

**THE “TRAVELLER’S REST” &
THE “RISING SUN” BEERHOUSES AT
GRIFFYDAM**



BY SAMUEL T STEWART – UPDATED JANUARY 2023

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INTRODUCTION – “THE TRAVELLER’S REST” & “THE RISING SUN” BEER HOUSES

When I first wrote about the “Traveller’s Rest” and the “Rising Sun” in my publication entitled “A Social & Industrial History of Griffydham & Peggs Green” in 2018, I could not understand why, unlike other local public houses, I could not find any details in the licensing records for landlords prior to c.1870.

Following further research, the reason for this has been established, as both of these establishments were registered as a “Beer House” and continued to be so until 1936, when official licensing records became unavailable. From 1872 to 1880 the “Traveller’s Rest” was listed as a “Wine & Beer House”.

The Beerhouse Act 1830

The Beerhouse Act of 1830 was an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom, which liberalised the regulations governing the brewing and sale of beer. Sometimes known as the “Duke of Wellington Beer Act” as it was the Duke of Wellington’s government in situ at that time. It was modified by subsequent legislation and finally repealed in 1993.

The precursor to the **Beerhouse Act** was the Alehouse Act of 1828, which established a general annual licensing meeting to be held in every city, town, division, county and riding, for the purposes of granting licences to inns, alehouses and victualling (i.e. provision of food) houses to sell excisable liquors to be drunk on the premises.

Enacted two years later, the **Beerhouse Act** enabled any rate-payer to brew and sell beer on payment of a license costing two guineas per annum, equivalent to about £150 today. The intention was to increase competition between brewers; lowering prices and encouraging people to drink beer instead of strong spirits. The drinking of Gin had become common place and led to an increase in drunkenness. It resulted in the opening of thousands of new public houses and breweries throughout the country, particularly in the rapidly expanding industrial centres.

A **beerhouse** was a type of public house created in the United Kingdom by the 1830 Beerhouse Act, legally defined as a place "where beer is sold to be consumed *on the premises*". Existing public houses were issued with licenses by local magistrates under the terms of the Retail Brewers Act of 1828, and were subject to police inspections at any time of the day or night. **Proprietors of the new beerhouses**, on the other hand, simply had to buy a license from the government costing two guineas per annum, equivalent to about £150 in current day value. Until the Wine and Beerhouse Act of 1869 gave local magistrates the authority to renew beerhouse licenses, the two classes of establishment were in direct competition.

The 1869 Wine and Beerhouses Act brought in magisterial controls with stricter licensing laws, pre 1869 beerhouses were still exempt though and this meant that the small beerhouse could thrive but the large inns that sold spirits were under increasing pressure to run a controlled and respectable house.

So, as "Beer houses" did not come under the control of magistrates and stricter licensing laws till 1869, this is why the "Traveller's Rest" and the "Rising Sun" were not recorded in the Ashby de la Zouch register of licenses till after 1869.

It is of interest to note that the various trade directories did not feature either of these establishments unlike "The Griffin" and "Waggon & Horses" prior to c.1870, and later on when they started to appear they were listed as a bhs (beer house) and licensees given as "beer retailers".

The author has come to the conclusion that these particular houses would have been equivalent to what is known as "Free houses" today. From the 1890s through to the WWI, beerhouses were increasingly targeted by the police and clergy who wanted to see the end to the long opening hours and cheap ale.

Unfortunately, the author has not been able to find any information about when either of these beer houses were established at the time of writing, however, there is an indication on the 1835 first edition O/S map that the "Traveller's Rest" building may have been there then.

A HISTORY OF THE "TRAVELLER'S REST" BEER HOUSE

LOCATION OF THE TRAVELLER'S REST BEER HOUSE



Enlarged extracts from 1881 surveyed, 1885 published 6 inch O/S map

“The Traveller’s Rest” is marked **A**. It was established adjacent to the extension of the Hinckley to Melbourne Turnpike known as Frogatt’s Lane which ran from the intersection with the main turnpike in the area of Tugby’s lane via the Toll gates at Pegg’s Green and Griffydam to just before the Rempstone cross roads where it turned right (now Storden Lane) and wound its way to the intersection with the Loughborough to Ashby de la Zouch turnpike.

There is an indication on the 1807 enclosure map for Pegg's Green and the Township of Thringstone, that a building of some sort existed on the site of the Traveller's Rest which may have been a toll gate or bar.

The 1835 first edition O/S map shows buildings on the site of the Traveller's Rest, suggesting there could have been an Ale house there even at that time, and one of the buildings may have been a toll gate house.

LIST OF KNOWN BEER SELLERS / RETAILERS FROM THE ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH REGISTER OF LICENSEES

Sign	Surname	Forename	Year	Month	Owner or Leaseholder	License Type
No Sign	Lager	Joseph	1872	31-Aug	Joseph Lager	Wine & Beerhouse
No Sign	Upton	Thomas	1872	31-Aug	Thomas Upton	Wine & Beerhouse
No Sign	Lager	Joseph	1873	30-Aug	Joseph Lager	Wine & Beerhouse
No Sign	Upton	Thomas	1873	30-Aug	Thomas Upton	Wine & Beerhouse
No Sign	Lager	Joseph	1874	29-Aug	Joseph Lager	Wine & Beerhouse
No Sign	Upton	Thomas	1874	29-Aug	Thomas Upton	Wine & Beerhouse
No Sign	Lager	Joseph	1875	28-Aug	Joseph Lager	Wine & Beerhouse
No Sign	Southard	Henry	1875	28-Aug	Thomas Upton	Wine & Beerhouse
No Sign	Lager	Joseph	1876	26-Aug	Joseph Lager	Wine & Beerhouse
No	Redfern	William	1876	26-Aug	Thomas Upton	Wine & Beerhouse
No Sign	Lager	Joseph	1877	25-Aug	Joseph Lager	Wine & Beerhouse
No Sign	Redfern	William	1877	25-Aug	Thomas Upton	Wine & Beerhouse
No Sign	Lager	Joseph	1878	24-Aug	Joseph Lager	Wine & Beerhouse
No Sign	Lager	Joseph	1879	23-Aug	Joseph Lager	Wine & Beerhouse
No Sign	Chambers	John	1880	21-Aug	Joseph Lager	Wine & Beerhouse
No Sign	Chambers	John	1881	27-Aug	Joseph Lager	Beerhouse
No Sign	Ratcliff	Frederick	1882	26-Aug	Joseph Lager	Beerhouse
No Sign	Ratcliff	Frederick	1883	25-Aug	Joseph Lager	Beerhouse
No Sign	Ratcliff	Frederick	1884	30-Aug	Joseph Lager	Beerhouse
No Sign	Ratcliff	Frederick	1885	29-Aug	Joseph Lager	Beerhouse
No Sign	Ratcliff	Robert	1886	28-Aug	Joseph Lager	Beerhouse
No Sign	Ratcliff	Robert	1887	27-Aug	Joseph Lager	Beerhouse
No Sign	Ratcliff	Robert	1888	25-Aug	Joseph Lager	Beerhouse

Traveller's Rest	Ratcliff	Robert	1889	24-Aug	Joseph Lager	Beerhouse
Traveller's Rest	Ratcliff	Robert	1890	23-Aug	John Emerson	Beerhouse
Traveller's Rest	Bradley	Joseph	1891	22-Aug	John Emerson	Beerhouse
Traveller's Rest	Hardy	Tom	1892	27-Aug	John Emerson	Beerhouse
Traveller's Rest	Grew	Walter John	1893	26-Aug	John Emerson	Beerhouse
Traveller's Rest	Hardy	Tom	1894	25-Aug	John Emerson	Beerhouse
Traveller's Rest	Hardy	Tom	1895	31-Aug	John Emerson	Beerhouse
Traveller's Rest	Hardy	Tom	1896	29-Aug	John Emerson	Beerhouse
Traveller's Rest	Booth	Thomas	1897	28-Aug	John Emerson	Beerhouse
Traveller's Rest	Batson	William (beer retailer)	1901 census			Beerhouse
Traveller's Rest	Emerson	John	1905	04-Feb	John Emerson	Beerhouse
Traveller's Rest	Emerson	John	1906	03-Feb	John Emerson	Beerhouse
Traveller's Rest	Emerson	John	1907	02-Feb	John Emerson	Beerhouse
Traveller's Rest	Emerson	John	1908	08-Feb	John Emerson	Beerhouse
Traveller's Rest	Wilson	Bartholomew L.	1909	06-Feb	John Emerson	Beerhouse
Traveller's Rest	Wilson	Bartholomew Lawrence	1910	12-Feb	Bartholomew L. Wilson	Beerhouse
Traveller's Rest	Wilson	Bartholomew Lawrence	1911	11-Feb	Bartholomew L. Wilson	Beerhouse
Traveller's Rest	Wilson	Bartholomew Lawrence	1912	10-Feb	Bartholomew L. Wilson	Beerhouse
Traveller's Rest	Coulson	Thomas William	1913	08-Feb	Bartholomew L. Wilson	Beerhouse
Traveller's Rest	Field	John Michael	1914	07-Feb	Bartholomew L. Wilson	Beerhouse
Traveller's Rest	Field	John Michael	1915	06-Feb	Bartholomew Lawrence Wilson	Beerhouse
Traveller's Rest	Field	John Michael	1916	05-Feb	Bartholomew Lawrence Wilson	Beerhouse
Traveller's Rest	Field	John Michael	1917	03-Feb	Bartholomew Lawrence Wilson	Beerhouse
Traveller's Rest	Field	John Michael	1918	02-Feb	Bartholomew Lawrence Wilson	Beerhouse
Traveller's Rest	Field	John Michael	1919	01-Feb	Bartholomew Lawrence Wilson	Beerhouse
Traveller's Rest	Field	John Michael	1920	14-Feb	Robert Lawrence Wilson	Beerhouse

Traveller's Rest	Field	John Michael	1921	12-Feb	Offilers Brewery Ltd.	Beerhouse
Traveller's Rest	Field	John Michael	1922	11-Feb	Offilers Brewery Ltd.	Beerhouse
Traveller's Rest	Wheatley	George Smith	1923	10-Feb	Offilers Brewery Ltd.	Beerhouse
Traveller's Rest	Chadwick	James William	1924	09-Feb	Offilers Brewery Ltd.	Beerhouse
Traveller's Rest	Johnson	Thomas	1925	07-Feb	Offilers Brewery Ltd.	Beerhouse
Traveller's Rest	Johnson	Thomas	1926	06-Feb	Offilers Brewery Ltd.	Beerhouse
Traveller's Rest	Johnson	Thomas	1927	05-Feb	Offilers Brewery Ltd.	Beerhouse
Traveller's Rest	Johnson	Thomas	1928	04-Feb	Offilers Brewery Ltd.	Beerhouse
Traveller's Rest	Johnson	Thomas	1929	02-Feb	Offilers Brewery Ltd.	Beerhouse
Traveller's Rest	Johnson	Thomas	1930	01-Feb	Offilers Brewery Ltd.	Publicans
Traveller's Rest	Johnson	Thomas	1931	14-Feb	Offilers Brewery Ltd.	Beerhouse
Traveller's Rest	Johnson	Thomas	1932	13-Feb	Offilers Brewery Ltd.	Beerhouse
Traveller's Rest	Johnson	Thomas	1933	11-Feb	Offilers Brewery Ltd.	Beerhouse
Traveller's Rest	Johnson	Sarah Ann	1934	10-Feb	Offilers Brewery Ltd.	Publicans
Traveller's Rest	Richards	Frank S	1935 To 1952		Offilers Brewery Ltd	Beerhouse
Traveller's Rest	Abbott	Albert	1953 to 1978			
Sold to Malcolm Allured of "Showaddywaddy" in 1978. Owned by Mitchell & Butlers' at the time						

Transcribed from the Leicester Chronicle - Saturday 25 October 1890

ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS - Mr. Wilkins (Fisher, Jesson, and Wilkins), acting on behalf of Mr. Musson, made an application for temporary authority for a house called the "Travellers' Rest" at Griffydam, which was recently sold and conveyed to Mr. John Emmerson, who had entered into an agreement with Mr. J. Bradley of Osgathorpe, for the occupation of the house. The house now stood in Mr. Ratcliffe's name, and the temporary authority was asked for until next licensing day. In reply to Mr. Mammatt (Magistrates Clerk), Mr. Wilkins said the house had been shut for a considerable time. - Mr. Mammatt : have you any objection to the application being granted?, - Superintendent Holloway said he hoped if Mr. Bradley went into the house, it would be better conducted than in the past. - Mr. Bradley : I will do my best - Supt Holloway : I know nothing against Mr. Bradley. - Evidence having been given as to the respectability of Mr. Bradley, the application was granted.

THE TRAVELLER'S REST SALE INFORMATION

The following advertisement for sale by auction of the "Traveller's Rest" in 1889 provides a detailed insight into what the beer-house and out buildings consisted of in those days. It indicates that it was a substantial property with a **4 bedroom cottage adjoining it on the left hand side.**

Burton Chronicle – December 5th 1889

MESSRS. BELLAMY AND SON

GRIFFYDAM, NEAR ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH, LEICS

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION (by order of the mortgagee), by Messrs. BELLAMY and SON, at the Queen's Hotel, in Ashby de la Zouch, on TUESDAY, Dec 17th 1889, at Six for Seven o'clock in the Evening precisely, subject to Conditions of Sale then to be produced, and in the following or such other Lots as shall be determined upon at the time of sale :-

Lot. 3.

ALL THAT old-established **BEER HOUSE** known as the "Travellers' Rest" situate at Griffydam, with Stabling for four Horses and Hay Loft over, Cow-House for four cows, Out-buildings and large Gardens. The House comprises Tap-room, Back Parlour, Front Sitting room, another Room, two Kitchens, six Bed-rooms, and large Cellar, together with a four-room COTTAGE adjoining. There is a good supply of hard and soft Water, and a very extensive frontage to the Highway leading from Griffydam and Hinckley.

For further particulars apply to the AUCTIONEERS
Burton on Trent and Ashby de la Zouch, or to
Messrs. JENNINGS, SON, and BURTON,
Solicitors, Burton on Trent.

The **Beer House** obviously wasn't sold at this time as in the **Burton Chronicle dated December 18th 1889**, the following statement appeared..... *and the remaining lot was disposed of privately to Mr. Emerson of Belton, for £300 ; it comprised the "Travellers Rest" beerhouse at Griffydam, with yard, outbuildings, and stabling for four horses. Messrs. Jennings & Son, Burton were the vendor's solicitors.*

Joseph Lager was the owner of the Beerhouse at this time.

The property was again put up for sale 9 months later, but John Emerson who was presumably the Emerson who purchased it in December 1889 was still shown as being the owner until 1910 when Bartholomew Lawrence Wilson is listed in the licensing records as being the owner.

Leicester Daily Mercury – October 20th 1890

MESSR'S BELLAMY & SON

SALE BY AUCTION

That old established beer-house, known as The Traveller's Rest, situate at Griffydam, with stabling for four horses, and hay loft over. cow houses for four cows, outbuildings and large gardens.

The house comprises Tap Room, Back Parlour, Front Sitting Room, Two Kitchens, Six Bedrooms and large Cellar with a four room Cottage adjoining.

There is a good supply of hard and soft water and a very extensive frontage to the highway leading from Griffydam to Hinckley.

In the photograph below, taken in 1935, the adjoining cottage on the left referred to in the previous sale, is still there. Frank Richards was in his first year as landlord at the time, and his name is above the door. However, if we look at the following football team photograph we can see that between 1900 and 1935 one of the two entrance doors had been taken out and the upper and bottom side windows have been replaced by more modern, but sadly, less attractive windows. Also in 1900, there was no brewery advertising board above the doors. Text was just painted on the wall it appears. In fact, according to the licensing records, the beer house did not have a sign until 1889. From 1921 to 1936 the "Traveller's Rest" is shown in the licensing records as being owned by Offilers' Brewery.



The photograph below taken in the 1960's shows a major change, to the Beerhouse as the adjoining 4 bedroom cottage has been demolished by this time. Also, the attractive front window has been removed and been replaced by a modern bay. The brewery owners are now 'Mitchell & Butlers'.



“GRIFFYDAM SWIFTS” FOOTBALL TEAM



The Traveller's Rest Football Team. 1900. Amongst them are:- Back row from L to R, Mr William Hodges, Mr Sam Shakespeare (Zions Hill), Mr Thomas Hodges (father of Sam Hodges), Mr Jack Stevenson (later landlord of the Red Lion 20's & 30's) Mr Hill (Anchor Lane), Middle Row: Mr Albert Haywood (Broomleys Road), Seated right, Mr Isiah Hodges (uncle of Sam Hodges).

THE “GRIFFYDAM SWIFTS” FOOTBALL TEAM IN 1904 PICTURED OUTSIDE THE TRAVELLER’S REST BEERHOUSE

The author has found a number of newspaper reports on the “Griffydam Swifts” which confirms they were established by 1893. They played their games on the football field adjacent to the Traveller’s Rest. No doubt they were sponsored by them and used it as their changing room and for a few swift pints after the home games (probably before as well). The following report was selected as being the most informative and provides some details on the players and officials :-

Leicester Chronicle – March 4th 1893

Griffydam Swifts (Won 2-1) v Shepshed Church of England. – Played at Griffydam on Saturday. The visitors won the toss and kicked downhill, Griffydam started but the visitor’s forwards at once got hold and ran down, and Fowkes missing his kick, enabled

them to score the first goal two minutes from the start. Immediately after, the home left wing broke away, and Shakespear sent in a magnificent shot, which just skimmed the cross bar. From the goal kick, the visitors left got possession and ran down, but J. Johnson returned with a fine kick. After midfield play, Pickering at last broke away, passed the half backs and backs in a tricky manner, and catered beautifully, enabling Oliver to equalise with a lightening shot. After this, both teams played desperately, the home side having slightly the best of the game. From a scrimmage in front of the visitor's goal, Pickering scored the second goal for the Swifts, nothing further resulting up to half time. Re-starting, the homesters went down with a rush, and Bradford sent in a brilliant shot, which the goalkeeper saved at the expense of a corner, which was placed behind. From the goal kick, the visitors ran up, but H. Johnson returned with a huge kick, enabling the homesters to keep up the pressure. From a scrimmage in front of the visitor's goal, Hodges sent in a good shot, which would certainly have scored had not one of the backs deliberately fisted away. A free kick resulted but the ball was cleared. The home team continued to have the best of the game, which ended in favour of the swifts by two goals to one. **Griffydham Players** :- C. Platts, goal; W. Fowkes and J. Johnson, backs; H. Johnson, J. Hodges and S. Johnson, half backs; H. Pickering, J. Turner, T. Oliver, J. Bradford, and S. Shakespeare, forwards.

Referee, Mr. Robey of Ashby; Linesman, S. Edwards.

		C. Platts			
	W. Fowkes			J. Johnson	
	H. Johnson		J. Hodges		S. Johnson
H. Pickering	J. Turner		T. Oliver		J. Bradford
				S. Shakespeare	

Leicester Chronicle – February 4th 1893

IBSTOCK BAPTISTS v GRIFFYDAM SWIFTS (Won 2 nil)

Good form was shown by the Ibstock forwards, and the game ended in a victory for the visitors by two goals to none, this result being largely attributable to the splendid play of J. Sharpe.

Baptist team – F. Baxter, goal ; R. Woodward, S. Thompson, backs ; T. Wright, E. Mee, H. Haylett, half backs ; Forwards – J. Sharpe, E. Ward, (right wing), A. Griffin (centre), S. Beeson, and T. Cooper (left wing).



The above is a remarkable photograph of a proud marksmen and friend with their trophy of a rabbit standing outside the Traveller's Rest Beerhouse. Their names were Mr. Hines and Mr. King. The photograph was taken c.1920.

THE BATSON FAMILY

John Batson (1) (baptised 1822) was first married to Jane Symonds / Simonds on 10th November 1845 in Hardwick, Bucks and they had the following children - James, **William**, Ann, Elizabeth, Eliza, Margaret and Ellen. John Batson's mother was named Ann Clark, and his father was also named John Batson. His wife's father was named Benjamin Symonds / Simonds and her mother was Elizabeth French. John Batson's second marriage was to Mary Miller (1830 -) on the 20th Feb 1865 at St. Mary's, Aylesbury. **According to John Batson in a newspaper report featured on page 17, he had a total of 13 children with his two wives.**

William Batson, the son of John Batson (1) was baptized 13th May 1849 and married Susannah Luff on May 8th 1870 at St. Mary's, Aylesbury, Bucks. They had the following children - Ada Jane, Annie L, Mary A, William, John, Eliza, Jemima, Charles and Eli. Susannah was recorded as being christened at Gedney Church in 1850 in Gedney, Lincs. Susannah's parents were William Luff (b. c.1824) and Jemima Olliffe (b.1830) and they were married c. June 1847. Susannah died in Griffydam in 1908 aged 57.

Melton Mowbray Mercury & Uppingham News - Thursday 30th April, 1908 - William's wife Susannah (also given as Susan Anna) died suddenly at the age of 57 in April 1908 after they had left the Traveller's Rest. She had been in indifferent health for a considerable time, suffering from Asthma and pains in the region of the heart. Some months previous she was medically attended for chronic rheumatism

William and Susannah's first born was named Ada Jane, born 12 June 1872 in Weedon, Bucks and was baptised 29 July 1872 at St. Mary's Aylesbury. At the age of 17 she was a servant to a baker on Charnwood Road, Shepshed. They then had a daughter Annie Louisa, born in Evington, Leicester c.1874., who at 16 was a servant to E. Serres, the headmaster at Osgathorpe Grammar School. A further three children were born whilst they were living on the Lower Brand. – Mary Ann, born 1877, William John born 1882, and Eliza born 1884. Eliza died in the last quarter of 1900 aged 17. Whilst William was living on the Brand, he was a lime kiln burner labourer, almost certainly at Cloud Hill Lime Quarry.

William and Susannah left their home on the Brand and moved to the Rising Sun, Griffydam where they had four children – Jemima born 1886, Charles born 1888, and Eli born 1889 who died the last quarter of 1895 aged 6.

In the following photograph taken at the front of the Traveller's Rest Beer House, the name of William Batson is on the License board above the entrance doors, but it is not possible to read the wording underneath his name. In the official Ashby licensing records there was no licensees name given for the Traveller's Rest Beer house between 1897 and 1905. In the 1901 census, William Batson is recorded as a Beer Retailer and Coal miner (hewer) and this can be identified via the enumerator's walk, as being at the Traveller's Rest Beer House, and it is taken that he was the licensee during that period 1897 to 1905 when John Emmerson took over the license. This is further supported by Kelly's Trade Directories for 1895 and 1899 where he is recorded as a Beer Retailer. William's wife Susannah would have looked after the Beer House whilst he was hewing coal at the pit face, thereby providing them with two incomes.

In 1901, William and Susannah's son Charles Batson, aged 13, was employed as a coal miner (hewer u/ground) and residing at the family home, **The Traveller's Rest**, with his parents and sibling Jemima.

By 1911 at the age of 23, Charles was living in Talbot Street, Whitwick with his brother William and Belgian born wife Elizabeth. Both Charles and William were employed as stall-men in a local colliery.

Along came the First World War and Charles enlisted to fight for King and Country at Ashby-de-la-Zouch with the 1/5th Battalion – Leicestershire Regiment Section.

During the fighting in France on the 14th of August 1917, in the morning a Battalion raiding party left Noyelles and marched up to the line. On the march up through Vermelles 11 men of B Coy were killed and 14 wounded by one shell. Charles died from his wounds on the 17th of August 1917. His burial place is Vi C 11, Bethune Town Cemetery and his burial commemoration is Bethume Town Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. His name is on the War Memorial Plaque in Holy Trinity Church, Ashby de la Zouch.



The above photograph shows the name of William Batson on the License board, but it is not possible to read the wording underneath his name. In the official Ashby licensing

records there was no licensees name given between 1897 and 1905 but we have William Batson shown as the licensee in the 1901 census, and it is thought he was the licensee during that period until 1905 when John Emmerson took over.

It is assumed that this photograph was taken c.1900. The Brewery is shown as being "Wells Brewery" of Kegworth, who apparently used a fleet of steam waggons to deliver their beer at one time. William Batson is thought to be sitting at the table and his wife Susannah in the background with the jug of ale. At least some of their children are likely to be those in the picture. The girl on the far right could well be their daughter Jemima.

Following the death of his wife in 1908, William Batson, the following year, became the licensee at the "Dog and Gun" beer house (now the "Oriental Chef") at Mountsorrel on 2nd Feb 1910 until 6th Feb 1918. As the brewery is shown as "Wells Brewery", who also owned the "Dog and Gun", this possibly facilitated his move there. Living with him are his daughter Annie Louise, aged 36 (born in Evington) and son-in-law Thomas Jones, aged 42, born in Loughborough, who was a Dyers Labourer. The G.Daughter, Annie May Jones and G.Son, Thomas Bernard Jones, aged 7 and 2 respectively are living with them. There is also a Ethel Jones, boarder, living with them and aged 16 who is a shoe hand, and she was born in Loughborough.

BY MR. JOHN BATSON Senr., IN 1912

Mr John Batson was the father of Mr. William Batson who was the licensee at both the "Rising Sun" and the "Traveller's Rest" Beer Houses.

Transcribed from the Leicester Chronicle - Saturday 25 May 1912

A WHITWICK NONAGENARIAN'S INTERESTING RECOLLECTIONS

Mr. John Batson, who lives with his son-in-law and daughter, Mr and Mrs. Bunce, in Brooks-Lane, Whitwick, reached his 90th birthday on Monday, and received the congratulations of numerous friends and neighbours. The old gentleman hails from Hardwick, Buckinghamshire, and prior to living at Whitwick stayed with his son, who was proprietor ([licensee](#)) of the Rising Sun Inn, Griffydam, until the public house ([Beer house](#)) was permanently closed (1908). In a conversation on Monday, he said he commenced work at ten years of age, before which he attended a charity school, receiving a new suit of clothes every three years. Starting at farm work, he was paid eighteen pence a week for seven days. Men labourers' at that time were paid 8s. or 9s. per week, and that at a time when bread cost a shilling per four pound loaf. The poorest people in those days, being unable to afford to buy bread, purchased barley meal, and from this he said, his parents made bread, and frequently this was the only food he had, except vegetables from their garden.

The old gentleman said that after he was married and had five children, he received but ten shillings a week. **Becoming a widower, he again married, and in all had thirteen children.** Of those now living, one is at Leicester and another at Luton, and a son ([William](#)), who kept the Rising Sun at Griffydam is the proprietor of an Inn at Mountsorrel. For very many years, he was in the service of Mr. Flowers at Hardwick, a noted horse breeder, and was later employed by Mr. Blunt of Breedon-on-the-Hill,

another noticeable Shire Horse breeder, who gained distinction at the Leicestershire and other shows.

Whilst with Mr. Flowers, Batson says he was entrusted with valuable animals, which were entered in various shows in all parts of England, and he recalls with pride that his master, in conversation with a gentleman, said that the only fault he could find with Batson, was that he was getting old. He was then sixty one and Mr. Flowers said he was very sorry but he could not "Cure" his old servant of old age. He remembers that a shire colt, the rearing of which, was left entirely to him, being brought up on cow's milk from birth selling for £200.

Batson has about thirty great grand children, and boasts that he can walk three miles an hour any day. This spring quite unaided, he dug and planted his son-in-law's garden. He was the first man to receive the old age pension at Griffydam Post Office, and now in addition has an old age annuity of 2s. 6d. per week from the Manchester Order of Oddfellows, of which he has been a member for 73 years, and he claims that he is the oldest member of the order in the Whitwick district.

Whilst not a teetotaller, he has taken only small quantities of beer, even when at farm work but has never smoked. As a member of the Whitwick Baptist congregation, he was visited on his birthday and congratulated by Mr. Bourne, a deacon of the church. All his life he has been free from any serious illness and on his ninetieth birthday was in a most cheerful and chatty mood and enjoyed a hearty dinner.

SOME "TRAVELLER'S REST" RELATED NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Leicester Chronicle – December 9th 1899

Ashby Police Court, Saturday – Before Mr. Geo. Moore (chairman), Canon Beaumont, Rev. C. T. Moore, Mr. J. H. Joyce, the Hon. Paulyn Hastings, and Mr. J. Hassall.

Drunk on Licensed Premises – Peter King and Arthur Edwards, colliers of Griffydam and Osgathorpe respectively, were summoned for being drunk on the licensed premises of **William Batson, at Griffydam (Traveller's Rest)**, on the 17th November. – P.C. Sharp stated that hearing a disturbance at the Travellers Rest, he went there, and found it was caused by King, who was using foul and threatening language outside. He then went in and witness following found him and Edwards were drunk. When Edwards came out he staggered. King and his wife afterwards came out, and King was beastly drunk. – Bramwell Hegwood, called for the prosecution, said he never told Superintendent Holloway that either of the defendants were drunk. – For the defence, Geo. Eyre, collier of Griffydam, who met defendants a little after eight o'clock, said they were sober enough when he met them. He did not know where they were going; it might have been to the Traveller's Rest. – **Defendants were fined 5. 6d. each, and costs 16s. 6d., distress, or seven days.**

Leicester Journal – December 20th 1899

Ashby Petty Sessions

BREAKING PUBLIC HOUSE WINDOWS. – Cooper Platts and James Holland, both of Griffydam, were charged with doing damage to a window in a house occupied by William Batson (**The Travellers Rest**), a beer-house keeper, at Griffydam on the 30th November.
- Prosecutor said that just before eleven o'clock, the defendants rapped at the door. He

spoke to them from the window upstairs and he moved from the window a yard or two when two half bricks were flung through the glass, breaking two panes, and afterwards another missile damaged the woodwork. He was positive that the defendants were those that had committed the damage, as he heard them talk beneath the window. He placed the damage at 2s. – Mrs. Batson and Rowell, the Parish Constable, also gave evidence, after which Mr. Sharpe address the Bench for the defence, and also called witnesses who swore that the defendants were not at the house at the period stated. – **The Magistrates dismissed the case.**

Leicester Chronicle – November 20th 1897

THE FATALITY AT GRIFFYDAM

An inquest was held at the Waggon and Horses Inn, Griffydham, on Saturday evening, before Mr. Coroner Deane, touching the death of Benjamin Barton, a farmer of Gelscoe, near Breedon, which occurred on Friday as the result of injuries received on the previous Tuesday, by being run over by a cart laden with coal. P.C. Adcock identified the body, and said deceased was 55 years of age. – **Thomas Booth, landlord of the Travellers' Rest, Griffydham**, said the deceased called at his house at 3.45 on Tuesday, Nov.9, in charge of a horse and cart laden with coal. He was with a collier named Hodges, and they left about five o'clock. When he drove away, deceased was standing on the shafts, leaning on the front of the cart, and he remarked that he should ride because his feet hurt him. About a quarter of an hour later, witness was told that he had been run over. - Jonas Knight, a bricklayer, of Griffydham, stated that about 5.15 he was going to his field, and when near the "Waggon and Horses" heard someone call out. He then saw a man, who told him there had been an accident, and on getting into the road found the deceased laying on his face. Witness raised him, and in reply to his questions deceased said he did not know how he fell off. He said his horse was a fresh one, and had gone up the road. Assistance was obtained, and deceased moved to Mr. Richards. – Dr. Villiers of Osgathorpe, who was called in, deposed that the deceased's right collar-bone, right shoulder blade, and several of the ribs on the right side were broken. The right lung had been injured by the broken ribs. Witness had attended the deceased till his death on Friday. He was conscious till the end, and told witness he was standing on the front of his cart, the horse was restive, and to steady himself he placed his hand on the coal, which gave way, and he fell under the wheel. When witness first saw him he was perfectly sober. Death was due to exhaustion from the injuries. – A verdict of accidental death was returned,

A "DOG AND GUN" MOUNTSORREL, RELATED NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

Leicester Evening Mail - Weds 02 Oct 1912

MOUNTSORREL BEERHOUSE KEEPER FINED AN UNDESIRABLE CUSTOMER

At Loughborough Petty Sessions today, in the first court, before Alderman W. Tidd (in the chair), Alderman W. Hanford, Messrs. W. H. Wooton and R. P. Allsebrooke.

William Batson, beerhouse keeper of Mountsorrel was summoned for permitting drunkenness on licensed premises on September 14. Mr. G. Rowlatt prosecuted, Mr. R. Lancaster defended, and Mr. R. S. Clifford, junr., watched the case on behalf of the owners.

Mr. Rowlatt said that on the evening of September 14th, P.C. Darling found a woman named Schofield lying disgustingly drunk on the footpath outside the "Dog and Gun". The woman had been refused drink at another public-house near, at 5 p.m. that day because of her condition. It was admitted that the woman went into the house at 5 o'clock or 5.30, and was allowed to remain until 7 o'clock, when she was turned out. During that time she was supplied with only one half pint. There was only the suggestion that she was admitted and supplied while in the house.

After police evidence, Mabel Barrs spoke to refusing the woman drink at another public-house, the "Bull and Mouth"; and Beatrice Kitchen, employed at this house, said the woman had apparently had quite enough when she went there.

Supt. Agar described it as one of the worst cases of drunkenness he had seen. when he was making enquiries in the case, the defendant told him that in his opinion the woman was ill, not drunk.

Mr. Lancaster submitted that the woman was perfectly sober when she went into the house; it was on account of her age and infirmities that she staggered. She was only supplied with one half-pint and did not drink all of it. The true reason in his opinion that the woman behaved in the way she did was that she intended to be locked up instead of going to the workhouse.

Defendant, who was away from home at the time, said he had been in the house since January 1909. He had held licenses for 27 years, and had not had a single conviction recorded against him.

Samuel Gibbons, quarryman, Mountsorrel, said he was standing on his doorstep about 5.30 when he noticed an old woman or tramp singing. She went as far as the Post-Office, some 60 yards away, walking without the slightest symptom of drunkenness.

Mary Anne Woodhouse corroborated, and Mrs. Jones, daughter of defendant, said she found the woman in the smoke room about 5.30. She asked for, and was supplied with a half-pint of beer. She was then quite sober. Subsequently, witness found the woman in the tap-room, but she was not supplied with any more drink. About 6.45. the woman was requested to leave, when she complained of being ill, and lay down on the pavement and again said she was ill. Witness did not know whether the woman was ill or shamming and sent for the policeman. She was sure the woman was not drunk.

By Mr. Rowlatt : Witness requested the woman to leave because of a complaint she had been interrupting the conversations of other customers.

Further evidence was given by Frank Wykes, the waiter and Arthur Tompkins.

The bench decided to convict, and imposed a fine of £1 and costs, expressing the hope that the defendant's license would not be prejudiced.

Mr. Clifford said the owners did not think it was necessary for a fresh tenant to go into the house.

THE CLOSURE OF THE TRAVELLER'S REST BEER HOUSE

The following newspaper report describes the purchase of the Traveller's Rest by Malcolm Allured of the "Showaddywaddy" rock group.

Burton Observer and Chronicle – July 7th 1978

POP STAR BUYS PUB

A member of Leicester's top pop group, Showaddywaddy, brought a pub last week. Malcolm Allured, attended at auction and bid for the Travellers' Rest Inn at Griffydam, near Ashby. It was knocked down to him at £36,750 and he paid a further £10,600 for a piece of land adjoining the inn. The sale of the pub, declared surplus to the requirements of the brewery who own it, attracted a lively interest in the area. Mr. Willoughby Garton, of Leicester, who was responsible for the sale said: "There were so many people that they could not all get into the pub and the auction had to be held in the garden, bidding was brisk". The transfer of the premises has been fixed for July 24th when the present tenant, Mr. Albert Abbott, who has been there for 25 years, will leave. The takeover date is on his 63rd birthday. He is not retiring but will concentrate on Electrical Contracting, a business he has run in conjunction with the public house. The new owner, Mr. Allured, aged 32, said: "I once had a small nightclub, and this is going to be a restaurant as well, catering for all ages. "It's nice to have another interest as well as the band".



The Travellers was demolished in 2002 and rebuilt as a pseudo farm courtyard of houses named Batsons' Court. The courtyard was given its name by a pupil from Griffydam Primary School who won a competition to name the new development. It was named after her ancestor, William Batson, who was recorded in the 1901 census as being the landlord at the Traveller's Rest, and described as being a beer retailer and a hewer in the coal mine.

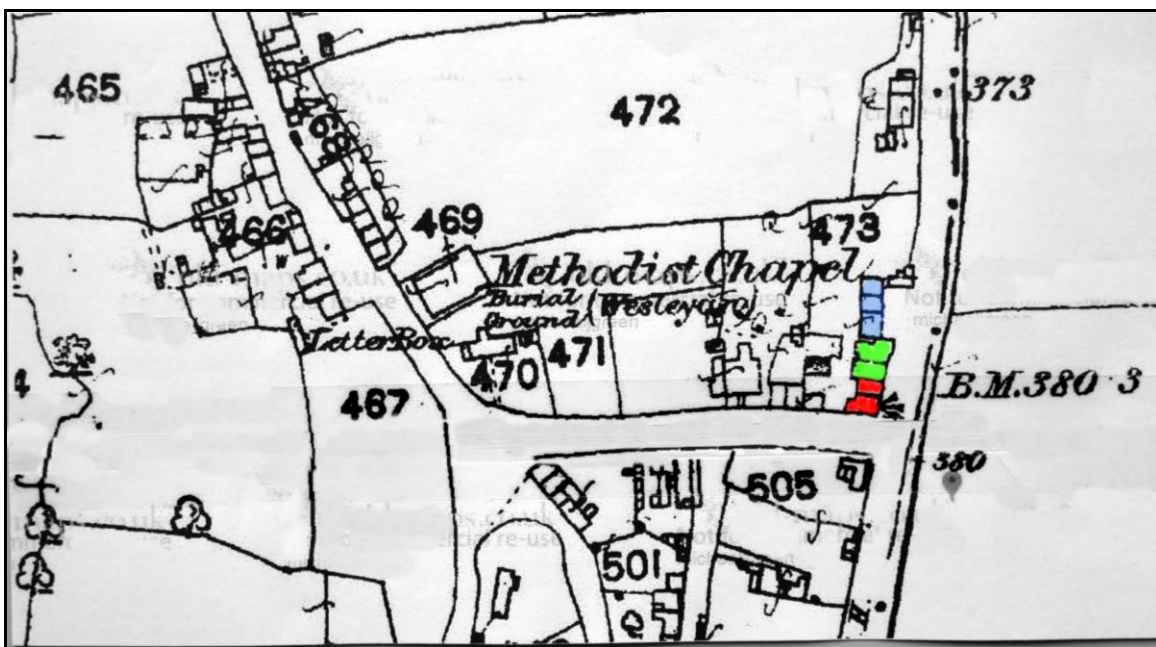
A HISTORY OF THE "RISING SUN" BEER HOUSE

LIST OF LICENSEES AT THE RISING SUN TAKEN FROM THE ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH REGISTER OF LICENSEES

Sign	Surname	Forename	Year	Month		Owner / Leaseholder	License Type
Rising Sun	Freeman	Mary	1878	24-Aug		Thomas Upton	Beerhouse
Rising Sun	Powdrill	George	1879	23-Aug		Thomas Upton	Beerhouse
Rising Sun	Upton	Thomas	1880	21-Aug		Thomas Upton	Beerhouse
Rising Sun	Upton	Thomas	1881	27-Aug		Thomas Upton	Beerhouse
Rising Sun	Chambers	John	1882	26-Aug		Thomas Upton	Beerhouse
Rising Sun	Chambers	John	1883	25-Aug		Thomas Upton	Beerhouse
Rising Sun	Chambers	John	1884	30-Aug		Thomas Upton	Beerhouse
Rising Sun	Chambers	John	1885	29-Aug		Thomas Upton	Beerhouse
Rising Sun	Batson	William	1886	28-Aug		Thomas Upton	Beerhouse
Rising Sun	Batson	William	1887	27-Aug		Thomas Upton	Beerhouse
Rising Sun	Batson	William	1888	25-Aug		Thomas Upton	Beerhouse
Rising Sun	Batson	William	1889	24-Aug		Thomas Upton	Beerhouse
Rising Sun	Batson	William	1890	23-Aug		Thomas Upton	Beerhouse
Rising Sun	Batson	William	1891	22-Aug		Andrew Tugby, Epping, MDX	Beerhouse
Rising Sun	Batson	William	1892	27-Aug		Andrew Tugby, Epping, MDX	Beerhouse
Rising Sun	Baker	William	1893	26-Aug		Andrew Tugby, Epping, MDX	Beerhouse
Rising Sun	Baker	William	1894	25-Aug		Andrew Tugby, Epping, MDX	Beerhouse
Rising Sun	Baker	William	1895	31-Aug		Andrew Tugby, Epping, MDX	Beerhouse
Rising Sun	Baker	William	1896	29-Aug		Andrew Tugby, Epping, MDX	Beerhouse
Rising Sun	Baker	William	1897	28-Aug		Andrew Tugby, Epping, MDX	Beerhouse
Rising Sun	Walker	Frederick H	1901	Census		Census	Beerhouse
Rising Sun	Baker	William	1905	04-Feb	License Expired - Beer House closed	Thomas Isons Exors	Beerhouse

The Rising Sun was closed in 1905 due to the license being refused by the magistrates (see newspaper article on page 22)

THE FOLLOWING IS TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PUBLICATION ENTITLED "NO. 27., TOP ROAD, GRIFFYDAM" WHICH APPEARS ON THE AUTHOR'S WEBSITE UNDER GRIFFYDAM & PEGG'S GREEN IN THE HOUSES AND GARDENS SUBSECTION



1881 SURVEYED O/S MAP SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE "RISING SUN" BEER HOUSE WHICH WAS THE TOP HALF OF THE BLOCK COLOURED GREEN

Thomas Upton purchased a property from Elizabeth Haywood in 1829 which was the bottom half of the block coloured green in the above map.

Thomas Upton, described as a potter, when he purchased the property from Elizabeth Haywood was born in Griffydham in 1800 and died on Oct 18th 1882 at the age of 82. Thomas married Mary Haywood who was born in Coleorton in 1800 and died on Feb 22nd 1883 at the age of 83. Thomas and Mary are both buried in Griffydham Wesleyan Methodist Chapel Graveyard. Thomas and Mary had one child, a son, named James (1834-1875), born in Griffydham, and referred to later.

Thomas Upton had become a Beer Retailer at some point, and he first appears as the owner / leaseholder of the "Traveller's Rest" Beer House, in partnership with Joseph Lager there from 1872 to 1878. The Licensing records for the "Rising Sun" Beer House start from 1878 (see the following table), which coincides with the date Thomas is last recorded at the "Traveller's Rest" Beer House. Although the Licensing Records show Thomas Upton as the owner of the "Rising Sun" Beer House in 1878 & 1879, Mary Freeman and George Powdrill are shown as the landlady and landlord respectively, suggesting that Thomas Upton was renting out the extended property which became the "Rising Sun" Beer house. Mary Freeman's husband Joseph had committed suicide in

July 1878 (see the newspaper report on page 41), hence his wife Mary being shown as the landlady on August 24th 1878.

In the 1871 census for Griffydam, James Upton, is recorded as a "Driver", aged 36, and born in Griffydam. He is married to Caroline, aged 37, born in Newmarket, Suffolk. They have 6 children, all born in Saffron Walden - Charlotte (13) ; Mary H (11) ; Annetta (7) ; Caroline (5) ; Eliza J (3) ; Charles (1). James had clearly been away for at least 14 years but had returned to his birth place with his family. Interestingly, the 1881 census for Griffydam confirms Thomas Upton as a retired publican aged 82 (died that year) living with his wife Mary, aged 79. However, living next door is Caroline Upton, now a widow, as Thomas and Mary's son James had died in 1875, and she is given as a publican. **This is important as it clearly establishes the location of the "Rising Sun" Beer House**". The year before James died in 1875 they had had another daughter Alice, now aged 7.

We need to accept that there are mistakes in the following licensing records which was often the case, for various reasons. The author takes the view that where it shows Thomas Upton as the Licensee for 1880/1 & 1881/2, that should read Caroline Upton, as by then she had moved into the "Rising Sun" Beer House, next to Thomas and Mary.

The records show Thomas Upton as the owner of the "Rising Sun" till 1890, but he died in 1882 and his wife Mary a year later. It is quite likely that Caroline Upton inherited both Thomas Upton's house and the Rising Sun, meaning that after their death, she moved into her father in law's house and leased / rented out the Rising Sun. Caroline was not in the 1891 census, and it is possible she had died just prior to that which would answer the question as to why Thomas Upton is shown as the owner of the Rising Sun till 1890, which should read from 1882 to 1890 as Caroline Upton.

From 1886 to 1892, William Batson became the licensee and subsequently became licensee of the Traveller's Rest beer house in 1898. A detailed history of the Batson family is featured in the history of the Traveller's Rest, however, as William Batson's father John Batson lived with him while he was licensee at the Rising Sun, it seemed appropriate to include the following piece written by John Batson here:-

SOME RISING SUN RELATED NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

As reported below an attempt was made to renew the Rising Sun license but this was refused by the magistrates.

Melton Mowbray Mercury & Uppingham News – June 25th 1908

LEICESTERSHIRE LICENSING AUTHORITY

The Rising Sun, Worthington (Griffydam) – Supt. Lockton said this was an **ante** -1869 house. There was one license to every 119 persons in the village, the licenses numbering eight (*this would have included Pegg's Green*). The nearest to the house were The Griffin, 286 yards; the Red Lion, 352 yards and the Traveller's Rest, 250 yards. The house was structurally unsuitable, there being insufficient accommodation for the tenant and customers. The magistrates refused the license.

Leicester Journal – July 5th 1878

Suicide – An inquest was held at The Red Lion Inn, Griffydam, before Mr. Deane, Coroner on 28th Ult, on the body of Joseph Freeman, 53 years of age, who was found dead in a field by Sarah Haywood with his throat cut – Mr. Donovan, Surgeon said that he had attended the deceased for general debility, and he was in a despondent state, suffering from congestion of the lungs. Upon examining the body he found a wound extending the length of the lower jaw, but not deep except along the larynx, which was about two thirds severed. From the appearance of the cut, he had no doubt it was self inflicted. **Deceased kept the Rising Sun.** Sarah Haywood said that on going to the spring to fetch a bucket of water (Chalybeate Spring near the brook), she saw a hat and some blood on the ground in a field adjoining the road, and on looking about, saw the body in the brook. Cheatle Smedley being at Griffydam that day, and hearing that a man was in the brook, went thither, and found the body of deceased lying sideways in the water. He and another lifted him out, and found that his throat was cut, and a razor lying about a yard and a half from the bank side. - **The jury returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased cut his throat with a razor, not being at the time in a sound state of mind.**

Ashby Rural District Council

.....One case of Scarlet Fever occurred at Griffydam.....The medical Officer gave the owner of the cottages at Pegg's Green instructions to repair drains and erect new privies and ash bins and to the owner of "**The Rising Sun**", Griffydam, to repair privy etc.