

WORTHINGTON PUBLIC HOUSES
THE HOLLY BUSH INN (CLOUD HILL)
THE OLD SWAN INN
THE MALT SHOVEL INN
WILLIAM THE FOURTH INN



DRAFT - ONGOING PROJECT

BY SAMUEL T STEWART - FEBRUARY 2023
UPDATED MAY 2023

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Permission was given to the author by the Rev. John Dawson to use information and photographs from his book entitled "Hand-me-down-Hearsays" in his own history publications relating to Worthington, which has been the case here. John confirmed no copyright existed on any of the content.

PREFACE

Worthington, a village in NW Leics, and former Chapelry / Township of Breedon, is of considerable historical interest.

The Domesday Book of 1086 records Henry de Ferrers as holding four carucates of land at "Werditone".

Nichols (the Leicestershire historian), wrote c. 1802 that the old manor had been "for many years ruinous".

A survey of 1817 gave the population as 1,134 people living in 246 houses. This would have included the hamlets of Griffith's Dam, and the liberty of Newbold juxta-Worthington. Lord Ferrers was Lord of the Manor at that time. He and Mr. Mynors Bulstrode owned land here, but most belonged to Nathaniel C. Curzon.

In 1870-72, John Marius Wilson's Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales described Worthington as a Township / Chapelry, including three hamlets (Newbold, Griffydam and Gelsmore) and part of the Parish of Breedon, having a station and being a postal town, with a population of 1,172 in 252 houses, with the manor belonging to the Earl of Ferrers.

Until the 19th century, the village was rural and numerous farms provided the main employment for the men folk. In 1955 there were still six working farms in Worthington.

A council housing estate was built in Worthington in 1957, thereby increasing the population, and in the 2011 census it was recorded as 1,461.

COMMENT

This publication is an ongoing research project and additional photographs and new information relating to the subject matter would be welcomed by the author, particularly with respect to the "William the Fourth Inn"

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**THE "HOLLY BUSH INN" - FORMERLY ON THE
SLOPES OF CLOUD HILL WOOD ADJACENT TO
THE SOUTHERN END OF CLOUD HILL QUARRY**

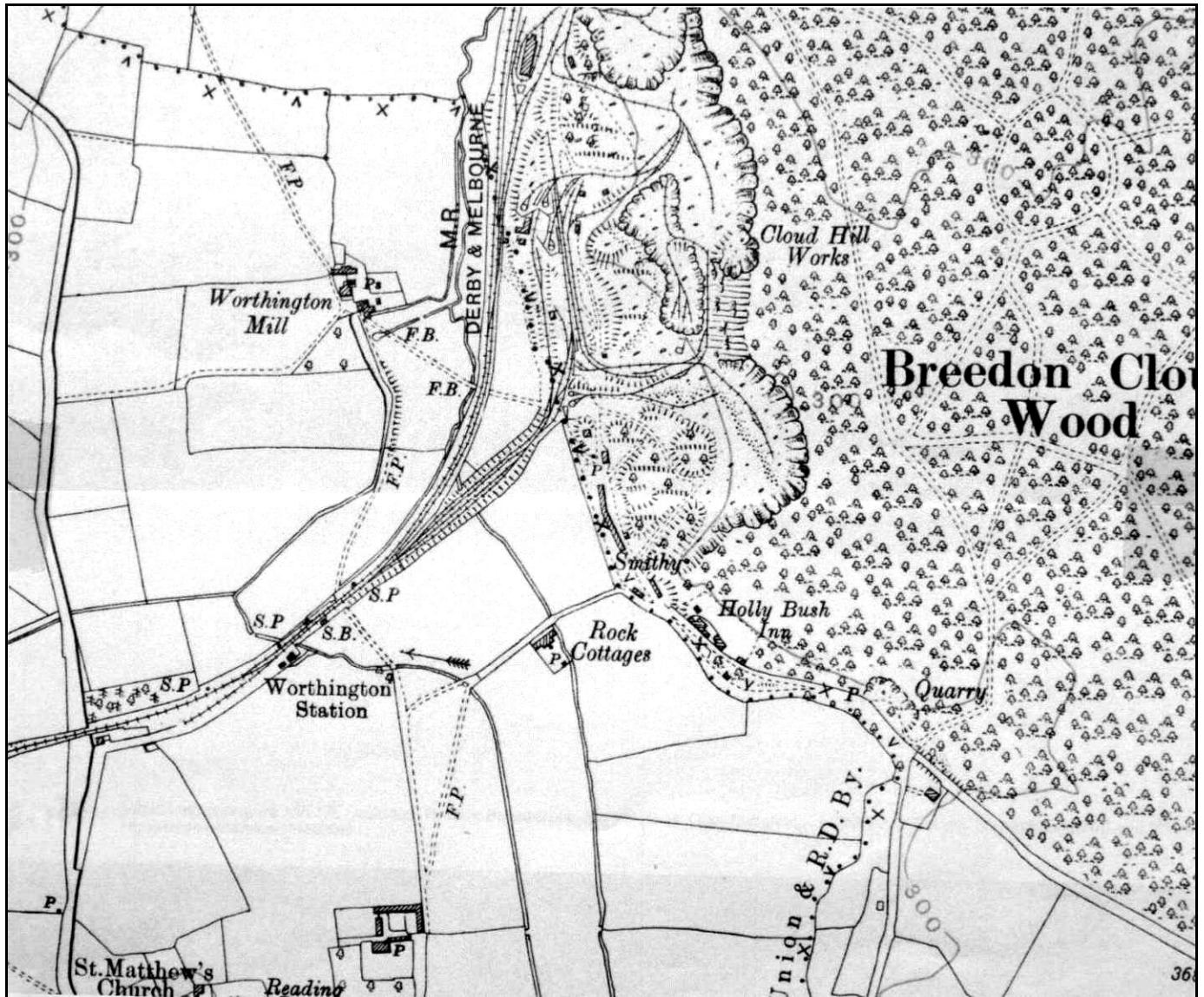
**(plus supplementary information on the Hinsley family and
Woodside Cottage)**



THE HOLLY BUSH INN



THE HOLLY BUSH INN - 1955



1925 PUBLISHED O/S MAP OF CLOUD HILL QUARRY

The location of the "Holly Bush Inn" is shown on the above map, just to the south of where the quarry had been extended to in 1925. Woodside Cottage is shown to the south east of the Holly Bush.

Inns were commonly built next to coal mines or quarries and there are numerous examples of these in the area. It is reasonable to assume that this was the reason for the building of the Holly Bush in this location. Imbibers after a hard days work at the quarry, no doubt covered in dust, would have visited it on their way home, as related in the story by Ralph Roberts on the next page.

It is not know when the Holly Bush was first opened, but it was certainly plying its trade in 1842 as it appeared in the Ashby-de-la-Zouch first register for licensed houses list at that time, the year when the first "Penny Post" was introduced. *Strangely, unlike other public houses in the area, there are no further records available of the licensees in the available licensing records.*

The Holly Bush was owned by Breedon & Cloud Hill Quarry Ltd and the manager of the inn at one time was a Mr. Hines who was a Thatcher by trade and would go to Scotland for Mr. Shields the chairman of the quarry to thatch cottages for him.

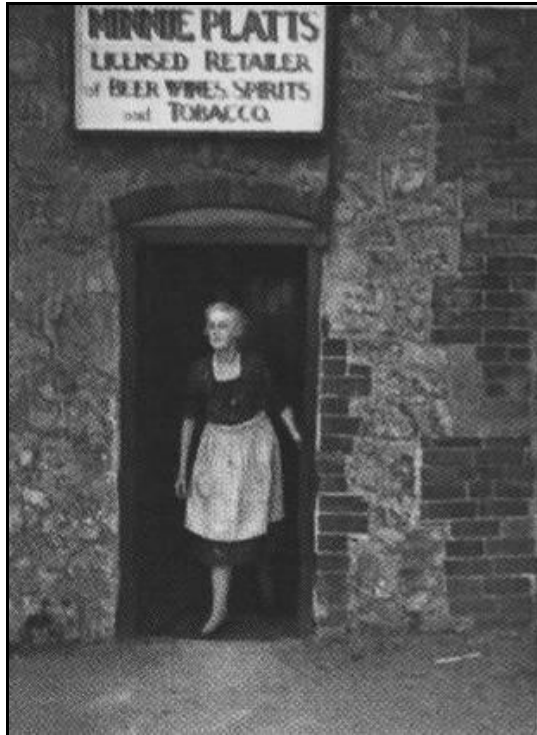


MR. HINES

There is a suspicion that the inn did not adhere to the normal licensing rules and being located in an out of the way situation it would not have been regularly under the watchful eye of the local constable. It was said that you could always get a drink at the Holly Bush no matter what time of day. Being out of the way there was no police interference. **No doubt the quarry owners had an influence on this, in order to keep the men happy.**

In the book 'Hand-me-down Hearsays' by John Dawson, there is an entry by Ralph Roberts which states:-

The men who worked at Cloud Hill used to go to the Holly Bush, and on pay days, the wives had to go to Cloud Hill for the money or else they wouldn't have got any. Although the pub was supposed to be licensed, it was open all hours, and they were getting 20 to 25 shillings a week then (1911/12). Mind you, there wasn't much drunkenness. I mean, although beer was cheap at 2d per pint, 4d at best, it didn't affect them. Working at the quarry, you needed a good drink.



THE POPULAR LANDLADY MINNIE PLATTS AT THE DOOR OF THE HOLLY BUSH IN 1963. TO THE RIGHT IS MR. COX, GAMEKEEPER TO LORD DONINGTON WHO WAS MINNIE PLATT'S FATHER c.1900



IN THE BAR OF THE HOLLY BUSH IN 1963 SHORTLY AFTER CLOSING TIME. AMONGST THE CUSTOMERS ARE REG (WEDGER) JORDAN AND OK HINSLEY



THE CLUB ROOM IN THE HOLLY BUSH WAS USED FOR PARTIES AND FUNCTIONS. HERE CELEBRATING VICTORY IN THE 2nd WORLD WAR ARE MR & MRS. JORDAN, "DUCKIE" PLATTS, OLIVER SMITH, ARTHUR HINSLEY AND AT THE BACK TO THE RIGHT, BIG JIM SMITH

Transcribed from the Leicester Evening Mail - Friday 31 December 1954

COALVILLE PARTY

More than 40 guests attended a party for old people and widows held at the Holly Bush inn at Cloud Hill near Coalville, last night.

A supper was followed by an entertainment in which Mr. C. Tyler (Coalville), Mr. M. Shepherd (Coleorton) and Mr. M. Bennett (Moir) took part.

The arrangements were made by Mr. W. Harper, Mrs. M. Plant and a committee.



**THE QUORN HUNT WHO USED TO MEET REGULARLY AT THE HOLLY BUSH
ARE SHOWN HERE IN 1958**



**CHARLIE SHIELDS WITH QUORN HUNTSMAN GEORGE BARKER TAKING A
WARMING STYRUP CUP IN THE TOP YARD OF THE HOLLY BUSH
BEFORE THE OFF IN 1958**



THE QUORN HUNT PASSING "THE DELPH" ON THE WAY TO THEIR MEET AT THE HOLLY BUSH, CLOUD HILL IN 1963

THE CLOSURE OF THE HOLLY BUSH

The 26th June 1964, marked the end of a long innings for the Holly Bush Inn when an application was not renewed by the Ashby Petty Divisional Session, and shortly following this, the Inn was pulled down in 1965 to make way for the quarry to be extended.

Mr. A. Pollard, clerk to Ashby Magistrates said that there had been no violent objection to it. "The truth of the matter is that this inn is well away from the village, and Breedon and Cloud Hill Lime Works Ltd who are quarrying nearby, and who own the licensed house, soon expect their workings to extend near to the premises". Pollard called Police Sergeant A. H. Illingworth, who said that he made several visits to the Holly Bush. "It is in an isolated position about a mile from Breedon, which has three public houses, and the inn does little trade" he said. Sergeant Illingworth said that the greatest number of people he had ever seen on the premises on a Friday night was 20.

Mr. E.A. Crane, who appeared for the owners and also for the licensee, Mr. Thomas Kinsey, said there was no objection to the application. Minnie Platts left on 1st April 1964 and Thomas Kinsey continued as licensee until the public house finally closed its doors on 5th July 1964.



**THE END OF THE HOLLY BUSH INN
A RUSTON BUCRYUS 30 RB QUARRY EXCAVATOR, EXPERTLY DRIVEN BY
DEREK HICKLING, BEGINS THE TASK OF DEMOLISHING THE HOLLY BUSH
IN 1965**

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION ON THE HINSLEY FAMILY AND WOODSIDE COTTAGE

The following, by Eric Hinsley, appeared in the April 2002 edition of the Parish Times:-

I was born in 1918 and brought up in a cottage owned by the quarry near the Holly Bush public house on the Woodside by Cloud Hill Wood. The scene is very different now. the Holly Bush and the cottages are gone, pulled down in about 1965. Our cottage stood about where the viewing platform looks down to the quarry bottom.

My father Arthur was the blacksmith at the quarry for more than 45 years. The cottages were on the corner of the Middle Brand. Electricity was installed about 1935, but up until 1945 when mains water was put in, it had to be carried by pail from the Holly Bush and the cottages. I remember mother making nettle pop and collecting herbs from the hedgerows to make herb beer. Father used to keep two or three pigs, and I remember what trouble it was getting them out of the wood if they once broke in. Cloud Wood was very different then with large oak trees before they were felled during the war. Near to our cottage at the entrance to Cloud Wood at the end of the Middle Brand was a small rock face called "The Delph", where we picked violets and

primroses. A "Delph" was an area where stone was quarried, and this was a favourite climbing haunt of village lads. And when one reached the top there were sometimes wild strawberries to eat. The Delph is thought to be shown on the preceding 1925 map as a small stone quarry.



WOODSIDE COTTAGE c.1947 - DEMOLISHED IN 1965



THREE GENERATIONS OF THE HINSLEY FAMILY SITTING ON THE WALL AT WOODSIDE COTTAGE



WALLACE HINSLEY IN THE GARDEN AT WOODSIDE COTTAGE c.1947

THE OLD SWAN INN



**The Old Swan Inn c.1900,
when William Cooper would have been the landlord
thought to have closed c.1994, although it was advertised for auction in
July 1984**



**A rear view of the Old Swan Inn c.1955
Opposite can be seen the end of St. Matthews Church**



The above extract from the 1855 O/S Map shows the location of the "Old Swan Inn" diagonally opposite to St. Matthew's Church

It was quite normal in the 1700's and early 1800's for Alehouses, as they were known then, to be a room in a farm houses. The licensing laws did not require the Alehouse to be registered with a name, only a location was necessary. The wife would have normally looked after the ale house and some served basic food items to travellers, when the licensee would have been referred to as a victualler. It is thought that this is how the Swan Inn would have started its life.

It was not until a new licensing act came into force around 1825 that the licensee had to register a name for the Inn or Public House as they became known as. It was also necessary for at least one person (not the licensee) to put up a surety of £10. We can see from the following that the name of the Old Swan Inn had already been established by 1775, although the Ale House records don't specify it (see page 17).

In 1825, under West Goscote - William Mee was listed as the licensee of the Swan Inn with John Nichlinson standing surety. The Ashby de la Zouch - "Ale House recognizance" records strongly suggest that William Mee was the licensee pre 1825 and going back to 1782. Prior to that it appeared to be in the hands of Hannah Mee (presumed to be his mother and recorded as a widow) from 1762. She was preceded by William Mee (presumed to be his father and Hannah's wife) from 1753 when the available licensing records began.

Between 1827 when William Mee was still the licensee, and 1842, no licensing records are available, however, the fact that in 1842 Joseph Mee is recorded as the licensee, suggests that the Mee family continued to be licensees of the Old Swan Inn. Joseph Mee continued to hold the license until 1854 when it was transferred to Mary Mee for a few months, but by 1855 another William Mee had become the licensee. He was also a Wheelwright and an oil stone manufacturer held the license until 1891 when George & John Mee took over for two years followed by George Mee till 1897 and then back to a William Mee for a further year only.

The license went out of the Mee families hands when William Cooper and subsequently Mary Cooper became the licensees until 1936 when Charles Frederick Barden took over the license. No further records have been located by the author from 1936 onwards. **It is quite remarkable, assuming the author's interpretation of the licensing records are correct, that the Mee family held the license of an English public house for 144 years.**

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

The type of license for the Old Swan Inn given in the licensing records is too confusing and inaccurate to serve any purpose in recording it. The same applied to the Malt Shovel Inn. It must be accepted that these old transcribed licensing records are subject to errors and confusion.

From 1872 till mid 1889, William Mee is shown as the owner / leaseholder of the Old Swan. He must have died, as his executors held it in the following year. It was then purchased by Lord Donington who held it till mid 1897 followed by his trustees till 1920 when the licensing records show Alton & Co. Ltd, brewery, (a Derby based brewery) were leaseholders / owners of the Old Swan till records ceased in 1936.

Alton's were taken over by Stretton Derby Brewery Ltd in 1903 but continued to run as a separate concern till its closure in 1922. **This casts some doubt on the information given in the licensing records.** However, it seems that Allied purchased their offices as a local base for Inde Coope (East Midlands) before turning them into the Wardwick Tavern, and we know that Inde Coope owned the Old Swan in 1984 when it was advertised for auction. Therefore, it is quite possible the records should have shown Inde Coope as the owners from 1922.



Taking refreshments outside the Old Swan Inn in 1930. Standing at the back on the right is Mr. Cooper, the landlord of the Swan at that time. Others enjoying a drink in the sunshine are:- Front left - Tom Fairbrother, holding the jug, next to him is Tom Hickling ; on the right of Tom - Oliver Smith ; and on the extreme right is Joe Walker, later to become the landlord of the Malt Shovel Inn.

The earliest published historical record of the Old Swan Inn found by the author goes back to 1775 in the form of a newspaper article which is transcribed below. A copy of the original follows on the next page.

TWO 18TH CENTURY NEWSPAPER REPORTS

Transcribed from the Leicester Journal -Saturday 20th April 1771

THE SWAN INN, WORTHINGTON

*To be sold to the Best Bidder, together or separate, on Friday 10th May next, between the hours of 2 and 6 o' clock in the afternoon, at the house of Hannah Mee, known by **the sign of "The Swan" in Worthington**, in the County of Leicester, subject to such conditions as shall be then and there produced, if not before disposed of - The estate of the late William Tomlinson, of Worthington aforesaid, deceased, consisting of a farm house, barn and outhouses in good repair, 18 acres of enclosed ground, meadow and doles, and 50 acres and 1 rood of arable land, with right of common on Breedon Brand lanes and Gellsmoore ; and also about 70 quarters of malt.*

For further particulars, enquire of Thomas Haskinson, of Wykin, in the County of Leicester ; or of George Jacques, of Worthington aforesaid, who will show the premises.

[This confirms as stated on page 15 that Hannah Mee was the licensee at the Swan at this time.](#)

Transcribed from the Leicester Journal - Saturday 12th August 1775

To be sold to the best bidder, at the [Swan Inn, Worthington](#), on the 19th day of August, under such conditions as shall then be produced : an estate situate in Worthington, in the county of Leicester, the property of John Belsher, deceased, consisting of one Messuage, with conveniency for two Tenements, a Barn, Cow-house, Garden, and Orchard, with a right of Common, upon those Commons, called Brand, Gelsmore, Griffydam, Newbold Hurst, and Worthington Fields. --

For further particulars Enquire of William Frearson of Worthington aforesaid, who will show the premises.

TO be Sold to the best Bidder, at the Swan in Worthington on the 19th day of August, under such Conditions as shall be then produced : An Estate situate in Worthington in the County of Leicester, the property of John Belsher, deceased, consisting of one Messuage, with conveniency for two Tenements, with a Barn, Cow-house, Garden, and Orchard, together with a right of Common, upon the Commons, call'd, Brand, Gelsmore, [Griffydam](#), Newbold-hurst, and Worthington Fields. ————— For further particulars Enquire of William Frearson of Worthington aforesaid, who will shew the premises.

A SELECTION OF RELATED NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Transcribed from the Leicester Mercury – November 15th 1856

ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH PETTY SESSIONS

William White, Michael Richards and Frederick Haywood, were charged by Elisha Senior, Gamekeeper to Earl Ferers with assaulting him on, October 7th, at Worthington. Complainant said he was at Worthington Wake, and met White, who asked him to lend him his gun to shoot a swallow. Told him to go on and walked as far as Tivey's Public House ([The Malt Shovel](#)). White followed him there and said he would like to punch his head. Told him to go away and said and said he did not want anything to do with him. White leaned his head forward, said he could get him and would like to worry him and laid held of complainant's dog's nose and twisted it. He also spat in his face (complainant's) thrice. Subsequently he went to Mee's Public House ([The Old Swan Inn](#)), and White as he was going in seized him by the collar, and after teasing him some time struck him a severe blow with his fist. Upon that he (complainant) pulled off his coat and went at him in earnest. The other defendants then came up and assisted White. In the struggle, complainant fell down and on trying to get up, found his leg was injured. Being conveyed home, Mr. Dolman, of Melbourne, examined his leg and found a small bone broken, and the ankle severely damaged.

Transcribed from the Leicester Chronicle – September 9th 1857

ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS

Before T. Mowbray, Esq., and the Rev. J. M. Echelaz

Joseph Jackson of Worthington, was charged by Thomas Mee, of that place, with assaulting him, on the 16th of August. They had, with a mutual friend, *clubbed* for “a sup of drink” on the day in question, being Sunday ; but as the publican refused to supply the “lush”, a quarrel ensued, and the assault complained of was the consequence. **The case was dismissed, and the complainant ordered to pay the costs, 10s. 6d.**

Transcribed from the Leicester Mercury – October 18th 1862

ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS

William Weston and Thomas Edwards were charged by P.C. Peberdy with creating a disturbance at Worthington on Sunday, the 5th inst., being Worthington Wake, there were a great many persons assembled at the Public Houses drinking and quarrelling. **Fined 17s. or 1 months hard labour**

Transcribed from the Daily Mail - Saturday 20 June 1868

Samuel Bailey charged Geo. Nice with unlawfully assaulting him at Worthington, on the 5th inst.

On the above night, complainant and defendant were in the **Old Swan Inn**, Worthington, and being elevated with the strong ale both began to discuss political matters, the theme of conversation being generally the forthcoming election. Both waxed hot in the dispute as to who would be the successful candidate, and it was alleged that in the heat of the moment defendant rose from his seat and knocked complainant's hat off.-----A number of witnesses having been called on both sides, the Bench dismissed the case.

Transcribed from the Leicester Mail - Saturday 01 May 1869

TO SELL BY AUCTION

On Wednesday, May 5th 1869 at Breedon-on-the-Hill and Worthington

About 50 lots of Elm, Ash, and Alder TIMBER, CORDWOOD, &c., the property of N. C. Curzon, Esq.

The auctioneer will be glad to meet his Friends at the **Old Swan Inn**, Worthington, at 11 o'clock. Mr. Mawrey, the keeper, Worthington, will show the lots.

Catalogues may be had on application to the

Transcribed from the Leicester Chronicle – September 10th 1870

ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS

Wm. Mee, of the Swan Inn, Worthington, was charged with keeping his house open for the sale of beer during prohibited hours, on Sunday, the 21st ult. – P.C. Weston said that owing to frequent complaints having been made, he watched the house of defendant, and saw a number of navies go into the house and defendant supplied them with drink. – Defendant said the navies did come into the house and asked for beer but he refused them ; he did, however, with water from a jug. – **Fined £2, including costs, or in default twenty one days hard labour.**

Transcribed from the Leicester Journal – May 28th 1886

SAD DEATH THROUGH DRINKING. – On Monday Mr. Henry Deane, coroner for North Leicestershire, held an inquest at the **Old Swan Inn**, Worthington, relative to the death of a woman named Ann Dakin, aged 70 years. – Jane Cooper, wife of James Cooper, labourer, said that deceased had lived in a home by herself. Witness lived close to her, and had been waiting on her. She had been ill lately and was attended by Dr. Serres of Osgathorpe. On Friday evening about five minutes past six o'clock, witness went into the house, and found deceased lying with her face on the floor and her legs in bed. Witness put her in bed and sent for a Mrs. Shaw, who came shortly afterwards. Witness spoke to the deceased, but she made no responses. And she then sent for the police and a medical man. She had found the deceased in that position on many occasions, and had got up in the night and found her so. The deceased was addicted to drinking, and was in drink on Friday. Witness was with her on Friday about half past five o'clock, and she was not sober then. A half-gallon bottle of whiskey stood on the floor against the washstand, which she could reach by leaning out of bed, and a glass and jug of water were on the wash-stand. Witness had helped deceased to undress at three o'clock, as she was then helpless from drink. – **The jury returned a verdict that the cause of death was apoplexy, arising from a fall out of bed whilst drunk.**

Transcribed from the Hinckley News - Saturday 21 August 1886

**Worthington, Leicestershire
Valuable Freehold Property
By Messrs. GARTON and AMATT,**

At the Swan Inn, Worthington, on Thursday, the 2nd day of September, 1886, at Four for Five o'clock in the Afternoon, subject to such conditions of Sale as will be produced, in one Lot.

All that MESSUAGE or DWELLING-HOUSE and BLACKSMITH'S SHOP adjoining, with garden, paddock, outbuildings, and appurtenances thereto belonging, situate at Worthington, in the county of Leicester, now and for 22 years past in the occupation of Mr. William Baxter, having a frontage to the main street of 48 feet, and containing altogether an area of one acre or thereabouts.

To view, apply to the tenant, and further particulars may be obtained of the Auctioneers, Loughborough ; or of

TOONE and BARTLETT,
Solicitors, Loughborough

The Blacksmith's Shop referred to above is identified on the following extract from the 1885 O/S map.

William Baxter is given in Trade Directories dated 1875, 1877 and 1880 as the village Blacksmith.

Other Blacksmiths were given in various Trade Directories in
Worthington :-

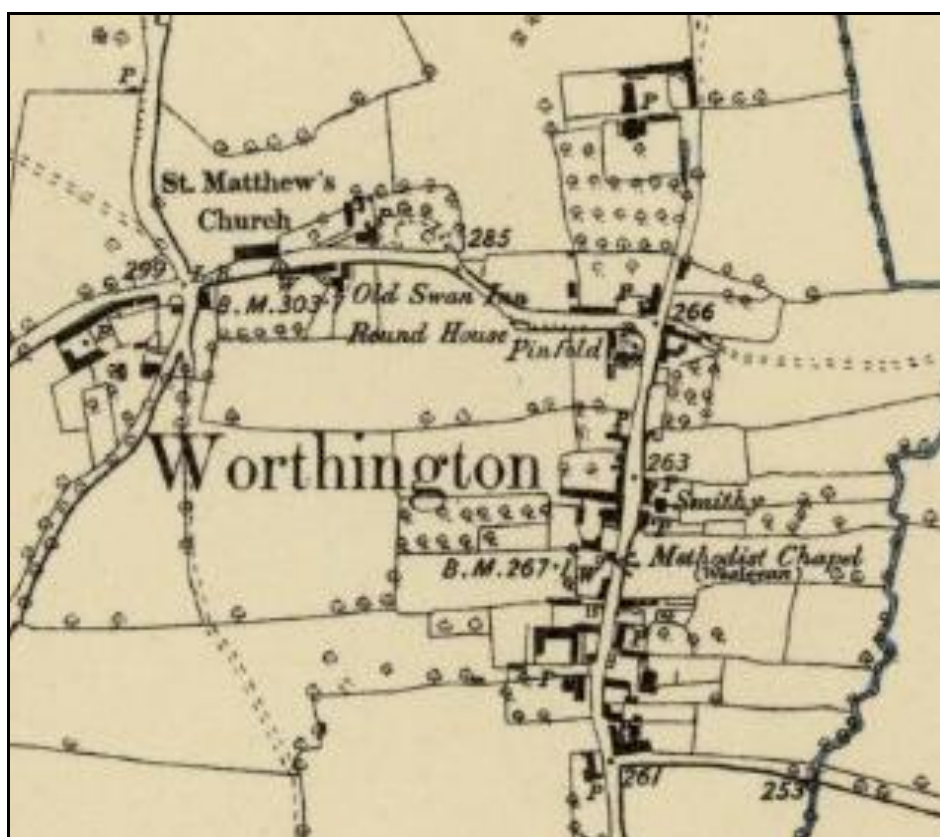
1855 - George Varley, Joseph Mee and Thomas Shaw

1861 - George Varley

1863 - Thomas Varley

1891 - William Varley

1892 - Samuel Mason



Transcribed from the Leicester Daily Mercury - Thurs 03 April 1980

TUG O' WAR TEAM GIVE OUT CHARITY HAUL

a Tug o' War team that abandoned the rope and turned itself into a charity organisation, raised £700 for good causes last year.

The Newbold, Coleorton Tug o' War charity made its presentation at the **Swan Inn**, Worthington, presenting £300 for the Staunton Harold Cheshire Home, another £300 for a pensioner's outing, and £100 for a parish wheel chair.

The chairman, Mr. David Stevenson said the wheel chair would be loaned to families who needed it.

Staunton Harold's cheque was received by the home's warden Mr. Robert Leader, who told the donors that without such charitable help, the home would be unable to balance its budget.

The Tug o' War club was formed about 11 years ago.

Transcribed from the Leicester Daily Mercury - Saturday 19 May 1984

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT OF AUCTION - JULY 11th

Lot 1 :

**PUBLIC HOUSE
THE SWAN INN, WORTHINGTON
LEICESTERSHIRE**

On instruction from Inde Coope Ltd, these freehold licensed premises will be offered for auction on July 11th. The property is detached and comprises public house and living accommodation. Site extends to nearly 2000 square yards. To include car park and beer garden.

Lot 2 :

**POTENTIAL BUILDING LAND
ADJOINING THE SWAN INN, WORTHINGTON**

Comprising a cleared site of 1,000 square yards or thereabouts and having road frontage of 75ft. Outline planning permission for two detached bungalows being applied for.

THE MALT SHOVEL INN



Upper Photograph - c.1955 - Henry Brooks on his Ferguson tractor passing the Malt Shovel on the corner of Town End, Main Street & Bull Hill

Lower Photograph - 1906 - Town end, looking back into the village. On the corner with Bull Hill Lane. Near left is Town End cottage



An aerial view of the Malt Shovel Inn c.1956. The adjoining Malt Shovel cottages on Bull Hill lane were later demolished.



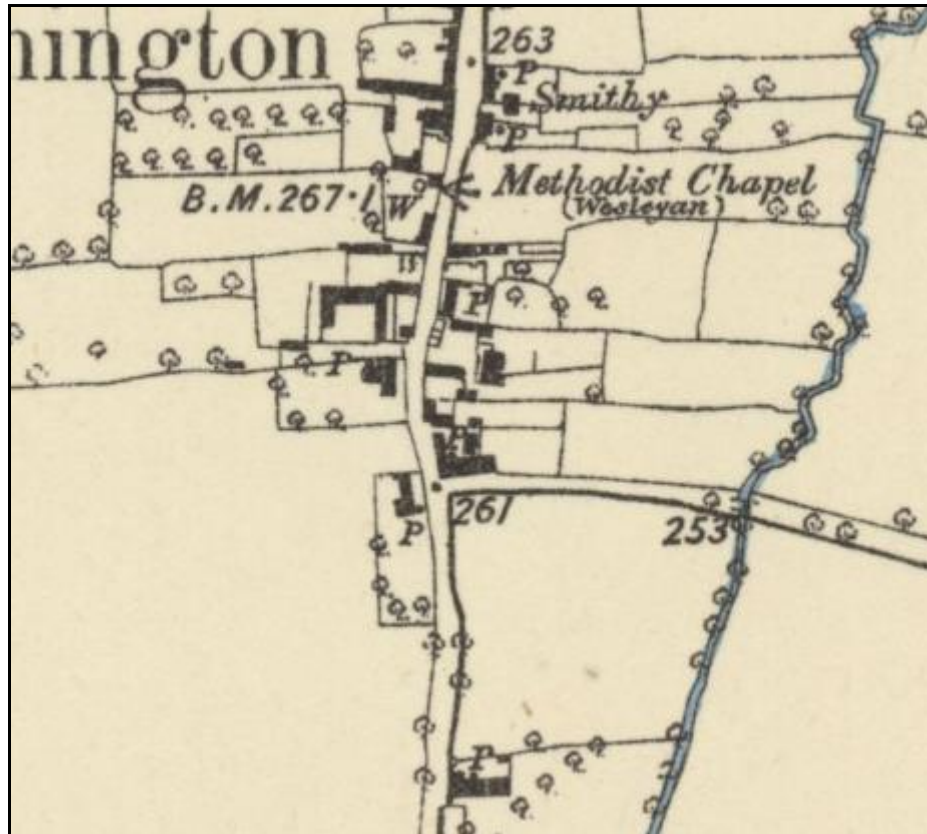
**In the bar of the Malt Shovel c.1962
From L to R - Demma Watkins, Billy King, Dorothy Woodhall (nee Sommerton), Henry Menzies, and Johnny Brownlow.
Johnny is trying to hide under the collar of his coat as he should have been working at Lount pit at the time.**



The above extract from the 1806 enclosure map shows that the cottages pictured in the top photograph on the preceding page had been built at that time, but the extension at right angles to them and parallel to main street of which the Malt Shovel is now part, was built later (see upper photograph on preceding page).

It also worthy of note that the lane which runs up to meet Bull Hill has the name Frearson on it on the above map. It is thought that this was named after the prominent Frearson family of Worthington. William Frearson was parish clerk from 1818 to 1825 in Worthington where he was born and lived. The post was previously held by his uncle, also William Frearson and his grandfather Samuel Frearson. After William Frearson's vacated the post in 1825, his brother Lovett, born in Worthington in 1789, held it from 1826 to 1853. In 1877 Abraham Frearson was the parish clerk.

According to the Tivey website from which certain information is taken, they were all literate and their own signatures appeared on their marriage certificates at the time.



The above extract from the 1855 O/S map shows the cottages at right angles to the Malt shovel as we know it today, which were later demolished

It seems likely, that the Malt Shovel Inn would have taken its name from the Brew House, which was attached along with a stable, cow-shed and other outbuildings. The Inn, outbuildings and adjoining cottages were put up for auction in 1862 when James Tivey was the landlord. The newspaper report concerning this appears later.

As explained under the Old Swan Inn, it was not until a new licensing act came into force around 1825 that the licensee had to register a name for the Inn or Public House as they became known as. It was also necessary for at least one person (not the licensee) to put up a surety of £10.

In 1825, under West Goscote - William Johnson was listed as the licensee of the Swan Inn with John Nichlinson standing surety as was also the case at the Old Swan Inn at that time. William Johnson was also the landlord in 1826 and 1827. No further records have been found by the author till 1842, when Matthew Richards was the licensee. John Richards then became the licensee from 1843 till August 29th 1849 when the license was transferred to Richard Auribrook who held it until the 26th August 1853 when the license was transferred to James Tivey who held it until August 26th 1865. It was then transferred to his widow Louisa Tivey who held it to August 25th 1867. Joseph Mee then held the license from August 22nd 1868 till 21st August 1869 when it was transferred to Jane Winfield who held it until 1876 following which

James Winfield became the licensee until August 22nd 1891. James Winfield was given as a wheelwright and shopkeeper in 1891/92 trade directories, suggesting he had a shop incorporated within the Malt Shovel. Charles Mee then took over the license and was the landlord until 1925 when the license was taken over by Frederick Stacey. On 2nd February 1929, John Berkin Williams / Williamson took over and he was the licensee until 1936 when further records have not been located. However, a newspaper report recorded that John Arthur Conkay was granted the license in 1937.

It is likely, that prior to 1825, the Malt Shovel was an Ale House. However, it has not been able to prove this from the Ale House records.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

The type of license for the Malt Shovel Inn given in the licensing records is too confusing and inaccurate to serve any purpose in recording it. The same applied to the Old Swan Inn. It must be accepted that these old transcribed licensing records are subject to errors and have information missing.

No owner / leaseholder of the Malt Shovel Inn was given in the licensing records until 1872 when James Husband, Worthington was recorded as the owner / leaseholder until 1889. Frank Jones, Long Eaton was the owner / leaseholder the following year and James Husband again the year following. In 1891 and 1892 Burton Brewery Co. were given as the owners / leaseholders followed by Mrs. Frank Jones, Loughborough for one year only. From 1894 to 1897, Lord Eaton is given as the owner / leaseholder. **It has not been possible to find out who this Lord Eaton was, assuming the record was correct.**

No further records are given until 1907 when Frank Jones executors, are listed as the owner / leaseholder up until 1924 when Frederick Stacey replaced Charles Mee as the licensee. This coincided with Zachary Smith and Co. Ltd., Burton-on-Trent becoming the owner / lease holder until 1936 when the records ended.

Although the records give Zachary Smith & Co Ltd address as Burton-on-Trent, they were in fact brewers of Shardlow who closed in 1930 and were taken over by Marston Thompson and Evershed Ltd. In 1927, the owners of the Waggon & Horses, Griffydam, Dorothy Sarah Brearley, a farmer's wife, and Ethel Elizabeth Nicholson, sold the house to Zachary Smith & Co. Ltd.

A SELECTION OF RELATED NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Transcribed from the Leicester Chronicle – March 30th 1844

HIGHWAY ROBBERY

THOMAS CARTWRIGHT (22 : READ AND WRITE WELL) AND THOMAS SMART (17 ; READ WELL AND WRITE IMPERFECTLY) WERE CHARGED WITH FELONIOUSLY STEALING FROM THE PERSON OF Thomas Gibson, on the 6th October last, three sovereigns, eight half-crowns, six shillings, and three sixpences. Mr. White appeared for the prosecution. The prosecutor is a

labourer living at Belton. He stated in his evidence that he received his wages on the 5th of October, intending to go to Ashby Races the next day. When he was there he saw both of the prisoners, and came home along with Smart. They called at **the Malt Shovel at Worthington**, about eight o'clock in the evening ; and in about an hour the other prisoner came in. On witness paying for the ale which they had drunk, he pulled a sovereign out of his pocket, instead of a shilling, and tendered it to the landlord, who returned it. Prosecutor then gave the landlord a shilling, and returned the sovereign to his pocket. The party left the public house together about eleven o' clock in the evening, and when they had proceeded a short distance the prisoners threw prosecutor on the ground, Cartwright attempting to throttle him whilst Smart rifled his pockets. They shortly afterwards left him, Smart having threatened to knock out his brains if he dared to make any noise : he gave information to the police next morning. Prosecutor knew the prisoners well. An attempt was made by the Judge and Cartwright to shake prosecutor's testimony, by their asking whether he had not been drinking and dancing with women at the public-house ; but he declared he had not. Policeman Beales of the County Force deposed to have apprehended Cartwright at Packington, when he said he would give prosecutor £5 to make it up, on his obtaining £50, which he expected at his Grandfather's death. Rose, another member of the County Force, apprehended Smart at Nuneaton. The prisoners were found guilty and sentenced – **Smart to fifteen years transportation and Cartwright to twelve months hard labour.**

Transcribed from the Leicester Mercury – November 15th 1856

ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH PETTY SESSIONS

William White, Michael Richards and Frederick Haywood, were charged by Elisha Senior, Gamekeeper to Earl Ferers with assaulting him on, October 7th, at Worthington. Complainant said he was at Worthington Wake, and met White, who asked him to lend him his gun to shoot a swallow. Told him to go on and walked as far as Tivey's Public House (**The Malt Shovel**). White followed him there and said he would like to punch his head. Told him to go away and said and said he did not want anything to do with him. White leaned his head forward, said he could get him and would like to worry him and laid held of complainant's dog's nose and twisted it. He also spat in his face (complainants) thrice. Subsequently he went to Mee's Public House (**The Swan**), and White as he was going in seized him by the collar, and after teasing him some time struck him a severe blow with his fist. Upon that he (complainant) pulled off his coat and went at him in earnest. The other defendants then came up and assisted White. In the struggle, complainant fell down and on trying to get up, found his leg was injured. Being conveyed home, Mr. Dolman, of Melbourne, examined his leg and found a small bone broken, and the ankle severely damaged.

Transcribed from the Leicester Chronicle – September 9th 1857

ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS

Before T. Mowbray, Esq., and the Rev. J. M. Echelaz

Joseph Jackson of Worthington, was charged by Thomas Mee, of that place, with assaulting him, on the 16th of August. They had, with a mutual friend, *clubbed* for "a sup of drink" on the day in question, being Sunday ; but as the

publican refused to supply the “lush”, a quarrel ensued, and the assault complained of was the consequence. **The case was dismissed, and the complainant ordered to pay the costs, 10s. 6d.**

Transcribed from the Leicester Chronicle – September 1st 1860

ASHBY – GENERAL ANNUAL LICENSING MEETING

The general report of the division for the past year has been very satisfactory, except in two cases – one of a house kept by a person named Robinson at Ashby ; the other a house kept by James Tivey, at Worthington (**the Malt Shovel**). In both cases the licenses were suspended.

Transcribed from the Leicester Journal – May 9th 1862

Freehold Public – House, Cottages and Premises

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION

By Mr. T. Davenport,

At the **Malt Shovel Inn, Worthington, on Monday, the fifth day of May next, at Six o'clock in the evening**

ALL that MESSUAGE or Old-licensed PUBLIC HOUSE, called the Malt Shovel, with the brew house, stable, cow-shed, and other outbuildings, and the garden thereto, containing altogether an acre of land, or thereabouts, and in the occupation of Mr. James Tivey

Also SIX DWELLING HOUSES, or TENEMENTS, adjoining, or near to the said Messuage, and in the several occupations of John Edwards and others.

The property is situate at Worthington, in the County of Leicester, fronting the main street there and also the road leading to Griffy Dam.

For further particulars apply to the auctioneer, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, or to Messrs. RICHARDSON and SMALL, Solicitors, Burton-on-Trent

Burton-on-Trent, 19th April 1862

Transcribed from the Leicester Mercury – October 18th 1862

ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS

William Weston and Thomas Edwards were charged by P.C. Peberdy with creating a disturbance at Worthington on Sunday, the 5th inst., being Worthington Wake, there were a great many persons assembled at the Public Houses drinking and quarrelling. **Fined 17s. or 1 months hard labour.**

Transcribed from the Leicester Journal - Friday 19 May 1865

Worthington, Leicestershire - Valuable Freehold Property

S. JACKSON

WILL SELL BY AUCTION

On June 5th, 1865, at the **Malt Shovel Inn**, Worthington, at Six o'clock in the Evening, subject to such conditions as will then be produced.

A VERY VALUABLE FREEHOLD PROPERTY, situate at Worthington, in the County of Leicester, comprising 2 dwelling houses abutting upon the town-street, large barn and other farm buildings, garden and paddock, also a field of superior Pasture Land, well watered by a stream running through it, the whole containing 4 acres and 18 perches, or thereabouts, and now occupied by John Stratton and James Eaglesfield. The land is bounded by property belonging to the Earl of Stamford and Warrington, J. Curzon Esq., and others

For further particulars apply to the Auctioneer, or to MR. W. J. WOOLLEY Solicitor, Loughborough

Leicester Journal – June 19th 1868

ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS

George Mee, cordwainer of Worthington ([Boot and Shoe maker](#)), was charged by Samuel Bailey with assaulting him at Worthington, on the 5th of June. – These parties and also their witnesses had been drinking in a public house the greater part of the day, and being rivals in the shoe trade, they did all they could to annoy one another. – Case dismissed, each party to pay his own costs.....The defendant in the above case was charged by Mary Eaglesfield, housekeeper to Samuel Bailey, with an assault on her at the same time and place, but at the suggestion of the Magistrates, this case was withdrawn.

Transcribed from the Leicester Mail - Wednesday 06 October 1869

Temporary authority was given to James Winfield, of Worthington to sell beer at the house known as the [Malt Shovel Inn](#), at Worthington, until a proper transfer can be obtained.

Transcribed from the Ashby de la Zouch Gazette - Saturday 03 July 1880

ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS

James Winfield, licensed victualler of Worthington, was charged with unlawfully allowing beer to be consumed on his premises during prohibited hours, on April 21st. - P.C.Holyoaks, stationed at Breedon, said on the 21st of April last, he was on duty at Worthington, near the [Malt Shovel Inn](#) kept by defendant. It was about half past eleven o'clock at night. he saw a light burning in the house and heard some talking. . He looked through the window and saw a man named William Bailey, of Worthington, and defendant in the house. He saw defendant hand Bailey a pint mug of ale, which he drunk out of and then put it down, and handed him something in return. Bailey again drank out of the mug and stood talking to the defendant for a few minutes. He went round to the back door of the house, and met both Bailey and defendant coming out of the house. He said to defendant "how is it that you are supplying ale so long after time". He said "I do not know for supplying, I have got Mr. Bailey here to settle some accounts. I kept him in till after the company turned out, as I did not like to do it before". Bailey said "I have been constable here for some time, you know me, and will not take any notice of it ". He (witness) replied he did not know him, and he said he was William Bailey of Worthington. He (witness) then went in and picked up the mug that Bailey had been drinking out of, and there was a small quantity of beer at the bottom. Defendant then went away. He (witness) afterwards then met P.C. Hardy, and they saw defendant at his door sometime afterwards. Hardy had a short conversation with the defendant. - P.C. Hardy corroborated. - Mr. Dewes who appeared for the defendant, pointed out that the defendant and Bailey, who were old friends, were talking politics and settling accounts. - The Bench dismissed the case.

Transcribed from the Melton Mowbray Mercury and Oakham & Uppingham News -Thursday 02 January 1908

STOLEN GOOSE IN THE OVEN

Jane Collins, Widow, of Worthington, was charged with the theft of a goose, value 7s., at Worthington on the 21th December, the complainant being Alfred

Staniforth, butcher, of Shepshed. - Defendant denied stealing the goose, saying she picked it up. - She elected to be dealt with by the Bench. - - Prosecutor deposed that at about 10.15. p.m. on the date he called at Worthington on his rounds, and stopped near the **Malt Shovel**, serving several customers with meat. he had two plucked geese on his cart, besides meat, his horse moved on, and witness's back was towards the cart at that time. After cutting the meat and serving two other customers, he went back to defendant's house and she paid for meat purchased. On returning to the cart he missed the goose, and asked the boy where it had gone. Witness reported the loss to the Shepshed police the same night, and wired to the Breedon police the next morning. - P.C. Oliver of Breedon-on-the-Hill, deposed that on receiving a wire from the prosecutor he made enquiries, and went to defendant's house, asking her if she took a goose from prosecutor's cart on Saturday night. She said she had not, adding, "I've never seen a goose". He cautioned the defendant, and asked her what she had for dinner. She fetched some meat from the pantry, and said it was that she had for dinner. Witness noticed steam from the oven, and on opening it he found the goose (produced), partly cooked. He asked her how she accounted for it. She replied, "my son sent it from Derby". Witness charged her with stealing the goose, and defendant then said, "I will tell you the truth. I found it in Mee's yard, near the urinal, but sooner than have any bother with it I will pay Mr. Staniforth all expenses if he won't prosecute me". Staniforth identified the goose as his property. When witness served the summons defendant said, "Well, the least said, soonest mended. I've had enough to suffer for this. I hope they won't send me to prison". - Defendant (an elderly buxom person) : God only knows what I've gone through. Defendant appealed for leniency, saying that she knew she had done wrong in having the goose in the oven. She had worked hard all her life. - The Chairman, in fining her 5s. 6d. and costs, £1 11s. 10d., said she had been dealt with leniently

Transcribed from the Leicester Evening Mail - Saturday 24th April 1937

Coalville Protection Orders - Coalville magistrates yesterday granted protection orders to George Arthur Conkay in respect of the license of the **Malt Shovel Inn**, Worthington which he is taking over from Mr. G. Williams.

Transcribed from the Leicester Evening Mail - Friday 25 August 1961

INN'S BRASS IS AUCTIONED OFF

Nearly 100 pieces of brassware and copper which Mr. and Mrs. George Woodhall spent 20 years collecting were disposed of in little over an hour, at Worthington, near Coalville.

Mr. and Mrs. Woodhall, licensees for the past 10 years at the **Malt Shovel Inn**, at Worthington, decided to part with their collection because they are retiring from the license trade.

The coach lamps, swords, harness pieces, hunting horns and copper vessels, which have decorated their inn were sold by auction.

Hundreds of people attended the sale, which because of the crowds, had to be conducted in the open air outside the inn.

Mr. and Mrs. Woodhall will live in retirement at Swannington, near Coalville.

THE WILLIAM THE FOURTH INN

Although no further evidence has been found of a William the Fourth Inn referred to in the following newspaper report *which was also inserted in the 1840 London Gazette*, one has to assume that it existed. The author takes the view that this would have been a "Beer House", for which an explanation follows. As explained later in relation to beer houses in Griffydam, the Ashby-de-la-Zouch register of licenses had not recorded beer houses till 1869. Further research is required, but it is worthy of note that the P.O. Directory of Leics & Rutland 1855 lists Joseph Bird as a "beer retailer" and the Harrod & Co. Postal Directory of Derbys & Leics 1870 gives Joseph Hewitt as a "beer retailer" as does Barker & Co's Directory for Leics & Rutland 1875. None of these appear in the licensing records for the other Worthington public houses. The description of a "beer retailer" possibly suggests this was a beer house, but is not sufficient proof that it refers to the William the Fourth Inn.

Transcribed from the Leicester Journal – August 7th 1840 :-

***Freehold Estates, at Castle Cary, Somersetshire; Cartmel, Lancashire and
Worthington, Leicestershire.***

TO BE PEREMPTORILY SOLD

Pursuant to an order of the High Court of Chancery, made in a cause of "**ASKEW v PEDDLE**", with the approbation of **SIR GRIFFIN WILSON**, one of the Master's of the said Court at Cartmel, in the County of Lancaster, at Castle Cary, in the County of Somerset, and at Worthington on the County of Leicester.

Certain Estates the property of the late **REVEREND ANTHONY ADAM ASKEW**, consisting of a Freehold Estate situate at Cartmel, near Milnthorpe, in the County of Lancaster, containing 87a. 2r. 39p. now in the occupation of **GEORGE MOSSOP**, and which will be sold at the Cavendish Arms Inn, Cartmel, on Tuesday, the 8th of September next, at seven o'clock in the evening:-

Several Freehold Closes situate Ditchel, and Woodstone, in the County of Somerset, now in the several occupations of **JAMES HARDING** and **THOMAS PITMAN**, which will be sold at the George Inn, Castle Cary, on Thursday the third of September next, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

And a freehold estate at Worthington, in the County of Leicester, containing 29a. 3r. 33p. now in the occupation of **JOHN ARMSON**, and which will be sold at the "**William the Fourth Inn**", **Worthington**, on Wednesday, the 26th day of August next, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

The name King William IV was the most popular monarch among pub names **from the passing of the 1830 Beerhouse act that liberalised the brewing and selling of beer**. It was during his reign that the number of pubs multiplied out of control, and he is celebrated by having his name on so many.

In fact, King William IV has more pubs named after him than any other monarch because, by an accident of history, he became a hero for beer drinkers. The following offers an explanation as to why the William the Fourth Inn did not appear in licensing records etc.

The government's reasoning was to promote competition among brewers to bring down the price of ale so that people would not be tempted by stronger spirits like gin which were doing much harm to health.

The Act came into effect just as William IV came to the throne on June 26, 1830. The new king became immediately popular among drinkers who named their new beer houses after him – and so to this day, no monarch has more pubs named after them than William IV.

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 one term of this licence was that the brewers should place a board outside their home with their name on it. The government's 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 **beer house** 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 beer houses**, 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 two beer houses at Griffydam, 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” at Griffydam, 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”.

From the 1890s through to WWI, beer houses were increasingly targeted by the police and clergy who wanted to see the end to the long opening hours and cheap ale.



A typical William the Fourth pub sign