

Family History



THE JOURNAL OF THE INSTITUTE OF HERALDIC AND GENEALOGICAL STUDIES

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THE INSTITUTE OF HERALDIC AND GENEALOGICAL STUDIES

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The Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies [IHGS] is an independent educational charitable trust established to provide training and research in the study of the history and structure of the family. It was established in Northgate, Canterbury, in 1961.

Set in its own grounds in a charming property dating from the thirteenth century, the Institute runs courses of instruction leading to qualifications in genealogy and heraldry. We offer a range of Distance Learning Courses, including our renowned Higher Certificate Correspondence Course in Genealogy which was established to train professional genealogists.

The fees for membership comprise an initial fee of £37.50 for the first year, and then an annual fee of £22.50. Membership includes access to the library, discounts in the bookshop, and the bi-annual journal *Family History*.

The Institute is famed for its library and for its publications, including the celebrated *Phillimore Atlas and Index of Parish Registers*. Library opening hours are 10:00 – 4:00 pm, Wednesday, by appointment only. IHGS members and students have free access. The rate for non-members is £10 a day or £5 per half-day. Visitors wishing to use our FamilySearch facility can do so for free. Since space in the library is limited, all members and visitors must make an appointment with the librarian.

The Institute shares its premises with its sister company, Achievements, also founded in 1961. Achievements is an international research organisation devoted to, and specialising in, all aspects of genealogy, family tree research, heraldry and associated artwork. More information can be found at www.achievements.co.uk.

IHGS has a proven track-record in teaching Genealogy and Heraldry to Hobbyists and Professionals alike

- ✓ Achieve Recognised Qualifications
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Edited by Sarah Bulson

education@ihgs.ac.uk**Note from the Editor**

We invite contributions of articles for our journal, Family History. Articles should focus on genealogy or heraldry, whether comprising historical analyses, personal research journeys, or insights into family history and heraldic traditions. Experienced authors, graduates and students are all encouraged to contribute.

Front cover:

Students receiving their awards at the IHGS Awards Day

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IHGS produces a free monthly email newsletter. To subscribe please visit our website,
www.ihgs.ac.uk

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IHGS NEWS

AWARDS DAY

We were delighted to host numerous students and friends at our annual Awards Day, which took place in the beautiful grounds of Canterbury Cathedral. The event was a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the hard work and accomplishments of our students and Tutors.

The thunderstorms stayed away, and the sun came out. After a buffet lunch and a chance to catch up, the speeches and presentations began.

Our President, the Earl of Lytton, joined our Principal Dr Paul Fox to present certificates to the successful students. Certificates were received in person on the day by Deborah Brambill, Allen Clarke, Sheila Herd, Rachel Jenkins, Julie Muirhead, Paula Nobes, Jananne Rahman, Angela Smith and Simon Webster.



IHGS Students who received their certificates

Many congratulations to all of them.

EXAMINATION RESULTS 2024-2025

We are very pleased to confirm our examination results for this year are as follows:

Diploma	Higher Certificate	Advanced	Intermediate	Elementary
Teresa Needle	Deborah Brambill Sarah Cook Sheila Herd Julie Muirhead Jananne Rahman Sonja Sarantis Angela Smith	Christopher Cope Paula Nobes Sonja Sarantis	Rosemary Gray Graham Higson Rachael Jenkins Cheryl McPherson Paula Nobes Susan Richmond Sonja Sarantis Simon Webster	Allen Clarke Jayne Dyson Rosemary Gray Rachel Greenhalgh Rebecca Horne Elisabeth Isted Rachael Jenkins Susan Richmond Kathy Wallwork Joanna Wells

We were delighted to award Teresa Needle her Diploma in Genealogy with special mention to her piece on *Edith Catt and her Family Connection to New Zealand*.

We jointly awarded with the Heraldry Society:

Diploma in Heraldry
Ian Newton

Heraldry Elementary
James P Howard II

Heraldry Intermediate
James P Howard II

Ian Newton received the Diploma in Heraldry for his excellent dissertation on *The Burghersh Tombs in Lincoln Cathedral*.

Many congratulations to them all on their achievements.

CHLOE O'SHEA AND LORRAINE WHALE JOIN THE IHGS TUTORIAL TEAM

We are delighted to welcome both Chloe O'Shea and Lorraine Whale to our Tutorial team.

Chloe O'Shea, DipGen

Chloe began researching her family tree in 2006 with the hobby quickly taking up all of her free time. After a career working in various museums in the Midlands, Chloe decided to train to be a professional genealogist with IHGS and was awarded the Higher Certificate in 2021 and the Diploma in 2023. She is the author of 'Discover your Dorset Ancestors' and the recently published 'Tracing your Staffordshire Ancestors'. Chloe also writes articles for magazines including Who Do You Think You Are and Family Tree magazine. She is a member of the Register of Qualified Genealogists RQG and is a paid contributor to MyHeritage's Wiki project. Her passion lies with educating others and helping people to break down their long-standing brick walls.



Lorraine Whale, DipGen

Lorraine is a graduate of the Institute who gained the Higher Certificate in 2020 and the Diploma in Genealogy the following year. Her passion for family history was sparked in the early 2000s while looking through old family photos with her grandmother. What began as a personal journey to uncover her own ancestry soon turned into a fascination with genealogy, leading her to help others trace their own family history. After more than 25 years in Human Resources Management, Lorraine made a career change to become a professional genealogist and established her own business providing family history and house history research. She is currently the Chair of the Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives (AGRA).



We look forward to them sharing their knowledge and insight with our students and the team. A warm welcome to Chloe and Lorraine.

DNA ADVISORY SERVICE - We can help to unlock your DNA story!

We are excited to launch our next project: DNA Advisory Service.

We can provide genetic genealogy research advice through our network of expert researchers in the UK, Europe, North America and worldwide. We will help you to combine cutting edge science with historical research and resources to maximise the information you can discover.

DNA test results can be difficult to interpret without expert knowledge - interpreted correctly DNA can reveal so much about you and your family. That's where our network of DNA and family history specialists can provide an unrivalled service.

IHGS has gathered together top DNA and family history experts to help:

- progress family trees
- research further details relating to Scottish, Irish, English and Jewish ancestry
- address forensic aspects of the DNA results
- identify unknown parents or grandparents
- advise on where to access the most appropriate DNA tests for your needs
- We do not undertake testing ourselves, but can advise on where to test, and what tests to take.

To find out more please send an email to enquiries@achievements.co.uk.

IHGS will become a primary hub for the development of the science of genetic genealogy as part of its vision to be the leading institute for the study, preservation, and promotion of heraldic and genealogical heritage.

We are bringing together the top experts in the field. An in-depth DNA educational programme is currently under development to complement IHGS' existing training modules for genealogists and genealogy enthusiasts. We believe that no family historian should neglect using DNA as a means of underpinning their research. Although millions of people have taken a DNA test, the results can be difficult to interpret without expert knowledge. We can provide that expert knowledge, covering all aspects of genetic genealogy.

Human DNA in a nutshell

Human DNA is packaged into 46 bundles called chromosomes. Each chromosome comes as a pair, one from each parent. There are 44 ordinary (or autosomal) chromosomes and two sex chromosomes, so-called because together they determine whether an offspring will be genetically male or female. Since a parent passes on only half of their autosomal DNA it is not very useful as a means of exploring remote ancestry.

While we might carry tiny snippets of DNA from certain ancestors living many centuries ago, from other remote ancestors we will have inherited no genetic material at all. The usefulness of autosomal DNA largely ceases beyond ten generations or 200 years.

This matters because the majority of people have so far only been tested for autosomal DNA. It is popular with testing companies because it is gender neutral, in other words, both men and women can take the test. It is invaluable where there are family uncertainties in the recent past, for instance, in cases of lost parentage.

The Y chromosome

The only bundle of genetic information which is passed down completely from one generation to the next is the small Y chromosome, one of the two sex chromosomes, and that which determines genetic maleness. It is passed down unchanged from father to son, excepting that sometimes, due to random copying errors, minute changes can occur. This chromosome is of enormous consequence for family historians because the Y chromosome usually travels with a surname, unless there has been an “extra-paternal event” (i.e. your father was not who you think he was). If there was an illegitimacy many generations ago the Y chromosome can provide a likely surname for an otherwise unknown direct male line ancestor.

For those with Scottish or Irish ancestors, where a dearth of records makes family history research beyond two hundred years increasingly difficult, the Y chromosome can very often be used to pinpoint the region from which a family originated.

Because the Y chromosome changes over time at a predictable rate, it can be used as a clock to determine approximately when two individuals share a common ancestor in remote time. This can be of enormous benefit in progressing a pedigree which has become stuck, which we see most commonly in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. A match with a person whose lineage can be traced back further will usually make it possible to overcome the impasse.

The Y chromosome can be utilised to take every family back to its point of origin in pre-genealogical time, many thousands of years ago. We find that many individuals who have taken the Y test (or if they are female, have asked a male family member) really struggle to draw anything meaningful from it, not having the expert knowledge required.

Mitochondrial DNA

The mitochondria are separate living entities with their own DNA which were incorporated into the cells of living animals hundreds of millions of years ago. They are passed in the ovum from a mother to all her children, and offer a window into remote matrilineal ancestry. The limited number of types limits usefulness as an adjunct to genealogical research, but mitochondrial DNA can in some instances be enormously useful. It was successfully used by Prof Turi King to identify the bones of King Richard III.

* * * * *

IHGS LIBRARY ON LIBRARYTHING!

We are pleased to announce that our library catalogue is now available on LibraryThing! Search the catalogue and discover a wealth of resources on heraldry and genealogy. Visit LibraryThing.com and search for “IHGS”.

IHGS BECOMES A FAMILYSEARCH AFFILIATE LIBRARY

IHGS is now a FamilySearch Affiliate Library, which means it has access to more genealogy resources to help you make more family discoveries. FamilySearch is a world leader in family history.



There are only a few hundred affiliate libraries in the country. The designation means greater access to the wealth of genealogical resources available through FamilySearch. It has over 6 billion searchable names and 2 billion images of historical genealogical records. FamilySearch adds over 300 million free records and images online yearly from all over the world and manages the famous FamilySearch Library in Salt Lake City to help you discover and make family connections.

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NEW BOOKS FROM IHGS TUTORS

Pen & Sword, www.pen-and-sword.co.uk, have recently published two new books from our Tutors.

***Tracing Your Staffordshire Ancestors* by Chloe O'Shea**

Whether you're just beginning your genealogical journey or have been tracing your family tree for years, Tracing your Staffordshire Ancestors provides a comprehensive roadmap to uncovering your family history in the heart of England. Delve into a variety of historical records, from the well-known census and parish registers to the less-explored realms of manorial court rolls, tithe apportionments, and records from the potteries. Each chapter focuses on a specific type of record, providing clear instructions on where to find it, how to interpret it, and the unique insights it can offer into your family's past. With vivid examples of real Staffordshire people brought to life through these records, you'll see how each piece of the puzzle can reveal more about your ancestors.

Beyond the archives, learn how to enhance your research with visits to local museums, utilise social media and DNA testing, and understand the significance of Staffordshire's surnames and traditional occupations.

Tracing Your Staffordshire Ancestors is an invaluable resource for anyone with ties to this historic county. With its practical advice, expert guidance, and real-life examples, it's the perfect companion for bringing your family's history to light.

***Tracing Your Surrey Ancestors* by Sarah Pettyfer**

With its rich historical background, Surrey once included areas now part of London, adding layers of complexity to genealogical research. A comprehensive resource, Tracing Your Surrey Ancestors offers a deep dive into Surrey's history, explaining the boundary changes that affect where records are held today. From archives to online databases, this book equips you with the tools and knowledge needed to uncover your family's past, providing clarity and guidance every step of the way. Whether you're new to genealogy or a seasoned researcher, this guide is designed to help you trace your Surrey roots with confidence.

Many congratulations to them both. A must for those with ancestors in Staffordshire or Surrey.

A RURAL PETTY CRIME IN THE LATE VICTORIAN ERA

By Sarah Pettyfer, Dip Gen

Introduction

The criminal records of our ancestors can offer a fascinating insight into changing attitudes to crime and punishment often a result of social and economic influences. This was a period when transportation ended, and prisons began to be used as a punishment and not just a place where criminals awaited trial, execution, or transportation.

Several new prisons were built in the 19th Century to house the rising number of criminals, “Offences went up from about 5,000 per year in 1800 to about 20,000 per year in 1840”. “Between 1842 and 1877, 90 prisons were built or added to. It was a massive building programme, costing millions of pounds”¹ this included a new prison for Surrey at Wandsworth, which like many built in this period is still in use today.

Prisons were not the easy option. Facing rising crime, the Victorians believed in punishment and prison sentences were often accompanied by hard labour, even for what would be a petty crime for which an offender today may simply receive a fine and/or community service.

Petty crime was often unplanned and opportunistic stealing small amounts of food, clothing, money, jewels etc, usually tried at Petty Sessions (PS) or Quarter Sessions (QS), occasionally finding their way to the Assize courts, particularly if they were a repeat offender.

A Petty Criminal

When examining the QS records during the Higher Certificate course, in the “Calendar of Prisoners tried at the Summer Assizes, holden at Guildford on Wednesday, the 19th day of July 1899”² (enclosure 1) William Weller, caught my interest. At the age of 28 William was convicted of stealing a bicycle and sentenced to four months imprisonment with hard labour. The entry provided details of four earlier offences all involved stealing items of what appeared to be a minor nature: beef, a chopper, a handbell and a coat. All his previous offences had been tried in the PS.

¹ The National Archives (TNA) research guide A Victorian Prison

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/victorian-prison/> accessed 23/06/2021

² Surrey, England, Calendar of Prisoners, 1848-1902, www.ancestry.co.uk, original data: Surrey History Centre, Guildford Borough Sessions, Croydon Borough Sessions and Surrey Assizes, Reference Number: QS3/4/20 accessed 17th February 2021

Calendar of Prisoners Surrey, England, Calendar of Prisoners, 1848-1902, Record for William Weller Original data: Surrey sessions and assizes 1848–1880. Calendar of prisoners. Series QS3/4/. Surrey History Centre, Woking, Surrey, England.

Tried at: Summer Assizes holden at Guildford

Date: Wednesday 19th July 1899

Judge: The Hon. Sir James Charles Mathew, Knight

Name	Age	Trade	Date of Warrant	Received into custody	Offence or Offences as charged in indictment	When tried	Verdict of Jury	Sentence or Order Of the Court
William Weller 5s and costs, 4th March, 1893, Dorking Petty Sessions (stealing beef) 1 Calendar Month, 8th December, 1894, Reigate Petty Sessions (stealing chopper) 1 Calendar Month, 23rd March, 1895, Dorking Petty Sessions (stealing hand-bell) 14 days, 7th January, 1899, Dorking Petty Sessions (stealing coat)	28	Lab.	11 th July	11 th July	Feloniously stealing a bicycle of the goods of Frederick Halliday at Dorking on the 5th July 1899	20 th July	Guilty	4 Calendar Months (hard labour)

William was described as a labourer and his offence had been committed in Dorking. Dorking is a small rural market in rural Surrey. The parish of Dorking was and remains largely residential and agricultural. Agriculture in the later Victorian years was increasingly difficult to earn a living from due to mechanisation. Pay for agricultural labourers was generally poor but especially low in the south where there was little competition from the lure of the new, industrial areas of the Midlands, North West and West Yorkshire, where wages were higher.

Having always had an interest in why people commit crime³, this made me wonder what had led William to a life of petty crime in his 20's. Was he typical of the petty criminal of the time? Was there anything in his early years which influenced his behaviour? How effective were his punishments in preventing a future life of crime? Did his life of crime continue into more serious criminal activity? Are there any comparisons between his life of petty crime to today?

Surrey History Centre (SHC) online catalogue and The National Archives (TNA) Discovery catalogue should identify records available for Dorking Petty Sessions, Reigate Petty Sessions and Guildford Assizes to be examined at the relevant archive. Surrey was part of the Home Circuit Assizes which in 1876 combined with the Norfolk Circuit creating the South Eastern Circuit, although Surrey remained unattached until 28 July 1893^{4,5}. Wandsworth prison records are held at The London Archives (TLA)⁶ whose online catalogue should identify appropriate prison records to be examined.

³ Having studied criminology as a postgraduate

⁴ It should also be noted that from 1834 the Central Criminal Court also had jurisdiction over parts of Surrey bordering Middlesex.

⁵ Division within ASSI, Home, Norfolk and South-Eastern Circuits, Records of the Home Circuit, Norfolk Circuit and South-Eastern Circuit of the Justice of Assize, TNA, <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C1137> accessed 18th February 2021

⁶ Previously the London Metropolitan Archives

Census returns, civil registration records of birth, marriages and deaths, parish registers of baptisms, marriages and burials amongst other records which may be available online will be used to trace his earlier, later and family life and circumstances, using commercial and government websites as well as any other records identified and held at SHC using their online catalogue.

Newspapers

Local newspapers reports can provide details of crimes being tried and are therefore a good starting point for research. Three local newspaper reports describing misdemeanours of William Weller were found using the British Newspaper Archives website⁷:

not pay, not having done any work for months.—William Weller was charged with stealing a coat, value 5s., the property of Albert Monk, at Newdigate, in June last.—Prosecutor stated that he left the coat in a locked up shed on his premises, and subsequently received it from a man named Henry Streeter.—The latter deposed to having bought the coat from the prisoner at the Six Bells Inn, for 6d. Prisoner said he had the coat from his uncle's at Reigate.—Supt. Alexander stated that while the prisoner was under remand he developed delirium tremens, and having been certified to be insane, was sent to Brookwood Asylum. There was no doubt that drink was the cause of insanity.—Prisoner, who admitted the theft to the police, was committed for fourteen days.—William Henry

The Sussex Express, Surrey Standard, Weald of Kent Mail, Hants and County Advertiser, Saturday, January 14, 1899, Page 5

William Weller and David Hall, of Newdigate, were charged with being unlawfully concerned in stealing 8 lbs. of beef from a shop at Newdigate, on the 23rd February, the property of Alfred Dean.

The meat was cut from a buttock which was hanging up outside prosecutor's shop at Newdigate, and subsequently a man named Lucas saw Weller with it in Mr. Martin's orchard.

Hall now denied all knowledge of the matter. Weller, however, said they were both guilty.

Fined 15s. each.

Dorking Advertiser, March 9, 1893 (his first offence)

BICYCLE THEFT AT DORKING.
Wm. Weller, 28, labourer, Dorking, was charged with stealing a bicycle, the property of Frederick Halliday. It appeared that the bicycle had been left in a garden against a wall and subsequently the prisoner was seen in possession of a machine which proved to be the one stolen.—Weller pleaded as an excuse that he was in drink at the time.—Counsel for the prosecution was about to mention the prisoner's previous convictions, but his lordship interposed. He said he was asked now to deal with severity in this case. He didn't think the prisoner was a very bad man and he hoped there was a lot of good left in him yet. A slight sentence might make him turn over a new leaf.—Four months' hard labour.

The Surrey Mirror, Friday, July 21, 1899, Page 5

Alcohol in Victorian Britain

Two of the newspaper reports suggest William's behaviour was caused or affected by alcohol, causing delirium and his admission to Brookwood Asylum in 1898. Whilst William was not arrested for drunkenness, there is suggested a distinct connection between alcohol and his offending.

Victorian Britain saw an emergence of stronger ales and spirits, in particular gin, and a boom in public houses, with 30,000 new beer houses opening in 1831⁸ without the need for licences. Drunkenness was more often associated with the poorer working classes, who, by the 1870's spent up to a quarter of their income on alcohol⁹.

⁷ www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

⁸ Information from Simon Fowler *Researching Brewery and Publican Ancestors* (2009) page 7

⁹ *ibid*

Dorking Petty Sessions

Unfortunately, the Dorking Petty Sessions register for periods 1893¹⁰, 1895¹¹ and 1899¹² held at Surrey History Centre (SHC) are “unfit for production”. Staff at SHC confirmed the register for 1893 is a book in extremely poor condition, being described as “almost dust” so no further information is available regarding this offence. However, staff at SHC were able to obtain details of his 1895 conviction from the register which differ to the Calendar of Prisoners, the register stating his offence was “stealing a Bill Hook¹³ at [an unreadable location], Newdigate”¹⁴. The complainant was Martin Weller.



A Bill Hook

Reigate Petty Sessions

His convictions in 1894 and 1895 were not found in local newspapers. Reigate Petty Sessions registers are available at SHC¹⁵ but unfortunately do not include any records for 1894, covering January to May 1893 and January to February 1898. All other registers covered the 20th century.

I did examine the register to see what type of information may have been available and in doing so, I found a William Weller convicted on 11 January 1898 of being drunk & disorderly on the highway at Horley on 4th Dec 1897. There are no further details to identify him, and this conviction does not appear in his entry in the Calendar of Prisoners. It is therefore unlikely this is the same William.

Assize records

Assize records are held at TNA and include Indictment Files¹⁶, Crown Minute Books (Agenda Books)¹⁷, Depositions¹⁸ and Miscellaneous Books¹⁹. The Indictment files for 1892 to 1920 and Depositions for 1890 to 1912 are few and held nothing for William. The miscellaneous books included a precedent book of documents used in the Assizes, and four detailing offences and sentences covering the 18th century.

William was found in the Crown Minute Book for the Surrey Assizes Summer 1899²⁰, held over Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th July, with a Grand jury of 22 and a Petty Jury of 12. The Grand jury's role “was to accuse anyone who might be guilty of an offence and to protect others against unfounded prosecution (such as an accusation made out of malice). The grand jury would decide if there was sufficient evidence in a case to put the defendant on trial”²¹.

¹⁰ Dorking Petty Sessions register for periods 1893, Surrey History Centre (SHC) 2003/1/2

¹¹ Dorking Petty Sessions register for periods 1895, SHC 2003/1/3

¹² Dorking Petty Sessions register for periods 1899. SHC 2003/1/4

¹³ “A billhook or bill hook is a versatile cutting tool used widely in agriculture and forestry for cutting woody material such as shrubs, small trees and branches and is distinct from the sickle” <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billhook> accessed 21/04/2021

¹⁴ The Calendar of Prisoners states “stealing a hand-bell”

¹⁵ Reference 2003/4/1

¹⁶ For 1851-1971 these are in TNA ASSI 95

¹⁷ In TNA ASSI 31

¹⁸ In TNA ASSI 36

¹⁹ In TNA ASSI 34

²⁰ Crown Minute Book for the Surrey Assizes Summer 1899, TNA ASSI 31/44

²¹ Victorian Crime and Punishment <http://vcp.e2bn.org/justice/page11440-juries.html#:~:text=The%20grand%20jury%20would%20decide,put%20the%20defendant%20on%20trial.&text=The%20grand%20jury%20procedure%20was,jurors%20as%20it%20does%20today> accessed 24/05/2021

The Petty Jury's role was to hear "the evidence in a trial and decided on the innocence or guilt of a defendant. After listening to the witnesses and lawyers (if present), the jury would retire, or huddle, and reach its verdict"²².

The entry adds no further information.

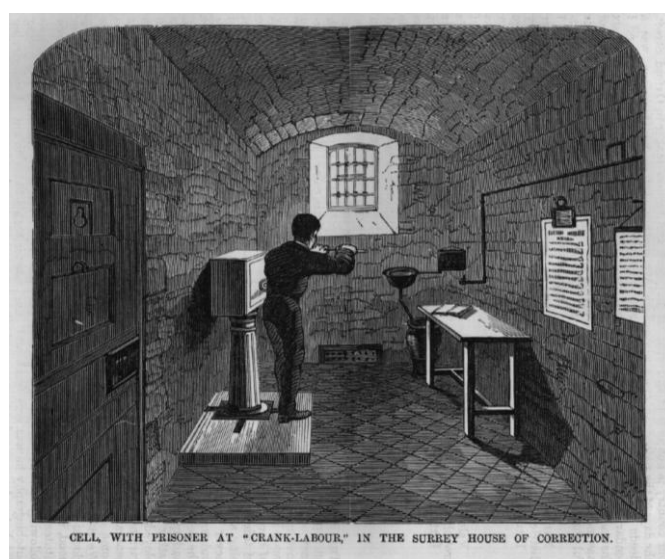
No.	Name	Offence
4	Puts Guilty. 4 cal month William Weller	Feloniously stealing a bicycle of the good of Frederick Halliday at Dorking on 4 th July 1899. 2 nd Court receiving

"Puts guilty" suggests when the charge was put to him, he pleaded guilty. "2nd court receiving" suggests he first appeared before the Petty Sessions and his case transferred, possibly due to his previous convictions and the value of the bicycle, to the next available higher court. Many justices may have, adopted a common sense approach, and sent thieves and other minor offenders for trial at whichever came first. The Assize court was held only 16 days after the offence took place.

Wandsworth Prison Records

The Prison was opened in November 1851. Originally built to house 700 prisoners in separate cells each with their own toilet, however conditions had deteriorated from the 1870's with toilets removed from the cells to increase capacity and the practice of 'slopping out' being introduced, which remained in force until 1996²³.

Prison life in Victorian times was quite different to today - no early release for good behaviour, no education or rehabilitation programs; hard labour was just that! Some prisoners worked in quarries, at the docks or building roads. Other prisoners 'worked' on devices such as the treadmill/wheel, "the prisoner simply walked the wheel.... the treadmill provided flour to make money for the gaol... in later times, there was no product, and the treadmill was walked just for punishment"²⁴; or the Crank, "a large handle, in their cell, that a prisoner would have to turn, thousands of times a day. This could be tightened by the warders, making it harder to turn, which resulted in their nickname of 'screws'"²⁵.



Prisoner using the Crank

²² Victorian Crime and Punishment ibid

²³ Information from *Old Police cells Museum* website article by David Rowland *Wandsworth Prison, London* https://www.oldpolicecellsmuseum.org.uk/content/history/local-historians-history/david-rowland/prisons-david-rowland/wandsworth_prison_london (accessed 23/06/2021)

²⁴ Victorian Crime and Punishment ibid *Types of Punishment - Hard Labour* accessed 24/05/2021

²⁵ Victorian Crime and Punishment ibid *Types of Punishment - Hard Labour* accessed 24/05/2021

Wandsworth prison records are held at TLA although the vast majority cover the 20th century and/or those condemned and executed. For the 1890's there are Nominal registers of admissions²⁶. These A3 size hardback books in good condition are laid out in columns as per the transcription.

WANDSWORTH PRISON RECORDS											
Nominal Register of Admissions TLA ACC/3444/PR/01/											
	Name (surname, Christian Name)	Date and place of committal	Assizes, session date and place	Offence	Sentence	Age, Height, colour of hair	Trade	Religion/ Birth place	No. of convictions	Date of discharge and remarks	Archive ref and page no.
10700	Weller Wm	23 Mar 1895 Dorking		Stealing a bill-hook of 2 shillings	1 C M HL	23 5.5 D.Brwn	Lab	C E Dorking	1	22 Apr 95	ACC/3444/PR/01/069 Page 76
10537	Weller William	7.1.99 Dorking		Stealing Coat	14 days HL	28 5.6	Lab	C of E Dorking	2	20.1.99	ACC/3444/PR/01/088 Page 198
17502	Weller Wm		Surrey Assizes 19/20.7.99	Larceny	4 C mos HL	28 5.5	Lab	CE Dorking	3	18.11.99	ACC/3444/PR/01/091 Page 240

NB 1894 incarceration would be in ACC/3444/PR/01/064 (- April 1894) or /065 (April 1895-) which were both unfortunately unfit for production but it can be assumed that the record would be very similar to the above

The registers covering his incarceration in April 1894 were “unfit for production and handling” however it is fair to assume that record would be like those examined. They do not add much to the information already found. They do confirm that his conviction in March 1895 was for stealing a bill-hook to the value of 2 shillings, agreeing with the entry in the Dorking Petty Session records. It may be a simple error in the calendar of prisoners, incorrectly noting the offences committed in 1894 and 1895. There is no way to clarify this given the Reigate Petty sessions records are lacking for 1894, the prison records are unfit for production and no newspaper report could be found.

The prison register describes William as 5ft 5in or 5ft 6in tall with dark brown hair. NO other records provide such a description.

A dietary sheet found amongst the prison records, provides details of the different diets for the seven different classes of prisoners²⁷ based on length of sentence and whether sentenced to hard Labour (HL) (enclosure 4).

William served three periods of 1 calendar month HL - a Class 3 prisoner with a diet of:

Breakfast:	daily – 1 pint of oat gruel; 6 oz of bread
Dinner:	Sun/Thur – 1 pint soup, 8 oz bread
	Tues/Sat – 3 oz of cooked meat without bone, 8 oz bread, 1/2 lb potatoes
	Mon/Wed/ Fri – 8 oz bread, 1lb potatoes
Supper:	daily – same as breakfast

²⁶ Wandsworth Prison Records, Nominal Register of Admissions, TLA ACC/3444/PR/01

²⁷ Wandsworth Prison Records, TLA, CLA/032/04/017

His fourth term in prison was 4 calendar months HL - a Class 4 prisoner with a diet of:

Breakfast:	daily – 1 pint of oat gruel; 8 oz of bread
Dinner:	Sun/Tues/Thur/Sat – 3 oz cooked meat without bone, ½ lb potatoes, 8 oz bread Mon/Wed/Fri dinner – 1 pint soup, 8 oz bread
Supper:	daily – same as breakfast

Brookwood Asylum

The newspaper report dated Saturday, January 14, 1899 states William had been certified insane and sent to Brookwood Asylum whilst on remand. Brookwood opened on 17 June 1867 on the outskirts of the village of Knaphill, four miles west of Woking, Surrey and held up to 650 pauper ‘lunatics’. “Brookwood was the County Asylum chiefly serving west Surrey”²⁸



*Brookwood Asylum*²⁹

Their registers of admission are available online³⁰. There were two entries for William: 6th November 1897 discharged 28 February 1898 and 30 June 1898 discharged 27 December 1898. Both admissions describe excessive drinking. The newspaper report from July 1899 also states William was “in drink at the time”.

When first admitted, he was also suffering from Pulmonary Congestion for which his symptoms could have ranged from fluid on the lungs or milder chest infection.

²⁸ Get Surrey website <https://www.getsurrey.co.uk/news/health/historical-archives-surrey-mental-hospital-9382714> accessed 24/05/2021

²⁹ <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0>

³⁰ Ancestry.com, Surrey, England, Admissions to Brookwood and Holloway Mental Hospitals, 1867-1900 collection; Surrey History Centre; Woking, Surrey, England; Mental Health Admissions; Facility: Brookwood Asylum; Facility City: Woking; Year Range: 1897-1899; Register Number: 5; Admission Number: 8747-9242; Reference Number: 3043/5/1/1/11

Surrey History Centre; Woking, Surrey, England; Mental Health Admissions; Facility: Brookwood Asylum; Facility City: Woking; Year Range: 1897-1899; Register Number: 5; Admission Number: 8747-9242; Reference Number: 3043/5/1/1/11											
Date of Admission	Christian and Surname	Age	Condition as to Marriage	Condition of Life and Pervious occupations	Previous Place of Abode	Form of Mental Disorder	Supposed cause of Insanity	Bodily Condition and Name of Disease	Duration of Existing Attack	Date of Removal, Discharge or Death	Removed, discharged or dead
1897 Nov 6	William Weller	26	Single	Labourer Ch of Eng	Dorking (1 week) previous temporary residence Epsom, Newdigate, Leatherhead	Mania	Supposed excessing drinking	Pulmonary Congestion (put to bed)	3 days	28 Feb 1898	Recovered
1898 June 30	William Weller	27	Single	No Occupation Ch of Eng	Newdigate	Dementia	Probably excessive drinking	Fairly good	3 days	27 Dec 1898	Recovered

Brookwood records held at SHC³¹ were examined to find more details about his admission and treatment, including Registers of Admissions³²; Alphabetical Admission Register³³; Removal, discharge and death Register³⁴; Record of Discharges³⁵; Medical Superintendents Private Record of Patients Admitted³⁶; Male Case Book No. 18³⁷.

Surrey History Centre; Woking, Surrey, England; Brookwood Asylum; Male Case Book No. 18; Reference Number: 3043/5/9/1/23; Pages 106. Abstract of the notes									
Admission	Age	Married, etc...	Occupation	Cause of Insanity	Whether dangerous	Religious persuasion	Time insane	Previous abode	Relatives
1897 Nov 6th	26	S	Lab	Drink	No	C of E	3 days	Dorking	Mrs Mary Weller Kingsland, Newdigate, Dorking
Brought by: W Alexander Poor Union (5 days) The medical certificate states: Is very restless & tremulous; states been supplied with beer and spirits here in Police Station; rambles about different public houses when questioned; state that last night he was at leatherhead - had been in police station since Nov 1st; PC Ernest Bashier states he had been up until 4am last night wandering in his mind, sleepless and talking continually all kinds of nonsense; No Family History of insanity Had DT [Delirium tremens: a nervous disorder caused by alcohol abuse]. 2 years ago when he had one fit, had them since when he has been drinking heavily Has alcoholic mania, hallucinations, incoherent, sleepless, restless. On admission suffering from affects of drink Signs of early pneumonia 7th Very weak, Bronchitis, 8th Temp 101.6 last night 100.8 this morning, state of delirium, frequent hallucinations, bowels well open, cough troublesome, some cyanosis, pneumonia no worse 9th Temp 103.6 last night 100.4, less delirium, less cyanosis, is now on Brandy 6oz 10th Temp 101 last night and 99.8 today, more rational 11th About the same 17th Temp still up 24th Temp has gradually come down to now normal Dec 1st Temp normal for one week, improving, mental condition quite satisfactory, perfectly rational 8th Is improving very well 1898 Jan 8 Is now quite strong, eating and sleeping well and doing a little ward work his mental state is also good Feb 8th Is doing very well indeed, is quite rational in all his ways, makes himself very useful helping in the infirmary ward Feb 24th now quite recovered and is fit for discharge 25th Was discharged by order of Committee of Visitors as Recovered									

³¹ Brookwood Asylum, SHC in series 3043

³² Brookwood Asylum, SHC, 3043/5/1/1/11

³³ Brookwood Asylum, SHC, 3043/5/2/2

³⁴ Brookwood Asylum, SHC, 3043/58/3/1/1

³⁵ Brookwood Asylum, SHC, 3043/5/3/5/1 and 3043/5/3/5/2

³⁶ Brookwood Asylum, SHC, 3043/5/8/2/2

³⁷ Brookwood Asylum, SHC, 3043/5/9/1/23

Surrey History Centre; Woking, Surrey, England; Brookwood Asylum; Male Case Book No. 18; Reference Number: 3043/5/9/1/23; Page 195. Abstract of the notes									
Admission	Age	Married, etc...	Occupation	Number of Attacks	Cause of Insanity Predisposing Exciting	Religious persuasion	Time insane	Previous abode	Relatives
1898 Jun 31	27	S	Nil	2 nd	Prev att Drink	C of E	3 days	Dorking	Mrs Mary Weller Kingsland, Newdigate, Dorking
Brought By: PC Ernest Bashier from D Sta [Dorking Police Station] (5 days) The Medical certificate states: incoherent, rambling conversation, going from one subject to another without any connection, delusionary viz that his mother is outside his cell door and so he throws his shirt out the trap door for her to wash, wandering about his cell and holding loud conversation with imaginary people, treasuring little fragments of paper, torn clothes and dirty food in his cap, that Mr Papworth is with him, saw 40 cats in his cell, constantly tearing his clothes, sees ghosts. No family history Notes re previous attack in Nov 97 – acute DT and epilepsy, appears to have done no good since his discharge, always drinking, On Sunday last 26th he was charged with larceny of a coat which he had sold for a drink, developed acute alcoholic mania directly on admission to police cell. State of secondary dementia, dull and vacant memory, defective rambling, incoherent, delusionary, hallucinations, sleepless, bruises on limbs, forehead grazed, alcoholic tremor, heart and lungs normal, ordered hot salt water. July 1st Felt fairly well, no hallucinations, ordered ? with Potassium Bromide 4th Beginning to improve, slightly trimerous, memory still poor, is incoherent is his conversation 11th Improving 18th Improving 25th going on well, sleeps well Aug 25th going on well, free from delusions, memory now normal, general conduct rational Sep 19 Improved generally Oct 19 going on well, memory restored, quite rational, he is usually employed with the brick layers Nov 20th condition still satisfactory, perfectly rational, memory good 24th now a suitable case to be discharged on									

Surrey History Centre; Woking, Surrey, England; Brookwood Asylum; Register of Discharges; Year Range: Nov 1894 -Jul 1898; Reference Number: 3043/5/3/5/1; Page 91. Abstract of the notes							
Patient	Date Admitted	Date left	How discharged	Person into whose care the Patient was Discharged	Relationship of Person into whose care the Patient was Discharged	Monetary allowances	Clothing and other articles lent to the patient on date of Discharge
William Weller	6 Nov 1897	28 Feb 1898	Recovered	W J Simkins	RO Dorking	10 Sillings	Top coat, Cloth Suit, Pair Boots, Hat, Hound vest, Shirt, Pair Socks, Necktie Handkerchief, Drawers & Braces

Surrey History Centre; Woking, Surrey, England; Brookwood Asylum; Register of Discharges; Year Range: Nov 1894 - Jul 1898; Reference Number: 3043/5/3/5/1; Page 105. Abstract of the notes							
Patient	Date Admitted	Date left	How discharged	Person into whose care the Patient was Discharged	Relationship of Person into whose care the Patient was Discharged	Monetary allowances	Clothing and other articles lent to the patient on date of Discharge
William Weller	31 June 1898	29 Nov 1898	On Trial	W J Ison	RO Dorking		

Surrey History Centre; Woking, Surrey, England; Brookwood Asylum; Removals Discharges and Deaths Register: Year Range: 1896-1902; Reference Number: 3043/5/3/1/1; Pages 66 and 87. Abstract of the notes							
Date of Removal, Discharge or death	Date of Last Admission	No. in Register of Patients	Christian and Surname at length	Sex	Discharged	Observations	
Feb 25 1898	Nov 6 1897	8853	William Weller, Dorking	M	Recovered		
Dec 27 1898	June 30 1898	9043	William Weller, Dorking	M	Recovered	Has been one month on trial	

These records suggest a troubled young man with a history of excessive drinking causing quite severe mental health problems with episodes of hallucinations, tremors, confusion, sleeplessness, restlessness, memory loss. The case notes dated on 31 June 1898 state he had stolen a coat which he sold for a drink and that William had early signs of pneumonia later described as bronchitis.

William's lack of presence in records such as the Patients Money Account ledger³⁸ and Return of Patients Property book³⁹ suggest a poor financial position. It does beg the question how did he pay the fine and costs he was sentenced for his first convictions?

His notes state he was "usually employed with the brick layers" but he was not employed when admitted the second time. On both occasions he was discharged to "RO" (Receiving Officer⁴⁰). When first discharged he was provided with clothing and a monetary allowance of 10 shillings. There is no record for any criminal charges following his arrest on 1 November 1897.

During his time in Brookwood, there are no records of him engaging in any activities available or gaining any skills to help him gain employment on discharge. Records available of activities/employment within the asylum include the Mat makers/Basket makers shop employment book⁴¹ and the Stewards Reports⁴² which detailed those engaged in labouring work. It would be nice to think William attended weekly entertainments⁴³ including a variety of dancing⁴⁴ and singing, occasional theatrical performances and artistes. The New Years Eve 1898 celebrations⁴⁵ included "The Brookwood Snowflakes".

The Weller Family and Newdigate

William lived in Newdigate in 1893. The Newdigate guide⁴⁶ gives the population in 1851, according to the census return, as 605 "with 212 under the age of 14 and 23 over the age of 70". Seven family names – Beedle, Burberry, Gad, Horley, King, Taylor and Weller – accounted for one third of the total population, the last name belonging to no less than 43 inhabitants" and was a longstanding family of the village, which can still be found there today.

Newdigate is a rural village about six miles south east of Dorking and 18 mins south west of Reigate. The main employment historically was agriculture which would have been hard work because the land is thick clay "with 21 farmers employing 138 men as agricultural labourers or farm servants"⁴⁷.

³⁸ Brookwood Asylum, SHC, 3043/1/10/1/1

³⁹ Brookwood Asylum, SHC, 3043/5/6/1/1

⁴⁰ Police Officer

⁴¹ Brookwood Asylum, SHC, 3043/1/11/1/3

⁴² Brookwood Asylum, SHC, 3043/1/15/1/1

⁴³ Record of entertainments 3043/1/11/2/1 & 2

⁴⁴ Lancers, Polka, Valse, Quadrille

⁴⁵ Programme of entertainment for New Years eve 1898 – SHC catalogue states this was for 31 Dec 1897; 3043/1/11/2/3

⁴⁶ John Callcut and The Newdigate Society, *The Newdigate Guide*

⁴⁷ The Newdigate Guide *ibid*

Many were employed in other occupations which enabled Newdigate to be a self-sufficient village, such as “gamekeepers, wood reeves gardeners, blacksmiths, grooms, wheelwrights, swayers, rat-catchers, bailiffs, thatchers, cattle doctors....bricklayers, tailors, shoemakers, grocers, dressmakers, carpenters, innkeepers, nurses, teachers,...a fellmonger, a charwoman, a general dealer, a confectioner, a brick maker, a rector, a letter carrier, a laundress and a brewer”⁴⁸. In 1923 a brick and tile works opened which is now a nature reserve owned by Surrey Wildlife Trust, however brick making had been taking place in the nearby village of Beare Green since 1830.

The men of the Weller family in 1851, “were mostly agricultural workers living in and around workhouse green”⁴⁹.

By the 1890’s whilst larger houses were starting to be built as a new Victorian middle-class wealth began to inhabit the area, “there was still much poverty and many of the cottages were overcrowded and unsanitary. There was a place for everyone, and everyone knew his/her place. The men worked hard with long hours and low pay and the poor doffed their caps or curtsied to the rector and the wealthy”⁵⁰.

William’s early family life

The census returns reveal William was the youngest of eight children to George and Mary Weller.

Three things are noted. Firstly, William was born after the 1871 census⁵¹; secondly, he lost his father, George when he was young (between the 1871 and 1881 census⁵²); and thirdly, his mother, Mary, became an Annuitant suggesting George had invested during his life perhaps in a local Friendly Society. Searching the SHC online catalogue there were several Friendly Society’s in Surrey but nothing specific to Newdigate.

A search of parish registers for Surrey, found William’s baptism record at St Peters Church, Newdigate on 25 June 1871, with a date of birth as 28 May 1871.

Surrey History Centre; Woking, Surrey, England; Newdigate Baptism Registers Reference: 5239/1						
Year:	Date:	Child’s Christian Name	Parents Christian name	Parents Surname	Abode:	Trade
1871	June 25 Born May 28 1871	William	George and Mary	Weller	Newdigate	Labourer

The family lived in Newdigate, the census returns gave George’s birthplace as Newdigate and Mary’s as Charlwood (a neighbouring village). William’s birth certificate gives his date of birth as 27th May 1871 and his mother’s maiden name of Charlwood. George and Mary had nine children.

⁴⁸ The Newdigate Guide *ibid*

⁴⁹ John Callcut and The Newdigate Society, *The Book of Newdigate: Portrait of a Wealden Village*

⁵⁰ The Book of Newdigate *ibid*

⁵¹ Which took place on 2nd April 1871

⁵² The 1871 and 1881 censuses of the Weller family, TNA RG 10/827/63/12 and RG 11/794/65/21

Searching the parish registers of Newdigate⁵³ found that George died aged 50 on 24th December 1877 of “*Blood poisoning from absorption of fluids in Pig Killing 4 days*”. His death being employment related in winter suggests George was a permanent employee of a local livestock farm having security of income, not reliant on seasonal employment.

It is impossible to say what impact losing his father so young (6 years old) had on William, but this could be a factor in his later behaviour. By the time George died, the three eldest children, George, Mary and Mark, were no longer living at home having already married. A search of the GRO marriage records, parish marriage registers and census returns finds all William’s siblings went on to marry and have quite large families themselves, except Martin, who may be the person who accused William of stealing his Bill-hook in 1895.

The census returns suggest William attended the local endowed school, originally built in 1660 by George Steere, the then Rector of Newdigate⁵⁴. By 1838 it had become dilapidated and was rebuilt⁵⁵. By the time William was born it was compulsory to attend school until the age of 10 years old, the headmaster was Henry Hackwood who “had been there since the new building was first opened in 1872 His pupils ... came mostly from the surrounding cottages and farms, and had little expectation beyond following their parents onto the fields or into service in one of the larger houses”⁵⁶

The Calendar of Prisoners and the prison records describe William’s education as “Imp” meaning semi-literate. Unfortunately, whilst there are records associated with the school for the 1870/80’s held at SHC⁵⁷ there are no registers or other records concerning attendance of children.

William in the 1890’s

In the 1891 census⁵⁸ William was age 19, an agricultural labourer living at Kingsland, to the north west of the village being a row of four old timber-framed cottages (more recently divided into two dwellings) with his mother (a widow “living on her own means”), a brother, a niece, and a lodger. This suggests his mother was living off income other than from employment, such as investments.

A wider search of this census for Newdigate provides details of his accomplices, victims and witnesses.

1893 Offence (by reference to the 1891 census)

His accomplice, David Hall, lived at Parkgate, a small hamlet to the northeast of Newdigate, in 1891⁵⁹, David was 23 years old and a Basket weaver. He was married with a young son and at the time of the census his younger brother, aged 15, was staying with them.

⁵³ Newdigate parish registers, Surrey Family History Centre, 5239/3.

⁵⁴ Newdigate Infant School; <https://www.newdigateschool.org.uk/about-us> accessed 23/02/2021

⁵⁵ British History Online, <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/surrey/vol3/pp310-315> accessed 18/02/2021

⁵⁶ The Book of Newdigate *ibid*

⁵⁷ In NE/11

⁵⁸ 1891 Census Newdigate, William Weller, TNA RG 12/574/59/16

⁵⁹ 1891 Census Newdigate, David Hall, TNA RG 12/574/59/13

The shop, Alfred Dean was described as a grocer, draper and baker⁶⁰. The Dean family were “the best remembered shopkeepers ... ran the stores from the 1890’s until the second world war”⁶¹; the shop and house being called Wirmwood. They sold “products as diverse as bacon, tin kettles, butter and clothes, and anyone tall ran the risk of knocking his head on the boots that hung from the ceiling”⁶².

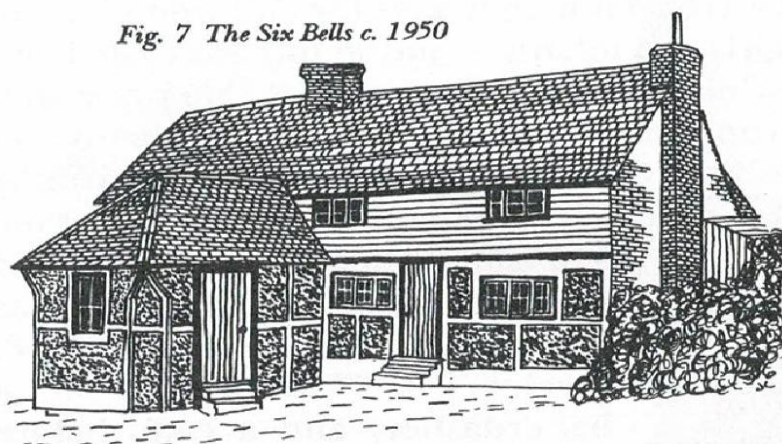
The only “Mr Martin” was Frederick Martin⁶³, a neighbour of William, also living at Kingsland. It is not clear where “Mr Martin’s orchard” was located. The population had grown to 684 in the 1891 census and it is likely William was known to Mr Dean and Mr Martin.

The witness, “a man named Lucas” was possibly Harvey S Lucas aged 18, an agricultural labourer living with his mother (a widow) and younger siblings at Kingsland. Harvey is stated as having been born in Newdigate and it is likely William and Harvey had grown up together, hence this Mr Lucas would have easily been able to identify William. There were however several Mr Lucas’s living in Newdigate at the time.

1898 offence (court hearing January 1899 – by reference to the 1901 census)

Albert Monk from whose shed William stole a coat also lived at Kingsland, being a self-employed coal merchant and Fly⁶⁴ Proprietor, again someone who William likely knew. Henry Streeter was a young agricultural worker living at Parkgate with his parents and siblings and may have been known to William through employment or simply drinking in the pub. The Six Bells Inn, which has existed for as long as records exist, derives its name from the number of bells in the parish church tower, “prior to 1803 when the church had only five bells, the pub was also known as The Five Bells”⁶⁵

Fig. 7 The Six Bells c. 1950



*Courtesy of The Newdigate Guide*⁶⁶

William may have had an uncle living in Reigate, but no research had been carried out into the wider family.

⁶⁰ 1891 Census Newdigate, Alfred Dean, TNA RG 12/574/59/18

⁶¹ The Newdigate Guide *ibid*

⁶² The Newdigate Guide *ibid*

⁶³ 1891 Census Newdigate, Frederick Martin, TNA RG 12/574/59/17

⁶⁴ A small horse-drawn carriage

⁶⁵ The Newdigate Guide *ibid*

⁶⁶ *ibid*

1899 Offence (by reference to the 1901 census)

Frederick Halliday, of which there was only one living in Dorking, was a retired civil servant in British India, age 65 living at Tower Hill, Dorking with his wife and four servants. Tower Hill was an area of housing development in the 1850's to 1870's when the "National Freehold Land Society was responsible for housing developments in around Tower Hill"⁶⁷, with detached houses for the wealthier. William would certainly have been out of place in the area.

Life after prison

In the 1901 census, William, age 29 and a general labourer, was living back with his mother and brother Martin.⁶⁸ William then disappears from census records.

In 1911⁶⁹ his mother and brother Martin are still living together but no William and no other entries could be found for him. Had he died? A search of the death indexes⁷⁰ find he died at Dorking Union Workhouse on 6th October 1901 age 31 years.

Death Certificate: GRO Reference: 1901 D Quarter in DORKING Volume 2a Page 101					
Date and Place:	Name:	Age:	Occupation:	Cause of Death:	Informant:
Sixth October 1901 Union Workhouse Dorking U.D.	William Weller	31 years	Labourer general of Newdigate	Phthisis Certified by R. S. Baboir M.R.C.S	J H Parkin Master Union Workhouse Dorking

The cause of death is given as Phthisis which is better known as Pulmonary Tuberculosis⁷¹ or TB is a common cause of illness and death in Victorian England, particularly *"associated with persons from the lower socio-economic groups because they were more likely to live in crowded conditions which favoured its spread"*⁷². There is no evidence any other family members suffered from TB and it is likely his lifestyle choices and incarceration lead to his illness and death.

Conclusion

William appears to have been a very troubled young man. He had no specific skills which could enhance his life chances and at a young age fell to the perils of drink and a life of petty crime to fund that addiction. How William's life took such a different turn to those of his siblings may never be known, but his father dying when he was so young may have been a contributing factor as would have been his apparent lack of skill, the difficulties associated with a predominantly agricultural labour force and his penchant for alcohol! Further research into the life of his parents, siblings and wider family may provide further insight.

⁶⁷ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dorking> accessed 07/06/2021

⁶⁸ 1901 Census Newdigate, William Weller, TNA RG13/621/50/2

⁶⁹ 1911 Census Newdigate, William Weller, TNA RG 14/3179/38

⁷⁰ Death Certificate William Weller: GRO 1901 D Quarter in DORKING Volume 2a Page 101

⁷¹ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/phthisis#medicalDictionary> accessed 04/03/2021

⁷² Simon Wills *How our Ancestors Died*, Pen and Sword 2013, Page 258

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THE HISTORY OF 94 DERBY ROAD, ASTON ON TRENT

By Chloe, O'Shea, DipGen



No.94 Derby Road, taken by Author

Introduction

Aston-on-Trent is a village in South Derbyshire with two pubs situated in the centre of the village, known as the *Malt Shovel* and the *White Hart*. There used to be a third pub within Aston parish, situated a short walk from the centre, known as the *Coach and Horses*, now 94 Derby Road. The pub was at some point split into two properties before recently being merged back into one property. The current owner of the house has retained the title deeds for the 94 side of the property back to 1926.

It was decided to research the house history of the property from the current day as far back as possible. As with most house histories, the best way of researching the records is from the present day working backwards, confirming information with as many different records as possible. However, at times the research branches out leading the researcher to discover information in a new way.

There have been recent extensions both to the property itself, as well as to the adjoining gardens. The most obvious extensions have been the addition of a porch around the main entrance door and a large extension to the back of the house, which is now the lounge area. This research will look further into the history of the house itself and its occupants. Records viewed include wills, title deeds, newspaper records, directories, census records, GRO records, maps and more.

Research

Contemporary Documents

The research began by meeting the current homeowner, Karen Stevens, at the property itself. This meeting provided a more recent history of the property, such as the extension of the garden as a result of purchasing an allotment at its foot and also gave opportunity to view the title deeds of No. 94 from 1926 onwards. Viewing these gave a good background to the change in the ownership of the No. 94 property and a timeline was created from these.

No. 94		
Year of Deed	Vendor	Purchaser
1926	Harold George Nightingale	John Orton ⁷³
1954	Eliza Orton	Ian and Doreen Alton ⁷⁴
1959	Ian and Doreen Alton	James and Gladys Towle ⁷⁵
1977	James and Gladys Towle	Russell and Barbara Bostock ⁷⁶

The deed of 1926 states that the property in question is No. 76. It is noted in the 1954 deeds that John Orton was deceased with no mention of the property in his will, and the property is now numbered as No 94. Knowing this is helpful to trace the house back further via the correct house number, although it was noted this may have changed on more than one occasion. There was also a deed dated 1992 from when the Bostock's purchased additional land to add to the property.⁷⁷

There were no retained title deeds for No. 96, however the homeowner was able to provide some information. The property was purchased in 2011 by her partner David Sherratt. Whilst these properties are still registered separately, they are conjoined and lived in as one household. A legal declaration dated 2011 held by the homeowner detailed the recent history of the ownership of No. 96 below.⁷⁸

No. 96 ⁶		
Year of Transaction	Vendor	Purchaser
1925	Thomas Wells	Frederick Wells
1945	Frederick Wells	Olwyn Porter
1983	Olwyn Porter	Jane Stone
2011	Jane Stone	David Sherratt

⁷³ Harold George Nightingale and John Orton, Title Deed, 1926, original held by current homeowner Karen Stevens, 2nd February 2022

⁷⁴ Eliza Orton and Ian and Doreen Alton, Title Deed, 1954, original held by current homeowner Karen Stevens, 2nd February 2022

⁷⁵ Ian and Doreen Alton and Mr and Mrs J A Towle, Title Deed, 1959, original held by current homeowner Karen Stevens, 2nd February 2022

⁷⁶ James and Gladys Towle and Russell and Barbara Bostock, Title Deed, 1977, original held by current homeowner Karen Stevens, 2nd February 2022

⁷⁷ Russell and Barbara Bostock, Title Deed, 1992, original held by current homeowner Karen Stevens, 2nd February 2022

⁷⁸ Jane Stone, Legal Declaration, 2011, original held by current homeowner Karen Stevens, 2nd February 2022

This document describes how all of these people, with the exception of David Sherratt, are related. Thomas passed the property to his son Frederick, who in turn passed it onto his daughter Olwyn, who then sold the property to her daughter Jane. These transactions were all through a Deed of Gift. It states Olwyn continued to reside in the property until her death in 2010.

A further printed document, dated 24th November 2004, is a transcribed record of a conversation held between Olwyn Porter and her interviewees, Bob Read and Ann Adams.⁷⁹ This transcription tells us that Fred and Minnie Wells, her parents, purchased the property then known as No. 77. Olwyn confirmed the property was known as the *Coach and Horses* and had extensive cellars- those under 96 have now been filled in but those under 94 remain. Whilst the reliability of oral history transcriptions should be questioned, in this case Olwyn's account tallies with what we have previously discovered.

The final documents the homeowner provided were two photographs. The first was an image of the front of the house, estimated to have been taken around 1970⁸⁰. The second image was a bird's-eye view of the property taken around 1990⁸¹. This helpfully shows where the entrance for 96 used to be, to the right of the main building. The entrance to 94 remains as it is today, in the centre of the front of the property.



Number 94, taken around 1970



Bird's-eye view of No's 94 and 96

Land Registry

The Land Registry give further information on the properties. Number 96 was purchased by David Sherratt for £200,000 in 2011⁸², at the same time as the land in front of it was purchased⁸³. Number 94 was purchased by Lee and Karen Stevens for £210,000 in 2003.⁸⁴

⁷⁹ Olwyn Porter, Oral History Transcription, 2004, original held by current homeowner Karen Stevens, 2nd February 2022

⁸⁰ Number 94, Photograph, c. 1970, original held by current homeowner Karen Stevens, 2nd February 2022

⁸¹ Number 94 and 96, Photograph, c.1990, original held by current homeowner Karen Stevens, 2nd February 2022

⁸² Number 96, Land Registry Title, Reference: DY458658, original data: Land Registry, 5th February 2022

⁸³ Number 94 and 96 land, Land Registry Title, Reference: DY453696, original data: Land Registry, 5th February 2022

⁸⁴ Number 94, Land Registry Title, Reference: DY300649, original data: Land Registry, 5th February 2022

1939 Register

To back-up the information found in the deeds and to find out more about the families living in No's. 94 and 96, the 1939 Register was viewed⁸⁵. From the deeds we are aware that the house numbers changed somewhere between 1926 and 1954. Using the names in the deeds that we know to be present in the house in 1939, this shows at this time the properties were still recorded as No's 76 and 77. No. 76 is occupied by 64-year-old John Orton and 63-year-old Eliza Orton. John's occupation is given as a Gypsum Mine Foreman. No. 77 is occupied by 52-year-old Frederick and 50-year-old Minnie Wells. Frederick's occupation is given as a bus driver. In both houses the wives' occupations are given as 'unpaid domestic duties'. Both properties also house a third person whose details are closed under the 100-year confidentiality rule.

77	Wells	Frederick	M	M	13-10	87	M	Bus Driver
	Wells	Minnie	F	F	29-9	89	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties
This record is officially closed.								
76	Orton	John	-	M	1-10	75	M	Gypsum Mine Foreman
	Orton	Eliza	-	F	5-4	76	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties
This record is officially closed.								

1939 Register extract for No's 76 and 77¹³

Title Deeds

The deeds seen so far only go back as far as 1925. Looking at the 1921 census for Aston on Trent, it is sadly not possible to tell from this source alone who was living in the properties at this time as no house numbers are given. There is no Harold Nightingale living in Aston at the time and John and Eliza Orton are residing in another property in the village, as are the Wells family of No. 77.

It was decided to trace back to the next confirmed property ownership. A bundle of deeds is held at Derbyshire Record Office. By viewing these, a timeline of ownership of the property can be created.

Ownership of Coach and Horses/Site of Property: Derbyshire Record Office D779/T/6/14/1-14			
Date	Vendor	Purchaser	Document Type
1646	Sir John Harpur	Thomas Gilbert (occupied by Edward Martyn)	Feoffment
1684	Edward Martin (the elder)	Edward Martin (the younger)	Will
1724	Edward Martin (the younger)	Joseph Moreley	Feoffment
1764	Joseph Moreley (the purchasers' uncle)	Joseph Moreley (the vendor's nephew)	Will
1810	Joseph Moorley	John Whitmore	Lease and Release
1814	John Whitmore	Margaret Whitmore	Will
1835	Margaret Whitmore	John Francis Braissant	Lease and Release
1845	John Francis Braissant	Edward Anthony Holden Esq.	Conveyance

⁸⁵ Frederick Wells and John Orton, 1939 England and Wales Register, Class: RG101, Piece 5971, Schedule No 20, Line No 39, original data: TNA, accessed 5th February 2022

The earliest record is a feoffment dated 1646⁸⁶ describing the conveyance from Sir John Harpur of Swarkestone to Thomas Gilbert of a cottage for £10. It is noted that the property and lands are currently occupied by Edward ‘Martyn’.

Next is the will of Edward Martin written in 1684⁸⁷. The will states Edward’s wish for his house in Aston to be bequeathed to his wife until her death, instructing that the property should then pass to his eldest son Edward Martin.

The next document in the bundle is a feoffment dated 1724⁸⁸. This describes the conveyance between Edward Martin to Joseph Moreley of a cottage in Aston on Trent with a yard and 2 roods of arable land. It is noted that Edward received the property from his father, also called Edward Martin.

The will of Joseph Moreley is dated 1764⁸⁹. The will mentions one property, land and sheep. As these deeds are held in a bundle and Joseph’s name is mentioned, it is likely they refer to the property in question. What is not clear however is whether the property being bequeathed is the same building, whether this building has been knocked down and rebuilt over time or whether a new property was built on the lands Joseph bestowed. The will states that after the death of his wife, his property is to be given to his nephew, also called Joseph Moreley. The property at this point is clearly called a ‘house’ with no mention of it being run as a public house.

The deed of 1810⁹⁰, names Joseph Moorley (likely the named nephew from the will), Jacob James and William Clifford as previous occupiers of the property. The deeds all mention that the property comes with stables, a brew house, a coal house, further outbuildings and a yard.

The 1813 will⁹¹ of John Whitmore confirms transfer of ownership to his wife Margaret, who went on to sell the property to John Francis Braissant in 1835⁹².

There are copies of letters of denization attached to the 1845 conveyance⁹³, noting that John Francis Braissant was originally from Leysin in Switzerland.

⁸⁶ Sir John Harpur and Thomas Gilbert, Feoffment by Sir John Harpur of Swarkestone to Thomas Gilbert of Chellaston, 1646, original document, D779/T/6/14/1, Derbyshire Record Office, 18th May 2022

⁸⁷ Edward Martin, Will of Edward Martin of Morley, 1684, original document, D779/T/6/14/3-4, Derbyshire Record Office, 18th May 2022

⁸⁸ Edward Martin and Joseph Moreley, Feoffment by Edward Martin to Joseph Moreley, 1724, original document, D779/T/6/14/5, Derbyshire Record Office, 18th May 2022

⁸⁹ Joseph Moorley, Will of Joseph Moreley of Sheepshead, 1764, original document, D779/T/6/14/6, Derbyshire Record Office, 18th May 2022

⁹⁰ Joseph Moorley and John Whitmore, Lease and Release made between Joseph Moorley and John Whitmore, 1810, original document, D779/T/6/14/7-8, Derbyshire Record Office, 2nd March 2022

⁹¹ John Whitmore and Margaret Whitmore, Probate of Will of John Whitmore of Aston innholder, 1813, original document, D779/T/6/14/9-10, Derbyshire Record Office, 2nd March 2022

⁹² Margaret Whitmore and John Francis Braissant, Lease and Release by Margaret Whitmore and John Francis Braissant, 1835, original document, D779/T/6/14/12-13, Derbyshire Record Office, 2nd March 2022

⁹³ John Francis Braissant and Edward Anthony Holden Esq., Abstract of Title of John Francis Braissant and Edward Anthony Holden Esquire, 1845, original document, D779/T/6/14/14, Derbyshire Record Office, 2nd March 2022

The challenge from here is to fill in the gaps between 1845 and 1925. We are aware that during this time the property converted from being used as a public house to being two residences and that in villages, house numbers were not allocated as early as in towns. This can make it harder to discover with certainty the names of property owners.

It is possible that the bundles of deeds have become mixed over the years and that the earlier deeds may in fact relate to another site in Aston, however as the names link to each other and follow on it is believed that they are accurate. It is obvious that the property that stands today does not date from the 17th century, however it is unclear from the records at which point the current building was erected.

Records featuring John Francis Braissant

To trace ownership forwards from John Francis Braissant, it was decided to research his history at the property to see if this gave any leads. As we are aware that he was residing here in 1841, the census was viewed⁹⁴.

1841 Census Entry for Francis and Ann Braissant

The 1841 census shows 'Francis Braissant' aged 40, living with Ann Braissant aged 45 and 20-year-old Ann Bussenius, a female servant. Francis' occupation is given as 'publican'; however, the *Coach and Horses* is not named. The address is simply given as 'Derby Road'. Both Francis and Ann Braissant are stated to have been foreign born.

John Francis Braissant's name appears under multiple different spellings in different records. His name is given as Francis Braissant in the 1841 census and James Brazant in the 1842 Pigot's Directory⁹⁵ where he is shown residing at *Coach and Horses*.

NAMES.	RESIDENCE.	Voted.			
		M.	C.	G.	W.
Aston-upon-Trent.					
Adams John	- - Shardlow	-	-	-	-
Adams James	- - ditto	-	-	-	-
Burton Joseph	- - Aston-upon-Trent	-	-	-	-
Bailey Thomas	- - Limehouse, London	-	-	-	-
Botham Thomas	- - Aston-upon-Trent	-	-	-	-
Botham Joseph	- - ditto	-	-	-	-
Botham Thomas, jun.	- - ditto	-	-	-	-
Botham Jacob	- - ditto	-	-	-	-
Bowmer Joseph	- - ditto	-	-	-	-
Brassaint John Francis	- - ditto	-	-	-	-

1841 Poll Book Entry for John Francis Brassaint

⁹⁴ Francis Braissant, 1841 England Census, Class: HO107, Piece: 188, Book: 6, Folio 9, Page 13, original data: TNA, accessed 6th March 2022

⁹⁵ James Brazant, Directory, Pigot's Directory 1842, J. Pigot and Co, p. 72

In the 1841 Poll Book⁹⁶ within the Melbourne district of South Derbyshire viewed on Ancestry, his name is given as John Francis Braissant of Aston on Trent. No mention is given as to the *Coach and Horses* or his occupation. This states that John voted for Edward Miller Munday Esq. and Charles Robert Colville Esq. (Rather than Matthew Gisborne Esq or The Right Hon. Lord Waterpark). No other occupants of the property were found in poll books.

Further information was found when searching local newspapers via FindMyPast for Francis for the years he was resident at the property. Interestingly, in the *Derby Mercury* on 23rd September 1835⁹⁷, an auction is advertised to be held at ‘the premises of Mr Braissant of Talbot Inn, Derby (who is about to remove to the Coach and Horses, Aston-upon-Trent)’. Auctions were held commonly at public houses and newspaper advertisements can be a great way of tracking occupants.

The remaining two articles give a new insight into the functions of *Coach and Horses*. In the *Derbyshire Courier* on 28th July 1838⁹⁸, it is stated that ‘the Loyal Holden Lodge of the Manchester Unity of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in the Derby district was opened on Tuesday last at the house of host Braissant, the Coach and Horses Inn, Aston-upon-Trent’. The article goes on to describe how new members were initiated here before John provided them with an ‘excellent dinner’. The group from the Independent Order of Odd Fellows is mentioned again in the *Derby Mercury* of 5th June 1844⁹⁹, when it is noted they again dined at Mr Braissant’s *Coach and Horses*, with the meeting chaired by Edward Anthony Holden Esq. Edward was a notable property owner in the area, and from the conveyance previously seen, we are aware he purchased the inn from John the following year.

Records featuring Henry Tooth

Whilst Edward purchased the property in 1845, he did not reside in it himself. To find out the new property occupier, local directories were searched. The first evidence that can be seen of the pub’s new occupant is in Bagshaw’s Directory of Derbyshire 1846¹⁰⁰ when Henry Tooth is stated to be the victualler of *Coach and Horses*, as well as working as a butcher. This information is repeated by the Kelly Post Office Directory of 1848¹⁰¹. Henry’s last appearance in a directory is the Post Office Directory for 1855¹⁰² when he is again shown as occupying *Coach and Horses*.

38-year-old Henry can be seen in the 1851 census living with his wife Mary aged 37 and sons Edward and Richard¹⁰³. The property name is again not stated, but Henry’s occupation is given as ‘innkeeper and butcher’, fitting what is known from the directories.

⁹⁶ John Francis Braissant, UK, Poll Books and Electoral Registers, 1538-1893, www.ancestry.co.uk, 1841, Register of Electors of the Southern Division in the County of Derby, p. 93, original data: London Metropolitan Archives, accessed 6th March 2022

⁹⁷ Mr Braissant, www.findmypast.co.uk, Derby Mercury, 23rd Sep 1835, p. 2, accessed 7th March 2022

⁹⁸ Braissant, www.findmypast.co.uk, Derbyshire Courier, 28th Jul 1838, p. 3, accessed 7th March 2022

⁹⁹ Mr Braissant, www.findmypast.co.uk, Derby Mercury, 5th Jun 1844, p. 3, accessed 7th March 2022

¹⁰⁰ Henry Tooth, Directory, Bagshaw’s Directory of Derbyshire 1846

¹⁰¹ Henry Tooth, Directory, Post Office Directory 1848, Kelly and Co, p. 2382

¹⁰² Henry Tooth, Directory, Post Office Directory 1855, Kelly and Co, p. 14

¹⁰³ Henry Tooth, 1851 England Census, Class: HO107, Piece: 2140, Folio 442, Page 33, original data: TNA, accessed 7th March 2022

Henry Tooth	Head	38	David Walker	do	do
Henry do	Wife	37	Samuelson & Butcher	London	
Edward do	Son	17		Derby	Aston
Richard do	Son	11		do	do
John Jones	Head	40	Edward Henry Scholar	do	do

1851 Census Entry for the Tooth family

Newspapers were searched to discover when Henry relocated from the property. During Henry's time at the property, an auction was held. This can be seen in the *Derby Mercury* dated 2nd February 1848¹⁰⁴ when two houses were auctioned. However, whilst the *Coach and Horses* is named, Henry is not. He is named in the *Derbyshire Advertiser and Journal* on 9th September 1853¹⁰⁵, although he is incorrectly named as 'Mr Took'. This article describes how a man named Thomas Newbold sheltered at *Coach and Horses* on the night of a storm before being followed by a fellow drinker, named Aaron Barber, who attempted to rob him after leaving the pub.

A somewhat more pleasant article in the *Derby Mercury* dated 18th January 1854¹⁰⁶ describes how Henry provided the workmen of the local plaster mines with a 'hearty Christmas supper'.

highly gratified with the proceedings of the day.
ASTON-ON-TRENT.—The workmen in the employ of Messrs. Pegg and Harpur, of Derby, at Aston, were liberally treated on Saturday, 8th inst., at Mr. Tooth's, *Coach and Horses* Inn, Aston, with a hearty Christmas supper, under the superintendence of Mr. Murphy, the worthy manager of the plaster mines, with some friends. After spending a few hours in the most social and peaceable manner, they retired, gratefully acknowledging themselves satisfied with their evening's entertainment.

Derby Mercury 18th January 1854

The next article Henry appears in dates from 1st December 1858¹⁰⁷ and shows that Henry had left the *Coach and Horses*, no longer resided in Aston on Trent with the article relating to his insolvency.

Records featuring John Buxton

Directories and newspapers were again used to find the next property occupant. The *White History and Gazetteer of Derbyshire* 1857¹⁰⁸ names John Buxton as victualler of *Coach and Horses*. He is named in an article in the *Derby Mercury* dated 10th June 1857¹⁰⁹ relating again to the Loyal Holden Lodge meeting. This article tells us that *Coach and Horses* was still being used as their lodge house and that John provided them with another 'excellent dinner' for around 120 people. Edward Holden Esq. was again chairing the meeting, however it is not known from the records seen here whether he still owned the pub at this point.

¹⁰⁴ *Coach and Horses*, www.findmypast.co.uk, *Derby Mercury*, 2nd Feb 1848, p. 2, accessed 7th March 2022

¹⁰⁵ Mr Took, www.findmypast.co.uk, *Derbyshire Advertiser and Journal*, 9th Sep 1853, p. 2, accessed 7th March 2022

¹⁰⁶ Mr Tooth, www.findmypast.co.uk, *Derby Mercury*, 18th Jan 1854, p. 5, accessed 7th March 2022

¹⁰⁷ Henry Tooth, www.findmypast.co.uk, *Derby Mercury*, 1st Dec 1858, p. 5, accessed 7th March 2022

¹⁰⁸ John Buxton, *Directory, White History and Gazetteer of Derbyshire* 1857

¹⁰⁹ John Buxton, www.findmypast.co.uk, *Derby Mercury*, 10th Jun 1857, p. 8, accessed 7th March 2022

Records featuring John Ludlow

In the 1861 census¹¹⁰ the property is occupied by John Ludlow. He can be seen residing at the inn in the 1861 census along with his sister Catherine and nephew Francis. The property is named for the first time in a census as *Coach and Horses* and 36-year-old John's occupation is given as innkeeper and maltster.

Public House	1	John Ludlow	Head	M	36	Innkeeper and Maltster
Coach and Horses		Catherine Ludlow	Sister	F	42	Widow
		Francis Ludlow	Nephew	M	13	General Servant

1861 Census Entry for the Ludlow family

Newspapers and directories were searched to discover how long John remained at the property. Two auctions taking place at *Coach and Horses* in 1861¹¹¹ and 1862¹¹² feature in the *Derby Mercury*, although whilst the name the pub they do not name John Ludlow. John is named in the 1870 Harrod & Co's Directory¹¹³ of being the victualler of *Coach and Horses*.

There are two articles relating to the same incident in *Derby Mercury* on 19th October 1870¹¹⁴ and *Derbyshire Advertiser and Journal* on 28th October 1870¹¹⁵. These detail how at the County Police Court on 14th October, John was found guilty of selling alcohol during prohibited hours on a Sunday. He was fined 10 shillings.

The census of 1871 shows John Ludlow residing at the named *Coach and Horses Inn* with his wife Elizabeth and their children Mary, Joseph and Arthur, along with a domestic servant named Ann Foster¹¹⁶. John's occupation is given as innkeeper.

Coach and Horses Inn	1	John Ludlow	Head	M	46	Innkeeper
		Elizabeth do.	Wife	M	42	
		Mary do.	Daughter	F	7	Scholar
		Joseph do.	Son	M	6	
		Arthur do.	Son	M	3	
		Ann Foster	Serv	F	14	Servant Domestic

1871 Census Entry for the Ludlow family

¹¹⁰ John Ludlow, 1861 Census, Class: RG9, Piece: 2490, Folio 33, Page 12, original data: TNA, accessed 16th March 2022

¹¹¹ Coach and Horses, www.findmypast.co.uk, Derby Mercury, 7th Aug 1861, p. 1, accessed 16th March 2022

¹¹² Coach and Horses, www.findmypast.co.uk, Derby Mercury, 11th June 1862, p. 1, accessed 16th March 2022

¹¹³ John Ludlow, Directory, Harrod & Co's Directory of Derbyshire 1870, J G Harrod, p.25

¹¹⁴ John Ludlow, www.findmypast.co.uk, Derby Mercury, 19th Oct 1870, p. 2, accessed 16th March 2022

¹¹⁵ John Ludlow, www.findmypast.co.uk, Derbyshire Advertiser and Journal, 28th Oct 1870, p. 7, accessed 16th March 2022

¹¹⁶ John Ludlow, 1871 Census, Class: RG10, Piece: 3553, Folio 35, Page 22, original data: TNA, accessed 16th March 2022

The last article to name the *Coach and Horses* is in the *Derby Mercury* on 20th March 1872¹¹⁷. The article details how John Ludlow has instructed Mr Cumberland to sell the property by auction on 23rd March including the brewing vessels, bar fittings, bacon and ‘porket pigs’ (piglets). The article gives us great detail as to the items and furniture that were inside the property during John’s time here, including five dozen dinner plates, 16 barrels sizing up to 63 gallons and three oak dining tables. The closure of the *Coach and Horses* is confirmed by its lack of appearance in Wright’s Directory of South Derbyshire 1874¹¹⁸.

Inland Revenue Valuation Office Survey 1910 and Resulting Occupants

From here, the obvious place to fill in the gaps of the unknown occupants is via the census returns. However, looking at Aston’s census entries for 1881-1911 it is not obvious who resides in the property or at what point the property was split into two. Due to the size of the property it is likely this happened early on after the sale of the pub; however, this cannot be confirmed. There are no house numbers given in the census records. Other records therefore need to be viewed to see if the occupants for this interim period of 1872-1925 can be discovered.

The relevant copies of the Inland Revenue Valuation Office Survey 1910, otherwise known as the Lloyd George Domesday Survey were ordered from TNA. This can provide certain evidence of who owned and occupied the property at the time and can then be used to trace backwards and forwards to fill in the gaps. The relevant valuation map¹¹⁹ was ordered initially to learn the correct plot numbers field books to order. Using the provided plot numbers of 86 and 87, the field books were then ordered.



Inland Revenue Valuation Office Survey Map showing Plots 86 and 87 towards the bottom

¹¹⁷ John Ludlow, www.findmypast.co.uk, Derby Mercury, 20th Mar 1872, p. 1, accessed 16th March 2022

¹¹⁸ Aston on Trent, Directory, Wright’s Directory of South Derbyshire 1874, p.135

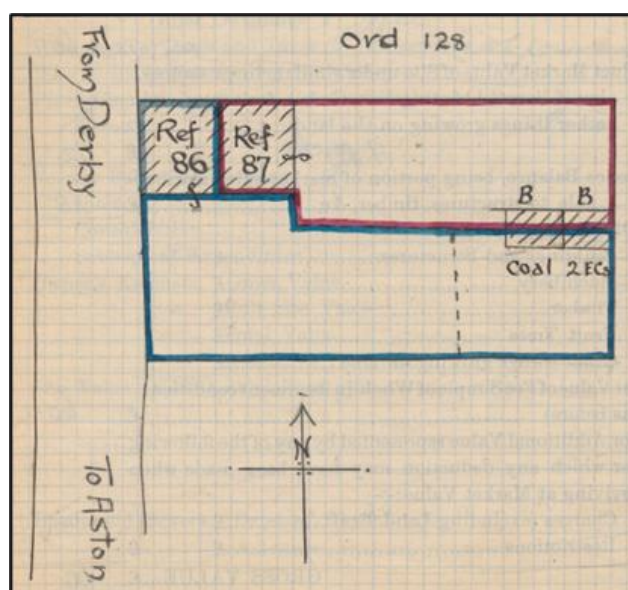
¹¹⁹ Aston on Trent, OS Sheet Reference: Derbyshire LV 11, IR 130/2/157, TNA, 16th March 2022

Both entries in the field books for plot number 86 and 87 are dated as being evaluated on 30th January 1912. The relevant information provided by each book can be seen below, alongside the provided plan.

Inland Revenue Valuation Office Survey- Plot No. 86 ¹²⁰	
Situation	New Houses, Aston
Description	Cottage and Garden (small)
Extent	9 perches
Occupier	William Ansell
Owner	W D Winterbottom
Interest of Owner	Freehold
Occupier's Tenancy	Weekly
Actual Rent	£5--
Who Pays Rent, Taxes and Insurance	Owner
Particulars and Description	A Brick built and slated house containing two bedrooms, living room, kitchen, cellar. In moderately good condition
Valuation	£60

Inland Revenue Valuation Office Survey- Plot No. 87 ¹²¹	
Situation	New Houses, Aston
Description	Cottage and Garden (small)
Extent	9 perches
Occupier	James Radley
Owner	W D Winterbottom
Interest of Owner	Freehold
Occupier's Tenancy	Weekly
Actual Rent	£4--
Who Pays Rent, Taxes and Insurance	Owner
Particulars and Description	Similar accommodation to 86 but smaller rooms
Valuation	£50

*Inland Revenue Valuation
Field Book Plan showing
Plots 86 and 87¹*



¹²⁰ Plot 86, Aston-on-Trent Assessment No. 1 - 100, Aston on Trent, IR 58/25964, TNA 11th May 2022

¹²¹ Plot 87, Aston-on-Trent Assessment No. 1 - 100, Aston on Trent, IR 58/25964, TNA, 11th May 2022

Using the information from the field books, we now know that W D Winterbottom owned both properties in January 1912. We can see that Plot 86 refers to what was later known as No's 77 and 96 and Plot 87 refers to what was later referred to as No's 76 and 94.

The field books show that in January 1912, plot number 86 was occupied by William Ansell and plot number 87 was occupied by James Radley. This information was then used when searching the 1911 census, taken the previous year, to see if the same occupants were present. The results were unclear due to the lack of house numbers. Both men are seen residing in Derby Road, Aston on Trent, however whilst James is schedule number 118¹²², William is number 110¹²³, implying they are likely not neighbours. Following the route that the enumerator took also does not enlighten which house is relevant and none of the houses in-between the two entries give any clues. A newspaper search was carried out via FindMyPast for both men in Derbyshire papers in case they were named, but this gave no results.

The 1901 census was viewed to see if James or William were present and whether this helped solve the mystery. There is nobody by the name of James Radley present in 1901. There is however, a William Ansell present at an address entitled 'New Houses, Aston' matching the information from the field books previously.

1901 Census Return for 'New Houses' Aston on Trent ¹²⁴				
Name	Age	Status	Occupation	Birthplace
William Ansell	47	Married	General Labourer	Hendon, Middlesex
Ann Ansell	50	Married	-	Alvaston, Derbyshire
William Ansell	20	Single	General Labourer	Wimbledon, Surrey
Annie Ansell	13	Single	-	Aston on Trent, Derbyshire

As this census listing show the Ansell household listed after Alderslade House which is the nearest house to the north of the property, it is accepted that these are the correct residents of the house. The information from the 1911 census was then revisited to compare the information, as the William named in the 1912 Survey could relate to either William the father or the son.

1911 Census Return for William Ansell ⁵¹				
Name	Age	Status	Occupation	Birthplace
William Ansell	58	Married	Labourer General	Mill Hill, Middlesex
Ann Ansell	60	Married	-	Alvaston, Derbyshire
William Ansell	30	Single	Labourer General	Wimbledon, Surrey
Annie Ansell	23	Single	-	Aston on Trent, Derbyshire

It is a safe conclusion that the William mentioned in the 1912 Survey is the father and that he remained the owner of the house from at least 1901 until 1912.

¹²² James Radley, 1911 Census, Class: RG14, Piece: 20815, Schedule No 118, original data: TNA accessed 13th May 2022

¹²³ William Ansell, 1911 Census, Class: RG14, Piece: 20815, Schedule No 110, original data: TNA, accessed 13th May 2022

¹²⁴ William Ansell, 1901 Census, Class: RG13, Piece: 3206, Folio 8, Page 7, original data: TNA, accessed 13th May 2022

As we cannot be sure of the route that the enumerator took, we again cannot conclude who the owner of the other property was in 1901. The most likely candidate is 48-year-old George Hinds¹²⁵ who is the next person listed after Alderslade House and William Ansell. This however cannot be confirmed. Whilst we have learnt that William Ansell was occupier of the house, we cannot be sure when W D Winterbottom purchased and sold the property.

Moving forward to the 1921 Census to see if William Ansell is still the property occupier gives the below information. He is still listed as being a resident of Derby Road, with no house numbers provided.

1921 Census Return for William Ansell ¹²⁶					
Name	Age	Relationship to Head	Status	Occupation	Birthplace
William Ansell	68	Head	Widowed	Estate Labourer	Mill Hill, Middlesex
Thomas Henry Croxson	37	Son-in-law	Married	Printing Trade	Fakenham, Suffolk
Annie Croxson	34	Daughter	Married	Home Duties	Aston on Trent, Derbyshire
Thomas William Croxson	5	Grandson	-	-	Aston on Trent, Derbyshire

We can see that William is now widowed and living with his daughter, her husband and their son. Searching the GRO Death Index online shows that Ann Ansell died in 1914 aged 64¹²⁷. Interestingly, William is listed as working for 'Lt Col Winterbottom' of Aston Hall. This is likely to be the same man who we know owned the house in 1912 and gives rise to the possibility that the house occupation was linked to his employment. As there are again no house numbers given, it is not clear which of William's neighbours lives in the other property and there are no clues which help narrow the candidates down. From here, William's entry in the 1891 census was viewed.

1891 Census Return for William Ansell ¹²⁸				
Name	Age	Status	Occupation	Birthplace
William Ansell	37	Married	General Labourer	Mill Hill, Hendon, Middlesex
Ann Ansell	40	Married	-	Alvaston, Derbyshire
William H Ansell	10	-	Scholar	Wimbledon, Surrey
Annie Ansell	3	-	Scholar	Aston, Derbyshire

The above is again obviously the same family and they are again listed as residing at New Houses, Derby Road hinting that they are residing in the same property. Looking at the census to see who lives in the neighbouring property suggests that 36-year-old Richard Smith¹²⁹ and his family are the most likely candidates, residing between the Ansell family and Alderslade House. This again however cannot be certain from this source alone.

¹²⁵ George Hinds, 1901 Census, Class: RG13, Piece: 3206, Folio 8, Page 7, original data: TNA, accessed 13th May 2022

¹²⁶ William Ansell, 1921 Census, Class: RG15, Piece 434, Schedule No 28, original data: TNA, accessed 13th May 2022

¹²⁷ Ann Ansell, GRO Death Index Entry, 1914, Sep Q, District: Shardlow, Vol: 7b, Page: 530, General Register Office

¹²⁸ William Ansell, 1891 Census, Class: RG12, Piece: 2721, Folio 22, Page 7, original data: TNA, accessed 15th May 2022

¹²⁹ Richard Smith, 1891 Census, Class: RG12, Piece: 2721, Folio 22, Page 7, original data: TNA, accessed 15th May 2022

William Ansell is not present in the 1881 census in Aston on Trent, telling us that he moved here between the two censuses; somewhere between the births of his two children judging by their birth places. It should be remembered at this point that we are also unsure as to when the property split into two properties.

Electoral Rolls

To try and further fill in the gaps of property occupation, electoral rolls for Derby South were viewed; however, none of them provided house numbers, even for the 1920's. The years viewed included 1901, 1905, 1915, 1921 and 1924¹³⁰. We have seen from the 1921 census that William Ansell was residing in the property and he can be seen in the 1921 and 1924 electoral rolls. It can't be proved from the electoral rolls alone however whether he was residing at the same property. The 1924 roll did not name Harold Nightingale who we know owned No 76/94 in 1926 from the deeds. This may point towards Harold owning the property but not residing there himself, or perhaps moving into the property between 1924 and 1926. We also know that in 1925 Thomas Wells owned No. 77/96. He can be seen in the 1924 electoral roll, however his residential street is given as 'Weston Road', suggesting the same conclusion as that which applied to Harold. Without addresses or street names provided from the earlier electoral rolls no further conclusions can be drawn. For example, William Ansell is present in 1915, however this only states he was living in Aston on Trent.

The electoral rolls for Derby South for 1900¹³¹ and earlier were also viewed for Aston on Trent but these again did not help to identify any new owners of the property or give any further information. Again, William Ansell is seen, such as in the 1890 roll, but the information provided is limited in the same way as in 1915.

Parish Registers

The parish registers for Aston on Trent were viewed to see what was happening to the known residents of the property at the time that they resided there and to discover if any details of their residence was given, such as the naming of the pub. The results give details of the life events of the residents of the property as detailed below.

Aston on Trent Parish Register Entries for Occupants ¹³²			
Date	Event	Name(s)	Other details
22 nd Oct 1813	Burial	John Whitmore	Aged 49
27 th Nov 1862	Marriage	John Ludlow and Elizabeth Holbrook	John a Maltster. Elizabeth's father an innkeeper. Both of Aston
23 rd Jan 1863	Baptism	John Ludlow	Son of John (maltster) and Elizabeth
1 st Apr 1863	Burial	John Ludlow	Son of John, infant
10 th Jul 1864	Baptism	Mary Ludlow	Daughter of John (publican) and Elizabeth
17 th Sep 1869	Baptism	Eliza Ludlow	Daughter of John (publican) and Elizabeth
7 th Nov 1869	Baptism	Joseph Ludlow	Son of John (publican) and Elizabeth
7 th Nov 1869	Baptism	Arthur Ludlow	Son of John (publican) and Elizabeth

¹³⁰ Aston on Trent, Electoral Register for the Derbyshire South constituency, 1901, 1905, 1915, 1921 and 1924, original document, ER/S/1901, 1905, 1915, 1921 and 1924, Derbyshire Record Office, accessed 18th May 2022

¹³¹ Aston on Trent, Electoral Register for the Derbyshire South constituency, 1832-1900, original document, ER/S/1832-1900, Derbyshire Record Office, accessed 18th May 2022

¹³² Aston on Trent Parish Registers, D1408/A/PI/, original data: Derbyshire Record Office, accessed 6th March 2022

The search was only made for events that occurred whilst the residents were occupying the property in question. Aside from the burial of John Whitmore, the remaining events all relate to the Ludlow family including a marriage, five baptisms and one burial that all occurred whilst they were residing at *Coach and Horses*. For all of the events, their residence is given as Aston with no precise details stated.

GRO Certificates

A random selection of GRO certificates were ordered to see if they featured the property name, based on information from parish register entries and deeds. Unfortunately, the *Coach and Horses* was not named on any of the records.

GRO Certificates for Occupants			
Date	Event	Name(s)	Other details
21 st Jan 1863	Birth	John Ludlow	Son of John (maltster and publican) and Elizabeth (née Holbrook) ¹³³
2 nd May 1864	Birth	Mary Ludlow	Daughter of John (maltster and publican) and Elizabeth (née Holbrook) ¹³⁴
8 th Jan 1868	Birth	Arthur Ludlow	Son of John (publican) and Elizabeth (née Holbrook) ¹³⁵
3 rd Jul 1914	Death	Ann Ansell	Wife of William Ansell ¹³⁶
26 th Mar 1952	Death	John Orton	Retired farm labourer. Died at 94 Derby Road aged 76 ¹³⁷

The only certificate that gives a specific address is John Orton's death certificate. The remainder all give the event location as Aston on Trent with no further detail.

Maps

It is unknown when the property was split into two and discovering this may help to understand the changing property ownership. Knowing some maps name property owners, it was decided to view the relevant maps to gain a better understanding of the property and its changing boundaries. Today, 94 Derby Road is surrounded by other properties, but this wasn't always the case.

Circled- Number 94 Derby Road today (Google Maps)



¹³³ John Ludlow, Birth Certificate, 1863 Mar Q, District: Shardlow, Vol: 7b, Page: 344, General Register Office

¹³⁴ Mary Ludlow, Birth Certificate, 1864 Jun Q, District: Shardlow, Vol: 7b, Page: 353, General Register Office

¹³⁵ Arthur Ludlow, Birth Certificate, 1868 Mar Q, District: Shardlow, Vol: 7b, Page: 349, General Register Office

¹³⁶ Ann Ansell, Death Certificate, 1914, Sep Q, District: Shardlow, Vol: 7b, Page: 530, General Register Office

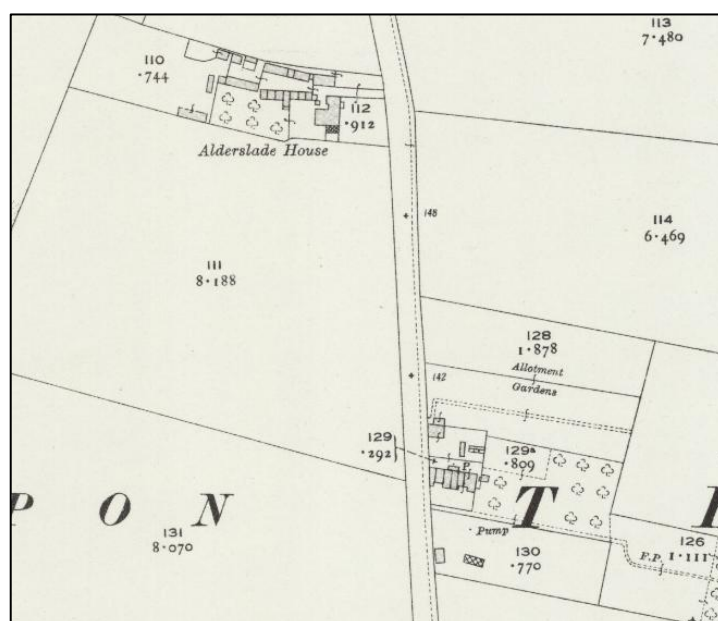
¹³⁷ John Orton, Death Certificate, 1952 Mar Q, District: Shardlow, Vol: 3a, Page: 450, General Register Office

In order to discover the changes to the surrounding area to the property, Ordnance Survey maps were viewed. The OS map dated 1948¹³⁸ shows the property with allotments and gardens to the north, four properties to the south and a row of houses on the other side of Derby Road.



OS Map- 1948

The 1923 OS map¹³⁹ shows the property with the terraced houses to the south and the allotment and gardens to its north. This time there are no properties on the opposite side of the road and the area to the south between the property and Aston's village centre is notably clearer of buildings than in 1948. The 1901 OS map¹⁴⁰ shows the same properties and layout.



OS Map- 1923⁸²

¹³⁸ Aston on Trent, Ordnance Survey Map, 1948, Reference: LV.SE, <https://maps.nls.uk/os>, original data: National Library of Scotland, accessed 11th May 2022

¹³⁹ Aston on Trent, Ordnance Survey Map, 1923, Reference: LV.SE, <https://maps.nls.uk/os>, original data: National Library of Scotland, accessed 11th May 2022

¹⁴⁰ Aston on Trent, Ordnance Survey Map, 1901, Reference: LV.SE, <https://maps.nls.uk/os>, original data: National Library of Scotland, accessed 11th May 2022



OS Map- 1882⁸⁴

The 1882 OS map¹⁴¹ shows a similar picture. The terraced houses to the south remain and the plot is still surrounded by four plots of gardens. The next nearest property is Alderslade Cottage to the north which can be seen in the other OS maps. None of the OS maps make it clear as to whether the property is split into two or not.

The maps of Aston on Trent held at Derbyshire Record Office were viewed. As the property is situated away from the centre of Aston, the property did not feature on all of these, such as a map of the plaster works dated 1866¹⁴² and an 1827¹⁴³ map of the village centre. The property can be seen in the 1924 map¹⁴⁴ of the village, which shows the same information as given in the 1923 OS map.

The property does not feature on a 1795 map of Aston¹⁴⁵. Whilst the area can be seen on the map, the property is not present. Other houses are evident. This may mean that the property was not yet built in 1795, or it could mean that the cartographer did not feature the house. The name of the landowner for the relevant piece of land is not given. The maps viewed therefore do not provide any information as to when the property was split or give any new owners names, however they are essential when researching house history and give excellent context as to the change in the surrounding area.

¹⁴¹ Aston on Trent, Ordnance Survey Map, 1882, Reference: LV.SE, <https://maps.nls.uk/os>, original data: National Library of Scotland, accessed 11th May 2022

¹⁴² Aston on Trent, Map of Plaster Works belonging to E Q Holden Esquire, original document, 1866, D779/E/16/2, Derbyshire Record Office, 18th May 2022

¹⁴³ Aston on Trent, Plan of Part of Aston Village, original document, 1827, D779/E/15/1, Derbyshire Record Office, 18th May 2022

¹⁴⁴ Aston on Trent, Map of Estate and Village Plan, original document, 1924, D779/E/17/21, Derbyshire Record Office, 18th May 2022

¹⁴⁵ Aston on Trent, Map of Lands belonging to the Reverend Charles Holden in the Lordships of Aston and Weston, original document, 1795, D779/E/10/4, Derbyshire Record Office, 18th May 2022

Tax and Manorial Records

It is unclear from the records when the house was built. It is rare to pinpoint an exact date for this, however it was decided to take the research back further to see what could be found. The land tax records for Morlestone and Litchurch Hundred 1780-1832¹⁴⁶ were viewed at Derbyshire Record Office to see if there were any named people of interest but with no results.

Unfortunately, Aston-on-Trent has no surviving manorial records after 1600 and no surviving hearth tax or window tax records. The former was searched via the Manorial Documents Register and the latter was searched for via Derbyshire Record Office catalogue, and TNA Discovery in case they were held elsewhere.

Quarter Sessions Records

To discover when the Coach and Horses was opened as a public house, the Register of Licenced Victuallers taken from Quarter Sessions records for 1777-1827¹⁴⁷ were viewed at Derbyshire Record Office. For the years from 1810 the results are as expected from the knowledge we have so far. For example, in 1810-1813 John Whitmore is listed and from 1814 this changed to Margaret Whitmore, after John's death. Whilst the names of the victuallers of each parish are given, the name of the public house is not. This makes it hard to be certain who is the correct occupier of the *Coach and Horses* prior to 1810. Research completed by Aston on Trent's local history group on the history of the *White Hart* has revealed that the Wright family ran this pub between 1771 and 1817 and the *Malt Shovel* did not exist until 1857¹⁴⁸. This can help when viewing the victualler's registers.

Between 1806 and 1809 the victuallers of Aston on Trent parish are named as William Clifford, Elizabeth Wright and John Wright. From the information supplied in the 1810 deed and armed with the knowledge that the Wright family were working at the *White Hart*, we can be confident that it is William Clifford who is running the *Coach and Horses* during this time. The victualler's names for the years 1777-1805 are given below.

Victuallers in Aston on Trent from Quarter Sessions Register 1777-1805	
Year	Names
1777-1779	Sarah Shaw, William Wright and William Smedley
1780-1784	Jacob James, William Wright and William Smedley
1785-1798	Jacob James and William Wright
1799	Jacob James and Elizabeth Wright
1800-1802	Sarah James and Elizabeth Wright
1803-1805	Sarah James, Elizabeth Wright and John Wright

¹⁴⁶ Aston on Trent, Land Tax Records for Morlestone and Litchurch Hundred 1780-1832, viewed on Microfiche M201-211, original document reference: Q/RE/6/M, Derbyshire Record Office, 18th May 2022

¹⁴⁷ Aston on Trent, Register of Licenced Victuallers 1777-1827, original document, Q/RA/1/3-5, Derbyshire Record Office, 18th May 2022

¹⁴⁸ Aston on Trent Local History Group, Aston on Trent History and Heritage, Self-published by Aston on Trent Local History Group, 2007

We are again aware from the 1810 deed that Jacob James previously owned the *Coach and Horses*. Knowing that the Wright family owned the *White Hart*, it seems most likely that Sarah James was running the *Coach and Horses* between 1800-1805, after her assumed partner or relative Jacob James. Jacob James was a victualler in Aston between 1780-1799, but from this list we cannot know if he was residing at *Coach and Horses* the whole time or if he was perhaps running a different pub.

To discover more, Aston-on-Trent parish registers were revisited to research Jacob and Sarah James to see if these gave any clues. The registers show that Jacob James married Sarah Shaw on 13th May 1779¹⁴⁹, with Jacob being buried in the parish on 1st May 1800¹⁵⁰. These dates fit in with the victuallers register with Sarah Shaw being a victualler in 1779 before Jacob took over after their marriage. Sarah then reappears under her married name after Jacob's death. What still cannot be certain from these records however is at what point the *Coach and Horses* came into existence. It is possible that all of the mentions of Sarah Shaw, Jacob James and Sarah James refer to *Coach and Horses* and that it existed from 1777 or before, or it could be that the couple owned another pub before transferring to work at *Coach and Horses*. Sarah James was buried in 1805¹⁵¹, which correlates with when William Clifford took over the running of *Coach and Horses* according to the 1810 deed.

Timelines

Tracing the history of a house based in a village can be difficult, particularly because house numbers were introduced later than in urban areas. Thankfully researching the history of a public house can lead to new records which can help, such as victuallers' registers and newspaper reports. Using all of the available sources to trace the history of 94 Derby Road, a timeline for the period 1646-1872 has been established.

Occupiers of No. 94 Derby Road/Site of Property 1646-1872		
Date of Habitation	Name (s)	Records of Proof
?- 1646	Edward Martyn (owned by Sir John Harpur)	Deed
1646- 1684	Edward Martin (the elder) (owned by Thomas Gilbert)	Deed, Probate
1684- 1724	Edward Martin (the younger)	Deed, Probate
1724- 1764	Joseph Moreley	Deed, Probate
1764 - ?	Joseph Moreley (the above's nephew)	Deed, Probate
1777-1779	Sarah Shaw	Victuallers Register
1780-1800	Jacob James	Victuallers Register, Deed
1800-1805	Sarah James	Victuallers Register
1806-1809	William Clifford	Victuallers Register, Deed
1810- 1813	John Whitmore	Victuallers Register, Deed, Probate
1813- 1835	Margaret Whitmore	Victuallers Register, Deed, Probate, Newspapers
1835- 1845	John Francis Braissaint	Deeds, Census, Poll Book, Newspapers, Directory
1845- 1856 (est.)	Henry Tooth (owned by Edward Anthony Holden Esq.)	Census, Newspapers, Directory
1857- 1860 (est.)	John Buxton	Newspapers, Directory
1861- 1872	John Ludlow	Census, Newspapers, Directory

¹⁴⁹ Jacob James and Sarah Shaw, Aston on Trent Marriage Register, 1779, D1408/A/PI/3, original data: Derbyshire Record Office, accessed 11th June 2022

¹⁵⁰ Jacob James, Aston on Trent Burial Register, 1800, D1408/A/PI/1, original data: Derbyshire Record Office, accessed 11th June 2022

¹⁵¹ Sarah James, Aston on Trent Burial Register, 1805, D1408/A/PI/1, original data: Derbyshire Record Office, accessed 11th June 2022

From 1872 it is unclear when the property was split into two. We know from the Valuation Survey that this was at least by January 1912. There is a gap of proven property occupation between 1872 and 1890 and 1921-1925. There is a clear chain of ownership again from 1925 with the owners of 94 and 96 Derby Road listed in the timelines below.

Occupiers of No. 94/96 Derby Road 1891-1921		
Date of Habitation	Name(s)	Records of Proof
1891-1921	William Ansell (owned by W D Winterbottom)	Lloyd George Valuation Survey, Census, Electoral Roll
1912	James Radley (owned by W D Winterbottom)	Lloyd George Valuation Survey, Census, Electoral Roll

Owners of No. 94 1926- Present		
Date of Habitation	Name(s)	Records of Proof
?-1926	Harold George Nightingale	Deed
1926-1954	John and Eliza Orton	Deeds, GRO, 1939 Register
1954- 1959	Ian and Doreen Alton	Deeds
1959- 1977	James and Gladys Towle	Deeds
1977- 2003	Russell and Barbara Bostock	Deeds
2003- Present	Karen Stevens and Lee Stevens/ David Sherratt	From homeowner/ Land Registry

Owners of No. 96 1925- Present		
Date of Habitation	Name(s)	Records of Proof
?-1925	Thomas Wells	Legal declaration
1925- 1945	Frederick Wells	Legal declaration, 1939 Register
1945- 1983	Olwyn Porter	Legal declaration
1983- 2011	Jane Stone	Legal declaration
2011- Present	Karen Stevens and David Sherratt	Land Registry

The properties were conjoined again as one residence in 2011.

Conclusion

From the records that have survived, it is not clear when the current building was erected. The deeds date back to 1646, however it is obvious that the current building does not date back that far. What the deeds and probate records can tell us is who owned the site that the property now resides on and when the ownership changed hands. There are three cases where the property changed hands from husband to wife after the former's death. This occurred with the deaths of Jacob James, John Whitmore and John Orton.

As well as discovering the names of the owners and occupiers of the property, it is also possible to discover more about events that occurred within the household. For example, newspaper records show that *Coach and Horses* was the home of the Loyal Holden Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, with articles dating from 1838-1857.

Parish registers and GRO records give us an insight into the family life of the property's occupiers. This includes the marriage of Jacob James and Sarah Shaw with his death occurring a few years later, the marriage of John Ludlow and Elizabeth Holbrook and the baptism of their children and the deaths of John Whitmore and John Orton, which occurred within the house itself.

The maps highlight the extensive changes to the surrounding area of the property. What was once an almost isolated building is now surrounded by houses, merging this residential area with the centre of the village of Aston on Trent. The maps also show the nearby plaster works where the *Coach and Horses* received much of their custom.

With the help of newspaper articles, deeds, probate records, census returns and directories we are aware that the property was run as a public house named *Coach and Horses* until 1872, with John Ludlow being the last landlord. Deeds and newspaper articles show that the pub existed from at least 1810, most likely prior to that according to the Victuallers Registers from Quarter Sessions. The title deed of 1810 names Jacob James and William Clifford as previous property occupiers, both of whom are named on the Victuallers Register. Jacob's first appearance in the register is in 1780, with his future wife named in 1779. However, as no inn names are given, we cannot be sure at what point the register is referring to *Coach and Horses*.

94 Derby Road is therefore a property with many stories to tell. With a site history dating back to the 17th century, this plot of land has changed considerably since the first property was built here, as has the surrounding area of Aston on Trent. Whilst the history of the public house and the property's recent history have been possible to trace, there is currently a gap in the proven homeowners between 1872 and 1890. With the lack of house numbers in the village during this time, it is unfortunately not possible to prove who was residing here during this period. Nevertheless, the information that has been discovered shows a rich history of a property in which people have been born, resided and passed away in, as well as the site of a previous public house.

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IHGS GENIES ON TOUR



In 2014, a small group of enthusiastic genealogy students met on a day course at the *Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies* (IHGS) in Canterbury. What began as a shared curiosity soon blossomed into something much more lasting—a bond of support, laughter, and mutual encouragement that came to be known as **The IHGS Genies on Tour**.

From that first encounter, it was clear this group had “gelled” in a way that was rare and meaningful. They were brought together by a common challenge: to tackle the IHGS Lectures and ultimately succeed in their exams. But what sustained them through the process was camaraderie—a blend of tea breaks, study tips, and shared genealogical “squeeeeee!” moments. They are convinced they are all connected in one way or another and will unravel that mystery in time.

To keep the momentum going through the HC course - and their spirits high, the Genies decided to take their support network *on the road*. Thus began the tradition of the IHGS Genies On Tour—an annual gathering that combined historical exploration with a good old-fashioned catch-up. Each year, a new location has been chosen and hosted by one of the Genies, each visit steeped in heritage and charm, reflecting the Genies’ love for local history and storytelling.

The Journey So Far:

- **2014 – Canterbury:** Where it all began. The seed of the IHGS Genies were planted during those day courses and flourished from there. The tale of the ‘naked man in the night’ at the Millers Arms will never be forgotten!
- **2014 – York:** Their first trip away together. The spirit of the tour was born here—equal parts learning and laughter. York Minster and Second Hand Bookshops!
- **2015 – Edinburgh:** A city rich in archives and ancestry, ideal for the budding genealogists. They enjoyed researching in the Historical Search Room before a Ghost Tour in the evening.
- **2016 – London:** A researcher's paradise, with its sprawling resources and iconic landmarks. A visit to Dennis Severs House (*Huguenots of Spitalfields*) was something not to be missed.
- **2017 – Durham:** Cathedral views and college cloisters made for an inspiring backdrop. A visit to the archives to see some documents was a great way of breathing in the history of Durham.
- **2018 – Chesterfield:** Known for its iconic crooked spire and the Chesterfield Museum. They explored the magnificent Chatsworth House, with an inspiring tour of its grand interiors and stunning grounds. Later, a visit to the mist-shrouded grounds of Hardwick Hall added a touch of mystery to the day.
- **2019 – Dorset:** Coastal walks and countryside tales—a slower pace and rich local lore.
- **2019 – Ally Pally (Mini GoT):** A mini-meet, but with maximum enthusiasm.

- **2020 – Zoom Calls:** The pandemic may have kept them apart, but the Genies adapted—staying connected and committed online.
- **2021 & 2022 – Covid Pause:** Official tours were on hold, but the bonds held fast.
- **2023 – Faversham:** A welcome return to in-person gatherings, complete with historic pubs and fresh research ideas. A guided tour around Faversham showing the amazing Tudor buildings by a world-class guide.
- **2024 – Ipswich:** Diving into Suffolk's secrets and stories. A tour around Ipswich town centre visiting incredible churches and learning about the medieval history of the town again by another world-class guide. Their **Tenth Anniversary**.
- **2025 – Carlisle:** The latest adventure will take place in October 2025, and will bring the Genies to the edge of Hadrian's Wall, and back into each other's arms.

More Than Just a Group

What makes the IHGS Genies special isn't just their shared studies or the miles they've travelled. It's the way they've built a community that has lasted well beyond the classroom. From exam nerves to archive visits, from laughter-filled dinners to quiet moments of reflection, the Genies have supported one another through it all. It has never mattered where they live (Scotland, England, France or New Zealand) – coming together for a long weekend every year has been the highlight of their calendars. As they prepare for their next tour to Carlisle one thing remains clear: wherever the IHGS Genies go, they carry with them not just a passion for genealogy, but a sense of kinship that can't be found in any record book.

The GeniesOnTour are: *Alison Standen; Barbara Nineham; Caroline Savage; Geoff Young; Ian Worthington; Jen Fillery; Linda Jackson; Lorna Kinnaird; Lynn Heiden; Maggie Gaffney; Pam Smith and Wendy Tait.*

Lorna Kinnaird

Course Tutor/GoT



HOW OCR TECHNOLOGY IS TRANSFORMING FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

In recent years, family history research has experienced a quiet revolution. Painstakingly deciphering handwritten records may now be greatly assisted by Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology.

What is OCR?

OCR, or Optical Character Recognition, refers to the process by which scanned images of text, often from books, newspapers, parish registers, census records and wills, are converted into machine-readable and searchable data. This technology bridges the gap between analogue and digital, enabling large-scale transcription of historical documents that were once only accessible in person.

Limitations and Challenges

Despite its advantages, OCR is not without its challenges. The technology can struggle with poor-quality scans, especially of ornate or degraded handwriting, and older typographical styles. This is particularly relevant in pre 19th Century records, where documents often vary widely in style and legibility. Genealogists should therefore approach OCR results with a critical eye. Misreadings and missed entries are not uncommon, and corroborating findings with original images or secondary sources remains a best practice.

Enhancing Accuracy with AI

To address these limitations, many platforms now use machine learning and artificial intelligence to ‘train’ OCR engines on historical scripts. Some advanced systems are capable of recognising specific handwriting styles or correcting for misreads that are out of context. This has significantly improved the accuracy of results, particularly for common archival formats such as parish registers or military records.

OCR in Practice

Several online genealogy services now offer OCR-enhanced document collections. Websites like FamilySearch, Findmypast, Ancestry, and The British Newspaper Archive have integrated OCR into their platforms, enabling keyword searches across millions of pages of historical material. Libraries and archives are also embracing this technology. The National Archives, for example, has ongoing digitisation initiatives that incorporate OCR to improve public access to its collections. For professionals in archival, historical, or research-based roles, understanding OCR technology is increasingly valuable. Familiarity with OCR tools, its benefits and limitations, and their application in family history can enhance research efficiency.

Conclusion

OCR technology is not just a technical tool. By making historical records more accessible, searchable, and manageable, it allows researchers to uncover personal and collective histories more effectively than before. As with all tools, its value lies in its practical application. When combined with critical thinking and careful verification, OCR becomes an indispensable ally in the ongoing quest to discover where we come from.

* * * * *

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