

HONEY POT PRESS

Worle's Pubs

A History of Public Houses Past and Present

Lesley Brown

2013

This volume is packed with information and illustrative material. There are documents, watercolour sketches and lists – in fact, something for everyone. It begins the story in the Bronze Age and takes us to AD 2,000.

Published by Honey Pot Press
2 the Dell, Worle
BS22 9LZ
www.honey-pot-press.co.uk

2013

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With grateful thanks to

Roger Brown
For all his help with the research, photography and technology

Liz Rankin
For sharing her research

Sally Ann Staples
For the artwork

Raye Green and Peter Johnson
for all their help and support

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Chapter One

Preamble

It is known that ale was brewed in Britain from as far back as the Bronze Age, so it seems almost certain that it was also produced at that time in the area that became known as the Parish or Manor of Worle. Indeed some of the wheat remains found in the excavated pits in the Iron Age hillfort at the Western end of Worlebury Hill have proved to be *hordeum hexastichum L*, commonly used in the production of malt.

With the coming of the Roman Occupation and the establishment of their road system, tabernae began to appear all over the England where weary travellers could stop for refreshment. Records found at the fort of Vindolanda, near Hadrian's Wall, show that Roman soldiers purchased Celtic ale which they called Ceruese. Interestingly one of the records refers to Atrectus the Brewer who was therefore, the first recorded professional brewer in Britain. Remains of Roman brewing establishments have been excavated throughout the country from Northumberland down to Somerset.

There is plenty of evidence of Roman settlement and farming along the lower slopes of Worlebury Hill, including, in Hollow Lane at Worle, a probable villa. There is even the suggestion of a straight Roman road out to Middle Hope Bay and several coins of the era have been found in the parish. Where there were coins there was trade and where there

were roads there was travel so it is likely there was a tabernae or tavern somewhere in the region.

Apple trees were growing in England long before the Roman invasion but they did introduce cultivated orchards of which there were many around Worle. Before this, nomadic Celtic tribes who found their way over from the Continent had probably already introduced their drink known as 'Shekar'. This was a Hebrew word which became corrupted to 'Cider' but originally just meant strong drink.

Northern France and Southern England were renowned for the quality of their orchards and vineyards but climatic changes brought about the demise of the latter and in effect cider became the poor man's wine. However the climate and soil of the western extremities of England were especially suitable for the growth of apple trees.

After the Romans departed and Anglo-Saxon tribes had settled the country, alehouses came into being and they grew out of ordinary domestic dwellings. When their brew was ready for consumption the alewives would let it be known by erecting a bush on a pole outside their homes, it was primarily the women who did the brewing. Alehouses became popular meeting places where local matters would be discussed but they became so numerous that in 965, King Edgar was obliged to rule that there should be no more than one per village. What are the chances that the village of Worle did not boast one or two itself?

After the Norman Conquest cider began to increase in popularity when they introduced several new varieties of apple. Mention of it began to appear in tax records and by 1300 references to its production were recorded in most counties including Somerset. It was mainly brewed on farms and it became customary for part of farm labourer's wages to be paid in cider. There seems to have been a certain amount of prowess attached to the amount they could drink during a day in the fields.

Vass Hal means 'be of good health' and another interesting custom known as Wassailing grew out of this. The ritual usually took place between Christmas Eve and Twelfth Night when farmers and their workers would salute the apple trees. This involved carrying jugs of cider into the orchards and drinking a health to the trees. A great deal of noise was made by banging pots and pans together and wheat flour cakes were eaten. Then cider would be poured around the roots and cakes soaked in it would be left in the forks of the trees to ensure a good harvest in the following year. There is no evidence that it worked but it was undoubtedly an extremely enjoyable evening and Worle would have been no exception to the practice.

During the Middle Ages ale was drunk by most people including children because the local water was, more often than not, impure. Ale consisted only of malt, water, yeast and various spices for flavour. The court-leets appointed ale-conners annually and their purpose was to test the goodness and wholesomeness of bread, ale and beer.

Hops were introduced from the Netherlands and were being planted in England by 1428 to produce beer which at first was frowned upon until the method was perfected.

In the early Middle Ages accommodation and refreshment could be found at monasteries where the monks brewed their own ale or beer. Hostelries came about with the rise of pilgrimages and they evolved into inns. They were usually located along the main highways and were different from the ale or beer houses in that they offered accommodation, stabling and fodder for horses. As a rule all three types of establishment brewed on the premises.

The Ale House Act of 1551 was passed in 1552 and from then, landlords were required to apply for a license at the Quarter or Petty Sessions. Justices of the Peace were empowered to stop the selling of ale and beer in common ale or tippling-houses where appropriate. Those applying for a license were obliged to enter into a pledge called a Recognizance in which they agreed not to run a disorderly house with games such as bowls, dice, football or tennis. However, it was still legal to sell ale without a license in booths at fairgrounds and at inns. From 1570 until 1792 licenses could still be sought directly from the Crown but from 1617 they were also required for inns.

Chapter Two

1600 – 1700

Proof of a drinking establishment somewhere in Worle first appears in the Sessions roll of about 1608.^{fig1} In a list for the *Hundred of Winterstoke* of licensed tipplers or victualling houses, Andru Warrin was recorded in the village but unfortunately the name of his sign was not noted. As most people could not read at this time, landlords hung pictorial signs outside, sometimes even artefacts like bells which replaced the old idea of the alewives with their bushes. The pub sign was not necessarily the name of the premises which in this case for instance, would be known as the house of Andru Warrin.

Things had soured considerably by 1619 the community took a petition^{fig2} to the Sessions to have the two alehouses in the village closed. Again no names were recorded for the two establishments but the petitioners alleged '*where there needeth not any, and that there is very much disorder, and many great abuses and wrong done in them, to the great disturbance, charge and loss of the inhabitants of Worle, who now desire that the said two alehouses might be suppressed.*'

Their request was granted and it was ordered that '*the two houses shall accordingly be suppressed and put down, and the licenses, if they have any, taken from the owners.*'^{fig3}

During the previous century calamine had been discovered along Worlebury Hill, the only source in the country at the time and mining had been brought to the region. The miners would have been rough and ready men, working away from home with little else to do in the evenings except perhaps, sink a few pints and probably in illegal alehouses.

Not to be too deterred, in the following year, 1620, Anthony Methwyn went over the heads of the Justices directly to the Crown. He obtained from James I a license^{fig4} to run an inn at the sign of the King's Head. Anthony's choice of sign was therefore, probably an expression of loyalty to the monarchy.

The Methwyn family were Presbyterians who fled from Scotland and found favour with Elizabeth I. She promoted them into places of prominence in the English Church. Between 1570 and 1626 four of their family members were recorded as vicars in the neighbouring parish of Kewstoke. Presumably they were able to stay in favour with James I despite his being Scottish with Roman Catholic sympathies.

There is nothing to suggest the site of the original King's Head was anywhere other than the site still occupied by the Old King's Head but it has been rebuilt at least once. There is said to be a passageway leading from the cellar to Mendip Cottage, believed to have been much in use during Worle's smuggling past, as was the church tower, to store

the booty. It would seem that vicars and landlords alike were in on the racket despite the latter's recognizance pledging to run an orderly house.

The Civil War which began in 1642 saw the rise of Puritanism all over the country and part of their beliefs were very much against the evils of excess alcohol. There were numerous alehouses in existence at the time and much of the population seems to have spent their days in a drunken haze. All drinking establishments were heavily taxed to help pay for the war and both sides frequently used the buildings to house their troops.

After the beheading of Charles I in 1649 the Commonwealth Era began and all places of recreational activity suffered during the reign of Oliver Cromwell as Lord Protector. The country was divided into districts under the control of major generals who were responsible for justice, tax collection and public morality. They even introduced a Swearing and Cursing Act and people were dealt with very harshly for drunkenness and blasphemy.

Sports and games were banned, theatres were closed and many alehouses had their licenses refused whilst the illegal establishments were closed down. Interestingly the King's Head had a cockfighting pit at the rear and just beyond that a bowling green, both became unlawful. During the 19th Century a Mrs Page who lived in a cottage at the back of the King's Head, claimed to have regularly seen a ghost walking past her window. He was dressed in the garb

of a 17th Century farm labourer and always made his way along to the Cock Pit.

It is little wonder that Charles the II became known as the Merry Monarch after the Restoration in 1660 when all these regulations were relaxed. Most publicans must have breathed a sigh of relief.

However it didn't take that long for trouble to brew in the village because in 1668 Joanne Cooke, Widow of Worle, brought a case at the Midsummer and Michaelmas Sessions. Joanne claimed that William Cooke, Yeoman of Worle, Edward May of Worle and John Downe, Tiler of Wick St. Lawrence had stolen a barrel of beer and a box of tobacco from her house. No verdict seems to have been recorded but presumably she or they had been running an alehouse, illegal or otherwise. The May and Cooke family names appear many times in later records of the brewing and licensing trade in Worle.

Three legends have persisted in the village over the centuries since Monmouth's doomed rebellion of 1685. Two fugitives fleeing from the blood bath that was the Battle of Sedgemoor are said to have arrived at Nut Tree Farm seeking shelter. The farmer's wife hid them in beds in the same room as her children. When the King's troops arrived they looked into the room but she insisted they should not disturb her sleeping infants and, having been duped, they left. Nut Tree Farm of course, became a public house during the 20th Century.

Two other fugitives were not so lucky when they paid the landlord of the King's Head to hide them. Known as King Starr, he guided the men to a hollow in the side of a corn rick. When the dragoons arrived Starr is said to have accepted money from them to betray the fugitives. They were dragged out and down the Scours to the site of what is now the Woodspring Inn where they were hanged from an 'elmen tree'. To add to the brutality, their heads were then displayed as a warning on the church porch.

Several members of the Starr family can be found in Worle's records and in 1753 a Josiah Starr appears in the parish registers, also known as King Starr. He was probably a son or grandson of the King Starr of Sedgemoor infamy. Perhaps the epithet was a hereditary nickname associated with their inn but of the several recorded around the time, it is not known for certain which one was King Starr in 1685.

As with many Somerset villages the third legend claims that Judge Jeffries stayed at Worle during the Bloody Assize that followed the uprising. It is said that he stayed at the Valiant Soldier Inn but this can neither be proved nor disproved. The inn is unlikely to have been known by this name at the time of the Assize because it is believed to have been popularised during the years following the rebellion.

However the three storied building which became known as the Soldier, Old Soldier and Valiant Soldier does date back to the 17th Century and most probably operated as an inn at the time. It was built in three phases at the top of

the hill in what is now Church Road, not very far from the King's Head.

There was a strange custom noted in Worle that the community had an abhorrence of any member of the legal profession and if they were found loitering in the village they would be summarily drummed out. Considering the number of young men Jeffries condemned to death at the Assize he is hardly likely to have made himself popular in any village. Perhaps there is some truth in the story, he may at least have passed through Worle on his progress south, or stopped for some refreshment even if he did not seek shelter over night.

In December 1685 the Earl of Sunderland wrote to the Duke of Somerset saying the King had been informed that in a parish called *'Worrell there was a great meeting of fanatics every Sunday'*. He went on to write *'some of them armed to the great endangering of peace and in manifest contempt of the law, he would have you direct some of the adjacent Deputy Lieutenants and Justices of the Peace to examine into the matter and apprehend and prosecute the offenders with all severity'*. The King's troops in the area had also been ordered to assist.

In January the following year, Charles Duke of Somerset replied *'since we received your letter of December last, we have made strict inquiry into the meeting therein mentioned, and find that his Majesty has been misinformed.'* He claimed that no great numbers had been meeting other than two or three 'idle fellows' who had taken part in the late

rebellion. He wrote that they were armed and *'skulking hereabouts and officers of the peace dare not meddle with them. They fly when greater power is sent to apprehend them but hope to shortly give a good account of them.'*

It would seem that Worle continued to harbour fugitives from Sedgemoor and that somebody was still betraying them to the authorities. The men involved appear to have stayed at large until the King's General Pardon in March 1686 when amongst several other men from local parishes, Richard Lucas of Worle was recorded.

The Glorious Revolution of 1688 brought to the country not only William of Orange but also gin which was introduced by the Dutch. The Government in its infinite wisdom imposed heavy importation tax on spirits whilst allowing sub-standard grain to be used in the unlicensed production of gin. Consequently it was a strong but inexpensive drink and gin shops began to spring up all over the country. In response the number of alehouses increased dramatically but the Gin Craze had begun and by 1740, the production was said to be six times that of beer.

The church wardens of Worle continued to brew their ale probably in the tithe barn next to the church. They sold it to the villagers at the Whitsun Church Ales Festival to raise money for the upkeep of the church and to assist the poor of the parish. This custom evolved into the Worle Revel which was usually held on the Thursday of Whit-week. In a field near the church events such as singlestick fights took

place with heavy betting. At the back of the King's Head cockfights were held with even more betting and drinking.

Sometimes the revelries ended with a Skimmerton ride which involved an effigy of someone who had incurred the people's displeasure being carried around the village to the accompaniment of a tin band. It was supposed to finish with the dummy being burnt on a bonfire but sometimes a demonstration outside the home of the miscreant would continue through the night.

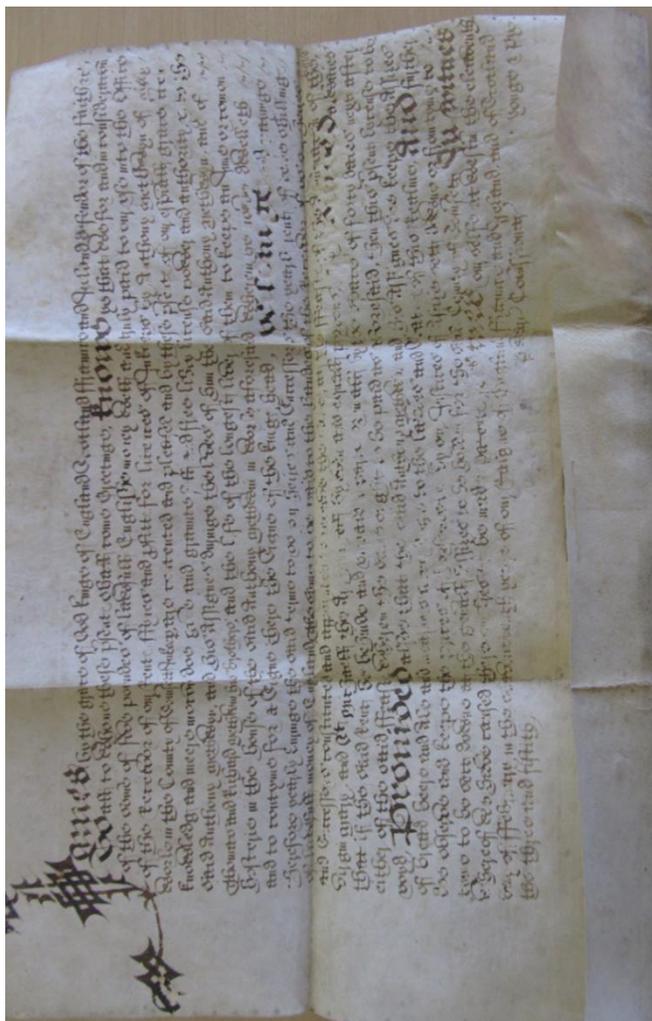
Merry England had returned to the village with all its strange customs and practices but Worle can hardly claim to have been entirely full of sober and law abiding citizens.

Fig. 1: List of Licensed Victuallers and tipplers in Winterstoke Hundred, 1608. Ref: Q\SR/3/117 Somerset Heritage and Libraries Service

Winterstoke hundred the Parliament of 1608
 Comptrolers and tipplers and in all these
 places in the hundred licensed
 Winterstoke hundred (single licensed)
 Somersell (single licensed)
 Moxley (single licensed)
 Winterstoke (single licensed)

Fig 4. Anthony Methwyn license for the King's Head, 1620.

Ref: Q\RLS/34/4



Chapter Three

1700 – 1800

Although quieter and perhaps safer, the eighteenth century witnessed some fundamental changes in the licensed industry. The Gin Act of 1736 imposed high taxes on retailers and when the costs were passed on to the consumers it led to riots in the streets of London. Consequently the duty was at first reduced and then abandoned altogether in 1742. However the Gin Act of 1751 was considerably more successful, distillers were obliged to sell only to licensed retailers and this brought gin shops or palaces into the control of local magistrates. Most of the new establishments had been unlicensed and unlawful and so the Gin Craze was gradually brought to an end.

By the middle of the century larger alehouses were growing in number and with the rise of the coaching era, roadside inns not surprisingly, also became larger establishments. Taverns which were considered to be a step up from the common ale or beer houses because they also sold wine, very often became coffee houses, the latest, expensive craze of the upper classes.

By an Act of Parliament in 1753 registers of recognizances were to be kept but unfortunately, very few survive from this era. Four years later in 1757 the Stamp Office began to issue licenses as opposed to the local magistrates. The terms alehouse and beerhouse began to

fall from use to be replaced by the all-encompassing expression, public house. By the end of the century breweries were in the ascendency and they began to buy up the public houses which became known as tied houses.

In the Quarter Sessions of 1746 there is a record of a recognizance for John Robins of Worle and he was licensed to keep a common alehouse or victualling house described as *'in the house where he now dwelleth known by the name or sign of the Travellers Rest situate in Worle'*. Sadly there is no hint of the exact location in the village but the King's Head can probably be ruled out. The license was for a term of one year and as always, he was pledged not to allow any unlawful games and to keep good order on his premises. The recognizance was also witnessed by Thomas Harker, Innholder of Worle who may have been the landlord of the King's Head as there is little evidence of there having been more than two establishments in the village at this time.

John Robins' name appears much earlier in the Overseers Accounts for Worle and in the parish registers. He married Alice Reynolds in 1714 and as it was customary for the landlord's wife to run the alehouse or inn whilst he went about his business during the day, Alice was undoubtedly much in evidence at the Traveller's Rest. She died in 1744 and was buried at St. Matins the parish church. Her husband's name appears in the Overseers Accounts in 1728 when expenses were paid for Thomas Willy at John Robins. Interestingly the stocks were repaired in the same year,

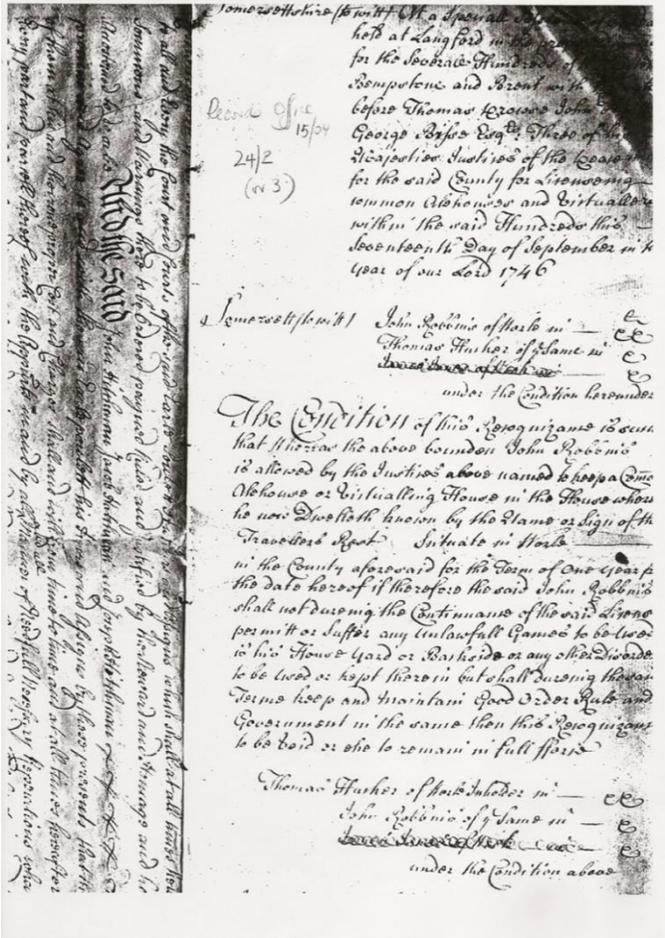
according to a 19th Century painting they were situated just outside the Valiant Soldier.

In 1730 Robins was paid for giving lodging to Sarah whose surname is illegible and in 1740 he was paid for giving a small beer to Martha Gooding. It was probably actually a pint as small beer meant a weaker brew, usually given to children who also drank it with their meals in preference to the local water. The same year he was paid to supply ale at Martha's house, at her funeral and for brandy when she was laid out, he was also paid for 'what ye gardsmen had when Gooding was taken up'. The Gooding referred to was presumably Martha's husband and Robins was also paid for 'keeping and tending him when ill.' The overseers spent 1/9 when they went to 'recon' with him so a pleasant evening was probably had by all. It is difficult to know why guardsmen took Gooding up unless he was under arrest but taken up does suggest Robins' premises were on the hill.

Mary Willy's expenses were paid to John Robbins when 'she was brought over' in 1741 but an even more interesting entry appears in 1745. John Robbins was paid for 'ordinaries and extraordinary for Edward Longford and Gaurds (sic)'. Robbins was certainly not up to this point, running any ordinary, common alehouse. Perhaps his application for the same in 1746 was because of the loss of his wife. It does seem as though he was involved in some way with law enforcement and for that reason, could the Traveller's Rest later have become known as the Soldier?

Interestingly, the Valiant Soldier was also a leading character in Mummers plays.

Fig. 5. Recognizance for the Traveller's Rest, 1746. Ref: Q\RLa/242. Somerset Heritage Service



In the Quarter Session of 1792 Thomas Knight was recorded at the King's Head although he had been holding a license in Worle since 1785, he had been replaced by Richard Gratton at the turn of the century. At the same time Henry Long was noted at the Valiant Soldier, he appears as a licensee from 1790 but in the Land Tax Redemption of 1798, Arthur Bishop was noted as the proprietor with Henry Long as the occupier of the Soldier. No more is heard of the Traveller's Rest after 1746.

Later on in 1760 Thomas Tyler was convicted of selling ale and cider in Worle without a license but in the following year and up to 1765, he was registered as a licensee with Edmund Lovell as surety. There was no indication of where Tyler's premises were or of their name. William Watts of Worle was convicted of selling just cider in 1776, but he does not appear as a license holder in later records and was probably running an illegal establishment from his home. However his surname does occur in records of the next century in connection with a later public house in the village.

A big advancement came in 1795 when Mr. Castle and James May opened the Worle Brewery in Lower Street, now the High Street. It was said to have been a great success because of the quality of the water they used in their process which came from a well sited near today's library which itself, was supplied by a spring. Before long they were supplying the majority of public houses in the district including at the beginning of the next century, Weston-

super-Mare's first hotel. Reeves had a weekly supply of nine gallons of beer which was taken over to the seafront in barrel suspended on a pole between two men: it must have been a very strenuous job.

At this time Worle was still the far more important of the two villages but one of its licensed premises was poised to play its part in the creation of the popular, Victorian seaside resort.

Chapter Four

1800 – 1850

Henry Long had been the landlord of the Valiant Soldier since 1790 but served his last pint in 1801 when he seems to have retired. He died in 1809 and in his will he made several bequests to his sister, niece, nephew and wife but also one of £21 in trust to the overseers and churchwardens of Worle. They were instructed to distribute a guinea's worth of bread amongst the poor of the parish every year at Easter. A plaque to the memory of this generous landlord can be found on the wall inside St. Martins, the parish church.

Worle Inclosures began by an Act of Parliament in 1802. In the January there was a sale of seven lots by public auction at the Valiant Soldier. These included three lots on the bowling green opposite the inn. This must have been a very unpopular development amid the local community and perhaps, is why in 1807 the Worle Association for the Protection of Property was formed. Interestingly amongst its original members were James May the brewer, William Marston landlord of the Valiant Soldier and George Henville later landlord of the New Inn.

An antique bronze stirrup is said to have been excavated from the site of the New Inn during construction in 1815. For this reason it is often assumed it was built in Lower Street, at the bottom of the Scaurs during this year. However

Fig. 6. Worle Inclosure sale at Valiant Soldier.

SOMERSETSHIRE.

Worle Inclosure.

The Commissioners appointed for carrying the Act of Parliament for this Inclosure into Execution,
Do hereby give Notice,
THAT THEY SHALL PROCEED TO SELL,
(IN FEE)
By Public Auction,
At the VALIANT SOLDIER Inn, in the Parish of WORLE,
IN THE SAID COUNTY OF SOMERSET,
On FRIDAY the 22d Day of JANUARY, 1802,
Between the Hours of FOUR and SIX o'Clock in the Afternoon,
THE UNDERMENTIONED

L A N D S;

Subject to such Conditions as shall be then & there produced.

LOT I.
A Piece or Parcel of Pasture Land, called Worle Hill, containing by Admeasurement 112 Acres, 3 Roods and 24 Perches; well known to be an excellent Sheep Sleight, and to be supplied with Spring Water in the driest Season.

LOT II.
A Piece or Parcel of Land, containing by Admeasurement 11 Perches; being an Encroachment made from Worle Hill aforesaid, and used as a Garden by ——— Bishop, bounded East West and North by Worle Hill, and Southward by Garden Ground adjoining the said ——— Bishop's Cottage.

LOT III.
A Piece or Parcel of Land, Part of a Piece of Ground called the Bowling Green; containing by Admeasurement 15 Perches, and bounded on the East by Lot 4.

LOT IV.
A Piece or Parcel of Land, also Part of the said Bowling Green; containing by Admeasurement 14 Perches; adjoining Lot 3 on the West, and Lot 5 on the East.

LOT V.
A Piece or Parcel of Land, also Part of the said Bowling Green; containing by Admeasurement 5 Perches; adjoining Lot 4 on the West.

LOT VI.
A Piece or Parcel of Land, called Dock Hill; containing by Admeasurement 22 Perches; bounded East and West by Roads, and North by a Garden belonging to Mr. Dennis Sheppard Leman.

LOT VII.
A Piece or Parcel of Land, containing by Admeasurement 1 Rood and 15 Perches; bounded East by old inclosed Lands belonging to Mr. George Yeo, and West by a Road called Moor Lane.

For viewing the Premises apply to Mr. JOHN BISHOP, of Worle aforesaid; and for further Particulars of Sale to Mr. JAMES STAPLES, Land-Surveyor, No. 12, Bridge-Street, Bristol, or to SAMUEL BAKER, Attorney at Law, Blagdon, Somerset.

evidence suggests it was probably built a decade earlier by Joseph Leman. He is described in records as Gentleman of the Parish of Worle, his family had certainly purchased plenty of land there in the previous century. Leman is first noted as a licensee in the recognizances of 1807 but unfortunately the name of his establishment was not recorded as absolute proof.

The King's Head was sold by auction on the premises in 1808 but not as an inn. The following year Joseph Leman appears in the Land Tax records as the owner and occupier but he had disappeared from there by 1815. The Valiant Soldier described as that neat, convenient and well accustomed inn and tavern, was advertised for sale by auction in 1810 but the following year it was advertised for 'private families.' Richard Gwilt was the landlord and he held a license for the next two years. Strangely George Henville was recorded in the Land Tax records as the owner of the Soldier and as the owner/occupier of a more highly rated but unnamed property.

Recognizances between 1822 and 1828 show George Henville was the licensee of the New Inn but it was advertised for rent in 1832, having been run by him for near twenty years. There were other lands attached to the premises and by this time a new room had been added seating two hundred. Leman held a license in Worle up until 1813 and Henville appears the following year, names of the premises were not given at this time. After this the only establishment that was noted in the village was the New Inn

up until 1828 when the records run out. It does seem as though Leman and Henville may have had a business plan to buy and close the two existing inns in favour of the New Inn.

Fig.7 Sale at New Inn, 1811. Ref: DD\BK/14/32. Somerset Heritage Service.

SOMERSETSHIRE.

Weston-super-Mare Inclosure.

Notice is hereby given,

That the COMMISSIONERS appointed for carrying into Effect the Act of Parliament for this Inclosure, will proceed to

Sell (in Fee) by Auction,

*At the House of Joseph Leman, known by the Sign of the NEW INN,
Situate in the Parish of WORLE, in the County of Somerset,*

On Monday, the 8th Day of July, 1811,

Between the Hours of FOUR and SIX in the Afternoon,

THE UNDER-MENTIONED

LANDS,

Subject to such Conditions as shall be then produced.

Lot 1.—A Piece of LAND, Part of Weston-super-Mare Moor, containing by Admeasurement one Acre and an Half, (near the House of the Rev. Mr. Lewis,) bounded Northward by an intended Road, Southward by Lot 3, Eastward by Lot 2, and Westward by the Sea Beach.

Lot 2.—A Piece of LAND, Part of the said Moor, containing by Admeasurement One Acre and an Half, bounded Northward by the said intended Road, Southward by Lot 3, Eastward by Part of the said Moor, and Westward by Lot 1.

Lot 3.—A Piece of LAND, Part of the said Moor, containing by Admeasurement Two Acres, Three Roods, and Ten Perches, bounded Northward by Lots 1 and 2, Southward by Lot 4, Eastward by the said Moor, and Westward by the Sea Beach.

Lot 4.—A Piece of LAND, Part of the said Moor, containing by Admeasurement Five Acres, bounded Northward by Lot 3, Southward and Eastward by the said Moor, and Westward by the Sea Beach.

These Lands are put in small Lots, and selected for Sale for the Accommodation of Persons inclined to build Houses near the Sea and the Village of Weston-super-Mare.

For viewing the Premises, apply to Mr. RICHARD PARSLEY, of Weston-super-Mare, and for further Particulars and Conditions of Sale, to Mr. JAMES STAPLES, Land-Surveyor, at his Office, No. 7, Queen-square, Bristol, or to Messrs. SAMUEL and JOHN BAKER, Solicitors, Blagdon, near Bristol.

RICHARD BISHOP, Auctioneer.

By Order of the said Commissioners,
S. BAKER, Clerk.

BROWN, Printer, Mirror Office, Small-Street, Bristol.

14 (25)

That the New Inn had been built by 1811 and was owned by Joseph Leman is evidenced by an auction which took place there in that year. The poster advertising the event read 'At the House of Joseph Leman, Known by the Sign of the New Inn, Situate in the Parish of Worle.' This sale carried into effect the Inclosure by Act of Parliament of four lots of land along the seafront in the village of Weston-super-Mare. The significance of this sale seems often to be overlooked but these were the first inclosures in Weston and the development of what became the large and fashionable, Victorian seaside resort all began at the New Inn.

It was then advertised itself for sale by auction in January 1814 with a Ball Court, Bowling Alley, Garden, Orchard, Offices, Stables and Coach-house adjoining. The House, Offices, Stables and Coach-house were all lately new built and occupied by Joseph Leman. They were well calculated for an inn, having been erected for that purpose. The New Inn was definitely built before 1814 and almost certainly before 1811.

From the beginning of the nineteenth century there was a surge in purpose built public houses to which the New Inn was no exception. It was a coaching inn and also played host to many social events and various committee meetings, acting almost as the town hall and centre of village life. All this was to change with the Alehouse Act of 1828 and the Beer House Act of 1830. The former consolidated the existing licensing laws which had become increasingly complicated and the magistrates were then only given

control over full public house licenses. The latter extended hours of opening from fifteen to eighteen hours a day and in a vain attempt to limit public insobriety from the abuse of gin, duty was lifted from beer.

With a one off payment of two guineas any householder who was assessed in the poor rates, could obtain a license from the local excise officer to sell beer and cider in their homes and even to brew it on the premises. They could not sell spirits or fortified wine, nor open on Sundays and were heavily fined for any breach of the regulations.

However opening the front room to the public with a barrel of tapped beer in the corner and a couple of jugs to serve it, proved to be a very profitable undertaking and beer houses as opposed to the old alehouses came into being. Within a decade 46,000 had opened all over the country and many soon became disorderly houses, the haunts of criminals and prostitutes.

By 1832 James Ellis was recorded in the poll books as the proprietor of Worle Inn known as the Butchers Arms. He can be roughly located in the 1841 census in Ebdon Road not far from the New Inn. He described himself as a butcher rather than a publican but many shop owners used their premises as beer houses. An index of the tithe map produced in 1840 notes two beer houses with gardens in the village. One was owned by William Palmer and occupied by

Samuel Lancaster but this was probably a misspelling of the surname, Lancaster.

Fig. 8: Sale of Dwelling house and land at the New Inn.

WORLE AND KEWSTOKE.
SOMERSET.

TO BE

SOLD BY AUCTION,
AT THE
NEW INN, WORLE,
ON
FRIDAY, DEC. 10th, 1841,
Between the hours of 5 and 6 o'Clock in the Afternoon,
THE FOLLOWING

FREEHOLD
PREMISES,

In Lots, unless disposed of by Private Sale in the mean time:—

IN WORLE.

Lot 1.—A DWELLING-HOUSE, with the Outbuildings and Garden adjoining, situate in the Upper Street of Worle, in the occupation of Mr. Samuel Cooke.

Lot 2.—A Close of Arable LAND, called the Four Acres, containing by estimation 3A. 3R. 24P. (more or less), situate near Locking Head.

Lot 3.—Two Closes of Arable LAND adjoining each other, and called respectively *Breeches* and *Stock Acre*, containing together by estimation 5A. 3R. 37P. (more or less), except out of the said Close called *Breeches*, a small undefined Piece of Land belonging to Sir John Smyth, Bart., for which an Annual Rent of 5s. is paid.

IN KEWSTOKE.

Lot 4.—A Close of Pasture LAND and capital young Orchard, of about 15 years' growth, called *Inner's Rock Paddock*, containing by estimation 3 Roods and 3 Perches, more or less.

The Land Tax on Lots 2 and 4 is redeemed. Lots 2, 3, and 4, are in the occupation of Mr. John Wyld, the proprietor. Mr. William Biggs, at the New Inn, will cause the Property to be shewn.

Further Particulars may be had of Mr. JOHN BAKER, Solicitor, Woodlands, near

The other beer house was owned by John Wyld and occupied by Samuel Cook who in the census of 1851 described himself as a cider retailer at the Old King's Head. The estate of John Baker, bankrupt had been advertised for auction in 1840. The lot was described as a dwelling house, stables, carriage house and cart house, supplied with spring water from a well. It was formerly used as an inn and public house known, as the Old King's Head. There being only one licensed public house in Worle, it was suggested a license for the property could be obtained from the proper authority.

Three lots belonging to John Wyld were advertised for sale at the New Inn during 1841, they included a dwelling house in the Upper Street with outbuildings and garden adjoining, in the occupation of Samuel Cooke. Clearly the King's Head had been closed since Leman's occupation in 1813 and had been reopened by Samuel Cook around 1840. Presumably the premises had become known as the Old King's Head in that era because that is what the building once was.

From 1844 until 1849, Henry Sheppard held a series of excise licenses for a beer house which included tobacco sales at his dwelling house in Worle but with no indication of where that was. He can be found in the 1841 living in the hamlet of Ebdon and described himself as a farmer. He may have owned the farmhouse which later became known as the Pig and Whistle and was located in that area of the parish. An auctioneer's letter of 1874 refers to Henry Sheppard's cottages in Ebdon Road, they were father and son.

The 1840 tithe map also recorded the New Inn, now owned by Mary Henville and Ann but occupied by William Biggs who was recorded as a publican in the 1841 census. The Biggs family vault can be found just inside the entrance to St. Martins Churchyard. The inn had become the venue for a very unpleasant inquest during 1839 when sixteen year old Eliza Pain had been found dead by the roadside. She had been returning home from work at a farm in Wick St. Lawrence when she was attacked. The jury had the hideous duty of viewing her body which had multiple wounds and her throat had been cut. Thirty year old, Charles Weakley who worked at the same farm had been arrested for her murder and it was suggested he may have attempted to violate her. Weakley was committed for trial and later hanged.

When there was some serious flooding in Kewstoke in 1846, William Biggs amongst others was mentioned in the Bristol Mercury. He sent out his cart to rescue a mow of wheat belonging to Moses Stabbins who was away from home at the time. A G. T. Stabbins had been fined in 1844 for selling cider without a license having been caught by the excise officer. Much as landlords were expected to be pillars of the community it was not all plain sailing, however, and temperance became a popular theme during the nineteenth century.

A public abstinence meeting in Worle was held in 1842 and reported as being well attended. However that was nothing compared to the consequences of the tent meeting held at Wick St. Lawrence and hosted by a

gentleman calling himself 'the modern Elijah.' Two or three farming families from the Ebdon Road area of Worle were said to be so enthused by their conversion that they decided to empty their barrels of cider into the river and rhynes. For several years afterwards stories abounded of village boys developing a propensity for swimming, none to sober cows giving some interesting mild yields, ducks and geese blissfully drowning themselves and even the fish gave themselves up without a struggle to the local anglers. People might have sobered up for a while from time to time but things soon returned back to normal.

Chapter Five

1850 – 1900

James Ellis the butcher died in 1851 and his premises, the Butcher's Arms and probably a cottage adjoining became the Mason's Arms. An Auction of 1857 was for part of the Mason's Arms occupied by William Westlake who between 1856 and 1858 incurred several fines for breaching regulations. William Westlake was recorded in trade directories as a beer retailer up until 1864. Lot 1 in an auction of 1881 was described as being almost opposite the New Inn and included a cider house. Lot 2 adjoining was formerly known as the Mason's Arms and in the occupation of George Twitt. No more is heard of the Mason's Arms, presumably the complex reverted back to private dwelling houses.

However in a newspaper letter of 1856 a correspondent noted *'I have been induced to make some enquiries respecting this rural and pleasant village and find it much improved. I am informed that it was once low and degraded; when boxing matches, single-stick playing, revels and drunkenness were encouraged to a degree that at times of the year it was the receptacle of a great number of the lowest and worst characters; but it now appears to be so changed that it may be termed a pleasant, quiet, rustic village'*.

Appearances may have been deceptive!

Three years later in 1859 a correspondent reported, *'The committee appointed for the removal of nuisances made a survey only a few days since, the result of which is highly satisfactory, and there is little doubt by persevering efforts, aided by their very worthy and judicious chairman, they will eventually accomplish the object for which they were formed. But it is strange that such a nuisance as the Pig and Whistle in Leather Lane should remain unnoticed, for it is close under the eyes of three of the most prominent members of the committee.'*

'It appears this house is kept by a widow woman, respectably connected, but who nevertheless harbours all sorts of low characters at all times and all seasons. Among these there seems to be a favourite called Tailor Jack of Crimean renown, and his rival, Black Sam'.

It is worth noting that Pig and Whistle was a popular saying of the time which meant going to rack and ruin. In 1859 it was 'a nuisance abated by committee' and taken over by Dan Gill who probably did not stay there very long as he does not appear in any of the trade directories. However the church bells are said to have been rung in celebration. So where was the Pig and Whistle and where was Leather Lane?

Disturbances and dubious characters in Worle were reported in Bristol newspapers of January 1859. At Weston-super-Mare Petty Sessions, Robert Seaman summoned Thomas Bailey for assault. Bailey claimed to have worked for Seaman but when he called at his house one evening, he

found Seaman in bed with some bad characters. Bailey struck Seaman in the mouth who in return chased him downstairs and stabbed his assailant in his thumb. The case was dismissed.

In the next case Bailey claimed unpaid wages from Seaman. PC90 testified that he was constantly being called to Seaman's house which was the resort of the greatest blackguards of Worle, Bleadon and Weston. It was established that the greater part of Bailey's work for Seaman was drinking and smoking with him. The judge remarked on Seaman's lost respectability and current degradation but said if he kept such fellows about him, it was his own fault and ordered him to pay the wages.

In the next case Seaman accused John Perry and his friend, White of arriving at his house about midnight one evening the worst for drink. They set fire to various items which Seaman would not put a value to as he had been planning to vacate the premises. The case was dismissed but John Perry was a tailor, surely a candidate for the identity of Tailor Jack.

This case was followed by one where William Wood accused Seaman of attempting to set fire to the house of which he was the owner and lived in the adjoining part. A farmer, Job Gould was passing when he found a boy stoking the fire and shook him by the collar. The judge told Wood he must have been aware of Seaman's character before he took him in as a tenant and that he might find remedy for his case

in another court. In the final case PC30 charged Seaman with being drunk and disorderly on the 1st of January, for this he was fined.

William Wood can be found in the census of 1861 living in Wick Road at the far end of Ebdon Road and with him his widowed daughter, Harriet. Possibly a candidate for the well-connected widow who ran the Pig and Whistle, their home was certainly some sort of drinking establishment frequented by undesirables. It was also not too far from the home of the Sheppard family who had held excise licenses in the 1840s and who owned cottages in Ebdon Road.

Robert Seaman came from a farming family who owned a lot of land in Bleadon. He had been fined for assault in 1842 and in 1858 was fined for leaving his horse and cart unattended in Weston High Street between 10.30 and midnight. He failed to attend this hearing and a distress warrant for his arrest was issued. He also had a brother, Samuel Seaman who in 1861 was sentenced to six weeks imprisonment for larceny, three months for the same in 1863 and seven years for the same in 1866. The 1871 census notes him in Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum, if he was not called Black Sam, he should have been!

Lot 3 in the auction of 1881 was for a dwelling house which had been converted into two messuages, in the occupation of Mr. Francis and Mr. Watkins and then known as the Crown Public House. Watkins' messuage was auctioned again in 1884, this time as lot 672 on the tithe map

which can be traced to the same location as that of William Woods. The farm house which still exists faces on to a short lane leading off today's Ebdon Road, very probably Leather Lane but with no definite proof.

Ann Badman appears in trade directories as a beer retailer in Worle between 1872 and 1879. She can be found living in a beer-house in Ebdon Road in the 1871 census and describes herself as a widowed publican and landowner. Her husband, John Badman is recorded as a beer retailer from 1861 to 1866 and they can both be found in Ebdon Road in the 1861 census in the same area as Wood, Watkins and Francis. John Badman was primarily a hay dealer who had rather an unfortunate accident in 1851 when returning home from Brent. Described as a very heavy man, he was thrown from his horse and sustained broken ribs and extensive bruising. The epitome of the pub landlord, rotund and jovial but probably not as jolly on this particular occasion!

An advert appeared in the newspapers in 1893 for the Bristol and District Stud Company and it stated that the horse, Reality 2nd would be at the Golden Crown, Worle on Fridays. No more was heard of the Pig and Whistle after 1859 and no more was heard of the Crown after the later date.

Richard Headington described himself as a licensed victualler occupying the Prince of Wales, Lower Street in the 1871 census. Importantly his neighbour was a widowed lady, Elizabeth Quick and in 1875 her name appears in a bundle of

deeds relating to the Golden Lion. She and her husband appear to have purchased a dwelling house, garden and orchard from Joel Bishop in 1856. He in his turn bought a dwelling house or messuage, hereditaments and premises from Thomas Watts in 1849. Thomas appears to have inherited that and other property from Joseph Watts in 1841. Joseph is recorded in 1821 when he released a plot of ground to John Chapman for a term of 1000 years.

William Watts and his wife, Martha had a son, Joseph baptised in 1771 and in 1806 Joseph and his wife, Jane had a son baptised, Thomas. William Watts had been convicted of selling cider without a license in 1776. Perhaps the Prince of Wales, later the Golden Lion began life as an illegal cider-house!

The first mention of the Golden Lion Public House occurs in the same bundle of deeds in 1878 when Edwin Coombs conveyed it to William J Holt. It appears again in the 1881 census this time as an inn and Joseph C. Gill described himself as the Inn Keeper. At an inquest of 1899 when a body was found in Locking Road, Robert Lickes identified the tramp as one of two who came into his house, the Golden Lion, on the previous Sunday. He testified that both were sober when they left but they had apparently, fallen out later that night. One had knocked the other into a hedge where he was found dead the next morning. Worle had not entirely rid itself of dubious characters.

It is unclear when the current Golden Lion was built on the same site at the Weston end of Worle High Street, but a couple of old cottages were probably lost in the process. However half way along the road, cottages which now comprise the Lamb Inn are believed to date back to about 1620. From at least 1841, one of them was occupied by Samuel Lancaster, tailor and is therefore the beer-house and garden noted on the tithe map of 1840. William Palmer who was the owner occupied the adjoining shop at the time of the 1841 census.

In 1865 Samuel's daughter, Temperance married Isaac Parker and they can be found in 1871 living at the same shop. The parish register entry for their marriage records Samuel, the bride's father as an inn keeper. Temperance was a rather curious name for the daughter of a publican as Samuel described himself in 1871 but he does seem to have been a bit of a character. He appears as a witness to several marriages probably because he was also the parish clerk. He was apparently best known for denouncing members of the church orchestra when they played a wrong note during their limited repertoire. No doubt all concerned were relieved when an organ was installed in 1860.

Samuel had died by 1881 when the Lamb Inn is first recorded with Temperance who described herself as a beer-house keeper. The choice of name for the premises is also curious: it usually refers to the Lamb of God. 'The lips that touch liquor shall never touch mine' was a popular temperance recitation, copies of which were advertised for

sale in 1871. 15 for 1s 3d, post free, apply to Miss Hatie Glazebrook, Worle who must have made herself very popular amongst the local licensees.

An auction at the Old King's Head was for the household/inn effects of Samuel Cook who was leaving the neighbourhood in 1857. By 1861 James Cook was recorded in the census as the landlord. He had been fined for late drinking in 1857, presumably at the King's Head. By 1871 James had become the landlord of the New Inn and George Cook had taken over at the King's Head. It is not clear whether all the Cooks were related but it would seem likely. Likewise Harry Wyatt a gelder vet was noted at the King's Head in 1891, he had come with his family from the White Hart at Congresbury. In the next century Harry had taken over the Lamb whilst his son, Arthur had become the landlord at the King's Head.

Plans for an annual sheep shearing competition were discussed in 1852 at a dinner held at the New Inn as a mark of respect for Mrs. Biggs whose husband, William had died the previous year. The sheep shearing competition was advertised in 1880 with a dinner at 4.00 provided by Alfred Cook who with his mother had taken over the New Inn after the death of his father, James. By 1899 the event had become a big occasion with dinner at the New Inn at 4.30 and dancing in a large marquee from 7.00 to 11.00, to the strains of the Weston-super-Mare Town Band.

Mrs. Biggs seems to have encountered some problems during her tenure. In 1853 she summoned three young men to the Petty Sessions at Banwell for breaching the peace and using inappropriate language in her house. They were bound over to keep the peace and pay costs. Then in 1857 at the Police Court, Joseph Jeffries was charged with two other men for assault and robbery against John Twitt. Jeffries had been drinking at the New Inn with two men named as Day and Nation. They left the premises shortly before Twitt and ambushed him from behind a hedge carrying out a prolonged attack. Day and Nation had run off before the police arrived and continued to allude them, Jefferies having had a previous conviction was sentenced to six years penal servitude.

Perhaps these incidents were part of the reason why the Inn was put up for auction in 1861 when it was described as having an excellent bar, bar parlour, sitting-room parlour, very large club-room, commercial room, 9 bedrooms, kitchen and very convenient office, good cellarage, stabling, coach-houses and yard, a large productive garden, and a close of orchard land in full bearing. It was also the only licensed house for the sale of spirits in the Parish of Worle and in the occupation of Mrs. Biggs. A similar advert appeared in 1867, this time in the occupation of James Cook but with no mention of being the only house licensed for spirits. It did though 'present an eligible opportunity for investment' and presumably came complete with a landlord as the Cook family continued there for some time afterwards.

In 1862 five men were charged with assaulting Samuel Thomas who had gone to the New Inn to pay the landlord for some bacon he had obtained from him. He stayed playing dice and drinking with his assailants until midnight when the landlord refused to draw any more liquor. Not far from the inn, just outside Farmer Beekes house where there was a pool, the men began to use abusive language to demand money from Thomas. They then assaulted him by rubbing filth into his mouth and eyes before dragging him by his hair into the pool. All but one who had returned to pull him out of the pool, were sentenced to penal servitude with hard labour.

The inn was put up for auction again in 1881, full licensed and in the occupation of Alfred Cook. An advert appeared around the same time for a situation wanted by an experienced barmaid, Miss Cook, Worle. Robert Heardman took possession but he had died by 1884 and by 1889, Mary Jane Willing, widow had become the licensee. She played host in 1891 to and inquest for a young man named Fletcher who had died from internal injuries sustained during a football match. The Coroner commented strongly on the dangers of the game!

In further efforts to get things under control, the 1869 Wine and Beer House Act had been introduced and the sale of beers, wines and spirits now required a license from the local magistrates. Landlords were under threat of losing their license if they allowed gaming, prostitution and drunkenness on their premises. Conditions varied according

to local practice and objections could be raised by the police and local community at Licensing Sessions Courts. They were limited to what were considered to be respectable people, often retired police and servicemen.

Despite all, three men were fined for being drunk and disorderly in the highway at Worle in 1891. One of them, George Phillips was fined again with another friend in 1893 but this time they had assaulted PC Perry in the execution of his duty for which they were sentenced to a month of hard labour. Neither does William Weakley seem to have learned his lesson when he was fined for being drunk and disorderly in the highway in 1892.

Later the same year he was charged with stealing a rug from Mr. Sperring who had driven his cart over to the New Inn from Breaan. Acting upon reliable information PC Perry had hidden himself in the neighbouring garden. He heard a noise about 12.30 and upon investigation found Weakley asleep in the cabbage patch with the rug. He was also charged with stealing four beer glasses and a plate from Mary Jane Seymour of the New Inn and was sentenced to five weeks imprisonment. The landlady, Mary Jane Willing had remarried to George Seymour earlier in the year.

Castle and May's Worle Brewery a few doors away from the New Inn was sold by auction in 1865. The description given was of a brewery worked by steam-power, mash and tun rooms, large store cellar, three working cellars, cleaning cellar, malt and hop rooms, engine house and office,

a dwelling house with stabling for five horses, harness room, wagon house, cart shed, grain house, store room, hay loft and yard attached. Worle can have been no stranger to the brewer's dray. The sale also included part of a close on the opposite side of the road with a well which kept the brewery unfailingly supplied with water. It was purchased by a consortium of business men from the grandsons of its founders.

The brewery was largely rebuilt and re-equipped in 1867^{fig 5} by the newly formed Weston-super-Mare Brewing and Malting Company. Sadly the driving force of the consortium, Henry Davies died before brewing began again. The company went into voluntary liquidation in 1868 and it was again put up for auction. This time it was described as having a fixed twenty-quarter plant, a sixty-quarter malthouse, granaries, offices, stables, coach-house, cart and cask sheds, all recently erected by the Weston-super-Mare Brewery and Malting Company. It also had approved principles for producing Burton Ales and Strong Beer. The building was not used as a brewery again and in 1879 was converted to a laundry.

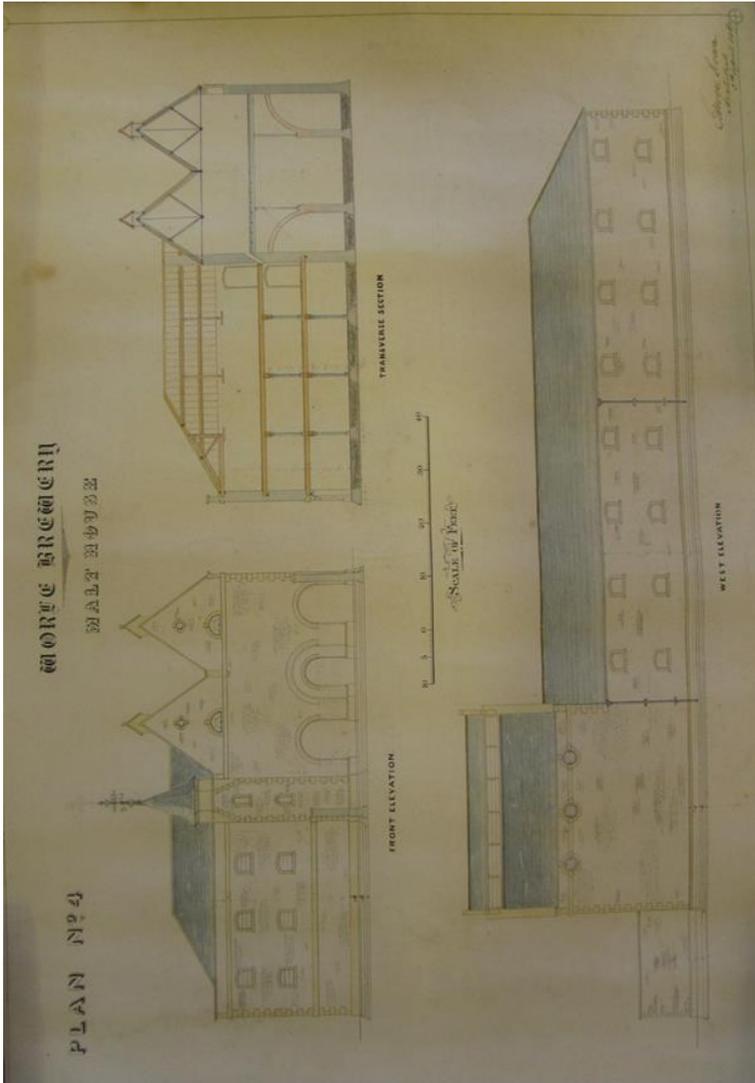
The brewery was auctioned with the New Inn which this time included an orchard, garden, covered skittle alley, stable, coach-house and yard. It was in the occupation of Mr. J. Cook for a yearly rent of £63.

In 1895 George and Co's Cider, Mineral Water and Hop Bitters Manufactory with a two-quarter brewery was

advertised for rent in Worle. It was said to have been established nearly fifty years previously but no more is heard of it after this date.

Many small beer-houses had closed by the end of the nineteenth century, those that survived tended to apply for full public house licenses. Worle entered the new century with the Golden Lion, the Lamb, the Old King's Head and of course the New Inn.

Fig 5: Plans for Worle Brewery, 1867. Ref: A\CMY/451 Somerset Heritage Service.





Above: The Old King's Head, The Scaurs 2013 by Sally Staples

Below: The Valiant Soldier, Church Road 2013 by Sally Staples





Above: The New Inn [Woodspring], High Street 2013 by Sally Staples
Below: Butchers Arms, Ebdon Road 2013 by Sally Staples





Above: The Lamb Inn, High Street 2013 by Sally Staples
Below: The Golden Lion, High Street 2013 by Sally Staples





Above: The Nut Tree, Ebdon Road 2013 by Sally Staples
Below: The Nightjar, Mead Vale 2013 by Sally Staples





Above: The Parish Pump, Sainsbury's complex 2013 by Sally Staples
Below: The Old Manor, Queensway/Newtons Road 2013 Sally Staples





Above: The Summerhouse, Sainsbury's roundabout 2013 by Sally Staples
Below: The Observatory, Becket Road 2013 by Sally Staples





World's newest Public House, The Bucket and Spade, Yew Tree Drive
Sally Staples

Chapter Six

1900 – 2000

There were many changes within the licensed industry during the twentieth century as more and more small pubs were snapped up by the big breweries. They in their turn became bigger as the larger breweries bought up the smaller establishments. In 1952 Bristol United Brewery merged with Bristol Brewery George and Co. In 1961 Courage acquired Bristol Brewery George and Co., and they also seem to have acquired Charlton Brewery. Holt Brothers of Burnham were acquired by Starkey, Knight and Ford of Bridgwater in 1957 but in 1962 they were bought out by Whitbread. The four pubs of Worle which had survived from the previous century became tied houses of these breweries.

A workmen's club is shown on an O.S. map of 1909 at the top of the Scaurs, opposite the King's Head and either next door to or part of the Mission Room. Unfortunately nothing more is known about it, perhaps some information will come to light one day.

At the beginning of the century Worle was still a small village compared to the urban sprawl of today, the population being about five per cent of what it became at the end of the century. Perhaps with an eye to some of the future development, Hans Price was enlisted to design a village club in Mendip Avenue. He was the son-in-law of the

solicitor who represented the Smyth-Piggot family, Lords of the Manor of Weston-super-Mare and his influence can be found all around the town. Funds to build the club were raised by public subscription and Hans Price himself was one of the benefactors.

1904 saw a formal stone laying ceremony by Miss Violet Mary Hardwick and Worle Village Club was opened two years later in 1906. At some time the name changed to the Century club and some say it was to reflect the era in which it was built. Whatever, the club flourished with Worle Cricket club holding their meetings there and during WW2 whist drives and billiards became very successful. The club is still much frequented today.

Hans Price also designed the present Old King's Head after the old building on the same site had burned down. In 1909 his plans were submitted for Bristol Brewery George and Co. Some alterations were made again for the same company in 1960. It also became known for the successes of its pool and darts teams. Hans Price was noted for his use of local materials, Mendip grey stone, Bath stone and roof tiles from south Wales and with an Egyptian influence. The present Old King's Head may not be the oldest surviving premises in Worle but it can certainly claim to be the earliest surviving licensed establishment in the village.

The licensed trade suffered with much tighter controls under the Defence of the Realm Act during the First World War. Opening hours were limited to 12.00 until 2.30

in the afternoons and 6.30 until 9.30 in the evenings. However opening for the full licensed hours was compulsory but closing times were strictly observed.

At some stage the adjoining shop had become part of the Lamb Inn, perhaps when Temperance Lancaster married the boy next door. Plans for alterations to the Lamb were drawn up for Banwell Brewery probably just before 1910, they were undated. Banwell Brewery was established by the Castle family of which one of its members had established Worle Brewery. Plans for alterations were again drawn up in 1910 this time for Charlton Brewery who had presumably, swallowed up the Banwell enterprise. These plans probably coincided with the long tenure of the Wyatt family, Harry from the Old King's Head was recorded at the Lamb in the 1911 census.

Charlton Brewery had plans drawn up again in 1936, this time for a new WC at the back of the Lamb, a must for every pub! Some say an underground river runs the course of Worle High Street, there were certainly plenty of wells and pumps in the village. Although much improved today the street was notorious for flooding and at time the Lamb still suffers problems with it during bad weather. Real storm clouds gathered in the month before WW2 was declared and the High Street along with the Lamb was inundated with muddy water.

During the war Worle ARPs made use of the premises and sadly the first fatalities of bombing in the Weston area

occurred at a house in the High Street, close to the Golden Lion. When VE Day finally arrived the Lamb for one, rolled out barrels of beer into the road which came alive with singing and dancing into the early hours. For once the inhabitants were allowed to be drunk and disorderly in the Highway at Worle!

Between 1953 and 1959 even more plans were drawn up for the Lamb, this time for Arthur Pope and Charlton Brewery. Arthur Pope had become the landlord but this was not so much a break with the Wyatt family as Arthur was the father-in-law of Robert Wyatt, nephew of the previous licensees, Arthur and Emily Wyatt. Arthur Pope's widow struggled to continue running the pub after her husband's death with some help from Robert and his wife, Joan and then their son, Richard Wyatt of HTV fame. When she retired it was taken over by Sean and Dympna Slattery who celebrated twenty-one years occupancy in 1987 but with plans to retire the following year.

In 1989 the Lamb was refurbished as a Courage house and a coffee lounge and children's play area were added. The pub continues today as a popular establishment amongst the locals.

The Golden Lion seems to have escaped any major alterations during the early part of the century. Interestingly a marriage took place in 1923 between John Robert Lickes of the Golden Lion and Irene M L Whitford of the New Inn. At the beginning of 1939 they played host to a Pensioners

Supper for the elderly gentlemen of the parish and when war was declared continued to make their contribution to the local effort.

When the Auxillary Fire Service post moved from the cottage next door in 1940, it was noted how kind Mr. And Mrs. Lickes had been to the firemen. ARP exercises around the Lion led to the would-be casualties being laid out on boards to be treated which much have been quite a sight. A dump of sand for fire fighting was also kept there.

The Homing Pigeon Society met regularly at the Golden Lion and continued to do so through the war. In August of 1940 it was decided to hold a flower show there to make up for the lack of a horticultural show and in September the bar-parlour was used to display vegetables and flowers. However John Robert fell foul of the law in 1941 when he was fined for a minor lighting offence on his car.

Holt Brothers had plans drawn up for alterations to the Lion in 1952 and again in 1962 making changes to the ground floor. It has been much altered since then and is today, a pleasant, modern pub with a good skittle alley.

Alterations were also made to the New Inn in 1937 when plans were drawn up, again for Holt Brothers. The landlord of the time, Tommy Whitford played football for the original Worle AFC and it is said, their coach, Danny Small was a very good customer at the pub. Tom's son, Herbert

Whitford was injured in the services during WW2 when a vehicle ran over his legs. However he eventually took over as the licensee from his widowed mother, Maud who in 1940 had been taken ill and retired to a nursing home in Bristol.

Just before the war a men-only supper was held at the New Inn which included a plea for National Service Volunteers. Once war had been declared they got down to the more serious business at the pub where they set up a new darts league in Worle. The same year, 1939 in the darts league the Old King's Head came first, the Golden Lion came second and the Lamb came third which must have been a great disappointment to the New Inn.

They did of course, play a more serious part in the war effort, ARP lectures were held there, a scrap metal dump, fire watching demonstrations and in 1941 the New Inn became a depot for gas mask fittings. They even continued to make use of the function room for auctions.

At some time in the more recent past the inn name was changed to the Woodspring as it remains today and still survives as one of the four oldest pubs in the parish.

As the new housing estates grew up around Worle so did the drinking establishments and seven new pubs opened in the last quarter of the century. The first of which, in 1975 was the Nut Tree, the old farmhouse mentioned in Monmouth's Rebellion had been converted into a pub.

Three local residents chose the name of the Nightjar in Mead Vale because it fitted well with the bird names given to the roads on the estate. The premises were purpose built for Hall and Woodhouse brewers of Badger Beer and it opened for business in 1979. During the late eighties there was a spate of pub burglaries in the region and in 1990 the Nightjar was reported to have been raided nine times in one year.

The Parish Pump was opened in 1980 and adjoins the Sainsburys shopping complex. Again it was purpose built for Bass who claimed to have named it after a pub in Worle, recorded as far back as 1586.

The manor farm house in Newton Road was converted into a pub by Bass Charrington and opened its doors in about 1981. It is now a Mitchel and Butlers Sizzling Inn: they were once a part of the Bass group.

In Worle Parkway conveniently near to the station the Summer House was also purpose built by Marstons. They opened for business in about 1990 with a large restaurant upstairs and bars below.

The Observatory in Becket Road was purpose built for Banks Brewery and first opened its doors in 1996. During construction an electrician noticed the Observatory on Worle Hill could be seen from the site and so the name was adopted.

In 1999 the newest pub of them all invited children from four of the local schools to think of a name. They came up with the Bucket and Spade. It was built by Allied Domecq Restaurants and Bars as a Big Steak pub with a Wacky Warehouse attached.

The twentieth century ended with twelve drinking establishments in Worle, some would say 'you can never have too many.'

King's Head – Landlords

Anthony Methwyn – 1620 Somerset Heritage Centre, License

King (Joseph) Starr 1685 Monmouth's Rebellion

Thomas Knight – 1769 – 1792 Quarter Sessions

|

Benjamin Banwell – 1795 Quarter Sessions

|

Richard Grattan – 1799 – 1806 Quarter sessions

(Building was converted back to a dwelling house sometime in this period)

Samuel Cook - 1851 Census

|

James Cook – 1861 Census
(Later landlord of New Inn)

|

George Cook – 1881 Census

|

Harry Wyatt – 1891 Census
(Later landlord of the Lamb Inn)

(Name change from King's Head to Old King's Head)

|

Arthur Wyatt - 1901 Census – 1911 Census
(Son of Harry – later landlord of Lamb Inn)

|

Harry Wilcox – 1939 Somerset Public House Index

Percy Wilcox – 1970 Kelly's Directory

Martin and Glen Board - Current

Valiant Soldier – Landlords

Samuel Day – 1777 – 1779 Quarter Sessions
|
Joseph Lawrence – 1780 – 1782 Quarter Sessions
|
Henry Long – 1790 – 1801 Quarter Sessions
|
William Marston – 1802 – 1809 Quarter Sessions
|
Richard Gwilt – 1811 – 1812 Quarter Sessions

New Inn – Landlords

Joseph Leman – 1811 Auction of Weston Lots
|
George Henville – 1832 New Inn to let having been rented by
Henville for previous twenty years – Bristol Mercury – 1814 – 1828
Quarter Sessions
|
Edward Plumley – 1833 – 1836 – 1838 Parish Registers (probably)
|
William Biggs – 1841 Census – 1846 Poll Books – 1851 Census
(Held from Mary Henville)
|
Lucy Biggs – 1861 Census
(Wife of William)
|
James Cook – 1871 Census – 1872 Trade Directory – 1873 Probate
(Previously landlord of Kings Head)
|
Emma Cook – 1875 – 1879 – Trade Directory
|
Alfred Cook - 1881 Census
(Son of James)

|
 Robert Herdman – 1884 Probate
 |
 Mary Jane Whiting – 1889 Somerset Public House Index – 1891
 Census
 |
 Mary Jane Seymour – 1894 – 1897 Trade Directories
 |
 George Smith – 1901 Somerset Public House Index – 1901 Census
 |
 Edwin Morgan – 1906 Trade Direction
 |
 Charles Woodward – 1910 Trade Directory - 1911 Census
 |
 Henry J Hitchings – 1919 Somerset Public House Index
 |
 Thomas Edward Whitford – 1927 Probate
 |
 Maud Whitford – 1939 Somerset Public House Index – 1939, 1942
 Telephone Directories
 (Wife of Thomas)
 |
 Herbert T Whitford – 1970 Kelly's Directory
 (Son of Thomas and Maud)

Butchers/Masons Arms – Landlords

James Ellis – 1832 Poll Books
 |
 William Westlake – 1857 Advert Bristol Papers
 1861 – 1866 Kelly's Directories
 |
 George Twitt – 1881 Advert Bristol Papers

Pig & Whistle/Crown Inn – Landlords

Henry Sheppard - 1844-9 Excise Licenses
|
William Wood – 1859 Report in Bristol Papers
|
John Badman – 1861-1866 Kelly's Directories
|
Ann Badman – 1871 Census 1872 – 1875 Kelly's Directories
|
William Watkins – 1881 – 1884 Adverts Bristol Papers

Lamb Inn – Landlords

Samuel Lancaster – 1865 Parish Registers – 1871 Census
|
Temperance Parker (daughter of Samuel) – 1881 Census
1883 Probate
|
Henry Day – 1891 Census
|
John Wride – 1901 Census
|
Harry Wyatt – 1911 Census
1916 Death and Probate
(1881 Census – landlord of White Hart, Congresbury)
|
Arthur George Wyatt – 1939 Somerset Index
1916 Probate – 1947 Death and Probate
|
Emily Wyatt (wife of Arthur) 1947 Probate
|

Arthur Pope
Plans 1953 – 1959

|

Elsie Pope
Widow of Arthur

|

Sean and Dympna Slattery – 1966-1988 Weston Mercury

Noella Martin – Local knowledge

Mr Pople – Local knowledge

Steve and Mandy Dexter - Current

Golden Lion – Landlords

Richard Headington – 1871 Census
(Prince of Wales)

|

Percival Cake – 1871 Trade Directory

|

Joseph C Gill – 1881 Census

|

George Church – 1889 Somerset Index – 1894 - 1897 Trade
Directory

|

Theophilus W Russ – 1891 Census

|

Robert Lickes – 1901 Census – 1902 Somerset Index – 1906
Trade Directory

|

Mary Amelia Lickes – 1911 Census
(Widow of Robert)

|

M J Hatch – 1919 Somerset Index

|

John Robert Lickes – 1939 Somerset Index
(Son of Robert and Amelia)

Albert and Gladys Evans – 1970 Kelly's Directory

Richard and Michele Loader – Current

Time Line of Census and Deeds

1551 – First Ale House Act – License must be obtained at Quarter Sessions.

1608 - List of licensed tiplers or victualling houses in the Hundred of Winterstoke – (Andrew?) Warrin at Worle.

1619 – Petition by inhabitants of Worle to have two alehouses closed, possibly not licensed – petition granted.

1620 – License to Anthony Methwyn for the King’s Head.

1670 – Valiant Soldier Inn said to have been built.

1685 – King (Joseph) Starr said to have betrayed fugitives from Segemoor, they were hanged on site of New Inn. Judge Jefferies reputed to have stayed at Valiant Soldier during Blood Assize.

1760 – Thomas Tyler convicted of selling ale and cider in Worle without a license.

1776 – William Watts of Worle convicted of selling cider without a license.

1795 – Castle and James May established Worle Brewery which passed on to sons and grandsons.

1799 – Land Tax Redemption – Arthur Bishop proprietor – Henry Long occupier of the Soldier.

1806 – New Inn said to have been built.

1808 – King’s Head sold by auction.

1810 – Valiant Soldier (now a dwelling house) sold by auction.

1811 – Advert for private families at Valiant Soldier. Auction of lots in Weston at the house of Joseph Leman at the sign of the New Inn.

1821 – Joseph Watts sold land in Worle to John Chapman – deeds of Golden Lion.

1828 - Repeal of 1551 Alehouse Act.

1830 – Beerhouse Act – License issued by local town authority.

1832 – James Ellis recorded in Poll Books at Worle Inn called the Butchers Arms.

1839 – Inquest for murder held at the New Inn.

1844-9 – Henry Sheppard of Worle licensed for beerhouse and tobacco sales.

1851 – James Ellis, butcher of Ebdon Road died.

1856 – Letter to Mercury remarking on drunken habits etc., at Worle.

1859 – Pig and Whistle in Leather Lane, frequented by Tailor Jack and Black Sam, referred to in letter to the Mercury.

1861 – James Cook recorded in census as publican at King's Head.

1865 – Worle Brewery sold by grandsons of May and Castle to consortium of business men. Re-equipped but never re-opened, business finally wound up in 1868 – notice in London Gazette.

1871 – Samuel Lancaster recorded in census as publican of Beer House in Lower Street – location of Lamb Inn.
Also recorded as an Inn Keeper in Parish Registers 1865.
James Cook recorded in census as landlord of New Inn.
Ann Badman recorded in census as Publican and Landowner in Ebdon Road. She and John Badman recorded in 1861, he was a hay dealer. 1881 Ann Badman recorded as retired.
Richard Headington recorded in census as landlord of Prince of Wales in Lower Street.

1878 – First mention of Golden Lion in deed at SRO – purchase by W J Holt (Later Holt Bros).

1881 – Temperance Parker (daughter of Samuel Lancaster) recorded as Beerhouse Keeper of Lamb Inn, Lower Street.

1906 – Banwell Brewery closed – taken over by Charlton Brewery according to Banwell History.

1909 – King's Head rebuilt for Bristol Brewery, Georges and Co Ltd – design by Hans Price. (Picture in Sharon Poole book shows previous building).

1910 – Alterations at Lamb for Banwell Brewery.

1936 – Alterations at Lamb for Charlton Brewery, Bristol.

1937 – Charlton Brewery acquired by Bristol United Brewery.

1937 – Alterations at New Inn for Holt Bros, Ltd, of Burnham on Sea.

1952 – Alterations at Golden Lion for Holt Bros, Burnham, Brewers.

Bristol United Brewery and Bristol Brewery George and Co merged.

1953-9 – Alterations at Lamb for Charlton Brewery, Bristol.

1957 – Holt Bros Ltd (Burnham) acquired by Starkey Knight and Ford Ltd (Bridgwater) and ceased to brew.

1960 – Alterations at King's Head for Bristol Brewery.

1961 – Courage acquired Bristol Brewery George and Co Ltd. Charlton Brewery Closed.

1962 – Starkey Knight and Ford Ltd acquired by Whitbread.

Time Line of Extracts from the Bristol Mercury 1839-1899

1839 – Inquest at the New Inn. Eliza Pain, 16, an apprentice employed by Josiah Reeves a farmer of Wick St. Lawrence, was found by the roadside, murdered by Charles Wakely, 30, who was employed on the same farm. The jury viewed the body at the inquest, there were multiple wounds and her throat was cut, it was suggested that Wakely may have attempted to violate her. He was committed for trial and later hanged.

1840-Nov – Advert. Auction notice for the estate of John Baker, bankrupt. Lot 3 – a dwelling house, stables, carriage house and cart house, supplied with spring water from a well, formerly used as an inn and public house known as the Old King’s Head. There being only one licensed public house in Worle, it was suggested a license for the property could be obtained from the proper authorities.

1842-Nov – A public abstinence meeting was held in Worle.

1844-Feb – List of insolvent debtors. Edward Plumley, farmer, formerly innkeeper and farmer of Worle. (Recorded in parish registers 1833, 1836, 1838).

1846-Feb – Mr Biggs of the New Inn, Worle, amongst others, sent out his cart to save a mow of wheat from the floods in Kewstoke, the property of Moses Stabbins who was away from home at the time.

1851-Oct – John Badman, hay dealer of Worle was thrown from his horse whilst returning from Brent. Described as a

very heavy man, he sustained broken ribs and extensive bruising. (Husband of Ann Badman, later innkeeper).

1852-March – A dinner was held at the New Inn as a mark of respect to Mrs Biggs. Plans for an annual sheep shearing competition were discussed. (William Biggs died 1851).

1853-March – Petty Sessions at Banwell. John Haggett, James Young and Henry Webber were summoned by Mrs Biggs, landlady of the New Inn, Worle, for breaching the peace and using inappropriate language in her house. They were bound over to keep the peace and pay costs.

1857-Feb – Advert. Auction at Old King's Head, mainly of household/inn effects of Samuel Cook who was leaving the neighbourhood.

1857-June – Advert. Auction of part of the Mason's Arms, Worle, occupied by William Westlake.

1857-Sept – Police Court. Joseph Jeffries was charged with assault and highway robbery, with two other unidentified men, against John Twitt who was on his way home from the New Inn where all three had been drinking together. Jeffries was committed to trial.

December – At the trial he was charged with stealing five shillings and a neckerchief from Twitt who had gone to the inn where Jeffries was drinking with two men named as Day and Nation. They left about quarter of an hour before Twitt and when he passed they jumped out from behind a hedge and carried out a prolonged attack. Day and Nation had run off when the police went to make an arrest and continued to

allude them. Having proved a previous conviction, Jeffries was sentenced to six years penal servitude.

1859-Jan – Weston-super-Mare Petty Sessions. Robert Seaman summoned Thomas Bailey for assault. Bailey claimed to have worked for seaman but when he called at his house one evening found him in bed with some bad characters. Bailey struck Seaman in the mouth but he followed Bailey downstairs and stabbed him in the thumb. The case was dismissed.

Next Case – Bailey was claiming unpaid wages from Seaman. PC 90 testified that he was constantly being called to Seaman's house which was the resort of the greatest blackguards of Worle, Bleadon and Weston. It was established that the principal part of Bailey's work for Seaman was drinking and smoking with him. The judge remarked that Seaman could have been in a respectable position and that it was painful to see him bring himself to such degradation but if he kept such fellows about him it was his own fault. He was ordered to pay the wages.

Next Case – Seaman accused John Perry andWhite of arriving drunk, one evening about midnight, at his house where they burnt a chair, clothes horse and shelf and then knocked down part of the ceiling. Seaman had been planning to leave the premises and would not put a value on the items, the case was dismissed. (1861 Census – Perry was a tailor ? Tailor Jack).

Next Case – William Wood accused Seaman of attempting to set fire to the house of which he was the owner and lived in the adjoining part. Job Gould, farmer was passing and

claimed to have found a boy, Bennett stoking the fire and he shook him by the collar. The judge told Wood he must have been aware of Seaman's character before he took him as a tenant and that he might find remedy for his case in another court. (Wood lived in the same position as the Crown according to the tithe map and had a widowed daughter living with him according to the census - ? Pig and Whistle and Leather Lane).

Next Case – Edward Bennett was charged with assault against Job Gould but the case was dismissed.

Next Case – PC 30 charged Seaman with being drunk and disorderly on 1st January for which he was fined.

(Later census shows Robert Seaman living as an annuitant at Bleadon whilst a Samuel Seaman was in Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Aylum ? Black Sam).

1861-Aug – Advert. Auction of New Inn with description, in the occupation of Mrs Biggs and the only house licensed for the sale of spirits in Worle.

1862-Aug – William Lancaster, Albert Knowles, Frederick Knowles, Benjamin Day and Edward Hewlett were charged with assaulting Samuel Thomas who had gone to the New Inn to pay for some bacon he had purchased from the landlord. He stayed dinking and playing dice with his assailants until midnight when the landlord refused to draw any more liquor. Thomas borrowed 6d from him as a bluff to prove he had no money left. About two hundred and fifteen yards from the inn, outside Farmer Beekes where there was a pool the five men started using bad language to demand money from

Thomas for beer and then set about him. They rubbed filth into his mouth and eyes before dragging him by his hair into the pool. One of them returned to pull him back out but Lancaster had wanted to kill him before he took out a warrant against them. Day was found not guilty but previous convictions were proved against two of the others and all three were sentenced to penal servitude with hard labour.

1863-Sept – Advert. Auction of potatoes, further information could be obtained from the Golden Lion Inn, Worle.

1865-Dec – Advert. Auction of Worle Brewery with description, established about 1795 by the late James May. Run for about fifty years by Messrs May and Castle and since their deaths by their representatives. Also a piece of land across the road supplying the brewery with water.

1867-June – Advert. Auction of the New Inn with description, in the occupation of James Cook.

1868-June – Advert. Auction of the brewery with description, outbuildings had been erected by Worle and Weston-super-Mare Malting Company. Castle and May referred to as the company's predecessors in business. Burton Ales and Strong Beer were brewed. Also the New Inn in the occupation of J Cook for the yearly rent of £63.

1868-June – Advert. The Worle and Weston-super-Mare Brewery and Malting Company Limited, all debts to be paid to the official liquidators.

1869-July – Advert. Creditors of the Worle and Weston-super-Mare Brewery to file their claims by 13th August

against the liquidators for the voluntary winding up of the company.

1869-Oct - Advert. Cellarman, C Watts of Worle, seeking a situation.

1869-Oct – List of Bankrupts. Edward Crossman, Worle, alehouse keeper.

1871-Sept – Advert. ‘14th Thousand “The lips that touch liquor shall never touch mine”. The popular Temperance Recitation. 15 for 1s. 3d., post free – Address Miss Hatie Glazebrook, Worle.

1875-Oct – Advert. An auction at the “Worle Inn”, Worle.

1878-April – Advert. Auction, Lot 3, 453, Willhays Orchard in the occupation of John Lancaster. (At the back of the Lamb Inn, James Lancaster first recorded landlord).

1880-March – Advert. Experienced young lady looking for a situation as barmaid or barmaid and book-keeper. Mabel, Worle.

1880-May – Advert. Sheep Shearing Competition with a dinner at 4.00 provided by Alfred Cook at the New Inn, Worle. Tickets 3s.

1881-March – Advert. New Inn to let, full-licensed, now in the occupation of Alfred Cook.

1881-April – Advert. Situation wanted by experienced barmaid. Miss Cook, Worle.

1881-June – Advert. Auction. Lot 1 almost opposite New Inn, included a cider house. Lot 2 adjoining Lot 1, two messuages in the occupation of George Twitt and another, formerly known as the Mason’s Arms. (In the same location as James Ellis of the Butcher’s Arms – Census and Land Tax). Lot 3 dwelling house converted into two messuages, in the occupation of Mr Francis and Mr Watkins, known as the Crown Public House. (Same location as William Woods and later Ann Badman, alehouse keeper).

1884-June – Advert. Auction, 672 on the tithe map, in the occupation of William Watkins. (Same location as auction of 1881).

1885-Oct – Advert. Strong, active lad wanted to make himself generally useful. Apply New Inn, Worle.

1891-March – An inquest was held at the New Inn, Worle on a young man named as Fletcher who had died from internal injury sustained during a football match. He had been advised not to play as he was under medical care from an injury incurred in a previous match. “The Coroner commented strongly on the danger of the game”.

1891-April – Police Court. Robert Loud and George and John Phillips were fined for being drunk and disorderly on the highway at Worle.

1892-April – Police Court. William Weakley was fined for being drunk and disorderly on the highway at Worle.

1892-Dec – William Weakley was charged with stealing a rug from Mr Sperring of Brean who had driven to the New Inn and left the rug in his trap. When he returned to have the horse stabled the rug was missing. Acting on information PC Perry hid in the garden next door and on hearing a noise about 12.30 found Weakley asleep in a cabbage patch with the blanket over his arm. Weakley was also charged with stealing four beer glasses and a plate from Mary Jane Seymour of the New Inn. He was sentenced to three weeks for the rug and two for the glasses.

1893-Dec – Advert. Bristol and District Stud Company. The horse called Reality 2nd would be at the Golden Crown, Worle on Fridays.

1893-Dec – Police Court Weston-super-Mare. George Phillips, quarryman of Worle and Arthur Bennett, quarryman of Milton were charged with being drunk and disorderly in the highway at Worle and with assaulting PC Perry in the execution of his duty. They were fined for being drunk and given one month's hard labour for the assault.

1895-April – Advert. Brewery, Cider, Mineral Water and Hop Bitters Manufactory at Worle. Nearly fifty years in the occupation of Messrs George and Co., and predecessors. Rent £35, estimated income £1000. To be offered for public auction on 25th April unless previously disposed of.

1895-May – Advert. George and Co's Cider, Mineral Waters and Hop Bitters Manufactory with two-quarter brewery attached, situated at Worle. Immediate possession, easy terms.

1895-Dec – Mr Hardwick's Harriers with a large contingent of other hunts met for breakfast at the New Inn. Later the hounds were set off at Castle Batch. (Shame on them).

1898-June – Frederick Hill was fined for being drunk and disorderly on the highway at Worle.

1899-June – Inquest. A body was found in Locking Road which Robert Lickes identified as one of two tramps who came into his house, the Golden Lion, Worle on the previous Sunday. He testified that both were sober when they left but apparently they had fallen out later that night and one had knocked the other into a hedge or river where he was found dead the next morning.

1899-June – Advert. 34th Annual Sheep Shearing Competition. Dinner provided at the New Inn, 4.30. Dancing in a large marquee from 7.00 to 11.00 with the Weston-super-Mare Town Band.