of the company, attended at the miners lodge house, the TURKS HEAD, High Street, Bilston, to make the necessary arrangements with those who were willing to accept the terms.....”

Thomas Heighway = Thomas Highway

1881 Census

4, High Street

[1] *Thomas Heighway* (66), publican, born Ironbridge, Shropshire;

[2] *Sarah Heighway* (60), wife, born Coseley;

[3] *Joseph Maybury* (25), nephew, ironworks roller, born Deepfields;

[4] *William Maybury* (24), nephew, iron bedstead maker, born Deepfields;

[5] *Sarah Ann Gough* (18), general servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 24/12/1881

“At the Bilston Police Court, yesterday, the following licenses were fully transferred.....

Thomas Highway, TURKS HEAD, High Street, to *Samuel Burrows*, chartermaster.”

Sporting Life 11/8/1883

“The Hall Park Grounds, Prouds Lane, Bilston. Notice to Peds.

Mr. *S. Burrows*, proprietor, will give £2 10s to be run for in an all-England 120 yards handicap, on Saturdays, August 18 and 25. Entries 6d each, to be made at Mr. *S. Burrows*’, the TURKS HEAD INN, High Street, Bilston. Entries close on Tuesday, August 14 (Wednesday morning’s post in time). First heat up at five o’clock sharp. NB. No entry taken without the fee.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 28/6/1884

“On Saturday afternoon, running commenced in an All England Foot Handicap (120 yards), got up by Mr. *S. Burrows*, of the TURKS HEAD INN, Bilston, at the Hall Park Recreation Grounds, Prouds Lane, Bilston. The prizes are, first £1 17s 6d, second 15s, third 7s 6d, and about ninety entries were made. There was a good attendance of spectators.....”

Sporting Life 10/1/1885

“Birmingham and District. Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury.

Mr *S. Burrows*’ Bell, of the TURKS HEAD, Bilston, and Mr. S. Hughes’ Sep, of the ROYAL GEORGE, Oxford Street, Bilston, are matched to course the best of twenty-one rabbits, for £20, Bell to receive two dead rabbits. Day of race to be fixed. Mr. John Dudley, TRAVELLERS REST INN, Darlaston, referee.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 21/3/1885

“Richard Dutton, Hall Park, was charged with wilfully damaging trees and property in Hall Park, belonging to *Samuel Burrows*, TURKS HEAD INN, High Street, Bilston. Mr. Bowen appeared for the defence. Evidence was called to prove the case and defendant was fined 5s and costs.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 8/7/1887

“The seventh monthly meeting of the Bilston Gardeners Association was held on Tuesday evening, in the large room at the TURKS HEAD INN, High Street. There was a very large attendance of members and visitors, and the exhibits were numerous and of very fine quality.....

The society now numbers nearly one hundred members, and is evidently accomplishing a most useful work in promoting a love for horticultural pursuits among amateurs and cottagers in the district.”

1891 Census

High Street – TURKS HEAD

[1] *Samuel Burrows* (56), publican, born Brierley Hill;

[2] Sarah Burrows (49), wife, born Ettingshall;

[3] Emma Edwards (15), domestic servant, born Ladymoor:

Sporting Life 19/4/1893

“An important pigeon shooting engagement between two well-known Black Country sports was brought to a satisfactory conclusion at Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury, on Saturday. The shooters were Mr. Wedge, of Willenhall, and Mr. Sam Smith, of Bilston, who met to shoot at eleven pigeons each, 1oz of shot, 25 yards rise, use of one barrel, from three traps placed five yards apart, sixty yards boundary, for £25 a side. Charming weather prevailed, and a tolerably fair company assembled. Mr. Smith was installed a warm favourite at £10 to £8 on. Mr. Smith probably never shot in better form, whilst Mr. Wedge, for once in a way, seemed all abroad, and shot far from his true form.....

Mr. *S. Burrows*, of the TURKS HEAD INN, High Street, Bilston, was stakeholder; and Mr. J. Harding, proprietor, referee.”

[Smith scored 6 out of 8; Wedge scored 2 out of 8.]

Sporting Life 29/7/1896

“Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury.

Another important 440 yards match was brought to a conclusion here on Monday afternoon last, the peds engaged being W. Anderson and J. Foster, both of the nuts, bolts, and bars town of Darlaston, who were matched to run 440 yards, for £10 a side, Foster in receipt of twenty yards start. Although they have competed in handicaps, this was their first engagement of any importance. Both men had experienced a special course of training, and on disrobing looked in capital fettle, and as each fancied his chance some spirited wagering ensued. Anderson, however, had the most followers, and ere the men toed their marks he was established a warm favourite at evens. It was very late before the men went to their marks, but at the first attempt they were despatched to a splendid start. Then one of the most exciting races of this description was witnessed, and at the half-distance Anderson had gained but very little. However, he piled on all steam, and inch by inch overhauled Foster. Foster, however, who ran very gamely, and finishing in grand form, finally, amidst excitement, won by half a yard. Mr. *Sam Burrows*, mine host of the TURKS HEAD, High Street, Bilston, was stakeholder, and Mr. George Dudley, Darlaston, starter and referee.”

Samuel Burrows – see also BRIDGE, Ettingshall.

Frank Torr – see also VINE, Vine Street.

George Davies = George Davis

County Express 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 & 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.....

Lot 10. That exceptionally good, Old-established, Fully-Licensed Inn and Premises, the TURKS HEAD, High Street, Bilston, in the occupation of *George Davies*. This House has for many years enjoyed a very regular and good Paying Trade, and is without doubt one of the best houses in the town. It is a well-known Football rendezvous, and the class of trade is most respectable. The Lot has an unusual amount of Trading Accommodation.

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, etc, etc, 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

11, High Street

[1] *George Davis* (38), publican, manager for brewery, born Bilston;

[2] Harriet Davis (37), wife, born West Bromwich;

[3] Florence Davis (13), daughter, born Bilston;

[4] *George Davis* (6), son, born Bilston;

[5] Jack Davis (3), son, born Bilston;

[6] Edith Bailey (19), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/7/1901

“The statement of the affairs of *George Davis*, furnace builder, of the TURKS HEAD INN, High Street, Bilston, issued by the Official Receiver (Mr. S. W. Page), shows liabilities £241 15s 7d and the deficiency £218 15s 2d. The bankrupt commenced business as a furnace builder in 1886 without any capital, but owing to scarcity of work in March, 1900, he became the tenant of the TURKS HEAD INN, where he has since carried on business as a licensed victualler. He has known for twelve months that he was insolvent, but was not sued until about a month ago. He attributes his failure to bad trade at the public house and scarcity of work as a furnace builder.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 1/8/1901

“Bankruptcy Proceedings. Examinations at Wolverhampton.....

George Davis, of the TURKS HEAD INN, High Street, Bilston, furnace builder and licensed victualler, came up for his public examination. The liabilities were £241 15s 7d, and the deficiency £218 15s 2d. Debtor was a furnace builder, but owing to scarcity of work he became tenant of the TURKS HEAD INN, where the average takings were not more than £2 per week. The examination was adjourned to close.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 22/8/1901

“Bankruptcy Examinations at Wolverhampton.....

George Davis, furnace builder, formerly of Mount Cottage, Wellington Road, and of the TURKS HEAD INN, High Street, Bilston, came up for his adjourned examination.

The Official Receiver said debtor's wife on the last occasion made an affidavit claiming certain furniture which was scheduled. She had since made a further affidavit claiming other furniture, including a sofa and an eight-day clock not in the first schedule. He should have to make further inquiries.”

1911 Census

11, High Street – TURKS HEAD INN

[1] *Samuel Plimmer* (36), innkeeper, born Bilston;

[2] *Mary Ellen Plimmer* (27), wife, married 8 years, assisting in the business, born Bilston;

[3] *Frances Plimmer* (6), daughter, school, born Bilston;

[4] *James Plimmer* (2), son, born Bilston:

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.....

TURKS HEAD, High Street, Bilston. Full License. Licensee, *Samuel James Plimmer*. Registered Owner, Thomas Salt and Co. Limited.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 14/10/1911

“At a recent meeting of the Staffordshire County Licensing Compensation Authority, held at Stafford, the claims for the total amount of compensation to be paid in respect of licenses refused at the principal meeting in July last were dealt with. The following are the decisions arrived at in the various cases.....

TURKS HEAD, Bilston, £400.”

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.....

TURKS HEAD, Bilston, full, £400.

The money has been apportioned among the interested parties and paid.”

Compensation of £400 was paid on 16th December 1911.

“THE TURK'S HEAD,”

High Street, Bilston, in the occupation of George Davies. This House has for many years enjoyed a very regular and good Paying Trade, and is without doubt one of the best houses in the town. It is a well-known Football rendezvous, and the class of trade is most respectable. The Lot has an unusual amount of Trading Accommodation.

1900

UNION

68, (44) Coseley Road, (68, (67), (64), (44), Coseley Street), (Coseley Row), (Union Street), BILSTON

OWNERS

Joseph Mills, ironworker, Union Street, Bilston
Alfred Parrish
Sarah Parrish
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. [1965]

LICENSEES

George Hyde [1851]
Joseph Hatton [1854]
Richard Lloyd [1858] – [1870]
Thomas Haycock [1871] – **1874**;
Mrs. Sarah (Haycock) Parrish **(1874 – 1875)**;
Alfred Parrish **(1875 – 1912)**;
Sarah Parrish **(1912 – 1913)**;
William Ernest Tomkins **(1913)**;
Thomas Billingham **(1913 – 1934)**;
Frances Harriet Gill **(1934 – 1938)**;
Albert Nathan Gill **(1938)**;
William Brown **(1938 – [1940]**
Ron Drinkwater [] – **1985)**



NOTES

44, Coseley Street [1858], [1861], [1871], [1891]
Coseley Row [1851], [1860], [1873]
Coseley Street [1851], [1861], [1862], [1867], [1869], [1868]
44, Union Street [1864], [1865]
44, Coseley Road [1896]
68, Coseley Street [1901]
68, Coseley Road [1908], [1912], [1916], [1932], [1940]
67, Coseley Street

UNION TAVERN
UNION INN [1851], [1868]
NEW INN [1860]
COSELEY INN [1891]

It was popular with pigeon fanciers.

Black Country Bugle 15/6/2016

Family tree shock as reader finds ancestor was murdered

“.....Great, Great, Great Aunt Mary Walton was 20 years old when she married Samuel Twigg in 1845 and in the next 15 years she produced 13 children, only four of whom survived to maturity.

In the mid 19th century Bilston had many problems with the great cholera epidemic of 1849 and living conditions in the town were some of the worst in the Black Country.

Twigg, who was born in 1824, worked in iron making and then became a bricklayer, which paid well when work was plentiful, but with the slump he struggled to feed the mouths of an ever-expanding family. He took to drinking, which turned him into an aggressive man and in one violent bar-room brawl, he was never the same again after being injured by a policeman's solid staff. The sullen and morose Samuel became an habitual drunk and was heartily disliked by the locals, who had learned to fear his fists and his knife. He did not have many friends around his Bilston home. His wife once confided to a friend, 'I've always been in danger from my husband. I've had to jump out of the bedroom window several times to escape from him.'

When Twigg failed to return from work on July 24, 1860, Mary was unconcerned. She knew he was off drinking somewhere. The landlord of the UNION INN in Coseley Street said he left alone at around midnight hardly able to stand. Rousing Mary from her bed at midnight, he demanded a couple of steaks for himself and his friend. There was, of course, no meat in the house and Mary did not like the look of the stranger. She was right as well, as in front of her drunken husband, the stranger tried to assault her. 'We don't have any steaks in the house, Sam,' she whispered. Twigg roughly clapped his hand around her jaw and said if she didn't feed him 'I'll cut your throat from ear to ear.' The situation was saved when his friend made a rapid departure and Twigg himself collapsed on the floor in a drunken stupor.

Young Samuel, then 16, went downstairs to find his father passed out on a seat in front of the fire. Making him as comfortable as they could, mother and son then went back to bed. Later Twigg woke up and called for a light to see him up to bed. Mary came downstairs with an oil lamp and, as she bent over her husband, he grabbed her and said, 'Give me a kiss Mary.' 'Get off,' said Mary, used to her husband's moods, as she struggled to free herself. Enraged, he pulled out a clasp knife and thrust it deep into her stomach. All hell broke loose as Mary fled from the house streaming blood and crying out murder. Despite medical help and being taken to the hospital, Mary died at 11pm the next day. When Constable John Moffat arrived at the house he found the drunken man asleep on the living room floor. He led Twigg outside, where a small crowd had started to gather, and took his prisoner off to the police station. Twigg's trial for murder lasted for only a few hours. At no stage did Samuel Twigg show any emotion nor remorse for what he had done. Only after sentence of death had been passed did Twigg cry out what a sinner he had been as he collapsed in tears. The judge was unmoved, so too was the Home Secretary when dismissing Twigg's petition for clemency.

The day before the execution on Saturday, January 5, 1861, extra trains were laid from Bilston to cope with the large number of people flocking to Stafford to witness the hanging on a scaffold erected outside the prison gates. At 8am next day more than 4,000 people gathered behind the barricades. They jeered and catcalled as Twigg was brought out, and cheered resoundingly as George Smith, the Rowley hangman, placed a rope around his neck and Twigg plunged through the open trap-door.....”

1851 Census

Coseley Street

- [1] George Hyde (37), miner and publican, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] Sarah Hyde (34), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] Richard Hyde (17), son, fitter, born Sedgley;
- [4] George Hyde (9), son, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [5] Mary Hyde (8), daughter, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [6] Sarah Ann Hyde (6), daughter, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [7] Elisabeth Hurst (61), mother-in-law, annuitant, born Dudley;
- [8] Sophia Hurst (6), niece, scholar, born Dudley;

Birmingham Journal 12/7/1851 - Advert

“Old-Licensed Public House, Bilston.

To be Let, all that old-established Public House, the UNION INN, Coseley Row, Bilston.

For particulars, apply to the present Tenant, Mr. *George Hyde*; or to J. Mason, Auctioneer, Hall Street, Bilston.”

George Hyde – see also SHIP AND RAINBOW.

OLD-LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE,
BILSTON.
TO be LET, all that old-established PUBLIC
HOUSE, “THE UNION INN,” Coseley Row, Bilston.—For
particulars, apply to the present Tenant, Mr. *George Hyde*; or to
J. Mason, Auctioneer, Hall Street, Bilston.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1860

“The annual meeting for the renewal of spirit licenses, and also for hearing fresh applications for the same, was held at the Bilston Police Court on Friday last.....

There were altogether 215 applications for renewals, of which number thirty-four of the applicants have been fined during the past year for offences against their licenses in the following cases the Magistrates deferred their decision until the adjourned licensing day, which is fixed to take place on the 21st of September.....

Richard Lloyd, NEW INN, Coseley Row.”

[Renewed at the adjourned licensing meeting, after being admonished by the magistrates.]

Richard Lloyd, licensed victualler, Coseley Street. [1861]

He married Bertha Bywater, daughter of Thomas (a maltster, St. James Square, Wolverhampton, see also OLD ANCHOR.)

1861 Census

44, Coseley Street

[1] *Richard Lloyd* (40), victualler, born Bilston;

[2] *Bertha Lloyd* (36), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Alice M. Lloyd* (2), daughter, born Bilston;

[4] *Edith B. Lloyd* (6 months), daughter, born Bilston;

[5] *Ellen Stokes* (23), servant, born Sheffield:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/4/1867 - Advert

“For Sale, one Tubular Boiler, 20 feet 4 inches long, 6 feet diameter, 7/16 Plates, equal to new.

Apply, *R. Lloyd*, UNION INN, Coseley Street, Bilston.”

FOR SALE, one Tubular BOILER, 20 feet 4 inches long,
6-feet diameter, 7/16 Plates, equal to new.—Apply, *R. Lloyd*,
Union Inn, Coseley Street, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/3/1869 - Advert

“To Let, that old-established Licensed House, the UNION INN, Coseley Street, Bilston, near the Great Western Station. Rent £20,

Apply on the Premises.”

TO Let, that old-established Licensed HOUSE, the Union Inn,
Coseley Street, Bilston, near the Great Western Station. Rent
£20.—Apply on the Premises.

1871 Census

44, Coseley Street – UNION INN

[1] *Thomas Haycock* (43), licensed victualler, born Claverley, Shropshire;

[2] *Sarah Haycock* (38), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Louisa Doyle* (23), domestic servant, born Bilston;

[4] *Deborah Higgs* (8), niece, scholar, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 30/8/1873

“Yesterday the annual licensing meeting for Bilston and the neighbourhood was held in the Petty Sessions Court.....

The proceedings opened by Chief Superintendent McCrea presenting his annual ‘black list.’ In doing so he remarked that it only indicated eleven offenders, whilst a twelvemonth ago there were twenty-nine. This comparison, he considered, was the clearest substantiation of the beneficial operation of the recent Licensing Act. The names of the offending licensed victuallers were.....

Thomas Haycock, UNION INN, Bilston.....

The committee stated that the licenses of all the persons contained in the ‘list’ would be suspended until the adjourned licensing sessions, to be held on the 26th proximo.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1873

“Bilston Adjourned Annual Licensing Sessions were held yesterday.....

On the personal application of the following persons the appended old licenses were renewed.....

Thomas Haycock, UNION INN, Bilston.....

All the above applicants had been convicted during the past two years, and the Bench cautioned them.”

Thomas Haycock died in the 4th quarter of 1873.

Birmingham Daily Post 5/1/1874

“Bilston Special License Transfer Session.....

UNION INN, Bilston, to *Sarah Haycock*, as widow and executrix under the will of the late *Thomas Haycock*.”

Sarah Haycock married *Alfred Parrish* on 11th November 1874.

Birmingham Daily Post 4/1/1875

“License Transfers Alehouses.....

UNION INN, Coseley Street, from *Sarah Parrish* to *Alfred Parrish*.”

1881 Census

Coseley Street – UNION INN

- [1] *Alfred Parrish* (36), innkeeper, born Netherton;
- [2] *Sarah Parrish* (46), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Sarah E. Wedge* (9), niece, scholar, born Chesterfield;
- [4] *Keturah Wedge* (28), visitor, born Tideswell, Derbyshire;
- [5] *Flora Wedge* (3), visitor, born Featherstone, Yorkshire;
- [6] *Roland A. Wedge* (1), visitor, born Featherstone, Yorkshire;

1891 Census

44, Coseley Street – COSELEY INN

- [1] *Alfred Parrish* (46), licensed victualler, born Netherton;
- [2] *Sarah Parrish* (57), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Sarah Wedge* (19), niece, born Chesterfield;
- [4] *Gertrude Foster* (11), niece, scholar, born Wolverhampton;

1901 Census

68, Coseley Street

- [1] *Alfred Parrish* (57), publican, born Netherton;
- [2] *Sarah Parrish* (67), wife, born Bilston;

1911 Census

Coseley Street – UNION INN

- [1] *Alfred Parrish* (67), publican, born Netherton;
- [2] *Sarah Parrish* (77), wife, married 36 years, born Bilston;
- [3] *Sarah Holloway* (20), domestic servant, born Coseley;

Alfred Parrish died on 8th September 1912.

Sarah Parrish died on 25th April 1913.

Staffordshire Advertiser 14/2/1914

“Bilston annual Licensing Sessions.....

The owners of the UNION INN, Coseley Street, were advised to remove dilapidated portions of the premises.”

Thomas Billingham was fined £1 and costs, on 28th April 1916, for selling beer exceeding the measure called for.

1921 Census

Coseley Street – UNION INN

- [1] Thomas Billingham (56), publican, born Cradley Heath;
- [2] Mary Billingham (52), wife, home duties, born Cradley;
- [3] Charles Henry Billingham (28), son, butcher, born Cradley Heath;
- [4] Elsie Billingham (19), daughter, home duties, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] William Billingham (16), son, fitter and turner, born Oldbury;

1936 Probate

“Thomas Billingham of the UNION INN, Coseley Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 26 June 1934 at New Cross Poor Law Institution, Heath Town, Wolverhampton. Probate Birmingham 14 February to Mary Billingham, widow. Effects £628 14s 10d.”

It had a boxing booth attached. [1930s]

1939 Register

Coseley Road – UNION INN (2 of 3)

- [1] William Brown, date of birth 10/1/1908, licensee, married;
- [2] Eva Brown, dob 18/6/1912, unpaid domestic duties, married;

A team from here took part in the Bilston Crib League, Section B. [1946]

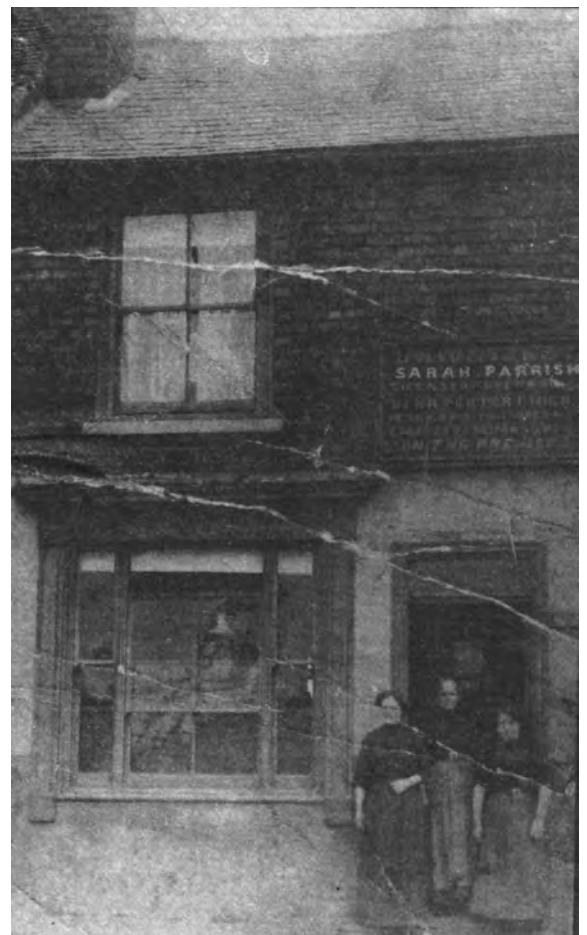
It was subject to a compulsory purchase order in August 1985 and April 1987.

Closed

It was demolished c.1988.



Sarah and Alfred Parrish



Sarah Parrish

UNION CROSS

Wolverhampton Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

NOTES

Birmingham Daily Post 24/6/1861 - Advert

“UNION CROSS, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston.

To be Let, the above well-situated and thriving Public House, it having changed hands but once in twenty years. The Premises comprise good Parlour, Tap Room, and Bar, two good Cellars, Brewhouse, Stabling, and Skittle Alley, with side entrance to the same. Rent £22; House attached, let off at £8 per annum. Coming-in to suit convenience of Purchaser.

For further information, apply to R. Heseltine, Auctioneer and Valuer, Midland Counties Auction Mart, Church Street, Bilston.”

“UNION CROSS,”
WOLVERHAMPTON STREET, BILSTON.
TO be LET, the above well-situated and thriving
PUBLIC HOUSE, it having changed hands but once in twenty
years. The Premises comprise good Parlour, Tap Room, and Bar, two
good Cellars, Brewhouse, Stabling, and Skittle Alley, with side
entrance to the same. Rent £22; House attached, let off at £8 per
annum. Coming-in to suit convenience of Purchaser.
For further information, apply to R. Heseltine, Auctioneer and
Valuer, Midland Counties Auction Mart, Church Street, Bilston.

UNION MILL

38, (1), Manor Road, (82, Mill Street), (82, Parkfield Road), (Bilston Road), (Ettingshall Lane) / Spring Vale Road, (16, Spring Road), Ettingshall, (Catchems Corner), BILSTON

OWNERS

Benjamin Baker
Mary Whitehouse
Henry Clark, beerhouse keeper, BOAT INN, Ettingshall
J. and J. Yardley and Co. Ltd.
Old Wolverhampton Brewery Ltd.
Frank Myatt Ltd. [1921]
Ansells Ltd.

LICENSEES

George Ward [1818]
William Russell [1828] – [1830]
Richard Baker [1833]
Edward Charles Baker [1834]
Richard Homer Baker [1835] – [1842]
Edward Homer [1851]
Edward Charles Baker [1851] – **1852**);
Benjamin Homer Baker **(1852 – 1885)**;
Samuel Lym [1864]
Mary Whitehouse **(1885 – 1887)**;
Edward Baker **(1887 – 1891)**;
Enoch Ward **(1891 – 1899)**;
Frederick Mason **(1899 – 1901)**;
Enoch Ward **(1901 – 1916)**;
Mrs. Ellen Lloyd **(1916 – 1922)**;
Thomas Henry Mason **(1922 – 1924)**;
Mrs. Ellen Lloyd **(1924 – 1927)**;
Henry Herbert Nuttall **(1927 – 1929)**;
Joseph Marriot **(1929)**;
Frank Victor Price **(1929 – 1934)**;
Mrs. Ellen Lloyd **(1934 – [1940])**

NOTES

[This pub was strictly in the parish of Sedgley, but is included here due to other pubs in the proximity coming under Bilston.]

Catchems Corner [1828], [1830], [1862]
Ettingshall Lane [1833]
Bilston Road [1861]
82, Parkfield Road [1871]
82, Mill Street [1881]
16, Spring Road [1891]
1, Manor Road [1901]
Spring Vale Road [1911]

Parkfield Road [1931]
38, Manor Road [1921]
Manor Road [1939]

OLD UNION MILL [1851]

Richard Baker was also a stock locksmith. [1833]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/2/1834 - Advert

“To Be Sold By Auction, by Mr. Aston, on Friday, the 21st day of February instant, at four o’clock in the afternoon, at the house of Mr. *Baker*, called the UNION MILL, Catchems Corner.
All those Two Cottages, with appurtenances.....”

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/3/1834

“Staffordshire Spring Assizes.....

Thomas Howard and Timothy Glover, two very decent-looking men, were charged with assaulting James Solomon Perceval, at the parish of Sedgley, in the night of the 9th of September, and stealing from his person one hat, his property.

Mr. Corbett was counsel for the prosecution, and called Perceval, who proved that he was attacked by the prisoners after leaving a public house, the UNION MILL, at Catchems Corner; they struck him, kicked him, and one of them bit part of his ear off! (The prosecutor produced the fragment in spirits in a phial.) Some assistance came up, and he found that he had lost his hat, and three shillings in money. On the following morning, he (prosecutor) went to a field where Howard was working, and said, ‘Well, what have you got for breakfast, ear?’ (A laugh.) Howard replied that he had not bit his ear off. Prosecutor’s hat was then on Howard’s head.

Mr. C. Phillips (Counsel for the prisoners) cross-examined the witness. Howard is a Lancashire man. Witness did not know that it was considered fair to kick and bite whilst fighting. Witness had other money with him, but only lost 3s. He had attempted to make this matter up with the prisoners on the day after it happened. When he saw Howard on the morning after the affray, he had a considerable bruise on his face.

The Judge: This case appears to be one of assault, rather than robbery. There does not appear to be any evidence to shew that the prosecutor was robbed, except as regards the hat.

Mr. C. Phillips: My Lord, my man lost a better hat! The exchange was a bad one for him. (A laugh.)

Mr. Corbett had himself doubted whether he should be able to prove a robbery. He would not press the case.

Verdict, not guilty.

The Judge informed the prisoners that they were still liable to be prosecuted for the assault; and their conduct had certainly been very disgraceful.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/6/1844

“The following inquests have been held before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner.....

On Tuesday, at the UNION MILL INN, Catchems Corner, Sedgley, on James Williams, a miner, who was killed by a fall from a skip. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Journal 21/3/1846

“Staffordshire Lent Assizes.....

John Dennis M’Carthy, a decent looking working man, who was stated to be a carpenter, and forty-eight years of age, was charged with cutting and wounding John Jones, with intent to do him grievous bodily injury. Mr. Yardley conducted the prosecution.

It appeared that on the evening of the 5th August last, Jones and a great number of his fellow miners were drinking at the MILL INN, Catchems Corner, Sedgley, when the prisoner came in. After sitting for a bit, he called Jones a thief and a rogue, and on Jones asking what he did that for, he took out a carpenter’s awl, and threatened to stab him if he approached. He then put up the awl, after which Jones went up to him and struck him, upon which a fight ensued. The prisoner had a clasp knife in his hand, and in the scuffle Jones was stabbed. They pulled off his clothes, when he fainted, and the blood ran off at the tips of his fingers. A constable was then sent for, and the prisoner was given into custody.

Mr. Hopkins, of Bilston, examined the wound, which was on the back part of the right shoulder, and was not at all of a dangerous character.

The prisoner, who was undefended, cross-examined the witnesses at considerable length, and with much ingenuity. He then addressed the Jury, stating that he was the only stranger in the room, amongst thirty drunken miners, that some words of a jocular nature passed, when Jones struck him; that he got up to make his escape, when four or five of the miners gathered round him, and a scuffle ensued; that he had a knife in his hand when the prosecutor and he fell against a screen, and it was then that the knife went into his shoulder. He was knocked down, severely injured, and then given in charge; he had been imprisoned for thirty-two weeks. The Jury returned a verdict of not guilty, and he was discharged.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/6/1846

“An inquest was held on Thursday last, at the UNION MILL, Catchems Corner, in the parish of Sedgley, on the body of Joseph Biggs, about nine years of age, who, on the previous Tuesday, was killed by a large quantity of clod falling upon him whilst he was at work in an ironstone pit in that neighbourhood. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/8/1848

“On Saturday last an inquest was held at the UNION MILL public house, Catchems Corner, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of Thomas Biggs, twenty-three years of age, who was at work in the hollows of a coal pit at the Parkfield Colliery, on the previous Wednesday week, when a large quantity of coal suddenly fell upon him from the roof. He was very much bruised and crushed on various parts of his body. After lingering until Thursday morning last, he expired from the injuries he had received. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/10/1849

“On Tuesday an inquest was held before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, at the sign of the UNION MILL, Catchems Corner, on the body of William Millington, a boy between eleven and twelve years old. The deceased was employed as a dan runner in a sandpit. On the previous Saturday his mother put him and his younger brother on a horse for the purpose of taking them to the pit. The horse, in going to the pit, suddenly fell, head over heels, and threw the deceased and his brother to the ground. The deceased was picked up in a state of insensibility by his father, and in a few hours afterwards died. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/5/1850 - Died

“April 25, in her 71st year, Mary, the beloved wife of Mr. *Edward Charles Baker*, of the UNION MILL INN, Ettingshall Lanes, near this town, deeply lamented by her family and friends.”

1851 Census

Spring Vale/Parkfield – UNION MILL INN

- [1] *Edward C. Baker* (64), widower, innkeeper, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Edward C. Baker* (30), son, commission agent, oil, born Sedgley;
- [3] *Isaiah R. Baker* (38), son, boot maker, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] *Catherine E. Baker* (25), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] *Anne Cope* (22), house servant, born Codnor Park, Derbyshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/1/1852

“At the Petty and Special Sessions on Monday last, being the day appointed for transferring victuallers’ licenses, the following changes took place.....

Edward Charles Baker, of the UNION MILL, Catchem, Sedgley, to *Benjamin Homer Baker*, of the same place, japanner.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 24/2/1858 - Advert

“Bilston District Banking Company. Persons of whom the Company or Partnership consist.....
Susannah Baker, wife of *Benjamin Homer Baker*, Ettingshall, victualler.”

1861 Census

Bilston Road

- [1] *Benjamin H. Baker* (47), licensed victualler, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Susannah Baker* (50), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *Susannah Baker* (11), daughter, scholar, born Wolverhampton:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/12/1861

“Staffordshire Winter Assizes.....

Daniel Kyte, 25, pump maker, and Josiah Jackson, 24, joiner, were indicted for uttering two forged notes, at Sedgley, on the 23rd of September. Mr. Hill prosecuted, and Mr. Kenealy appeared in defence.

Mr. Hill opened the case by stating the facts as deposed by the following witnesses.

Mr. *Baker*, UNION MILLS INN, Catchems Corner, proved that the two prisoners, with a third man, and John Wedge, called at his house, on the 23rd of September. A note (Macclesfield Bank) was given him by his servant, and he took the change into the bar, and offered it to Wedge, whom he knew, but Wedge pointed to Jackson. Witness gave Jackson the change, and Jackson wrote the name ‘Williams’ upon it. The note also bore the name of Wedge.

John Wedge, Catchems Corner, said he saw the two prisoners in the street on the afternoon of the 23rd of September, one of whom he knew personally, and they asked him to get change for a £5 note on a distant (Macclesfield) bank. They told him it was good, and he took it to the house of a grocer named Eadie, but Eadie refused to change it. Witness then went home, and the prisoners followed him, and Kyte asked him to go and have something to drink. He went with them to Mr. Tippers’s, the BULLS HEAD, and a third man, who now joined the prisoners, offered the note again, but Mr. Tippers refused to change it. They then went to Mr. *Baker*’s, the UNION MILLS public house, but they did not stay there many minutes. Witness and the two prisoners next went to a foot race, at Sedgley, and when they returned they went to the ROYAL OAK. While there, Jackson offered another note, but the landlord would not change it. The next place they visited was Pennington’s, the BRIDGE INN, going afterwards to Owen’s, the ROYAL OAK, again. On the way Jackson asked what sort of house Tippers’s was, and made inquiries about the ‘strong box.’ In consequence of other conversation witness asked what had become of the first note they showed him, and they told him they had ‘passed’ it at *Baker*’s. In the course of this conversation Jackson placed a second note in witness’s hands, and witness told him he should keep it till he ascertained that the first was a good one. When this was told to Kyte and the third man, Kyte threatened to kill him. Witness said that unless he killed him outright he should appear against him. Kyte, Jackson, and the other man then attacked witness, and he became insensible. When he recovered himself he found his money gone – about £30 or £40. They did not, however, take the note he had just received from Jackson. This note was subsequently given to the police.

Cross-examined by Mr. Kenealy: The robbery took place in the ROYAL OAK INN. They did not offer witness any money to change the note; they told him that if he wanted a sovereign out of it he could have it, but he took no notice of them. When the first note was presented at the BULLS HEAD INN it had witness’s name upon it; it had been written in order to assist him in passing it.

By the Judge: The third man joined the two prisoners after they had been to Tippers’s.

Thomas Pennington, Bridge Street, proved that early in the afternoon of the 23rd, the prisoner Jackson offered him what he represented to be a £5 note. He considered it to be a bad one, and he told Jackson he didn’t like the look of it. Wedge was with Jackson when this occurred, and they were afterwards joined by Kyte and another man.

Cross-examined by Mr. Kenealy: Wedge seemed as anxious to change the note as the other man; he said he wanted 10s out of it.

William Vickers, WHITE HART INN, Bilston Street, Wolverhampton, proved that on the morning of the 23rd September, the two prisoners and a third man called at his house. The third man showed several notes in a handkerchief, and the prisoners asked witness to change them. They told him that if he offered £12 for three of them, they thought the man would take it. He was a simple man, they said, and wanted to spend his money, and subsequently they told witness that this third man had got the notes from his ‘woman,’ who ‘took’ them from a farmer. He had no money in the house, and he gave them no change.

Superintendent M’Crea produced the two notes – the one passed to Mr. *Baker*, and the other retained by Wedge.

Detective-officer Stokes proved having apprehended the prisoners in Park Street, Birmingham. A third man, named Brown, was apprehended, but the Magistrates discharged him. The prisoners told him they were aware the police were after them, and they could have got away if they desired.

In defence Mr. Kenealy alleged that the two prisoners were the victims of the third man, who had succeeded in making his escape. He pointed to different parts of the evidence to support this view, and especially to that of the witness Vickers.

The Judge returned a verdict of guilty, and the prisoners were each sentenced to ten years’ penal servitude.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/9/1864

"Yesterday the magistrates sat in Special Sessions, for the consideration of the applications for the renewal of old and the granting of new licenses to victuallers.....

The whole of the applications for a renewal of old licenses were granted except those of.....

Samuel Lym, UNION MILL, Catcham, which were suspended until the adjourned licensing day.....

The following houses and their landlords had been complained against and fined during the year.....

B. H. Baker, UNION MILL, Ettingshall, Bilston."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 24/9/1864

"Bilston Adjourned Licensing Day.....

All the licensed victuallers whose licenses had been suspended a fortnight ago were yesterday renewed."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/7/1869

"Yesterday *Benjamin Baker*, of the UNION MILL INN, Parkfield, was fined 1s and costs for having allowed gaming in his house on the 18th June. On that day a man named Charles Carpenter went in the defendant's house and found several men in, playing with half-pence in some chalk marks on the table."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/8/1869

"The annual licensing meeting for the Bilston division took place yesterday, at the Police Court.....

The following is the list of the licensed victuallers who have been fined during the year.....

Allowing Gambling William [sic] *Baker*, UNION MILL, Ettingshall, 1s and costs."

1871 Census

82, Parkfield Road – UNION MILL INN

[1] *Benjamin H. Baker* (57), licensed victualler, born Sedgley;

[2] *Susannah Baker* (59), wife, born West Bromwich;

[3] *Mary A. Walters* (16), general servant, born Sedgley:

1881 Census

82, Mill Street – UNION INN

[1] *Benjamin Homer Baker* (67), widower, licensed victualler, born Sedgley;

[2] *Mary Whitehouse* (65), sister, widow, domestic housekeeper, born Sedgley;

[3] *Harriet Hale* (18), general servant, born Sedgley:

Benjamin Homer Baker died on 1st April 1885.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 9/4/1885 - Deaths

"On the 1st instant, at the UNION MILL INN, Ettingshall, *Benjamin Homer Baker*, aged 71. Respected by all who knew him."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 11/9/1885 - Advert

"For Sale, good brown Pony, 13 hands; quiet to ride or drive.
UNION MILL INN, Ettingshall."

FOR Sale, good brown Pony, 13 hands; quiet to ride or drive.—Union Mill Inn, Ettingshall.

Birmingham Daily Post 29/11/1890

"At Bilston Police Court, yesterday, *Edward Baker*, landlord of the ROLLING [sic] MILL INN, Ettingshall, was fined 20s and costs for fighting with *George Hodnett*, cowkeeper, of Ettingshall, who was also fined 10s and costs at this court."

1891 Census

16, Spring Road

[1] *Edward Baker* (28), licensed victualler, born Priestfield;

[2] *Sarah Baker* (65), mother, widow, born Shropshire:

1901 Census

1, Manor Road

- [1] *Frederick Mason* (40), licensed victualler, born Wednesfield;
- [2] *Janet Mason* (45), wife, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *Emily Swann* (24), step-daughter, hotel waitress, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] *Arthur Swann* (22), step-son, barman, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] *Alice Swann* (13), step-daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [6] *Jenny Downing* (15), step-daughter, born Oldbury;
- [7] *Norman T. Downing* (6), step-son, born Wolverhampton:

1911 Census

Spring Vale Road – UNION MILL INN

- [1] *Enoch Ward* (48), widower, licensed victualler, born Ettingshall;
- [2] *Lucretia Ward* (20), daughter, born Ettingshall;
- [3] *Elsie Ward* (19), daughter, born Ettingshall;
- [4] *May Ward* (17), daughter, born Ettingshall:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 30/12/1912

“The members of the Jack and the Beanstalk Pantomime Company, which had pleased the habitués of the Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, last week, and also the members of the Wild Australia Company, which had been engaged at the Empire Palace of Varieties, met with a rude shock just as they had left the borough on Sunday. They had ensconced themselves comfortably in corridor compartments of a special theatrical train which left the London and North-Western Station about noon. The four valuable bucking animals, which formed a feature of the performances by the Wild Australia Company were properly boxed, and formed part of the train, which, all told, consisted of about a dozen coaches.

A short stay was proposed to be made at Ettingshall Road to pick up the members of the Robinson Crusoe Pantomime Company which had been performing at Bilston during the week. The latter had taken their seats, and the guard, P. C. Cox, of Curzon Street, Birmingham, was on the platform shutting one or two of the doors. As he made his way to his van, preparatory to giving the signal to be off, a local train from Wolverhampton to Birmingham which had followed the special dashed into the latter and smashed the van which Cox was about to enter into atoms.....

The Wild Australia Company occupied the rear part of the train, and their members seemed to have suffered most. Miss Cleopatra, a snake charmer, had a gash over the right eye, and her sister, Miss Bonets, the champion rifle shot of Australia, received an injury to the side of the head. Both were attended to at the UNION MILL INN, directly opposite the station entrance One of the company’s musicians was the most seriously injured. He was hurled from one side of the compartment to the other, and received injuries to his head which stunned him for the time being. He was carried from the carriage on one of the cushions to the hostelry referred to, and was attended later in the day by Dr. A. J. Bulger, who informed our representative that the man had no bones broke, and that he was suffering from injury to the head and shock, but would no doubt be fit to travel that night.....”

[The horses were uninjured.]

1921 Census

38, Manor Road

- [1] *David Lloyd* (57), at home, born Wednesfield;
- [2] *Ellen Lloyd* (47), publican, born Bilston;
- [3] *Clara Smith* (26), domestic servant, born Wednesfield;
- [4] *Fred Briscoe* (20), nephew, metal turner, born Lanesfield:

South Staffordshire Times 14/7/1923

“*Thomas Mason*, licensee of the UNION MILL INN, Ettingshall, was summoned for using a room for dancing without having a license; and Robert Henry Horton, Hughes Street, and Alfred Ernest Bugg, of Wanderers Avenue, Wolverhampton, were charged with aiding and abetting. Mr. Stewart appeared for *Mason*.

PC Donnellan said that acting on instructions he visited *Mason*’s house on several occasions in June, and there heard music and dancing. On his first visit he asked *Mason* if he had a license, and he said he had not. Witness told *Mason* that he had better communicate with his firm about it. The dancing continued on various dates, but there had been no application for a license. Witness also asked Horton if he had a license, and he said he had not, but that he and

Bugg had rented the room at 10s per week, and charged people 1s each to go into the room. Cross-examined by Mr. Stewart, witness said *Mason* had always conducted the house itself in a very satisfactory way.

PS Maddox corroborated the other officer's evidence.

Mason, giving evidence on his own behalf, said he had been at the house nearly two years. He was under the impression that it was not necessary for him to have a license for dancing or he would have taken one out. In answer to Supt. Higgs, *Mason* admitted that he made a great mistake in not consulting his firm when advised to do so by PC Donnellan.

Horton and Bugg said they simply rented the room from *Mason*, and thought that all the regulations had been complied with.

Mr. Stewart said this was a case of much importance to all licensees in the district, because of the misunderstanding which appeared to exist with regard to music and dancing licenses. The proceedings had been taken under a very old Act, the provisions of which could be either adopted or ignored in respective petty sessional divisions. These provisions had been adopted so far as Bilston and Coseley were concerned, but had not been adopted at Sedgley. Licensees at Sedgley could keep rooms open for music and dancing all night long without infringing the regulations. If *Mason's* house had been in Sedgley about 150 yards from where it was, he could not have had this charge made against him.

The Chairman said that if *Mason* had taken the advice of the constable in the first instance nothing more might have been heard in the matter, but he seemed to have made no inquiries, and took the risk. He would be fined 10s and costs. The other defendants would each have to pay 5s 6d costs."

Ellen Lloyd = Helen Lloyd

South Staffordshire Times 8/3/1924

"The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Bilston Division were held yesterday.....

Mr. Harris (Messrs. Tildesley and Harris) applied on behalf of *Helen Lloyd* for a music and dancing license for the UNION MILL INN, Ettingshall. The room it was proposed to use, he said, was the club room. The applicant had several large clubs meeting at the house, and had had many applications for the facilities she was now asking for. It was felt that it would be a distinct advantage to the people coming to the house if the license was granted.

The applicant stated that the premises were used for supper, smoking concerts, and presentations.

In answer to Supt. Higgs she said the room was on the first storey. There was one staircase only. This was of wood and had two turnings. She thought that in case of panic the staircase would be a safe exit.

Mr. Myatt, on behalf of the owners of the house, said he was willing to provide an emergency exit whenever Supt. Higgs wished it. The house was quite a modern one, and on the point of whether the room was of sufficient strength, he expressed willingness to have the room examined by an experienced architect who should send the magistrates a certificate.

The Justices granted the application conditional upon a second exit being provided and the receipt of an architect's certificate stating that the building was perfectly safe for the purposes required."

Derby Daily Telegraph 27/1/1927

"In the divorce Court, today, a decree nisi was granted Mrs. *Ellen Lloyd*, of the UNION MILL INN, Bilston, on the ground of the adultery of her husband, David *Lloyd*, of Weston Underwood, Derby, with Gladys Weet, in January, 1926."

Henry Herbert Nuttall – see also BIRD IN HAND, High Street, DOG AND PARTRIDGE, Broad Street, SEVEN STARS, High Street, and HEN AND CHICKENS, George Street.

1939 Register

Manor Road – UNION MILL INN

[1] *Ellen Lloyd*, date of birth 7/11/1873, manageress, widowed;

[2] Dorothy M. (Macquin) King, dob 31/1/1912, bar general, single:

[1982]

Closed [1987]

Demolished

VICTORIA

33, Wesley Street, (New Street), (Batmans Hill), Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

Philemon Roberts
Elizabeth (Roberts) Fellows
Arthur Charles Kerrison
Peck and Kerrison [1896]
Bent's Brewery Co. Ltd. [1904], [1908]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. [1921]

LICENSEES

John Bumford [1861] – **1869**);
Philemon Roberts (**1869 – 1873**);
Elizabeth Roberts (**1873 – 1875**);
William Roberts [1874]
Henry Fellows (**1875 – 1877**);
Charles Clark (**1877 – 1878**);
Edward Nicklin (**1878 – 1879**);
Samuel Busby (**1879 – 1885**);
William Henry Jennings (**1885**);
Margaret Jackson Busby (**1885**);
Arthur Charles Kerrison (**1885 – 1891**);
James Robins (**1891 – 1898**);
Tom Newbold (**1898**);
James Robins (**1898 – 1899**);
Henry Hewitt (**1899 – 1900**);
Henry Morriss (**1900 – 1906**);
John Bullus Beesley (**1906 – 1907**);
William Herbert Chidley (**1907**);
Thomas Kelly (**1907 – 1910**);
Benjamin Thomas Waterhouse (**1910 – 1912**);
Samuel James Plimmer (**1912 – 1913**);
Alfred Davies (**1913 – 1915**);
John Baker (**1915 – 1917**);
William Joseph O'Brien (**1917 – 1920**);
Mrs. Louisa O'Brien (**1920 – 1932**);
Charles Thomas Laight (**1932 – 1934**);
Mary Ann Laight (**1934 – 1935**);
Harold Hinton (**1935 – 1938**);
Archibald Claude Hartill (**1938 – [1940]**)
William Tuft [] – **1953**);
Hinton (**1953 – []**)
Mrs. Jessie Smith (**1962 – 1970**)



1928 - Louisa O'Brien

NOTES

[This pub was strictly in Sedgley, but is included here due to it being situated at Bradley.]

It was known locally as "Tufty's" or "The Stores"

John Bumford = John Bamford

1861 Census

Wesley Street – VICTORIA INN

- [1] *John Bumford* (36), beer seller, born Darlaston;
- [2] Mary A. Bumford (38), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] Catharine Bumford (9), daughter, scholar, born Scotland;
- [4] Mary A. Bumford (7), daughter, scholar, born Scotland;
- [5] James N. Bumford (5), son, scholar, born Scotland;
- [6] Elizabeth Bumford (3), daughter, scholar, born Scotland;
- [7] Benjamin Bumford (2 months), son, born Sedgley;
- [8] Elizabeth Morris (21), general servant, born Sedgley:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/9/1861

"Annual meeting for the renewal and granting of spirit licenses.....

Mr. T. M. Whitehouse applied for a license on behalf of *John Bumford* for a license to the VICTORIA TAVERN, Bradley. The application was opposed by Mr. Waterhouse, and behalf of the landlord of the GREYHOUND INN Granted. It was then shown by Mr. Waterhouse that the notice of Mr. *Bumford*'s application had not been posted on the doors of Sedgley parish church, as required by the Act. This, of course, set aside the license."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/9/1862

"Bilston Annual Licensing Meeting was held in the Police Court on Friday last.....

Mr. Whitehouse applied on behalf of *John Bumford* for a license with respect to the VICTORIA TAVERN, Bradley. The application was unopposed, and granted."

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/5/1863

"*John Bumford*, VICTORIA INN, Bradley, Bilston, for marble playing, was fined 10s and costs."

Birmingham Daily Post 7/11/1863

"*John Bumford*, the landlord of the VICTORIA INN, New Street, Bradley, was charged with having allowed card-playing in his house. Two policemen stated that shortly after one o'clock on Saturday morning last they found the landlord and four men playing at cards in the smoke room. Mr. Sheldon, for the defence, called several witnesses to prove that although the policemen heard a conversation about cards yet that no game was actually played. The Bench dismissed the case."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/7/1864

"Yesterday, at Wolverhampton Police Court, before Mr. I. Spooner, a powerful-looking man, named *John Bumford*, a publican, of Batemans Hill, Sedgley, was charged with violently assaulting his wife, Mary Ann Bumford. Mr. Turner prosecuted and Mr. Langman defended.

The complainant, when about to be sworn, begged that the prisoner might be allowed to have his liberty and be forgiven.

Mr. Spooner said he would think about that when he had heard the evidence.

The complainant did not seem disposed to give any evidence against the prisoner, and when Mr. Turner put questions to her, she, instead of answering them, maintained that nearly every couple had quarrels at times. On Monday morning she used abusive language to her husband, and they had a quarrel, but the prisoner only hit her on the head with his fist, and if they would only forgive him that time she would prosecute him to the utmost if he did the same again.

Mr. Spooner said that unless she gave evidence she would have to go to prison, and it was for him to say whether the prisoner was to be forgiven or not. Mr. Spooner, who knew something of the case on the day previous at Bilston, then put some questions to the complainant, from which it was gathered that on Monday morning she went to the Bilston station with her head plaistered up, and asked for protection. She said she had two wounds on her head and one on her hand, and that these were caused by the knuckles of the prisoner's fist.

Police-sergeant Goodall stated that on Monday morning about half-past nine the complainant came to the station with her head plaistered up, and asked for protection and advice. Blood was flowing down her face. There were two wounds on her head, and one on her hand. He also stated that when he went and served the summons personally at the prisoner's house he had only got a few yards from the door when he heard the complainant calling him back again. He went back and found the prisoner going towards the complainant; some one went between them to separate them, and the prisoner said he would put the complainant out of the house. The officer was obliged to interfere to keep the peace.

Mr. Spooner said a public complaint was made to him on Tuesday, and he instantly issued a warrant for the apprehension of the prisoner. One could hardly imagine the brutal conduct of which the prisoner was alleged to have been guilty. He should therefore remand the prisoner for a week for inquiries to be made into his past conduct.

On Mr. Langman applying for bail to be allowed, Mr. Spooner said he would not allow it in that case under any circumstances; the prisoner had been guilty of the most brutal and unmanly conduct."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/8/1864

"At Wolverhampton Police Court, yesterday, before Stipendiary Magistrate, Mr. Isaac Spooner, the man *John Bumford*, publican, of Batemans Hill, Sedgley, was brought up on remand, charged with violently assaulting his wife Mary Ann, on the morning of the 25th of July.....

No additional evidence was taken yesterday, and Mr. Spooner, in addressing the prisoner said, 'You have been convicted upon very clear evidence before me, reluctant although your wife was in giving her evidence, of cruelly beating her – beating her so badly that when she appeared at the Police Office her wounds were visible then, clearly showing the violence of the assault. A brutal man like that must look for no mercy. The case has no palliation. I will consider your wife's prayer for you, but I will inflict such a punishment upon you that I hope will deter you and all like you from assaulting your wives. The sentence of this Court is that you be imprisoned in the gaol of this county for three months with hard labour, and further, that you find two good sureties in £20 each to keep the peace for six months after the expiration of the three months hard labour.' The prisoner was then removed from the Court."

Birmingham Daily Post 10/9/1864 - Died

"On the 7th inst, suddenly, of small pox, aged 42 years, Mary Ann, wife of Mr. *John Bumford*, of the VICTORIA INN, New Street, Bradley, and only daughter of Mr. Edward Wootton; deeply lamented."

[Edward Wootton – see GEORGE AND DRAGON, Hall Green Street.]

Birmingham Daily Post 23/11/1864

"On Monday last Robert Rigby, aged sixty-six, living in Wesley Street, Bradley, was seen by a woman named Ann Timmins to fall off a bridge into the Birmingham Canal, at the Barbers Field Colliery. She ran for assistance, which, however, was not procured until too late, the man having been in the water nearly an hour. An inquest will be held today."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 25/11/1864

"On Wednesday evening last, an inquest was held at the VICTORIA INN, Bradley, before Mr. W. H. Phillips, deputy coroner, on the body of a man named Robert Rigby, aged sixty-six, who met his death by drowning, on Monday last, under the circumstances detailed in Wednesday's *Post*. It was shown that the bridge from which the deceased fell was built of timber and was private property. The deceased was rather the worse for drink, and in passing over he slipped and fell into the water, from the end of the bridge, where the hand-rail stopped slightly short of the bank. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 22/4/1865

"J. Myatt of Bradley will shoot *J. Bumford* of the VICTORIA INN, Bottmans Hill, Bradley, at 9 sparrows each, with 1½oz of shot, 60 yards boundary, from £5 to £10 a side, at the SQUIRREL INN, Bradley. Money ready any night this week."

John Bumford (41) married Elizabeth Tennant (40) (father John Hall) in the 2nd quarter of 1866.

Birmingham Daily Post 23/7/1866 - Advert

“To be Let, in Wesley Street, Bradley, near Bilston, a House and Shop, suitable for a Grocer, Pawnbroker, or Corn Dealer.

For further particulars, apply to Mr. *John Bumford*, VICTORIA INN, Wesley Street, Bradley, near Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 24/6/1868

“Yesterday, at Bilston Police Court, before I. Spooner, Esq, *John Bumford*, licensed victualler, Westley Street, was summoned on a charge of assaulting his wife. Mr. Fellows appeared on behalf of the complainant.

From the evidence given it appeared that the defendant has been twice married, and was some years ago committed to prison for three months for assaulting his first wife. The complainant had been married to him about two years, and she was in the habit of keeping a small shop in the same street. At about twelve o'clock on the night of Saturday, the 13th inst, she returned home, after closing the shop at about twelve o'clock, and the defendant, after accusing her of behaving coldly towards some relatives of his, took up a quart pot, and, holding it over her head, threatened to split her skull with it. He struck her with his fist, and gave her several severe kicks in the thigh, and, according to the woman's statement, he ill-used her in a most brutal manner.

A servant girl corroborated her mistress's evidence in every particular.

In reply to the charge, the defendant denied having been so violent as described, and stated that she only wished the defendant to be bound over in sureties to keep the peace towards her; but Mr. Spooner, in reply, said it was impossible for him to comply with that request. The defendant had been already sentenced to three months imprisonment for assaulting a former wife, and he should have thought that punishment would have prevented him from assaulting another. Had it not been for the recommendation of his wife he should most certainly have sentenced him to six months imprisonment, without the option of a fine; but, in consequence of what she had said, he should not do so. These cases of assaulting women were, he was sorry to say, too frequent in this neighbourhood; but he had hoped that a check had been put to them. They seemed, however, to be showing up again now, and if he was to be content with simply carrying out the suggestion of the complainant he should be unfit to sit as a magistrate upon the bench. He should impose a fine of £10 and costs, or four months imprisonment, and also order the defendant to find two sureties in £25 each to keep the peace towards his wife for twelve months. His was a case in which no possible mercy could be shown, and the only difficulty was for him (Mr. Spooner) to repress his indignation.

The defendant, who was half intoxicated, paid the money, and also found the necessary sureties.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/6/1868

“*John Bumford*, publican, of Wesley Street, Bradley, was fined £10 and costs for assaulting his wife. Defendant had previously served three months for assaulting a former wife (deceased).”

John Bumford – see also BRITISH OAK, Wesley Street.

Philemon Roberts = *Phileman Roberts*

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 16/10/1869 - Advert

“Old-Licensed Freehold Public House, called the VICTORIA INN, Wesley Street, Bradley.

Messrs. Walker and H. J. Lloyd will Sell by Auction, on Thursday, the 28th of October inst, upon the Premises, at Five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions of Sale.

All that capital and well-built Public House, called the VICTORIA INN, fronting Wesley Street, Bradley, about one mile from Coseley, now in the occupation of Mr. *Philemon Roberts*, and formerly by Mr. *Bamford*.

The House contains large Retail Liquor Shop, Smoke Room, Sitting Room, and large Kitchen, Club Room, 32¼ feet by 16¼ feet; four Bed Rooms, with extensive Cellars under the whole. A wide Gateway leads to the Yard at the back, which contains a large Brewhouse, with Malt Room over; Stable, Gighouse, Piggeries, and Appurtenances; the whole containing, with the site of the Building, 475 square yards of land.

Further information may be had at the Offices of Messrs. Rutter, Neve, and Rutter, Darlington Street; or of the Auctioneers, Red Lion Street, Wolverhampton.”

1871 Census

33, Wesley Street

- [1] *Philemon Roberts* (36), victualler and corn dealer, born Tipton;
- [2] *Elizabeth Roberts* (37), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Amelia Roberts* (11), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Elizabeth Roberts* (6), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Catharine Roberts* (4), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Ellin Roberts* (1), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [7] *Elizabeth Lane* (19), general servant, born Sedgley;
- [8] *John Watkiss* (20), wagoner, born Bobbington;

Philemon Roberts died on 12th May 1873.

Birmingham Daily Post 13/6/1874

"Yesterday afternoon, and inquest was held at the VICTORIA INN, Bradley, on the body of a newly-born male child, that had been found, at half-past five on the previous afternoon, floating in the canal, wrapped in flannel and paper. Women living near to the canal suspected that the mother was a young woman who had just passed along the waterside, and they followed and led her back to the VICTORIA INN, whither the child had been carried. She proved to be Maria Hodey, twenty-five years of age, and up to Wednesday night or Thursday morning was a servant at the Bulls Head Inn, Handsworth. The child, she said, was hers, and it had been born just before at the Soho Railway Station. This being so, she was at once placed under proper care.

During the inquest, William G. Watmore, the furnaceman who found the body in the water, said that when he put his hand under the head to give the body to a woman he observed that the mouth opened twice. This, the Coroner remarked, might have arisen from the way in which the body was moved.

Mr. S. G. Gilbert, surgeon, who has charge of the mother, gave medical testimony confirmatory of her statement as to the maternity of the child; and the inquest was adjourned till Tuesday next, for a post mortem examination to demonstrate the real cause of death."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 17/6/1874

"Yesterday the inquest was concluded before Mr. Phillips, at Bradley, on the body of a newly-born male child, found on the 11th inst in the canal there under circumstances already reported.

Mrs. Emma Perks, the landlady of the Bulls Head Inn, Handsworth, deposed that Maria Hadey, the mother of the child, had been servant at her house four years, and had so conducted herself that she could 'give her a character to go the world over.' On the morning of the 11th inst Hady asked leave to go out two hours, as she had received a letter from her mother, who lived at Wednesbury. The permission was granted, and the girl left.

The testimony of George H. Macelwin, booking clerk at the Soho Station, and of Police-constable Parsons, who arrested Hadey, went to confirm her statement as to her having travelled from the Soho station, and as to the birth having taken place there.

Mr. S. G. Gilbert, surgeon, who made the post mortem examination, deposed that the child died from suffocation, occasioned most likely during self-delivery. The child was not alive when it was put into the canal.

The jury found that the deceased was the child of Maria Hadley, and that it had been found in the canal; that it had only partially respired, and had died from suffocation; but whether such resulted at the birth or otherwise the jury could not say.

The Coroner expressed his concurrence with the verdict, and said that he was glad that the enquiry had had such a termination."

Midland Examiner 27/2/1875

"*Elizabeth Roberts*, VICTORIA INN, Bradley, was summoned for permitting gaming in her house on the 30th January.

Police-constable Newman stated on the night in question about 9.15, he entered the house of the defendant, and in one of the rooms saw a number of men playing at bagatelle. One man won 3d which was put on the table, and a pint of ale was called for. The waitress came in and asked witness to go into the bar. He refused, and the lights were then put out in the room, the men going to the bar for their ale.

No other witness was called, and Mr. Barrow, who appeared for the defendant, said he had no remark to make upon the evidence.

Mr. Spooner, said that though the evidence was strong, the case was not proved. The affair would, however, be remembered against the defendant if she again came before the Court.

Mr. Barrow said that had the case had been fully heard, he could have proved that the defendant was not guilty of an offence, but that she did not know Newman was a constable, he being in plain clothes when he visited her house, and that the gas was simply put out because it was suspected that the men in the bagatelle-room were gambling.

Mr. Spooner said that if a charge of the kind was brought against the defendant again, he should inflict the full penalty, and he advised her to take warning."

Elizabeth Roberts married *Henry Fellows* in the 2nd quarter of 1875.

Dudley Herald 23/12/1876 - Advert

"To Liquor Merchants, Brewers and Others.

Important Sale of Valuable Old-Licensed Inn, at Wesley Street, Bradley, in the Parish of Sedgley, known by the Sign of the VICTORIA INN.

Messrs. J. Morrell and Son have been favoured with instructions from the Trustees under the Will of the late Mr. *Philemon Roberts*, to Offer for Sale by Auction, upon the Premises, on Friday, the 12th day of January, 1877, at Six o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions to be then read.

All that substantial erected and well-known Old-Licensed Inn, called the VICTORIA INN, Wesley Street, Bradley, near Bilston, with large and well-arranged Outbuildings thereto, and having a frontage of 33½ feet. The Premises consist of Liquor Shop, 24 feet by 16 feet 6 inches, Bar Parlour, Smoke Room, commodious Kitchen, large Tap Room, side entrance to a lofty and spacious Hall, Staircase, and Landing, Four Bedrooms, Club Room, 32 feet 6 inches by 16 feet 3 inches, Gateway entrance, with folding doors, leading to a large open yard, large Shed, Three-stall Stable, with two large Hay Lofts over, well-arranged Brewhouse, Malt Room, Coal Shed, Five excellent Cellars, and other Out-offices, the whole forming a very compact Property and situated in a densely populated neighbourhood, and in close proximity to ironworks and collieries.

The whole of the Premises are supplied with Hard and Soft Water.

The party purchasing would be required to take to the Public House Fixtures and Trade Utensils at a valuation.

To any person desirous of embarking in the public business this is a rare opportunity, as an extensive in and out-door trade may be done.

The land, including the site of the buildings, contains 470 square yards or thereabouts.

For further particulars apply to Mr. J. Stokes, Solicitor, Dudley; or the Auctioneers, Swan Bank, Bilston."

Dudley Herald 27/1/1877 - Notice

"Notice is hereby given that all creditors and other persons having any claims or demands upon or against the estate of *Elizabeth Fellows*, late of the VICTORIA INN, Bradley, near Bilston deceased, who died on the 17th day of November 1876, and of whose personal estate Letters of Administration have been granted to *Henry Fellows* of Bradley....."

Henry Fellows = Henry Fellowes

Midland Counties Evening Express 7/1/1878 - Advert

"General servant wanted.

Apply VICTORIA INN, Wesley Street, Bradley, near Bilston."

1881 Census

33, Wesley Street

[1] *Samuel Busby* (41), licensed victualler, born Bilston'

[2] *Margaret Busby* (40), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Lucy A. Busby* (8), daughter born Bilston;

[4] *Eleanor J. Busby* (4), daughter born Sedgley;

[5] *Samuel J. Busby* (2), son, born Sedgley;

[6] *Ann Maxfield* (87), relation, widow, born Manchester;

[7] *Hannah Booth* (13), domestic servant, born Sedgley:

Darlaston Weekly Times 24/5/1884

“About Wednesday afternoon, the dead body of Samuel Percy Greensill, of 21, Hall Street, Bradley, was discovered in a cistern, in the floor of a brewhouse at the back of the VICTORIA INN, Wesley Street. The infant, who was two years of age, went on a visit to his grand-mother in the same street, on Tuesday afternoon, and afterwards was seen playing about the premises of the VICTORIA INN. On Tuesday night, the child did not return home, and search was made for it. On Wednesday morning, a boatman, noticing that the cover was removed from the cistern, a further search was made with the result above stated. An inquest will be held today.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 31/5/1884

“On Saturday afternoon, an enquiry was opened before Mr. W. H. Phillips, district coroner, at the ROYAL OAK INN, Bradley, concerning the death of Samuel Percy Greensill, who was found dead in a cistern at the VICTORIA INN, on the previous Wednesday.

Mary Greensill, wife of Author William Greensill, furnaceman, of 21, Hall Street, Bradley, deposed that she was the mother of the deceased, who was two years ten months old. She sent him, along with another little boy, to his grand-mother's, on Wednesday morning, and did not see him alive again.

Samuel Busby, manager of the VICTORIA INN, said he knew the deceased, and saw him in the yard of the VICTORIA INN, along with several other children, at three minutes to one. At one o'clock he called his own children in to dinner, and the deceased, along with two or three children, went up the yard. On Tuesday morning, the lid of the cistern, which consisted of a flag, was off. He put it on himself shortly after two o'clock.

Harriet Greensill said she was the grand-mother of the deceased. On Tuesday, at half-past one, she saw the child playing in the street with other children. He had been at her house during the morning, and when he was wanted to go to school in the afternoon, he could not be found.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned, the coroner adding a recommendation that the cistern should be covered.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 17/1/1885

“On Tuesday, an inquest was held at the VICTORIA INN, Bradley, by Mr. W. H. Phillips, as to the cause of death of a child, seven weeks old, the son of an ironworker named William Cooper. From the evidence of the mother it appeared that the child had died during a fit on Sunday morning. After hearing the evidence of a neighbour, who had been called in at the time of the child's illness. Verdict, Death from Natural Causes.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 3/2/1885

“The millmen in the employ of the Albion Iron Company, Bradley, the other evening partook of a substantial dinner served by Mr. and Mrs. *Busby*, at the VICTORIA INN. On the withdrawal of the cloth the manger (Mr. Bunch) was voted to the chair, and Mr. Hurp to the vice-chair. Mr. Bunch referred to the depressed state of trade in the district, and expressed his willingness to give a subscription towards the relief of the unemployed workmen and their families. Songs, &c, were given by several members of the company, and the proceedings were of a most pleasant character throughout.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 21/2/1885 - Deaths

“On the 15th instant, at Wesley Street, Bradley, *Samuel Busby*, in his 45th year.”

Arthur Charles Kerrison – see also PIPE HALL.

Birmingham Mail 8/12/1888

“A coroner's jury at Bradley yesterday returned a verdict of Manslaughter against Thomas Tennant, shearer, Wesley Street, Bradley, who is alleged to have fatally assaulted his step-father, *John Bumford*....”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 8/12/1888

“Yesterday, at the VICTORIA INN, Wesley Street, Bradley, Mr. W. H. Phillips (district coroner) held an adjourned enquiry into the circumstances attending the death of *John Bumford* (60), late of Wesley Street, Bradley. Mr. R. Tildesley represented the deceased's stepson.

Mr. John Martin, surgeon, Hall Street, detailed the result of a post mortem examination which he had made of the body. Death, he found, was the result of inflammation of the lungs, consequent of the fracture of the fifth rib, which had penetrated the lung. All the internal organs were congested. In answer to the Coroner, he said that there was a

large bruise on the side. In reply to Mr. Tildesley, witness said that he did not think it probable, although it was possible, that these injuries were occasioned by a fall downstairs. All the other injuries might have been so caused. It would have needed a considerable amount of violence to produce the fracture.

George Fieldhouse, works manger, living in the next house to that occupied by the deceased, said that somewhat after nine on the evening of Sunday, the 25th ult, he heard the noise of a scuffle in *Bumford's* back kitchen, and the voices of men and a woman. Witness went outside, and heard a voice, like that of *Bumford*, say, 'Don't kick me any more Tom.' A woman screamed out, 'Loose the brush, and he will leave you alone.' In cross-examination, witness said that he heard no sound on the stairs.

Ann Robins, landlady of the VICTORIA INN, that when *Bumford* came to their house on the evening of November 25, Tennant, who was rather the worse for beer, walked out. The two men did not in her hearing exchange words. John Bumford, ironworker, son of the deceased, said that on returning home on the 25th ult he found his father ill in bed, and he went for a doctor. He had never before known Tennant assault the deceased, nor had he heard him threaten him. A few weeks ago the Tennants gave his father £5 out of some money recieved for some property. Mr. Tildesley stated that this witness had been influenced by relatives to induce him to give false evidence. The Coroner replied that the matter was one for the police.

Inspector Harrison said that the police had no more evidence to offer, and he did not think that the further adjournment of the enquiry would produce any further testimony. He thought some people were holding back still.

Mr. Tildesley called Joseph Tennant, another step-son of the deceased. He deposed that he saw *Bumford* on the nigh referred to. Deceased was lying at the foot of the stairs, and in answer to witness's enquiry said that he had fallen down them.

A verdict of Manslaughter against Thomas Tennant was returned.

At the Bilston Police Court, yesterday, Thomas Tennant, shearer, of Wesley Street, was charged, on remand, with unlawfully and maliciously doing grievous bodily harm to his step-father, *John Bumford* (65).

Inspector Harrison pointed out that the prosecutor had died since the date of the previous remand, and asked that the case might be further adjourned. Mr. R. Tildesley said he did not oppose the application, and prisoner was remanded until today."

Birmingham Daily Post 20/12/1888

"Staffordshire Winter Assizes.....

Thomas Tennant (33), shearer, was indicted for the manslaughter of *John Bumford*, at Bradley, near Bilston, on November 25. Mr. Boddam prosecuted, and Mr. Plumptre defended.

According to the learned counsel's opening it appeared that deceased made a statement in which he attributed his injuries to falling downstairs. His Lordship pointed out that the medical testimony was not such as to negative that statement, and the jury could not be expected to convict if there was a reasonable probability that the old man met with his death otherwise than at the prisoner's hands. He therefore directed the jury to acquit the prisoner, which was done, and he was discharged."

1891 Census

33, Wesley Street

[1] James Robins (54), coal miner, born Walsall;

[2] Ann Robins (56), wife, born Sedgley;

[3] Anne Robins (26), daughter, born Wolverhampton;

[4] Lizzie Dyer (18), servant, born Bilston;

[5] Violet Lees (5), grand-daughter, born Willenhall:

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/10/1897

"James Tennant, ironworker, Bradley, was charged with cruelty to a parrot. Mr. Turton (Wolverhampton) prosecuted on behalf of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and Mr. Tildesley was for the defence. The accused, whilst drinking in the VICTORIA INN, Bradley, took a red-hot poker from the fire and applied it to the breast and legs of a green parrot, which was in the room in a cage, remarking that he would make the bird shift and talk. Some of the feathers were burnt off and the flesh blistered, and other feathers were singed. The Stipendiary said it was a deliberately cruel act, for which there was no excuse. The defendant would be sent to prison for one month."

Dudley Herald 21/5/1898

“The adjourned inquiry on Harriet Nicholls, a shopkeeper, of Wesley Street, Bilston, who expired very suddenly on Friday morning last, was resumed at the VICTORIA INN, Wesley Street, Bradley, on Thursday last. A verdict of death from Heart Disease was returned.”

Henry Morriss = Henry Morris

1901 Census

33, Wesley Street

[1] *Henry Morriss* (34), publican, manager, born Stourbridge;

[2] *Emily Morriss* (35), wife, born Wolverhampton;

[3] *Dorothy Morriss* (7), daughter, born Wolverhampton;

[4] *Frederick H. Morriss* (5), son, born Wolverhampton;

[5] *William T. Morriss* (3), son, born Wolverhampton;

[6] *Samuel Morriss* (4 months), son, born Sedgley:

Wimbledon News 24/1/1903

“A shocking accident occurred on Tuesday night at the well-known sheet-iron works of Messrs. Tupper and Sons, Batmans Hill, Bilston. While work was in full swing one of the boilers, which was being used for the first time, exploded, and the broken metal was driven with tremendous force in all directions, while boiling water was showered on all who were near. Two men were killed almost instantaneously, and eleven others were seriously injured, several of them so badly that they are not expected to survive. They are all in the Wolverhampton Infirmary. At the time of the accident the night men only were working, and four mills only were in operation. This was fortunate, for had the full plant been working the havoc would have been much greater. Much damage was caused by the explosion to surrounding property.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 20/2/1903

“Yesterday, at the VICTORIA INN, Bradley, Mr. T. A. Stokes held an adjourned inquest respecting the death of James Warren (41), mill foreman, Wesley Street, Bradley, and Henry Southall (39), engine driver, Stoke Street, Daisy Bank, which occurred at Batmans Hill Works. No evidence was taken, and the inquiry was formally adjourned till March 4.”

AND

Eastern Daily Press 5/3/1903

“The inquest on two of the four men killed in the boiler explosion at Messrs. Tupper and Company’s iron and steel works, Bilston, on January 20th, was concluded yesterday. In the evidence it was stated that Mr. Francis Hill, inspector of the Scottish Boiler Insurance Company, had passed the boiler as fit for work, but upon being started it exploded. The force of the explosion blew down a chimney stack, killing two men, whose deaths were being investigated. The Board of Trade Inspector said the tube of the boiler was practically worn out, and that this was the cause of the explosion. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned, the Coroner censuring Hill, who, he said, had been guilty of gross, but not criminal, negligence.”

John Bullus Beesley – see also BARREL, Wolverhampton Street, Walsall.

1911 Census

33, Wesley Street – VICTORIA INN

[1] *Benjamin T. Waterhouse* (34), bricklayer, ironworks, born Langley;

[2] *Florence A. Waterhouse* (31), wife, married 10 years, born Rounds Green, Worcestershire;

[3] *Mary Jane Waterhouse* (9), daughter, born Rounds Green, Worcestershire;

[4] *Ethel F. Waterhouse* (7), daughter, born Rounds Green, Worcestershire;

[5] *Beatrice L. Waterhouse* (1), daughter, born Bradley:

William Joseph O'Brien died in the 2nd quarter of 1920.

1921 Census

33, Wesley Street

- [1] Louisa O'Brien (58), widow, manageress, Banks's Brewery, born Bradley;
- [2] George Whitehouse (23), boarder, iron worker, out of work, born Bradley;
- [3] Selina Whitehouse (23), boarder, hand press worker, out of work, born Bradley;
- [4] Jack Lowe (11), adopted son, school, birthplace not known:

The Stage 24/5/1923 - Advert

"Wanted for Revue, Lively Soub., Juv. Lead, Deep Contralto, Char. Baritone, Chorus Ladies and Dancers, not under 5ft 6in. Equitable sharing terms. Letters only.

VICTORIA INN, Wesley Street, Bradley, Bilston."

South Staffordshire Times 2/8/1924

"The first annual outing in connection with the Social Club held at the STORES INN, Bradley (Mrs. O'Brien), took place on Saturday afternoon, and was a great success. The party was conveyed by char-a-banc to Bridgnorth. Although the weather was unpropitious at the start, it cleared up beautifully during the latter part of the day. After a pleasant ride, a stop was made at Trysull, where an alfresco lunch was partaken of. The destination was reached at 4.30, and a substantial tea was enjoyed at the George Hotel. At the conclusion of the repast, Mr. V. Tunnicliffe proposed, and Mr. H. Morris seconded, a vote of thanks to Mr. Griffiths (proprietor), for his commendable catering, alluding felicitously to the satisfaction he had given. The host suitably responded, and thanked them for their kind expressions. The visitors were subsequently photographed outside the hotel. A convivial hour was spent, songs being creditably contributed by Messrs. W. Spittle, T. Thompson, R. Piper, and H. Taylor, whose items received quite an ovation. Mr. J. Downs discharged efficiently the dual duties of soloist and accompanist. The top town received a visit, and a pleasant stroll was taken round the river. After extracting as much pleasure as possible during their limited stay, a start was made for home, which was reached at 9.30, where harmony was again indulged in by members of the Social. The outing, which was of a typical Black Country character was a signal success from every standpoint."

Black Country Bugle (June 1988)

".....Nevertheless regulars at the STORES (the VICTORIA INN) during the 1920s were quite used to seeing a duck waddling between the bar stools This feathered friend was a pet of 'Letty' Gittings who lived at the pub Her son, Frank, was born at the pub in 1910 Frank, his mother Letty and his grandmother Louisa O'Brien all lived at the STORES."

Charles Thomas Laight died in 1934.

1939 Register

33, Wesley Street (3 of 4)

- [1] Archibald C. Hartill, date of birth 11/10/1891, licensed house manager, married;
- [2] Edith Hartill, dob 1/11/1889, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] Eileen Hartill, dob 9/5/1928, school, single;

A team from here took part in the Bradley Crib League. [1946]

A team from here took part in the Bradley Darts League, Second Division. [1946]

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/10/1948

"Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

A Bilston steelworker, Jock Storrar Lowe (36), pleaded guilty to 19 charges of fraudulently converting to his own use sums totalling £101 belonging to the crib and darts club of the VICTORIA INN, Wesley Street, Bilston, of which he was treasurer between December, 1947, and June this year.

Mr. Field Hunt, for the prosecution, said when the payment of the club money became due during the summer there should have been £4 for each of the club's 26 members, but there was nothing. When interviewed by the police Lowe said he had spent the money and did not know where it had gone. He kept the money with his own and must have been living above his means.

On accused's behalf, Mr. D. R. Ellison said the offences arose through Lowe not having a good business head and getting the club's money mixed up with own.

Lowe was bound over to appear for sentence at the Easter Sessions and ordered to make restitution."

Staffordshire Advertiser 16/4/1949

"Stafford Quarter Sessions.....

John Storrar Lowe (36), steelworker, was placed on probation for two years on 19 charges of fraudulently converting to his own use money entrusted to him by the VICTORIA INN Crib and Darts Club, Coseley."

It closed in the early 1960s. ?

It was demolished circa 1970.

TO be LET, in Wesley Street, Bradley, near Bilston, a HOUSE and SHOP suitable for a Grocer, Pawnbroker, or Corn Dealer. — For further particulars, apply to Mr. John Bamford, Victoria Inn, Wesley Street, Bradley, near Bilston.

1866

OLD-LICENSED FREEHOLD PUBLIC HOUSE,
CALLED THE "VICTORIA INN,"
WESLEY STREET, BRADLEY.
MESSRS. WALKER and H. J. LLOYD will **SELL** by AUCTION, on THURSDAY, the 28th day of October inst., upon the Premises, at Five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions of Sale—all that capital and well-built **PUBLIC HOUSE**, called the "Victoria Inn," fronting Wesley Street, Bradley, about one mile from Coseley, now in the occupation of Mr. Philemon Roberts, and formerly by Mr. Bamford. The House contains a large Retail Liquor Shop, Smoke Room, Sitting Room, and large Kitchen, Club Room, 32½ feet by 16½ feet; four Bed Rooms, with extensive Cellars under the whole. A wide Gateway leads to the Yard at the back, which contains a large Brewhouse, with Malt Room over; Stable, Gighouse, Piggeries, and Appurtenances; the whole containing, with the site of the Building, 47½ square yards of land. Further information may be had at the Offices of Messrs. Rutter, Neve, and Rutter, Darlington Street; or of the Auctioneers, Red Lion Street, Wolverhampton.

1869

To Liquor Merchants, Brewers, and Others.

IMPORTANT SALE OF VALUABLE
FREEHOLD OLD-LICENSED INN,
At WESLEY STREET, BRADLEY, in the
Parish of SEDGLEY.

Known by the Sign of "THE VICTORIA INN."
MESSRS. J. MORRELL AND SON have been favoured with instructions from the Trustees under the Will of the late Mr. Philemon Roberts, to **OFFER** for **SALE BY AUCTION**, upon the Premises, on **Friday, the 12th day of January 1877**, at Six o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions to be then read:—

All that substantial erected and well-known **OLD-LICENSED INN**, called the "Victoria Inn," Wesley Street, Bradley, near Bilston, with large and well-arranged Outbuildings thereto, and having a frontage of 33½ feet. The Premises consist of Liquor Shop, 24 feet by 16 feet 6 inches, Bar Parlour, Smoke Room, commodious Kitchen, large Tap Room, side entrance to a lofty and spacious Hall, Staircase, and Landing, Four Bedrooms, Club Room, 32 feet 6 inches by 16 feet 3 inches. Gateway entrance, with folding doors, leading to a large open yard, large Shed, Three-stall Stable, with two large Hay Lofts over, well-arranged Brewhouse, Malt Room, Coal Shed, Five excellent Cellars, and other Out-offices, the whole forming a very compact Property and situated in a densely populated neighbourhood, and in close proximity to ironworks and collieries.

The whole of the Premises are well supplied with Hard and Soft Water.

The party purchasing would be required to take to the Public-house Fixtures and Trade Utensils at a valuation.

To any person desirous of embarking in the public business this is a rare opportunity, as an extensive in and out-door trade may be done.

The land, including the site of the building, contains 470 square yards or thereabouts.

For further particulars apply, Mr. J. Stokes, Solicitor, Dudley; or the Auctioneers, Swan Bank, Bilston.

1876

WANTED, for Revue, Lively Soub., Juv. Lead, Deep Contralto, Char. Baritone, Chorus Ladies and Dancers, not under 5 ft. 6 in. Equitable sharing terms. Letters only.—Victoria Inn, Wesley St., Bradley, Bilston.

1923

VILLIERS ARMS

Villiers Avenue, (Villiers Square) / Froggatt Road, Green Lanes Estate, BILSTON

OWNERS

William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1946]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.
Enterprise Inns Ltd. [1991]
John Denston (acquired in 2009)

LICENSEES

William Moakler **(1926 – 1939)**;
James Goodall **(1939 – [1944]**
Mabel Goodall []
K Foster [1989]
Miss Tracey Crook [1995] – [2005]
Sharon Dickens [2005]
Wayne Dicken [2009] manager
Lesley and David Hughes [c.2009]



2007

NOTES

Villiers Avenue [1932], [1939]
Villiers Square [1967], [1990], [2009]

Bilston & Willenhall Times 28/2/1925

“Much interest has been taken for some months in the question of whether a licensed house should be erected on the Green Lanes estate, where council houses stand. Some of the residents are in favour, others are not. Notices, however, have been published of the intention of Messrs. Butler and Co. Ltd., to apply at the adjourned Licensing Sessions at Bilston on March 6th for the transfer of the license of the WELLINGTON INN, Price Street, Bilston to a house and premises proposed to be erected at Villiers Square, Villiers Avenue, which is part of the Green Lanes estate. Local temperance workers are likely to oppose the application.”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 11/4/1925

“The Staffordshire County Licensing Committee met at Stafford on Saturday, when an application was made by Cyril Tom Wynn, brewer’s traveller, on behalf of Messrs. Butler and Co., for provisional grant of removal of the license of the WELLINGTON INN, Price Street, Bilston, to new premises to be erected in Villiers Square, Bilston, to be known as the VILLIERS ARMS.

Mr. F. O. Langley, who appeared in support of the application, said that confirmation of the action of the Bilston Justices in agreeing to the proposal was sought. He contended that Bilston, with a population of 30,000, was entitled to a new hotel, and it would be located in a new suburb, which was rapidly growing with estate development. There was only one bedroom in the present hotel accommodation in the town. In addition to the WELLINGTON INN, the brewery company was prepared to give up a second licensed house, the name of which would be given to the committee if the application was granted.

Evidence was given in support of the application by Mr. W. J. Nash, draper, of Bilston, who said it was absolutely necessary that a hotel with bed room accommodation should be provided in Bilston. Councillor Beech (chairman) and other members of the Bilston Urban District Council also supported the application.

Mr. A. V. Haydn (Walsall) opposed on behalf of the Bilston Temperance Trust, and said those who instructed him were asked to do so by members of the working class. The Trust was not actuated by any spirit of awkwardness or vindictiveness, but they felt that the real road to progress in licensing matters lay along the road of elimination rather

than repetition. He urged that the policy of elimination should be pursued, and that one license should not be merely taken from a congested area and removed to a purely residential district which was just being opened up. Mr. Haydn called no witnesses, but said a petition against the application had been signed by 485 persons over the age of 18. The committee unanimously decided to pass the application."

Dudley Chronicle 7/10/1926

"At a Transfer Sessions at the Bilston Police Court on Friday.....

Mr. C. N. Wright made an application with regard to the VILLIERS HOTEL on the Green Lanes Estate. He mentioned that the work of building the hotel had been delayed through shortage of material. It was thought that the building would be finished by the first Friday in December. The adjournment asked for was granted."

The license was transferred from the WELLINGTON, Price Street, on 3rd December 1926.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/12/1926

"Bilston Licensing Bench yesterday granted the transfer of the license of the WELLINGTON INN to the VILLIERS ARMS HOTEL, Green Lanes housing estate. The new hotel was opened last night, and the owners are Messrs. Butler and Co. Ltd."

A music and dancing license was granted on 4th February 1927.

Dudley Chronicle 13/12/1928

"Football. Birmingham and District School Shield: Round II. Bilston Boys v Worcester Boys.

The above teams met on the Bilston ground on Saturday week. A keen and exciting game ended in a win for the visitors by 2-1 After the match, the players and friends adjourned to the VILLIERS ARMS HOTEL where lunch awaited them....."

Dance classes were held here, under the tuition of a Miss Sadler, in the 1930s.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/7/1933

"Bilston Rotary Club held its annual meeting and dinner at the VILLIERS ARMS last night, when the retiring president (Councillor W. M. Hughes) invested Rotarian William Withers with the president's badge of office, and the past president's badge was presented to Councillor Hughes by the newly appointed president...."

Birmingham Daily Post 14/6/1939

"Two charges of breaking into the VILLIERS ARMS HOTEL, Bilston, were preferred at Bilston yesterday against Bertram George William Brown (23). It was alleged that Brown entered the hotel by a lavatory window between 11.50pm on June 3 and 10am on June 4, and stole £4 19s 6d, spirits and cigarettes, and again between June 7 and 8, when money was taken from a collecting box.

In a statement Brown had said that he and his girl had arranged to get married last Saturday. They had a quarrel and, to pacify her, he told her he had money and would pay it on some furniture. He had no money. That worried him and he could not sleep. He went for a walk, and, seeing the window at the VILLIERS ARMS open, he got in and took the money out of the till.

Brown was committed to trial."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 21/6/1939

"Quarter Sessions at Stafford.....

When Bertram William George Brown (24), labourer, committed from Bilston, pleaded guilty to two charges of housebreaking and theft at Bilston it was stated that among the things he stole was a collecting box for the blind. Brown, described as of a lazy disposition, was sentenced to twelve months' hard labour, and was warned that if he made a further appearance before the Court he might be sentenced to penal servitude."

1939 Register

Villiers Avenue – VILLIERS ARMS HOTEL

- [1] Hugh Finn, date of birth 14/4/1902, insurance inspector, married;
- [2] Louie Winmill, dob 28/5/1879, bar assistant, widowed;
- [3] James Goodall, dob 7/11/1884, licensed victualler, married;
- [4] Eleanor Mabel Goodall, dob 11/3/1894, unpaid domestic duties, married:

Black Country Bugle 25/11/1999

“Some great old characters are shown here, standing outside the VILLIERS ARMS pub, Bilston, around sixty years ago. With their stylish trilbys and coats, some of them could have walked straight off on ‘Al Capone’ movie set. Our thanks to Bill Pitt, of Prouds Lane, for supplying this snap before or after a Sunday morning breakfast trip from the pub.

Left to right: *Jim Goodhall* (landlord), Bert Evans, Tom Dewfield, Syd Dewfield?, Bill Smith, Jack Pertion, Bert Parton, Les Jones.”

1945 Probate

“*James Goodall* of VILLIERS ARMS HOTEL, Villiers Avenue, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 15 November 1944. Administration Birmingham 2 February to Eleanor Mabel Goodall, widow, and Mabel Robinson (wife of George Robinson). Effects £5,081 3s 4d.”

James Goodall – see also SWAN BANK TAVERN.

A team from here took part in the Butlers (Bilston) Darts League. [1946]

Sandwell Evening Mail 28/8/1981

“A Black Country teenager suffered burns to his arms and face when his flat was rocked by a gas explosion. Colin Laban, aged 18, was with a friend in his seventh floor Bilston flat trying to light a gas stove when the blast tore through the kitchen. Unemployed Colin was hit by a sheet of flame, and splinters of glass from a shattered window were sent flying through the air. Colin, of Winston Churchill Court, Park View Road, Bilston, was taken to Sandwell District General Hospital. He was treated for burns to his face and arms before being allowed home. His friend, Steven Wells, aged 15, of the VILLIERS ARMS, Villiers Square, Bilston, escaped unhurt. Colin said, ‘I only moved into the flat two weeks ago and Steven was helping me to fit a gas bottle to the kitchen stove. I was kneeling on the floor putting some food away in a cupboard when suddenly there were flames everywhere. I tried to run out but the flames engulfed me and I could not see the door.’ Steven said, ‘It seems we had not screwed down the valve properly and the gas had been leaking. I lit a match because I thought the gas from the leaking cylinder had gone out of the room when suddenly it blew up in front of me.’”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/2/1999

“Two masked raiders armed with a sledgehammer and a knife burst into the VILLIERS pub in Bilston, Wolverhampton, and locked up the licensee before fleeing with cash. A police spokesman said the 46-year-old landlord was forced at knifepoint to open the safe by the raiders who helped themselves to £700. The robbers then locked the licensee in an office. The landlord, who has not been named, eventually managed to kick open the office door and raised the alarm.”

Express and Star 20/4/2001

“A wooden walkway linking the toilets to the main building of a Bilston pub was severely damaged when flames spread from a car which was set on fire early today. The Montego was parked outside the VILLIERS ARMS, in Villiers Square, when arsonists struck shortly before 2am. Flames spread to a walkway, causing heavy smoke-logging to the downstairs of the pub.....”

It was locally listed in 2009.

Express & Star 10/1/2009

“A man was stabbed today following an argument involving a group of youths at a pub in Bilston. The victim was attacked close to the VILLIERS ARMS, on Villiers Square, just before 3am. The scene was still cordoned off this afternoon as police revealed one man had been arrested in connection with the trouble.

Inspector Bryan Jones, of Wednesfield police, is appealing for witnesses. He said, ‘There was an argument inside the pub with a group of youths. Eight to ten people were moved outside and somebody has been assaulted on a car park. He’s currently in New Cross Hospital with an injury to his abdomen.’ He said it was not clear if the victim had been in the pub prior to the attack.

Wayne Dickens, manager of the VILLIERS ARMS, said, ‘There must have been some people hanging around outside at that time but we had been closed since 1.30am, which is the end of our licence on a Friday. I was woken up by the sirens and the flashing lights of the police cars but by that stage all the people involved would have run away. There was no trouble in the pub that we were aware of.’”

Express & Star 9/4/2009

“A pub at the scene of a stabbing which left a man close to death was facing a security clampdown by police today. The VILLIERS ARMS in Bilston could face restrictions on its opening hours or even closure. It comes after police compiled a dossier of violence, including the attack on the 28-year-old in the street outside. Police have also criticised the management of the pub and said ‘little or no help’ had been offered to police after violence had flared. It now wants the licence reviewed. Residents, who are often frightened to report trouble, say drinkers cause a nuisance when they leave the Villiers Square pub.

In a report to council chiefs, Wednesfield licensing officer Michael Pearce said, ‘There have been several incidents of drunk behaviour, fighting and two incidents of substantial disorder at the premises. On one occasion the victim almost died after being stabbed. There have been numerous complaints of nuisance, people urinating in the street, shouting and swearing in the early hours of the morning. The manager, *Wayne Dicken*, has an attitude of ‘If it’s happened outside it is not my problem.’ It is the belief of the police that he has also continued licensing activities outside his permitted times, which he will dispute.’

As well as the stabbing, which happened in January, police were called to New Cross Hospital’s A&E department at 4am on February 22 where a fight had broken out. Three men and a woman were found with injuries they had received at the pub.

Vicky Averis, a spokeswoman for Enterprise Inns, the pub operator which owns the VILLIERS ARMs, said, ‘If the licensing sub-committee decide the pub has to close then we hope it will only be temporarily. We are working with the relevant authorities and it is our intention to keep the pub open.’”

It was closed in June 2009, after a police drugs raid, and a man was attacked outside, in January 2009. It reopened in 2010.

[2013]

Express & Star 29/1/2015

“Plans to transform the sites of two crime-hit Wolverhampton pubs into housing estates have been given the green light. The fire-ravaged BUSHBURY ARMS in Showell Circus is to be given a new lease of life along with the VILLIERS ARMS in Bilston, where a man was stabbed six years ago. Both are closed down with no signs of re-opening as pubs. Following approval at a Wolverhampton City Council planning meeting on Tuesday, the BUSHBURY ARMS will change to a development comprising 24 homes and apartments and the VILLIERS will become 13 apartments with two-semi-detached houses behind....”

It was converted into housing. [2017]

'Villiers Arms Gang'

Some great old charactes are shown here, standing outside the Villiers Arms pub, Bilston, around sixty years ago. With their stylish trilbys and coats, some of them could have just walked straight off on 'Al Capone' movie set!

Our thanks to Bill Pitt, of Prouds Lane for supplying this snap, taken before or after a Sunday morning break-fast trip from the pub.

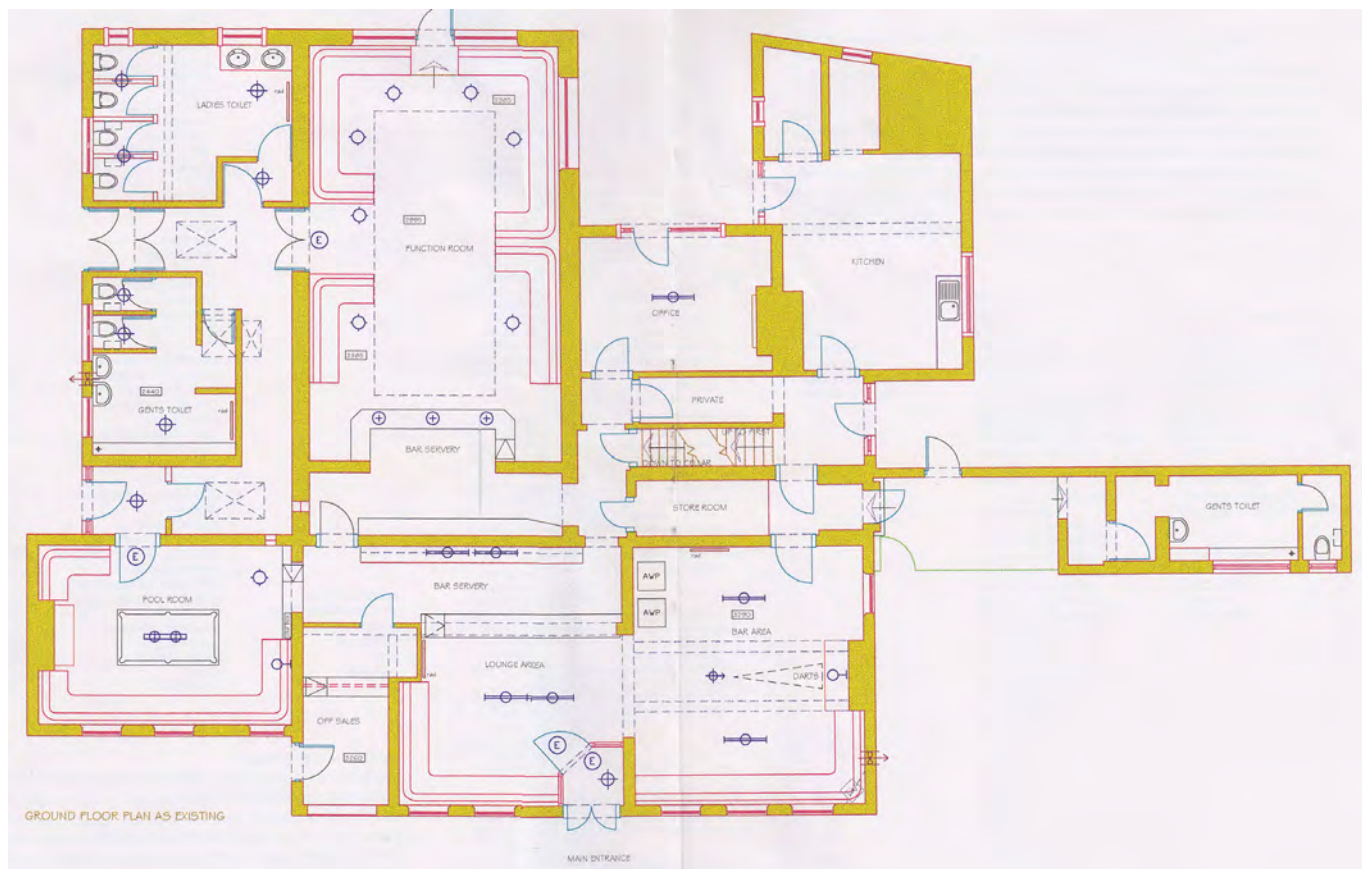
Left to right - Jim Goodhall (landlord), Bert Evans, Tom Dewfield, Syd Dewfield?, Bill Smith, Jack Pertion, Bert Parton, Les Jones.



1940



2016



Plan 1999

VINE

34, (92), John Street / New Street, New Village, (Priestfield), Ettingshall, BILSTON

OWNERS

Richard Millington
Thomas Edwin Millington
Matthew Rhodes
Atkinsons Ltd.

LICENSEES

Richard Millington [1858] – **1883**);
Mrs. Eliza Millington (**1883 – 1886**);
Thomas Edwin Millington (**1886 – 1890**);
Matthew Rhodes (**1890 – 1898**);
William Askew (**1898**);
Samuel Beebee (**1898 – 1925**);
Mrs. Elizabeth Beebee (**1925 – 1929**);
John William Beebee (**1929 – [1940]**)

NOTES

92, John Street [1861], [1871], [1881], [1886], [1891]
34, John Street [1901], [1904], [1911], [1912], [1921], [1932], [1939], [1940]

It had a beerhouse license.

Richard Millington, beer retailer, John Street, New Village. [1858], [1868], [1870]

1861 Census

92, John Street – VINE INN

- [1] *Richard Millington* (48), publican, born Ettingshall;
- [2] *Eliza Millington* (45), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Isaac Millington* (21), son, agent to engine master, born Bilston;
- [4] *Eliza Millington* (18), daughter, assistant house keeper, born Bilston;
- [5] *Thomas Millington* (11), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] *Alice Millington* (9), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] *Mary Jane Millington* (6), daughter, scholar, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/9/1861

“Annual meeting for the renewal and granting of spirit licenses.....

Applications for new licenses.....

Richard Millington, the VINE TAVERN, New Village. Supported by Mr. Bowen; opposed by Mr. Holland, a rival publican. Refused.”

Richard Millington, retailer of beer, New Village. [1862]

Richard Millington, beer retailer, New Village. [1865]

1871 Census

92, John Street, New Village – VINE INN

- [1] *Richard Millington* (56), publican, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Eliza Millington* (52), wife, housewife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Thomas Millington* (21), son, clerk at iron works, born Bilston;
- [4] *Mary J. Millington* (16), daughter, dressmaker, born Bilston:

Richard Millington, beer retailer, John Street, New Village, Ettingshall. [1872]

Richard Millington appeared as a witness at the inquest concerning the murder of *Ellen Davis*, held in March 1874.

Birmingham Daily Mail 4/3/1874

“This morning the inquest on the body of *Ellen Davis*, aged 67, who had been found murdered in her house at Ettingshall Lane, near Wolverhampton, was opened by Mr. Phillips, coroner.

Richard Millington, landlord of the VINE INN, John Street, New Village, said deceased came to his house on Monday night for a pint of ale, and tendered in payment half-a-crown, taking away the change in her hand. Witness’s wife and daughter were the only persons besides himself in the bar at the time. Deceased did not enter the tap-room.....

Superintendent McCrea said he had searched the clothes of the deceased, and had found in a dress-pocket 2s 4½d, the money received in change from *Millington*.....”

[For further on this inquest see under BRIDGE, Ettingshall Road.]

Lichfield Mercury 22/10/1880

“On Friday night a man named *William Brookes*, twenty years of age, of John Street, New Village, met with a singular fatal accident at the Manor Iron and Tin Plate Works of Mr. *Stephen Thompson*, Spring Vale, Bilston. About six o’clock he came out of the shop in which he was engaged to cool himself, and lay down upon the edge of a large square iron tank used for annealing purposes, which was reared up against a wall. Another workman named *Samuel Screen* was sitting on one end of the tank at the time, and from the extra weight of *Brookes* or some other cause the tank fell forward and on to *Brookes*, who died immediately from a fractured skull. *Screen* managed to step on one side, or he must have been seriously injured.

On Monday afternoon Mr. W. H. Phillips (District Coroner) held an inquiry at the VINE INN, New Village, Coseley, relative to the death of *William Brookes*.

Samuel Screen, a tin plate worker at the Manor Works, deposed that after finishing their work on Friday night he and the deceased went and sat on the edge of an annealing pot which was kept in the yard on a raised platform. The weight of the deceased caused the pot to fall off the platform, and he was thrown against one of the sides of the pot with such force as to fracture his skull in a shocking manner. When the pot was falling witness jumped off, and narrowly escaped being crushed to death. In reply to the Coroner, the witness stated that the pot was 18cwt. Neither he nor the deceased had any business in the pot, and, in fact, only had themselves to blame for the accident.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1881 Census

92, John Street – VINE

- [1] *Richard Millington* (67), beer seller, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Eliza Millington* (64), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Anna Steventon* (15), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Richard Millington died in the 4th quarter of 1883.

Eliza Millington died on 5th April 1886.

Darlaston Weekly Times 10/7/1886 - Advert

"Important Sale of Freehold Properties. Tuesday, July 27, 1886.

Mr. Thomas Skidmore has received instructions from the Representatives of Mr. *Richard Millington*, deceased, to Sell by Auction, at the COACH AND HORSES HOTEL, Snow Hill, Wolverhampton, on Tuesday, July 27, 1886..... VINE INN, John Street, Priestfield.

Lot 1. All that Freehold Double-fronted Old-established Public House, called the VINE INN, 92, John Street, Priestfield, near Wolverhampton; with the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession, comprising Bar, Tap Room, 28ft long; Front Parlour, Entrance Hall, Large Club Room, 28ft long; two Bedrooms, Clothes Closet, Large Attic, three Cellars, Rolling Way, Washhouse, Brewhouse, Coachhouse, Stable, Loft, two Sheds, Coal House, two Closets, Pig Sty, large Brick Yard, Cartway Entrance from New Street, 9ft wide. Having a frontage of 30ft 6in to John Street, and a depth of 98ft, and containing, with the site of the building, 367 square yards of land, or thereabouts.

The purchaser will be required to take to the Fixtures, Trade Utensils, Brewing Plant, and a Small Stock of Ale, &c, at a fair Valuation, to be made in the usual way, an Inventory of which will be read at the Sale."

1891 Census

92, John Street

- [1] *Matthew Rhodes* (32), engineer, stationary, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Elizabeth Rhodes* (34), wife, born Market Drayton, Shropshire;
- [3] *E. Harold Rhodes* (9), son, born Sedgley;
- [4] *S. John Rhodes* (7), son, born Sedgley;
- [5] *A. Bert Rhodes* (4), son, born Sedgley;
- [6] *W. Sidney Rhodes* (3 months), son, born Bilston;
- [7] *Maggie Cox* (17), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Matthew Rhodes – see also ORANGE TREE, HEN AND CHICKENS, George Street, and BULL AND MOUTH.

Ernest Harold Rhodes – see ORANGE TREE and GATE.

1901 Census

34, John Street

- [1] *Samuel Beebee* (49), beerhouse keeper, born Priestfield;
- [2] *Elizabeth Beebee* (49), wife, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *Samuel Beebee* (28), son, moulder, ironworks, born Priestfield;
- [4] *Ernest Beebee* (15), son, born Priestfield;
- [5] *William Beebee* (13), son, born Priestfield:

Samuel Beebee, beer retailer, 34, John Street. [1904], [1912]

1911 Census

34, John Street – VINE INN

- [1] *Samuel Beebee* (59), beer retailer, born Staffordshire;
- [2] *Elizabeth Beebee* (59), wife, married 40 years, born Staffordshire;
- [3] *Ernest Harold Beebee* (25), son, engineer, born Staffordshire;
- [4] *John William Beebee* (23), son, engineer, born Staffordshire;
- [5] *John Howard Beebee* (13), grand-son, school, born Staffordshire:

A billiard license was granted on 5th February 1918.

1921 Census

34, John Street

- [1] *Samuel Beebee* (69), beerhouse keeper, born Ettingshall;
- [2] *Elizabeth Beebee* (70), wife, born Blakenhall;
- [3] *Ernest H. Beebee* (36), son, engineer, turner, aero and motor, born Ettingshall;
- [4] *John W. Beebee* (33), son, engineer, turner, aero and motor, born Ettingshall;
- [5] *Ernest J. Wheeler* (38), boarder, clerk, L&NWR, born Rugby:

1925 Probate

"*Samuel Beebee* of the VINE INN, 34 John Street, Priestfield, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 27 November 1924. Administration Lichfield 21 January to *Elizabeth Beebee*, widow. Effects £1,522 11s 9d."

A music license was granted on 2nd February 1928.

1929 Probate

"*Elizabeth Beebee* of the VINE INN, 34 John Street, Ettingshall, Staffordshire, widow, died 15 April 1929. Probate Birmingham 4 July to George Edwin Beebee, roll turner, and Ernest Harold Beebee and *John William Beebee*, mechanics. Effects £1,300 17s."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 20/4/1932

"At the adjourned inquest at Darlaston yesterday on George Edwin Beebee, aged 54, a roll turner, of 128, Glover Street, West Bromwich, whose body was recovered from a marlhole at Darlaston Road, Moxley, on Tuesday of last week, witnesses stated that they had never heard the man threaten suicide. At the previous sitting Beebee's identity had not been established, and Dr. L. Lowe stated that after making a post mortem examination he had come to the conclusion that the man was not drowned. The man had obviously had an illness in the heart and the lungs and his condition was such that added shock, such as falling into water, might cause sudden death.

Yesterday *John William Beebee*, licensed victualler, of 34, John Street, Ettingshall, Bilston, said his brother had been out of work since March last year and had been ill since Christmas. He did not, however, appear to be depressed. Inspector Heath, of Darlaston, said no one had ever heard deceased say he was going to commit suicide.

The Coroner said the verdict would be that deceased died of shock due to sudden immersion in water at a time when he was suffering from a disease of the heart and also the lungs, and that there was no evidence to show how he got into the water."

1939 Register

34, John Street

[1] *John W. Beebee*, date of birth 25/2/1888, centre lathe hand, licensee, single;

[2] *Ernest H. Beebee*, dob 14/10/1885, centre lathe hand, single;

[3] *Ernest J. Wheeler*, dob 30/4/1883, railway clerk, claims, single:

It closed in 1956.

Demolished

PRIESTFIELD, near WOLVERHAMPTON.

Important Sale of FREEHOLD PROPERTIES.

TUESDAY, JULY 27, 1886.

MR. THOMAS SKIDMORE has received instructions from the Representatives of Mr. Richard Millington, deceased, to SELL BY AUCTION, at the

"COACH AND HORSES HOTEL,"

SNOW HILL, WOLVERHAMPTON,

On Tuesday, July 27, 1886, at 6-30 for 7 o'clock prompt, subject to Conditions of Sale, which will incorporate the Common Form Conditions of the Wolverhampton Law Association, the following

FREEHOLD PROPERTIES

"VINE INN," JOHN STREET, PRIESTFIELD,

LOT 1.—All that Freehold Double-fronted Old-established PUBLIC HOUSE, called "The Vine Inn," 92, John-street, Priestfield, near Wolverhampton; with the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession, comprising Bar, Tap Room, 28 ft. long; Front Parlour, Entrance Hall, Large Club Room, 28 ft. long; two Bedrooms, Clothes Closet, Large Attic, three Cellars, Rolling Way, Washhouse, Brewhouse, Coachhouse, Stable, Loft, two Sheds, Coal House, two Closets, Pig Stye, large Brick Yard, Cartway Entrance from New-street, 9 ft. wide. Having a frontage of 30 ft. 6 in. to John-street, and a depth of 98 ft. and containing, with the site of the building, 367 square yards of land, or thereabouts.

The purchaser will be required to take to the Fixtures, Trade Utensils, Brewing Plant, and a Small Stock of Ale &c., at a fair Valuation, to be made in the usual way, an Inventory of which will be read at the sale.

VINE

16, (4), Vine Street, (High Street), (Market Street) / Cooper Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

George Cooper [1864]
Thomas Johnson, beerhouse keeper, Tipton
Richard Hyde
Samuel Woodhall, brewer, West Bromwich
J. A. and A. Thompson Ltd., maltsters, Orchard Street, Oldbury
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1967]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Timothy Brookes **(1826 – [1845])**
Thomas Howl [1847] – **1854**;
John Augustus McMahon **(1854 – 1860)**;
Francis Goodall **(1860)**;
Joseph Price **(1860 – 1861)**;
John Williams **(1861)**
Henry Jones [1862] – [1865]
William Hill [] – **1865**;
Benjamin Fellows **(1865 – 1866)**;
John Rudge **(1866 – [])**
Noah Barker [1866] – [1870]
Page [1869]
George Buckley Myatt [1871] – **1878**;
Mrs. Elizabeth Myatt **(1878 – 1884)**;
Richard Hyde **(1884 – 1895)**;
Frank Torr **(1895 – 1899)**;
David Benton **(1899)**;
George J Wells **(1899 – 1901)**;
George Henry Lawrence **(1901 – 1911)**;
Mrs. Louise Maria Lawrence **(1911 – 1922)**;
Thomas Roberts **(1922 – 1923)**;
Mrs. Lily Selina Roberts **(1923 – 1935)**;
Clara Corey **(1935 – 1937)**;
William Harold Chamberlain **(1937 – [1940])**

NOTES

Market Street [1828], [1830], [1833], [1834], [1835], [1842]
High Street [1866]
4, Vine Street [1861], [1871], [1881]
16, Vine Street [1901], [1911], [1921], [1939]

VINE INN, MARKET PLACE, BILSTON.

THE BROOKES respectfully informs his Friends and the Inhabitants of Bilston and its vicinity, that he intends opening the above Inn on Wednesday next, the 11th of October, and trusts that his stock of Wines, Ale, &c. will be found such as will merit their patronage and support. Commercial Gentlemen may depend upon every attention being paid to their comfort and convenience, and upon finding good Hay and Stabling for their horses.

1826

VINE INN, BILSTON.

TO BE LET,

AND MAY BE ENTERED UPON IMMEDIATELY,

THE above commodious and respectable INN, situate in the centre of the Market, with Stabling, Lock-up Gig-House, &c

The above Premises are held by the present Occupier on a Lease, upwards of 15 years being yet unexpired. The Lease, Licenses, Good Will, Stock, and Fixtures to be taken at Valuation.

Particulars of which may be had on application to TIMOTHY BROOKES, the present Occupier, who is removing to another part of the country.

Bilston, Dec. 31st, 1832.

N. B. A Pew, No. 8, in the body of St. Leonard's Church, to be Sold.—Reference as above.

1833

TO be LET, and may be entered upon immediately, that old established and well accustomed PUBLIC HOUSE, "The Vine Inn," situate adjoining the Market-place, Bilston, with stabling, gighouse, large yard, piggeries, &c. The house is fitted up with every convenience for the trade, is doing a large business on Market days, and has a club of one hundred members, and the Loyal Lodge of Good Fellows of two hundred and fifty members, meeting every fortnight.

The licenses, goodwill, stock-in-trade, and part of the household furniture to be taken at a fair valuation. A lease of the premises may be had if required.

For further particulars apply to Mr. T. BROOKES, on the premises.

1845

Timothy Brookes = Timothy Brooks

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 9/10/1826 - Advert

"VINE INN, Market Place, Bilston.

T. Brookes respectfully informs his Friends and the Inhabitants of Bilston and its vicinity, that he intends opening the above Inn on Wednesday next, the 11th of October, and trusts that his stock of Wines, Ales, &c will be found such as will merit their patronage and support.

Commercial; Gentlemen may depend upon every attention being paid to their comfort and convenience, and upon finding good Hay and Stabling for their horses."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 5/10/1829 - Advert

"Important Situations in Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by R. Corbett, on Friday next, the 9th day of October, at five o'clock in the afternoon, at the house of Mr. *Timothy Brookes*, the VINE INN, near the Market Place, Bilston, in the county of Stafford....."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/1/1833 - Advert

"VINE INN, Bilston.

To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, the above commodious and respectable Inn, situate in the centre of the Market, with Stabling, Lock-up Gig-House, &c.

The above Premises are held by the present Occupier on a Lease, upwards of 15 years being yet unexpired. The Lease, Licenses, Good Will, Stock, and Fixtures to be taken at Valuation.

Particulars of which may be had on application to *Timothy Brooks*, the present Occupier, who is removing to another part of the country.

Bilston, December 31st, 1832.

NB. A Pew, No.8, in the body of St. Leonard's Church, to be Sold. Reference as above."

1841 Census

Vine Street

[1] *Timothy Brookes* (40), victualler;

[2] Maria Brookes (45), born Staffordshire;

[3] Sarah Reagon (20), f.s., born Staffordshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 13/8/1845 - Advert

"To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, that old established and well accustomed Public House, the VINE INN, situate adjoining the Market Place, Bilston, with stabling, gighouse, large yard, piggeries, &c. The house is fitted up with every convenience for the trade, is doing a large business on Market days, and has a club of one hundred members, and the Loyal Lodge of Good Fellows of two hundred and fifty members, meeting every fortnight. The licenses, goodwill, stock-in-trade, and part of the household furniture to be taken at a fair valuation. A lease of the premises may be had if required.

For further particulars apply to Mr. *T. Brookes*, on the premises."

Timothy Brookes – see also GOOD FELLOWS ARMS.

Thomas Howl = Thomas Howe

Birmingham Journal 5/6/1847 - Advert

"On Monday Evening, June 14, a Grand Miscellaneous Concert and Ball will take place at Mrs. Sower's, KINGS HEAD, Tipton, for the Benefit of the No.7 Lodge of Good Fellows.

Principal Vocalists – Miss Jones, Messrs. William and G. Mainwaring, Wilkinson, and J. Kelding.

The Concert to commence at Seven o'clock.

Single Tickets, 1s 6d; Double Tickets, admitting a Lady and a Gentleman, 2s 6d each; to be had of.....

Mr. *T. Howl*, VINE INN, Bilston."

Birmingham Journal 12/6/1847

“On Saturday night last, a quarrel took place at the VINE INN, Bilston, amongst a number of working men who were drinking there, when one of the party, of the name of Smith, succeeded in getting upon the floor a young man named Lowe, and in the most savage manner completely bit off his nose, the modern Crim-Tartar immediately making his escape. The injured party, accompanied by some friends, went to the residence of the nearest surgeon, where the denuded parts were dressed by his assistant, evidently to the satisfaction of all parties. Lowe, however, on his returning home, began to reflect upon the unpicturesque effect which a countenance bereft of the nasal appendage would produce, and he accordingly determined to have it remedied by any and every means possible. On a consultation with his friends, the idea occurred to them that all would be well if they could only restore to its original post of honour the missing remains of what was once considered by the owner to be a very respectable nose, although it was not stated whether the original nose was hooked, or hatchet, or whether it belonged to the snub, the pug, or the turned-up family. Accordingly they returned to the scene of action at the VINE, and after searching for nearly an hour, they at length discovered the object of their wishes lying in a dark corner of the room, begrimed with dirt. Having secured their prize, the party set off to a surgeon of the town, to whom they stated the case, and who very carefully united the parts together, and in a manner which completely restored the main element of facial beauty to its former shape and position, and a happy union of parts having ensued, the young man appears little the worse of his singular misfortune.”

[This was reported nationally.]

AND

Birmingham Journal 23/12/1848

“Our readers may remember a case that occurred in June, 1847, in which a man named Thomas Lowe had a large portion of his nose bitten off while fighting with a collier named Edward Smith, at the VINE public house, Market Place, Bilston. Smith absconded at the time and went to Scotland, but subsequently found his way into the Potteries, where he was apprehended a few days ago. He was brought before J. Leigh, Esq, at the Public Office, Wolverhampton, on Friday last.

It appeared from the statement of the complainant that on the evening in question two persons were in conversation at the public house, when Smith came in ‘drunk and disorderly,’ and made some offensive remarks towards one of the two individuals, whom he ultimately seized by the collar of his coat, and said he had a good mind to knock his brains out. Lowe interfered, upon which Smith struck him twice, a scuffle ensued, and Lowe and Smith fought. Smith went out, but ultimately returned with some of his friends, when the scuffle was renewed, and defendant then bit clean off a large portion of the side of Lowe’s nose. Lowe also stated that he was attended by Mr. Hancox, surgeon, and was unable to work for fifteen days afterwards. He was obliged still to wear a plaster on his nose.

Mr. Leigh told defendant that he should fine him £5 for the assault, but if he paid complainant £4 as compensation he would reduce the fine to 1s. In default of paying either the fine or the compensation he would be committed for two months. The defendant and his friends have since given security for payment of £4, and he has therefore been discharged.”

Birmingham Journal 17/7/1847

“The anniversary of the No.4 Lodge of Good Fellows was held in a large and commodious pavilion at the back of the VINE INN, Bilston, which has been recently erected, when upwards of three hundred of the members sat down to an excellent and substantial dinner, which was served up in a manner that did credit to the host. The chair was occupied by the Rev. H. S. Fletcher, who spoke at some length on the benefits of such societies as that, the anniversary of which they were now holding. Various of the members entered into details regarding the prosperous condition of the lodge, and the singing of several of those present added materially to the enjoyment of the evening.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/5/1848

“On Wednesday morning last Joseph Holland, a miner, about 31 years of age, was killed instantaneously whilst at work in a pit near Stokes’s engine on the Willenhall Road, near Bilston, by a fall of coal, from which he received many injuries. On the coal being removed, it was found that he had several cuts upon his head, that his neck was broken, and that he was quite dead. The coal was removed from his person in the course of a few minutes after he was discovered.

At an inquest held on Thursday, at the VINE, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, Joseph Cox, a miner, proved the facts of the case, and stated that the pit was carefully worked, and every protection afforded the workmen that was necessary.

The jury gave a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Journal 15/7/1848

“The anniversary of Lodge No.4 of the Good Fellows, held at the house of Mr. *T. Howl*, the VINE INN, Bilston, was celebrated on Tuesday last, when about three hundred members sat down to dinner in a large and commodious building erected last year for the purpose, at the back of the VINE. After partaking of a substantial and excellent dinner (and in doing which, by the bye, those present testified, in an unmistakable manner, their approval of the catering of the host and hostess).....

From the statement of the pecuniary affairs of the lodge, it appeared that money paid during the year to ‘standing’ sick members amounted to £76 6s; to the casually sick, £120 4s 6d; and the money paid for funerals amounted to £69. The contributions amounted to £327 4s 5d, and the rents to £56 16s 10d.

Toasts were given in the course of the evening, including that of the healths of the surgeons of the lodge, Mr. Edward Best and Mr. Norris Best.

The singing of several of the members of the choir of St. Leonard’s added materially to the enjoyment of this year’s anniversary, which was kept up till about eleven o’clock with the utmost harmony and good feeling.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/8/1849

“A man of the name of Wood was charged by Jane Pickles, wife of Stephen Pickles, a travelling comedian, with assaulting her. The complainant stated that her husband and herself had a show exhibiting in the Market Place, Bilston; that the defendant Wood was in their employ as a tragedian; that on Tuesday, the 31st of July, they went into the VINE INN, after their night’s performance, when a quarrel ensued, and Wood tore her hair and very much abused her.

Wood said in defence that Mrs. Pickles struck him, and that he did not strike her, and having called disinterested witnesses in support of this defence, the case was dismissed.”

1851 Census

Vine Street

- [1] *Thomas Howl* (42), victualler, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Mary Howl* (38), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Edward Howl* (18), son, iron master’s clerk, born West Bromwich;
- [4] *Thomas Howl* (17), son, at home, born West Bromwich;
- [5] *William H. Howl* (11), son, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [6] *Samuel Howl* (9), son, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [7] *Mary Winsper* (17), house servant, born Bilston;
- [8] *Elizabeth Shinton* (16), house servant, born Bilston;
- [9] *Hannah Jeavons* (20), visitor, annuitant, born Wednesbury;

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/7/1851

“On Tuesday last, the members of the No.4 Lodge of Good Fellows celebrated their 40th anniversary, at the house of Mr. *Thomas Howl*, VINE INN, Bilston, when nearly the whole of the members, amounting to 300, were present..... The proceedings were altogether of a highly interesting nature, and were enlivened by several songs, glees, &c, by professional and amateur performers. The affairs of the society were stated to be in a most flourishing condition. The utmost harmony and brotherly feeling prevailed, and altogether the evening passed off in a most satisfactory manner.”

Birmingham Journal 30/8/1851

“A woman named Mary Ann Booth was committed to the Sessions, on a charge of stealing some wearing apparel belonging to Mr. John [sic] *Howl*, landlord of the VINE INN, Bilston. On Friday night she went to the house, under the pretence that she was a servant in want of a place, and having been allowed to remain in the kitchen, she took an opportunity of stealing a dress and other articles from a clothes basket which was lying there. She was caught by Sub-inspector Wardle, on the road to Wolverhampton, to the police of which town she has long been well known.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/10/1851

“Staffordshire Michaelmas Sessions To be imprisoned two months.....

Mary Ann Booth (pleaded guilty), for stealing a petticoats, &c, the property of *Thomas Howe*, at Bilston.”

Staffordshire Sentinel 13/9/1856

“At Bilston Police Court on Tuesday, before J. Loxdale and F. C. Perry, Esqrs, *John McMahon*, of the VINE, Market Place, was summoned on two informations, for selling, in a booth at the wake, porter and spirits without a license, on the Sunday. R. Dance, Esq, collector of inland revenue, Lichfield, conducted the prosecution. Both the charges were proved by Mr. Sergeant, supervisor of excise, and the mitigated penalties of £12 10s and £5 were inflicted, the magistrates intimating an intention to recommend a further mitigation by the Board of Inland Revenue.”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/2/1858

“Movement for the Relief of the Poor. The committee appointed at the public meeting, on the 5th instant, assembled at the Commissioners Office on Saturday last. There were present Mr. Eldridge (chairman), and Messrs. Bew, Gray, *M'Mahon*, &c. It was stated that bread and soup would be distributed to the unemployed on two days during each week while the existing stagnation of trade continued, the relief being given at the house of Mr. *M'Mahon*, the VINE INN, Market Place, who has benevolently lent his premises for the good work.

There are thousands in a state of actual starvation at the present moment in the Bilston district, and those who with such commendable promptness come forward on the occasion of public misfortunes, whether in this country or among foreign nations, will doubtless require no pressing in the matter, particularly when it is remembered with what exemplary patience the sufferers have borne the privations that have fallen on them. The committee will receive subscriptions for the relief fund, and we conclude this notice by reminding those whose means enable them to assist the efforts of the gentlemen who have taken the initiative in the case, that charity is the greatest of human virtues, and that it ‘begins at home.’”

The Era 14/3/1858

“Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes.

A Missionary Lodge of the above ancient order was opened at Br. *M'Mahon's*, VINE INN, Bilston, on Sunday se'nnight, in order to raise the worthy host from a common Kangaroo to a Primo. To commence the evening the Brothers (mustering about twenty) sat down to a substantial supper provided for them by the patriotic Primo expectant, and then proceeded to business. Primo J. P. Hughes, of the Wednesbury Theatre, occupied the chair, and, with all due honours, Br. *M'Mahon* was duly installed.”

Birmingham Daily Post 10/1/1861 - Advert

“Important Licensed Victualler's House, the VINE INN, Vine Street, Bilston.

By John Gray. To be Sold by Private Contract, the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the above excellent Old-licensed Public House, commandingly situated near the Market Place, in the above thriving, busy town. The Premises are in every way arranged for the business, with Stabling for twenty horses. Rent very moderate. There is a large and profitable business being transacted. Coming-in about £300.

For particulars, apply to the Auctioneer, Coleshill Street, Birmingham.”

1861 Census

4, Vine Street

- [1] *Joseph Price* (47), licensed victualler, born Birmingham;
- [2] *Ann Price* (31), wife, born Coalport, Shropshire;
- [3] *Amelia Woodward* (4), niece, scholar, born Birmingham;
- [4] *Humphry Loyd* (14), nephew, scholar, born Coalport, Shropshire;
- [5] *Sarah Turner* (18), servant, born Wolverhampton;
- [6] *James Boyle* (39), lodger (one night), hawker, born Rotherham, Yorkshire;
- [7] *Margaret Boyle* (31), lodger (one night), born Jersey, Channel Islands:

Birmingham Journal 20/4/1861 - Advert

“That Excellent Old Licensed Public House, the VINE INN, Vine Street, Bilston.

By John Gray. To be Sold by Private Contract, the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the above desirable Old Licensed Public House, commandingly situated in a good business position in the above thriving town. The Premises are commodious and convenient, with extensive Stabling, and are held at a moderate rental.

For particulars, apply upon the Premises; or to John Gray, Auctioneer, Coleshill Street, Birmingham.”

Birmingham Daily Post 10/7/1861 - Advert

“VINE INN, Market Place, Bilston.

To be Disposed Of, with immediate possession, the Licenses and Goodwill, of the above well-known Old-Licensed House. Satisfactory reasons for giving up the business, and further particulars may be had on application to Messrs. Whitehead and Caddick, Auctioneers, Mount Pleasant, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/7/1861 - Advert

“VINE INN, Market Place, Bilston.

Whitehead and Caddick have received instructions to Sell by Auction, without the slightest reserve, on Monday next, July 22, 1861, the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the above old-established house; also the whole of the Household Furniture, Fixtures, and very valuable Brewing Plant, together with the extensive and well selected Stock-In-Trade. The sale includes the usual Furnishing Requisites, capital 5-pull Beer Machine, with Stop Taps and long range of Piping; Gas Fittings, valuable assortment of Ale Casks, from 120 gallons downwards; large Copper and Iron Boilers, Mash Tubs, Coolers, excellent Malt Crusher, &c; the Stock consists of a selection of first-class Wines and Spirits, Ale and Porter.

Descriptive particulars appear in catalogues, which may be had at the Offices of the Auctioneers, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, and Walsall Street, Willenhall, and at the *Chronicle* Office, Wolverhampton.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/1/1864 - Advert

“Wanted, a stout Youth, used to Horses, and to make himself generally useful.

Apply to *H. Jones*, VINE INN, Bilston.”

WANTED, a stout Youth, used to Horses, and to make himself generally useful.—Apply to *H. Jones*, Vine Inn, Bilston.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 6/4/1864 - Advert

“Bilston. Particulars of Valuable Copyhold Properties, in Wood Street, Vine Street, and Cooper Street.

Mr. Jabez Morrell will Sell by Auction (by order of the Devises in trust of the late Mr. George Cooper), at the VINE INN, Vine Street, Bilston, on Tuesday, the 19th day of April, 1864, at six o'clock in the evening.....

Lot 1. All that Old Licensed Inn, known as the VINE INN, fronting to the Market Gates, in Vine Street, Bilston aforesaid, comprising front parlour, tap room, bar parlour, kitchen, excellent cellaring, club room, and numerous bed rooms. There are to this lot coach house, stabling, piggeries, and other out-offices, being in the occupation of Mr. *Henry Jones* at the very low annual rental of £34, and comprises, including the site of the buildings, 540 square yards or thereabouts.....

The above properties are copyhold of Inheritance in the Manor of Stowheath, have been erected by the late proprietor regardless of expense, are in excellent state of repair, respectably tenanted, and well supplied with hard and soft water.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/4/1864 - Advert

“Wanted, a good General Servant.

Apply at the VINE INN, Bilston.”

WANTED, a good GENERAL SERVANT.—Apply at the Vine Inn, Bilston.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/9/1864

“Yesterday the magistrates sat in Special Sessions, for the consideration of the applications for the renewal of old and the granting of new licenses to victuallers.....

The following houses and their landlords had been complained against and fined during the year.....

H. Jones, VINE INN, Vine Street.”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/12/1864 - Advert

“To Photographers and Showmen.

For Sale, a Caravan Photographic Booth, three Cameras and Lenses, specimen Frames and Chemicals, with one Barrel Organ, together or separately.

Apply to *H. Jones*, VINE INN, Bilston.”

TO PHOTOGRAPHERS and SHOWMEN.—For SALE, a Caravan PHOTOGRAPHIC BOOTH, three Cameras and Lenses, specimen Frames and Chemicals, with one Barrel Organ, together or separately.—Apply to *H. Jones*, Vine Inn, Bilston.

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 4/2/1865

“Malkin of Whitmore will run Collier of Berrey six score yards, for £25 a side or upwards. If this challenge be accepted a deposit can be made at *H. Jones's*, VINE INN, Bilston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/2/1865 - Advert

“To be Let, the VINE INN, Bilston, situate near the Market Place.
Apply to the Proprietor, *Henry Jones*.”

TO be LET, the VINE INN, Bilston, situate near the Market Place.—Apply to the Proprietor, *Henry Jones*.

Staffordshire Advertiser 4/3/1865 - Advert

“The VINE INN, Vine Street, Bilston.

To Be Disposed Of, the Licenses and Good Will of the above old-established Inn, situate adjoining the Market.

The brewing plant, fixtures, stock, &c, to be taken to at valuation.

Apply to the Proprietor, *Henry Jones*.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/10/1865

“At the West Bromwich Police Court, on Saturday, Thomas Edmonds, collector, was charged with embezzling upwards of £6, the property of Mr. Hickin, lessee of the Sedgley and Tipton Turnpike Road. Mr. Sheldon prosecuted. The prisoner was in the employ of the prosecutor, and was stationed at the Littleworth Tollgate. It was his duty to take all moneys, to deliver an account when required, and he was paid by a weekly salary. On Monday, the prosecutor sent a clerk round to collect the accounts at the various tollgates. On arriving at Littleworth he found the gate open, and the prisoner gone. He was subsequently found drunk, at the VINE INN, Bilston, and had then £1 1s 4d in his pocket. From the weekly returns found in the prisoner’s house, between £7 and £8 had been taken at the gate during the fortnight that the prisoner had been in the prosecutor’s employ. The prisoner, when apprehended, admitted having spent the money, and promised, if no proceedings were taken, to refund the money. He was committed to the Sessions.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/10/1865

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Thomas Edmunds, age 47, a shoemaker, and collector of tolls at Littleworth Gate, Tipton, was indicted for feloniously embezzling, on the 2nd inst, the sum of £6 8s 6d, the moneys of his master, Edward Hicken, the lessee of the tolls. Prisoner had been collector for many years, but was occasionally a little irregular in his accounts. He had taken the tolls from the 19th to the 28th September, and when his master, the lessee, went to receive the tolls he found prisoner at the VINE public house. When he asked him for them prisoner said he had spent them. He was found guilty, and sentenced to four months’ imprisonment with hard labour.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1866

“The annual meeting for the renewal of existing licenses, and for receiving applications for fresh ones, was held at the Police Court, on Friday.....

At the commencement of the proceedings, the Superintendent of Police presented the following report.

Bilston Division, August 31, 1866.

‘I beg to submit to the Magistrates the attached list of licensed victuallers who have been complained against during the year. Twenty-five have been convicted, and three have paid costs; one had been convicted three times, and five convicted twice. This is a large increase on last year’s list; but I think it has arisen from the police being more particular in reporting cases of permitting drunkenness – as it was found to be an evil rather on the increase. I believe it has caused landlords to be more careful in supplying drink to persons intoxicated.’

H. McCrea, Superintendent.

Black List.....

Noah Barker, VINE INN, Vine Street, Bilston left over until the adjourned licensing meeting on the 28th of September.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/9/1866

“Yesterday, the Bilston adjourned Licensing Session was held at the Police Court.....

The following licenses were granted.....

Noah Barker, VINE INN, High Street.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/3/1868

“On Saturday, John Lowe was sent to prison for one month for stealing a watch, a pipe, and about 3s, belonging to Enoch Barker, a potato vendor, of the VINE INN, Bilston. On the 9th ult the prosecutor left his lodgings to come to Wolverhampton. The watch and pipe were safe before he started, but on the following morning he missed the watch and the pipe and about 3s out of a box in his bed-room. During his absence the prisoner was allowed to go up into the bed-room. The watch was afterwards found at the shop of Mr. Wilcox, a watchmaker, of Lichfield Street, where it had been bought. Prisoner pleaded guilty.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 11/7/1868

“Yesterday, at Bilston Police Court.....

Noah Barker, of the VINE INN, Vine Street, was fined 20s and costs for permitting drunkenness.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/9/1868

“Bilston Adjourned Licensing Day.....

The license to the VINE INN, Bilston, which was suspended at the annual meeting, was granted by the Magistrates on Friday, on the condition that another tenant should be obtained for the house.

Mr. Best, who appeared on behalf of *Noah Barker*, the landlord, stated that arrangements had already been made for that purpose.”

Illustrated Midland News 4/12/1869

“William Lester, butty miner, was charged before the Wolverhampton magistrates on Friday with writing and publishing a false, malicious, and defamatory libel upon Mr. William Blakemore, mine agent of the Osier Bed Colliery, in a letter to his employer, Mr. Sparrow.....

Sir,

Having hitherto been unsuccessful in my efforts to obtain satisfactory settlement of the accounts due to me for the ironstone delivered to your furnaces, in obedience to Mr. Blakemore’s directions and as per account rendered, I beg to observe that the unsettled claim is just and correct in all respects, notwithstanding the unmanly and un-Christian denial of the accuracy thereof. Although Mr. Blakemore has been guilty of falsehood and injustice in this matter, he will scarcely have the assurance to deny his own personal liabilities. Will he deny that he has on several occasions, since his appointment to the situation he now holds, under your firm and under various pretexts borrowed considerable sums of money from me, the greater portion of which he has not repaid? I will give you two or three instances out of a many. On one occasion he borrowed £13 10s to purchase a horse, which he subsequently raffled away at Mr. *Page*’s, VINE INN, Bilston. On another occasion £5 to meet the payment of his rent, and another time £2. The above sums are now owing by him to me. Respectfully submitting the above for your consideration, as I am determined to have my money.

I am, Sir, your humble servant, William Lester.

Willenhall, 26th October, 1869.

The defendant now apologised, and declared that there was no money owing to him by Mr. Blakemore, and regretted that he had made any statement of the sort. The summons was therefore withdrawn as the letter had been.”

1871 Census

4, Vine Street – VINE INN

[1] *George Buckley Myatt* (44), innkeeper, born Burslem;

[2] *Elizabeth Myatt* (44), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Emma Myatt* (20), daughter, born Burslem;

[4] *Jane Hamptones* (15), general servant, born Shropshire:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 7/9/1875

“A large meeting of mill and tonnage men was held in the large concert room at the VINE INN, Bilston, yesterday morning, to take into consideration the proposed 5 per cent reduction. Although the meeting was called for eleven o’clock so great was the interest evinced, that by half-past ten the room was densely crowded, and a large number were unable to gain admittance.

The Chairman briefly introduced the question to be discussed, after which speeches were made by representatives from the various districts in South Staffordshire, and Mr. Capper then in a lengthened speech reviewed the course of events during the last few weeks, and the breaking up of the Conciliation Board, vindicating the conduct of himself

and colleagues. His speech was well received, and a vote of confidence carried with acclamation. A resolution was then proposed and carried unanimously, that the proposed reduction should not be accepted, neither allowance in lieu thereof.

A representative present expressed his opinion that, according to Mr. Kettle's version of the law on the subject, the Conciliation Board having broken up without coming to any definite conclusion, the masters had no further claim upon the men.

The large assemblage then dispersed."

Midland Examiner 23/10/1875

"About seven o'clock on Monday morning, as a man named James Hobson, a painter, in the employ of Mr. White, was about to place a ladder against a house in St. Luke Street, Bilston, he suddenly fell. Some persons who saw the occurrence lifted him up, and carried him to the house of Mrs. Haines, which is in the same street, where, after lying two hours, he expired.

The inquest on the body was held at the VINE INN, Bilston, on Wednesday morning, before W. Phillips, Esq, coroner.

Carry Hall stated that the deceased lodged at her house, and had done so for about five months. He was about 57 years of age, and stated that he came from Shrewsbury. He was never married. He seemed to get up all right on Monday morning last. He was a man of very dissipated habits. He came home last Friday very drunk.

A verdict of Died from Natural Causes was returned."

George Buckley Myatt died on 30th May 1878.

The Era 9/6/1878

"Died, on the 30th ult, Mr. *George Buckley Myatt*, of the VINE INN, Bilston. Deceased was well known to and respected by the Profession."

George Buckley Myatt – see also GOLDEN CUP, Victoria Street, Wolverhampton.

Birmingham Daily Post 26/9/1879 - Advert

"Lost, on Tuesday, at Walsall, a small Scotch Terrier; Sandy.

Anyone returning same to Mrs. *Myatt*, the VINE INN, Bilston, will be handsomely rewarded."

LOST, on Tuesday, at Walsall, a small Scotch Terrier; Sandy.—
Anyone returning same to Mrs. Myatt, the Vine Inn, Bilston,
will be handsomely rewarded.

The Era 30/5/1880 - Advert

"To Showmen and Others.

For Sale, Cheap, a Light Living Van, in good condition, being used for Lecturing purposes. Can be seen in Bilston, Market Place.

Inquire of Mr. George Cooper, VINE INN, Market Place, Bilston."

1881 Census

4, Vine Street – VINE INN

[1] *Elizabeth Myatt* (54), widow, licensed victualler, born Bilston;

[2] *Emma Lester* (30), daughter, married, born Burslem;

[3] *Mary Carline* (20), domestic servant, born Princes End:

Darlaston Weekly Times 1/3/1884 - Death

"On Monday, 25th February, 1884, *Emma Louisa Lester*, only surviving daughter of *George* and *Elizabeth Myatt*, of Bilston; aged 33."

Birmingham Daily Post 26/7/1884 - Advert

"Retiring from Business. Old-licensed free Public House and Spirit Vault, called the VINE INN, Vine Street, Bilston, close to Market; excellent stabling, brewing plant; doing a good business. Not changed hands for twenty years.

Apply, *Thomas Skidmore*, 2, Bilston Street, Wolverhampton."

RETIRING from Business.—Old-licensed free Public House and Spirit Vault, called the Vine Inn, Vine Street, Bilston, close to Market; excellent stabling, brewing plant; doing a good business. Not changed hands for twenty years.—Apply, *Thomas Skidmore*, 2, Bilston Street, Wolverhampton.

Darlaston Weekly Times 18/12/1886

“John Welsh was charged with being drunk and refusing to quit the VINE INN, Vine Street, Bilston, on Saturday night.

Richard Hyde stated that on Saturday night defendant came to his house drunk, and asked to be served with some ale. He refused to supply him with any, when defendant left the house and returned again in about five minutes. Witness requested him to leave, but defendant would not and created a disturbance. He then sent for a policeman and gave defendant into custody.

PC Ogden said he was in Church Street, Bilston, on the night in question, when he was told he was wanted at the VINE INN, Vine Street. He went there and found the defendant drunk and creating a disturbance.

Defendant, who had been convicted seven times before, was fined 2s 6d and costs, or fourteen days imprisonment for being drunk, and 5s and costs, or fourteen days for refusing to quit.”

Birmingham Daily Post 11/8/1890 - Advert

“Wednesday Next, August 13. Important to Brewers, Capitalists, Investors, and Others.

Freehold Beerhouse, Business Premises, and Dwelling Houses, Wolverhampton, and Old-Licensed Market House and Dwelling Houses, Bilston.

Mr. Thomas J. Barnett will submit for Sale by Auction, at the STAR AND GARTER HOTEL, Wolverhampton, on Wednesday Next, August 13, at Six for Seven pm.....

The two following Lots, by order of the Trustees of the late Mr. Johnson.

An Important Old-Licensed Market House in the Centre of the Town of Bilston.

Lot 3. The Important Old-Established Fully Licensed Public House, known as the VINE INN, situate in Vine Street, at the corner of Cooper Street, and immediately opposite to the entrance to Bilston Retail Market, together with the extensive Stabling and other Budlings in the Yard at the rear.

This House, which is in the occupation of Mr. *Richard Hyde* as yearly tenant, is in a first-class position for business, and is one of the best market houses in the district. The House is of substantial construction, three storeys in height, and contains large Liquor Vault, 34ft long; Snug, Kitchens, &c, and a large Club Room and numerous Bed Rooms upstairs, and five Cellars in basement. Possession may be had on the termination of the tenancy.”

1891 Census

Vine Street – VINE INN

[1] *Richard Hyde* (37), licensed victualler, born Ettingshall;

[2] Martha Hyde (35), wife, born West Bromwich;

[3] Richard H. Hyde (9), son, scholar, born Bradley;

[4] Sidney W. Hyde (6), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[5] Mary Ann Brown (68), mother-in-law, widow, dressmaker, born Hill Top, Staffordshire;

[6] Ester Tart (17), domestic servant, born Daisy Bank:

Walsall Advertiser 27/7/1895

“Recently three gold rings and some whisky were missed, the property of *Richard Hyde*, who until lately was landlord of the VINE public house Bilston. The matter was given into the hands of the Bilston police, and Police-constable Insley, in consequence of information, arrested a young woman named Esther Lawton, of Green Lane, Walsall, who had been staying at the VINE HOTEL. She, on being charged, pleaded guilty to the theft. The astute police officer then went in search of a young man named Charles Perkins, tinplate worker, of Heathcote Street, Walsall, whom he found in the gallery of St. George’s Hall, watching the play. Detective Insley arrested the young man in the hall, his action causing quite a commotion, and afterwards charged him with receiving the articles mentioned above knowing them to have been stolen. Both the young man and woman were brought up at the Bilston Police Court on Tuesday morning, before Messrs. F. A. Homer and J. Harper, and were remanded until Friday, when they were convicted of stealing the rings, and Lawton was committed to prison for 14 days and Perkins to one month.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/9/1895 - Advert

“Butchers. Wanted, a Situation with Pork or General Butcher; well up in slaughtering, &c.

Address, J. Torr, VINE HOTEL, Bilston, Staffordshire.”

BUTCHERS. – Wanted, a Situation with Pork or General Butcher; well up in slaughtering, &c. – Address, J. Torr, Vine Hotel, Bilston, Staffordshire.

Frank Torr – see also TURKS HEAD.

The Era 3/3/1900

“The exploit of the Gloucester hotel-keeper who drank champagne in a lion’s cage last week has an emulator – another hotel-keeper. On Tuesday, by way of showing her delight at the defeat of Cronje in the most conspicuous way, Mrs. *Wells*, hostess of the WINE [sic] INN, Bilston, near Wolverhampton, entered a lion’s cage in Greycraft’s Menagerie, which happened to be on show in the village market place. She drank the health of the Queen in champagne and success to the British troops. The lion was respectfully quiescent.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/11/1900

“*George Wells*, of the VINE INN, Vine Street, Bilston, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises and also with selling liquor to a drunken man. The defendant admitted that the man was not sober. He was fined 40s and costs.”

1901 Census

16, Vine Street – VINE INN

- [1] *George J. Wells* (38), licensed victualler, born Deptford, London;
- [2] *Rose Wells* (39), wife, born Worcester;
- [3] *Austine Wells* (21), son, warehouseman, iron plate works, born Camden Town, London;
- [4] *George S. G. Wells* (12), son, born Bermondsey, London;
- [5] *Percy J. Wells* (11), son, born Old Kent Road, London;
- [6] *Nellie A. Wells* (9), daughter, born Deptford, London;
- [7] *Leonard Wells* (4), son, born Deptford, London;
- [8] *Albert T. Wells* (2 months), son, born Bilston;
- [9] *Ellen Gaford* (17), visitor, domestic servant, born Deptford, London;
- [10] *Elizabeth Harvey* (18), domestic servant, born Bilston:

George Henry Lawrence married *Maria Louisa Cartwright*, daughter of *Charles Cartwright*, of the WHITE SWAN, Wednesbury, on 1st May 1901.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/8/1901

“The annual licensing meeting for the Bilston Division was held yesterday.....

Superintendent Walters opposed the renewal of the license to *George Henry Lawrence*, of the VINE INN, Bilston, on the ground that the previous licensee had been convicted for permitting drunkenness. Mr. Clark applied for the license to be renewed, and the application was granted.”

1911 Census

16, Vine Street – VINE INN

- [1] *George H. Lawrence* (46), publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Louise Lawrence* (35), wife, married 9 years, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Laura Hodson* (23), barmaid, born Bilston;
- [4] *Maud Hodson* (2), visitor, born Birmingham:

1911 Probate

“*George Henry Lawrence* of Vine Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 22 May 1911. Probate Lichfield 21 June to *Louise Maria Lawrence*, widow, and *Frederick John Cartwright*, pawnbroker. Effects £677 9s 1d.”

1921 Census

16, Vine Street

- [1] *Louise M. Lawrence* (45), widow, licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Ann M. Smith* (36), domestic servant, born Priestfield:

1923 Probate

"*Thomas Roberts* of Vine Street, Bilston. Staffordshire, died 26 January 1923 at the General Hospital, Wolverhampton. Administration Lichfield 10 February to *Lily Selina Roberts*, widow. Effects £461 1s 1d."

1935 Probate

"*Lily Selina Roberts* of the VINE INN, Vine Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, widow, died 20 November 1934. Administration Birmingham 2 January to Edwin Thomas Roberts, despatch clerk. Effects £366 16s 4d."

1939 Register

16, Vine Street (5 of 6)

- [1] Rita B. J. (Royce) Cameron, date of birth 3/2/1906, theatrical, single;
- [2] Henry Cameron, dob 8/11/1881, theatrical, widowed;
- [3] William H. Chamberlain, date of birth 28/10/1895, licensed victualler, manager, married;
- [4] Mabel Chamberlain, dob 30/8/1899, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [5] Mary Eliza (Chamberlain) Billington, dob 14/9/1926, school, single;

A team from here took part in the Bilston Crib League, Section B. [1946]

Bilston and Willenhall Times 6/7/1946

"When William Ernest Webb (24), 22, Wood Street, Bilston, lost his temper in a public house and smashed a glass because he was refused drink, it was the means of him being sent to gaol for two months.

At Bilston on Tuesday, he was summoned for doing damage to a pint glass, and Mr. S. W. Smith, who prosecuted, said that Webb was in the VINE INN, Vine Street, Bilston, on June 24th, and had had several drinks. Shortly before 10pm the landlord placed a towel over the beer pulls and Webb went to the counter and asked for a bottle of stout. The landlord told him he had finished serving, whereupon Webb threw a pint glass into the air, smashing it, at the same time remarking, 'That's what I think of you and your — beer.' Mr. Smith added that while the wrecking of the glass might be a small thing in itself, it meant a great deal when in a public house. If people were allowed to act like this, how could the licensees do their duty.

In announcing the sentence, the chairman (Mr. W. R. Mobberley) told Webb that his record was none too good."

Closed

Demolished c.1965

IMPORTANT LICENSED VICTUALLER'S HOUSE, "THE VINE INN,"

VINE STREET, BILSTON.

BY JOHN GRAY.—To be SOLD by PRIVATE CONTRACT, the LICENSES, GOODWILL, and POSSESSION of the above excellent Old-Licensed PUBLIC HOUSE, commandingly situated near the Market Place, in the above thriving, busy town. The Premises are in every way arranged for this business, with Stabling for twenty horses. Rent very moderate. There is a large and profitable business being transacted. Coming-in about £200.

For particulars, apply to the Auctioneer, Coleshill Street, Birmingham.

THAT EXCELLENT OLD LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE, "THE VINE INN,"

VINE STREET, BILSTON.

BY JOHN GRAY.—To be SOLD by PRIVATE CONTRACT, the LICENSES, GOODWILL, and POSSESSION of the above desirable OLD LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE, commandingly situated in a good business position in the above thriving town. The Premises are commodious and convenient, with extensive Stabling, and are held at a moderate rental.

For particulars, apply upon the Premises; or to John Gray, Auctioneer, Coleshill Street, Birmingham. 3139

VINE INN, MARKET PLACE, BILSTON.

TO be DISPOSED OF, with immediate possession, the LICENSES and GOODWILL, of the above well-known OLD-LICENSED HOUSE.—Satisfactory reasons for giving up the business, and further particulars, may be had on application to Messrs. Whitehead and Caddick, Auctioneers, Mount Pleasant, Bilston.

VINE INN, MARKET PLACE, BILSTON.

WHITEHEAD and CADDICK have received instructions to SELL by AUCTION, without the slightest reserve, on Monday next, July 22, 1861, the LICENSES, GOODWILL, and POSSESSION of the above old-established house; also the whole of the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, FIXTURES, and very valuable BREWING PLANT, together with the extensive and well selected STOCK-IN-TRADE. The sale includes the usual Furnishing Requisites, capital 5-pull Beer Machine, with Stop Taps and long range of Piping; Gas Fittings, valuable assortment of Ale Casks, from 120 gallons downwards; large Copper and Iron Boilers, Mash Tubs, Coolers, excellent Malt Crusher, &c.; the Stock consists of a selection of first-class Wines and Spirits, Ale and Porter.

Descriptive particulars appear in catalogues, which may be had at the Offices of the AUCTIONEERS, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, and Walsall-street, Willenhall, and at the Chronicle Office, Wolverhampton.

BILSTON.
PARTICULARS OF
VALUABLE COPYHOLD PROPERTIES,
IN

WOOD-STREET, VINE-STREET, & COOPER-STREET.

MR. JABEZ MORRELL will **SELL** by **AUCTION** (by order of the Devises in trust of the late Mr. George Cooper), at the **VINE INN, VINE-STREET, BILSTON**, on Tuesday, the 19th day of April, 1864, at six o'clock in the evening, subject to such conditions of sale as will be then and there produced, and in the following or such other lots as may be agreed upon at the time of sale:—

LOT 1.—All that Old Licensed **INN**, known as the Vine Inn, fronting to the Market Gates, in Vine-street, Bilston aforesaid, comprising front parlour, tap room, bar parlour, kitchen, excellent cellaring, club room, and numerous bed rooms. There are to this lot coach house, stabling, piggeries, and other out-offices, being in the occupation of Mr. Henry Jones at the very low annual rental of £34, and comprises, including the site of the buildings, 640 square yards or thereabouts.

1864

THE VINE INN, VINE STREET, BILSTON.

TO BE DISPOSED OF, the **LICENSES** and **GOOD WILL** of the above old-established **INN**, situate adjoining the Market. The brewing plant, fixtures, stock, &c., to be taken to at valuation.—Apply to the Proprietor, **HENRY JONES**.

1865

VINE INN,
MARKET PLACE, BILSTON.

T. BROOKES respectfully informs his Friends and the Inhabitants of Bilston and its vicinity, that he intends opening the above Inn on Wednesday next, the 11th of October, and trusts that his stock of Wines, Ale, &c. will be found such as will merit their patronage and support.

Commercial Gentlemen may depend upon every attention being paid to their comfort and convenience, and upon finding good Hay and Stabling for their horses.

1866

WEDNESDAY NEXT, August 13.—Important to Brewers, Capitalists, Investors, and Others.—Freehold **BEERHOUSE**, **BUSINESS PREMISES**, and **DWELLING HOUSES**, Wolverhampton, and **OLD-LICENSED MARKET HOUSE** and **DWELLING HOUSES**, Bilston.

MR. THOMAS J. BARNETT will submit for Sale by Auction, at the Star and Garter Hotel, Wolverhampton, on **WEDNESDAY NEXT, August 13**, at Six for Seven p.m. punctually, subject to conditions of Sale, the undermentioned valuable **FREEHOLD PROPERTIES**:—

LOT 1.—The centrally-situated Front **SHOP** and **PREMISES**, No. 49, Victoria Street, Wolverhampton, as occupied by Mr. N. Jevons, Confectioner, as yearly tenant.

LOT 2.—Eleven Two-storey **DWELLING HOUSES**, seven situate in Bromley Street, and four in Duncan Street, Dudley Road, Wolverhampton, and producing £107. 17s. 4d. per annum.

Solicitor as to Lots 1 and 2; Mr. T. Dallow, Queen Street, Wolverhampton.

The two following Lots, by order of the Trustees of the late Mr. Johnson:—

AN IMPORTANT OLD-LICENSED MARKET HOUSE IN THE CENTRE OF THE TOWN OF BILSTON.

LOT 3.—The Important **OLD-ESTABLISHED FULLY LICENSED PUBLIC-HOUSE**, known as the "**VINE INN**," situate in Vine Street, at the corner of Cooper Street, and immediately opposite to the entrance to Bilston Retail Market, together with the extensive Stabling and other Buildings in the Yard at the rear.

This House, which is in the occupation of Mr. Richard Hyde as yearly tenant, is in a first-class position for business, and is one of the best market houses in the district. The House is of substantial construction, three storeys in height, and contains large Liquor Vault, 34ft. long; Snug, Kitchens, &c., and a large Club Room and numerous Bed Rooms upstairs, and five Cellars in basement. Possession may be had on the termination of the tenancy.

1890

WAGGON AND HORSES

22, Millfields Road, (22, (21), Mill Street), Ettingshall, (Catchems Corner), BILSTON

OWNERS

Samuel Burrows, licensed victualler, Ettingshall
Peck and Kerrison [1892], [1896]
Bent's Brewery Co. Ltd. [1904], [1908], [1912]

LICENSEES

John Hayward [1851] – **1855**;
Mrs. Hayward **(1855 – [])**
Samuel Cornfield [] – **1862**;
Mrs. Mary Ann Hayward **(1862 – [])**
William Burrows [1866]
George Hall [1868] – **1871**;
Thomas Wildman **(1871 – 1874)**;
Mrs. Jane Wildman **(1874 – 1875)**;
Joseph Smith **(1875 – 1880)**;
John Walker **(1880 – 1913)**;
John Walker **(1913 – 1917)**;
Alice Walker **(1917 – 1919)**;
James Nicholls **(1919 – 1922)**;
Thomas Green **(1922 – [1940])**

FREEHOLD OLD-LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE,
AT CATCHEM'S CORNER, SEDGLEY.
MR. JABEZ MORRELL will **SELL** by
AUCTION on Tuesday, the 1st day of November, 1864, at
the house of Mr. Joseph Bell, called "The BLACK BOY INN,"
COSELEY-STREET, BILSTON, at Six o'clock in the Evening,
subject to such conditions as will be then and there produced:—
All that valuable Old-Licensed PUBLIC HOUSE called "The
Waggon and Horses Inn," situate at Catchem's Corner, in the
Parish of Sedgley, in the County of Stafford, fronting the Turnpike
Road leading from Bilston to Penn, including large tap room,
cellar, brewhouse, two parlours, malt room, club room, 30 feet by
12, &c.
Immediate possession may be had.
For further particulars apply to Mr. FOSTER GOUGH, Solicitor,
King-street, Wolverhampton; or the AUCTIONEER, Bilston.

1864

NOTES

[This pub was strictly in the parish of Sedgley, but is included here due to other pubs in the proximity coming under Bilston.]

22, Mill Street [1881], [1901]
21 Mill Street [1891]
22, Millfields Road [1911], [1939], [1940]

Staffordshire Advertiser 13/10/1849

"On Friday se'nnight, an inquest was held before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, at the WAGGON AND HORSES, Catchems Corner, on the body of Joseph Green, 28 years of age, a miner, who had died on the previous Tuesday, from severe injuries received in a stone pit at Parkfield, on the 27th ult, by a large quantity of stone and rock falling upon him from the roof. His left leg was broken in two parts, and he was much bruised on various parts of the body. The deceased had neglected to prop the roof, although there was plenty of timber in the pit. Verdict, Accidental Death."

John Hayward = John Haywood

Wolverhampton Chronicle 25/4/1855

"At the Petty Sessions, yesterday the following victuallers' licenses were transferred.....
WAGGON AND HORSES, Ettingshall, from the Executors of Mr. *John Haywood*, deceased, to his wife, Mrs. *Haywood*."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/1/1859

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Michael Bill, 43, miner, and Benjamin Crowther, 24, stoker, were indicted for uttering three counterfeit half-crowns, at Bilston, well knowing the same to be false and counterfeit. The prisoners went to the BULL AND MOUTH public house, in High Street, Bilston, and while they were there Crowther offered a bad half-crown in payment for three-pennyworth of gin. He was told that it was bad, upon which he began to abuse the landlord, and after some time was turned out of the shop. While the altercation was going on the prisoner walked away. A short time before their visit to the BULL AND MOUTH they had been at the BALLOON public house, where Crowther offered a bad shilling in payment for drink, but it was refused. When the prisoners left they were watched, and Bill was heard to say to Crowther, with an oath, ‘Go and try Masters’s,’ that being the name of the person who formerly kept the BULL AND MOUTH. On the following day the prisoners went to the WAGGON AND HORSES, at Sedgley, and Crowther called for a pint of ale, for which he tendered half-a-crown, which the niece of the landlady said was bad. The landlady, however, whose sight was defective, consented to take it, but the course of the day she sent her niece to a neighbour’s shop to make some purchases, giving her the half-crown in question, when the opinion of the niece that it was counterfeit was confirmed. Within an hour of leaving the WAGGON AND HORSES, the prisoners went to the BRIDGE INN, at the same place, where for some drink they offered another bad half-crown, but it was not discovered to be bad until the evening of the same day. The men having got clear away, Bill went on the evening of the same day to a provision shop in the same place, and there attempted to pass a bad shilling. On being told that it was bad, he said that he was nearly blind (which appeared to be true), and that it had been given to him in his wages. He promised to bring the person who gave him the coin, but having once left with the shilling in his possession, he never returned. On the 18th of the same month, Crowther and the other prisoner were at the MOXLEY TAVERN, Bilston, where one of them offered a bad shilling in payment for a glass of gin. The police were by this time on their track, and shortly afterwards they were apprehended.

Mr. Motteram dissected the evidence in detail for the purpose of showing that it was not conclusive against the prisoners, but the Jury returned a verdict of guilty. Bill was sentenced to six months, and Crowther to twelve months hard labour.”

Samuel Cornfield = Samuel Conforth

1861 Census

Catchems Corner – WAGON AND HORSES Public House

- [1] *Samuel Cornfield* (40), widower, publican and iron shingler, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Isabella Cornfield* (14), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [3] *Maryann Cornfield* (12), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] *Samuel Cornfield* (8), son, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [5] *George Cornfield* (4), son, born Sedgley;
- [6] *Maryann Hayward* (70), aunt, widow, out of business, born Sedgley;

Samuel Cornfield died on 17th April 1862 as a result of a boiler explosion at Millfield Iron Works.

[For further on the boiler explosion see under **KINGS ARMS**.]

Birmingham Daily Post 18/4/1862

“The Bilston Catastrophe. The number of the deceased have been swelled to 26 in number.....

Samuel Cornfield, a shingler, of Catchems Corner, when our reporter was on the spot yesterday afternoon, was fast sinking under the effects of severe burns and scalds.”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/4/1862

“The Bilston Catastrophe. Another Death.....

Samuel Cornfield, the shingler, who was stated in our impression of yesterday to be fast sinking, expired at eight o’clock on Thursday evening.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/6/1862

“At Bilston Police Court, on Friday, the following intermediate transfers were made.....

WAGGON AND HORSES, Catchems Corner, Executors of *Samuel Conforth* to *Mary Ann Hayward*, widow.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/10/1864 - Advert

“Freehold Old-Licensed Public House, at Catchems Corner, Sedgley.

Mr. Jabez Morrell will Sell by Auction on Tuesday, the 1st day of November, 1864, at the house of Mr. Joseph Bell, called the BLACK BOY INN, Coseley Street, Bilston, at Six o'clock in the Evening, subject to such conditions as will be then and there produced.

All that valuable Old-licensed Public House called the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, situate at Catchems Corner, in the Parish of Sedgley, in the County of Stafford, fronting the Turnpike Road, leading from Bilston to Penn, including large tap room, cellar, brewhouse, two parlours, malt room, club room, 30 feet by 12, &c.

Immediate possession may be had.

For further particulars apply to Mr. Foster Gough, Solicitor, King Street, Wolverhampton; or the Auctioneer, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/2/1866

“On Monday last, T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, held an inquest at the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Catchems Corner, on the body of Joseph Tranter, a collier, aged 14 years, who had been employed in a coal pit at the Rookery Colliery, the property of Mr. G. B. Bloomer. It appeared that about the middle of the day on the previous Wednesday, a quantity of coal and ‘clod’ fell in a stall in the pit, where a pikeman, named James Langstone, was at work, burying the latter and also the deceased. The duty of Tranter was to load skips and drive them from the workings to the bottom of the shaft, and it was stated that he had no business out of the road, and that if he had been attending to his duty he would not have been hurt. Langstone was covered by the coal, &c, which fell, but he was fortunately recovered without having suffered serious injuries. It was not known that the deceased had been affected by the accident until he was missed. A search was then made for him and he was found under the debris, frightfully cut and bruised about the head and face, and speechless. He was taken home in a cart and attended by Mr. Best, surgeon, but he died the same evening. It was stated that the pit was properly worked; that there was a sufficiency of timber to prop the roof, and no blame was attributed to any person in reference to the accident. The Jury therefore returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1866

“The annual meeting for the renewal of existing licenses, and for receiving applications for fresh ones, was held at the Police Court, on Friday.....

At the commencement of the proceedings, the Superintendent of Police presented the following report.
Bilston Division, August 31, 1866.

‘I beg to submit to the Magistrates the attached list of licensed victuallers who have been complained against during the year. Twenty-five have been convicted, and three have paid costs; one had been convicted three times, and five convicted twice. This is a large increase on last year’s list; but I think it has arisen from the police being more particular in reporting cases of permitting drunkenness – as it was found to be an evil rather on the increase. I believe it has caused landlords to be more careful in supplying drink to persons intoxicated.’

H. McCrea, Superintendent.

Black List.....

William Burrows, WAGGON AND HORSES, Ettingshall, Sedgley left over until the adjourned licensing meeting on the 28th of September.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/9/1866

“Yesterday, the Bilston adjourned Licensing Session was held at the Police Court.....

The following licenses were granted.....

William Burrows, BROWN HORSE [sic], Ettingshall.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 24/8/1867

“On Saturday an inquest was held at the WAGGON AND HORSES, Ettingshall, on the body of Lydia Woodfield, who died on Tuesday week last from cutting her throat with a razor. Since the death of a daughter deceased had been in a very depressed state of mind. The jury found that the deceased destroyed herself while in a state of Temporary Insanity.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/3/1868

“On Monday an inquest was held at the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Catchems Corner, before W. H. Phillips, Esq, deputy coroner, on the body of a man named Amos Walters, who met his death by accident on the previous Saturday.

The deceased it appeared was a sinker at the Spring Vale Colliery, and on the above morning was descending a gin pit. When only about eight yards from the surface, however, the cotter pin came out from the winding machine, and the deceased was violently lowered to the bottom of the pit, some fifty or sixty yards, and was so fearfully injured that he died soon afterwards.

In the absence of any evidence showing how it was the cotter pin came out, the Jury, under the direction of the Coroner, returned an Open Verdict.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 13/11/1869

“Yesterday, at Bilston Police Court, *George Hall*, landlord of the WAGON AND HORSES, Ettingshall, was fined 10s and costs, for having kept his house open for the sale of liquors during prohibited hours on Sunday last.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 27/8/1870

“The annual sessions for the renewal of existing and the granting of new licenses to licensed victuallers and beersellers in Bilston and Sedgley, was held yesterday at the Police Court, Bilston.....

All the applications for renewal of licenses were granted except the following, who had been fined for various offences during the year, and whose applications for renewal were adjourned until the adjourned licensing day, November 30 Licensed Victuallers.....

George Hall, WAGON AND HORSES, Ettingshall.”

[Renewed at the adjourned licensing meeting.]

1871 Census

22, Mill Street

[1] *George Hall* (36), miller, born Stonley, Warwickshire;

[2] *Sarah Hall* (38), wife, born Stockton, Shropshire;

[3] *Sophia Hall* (9), daughter, born Bilston;

[4] *Laura C. Hall* (8), daughter, born Bilston;

[5] *Lewie Hall* (5), daughter, born Bilston;

[6] *William Hall* (2), son, born Bilston:

AND

23, Mill Street

[1] *Thomas Wildman* (32), publican, born Ettingshall;

[2] *Jane Wildman* (30), wife, born Ettingshall;

[3] *Samuel Wildman* (4), son, born Ettingshall;

[4] *Ada Wildman* (2), daughter, born Ettingshall;

[5] *Sarah Wildman* (1 month), daughter, born Ettingshall;

[6] *Mary Taylor* (74), mother-in-law, born Ettingshall:

Thomas Wildman was also a shopkeeper. [1872]

Tamworth Miners Examiner 6/12/1873

“On Tuesday last, there was a meeting of the miners working in the Parkfield Colliery, near Wolverhampton, held at the WAGGON AND HORSES, Catchem. Mr. Joseph Spruce, on being voted to the chair, said this was a meeting called to take into consideration the advisability of withdrawing the field pay from the colliery, and paying into the respective lodges to which each member belongs, or leaving it as it now is under the control and authority of the proprietors of the colliery. Continuing, the Chairman remarked upon the advantages which would accrue from the men having the field pay under their supervision, and the likelihood of being able to form a widows and orphans fund from the surplus, or at least allowing the widow a small allowance for a certain period after the decease of her husband. After a few other remarks, he called upon Mr. Goring, who formed part of a deputation to wait upon the proprietors of the colliery on November the 8th and 10th, respecting the withdrawal of the field pay from the colliery. Mr. Goring, on rising, said: Mr. Chairman, I had the honour to wait on the Parkfield Iron Company, together with Mr. Ford, on Saturday, November the 8th. One of the proprietors being away we had to be at the offices again on

the following Monday morning, and, having been introduced by the manager, we opened our proceedings by stating what we wanted, namely, the field pay to be withdrawn from the colliery. After a short discussion with the proprietors, we could only arrive at a decision by leaving it in the hands of the men generally, whether it was or was not their wish to have it withdrawn, therefore this meeting will decide by giving its opinion on the question. I am proud to say that the proprietors looked on the scheme with a very lenient eye, and went so far as to say 'it would look less like pauperism,' and that they were quite proud to see that the miners were raising themselves in the social scale of society. (Cheers.)

Mr. Ford, on rising, said: Mr. Chairman and fellow working men, on rising to move the first resolution, I have great pleasure, and feel it is a duty to acknowledge before this meeting that on our two visits to the colliery proprietors we were received in the most courteous and gentlemanly manner possible, and treated with every respect. Whilst in the past field-pay has done good, we hope for the future it will do more good. No doubt we have been thankful for our 5s per week from the office; but for the future it will be less like pauperism, and we can receive it from our own lodges – (hear, hear) – if it is agreeable to the meeting here assembled. I am sure that every attention and care has been bestowed on the injured in times past, as the manager told us, and that in cases of poverty or distress he has added weekly to the sufferer's allowance – all honour to such deeds, wherever and by whoever performed. But if we take the field pay away, can we look for that support from the masters; can we look to our own sick society in the past, which has made gifts at different times to different members, and say that we shall be losers by transferring the field pay from the collieries to the lodge houses. We too, no doubt, shall be able to alleviate the sufferers wants, and check the widows and orphans grief. I shall therefore move that the miners employed under Parkfield Iron Company hereby tender their very best thanks and warmest gratitude to their employers for their past kindnesses and attention in cases of affliction. This resolution was seconded in a very heartfelt and sympathetic manner by a collier who had received special attention in time of need. The resolution was then put with a few complimentary remarks and carried.

The next resolution, which was the principal one of the meeting, was moved by E. Goring, seconded by John Isaacs, 'That the time has arrived to withdraw the field pay from the Parkfield Colliery.' The motion was carried without a dissentient voice, also, 'that the same come into operation with the new year.' A hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman brought the meeting to a close."

Thomas Wildman died in 1874.

Birmingham Daily Post 4/1/1875

"License Transfers Alehouses.....

WAGON AND HORSES, Ettingshall, to *Jane Wildman*, as administratrix of her deceased husband."

1881 Census

22, Mill Street – WAGON AND HORSES

[1] *John Walker* (34), blacksmith and licensed victualler, born Bonehill, Staffordshire;

[2] *Emma Walker* (32), wife, born Branston, Northamptonshire;

[3] *Samuel Walker* (9), son, scholar, born Bonehill, Staffordshire;

[4] *William Walker* (6), son, scholar, born Bonehill, Staffordshire;

[5] *Emily Jane Walker* (4), daughter, born Heath Town;

[6] *John Walker* (1), son, born Bilston;

[7] *Elizabeth A. Webster* (16), niece, born Bonehill, Staffordshire:

Darlaston Weekly Times 6/10/1883

"The annual supper of the Ettingshall Wanderers Football and Cricket Club was held on Saturday, at the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Ettingshall....."

1891 Census

21, Mill Street – WAGGON AND HORSES Public House

- [1] *John Walker* (45), public house manager, born Fazeley, Staffordshire;
- [2] *Emma Walker* (43), wife, born Brownston, Northamptonshire;
- [3] *Samuel Walker* (19), son, galvanised sheet packer, born Fazeley, Staffordshire;
- [4] *William Walker* (16), son, galvanised sheet packer, born Fazeley, Staffordshire;
- [5] *Emily J. Walker* (14), daughter, scholar, born Heath Town;
- [6] *John Walker* (11), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] *Fanny Walker* (9), daughter, scholar, born Ettingshall;
- [8] *Fred Walker* (6), son, scholar, born Ettingshall;
- [9] *Lilian Walker* (4), daughter, born Ettingshall;
- [10] *Arthur Walker* (1), son, born Ettingshall:

1901 Census

22, Mill Street

- [1] *John Walker* (55), publican, born Fazeley, Staffordshire;
- [2] *Emma Walker* (53), wife, born Braunston, Northamptonshire;
- [3] *Samuel Walker* (29), son, engine fitter, born Fazeley, Staffordshire;
- [4] *William Walker* (26), son, engine fitter, born Fazeley, Staffordshire;
- [5] *John Walker* (21), son, holloware moulder, born Bilston;
- [6] *Jenny Walker* (19), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [7] *Fred Walker* (16), son, commercial clerk, born Sedgley;
- [8] *Lillian Walker* (14), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [9] *Arthur Walker* (11), son, born Sedgley:

1911 Census

22, Millfield Road

- [1] *John Walker* (64), publican, born Fazeley, Warwickshire;
- [2] *Emma Walker* (63), wife, married 40 years, born Braunston, Northamptonshire;
- [3] *Arthur Walker* (21), son, iron boiler maker, born Ettingshall;
- [4] *Mary Norton* (17), servant, born Bradley:

1912 Probate

“*Emma Walker* of WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Mill Street, Ettingshall, Staffordshire (wife of *John Walker*) died 6 October 1912. Administration Lichfield 26 November to the said *John Walker*, innkeeper. Effects £525 19s.”

1939 Register

22, Millfields Road – WAGGON AND HORSES INN

- [1] *Thomas Green*, date of birth 24/4/1889, publican, married;
- [2] *Ellen N. Green*, dob 15/1/1889, domestic duties, married:

WAGGON AND HORSES

147, (67+68), (67), (68), Oxford Street, (Oxford Road), New Town, BILSTON

OWNERS

Norris Best, surgeon, Bilston
William Poole Tomkys
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1904], [1961]

LICENSEES

James Walters [1818] – [1830]
Isaac Pitt [1833] – [1834]
John Webb [1835]
Richard Evans [1838] – [1840]
Edward Millington [1841] – [1842]
Titus Thompson [1845]
Mrs. Maria Thompson [1846] – [1858]
William Poole Tomkys [1860] – [1865]
William Cook [1868] – [1872]
William Poole Tomkys [1874] – **1877**;
Patrick Clines (**1877 – 1882**);
Frederick William Plant (**1882 – 1891**);
George Walker (**1891 – 1918**);
Frederick Dudley (**1918 – 1919**);
James Duggan (**1919 – 1925**);
Samuel Farrington (**1925 – 1928**);
Henry Newick (**1928 – 1929**);
William George Tudor (**1929 – 1931**);
James Hall (**1931 – [1940]**)
William Smith [1961]

NOTES

Oxford Road, Newtown [1828]
68, Oxford Street [1858], [1861], [1874], [1891]
67, Oxford Street [1864], [1871], [1872], [1892]
67+68, Oxford Street [1881], [1896], [1904]
147, Oxford Street [1901], [1908], [1911], [1916], [1921], [1921], [1932], [1939], [1940]

It was situated opposite to the Roman Catholic Church.

Stamp Office [1849], [1850], [1851], [1854]

That most desirable Public House, the WAGGON and HORSES, New Town, Bilston.

ON SALE, by private Treaty, the Licences, Good-will, and Possession of the above named **PUBLIC HOUSE**, now in the occupation of Mr. James Walters, the proprietor, who has carried on the same for about thirty years, and, in consequence of the infirmities of age, is retiring upon a competency obtained thereby.

The purchaser will be expected to take to the stock of ale, liquors, malt, and hops, and also the barrels, tubs, brewing utensils, fixtures, &c. at a fair valuation, but he is not expected to take to the household furniture, although he may be accommodated with any part thereof upon the above terms, and may have a lease of the premises for a term of years at a moderate rent.

It is a rare occurrence for so desirable a situation as the above to be on sale, being situate upon the great road from London to Holyhead, in a very populous and improving neighbourhood, in the vicinity of extensive coal and iron works and manufactories of various descriptions, and comprises ample store cellars, tap-room, parlour, bar, kitchen, larder, a large club-room, with paneled partition to convert it into two excellent bed-rooms occasionally, five good bed-rooms, a large and convenient brewhouse, two stables, piggeries, and other outbuildings in an entire yard, in which is a well of excellent water.

To treat apply (if by letter, post paid) to Richard Corbett, Auctioneer, Surveyor, and General Agent, New Town, Bilston aforesaid.

1828

WAGGON and HORSES INN, Oxford-street, Bilston.

TO be disposed of by private Treaty, the Licences, Good-will, &c. of the above-named Inn, the Stock, Fixtures, and part of the Household Furniture, to be taken at a valuation.

The House is in good business, and situate on the Holyhead Road, comprising bar, tap-room, front and back parlours, back kitchen, five sleeping-rooms, club-room (with a beneficial lodge attached) excellent cellarage, brewhouse, stabling for eight horses, and other conveniences—coming in about £250.

For particulars apply on the premises, or (if by letter, post paid) to Daniel Taylor, Auctioneer, &c. Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

1835

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 17/11/1828 - Advert

"That most desirable Public House, the WAGGON AND HORSES, New Town, Bilston.

On Sale, by Private Treaty, the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession, of the above named Public House, now in the occupation of Mr. *James Walters*, the proprietor, who has carried on the same for about thirty years, and, in consequence of the infirmities of age, is retiring upon a competency obtained thereby.

The purchaser will be expected to take to the stock of ale, liquors, malt, and hops, and also the barrels, tubs, brewing utensils, fixtures, &c, at a fair valuation, but he is not expected to take to the household furniture, although he may be accommodated with any part thereof upon the above terms, and may have a lease of the premises for a term of years at a moderate rent.

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To treat apply (if by letter, post paid) to Richard Corbett, Auctioneer, Surveyor, and General Agent, New Town, Bilston aforesaid."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 27/4/1835 - Advert

"WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Oxford Street, Bilston.

To be disposed of by private Treaty, the Licenses, Goodwill, &c, of the above-named Inn, the Stock, Fixtures, and part of the Household Furniture, to be taken at a valuation.

The House is in good business, and situate on the Holyhead Road, comprising bar, tap-room, front and back parlours, back kitchen, five sleeping-rooms, club-room (with a beneficial lodge attached), excellent cellarage, brewhouse, stabling for eight horses, and other conveniences. Coming-in about £250.

For particulars apply on the premises, or (if by letter, post paid) to Daniel Taylor, Auctioneer, &c, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1838 - Advert

"To Be Let, and may be entered upon immediately.

That old-established and well-accustomed Public House, known as the WAGGON AND HORSES, New Town, Bilston, the present occupier retiring solely on account of ill health.

The Stock and Fixtures to be taken at a fair valuation, and if wished the stock will be reduced to suit the convenience of the purchaser.

For particulars, and to treat for the same, apply to Mr. *R. Evans*, on the premises."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/9/1840 - Advert

"To Publican and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett, on the premises, on Tuesday, September 15, 1840.

All the excellent iron-bound Ale Barrels, Brewing Utensils, capital Beer Machine, part of the Household Furniture, and other effects of Mr. *Richard Evans*, at the WAGGON AND HORSES public house, Oxford Road, New Town, Bilston, who is declining the public business; particulars of which are in circulation, and may be had at the offices of the Auctioneer, New Town, Bilston.

The sale to commence at ten o'clock in the morning, and at two in the afternoon."

1841 Census

Oxford Street

[1] *Edward Millington* (25), blacksmith, born Staffordshire;

[2] *John Millington* (15);

[3] *John Millington* (5), born Staffordshire;

[4] *Daniel Millington* (1), born Staffordshire;

[5] *Dinah Millington* (25), born Staffordshire;

[6] *Thomas Drew* (13), apprentice;

[7] *Mary Davis* (20), f.s., born Staffordshire:

OR

Oxford Street

[1] *Titus Thompson* (42), dealer in wines and spirits, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Maria Thompson* (43) , born Staffordshire;

[3] Ann Baker (20), f.s., born Staffordshire;

[4] Tamar Squire (20), f.s., born Staffordshire;

[5] Henry Tomkys (35), ind., born Staffordshire;

[6] William Garratt (19), m.s., born Staffordshire:

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 23/6/1845 - Died

"On the 9th inst, aged 48, Mr. *Titus Thompson*, of the Stamp Office, Bilston."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/8/1845

"Inquests before T. M. Phillips, Esq, Coroner.....

On Thursday, at the WAGGON AND HORSES, Bilston, on George Pritchard, an engine fitter, who died suddenly, Mr. Dickinson attributed death to apoplexy. Verdict, Death from Apoplexy."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/12/1845

"Joseph Duffield, of Tipton, was charged by the police with fighting at Bilston, at about three o'clock on Sunday morning; the other man escaped. The defendant said he had been drinking at the WAGGON AND HORSES public house, in the New Town, until that hour, when he was compelled to fight by the parties in whose company he was."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/6/1846

"On Wednesday an inquest was held at the WAGGON AND HORSES public house, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of Elizabeth Arrowsuch, about five years of age, who, whilst gathering flowers close to the engine pit of the Bilston Brook Furnaces, fell down the pit, which is about twenty-five yards deep, and was killed on the spot. She had been immediately before requested by another little girl to come away from the pit; but she replied that she should not do so until she had gathered all the flowers. Verdict, Accidental Death."

Birmingham Journal 27/6/1846

"On Wednesday night last an inquest was held at the house of Mrs. *Maria Thompson*, WAGGON AND HORSES, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, Coroner, upon the body of Samuel Bodley, a man about twenty-nine years old, who came to his death by suffocation, in a pit near Bilston Broke Furnace, at Bilston. It appeared that he went down the pit, which had been worked out, to fetch something from the bottom. When he had descended to the bottom he cried out, 'The damp, the damp,' and a man who was at the top told him to fasten himself to the chain. The poor fellow was heard to stagger and fall. He was not got up for the space of an hour, when he was quite dead. The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

Birmingham Journal 11/7/1846

"At Bilston Police Court, on Tuesday last, Samuel Hughes was charged with stealing 11s 9d, the property of John Bladen. It appeared that on Sunday morning last the two men were drinking together at the house of Mrs. *Thompson*, WAGGON AND HORSES, Newtown, Bilston. Bladen got rather fresh and went to sleep, and while lying on the screen Hughes took out his money, in the presence of several men, counted it, and put it in his pocket, saying that he would take care of it for him. The company advised him to put it back, but he would not, and left the house in company with Bladen, whom he took home. During the Sunday Bladen missed his money, and on Monday morning went to the prisoner, whom he charged with robbing him, and he gave him into custody. When told the charge upon which he was apprehended, he promised to return the money. The Bench thinking the evidence insufficient to show a felonious intent, and Bladen not wishing to prosecute, the prisoner was discharged."

Birmingham Journal 17/4/1847 - Advert

"Eligible Freehold Property, Old Meeting Street, New Town, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Corbett and Son, on Friday, the 30th day of April, 1847, at the house of Mrs. *Maria Thompson*, known as the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, New Town, Bilston, at Six o'clock in the evening....."

Birmingham Journal 15/7/1848

“The eighth anniversary of the Prince Albert’s Arms Lodge, No.8, belonging to the Royal Victoria Order of Odd Fellows, Wednesbury district, was held on Tuesday afternoon, at the house of hostess *Thompson*, WAGGON AND HORSES, New Town, Bilston, when a most sumptuous dinner was provided for the members by their kind and worthy hostess. After dinner, Brother Corbett was called to the chair, and Brother Martin the vice-chair, when the usual loyal toasts were given, and the evening was passed in great harmony and enjoyment.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 11/10/1848 - Advert

“Bilston Turnpike Tolls.

Notice is hereby given, that the Tolls arising at the several Toll Gates and Bars upon the Turnpike Roads leading to and from Bilston, in the county of Stafford, will be Let by Auction, at the House of Mrs. *Maria Thompson*, the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, in Bilston aforesaid, on Tuesday, the 24th day of October next, between the hours of one and three in the afternoon, for the term of one year, commencing the first day of January next, in the manner directed by the acts passed in the third and fourth years of the reign of his Majesty King George the Fourth, ‘for regulating Turnpike Roads,’ which Tolls were let on lease, the last year, in the several lots and at the sums undermentioned, clear of the expenses of collecting them, and will be put up in such lots and at such sums respectively as the Trustees then present shall think fit.

Whoever happen to be the best bidders must at the same time pay one month in advance of the rent at which such Tolls may be let, and give security, with sufficient sureties to the satisfaction of the Trustees of the said Turnpike Roads, for payment of the rest of the money monthly.

Lot I. New Gate, £600.

Lot II. Bilston Bridge, High Street, and Cold Lanes Gates, and Bilston Bar, £762.

Lot III. Catchems Corner and Parkfield Gates, and Ettingshall Lane Bar, and Ettingshall Side Bar, £220.

Lot IV. Gibbet Lane Gate, £702.

John Willim, Clerk to the Trustees. Bilston, September 14, 1848.”

Birmingham Journal 14/10/1848 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale of Two Poneys and their Harness.

To be Sold by Auction, by John Corbett, on Monday Next, the 16th day of October, 1848, at the WAGGON AND HORSES, New Town, Bilston, the following Property, which is being disposed of in consequence of the present Owner having no further use for them.

Lot 1. Handsome Gray Horse Pony, thirteen hands high, steady in harness, and a good hack.

Lot 2. Very superior Brown Horse Pony (under duty), very fast in harness, and a good hack, rising four years old.

Lot 3. Set of new Pony Harness, double stitched, and mounted with silver plated furniture.

Sale to commence at Three o’clock in the afternoon.”

Maria Thompson was also an agent for the Norwich Union fire and life office. [1849]

She was also an agent for Norwich Union Office and for Swetman’s Dublin Porter. [1851], [1854]

1851 Census

Oxford Street

[1] *Maria Thompson* (52), widow, licensed victualler, born Bilston;

[2] Ann Baker (29), niece, born Bilston;

[3] Sarah Baker (27), niece, born Bilston;

[4] John Baker (24), nephew, plumber employing 1 apprentice, born Bilston;

[5] John Allchurch (17), apprentice, born Bewdley;

[6] Robert Teadston (24), servant, born Herefordshire;

[7] Eliza Dicken (29), servant, born Shrewsbury:

Birmingham Journal 13/9/1851 - Married

“On Thursday, at St. Mary’s Church, Bilston (by the Rev. J. B. Owen), Richard Corbett, of the SHAKESPEARE INN, in that town, to Miss Ann Baker, niece of Mrs. *Maria Thompson*, of the Stamp Office.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/10/1851

"On Saturday morning last, a most serious and fatal accident occurred at a pit in Messrs. Baldwin's colliery, near the Pothouse Bridge. It appears that the engine belonging to the pit in question is used for the double purpose of pumping and winding. At night it has been customary to detach or 'throw out of gear' the winding apparatus, to allow the pumps to work without interruption. On the evening previous to the accident the bands had been thrown out of gear, as usual. In the morning the engineer, finding the water out, stopped the engine and threw the bands in gear, ready for operation upon the arrival of the men at six o'clock. At that time seven men and two boys placed themselves in the skip to descend, and after being lowered but about ten or twelve yards, the winding part of the machinery flew out of gear, and the nine individuals were precipitated to the bottom of the shaft, a depth of 120 yards, at a velocity awful to contemplate; and, more sad still to add, the band became detached from the sudden jerk, at the extreme end, from the engine shaft, and the whole chain, about 160 yards long, and near two tons weight, fell upon and buried in its iron coils the poor unfortunate creatures at the bottom. Upon extricating the sufferers, the two boys were found to be dead, and the whole of the men most seriously mutilated. Two of the men, we understand, died in the course of the same day; and it is thought, from the very serious injuries received, that others will not survive.

An inquest was opened on Monday last on the bodies of the unfortunate men and boys, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, at the WAGGON AND HORSES, Oxford Street, Bilston, when several witnesses were examined; but the inquiry was adjourned in consequence of the necessary time not having elapsed since notice of the accident had been given to the Secretary of State.

On Thursday, the inquest on the body of William Payton, one of the boys killed, was resumed, when Richard Payton, a miner, stated that the deceased, who was about 12 years of age, was his son, and was employed at the pit, which was known as the Hall Pit. The pit was worked by a steam engine, and Alexander Jones, the engineer, was in the engine-house at the time of the accident. The deceased and five men and two boys were in the skip, and when it was lowered eight or ten yards, the chain began to run so fast that witness and others on the bank were alarmed. William Kinsey, one of the butties, ran to the engine-house, and the engine was stopped, but the chain continued running with greater speed until it broke from the barrel, when the skip, with the deceased and others, was thrown to the bottom, a distance of about 120 yards, and the chain, weighing about 30cwt, fell down the pit. Witness instantly ran to the engine, and upon examining it, found that it was not in gear. Alexander Jones was in the engine-house, and witness accused him of having neglected to put the engine in gear before he let the skip down the pit, which he denied, but if he had done so, he considered it would have been impossible for the chain to have run out, unless some part of the engine or workings had broken. Witness looked carefully at the teeth of the wheels, and found none of them broken. It was Alexander Jones's duty to put the engine in gear, and see all was right before letting the men down. Witness saw the deceased brought up the pit quite dead.

Edward Davis, a miner, stated that he was on the bank at the time of the accident, and instantly ran to the engine-house when he found that Jones had omitted to put it in gear, to which cause he also attributed the accident.

Edward Griffiths, the night engineer, deposed that he delivered the engine to Jones in, as he supposed, working order. He told him it was 'all right,' but it was his business to have ascertained this himself. The witness added that about four o'clock, a youth about 18, altered the gears, and let two persons down the pit, and then partly put it in gear again, which he (Griffiths) completed.

After hearing some further evidence, the jury returned a verdict of Manslaughter against Alexander Jones, who was accordingly committed for trial.

An inquest was also held on the other boy killed, John Boffey, 12 years of age, when similar evidence implicating Jones as the cause of the accident, was given, and a like verdict returned by the jury."

[In March 1852, Alexander Jones, appeared at Staffordshire Lent Assizes, indicted for killing and slaying Thomas Bloor. After hearing the evidence, the Judge directed the jury to acquit, as the charge could not be sustained.]

Coventry Standard 4/3/1853

"On the 22nd ult, an Irish labourer, who gave his name as Richard Price, and said he came from Oswestry, was brought up at the Police Court, Bilston, under the following circumstances.

Mr. Hancox, surgeon, stated that he had taken the responsibility of giving the prisoner in charge, in consequence of his acting 'the dying crow.' Ten or twelve days ago a person came running to his house in a state of great excitement, begging he would go with him to Moxley, to a poor man who was lying in the road, apparently in a dying state. On reaching Moxley, he found the man had been removed to a public house, where he was placed on a chair before the fire. One or two persons were engaged in rubbing him; a poor man present said he had given him threepennyworth of rum; another was warming him some spiced ale, whilst the landlord was busy in preparing him a basin of gruel, the man having stated that he had not tasted food for two days. The doctor, finding the circulation vigorous, informed the parties that there was no fear of the man dying, that they were treating him properly, and then left.

On the Saturday following he was again sent for in great haste to Mrs. *Thompson's*, the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Bilston, to see a man who, he was informed, was dying in the tap room. Whilst entering the house a person exclaimed, 'Oh, doctor, I am afraid it is almost over with the poor fellow,' and a young lady present said she had given him a good glass of brandy and water, with some ginger, and hoped it would not hurt him. Mr. Hancox at once recognised in the patient (who was apparently writhing with agonizing pains, producing fearful contortion of the countenance) the man he had been called to see, under similar circumstances, at Moxley (and who, from an account in the *Staffordshire Advertiser*, had been playing the same tricks at West Bromwich). In the latter instance he was found lying by the roadside, benumbed with cold, and on his arrival at the Police Station restoratives were administered, under the direction of a surgeon, who attended him for some hours. Mr. Hancox added that the arrival of a policeman at the WAGGON AND HORSES had the effect of instantaneously restoring him. Committed to the House of Correction for one month as a rogue and vagabond."

Lloyds Weekly Newspaper 7/10/1855

"About six o'clock on the morning of October 1, Mr. W. Russell, of Bilston, a confidential clerk in the employ of Messrs. Perry and Sons, iron-founders, of High Fields, was aroused from sleep by the shrieks of his children, who were in bed in an adjoining apartment. Finding that his wife had left his side, he instantly rushed to the children's room. There he was horrified at perceiving his son Joseph, aged four years, writhing with a frightful wound in his throat, from which the blood was flowing profusely. At the same time he saw his wife dropping upon the floor with a large knife in her hand, which after having been used by her in taking the life of her child, had been drawn across her own throat with so much determination that her head was nearly severed from the body.

Mr. W. H. Hancox, surgeon, was speedily in attendance, but the boy died half an hour after his arrival.

The woman recovered consciousness only when she was being placed in bed, and then by a movement of her hands she indicated that she wished to be allowed to die without any attempts being made to restore her to life. In a state of partial stupor she now (6pm) lies, but she cannot possibly survive more than a few hours.

There exists but little doubt that the woman intended to take the lives of all her children, but was prevented by the alarm raised by the other two children, one of whom was eleven years of age. The only assignable cause for the dreadful occurrence is a depression of spirits from which the poor woman has been recently suffering – not, however, to an extent to occasion alarm, as she has gone about her customary duties and attended church last evening apparently in better spirits than usual. She was devotedly attached to her children; the loss of one of whom about twelve months ago has occasioned her considerable grief at intervals since.....

The inquest upon the body of Joseph Russell was held at the WAGGON INN, Bilston, yesterday.

The murderess still lives, and to prevent her being disturbed by the presence of the jury in her husband's house, the body of the child was brought down stairs out of the room in which the murder was committed. The boy seemed to have been a remarkably fine and healthy one. The wound in his throat was very large.

The evidence given was in accordance with the statements given already, and the jury, after a very brief consultation, returned a verdict of Wilful Murder against Ann Russell.

Since her recovery to consciousness, the murderess has stated to the Rev. Mr. Harper, the curate of St. Mary's, and to her husband, that she was unconscious when she committed the dreadful crime. She appears to feel very acutely her present melancholy and wretched position. But slight expectations are entertained of her recovery."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/10/1885

"The unfortunate woman, Ann Russell, who, up to Tuesday evening last, lingered in a hopeless state, breathed her last on Wednesday afternoon. The inquest upon the body was held on Saturday last at the WAGGON AND HORSES, Oxford Street, before W. H. Phillips, Esq, Deputy Coroner.....

William Russell, husband of the deceased, added that he had several times heard the deceased say, since the committal of the act, that she did not know why she did it. Before her son Joseph was interred the deceased wished to see him. Her wish was complied with and she appeared very much distressed at the sight. He considered she had had every care and attention paid to her by Mr. Hancox. Before she died witness called in Mr. Best, to see if he could do anything more to save her life. It was his firm opinion that the deceased must have been labouring under an aberration of mind when she committed the act. She was a good wife to him and an affectionate mother to his children. She had frequently complained before her death of a violent pain in her head. He had never seen anything to lead him to believe that his wife's mind was affected.

.....The Coroner briefly directed the Jury, who, after a brief deliberation, returned a verdict that the deceased committed Suicide whilst labouring under Temporary Insanity."

Birmingham Journal 3/11/1855 - Advert

"Malt Crushers.

Parties requiring Malt Crushers would do well before purchasing to inspect those made by Richard Thompson, Pot House Bridge Foundry, Bilston, Staffordshire.

They can be seen at work at the following places.....

Mrs. *Thompson's*, WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Bilston."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 6/8/1856 - Advert

"Valuable Freehold Property, at Bilston, Shropshire Row, and Bradley.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. S. Powell, at the house of Mrs. *Maria Thompson*, WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, on Tuesday the 19th day of August, 1856, at six o'clock in the evening....."

Suffolk and Essex Free Press 1/12/1859

"An inquest was held on Thursday, at the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Bilston, on Mary Ann Davis, wife of Henry Davis, puddler, whose death was said to have been occasioned through an indecent assault made on her by a toll-keeper named Howell, some weeks since. The evidence went to show that Howell had called at her house, during the absence of her husband, and committed a gross assault upon her; that he had thrown her down and knelt upon her, and thereby inflicted serious injury, she being pregnant at the time. She had suffered much pain at different times ever since, and on Tuesday night she died. The surgeon who attended her could not explain the cause of death except from some internal rupture. The inquest was adjourned for a post-mortem examination."

AND

Worcestershire Chronicle 7/12/1859

"The inquiry at Bilston, before W. H. Phillips, Esq, deputy-coroner, into the death, in child-bed, of Mary Ann Davis, a married woman, supposed to have been occasioned by injuries received in an assault with intent, was concluded on Tuesday week. The result of the post mortem examination showed that deceased died from Natural Causes, from what is technically termed 'extra uterine foetation,' an accident of rare occurrence, but in no way connected with any violence received during life."

William Poole Tomkys = William Pool Tomkys

William Tomkys was also a wine and spirit merchant, auctioneer and appraiser. [1860]

Birmingham Daily Post 5/1/1860

"On Saturday afternoon the workmen, to the number of sixty, employed in the various branches of the Pothouse Bridge Iron Foundry, assembled at the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, to partake of the hospitality of their employer (Mr. Richard Thompson), in the shape of 'good old English cheer.' The chair was occupied by the foreman, Mr. Edward Moreton, and Mr. Frederick Howell was vice. We are happy to remark gatherings of the kind, as tending to make identical the sympathies of the man with the interest of the master, and add one more link to that grand chain, 'Unity is strength.'"

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/3/1860

“Staffordshire Adjourned Sessions.....

John Higgins, 24, miner, James Welsh, 29, labourer, Thomas Gorman (on bail), Jas. Marryon, 22, miner, and James Lamb, 35, miner, were indicted for unlawfully and violently assaulting John Denston and John Hacket while in the execution of their duty as police-officers, at Bilston. Mr. Griffiths appeared on behalf of the prosecution; Mr. Matthews defended Higgins, and Mr. Clayton Welsh and Marryon.

It appeared from the evidence of the two officers that shortly before twelve o'clock on the night of the 7th of January they were engaged in taking to the police station a man who had been disorderly at the WAGGON AND HORSES public house, Bilston, and that when they got to Hangmans Row his wife, who was following the police, gave an Irish howl, and a crowd of four or five hundred persons instantly assembled. The officers were knocked down and violently kicked, and the prisoner was rescued and recaptured eight or nine times. Denston swore that all the men were engaged in rescuing the prisoner, that Higgins knocked him down and kicked him, and that Lamb and Marryon also struck him. He was at last obliged to take refuge in the shop of a neighbouring pawnbroker. Hacket corroborated Denston in several material particulars, and added that Lamb and Welsh kicked him (Hacket), and that Marryon and Gorman assisted in rescuing the prisoner.

Thomas Ward, a passer-by, also gave corroborative evidence, and created considerable amusement by gravely persisting that at midnight on the 7th of January it was as light as at the moment of his examination (four o'clock in the afternoon of the 8th of March).

Superintendent M'Cree gave evidence with regard to the apprehension of the prisoners.

Mr. Clayton having addressed the jury on behalf of his clients, called several witnesses, all Irish who endeavoured to prove an alibi in favour of Welsh.

Mr. Matthews also addressed the jury on behalf of Higgins.

The noble Chairman having summed up, the jury returned a verdict of guilty against the first three prisoners, and acquitted Marryon and Lamb. Higgins was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment with hard labour, and Welsh and Gorman to four months' imprisonment each with hard labour.”

William Tomkys was also an auctioneer. [1861]

1861 Census

68, Oxford Street – WAGGON AND HORSES

[1] *William P. Tomkys* (31), unmarried, licensed victualler, born Bilston;

[2] Hannah Everall (36), widow, housekeeper, born Bloxwich;

[3] Hannah Higgs (20), domestic servant, born Wolverhampton;

[4] John Perry (41), brewer, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/10/1861 - Advert

“Friday, November 1st, 1861.

Sale of Important Freehold and Copyhold Properties, at Bilston.

Messrs. Aston and Sollom have received instructions from the Trustees of the Will of the late Norris Best, Esq, deceased, to Sell by Auction, at the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, on Friday, the 1st day of November, 1861, at six o'clock in the evening.....

Lot 9. Piece of Building Land, having a frontage to Oxford Street of 11 yards 2 feet 6 inches, and a depth of 40 yards, and an area of 450 square yards, as now occupied by Mr. *W. P. Tomkys*.

Lot 10. That old-licensed and well-accustomed Public House, known as the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, situate in Oxford Street, and adjoining lot 9, with the Outbuildings, Yard, and Premises thereto belonging, as now occupied by Mr. *W. P. Tomkys*.

The Dwelling House comprises a liquor vault, tap room, bar parlour, large club room, four sleeping rooms, kitchen, pantry, cellars, &c; and the Outbuildings consist of a brewhouse, malt room, store rooms, stable, &c. Annual rental £45.

Also a strip of Land on the north-west side of the said Public House, on which an Office is erected, having a width of 3 yards. This strip of land may be used to form a carriage road to the Public House. This lot will then have a frontage to the street and a width throughout of 14 yards 6 inches, and a depth of 40 yards, and an area of 571 square yards.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/5/1863

“*W. P. Tomkys*, WAGGON AND HORSES, Bilston, playing for checks, at bagatelle, was fined 2s 6d and costs.”

Birmingham Journal 19/9/1863 - Advert

“Desirable Freehold Property, at Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction by Bird and Cornforth, on Tuesday, the 6th of October next, at the WAGON AND HORSES, Oxford Street, Bilston, at Six o’clock in the evening, subject to condition to be then and there produced.....”

William Poole Tomkys was also a dealer in firebricks, chimney tops and sanitary pipes. [1864], [1865]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/2/1866

“A man named Kean was charged on remand with an assault on Police-constable Bradbury, at Bilston. Mr. Travis was for the prosecution, and Mr. Bartlett for defendant.

The evidence showed that at midnight on Saturday, the 27th ult, a number of drunken men came out of the BROWN LION INN, at Bilston, and met another party of men who had just before turned out of another public house called the WAGGON AND HORSES, and were conducting themselves so as to create a disturbance. The officer Bradbury had been trying to persuade them to go home, when he was attacked by a man named Gavon, and another man. After they had assaulted him the two men ran away. The officer followed them, when the men turned round, knocked him down and kicked him, and he was also set upon by some of the other men who had just before come out of the public house, who beat him most terribly; in the words of Mr. Spooner, who saw the officer on the Tuesday following the assault, his face was beaten to a jelly. He got away from them, and meeting with Police-constable Curtis, the two went in search of Bradbury’s assailants. They met Kean, who Bradbury recognised as a prominent actor in the recent scene, but inasmuch as he was surrounded by several others the officers wisely refrained from attempting his apprehension, and simply advised him to go home, intending to summon him on the following day. He went away in the direction of his home, and the police shortly afterwards followed; upon seeing them Kean challenged the two to fight, and became very abusive. The police then attempted to take him into custody, but he resisted, and the mob again coming up there was a second attack upon the police, in which stones were freely thrown, and it was only by the determined use of their staves that the two officers succeeded in getting their prisoner to the police station.

For the defendant witnesses were called to prove that he took no part whatever in the assault on the police, but their evidence failed.

Mr. Spooner characterised the affair as a disgrace to the town in which it occurred. He justified the conduct of the police as to the use of their staves to prevent the rescue of their prisoner and to defend themselves against the fury of the mob, and said that but for the fact spoken to by Superintendent M’Crea that Kean was usually of a quiet disposition and had previously borne a good character he should have passed upon him the severest sentence the law allowed; as it was he must pay a fine of £5 and costs, or go to prison for two months.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/8/1868

“Yesterday, Martin Roche was charged with having violently assaulted Police-constable Bradbury. On the 4th February, 1866, the officer went with Police-constable Curtis to the WAGON AND HORSES, in Ford [sic] Street. There was a disturbance there, and on the officers going in a number of men came out, and again commenced making a noise. Bradbury remonstrated with them, when the prisoner and another man, named Gavons, commenced to assault him, doing so in a most violent manner, the prisoner himself striking him on the mouth, and also kicking him several times. The officer succeeded frequently in laying hold of him several times, but he was as frequently rescued by the other men about.

The Stipendiary said he remembered the case perfectly well. The officer’s face was beaten ‘all to a jelly.’

The prisoner was fined £5 and costs.”

William Cook = *William Cooke*

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 28/8/1869

“The annual licensing meeting for the Bilston division took place yesterday, at the Police Court.....

The following is the list of the licensed victuallers who have been fined during the year.....

Permitting Drunkenness *William Cook*, WAGON AND HORSES, Oxford Street, Bilston, 1s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/8/1870 - Advert

"Wanted, several good Bucket Makers.

Apply at the WAGON AND HORSES, Oxford Street, Bilston."

WANTED, several good BUCKET MAKERS.—Apply
Wagon and Horses, Oxford Street, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 28/1/1871

"On Thursday afternoon, an inquest was held at the WAGON AND HORSES, Oxford Street, Bilston, on the body of Israel Nokes, aged 41, who was killed on the 23rd inst, whilst working in a pit at the Moxley Colliery of Messrs. Groucutt. He was knocking down a 'tree' with his ten-feet banter, when the coal came down a yard nearer to him than had been looked for, and he was crushed to death beneath it. Witnesses deposed that no one was to blame. It transpired that the deceased, who has left a widow and seven children, was, like the rest of the miners in Messrs. Groucutt's employ, assured in an assurance company, by virtue of which his widow becomes entitled to £15, in addition to 1s from every one of the 400 men employed at the colliery. The Coroner expressed his regret that a similar method of securing substantial relief for the relatives of deceased miners was not more general in South Staffordshire."

1871 Census

67, Oxford Street

- [1] William Cook (60), innkeeper, born Tettenhall;
- [2] Martha Cook (57), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] Mary Ann Cook (33), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [4] William Cook (29), son, sheet iron roller, born Bilston;
- [5] Edward Cook (27), son, iron plate maker, born Sedgley;
- [6] Martha Elizabeth Cook (24), daughter, born Tipton;
- [7] Harriet Cook (22), daughter, born Tipton;
- [8] Lucy Jane Cook (17), daughter, born Tipton;
- [9] Alfred James Cook (16), son, sheet roller's assistant, born Tipton:

Birmingham Daily Post 16/5/1872 - Advert

"WAGON AND HORSES INN, Oxford Street, Bilston.

To Let, with immediate possession, this well-established, old-licensed Inn, now in full trade.

Apply to Aston, Sollom, and Barnett, Hotel and Public-house Valuers, Darlington Street, Wolverhampton."

WAGON and Horses Inn, Oxford Street, Bilston.—To Let, with
immediate possession this well-established, old-licensed Inn,
now in full trade.—Apply to Aston, Sollom, and Barnett, Hotel and
Public-house Valuers, Darlington Street, Wolverhampton

London Gazette 28/6/1872

"The Bankruptcy Act, 1869. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton.

In the Matter of Proceedings for Liquidation by Arrangement or Composition with Creditors, instituted by *William Cooke*, of the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler.

Notice is hereby given, that a First General Meeting of the creditors of the above-named person has been summoned to be held at the offices of Mr. Charles Barrow, Solicitor, 48, Queen-street, Wolverhampton, on the 17th day of July, 1872, at twelve, o'clock at noon precisely.

Dated this 26th day of June, 1872.

Chas. Barrow, 48, Queen-street, Wolverhampton, Attorney for the said *William Cooke*."

Birmingham Daily Post 18/7/1872

"A meeting of the creditors of Mr. *Wm. Cooke*, of the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Bilston, was held yesterday at the offices of Mr. Chas. Barrow, Queen Street, Wolverhampton. Mr. Barrow appeared for the debtor, and Mr. J. E. Underhill, Mr. John Riley, and Mr. Willcock for the creditors.

The statement produced showed liabilities £272 4s, and assets £81 18s 4d. The debtor attributed his failure to the fact of his landlord having compelled him to dispose of his business in a forced manner. It was ultimately resolved that the estate should be wound up by liquidation, that Mr. Barrow should be appointed trustee, and that the debtor should be discharged upon his estate realising 5s in the pound."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 19/1/1876

“An inquest was held yesterday (Tuesday) at the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, before W. H. Phillips, Esq, on the body of John Beavon, japanner, of Gozzard Street, who committed suicide by cutting his throat, on Saturday last.

The first witness called was Elizabeth Campbell, who stated that she lived next door to deceased, and assisted Mr. Hancox to dress the wound in deceased's throat. He made no statement to her as to why he committed the act. He had been ill for some time, and she had seen him most days during his illness. He had been confined to his bed for the last 12 weeks, and his mind seemed to be affected. He would frequently ask the same question over again. There was a quantity of blood on deceased's hands when she saw him on Saturday; he said, ‘What's this on my hands?’ Deceased fell downstairs on Tuesday night last, and said ‘his head felt very funny.’ Mr. Larkin attended him as his club doctor. Witness found the knife produced (a small dinner knife) in a pool of blood on the bedroom floor. Deceased died at 12 o'clock on Saturday night.

Henry Beavon (9), son of deceased, said his father had been ill for some weeks, but was up every day last week, except Saturday. Mr. Larkin saw him most days. About half-past ten o'clock on Saturday morning last, his father called him upstairs, and asked him to bring him ‘the sharp little knife used to cut the bread and butter with, for him to cut his corns.’ He took the knife upstairs; his mother was in the kitchen at the time, but he did not tell her anything about the knife. His father refused to have any dinner that day, and about half-past four witness took him his tea; he was all right then.

Mr. William M. Hancox, surgeon, said he was called in to see deceased about a quarter-past five o'clock on Saturday last, and found a traverse wound across his throat. Deceased was then in a state of collapse. There was a quantity of blood on the floor, and in a vessel near to where he lay. Deceased did not recover consciousness so long as he remained with him. The wind-pipe was laid bare, but was not penetrated. Deceased was in a very weak condition, and death was the result of haemorrhage and collapse of the system. From the position of the body and the wound, he was satisfied that it was self-inflicted.

Joseph Allcock said he knew the deceased very well, and had visited him since he had been sick as a brother Forester. He had not noticed anything strange about him. On Saturday night witness asked deceased why he had committed the rash act, and he replied ‘trouble.’ Deceased was secretary to two Foresters Courts, and had got into trouble with the accounts. There was no warrant out against him.

The Coroner having summed up, the Jury returned a verdict that deceased inflicted the wounds causing his death whilst in a state of Temporary Insanity.”

Dudley Herald 30/9/1876

“On Saturday, Mr. W. H. Phillips, deputy coroner, held an inquest at the WAGON AND HORSES, Bilston, on the body of James Walters, aged two years and three months, of Price Street. The child's mother deposed that at about nine o'clock on Wednesday morning the deceased came down stairs in his nightgown, and during witness's temporary absence attempted to light a piece of paper at the kitchen fire. His garment ignited, and when witness entered the room she put out the flames. Deceased was severely burned, and though Mr. Hancox, surgeon, attended, yet death occurred early on the following morning. A verdict in accordance with the evidence was returned.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/7/1880 - Advert

“Bilston. WAGON AND HORSES, Oxford Street; full-licensed and brewing; first-rate position; excellent premises. In-coming total £250. Apply on premises.”

BILSTON.—Wagon and Horses, Oxford Street; full-licensed and brewing; first-rate position; excellent premises. In-coming total £250.—Apply on premises.

1881 Census

67+68, Oxford Street – WAGGON AND HORSES

- [1] Patrick Clines (54), licensed victualler and breeze dealer, born Ireland;
- [2] Catherine Clines (48), wife, born Newport, Shropshire;
- [3] Jane Clines (19), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] Agnes Clines (13), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] Patrick Clines (11), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] John Joseph Clines (4), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Catherine Rochford (70), mother-in-law, formerly domestic servant, born Ireland;
- [8] Jane Rochford (29), sister-in-law, domestic servant, born Wolverhampton;

Birmingham Daily Post 18/4/1881 - Advert

“WAGON AND HORSES, Oxford Street, Bilston. One of the best spirit vaults in Bilston. Large premises. In-coming £250. £100 can remain. Apply on premises.”

WAGON and Horses, Oxford Street, Bilston. One of the best spirit vaults in Bilston. Large premises. In-coming £250. £100. can remain. —Apply on premises.

Evening Express 10/9/1881

“John Jones (24), carter, 1, John Street, Bilston, was charged with stealing a flitch of bacon, the property of his employer, Mr. Kempson Pratt, grocer, Church Street, Bilston; and Joseph Taylor (42), grocer, of Bilston Street, Bradley, was charged with receiving the same knowing it to have been stolen. Mr. Fellows appeared for Jones, and Mr. Sheldon defended Taylor.

Charles Jones, assistant to the prosecutors, stated that on Monday last he loaded the defendant’s (Jones’s) cart, and at that time there was not a flitch of bacon in it.

Alfred James Burn, miner, of Chapel Street, Bilston, stated that on Monday night last he was in company with another man named John Shaw, in Oxford Street, Bilston, when he saw a cart belonging to Mr. Pratt come down the street and stop at William Nash’s door. The driver, after looking up and down the street, brought a side of bacon out of the cart, and took it to the back door of Nash’s house. About breakfast time the next morning witness was again standing in Oxford Street, when he saw the prisoner Taylor and another man drive up the street and then return down the street in the direction of Moxley. Shortly afterwards Taylor returned, and pulled up at the WAGGON AND HORSES, kept by *Patrick Clines*. The cart was then taken into Nash’s back yard, where witness saw someone put a flitch of bacon into the cart, and the cart was then driven off in the direction of Bradley by the man who accompanied Taylor, and another man he had not seen before.

John Shaw, carter, in the employ of the prosecutor, corroborated this evidence.

The case was adjourned till Tuesday next, the defendants being admitted to bail; Taylor, himself in £200, and two sureties of £100 each; and Jones, himself in £50, and two sureties of £50 each.”

[See under FOX, Bradley, for the outcome.]

Darlaston Weekly Times 15/12/1883 - Advert

“Wines and Spirits for Christmas.

H. Plant and Sons, Wholesale Wine and Spirit Merchants, Market Place, Bilston, supply Wines and Spirits, well matured, to Families and the Trade at very reasonable prices.

Wholesale and Family orders may be left at any of the following Branch Establishments.....

WAGGON AND HORSES, Oxford Street, Bilston.....

H. P. & S. will be glad to forward to the Trade, in bond or duty paid, samples or prices.”

1891 Census

68, Oxford Street – WAGGON AND HORSES

[1] George Walker (36), licensed victualler’s manager, born Wolverhampton;

[2] Kate Walker (38), wife, born Worcester;

[3] Francis Walker (5), son, born Bilston;

[4] Edith Mildroon (17), general servant, born Willenhall:

Birmingham Daily Post 7/12/1895

“John Lamb, Ladies Row, Piper Meadow, Bilston, was charged with stealing 9s 6d, the moneys of *George Walker*, landlord of the WAGON AND HORSES, Oxford Street, Bilston. The prisoner, it was alleged, had passed off a sixpence for half a sovereign, and he had obtained the change. A remand was granted.”

1901 Census

147, Oxford Street – WAGGON AND HORSES

[1] George Walker (46), licensed victualler, born Wolverhampton;

[2] Catherine Walker (36), wife, born Bilston;

[3] Francis A. Walker (15), son, clerk in factor’s warehouse, born Bilston;

[4] Bridget Long (70), mother-in-law, widow, born Garrymore, Ireland:

1911 Census

147, Oxford Street – WAGON AND HORSES

- [1] George Walker (56), licensed victualler, manager, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] Catherine Walker (46), wife, married 13 years, born Bilston;
- [3] Esther Glover (25), barmaid, born Walsall;

1918 Probate

“George Walker of the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 29 April 1918. Administration (with Will) Lichfield 29 May to Francis Albert Walker, clerk in Army Pay Corps. Effects £186.”

1921 Census

147, Oxford Street

- [1] James Duggan (38), manager, licensed premises, born Jackfield, Shropshire;
- [2] Diana Harriett Duggan (36), wife, manageress, licensed premises, born Benfleet, Essex;
- [3] James Thomas Henry Duggan (12), son, school, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] Frederick John Walter Duggan (10), son, school, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] Colin Charles Duggan (3), son, born Wolverhampton;
- [6] Lena Elizabeth Grace Ealey (16), niece, general help, born Forest Gate, Essex;
- [7] Joseph Henry Jones (40), boarder, waggoner, holloware manufacturer, born Darlaston;

Bilston & Willenhall Times 3/1/1925

“Bilston Police Court.....

‘You are a terrible character,’ the Chairman remarked, after perusing the record of James McDonald, a Scotchman, of no fixed abode, who was charged with doing wilful damage to a plate glass window at the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, on the night of December 26th.

The evidence of *James Duggan*, the licensee of the house, and the customers who were in the house at the time, showed that about 10.40 on Boxing Night a window of the public bar was smashed, and a boot came through and went under a table. Mr. *Duggan* hurried into the street and saw defendant, who was being held by one of the customers. He had only one boot on. He was under the influence of drink, but had not been on the premises of the WAGGON AND HORSES. The licensee took the man to the police station, and in answer to the charge he said, ‘Yes, I wanted a night’s kip.’

Asked what he had to say, defendant was very voluble. He said he was on the road between London and Edinburgh. He had _ glasses of whisky, three of rum, and _ bottles of stout, and they ‘got mixed up.’ The Chaplain at the gaol, he added, had said that the best thing he could do was ask the magistrates to send him to gaol for six months. He would come out and then he (the Chaplain) would make application to the Discharged Prisoners’ Society to send him back to Scotland.

Prisoner was sentenced to three months hard labour.”

Samuel Farrington – see also BULLS HEAD, High Street.

1939 Register

147, Oxford Street – WAGGON AND HORSES INN

- [1] *James Hall*, date of birth 5/7/1875, licensee public house, married;
- [2] *Annie Hall*, dob 24/5/1877, manageress, married;
- [3] *Mary W. Hall*, dob 8/9/1909, office clerk, single, ARP First Aid;
- [4] *Kathleen B. (Hall) Hofler*, dob 1/9/1914, office clerk, single, ARP WVS;
- [5] *James L. Hall*, dob 12/8/1917, motor engineer, single;

A team from here took part in the Butlers (Bilston) Darts League. [1946]

Staffordshire Sentinel 3/6/1961 - Notice

"The Licensing Act, 1953. Notice of Principal Meeting County of Stafford.

Notice is Hereby Given that the Principal Meeting to be held pursuant to the Licensing Rules, 1910, by the Compensation Authority for the above area, will be held in the Shire Hall, Stafford, on Wednesday the 21st day of June, 1961, at 11 o'clock am.

And Notice is Hereby Also Given, that the Compensation Authority will at the Meeting be prepared to hear, with reference to the renewal of the licenses of the premises specified in the subjoined list, all those persons to whom under the Licensing Act, 1953, they are bound to give an opportunity of being heard; that is to say, the persons interested in any licensed premises in question and, unless it appears to the Compensation Authority unnecessary, any other persons appearing to them to be interested in the question of the renewal of the license of those premises (including the Justices of the Licensing District). List of Licensed Premises.....

WAGGON AND HORSES, Oxford Street, Bilston. Full License. Licensee, *William Smith*."

Staffordshire Sentinel 1/7/1961 - Notice

"The Licensing Act, 1953. County of Stafford.

Notice is Hereby Given that the Compensation Authority for the above area, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on the 21st day of June, 1961, to refuse the Renew of the Licenses of the premises specified below, all persons claiming to be interested in the said premises for the purpose of payment of the compensation under the said Act (other than the Licensees and the Registered Owners of the said Premises) are required to send to the Compensation Authority notice of their claims before the 22nd day of July, 1961, for the purpose of enabling the Compensation Authority to ascertain in the manner provided by the Licensing Rules, 1910, the persons entitled to compensation under the said Act in respect of the said premises.....

WAGGON AND HORSES, Oxford Street, Bilston. Full License. Licensee, *William Smith*. Registered Owners, W. Butler & Co. Ltd."

Closed

Demolished

TO BE LET,

And may be entered upon immediately,

THAT old-established and well-accustomed PUBLIC-HOUSE, known as the WAGGON and HORSES, New Town, Bilston, the present occupier retiring solely on account of ill health.

The Stock and Fixtures to be taken at a fair valuation, and if wished the stock will be reduced to suit the convenience of the purchaser.

For particulars, and to treat for the same, apply to Mr. R. EVANS, on the premises.

1838

TO PUBLICANS AND OTHERS.

**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY RICHARD CORBETT,**

On the premises, on Tuesday, September 15, 1840,

ALL the excellent iron-bound ALE BARRELS, BREWING UTENSILS, capital BEER MACHINE, part of the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, and other effects, of Mr. Richard Evans, at the Waggon and Horses public-house, Oxford-road, New Town, Bilston, who is declining the public business; particulars of which are in circulation, and may be had at the offices of the AUCTIONEER, New Town, Bilston.

☞ The sale to commence at ten o'clock in the morning, and at two in the afternoon.

1840

LOT 10.

That old-licensed and well-accustomed PUBLIC HOUSE, known as the Waggon and Horses Inn, situate in Oxford-street, and adjoining lot 9, with the Outbuildings, Yard, and Premises thereto belonging, as now occupied by Mr. W. P. Tomkys.

The Dwelling House comprises a liquor vault, tap room, bar parlour, large club room, four sleeping rooms, kitchen, pantry, cellars, &c.; and the Outbuildings consist of a brew-house, malt room, store rooms, stable, &c. Annual rental £45.

Also a strip of LAND on the north-west side of the said Public House, on which an Office is erected, having a width of 3 yards. This strip of land may be used to form a carriage road to the Public House. This lot will then have a frontage to the street and a width throughout of 14 yards 6 inches, and a depth of 40 yards, and an area of 571 square yards.

1861

Wines and Spirits for Christmas.

H. PLANT AND SONS,

WHOLESALE

WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS,

Market Place, Bilston,

☞ Supply Wines and Spirits, well matured, to Families and the Trade at very reasonable prices.

Wholesale and Family orders may be left at any of the following Branch Establishments :—

THE BALLOON, High Street, Bilston;

„ ROYAL GEORGE, Church Street, Bilston;

„ MALT SHOVEL, Oxford Street, Bilston;

„ WAGGON AND HORSES, Oxford Street, Bilston;

„ PIED BULL, Snow Hill, Wolverhampton;

„ SHAKESPEARE, Horseley Fields, Wolverhampton;

„ LORD RAGLAN, Brickkiln Street, „

„ KING'S HEAD, Market Place, Willenhall;

„ MALT SHOVEL, Upper High Street, Wednesbury;

„ BULLS HEAD, High Street, Princes End.

H. P. & S. Will be glad to forward to the Trade, in bond or duty paid, samples or prices.

1883

WATERLOO

Ettingshall, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Cox [1828] – [1830]

WELCOME STRANGER

161 (162), Oxford Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

James Jones [1861]

WELCOME, STRANGER.
SMALL BEER HOUSE, BILSTON.
TO be LET, in consequence of the Proprietor leaving the town, a first-rate BEER HOUSE, in a good situation, now doing an excellent trade.—For particulars, apply on the Premises, 162, Oxford Street, Bilston.

1860

NOTES

Birmingham Daily Post 11/10/1859

“St. Leonard’s (Bilston) Cricket Club.

The finishing match of this season was played on Monday week, at Bilston, between the junior and senior members of the above club. The seniors won. The bowling, batting, and fielding on both sides, as usual, were greatly admired. On the termination of the match the members and friends adjourned to the WELCOME STRANGER INN, where a hearty dinner was partaken of.”

Birmingham Journal 24/11/1860 - Advert

“WELCOME STRANGER. Small Beer House, Bilston.

To be Let, in consequence of the Proprietor leaving the town, a first-rate Beer House, in a good situation, now doing an excellent trade.

For particulars, apply on the Premises, 162, Oxford Street, Bilston.”

1861 Census

161, Oxford Street – WELCOME STRANGER

[1] James Jones (28), carpenter and victualler, born Bilston;

[2] Maria Jones (33), wife, born Bilston;

[3] Mary J. Jones (1), daughter, born Darlaston;

[4] William Jones (1 month), son, born Bilston;

[5] Martha Jones (72), mother, widow, born Hungerford, Berkshire:

WELLINGTON

High Street, (Church Street), BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Edwards [1814]

John Hopkins [1822] – [1833]

NOTES

LORD WELLINGTON [1814], [1822]

DUKE OF WELLINGTON [1833]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 24/10/1814 - Advert

“Lease and Good-will of a Public House in Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Thomas Walters, this present Monday the 24th Day of October, between the Hours of Five and Seven in the Afternoon, at the LORD WELLINGTON, situate in Bilston, in the County of Stafford, the Lease, Licenses, and Good-will of all that well-accustomed Public House, called the LORD WELLINGTON, situate in Church Street, being a central Part of the Town of Bilston aforesaid, in the Occupation of Mr. *John Edwards*, with the Yard, Stable, and Appurtenances.

There are three Clubs at the House, and the Club Room is 35 Feet long, or thereabouts, a large convenient Brewhouse, a Pump of excellent Water close to the Brewhouse, and a good supply of soft Water.

The Purchaser must take to the Fixtures, Brewing Vessels, Barrels, and small Stock of Ale, and he must also take such of the Household Furniture as he chooses to select, at a Valuation.

For Particulars apply to the Auctioneer, or of John Willim and Son, Solicitors, both of Bilston.

The Lease is for 21 Years, 15 of which were unexpired at Michaelmas last, at the annual Rent of £35.”

John Hopkins = John Hopkin

Lease and Good-will of a Public House in Bilston.
TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by THOMAS WALTERS, this present Monday the 24th Day of October, between the Hours of Five and Seven in the Afternoon, at the Lord Wellington, situate in Bilston, in the County of Stafford, the LEASE, LICENCES, and GOOD-WILL of all that well-accustomed Public House, called the LORD WELLINGTON, situate in Church Street, being a central Part of the Town of Bilston aforesaid, in the Occupation of Mr. John Edwards, with the Yard, Stable, and Appurtenances.

There are three Clubs at the House, and the Club Room is 35 Feet long, or thereabouts, a large convenient Brewhouse, a Pump of excellent Water close to the Brewhouse, and a good Supply of soft Water.

The Purchaser must take to the Fixtures, Brewing Vessels, Barrels, and small Stock of Ale, and he must also take such of the Household Furniture as he chooses to select, at a Valuation.

For Particulars apply to the Auctioneer, or of John Willim and Son, Solicitors, both of Bilston.

The Lease is for 21 Years, 15 of which were unexpired at Michaelmas last, at the annual Rent of 35l.

WELLINGTON

33, (13), (7), (4), Price Street (Tame Street) / Oxford Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

John Silvester

William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1921], [1925]

LICENSEES

Matthew Holmes [1845] – [1850]

James Butler [1851]

James Rutter [] – **1856**);

John Silvester (**1856** – [1860]

Sarah Willetts [1861] – **1863**);

John Silvester (**1863** – **1890**);

Miss Mary Jane Silvester (**1890** – **1904**);

John Silvester (**1904** – **1906**);

George Birkenhead (**1906** – **1907**);

Mrs. Mary Sophia Wright (**1907** – **1908**);

John Silvester (**1908** – **1910**);

Charles Glen (**1910** – **1926**);

Willis Glen (**1926**):

NOTES

Oxford Street [1850]

4, Price Street [1861], [1862]

7, Price Street

13, Price Street [1901]

33, Price Street [1911], [1921]

MARQUIS OF WELLINGTON [1851]

WELLINGTON ARMS [1901]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/5/1845

“The following inquests have been held before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner.....

On the 10th instant, at the WELLINGTON public house, Bilston, on the body of Abraham Tonks, a banksman, about sixty-two years old, who, the same morning fell down the shaft of a coalpit, whilst employed in putting a balance on the chair. He was brought up quiet dead. He had, it appeared, wooden clogs on, and the mouth of the pit was slippery, through the rain. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 24/12/1845

“An inquest was held on Wednesday last, before Mr. T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, at the WELLINGTON INN, Bilston, on the body of James Wilkinson. The deceased, who was about 22 years of age, was a caster, employed at Messrs. Baldwins blast furnace, and was engaged with two other men in removing a twyer pipe out of the furnace, when a pipe conveying air to the furnace suddenly burst, and threw them all down; the deceased was thrown against some iron plates, and so much cut and hurt that he died in a few days afterwards. The pipe was stated to be a good strong pipe, and in every respect fit for the purpose for which it was used. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

London Gazette 23/6/1848

“Whereas a Fiat in Bankruptcy, bearing the date 15th day of June 1848, is awarded, and issued forth against *Matthew Holmes*, of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Victualler, Dealer and Chapman, and he being declared a bankrupt is hereby required to surrender himself to Edmund Robert Daniell, Esq, one of Her Majesty’s Commissioners authorised to act in the prosecution of Fiats in Bankruptcy in the Birmingham District Court of Bankruptcy, holden at Birmingham, on the 1st and 26th days of July next, at half past ten of the o’clock in the forenoon on each of the said days, and make a full discovery and disclosure of his estate and effects; when and where the creditors are to come prepared to prove their debts, and at the first sitting to choose assignees, and at the last sitting the said bankrupt is required to finish his examination. All persons indebted to the said bankrupt, or that have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. Frederick Whitmore, No.7, Waterloo-street, Birmingham, the Official Assignee, whom the Commissioner has appointed, and give notice to Mr. Thomas Bolton, Solicitor, Wolverhampton.”

Birmingham Journal 29/7/1848

“Bankruptcy Court.....

In re *Matthew Holmes*, of Bilston, victualler.

Last examination adjourned, the balance sheet not having been filed.”

Birmingham Journal 28/10/1848

“Bankruptcy Court.....

In re *Matthew Holmes*, of Bilston, victualler.

The bankrupt, who was supported by Mr. Knight, passed his last examination without opposition.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/2/1860

“Samuel Ball, who has been previously convicted of horse stealing, was charged with stealing a horse, the property of Walter Davis, a carter, living at Monmore Green. He sold the horse and harness for 10s and half a gallon of ale, to *John Silvester*, landlord of the WELLINGTON INN, Bilston, who was taking it to the knackers for sale when he was told that the animal was stolen.

Silvester was asked by the bench if it did not strike him, when the prisoner offered to sell the horse and gearing for 10s, that he had not come honestly by them, and he replied that the knacker would not give a stranger more than 6s for the horse, and he (*Silvester*) would have sold the harness for 2s 6d. The horse had not a tooth in its head, and was worth nothing for work. The prisoner told him the horse was his own and that he had been using it to work a gin.

The prisoner admitted his guilt when apprehended by police-constable Beeley, but told the magistrates that a man whom he had met gave him the horse to sell. He was committed for trial.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/3/1860

“Staffordshire Adjourned Sessions.....

Samuel Ball, 33, engineer, was indicted for stealing a horse, cart, saddle, bridle, and pair of hames, the property of Walter Davis, at Wolverhampton. The prosecutor, a poor old man, living at Monmore Green, Wolverhampton, deposed that he was a carter, and that on the night of the 10th of February he ‘supped’ up his horse and fastened the stable door by driving in a staple to make it secure. At four o’clock the next morning the horse and harness, which he valued at £7, were gone.

William Gibbons deposed that the prisoner offered to sell him the horse and harness for 25s, between nine and ten o’clock on the morning of the 11th of February, in Oxford Street, Bilston; and a man named *Silvester*, engaged to purchase old horses on commission for Mr. Leach of that town, stated that he gave the prisoner 10s and half a gallon of ale for the horse and harness, and considered that that was 2s 6d too much. (Laughter.)

Police-officer Bealey deposed that when he apprehended the prisoner, and charged him with the robbery, he admitted that he had taken the horse. The prisoner denied that he made any such admission to the police officer; and asserted that a man who met him on the road asked him to sell the horse. He was convicted by the Jury. A previous conviction for horse stealing last year besides various other convictions, was proved against him, and he was sentenced to four years’ penal servitude.”

1861 Census

4, Price Street – WELLINGTON INN

[1] *Sarah Willetts* (69), widow, victualler, born Kingswinford:

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/9/1864

"Yesterday the magistrates sat in Special Sessions, for the consideration of the applications for the renewal of old and the granting of new licenses to victuallers.....

The following houses and their landlords had been complained against and fined during the year.....

Sarah Willetts, WELLINGTON, Price Street."

John Silvester = John Sylvester

John Silvester was formerly manager of the canal boats belonging to Griffiths and Thorneycroft.

1871 Census

Price Street

[1] *John Silvester* (43), boat labourer and licensed victualler, born Horsley Heath;

[2] *Edna Silvester* (42), wife, born Old Hill;

[3] *John Silvester* (19), son, labourer at foundry, born Bilston;

[4] *Mary J. Silvester* (16), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[5] *Edna Silvester* (12), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[6] *James Silvester* (9), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[7] *Marian A. Silvester* (2), daughter, born Bilston;

[8] *Clara Silvester* (4), daughter, scholar, born Bilston:

Edna Silvester died in the 1st quarter of 1878.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 31/8/1878

"Bilston Annual Licensing Sessions.....

The following is the list of licensed victuallers and beerhouse keepers who had been summoned during the year for offences against the Licensing Act Licensed victuallers.....

John Sylvester, WELLINGTON INN, Price Street, Bilston, permitting drunkenness on the 14th August, 1877, paid costs."

AND

Wolverhampton Express and Star 21/9/1878

"The Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

The persons who had been convicted during the last twelve months for offences against their licenses, the renewals of which were withheld until today, now appeared before the Bench, and there being no further complaint as to the conduct of their houses in the interval the magistrates granted the renewals."

1881 Census

Price Street – WELLINGTON INN

[1] *John Silvester* (54), widower, licensed victualler, born Walsall;

[2] *John Silvester* (28), son, boat builder, born Bilston;

[3] *Mary J. Silvester* (25), daughter, born Bilston;

[4] *Edna Silvester* (22), daughter, born Bilston;

[5] *James Silvester* (19), son, general labourer, born Bilston;

[6] *Marian Silvester* (14), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[7] *Clara Silvester* (12), daughter, scholar, born Bilston:

Darlaston Weekly Times 19/5/1883

“Whitsuntide in the District.....

The members of the Judge and Jury Club held at the WELLINGTON INN, Price Street, Bilston, went out on their annual trip on Monday. The party, comprising 60 members and friends, among whom were Messrs. W. Beavon (judge), J. Coleman (clerk), and J. Silvester junior, were driven in Whittaker’s brakes, and private vehicles, to Tong, a large banner bearing the words ‘Wellington Judge and Jury Club’ being hung over the first vehicle. Dinner and tea were partaken of at the Bell Inn, when the host (Mr. Stanley) did all he could for the comfort of the party. By the permission of Mr. John Hartley a visit was paid to the Castle Grounds, and after a pleasant day, spent in various ways, the party returned home, after a good day’s enjoyment, at 9 o’clock.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 25/8/1883 - Advert

“Notice.

The WELLINGTON INN ‘Judge and Jury’ Club will Re-commence on Saturday, September 1st, when all Members and Friends are respectfully invited to attend at 7.30pm.”

John Silvester was also a shopkeeper.

He died on 19th April 1890.

NOTICE.
THE WELLINGTON INN “JUDGE AND JURY” CLUB will Re-commence on **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1st**, when all **Members and Friends** are respectfully invited to attend at **7.30 p.m.**

1891 Census

Price Street – WELLINGTON INN

- [1] *Mary J. Silvester* (36), licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *James Silvester* (29), brother, haulier, born Bilston;
- [3] *Clara Silvester* (21), sister, dressmaker, born Bilston:

Miss M. J. Silvester was also a shopkeeper. [1892]

1901 Census

13, Price Street – WELLINGTON ARMS

- [1] *Mary Jane Silvester* (45), beerhouse keeper, born Bilston;
- [2] *James Silvester* (38), brother, haulier and contractor, born Bilston;
- [3] *Harriet Silvester* (32), sister-in-law, born Willenhall;
- [4] *Marion Silvester* (35), sister, schoolmistress, born Bilston:

George Birkenhead – see also CASTLE.

1911 Census

33, Price Street

- [1] *Charles Glen* (58), widower, innkeeper, born Hull;
- [2] *Minnie Willis Glen* (19), daughter, born Birmingham;
- [3] *Leonard Samuel Bertie Jefferies* (13), step-son, school, born Tividale:

Black Country Bugle 11/11/2004

‘Memories of a Black Country Life’ by Minnie Clark (nee Harpin)

“My earliest recollections are of life at the WELLINGTON INN, a small and very old public house which was situated in Price Street, Bilston. In those days, Price Street consisted of only eight houses plus the WELLINGTON INN, all of which ran on the one side of the road overlooking the school rooms of the Holy Trinity Catholic Church. My grandfather, *Charles Glen*, had moved firstly to Birmingham from Hull, long before I was born. I never knew my grandmother, *Mary Ann*, she died young leaving six children. Inevitably most of the family grew up and went their separate ways, my grandfather eventually remarrying before being widowed once again and moving to Bilston to become the publican of the inn. With him, to Bilston, came his sister, my great aunt, who, incidentally preferred to be called Great Aunt Forth (her married surname), my Uncle Bert (grandfather’s stepson from his second marriage), my mother and Uncle Will (her younger brother) My father, *John Thomas Harpin*, lived locally in Brook Terrace after they got married they lived in the WELLINGTON INN with the rest of Mom’s family. And it was there, on 10th November 1914, that I was born.....”

1921 Census

33, Price Street

- [1] *Charles Glen* (67), widower, publican, manager, born Hull;
- [2] *Jane Ann Forth* (72), sister, widow, home duties, born Hull;
- [3] *Minnie W. Harpin* (29), daughter, widow, home duties, born Birmingham;
- [4] *Willis Glen* (27), son, waiter, out of work, born Birmingham;
- [5] *Leonard B. Jeffries* (23), step-son, tool maker, out of work, born Tividale;
- [6] *Minnie Harpin* (6), grand-daughter, school, born Bilston;
- [7] *John Harpin* (4), grand-son, school, born Bilston:

Bilston & Willenhall Times 28/2/1925

“Much interest has been taken for some months in the question of whether a licensed house should be erected on the Green Lanes estate, where council houses stand. Some of the residents are in favour, others are not. Notices, however, have been published of the intention of Messrs. Butler and Co. Ltd., to apply at the adjourned Licensing Sessions at Bilston on March 6th for the transfer of the license of the WELLINGTON INN, Price Street, Bilston to a house and premises proposed to be erected at Villiers Square, Villiers Avenue, which is part of the Green Lanes estate. Local temperance workers are likely to oppose the application.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/4/1925

“Mr. Tom B. Adams, of Wolverhampton, presided at a meeting of the County Licensing Committee, held at Stafford on Saturday, when a proposal to erect a new hotel at Bilston was revealed in an application by Cyril Tom Wynn, brewers traveller, on behalf of Messrs. Butler and Co., for provisional grant of removal of the license of the WELLINGTON INN, Price Street, Bilston, to new premises to be erected in Villiers Square, Bilston, to be known as the VILLIERS ARMS.

Mr. F. O. Langley, who appeared in support of the application, said that the conformation of the action of the Bilston justices in agreeing to the proposal was sought. He contended that Bilston, with a population of 30,000, was entitled to a new hotel, and it would be located in a new suburb, which was rapidly growing with estate development. There was only one bedroom in the present hotel accommodation in the town. In addition to the WELLINGTON INN, the brewery company were prepared to give up a second licensed house, the name of which would be given to the committee if the application was granted.

Evidence was given in support of the application by Mr. W. J. Nash, draper, of Bilston, who said it was absolutely necessary that a hotel with bedroom accommodation should be provided in Bilston. Councillor Beech (chairman) and other members of the Bilston Urban District Council also supported the application.

Mr. A. V. Hadyn (Walsall) opposed on behalf of the Bilston Temperance Trust, and said those who instructed him were asked to do so by members of the working class. The trust was not actuated by any spirit of awkwardness or vindictiveness, but they felt that the real road to progress in licensing matters lay along the road of elimination rather than repetition. He urged that the policy of elimination should be pursued, and that one license should not be merely taken from a congested area and removed to a purely residential district which was just being opened up. Mr. Hadyn called no witnesses, but said a petition against the application had been signed by 485 persons over the age of 18. The committee unanimously decided to grant the application.”

1926 Probate

“*Charles Glen* of WELLINGTON INN, Price Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 1 December 1925. Administration Lichfield 21 January to *Willis Glen*, hotel waiter. Effects £32 18s.”

It closed on 2nd December 1926.

The license was transferred on 3rd December 1926 to the VILLIERS ARMS.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/12/1926

“Bilston Licensing Bench yesterday granted the transfer of the license of the WELLINGTON INN to the VILLIERS ARMS HOTEL, Green Lanes housing estate. The new hotel was opened last night, and the owners are Messrs. Butler and Co. Ltd.”

Demolished

WELSH HARP

9, Crown Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Eleanor Gosnell [1861]

Mate [1866]

NOTES

1861 Census

9, Crown Street – WELSH HARP – Public House – Taking in lodgers occasionally

[1] *Eleanor Gosnell* (48), widow, beer shop keeper, born Wales;

[2] *Mary Careless* (20), daughter, married, husband left home, dressmaker, born Bilston;

[3] *Emily Milward* (5), grand-daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[4] *Samuel Reece* (32), lodger, stone miner, born Manchester;

[5] *Priscilla Love* (21), lodger, formerly servant, born Bilston;

[6] *William Lowe* (24), lodger, stone miner, born Bilston;

[7] *Christopher Cartwright* (22), lodger, roll turner, born Sedgley;

[8] *Jane Bowen* (21), lodger, formerly servant, born Shrewsbury;

[9] *Mary Ann Love* (3 months), illegitimate, born Bilston:

Walsall Advertiser 10/2/1866 - Advert

“Wanted, a Situation, as Pianist and Vocalist. Can suit Concert Hall or Spirit Vaults.

Apply Mrs. Fyfe, Mr. *Mate*’s, WELSH HARP, Crown street, Bilston.”

WANTED, a SITUATION, as Pianist and Vocalist.
Can suit Concert Hall or Spirit Vaults.—Apply
Mrs, Fyfe, Mr. *Mate*’s, Welsh Harp, Crown Street, Bilston.

WHEATSHEAF

131, (61), (60), Oxford Street, (Oxford Road), New Town, BILSTON

OWNERS

James Robertson
Caroline Eyre, Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton
South Staffordshire Brewery Co. Ltd.
J. and J. Yardley and Co. Ltd.

LICENSEES

Job Lester [1814]
Daniel Poyser [1818]
J Dancer [1822]
Benjamin Huck [1828] – [1830]
Aaron Martin [1833] – [1842]
John Gardner [1849] – [1860]
Richard Walter Chambers Phesse [1861]
Samuel Whitmore [1862]
Patrick Gavan [1862]
Thomas Robinson [] – **1863**;
Richard Jones **(1863 – [1865])**
Thomas E Ellis [] – **1865**;
Joseph Baggott **(1865 – [1870])**
Mrs. Sarah Lloyd [1868] – [1870]
Thomas Heighway [1869] – [1870]
James Lloyd [1871] – **1875**;
Elizabeth Lloyd **(1875 – 1877)**;
George Joseph Lavender **(1877 – 1881)**;
Robert Hunt **(1881)**;
John Froggatt **(1881 – 1883)**;
Mrs. Martha Butler **(1883 – 1885)**;
Emma Roper **(1885 – 1886)**;
Benjamin Powis **(1886)**;
Joseph Henry Bird **(1886 – 1887)**;
Mary Elizabeth Joyce **(1887 – 1888)**;
Emma Rogers **(1888 – 1889)**;
Edward Tandy **(1889 – 1893)**;
David Attwood **(1893)**;
Samuel Henry Tilsley **(1893 – 189_)**;
Henry Mulloy **(189_ – 189_)**;
Joseph Westwood **(189_ – 189_)**;
John Griffiths **(189_ – 1895)**;
Arthur Augustus Greaves **(1895 – 1896)**;
Frank Haynes **(1896 – 189_)**;
John Winyard **(189_ – 1900)**;
Thomas Banks **(1900 – 190_)**;
Julia Bould **(190_ – 190_)**; [1901]
Herbert Henry Godwin [1903] – **1907**;
John Melling **(1907)**:



Pub Token

WHEAT SHEAF INN,
New Building, Bilston, Staffordshire.
TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by R. CORBETT,
on the Premises, on Monday the 4th of July, 1814
(unless previously disposed of by private Contract, of
which due Notice will be given) the Licences, Good-
will, Possession, and Lease (of which ten Years are un-
expired) of the above valuable Inn, and all the Stock of
Ale, Liquors, Barrels, and Brewing Utensils; Particu-
lars of which will appear in a future Paper, and Cata-
logues, to be delivered in due Time.
The House comprises one large Parlour, with a large
canted Sash, and a large Kitchen to Front; a Kitchen,
Bar, and Parlour to back; three good Bed Rooms, and
a large Club Room on first Floor; and two good Bed
Rooms on the Attick Floor, with good Cellars under
the Whole; and likewise a very capital large Cellar
under Part of the back Premises; together with a large
Brewhouse and sundry Out-offices, and an inclosed
back Yard, at the low yearly Rent of 30l.
If disposed of by private Contract, the Coming-in
will be about 700l. but to suit the Convenience of a
Purchaser, may be reduced to about 450l.
For further Particulars, and to treat for the same,
apply at the House, or to the Auctioneer, Bilston.

WHEAT SHEAF INN,
New Building, Bilston, Staffordshire.
TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by R. CORBETT,
on the Premises, on Monday the 4th of July, 1814,
the Licences, Good-will, Possession, and Lease (of
which ten Years are unexpired) of the above valuable
Inn, and all the Stock of Ale, Liquors, Barrels, and
Brewing Utensils, and Part of the Household Furni-
ture; Particulars of which will appear in Catalogues, to
be delivered in due Time.
The Licences, Lease, &c. will be sold precisely at
Ten o'Clock in the Morning; after which, the Stock
and Household Furniture.
The above Inn is in an excellent Situation and in full
Scope of Business, consuming at least 1500 Bushels
of Malt annually, and is at the low yearly Rent of 30l.
The ill State of Health of the present Occupier is the
only Reason of his declining the Public Business for
one more retire.
For further Particulars apply to the Auctioneer, Bil-
ston.

NOTES

Oxford Road, New Town [1828]

60, Oxford Street [1858]

61, Oxford Street [1861], [1864], [1865], [1868], [1870], [1871], [1872], [1874], [1881], [1892], [1900]

131, Oxford Street [1904]

It had a beerhouse license.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 21/3/1814 - Advert

"Freehold Building at Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction by R. Corbett, on Monday the 4th of April, 1814, between the Hours of Four and Six o'Clock in the Afternoon, at the House of Mr. *Job Lester*, known by the Sign of the WHEAT SHEAF INN, New Buildings, Bilston, in the County of Stafford....."

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

"WHEAT SHEAF INN, New Building, Bilston, Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Auction, by R. Corbett, on the Premises, on Monday the 4th of July, 1814 (unless previously disposed of by private Contract, of which due Notice will be given), the Licenses, Good-will, Possession, and Lease (of which ten years are unexpired) of the above valuable Inn, and all the Stock of Ale, Liquors, Barrels, and Brewing Utensils; Particulars of which will appear in a future Paper, and Catalogues, to be delivered in due Time.

The House comprises one large Parlour, with a large canted Sash, and a large Kitchen to Front; a Kitchen, Bar, and Parlour to back; three good Bed Rooms, and a large Club Room on first Floor; and two good Bed Rooms on the Attick Floor, with good Cellars under the Whole; and likewise a very capital large Cellar under Part of the back Premises; together with a large Brewhouse and sundry Out-offices, and an inclosed back Yard, at the low yearly Rent of £30.

If disposed of by private Contract, the Coming-in will be about £700 but to suit the Convenience of a Purchaser, may be reduced to about £450.

For further Particulars, and to treat for the same, apply at the House, or to the Auctioneer, Bilston."

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

"WHEAT SHEAF INN, New Building, Bilston, Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Auction, by R. Corbett, on the Premises, on Monday the 4th of July, 1814, the Licenses, Good-will, Possession, and Lease (of which ten years are unexpired) of the above valuable Inn, and all the Stock of Ale, Liquors, Barrels, and Brewing Utensils, and Part of the Household Furniture; Particulars of which will appear in Catalogues, to be delivered in due Time.

The Licenses, Lease, &c, will be sold precisely at Ten o'Clock in the Morning; after which, the Stock and Household Furniture.

The above Inn is in an excellent Situation and in full Scope of Business, consuming at least 1,500 Bushels of Malt annually, and is at the low yearly Rent of £30. The ill State of Health of the present Occupier is the only Reason of his declining the Public Business for one more retire.

For further Particulars apply to the Auctioneer, Bilston."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 24/5/1837 - Advert

"Eligible Freehold Building Property, New Town, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett, by direction of the surviving Devisee in trust for sale, acting under the Will of Mr. James Robertson, deceased, at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, on Tuesday, the 6th day of June, 1837, at five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be read.

Lot I. All that well-known old established Public House, the WHEAT SHEAF INN, situate on the west side of the great Holyhead road, New Town, Bilston aforesaid, having two parlours, kitchen, a club-room, five bed-rooms, extensive cellaring, brewhouse, and enclosed back yard, together with all the rights and appurtenances to the same belonging, as occupied by the present tenant, Mr. *Aaron Martin*.

Lot II. The adjoining Dwelling House, having two good cellars, a parlour, a kitchen, and three bed-rooms, together with the brewhouse, back yard, and appurtenances thereto belonging, and lately occupied by the Widow Robertson, deceased.

Lot III. All those Two Dwelling Houses, with the outbuildings and appurtenances to the same belonging, situate immediately in the rear of lot II, and now in the occupation of William Barnett and John Barnett.

The whole of the above property, and also two small tenements in the back yard, in the rear of the WHEAT SHEAF INN, and the house and premises adjoining the north side of lot II have all a right of a road thereto down the entry or passage between lots I and II and the respective lots will be sold subject thereto, or be entitled to the enjoyment of all such rights of roads and privileges.

To view the premises apply to the respective tenants; and for further particulars to the trustee, Mr. S. Adams, of Oldbury; to Mr. C. Adams, solicitor, Darlaston; or to the Auctioneer, New Town, Bilston.”

John Gardner = John Gardener

1851 Census

Oxford Street

[1] *John Gardner* (39), wine merchant, born St. Ampney Crosses, Gloucestershire;

[2] *Mary Gardner* (34), wife, born Cheltenham;

[3] *Ellen Gardner* (7), daughter, born Cheltenham;

[4] *Frederic Gardner* (2), son, born Bilston;

[5] *Charlotte Bickley* (20), servant, born Wolverhampton:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/8/1859

“The annual meeting of Magistrates for the purpose of the renewal and granting of licenses for the township of Bilston and the neighbourhood was held at the Bilston Police Court on Friday last.....

The following publicans having been fined during the past year their licenses were suspended until the adjourned licensing day.....

John Gardner, WHEAT SHEAF INN, Oxford Street, Bilston.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/9/1858

“The annual licensing meeting for Bilston and its neighbourhood was held on Friday last.....

The following licenses were withheld until the adjourned licensing day for further consideration of the Magistrates, in consequence of the respective applicants having been convicted of offences against their license during the past year.....

John Gardner, WHEAT SHEAF, Oxford Street, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/9/1859

“At the Bilston petty sessions, on Friday, the following cases which had been reserved from the annual licensing meeting for further consideration in consequence of complaints having been made by the police against the applicants, were disposed of, the licenses being renewed conditionally that the respective occupiers are more circumspect in their conduct WHEAT SHEAF, Oxford Street.”

1861 Census

61, Oxford Street – WHEAT SHEAF INN

[1] *Richard W. Phesse* (34), licensed victualler, born London;

[2] *Eliza Phesse* (26), wife, born, Essex;

[3] *George Goggins* (4), nephew, born Bow Wood, Hertfordshire:

Birmingham Daily Post 20/5/1861 - Advert

“WHEATSHEAF, Oxford Street, Bilston.

For a First-rate Glass of Stuff, go to the above House, now kept by *Walter Phesse*, who has completely Remodelled the Establishment.

A Free and Easy Every Tuesday Evening, when Lovers of the Harmony are invited to attend.

Mr. Urban Bate in the Chair. Mr. Wood in the Vice-Chair. Chair taken at Eight o'clock.”

Birmingham Journal 3/8/1861 - Advert

“To Publicans, Brokers, and Others.

Sale at the WHEAT SHEAF, Oxford Street, Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Alfred J. Welch, on Thursday Next, August the 8th instant, on the Premise as above.

The Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the above well-situated and valuable House of Business, which has only changed hands once in twenty years, together with, in lots, the whole of the Household Furniture, Ale Machine, Spirit Fountain, and Barrels, Counter, Gas Fittings, Cut Glass, Iron and other Bedsteads, mahogany Pembroke and other Tables, Chairs, Chimney Glasses, feather and other Beds, Carpets, Cocoa Matting, Oil Cloth, Kitchen Utensils, and other Requisites; Stock of Wines, Spirits, Cigars, &c.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock. Conditions as usual.

Catalogues may be had at the Offices of the Auctioneer, 6, Cannon Street, Birmingham, and on the Premises.”

Samuel Whitmore issued tokens from here.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 10/9/1862

“On Friday, at Bilston Petty Sessions.....

Patrick Gavan, of the WHEAT SHEAF INN, Oxford Street, was summoned for having permitted drunkenness and disorderly conduct in his house on the previous Sunday night. The charge was supported by the evidence of Police-constable Moffat, who found a number of drunken and disorderly people in the house. Since the laying of the information, an application made to transfer the license to another person, had been refused. A fine of £3 and costs was inflicted.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 19/12/1863

“At Bilston Police Court yesterday, the license of the WHEAT SHEAF, Oxford Street, was transferred from Mr. *Thomas Robinson* to Mr. *Richard Jones*, of Wednesbury.”

Thomas Robinson and *Richard Jones* appear in the same 1865 Directory.

Birmingham Daily Post 7/1/1865 - Advert

“To be Let, that Snug Liquor Shop and Public House known as the WHEAT SHEAF INN, Oxford Street, Bilston. Doing a good business.

Apply to R. L. Courtney, High Street, West Bromwich.”

TO be LET, that Snug LIQUOR SHOP and PUBLIC-HOUSE known as the "WHEAT SHEAF INN," Oxford Street. Bils on. Doing a good business.—Apply to R. L. Courtney, High Street, West Bromwich.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/1/1865

“Yesterday, at Bilston Police Office, *Thomas Ellis*, landlord of the WHEAT SHEAF INN, was charged with having refused to admit a police-constable on duty, on the morning of Sunday last. It appeared that about three o'clock the policeman saw a light in the house, and heard company and a noise of what he considered to be dice playing. The light was extinguished, but the policeman was not admitted. The defendant was fined 10s and costs.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 7/10/1865

“Bilston Adjourned Licensing Meeting.....

The following, whose names had been placed on the ‘black list,’ had their licenses renewed.....

T. E. Ellis, WHEAT SHEAF, Oxford Street.”

[By this time the license had been transferred to *Joseph Baggott*.]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/8/1865

“Yesterday, at the Bilston Petty Sessions, before E. B. Dimmack, Esq, a jannanner named William Evans, in the employ of Mr. James Dean, was charged with assaulting Police-constable Price. The defendant is a cripple and uses a crutch.

The complainant deposed that at half-past one that morning he went into the WHEAT SHEAF to clear the house and as he was leaving the defendant came up to him and, without any provocation, pushed him down the steps in front of the house. Police-constable Webb confirmed the plaintiff's statement.

Defendant denied that he had touched the complainant, who, he said, fell down the steps himself whilst he was being ordered out of the WHEAT SHEAF by the landlord for officiousness in his house and disturbing the company by offering to bet them all round. When the officer arrested him he offered to appear at the Petty Sessions if he should

be required, and gave him his address. At the same time the landlord of the house tendered himself as bail for him. But Price insisted upon taking him to the Police Station, and he had been confined in the cells all night. For the defence, Evans called *Joseph Baggott*, the landlord of the WHEAT SHEAF, who deposed that the complainant, upon entering his house, said, 'Do you want your house cleared; if you want it cleared, I will clear it in a minute.' Witness replied that the company were quiet, and he did not wish to disturb them. If he wanted the house cleared he would do it himself, but if he should find he could not he would send for a policeman. Price then offered to lay a wager with anyone or everyone in the house, and was becoming a nuisance, when he (witness) ordered him out of the house. The officer was going out of the house, and slipped down upon the steps. After slipping down, he laid hold of the defendant, who was standing behind him (witness), and, charging him with an assault, said he was his prisoner. Witness said, 'For God's sake don't arrest the man! What has he done? I will be bail for him. He has done nothing.' Price, however, insisted upon taking the defendant to the lock-up. The defendant did nothing to the complainant. Police-constable Webb entered the house before Price fell. A communication was then made to the Magistrates, by Superintendent McCrea, which was understood to be to the effect that the complainant had been reported for being drunk on Monday night. Evans offered to call further witnesses to prove his innocence, but the Magistrates said it was not necessary, and dismissed the charge."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1866

"The annual meeting for the renewal of existing licenses, and for receiving applications for fresh ones, was held at the Police Court, on Friday.....

At the commencement of the proceedings, the Superintendent of Police presented the following report.
Bilston Division, August 31, 1866.

'I beg to submit to the Magistrates the attached list of licensed victuallers who have been complained against during the year. Twenty-five have been convicted, and three have paid costs; one had been convicted three times, and five convicted twice. This is a large increase on last year's list; but I think it has arisen from the police being more particular in reporting cases of permitting drunkenness – as it was found to be an evil rather on the increase. I believe it has caused landlords to be more careful in supplying drink to persons intoxicated.'

H. McCrea, Superintendent.

Black List.....

Joseph Baggott, WHEAT SHEAF, Oxford Street, Bilston left over until the adjourned licensing meeting on the 28th of September."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/11/1867

"For Disposal, in consequence of other engagements, the WHEAT SHEAF, Oxford Street, Bilston, near St. Mary's Church, comprising Front Liquor Shop, Smoke Room, Tap Room, Brewhouse, two Cellars, and suitable Bed Rooms. Rent moderate, and valuation only required.

Apply to Samuel Baker, Auctioneer, Bilston or Willenhall."

Joseph Baggott and *Sarah Lloyd* appear in the same 1868 Directory.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/1/1868 - Advert

"To be Let, at Bilston.....

WHEAT SHEAF, Oxford Street. In-coming under £100."

Thomas Heighway = Thomas Highway

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/8/1869

"The annual licensing meeting for the Bilston division took place yesterday, at the Police Court.....

The following is the list of the licensed victuallers who have been fined during the year.....

Permitting Drunkenness *Thomas Heighway*, WHEAT SHEAF, Oxford Street, 40s and costs.

The licenses of the following publicans were suspended until the adjourned licensing meeting.....

Thomas Highway, WHEAT SHEAF, Bilston."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 27/8/1870

"The annual sessions for the renewal of existing and the granting of new licenses to licensed victuallers and beersellers in Bilston and Sedgley, was held yesterday at the Police Court, Bilston.....

All the applications for renewal of licenses were granted except the following, who had been fined for various offences during the year, and whose applications for renewal were adjourned until the adjourned licensing day, November 30 Licensed Victuallers.....

Thomas Highway, WHEAT SHEAF, Bilston."

[Renewed at the adjourned licensing meeting.]

1871 Census

61, Oxford Street

[1] *James Lloyd* (29), licensed victualler, born Bilston;

[2] *Elizabeth Lloyd* (27), wife, born Sedgley;

[3] *Hannah Ford* (14), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 19/4/1872 - Advert

"For Sale, a very handsome Two-wheel Dog Cart, New, only been used once. Suit a Cob 14 hands. Too large for present owner. Price 12 Guineas.

Apply, *James Lloyd*, WHEAT SHEAF INN, Oxford Street, Bilston."

James Lloyd died on 29th December 1875.

FOR SALE a very handsome Two-wheel DOG CART, New, only been used once. Suit a Cob 14 hands. Too large for present owner. Price 12 Guineas.--Apply, James Lloyd, Wheat Sheaf Inn, Oxford Street, Bilston.

1881 Census

61, Oxford Street – WHEAT SHEAF

[1] *Robert Hunt* (32), licensed victualler, born Widnes;

[2] *Lucy Gertrude Hunt* (27), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Joseph L. Hunt* (3), son, born Bilston;

[4] *Mary B. Hunt* (4), daughter, born Bilston;

[5] *Theresa G. Hunt* (1), daughter, born Bilston;

[6] *Dora Hunt* (17), niece, barmaid, born Widnes;

[7] *Sarah Edwards* (18), niece, domestic servant, born Willenhall;

[8] *Clara Holland* (10), niece, born Walsall;

[9] *Alexander Mason* (43), visitor, professor of music, born Scotland:

Evening Express 12/9/1881 - Advert

"The WHEAT SHEAF, Oxford Street, Bilston; incoming, including all fixtures, &c, £150; doing good and increasing trade.

Apply on the Premises."

THE Wheat Sheaf, Oxford-street Bilston : incoming, including all fixtures, &c., £150 ; doing good and increasing trade.--Apply on the premises.

Birmingham Daily Post 24/12/1881

"At the Bilston Police Court, yesterday, the following licenses were fully transferred.....

Robert Hunt, WHEAT SHEAF, Oxford Street, to *John Froggatt*, japanner."

Darlaston Weekly Times 6/5/1882

"On Thursday evening, at the solicitation of Mr. Hawkins, brother to the late Mr. Hawkins, the committee of the Hawkins Relief Fund were invited to the WHEAT SHEAF, Oxford Street, to partake of a supper, in recognition of the services so kindly rendered to the widow and orphans of the late Mr. Hawkins, by securing donations, and also arranging for a concert to aid the funds. Mr. and Mrs. *Froggatt* ably provided for the company, and after partaking of a well-catered supper, and the chairman giving the usual toasts, a hearty vote of thanks was given to the committee, for their services in securing for the widow and orphans the funds to enable the widow to commence a small business."

Darlaston Weekly Times 9/9/1882

“On Saturday night, a woman named Mary Taylor, residing in Free Street, Bilston, retired to rest, having with her an infant child three weeks old, named Mary Ann Taylor, who was then in a perfect state of health and went quietly to sleep by its mother’s side. When the mother awoke in the morning she was much alarmed to find the child dead, a drop of blood being on its night gown, and another on its face. Information was conveyed to the Coroner, who held an inquest at the WHEAT SHEAF INN, Oxford Street, on Tuesday. The evidence tended to show that the child was accidentally overlain, and a verdict in accordance with this was returned.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 16/6/1883

“Philemon Ward, Lester Street, Bilston, charged by PC Luff, with being drunk and creating a disturbance at the WHEAT SHEAF, Oxford Street, on Tuesday afternoon. Fined 2s 6d and costs.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 1/12/1883

“At Bilston Police Court, on Tuesday, Thomas Hickman, roller, Salop Street, Bradley, was charged with refusing to quit the WHEAT SHEAF INN, on Saturday night. A row occurred and defendant was turned into the street. Fined 5s and costs, as was also Thomas Morris, of Duke Street, Bradley, for helping.

Thomas Banks, Temple Street, for assaulting Hickman, had to pay 10s and costs, and Hickman and Morris for assaulting Banks had to pay 2s 6d and costs each, and Morris for an assault on the landlady’s son was fined 5s and costs.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 20/9/1884

“Mrs. *Butler*, WHEAT SHEAF INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, was charged with supplying beer in prohibited hours on the Sunday afternoon, after 2-30. Mr. Bowen appeared for defendant. Case dismissed.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 6/3/1886

“On the 2nd inst, at the Wesleyan Chapel, Bilston, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Stephen William Tyler, eldest son of Mr. Tyler, of Darlaston, to Miss Martha Annie Lloyd, niece of Mr. John Froggatt, of Bilston.....

By the kindness of Mr. Froggatt, the workpeople of the Crown Japan Works to the number of 80 were provided with a good dinner at the WHEAT SHEAF INN. After dinner the toast of the evening ‘long life, and prosperity to the happy couple’ had been drunk, an address was presented, and a handsome marble timepiece, supplied by Mr. F. Harper, of Bilston, with an inscription engraving in brass, ‘Presented by the workpeople of the Crown Japan Works, Bilston, to S. W. Tyler on his marriage, March 2nd, 1886,’ was presented to Mr. Tyler, who, in replying, thanked them and hoped the same good feeling would exist in future as had done in the past. A hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Froggatt for the manner in which he had provided was accorded, and his health and that of Mrs. Froggatt drunk with musical honours.”

Birmingham Daily Post 24/9/1887

“Yesterday, at the Police Court, Louis Brooks (12), Dartmouth Street, Wolverhampton, and Edward Green (12), James Street, Wolverhampton, were charged with attempting to rob the till of *Mary E. Joyce*, landlady of the WHEAT SHEAF INN, Oxford Street, Bilston.

On the 21st inst the boys entered the house on some petty pretence, and were found attempting to rob the till drawer. Inspector Harrison gave the lads a bad character.

The Bench said that the prisoners had been convicted several times. They would now be sentenced to a month’s imprisonment, and four years’ reformatory training.”

1891 Census

61, Oxford Street – WHEAT SHEAF

[1] *Edward Tandy* (44), licensed victualler, born Penn;

[2] *Sarah Ann Tandy* (38), wife, born Wolverhampton;

[3] *Lucy Tandy* (15), daughter, licensed victualler’s assistant, born Penn;

[4] *William Tandy* (13), son, scholar, born Penn;

[5] *Frances A. Tandy* (11), daughter, scholar, born Wolverhampton:

1901 Census

Oxford Street – WHEAT SHEAF INN

- [1] Julia Bould (46), widow, publican, born Wednesfield;
- [2] Jane Bould (21), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [3] Alice Bould (18), daughter, tray brusher, japan works, born Wales;
- [4] George Bould (17), son, coal miner, loader, born Wales;
- [5] Lilian Bould (9), daughter, born Tipton;

Birmingham Daily Post 9/3/1906 - Advert

“Barmaid (respectable) Seeks Situation; age 25; good reference.
M. E., WHEAT SHEAF, Oxford Street, Bilston, Staffs.”

BARMAID (respectable) Seeks Situation; age 25; good reference.—M. E., Wheat Sheaf, Oxford St., Bilston, Staffs.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/2/1907

“According to the report of Police-Superintendent Spendlove read at the annual brewster sessions for the Bilston Petty Sessional Division yesterday, there are 356 licenses of all kinds within the division, or one to every 174 of the population.

The Clerk (Mr. Pratt) said the Bench had decided to recommend the following eleven houses on the ground of redundancy to be referred for compensation, and the cases would be adjourned to the adjourned meeting, and in the meantime notices would be given to the owner.....

WHEAT SHEAF INN, Oxford Street.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/6/1907

“County Licensing Compensation Authority.

The principal meeting of the County Compensation Authority under the Licensing Act, 1904, was held at the Shire Hall, Stafford on Tuesday.....

WHEAT SHEAF, Oxford Street, Bilston, full license, *Herbert Henry Godwin* (licensee).....

Mr. R. A. Willcock (Wolverhampton) formally applied for the provisional renewal of the license, and Superintendent Spendlove gave evidence as to redundancy and structural unsuitability.

Mr. W. A. Foster (Tipton) appeared for parties interested. It was mentioned that the takings from February 10 to February 16 were 9½d a day, and 7d of that went into the gas meter. Renewal refused.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/8/1907

“The adjourned meeting of the County Licensing Compensation Authority was held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, on Saturday, Lord Hatherton presiding. The remainder of the claims for compensation in the case of licences the renewal of which had been refused were considered, and the following awards were made.....

WHEAT SHEAF, Oxford Street, Bilston, full licence (registered owners, J. and J. Yardley and Co. Ltd.), £200.”

Compensation of £200 was paid on 12th October 1907.

Closed

It became a lodging house.

Demolished

Eligible Freehold Building Property, New Town, Bilston.

**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY RICHARD CORBETT,**

By direction of the surviving Devisee in trust for sale, acting under the Will of Mr. James Robertson, deceased, at the King's Arms Inn, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, on Tuesday, the 6th day of June, 1837, at five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be read—

LOT I.

ALL that well-known old established PUBLIC-HOUSE, the "Wheat Sheaf Inn," situate on the west side of the great Holyhead road, New Town, Bilston aforesaid, having two parlours, kitchen, a club-room, five bed-rooms, extensive cellaring, brewhouse, and enclosed back yard, together with all the rights and appurtenances to the same belonging, as occupied by the present tenant, Mr. Aaron Martin.

LOT II.

The adjoining DWELLING-HOUSE, having two good cellars, a parlour, a kitchen, and three bed-rooms, together with the brewhouse, back yard, and appurtenances thereto belonging, and lately occupied by the Widow Robertson, deceased.

LOT III.

All those Two DWELLING-HOUSES, with the out-buildings and appurtenances to the same belonging, situate immediately in the rear of lot II. and now in the occupation of William Barnett and John Barnett.

The whole of the above property, and also two small tenements in the back yard, in the rear of the Wheat Sheaf Inn, and the house and premises adjoining the north side of lot II. have all a right of road thereto down the entry or passage between lots I. and II. and the respective lots will be sold subject thereto, or be entitled to the enjoyment of all such rights of roads and privileges.

To view the premises apply to the respective tenants; and for further particulars to the trustee, Mr. S. ADAMS, of Oldbury; to Mr. C. ADAMS, solicitor, Darlaston; or to the AUCTIONEER, New Town, Bilston.

1837

**W H E A T S H E A F,
OXFORD STREET, BILSTON.**

FOR a First-rate GLASS of STUFF, go to the above House, now kept by

WALTER PHESSÉ,

Who has completely Re-modelled the Establishment.

A FREE and EASY Every TUESDAY EVENING, when Lovers of Harmony are invited to attend.

Mr. Urban Bate in the Chair, Mr. Wood in the Vice-Chair. Chair taken at Eight o'clock.

TO PUBLICANS, BROKERS, AND OTHERS.

SALE at the WHEAT SHEAF, Oxford Street, BILSTON.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

BY ALFRED J. WELCH, on THURSDAY

NEXT, August the 8th instant, on the Premises as above—the LICENSES, GOODWILL, and POSSESSION of the above well-situated and valuable HOUSE of Business, which has only changed hands once in twenty years, together with, in lots, the whole of the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, ALE MACHINE, SPIRIT FOUNTAIN, and BARRELS, Counter, Gas Fittings, Cut Glass, Iron and other Bedsteads, mahogany Pembroke and other Tables, Chairs, Chimney Glasses, feather and other Beds, Carpets, Coors, Stuffs, Oil Cloth, Kitchen Utensils, and other Requisites: Stock of WINES, SPIRITS, CIGARS, &c.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.

Conditions as usual.

Catalogues may be had at the Offices of the Auctioneer, 6, Cannon Street, Birmingham, and on the Premises.

1861

BILSTON.—For DISPOSAL, in consequence of other engagements, the "WHEAT SHEAF," Oxford Street, near St. Mary's Church, comprising Front Liquor Shop, Smoke Room, Tap Room, Brewhouse, two Cellars, and suitable Bed Rooms. Rent moderate, and valuation only required.—Apply to Samuel Baker, Auctioneer, Bilston or Willenhall.

1867

WHITE HART

44, (42), (78), Salop Street, (78, Salop Row), (Shropshire Row), (Hallfields), Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

Isaac Brereton
Jane Brereton, widow, Salop Street, Bilston
Thomas Salt and Co. Ltd.
Atkinsons Brewery Ltd., Aston Park Brewery, Birmingham [1959]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1968]
Black Country Traditional Inns

LICENSEES

Abraham Brereton [1842] – [1861]
William Harrison [1862]
William Harrison and Martha Pittam [] – **1863**;
Abraham Brereton **(1863 – 1866)**;
Jane Brereton **(1866 – [])**
Mrs. James Brereton [1868] – [1870]
James Thompson [1871] – **1886**;
George Jenkins **(1886 – 1888)**;
John Percival **(1888 – 1894)**;
Jesse Hipkins **(1894)**;
Edward Watson **(1894 – 1896)**;
Edward Danks **(1896 – 1898)**;
Mrs. Martha Horton **(1898 – 1900)**;
Henry Tertius Hodgkiss **(1900)**;
Frederick William Webster **(1900 – 1901)**;
Isaiah Tonks **(1901 – 1902)**;
Ann Tonks **(1902 – 1903)**;
John Timmins **(1903 – 1904)**;
Joel Ashcroft **(1904 – 1909)**;
Joseph Griffiths **(1909 – 1921)**;
Arthur Edward George **(1921 – [1956])**
Arthur Edward George [1961]
Ram Kishan Tura [1986] – [1987]
R Torp [1988]
D Hayward* [1989]
Doreen Hayward* [1995]

NOTES

Shropshire Row [1842], [1849], [1850]
78, Salop Row [1861]
Salop Street, Hallfields [1868]
78, Salop Street [1874], [1881], [1891]
42, Salop Street [1911], [1921], [1939], [1940], [1956]
44, Salop Street [2005]



2011

<p>THE WHITE HART 44, Salop Street, Bradley, Bilston Tel: 01902 405494 Joe & Doreen wish all their customers a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year MILD & CIDER ONLY £1 PINT Other Beers Also On Promotion Every Friday & Saturday Karaoke & Disco Prizes For Best Karaoke Hot & Cold Food Available Day & Evenings • Pool Table • Darts • Dominoes • Crib</p>

1998

Abraham Brereton = Abraham Brearton = Abraham Brueton = Abram Brereton

Abraham Brereton was the son of Abraham Brereton of the NAVIGATION, Salop Street.

Abraham Brearton, jun, retailer of beer, Shropshire Row. [1842]

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 9/4/1843

“Harry Hayward, the Bradley Pet, is anxious to run either Warrender or Garington, of Darlaston, 200 yards, or a quarter of a mile, for £5 or £10 a side; or any other man in Bilston, the same distance for the like sum. His money is always ready at the WHITE HART, Shropshire Row, near Bilston.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 18/8/1844

“Harry Hayward, of Bilston, states, that when he went to make the match with Manley, he was informed that the Newcastle people had not come forward to back him; but he (Hayward) hopes that Manley’s friends from Darlaston will do so for a race of six score yards, for £5 or £10 a side; or Hayward will run any man in Wolverhampton or Darlaston, from 200 yards to half a mile, for the like sum. His money is ready at Mr. *Brereton*’s, WHITE HART, Shropshire Row, near Bilston.”

1851 Census

Salop Row

- [1] *Abraham Brereton* (36), victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *Jane Brereton* (36), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Isaac Brereton* (11), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] *George Brereton* (5), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] *Kazier Brereton* (2), daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] *Jane Edwards* (15), servant, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/2/1853

“On Thursday last an adjourned inquest was held at the WHITE HART, Shropshire Row, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of Hannah Thomas, about eleven years of age, who had been living as servant at the WHITE HART for some time, and had not enjoyed the best of health. Some days, however, previously to her death, a man had blacked her face in a ‘lark,’ and another had pushed her into the kitchen, but it seemed in the struggle which took place she received no injury; and at the adjourned inquest it was stated by Mr. C. J. Mason, surgeon (assistant to Messrs. Harper and Watts, surgeons, Bilston), who had made a post mortem examination of the body of the deceased, that in his opinion her death was caused by rapid absorption of pus into the lungs from scrophulous disease of the ankle joint. He added that there was no appearance of any recent injury upon the ankle or other part of deceased’s body. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence.”

1861 Census

78, Salop Row – Public House

- [1] *Abram Brereton* (44), publican, born Kidsgrove, Staffordshire;
- [2] *Jane Brereton* (44), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] *Isaac Brereton* (21) son, pig dealer, born Bilston;
- [4] *George Brereton* (15), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] *Kezia Brereton* (13), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] *Harriett Hodgkiss* (12), servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/3/1863

“Staffordshire Spring Assizes.....

Joseph Edward Reilly, a young man, was charged with robbing William Mills, a fishmonger, of Wolverhampton, of 4s 6d. Mr. Brown appeared for the prosecution.

William Mills, a fishmonger, of Wolverhampton, said that on Tuesday, the 3rd inst, he went to the WHITE HART public house, at Bilston, at about a quarter before one o’clock. He saw the prisoner there, and two men named Parker and Mills. He had 4s 8d in his pockets when he went out of the public house. He took it out in the presence of Reilly to pay 2d for beer. He went away soon afterwards with 4s 6d in his pocket. As he went along the road he

was feeling the money he had in his pocket and was jingling it, and singing 'Mary Blane.' His strains were interrupted by a sudden 'wipe across the nose,' which knocked him down. He soon got up again, and there was another 'wipe' made at him, but he closed with the 'party,' and after a struggle both fell to the ground. The other party got the best of it, and left witness so insensible that when he recovered he looked about to find what part of the world he was in. He lost a great quantity of blood, and the four-and-sixpence. He was quite sure that the prisoner was the person who struck him and struggled with him.

Police-constable Southwood said that on the night of the 3rd inst, three persons – the prisoner, and men named Parker and Mills – asked him where they could get lodgings. About ten minutes afterwards he met Mills, the fishman, who was bleeding from the nose, and was under the influence of drink. Mills described a person who he said had robbed him, and from the description he went in search of Reilly, and arrested him. When Reilly was brought to the police station, Mills was there and said, 'That is the man that struck me.' There were marks of fresh blood upon the coat which Reilly wore, and there was also fresh blood on a basket which he had on his back. There was no money found upon Reilly, but upon Parker, who was also arrested but had since been discharged, there was found 3s 6d.

William Smith, a special constable, of Wolverhampton, was also examined, after which the jury found the prisoner guilty.

His Lordship said that offences like that of which the prisoner had been found guilty of were very frequent of late, and it was necessary to treat the guilty with severity in order to put a stop to these offences. But this case was not an aggravated one; for instance, the prisoner did not make any use of any weapon. His Lordship therefore passed upon the prisoner a sentence of four years' penal servitude."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 8/6/1864 - Advert

"Bilston, Staffordshire. Important to Ironmasters and Others.

Mr. Jabez Bywater has been instructed by the Trustees under the Will of the late Jacob Brereton deceased, to offer for Sale by Public Auction, one equal undivided third part, or share of, and in two pieces of Freehold Land.....

The sale will take place on Monday, the 20th day of June, 1864, at the house of Mr. *Abraham Brereton*, known as the WHITE HART INN, at six o'clock in the evening, situate at Shropshire Row, Bilston."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 24/2/1866

"Isaac Goodreid of Goscote will run the following men: W. Hodgkiss of Can Lane 100 yards, with two yards start; or H. Walker of Swan Village the like distance, with one yard start; or J. Tranter of Tipton 100 yards level, or T. Barker of Coseley the same; either match for £5 or £10 a side. Money ready at *A. Brueton's* WHITE HART INN, Salop Street, Bilston."

Birmingham Daily Post 11/6/1866 - Advert

TO be SOLD, cheap, a GASOMETER, 20ft. diameter, 13ft. deep, six Retorts, four Purifiers, nearly good as new.—Apply to Abraham Brereton, White Hart Inn, Salop Street, Bilston.

"To be Sold, cheap, a Gasometer, 20ft diameter, 13ft deep, six Retorts, four Purifiers, nearly good as new. Apply to *Abraham Brereton*, WHITE HART INN, Salop Street, Bilston."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1866

"The annual meeting for the renewal of existing licenses, and for receiving applications for fresh ones, was held at the Police Court, on Friday.....

At the commencement of the proceedings, the Superintendent of Police presented the following report. Bilston Division, August 31, 1866.

'I beg to submit to the Magistrates the attached list of licensed victuallers who have been complained against during the year. Twenty-five have been convicted, and three have paid costs; one had been convicted three times, and five convicted twice. This is a large increase on last year's list; but I think it has arisen from the police being more particular in reporting cases of permitting drunkenness – as it was found to be an evil rather on the increase. I believe it has caused landlords to be more careful in supplying drink to persons intoxicated.'

H. McCrea, Superintendent.

Black List.....

Abraham Brereton, WHITE HART, Salop Street, Bilston License renewed."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/10/1866 - Deaths

"On the 28th ultimo, after a long illness, Mr. *Abraham Brereton*, of Salop Street, Bilston, aged 50 years."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/4/1870 - Advert

“The WHITE HART, Salop Street, Hallfields, Bilston.

To Let, the above Old-established Public House, which has not changed hands for years. The Brewing Plant, Stock, and Effects to be taken by valuation. Immediate possession if desired.

Apply to Mr. Samuel Baker, Auctioneer, Bilston.”

THE White Hart, Salop Street, Hallfields, Bilston.—To Let, the above Old-established PUBLIC-HOUSE, which has not changed hands for years. The Brewing Plant, Stock, and Effects to be taken by valuation. Immediate possession if desired.—Apply to Mr. Samuel Baker, Auctioneer, Bilston.

1871 Census

Salop Street

- [1] James Thompson (54), publican, born Bilston;
- [2] Sarah Thompson (53), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] Alfred Key (18), nephew, carpenter, born Oldbury;
- [4] Mary Smith (18), domestic servant, born Bradley;

Midland Counties Evening Express 2/4/1875

“An inquest was held, on Tuesday, before the deputy coroner. W. H. Phillips Esq, at the WHITE HART INN, Bradley, concerning the death of Frederick Barrow, a child six years of age, the son of a canal boatman. It appeared that on Monday deceased was left on his father’s boat, near Barber’s Field, in charge of an elder brother, and in three quarters of an hour afterwards his body was found in the canal, it being supposed that he fell in while at play. The jury returned a verdict of Found Dead in the canal.”

1881 Census

78, Salop Street – WHITE HART

- [1] James Thompson (64), widower, innkeeper, born Bilston;
- [2] Alfred Key (28), nephew, carpenter, born Oldbury;
- [3] Martha Shakespeare (16), general servant, born Bilston;
- [4] Isabela Punchon (18), general servant, born Bilston;
- [5] Florance Harris (7), visitor, born Aston, Warwickshire;

Darlaston Weekly Times 7/6/1884

“An inquest was held at the WHITE HART INN, Bradley, touching the death of William Mallin, a child four years of age, who resided with his parents in Salop Street. On Saturday, as the child was being carried by its mother, Mary Ann Mallin, she lifted the shawl which covered it, and found that it was dead. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

London Gazette 13/8/1889

“Notices of Release of Trustees.....

George Jenkins, lately residing and trading at the WHITE HART INN, Shropshire-row, Bilston, Staffordshire, now living in lodgings at 76, Owen-street, Tipton, Staffordshire, lately Licensed Victualler, now out of business.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 23/10/1889

“On Tuesday afternoon the Deputy Coroner, Mr. E. B. Thorneycroft, held an inquiry at the WHITE HART INN, Salop Street, Bradley, into the circumstances touching the death of Mary Ann Simpkins (16), of 32, Salop Street, Bradley. Three years ago deceased had typhoid fever, and had never been strong since. On the 18th she complained of pains in her head. She was taken to the Hospital on the 19th, and received some medicine. About 7.30 the same evening she was found dead in bed by her father. The doctor who examined her at the Hospital has since given a certificate that death resulted from meningitis. Verdict, Natural Causes.”

1891 Census

78, Salop Street

- [1] *John Percival* (35), licensed victualler, born Roseville;
- [2] *Mary E. Percival* (28), wife, born Princes End;
- [3] *Adele Percival* (11), daughter, born Woodsetton;
- [4] *Beatrice Percival* (9), daughter, born Gornal;
- [5] *Joseph Percival* (6), son, born Woodsetton;
- [6] *Leonard Percival* (2), son, born Bradley;
- [7] *Emily Percival* (10 weeks), daughter, born Bradley;
- [8] *Clara Swinton* (18), domestic servant, born Bradley;
- [9] *Rebecca Mohe* (19), visitor, born Oakengates, Shropshire:

John Percival – see also COTTAGE OF CONTENT, Upper Gornal, Sedgley.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 21/7/1898

“A very important sale by public auction took place at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, on Wednesday evening, Messrs. J. Morrell and Sons, of that town, being the auctioneers. The properties sold belonged to the late Mr. Isaac Brereton, and were as follows.....

Lot 1. The freehold full-licensed house known as the WHITE HART INN, Salop Street, Bradley, which realised the sum of £1,150.”

Henry Tertius Hodgkiss – see also CROWN AND ANCHOR, Oxford Street, LEOPARD, Church Street, ROYAL OAK, High Street, GATE, BLANKMAKERS ARMS and SEVEN STARS.

1901 Census

Salop Street – WHITE HART INN

- [1] *Frederick Webster* (35), licensed victualler, born Repton, Derbyshire;
- [2] *Julia Webster* (31), wife, born Walton, Derbyshire;
- [3] *Frederick W. Webster* (10), son, born Ashbourne, Derbyshire;
- [4] *Frank Webster* (8), son, born Cannock;
- [5] *Harold Webster* (6), son, born Cannock;
- [6] *Edith Webster* (3), daughter, born Cannock;
- [7] *George Webster* (2), son, born Cannock;
- [8] *Minnie Walker* (15), domestic servant, born Cannock:

1911 Census

42, Salop Street

- [1] *Joseph Griffiths* (53), publican, born Bilston;
- [2] *Thereasa Griffiths* (52), wife, married 4 years, born Sedgley;
- [3] *John Harris* (27), step-son, widower, joiner, born Castleford, Yorkshire;
- [4] *Sarah Brown* (16), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Joseph Griffiths was also a brewer. [1914]

1921 Census

42, Salop Street

- [1] *Arthur Edward George* (42), publican, born Bradley;
- [2] *Harriet George* (41), wife, home duties, born Bradley;
- [3] *Arthur George* (20), son, stoker, out of work, born Bradley;
- [4] *Lizzie George* (16), daughter, home duties, born Bradley;
- [5] *Alice May George* (14), daughter, home duties, born Bradley;
- [6] *Annie George* (12), daughter, school, born Bradley:

Dudley Chronicle 2/8/1923

“*Arthur E. George* (22), of WHITE HART INN, Salop Street, Bradley, shunter, was summoned for having his motor cycle rear plate obscured, and *Arthur E. George* (40), of the same address, was summoned for aiding and abetting. PC Hill and PC Howes gave evidence, and defendants were fined 10s and costs each.”

1939 Register

42, Salop Street

[1] *Arthur E. George*, date of birth 12/3/1879, licensee, married;

[2] *Harriet George*, dob 28/12/1880, unpaid domestic duties, married:

A team from here took part in the Bradley Crib League. [1946]

A team from here took part in the Bradley Darts League, First Division. [1946]

1956 Probate

“*Arthur Edward George* of WHITE HART INN, 42 Salop Street, Bradley, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 28 October 1956 at New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton. Probate Birmingham 20 November to *Arthur Edward George*, licensed victualler, and *John Bentley*, fruiterer. Effects £1,335 3s 10d.”

Arthur Edward George – see also ROYAL EXCHANGE, Salop Street, and OLD BUSH, Cross Street.

Arthur Edward George was married to *Mary*.

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

Sandwell Evening Mail 3/6/1987

“The licensee of a Bilston pub has given up raising cash for charity after complaint about noise. Mr. *Ram Kishan Tura* who runs the WHITE HART in Salop Street, was told he faced prosecution by Wolverhampton Council over alleged noise nuisance if he held further charity discos on his premises. The threat from the environmental health department follows a recent disco which raised more than £300 for the Zeebrugge Ferry Disaster appeal fund. But while it was being held environmental health officers monitored the sound levels which were found to be sufficient to form a statutory nuisance under the Control of Pollution Act.

Mr. *Tura* said, ‘I don’t know what the council is complaining about. People passing on the footpath 10 yards from the pub wouldn’t know anything was going on because they wouldn’t be able to hear anything. It’s too quiet. I have been here a year and there have been no complaints before the Zeebrugge ferry disaster disco. I even had an extension from the court and there was no objection from anyone.’

Mr. *Tura* had been planning to hold another charity disco next month to raise money for the blind.”

* probably the same person

Birmingham Mail 3/11/1995

“Gig Guide Saturday.....

After Hours (WHITE HART, Bilston).”

Black Country Bugle 24/12/1998 - Advert

“The WHITE HART, 44, Salop Street, Bradley, Bilston.

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

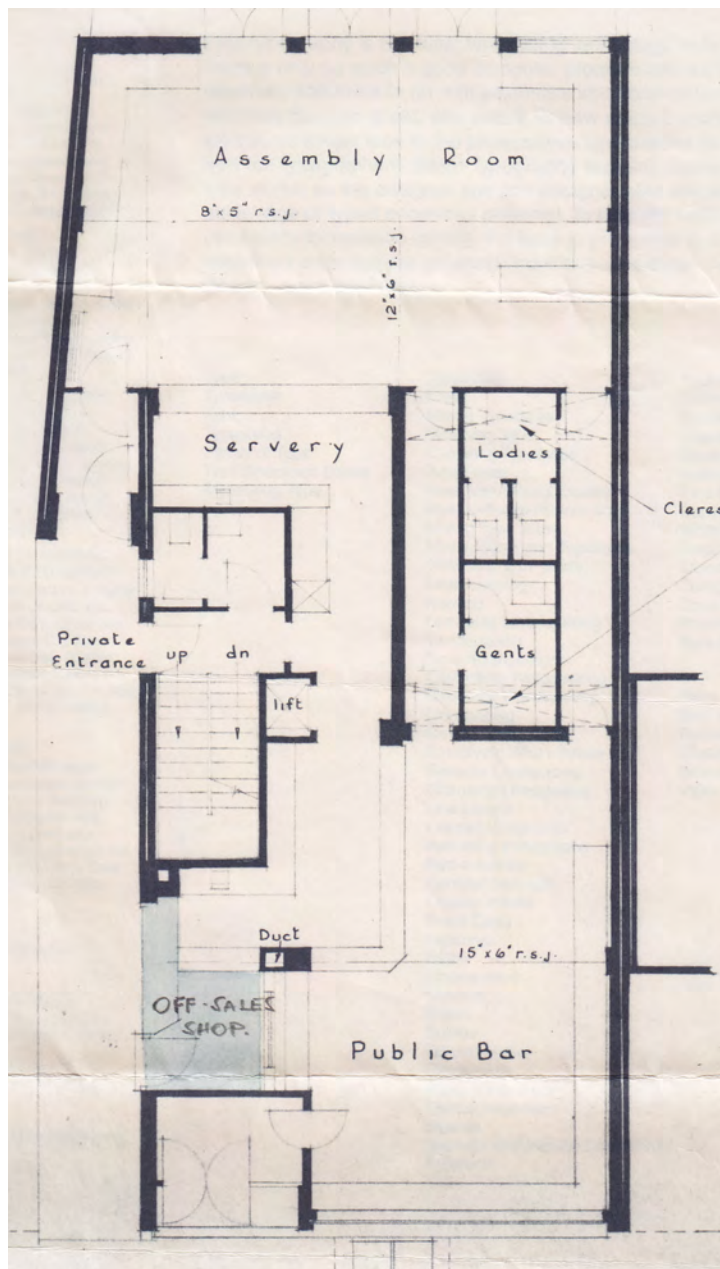
Mild and Cider only £1 Pint. Other beers also on promotion.

Every Friday and Saturday, Karaoke and Disco. Prizes for best Karaoke.

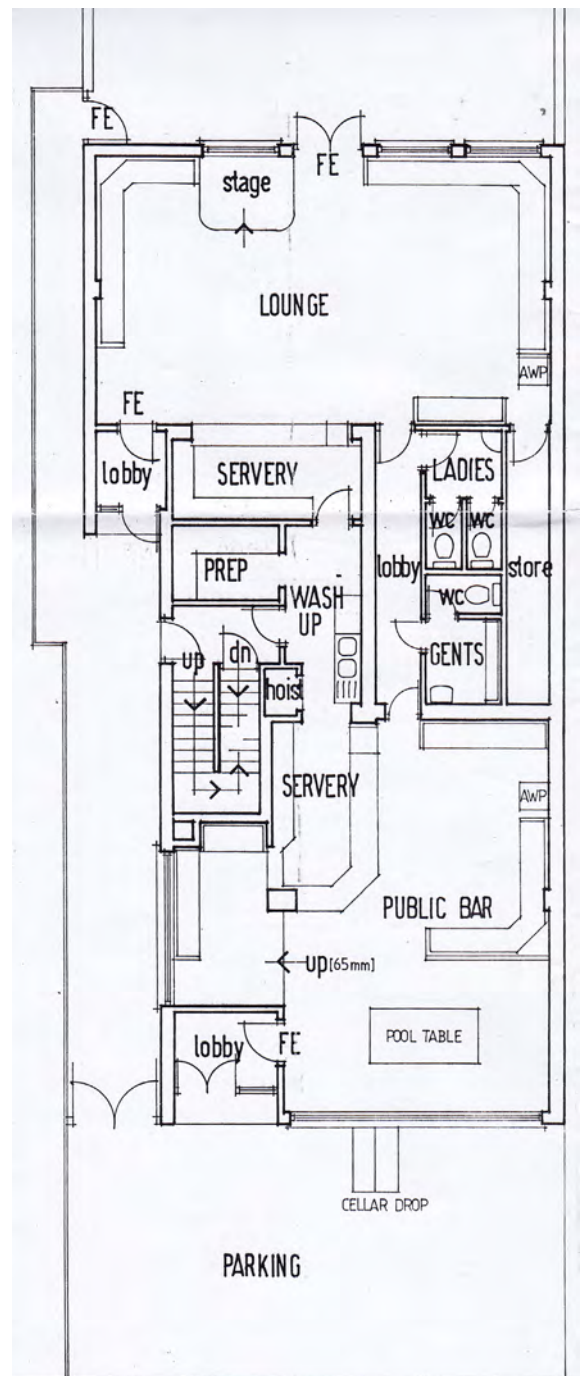
Hot and Cold Food available day and Evenings.

Pool Table. Darts. Dominoes. Crib.”

[2023]



Plan 1962



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

Plan 2005

WHITE HORSE

92, (94), (42), (41), (112), High Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

James Cardell, gentleman, Birmingham
Sarah Fanny Butler
Edward Evans
Darby's Brewery Ltd. [1937]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1965]

LICENSEES

John Cooper [1734]
Abraham Cross [1818]
Adam Hill [1822]
Thomas Cardell [1828] – [1835]
Sarah Cardell [1841] – [1842]
Joseph Linney [1845] – **1847**)
Joseph Busst **(1847 – 1850)**
John Corbett [1851]
Joseph Linney [1851] – **1852**);
John Corbett **(1852 – []**
George Perry **(1854 – [1856]**
Richard Hill [1858] – [1861]
James Trotman [1861]
Samuel Butler [1862]
Samuel Butler Snr. [1864] – **1873**);
Samuel Butler Jnr. **(1873 – 1882)**;
Mrs. Sarah Fanny Butler **(1882 – 1898)**;
Miss Elizabeth Evans **(1898 – 1902)**;
Mrs. Florence Evans **(1902 – 1906)**;
Mrs. Susan Evans **(1906 – 1919)**;
Oliver Brown **(1919 – 1932)**;
Mrs. Selina Jane Brown **(1932 – 1938)**;
Joseph William Pridmore **(1938 – 1942)**

NOTES

112, High Street [1864], [1865]
42, High Street [1858], [1861], [1862], [1868], [1870], [1871], [1872], [1874], [1881], [1884], [1892], [1896], [1904]
41, High Street [1891]
92, High Street [1908], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1932], [1940]
94, High Street [1939]



THE BILSTON IMPROVEMENT ACT, 1880.
NOTICE is hereby given, that the Commissioners for the town of Bilston have appointed Mr. HENRY MARTEN, of Wolverhampton, Engineer, to be the SURVEYOR under the above Act, and the several Acts incorporated therewith, and that such Appointment has been duly approved by the Right Honourable Sir George Grey, Baronet, one of her Majesty's principal Secretaries of State.

And notice is hereby also given, that the said Commissioners have appointed Mr. JOSEPH LINNEY, of Bilston, victualler, to be the INSPECTOR of NUISANCES under the said Act, and the Acts incorporated therewith.

And notice is hereby further given, that the said Commissioners have provided Offices for the use of the said Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances at Pipe Hall, in Bilston.

Signed by order of the said Commissioners.
H. A. VILES, Clerk.

1850

JOHN CORBETT,
WHITE HORSE INN,
HIGH STREET, BILSTON,
WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANT,
AUCTIONEER AND APPRAISER.

1851

John Cooper (1689-1747) was also a buckle maker and constable.

Thomas Cardell = Thomas Cardall

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/11/1839

“*Thomas Cardall*, of the WHITE HORSE public house, Bilston, was charged with allowing tipling during divine service. The case being proved, defendant was fined 40s and costs.”

Sarah Cardell = Sarah Cardale

1841 Census

High Street

- [1] *Sarah Cardale* (65), publican;
- [2] Mary Pretty (30), born Staffordshire;
- [3] Sarah Pretty (10), born Staffordshire;
- [4] Elizabeth Pretty (8), born Staffordshire;
- [5] Joseph Pretty (6);
- [6] Catherine Pretty (3);
- [7] Maria Pretty (7 months);
- [8] Mary Pearce (30), f.s.:

Joseph Linney was a Chartist.

Northern Star and Leeds General Advertiser 25/10/1845

“Forthcoming Meetings. Chartist Co-operative Land Society.....

The members of the Co-operative Land Society are requested to meet on Sunday next, October 26th, at six o'clock in the evening, at the house of Mr. *Joseph Linney*, sign of the WHITE HORSE, High Street, Bilston.”

Northern Star and Leeds General Advertiser 15/11/1845

“.....The Miners Committee, Bilston, October 27th, 1845.

Subscriptions will be thankfully received at Mr. *J. Linney*'s, WHITE HORSE, and at Mr. H. [sic] Howe's, SAMPSON AND LION, Green Croft.”

Northern Star and Leeds General Advertiser 20/12/1845

“At a meeting of the Miners Victim Fund committee, held at Mr. *J. Linney*'s, WHITE HORSE INN, High Street, Bilston, on Sunday, December 14th, the accounts of the Law Fund were audited and found correct, the receipts being £51 9s 2½d, and the disbursements £47 16s 5d. Audited by John Hamnor and George Ramsay.”

Northern Star and Leeds General Advertiser 16/5/1846

“The South Staffordshire Miners Delegate Meeting will be held at Mr. *J. Linney*'s, WHITE HORSE INN, High Street, Bilston, on Monday next, May 18th.”

Northern Star and Leeds General Advertiser 6/6/1846

“A Delegate Meeting of Chartists will be held at the house of Mr. *Joseph Linney*, WHITE HORSE INN, High Street, Bilston, on Sunday 14th June, at two o'clock in the afternoon, when Delegates from the following places are particularly invited to attend: Birmingham, Dudley, Stourbridge, Wolverhampton, Bilston, and surrounding districts.”

Northern Star and Leeds General Advertiser 12/6/1847

“The Ballot for the O'Connorville Tea Tray in behalf of the Victims.....

All Post Office orders to be made payable at the Bilston Post Office. To Thomas Almond, trunk maker, and addresses to the care of Mr. *Joseph Linney*, WHITE HORSE, High Street, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/11/1851 - Notice

“In the County Court of Staffordshire, at Wolverhampton.

Whereas a Petition of *Joseph Busst*, at present and for one year and ten months now last past residing in lodgings at Millfields, in the parish of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, acting as an overlooker at the works called Millfield Iron Works; and for two years and four months previously thereto residing at the sign of the WHITE HORSE INN, in High Street, Bilston aforesaid, carrying on there the trades or business of a licensed victualler and huckster; and for four years and nine months previously thereto residing in High Street, Bilston aforesaid, carrying on there the trades or business of a greengrocer and hay, straw, and horse corn dealer, an Insolvent Debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, at Wolverhampton, and an interim order for protection from process having been given to the said *Joseph Busst* under the provisions of the statutes in that case made and provided, the said *Joseph Busst* is hereby required to appear in Court before Nathaniel Richard Clarke, Esquire, serjeant at law, the Judge acting in the matter of the said petition, on the Twenty Fifth day of November, 1851, at twelve o'clock at noon precisely, at the Court House, Queen Street, Wolverhampton aforesaid, for his First Examination touching his debts, estate and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said statutes; and notice is hereby given, that the choice of assignees is to take place at the time so appointed.

All persons indebted to the said *Joseph Busst*, or who have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. Charles Gallimore Brown, official assignee acting in the matter of the said petition, at his office, in Queen Street, Wolverhampton aforesaid.

J. W. Fleetwood, Solicitor, Wolverhampton. November, 1851.”

Slater's Classified Directory 1851 - Advert

“*John Corbett*, WHITE HORSE INN, High Street, Bilston.

Wine and Spirit Merchant, Auctioneer and Appraiser.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/2/1851 - Advert

“Bilston Improvement Act, 1850.

Notice is hereby given, that the Commissioners for the town of Bilston have appointed Mr. *Joseph Linney*, of Bilston, victualler, to be Inspector of Nuisances under the said Act, and the Acts incorporated therein.....”

1851 Census

High Street

[1] *Joseph Linney* (42), licensed victualler, born Macclesfield;

[2] *Mary Linney* (40), wife, born Blackburn, Lancashire;

[3] *Elizabeth Pinner* (19), house servant, born Sedgley:

Joseph Linney – see also MALT SHOVEL, and OLD CROWN, Crown Street.

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/3/1852

“At the County Petty Sessions, Wolverhampton, on Monday last, the following transfers of publicans licenses took place.....

Joseph Linney WHITEHOUSE [sic], Bilston, to *John Corbett*, of the same place, auctioneer.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/2/1855 - Notice

“Insolvent Debtors to be heard before the Judge of the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at the Shire Hall, Stafford, in the said county of Stafford, on Wednesday, the fourteenth day of February, 1855, at eleven in the morning precisely.....

John Corbett, formerly of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Retail Brewer, Licensed Auctioneer and Appraiser; then of Bilston aforesaid, Licensed Victualler and Dealer in Wines, Spirituous Liquors, and Tobacco, Licensed Auctioneer and Appraiser; afterwards of Moxley, near Bilston aforesaid, in no business or employment; and late of Bilston, following no occupation or employment.

William Bowen, Stafford, Attorney for the said Insolvents.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 17/2/1855

“Staffordshire County Court. February 14.

At this Court, the following insolvency cases were disposed of.....

John Corbett, late of Bilston, auctioneer, was discharged, there being no opposition.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 17/6/1854

“Mr. *George Perry*, of the WHITE HORSE, Bilston, was fined for having his house open after twelve o’clock on the 11th inst. There were between 30 and 40 persons in the house at the time.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/6/1854

“Patrick Garbet was ordered to pay 15s damage and costs, for being disorderly, and breaking glasses, jugs, and other articles, at the WHITE HORSE, High Street, Bilston, kept by Mr. P. [sic] *Perry*.”

Birmingham Journal 30/9/1854 - Advert

“WHITE HORSE TAVERN, Bilston.

To be Let, by Mr. F. Altree, the above Old-Licensed Business Premises, now doing £20 per week, proof. Rent only £20 per annum. The present Proprietor would be glad to rent part of the back Premises to carry on his trade, which requires the whole of his attention. This is the sole cause of his letting.

Apply to Mr. Altree, Auctioneer and Public House Agent, Oxford Street, Bilston, and Oldbury.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1855

“The Annual Licensing Meeting for Bilston, Sedgley, Gornal, and the adjoining places took place on Friday last, at the Police Office, Bilston.....

The following licenses were suspended till the adjourned licensing day, in consequence of complaints against the house.....

George Perry, WHITE HORSE, High Street.”

London Gazette 4/1/1856

“Whereas a Petition of *George Perry*, at present and for one year and nine months last past residing in High-street, in the township of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, carrying on there the trade or business of a Licensed Victualler (also for four months during the aforesaid period of one year and nine months carrying on the business of an Ironworker, in partnership with one John Wood, also for the last three months engaged as a Manager in an Ironwork), and for two years before then residing at Hall Fields, Bilston, aforesaid, engaged as a Manager in an Ironwork, an insolvent debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, at the Court-house, Queen-street, Wolverhampton, and an interim order for protection from process having been given to the said *George Perry*, under the provisions of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said *George Perry* is hereby required to appear before the said Court, on the 26th day of January instant, at ten in the forenoon, 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 Perry*, or that have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. Charles Gallimore Brown, Clerk of the said Court, at his office, in Queen-street, Wolverhampton, the Official Assignee of the estate and effects of the said insolvent.”

London Gazette 1/2/1856

“In the Matter of the Petition of *George Perry*, at present and for one year and nine months last past residing in High-street, in the township of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, carrying on there the trade or business of a Licensed Victualler (also for four months during the aforesaid period of one year and nine months carrying on the business of an Ironworker, in partnership with one John Wood, also for the last three months engaged as a Manager in an Ironwork), and for two years before then residing at Hall Fields, Bilston, aforesaid, engaged as a Manager in an Ironwork.

Notice is hereby given, that the County Court of Staffordshire, at Wolverhampton, acting in the matter of this Petition, will proceed to make a Final Order thereon, at the said Court, on the 21st day of February instant, at ten o’clock in the forenoon precisely, unless cause be then and there shewn to the contrary.”

1861 Census

42, High Street

[1] James Trotman (30), victualler, born London;

[2] Mary A. Trotman (34), wife, born Fenton Moor, Staffordshire;

[3] Elizabeth Trotman (4), daughter, scholar, born Wolverhampton:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 6/9/1865

“Edward Reece, James Hayworth, and James Micklewright, and a fourth man, who did not appear, named William Thornton, were charged at Bilston Police Court, on Friday, with having done wilful damage at the house of *Samuel Butler*, the WHITE HORSE INN, High Street, Bilston, with having violently assaulted the landlord and likewise Police-constables Chatfield and Chaplain. It appeared from the evidence that late on Tuesday night the defendants went into the complainant’s house in a state of intoxication, and commenced tossing for quarts of ale. The landlord refused to allow them to toss in his house, or to supply them with drink, and also requested them to leave. They refused to do so, and became very violent, and upon the landlord endeavouring to eject them he was violently assaulted. The police-officers above named were then called to assist in turning the defendants out, but the latter still resisted and assaulted them also, and likewise smashed one of the public house doors and several panes of glass. It did not appear that Micklewright took any part in the disturbance, and the charge against him was therefore dismissed. The other defendants were ordered to pay the amount of damage, £1, amongst them, and a fine of £1 each and costs for assaulting the police.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 10/3/1866

“Britannia Grounds, Tipton.....

C. Probert of Bilston and E. Lewis of New Village are matched to run 100 yards at the above grounds on Monday, March 19, for £5 a side. £1 a side is now down in the hands of Mr. *Butler*, of the WHITE HORSE INN, Bilston, who is stakeholder and referee, to be made into £3 a side this (Saturday) evening.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 26/12/1868

“S. Gee of Willenhall and J. Turner of Tipton ate matched to run 100 yards, for £10 a side, on January 11. £1 a side is down in the hands of Mr. *Butler* of the WHITE HORSE INN, Bilston, who is final stakeholder.”

1871 Census

42, High Street – WHITE HORSE

[1] Thomas Harrison (19), servant in charge, born Runcorn:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 10/2/1875

“Charles Taylor was summoned for being disorderly in the WHITE HORSE public house, High Street, Bilston, and for assaulting *Samuel Butler*, the proprietor of the house, and James Butler, his son, on Monday, the 18th of January. Mr. Barrow, who appeared for complainant, was about to make an opening statement, when Mr. Spooner requested him not to do so, as the defendant had no attorney. Defendant said he had engaged Mr. Bowen, and paid him a fee of 15s, but he now refused to appear in the case, and declined to give any reason why he did so. He wished to know if he had no remedy in the matter. Mr. Spooner said defendant could take proceedings in the County Court if his statement was correct. Mr. Bowen shortly afterwards entered the Court, and on being informed what had occurred, intimated that he refused to appear without an ‘extra fee,’ as he had already attended three times and the case had been adjourned. Defendant agreed to pay an extra fee, and Mr. Bowen undertook the defence.

The evidence on behalf of the complainant was that on the night of the 18th January the defendant went to the WHITE HORSE to see a servant there, and after sitting in one of the rooms he went into the bar, and struck James Butler, and threw him against the table, and on Butler’s father going into the bar and requesting defendant to leave the house, the latter also assaulted him.

There was a cross-summons charging the two Butlers with having assaulted Taylor. It was alleged in behalf of the latter that he had been drinking all the afternoon in the house and engaged in some horse play with James Butler, which eventually turned to foul play; that Butler became offended, and began to fight, after asking Taylor to ‘put up his maulies;’ and that Taylor was thrown to the ground and abused, Mrs. Butler seizing his hair and the elder Butler kicking him.

The whole of the summonses were dismissed.”

1881 Census

42, High Street

- [1] *Samuel Butler* (66), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Sarah Butler* (58), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *James Butler* (42), son, roll turner, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Fanny Butler* (37), daughter-in-law, born Sutton Coldfield;
- [5] *Harriet Newbrook* (65), visitor, annuitant, born Sutton Coldfield;
- [6] *Pamela Caddick* (19), domestic servant, born Sedgley:

Samuel Butler Jnr. died on 27th February 1882.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 7/1/1885 - Advert

"Wanted, good General Servant, about 18 or 20; good character. WHITE HORSE, High Street, Bilston."

WANTED, good General Servant, about 18 or 20; good character.—White Horse, High-st., Bilston.

Darlaston Weekly Times 24/1/1885 - Advert

"House to Let, in Thompson Street, containing entrance hall, parlour, sitting room, three bed rooms, cooking kitchen, hard and soft water, gas, good cellaring. Apply, WHITE HORSE, High Street, Bilston."

Birmingham Daily Post 11/5/1889 - Advert

"Tuesday, May, 21, 1889. Important Sale of Valuable Full-Licensed Houses, Business Premises, and Messuages, Bilston.

J. Morrell & Sons are favoured with instructions to Offer for Sale by Auction, at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Bilston, on Tuesday, May, 21, 1889, at Six for Seven in the Evening.....

Lot 2. All that Full-licensed Commanding Corner Public House and Premises, known as the WHITE HORSE, situate High Street, Bilston, with a total frontage of 41ft 6in, now in the occupation of *S. Butler*; and also the Piece of Land formerly used as a garden, part of which is now used as a yard by the tenant of the WHITE HORSE INNN, together with Stable, Brewhouse, and Two Messuages, being Nos.3 and 4, adjoining the said plot of land, one of which is occupied by Mrs. Brown, and the other is now used as a warehouse by Mr. P. Hollis. Gross annual rental £36 14s."

Birmingham Daily Post 15/10/1890 - Advert

"General Servant (good) Wanted, about 18; good character. Wages 3s per week. WHITE HORSE, High Street, Bilston."

GENERAL Servant (good) Wanted, about 18; good character. Wages 3s. per week.—White Horse, High Street, Bilston.

1891 Census

41, High Street

- [1] *Sarah Butler* (68), widow, innkeeper, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Fanny Butler* (47), daughter, widow, assistant, born Sutton Coldfield;
- [3] *Gertrude E. Jenkins* (12), niece, scholar, born Sutton Coldfield:

Birmingham Daily Post 24/8/1894 - Died

"On the 22nd inst, *Sarah Butler*, widow of the late *Samuel Butler*, of WHITE HORSE, High Street, Bilston."

1894 Probate

"*Sarah Butler* of the WHITE HORSE INN, High Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, widow, died 22 August 1894. Probate Lichfield 13 December to *Fanny Butler*, widow. Effects £219 9s 8d."

[There seems to be an error in the list of licensees. Perhaps the license was transferred from *Sarah Butler* to *Fanny Butler*.]

Oliver Brown married *Selina Jane Evans* in the third quarter of 1899.
Selina Jane Evans was the daughter of Edward and Susan Evans.

1901 Census

High Street

- [1] *Oliver Brown* (27), ironworker and publican, born Bilston;
- [2] *Salina J. Brown* (21), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] *Elizabeth Evans* (32), aunt, domestic servant; born Sedgley;
- [4] *Florence Phillips* (18), domestic servant, born Bilston;
- [5] *Oliver Brown* (1), son, born Bilston:

Susan Evans = *Susannah Evans*

Midlands Evening Chronicle 5/10/1909

"The third annual leek show was held at the WHITE HORSE HOTEL, High Street, Bilston, on Monday. The show was opened by Councillor Leonard Foster....."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 12/11/1909

"The members of the WHITE HORSE Bowling Club met on Thursday at the headquarters, WHITE HORSE HOTEL, High Street, Bilston, for their second annual dinner. The club, which is in its second season, has a roll of 39 fully paid-up members, and the president is Lieutenant-Colonel Villiers. After dinner the chair was taken by Mr. C. Clarke, and he was supported by the captain (Mr. W. Walters), the vice-captain (Mr. J. T. Lloyd), and the secretary (Mr. J. Willis Pearson). The vice-chair was taken by Mr. R. Hammond. The hon. sec. reported that the club had played ten matches, of which four were won and six lost, whilst the aggregate score for the club was 1,681 was against 1,903 made by their opponents. The finances were very satisfactory; the receipts were £5 4s 9d, the expenditure £3 5s 1d, leaving a balance in hand of £1 19s 8d. During the season various prizes were competed for."

1911 Census

2, Millfields Road – CHURCH INN

- [1] *Edward Evans* (49), publican and brewer, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Susannah Evans* (50), wife, married 30 years, publican, born Gornal;
- [3] *G. Henry Pinson* (33), boarder, brewer of beer, born Bloxwich;
- [4] *Happy Hapson* (16), domestic servant, born Gornal:

AND

High Street – WHITE HORSE

- [1] *Oliver Brown* (37), publican's assistant, born Bilston;
- [2] *Selina Brown* (33), wife, married 12 years, assistant in public house, born Hurst Hill;
- [3] *Oliver Ed Brown* (11), son, born Bilston;
- [4] *Harold Brown* (9), son, born Bilston;
- [5] *Ruby Brown* (6), daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] *Dora Evans* (20), assistant in public house, born Priestfield:

Susan Evans was also a brewer. [1914]

Oliver Brown was also a brewer. [1916], [1921]

Edward Evans died in 1919 after slipping in the malt room.

1919 Probate

"Edward Evans, of the WHITE HORSE INN, High Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 16 May 1919. Probate Lichfield 1 August to *Susan Evans*, widow, and *Selina Jane Brown* (wife of *Oliver Brown*). Effects £4,438 18s 8d."

Edward and *Susan Evans* – see also CHURCH, Millfields Road.

South Staffordshire Times 28/2/1920

“At Bilston Police Court on Tuesday, *Oliver Brown*, licensee of the WHITE HORSE, was summoned for selling spirits, namely one-fifth part of a gill of rum, 30 per cent under proof, at a price exceeding the maximum and there being two summonses for this and a similar offence. He was also summoned that he omitted legibly to mark the maximum price at which spirits might be sold on the receptacle from which such spirits were drawn in such a manner as to be visible to the purchaser, contrary to the provision of the Spirits (Prices and Descriptions Order), 1919.

Mr. Turner, who prosecuted, said this charge was preferred by the Ministry. Defendant, who kept the WHITE HORSE HOTEL, had been licensee for some time and had lived on the premises and managed them for some years on behalf of relatives. There were two charges of over-charging in his public bar for a glass of rum. Two inspectors called at the public bar on December 19th and called for a glass of rum each, and the charge made was 6d. In the Order it was distinctly laid down that the maximum charge should be 5d. The defendant therefore overcharged the customers to the extent of one penny. In addition to that he failed to exhibit the notice of the price at which spirits were retailed in the bar – a serious infringement of the Spirit Order. His explanation was an extraordinary one. He said, ‘I am entitled to sell rum for 6d and I was under the impression I was entitled to do it.’ This Order had been in force two years, and if this man has been doing that it showed he had been overcharging his customers for some time. In one case which had been before the Court an old lady had acted in ignorance, but this was a deliberate infringement.

Mr. Pritchard, in defence, said this was a matter of defendant not having understood the Order, some of these Orders were very complicated. On certain proprietary brands of whisky 4d per glass was allowed. This was special Jamaica rum, which was delivered in bottles in cases, and the defendant was under the impression that he was entitled to charge 6d. In fact, he was not conscious otherwise. He thought it was clear that you could sell whiskey at 6d. There was a great chance in these complicated matters of a man making an honest mistake.

Defendant gave evidence, and in cross-examination said he was not a member of any association of licensed victuallers in Bilston.

Mr. Turner: Is there such an association? – Defendant: There is one in Wolverhampton.

Mr. Turner: It would be a good investment for you to join that. You have never thought it worth while to spend a penny on a copy of the Order? – Defendant: No.

Mr. Turner read over the Order for defendant’s instruction, remarking that he had got it in black and white now. Assuming that there were 25 glasses in a bottle, he asked defendant had he not been making an illegal profit of 2s 1d per bottle. Defendant said he had only had eight gallons in the house since last October.

The Chairman said there had been an unusual amount of negligence in this case, and a failure to take account of what was required by the law. Defendant would be fined 40s in each case and £5 for not having the notice exhibited, together with £3 3s costs.”

1921 Census

High Street – WHITE HORSE

[1] *Oliver Brown* (47), public house manager for Mrs. *S. Evans*, innkeeper, born Bilston;

[2] *Selina Jane Brown* (43), wife, born Hurst Hill;

[3] *Harold Brown* (19), son, motor engineer, out of work, born Bilston;

[4] *Leslie Bradley Brown* (8), son, school, born Bilston;

[5] *Selina Joyce Brown* (7), daughter, school, born Bilston;

[6] *Cyril Brown* (6), son, school, born Bilston;

[7] *Rex Kenneth Brown* (4 months), son, born Bilston;

[8] *Matthew Jones* (72), uncle, born Argoad, Shropshire;

[9] *Edith Elizabeth Scott* (23), servant, born Wombourne:

1932 Probate

“*Oliver Brown*, of WHITE HORSE, High Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 28 July 1932. Administration Birmingham 5 October to *Selina Jane Brown*, widow. Effects £145 17s 1d.”

Selina Jane Brown brewed here.

1939 Register

94, High Street (3 of 6)

[1] Joseph W. Pridmore, date of birth 6/4/1900, licensed victualler, married;

[2] Elizabeth (Ellen E.) Pridmore, dob 6/5/1904, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[4] Leslie Pridmore, dob 28/5/1927, at school, single;

Joseph William Pridmore also worked part time for Collins the undertakers.

Closed

It was demolished c.1970.

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF STAFFORDSHIRE, AT WOLVERHAMPTON.

November, 1851.

WHEREAS a Petition of JOSEPH BUSST, at present and for one year and ten months now last past residing in lodgings at Millfields, in the parish of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, acting as an overlooker at the works called Millfield Iron Works; and for two years and four months previously thereto residing at the sign of the White Horse Inn, in High-street, Bilston aforesaid, carry on there the trades or business of a licensed victualler and huckster; and for four years and nine months previously thereto residing in High-street, Bilston aforesaid, carrying on there the trades or business of a greengrocer and hay, straw, and horse corn dealer, an Insolvent Debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, at Wolverhampton, and an interim order for protection from process having been given to the said Joseph Busst under the provisions of the statutes in that case made and provided, the said Joseph Busst is hereby required to appear in Court before NATHANIEL RICHARD CLARKE, Esquire, serjeant at law, the Judge sitting in the matter of the said petition, on the TWENTY FIFTH day of NOVEMBER, 1851, at twelve o'clock at noon precisely, at the COURT HOUSE, QUEEN STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON aforesaid, for his FIRST EXAMINATION touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said statutes; and notice is hereby given, that the choice of assignees is to take place at the time so appointed.

All persons indebted to the said Joseph Busst, or who have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. CHARLES GALLIMORE BROWN, official assignee acting in the matter of the said petition, at his office, in Queen-street, Wolverhampton aforesaid.

J. W. FLEETWOOD,

Solicitor, Wolverhampton.

1851

"WHITE HORSE TAVERN," BILSTON.

TO be LET, by Mr. F. ALTREE, the above Old-Licensed BUSINESS PREMISES, now doing £20. per week, proof. Rent only £20. per annum. The present Proprietor would be glad to rent part of the back Premises to carry on his trade, which requires the whole of his attention. This is the sole cause of his letting. —Apply to Mr. Altree, Auctioneer and Public House Agent, Oxford Street, Bilston, and Oldbury.

1854

TUESDAY, May 21, 1889.—Important Sale of Valuable FULLY-LICENSED HOUSES, BUSINESS PREMISES, and MESSUAGES, Bilston.

J. MORRELL & SONS are favoured with instructions to Offer for Sale by Auction, at the Great Western Hotel, Bilston, on TUESDAY, May 21, 1889, at Six for Seven in the Evening, subject to conditions then to be read, incorporating the common form conditions of the Birmingham Law Society—the following Valuable

COPYHOLD PROPERTIES,

viz:—

Lot 1.—All that Substantially-erected Old-established INN and WINE and SPIRIT VAULTS, called the

"CRICKETERS' ARMS,"

situate Church Street, Bilston, together with the conveniently-arranged BUSINESS PREMISES adjoining the same, being No. 64, Church Street, Bilston, with the Outbuildings, Yards, and Premises belonging to the same. The Property has a frontage of 29ft. 6in. to Church Street, and is now let on a fourteen years lease to Messrs. W. Butler and Co., Brewers, which will expire at the 24th June, 1890, at a rental of £52.

The Premises, known as the "CRICKETERS' ARMS," are conveniently arranged and well adapted for carrying on a large business. The Premises adjoining are now and have been for many years past occupied as a Confectioner's Eating-house and Dining Rooms. This lot is situate in the main business street, in close proximity to the Market Place.

Lot 2.—All that Fully-licensed Commanding Corner PUBLIC-HOUSE and PREMISES, known as the

"WHITE HORSE,"

Situate High Street, Bilston, with a total frontage of 41ft. 6in., now in the occupation of S. Butler; and also the Piece of LAND formerly used as a garden, part of which is now used as a yard by the tenant of the White Horse Inn, together with the Stable, Brewhouse, and Two MESSUAGES, being Nos. 3 and 4, adjoining the said plot of land, one of which is occupied by Mrs. Brown, and the other is now used as a warehouse by Mr. P. Hollis. Gross annual rental £36. 14s.

Lot 3.—All those Nine MESSUAGES or DWELLING HOUSES, situate in the Fold or Yard known as the White Horse Yard, High Street, Bilston, being Nos. 1 and 2 and 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11, with the Outbuildings, Yards, and Premises thereto belonging, together with a large Piece of LAND in the rear, available for building purposes, now in the respective occupations of Summerfield, Parland, Lloyd, Harrison, Galwin, Lewis, York, and two void. Gross annual rental £55. 12s.

For further particulars, apply to Messrs. Arnold and Son, Solicitors, 17A, Temple Row, Birmingham; Messrs. Cresswell and Roberts, Solicitors, Dudley; or to the Auctioneers, Swan Bank, Bilston.

1889

WHITE HORSE

1, (42), Ward Street, New Village, (Priestfield), Ettingshall, BILSTON

OWNERS

Mrs. Rhoda Williams, widow, Wellington Road, Bilston
Henry Williams, fishmonger, Wellington Road, Bilston
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

LICENSEES

Edward Jones [1873] – **1877**);
George Millard Fellows (**1877 – 1884**);
Thomas Edmunds (**1884 – 1892**);
Edward Somerfield (**1892 – 1894**);
Samuel Forrester (**1894 – 1907**);
Hannah Forrester (**1907 – 1912**);
Albert Davies (**1912 – 1913**);
Thomas Samuel Bate (**1913 – 1921**):

NOTES

42, Ward Street [1881]
1, Ward Street [1901], [1921]

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Staffordshire Advertiser 4/3/1876

“*Edward Jones*, landlord of the WHITE HORSE beerhouse, Ward Street, Priestfield, was fined 40s and costs under the following circumstances. Kate Westwood went to the house to fetch her drunken husband, but defendant seized her by the throat, swore he would strangle her, and threw her down the steps into the street. She was afterwards ill from the effects of this treatment.”

Dudley Herald 30/9/1876

“Adjourned Licensing Meeting at Bilston The Black List.....

Edward Jones, WHITE HORSE, New Village, and John Clarke, FOUR WAYS, Sedgley, did not attend, and their licenses were accordingly held over for a week.”

1881 Census

42, Ward Street – WHITE HORSE

- [1] *George M. Fellows* (27), roll turner and beerhouse keeper, born Ettingshall;
- [2] *Elizabeth Fellows* (26), wife, born Willenhall;
- [3] *William Fellows* (5), son, scholar, born Ettingshall;
- [4] *Edith M. Fellows* (10 months), daughter, born Ettingshall;
- [5] *Sarah Homer* (13), domestic servant, born Ettingshall:

George Millard Fellows – see also LEOPARD.

1891 Census

Ward Street – WHITE HORSE

- [1] *Thomas Edmunds* (46), blank tray maker, born Bilston;
- [2] *Phoebe Edmunds* (40), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Clara Ann Edmunds* (17), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] *Harriet I. Edmunds* (14), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] *Phoebe A. Edmunds* (11), daughter, born Bilston:

1901 Census

1, Ward Street

- [1] *Samuel Forrester* (41), beerhouse keeper, born Bilston;
- [2] *Hannah Forrester* (34), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Martha Forrester* (15), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] *Samuel Forrester* (13), son, born Bilston;
- [5] *Hannah Forrester* (11), daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] *John E. Forrester* (9), son, born Bilston;
- [7] *Maud Forrester* (7), daughter, born Bilston;
- [8] *Thomas Forrester* (5), son, born Bilston;
- [9] *Sarah H. Forrester* (17), sister, painting cisterns, born Bilston:

Samuel Forrester, beer retailer, Ward Street. [1904]

1907 Probate

“*Samuel Forrester* of the WHITE HORSE INN, Ward Street, Priestfield, Wolverhampton, died 26 December 1906. Probate Lichfield 1 March to *Joseph Wilkinson Adey*, auctioneer, and *Samuel Beebee*, publican. Effects £458 16s.”

1911 Census

2, Fleece Street

- [1] *Hanah Forester* (44), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Bilston;
- [2] *Samuel Forester* (23), son, drayman's assistant, born Bilston;
- [3] *Thomas Forester* (15), son, labourer, tube works, born Bilston;
- [4] *Maud Forester* (19), daughter, born Bilston:

Thomas Samuel Bate was fined 15s on 6th February 1917 for selling ale after 8.30 pm.

Staffordshire Advertiser 26/7/1919

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

WHITE HORSE, Ward Street, Priestfield, ante-'69 beerhouse, referred for compensation on the ground of redundancy. Formal application for renewal was made.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/11/1919

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

Two cases have been adjourned, those of the WHITE HORSE, Ward Street, Priestfield, Bilston, ante 1869 beerhouse, and the STAR AND GARTER, full license, Lester Street, Bilston, both owned by the Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Limited.”

1921 Census

1, Ward Street – WHITE HORSE

[1] *Thomas Bate* (39), metal turner, born Heath Town;

[2] *Dora Bate* (37), wife, home duties, beerhouse manager, born Wolverhampton;

[3] *Bert Bate* (15), son, metal turner, born Wolverhampton;

[4] *Selina Anson* (68), mother-in-law, widow;

[5] *Percy Bate* (23), brother, foreman, shoeing forge, born Heath Town:

Thomas Samuel Bate – see also HAND AND KEYS.

Compensation of £915 was paid on 24th December 1921.

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/1/1922

“Meeting of the Compensation Authority.....

The committee have received the awards of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue in the following cases submitted to them.....

1919 case WHITE HORSE, Priestfield (beerhouse, ante 1869). £915.

The amounts awarded have been apportioned amongst the interested parties and were paid on the 24th ult.”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 11/10/1924

“Tuesday Next, October 14th, 1924, at 7 o’clock in the Evening.

Important Sale of Freehold Properties and Land, and de-licensed houses, at Bradley and Priestfields, which Cyril H. Green, FNAA, has been instructed to submit for Sale By Auction, at the PIPEHALL HOTEL, Bilston, on the above Date, subject to conditions of sale to be then read, the under-mentioned Properties.....

Lot 1. Eleven Freehold Houses, Nos.1, 3, Ward Street, and No.9 and Four Houses at the rear, Ward Street, and Nos.4 and 1 back, Fleece Street, Priestfield. Gross annual rental £130.

No.1 Ward Street was formerly the licensed premises known as the WHITE HORSE INN, but is now de-licensed.”

Demolished

WHITE LION

67, (17), Cross Street, (Lower) Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

Ann Flavell, wife of licensee
Joseph Townsend
Richard Andrew Harper, brewer, Bilston
R. A. Harper Ltd. [1921]
Eley's Stafford Brewery Ltd.

LICENSEES

Joseph Townsend []
James Hill [1862] - **1886**);
James Hill **(1886 - 1890)**;
Joseph Townsend **(1890 - 1893)**;
Thomas Finney **(1893)**;
William Bowater Flavell **(1893 - 1902)**;
Mrs. Ann Flavell **(1902)**;
Henry Flavell **(1902)**;
Jonathan Wildman **(1902 - 1907)**;
Ethel May Wildman **(1907 - 1911)**;
Henry Percy Wildman **(1911 - 1912)**;
Harry Archer **(1912 - 1915)**;
Stephen Edward Williams **(1915 - 1921)**;
Henry Insley **(1921 - 1923)**;
George Davies **(1923)**;
Annie Whittaker **(1923 - 1924)**;

NOTES

[This pub was strictly in Sedgley, but is included here due to it being situated at Bradley.]

17, Cross Street [1871], [1881]
67, Cross Street [1891], [1901], [1912], [1921]

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Birmingham Journal 5/9/1857

"It will be in the recollection of our readers that early in the morning of the 30th of April last, the body of a female named Elizabeth Hopley, and who was employed as a bankswoman at a colliery, was found in a canal at Bilston. An inquest was held on the following Friday, and adjourned until Tuesday, the 5th of May, to give opportunity for a post mortem examination. On the 5th of May there was a further adjournment until the 24th. In the meantime a man of the name of Philip Clare, a butty miner, in whose employment the girl Hopley had some time been, and who was believed to harbour ill feeling against her, was apprehended as her murderer, on the information of George Powell, a watchman, who declared that he had witnessed the whole transaction. Clare was taken before the Stipendiary the next Tuesday, when Powell repeated the statement he had made to the police. An adjourned inquest was fixed for the following Tuesday, but before that day Powell absconded. The inquest was then further adjourned in the first instance to the 19th of June, and then to the 5th of October, whilst a warrant was issued for the apprehension of Powell. Nothing was heard of this person, however, until Monday last, when he was taken to Warwick Gaol, having

NOTICE of SALE BY AUCTION of an Excellent double-fronted, brick-built and slate-roofed DWELLING HOUSE, formerly known as the "WHITE LION INN," CROSS ST., BRADLEY, near BILSTON.

ALFRED W. DANDO AND CO.

Have received instructions to SELL BY AUCTION, at the "STAR AND GARTER" HOTEL, WOLVERHAMPTON,

AT AN EARLY DATE,

at Seven o'clock in the Evening precisely, the above substantially - erected DWELLING HOUSE, containing Entrance Hall, Four Good Rooms down, Four Bedrooms, Cellars, double gateway and side entrances to large fully-paved Yard, and the usual Out-buildings.

Full particulars will appear in future announcements, or in the meantime may be obtained of MESSRS. HAND & CO., Solicitors, Martin St., Stafford, or of the AUCTIONEERS, 193, Wolverhampton St., Dudley.

1925

broken the workhouse windows on being refused relief. Powell, who had lost a leg, had disused his wooden substitute and taken a crutch. On being asked his name by the warder at the prison, he gave that of Powell, and then, recollecting himself, that of Powis. This caused suspicion, and he was eventually identified and handed over to the authorities at Bilston, where he arrived on Tuesday last. On the evening of that day Clare was again taken into custody, and yesterday morning an adjourned inquest was held at the WHITE LION, Bradley, before W. H. Phillips, Esq, Deputy Coroner. Mr. Waterhouse, solicitor, Bilston, watched the proceedings on behalf of Clare.

The first witness examined was the man Powell, who deposed as follows: My name is Samuel Wall. I am a labourer, and have chiefly gone by the name of George Powell. I have had no fixed place of residence since my father's death. I did not know the deceased. In February, March, April, and May, I was employed as watchman for Mr. David Rose. When I went to be a watchman at Mr. Rose's, I first became acquainted with Clare, who introduced himself to me. My duty was to look after the fields and the engines during the night. On the night that this happened I was out on my beat. I thought it was then about half-past twelve o'clock, but when I came into the main road I heard the Moxley clock strike twelve. On coming to the railway bridge, (Bradley Bridge) I saw the shadows of two persons on the bridge. I could see it was a man and a woman. This would be about a quarter past twelve. On getting below the bridge I heard a woman say, 'Philip, don't kill me; you said you would kill me before.' I then saw the man lift his hand and strike the woman. I think the blow was upon the head. It knocked her down. I did not hear a word after that. I then recognised the man as Philip Clare, who is now present. I went up to him and said, 'Philip, you will have to suffer for this.' He said, 'If you tell any one, I'll kill you; I'll serve you the same.' I did not see the woman's face; I could not. She had like a red frock on, and was quite a stout body. Clare then took the woman on his shoulder. She remained insensible. I followed Clare to the end of the wharf. He then repeated, 'If you tell anybody, I will kill you; I will serve you the same, and I will set someone on to watch.' He (Clare) then carried the woman a little way further, and put the woman into the water. There was only one blow struck by Clare, and the woman never struggled from that time till she was put into the water. From first to last, these things occupied from a quarter of a hour to twenty minutes. Wall continued that he then went away, along the new railroad, and after having gone about a quarter of a mile towards 'the little engine' Clare overtook him, again threatened him in the event of his informing, and ultimately went off in the direction of Moxley. Witness then went and locked himself up in the little engine, being in fear of his life. He was several times afterwards threatened by Clare, and at last went and gave information to the police. On being asked by the coroner why he had afterwards absconded, he said it was because he was afraid Clare would kill him. On the deposition being read over, Wall said, 'It's quite right, sir, that's the truth.' In answer to a jurymen, he repeated that the night was a nice moonlight one, and to Mr. Whitehouse, who asked him why he had changed his name, he replied that it was because he was the last of the Walls.

Samuel Hale, Lea Brook, a watchman on the Great Western Railway, was next called, and his former evidence read over to him. On being asked if he had any additional matter to communicate, he said about eleven o'clock on the night in question he was watching the Bradley Bridge for another watchman, when he heard a man and a woman talking on the bridge in a common way. He went to sleep afterwards, but was awoken by a loud screaming noise, as of a woman. The first words he heard were, 'Don't hit me.' Immediately afterwards he heard her say, 'You said you would, but don't, don't.' He then went outside, and heard some people talking, but could not say whether they were men or women. He sat down again for about twenty minutes, after which he heard somebody on the line, and shortly afterwards a goods train came up. This train arrived, as appeared by the company's books, at 11.45 that night. Hall said he had not made this statement on his first examination, because he had no business at the bridge at that hour, and he did not want it to be known that he had been there. At the time he thought the voices were those of people quarrelling in some adjoining houses; and in answer to Mr. Waterhouse, he said that the loud screaming occurred before he heard the words he had repeated.

Samuel Whitmore, an engineer, was examined on the part of Clare. He said that he was at work at Bradley Field on the day of the alleged murder. He heard afterwards that old George knew of it. Directly afterwards he met George, and told him what he had heard, and recommended him to go at once and speak the truth. He replied that he did not know Clare, never saw him in his life, and had only passed the bridge on the night of the murder at half-past ten.

The Jury returned a verdict of Wilful Murder against Clare, who was committed for trial on the Coroner's warrant. When the reporters were leaving the room the prisoner said, 'Gentlemen, before you go, I wish to say something. I am no murderer. I am as innocent as God who sits on his own throne. No one is more innocent than I am. I wish she could come forth herself, and tell who did it. I am innocent as the angels on their thrones in heaven.'

An excited crowd surrounded the inn during the proceedings."

Sheffield Independent 26/12/1857

“A remarkable case occurred at Stafford assizes. Philip Clare, a miner, was tried for the murder of Elizabeth Hopley, a young girl, at Bilston. Her body was found in a canal; death had resulted from suffocation. She might have accidentally fallen into the canal; such casualties are frequent thereabouts. She had worked for Clare at a pit’s mouth, and they had a dispute about wages. The case against the prisoner rested almost entirely on the testimony of Samuel Wall. He swore that he had seen Clare knock the girl down, late at night, on a railway bridge, and then carry her body to the canal, where he thrust it under water. If the Jury believed this man, conviction was inevitable; but they did not believe his minutely circumstantial story, and at once acquitted the accused.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/2/1871 - Married

“On the 26th inst, at St. Mary’s Church, Bilston, Staffordshire (by the Rev. Henry Snepp), Mr. Joseph Townsend of the BROWN LION, Bradley, only son of Mr. *Joseph Townsend*, late of the WHITE LION, Bradley, to Miss Elizabeth Gregory, youngest daughter of Mr. James Gregory, of the Elephant Vaults, Llanidloes.”

James Hill, retailer of beer, Bradley. [1862]

James Hill, beer retailer, Bradley. [1868]

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 28/8/1869

“The annual licensing meeting for the Bilston division took place yesterday, at the Police Court.....

The following beerhouse keepers had been fined during the past five years.....

For keeping open during prohibited hours *James Hill*, WHITE LION, Bradley, 2s 6d and costs.”

1871 Census

17, Cross Street – WHITE LION

- [1] *James Hill* (60), beer retailer, born, Bilston;
- [2] Ann Hill (52), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Elizabeth Earp (19), niece, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] Emma Smith (22), general servant, born Wolverhampton:

Birmingham Mail 11/12/1873 - Married

“On the 23rd ult, at Holy Trinity, Heath Town, by license (by the Rev. T. H. White, vicar), George Albert, second son of John Turley, Hall Fields, Bilston, to Elizabeth, second daughter of Paran Earp, Glasgow, Scotland, and niece of Mrs. *James Hill*, WHITE LION INN, Bradley.”

1881 Census

17, Cross Street

- [1] *James Hill* (70), breeze merchant, born Batmans Hill;
- [2] Ann Hill (62), wife, born Salop Street, Bilston;
- [3] George A. Turley (30), boarder, ironworks clerk, born Lea Brook;
- [4] Easie Anne Lilian Turley (4), niece, born Bradley;
- [5] Paran Raiburn Turley (2), nephew, born Bradley;
- [6] Sarah Ann Smith (24), domestic servant, born Willenhall:

James Hill died on 21st May 1886.

1891 Census

67, Cross Street – WHITE LION

- [1] *Joseph Townsend* (53), beer retailer, born Sedgley;
- [2] Sarah A. Townsend (48), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] William Townsend (15), son, iron moulder, born Birmingham;
- [4] Sarah A. Townsend (12), daughter, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [5] Albert Townsend (8), son, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [6] Elizabeth Townsend (6), daughter, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [7] Arthur Townsend (4), son, scholar, born Sedgley:

1901 Census

67, Cross Street

- [1] *William Flavell* (50), publican, born Ruiton;
- [2] *Ann Flavell* (50), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Harry Flavell* (27), son, labourer in iron foundry, born Gornal:

William Bowater Flavell died in 1902.

William Bowater Flavell – see also BARREL.

1911 Census

Cross Street, Daisy Bank – WHITE LION

- [1] *Henry Percy Wildman* (24), unmarried, sheet mill roller, iron works, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Ethel May Wildman* (26), sister, milliner, born Sedgley;
- [3] *Mary Elizabeth Wildman* (23), sister, born Sedgley;
- [4] *Hannah Jane Wildman* (19), sister, dressmaker, born Sedgley;
- [5] *Phoebe Charles* (20), domestic servant, born Sedgley:

Henry Percy Wildman, beer retailer, 67, Cross Street, Bradley. [1912]

Ethel May Wildman married *Harry Archer* in the 2nd quarter of 1912.

Stephen Edward Williams – see also LAND OAK and GREYHOUND.

1921 Census

67, Cross Street

- [1] *Henry Insley* (58), publican, born Newhall, Derbyshire;
- [2] *Harriet Insley* (50), wife, born Quarry Bank:

Staffordshire Advertiser 16/2/1924

“Bilston Licensing Sessions, February 8th.....

During the ensuing business, it was intimated that the licenses of the NEW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston, the ROYAL EXCHANGE, Bilston, and the WHITE LION, Cross Street, Bradley, would be referred to the Adjourned Sessions to be considered as redundant houses.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/3/1924

“At the adjourned Bilston licensing sessions yesterday.....

The NEW INNS, Oxford Street, Bilston; WHITE LION, Bradley; and the ROYAL EXCHANGE, Queen Street, Bilston, were referred for compensation.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/7/1924

“At a meeting under the Licensing Consolidation Act the Staffordshire Compensation Authority refused yesterday to renew the licences of fifteen houses on the ground of redundancy.....

WHITE LION, Cross Street, Bradley, 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.....

WHITE LION, Cross Street, Bradley.”

Lichfield Mercury 9/1/1925

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

The County Licensing Committee, in their report for 1924, stated that they had fixed the compensation in respect of a number of houses as follows.....

WHITE LION, Bradley, £750.”

Compensation of £750 was paid on 24th December 1924.

Dudley Chronicle 12/2/1925 - Advert

“Notice of Sale by Auction of an Excellent double-fronted, brick-built and slate-roofed Dwelling House, formerly known as the WHITE LION INN, Cross Street, Bradley, near Bilston.

Alfred W. Dando and Co. have received instructions to Sell by Auction, at the STAR AND GARTER HOTEL, Wolverhampton, at an early date, at Seven o’clock in the Evening precisely, the above substantially-erected Dwelling House, containing Entrance Hall, Four Good Rooms down, Four Bedrooms, Cellars, double gateway and side entrances to large fully-paved Yard, and the usual Out-buildings.

Full particulars will appear in future announcements, or in the meantime may be obtained of Messrs. Hand & Co., Solicitors, Martin Street, Stafford, or of the Auctioneers, 193, Wolverhampton Street, Dudley.”

Dudley Chronicle 26/2/1925 - Advert

“Alfred W. Dando and Co. have received instructions from Messrs. Eley’s Stafford Brewery Ltd. to Sell by Auction, at the STAR AND GARTER HOTEL, Wolverhampton, on Wednesday, March 18th, 1925.....

Lot 3. An excellent double-fronted, brick-built and slate-roofed Dwelling House, formerly known as the WHITE LION INN, Cross Street, Bradley, near Bilston.”

WHITE LION

30, Millfields Road, (Mill Street), (Mill Lane), (Union Street), (Millfields Bridge), Ettingshall, BILSTON

OWNERS

Thomas Bantock, gentleman, Wolverhampton
Thomas Hampton, builder, Parkfields.
J. W. Hamp, surgeon, Wolverhampton
Richard Andrew Harper, brewer, Bilston
R. A. Harper Ltd.
Eley's Stafford Brewery Ltd.
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1946]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Wilkes [1805]
Joseph Dancer [1818]
Mrs. Frances Sellman [1828] – [1851]
Jonathan Westwood [1860]
J Snape [1860]
Jonathan Westwood [1860]
John Griffiths [1861] – [1862]
Richard Pinfield [1864] – **1880**;
Ann Pinfield **(1880 – 1881)**;
Thomas Hampton **(1881 – 1884)**;
John Guest **(1884 – 1885)**;
Richard Hawkins **(1885 – 188_)**;
William Millett **(188_ – 189_)**; [1891]
Thomas Richardson [1892] – **1910**;
Samuel Benjamin Richardson **(1910 – 1924)**;
Marion Jane Richardson **(1924 – 1925)**;
John William Slater **(1925 – [1940])**



NOTES

Mill Street [1828], [1830], [1861], [1874]
Mill Lane [1841], [1864], [1865], [1882]
Millfields Bridge [1845], [1849], [1850]
Union Street [1871], [1881], [1891]
Millfields Road [1901]
30, Millfields Road [1911]

LION [1860], [1865], [1874]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 26/8/1805 - Advert

“To be Sold by Auction, by Randle Walker, on Thursday, the 29th day of August, 1805, precisely at Four o’Clock in the Afternoon, at Mr. *Wilkes*’s, the WHITE LION, Mill Fields, near Bilstone, three strong Canal Boats, separately, in good Condition.

For further Particulars enquire of the Auctioneer, Wolverhampton.”

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by RANDLE WALKER, on Thursday the 29th Day of August, 1805, precisely at Four o’Clock in the Afternoon, at Mr. *Wilkes*’s, the White Lion, Mill Fields, near Bilstone, three strong Canal Boats, separately, in good Condition.
For further Particulars enquire of the Auctioneer, Wolverhampton.

Frances Sellman = Frances Selman

1841 Census

Mill Lane

[1] Frances Sellman (65), innkeeper;

[2] Harriott Dawes (20), f.s., born Staffordshire:

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/8/1843

“Inquests before T. M. Phillips, Esq, Coroner.....

On Wednesday last, at the WHITE LION, Mill Fields, near Bilston, on a child named William Etheridge, who had fallen into the canal while at play and was drowned.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/3/1844

“Inquests before T. M. Phillips, Esq, Coroner.....

On Tuesday last, at the WHITE LION, Millfields, near Bilston, on the body of a child about five years old, named Ann Maria Smith, who died in consequence of injuries received by her clothes catching fire. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 10/12/1845

“An inquest was held on Tuesday last, at the WHITE LION, at Millfields, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of Henry Downes, a labourer, residing at Mill Lane, about thirty-four years of age, who was found dead in a pit in Mill Lane, between eight and nine o'clock that (Tuesday) morning. The pit, which is twenty-five yards deep, is in a field near to the deceased's house, and is very much exposed, there being no fence round it. There is a footpath, which has been made by trespassers, near to the pit, and in the direction of Downes's house. There were cuts and bruises found upon the body of the deceased sufficient to cause death. He left the BLACK HORSE, at Bilston, on Saturday night about twelve o'clock, to go home, and was then intoxicated. The road by the side of the pit was his nearest way home. The jury returned a verdict of Found Dead.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/6/1846

“On Tuesday last, an inquest was held at the WHITE LION, Millfields, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of Catherine Prasser, a child about eight years old, who, while amusing herself by riding on some iron called a 'dog,' at the end of a tramway waggon, was run upon by some other waggons, notwithstanding the efforts of the driver to check the horses, and thrown down, when the wheels of the last pack of waggons passed over her head and body, and caused instant death. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 11/1/1851

“Inquests before T. M. Phillips, Esq, Coroner.....

On Wednesday, at the WHITE LION, Millfield, Bilston, on the body of William State, who was found dead in the Birmingham Canal, on Saturday last. There being no evidence to show how the deceased got into the water, the jury returned a verdict of Found Drowned.”

1851 Census

Millfields

[1] Frances Sellman (76), widow, licensed victualler, born Wolverley;

[2] Sarah Spencer (15), house servant, born Bilston:

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/1/1855

“An inquest was held on Tuesday last, at the WHITE LION, Mill Fields, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of a man whose name was unknown. The body was dreadfully burnt in various parts and the abdomen was so far consumed that the intestines were visible. The remains of the deceased were found on a cinder heap, near Bilston furnaces, on Monday morning, where the unfortunate man appeared to have gone to find a warm place to rest. The man who found the body said he saw some one, whom he believed was the deceased, at the same place late on Sunday night, and he appeared then in want, and, as he thought, not sane. A verdict was returned in accordance with these facts.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/2/1856

“On Monday last, T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, held an inquest at the WHITE LION INN, Millfields, on the body of James Hanmore, a collier, aged thirty-six. The deceased was employed at the Bilston Colliery, the property of Mr. George Jones, coal and ironmaster, and about six o'clock in the evening of Thursday, the 16th instant, he descended a stone-pit with five other persons. On arriving at the bottom, the men commenced working, the deceased and two others being employed in setting timber, about 150 yards from the bottom of the shaft. About nine o'clock a man, who was at work about forty yards from the deceased, heard a noise as if something had fallen from the roof, and the deceased immediately called out for assistance. The man (named . Morris) went and found him lying upon the ground, partially covered with dirt which had fallen from the roof. The soil was removed, when it was found that the poor man was dreadfully crushed across his loins, and that his leg was broken. After considerable delay, caused by the lid of the air-pump of the engine being off, which rendered it impossible to work the engine till it was replaced, the deceased was drawn up the pit and conveyed home. He was subsequently attended by Dr. Bell, the field surgeon, and Mr. Cooper's assistant, but he died on the 21st inst. It appeared that the clod fell from the roof only a short distance from where the deceased had just previously set the timber. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the evidence. The unfortunate man has left a wife and four children.”

Brierley Hill Advertiser 9/5/1857

“This week has added another to the numerous distressing accidents we have lately had the painful duty to record, by which many lives and much property have been destroyed. The accident occurred about half past three o'clock on Tuesday afternoon last, by which three unfortunate individuals were buried into eternity, and several others very severely injured. The facts attending this melancholy catastrophe, as far as we can glean up to the present time are these.

A blast furnace on the ironworks of Messrs. Riley, at Mill Fields, near Bilston, suddenly, and from causes yet unascertained exploded, forcing out the surrounding brick work, and scattering the burning scoria throughout the casting house, in which at the time were employed two men and a boy, who were literally burnt to cinders. Their names were Thomas Davis, aged 25, moulder, Samuel Thomas, 25, moulder, and Thomas Fletcher, a lad of 9 years of age, employed in the same capacity. The following were immediately removed to the South Staffordshire Hospital, Wolverhampton: John Marr, aged 35, Griffiths Buildings, Bilston; Henry Taft, 38, Gibbett Lane, near Bilston; Patrick Portell, 26, Bilston; William Rigby, 34, Gibbett Lane, near Bilston; and James Corbett, 46, Bilston. The House Surgeon, S. B. Farr, Esq, states that the first four named are extensively burned all over the body, that John Marr and Henry Taft are burned to that extent as to leave their recovery hopeless. James Corbett, who escaped with the fewest injuries, has been removed to his family. John Mortboy, 40, Ettingshall, was also removed to the Hospital last evening badly burned.

The inquest on the bodies of the three unfortunate men killed was commenced before W. H. Phillips, Esq, at the WHITE LION yesterday afternoon. The bodies were viewed by the jury, and presented a most horrifying spectacle, the flesh being completely burned off.

From the evidence of Enoch Ledbitter, it appeared that the frightful occurrence took place at half past three o'clock on the preceding day, at the moment the witness was passing the doorway of a foundry leading to No.2 furnace, where the deceased were at work. It was this furnace that exploded, a vast mass of flame rushed by the witness, and he observed a large quantity of embers and molten metal issuing from the furnace. The metal and scoria were blown from the fore part of the furnace, over the wall, dividing it from the casting house. The injured men, now in hospital, were at the time employed between the wall and the furnace. The wall was eight feet in height. Witness assisted in getting the deceased out, and should suppose that about two tons of metal, cinders and coke were blown into the casting house. Ten minutes elapsed before the bodies were got out. Their clothes were completely burned off, and some of their limbs were reduced to cinders. All the men at work between the furnace and foundry wall were injured. He could give no explanation of the cause of the explosion. It is not usual to have a wall between the furnace and the foundry, but this had been erected to keep out intruders. The exploded furnace was similarly constructed and worked as others at which he had been employed. He had worked at the furnace for four years.

Henry Taft, now in hospital, had the management and control of the furnace. George Stanley, a furnaceman was in the 'big pit' at the time of the explosion. Taft took day, and witness night turns. The witness examined the furnace after the occurrence, and found that four courses of the brick work had been blown out from the 'breast,' the result of which would be that the hot metal would be forced through the aperture. He subsequently saw the 'tweers' taken out, and discovered a defect in one. He believed the cause of the explosion was that the molten iron had risen to such a height, that it had burned the back tweer, which, however, had not burst, but was burned on the lower side, near the end connected with the furnace and the consequence would be that the water from the cooling pipes would

be forced into the furnace. The tweer in question had been placed there about a week previously by Henry Taft. It was the duty of the keeper to examine the tweers once an hour, and Taft had been on duty all the day. The metal was being run out at the time of the explosion. Though the tweer had been put in a week, it had not been used until Tuesday, when contrary to the orders of Mr. Field, furnace manager, Taft had set it to work. Mr. Field had forbidden the use of it because the furnace was out of repair. The furnace had a 'bad cinder on,' and the stuff, instead of descending gradually, had come down suddenly, and this would have the effect of stopping up the tweers. Taft, who was paid by the ton, told the witness that he used the additional tweer with a view to work more iron. Had Taft drawn the iron fifteen minutes sooner, the explosion would not have taken place.

Mr. John Thomas Field, manager of the furnaces, deposed that at the time of the explosion he was not on the premises. He had examined No.2 furnace half an hour previously, and found that the tweer he had forbidden Taft to work had been set on. He gave confirmatory testimony as to the cause of the catastrophe, and said that the tweer was placed lower than was consistent with safety. The furnace was properly constructed, the breastwork was in good order, and everything had been done to ensure security. The rise of the molten iron could have been perceived by Taft through a notch, by which the metal could have been left off.

John Carboy said he assisted Taft and another man to put in the tweer.

The Coroner here said that, although the witnesses who had been examined agreed as to the cause of the explosion, it would be more satisfactory to the public to have evidence of disinterested practical men, and he would, therefore, adjourn the inquiry until Monday next, at eleven o'clock."

Brierley Hill Advertiser 16/5/1857

"Two more of the sufferers by this sad accident have succumbed under their injuries. Patrick Portell and Michael Marr, thus making five victims in all. The enquiry into the cause of the catastrophe was re-opened on Monday forenoon, at the WHITE LION, Millfields, before W. H. Phillips, Esq, Coroner.

The first witness examined was Isaac Cooksey, who said he lived in Bilston, and was a furnace manager at Messrs. Hickman's Bilston Street Furnaces. On Saturday last witness examined the furnace at the Millfields Works, where the explosion took place. Examined the tuyeres and levelled the ground around. Found the furnace properly constructed. Believed the tuyeres to be then in the same place as before the explosion. Saw the tuyere that had melted. It was burned sufficiently to let water into the furnace. Had nothing more to say about the works except that he considered the furnace generally properly constructed. As furnace manager it was witness's duty to direct the men under his control as to how many tuyeres they should use, and to see these put properly in. That was the usual rule in all furnaces. A furnace keeper ought in no case use more tuyeres for the sake of making more money. Witness would, however, consider that was taking the power out of the manager's hands.

The Coroner here read over a portion of the evidence taken on the first day of the inquest, and asked the witness if he concurred in opinion with the witnesses then examined as to the cause of the accident. He said he did.

In answer to one of the Jury, Mr. Cooksey said that if he knew of a tuyere being four inches below its level he would consider it his duty to get it shifted.

Thomas Griffiths, furnace manager at the Bilston Furnaces, was next examined. On the Tuesday immediately after the explosion, he had examined the exploded furnace at Millfields. All the tuyeres were in the furnace. One of them was melted. It was the water running in through that tuyere that caused the explosion. That tuyere was in its proper place, but the others were a little raised to increase the fire. Could not see why the melted tuyere should not have been worked if the keeper did not allow the iron to rise too high. Considered the tuyere in a proper position – such as one as witness himself, had he been manager, would have placed them in. Examined the melted tuyere when it was taken out, and never saw a better. Could not see that any blame was attached to the manager. The iron must have got up to the tuyere and burnt it. The keeper must have allowed the iron to rise too high. He (the keeper) might have seen that the iron was rising too high and ought to have let it off. The burnt tuyere was a little above the notch, but the notch might have been dammed a little too high. Had seen many explosions. In this case considered that the water had accumulated for some time, and when the iron was drawn and rushed into the middle of the furnace, enabled to do so by the falling down of the loose stuff after the iron had been removed. Would allow a keeper little discretion in putting an extra pair of tuyeres on, as a keeper working the furnace ought to know how it was better than the manager.

George Stanley, one of the furnace keepers at Millfields, recalled: Had received orders from Mr. Field several times not to use the tuyeres that got burned. Taft, the other furnace keeper, was present when these orders were given, and they were given to both witness and Taft. On the morning of the explosion, the metal was let off an hour and a half before the regular time. It was let off so much earlier in order to repair the furnace – among other things to put in a few new tuyeres. The one that was burnt was among those that were to be replaced.

The Coroner here read the depositions of Henry Taft, the furnace keeper, in charge at the time of the explosion, taken in the hospital. Taft says: I am a furnace keeper at No.2 furnace, Millfields. I was there at the time of the explosion, having the management of that furnace. I was at the place where the iron is run out. The furnace had been out of fettle. Some time before the explosion, I had gone to tap the lower tuyere. I did not then think there had been so much iron in it. The cause of the explosion was from the iron reaching the lower tuyere and melting it and then the water running in. I do not blame the master or the manager. I do not blame any one. I was about to run out the iron at the time the explosion took place, observing that the flame was altered.

The Coroner pointed out how completely this deposition corroborated the opinion as to the cause of the accident expressed by Mr. Griffiths, but added if the Jury had any idea that Taft was culpable they must leave the deposition out if their consideration. After rather more than an hour's deliberation, the Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/5/1860 - Advert

"Sale Tomorrow at the WHITE LION INN, near Millfield Ironworks, Bilston.

Messrs. Ashcroft and Son will Sell by Auction, on Thursday, the 10th day of May instant, the Licenses and Possession of the above house of business; also all the Household Furniture, feather beds and bedding, brewing plant, ale barrels, 150 gallons of prime fresh ale, seven casks of superior British wines of different kinds, quantity of new and old timber, skittle bowls, pegs, and iron frame; two wheelbarrows, two long ladders, scaffold planks, lime screen, large grindstone, iron pump, with two fly wheels, and numerous effects, on the premises in the occupation of Mr. *J. Snape*.

Sale to commence at eleven o'clock.

The House to be Let."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 15/8/1860 - Advert

"Valuable Copyhold Old Licensed Public House, Wharf, and Dwelling House, at Millfields, near Bilston, Staffordshire.

Mr. George Brown will Sell by Auction, on Tuesday next, the 21st day of August, at the WHITE LION INN, Millfields, Bilston aforesaid, at six for seven o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then and there produced.

All that well-accustomed Old Licensed Public House, called the WHITE LION INN, containing two parlours, bar, tap room, seven bed rooms, four cellars, two brewhouses, and suitable outbuildings, now in the occupation of Mr. *Jonathan Westwood*.

And also all that Dwelling House and Outbuildings adjoining the last-mentioned Public House, now in the occupation of Mr. Joseph Westwood.

And also all that commodious Wharf, with stabling for six horses and loft over, adjoining the above mentioned premises, and now in the occupation of Mr. James Snape.

The premises are situate at Millfields, Bilston aforesaid, near the Birmingham Canal, and also near the ironworks lately occupied by Messrs. Riley, and now by Mr. Gibbons, and adjoining the turnpike road leading from Bilston to Wolverhampton.

The property is copyhold of inheritance of the manor of Stowheath, is well supplied with water, and the ground contains, including the site of the buildings, 500 square yards or thereabouts.

Arrangements can be made with the tenants for early possession if required.

For further particulars apply to the Auctioneer, at Bilston; or to Messrs. Deakin and Dent, Attorneys-at-Law, Wolverhampton; or to Mr. Crabb, Attorney-at-Law, Rugeley, Staffordshire."

1861 Census

Mill Street – WHITE LION

- [1] *John Griffiths* (50), publican, born Tettenhall Wood;
- [2] *Jane Griffiths* (45), wife, born Stourport;
- [3] *William Griffiths* (17), son, boatman, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] *Edward Griffiths* (12), son, boatman, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] *Thomas Griffiths* (10), son, boatman, born Wolverhampton;
- [6] ? *Griffiths* (7), daughter, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [7] *George Griffiths* (5), son, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [8] *Catharine Bloor* (23), servant, born Warwickshire;

Staffordshire Advertiser 28/12/1861

“At Bilston police court yesterday, two colliers, named John M‘Hall and John Fletcher, were committed for trial on a charge of stealing two fowls, the property of Mr. *John Griffiths*, of the WHITE LION INN, Millfields, on the morning of Wednesday last. The men were arrested by police-officer Fieldhouse shortly after the commission of the robbery.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/1/1862

“Staffordshire Epiphany Sessions.....

John M‘Call, 22, and John Fletcher, 28, both miners, pleaded guilty to an indictment charging them with having stolen six fowls, the property of *John Griffiths*, at Bilston, and were each sentenced to three months’ imprisonment.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 30/4/1870

“The Coroner, Mr. T. M. Phillips, resumed the inquest yesterday, at the WHITE LION public house, Millfields, on the body of John Ashby, who was killed by being drawn over a pulley at the Millfields Colliery, belonging to Messrs. Sparrow.

James Phillips, engineer, stated that he was engineer at the colliery. He worked during the day, and Enoch Davis worked during the night. He left the engine in good working order the evening before the accident, and when he was called up the following morning, and was told that a man had been drawn over the pulley and killed, he went and examined the engine, and found it in the same order that he had left it the previous evening.

Mr. Baker, the Inspector of Mines, stated that he had since examined the engine, and found it in a good state, but when the man was standing at the hand gears it was impossible for him to see the pit. He (Mr. Baker) had ordered the working of the pit to be stopped because of that fault.

The Coroner having summed up, and directed the jury that if they thought it occurred through any negligence on the part of the engineer, Enoch Davis, they ought to return a verdict of manslaughter against him.

The Jury, after a brief consideration, returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1871 Census

Union Street

- [1] *Richard Pinfield* (57), publican, born Stourport;
- [2] *Ann Pinfield* (48), wife, born Netherton;
- [3] *Alice J. Pinfield* (20), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] *Albert R. Pinfield* (16), son, teacher, National School, born Bilston;
- [5] *George F. Pinfield* (16), son, teacher, National School, born Bilston;
- [6] *George A. Smith* (3), grand-son, born Smethwick:

Richard Pinfield died on 9th September 1880.

1881 Census

Union Street – WHITE LION

- [1] *Ann Pinfield* (59), widow, licensed victualler, born Netherton;
- [2] *Ruth Pinfield* (34), daughter, general servant, born Dudley;
- [3] *Albert A. Smith* (11), visitor, scholar, born Birmingham;
- [4] *Richard Johnson* (41), boarder, engine fitter, out of employ, born Darlaston:

Evening Express 14/10/1881

“The following transfers were granted.....

WHITE LION, Millfields, from *Ann Pinfold* to *Thomas Hampton*, Parkfields, Bilston.”

Evening Express 30/12/1881

“John Hughes (24), boatman, Littles Lane, Wolverhampton, was brought up in custody charged with stealing a pair of boots, the property of John Probert, the captain of a Shropshire Union Company’s boat. The men were drinking together at the WHITE LION, Millfields, on Wednesday, and afterwards went to prosecutor’s boat, remaining there till both prosecutor and his wife had gone to sleep, and then leaving with the boots. Police-constable Snow took the prisoner into custody at Spring Vale on the following morning, and found the boots in his possession. He was committed to hard labour for a month.”

Evening Star 17/2/1882

“Thomas Baines, John Baines, and Thomas Vaughan, boatmen, plying on the Birmingham Canal, were charged with stealing a bottle of rum, the property of *Thomas Hampton*, landlord of the WHITE LION INN, Mill Lane, Millfields. On Wednesday morning the prisoners came into the vaults. While they were in a bottle of rum was missed from the shelf, and they were accused of stealing it as there had not been anyone else in the place.

The prisoners were committed to take their trial at the sessions, bail being allowed in £10 each.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/4/1882

“Thomas Baines, on bail, John Baines (32), boatman, and Thomas Vaughan (62), boatman, were charged with stealing a bottle of rum, the property of *Thomas Hampton*, on the 15th February last. John Baines pleaded guilty. Mr. Neville prosecuted, and Mr. Corser defended.

Vaughan and T. Baines were acquitted, and John Baines was sentenced to one month’s imprisonment, with hard labour.

It was stated that Vaughan had suffered penal servitude and several other terms of imprisonment, amounting in the aggregate to twenty years, and the Chairman expressed the opinion that Baines had allowed the charge to fall upon him to save Vaughan being sent to penal servitude again.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 2/8/1884

“On Monday evening, about 4.40, a workman named Wilkinson discovered, in the canal at Spring Vale Furnaces, the body of a boy aged thirteen or fourteen. His clothes showed that he belonged to a decent family, and his name is now found to be Joseph Henry Bibb, of 10, Dudley Street, Bilston. It seems he had been bathing with some other boys in the canal, at a place where the water is seven or eight feet deep. Deceased could swim a little, and had dived under a canal boat. As he failed to reappear on the other side of the boat, his companions got frightened and ran away. This occurred about 4-5pm, and the alarm was not given till he had been twenty minutes in the water. Immediately after the body was recovered, Mr. Thomas, manager of the ironworks, sent for Dr. Ridley Bailey, but life was extinct. The body was removed to the WHITE LION public house, Millfields, where, on Wednesday, Mr. Phillips, district coroner, held an inquest, with the result that the jury returned a verdict of Accidentally Drowned.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 16/8/1884

“On Thursday morning an inquest was held at the WHITE LION INN, Millfields, Bilston, touching the death of Richard Bond (15), son of Thomas Bond, boatman, of Wolverhampton.

Henry Hodson, boatman, of Wolverhampton, stated that last Tuesday evening he saw deceased bathing alone in the canal near Barlow’s mill. He suddenly sank, and as he did not rise again witness raised an alarm, and the lad’s body was recovered from the bottom of the canal, but life was extinct, the efforts to restore animation proving of no avail. The jury returned a verdict of Accidentally Drowned.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 4/10/1884 - Advert

“Clearing -out Sale, of the Brewing Vessels and Effects, at the WHITE LION INN, Millfields, near Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. E. B. Scholefield, on Tuesday Next, October 7th, 1884, the whole of the substantial Brewing Vessels, including Two Capital Mash Tubs, Ale Coolers, Lead Piping, Refrigerators, 200 Gallon Wrought-iron Boiler and Settings, 80 Gallon Wrought-iron Boiler and Settings, Copper-bottomed Sieve, Copper Betwell, Mash Rules, Oval Cooler, Malt Mill, Working Tubs, Brass Taps, Capital well-made English Oak Ale Casks, from 18 Gallons to 150 Gallons; and other Useful and Valuable Effects.

Sale to Commence at 11am punctually.

Auctioneer’s Offices, Church Street, Wednesbury.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 3/3/1885

“At Bilston Police Court this morning, George Jackson (26), a fitter, giving his address as Windmill Street, London, was charged with passing base coin on Saturday last. He went to the WHITE LION INN, Millfields, kept by *John Guest*, and tendered a shilling in payment for a glass of beer. The landlord refused to take it, as it was counterfeit. He then offered half-a-crown, but the landlord, instead of taking it, detained him, and sent for the police. He last came from Birmingham, and he was now remanded to Winson Green for inquiries to be made concerning him.”

AND

Wolverhampton Express and Star 10/3/1885

“George Jackson, a vagrant, hailing last from Birmingham, was charged on remand with attempting to pass a counterfeit shilling, on the 28th February. He went to the WHITE LION INN, Millfields, Bilston, and offered the coin to *John Guest*, the landlord, for a glass of beer. The same day he had gone to Mr. Daniel Webster’s tobacconist shop in Church Street, Bilston, and tendered a counterfeit shilling in payment for tobacco. Remanded to Wolverhampton.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 19/3/1885

“Yesterday, at Wolverhampton Police Court, George Jackson (26), labourer, of no fixed home, but said to belong to Birmingham, was committed for trial at the ensuing Quarter Sessions, charged with uttering counterfeit coin at the house of *John Guest*, landlord of the WHITE LION INN, Millfields, Bilston. It was alleged that on the 28th ult the prisoner visited the inn and called for a glass of ale. He tendered a shilling to the prosecutor in payment, which he pointed out was base, and prisoner then gave a good half-crown. It was also alleged that the same night the prisoner had tried to pass a counterfeit coin at the shop of Daniel Webster, tobacconist, Church Street, Bilston, and that when detected he had also put down a good half-crown.”

AND

Wolverhampton Express and Star 8/4/1885

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

George Jackson (26), labourer, was sentenced to three months’ imprisonment for uttering counterfeit coin at Bilston.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 10/10/1885

“John Hurley and Cornelius Springthorpe, Mill Lane, were charged with assaulting George Jones, New Village, on Saturday night last at Millfields.

The evidence showed that there had been a quarrel in the early part of the evening in the WHITE LION INN, and on the complainant proceeding home he was waylaid by defendants and violently assaulted.

A fine of 20s and costs was imposed upon each defendant.”

John Guest – see also BULLS HEAD, High Street.

Darlaston Weekly Times 17/6/1887

“The body of a man named John Lowe (50), is now lying at the WHITE LION INN, Millfields, awaiting an inquest. The body was found in a field at Millfields, by two men, about a quarter to six, this (Friday) morning.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/8/1889

“Yesterday, Mr. T. M. Phillips (Coroner) held an adjourned inquest, at the WHITE LION INN, Millfields, on the body of Richard Colley (20), boiler-maker, Ward Street, Ettingshall, who was killed on the 20th inst owing to the fall of a scaffold at the Springvale Ironworks of Messrs. A. Hickman and Sons. It may be remembered that the scaffold upon the top of a heating-stove in course of erection at the works collapsed, and that the four men at work upon it fell a distance of 60ft or so. Mr. A. W. Hickman was present at the enquiry.

William Scott, builder, Wolverhampton Road, Bilston, was the only witness called. He said that at the request of the police he had examined the remains of the timber used in the erection of the scaffold. He saw the boards from the scaffold, and a byatt that had supported one side of it. The three remaining byatts were in their positions in the stove. The one that had fallen was of spruce timber. Witness considered that it had broken whilst in its position in the stove. In answer to the Coroner, he said that spruce was a very uncertain timber to depend upon to bear well. However, only five men were employed upon the scaffold, and there was nothing in the appearance of the byatt likely to indicate to its users that it was not safe. The byatts which still remained in the stove had been placed in a proper position. Nailing the byatts or lashing them with rope would not have prevented them from going. The only way to prevent that would have been to run a pole underneath them. As an independent person witness did not attach any blame whatever to the persons who put up the scaffold. It was not usual to test byatts before they were used, and witness should not attribute negligence to those who erected the scaffold because they did not test them.

The evidence of Robert Edward Probert, one of the injured men, which has already been published in the *Daily Post*, was then read.

[Robert Probert had overseen the erection of the scaffolding on behalf of his father, Edward Probert, who thought that the riveting of two men might have jarred the plank and caused it to break.]

In answer to the Coroner the jury said they were satisfied that no criminal negligence had occurred. The Coroner said that he placed great dependence upon Probert's evidence. He thought, however, that it was rather soon to have the men hammering before the boards were put in position. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned. A similar verdict was returned at the inquest subsequently held at the NEW MARKET HOTEL, Wolverhampton, on the bodies of Thomas Judson, Millfields, and Thomas Bennett, Ladymoor, who were injured in the same accident, and died in the Wolverhampton Hospital."

Birmingham Daily Post 3/11/1890 - Advert

"Free Spirit Vaults and Taverns.

Charles H. Bees will Sell by Auction, on Tuesday, November 11, at Six o'clock in the evening, at the Estate Sale Room, 1, Newhall Street, Birmingham – the Goodwill and Possession of the following Well-known Houses.....

Lot 2. WHITE LION SPIRIT VAULTS, Millfields, Bilston, and Two Cottages and Wharf adjoining. Free. Lease eight year. Rent £100."

1891 Census

Union Street – WHITE LION

[1] *William Millett* (34), publican, born Norton, Somersetshire;

[2] *Sarah Millett* (38), wife, born Nottingham;

[3] *William Millett* (2), son, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 22/8/1898

"On Saturday afternoon Mr. W. H. Phillips, coroner, held an inquest at the WHITE LION INN, Millfields Road, Ettingshall, touching the death of William Dukes (21), who was drowned in the Birmingham Canal, near Spring Vale Furnaces, on Friday.

Deceased had been in the employ of the Shropshire Union Canal Company since he was a boy. On Friday evening he was tying a plank on the top of his boat when all at once he was missed, and his cap was seen floating on the water. A man named Wollatt got out the cap, but could not see the body, which was subsequently recovered with a hook from under a flat-bottomed boat. It was stated that deceased must have fallen between two boats.

A verdict of Accidentally Drowned was recorded, and the coroner expressed the hope that the company would assist the widow, whose husband had been in their employ for so long a time."

1901 Census

Millfields Road

[1] *Thomas Richardson* (51), widower, publican, born Birmingham;

[2] *Marian Richardson* (27), daughter, born Bilston;

[3] *Samuel Richardson* (26), son, carpenter, born Bilston;

[4] *Betsey Stokes* (16), niece, barmaid, born Bilston;

[5] *Fanny Corfield* (54), sister-in-law, widow, born Bilston:

Birmingham Mail 6/7/1904

"Yesterday Mr. T. A. Stokes held an inquest at the WHITE LION INN, Ettingshall, on the body of Charles Oakley (8), of Greencroft, Bilston, who was drowned in the Birmingham Canal on Saturday night. The evidence showed that, against the orders of his mother, deceased went fishing with another boy, named Thomas Small (11), and, while standing by the side of the canal, the earth collapsed, and they were precipitated into the water. Small stated that he swam to the side and got out. He did not trouble to remain to assist his little friend, but ran to the house of his aunt, about half a mile away. He added that he was frightened at what had occurred, and, therefore, did not raise any alarm, and, because he had been forbidden to go fishing, he said nothing to his aunt of what had happened.

The Coroner said it was a sad case. If Small had not been so much concerned about his own wretched skin for disobeying his parents about going fishing, the probability was that the life of the child would have been saved.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidentally Drowned, and at their request Small was censured for his cowardice. The Coroner advised him to be a brave and better lad. He thought Small was morally responsible for the death of his companion."

1910 Probate

"*Thomas Richardson* of Millfields Road, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 27 January 1910. Administration Lichfield 31 March to *Samuel Benjamin Richardson*, publican. Effects £324 18s."

1911 Census

30, Millfields Road – WHITE LION

- [1] *Samuel B. Richardson* (35), unmarried, publican, born Bilston;
- [2] *Marian Richardson* (37), sister, housekeeper, born Bilston;
- [3] *Fanny Corfield* (66), aunt, widow, born Bilston;
- [4] *Emma Stokes* (23), cousin, assistant in publican's business, born Bilston:

1921 Census

Millfields – WHITE LION HOTEL

- [1] *Samuel Benjamin Richardson* (46), unmarried, publican, born Bilston;
- [2] *Marion Jane Richardson* (47), sister, housekeeper, born Bilston;
- [3] *Fanny Corfield* (76), aunt, widow, no occupation, born Bilston;
- [4] *Elizabeth Walker* (21), domestic servant, born Willenhall:

An application for extensive alterations was put forward to the Licensing Sessions in January 1923.

South Staffordshire Times 10/3/1923

"Representing Messrs. Harper, brewers, Mr. Graham Milward made application to the Bench for approval of plans for rebuilding the WHITE LION INN, Millfields Road, Bilston.

Mr. Milward said that the plans of two different schemes would be put before the Bench but the one which it was hoped the Bench would sanction slightly extended the drinking area beyond that of the present premises. He did not think that this would in any way increase the sale of intoxicants, but would afford larger and healthier rooms, and also be an improvement in the domestic accommodation. The other scheme was identical with the first except that the rooms would be 'squeezed in.'

The Bench gave approval to the larger scheme, by which the house will be farther back from the Millfields Road, and a piece of land apportioned to the Tarmac Road."

South Staffordshire Times 9/2/1924

"Bilston Licensing.....

Plans for the re-building of the WHITE LION INN, Millfields Road, Bilston, were passed at the adjourned Licensing Sessions, last year, and the premises were near completion."

1924 Probate

"*Samuel Benjamin Richardson* of WHITE LION INN, Millfields, Wolverhampton, died 13 January 1924. Administration Lichfield 7 April to *Marion Jane Richardson*, spinster. Effects £670 16s 11d."

Marion Jane Richardson – see also QUEENS ARMS.

A music license was granted on 6th February 1925.

1939 Register

Millfields Road – WHITE LION

- [1] *Elizabeth M. Slater*, date of birth 30/12/1900, unpaid domestic duties, married:

A team from here took part in the Butlers (Bilston) Darts League. [1946]

**SALE TO-MORROW AT THE
WHITE LION INN, NEAR MILLFIELD IRONWORKS,
BILSTON.**

MESSRS. ASHCROFT and SON will **SELL** by **AUCTION**, on Thursday, the 10th day of May instant, the **LICENSES and POSSESSION** of the above house of business; also all the **HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE**, feather beds and bedding, brewing plant, ale barrels, 150 gallons of prime fresh ale, seven casks of superior British wines of different kinds, quantity of new and old timber, skittle bowls, pegs, and iron frame; two wheelbarrows, two long ladders, scaffold planks, lime screen, large grindstone, iron pump, with two fly wheels, and numerous effects, on the premises in the occupation of Mr. J. Snape.

Sale to commence at eleven o'clock.

THE HOUSE TO BE LET.

**VALUABLE COPYHOLD
OLD LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE, WHARF, AND
DWELLING HOUSE,
AT MILLFIELDS, NEAR BILSTON, STAFFORDSHIRE.**

MR. GEORGE BROWN will **SELL** by **AUCTION**, on Tuesday next, the 21st day of August, at the **WHITE LION INN, MILLFIELDS, BILSTON** aforesaid, at six for seven o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then and there produced—

All that well-accustomed **OLD LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE**, called the **WHITE LION INN**, containing two parlours, bar, tap room, seven bed rooms, four cellars, two brewhouses, and suitable outbuildings, now in the occupation of Mr. Jonathan Westwood.

And also all that **DWELLING HOUSE** and Outbuildings adjoining the last-mentioned Public House, now in the occupation of Mr. Joseph Westwood.

And also all that commodious **WHARF**, with stabling for six horses and loft over, adjoining the above mentioned premises, and now in the occupation of Mr. James Snape.

The premises are situate at Millfields, Bilston aforesaid, near the Birmingham Canal, and also near the ironworks lately occupied by Messrs. Riley, and now by Mr. Gibbons, and adjoining the turnpike road leading from Bilston to Wolverhampton.

The property is copyhold of inheritance of the manor of Stowheath, is well supplied with water, and the ground contains, including the site of the buildings, 500 square yards or thereabouts.

Arrangements can be made with the tenants for early possession if required.

For further particulars apply to the **AUCTIONEER**, at Bilston; or to Messrs. **DEAKIN and DENT**, Attorneys-at-Law, Wolverhampton; or to Mr. **CRABB**, Attorney-at-Law, Rugeley, Staffordshire.

1860

**Clearing-out Sale, of the Brewing Vessels and
Effects, at the
"WHITE LION" INN, MILLFIELDS,
Near Bilston.**

TO be Sold by Auction, by Mr. E. B. SCHOLEFIELD, on Tuesday Next, October 7th, 1884,
the whole of the substantial

BREWING VESSELS, including

Two Capital MASH TUBS,

Ale Coolers, Lead Piping, Refrigerators,

300 Gallon Wrought-iron BOILER & SETTINGS,

80 Gallon Wrought-iron BOILER & SETTINGS,

Copper-bottomed Sieve, Copper Betwell, Mash

Rules, Oval Cooler, Malt Mill, Working Well, Tub,

Brass Taps, Capital well-made

English Oak ALE CASKS, from 18 Gallons to
150 Gallons;

And other Useful and Valuable Effects.

Sale to Commence at 11 a.m. punctually.

Auctioneer's Office, Church Street, Wednesbury.

1884

FREE SPIRIT VAULTS AND TAVERNS.

CHARLES H. BEES will Sell by Auction, on **TUESDAY, November 11**, at Six o'clock in the evening, at the Estate Sale Room, 1, Newhall Street, Birmingham—the **GOODWILL and POSSESSION** of the following Well-known HOUSES:—

Lot 1.—"OLD HOUSE AT HOME," Friston Street, Ladywood. Free. Ten years Lease. Rent £40.

The Goodwill, Fixtures, and Possession will be Sold.

Lot 2.—"WHITE LION" SPIRIT VAULTS, Millfields, Bilston, and Two COTTAGES and WHARF adjoining. Free. Lease eight year. Rent £100.

The Lease, Goodwill, Fixtures, and Possession will be Sold.

Lot 3.—"DUKE OF YORK," Windsor Street (near Vauxhall Road), Birmingham. Free. Lease twenty-three-and-a-half years. Rent £10. per annum. Let-off Shopping £10. per annum.

The Lease, Goodwill, Fixtures, Brewing Plant, and Possession will be Sold.

Lot 4.—"THREE CROWNS" SPIRIT VAULTS, Hay Green, The Lye, Stourbridge. Lease twenty years. Tied only to take 156 barrels of Ale, Beer, or Stout per annum from Messrs. Marston, Burton-on-Trent. Rent of House and Fixtures only £28. per annum.

The Lease, Goodwill, and Possession will be Sold.

Lot 5.—"ALL HANDS TO THE PUMP," Birmingham Street, Stourbridge. Lease twenty years. Tied only to take 104 barrels of Ale, Beer, or Stout per annum from Messrs. Marston, Burton-on-Trent. Rent £20. per annum.

The Goodwill, Lease, and Possession will be Sold.

Lot 6.—"GOLDEN LION," Halesowen Street, Oldbury. Free thirteen years' Lease. Rent £25. per annum.

The Fixtures, Lease, and Possession will be Sold.

Further particulars may be had, as to Lots 2, 4, and 5, of Messrs. Wright and Marshall, Solicitors, 86, New Street; as to Lot 1, of E. Anslow, Esq., Crooked Lane; as to Lot 3, Messrs. Blewitt and Reynolds, Solicitors, 35, Waterloo Street; or the Auctioneer, 8, Union Street, all of Birmingham.

c677

1890

WHITE LION

73, (38), (33), Temple Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Joseph Winsper

William Price, farmer, Willenhall (by conveyance, 1888)

South Staffordshire Brewery Co. Ltd.

J. and J. Yardley and Co. Ltd.

Old Wolverhampton Breweries Ltd.

William Butler and Co Ltd. [1946]

LICENSEES

James Harris [1841] – [1842]

Joseph Winsper [1845] – **1850**;

John Brereton **(1850 – [1851])**

Charles B Battye [1858] – **1860**;

Charles Angell **(1860 – 1863)**;

Charles Hughes **(1863 – 1879)**;

Mrs. Ann Hughes **(1879 – 1882)**;

Alfred Brown **(1882 – 1883)**;

James Osbourne **(1883 – 1884)**;

Joseph Weavin **(1884)**;

James Murphy **(1884 – 1886)**;

Edwin Holland **(1886 – 1888)**;

Charles Adams **(1888)**;

Henry Jones **(1888 – 1892)**;

Mrs. Lucy Jones **(1892 – 1898)**;

William Dunn (?) **(1898 – 1899)**;

Edward Murray **(1899 – 1903)**;

Ellen C Murray [1901] ?

Philip Williams **(1903 – 1906)**;

Mrs. Mary Ann Williams **(1906 – 1910)**;

George Henry Shelley **(1910 – 1922)**;

Rose Ann Shelley **(1922 – 1937)**;

Leonard 'Len' Shelley **(1937 – [1940])**



c1930s

PUBLIC HOUSE AT BILSTON, TO BE LET.
TO BE LET, and entered upon immediately, that well-known PUBLIC HOUSE, called the "WHITE LION," situated in Temple-street, New Town, Bilston.
For further particulars apply to Mr. GREGORY, broker, Bilston-street, Wolverhampton.

1841

TO be LET, and entered upon immediately, that Old Licensed well-accustomed PUBLIC HOUSE, the WHITE LION INN, situate in Temple Street, Bilston, the Proprietor being about to decline the Public Business.—Apply on the Premises.

1850

NOTES

38, Temple Street [1861], [1862], [1864], [1865], [1868], [1870], [1871], [1872], [1874], [1881], [1891], [1892], [1896]

33, Temple Street [1873]

73, Temple Street [1904], [1908], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1932], [1939], [1940]

1841 Census

Temple Street

[1] James Harris (35), victualler;

[2] Mary Harris (40), born Staffordshire;

[3] Catherine Thompson (15), f.s., born Ireland;

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/7/1841 - Advert

“Public House at Bilston, To Be Let.

To be Let, and entered upon immediately, that well-known Public House, called the WHITE LION, situated in Temple Street, New Town, Bilston.

For further particulars apply to Mr. Gregory, broker, Bilston Street, Wolverhampton.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/12/1845

“An inquest was held on Wednesday last at the WHITE LION, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of Joseph Revell Pitt, a child about two years and two months old, who had died from loss of blood under the circumstances detailed in the following evidence.

Mary Ann Pitt deposed that she was the wife of Joseph Pitt, a tin-plate worker, residing in Temple Street, in that town, and the mother of the deceased child, who had been in perfect health up to Saturday last. About one o’clock on that afternoon he was playing about a chair, and began to climb up the back of it; the chair overbalanced, and fell with the child to the ground. She raised him up, but could not perceive that he was hurt anywhere excepting on the lower lip and the upper gum, both of which were bruised a little. He did not appear to be in much pain, and soon began to play again. About six o’clock in the evening she had her tea, and gave her child some, upon which she perceived that the upper gum bled a little. She and her mother immediately took the child to Mr. Dickenson, surgeon, who dressed the gum, and the bleeding ceased for about an hour; but about eight o’clock it commenced again, and continued to bleed all night. About eleven the next morning she again took the child to Mr. Dickenson, who applied something to the gum, and then bound it up with tape. Mr. Dickenson applied something more on Sunday evening, but the bleeding did not cease. The gum continued to bleed till Monday forenoon, about eleven o’clock, when she took the child to Mr. Hancox, another surgeon, at whose suggestion she washed the mouth with alum water two or three times a day. She continued to do so until the death of the child, which took place about six o’clock on Tuesday morning. The bleeding did not cease from the time it commenced until the death of the deceased, except for about an hour on Sunday evening.

Hannah Phillips, grand-mother of the deceased, stated that she had lost four children from bleeding to death, and in the family twelve other persons (making altogether sixteen) had bled to death – not one of them having been seriously injured; the injuries were slight cuts or falls. Some of them had bled to death from teeth being drawn. Medical aid had always been procured, but without effect.

Mr. T. W. Dickenson, surgeon, corroborated the evidence of Mary Ann Pitt, as to his attendance upon the deceased. In his opinion the deceased died from loss of blood, arising from a slight contusion of the upper gum, and from relaxation of the system and the watery state of the blood. He had attended numerous members of the family of Hannah Phillips for loss of blood during thirteen or fourteen years. In some instances death had ensued, although he had used every means in his power to stop the bleeding. Other surgeons had also attended; but without avail. The coroner having summed up, the jury returned a verdict in accordance with the above evidence.”

[This was reported nationally.]

Birmingham Journal 24/1/1846

“An investigation took place on the afternoon of Thursday week, at the WHITE LION, Temple Street, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, touching the death of a newly-born infant, the illegitimate child of Mary Nelson Baker, about twenty-one years of age.

Mary Madders, who lives in Temple Street, Bilston, said that Mary Nelson Baker lived at her house. She had lived with her fourteen years, and witness had adopted her as her daughter. About four months ago she perceived that Baker was in the family way, and accused her of it. But, notwithstanding, she repeatedly denied the accusation up to the last moment; she was delivered of a child on the Monday previous. The infant was dead. A man named Thomas Garland, who lodges at the house, admitted that he was the father of the child. The fellow had beaten the mother about a fortnight ago; he knocked her over a chair. On account of the many reports afloat affecting this witness and the mother of the child, and the many suspicious circumstances attending the case, the coroner thought it was his duty to adjourn the inquest until Monday last, when the inquiry was resumed.

The principal evidence was that Mr. Cooper, surgeon, residing in Bilston, who had made a post mortem examination of the body, and who was of opinion that the child died from pressure on the umbilical cord, caused by protracted labour. He would not engage to say that the child would have been saved if the mother had been attended by a surgeon.

The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence.”

Birmingham Journal 26/12/1846

“On Thursday last, an inquest was held at the house of Mr. *Joseph Winsper*, WHITE LION, Bilston, on the body of a boy named Richard Lydall, whose death was caused by his clothes taking fire. It appeared that on Saturday the 12th of December, the child, who was only five years old, was left by his mother in the house, while she went to take her husband’s dinner to the pit. During her absence his clothes caught fire, and he run into the yard, when several persons went to his assistance; but the poor sufferer was so seriously injured, that after lingering until Tuesday, the 22nd instant, death put an end to his sufferings.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/10/1849

“An inquest was held on Wednesday evening last at the WHITE LION, Temple Street, Bilston, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, upon the body of James Ellmore, a child three years and five months old, who met with his death under the following circumstances.

On Friday, the 5th instant, during the temporary absence of his mother, he attempted to take a hook off the crane which hung over the fire, when the flame caught his pinafore, and he was burnt on the left breast and down his neck in a shocking manner. Mr. Hancox, surgeon, attended him up to Tuesday evening, when he died. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Birmingham Journal 8/6/1850 - Advert

“To be Let, and entered upon immediately, that Old Licensed well-accustomed Public House, the WHITE LION INN, situate in Temple Street, Bilston, the Proprietor being about to decline the Public Business. Apply on the Premises.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/8/1850

“Transfer of Victuallers’ Licenses. Monday last being the day appointed for the transfer of licenses in the division of Seisdon North, the county Magistrates granted the following transfers.....

Joseph Winsper, WHITE LION, Temple Street, Bilston, to *John Brereton*, of Shropshire Row.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/2/1851 - Deaths

“On the 1st instant, Ann, the beloved wife of Mr. *Joseph Winsper*, formerly of the WHITE LION INN, Temple Street, Bilston, in the 69th year of her age.”

[*Joseph Winsper* died in the 1st quarter of 1863 aged 80.]

John Brereton = John Bruerton

1851 Census

Temple Street

[1] *John Brereton* (36), innkeeper, born Kidsgrove, Staffordshire;

[2] *Elizabeth Brereton* (35), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Maria Brereton* (14), daughter, born Bilston;

[4] *William Brereton* (12), son, born Bilston;

[5] *John Brereton* (3), son, born Bilston;

[6] *Sarah Brereton* (1), daughter, born Bilston:

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/11/1851

“Jesse Hodgkiss, a butty miner under Mr. Bruerton, appeared before the magistrates on Tuesday, in answer to a summons preferred against him by Alexander Jones, under the 5th and 6th Vict, cap.39 (Lord Ashley’s Act), for paying him his wages at a public house, whereby he had incurred a penalty not exceeding £10, nor less than £5.

It will be remembered that about a month ago, Hodgkiss summoned Jones and a man named Barker before the Court for removing ‘stamps’ in the pit, when at Mr. Leigh’s suggestion the charge was withdrawn. It then transpired that the defendants were paid their wages at a public house; hence arose the present charge. Mr. J. W. Hall, of Bilston, appeared for the complainant, and Mr. Shipman for the defendant.

Jones stated that he was engaged by Hodgkiss on the 30th September, at the rate of 3s 4½d per day; the 4th October (Saturday) was reckoning day, and Hodgkiss told him to go to Mr. *Bruerton*’s, the WHITE LION, Temple Street,

Bilston, and 'get a quart of ale,' and he would receive his money; about eight o'clock in the evening he was paid 5s 6d by the defendant's wife. Hodgkiss at this time was sitting by the fire; the remainder of his wages he had received in 'tommy.'

William Barker and Thomas Jones proved the payment of wages as above stated.

For the defence, Mr. Shipman contended that there was no proof that the house in which the complainant was paid was a public house.

Mr. Hall replied that the terms of the Act were an ale house or house of entertainment.

The bench, after a short consultation, fined the defendant £5; in default two months' imprisonment with hard labour; one half of the penalty to go to the informer."

Birmingham Journal 24/6/1854 - Advert

"Bilston.

To be Let, that Old-established Public House, known by the sign of the WHITE LION, situate in Temple Street, Bilston. The Fixtures to be taken at a fair valuation. Rent moderate. The present Proprietor is leaving on account of other engagements.

For particulars, apply on the Premises, or to Mr. John Mason, Public House Agent, Hall Street, Bilston."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 16/6/1858

"An inquest was held on Friday, before the coroner, T. M. Phillips, Esq, in the body of William Wall, at the WHITE LION, Temple Street, Bilston, who it appeared was fourteen years of age, and was killed by a fall of coal at a pit belonging to Mr. Rose, of Moxley. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.

There was also a second inquest held on the body of a child named Sarah Ann Jones, who was about three years of age. The child, which was lost on Wednesday night after eight o'clock, was found in the canal about eleven o'clock, and it is supposed that she had unfortunately missed her way, and fell into the canal."

Charles Battye = Charles Batte

Charles Angell = Charles Angel

1861 Census

38, Temple Street – WHITE LION INN

[1] *Charles Angell* (30), cinder burner and beer seller, born Evesham;

[2] *Charlotte Angell* (39), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Sarah New* (16), general servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/5/1863

"*Charles Angel*, the landlord of the WHITE LION, Temple Street, Bilston, was yesterday brought up on a warrant on the charge of assaulting his wife.

The complainant, *Jane Angel*, stated that on Saturday fortnight she had a warrant for an assault out against the prisoner, which was allowed to remain in abeyance in consequence of his having removed himself and his clothes from her house, stating that if he were to remain there the result would be that he should be hanged for her. At one o'clock on the morning of Friday he burst into the house, entered a room where she in bed with her niece, dragged her forth, and thrice flung her violently on the floor.

The accused, who pleaded that he merely sought to re-establish his conjugal rights, was ordered to enter into his own recognizances of £20 to keep the peace towards his wife."

Staffordshire Advertiser 25/7/1863

"*Charles Angell*, landlord of the WHITE LION beerhouse, Temple Street, Bilston, was summoned for ill-treatment of his wife. Defendant did not appear, and the complaint was heard in his absence. This was the third time that she had appeared against her husband, who was under sureties of the peace to her. On Sunday afternoon he returned home drunk, and after going upstairs and abusing his wife, who was in her bedroom, he fell asleep in the parlour, where he was left when the other inmates of the household retired to rest. They were aroused about one o'clock by his violence in his attempts to grope his way upstairs, and his wife in terror sought to escape him by going into her niece's room. Thither he followed her, struck her as she lay in bed, and attempted to set the clothes on fire. When

at length he quitted the apartment and got a gun, with which he threatened to shoot her, his wife barricaded herself in the room by placing the bedstead against the door. When the constable went to serve the present summons upon him, defendant drew a knife, with which he threatened to stab his wife, and used language such as the officer said he had never heard before.

The bench made out a warrant for the commitment of the defendant to three months' imprisonment with hard labour, and ordered that at the end of two months he should find sureties of the peace for twelve months. Shortly afterwards he was dragged into the police station handcuffed, having offered a desperate resistance, and attempted to use his gun to prevent his arrest."

Birmingham Journal 19/9/1863 - Advert

"To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, a desirable House, doing a first-rate business, urgent circumstances requiring the present Proprietor to leave at once. Stock and Fixtures to be taken to at a fair valuation. Apply at the WHITE LION INN, Temple Street, Bilston."

TO be LET, and may be entered upon immediately, a desirable HOUSE, doing a first-rate business, urgent circumstances requiring the present Proprietor to leave at once. Stock and Fixtures to be taken to at a fair valuation.—Apply at the White Lion Inn, Temple Street, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 22/9/1863 - Advert

"To be Let, the WHITE LION, Temple Street, Bilston; an old-established House. Rent low. Present Proprietor retiring from the Public Business. Immediate possession. Apply on the Premises."

TO be LET, the WHITE LION, Temple Street, Bilston; an old-established House. Rent low. Present Proprietor retiring from the Public Business. Immediate possession. Apply on the Premises.

Birmingham Daily Post 13/10/1863 - Advert

"Household Furniture, &c.

By Mr. Samuel Baker, This Day (Tuesday), at Eleven o'clock at the WHITE LION INN, Temple Street, Bilston. The Household Furniture and Effects."

**HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, &c.
BY MR. SAMUEL BAKER, THIS DAY, (Tuesday), at Eleven o'clock, at the White Lion Inn, Temple Street, Bilston—the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE and Effects.**

Wolverhampton Chronicle 25/5/1864 - Advert

"Desirable Freehold Property, Temple Street, Bilston.

To be Sold by Private Contract, by direction of the Devises in trust for sale of the late Mr. *Joseph Winsper*, all that Messuage, used as an Old-licensed Public House, called the WHITE LION, situate in Temple Street, Bilston, in the occupation of Mr. *Charles Hughes*, containing bar, parlour, taproom, clubroom, three bedrooms, malt room, brewhouse, back kitchen, and two cellars.

All that Grocery Shop adjoining to the above, in the occupation of Mr. Edward Green, containing front shop, sitting room, two bedrooms, cellar, &c.

And also those seven Messuages or Tenements at the back thereof, with the wash-houses, privies, and large yard, the whole containing, with the site of the buildings, 683 square yards of land or thereabouts.

The whole of the property is in good repair and well tenanted, and produces, at low rents, £84 1s 4d per annum.

Part of the purchase money will be advanced on mortgage if desired.

For further particulars, and to treat, apply to Mr. William Jennings, Bow Street, Bilston; Mr. Joseph Hodgkiss, Dudley Street, Bilston; or Mr. Hayes, Solicitor, North Street, Wolverhampton."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/9/1864

"Yesterday the magistrates sat in Special Sessions, for the consideration of the applications for the renewal of old and the granting of new licenses to victuallers.....

The following houses and their landlords had been complained against and fined during the year.....

Charles Angel, WHITE LION, Temple Street."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/8/1869

"The annual licensing meeting for the Bilston division took place yesterday, at the Police Court.....

The following is the list of the licensed victuallers who have been fined during the year.....

Open during Prohibited Hours *Charles Hughes*, WHITE LION, Temple Street, Bilston, to pay costs."

1871 Census

38, Temple Street

- [1] Charles Hughes (30), forge labourer, born Peckforton, Cheshire;
- [2] Ann Hughes (29), wife, born Bowgredy, Radnorshire;
- [3] George Alfred Hughes (4), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] Lucy Maria Hughes (1), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] John Price (40), boarder, farm labourer, born Bowgredy, Radnorshire;
- [6] Mary A. Williams (16), general servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/8/1875

“At the Sedgley Police Court, yesterday, before Mr. Isaac Spooner (Stipendiary), Thomas Collins, landlord of the SHAMROCK INN, Temple Street, Bilston, was summoned for adulterating ale, on the 22nd of June. Samuel Toy, assistant to Mr. J. G. Horder, inspector, said that on the day in question he visited the defendant’s house, and was served with two quarts of ale by Mrs. Collins. He told her that he was having the ale for the purpose of being analysed, and sealed it up in her presence. Mrs. Collins told witness that the ale was out of a barrel from a brewery in Bilston. He afterwards took the ale to Mr. Horder. Mr. Horder proved receiving the ale, and forwarded it to Mr. Jones, county analyst, on the 23rd of June. He received, on the 19th ult, a certificate proving that the ale was adulterated with common salt, of which it contained 65.62 grains in the imperial gallon. Defendant said he only put a halfpenny worth of salt in the whole of the brewing, and did not know that he was doing any harm. Mr. Spooner said, as it was not a bad case, he should only fine defendant £2 and costs.

Charles Hughes, an ex-constable and landlord of the WHITE LION, Temple Street, Bilston, was charged with a similar offence. The ale was adulterated by containing 80.38 grains of common salt to the imperial gallon. Defendant said he had kept his house for over twelve years, and during that time no complaint had ever been made against the house. Mr. Spooner said he fully believed defendant; at the same time he believed in the decision of Mr. Jones that the ale was adulterated, as he knew that Mr. Jones’s analyses were similar to the London analyses as they had been tried. As the present case was worse than the last, defendant would be fined £3 and costs.”

Charles Hughes died in the 1st quarter of 1879.

Birmingham Daily Post 12/12/1879 - Advert

“Dog. Found, December 4, black Retriever Dog.
Can be had, WHITE LION, Temple Street, Bilston.”

DOG.—Found, December 4, black Retriever Dog.—Can be had.
White Lion, Temple Street, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/9/1880

“At Bilston Police Court, yesterday, *Ann Hughes*, of the WHITE LION INN, Temple Street, was charged with permitting drunkenness on her licensed premises, and Thomas Walin, of the same street, was charged with being drunk on the same premises.

On the night of the 7th inst Police-constable Price visited the WHITE LION, and in the bar he found Walin drunk and asleep with a pint jug, containing beer, in front of him. Price called the landlady’s attention to that fact, and she said she could not help it, and asked him to say nothing about it.

The landlady was fined 10s and costs, and Walin was fined 5s and costs.”

1881 Census

38, Temple Street

- [1] Ann Hughes (39), widow, licensed victualler, born Beguildy, Radnorshire;
- [2] Elizabeth J. Hughes (15), daughter, born Bilston;
- [3] George A. Hughes (14), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] Lucy Maria Hughes (11), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] Charles H. Hughes (7), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] John Davis (22), lodger, railway signal fitter, born Talybont, Breconshire:

Evening Express 27/9/1881

“*Ann Hughes*, landlady of the RED [sic] LION INN, Temple Street, was fined 10s and the costs for having permitted drunkenness upon her premises on the 3rd instant.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 1/7/1882 - Advert

“Sale by Messrs. J. Morrell & Son. Under distraint for rent and gas.

Monday, July 3rd, 1882. To Publicans, General Dealers, Brokers, and Others.

Unreserved sale at the WHITE LION INN, Temple Street, Bilston.

Messrs. J. Morrell and Son are instructed to Sell by Auction, on the premises of Mrs. *A. Hughes*, as above, on Monday Next, July 3rd, 1882, the whole of the Public House Fittings & Fixtures, Brewing Plant, Household Furniture, and Effects, comprising capital 4-pull beer machine, piping and taps, tap tables, drinking tables, forms, benches, screens, jugs and glasses, ale and spirit measures, two capital copper boilers, mash tub, oval and round coolers, fermenting vessels, wort spouts, malt crusher, 60, 70, 36, and 90 gallon ale barrels, Windsor chairs, arm chairs, square deal tables, 8-day clock, sofa in leather, pier glass, iron French bedsteads, mattresses, feather beds, bed clothing, mahogany drawers, oak linen chest, cane seated chairs, toilet glasses, toilet ware, chimney ornaments, part sets of dinner and tea ware, and the usual kitchen and culinary effects.

Sale to commence at 11am.

Auction and Valuation offices, Swan Bank, Bilston.”

London Gazette 28/7/1882

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

In the Matter of Proceedings for Liquidation by Arrangement or Composition with Creditors, instituted by *Ann Hughes*, of the WHITE LION INN, Temple-street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler and Widow. Notice is hereby given, that a Second General Meeting of the creditors of the above-named person has been summoned to be held at the GLOBE HOTEL, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, on the 3rd day of August, 1882, at eleven o’clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 24th day of July, 1882.

Wm. Bowen, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, Solicitor for the said Debtor.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 6/1/1883

“At the Bilston Police Court, yesterday, before M. Ironmonger and W. Ward, Esqs, *Alfred Brown*, landlord of the WHITE LION INN, Temple Street, was charged by Police-constable Hayward with selling drink after hours on the 24th ult.

The officer stated that after 10 o’clock on the night in question, he saw a woman and named Mulloy receive from the daughter of the landlady, a jug filled with beer. In reply to his questions, the landlady said she had given the woman a jug of penny beer, but he tasted it, and thought it ‘a bit too good for that.’

Mr. Fellows appeared on behalf of the police, and Mr. Bowen defended.

The woman Mulloy was called, and swore the beer was a free gift, on account of her requiring sustenance for her four months old baby.

Hayward denied that Mulloy had a baby with her at the time.

Fined £7 4s 6d, including costs, the fine to be reduced to £1 upon the present landlady giving up the house within a month, it being explained that defendant was only the nominal landlord.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 13/1/1883 - Advert

“To be Disposed Of, an excellent Old Licensed Public House, has not changed hands for 19 years, situated in a populated district.

For terms apply on the premises, WHITE LION, Temple Street, Bilston.”

TO BE DISPOSED OF, an excellent OLD
LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE, has not
changed hands for 19 years, situated in a populated
district.—For terms apply on the premises, White
Lion, Temple Street, Bilston.

Darlaston Weekly Times 19/7/1884 - Advert

“To Brewers, Maltsters, Spirit Merchants, and others.

Important Sale of Valuable Freehold Full Licensed Houses and Dwelling House, in Wolverhampton Street, Green Lanes, and Temple Street, Bilston.

Messrs. J. Morrell & Sons are favoured with instructions to Offer for Sale by Auction, at the house of Mr. H. Baker, the GLOBE INN, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, on Tuesday, August 5th, 1884, at six for seven in the evening.....

Lot 3. All that Freehold Full-Licensed Public House and Premises, situate and known as the WHITE LION INN, Temple Street, Bilston, now in the occupation of Mr. *James Murphy*. The Premises comprise large tap room, bar, bar parlour, three good bedrooms, large club room, two good cellars, brewhouse, with malt room over; washhouse, the usual outhouses, and large enclosed yard, producing an annual rental of £26.

Also a Freehold House adjoining, being No.39, now in the occupation of J. Maloney, and Six Small Dwelling House at the rear, in the several occupations of Morley, Ryan, Foy, and three void, with a large enclosed yard, and 4ft entry from Temple Street, when let producing an annual rental of £41 12s.”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/10/1884

“Yesterday Mr. W. H. Phillips, coroner, held an inquest at the WHITE LION INN, Temple Street, concerning the death of Hugh Halligham, puddler (38), of Chapel Street. On Tuesday morning the deceased suddenly fell in Chapel Street and expired before medical aid was forthcoming. As he had received medical attendance, the enquiry was adjourned for a post mortem examination.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/10/1884

“On Saturday Mr. W. H. Phillips, coroner, resumed the inquest at the WHITE LION INN, Temple Street, Bilston, concerning the death of Hugh Hollingham (38), puddler, who died in the street a few days ago.

Dr. T. R. Bailey stated that he had made a post mortem examination of the body and found that death had resulted from heart disease, brought about by heavy drinking.

A verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 20/12/1884

“About half-past five, on Wednesday afternoon, Bridget Murphy (14), daughter of *James Murphy*, of the WHITE LION INN, Temple Street, Bilston, who the previous day complained of feeling unwell, was found dead in bed.

An inquest was held yesterday (Friday) morning, at the WHITE LION INN, before E. B. Thorneycroft, Esq, deputy coroner. After formal evidence was taken, the inquiry was adjourned for a post mortem examination to be held.”

AND

Darlaston Weekly Times 27/12/1884

“On Tuesday morning, E. B. Thorneycroft, deputy coroner, reopened the inquiry, at the WHITE LION INN, Bilston, touching the death of Bridget Murphy (14), living with her father at the above public house, and who was found dead in bed on Wednesday afternoon last. She had been in service at the FOX INN, North Street, Wolverhampton, and on the previous day she returned to her father’s house suffering from internal injuries which she had sustained whilst lifting some bedsteads. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/9/1890

“At Bilston Police Court, yesterday, *Henry Jones*, landlord of the WHITE LION INN, Temple Street, was charged with keeping his house open during prohibited hours for the sale of intoxicating liquors.

Police-constable Moss deposed that at half-past ten on Sunday morning, the 7th inst, he saw a man named Kearns leaping over a wall at the back of defendant’s house, and he heard him tell someone on the other side to ‘fill that bottle.’ He went up and detained Kearns in conversation, and shortly afterwards a voice over the wall, which he thought was the landlady’s, asked Kearns to take the bottle over, upon which Kearns’s wife came up and took from over the wall a brown stone bottle. Witness followed her home, and found that the woman had hidden the beer in a bedroom. Witness then took Mrs. Kearns to the landlady, who denied that she had supplied any beer.

Mr. Downing, for the defence, also denied that any beer was sold. The beer-machine was locked up on Saturday night, and was not unlocked until half-past twelve on Sunday.

Several witnesses were called in support of this statement, but in the end Mr. Levridge said the defence appeared to be an ingenious one, but it would not hold water. A fine of 20s and costs would be imposed, but the license would not be endorsed.”

1891 Census

38, Temple Street – WHITE LION

- [1] *Henry Jones* (63), licensed victualler, born Brecon;
- [2] *Lucy Jones* (62), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Eda Smith* (16), domestic servant, born Bilston:

1901 Census

Temple Street – WHITE LION

- [1] *Edward Murray* (58), cordwainer, born Roscommon, Ireland;
- [2] *Ellen C. Murray* (51), wife, manageress of tavern, born London;
- [3] *Nora A. Murray* (9), daughter, born London:

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/5/1909

“James Rogers, aged 26, late of Gozzard Street, Bilston, was charged with burglary. He was seen with a lady’s bicycle at Moxley by Police-constable Whitehouse, who, being suspicious, went towards him. The prisoner hurried along and the officer followed, and as he gained ground the prisoner threw the machine down and ran away. He was pursued and captured. It was afterwards ascertained that the WHITE LION INN, Temple Street, had been entered by a burglar on Thursday, and the bicycle and other articles were stolen. The prisoner was remanded in custody for a week.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/6/1909

“James Rogers, of Gozzard Street, Bilston, was charged with burglariously entering the WHITE LION INN, Temple Street, and stealing a bicycle and a number of other articles. Police-constable Whitehouse saw him at Moxley with the lady’s bicycle, and when the defendant noticed the officer he hurried over a pit mound. The officer pursued him, and in the chase the defendant threw the machine down and ran away, but he was captured. The bicycle had been stolen from the WHITE LION, and some tablecloths, spoons, and other articles were also missed at the same time. The defendant was committed for trial at the Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.”

Lichfield Mercury 18/6/1909

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

James Rogers (25), blaster, was indicted for having broken into the dwelling house of *Mary Ann Williams*, at Bilston, on May 27, and stolen a lady’s bicycle, ten bottles of stout, two tablecloths, and four teaspoons. Mr. Benyon Harris prosecuted.

It appeared that the prosecutrix, who resided at the WHITE LION INN, Bilston, made the doors and windows of the house fast before going to bed on the night of May 27, but at six o’clock the next morning she found that the house had been entered during the night and several things stolen. About four o’clock the same morning Pc Whitehouse was proceeding along Great Bridge Street, when he saw the prisoner examining a lady’s bicycle, which was lying on the road. When he saw the officer prisoner made off, but he afterwards concealed the machine behind a mound. The bottles of stout were subsequently found concealed between a hedge and a wall.

Prisoner, in giving evidence, said he found the bicycle outside the TRAVELLERS REST INN, and was going to take it to the Police Station. The jury found prisoner guilty of common larceny, and he was sentenced to twelve months’ imprisonment.”

1911 Census

Temple Street – WHITE LION INN

- [1] *George Shelley* (45), common tinner, publican, born Bilston;
- [2] *Rose Shelley* (44), wife, married 25 years, assisting in business, born Bilston;
- [3] *Daisy Shelley* (22), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] *George Shelley* (20), son, iron worker at the rolls, born Bilston;
- [5] *Beatrice Shelley* (14), daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] *James Shelley* (12), son, born Bilston;
- [7] *Bert Shelley* (7), son, born Bilston;
- [8] *Leonard Shelley* (5), son, born Bilston;
- [9] *Gertrude Shelley* (3), daughter, born Bilston:

1921 Census

73, Temple Street

- [1] George H. Shelley (55), public house holder, born Birmingham;
- [2] Rose Shelley (54), wife, housewife, born Bradley;
- [3] James Shelley (22), son, iron worker, doubler, born Bradley;
- [4] Bert Shelley (17), son, iron worker, scrap cutter, born Bradley;
- [5] Leonard Shelley (15), son, iron plate worker, born Bradley;
- [6] Gertrude Shelley (13), daughter, school, born Bradley;

1932 Probate

“George Henry Shelley of the WHITE LION INN, Temple Street, Bilston, Staffordshire, died 8 June 1932. Probate Birmingham 3 November to *Roseannah Shelley*, widow. Effects £3,288 3s 9d.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/11/1932

“The following wills of Midland interest have been proved.....

Mr. *G. H. Shelley*, the WHITE LION INN, Temple Street, Bilston, estate value £3,288 (net personalty £553). His widow, Mrs. *R. Shelley*, is the sole executrix.”

George Henry Shelley – see also SWAN, Bank Street.

1939 Register

73, Temple Street

- [1] Leonard Shelley, date of birth 29/6/1905, licensed victualler, married;
- [2] Ada J. Shelley, dob 9/11/1905, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] John Shelley, dob 9/7/1925, viewer, government, single;
- [4] William F. Shelley, dob 27/7/1927, at school, single;
- [6] Leonard Shelley, dob 13/4/1938, under school age, single;

Black Country Bugle 31/7/2014

Letter from Ron Griffiths

“.....I was a train spotter myself in the early 1940s The third line that was mentioned was known as the Loop on which they used to divert the freight trains on to Wednesbury and bring them up as far as Temple Street so they could keep the passenger trains running specially in the holiday season.

When the main lines had gone quiet they would let them go, that's if they could find the driver and fireman. At times they would telephone the signalman and tell him they were going for a pint. Then they would descend down the embankment and into the back entrance of the WHITE LION in Temple Street.....”

A team from here took part in the Butlers (Bilston) Darts League. [1946]

Closed

Demolished

**DESIRABLE FREEHOLD PROPERTY,
TEMPLE-STREET, BILSTON.**

TO be SOLD by PRIVATE CONTRACT, by direction of the Devises in trust for sale of the late Mr. Joseph Winsper, all that MESSUAGE, used as an Old-licensed Public House, called the "White Lion," situate in Temple-street, Bilston, in the occupation of Mr. Charles Hughes, containing bar, parlour, taproom, clubroom, three bedrooms, malt room, brew-house, back kitchen, and two cellars.

All that GROCERY SHOP adjoining to the above, in the occupation of Mr. Edward Green, containing front shop, sitting room, two bedrooms, cellar, &c.

Also all those seven MESSUAGES or TENEMENTS at the back thereof, with the wash-houses, privies, and large yard, the whole containing, with the site of the buildings, 633 square yards of land or thereabouts.

The whole of the property is in good repair and well tenanted, and produces, at low rents, £84 1s. 4d. per annum.

Part of the purchase money will be advanced on mortgage if desired.

For further particulars, and to treat, apply to Mr. WILLIAM JENNINGS, Bow-street, Bilston; Mr. JOSEPH HODOKINS, Dudley-street, Bilston; or Mr. HAYES, Solicitor, North-street, Wolverhampton.

1864

Lot 3.—All that FREEHOLD FULL-LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE and PREMISES, situate and known as the "White Lion Inn," Temple-street, Bilston, now in the occupation of Mr James Murphy. The Premises comprise large tap room, bar, bar parlour, three good bedrooms, large club room, two good cellars, brewhouse, with malt room over; washhouse, the usual outhouses, and large enclosed yard, producing an annual rental of £26. Also a FREEHOLD HOUSE adjoining, being No. 39, now in the occupation of J. Maloney, and SIX SMALL DWELLING HOUSES at the rear, in the several occupations of Morley, Ryan, Foy, and three void, with a large enclosed yard, and 4ft. entry from Temple-street, when let producing an annual rental of £41 12s.

For further particulars apply to Messrs Hall and Son, Solicitors, Liebfeld-street, Bilston, or to the Auctioneers', Swan Bank, Bilston.

1884

SALE BY MESSRS J. MORRELL & SON.

Under distraint for rent and gas.

MONDAY, JULY 3RD, 1882.

TO PUBLICANS, GENERAL DEALERS,
BROKERS, AND OTHERS.

Unreserved sale at the WHITE LION INN,
TEMPLE STREET, BILSTON.

MESSES. J. MORRELL AND SON are instructed to SELL BY AUCTION, on the premises of Mrs. A. Hughes, as above, on Monday

Next, July 3RD, 1882, the whole of the
**PUBLIC HOUSE FITTINGS & FIXTURES,
BREWING PLANT,**

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, and Effects,
comprising capital 4-pull beer machine, piping and taps, tap tables, drinking tables, forms, benches, screens, jugs and glasses, ale and spirit measures, two capital copper boilers, mash tub, oval and round coolers' fermenting vessels, wort spouts, malt crusher, 60, 70, 36, and 90 gallon ale barrels, Windsor chairs, arm chairs, square deal tables, 8-day clock, sofa in leather, pier glass, iron French bedsteads, mattresses, feather beds, bed clothing, mahogany drawers, oak linen chest, cane seated chairs, toilet glasses toilet ware, chimney ornaments, part sets of dinner and tea ware, and the usual kitchen and culinary effects.

Sale to commence at 11 a.m.

Auction and Valuation offices, Swan Bank, Bilston.

1882

WHITE ROSE

24, (97), (94), Temple Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

David Kendrick, ironmaster, Codsall
Mrs. Sarah Adams, Priestfield
Banks and Co., brewers, Wolverhampton
J. & J. Yardley and Co. Ltd.
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. [1921], [1999]
Dial Singh [2008]

LICENSEES

Mrs. Sophia Kendrick [1860] – **1874**);
Joseph Bower (?) (**1874 – 1880**);
Thomas Marsh (**1880 – 1881**);
Margaret Marsh (**1881 – 1883**);
John Knight (**1883 – 1888**);
Hannah ? (**1888**);
James Hinton (**1888**);
James William Jones (**1888 – 1889**);
William Bowers (**1889 – 1892**);
Joseph ? (**1892**);
Solomon ? (**1892 – 1893**);
Thomas Downing (**1893 – 1895**);
Mrs. Harriet Yeomans (**1895**);
John Evans (**1895 – 1904**);
Thomas Woolley (**1904 – 1905**);
Joseph Owen (**1905 – 1908**);
Joseph Blakemore (**1908 – 1909**);
Edward 'Teddy' Roberts (**1909 – 1946**);
Jack Shakespeare [];
Len Skett [];
Harry Willoughby [1968]
John Timmins [1990s]
Mary Timmins [1990s]
Jeffery Guy [1995]
Keith Frank Thomas (**1995 – [1996]**)
Tracy Slater (**1998**)
Mac Latham (**2001 – []**)
Nicola Jane Hayes [2005]
S Raj [2005]
Dial Singh [] – **2008**)



1996



2007

NOTES

97, Temple Street [1861], [1865], [1868], [1871], [1881], [1891]
94, Temple Street [1862]
24, Temple Street [1901], [1904], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1925], [1939], [1940]

Black Country Bugle 17/8/2022

'Supping with the spirits at haunted hostelries' by Steve James

"In Bilston, the WHITE ROSE was a modern pub built near the site of an earlier inn. Although replaced by new housing, it was said to be haunted by former landlady, Lizzie, who used to make herself known when new licensees arrived by throwing things around."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/12/1854 - Advert

"Sale of Valuable Freehold, Copyhold, and Leasehold Properties, at Bilston, Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. George Brown, at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston aforesaid, on Tuesday, the 2nd day of January 1855, at six o'clock in the evening.....

Lot 3. All that Freehold Messuage or Dwelling House, with the yard, brewhouse, and appurtenances thereto, situate in Temple Street, in Bilston aforesaid, now in the occupation of Mrs. *Sophia Kendrick*, retail brewer, at the annual rent of £16."

It had a beerhouse license.

1861 Census

97, Temple Street

[1] *Sophia Kendrick* (62), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Shropshire;

[2] Mary Poole (20), housemaid, born Shropshire:

Sophia Kendrick, retailer of beer, 94, Temple Street. [1862]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/3/1864

"At Bilston Police Court on Tuesday, before the Stipendiary, Mr. Isaac Spooner.....

Sophia Kendrick, of the WHITE ROSE beerhouse, Temple Street, was fined 40s and costs for having her house open on Sunday last during improper hours."

Mrs. *Sophia Kendrick*, beer retailer, 97, Temple Street. [1865], [1868]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/8/1869

"The annual licensing meeting for the Bilston division took place yesterday, at the Police Court.....

The following beerhouse keepers had been fined during the past five years.....

For keeping open during prohibited hours *Sophia Kendrick*, ROSE, Temple Street, 1s and costs."

1871 Census

97, Temple Street – Public House

[1] *Sophia Kendrick* (72), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Broseley, Shropshire;

[2] Margaret Knight (18), general servant, born Bilston:

Midland Examiner 20/4/1878 - Deaths

"On the 9th instant, Mrs. *Sophia Kendrick*, New Village, Wolverhampton, aged 80 years."

Thomas Marsh died on 20th January 1881.

1881 Census

97, Temple Street – WHITE ROSE

[1] *Margaret Marsh* (54), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Stroud, Gloucestershire;

[2] *Ida Marsh* (22), daughter, barmaid, born Newport, Wales;

[3] *Jane Marsh* (20), daughter, housemaid, born Newport, Wales;

[4] *Sidney Marsh* (18), son, warehouseman, born Newport, Wales;

[5] *Florence Marsh* (12), daughter, scholar, born Newport, Wales:

Darlaston Weekly Times 3/10/1885

“On Thursday afternoon, in the presence of a large number of spectators, the last solemn rites were performed over the body of Mrs. *Knight*, wife of Mr. *John Knight*, of the WHITE ROSE INN, Temple Street. A large number of friends followed, the cortege, consisting of the hearse, three mourning coaches, and a private carriage. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Messrs. Riley and Son, who made the splendid coffin, which was of polished oak, with engraved breast plate and brass mountings, the inscription being ‘Mary Knight, died September 27th, 1885, aged 55.’ The funeral service was read by the Rev. Father Power, MR.”

John Knight – see also OLD BROWN JUG.

Birmingham Daily Post 13/9/1888 - Advert

“Beerhouse (free). OLD WHITE ROSE, Temple Street, Bilston; good retire premises. Rent £24. Cheap. Apply, premises.”

BEEHOUSE (free).—Old White Rose, Temple Street, Bilston; good retire premises. Rent £24. Cheap—Apply, premises.

Birmingham Daily Post 6/11/1889

“Arthur Lester applied at the Police Court, yesterday, for the license of the WHITE ROSE INN, Temple Street, Bilston, to be transferred to him from *J. W. Jones*. In reply to questions, Lester said that for the past eight years he had ben clerk and valet for Mr. Bull, of the Royal Adelaide Hotel, Windsor. Mr. Bull was a bookmaker, and was known as ‘Chippy Norton.’ There were some running grounds next door to the WHITE ROSE, but he (Lester) did not intend to use the premises as a betting house. The application was refused.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/11/1889

“At the Police Court, yesterday, Mr. W. S. Smith, solicitor, of Wednesbury, applied to the magistrates (Messrs. C. Wells, F. A. Homer, and S. Wilkes) for the transfer of the license of the WHITE ROSE INN, Temple Street, Bilston, from *J. W. Jones* to Arthur Lester,

Mr. Smith said a similar application was made on Tuesday last, and it was then refused. There was no objection to the personal character of Lester, and he might say that his certificate of character had been signed by Mr. S. B. Cole, the chairman of the Bilston Township Commissioners, Dr. Larkin, and several Bilston tradesmen; but objection had been taken to Lester on the ground that he had been a clerk to Mr. H. Bull, who, although in possession of a good old English name, was better known as ‘Chippy Norton,’ and was a professional bookmaker. Lester had, however, now given up that business, and had settled down to obtain a proper livelihood in this public house. The house was owned by Mr. William Bird, of Wednesbury, who had threatened to turn Lester out if any betting took place there. He knew that Superintendent Longden was conscientious in his opposition to the application; but if this opposition was continued they would probably have to have angels behind the bar, and no man who had ever put a stake on the Derby would be allowed to have a license.

Superintendent Longden stated that the application was similar to the one made on Tuesday, and the magistrates sitting on that day (Messrs, G. Ward and J. R. Cartwright) had refused it.

Mr. Homer said the magistrates were not prepared to sit in judgement on their brother magistrates. He could only say that if they had been at Court on Tuesday that would have agreed with them in refusing the transfer. The application would therefore be again refused.”

1891 Census

97, Temple Street – WHITE ROSE

- [1] *William Bowers* (28), publican, born Bilston;
- [2] *Sarah Bowers* (28), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Horace Bowers* (1), son, born Wednesbury;

1901 Census

24, Temple Street

- [1] John Evans (51), publican, born Bilston;
- [2] Eliza Evans (50), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Emma Evans (18), daughter, black stover, japan works, born Bilston;
- [4] Harriet Evans (11), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] William Wright (21), boarder, coachman (not domestic), born Barnsley, Yorkshire;
- [6] William Inskip (20), boarder, iron worker, bar drawer, born Bilston;
- [7] Edwin Inskip (16), boarder, iron worker, marker, born Bilston:

Mrs. Harriet Yeomans, beer retailer, 97, Temple Street. [1904]

John Evans, beer retailer, 24, Temple Street. [1904]

Lincolnshire Chronicle 13/12/1907 - Advert

"Her Trembling Body. St. Vitus Dance Completely Cured in the Case of a Bilston Girl by Dr Williams Pink Pills. A representative of the *Birmingham Echo* recently paid a visit to 24, Temple Street, Bilston, and interviewed Mr. and Mrs. Fellows, who keep the WHITE ROSE INN, and who have been well known and highly respected residents of the district for close upon thirty years. He then gathered details of the remarkable cure of their daughter, Susannah, of St. Vitus Dance by Dr. Williams Pink Pills for Pale People after she had been attending hospital for eighteen months.

'When my daughter was about fourteen years of age,' Mrs. Fellows remarked to the newspaper representative, 'she used to complain of pains in the stomach after eating. Doctors medicine seemed to have no good effect, for under treatment she got worse. She developed gastric ulcer of the stomach, and was cured at the Wolverhampton Hospital. She had only been home a little while when all the old symptoms manifested themselves, and she became a victim of St. Vitus Dance. Again I took her to the hospital, and for eighteen months she attended once a week. But during this time she lapsed into a dreadful state. Any food caused violent pains. Twitching and nervousness manifested itself, and she could not keep the left side of her limbs still. It was painful to watch her twitching and jumping, first her face, then her arms or legs. Night and day she could not keep her limbs still, and the constant strain made her terribly weak. The St. Vitus Dance became more acute, and affected her all down the left side, and it made our hearts ache to look at her. We did not know what to do, as we had tried several doctors, the hospital, and many medicines without deriving benefit. One day we read of a case similar to Susie's. It was that of a youth at Wolverhampton who had been cured by Dr. Williams Pink Pills. My husband and I decided to try them with our dear daughter. Very soon we were astonished at the improvement which manifested itself. The colour came back to her cheeks. Then the St. Vitus Dance, the evidence of which had been diminishing, disappeared altogether, to our great relief and delight. She is now sixteen years of age, and no one who looks at her now would ever think she had undergone such an illness. She is, through Dr. Williams Pink Pills, in the best of health, as strong and hearty as possible, without any trace of her former disorders.'

The only way to cure Nervous Complaints is to fill the veins with Rich, Pure Blood. It is because Dr. Williams Pink Pills do this that they have cured many forms of Nervous Disorders, Sciatica, Neuralgia, Headaches, Women's Ills, St. Vitus Dance, Paralysis, Anaemia, Indigestion and Rheumatism.

Dr. Williams Pink Pills for Pale People are sold by all dealers, or you can obtain them direct from the Dr. Williams Medicine Company, 46, Holborn Viaduct, London, post free, one box 2s 9d, or six boxes for 13s 9d."

1911 Census

24, Temple Street

- [1] Edward Roberts (35), bucket maker, holloware works, born Bilston;
- [2] Mary Roberts (33), wife, married 14 years, born Bilston;
- [3] Richard Roberts (13), son, school, born Bilston;
- [4] Harry Roberts (8), son, school, born Bilston;
- [5] Elizabeth Roberts (6), daughter, school, born Bilston;
- [6] Ernest Roberts (4), son, born Bilston;
- [7] Edward Roberts (2), son, born Bilston;
- [8] Lenard Roberts (1), son, born Bilston;
- [9] James Casey (30), visitor, private, RG Artillery, born Bilston;
- [10] Winifred Dean (20), visitor, born Moxley;

Edward Roberts, beer retailer, 24, Temple Street. [1912]

1921 Census

24, Temple Street – WHITE ROSE

- [1] Edward Roberts (45), beerhouse keeper, born Bilston;
- [2] Mary Roberts (43), wife, home duties, born Bilston;
- [3] Richard Roberts (24), son, builder's labourer, born Bilston;
- [4] Henry Roberts (18), son, welder, born Bilston;
- [5] Elizabeth Roberts (16), daughter, home duties, born Bilston;
- [6] Ernest Roberts (14), son, pattern making apprentice, brass foundry, born Bilston;
- [7] Edward Roberts (12), son, school, born Bilston;
- [8] William Roberts (7), son, school, born Bilston;
- [9] Mary Roberts (3), daughter, born Bilston:

1925 Probate

"Mary Roberts of 24 Temple Street, Bilston, Staffordshire (wife of *Edward Roberts*) died 14 November 1925. Administration Lichfield 9 December to the said *Edward Roberts*, labourer. Effects £96 4s 7d."

Dudley Chronicle 7/10/1926

"At a Transfer Sessions at the Bilston Police Court on Friday.....

Mr. A. W. Higgs made an application with respect to the WHITE ROSE, Temple Street, which really meant a reconstruction. The architect explained that there would be a decrease in the drinking area of 113 square feet, and there would be better supervision. The application was granted on condition that various points made by Superintendent Higgs were carried out."

1939 Register

24, Temple Street – WHITE ROSE

- [1] Edward Roberts, date of birth 5/12/1875, manager public house, married;
- [2] Alice Roberts, dob 14/1/1874, unpaid domestic duties, married:

Harry Willoughby was married to Lizzie.

It was demolished in 1968, after the new building had been opened on an adjacent site.

Express and Star 7/2/1995

"A Wolverhampton landlord fled with more than £2,000 of his pub's takings after he caught his wife and a customer in a compromising embrace, a court heard today. *John Timmins* disappeared to Blackpool and when he returned he started a blaze at the customer's home, causing £8,000 worth of damage. *Timmins*, who ran the WHITE ROSE public house in Bilston, admitted theft and arson being reckless whether life was endangered at Stafford crown court yesterday.

Mr. Tim Newman, prosecuting, said *Timmins* had found his wife *Mary* and Derek Brittan – a customer who befriended them – together at the pub in Temple Street. *Timmins*, aged 26, left with £2,118 from the pub and went to Blackpool. He claimed the cash was then stolen from his hotel room. Mr. Newman said *Timmins* had later returned, smashed a window at Mr. Brittan's home in Dover Street, Bilston, and started a fire. Neighbours in other flats raised the alarm when they noticed smoke pouring through their floorboards.

The case against *Timmins*, now of Broad Street, was adjourned for reports. He was granted bail."

Sandwell Evening Mail 26/7/1995

“A Black Country pub landlady who told police she had been mugged in order to cover up thefts from the till by her barman husband, was ordered to do 80 hours community service. *Mary Timmins* maintained she had been robbed of weekend takings of £1,475 at the WHITE ROSE pub in Bilston as she made her way to the bank. But the mugging was bogus, Mr. Bernard Linnemann, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court. He said the offence came to light when a new landlord at the pub found documents which had been reported stolen in the robbery in the cellar. *Timmins* told police the problems were caused by her husband who had suggested the false robbery, said Mr. Linnemann.

Timmins, of High Street, Bilston, admitted perverting the course of justice and stealing money belonging to Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries.

Recorder Peter Rhodes told the 37-year-old, ‘I am quite satisfied the prime mover in this case was your husband and that you were very much under his influence.’ Mr. Linnemann said her husband John was serving a custodial sentence for theft.”

Black Country Bugle (September 1996)

Pub of the Month. WHITE ROSE, Temple Street, Bilston

“.....Today, Temple Street can boast of just one public house to serve the local community, the WHITE ROSE. Yet, in 1900, there were six drinking establishments here, and in 1850 there were nine – not bad for a street just a couple of hundred yards in length!

The WHITE ROSE was included in the redevelopment plans of the 1960s. The old pub (which stood just to the side of the present-day WHITE ROSE) was pulled down 28 years ago, when the new pub opened its doors for the first time.

For the past eighteen months, *Keith* and *Jean Thomas* have been at the helm of this popular Banks’s house, bringing with them many years of pub-keeping experience. Their pub is today a worthy successor to those earlier Temple Street watering-holes – and provides a true focal point for the local community, where a good pint of beer, a friendly welcome, and a full programme of pub activities are the vital ingredients of their success. The bustling WHITE ROSE has entertainment in the lounge seven nights a week, plus a full array of pub games – darts, dominoes, crib and pool – in the bar. *Keith* and *Jean* even find the time to give support and backing to a Saturday football team.

It’s a hectic schedule alright, but one that the *Thomases* thrive on after so long in the trade. Running pubs is second nature to them – and thirty years ago, *Keith*, then nineteen, became the youngest steward in the country, when he was appointed to that position at South Staffs Golf Club, Tettenhall. But he was only following a well-trodden family path, for his parents were themselves licensees, at the old TOWN HALL, Wolverhampton, and the FOUR ASHES, Stafford Road. ‘Since then, I’ve kept many pubs of my own,’ said versatile *Keith*, who is a qualified chef and has also picked up numerous pub management and cellar awards along the way. Long-time WHITE ROSE customers reckon that they’ve never had a bad pint since *Keith* and *Jean* took over the pub lease, and bar snacks and superb value Sunday lunches have also added to the pub’s local appeal.....”

Two teams from here took part in the Bilston and Bradley Friday Night Darts League. [1996]

London Gazette 2/3/1998

“*Keith Frank Thomas* carrying on business as the ANGEL Public House, Wednesfield, WHITE ROSE Public House, Temple Street, Bilston, BIRD IN HAND, Hill Street, Bradley, SHEPHERDS COTTAGE, Princes End, Tipton, HORSELEY TAVERN, Dudley Port, COTTAGE SPRING, Alexandra Road, Tipton Date of Filing Petition, 26th January 1998.....”

Tracy Slater’s partner was Simon Lawrence.

Tracy Slater – see also OLD CHAINYARD, Coseley, Sedgley.

Express and Star 9/8/1999 - Advert

“Single trading area community operation. Bar and games area. Car Park. Purely wet led and games oriented. 3 bedroom private accommodation. Last 12 months wet trade 125 barrels. Tenancy. Approximate ingoings from £3,000 (purchase plan available for fixtures and fittings).”

It was closed for a minimum of 14 days on 12th April 2001 when mice were found there.

Express & Star 12/6/2008

“A pub in Bilston faces being bulldozed and replaced with houses under new plans revealed today which could see yet another Black Country bar confined to history. Proposals have been submitted to Wolverhampton City Council to demolish the WHITE ROSE in Temple Street and build six houses. If the development is approved, it will become the latest in a long line of once-popular pubs to bite the dust across the city following a downturn in trade. Bilston councillor Bert Turner said today, ‘There are so many pubs closing at the moment – it is tragic that yet another one looks as though it is going to be bulldozed. Lots of pubs like this have lots of land and it seems as though it is easier to get rid of them and build houses. It is another nail in the coffin for the community pub.’”

Express & Star 21/10/2008

“A 46-year-old publican who let customers smoke in his Black Country pub has become the first in Wolverhampton to be prosecuted since the smoking ban came into force. *Dial Singh*, of the WHITE ROSE, Temple Street, Bilston, was told to pay £1,745 after the court heard environmental health officers saw two people smoking in the pub as a member of staff was a few feet away in February – seven months after the nationwide ban came into effect. Customers tried to hide ashtrays under tables as the officers were there. At Wolverhampton Magistrates Court yesterday, *Singh*, of Bhylls Lane, Merry Hill, Wolverhampton, was fined £650 in his absence. He was also given £1,080 costs and a £15 victim surcharge. Magistrates found him guilty of failing to prevent smoking in a smoke-free premises.

Councillor Barry Findlay, Wolverhampton Council cabinet member for the environment, said, ‘Environmental Services officers worked closely with all businesses in Wolverhampton prior to the introduction of the Health Act and it is our duty to ensure it is being complied with. The act is viewed as the most important piece of public health legislation for a significant number of years and is aimed at reducing the effects of passive smoke in premises by preventing people from smoking inside enclosed or substantially enclosed premises. This case is another example of how we are committed to our duty to ensure the act is being implemented and doing all we can to protect public health.’

Council spokesman Tim Clark said officers told Mr. *Singh* about people smoking on the premises. The pub is shut and faces demolition under plans to build five homes on the site. *Dial Singh* today told the *Express & Star* he had been in India for a ‘family emergency’ and was not aware of the court’s verdict.”

Express & Star 23/10/2008

“A Staffordshire publican has lodged an appeal against a fine for allowing the smoking ban to be breached at another of his pubs. *Dial Singh*, who runs The Moon Under The Water in Huntington Terrace Road, Cannock, claims that his good name has been ‘besmirched.’ He also owns the WHITE ROSE in Temple Street, Wolverhampton, and earlier this week he became the first publican in the city to be prosecuted since the smoking ban came into force. The 46-year-old was found guilty by Wolverhampton magistrates on Monday of failing to stop smokers in a public place and ordered to pay almost £2,000. The hearing took place in his absence and Mr. *Singh* said if he had been allowed to explain himself, the prosecution would not have stood. He insists the pub was not trading at the time environmental health officers visited and found drinkers lighting up and ashtrays on the tables.

Officials from the council dropped by the pub for a routine visit on February 1 this year, seven months after the nationwide ban came into effect, and two months, Mr. *Singh* claims, after he closed it down because of poor business. He said he returned from India following a family bereavement on Monday night to find he had been prosecuted in his absence despite asking the court for a postponement. ‘I am very angry that the case has gone ahead even though I went to the court on October 8 to tell them I was attending a family funeral,’ he said. ‘I brought in my air ticket as requested as proof that I was travelling on October 10. I have now seen my solicitor and we have lodged an appeal. I have not traded at the WHITE ROSE since December 15. The pub has been closed and I have had four lads living there for security purposes so the building doesn’t get damaged. They were smoking in there when the inspectors walked in but they weren’t selling alcohol, it was a private gathering. The inspectors are talking absolute rubbish.’

The publican, who lives in Bhylls Lane, Merry Hill, Wolverhampton, also runs the HOP POLE in Oxley Moor, Wolverhampton, and the RED COW in Coseley. He said, 'I have a good name in the business and I feel it has been besmirched. I would never break the no smoking ban, and I don't in my other pubs. I tried to surrender the WHITE ROSE licence after I ceased trading there but I was told it would have to run for the full 12 months whether I was open or not.'

The court heard that officers identified two people openly smoking in the bar during a visit to the February visit. Mr. Singh was interviewed and little evidence was provided to show what measures or instructions had been provided to prevent people smoking within the premises. The pub was boarded up by the council last month."

It closed in 2008. [2009]

Demolished [2011]

Housing was built on the site.

Mine hosts Keith & Jean Thomas welcome
customers old and new to the

White Rose

Temple Street, Bilston (01902) 688517

ENTERTAINMENT SEVEN

Sunday Roast

Why not try our
superb value
Sunday lunch.
2 courses for £3
(children £2) - in the
comfort of our lounge

Also enjoy our fine Banks's ales - and
Darts, Crib, Dominoes and Pool in the bar

**NIGHTS
A WEEK**
(8 TILL LATE)

- Live acts -
Friday & Sunday
- Karaoke with
Paul & Shaz
Wednesday &
Saturday
- Disco (customers'
own selections)
Mon, Tues, Thurs

1996

Her Trembling Body.

**St. Vitus' Dance completely cured in
the case of a Bilston girl
by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills.**

A representative of the "Birmingham Echo" recently paid a visit to 24, Temple-street, Bilston, and interviewed Mr. and Mrs. Fellows, who keep the White Rose Inn, and who have been well-known and highly respected residents of the district for close upon thirty years. He then gathered details of the remarkable cure of their daughter Susannah, of St. Vitus' Dance, by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People, after she had been attending hospital for eighteen months.

"When my daughter was about fourteen years of age," Mrs. Fellows remarked to the newspaper representative, "she used to complain of pains in the stomach after eating. Doctors' medicine seemed to have no good effect, for under treatment she got worse. She developed gastric ulcer of the stomach, and was cured at the hospital.

PAINFUL TO WATCH HER.

"She had only been home a little while when all the old symptoms manifested themselves, and she became a victim to St. Vitus' Dance. Again I took her to the hospital, and for eighteen months she attended once a week. But during this time she lapsed into a dreadful state. Any food caused violent pains. Twitching and nervousness manifested itself, and she could not keep the left side of her limbs still. It was painful to watch her twitching and jumping, first her face, then her arms or legs. Night and day she could not keep her limbs still, and the constant strain made her terribly weak.



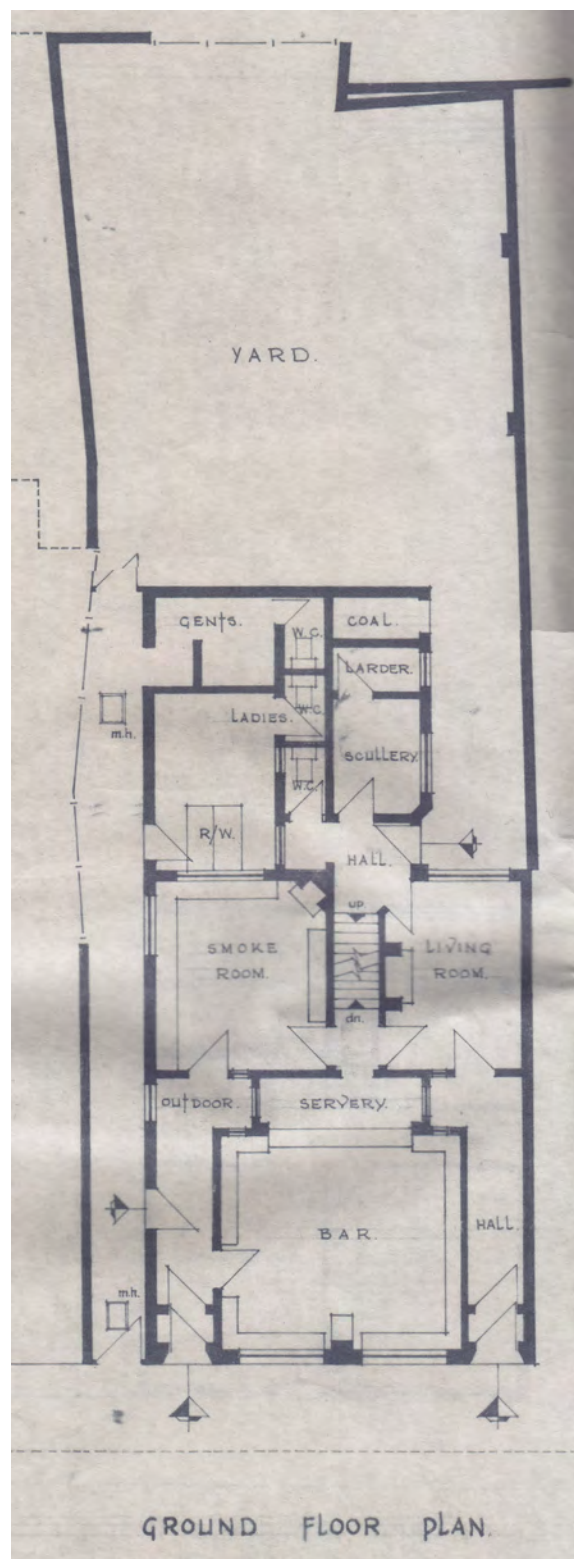
MISS SUSANNAH FELLOWS,
Cured of St. Vitus' Dance
by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills.

"The St. Vitus' Dance became more acute, and affected her all down the left side, and it made our hearts ache to look at her. We did not know what to do, as we had tried several doctors, the hospital, and many medicines without deriving benefit. One day we read of a case similar to Susie's. It was that of a youth at Wolverhampton, who had been cured by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. My husband and I decided to try them with our dear daughter.

ASTONISHMENT AND JOY.

"Very soon we were astonished at the improvement which manifested itself. The colour came back to her cheeks. Then the St. Vitus' Dance, the evidence of which had been diminishing, disappeared altogether, to our great relief and delight. She is now sixteen years of age, and no one who looks at her now would ever think she had undergone such an illness. She is, through Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, in the best of health, as strong and hearty as possible, without any trace of her former disorders."

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Plan 1969

WHY NOT

High Street, Hallfields, Bradley, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

George Hill [1869]

NOTES

[This pub was strictly in Sedgley, but is included here due to it being situated at Bradley.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/7/1869 - Advert

“Sale of Freehold Land and Dwelling Houses, in High Street and King Street, Hallfields, in the Parish of Sedgley, and Township of Bilston.

Mr. Jabez Morrell will offer for Sale by Auction, This Day (Tuesday), the 6th of July, at the PRINCE OF WALES HOTEL, Salop Street, Hallfields, at Seven o'clock pm.....

Lot 1. All that valuable Freehold Building Land, situate in High Street, Hallfields, in the parish of Sedgley, and having a frontage unto the said street, inclusive of the Right of Road hereinafter mentioned, of 12 yards or thereabouts, be the same more or less. This Land is in the occupation of Mr. *George Hill*, and is bounded on the left by Property belonging to and in the occupation of Mr. Barnet Machin, Butcher, and is bounded on the right by Lot 2.

NB. This Land is sold subject to the Right of Road now existing of five feet wide, and running parallel for 25 yards with this and the next lot, for the joint use of this and the occupiers and proprietors of the next lot for ever.

Lot 2. All those Three excellent Messuages and Dwelling Houses, adjoining the first lot, and comprising the WHY NOT INN, in the occupation of the said *George Hill*, and also Two Messuages, with the Appurtenances, in the respective occupations of Thomas Burrass and Joseph Hodgson, and producing an annual and gross estimated rental of £39 10s. This lot has a fronting to High Street of 12½ yards, with a depth of 32 yards, and comprises 410 square yards of Land, or thereabouts.

The whole of these Premises are most substantially and recently erected and well tenanted, and have most excellent Out-houses, with three soft-water Cisterns and two hard-water Cisterns, together with the Right of Road five yards wide, running parallel with this and the first lot for 25 yards, for the joint use of this and the occupiers and proprietors of the first lot for ever.

NB. The Mines and Minerals under the above lots will be Sold with the Land.”

SALE OF FREEHOLD LAND
AND DWELLING HOUSES,
IN HIGH STREET AND KING STREET, HALLFIELDS,
In the Parish of Sedgley, and Township of Bilston.
MR. JABEZ MORRELL will offer for SALE
by AUCTION, THIS DAY (TUESDAY), the 6th of July,
at the Prince of Wales Hotel, Salop Street, Hallfields, at Seven
o'clock p.m., subject to conditions to be then read—the following
Properties:—
Lot 1.—All that valuable FREEHOLD BUILDING LAND,
situate in High Street, Hallfields, in the parish of Sedgley, and
having a frontage unto the said street, inclusive of the Right of
Road hereinafter mentioned, of 12 yards, with a depth of 32 yards,
and containing in the whole 384 square yards or thereabouts, be the
same more or less. This Land is in the occupation of Mr. George
Hill, and is bounded on the left by Property belonging to and in
the occupation of Mr. Barnet Machin, Butcher, and is bounded on
the right by Lot 2.
N.B.—This Land is sold subject to the Right of Road now existing
of five feet wide, and running parallel for 25 yards with this and the
next lot, for the joint use of this and the occupiers and proprietors
of the next lot for ever.
Lot 2.—All those Three excellent MESSUAGES and DWELL-
ING HOUSES, adjoining the first lot, and comprising the “Why
Not Inn,” in the occupation of the said George Hill, and also Two
MESSUAGES, with the Appurtenances, in the respective occupa-
tions of Thomas Burrass and Joseph Hodgson, and producing an
annual and gross estimated rent of £39. 10s. This lot has a fronting
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gether with the Right of Road five yards wide, running parallel with
this and the first lot for 25 yards, for the joint use of this and the
occupiers and proprietors of the first lot for ever.
N.B.—The Mines and Minerals under the above lots will be Sold
with the Land.

WILLIAM BUTLER

34, John Street, (Priestfield), Ettingshall, BILSTON

OWNERS

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1987]
Keith Davies (acquired in 1992)
Avebury Taverns Ltd. (acquired in 1999)

LICENSEES

L Hale [1988] – [1989]
Keith Davies [1992] – **1994**;
Daphne Davies (**1994** – []



2005

NOTES

It opened in 1966.

Black Country Bugle (August 1994)

Pub of the Month. WILLIAM BUTLER, John Street, Ettingshall.

“.....The New Village district of Ettingshall remained more or less intact until the early 1960s, when plans to demolish and replace all the old houses and small businesses were carried through, and a ‘new’ New Village was born. At the heart of this redevelopment was the WILLIAM BUTLER pub (opened in 1966) and, remarkably, despite all the cosmetic changes hereabout, much of the old neighbourly togetherness survived, with many of the old families of John Street, Frost Street, and environs being rehoused close to their former homes. Hence, the WILLIAM BUTLER quickly acquired the importance of a community-based pub, at the heart of most of the social activities in the ‘village’ and undoubtedly this is still the case today.

Today’s licensee is John Street born *Keith Davies*, who bought the freehold of the WILLIAM BUTLER two years ago, with his wife Joyce. Since then they have worked hard to provide Ettingshall fold with a friendly, well-run and thriving ‘local’ which lives up to its description in every sense of the word. *Keith* explained, ‘I was born almost opposite to where the pub stands, in 1953. I attended the local school and chapel, and knew the area before it was redeveloped, so I’m a John Street lad through and through, and have known most of my customers all my life.’ It’s not surprising then that *Keith* and Joyce (a Tipton wench by birth) have a great rapport with their regulars, and were immediately accepted into the New Village fraternity when they took over at the pub, after a spell at the BULLS HEAD, on nearby Catchems Corner. ‘We were happy to stake our future in this pub when we learnt that the freehold was available,’ said *Keith*, ‘and since moving in we have exclusively stocked Banks’s beers, which are the most popular in this area.’

Since *Keith* and Joyce moved here, pub games have featured very strongly. The lads in the bar put out darts teams in local leagues, on Sunday lunchtimes and Wednesday and Friday evenings. The women of the pub (Joyce included) are not to be outdone, for they also field a team in the Bilston and Bradley Ladies Darts League, on Tuesday nights. Meanwhile, dominoes night is on a Monday, and pool on a Thursday (with ‘gaffer’ *Keith* figuring in both these teams, and also chairing the Bilston Pool League).

Apart from the lively bar, the pub has a children’s room and a comfortable and spacious lounge, which is available for functions. A recent addition to the WILLIAM BUTLER facilities is an attractive rear patio/garden area, complete with barbecue. This is a really colourful asset, especially with all the lovely weather of the past couple of months, and is enhanced by twelve hanging-baskets and an attractive border.....”

Keith Davies was a lay preacher at George Street Methodist Church.
He died in December 1994.
See also BULLS HEAD, Millfields Road.

It closed in 2007.

Demolished.

An apartment block was built on the site. [2009]

Keith & Joyce Davies welcome you to

THE WILLIAM BUTLER

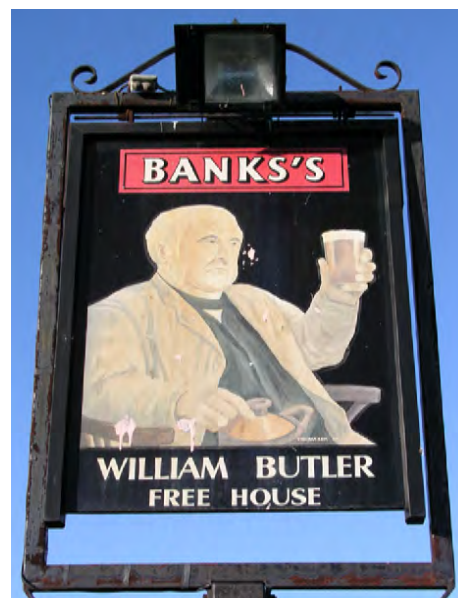
(BANKS'S FREEHOUSE)
John Street, Ettingshall, Wolverhampton
Tel: (0902) 492756

- Mens and Ladies Darts
- Dominoes
- Pool
- Traditional bar and lounge with piano
- Children's Room
- Full range of Banks's Beers
- Sporting Atmosphere
- Ample Car Parking
- Function Room for hire



VISIT OUR BEER GARDEN PATIO
★ ★ ★
WEEKEND BARBECUES
(weather permitting)

1994



BEERHOUSES

A number of beerhouses were never given a name.
Only those that I am sure had 'on' licenses are included.

Beerhouse - Unnamed

23, Bridge Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Sarah Smallman, widow, Darlaston

LICENSEES

Thomas Legg [1871] – [1873]

NOTES

1871 Census

23, Bridge Street

[1] *Thomas Legg* (42), provision dealer employing 1 assistant, born Bilston;

[2] *Lucy Legg* (41), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Ann Legg* (17), daughter, assistant in shop, born Bilston;

[4] *Lucy Legg* (13), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[5] *John Thomas Legg* (6), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[6] *George Henry Legg* (1), son, born Bilston:

Lucy Legg – see THREE HORSESHOES.

The license was taken away by the Justices.

Beerhouse - Unnamed

Cemetery Row, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Lloyd [1873]

NOTES

The license was abandoned.

Beerhouse - Unnamed

54, Church Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

Samuel Sellman, timber merchant, Penn

LICENSEES

Robert Neast [1871] – [1875]

NOTES

It had a six day, on license.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 7/1/1871 - Deaths

“On the 31st ult, after many years painful illness, Mary, the beloved wife of Mr. *Robert Neast*, baker and confectioner, Bilston; deeply regretted.”

1871 Census

54, Church Street

[1] *Robert Neast* (52), widower, baker and confectioner, 3 assistants, born Chawky, Warwickshire;

[2] *Enoch R. Neast* (27), son, baker's assistant, born Stourbridge;

[3] *Naomi Neast* (28), daughter, baker's assistant, born Stourbridge;

[4] *Prudence Hickin* (30), daughter-in-law, married, born Stourbridge;

[5] *Thomas Pid* (22), confectioner's assistant, born Worcester;

[6] *Thirsa Bayley* (18), domestic servant, born Brownhills:

London Gazette 19/3/1875

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

In the Matter of Proceedings for Liquidation by Arrangement or Composition with Creditors, instituted by *Robert Neast*, of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Grocer, Baker, Confectioner, and Dealer in Wine.

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 Bowen, Solicitor, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, on the 3rd day of April, 1875, at three o'clock in the afternoon precisely.

Dated this 15th day of March, 1875.

Wm. Bowen, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, Attorney for the said *Robert Neast*.”

The license was abandoned.

Beerhouse – Unnamed

Ettingshall Row, BILSTON

OWNERS

Samuel Ingram, contractor, Wolverhampton

LICENSEES

John Vickers [1873]

NOTES

It had an on license.

The license was abandoned.

Beerhouse – Unnamed

Frost Street, New Village, BILSTON

OWNERS

James Yates Rotherick, out of business, Wolverhampton

LICENSEES

Robert Booth [1873] – [1876]

NOTES

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 26/8/1876

“Bilston Annual Licensing Sessions.....

Robert Booth, of Frost Street, New Village, Bilston, applied personally for a license to retail sweet wines. The character of the applicant was all that could be desired, and there was no opposition. Granted.”

The license was abandoned.

Beerhouse - Unnamed

31, (15), High Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

William Mattocks
Thomas Yardley Mattocks
Joseph Harding, grocer, Bilston
John Fisher

LICENSEES

William Mattocks [1871] – **1876**);
Thomas Yardley Mattocks (**1876 – 1884**);
James Harding (**1884 – 1885**);
Samuel Boutcher Callear (**1885 – 1892**);
John Fisher (**1892 – [1903]**)

NOTES

15, High Street [1871], [1881], [1891]
31, High Street [1901]

William Mattocks, confectioner and British wine merchant, 15, High Street. [1870]

1871 Census

15, High Street
[1] *William Mattocks* (60), widower, confectionery and sweets employing 2 men, born Bushbury, deaf one ear;
[2] *Thomas Y. Mattocks* (26), son, shopman, born Bilston;
[3] *June Clark* (44), housekeeper, born Middlesex;
[4] *Edward J. Richards* (32), servant, journeyman, born Birmingham:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 12/8/1876

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

The refreshment house license of *William Mattocks*, High Street, Bilston, to *Thomas Y. Mattocks*.”

1881 Census

15, High Street
[1] *Thomas Y. Mattocks* (33), confectioner, born Bilston;
[2] *Emma Gutteridge* (49), housekeeper, born Bilston:

1891 Census

15, High Street
[1] *Samuel B. Callear* (36), baker and confectioner, born Bilston;
[2] *Caroline Callear* (36), wife, born Limehouse, London;
[3] *Emily Callear* (8), daughter, born Bilston;
[4] *Percy Callear* (7), son, born Bilston;
[5] *Mary Callear* (5), daughter, born Bilston;
[6] *Annie Callear* (2), daughter, born Bilston;
[7] *Dorothy Callear* (3 months), daughter, born Bilston;
[8] *Mary Ann Owen* (18), domestic servant, born Coseley:

1901 Census

31, High Street

- [1] *John T. Fisher* (36), baker, shopkeeper, born Willenhall;
- [2] *Mary Fisher* (35), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *John Fisher* (8), son, born Bilston;
- [4] *Elizabeth Hooper* (56), mother-in-law, born Bilston;
- [5] *Fred Cooke* (18), boarder, journeyman baker, born Wolverhampton;
- [6] *Walter Rolands* (22), boarder, journeyman baker, born Wolverhampton:

License not applied for.

Premises closed for sale of wine on 10th February 1911.

Beerhouse - Unnamed

64, (78), John Street, New Village, Ettingshall, BILSTON

OWNERS

William Butler and Co. Ltd.

LICENSEES

John Parkes [1868] – **1877**);
Charles Tomms Hollington (**1877 – 1895**);
William Pritchard (**1895 – 1898**);
Mary Elizabeth Pritchard (**1898 – []**)
Edward Fellows [1901] – [1914]
Annie Elizabeth Field (**1915 – 1917**);
Esther Woolley (**1917 – 1930**);
Richard Enoch Woolley (**1930**);
Albert Bushell Godfrey (**1930 – [1939]**)

NOTES

78, John Street [1871], [1881], [1891]
64, John Street [1901], [1904], [1921], [1939]

It had an on beerhouse license.

John Parkes, beer retailer, 78, John Street, New Village. [1868], [1870]

1871 Census

78, John Street, New Village

- [1] *John Parkes* (47), widower, grocer, no assistant, born Willenhall;
- [2] *George Parkes* (41), brother, commercial traveller, born Willenhall;
- [3] *Mary Parkes* (45), sister, housekeeper, born Willenhall;
- [4] *Elizabeth Lawrence* (17), general servant, born Darlaston:

1881 Census

78, John Street

- [1] *Charles T. Hollington* (32), grocer &c, born Kinver;
- [2] *Julia F. Hollington* (33), wife, born Broadwater, Worcestershire;
- [3] *Francis S. Hollington* (6), son, born Bilston;
- [4] *Herbert Hollington* (4), son, born Bilston;
- [5] *Eliza Hollington* (2½), daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] *Sarah Watkis* (15), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Evening Express and Star 19/6/1885

“*Charles T. Hollington*, beerhouse keeper, John Street, Ettingshall, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises, and *William Millington*, ironworker, John Street, and his wife, *Emma Millington*; *Samuel Thomas*, labourer, Catcham; and *John Hough*, engineer, Moxley, were charged with being drunk on the same premises.

On the evening of the 10th inst Police-constable *Snow* visited *Hollington*’s house and found the four persons named drunk in the kitchen. *Emma Millington* was in a very helpless state, and lying in the arms of the defendant *Thomas*. *Hollington* was fined 20s and costs, without his license being endorsed, and the others were fined 2s 6d each.”

1891 Census

78, John Street

- [1] *Charles T. Hollington* (41), grocer and provision dealer, born Kinver;
- [2] *Julia F. Hollington* (44), wife, born Kidderminster;
- [3] *Francis S. Hollington* (16), son, grocer’s assistant, born Priestfield;
- [4] *Charles H. Hollington* (14), son, born Priestfield;
- [5] *Elsie Hollington* (11), daughter, born Priestfield;
- [6] *Harry Hollington* (10), son, born Priestfield;
- [7] *Edith Hollington* (7), daughter, born Priestfield:

1901 Census

64, John Street

- [1] *Edward Fellows* (28), tavern keeper and drayman, born Tipton;
- [2] *Annie Fellows* (23), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] *Sarah Page* (61), mother, widow, born Dudley:

Edward Fellows was also a shopkeeper. [1904]

1911 Census

64, John Street

- [1] *Edward Fellows* (38), drayman, born Princes End;
- [2] *Annie Fellows* (33), wife, married 10 years, born Tipton;
- [3] *Edward T. Fellows* (9), son, born Ettingshall;
- [4] *Harold Fellows* (8), son, born Ettingshall;
- [5] *Sydney Fellows* (5), son, born Ettingshall;
- [6] *Percy Fellows* (3), son, born Ettingshall;
- [7] *Doris Fellows* (2), daughter, born Ettingshall;
- [8] *Leonard Fellows* (4 months), son, born Ettingshall;
- [9] *Sarah Page* (71), mother, widow, born Dudley:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/12/1914

“At Bilston Police Court yesterday *Edward Fellows*, licensee of the SHOP beerhouse, Ettingshall, was summoned for permitting drunkenness and selling intoxicants to a drunken person.

The evidence of Superintendent *Rowbotham* and another officer showed that at 10.45 on 21 November a man named *Legge* was found in the house in a drunken state, defendant’s excuse being, ‘You cannot always weigh them up on a Saturday night.’

Mr. *Turton*, who defended, contended that *Legge* had not been noticed by the landlord until the police called in.

The Stipendiary said there was no doubt *Legge* was drunk, but he did not think he had been on the premises long enough for *Fellows* to have seen his condition, therefore the case would be dismissed.”

Annie Elizabeth Field was fined £5 and costs, on 25th May 1917, for permitting drunkenness.

1921 Census

64, John Street

- [1] *Esther Woolley* (68), widow, beer license holder, born Bilston;
- [2] *Richard Woolley* (47), son, weigh clerk, blast furnaces, born Bilston;
- [3] *Alice Watts* (24), domestic servant, born Bilston:

1929 Probate

“*Esther Woolley* of 64 John Street, Ettingshall, Wolverhampton, widow, died 11 October 1929. Administration Birmingham 7 December to *Richard Enoch Woolley*, weigh clerk. Effects £127 9s 5d.”

1939 Register

64, John Street

- [1] *Albert B. Godfrey*, date of birth 25/10/1876, licensee, beerhouse, married;
- [2] *Sarah J. Godfrey*, dob 12/6/1877, unpaid domestic duties, married:

Beerhouse - Unnamed

Lichfield Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Richard Harris Bray [1866]

NOTES

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/1/1866

“On Friday, at Bilston Police Court.....

The following persons were summoned before the Bench and fined for offences against their licenses.....

Richard Harris Bray, who keeps a beerhouse in Lichfield Street, was fined 5s and costs, for permitting disorderly conduct in his house.”

Beerhouse - Unnamed

45, Oxford Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

William Hart

LICENSEES

William R Hart [1862] – **1873**);
Sebastian Eaton (**1873 – 1876**);
Thomas Lane (**1876 – 1877**);
William Hart (**1877 – []**)

NOTES

It had an on beerhouse license.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 13/5/1863

“*William Hart*, beerhouse keeper and provision dealer, Oxford Street, was yesterday summoned before the magistrates for keeping open during prohibited hours. At twenty minutes after eleven o’clock, on Saturday night, Police-constable Vaughan observed three persons leaving the house with drink.

Mr. Superintendent M’Crea spoke favourably of the defendant, who was let off with payment of the expenses.”

William Hart, grocer and provision dealer, and beer retailer, 45, Oxford Street. [1865]

1871 Census

45, Oxford Street

- [1] *William R. Hart* (54), grocer, baker and publican employing 2 men, born Rutland;
- [2] Sarah Hart (50), wife, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] Lizzie Hart (23), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] Mary A. Hart (14), daughter, scholar born Bilston;
- [5] Mary J. Kilby (19), visitor, born Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire;
- [6] Eleanor Searson (13), visitor, scholar, born Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire;
- [7] Fanny Jones (20), general servant, born Bilston:

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/5/1873

“Sebastian Eaton, baker, of Oxford Street, for using six deficient weights in her shop, was fined 20s and costs. The case was proved by Mr. Holder, inspector of weights and measures for the county.”

The license was abandoned.

Beerhouse - Unnamed

48, Oxford Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Grealy [1861]

NOTES

1861 Census

48, Oxford Street

[1] *John Grealy* (53), publican, born Mayo, Ireland;

[2] *Susannah Grealy* (53), wife, born Mayo, Ireland;

[3] *Patrick Grealy* (30), son, coal miner, born Mayo, Ireland;

[4] *Michael Grealy* (28), son, coal miner, born Mayo, Ireland;

[5] *Margaret Grealy* (18), daughter, dressmaker, born Mayo, Ireland;

[6] *Ellen Grealy* (16), daughter, born Mayo, Ireland:

Beerhouse - Unnamed

103, (46), Oxford Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

David Riley, farmer, Essington
Charlotte Riley, Bloxwich

LICENSEES

William Hanson Deakin [1873] – **1882**);
James Woolridge (**1882 – 1911**):

NOTES

46, Oxford Street [1871], [1882], [1891]
103, Oxford Street [1901]

It had an on license.

1871 Census

46, Oxford Street

- [1] William Deakin (28), confectioner employing 1 boy, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] Ann Deakin (30), wife, born Birmingham;
- [3] William Deakin (3), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] Samuel Chilton (15), confectioner's apprentice confectioner, born Bilston;
- [5] Jane Butler (16), general servant, born Bilston:

Darlaston Weekly Times 16/12/1882 - Advert

"46, Oxford Street, Bilston.

James Woolridge, Baker and Confectioner, begs to inform the public that he has taken to the business lately carried on by Mr. *W. H. Deakin*, and that having had a long experience in the trade (being with Mr. Kendrick 14 years), and determined to supply good articles at reasonable prices, hopes for a share of the support given to his predecessor.

J. W. is prepared to supply Home Baked, Fancy, and Other Breads, Biscuits, British Wines, Jams, Jellies, and every article in the trade at reasonable prices.

Tea Parties and Schools Supplied with Cake."

46, OXFORD STREET, BILSTON.

JAMES WOOLRIDGE,

BAKER AND CONFECTIONER,

Begs to inform the public that he has taken to the business lately carried on by Mr W. H. Deakin, and that having had a long experience in the trade (being with Mr Kendrick 14 years), and determined to supply good articles at reasonable prices, hopes for a share of the support given to his predecessor.

J.W. is prepared to supply

HOME BAKED, FANCY, & OTHER BREADS,
BISCUITS, BRITISH WINES, JAMS,
JELLIES,

And every article in the trade at reasonable prices.

TEA PARTIES AND SCHOOLS SUPPLIED
WITH CAKE,

1891 Census

46, Oxford Street

- [1] *James Woolridge* (49), baker, born Worcester;
- [2] *Elizabeth Woolridge* (51), wife, born Llandidloes, Montgomeryshire;
- [3] *Elizabeth Woolridge* (18), daughter, draper's assistant, born Bilston;
- [4] *Annie Woolridge* (16), daughter, assists father, born Bilston;
- [5] *Frederick Woolridge* (14), son, assists father, born Bilston;
- [6] *Charlotte Woolridge* (11), daughter, scholar, born Bilston:

1901 Census

103, Oxford Street

- [1] *James Woolridge* (59), baker's shop keeper, born Worcester;
- [2] *Elizabeth Woolridge* (61), wife, born Llandidloes, Montgomeryshire;
- [3] *Elizabeth Woolridge* (27), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] *Frederick Woolridge* (24), son, confectioner, born Bilston;
- [5] *Charlotte Woolridge* (21), daughter, born Bilston:

License not applied for.

Premises closed on 10th February 1911.

Birmingham Gazette 24/8/1922

"Bilston has lost one of its oldest tradesmen by the death of Mr. *James Woolridge*, aged 80, who was at his business in Oxford Street up to a very recent date."

Beerhouse - Unnamed

Oxford Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

William Barrett, builder, Bilston

LICENSEES

John Unitt [1873]

NOTES

The license was abandoned.

Beerhouse - Unnamed

St. Lukes Street, BILSTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Edward Ratcliffe [1873]

NOTES

The license was abandoned.

THE BILSTON PUBS

ACORN Bridge Street, BILSTON

ACORN 7, (5), (3), Pinfold Street, (High Street), BILSTON

ADMIRAL NELSON Ettingshall Lane, BILSTON

ALE HOUSE ROCK 146, Oxford Street, BILSTON

ANGEL 28, Hall Fold, (28, Hall Street), (22, Pipes Meadow), (Angel Fold), BILSTON

ANGEL 400, Bilston Road, (6, Wolverhampton Road), (Wellington Road), (Gibbett Lane) / Ward Street, Priestfield, (New Village), BILSTON

BALL COURT 1, Stafford Street / Church Street, BILSTON

BALLOON 2, (83), High Street / Pinfold Street, BILSTON

BANKFIELD Bankfield Road, BILSTON

BARLEY MOW 179, (84), Oxford Street, BILSTON

BARLEY MOW 14, Union Street, (Miller Street), (Mill Street (Lane)), BILSTON

BARREL 21, (2), Chell Street, Bradley, (Brierley), (Daisy Bank), BILSTON

BARREL VAULTS 71, (40), Church Street, (High Street), BILSTON

BARREL 4, Mill Street, BILSTON

BARREL 47, (25), Temple Street, BILSTON

BEEHIVE Shambos Lane, Highfields Bridge, Bradley, (Highfields), BILSTON

BELL Wolverhampton Street, (Wolverhampton Road), Shift End, BILSTON

BELL 11, (7), Wood Street, BILSTON

BIG COAL Pinfold Street, BILSTON

BIRD IN HAND 102, (37), High Street / Coseley Road, BILSTON

BIRD IN HAND 42, Hill Street, (44, Hall Street), (Hall Green), (Hallfields), Bradley, BILSTON

BIRD IN HAND 34, (170), Oxford Street, BILSTON

BLACK BOY 15, Coseley Road, (15, (12), Coseley Street), (Coseley Row), BILSTON

BLACK HORSE 43, High Street, BILSTON

BLACK SWAN Swan Bank, BILSTON

BLANKMAKERS ARMS 26, (55), Green Croft, (Green Acres), BILSTON

BLUE BALL BILSTON

BLUE BOAR 209, (98), Oxford Street, (Oxford Road), New Town, BILSTON

BOARD 49, (29), Church Street / Green Croft, BILSTON

BOAT 23, Ettingshall Lane, (7, Ettingshall Road), (Millfields Road), Ettingshall, BILSTON

BOAT Wolverhampton Street, BILSTON

BOATBUILDERS ARMS 167, (79), Oxford Street / Chapel Street, BILSTON

BOROUGH ARMS Bunkers Hill Lane, BILSTON

BRADLEY FIELD HOUSE John Street, (Shropshire Row), (Lower) Bradley, BILSTON

BREWER AND BAKER Bridge Street, BILSTON

BRICKLAYERS ARMS Green Croft, BILSTON

BRICKLAYERS ARMS Wood Street, BILSTON

BRICKMAKERS ARMS Green Croft, BILSTON

BRIDGE 10, Coseley Street, BILSTON

BRIDGE 4, (9), Ettingshall Road, (Ettingshall Lane), Rough Hills, Ettingshall, BILSTON

BRITANNIA 13, Church Street, BILSTON

BRITANNIA 51, (54), (63), Hall Green Street / Wootton Square, Hall Green, (Upper) Bradley, BILSTON

BRITANNIA 137, (64), Oxford Street, BILSTON

BRITANNIA 20, (177), Oxford Street, BILSTON

BRITANNIA 50, Temple Street, BILSTON

BRITANNIA 54, Wolverhampton Street, BILSTON

BRITISH OAK 39, Wesley Street, (Batmans Hill), Bradley, BILSTON

BROWN COW Oxford Street, BILSTON

BROWN JUG 11, (6), Temple Street, BILSTON

BROWN LION 19, (18), Cross Street, Hallfields, Bradley, BILSTON

BROWN LION 165, (78), Oxford Street (Oxford Road) / Chapel Street, New Town, BILSTON

BULL AND MOUTH 41, (20), (23), High Street, BILSTON

BULLS HEAD 28, (70), (54), High Street / Dudley Street, BILSTON

BULLS HEAD 24, John Street / Chell Street, Bradley, (Hall Green), (Daisy Bank), BILSTON

BULLS HEAD 153, (67), (101), (55), Millfields Road, (Parkfield Road), (Mill Street), (Union Street), (Catchems Corner), Ettingshall, BILSTON

BUSH High Street, BILSTON

BUSH Lichfield Street, BILSTON

CAFÉ METRO 46, Church Street, BILSTON

CALIFORNIA 36, Hatton Street, (12, John Street), (Shropshire Row), Bradley, BILSTON

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE 6, (5), Mount Pleasant, BILSTON

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE Wolverhampton Street, BILSTON

CASTLE 76, (77), Church Street / Wood Street, BILSTON

CHURCH 2, Millfields Road (Bell Lane) / Little Church Street, (Union Street), BILSTON

CLUB HOUSE Church Street, BILSTON

COACH AND HORSES Coseley Row, BILSTON

COACH AND HORSES Wood Street, BILSTON

COCK 13, Church Street / Lichfield Street, Swan Bank, BILSTON

COCK 44, (62), (30), Willenhall Road, (30, Cold Lanes), (Coal Lane), Mount Pleasant, BILSTON

COMMERCIAL 56, (61), Ash Street / 8, Arthur Street, Highfields, Bradley, BILSTON

COOPERS ARMS Church Street, BILSTON

COTTAGE SPRING Brook Street, New Town, BILSTON

COTTAGE SPRING 20, (89), Dudley Street, BILSTON

CRICKETERS ARMS 106, (63), Church Street, (High Street), BILSTON

CROSS Oxford Street, New Town, BILSTON

CROSS GUNS 4, Hartshorn Street, BILSTON

CROSS GUNS Shropshire Row, BILSTON

CROSS KEYS Oxford Street, BILSTON

CROSS KEYS (Upper) Temple Street / Brook Street, BILSTON

CROWN 16, (58), Bank Street, (58, Bilston Street), (Hallfields), (Bradley Bridge), Bradley, BILSTON
CROWN Church Street, BILSTON
CROWN 18, Millfields Road, (18, Mill Street), Ettingshall, (Catchem), BILSTON
CROWN Brierley, BILSTON
CROWN AND ANCHOR 129, (60), (59), Oxford Street, BILSTON
CROWN AND ANCHOR Swan Bank, BILSTON
CROWN AND CUSHION 31, (5), Bank Street, (5, Bilston Street) / King Street, Hallfields, Bradley, BILSTON
DOG AND PARTRIDGE 47, (38), (65), (23), Broad Street, (Middlefield Lane), BILSTON
DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE 14, (39), Cambridge Street / Duke Street, BILSTON
DUKE OF WELLINGTON Ettingshall Lane, (Catchems Corner), BILSTON
DUKE OF YORK Wolverhampton Road, (Ettingshall Lane), BILSTON
EAGLE Wolverhampton Street, BILSTON
ELEPHANT AND CASTLE 40, Hill Street, (47, (46), Hall Street), Hallfields, Bradley, BILSTON
ELEPHANT AND CASTLE 122, (127), Oxford Street / Hare Street, BILSTON
ELISABETH ARMS 201, Overfield Drive, BILSTON
FALCON Mount Pleasant, BILSTON
FORESTERS ARMS 12, (6), Walsall Street, BILSTON
FORGE HAMMER Ettingshall Lane, Spring Vale, (Spring Vale Iron Works), Ettingshall, BILSTON
FORGE HAMMER 112, (28), Spring Road, (28, Manor Road), (Ettingshall Road), Ettingshall, (Lanesfield), (Spring Vale), BILSTON
FOUNTAIN 12, Parliament Street, (Pet Street), Green Croft, BILSTON
FOUNTAIN 29, (56), (36), Ward Street, Ettingshall, (Priestfield), BILSTON
FOUR HORSE SHOES Broad Lanes, BILSTON
FOX 4, Ash Street, Bradley, (Daisy Bank), (Brierley), BILSTON
FOX 29+30, Bilston Street, Hallfields, Bradley, BILSTON
FOX 18, Church Street, BILSTON
FREEMASONS ARMS Cold Lanes, BILSTON
GATE 378, Bilston Road, (30, Wolverhampton Road), Priestfield, BILSTON
GEORGE Stafford Street, BILSTON
GEORGE AND CROWN Lane End, BILSTON
GEORGE AND DRAGON 61, Hall Green Street / 6, Wootton(s) Square, Hall Green, (Upper) Bradley, BILSTON
GLADSTONE ARMS 176, Oxford Street, BILSTON
GLOBE 59, (79), Ash Street / Lane Street, (Upper) Bradley, (Daisy Bank), (Highfield), BILSTON
GLOBE TAVERN Market Street, (Hall Street), BILSTON
GLOBE 4, (5), Mount Pleasant, (Willenhall Road), BILSTON
GOLDEN CROSS 74, Oxford Street, BILSTON
GOLDEN CUP 68, (54), (53), High Street (54, Church Street) / Oat Meal Square, BILSTON
GOLDEN FLEECE 5, (3), Fleece Street, (3, Providence Place), (Ward Street), Ettingshall, (Priestfield), (New Village), BILSTON
GOLDEN LAMB 41, High Street, BILSTON
GOLDEN LION 46, Ash Street, (5, Chell Street) / Lord Street West, (Upper) Bradley, (Daisy Bank), (Highfields), (Old Green), BILSTON
GOLDEN LION Church Street, BILSTON
GOOD FELLOWS ARMS Stafford Street, BILSTON
GREAT WESTERN 1, Ash Street / 83, Hall Green Street, (Hall Green), (Hallfields), Daisy Bank, Bradley, BILSTON
GREAT WESTERN 25, Hall Street, (Market Street), BILSTON
GREAT WESTERN 12, Bradley Road, (Cox's Yard), Canalside, Lower Bradley, BILSTON
GREEN DRAGON 7, Cross Street, Bradley, BILSTON
GREEN DRAGON 17, Oatmeal Square, High Street, BILSTON
GREEN MAN 178, Oxford Street, BILSTON
GREYHOUND 1, (13), Cross Street, (Tup Street), Hall Green, (Upper) Bradley, BILSTON
GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL 51, (26), (27), (25), (47½), High Street, BILSTON
HAND AND BOTTLE 46, (40), (117), (114), (113), Wolverhampton Street, Shift End, BILSTON
HAND AND KEYS 28, (121), Wolverhampton Street, BILSTON
HAPPY WANDERER 141, Green Lanes / Marchant Road, Stowlawn Estate, BILSTON
HARP AND SHAMROCK Oxford Street, BILSTON
HEN AND CHICKENS 25, (32), (32+33), George Street / Victoria Street, (Priestfield), (New Village), Ettingshall, BILSTON
HEN AND CHICKENS 16, (60+61), Green Croft, BILSTON
HIMLEY ARMS 16, (91), (136), (96), (52), Dudley Street (North), (Temple Street), BILSTON
HOO ARMS Hoo Lane, Bradley, BILSTON
HOPE AND ANCHOR 12, (60), Bank Street, (60, Bilston Street), Hallfields, Bradley, BILSTON
HOP POLE 72, (63), (68), Dudley Street (South), BILSTON
HOP POLE Hall Street, BILSTON
HOP POLE 2, (20), Market Street, BILSTON
HORSE AND JOCKEY 72, (79), Church Street, BILSTON
IRONMASTER Wesley Street, Bradley, BILSTON
JAPANNERS ARMS 116, (130), (132), Oxford Street, (Green Croft), BILSTON
JOLLY COLLIER Bristol Street, BILSTON
KINGS ARMS 12, Church Street / Lichfield Street, Swan Bank, BILSTON
KINGS HEAD 27, (13), (12), Broad Street, ((Middle) Field Lane), BILSTON
LAMB AND FLAG 89, (16), (Lower) Salop Street, (Shropshire Row), (Salop Row), (16, Highfields Road), (Hallfield Road), Bradley, BILSTON
LAMP TAVERN Lichfield Street, BILSTON
LAND OAK 18, Wesley Street, (Westley Street), Bradley, (Batman Hill), (Brierley), BILSTON
LEOPARD 97, (53), Church Street, (High Street), BILSTON
LION 79, (44), Church Street, (High Street) / Crown Street, BILSTON
LION 1, Coseley Street, BILSTON
LITTLE SWAN 30, (40), Gozzard Street, BILSTON
LORD NELSON 2, (65), Bridge Street (Old Road) / Fraser Street, BILSTON
LORD NELSON Wednesbury Oak, BILSTON
MALT SHOVEL 91, (40), (40+41), Oxford Street, (Oxford Road), New Town, BILSTON
MANCHESTER HOUSE 26+27, Coseley Street, (Coseley Row), BILSTON
MANOR 94, Stowheath Lane, BILSTON
MARKET TAVERN 81, (45), (46), Church Street, BILSTON

MINERS ARMS 2, Stafford Street, BILSTON
MINERS ARMS 1, Thompson Street, BILSTON
MITRE Church Street, (High Street), BILSTON
MOULDERS ARMS Green Croft, BILSTON
MOULDERS ARMS 23, Twenty House Row, (Lower) Bradley, BILSTON
MOUNT PLEASANT Wolverhampton Street / Union Street, BILSTON
NAGS HEAD 49, Wolverhampton Street, (Hampton Street), Shift End, BILSTON
NAVIGATION 1, (2), Salop Street, (2, Salop Row), (Shropshire Row), (Pothouse Bridge), Bradley, BILSTON
NEW BULLS HEAD 97, Wellington Road, (Wolverhampton Road), (Bilston Road, Priestfield), BILSTON
NEW INN 357, Wolverhampton Road West, (Bilston Road) / Ettingshall Road, (Ettingshall Lane), Ettingshall, BILSTON
NEW INN 84, (150), Oxford Street, BILSTON
NOAHS ARK 1, Wolverhampton Street / High Street, BILSTON
OAK AND IVY 22, (28), (173), Oxford Street, BILSTON
ODYSSEY Oxford Street, BILSTON
OLD BALL Green Croft, BILSTON
OLD BARLEY MOW Wolverhampton Road, BILSTON
OLD BOARS HEAD 88, (72), Church Street, BILSTON
OLD BROWN JUG 55, (29), Temple Street, BILSTON
OLD BUSH 15, (23), (38), Cross Street (Tup Street), Bradley Bridge, (Bradley Lane), Bradley, BILSTON
OLD BUSH Ettingshall Lane, BILSTON
OLD BUSH 50, (22), Ward Street, (Gibbet Lane), (Priestfield), (New Village), Ettingshall, BILSTON
OLD BUSH 70, (102), (103), Wolverhampton Street / Mill Street, Shift End, BILSTON
OLD CROWN Bridge Street, BILSTON
OLD CROWN 4, Crown Street / Parliament Street, BILSTON
OLD CROWN 12, Wootton Square, (Hall Street), (Hall Green), Bradley, BILSTON
OLD CROWN AND ANCHOR Coseley Street, (Coseley Road), (Coseley Row), BILSTON
OLD ENGLISH GENTLEMAN Thompson Street, Batch Croft, BILSTON
OLD HOUSE AT HOME 16, (102), (101+102), Temple Street, BILSTON
OLD MERMAID 33, (18), (17+18), Salop Street, (Shropshire Row), (Highfields), Bradley, BILSTON
OLD ROUND OF BEEF 35, (17), High Street / Workhouse Fold, BILSTON
OLDE SHOPPE John Street, (Priestfield), Ettingshall, BILSTON
OLDE WHITE ROSE 20, Lichfield Street, (20, (102), (103), Church Street), Swan Bank, BILSTON
ORANGE TREE 56, (32), (19), Ward Street, (Gibbet Lane), (Priestfield), (New Village), Ettingshall, BILSTON
OXFORD 83, (37), (36), (36a), Oxford Street, (Oxford Road) / Brook Street, New Town, BILSTON
PARKFIELD TAVERN 715, Parkfield Road, (18, Parkfield Road), Ettingshall, BILSTON
PATCH BOX Willis Pearson Avenue, Bradley, BILSTON
PEACOCK Catchems Corner, Ettingshall, BILSTON
PHEASANT 20, (76), (167), Broad Street, BILSTON
PHEASANT Walsall Street, BILSTON
PIPE HALL 27, Hall Street / The Orchard, BILSTON
PLOUGH 82, (47), (46), (45), High Street, BILSTON
PLOUGH Shropshire Row, BILSTON
PLOUGH AND HARROW Stafford Street, BILSTON
POINT OF WAR High Street, BILSTON
PRINCE OF WALES 17, Highfields Road / Wright Street, (Hallfields Road), (Sydney Village), (Upper) Bradley, BILSTON
PRINCE OF WALES Lichfield Street, BILSTON
PRINCE OF WALES 24, Queen Street, (Duck Lane), BILSTON
QUEENS ARMS 10, (13), (25), Wellington Road (Street), (Wolverhampton Street (Road)), (Lichfield Street) / Short Street, BILSTON
RAILWAY 3, (5), Brook Street, BILSTON
RAILWAY 4, Hill Street, (64, Hall Street), (Railway Street), (Queen Street), Hallfields, Bradley, BILSTON
RECRUITING SERGEANT High Street, BILSTON
RED COW 3, (5), Bridge Street, (4, Fraser Street) / Stone Street, BILSTON
RED CROSS KNIGHT 11, Brook Street, BILSTON
RED LION 32, Brierley Lane, (New Street), (Batmans Hill), (Daisy Bank), Bradley, BILSTON
RED LION 49, (26), (25+26), (31), (30), (23), Dudley Street (South), BILSTON
RED LION 39, (34), George Street, (Ettingshall Lane), (Chapel Street), (Priestfield), (New Village), Ettingshall, BILSTON
RED LION 121, (120), (119), Parkfield Road, (29, Goldthorn Hill Road), (Rough Hills), (Catchems Corner), Ettingshall, BILSTON
RISING SUN Church Street, BILSTON
RISING SUN Cross Street, Bradley, BILSTON
ROBIN HOOD 161, (76), (75+76), Oxford Street, BILSTON
ROCKET POOLS Rocket Pool Drive / 1, School Drive, Bradley, BILSTON
ROEBUCK 50, Bridge Street, BILSTON
ROLLING MILL 12, Highfield Road, (High Street), Highfields, (Ettingshall), Bradley, BILSTON
ROLLING MILL Millfields Road, (Mill Street), (Mill Lane) / Union Street, BILSTON
ROPEMAKERS ARMS BILSTON
ROSE AND CROWN (Middle) Field Lane, BILSTON
ROSE AND CROWN 41, Temple Street, BILSTON
ROUGH HILLS TAVERN Rooker Avenue, (8, Rough Hills), (Rough Hills Lane), Parkfields, BILSTON
ROUND COUNTER 1, (4), Rose Street, (Batmans Hill), Bradley, BILSTON
ROYAL ARTILLERY 9, (5), (3), High Street, BILSTON
ROYAL EXCHANGE 26, (25), (27), Chapel Street, (Old Meeting Street), BILSTON
ROYAL EXCHANGE 4, (57), Queen Street, BILSTON
ROYAL EXCHANGE 35, (19), Salop Street, (Shropshire Row), Hallfields, Bradley, BILSTON
ROYAL GEORGE 44, (92), Church Street, BILSTON
ROYAL OAK 3, Ettingshall Road (20, (22), Ettingshall Lane), Ettingshall, BILSTON
ROYAL OAK 74, (30), Hill Street, (30, (31), (26), Hall Street), Hallfields, (Upper) Bradley, BILSTON
ROYAL OAK 20, (74), High Street, BILSTON
ROYAL OAK 1, St. Lukes Street / Pinfold Street, BILSTON
ROYAL OAK 32, (84), (83), Salop Street, (83, Salop Row), (Shropshire Row), Hallfields, Bradley, BILSTON
ROYAL OAK Wolverhampton Street, BILSTON

SADDLE AND STIRRUPS 121, (56), Oxford Street / Warwick Street, New Town, BILSTON

SAMPSON AND LION 1, Green Croft, (Green Cross Street), BILSTON

SAMPSON AND LION 34, Newbolt Road, BILSTON

SEVEN STARS 24, (72), (73), (22), High Street / Dudley Street, BILSTON

SHAKESPEARE 29, (8), (6), Market Street, (Newmarket Street), (Hall Street) / Vine Street, BILSTON

SHAMROCK 91, (47+48), Temple Street, BILSTON

SHIP AND RAINBOW 42, (166), Oxford Street, (Oxford Road) / Queen Street, (Bow Street), BILSTON

SHOULDER OF MUTTON 73, (83), Hall Green Street, Bradley, (Daisy Bank), BILSTON

SIR HENRY NEWBOLT 45+47, High Street, BILSTON

SOLDIER'S RETURN Brook Street, BILSTON

SPREAD EAGLE 37, (20), (5), Lichfield Street, (Mount Pleasant), BILSTON

SQUARE AND COMPASSES Oxford Street, BILSTON

SQUIRREL Moorcroft, (10, Fire Holes), (Fiery Holes), (Lower) Bradley, BILSTON

STAG 5, (13), (1), (2), Crown Street / Parliament Street, BILSTON

STAR 31, (15), Church Street, (15, Lichfield Street), Swan Bank, BILSTON

STAR 155, (72), (72+73), (73), Oxford Street, BILSTON

STAR AND GARTER 1, (3), (8), Lester Street, (Leicester Street), BILSTON

STAR AND GARTER 7, (4), (5), Salop Street, (6, Salop Row), (Shropshire Row), Hallfields, Bradley, BILSTON

SWAN 59, (57+59), (19), Bank Street, (19, Bilston Street), (19, Lord Street), (Queen Street), Hallfields, (Upper) Bradley, BILSTON

SWAN 108, Church Street, (108, Hall Street), Swan Bank, BILSTON

SWAN 84, (46), (44), High Street, BILSTON

SWAN 1, John Street, New Village, (Priestfield), Ettingshall, BILSTON

SWAN 9, (13), Twenty House Row, Cross Street, (Bradley Row), (Lower) Bradley, BILSTON

SWAN BANK TAVERN 3+5, Lichfield Street, (3, (2), Church Street) / Bow Street, Swan Bank, BILSTON

SYDNEY VILLAGE INN 21, (19), Wright Street, Hallfields, Bradley, BILSTON

TALBOT 31, (11), Oxford Street / Railway Street, New Town, BILSTON

THREE HORSESHOES 65, (28), Oxford Street, BILSTON

THREE TUNS 55, (35), Bridge Street / Queen Street, BILSTON

TIGER Church Street, BILSTON

TOWN HALL STORES 36, (95), Church Street, (High Street), BILSTON

TRAVELLERS REST Spring Vale Wharf, Millfields Road, (Union Street), (Catchems Corner), BILSTON

TRUMPET 58, (57a), (56), High Street, BILSTON

TURKS HEAD 11, (6), (4), (5), High Street, BILSTON

UNION 68, (44) Coseley Road, (68, (67), (64), (44), Coseley Street), (Coseley Row), (Union Street), BILSTON

UNION CROSS Wolverhampton Street, BILSTON

UNION MILL 38, (1), Manor Road, (82, Mill Street), (82, Parkfield Road), (Ettingshall Lane) / Spring Vale Road, (16, Spring Road), Ettingshall, BILSTON

VICTORIA 33, Wesley Street, (New Street), (Batmans Hill), Bradley, BILSTON

VILLIERS ARMS Villiers Avenue, (Villiers Square) / Froggatt Road, Green Lanes Estate, BILSTON

VINE 34, (92), John Street / New Street, New Village, (Priestfield), Ettingshall, BILSTON

VINE 16, (4), Vine Street, (High Street), (Market Street) / Cooper Street, BILSTON

WAGGON AND HORSES 22, Millfields Road, (22, (21), Mill Street), Ettingshall, (Catchems Corner), BILSTON

WAGGON AND HORSES 147, (67+68), (67), (68), Oxford Street, (Oxford Road), New Town, BILSTON

WATERLOO Ettingshall, BILSTON

WELCOME STRANGER 161, Oxford Street, BILSTON

WELLINGTON High Street, (Church Street), BILSTON

WELLINGTON 33, (13), (7), (4), Price Street (Tame Street) / Oxford Street, BILSTON

WELSH HARP 9, Crown Street, BILSTON

WHEATSHEAF 131, (61), (60), Oxford Street, (Oxford Road), New Town, BILSTON

WHITE HART 44, (42), (78), Salop Street, (78, Salop Row), (Shropshire Row), (Hallfields), Bradley, BILSTON

WHITE HORSE 92, (94), (42), (41), (112), High Street, BILSTON

WHITE HORSE 1, (42), Ward Street, (Priestfield), (New Village), Ettingshall, BILSTON

WHITE LION 67, (17), Cross Street, (Lower) Bradley, BILSTON

WHITE LION Millfields Road, (Mill Street), (Mill Lane), (Union Street), (Millfields Bridge), Ettingshall, BILSTON

WHITE LION 73, (38), (33), Temple Street, BILSTON

WHITE ROSE 24, (97), (94), Temple Street, BILSTON

WHY NOT High Street, Hallfields, Bradley, BILSTON

WILLIAM BUTLER 34, John Street, (Priestfield), Ettingshall, BILSTON

Beerhouse – Unnamed 23, Bridge Street, BILSTON

Beerhouse – Unnamed Cemetery Row, BILSTON

Beerhouse – Unnamed 54, Church Street, BILSTON

Beerhouse – Unnamed Ettingshall Row, BILSTON

Beerhouse – Unnamed Frost Street, New Village, BILSTON

Beerhouse – Unnamed 31, (15), High Street, BILSTON

Beerhouse – Unnamed 64, (78), John Street, New Village, Ettingshall, BILSTON

Beerhouse – Unnamed Lichfield Street, BILSTON

Beerhouse – Unnamed 45, Oxford Street, BILSTON

Beerhouse – Unnamed 48, Oxford Street, BILSTON

Beerhouse – Unnamed 103, (46), Oxford Street, BILSTON

Beerhouse – Unnamed Oxford Street, BILSTON

Beerhouse – Unnamed St. Lukes Street, BILSTON

HOW TO USE THE INFORMATION

PUB NAME

This is generally the name by which the pub was officially known. Other names, either changes or nicknames, are to be found in the notes section.

Names marked with + are, at present, not specifically identified as being any of those listed before them, and have not been attributed yet because of the lack of data available.

Pubs are not listed necessarily under their current name.

A number of beerhouses were never given a name, and these appear at the end of the pub lists as Beerhouse – Unnamed. Only those that I am pretty sure had 'on' licences are included.

This is sometimes the case with alehouses too.

Can't find the pub you want?

It's probably had its name changed. Try using the search facility to locate the pub name, or nickname, that you know.

ADDRESS

Eg. 52, (79), Haden Street, (Haden Lane) / Cox Alley, Kates Hill, DUDLEY

Numbers and street names in brackets denote earlier addresses. These are usually detailed in the notes section. Buildings were renumbered with development and demolition, or the renaming of the street etc.

/ = on the corner with.....

Sometimes districts are also included, such as Kates Hill above. These are often historical and are now obsolete, but can be located on early maps.

OWNERS

These are listed where known.

They include companies and individuals, and occasionally the dates acquired and prices paid.

LICENSEES

Often the owner was the licensee, and even when they employed managers their names would appear in directories.

Where known, names are appended with (manager, non-resident, tenant etc.).

Dates

These are differentiated by the use of brackets and/or italics.

[1862] = This was the case in 1862. Where the date appears on its own it refers to the earliest or latest reference found.

This also applies where a pub has its name changed, eg.

[2001] followed by "Its name was changed to XXXXX. [2003]"

This means that in 2001 it still had its previous name, but by 2003 its name had been changed to XXXXX.

[1862] = Information from a directory dated 1862, so may have been out of date when it was published. As much as five years in some cases!

[c. 1862] = About 1862, but exact date not known.

[1860's] = Some time in this decade.

[] = No date available, but the detail is inserted in roughly the right chronological place.

(1862 – [1863] = Started in 1862 and was still the case in 1863.

[1862] – **1863)** = It was the case in 1862 and **ended** in 1863.

(1862 – 1863) = Started in 1862 and **ended** in 1863.

(1862 – 1863); the ; signifies that the licensee was immediately followed by the next person in the list. Sometimes the licence transfer came months after a person's death, but the transfer date is the one used, if date of death is not known.

Sometimes the licensing registers contradict findings from other sources such as directories. Where this occurs the ; is still used, the anomalous name is given a question mark and is placed in a suitable chronological place, and the next person is the one that follows the ;

Eg.

Fred Smith [1916] – **1927);**

Joseph Bloggs [1921] ?

George Jones **(1927 – 1932)**

In the register George Jones follows on from Fred Smith, but Joseph Bloggs was mentioned in another source in 1921. He is left in for completeness.

When using original documents, such as licensing registers, which are sometimes damaged, it is impossible to read some material (including dates). Where this has occurred, and only the decade or century is decipherable, I have used underscoring to replace the missing digits in an effort to keep the licensees in the correct order.

Eg. Fred Smith **(188_ – 18_);**

John Jones **(18__ – 189_):**

If the date is followed with a : this signifies the last person to hold the licence.

NOTES

These start with locations, and are followed by previous names or nicknames of the pub. These are then followed by other details, often where dates are unknown.

Historical details then follow chronologically where possible.

Some pubs listed are the same as others, but so far I have been unable to connect them. This is especially true when directories only list the pub name and licensee, and more than one pub of that name existed at the time. These are often identified by:-
Check OTHER PUB NAME.

Licensees are often associated with more than one pub, and pubs are sometimes rebuilt on different sites to their original one. These are identified by:-
See OTHER PUB NAME

Titles – only Miss and Mrs are used here (when known).
No other titles are used.
ie. Major George Cox was not a major. Major was his first name.

Often names were spelt differently in the sources used. This is identified where possible, and one spelling is used for consistency.

Where I have decided that different spellings are the same person I have identified this
eg. *Smith* = Smithe = Smyth

Where I am unsure about this I have identified it thus

* possibly the same person

or

* probably the same person

Where sources are quoted these appear in **colour**, followed by the quote in black in a different typeface from the remainder of the information. Sometimes I have paraphrased a quotation, and some have had additions entered by myself.

Information which has been transcribed by me from handwritten sources, such as censuses, parish records, licensing minutes etc., should be correctly spelt, but the reader is advised to check the original for themselves. In cases where I have been unable to transcribe individual names, only those letters that are clear are given.
eg, Osbal__on ? The underscore does not indicate the number of missing letters, as this is often as unclear as the name itself.

Where I am not 100% sure that I have deciphered a name correctly this is indicated by a question mark in parentheses ie. (?)

Census records are presented in a different form than the original.

[1] = position in the household.

This is followed by the name and (age).

Relationship to [1] follows, and then occupation (if any is listed).

Finally comes the place of birth. Where these places are local to the Black Country, or are larger towns and cities, no county name is given.

Where birthplaces are given in the Black Country it has to be remembered:-

(a) Harborne once included Smethwick

(b) Kingswinford once covered places such as Brierley Hill, Pensnett, Quarry Bank and Wall Heath

(c) Sedgley once included Coseley and the Gornals

(d) West Bromwich once included Great Bridge (now in the Tipton file), Great Barr and Hamstead (not considered by me as part of the Black Country).

Most local newspapers were weekly and appeared on a Saturday.
This does not apply to the Express & Star, Midland Counties Evening Express, or Evening News / Star.

Newspaper articles sometimes spell the same thing (eg. Surname) differently in a single report. Where the proper spelling is known this is altered by me, but when I am unsure they are left as they appear.

A gazeteer is provided to give approximate locations of place names in relation to larger towns and cities in Britain.

Where a licensee changes her name by marriage, her former surname appears in brackets ie. Jane (maiden or previous married name) Smith.

Where names of spouses are known, they are listed in the past tense, even though many may be still husband and wife. This is merely a convention used by me for convenience.

[text] Where square brackets occur, with text in a different typeface inside, this signifies comments of my own.

Some entries, in all sections, are followed by a number of question marks (without parentheses). These show the extent of doubt that I have over that entry.

The historical nature of the contents has meant that the old currency of pounds shillings and pence is used frequently. A pound (£) was divided into 20 shillings (s) and a shilling was divided into 12 pence (d). Halfpennies and farthings (1/4d) were also in use.

This is also the case where other measures, length, weight etc., are used. See glossary for details.

GLOSSARY

A number of terms may be unfamiliar and their meanings are listed below.
Also abbreviations appear in quotations and they are translated below.

acre A measure of area equal to 4840 square yards.

affeerer someone who organises a market

alehouse An obsolete term meaning both a house licensed to sell ale, or one with a full license, as distinct to a beerhouse.

ante 1869 Licensed before 1st May 1869, and applies to beerhouses which were protected from refusal to renew the license, unless statutory rules were broken.

These were:-

- (a) That the premises were frequented by thieves, prostitutes or people of bad character.
- (b) Failure of an applicant to provide evidence of a good character.
- (c) The applicant had been disqualified due to misconduct.

A.O.F. Ancient Order of Foresters

apprentice One who was bound to a skilled worker for a specified time to learn the trade.

axle tree maker One who made axles for coaches and waggons.

bagatelle A billiards derived game in which players have to negotiate wooden pins in order to navigate balls around a table.

bagman A travelling salesman.

banksman A man in charge of the cages at a pit head.

barm yeast / fermenting liquor

barrel A barrel containing 36 gallons.

base coin Counterfeit coin

beerhouse A pub which was only licenced to sell beer.

billiard marker A person who attends on players at billiards and records the progress of the game.

bill poster One who pastes up bills, notices or placards.

billycock A hard felt hat popular in Victorian times.

black list Anyone convicted of drunkenness was placed on this list. It was an offence to serve such a person, knowingly, for three years after being listed.

black saddler Someone who made cart, gig and other saddles in black leather.

blacksmith Someone who forges and shapes red hot iron with a hammer and anvil, also one who shoes horses.

bobber Metal polisher

boots A hotel servant who cleans boots, runs errands etc.

brake A long waggonette

breeze Furnace refuse used in making building material.

bridle cutter A person who cut leather to make horses' bridles.

brown saddler A person who made riding saddles from brown leather.

buckle tongue maker A person who made the metal points that go in the holes of belts, harness etc.

bushel A measure of 8 gallons.

butty A mining term for one who takes a contract for work in a coal mine.

c. circa

cabman One who drove a cab.

C.A.M.R.A. Campaign for Real Ale

carter A carrier, usually with a cart or waggon.

cavil To make empty, trifling objections, to use false arguments.

chartermaster A middleman who negotiated mining contracts and supplied the labour.

charwoman A cleaner.

cheap Jack A travelling hawker, who professes to give great bargain.

cobbler One who mended shoes.

commercial When applied to an inn or hotel it meant that commercial travellers were catered for, often at a reasonable price.

common brewer A brewer whose beer is brewed for the public, generally, not just for a pub.

Compensation Authority A body set up to decide the amount of compensation to be paid to the owner, when a licensing authority proposes to refuse a license renewal on grounds other than the statutory ones relating to the character or the conduct of the house.

Compensation was paid by the Inland Revenue from moneys collected from a levy on licenses.

compositor Someone who set type for printing.

cordwainer shoemaker (not a boot maker)

core A device used in casting and moulding processes to produce internal cavities.

Cork Club A charitable organisation in which the members had to carry a cork on their person at all times. They were challenged by other members of the club to produce their cork, and if they could not, they had to pay a 'fine' into the charity fund.

corn factor A middleman in corn deals.

C.R. Chief Ranger – an office within the Ancient Order of Foresters.

crepitant crackling

currier Horse groom / leather trade finisher who greases the dry leather to make it flexible.

cwt hundredweight, 112 pounds (approximately 51 kilograms)

d (old) pence

DCM Distinguished Conduct Medal

D.C.R. District Chief Ranger – an office within the Ancient Order of Foresters.

D.D.M. Deputy District Master – an office within the Ancient Order of Foresters.

die sinker Someone who engraves dies for stamping or embossing, or cutting screw threads on metal.

D.M. District Master – an office within the Ancient Order of Foresters, and Free Gardeners.

doggy An overlooker of a certain number of men and boys in a pit.

doxology A hymn ascribing glory to God.

draper A dealer in cloth, cloth goods, and sewing needs.

dray A low strong cart for heavy goods.

dropsy A morbid accumulation of watery fluid on any part of the body.

edge tool maker A person who made knives and agricultural tools such as scythes.

enceinte pregnant

epithet A term or expression.

f. founded

factor's clerk A clerk to a manufacturer.

farrier A horse doctor, or blacksmith who shoes horses.

felo-de-se Suicide Literally felon of himself.

filling A Victorian term meaning to serve beer / alcohol.

firkin A barrel containing 9 gallons.

florin A coin of the value 2s (10p).

fob A small watch pocket.

four foot The space between the rails on a standard gauge railway.

footpad A highwayman on foot.

freehold Legal ownership and control of a building or a piece of land for an unlimited time.

French polisher Someone who polished quality furniture using French polish, wax or lacquer.

fs when on 1841 census, probably means female servant

fuddle To stupefy, as with drink; to confuse

fuller A scourer of cloth, or a finisher.

gaming The playing of games of chance for winnings.

gawn A small round tub with a handle, used for carrying the wort.

General Annual Licensing Meeting This was the principal licensing meeting, and was sometimes called the Brewster Sessions. They were usually held during the first fortnight of February every year.

gilt a young cow (or other domestic animal)

grains of paradise Aframomum melegueta. A form of ginger native to the swamps of West Africa. The seeds (grains) were used in brewing to give the impression of strength. Its use became illegal in Britain in 1816.

grist ground malt used in brewing

guinea An amount of £1 1s 0d.

haberdasher A dealer in small wares, as ribbons, tapes etc.

half crown A coin of the value 2s 6d.

hame One of the two curved bars of a draught horse's collar.

harbouring the police Allowing police officers to be on the licensed premises when they should be on duty. The exceptions being when they have permission of a senior officer, or are engaged in preventing / detecting a breach of the licensing laws, or keeping order.

higgler or **higler** pedlar, usually with a horse and cart

hogshead A barrel containing 52½ gallons.

hoof prints / marks During the winter of 1855 there was a spate of people reporting these marks being visible in the snow on their roofs.

hostler see ostler

indict to officially charge with a crime

indigent in need, especially of sustenance

inst. / instant (during) the current month

intoxicating liquor spirits, beer, cider, wine and British wine

jalap the purgative root of an Ipomea or Exogonium, first brought from Jalapa, in Mexico.

japanner A person who made 'japanned' object using the Japanese lacquer techniques.

journeyman Fully qualified tradesman who had served an apprenticeship.

kilderkin A barrel holding 18 gallons.

liquor water (brewing)

L.M.S. London, Midland and Scottish (railway)

L.N.E.R. London and North Eastern Railway

long pull This was a practice in which more beer was served than the quantity ordered. It was originally encouraged by brewers to improve trade, but around 1900 they began to object to it, to improve takings! It is no longer illegal.

m. married

M. U. Manchester Unity (of Oddfellows)

milliner A dealer in Milan goods, or more commonly a maker / seller of women's hats, trimmings etc.

Minorca a breed of laying poultry

moiety one of two parts or divisions

mulct a fine

nonsuit the stopping of a suit (in Court)

NUOFG National United Order of Free Gardeners

oliverman An operator of a forge hammer worked by foot

on tramp travelling

Order of Discharge An order by a court of law saying that a person or company that is bankrupt is no longer responsible for paying back its debts.

ordinary A meal provided at a fixed cost.

Ordinary Removal A method of attaching a license of any description to premises previously unlicensed by the removal of a license of the same description from other premises.

ostler Someone who attends to horses at an inn.

paviour One who does paving work.

PCR Past Chief Ranger (Order of Foresters)

Penny dreadful A cheap sensational serial or tale.

perch A measure of area equal to 30¼ square yards (25.3 square metres).

plaister An obsolete form of plaster.

platelayer One who laid and maintained railway tracks.

posting house (post house) A place where horses were kept as replacements to pull stage coaches, which arrived there. (A staging post is an alternative name.)

potboy / potman Someone who worked in public houses, collecting and washing dirty pots or glasses.

Preceptoress Female preceptor (teacher).

provisional renewal When the Justices refer a license to the Compensation Authority this is granted. It enables the pub to continue until a decision is made. If the license is extinguished this renewal expires 7 days after compensation is paid, if not then it becomes unconditional.

publican's license This license authorizes the sale of any intoxicating liquor for consumption on or off the premises.

puddler (pudler) Wrought iron worker, he would stir molten pig iron to form wrought iron.

puncheon An Imperial measure of 72 gallons.

Q.M.S. Quartermaster-sergeant.

quart An Imperial measure of liquid equal to two pints.

quarter A measure of eight bushels; equivalent to 8 barrels of beer.

quartern A quarter of a pint.

R. A. O. B. Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes.

rat killing ledger A blood sport in which dogs kill as many rats, in a given time; the one killing most being the winner. Gambling took place – hence the ledger (book in which bets were recorded).

RFA Royal Field Artillery

rim lock A locking device that attaches to the surface of a door or window.

rood A measure of area of about a quarter of an acre.

s shillings

sennight A week (ago).

shafter a horse harnessed between shafts

shingler Manipulator of puddled balls of iron to remove impurities.

Sick and Dividend Society A society in which annual / monthly / weekly contributions were made by its members in order to provide "insurance" payouts when work preventing sickness, or death, occurred to its members. A dividend was paid (usually in December) from the remaining investment.

sine die without a day (appointed), indefinitely.

sinker Well or shaft digger.

6 day license Pubs with this type of license were not allowed to open on Sundays.

smoking concert A concert where those attending were allowed (or even encouraged!) to smoke.

sovereign A coin of the value of £1.

spragging Mining term for propping.

stallman Keeper of stable underground (mining).

stirk a yearling or young ox or cow

syncope a fainting fit caused by a sudden fall in blood pressure in the brain.

temperance hotel (house) A building run along the same lines as pubs / hotels, but without alcohol.

thripples a type of cart ladder to extend the capacity.

tuyere (or twyer or tweer) a nozzle for a blast of air.

ult / ultimo (during) the previous month.

union fermentation system A system of fermentation, developed in the 19th century, in which fermenting beer is kept in rows of large barrels (unions) interconnected by pipes and troughs, which allows the yeast to continually circulate through the beer. It is often referred to as the Burton Union system.

utter to put money into circulation, to try to pass off as genuine.

VS veterinary surgeon

W. B. A. West Bromwich Albion

whitesmith A metal worker in tin, or light metals.

WM masonic term for Worshipful Master.

wobble (or whobble) shop an illegal drinking den.

wobbling supplying drink without a license.

wood turner Someone who turns wood on a lathe.

wort The malt solution that results from the main brewing operation.

£ pound

THE ACTS

Below is a list of some of the Acts of Parliament relating to licensing, and some of their effects.
By no means is all legislation here.

Alehouse Act, 1828

Laid down, for the first time, a uniform code of procedure for annual licensing and transfer sessions. Premises licensed under this Act were enabled to sell not only 'Ale' but other intoxicating drinks.

Beerhouse Act, 1830

A reforming Act intended to discourage the consumption of spirits (especially gin). Excise licenses could be taken out without having to go through the justices, and this resulted in the growth of beerhouses nationwide.

Refreshment Houses Act, 1860

Effectively put the sale of wine on an even footing with beer, as it enabled a refreshment house keeper to sell wine without obtaining a justice's license.

Wine and Beerhouse Act, 1869

Gave the licensing justices control over all premises where intoxicating liquor was sold for consumption on the premises. No new licenses could be obtained without applying to them, but existing beer and wine licenses were protected (see ante 1869, above).

This inhibited the continuing growth of beerhouses resulting from the 1830 Act.

Licensing Act, 1872

This established a procedure whereby a new license was only valid after a second, Confirmation procedure had taken place.

Licensing Act, 1902

This granted justices the same rights over off licenses as they had over on licenses, since 1869.

Licensing Act, 1904

This set up the compensation procedure for the extinguishing of unnecessary licenses, or those of unsound premises, but did not affect ante 1869 beerhouses.

GAZETTEER

The following places appear in the main text. Below is their location in reference to bigger towns or cities.
Distances and directions are approximate.
Not all places in the text are mentioned below.

ABBERLEY, Worcestershire - 5 miles SW of Stourport on Severn

ABBOTS BROMLEY, Staffordshire - 7 miles S of Uttoxeter

ABERCARN, Monmouthshire - 10 miles NW of Newport

ABERGAVENNY, Monmouthshire - 15 miles W of Monmouth

ACKLETON, Shropshire - 7 miles NW of Bridgnorth

ACTON TRUSSELL, Staffordshire - 4 miles SE of Stafford

ADDERBURY, Oxfordshire - 3 miles S of Banbury

ADMASTON, Shropshire is part of Telford

ALBRIGHTON, Shropshire - 7 miles NW of Wolverhampton

ALDBOURNE, Wiltshire - 6 miles NE of Marlborough

ALDERMINSTER, Warwickshire - 4 miles SSE of Stratford upon Avon

ALDINGTON, Worcestershire - 3 miles E of Evesham

ALDRIDGE, Staffordshire - 4 miles ENE of Walsall

ALLENSMORE, Herefordshire - 4 miles SW of Hereford

ALLESLEY, Warwickshire - 3 miles W of Coventry

ALREWAS, Staffordshire - 7 miles SW of Burton upon Trent

ALSTON, Cumberland - 29 miles SE of Carlisle

ALTON, Hampshire - 9 miles SE of Basingstoke

ALTON, Staffordshire - 5 miles ENE of Uttoxeter

ALVECHURCH, Warwickshire - 4 miles NW of Redditch

ALVEDISTON, Wiltshire - 8 miles E of Shaftesbury

ALVELEY, Shropshire - 6 miles SE of Bridgnorth

AMESBURY, Gloucestershire - 7 miles N of Salisbury

ANSTEY, Leicestershire - 4 miles NW of Leicester

ARLEY KINGS - 10 miles N of Worcester

ARLINGTON, Wiltshire is part of Trowbridge

ARMITAGE, Staffordshire - 4 miles NNW of Lichfield

ASHBY CUM FENBY, Lincolnshire - 5 miles S of Grimsby

ASHOVER, Derbyshire - 4 miles NE of Matlock

ASTERLEY, Shropshire - 8 miles ESE of Shrewsbury

ASTLEY, Lancashire - a suburb of Chorley

ASTLEY ABBOTTS, Shropshire - 2 miles N of Bridgnorth

ASTON, Warwickshire is probably the part of Birmingham

ASTON CANTLOW, Warwickshire - 5 miles NW of Stratford

ATTLEBOROUGH, Norfolk - 14 miles NE of Thetford

ATTLEBOROUGH, Warwickshire – about 1 mile SE of Nuneaton

AUDLEY, Staffordshire - 4 miles NW of Newcastle under Lyne

AUSTREY, Warwickshire - 5 miles ENE of Tamworth

BADDESLEY ENSOR, Warwickshire - 3 miles W of Atherstone

BADGER, Shropshire is just to the N of Ackleton (see above)

BADSEY, Worcestershire - 2 miles E of Evesham

BALSALL HEATH, Worcestershire is part of Birmingham

BALSCOTT, Oxfordshire - 4 miles W of Banbury

BARFORD, Norfolk - 6 miles W of Norwich

BARNACLE, Warwickshire – 2 miles NE of Coventry

BARNBY DUN, Yorkshire is part of Doncaster

BARROW UPON SOAR, Leicestershire - 2 miles SE of Loughborough

BARSTON, Warwickshire - 9 miles W of Coventry

BARTON, Lancashire - 6 miles N of Preston

BARTON, Oxfordshire is a suburb of Oxford

BARTON, Yorkshire - 6 miles SW of Darlington

BARTON UNDER NEEDWOOD, Staffordshire - 4 miles SW of Burton upon Trent

BASCHURCH, Shropshire - 7 miles NW of Shrewsbury

BAVERSTOCK, Wiltshire - 7 miles W of Salisbury

BAYSTON HILL, Shropshire - 3 miles S of Shrewsbury

BEARLEY, Warwickshire - 5 miles N of Stratford on Avon

BEDDINGTON, Surrey is part of the London Borough of Sutton

BEDSTONE, Shropshire - 5 miles ENE of Knighton

BEDWORTH, Warwickshire - 3 miles S of Nuneaton

BELTON, Rutlandshire - 6 miles SW of Oakham

BENNINGHOLME, Yorkshire - 6 miles N of Hull

BENTLEY, Warwickshire - 6 miles NW of Nuneaton

BEOLEY, Worcestershire - 2 miles N of Redditch

BERKELEY, Gloucestershire - 11 miles SSW of Stroud

BERRINGTON, Shropshire - 4 miles SSE of Shrewsbury

BICKENHILL, Warwickshire - 3 miles NE of Solihull

BIDFORD on AVON, Warwickshire - 4 miles S of Alcester

BILLINGSLEY, Shropshire - 6 miles S of Bridgnorth

BILSTONE, Leicestershire - 3 miles NW of Market Bosworth

BINFIELD, Berkshire - 8 miles SE of Reading

BIRSTALL, Leicestershire - 3 miles N of Leicester

BISHAMPTON, Worcestershire - 9 miles SE of Worcester

BISHOPS STONE, Herefordshire - 6 miles W of Hereford

BISHOP WILTON, Yorkshire - 12 miles ENE of York

BITTERLEY, Shropshire - 4 miles E of Ludlow

BLABY, Leicestershire - 5 miles S of Leicester

BLACKLEY, Lancashire is part of Manchester

BLACKWATER, Berkshire - 1 mile W of Camberley

BLEWBURY, Berkshire - 14 miles S of Oxford

BLOCKLEY, Worcestershire - 10 miles SE of Evesham

BLYMILL, Staffordshire - 10 miles SW of Stafford

BLYTHEFIELD, Staffordshire is part of Burton on Trent

BOBBINGTON, Staffordshire - 8 miles E of Bridgnorth

BOLAS MAGNA, Shropshire - 8 miles N of Telford

BONEHILL, Staffordshire is part of Tamworth

BONSALL, Derbyshire - 2 miles SW of Matlock

BOTTESFORD, Leicestershire - 16 miles N of Melton Mowbray

BOURNHEATH, Worcestershire - 3 miles N of Bromsgrove

BOURTON ON THE WATER, Gloucestershire - 4 miles SSW of Stow on the Wold

BRACKENFIELD, Derbyshire - 4 miles ESE of Matlock

BRADFORD ON AVON, Wiltshire - 8 miles SE of Bath

BRAILES, Upper and Lower, Worcestershire - 4 miles ESE of Shipston on Stour

BRAMFIELD, Suffolk - 10 miles NE of Framlingham

BRAMPTON, Derbyshire is part of Chesterfield

BRAMPTON, Huntingdonshire - 2 miles SW of Huntingdon

BRAMPTON BRYAN, Herefordshire - 5 miles E of Knighton

BRANSTON, Staffordshire - 2 miles S of Burton on Trent

BRAUNSTON, Northamptonshire - 3 miles NNE of Daventry

BRERETON, Staffordshire - 1 mile S of Rugeley

BREWOOD, Staffordshire - 6 miles W of Cannock

BRICKLEHAMPTON, Worcestershire - 3 miles SE of Pershore

BRIDSTOW, Herefordshire - 1 mile W of Ross on Wye

BRINDLE, Lancashire - 5 miles SE of Preston

BROADWAY, Worcestershire - 6 miles SE of Evesham

BROCTON, Staffordshire - 4 miles SE of Stafford

BROMLEY, Middlesex is part of London

BROOM, Worcestershire - 6 miles NNE of Evesham

BROOME, Worcestershire - 5 miles ENE of Kidderminster

BROSELEY, Shropshire is part of Telford

BROUGHTON GIFFORD, Wiltshire - 1.5 miles W of Melksham

BRYMBO, North Wales is part of Wrexham

BURGHILL, Herefordshire - 3 miles NNW of Hereford

BURLTON, Shropshire - 8 miles NNW of Shrewsbury

BURNHILL GREEN, Shropshire - 6 miles NE of Bridgnorth

BURNTWOOD, Staffordshire - 4 miles W of Lichfield

BURTON IN LONSDALE, Lancashire / Yorkshire - 9 miles E of Carnforth

BURWARTON, Shropshire - 10 miles NE of Ludlow

BYFIELD, Northamptonshire - 6 miles SSE of Daventry

CALNE, Wiltshire - 6 miles E of Chippenham

CANNING TOWN, Essex is part of London

CARLTON, Leicestershire - 12 miles W of Leicester

CARSINGTON, Derbyshire - 2 miles WSW of Wirksworth

CASTLE DONINGTON, Leicestershire - 12 miles SW of Nottingham

CASTLE FROME, Herefordshire - 10 miles ENE of Hereford

CASTLE MORTON, Worcestershire - 5 miles E of Ledbury

CASTOR, Northamptonshire - 4 miles W of Peterborough

CAVERSWALL, Staffordshire - 5 miles ESE of Stoke on Trent

CAYNHAM, Shropshire - 3 miles SE of Ludlow

CHADDESLEY CORBETT, Worcestershire - 4 miles ESE of Kidderminster

CHALFORD, Gloucestershire - 4 miles SE of Stroud

CHARMINSTER, Dorset 1 mile N of Dorchester

CHEADLE, Staffordshire - 7 miles NW of Uttoxeter

CHEDDLETON, Staffordshire - 3 miles S of Leek

CHELMARSH, Shropshire - 4 miles S of Bridgnorth

CHERRINGTON, Shropshire - 6 miles N of Telford

CHESLYN HAY, Staffordshire - 2 miles S of Cannock

CHESWARDINE, Shropshire - 4 miles SE of Market Drayton

CHETTON, Shropshire - 4 miles WSW of Bridgnorth

CHILLINGTON, Staffordshire - 4 miles NW of Wolverhampton

CHILVERS COTON, Warwickshire - 1 mile SW of Nuneaton

CHINNOR, Oxfordshire - 4 miles SE of Thame

CHIRBURY, Shropshire - 3 miles E of Montgomery

CHOLESBURY, Buckinghamshire - 4 miles E of Wendover

CHORLEY, Staffordshire - 3 miles WSW of Lichfield

CHORLTON UPON MEDLOCK, Lancashire is part of Manchester

CHULMLEIGH, Devonshire - 13 miles NW of Crediton

CHURCH HILL, Worcestershire is part of Redditch

CHURCH LAWTON, Cheshire - 6 miles WSW of Congleton

CLAINES, Worcestershire - 2 miles N of Worcester

CLAYHANGER, Staffordshire is just W of Brownhills

CLEETON, Shropshire - 3 miles NE of Ludlow

CLIFTON, Bedfordshire - 9 miles SE of Bedford

CLIFTON, Derbyshire - 1 mile SW of Ashbourne

CLIFTON UPON DUNSMORE, Warwickshire - 2 miles E of Rugby

CLIFTON CAMPVILLE, Staffordshire - 10 miles E of Lichfield

CLIFTON ON TEME, Worcestershire - 10 miles NW of Worcester

CLOWS TOP, Worcestershire - 5 miles W of Stourport

CLUN, Shropshire - 5 miles N of Knighton

CLUNGUNFORD, Shropshire - 8 miles WNW of Ludlow

CLUTTON, Somerset - 8 miles WSW of Bath

CLYDACH, Breconshire - 4 miles SW of Abergavenny

CLYRO, Radnorshire - 1 mile NW of Hay on Wye

COALBROOKDALE, Shropshire is part of Telford

COALPIT BANK, Shropshire is part of Telford

COALPORT, Shropshire is part of Telford

COBRIDGE, Staffordshire is part of Stoke on Trent

CODDINGTON, Nottinghamshire - 3 miles E of Newark

CODNOR, Derbyshire - 2 miles N of Heanor

COFTON HACKETT, Worcestershire 16 miles NE of Worcester

COGGESHALL, Essex - 6 miles E of Braintree

COLD HATTON, Shropshire is part of Telford

COLLINGTON, Herefordshire - 4 miles N of Bromyard

COLTON, Staffordshire - 2 miles N of Rugeley

COLWICH, Staffordshire - 3 miles NW of Rugeley

COMBERFORD, Staffordshire - 2 miles NE of Tamworth

COMBERTON, Herefordshire - 4 miles WSW of Ludlow

CONDOVER, Shropshire - 5 miles S of Shrewsbury

CONGRESBURY, Somerset - 7 miles E of Weston-super-Mare

COOKLEY, Worcestershire - 2 miles N of Kidderminster

CORBIT, Worcestershire is possibly another name for Chaddesley Corbett

CORELEY, Shropshire - 5 miles NE of Tenbury Wells

COTE, Oxfordshire - 4 miles S of Witney

COTHERIDGE, Worcestershire - 4 miles W of Worcester

COTON, Warwickshire - check Chilvers Coton

COTON IN THE ELMS, Staffordshire - 5 miles S of Burton on Trent

COUNTTESTHORPE, Leicestershire - 6 miles S of Leicester

COVEN, Staffordshire - 5 miles N of Wolverhampton

COWBRIDGE, Glamorganshire - 7 miles W of Cardiff

CRADLEY, Herefordshire - 3 miles W of Great Malvern

CROOK, County Durham - 10 miles SW of Durham

CROPREDY, Worcestershire - 4 miles N of Banbury

CROWELL, Oxfordshire - 4 miles SE of Thame

CROWLE, Worcestershire - 2 miles E of Worcester

CRUDGINGTON, Shropshire - 7 miles NW of Telford

CUBBINGTON, Warwickshire is on the NE outskirts of Leamington Spa

CUBLEY, Derbyshire - 6 miles S of Ashbourne

CULLINGWORTH, Yorkshire - 4 miles S of Keighley

CURDWORTH, Warwickshire - 11 miles E of Birmingham

CUTNALL GREEN, Worcestershire - 3 miles N of Droitwich

DALLINGTON, Northamptonshire - 2 miles NW of Northampton

DARRINGTON, Yorkshire - 3 miles ESE of Pontefract

DAVENHAM, Cheshire - 2 miles S of Northwich

DAWLEY, Shropshire is part of Telford

DEDDINGTON, Oxfordshire - 6 miles S of Banbury

DEFFORD, Worcestershire - 2 miles SW of Pershore

DESFORD, Leicestershire - 7 miles W of Leicester

DEUXHILL, Shropshire - 4 miles SWS of Bridgnorth

DIDDLEBURY, Shropshire - 6 miles N of Ludlow

DILWYN, Herefordshire - 6 miles SW of Leominster

DITTON PRIORS, Shropshire - 7 miles WSW of Bridgnorth

DODDINGTON, Cambridgeshire - 4 miles S of March

DODLESTON, Cheshire - 5 miles SW of Chester

DONHEAD ST. ANDREW, Wiltshire - 4 miles E of Shaftesbury

DONNINGTON, Shropshire - 6 miles ESE of Shrewsbury

DORDON, Warwickshire - 3 miles NW of Atherstone

DOVERDALE, Worcestershire - 2 miles NW of Droitwich

DRAYCOTT IN THE CLAY, Staffordshire - 4 miles SE of Uttoxeter

DRIGHLINGTON, Yorkshire - 6 miles SW of Leeds

DUDDINGTON, Northamptonshire - 6 miles SW of Stamford

DUFFIELD, Derbyshire - 3 miles S of Belper

DUKENFIELD, Cheshire is part of Greater Manchester

DYMCHURCH, Kent - 10 miles SE of Ashford

DYMOCK, Gloucestershire - 4 miles S of Ledbury

EARL SHILTON, Leicestershire - 10 miles SW of Leicester

EARLS BARTON, Northamptonshire - 7 miles E of Northampton

EAST HARLING, Norfolk - 8 miles E of Thetford

EASTLEIGH, Hampshire - 5 miles NE of Southampton

EASTNOR, Herefordshire - 3 miles E of Ledbury

EAST STOKE, Dorsetshire - 3 miles W of Wareham

EBRINGTON, Gloucestershire - 2 miles E of Chipping Campden

ECCLESFIELD, Yorkshire - 4 miles N of Sheffield

ECCLESHALL, Staffordshire - 6 miles W of Stone

ECKINGTON, Derbyshire - 7 miles NE of Chesterfield

EDENBRIDGE, Kent - 10 miles W of Tonbridge

EDGTON, Shropshire - 5 miles SE of Bishops Castle

EDWINSTOWE, Nottinghamshire - 6 miles ENE of Mansfield

EDGERTON, Shropshire - near Ludlow (OS SO605812), now abandoned

ELFORD, Staffordshire - 5 miles E of Lichfield

ELMBRIDGE, Worcestershire - 3 miles N of Droitwich

ELMLEY LOVETT, Worcestershire - 5 miles NW of Droitwich

ENDERBY, Leicestershire - 8 miles NNE of Hinckley

EPPING, Essex - 5 miles S of Harlow

EPSTONE, Staffordshire is probably a former spelling of Ipstones

ERDINGTON, Warwickshire is part of Birmingham

ESSINGTON, Staffordshire - 4 miles NE of Wolverhampton

ETTINGTON, Warwickshire - 5.5 miles SE of Stratford on Avon

EXHALL, Warwickshire - 4 miles NE of Coventry

EYNSHAM, Oxfordshire - 5 miles NW of Oxford

FALLING SANDS, Worcestershire is part of Kidderminster

FARRINGDON, Berkshire - 10 miles NW of Wantage

FEATHERSTONE, Staffordshire - 5 miles NNE of Wolverhampton

FECKENHAM, Worcestershire - 4 miles SW of Redditch

FENNY COMPTON, Warwickshire - 8 miles N of Banbury

FENNY STRATFORD, Buckinghamshire is part of Milton Keynes

FENSTANTON, Huntingdonshire - 2 miles S of St. Ives

FENTON, Lincolnshire - 5 miles ESE of Newark on Trent

FENTON, Staffordshire is part of Stoke on Trent

FEWCOTT, Oxfordshire - 4 miles NW of Bicester

FILLONGLEY, Warwickshire - 7 miles NW of Coventry

FLOCKTON, Yorkshire - 7 miles E of Huddersfield

FOLESHILL, Warwickshire is part of Coventry

FRADLEY, Staffordshire - 5 miles NE of Lichfield

FRAMLINGHAM, Suffolk - 9 miles N of Woodbridge

FRANKLEY, Worcestershire is part of Birmingham

FRESHFORD, Somersetshire - 6 miles SE of Bath

FRODINGHAM, Lincolnshire - 1 mile N of Scunthorpe

FULLBROOK, Oxfordshire - 6 miles WNW of Witney

GAILEY, Staffordshire - 4 miles W of Cannock

GILLINGHAM, Dorset - 4 miles NW of Shaftesbury

GLASBURY, Radnorshire - 4 miles SW of Hay on Wye

GNOSSALL, Staffordshire - 6 miles ENE of Stafford

GOOSNARGH, Lancashire - 5 miles NE of Preston

GOSCOTE is part of Walsall

GREAT ALNE, Warwickshire - 6 miles SE of Redditch

GREAT BARR, Staffordshire is part of Birmingham

GREAT BOWDEN, Leicestershire - 1 mile N of Market Harborough

GREAT CHEVERELL, Wiltshire - 4 miles S of Devizes

GREAT DALBY, Leicestershire - 3 miles S of Melton Mowbray

GREAT HAYWOOD, Staffordshire - 4 miles NE of Rugeley

GREAT MARLOW, Buckinghamshire - 4 miles SSW of High Wycombe

GREAT SHELSLEY, Worcestershire is the former name of Shelsley Beauchamp

GREENS MORTON, Northamptonshire - 1 mile NW of Towcester

GRENDON, Warwickshire - 5 miles SE of Tamworth

GRESSINGHAM, Lancashire - 5 miles E of Carnforth

GRIMLEY, Worcestershire - 3 miles N of Worcester

GRIMSCOTE, Northamptonshire - 5 miles NW of Towcester

GUILSFIELD, Montgomeryshire - 3 miles N of Welshpool

HADLEY, Shropshire is part of Telford

HAGBOURNE, Berkshire - 1 mile S of Didcot

HAGLEY, Worcestershire - 2 miles S of Stourbridge

HALSALL, Lancashire - 3 miles NW of Ormskirk

HAMPTON LUCY, Warwickshire - 4 miles NE of Stratford on Avon

HAMSTALL RIDWARE, Staffordshire - 4 miles ENE of Rugeley

HANBURY, Worcestershire - 4 miles E of Droitwich

HANDSACRE, Staffordshire - 5 miles N of Lichfield; 3 miles S of Rugeley

HANDSWORTH, Staffordshire is part of Birmingham

HANLEY, Staffordshire is part of Stoke on Trent

HANLEY CASTLE, Worcestershire - 8 miles S of Worcester

HARBURY, Warwickshire - 6 miles SE of Warwick

HARLEY, Warwickshire - 10 miles SE of Shrewsbury

HARPOLE, Northamptonshire - 4 miles W of Northampton

HARTINGTON, Derbyshire - 9 miles NNW of Ashbourne

HARTLEBURY, Worcestershire - 4 miles S of Kidderminster

HARVINGTON, Worcestershire - 2 miles ESE of Kidderminster

HARWELL, Berkshire / Oxfordshire - 2 miles W of Didcot

HASELOR, Warwickshire - 1 mile E of Alcester

HATHERTON, Staffordshire - 2 miles W of Cannock

HAWARDEN, Flintshire - 6 miles W of Chester

HAYFIELD, Derbyshire - 10 miles N of Buxton

HAZLETON, Gloucestershire - 10 miles E of Cheltenham

HEDNESFORD, Staffordshire - 2 miles NE of Cannock

HENTOR, Oxfordshire - 3 miles W of Princes Risborough

HIGHAM, Derbyshire - 8 miles S of Chesterfield

HIGH HAM, Somerset - 8 miles SE of Bridgwater

HIGHBRIDGE, Somerset - 7 miles N of Bridgwater

HIGHLEY, Shropshire - 7 miles S of Bridgnorth

HIGHWORTH, Wiltshire - 6 miles NE of Swindon

HILDERSTONE, Staffordshire - 9 miles N of Stafford

HIMBLETON, Worcestershire - 6 miles SE of Droitwich

HINDLIP, Worcestershire - 4 miles NE of Worcester

HINTS, Staffordshire - 3 miles W of Tamworth

HIXON, Staffordshire - 5 miles ENE of Stafford

HOLDGATE, Shropshire - 7 miles SE of Church Stretton

HOLLINGTON, Derbyshire - 5 miles ESE of Ashbourne

HOLMES CHAPEL, Cheshire - 8 miles N of Crewe

HOLT FLEET, Worcestershire - 5 miles N of Worcester

HONEYBOURNE, Worcestershire - 3 miles E of Evesham

HOOK NORTON, Oxfordshire - 4.5 miles NE of Chipping Norton

HOPTON HEATH, Shropshire - 8 miles W of Ludlow

HOPWOOD, Worcestershire is in South Birmingham

HORSEHAY, Shropshire is part of Telford

HORSLEY, Gloucestershire - 4 miles S of Stroud

HUGGLESCOTE, Leicestershire - 1 mile S of Coalville

HUNTINGTON, Staffordshire - 2 miles N of Cannock

HURLEY, Warwickshire - 8 miles E of Sutton Coldfield

HYDE, Cheshire is part of Greater Manchester

ILMINGTON, Warwickshire - 8 miles S of Stratford

INGESTRE, Staffordshire - 3 miles ENE of Stafford

INGLETON, Yorkshire - 10 miles NW of Settle

INKBERROW, Worcestershire - 6 miles SSW of Redditch

IPSTONES, Staffordshire - 5 miles SE of Leek

IRONBRIDGE, Shropshire is part of Telford

IRONVILLE, Derbyshire - 3 miles N of Heanor

IVINGHOE, Buckinghamshire - 4 miles N of Tring

KEMPSEY, Worcestershire - 4 miles S of Worcester

KEMPTON, Shropshire - 11 miles NW of Ludlow

KIDSGROVE, Staffordshire is part of Newcastle under Lyne

KILSBY, Northamptonshire - 5 miles SE of Rugby

KINGS ARLEY, Worcestershire - see Arley Kings

KINGS BROMLEY, Staffordshire - 4 miles N of Lichfield

KINGSBURY, Warwickshire - 6 miles S of Tamworth

KINGSLAND, Herefordshire - 4 miles WNW of Leominster

KINGS LANGLEY, Hertfordshire - 2 miles S of Hemel Hempstead

KINGTON, Worcestershire - 7 miles E of Worcester

KINLET, Shropshire - 8 miles S of Bridgnorth

KINVER, Staffordshire - 4 miles W of Stourbridge

KIRK LANGLEY, Derbyshire - 4 miles NW of Derby

KIRKTON, Dumfriesshire - 4 miles N of Dumfries

KNUTSFORD, Cheshire - 11 miles NW of Macclesfield

LAMPORT, Northamptonshire - 8 miles WSW of Kettering

LAPLEY, Staffordshire - 7 miles WNW of Cannock

LEAGRAVE, Bedfordshire is part of Luton

LEA MARSTON, Warwickshire - 7 miles SW of Atherstone

LEEK WOOTTON, Warwickshire - 3 miles N of Warwick

LEIGH SINTON, Worcestershire - 5 miles SW of Worcester

LEINTWARDINE, Herefordshire - 8 miles W of Ludlow

LENTON, Nottinghamshire is part of Nottingham

LEYLAND, Lancashire - 6 miles S of Preston

LILleshALL, Shropshire - 3 miles NE of Telford

LINDRIDGE, Worcestershire - 8 miles W of Stourport

LINGEN, Herefordshire - 11 miles SW of Ludlow

LINTON, Herefordshire - 3 miles E of Ross on Wye

LISKEARD, Cornwall - 12 miles E of Bodmin

LITTLE ASTON, Staffordshire - 5 miles E of Walsall

LITTLE BRICKHILL, Berkshire - 5 miles N of Leighton Buzzard

LITTLE BUDWORTH, Cheshire - 4 miles W of Winsford

LITTLE COMPTON, Gloucestershire - 4 miles NW of Chipping Norton

LITTLE HORWOOD, Buckinghamshire - 4 miles ESE of Buckingham

LITTLE HAYWOOD, Staffordshire - 5 miles E of Stafford

LLANDWSILL, Montgomeryshire - 2 miles from Montgomery

LLANDYFRIOG, Cardiganshire - 16 miles SW of Lampeter

LLANFAIR WATERDINE, Shropshire - 4 miles NW of Knighton

LOCKINGTON, Leicestershire - 7 miles NW of Loughborough

LONG BENNINGTON, Lincolnshire - 7 miles N of Grantham

LongBOROUGH, Gloucestershire - 2.5 miles N of Stow on the Wold

LONG BUCKBY, Northamptonshire - 5 miles NE of Daventry

LONG COMPTON, Warwickshire - 12 miles SW of Banbury

LONG ITCHINGTON, Warwickshire - 6 miles E of Leamington Spa

LONGDON, Staffordshire - 2 miles NNW of Lichfield

LONG LAWFORD, Warwickshire - 2 miles NW of Rugby

LONG MELFORD - 14 miles S of Bury St. Edmunds

LONG SUTTON, Lincolnshire - 13 miles E of Spalding

LONGTON, Staffordshire is part of Stoke on Trent

LOWER BODDINGTON, Northamptonshire - 5 miles NE of Banbury

LOWER HEYFORD, Northamptonshire - 6 miles W of Bicester

LOWESMORE, Worcestershire is part of Worcester

LOXLEY, Warwickshire - 3 miles ESE of Stratford on Avon

LOYSWEEDON, Northamptonshire - see Weedon Lois

LUDGEBRIDGE BROOK, Worcestershire - Lye

LUGWARDINE, Herefordshire - 1 mile NE of Hereford

LULLINGTON, Derbyshire - 6 miles S of Burton on Trent

LYNTON, Devon - 16 miles W of Minehead

MADLEY, Herefordshire - 6 miles W of Hereford

MADELEY, Shropshire is part of Telford

MANGOTSFIELD, Gloucestershire - 3 miles NE of Bristol

MANTON, Wiltshire - 1 mile WSW of Marlborough

MARCHINGTON, Staffordshire - 4 miles SE of Uttoxeter

MARCHWOOD, Hampshire - 2 miles SW of Southampton

MARGAM, Glamorganshire - 3 miles SE of Port Talbot

MARSTON GREEN, Warwickshire - 4 miles NNE of Solihull

MARTLEY, Herefordshire - 7 miles NW of Worcester

MARTON, Shropshire - 6 miles SE of Welshpool

MEASHAM, Derbyshire - 4 miles SSW of Ashby de la Zouch

MASBROUGH, Yorkshire is part of Rotherham

MEIFOD, Montgomeryshire - 7 miles NW of Welshpool

MELFORD, Suffolk (see Long Melford)

MELVERLEY, Shropshire - 10 miles WNW of Shrewsbury

MEOLE BRACE, Shropshire - 2 miles S of Shrewsbury

MERTON, Surrey became a London borough

The MIDDLE, Shropshire - 8 miles NW of Shrewsbury

MIDDLETON, Warwickshire - 3 miles ENE of Sutton Coldfield

MIDDLETON CHENEY, Northamptonshire - 2 miles E of Banbury

MILFORD, Staffordshire - 3 miles ESE of Stafford

MILSON, Worcestershire - 10 miles W of Stourport. It is now in Herefordshire.

MINETY, Wiltshire - 8 miles WNW of Swindon

MOIRA, Leicestershire - 3 miles WSW of Ashby de la Zouch

MONKHOPTON, Shropshire - 5 miles W of Bridgnorth

MONK BRETTON, Yorkshire - 2 miles NE of Barnsley

MONMORE GREEN is between Wolverhampton and Bilston

MORETON IN MARSH, Gloucestershire - 8 miles WNW of Chipping Norton

MORETON MORRELL, Warwickshire - 6 miles E of Stratford upon Avon

MOULTON, Cheshire - 3 miles S of Northwich

MUCH WENLOCK, Shropshire - 7 miles NW of Bridgnorth

MURSTON, Leicestershire - 5 miles W of Grantham

NAILSEA, Somerset - 10 miles WSW of Bristol

NAILSTONE, Leicestershire - 3 miles NE of Market Bosworth

NAPTON ON THE HILL, Warwickshire - 10 miles ESE of Warwick

NEEN SAVAGE, Herefordshire - 11 miles E of Ludlow

NEEN SOLARS, Shropshire - 3 miles S of Cleobury Mortimer

NESSCLIFFE, Shropshire - 8 miles NW of Shrewsbury

NESTON, Cheshire - 10 miles NW of Chester

NEWBALD, Yorkshire - 13 miles NW of Hull

NEWBOLD ON AVON, Warwickshire - 1.5 miles NW of Rugby

NEWBOLD VERDON, Leicestershire - 9 miles W of Leicester

NEWDALe, Shropshire is part of Telford

NEWENT, Gloucestershire - 8 miles NW of Gloucester

NEWHALL, Derbyshire - 3 miles SE of Burton upon Trent

NEW INVENTION is part of Willenhall

NEW MILLS, Derbyshire - 8 miles SE of Stockport

NEWNHAM, Worcestershire - 8 miles ESE of Ludlow

NEWPORT, Shropshire - 15 miles ENE of Shrewsbury

NEWSTEAD, Nottinghamshire - 9 miles WNW of Nottingham

NEWTON SOLNEY, Derbyshire - 3 miles NE of Burton on Trent

NORLEY, Cheshire - 6 miles W of Northwich

NORMANTON, Derbyshire is part of Derby

NORTHENDEN, Cheshire - 5 miles S of Manchester city centre

NORTHFIELD, Worcestershire is a part of Birmingham

NORTH NIBLEY, Gloucestershire - 2 miles NW of Wotton under Edge

NORTHWICH, Cheshire - 18 miles E of Chester

NORTON CANES, Staffordshire - 2 miles ESE of Cannock

OAKAMOOD, Staffordshire - 10 miles E of Stoke on Trent

OAKENGATES, Shropshire is part of Telford

OCKER HILL is part of Tipton

OLD PARK, Shropshire is part of Telford

OMBURY, Shropshire - 5 miles NW of Ludlow

OPENSHAW, Lancashire - 2 miles E of Manchester city centre

ORTON ON THE HILL, Leicestershire - 6 miles E of Tamworth

OSGATHORPE, Leicestershire - 7 miles W of Loughborough

OVERTON, Hampshire - 8 miles WSW of Basingstoke

OVING, Buckinghamshire - 3.5 miles NE of Waddesdon

PACKINGTON, Leicestershire - 1 mile S of Ashby de la Zouch

PADBURY, Buckinghamshire - 2 miles SE of Buckingham

PARKGATE, Yorkshire is part of Rawmarsh, 2 miles N of Rotherham

PATTINGHAM, Staffordshire - 7 miles W of Wolverhampton

PAXFORD, Worcestershire - 11 miles ESE of Evesham

PEASENALL, Suffolk - 4 miles N of Saxmundham

PEMBERTON, Lancashire is a district of Wigan

PEMBRIDGE, Herefordshire - 7 miles W of Leominster

PENDLEBURY, Lancashire - 4 miles NW of Manchester city centre

PENDLETON, Lancashire - 7 miles NW of Burnley

PENKRIDGE, Staffordshire - 6 miles S of Stafford

PENSAX, Worcestershire - 6 miles WSW of Stourport

PEOPLETON, Worcestershire - 7 miles SE of Worcester

PERSHORE, Worcestershire - 8 miles SE of Worcester

PILTON, Somerset - 3 miles SW of Shepton Mallet

PIPE RIDWARE, Staffordshire - 6 miles N of Lichfield

PITCHCOTT, Buckinghamshire - 3 miles NE of Waddesdon

POCKLINGTON, Yorkshire - 13 miles E of York

POLESWORTH, Warwickshire - 4 miles E of Tamworth

PONTESBURY, Shropshire - 8 miles SW of Shrewsbury

PORTLAND TOWN, Middlesex was part of Marylebone, London

PORTOBELLO is part of Willenhall

PRESTBURY, Cheshire - 1.5 miles N of Macclesfield

PRESTEIGNE, Radnorshire - 5 miles N of Kington

QUATFORD, Shropshire - 2 miles SE of Bridgnorth

RADBOURNE, Derbyshire - 4 miles W of Derby

RADFORD SEMELE, Warwickshire - 2 miles ESE of Leamington Spa

RADCLIFF ON TRENT, Nottinghamshire - 5 miles E of Nottingham

RAMSEY, Huntingdonshire - 10 miles SE of Peterborough

RATLEY, Warwickshire - 6 miles NW of Banbury

RAVENSTONE, Leicestershire is to the W of Coalville

REPTON, Derbyshire - 5 miles NE of Burton upon Trent

RETFORD, Nottinghamshire - 23 miles W of Lincoln

RIPPLE, Gloucestershire is part of Tewkesbury

RODINGTON, Shropshire - 6 miles E of Shrewsbury

ROMSLEY, Worcestershire - 4 miles S of Halesowen

ROTHLEY, Leicestershire - 5 miles N of Leicester

ROTHWELL, Northamptonshire - 4 miles WNW of Kettering

ROWINGTON, Warwickshire - 5 miles NW of Warwick

RUARDEAN, Monmouthshire - 3 miles NW of Cinderford

RUGELEY, Staffordshire - 6 miles NWN of Lichfield

RUSHOCK, Worcestershire - 4 miles N of Droitwich

RUSHTON, Shropshire is part of Telford

SADDINGTON, Leicestershire - 9 miles SE of Leicester

ST. MARTINS, Herefordshire is part of Hereford

SALTCOATS, Ayrshire - 12 miles WNW of Kilmarnock

SAMBOURNE, Warwickshire - 12 miles NNW of Stratford on Avon

SAMBROOK, Shropshire - 6 miles SSE of Market Drayton

SANDFORD ON THAMES, Oxfordshire - just S of Oxford

SANDON, Staffordshire - 5 miles NE of Stafford

SAWLEY, Yorkshire - 4 miles W of Ripon

SAWTREY, Huntingdonshire - 10 miles S of Peterborough

ST. JULIANS, Shropshire is part of Shrewsbury

SCALEBY, Cumberland - 6 miles NNE of Carlisle

SCRUTON, Yorkshire - 5 miles W of Northallerton

SECKINGTON, Warwickshire - 4 miles NE of Tamworth

SEISDON, Staffordshire - 6 miles W of Wolverhampton

SELWORTHY, Somerset 3 miles W of Minehead

SEVERN STOKE, Warwickshire - 7 miles S of Worcester

SHARESHILL, Staffordshire - 3 miles SW of Cannock

SHEEN, Staffordshire - 8 miles SSE of Buxton

SHELSLEY WALSH, Worcestershire - 9 miles NW of Worcester

SHENSTONE, Staffordshire - 4 miles E of Brownhills

SHEPSHED, Leicestershire - 4 miles W of Loughborough

SHIFNAL, Shropshire - 10 miles NNE of Bridgnorth

SHILTON, Leicestershire – check Earl Shilton

SHIPTON ON CHERWELL, Oxfordshire - 2 miles N of Kidlington

SHIRLAND, Derbyshire - 2 miles NNW of Alfreton

SHORT HEATH, Staffordshire is between Bloxwich and Willenhall

SHREWLEY, Warwickshire - 5 miles NW of Warwick

SHUSTOKE, Warwickshire - 10 miles ENE of Birmingham

SIBFORD GOWER, Gloucestershire - 6.5 miles W of Banbury

SIBSON, Leicestershire - 9 miles ESE of Tamworth

SILSOE, Bedfordshire - 9 miles S of Bedford

SILVERDALE, Staffordshire is part of Newcastle under Lyme

SILVERSTONE, Northamptonshire - 4 miles SSW of Towcester

SNARESTONE, Leicestershire - 9 miles ENE of Tamworth

SNITTERFIELD, Warwickshire - 3 miles NNE of Stratford on Avon

SNOWSHILL, Gloucestershire - 6 miles SSE of Evesham

SOMERTON, Oxfordshire - 6 miles NW of Bicester

SOPWORTH, Wiltshire - 6 miles W of Malmesbury

SOUTHAM, Warwickshire - 7 miles E of Leamington

SOUTH KILWORTH, Leicestershire - 7 miles NE of Rugby

SOUTH LITTLETON, Worcestershire - 2 miles NE of Evesham

SOUTH MUSKHAM, Nottinghamshire - 2 miles N of Newark on Trent

SOUTHWICK, Northamptonshire - 8 miles E of Corby

STANFORD ON TEME, Worcestershire - 6 miles ESE of Stourport

STANFORD BISHOP, Herefordshire - 4 miles SSE of Bromyard

STANTON, Derbyshire - 3 miles SE of Burton upon Trent

STANTON, Staffordshire - 18 miles E of Stoke on Trent

STANWAY, Gloucestershire is part of Tewkesbury

STAPENHILL, Derbyshire is part of Burton on Trent

STAPLETON, Shropshire - 6 miles SW of Shrewsbury

STATHERN, Leicestershire - 10 miles N of Melton Mowbray

STAVELEY, Derbyshire is part of Chesterfield

STEEPLE ASTON, Oxfordshire - 7 miles WNW of Bicester

STIRCHLEY, Shropshire is part of Telford

STOCKINGFORD, Warwickshire - 2 miles W of Nuneaton

STOCKLAND, Dorsetshire / Devonshire - 6 miles NE of Honiton

STOCKTON, Herefordshire - 2 miles NE of Leominster

STOCKTON, Shropshire - 4 miles N of Bridgnorth

STOCKTON, Warwickshire - 8 miles SW of Rugby

STOKE LYNE, Oxfordshire - 4 miles N of Bicester

STOKE PRIOR, Worcestershire - 2 miles S of Bromsgrove

STOKESAY, Shropshire - 6 miles NW of Ludlow

STON EASTON, Somersetshire - 14 miles SW of Bath

STONNALL, Staffordshire - 2 miles E of Brownhills

STRETTON ON DUNSMORE, Warwickshire - 6 miles ESE of Rugby

STUDLEY, Warwickshire - 4 miles SE of Redditch

SUCKLEY, Herefordshire - 8 miles WSW of Worcester

SULGRAVE, Northamptonshire - 6 miles ENE of Banbury

SUTTON, Shropshire - 2 miles SE of Shrewsbury

SUTTON BASSETT, Northamptonshire - 14 miles NW of Kettering

SWARKESTONE, Derbyshire - 6 miles S of Derby

SWINBROOK, Oxfordshire - 4 miles ENE of Witney

SWINDON, Staffordshire - 5 miles W of Dudley

SWINFEN, Staffordshire - 2 miles S of Lichfield

SWINESHEAD, Lincolnshire - 7 miles W of Boston

TADMARTON, Oxfordshire - 4 miles W of Banbury

TANWORTH IN ARDEN, Warwickshire - 4 miles NE of Redditch

TARDEBIGGE, Worcestershire - 2 miles SE of Bromsgrove

TAYNTON, Oxfordshire - 1.5 miles NW of Burford

TEMPLE BALSALL, Warwickshire is part of Solihull

TETBURY, Gloucestershire - 10 miles SW of Cirencester

THAME, Oxfordshire - 13 miles E of Oxford

THENFORD, Northamptonshire - 2 miles E of Banbury

THORNBURY, Herefordshire - 6 miles N of Bromyard

THORNHILL, Derbyshire - 8 miles ENE of Chapel en le Frith

THORPE, Derbyshire - 4 miles NW of Ashbourne

THRUPP, Gloucestershire - 2 miles S of Stroud

THURMASTON, Leicestershire - 4 miles N of Leicester

TIBBERTON, Worcestershire - 5 miles NNE of Worcester

TICKHILL, Yorkshire - 8 miles S of Doncaster

TICKNALL, Derbyshire - 8 miles S of Derby

TIDESWELL, Derbyshire - 6 miles E of Buxton

TILSTOCK, Shropshire - 2 miles S of Whitchurch

TIMSBURY, Somersetshire - 8 miles SW of Bath

TINGEWICK, Buckinghamshire - 3 miles W of Buckingham

TIRLEY, Gloucestershire - 4 miles SW of Tewkesbury

TODDINGTON, Gloucestershire - 7 miles S of Evesham

TODMORDEN, Lancashire / Yorkshire - 8 miles SE of Burnley

TONG, Shropshire - 9 miles NW of Wolverhampton

TREDUNNOCK, Monmouthshire - 4 miles S of Usk

TREFEGLWYS, Montgomeryshire - 10 miles W of Newtown

TRELLECH, Monmouthshire - 6 miles S of Monmouth

TRENTHAM, Staffordshire is part of Stoke on Trent

TREVETHIN, Monmouthshire - 1 mile N of Pontypool

TRING, Hertfordshire - 30 miles NW of London

TROWAY, Derbyshire - 2 miles E of Coal Aston

TRYSULL, Staffordshire - 6 miles WNW of Dudley

TUNSTALL, Staffordshire is part of Stoke on Trent

TUTBURY, Staffordshire - 4 miles NNW of Burton on Trent

TYBURN, Worcestershire is part of Birmingham

TYSOE, Warwickshire - 9 miles NW of Banbury

ULEY, Gloucestershire - 6 miles SW of Stroud

UPPER ARLEY, Worcestershire - 5 miles NW of Kidderminster

UPPER TEAN, Staffordshire - 9 miles SE of Stoke on Trent

UPPINGTON, Shropshire - 6 miles E of Shrewsbury

UPTON BISHOP, Herefordshire - 3.5 miles NE of Ross

UPTON CRESSETT, Shropshire - 3 miles W of Bridgnorth

UPTON ON SEVERN, Worcestershire - 9 miles S of Worcester

UPTON GREY, Hampshire - 5 miles ESE of Basingstoke

UPTON SNODSBURY, Worcestershire - 5 miles E of Worcester

UPTON WARREN, Worcestershire - 3 miles SW of Bromsgrove

UPWELL, Norfolk - 6 miles W of Downham Market

WAGBEACH, Shropshire - 10 miles SW of Shrewsbury

WAINFLEET, Lincolnshire - 5 miles SW of Skegness

WALCOT, Shropshire - 6 miles E of Shrewsbury

WALL, Staffordshire - 2 miles WSW of Lichfield

WALTON, Derbyshire is a suburb of Chesterfield

WALTON, Radnorshire - 8 miles SSE of Knighton

WALTON, Staffordshire - 1 mile SW of Stone

WALTON UPON TRENT, Derbyshire - 4 miles SSW of Burton upon Trent

WAPLEY, Gloucestershire - 6 miles NE of Bristol

WARBOYS, Huntingdonshire - 5 miles N of St. Ives

WARDINGTON, Oxfordshire - 4 miles NNE of Banbury

WARMINGTON, Northamptonshire - 8 miles SW of Peterborough

WARTON, Warwickshire - 5 miles E of Tamworth

WATERHOUSE, Staffordshire - 6 miles NW of Ashbourne

WATER ORTON, Warwickshire - 6 miles NNE of Birmingham

WATH UPON DEARNE, Yorkshire - 5 miles N of Rotherham

WEEDON LOIS, Northamptonshire - 10 miles S of Daventry

WEEFORD, Staffordshire - 5 miles W of Tamworth

WELFORD ON AVON, Warwickshire - 4 miles WSW of Stratford upon Avon

WELLESBOURNE, Warwickshire - 7 miles S of Warwick

WELLINGTON, Shropshire is part of Telford

WELSHAMPTON, Shropshire - 8 miles ESE of Whitchurch

WELTON, Northamptonshire - 3 miles N of Daventry

WENTNOR, Shropshire - 5 miles NE of Bishops Castle

WERRINGTON, Cornwall - 2 miles N of Launceston

WESCOTT BARTON, Oxfordshire - 7 miles E of Chipping Norton

WESTBURY, Shropshire - 8 miles W of Shrewsbury

WEST DERBY, Lancashire is part of Liverpool

WEST FARNDON, Northamptonshire - 8 miles NE of Banbury

WEST MELTON, Yorkshire - 5 miles N of Rotherham

WESTLEY WATERLESS, Cambridgeshire - 5 miles SW of Newmarket

WESTON LONGVILLE, Norfolk - 8 miles NW of Norwich

WESTON ON TRENT, Staffordshire - 6 miles SSE of Derby

WHALEY BRIDGE, Derbyshire - 7 miles N of Buxton

WHAPLODE, Lincolnshire - 6 miles E of Spalding

WHARTON, Cheshire - 4 miles S of Northwich

WHEATON ASTON, Staffordshire - 7 miles W of Cannock

WHISTON, Staffordshire - 7 miles SE of Leek

WHITBOURNE, Herefordshire - 5 miles E of Bromyard

WHITCHURCH, Buckinghamshire - 4 miles N of Aylesbury

WHITTINGTON, Derbyshire - 2 miles N of Chesterfield

WHITTINGTON, Staffordshire - 3 miles SE of Lichfield

WHITTINGTON, Shropshire - 3 miles NE of Oswestry

WHITTON, Radnorshire - 3 miles S of Knighton

WHITWICK, Leicestershire - 2 miles NW of Coalville

WICK, Worcestershire - 9 miles SE of Worcester

WIGGINTON, Staffordshire - 2 miles N of Tamworth

WIGMORE, Hertfordshire is part of Luton

WILLEY, Shropshire - 5 miles NW of Bridgnorth

WILNECOTE, Staffordshire - 2 miles SE of Tamworth

WIMBLEBURY, Staffordshire - 2 miles E of Cannock

WINCHCOMBE, Gloucestershire - 6 miles NE of Cheltenham

WINKFIELD, Berkshire - 3 miles NE of Bracknell

WINSHILL, Derbyshire - 2 miles E of Burton on Trent

WISTANSTOW, Shropshire - 9 miles NW of Ludlow

WITBOURNE, Worcestershire - 8 miles W of Worcester

WITHINGTON, Herefordshire - 5 miles NE of Hereford

WITHINGTON, Staffordshire - 3 miles W of Uttoxeter

WOLVERLEY, Worcestershire - 2 Miles N of Kidderminster

WOLVERTON, Buckinghamshire is part of Milton Keynes

WOMBOURNE, Staffordshire - 5 miles WNW of Dudley

WOODCHESTER, Gloucestershire - 2 miles S of Stroud

WOOD END, (Staffordshire) is part of Wednesfield

WOODVILLE, Leicestershire - 3 miles WNW of Ashby de la Zouch

WOOTTON WAWEN, Warwickshire - 2 miles S of Henley in Arden

WORTHEN, Shropshire - 12 miles WSW of Shrewsbury

WRIBBENHALL, Worcestershire - 3 miles WSW of Kidderminster

WROCKWARDINE, Shropshire is part of Telford

WROTTESELEY, Staffordshire - 4.5 miles WNW of Wolverhampton

WROXETER, Shropshire - 5 miles SE of Shrewsbury

WROXTON, Oxfordshire - 3 miles W of Banbury

WYRLEY, Staffordshire could be Little Wyrley or Great Wyrley, between Cannock and Brownhills

WYSALL, Nottinghamshire - 11 miles S of Nottingham

YANWORTH, Gloucestershire - 14 miles SE of Cheltenham

YARKHILL, Herefordshire - 6 miles NNE of Hereford

YATTON, Somerset - 11 miles SW of Bristol

YORTON, Shropshire - 7 miles N of Shrewsbury

YOXFORD, Suffolk - 8 miles SW of Southwold

SOURCES

CENSUSES

1841 (7/6)
1851 (30/3)
1861 (7/4)
1871 (2/4)
1881 (4/4)
1891 (5/4)
1901 (31/3)
1911 (2/4)

PARISH REGISTERS

St. Edmund's, Dudley
St. Giles', Rowley Regis
St. Thomas', Dudley

LICENSING REGISTERS

Bilston and Sedgley
Darlaston
Dudley
Kingswinford
Oldbury
Smethwick
Stourbridge
Tipton
Walsall and Bloxwich
Wednesbury
West Bromwich

NEWSPAPERS & MAGAZINES

Ales and Tales, the newsletter published by Dudley and South Staffordshire, and Stourbridge and Halesowen Branches of CAMRA.

Beerwolf, the newsletter published by Wolverhampton Branch CAMRA

Black Country Bugle, published by the Black Country Bugle, 41 High Street, Cradley Heath. B64 5HL
e-mail editor@blackcountrybugle.co.uk

The Blackcountryman, published by the Black Country Society.
e-mail editor@blackcountrysociety.co.uk

The Brewers' Journal

Brewery History Society Journals

The Brewing Trade Review

Deer's Leap. The house magazine of Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

Find My Past
www.findmypast.co.uk

Kils and Kins, the newsletter published by Walsall Branch CAMRA

London Gazette
www.thegazette.co.uk

The New Imbiber / Independent Imbiber

Smethwick Heritage Telephone. The magazine of the Smethwick Heritage Centre Trust
e-mail editor@smethwick-heritage.co.uk

Volunteer Service Gazette

DIRECTORIES

Ace's Directory of Darlaston (1953/54)
Aubrey's Staffordshire Directory (1931)
Bennett's Business Directory for Warwickshire, Worcestershire and South Staffordshire (1911–12)
Bentley's History & Guide & Directory of Worcestershire (1841)
Blockside's Dudley Almanack (1881–1888), (1900-1914), (1925–1930)
Bridgen's Directory of Wolverhampton (1833)
Cassey & Co.'s Worcestershire Directory (1860)
Cope's Directory of Staffordshire (1908)
Corporation Directory for Birmingham & its environs (1863)
Crocker's Post Office Wolverhampton & District Directory (1884)
Dixon & Co. General and Commercial Directory of the Borough of Birmingham..... (1858)
Elton & Brown's Tipton & District Almanack (1901)
Ford's Household Almanack (1881)
Harrison & Harrod's Directory & Gazetteer of Staffordshire with Dudley (1861)
Herald Yearbook and Directory (1899–1902)
Holden's Directory (1816–17)
Hulley's Directory of the Hardware District (1889–90)
Hulley's Directory of Wolverhampton (1874)
Jones' Mercantile Directory of the Iron District of South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire (1865)
Kelly's Directory of Birmingham (1879), (1883), (1888), (1890), (1892), (1896), (1897), (1900), (1904), (1907), (1909), (1912), (1914), (1921), (1926), (1928)
Kelly's Directory for Birmingham (with its suburbs) and Smethwick (1930), (1933), (1934), (1942), (1943), (1944), (1945), (1946), (1949), (1951), (1955–1959), (1962), (1965), (1967/68)
Kelly's Directory of Birmingham, Staffordshire and Worcestershire (1850)
Kelly's Directory for Staffordshire (1888), (1892), (1900), (1904), (1908), (1911), (1912), (1916), (1921), (1924), (1928), (1932), (1936), (1940)
Kelly's Directory for Staffordshire, Warwickshire & Worcestershire (1870), (1921)
Kelly's Directory for Warwickshire & Worcestershire (1916)
Kelly's Directory of Worcestershire (1884), (1888), (1892), (1896), (1912), (1921), (1924), (1928), (1932), (1936)
Kelly's Post Office Directory for Birmingham & District (1845)
Lewis' Worcestershire General and Commercial Directory (1820)
Littlebury's Worcestershire Directory (1873)
Mark & Moody's Directory for Stourbridge and District (1900)
Melville's Directory of Wolverhampton & District (1851)
Parson's Directory of Staffordshire and General (1818)
Pigot's Directory of Birmingham (1834), (1841), (1842)

Pigot & Co. Directory of Staffordshire (1822), (1828), (1830), (1842)
 Pigot & Co. Directory of Worcestershire (1835)
 Post Office Directory for Birmingham (1879)
 Post Office Directory for Birmingham and its suburbs (1878)
 Post Office Directory of London, Birmingham and District (1845)
 Post Office Directory for Staffordshire (1849), (1860), (1868), (1872)
 Post Office Directory for Worcestershire (1872)
 Robson's London and Birmingham Directory (1839)
 Ryder's Annual for Wednesbury (1889)
 Ryder's Annual Wednesbury Red Book & Directory (1901)
 Slater's Directory of Staffordshire (1850), (1862)
 Slater's Directory of Worcestershire (1862)
 Smethwick Annual and Year Book (1903)
 Stevens' Directory of Wolverhampton and 6 miles Round (1879–1880)
 Stourbridge Almanack & Directory (1914)
 White's Directory of Birmingham (1873)
 White's General and Commercial Directory of Birmingham (1855)
 White's History, Gazetteer & Directory: Staffordshire (1834)
 White's Directory for Staffordshire (1834), (1851), (1855), (1873)
 Willenhall Red Book (1929)
 Wolverhampton Directory (1879)
 Wolverhampton Red Book (1900), (1928), (1938–1939)

Leicester University Special Collections
specialcollections.le.ac.uk/digital/collection/p16445coll4

BOOKS

Alton Douglas Presents series (published by Brewin Books Ltd.):
 'Memories of West Bromwich' (1999)

'Amblecote Directory 1905 to 1915' compiled by Nick Baker (2001)
 'An ABC of the Licensing Laws' by the Solicitor to the London Central Board (c. 1960)
 'Any Road Up. Memories of life in Tipton' collected by Heather Wastie (1998)

The Archive Photographs series (published by Chalford Publishing Co.):
 'Wolverhampton' compiled by Mary Mills and Tracey Williams (1996)

'Around Tettenhall and Codsall in Old Photographs' collected by Mary Mills (1990)
 'The Best of Times: The Best of Places' compiled and edited by Dave Reeves (1997)
 'Bilston in Old Photographs' collected by Elizabeth A. Rees (1988)
 'Black Country Breweries' by Joseph McKenna (2005)
 'The Black Country Good Beer Guide' compiled by the Black Country Branches of CAMRA (1994)
 'The Black Country Good Beer Guide' compiled by the Black Country Branches of CAMRA (2006)
 'A Black Country Pub Crawl of West Bromwich' compiled by Peter Hill (1992)
 'The Black Country as seen through Antique Maps' by Eric Richardson (2000)
 'The Black Country At Play' by Alton Douglas, Dennis Moore etc. (1994)
 'Black Country Pubs in Old Photographs' compiled by Robin Pearson and Jean Wade (1991)
 'The Black Country Remembered' by Alton Douglas, Dennis Moore etc. (1996)
 'The Book of the Black Country' by Jon Raven (1988)
 'The Brewing of Good Honest Beer'. Issued by Mitchells & Butlers Ltd. (1929)

Britain in Old Photographs series (published by Sutton Publishing):-

- 'Bilston, Bradley & Ladymoor' by Ron Davies & Roy Hawthorne (2000)
 - 'Bilston, Bradley & Ladymoor. A Second Selection' by Ron Davies (2002)
 - 'Bilston, Bradley & Ladymoor. A Third Selection' by Ron Davies (2003)
 - 'Bilston, Bradley & Ladymoor. A Sixth Selection' by Ron and Joan Davies (2009)
 - 'Blackheath' by Anthony H. Page (2000)
 - 'Brierley Hill' by Stan Hill (1995)
 - 'Brierley Hill' by Ned Williams and the Mount Pleasant Local History Group (2011)
 - 'Cradley Heath, Old Hill & District' by Ron Moss & Bob Clarke (1998)
 - 'Cradley Heath, Old Hill and District: A Second Selection' by Ron Moss (2004)
 - 'Darlaston, Moxley & Bentley' by Ian M. Bott (2000)
 - 'Dudley' by H. Atkins, D. Matthews & S. Robins (1998)
 - 'Great Bridge & District' by Terry Price (2000)
 - 'Great Bridge Memories' by Terry Price (2004)
 - 'Great Bridge Revisited' by Terry Price (2002)
 - 'Halesowen' by David L. Eades (1998)
 - 'Halesowen. A Second Selection' by David L. Eades (2000)
 - 'Lye & Wollescote' by Denys Brooks & Pat Dunn (1997)
 - 'Netherton' by Ned Williams (2006)
 - 'Oldbury, Langley & Warley' by Terry Daniels (2002)
 - 'Quarry Bank' by Ned Williams etc. (1998)
 - 'Quarry Bank and the Delph' by Ned Williams and the Mount Pleasant Local History Group (2009)
 - 'Rowley' by Anthony H. Page (2001)
 - 'Sedgley & District' by Trevor Genge (1995)
 - 'Sedgley & District. A Second Selection' by Trevor Genge (1997)
 - 'Sedgley & District. A Third Selection' by Trevor Genge (1999)
 - 'Sedgley & District. A Fifth Selection' by Trevor Genge (2004)
 - 'Sedgley, Coseley & The Gornals' by Trevor Genge (2001)
 - 'Stourbridge, Wollaston & Amblecote' by Bob Clarke & Michael Reuter (1997)
 - 'Stourbridge, Wollaston & Amblecote. A Second Selection' by Bob Clarke & Michael Reuter (2000)
 - 'Tipton' by John Brimble and Keith Hodgkins (1995)
 - 'Tipton. A Second Selection' by John Brimble and Keith Hodgkins (1997)
 - 'Tipton. A Third Selection' by Keith Hodgkins and John Brimble (2001)
 - 'Walsall Past and Present' by David F. Vodden (1999)
 - 'Walsall Revisited' by David F. Vodden (1997)
 - 'Wednesbury in Old Photographs' by Ian M. Bott (1994)
 - 'Wednesbury Memories' by Ian M. Bott (2004)
 - 'Wednesbury Revisited' by Ian M. Bott (1998)
 - 'Wednesfield and Heath Town' by Elizabeth A. Rees & Mary Mills (1992)
 - 'West Bromwich Revisited' by David F. Vodden (1999)
 - 'West Bromwich Memories' by Terry Price (2006)
-
- 'Britain's Lost Breweries and Beers' by Chris Arnot (2012)
 - 'The Burton Ale Guild of Master Cellarmen, Pub Guide' (1993)
 - 'By Road & Rail To Tettenhall' by Ned Williams (1980)
 - 'The CAMRA National Inventory' edited by David Gamston (2003)
 - 'The Caring Community' by John R. Stenson (1994)
 - 'A Century of the Black Country' by Ned Williams (1999)
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