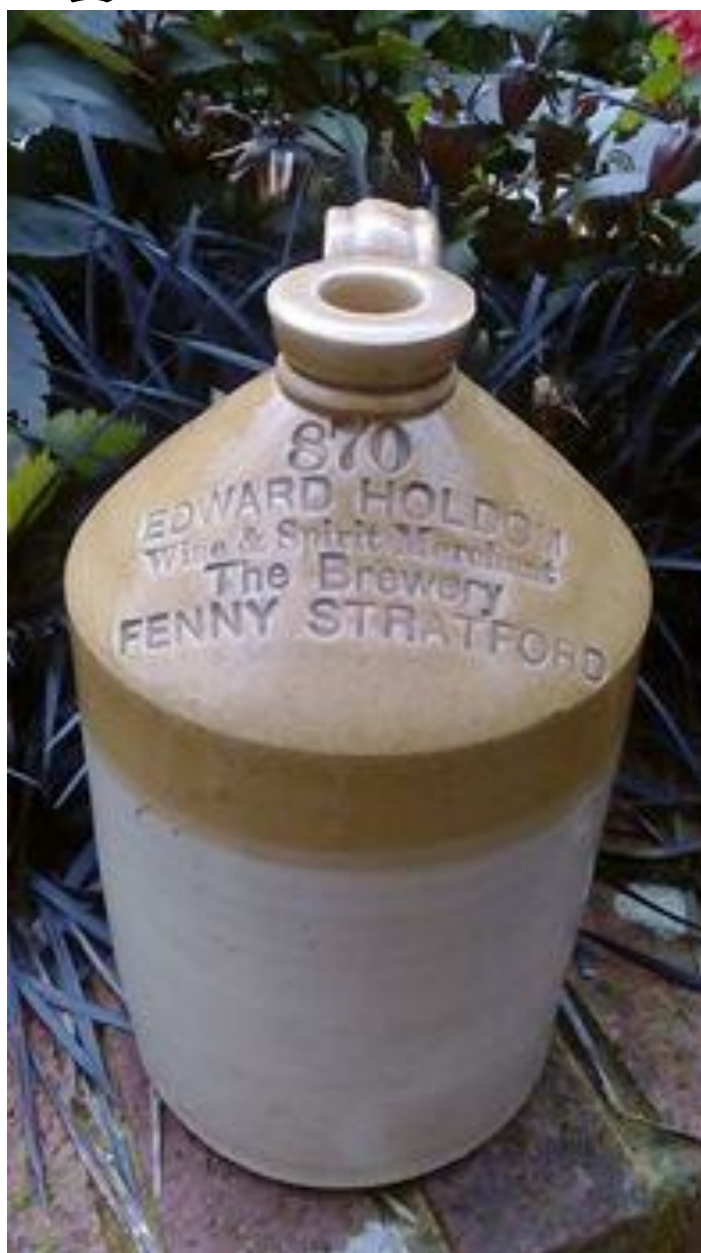


Milton Keynes Area Old Stoneware Flagons & Bottles



By Paul Cox

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Introduction

The official Milton Keynes Borough area covers much more than just the modern shopping centre and the 'new' estates built since 1967. It goes as far as Warrington, just above Olney, and Hanslope to the north, covers all of Wolverton and Stony Stratford in the west, the old towns of Bletchley, Fenny Stratford and Little Brickhill village in the south, and it also encompasses Woburn Sands, North Crawley and Astwood to the east.

Long before the 'New City' was established, there were generations of people in more than two dozen towns, villages, hamlets and 'Ends', going about their daily lives. Apart from preserved buildings and gravestones, what else has survived? Our ancestors were very good at recycling their day-to-day waste. Shops wrapped fresh foods in brown paper, crates were wood, and some services were mobile, so the seller went door-to-door. Any food scraps left over went to the livestock or pets, or onto a compost heap. If there was no other choice, with few municipal collections available, having rubbish taken away from your house cost you money, so refuse was often burned or buried, and that was the end of it. Yet some goods came in glass bottles or stoneware jars, and these didn't rot away or burn, so flagons and bottles survived in the ground, or were tucked away in sheds, garages and kitchens as useful objects, or left on window sills as ornaments of a forgotten time.

Any shop could obtain plain flagons or bottles to sell their wares, but if you wanted to stand out, get some publicity, and to be seen to be an important business in your town, you needed your name on your flagons. It was also useful in ensuring they came back to the right shop! I have tried to collect together information about the local individuals and firms who put their names on flagons, ginger beer bottles and potlids from this area. I wanted to be able to date the objects as closely as possible, as the first question people generally ask on being shown one is, "Well, how old is that then?"

Flagons were used for any liquids that needed to be decanted from a larger supply in the shop to be taken home. Therefore, some were used for sterilising fluids and other poisons, as well as alcoholic and soft drinks. Ginger beer was sold in stoneware bottles as the pressure of fermenting ginger beer could make glass bottles explode, and it also helped disguise the (sometimes) murky colour of the drink!

The 'Active' dates in each entry refers to when the firm was operating. Most of the local flagons date from 1880-1910. As a general rule, the ones with impressed names are older than the printed ones. Information on what firm made the flagon is recorded where known.

I have not covered the many local firms who only used embossed or etched their names onto glass bottles, and had no stoneware of their own. Not having a good enough collection, I will leave that to someone with more specialised knowledge than mine. Where firms with stoneware had glass items too, I have described some of the varieties known in their entry.

Codd glass bottles, mentioned in the text, are those with a marble inside the neck. This had to be pressed down, against the pressure of the gas inside the bottle, which were then trapped behind lugs inside the bottle to stop them from blocking the neck while the drink was poured out. This meant they could be reused (unless children got to them first and smashed them to get the marbles out!) A Hamilton glass bottle is a round-ended bottle, made so it had to be stored laying down, which kept the cork wet and thereby stopped it drying out, shrinking and letting air in to spoil the drink.

Of course, I am sure there is still many more local stoneware items to be found, some in antique shops or other collector's hands already, but others are just waiting to be dug up from old garden tips. It's always worth having a chat with builders and ground workers, who often come across yesterday's disposables.

I would be pleased to hear from anyone who has something I have not recorded so far, to add it to this listing.

**Paul Cox
Milton Keynes
2017**

Fenny Stratford

GEORGE & EDWARD HOLDOM

Active 1875-1883.

Two-gallon flagon, impressed "2, 618, G & E HOLDOM, WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANTS, FENNY STRATFORD", made by Price of Bristol.

Robert Holdom bought The Bull public house on Watling Street for £500 (not to be confused with the Bull & Butcher on Aylesbury Street) in May 1847. There are no flagons known with Robert Holdom's name on. He had been dealing in other pubs in Fenny Stratford back to 1845.

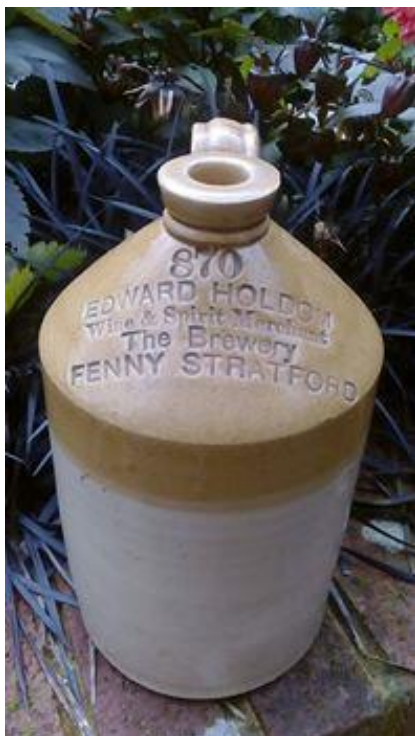
He handed his business down to his sons, George and Edward, in December 1875, who immediately started to advertise, offering "The Guinea Hamper" in the Leighton Buzzard Observer. In 1880, they were engaged in building a new Steam Brewery at premises abutting those of Jesse Smith, grocer. They also ran same pubs, and they were looking for a tenant for The Swan Inn at Stewkley the next year. Their partnership was dissolved in September 1883, George left, and Edward Holdom continued alone.



EDWARD HOLDOM

Active 1883-c.1897.

Half-gallon flagon, impressed "870, EDWARD HOLDOM, WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANT, THE BREWERY, FENNY STRATFORD". Made by Price, Bristol.



In February 1884, his malting behind the Bull suffered a fire, during which his manager saved as much as he could from the flames. The manager was a Mr. Cave. At some point before 1897, Edward Holdom sold out to Bletchley Breweries Limited, run by a George Cave, possibly the same man.

[Edward Holdom J.P., died in Parkstone, Dorset in March 1929. His obituary says after he sold the brewery, he farmed at Yard's End Farm, Fenny and Cross Roads Farm, Bow Brickhill, and was a member of Bletchley Urban District Council. He was brought back to Fenny for burial.]

No bottles or flagons are known marked 'Bletchley Breweries', or 'George Cave', who were active c.1897 to 1899. A great photo of their shopfront exists, showing it on the south-side of The Bull, where it had been built out from the front of the black and white timbered building now used as a nursery, although someone removed the more modern shopfront shown in the picture long ago.

Cave was famous for marketing a "Solid Beer", sold in slabs, which could be reconstituted with water (yes, I made that face too...) He put the brewery and all its 8 freehold pubs, four of which were in Fenny, up for sale in 1897, because they wanted to concentrate (no pun intended...) on their export of solid beer. Cave eventually sold out to the Aylesbury Brewing Company for £14,550 in June 1899...

AYLESBURY BREWERY COMPANY (FENNY DEPOT)

Active 1899-1910.

Quarter-gallon flagon, printed with "THE AYLESBURY, 01729, BREWERY COMPLY LTD, FENNY STRATFORD" by Price of Bristol.

1-gallon flagon, printed "THE AYLESBURY, 6091, BREWERY COMPLY LTD, FENNY STRATFORD, F", also by Price.

They ran it for a decade, but closed their Fenny depot on 30th June 1910. ABC carried on themselves until 1990, when they were bought out by Allied Breweries Ltd. The Caves Solid Beer Syndicate was eventually wound up in 1905, and had to appoint a Liquidator (oh, the irony...)



JESSE SMITH

Active c.1858-c.1890.

Half-gallon flagon, impressed with "JESSE SMITH, WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANT, FENNY STRATFORD", made by Bailey.

In February 1868, a Jesse Smith, grocer, of Fenny Stratford, was advertising for an apprentice. There is a report in September 1872, that a Jesse Smith, of "The Wellington Arms", Fenny Stratford, had applied for early opening licence to supply railway workers. Was this the same man?

The grocer Jesse Smith had a new Wine licence "confirmed" in September 1873, and a year later, he obtained a further licence to sell spirits off the premises. He ran an advert in December 1876, saying he had been a grocer, coal, wine and spirit merchant for 18 years in Aylesbury Street, but was now moving to Grand Junction Canal Wharf, tying in very neatly with being listed as "next door" to Holdom's Steam Brewery in 1880.

If the "The Wellington Arms" Jesse Smith was the same man (doubtful), he transferred the licence of that inn to another in October 1882.

In February 1891, the papers report a marriage of Thomas Smith, second son of "the Late Jesse Smith". I have no proof, but given the timeframe, name and location, it would be reasonable to assume that this business transferred to...

H. C. SMITH

Active c.1892-1895

Flagon, printed "H. C. SMITH, WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANT, FENNY STRATFORD"

The Wharf Stores were sold in 1892, and among the glowing description of its excellent facilities is listed "three large arched brick vaults, suitable for a Wine Merchant". It seems Thomas Smith took them up on the offer, and bought the premises. Why he chose to run the business as "H. C. Smith" rather than Thomas Smith, I do not know.

He applied for an off licence in August 1893, and had a 200-signature petition in support, but there was still an objection from the local Police who thought 'no good would come of it'. The decision was held over to next session.

Yet two years later, in September 1895, Smith was broke. His secured creditors were listed at £1242 1 2d, and unsecured at £982 6s 8d. His property was valued at £628 1s 5d. By order under a Deed of Assignment, the trustees tried to sell "The Wharf Stores" by themselves at first, but there were no takers, so there was a grand sale of all the stock-in-trade of "H. C. Smith & Co." the next month, at the wharf side premises.

As well as other food and groceries, the sale included 20 dozen old port and sherry, 10 gross bottled beers, 12 casks of beer, 400 dozen screw top and other bottles, and wicker and plain bottles.



Newport Pagnell

COLES & SON

Active c.1777-1879

Flagon, impressed "COLES & SON, ALE & SPIRIT MERCHANT, NEWPORT PAGNELL"

The Coles family were active in Newport from the 1700's in maltings and brewing. John Coles was a farmer and maltster, born around 1752. His son, James Price Coles was an Ale & spirit merchant of 7 Tickford Street from about 1841 up until 1877, two years before his death. The Tickford Street address was a brewery. James had only daughters, so the Coles and Son here must mean John & James. After James died in 1879 aged 60, his widow leased the inns that he had owned to the Northampton Brewery Company. Another business base of Coles was the "March of Intellect" inn, on Silver Street, (no nos. 25-27) which had a malting at the rear. The company sold up in June 1885, selling off their Tickford Street stores and seven pubs. [For more info. on Coles, see "One More for the Road".]



THOMAS JAMES COULSON

Active c.1884-1893.

Flagon, 2-gallon, impressed "T. J. COULSON, GROCER & C, THE COUNTY STORES, NEWPORT PAGNELL", made by Price. Extra-large mouth.

For Thomas Coulson, grocer, I can find nothing earlier than his shop having been noted as having a good display of meat at Christmas 1884, and he is listed as having the contract for supplying the Board of Guardians with Ale & Porter for the poorhouse in September 1885. In January 1887, his apprentice, one Leopold Goold, was charged with stealing a large amount of goods from Coulson's shop. Nearly two columns are filled with a description of the case, which caused much interest in the town, due to the vast quantities stolen over a long period.

Goold owed a local innkeeper money for hiring a horse and cart, and allowed the innkeeper to take goods from the shop at a discounted rate. Goold was convicted and paid a £3 fine. The innkeeper elected to go to court, where he was charged with knowingly receiving the stolen goods, but was found not guilty.

In 1887, Coulson had switched from ale to supplying grocers to the poorhouse of the Newport Pagnell Board of Guardians, and in August 1893, he wrote to them to ask if his successor would be allowed to continue the contact, as he was leaving for Hertford, having sold his business. They said he could, but Coulson would still be responsible for any breach of it! It is not made clear who his replacement was, but someone else who was also using the same County Stores address was...

WILLIAM WOOD

Active ????-????

Flagon impressed, "WILLIAM WOOD, THE COUNTY STORES, 44 HIGH STREET, NEWPORT PAGNELL"

Mr Wood is proving elusive. After Coulson left The County Stores in 1893, there are very few mentions of it in the Press. There is an advert from July 1897, for Tibble's Vi-Cocoa, which lists the Newport Pagnell County Stores, 44 High Street and 23 Caldecotte Street, but has no personal name attached. In 1901, The County Stores was being run by a George E. Reynolds.



RICHARD HAYLLAR

Active c.1832-????

Flagons are printed with "R. HAYLLAR & SONS, NEWPORT PAGNELL"

Mustard pots come in at least three variations in size, of white with black print, "HAYLLAR'S PREPARED, R. HAYLLAR & SONS, MUSTARD, NEWPORT PAGNELL", and one impressed "RICHARD HAYLLAR FINE PREPARED MUSTARD NEWPORT PAGNELL" in two-tone.

Another family with several generations in the same trade. A Mr. B. Hayllar, Newport Pagnell, is noted as an agent for Morisons Universal Vegetable Medicines in an advert in 1832, and

then on 1st April 1837, Mr. R. Hayllar, grocer, of Newport, was appealing for his lost poodle in the local newspapers. In the March 1859 Croydon Weekly Standard, an R Hayllar is advertising his many grocer wares, and thanks customers for using him "for many years". R. Hayllar's wife had a son in April 1861, but I believe this must be Hayllar jnr., as in May 1865, the death of Mary Ann Hayllar, the widow of Richard Hayllar, is reported. In September that year, there was a large auction of Richard Hayllar snr's property, by order of the devisees in his will, listing two cottages in Silver Street, a house & shop in Silver Street, a house & shop used as a greengrocer in St John Street, along with the newly erected premises next door, used by Richard Hayllar jnr. as a grocer and confectioner. The description includes capital cellar, warehouses, bakehouse, and yard with pump. Sadly, there is no report of who bought what at the auction, but as a Hayllar is still acting as Grocer in Newport after that date, Hayllar jnr. must have kept the business premises. He often had the contract for supplying various commodities to the Newport Poorhouse.

In September 1873, he obtained a licence to sell British wines too, and August 1884 saw him take over the licence of Joel Davison's grocers in Olney. An application to sell beer off-licence in retail quantities at his St John Street address refused in August 1886, but in September 1887, he successfully obtained a strong beer licence and additional spirits licence.

There is an August 1895 advert for "Silvers Pills", which gives Hayllar & Son, Newport Pagnell as agents. At the licencing sessions in 1898, a C. B. Hayllar took over the wine licence in Olney from R. Hayllar. Presumably his son?

From December 1901, Hayllar adverts read "Hayllar & Sons" (now plural) of St Johns Street. In May 1902, Mrs Jane Hayllar, the widow of Richard Hayllar, was buried at the Friends Meeting House, Woburn Sands, so Richard snr. had died by this point. Their mustard was "Sold by Chemists, Grocers, and Italian Warehousemen, In Jars at 3d., 6d., & 1/- each." (from an old Hayllar's poster).

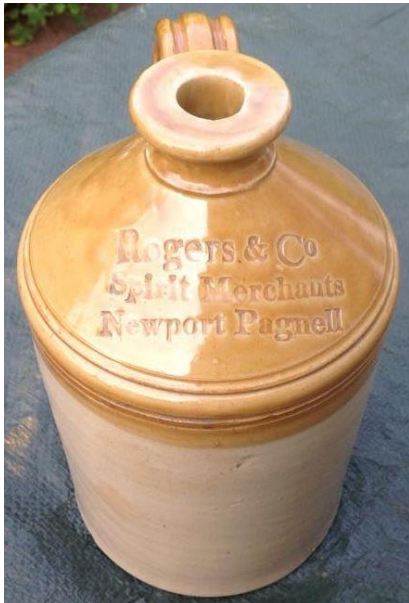
November 1906 saw the death of Richard Thomas Hayllar in his 55th year, but the name R. Hayllar & Sons continued to be used. A William Hayllar was found drowned in Olney in August 1910, aged 55. An inquest decided it was "Suicide whilst of unsound mind"

Apart from one or two mentions of mustard when Hayllar was contracted to supply the poorhouse with supplies, there is not a single advert for it in any newspaper.





ROGERS & CO.



Active 1859-1875.

Flagon impressed "ROGERS & CO., SPIRIT MERCHANTS, NEWPORT PAGNELL"

Of course, Newport has had breweries long before there were named flagons, but for our purposes, we only need to go back as far as the Rogers family. They had been involved in local brewing as far back as 1832. The eldest son of John Rogers, John jnr., died in 1856, and John snr. died in 1858, so the business passed down to George Osborn Rogers. He was in partnership with his brother-in-law, William Bateman Bull, but they traded as Rogers & Co.

In 1875, Rogers and Bull decided to sell up, and auctioned their brewery, along with 34 inns, of which 25 were freehold. The buyers were Francis Allfrey and William George Lovell.

ALLFREY & LOVELL

Active 1875-1899.

Half-gallon flagon, impressed "2, ALLFREY & LOVELL, SPIRIT MERCHANTS, NEWPORT PAGNELL" by Westwood.

One-gallon impressed "ALLFREY & LOVELL, SPIRIT MERCHANTS, NEWPORT PAGNELL, 1 GALL" by Pearsons.

Two-gallon, impressed "2, ALLFREY & LOVELL, SPIRIT MERCHANTS, NEWPORT PAGNELL", no makers mark.

They came from Bedford, paid £20,100 for the business, and afterwards both men moved to Newport Pagnell. After 24 years, they converted their partnership into a limited company, and became the...



NEWPORT PAGNELL BREWERY COMPANY

Active 1899-1919.

One-gallon flagon, impressed "NEWPORT-PAGNELL, BREWERY CO LTD, 144", made by Hunts.

One-gallon flagon, impressed "NEWPORT PAGNELL BREWERY CO LTD, NEWPORT PAGNELL" No makers mark;

Two-gallon flagon, impressed "NEWPORT PAGNELL, BREWERY CO LTD, 2", made by Pearsons.

Ginger beer bottle, two-tone, marked NEWPORT PAGNELL BREWERY with an A&L initials/cypher mark.

Many varieties of glass bottles, in various colours and styles.

Lovell died in 1909, and he had no heir to leave his share to, so it seems Allfrey acquired it. The Company continued through the first World War, but just after that, in 1919, it was sold to Charles Wells Ltd. of Bedford for £50,000, although it continued in name until 1926. By then, the brewery at Newport had already been closed down, and the site rented out to W. J. Cooper, a farm implement maker. Allfrey died in 1937.

[For more info., on Rogers, Allfrey & Lovell & NPBC, see "One More for the Road".]



THOMAS & FREDERICK JAMES TAYLOR

Active 1830-Now

Flagons, printed "T & F J TAYLOR, NEWPORT PAGNELL", also "F W TAYLOR, NEWPORT PAGNELL, POISON"

Ginger beers, some two-tone, some white, usually printed "T & F J TAYLOR, NEWPORT PAGNELL" with trademark device.

Mustards, probably the most found local pot. Wide variety of sizes, typefaces and colours. Very small up to giant shop display version. Early types only have one 'L' in Pagnell. Pots with lettering around the neck are thought to be later, as they may have also had a paper label on the face.

Glass, various Hamilton and crown top bottles, including a coloured glass dumpy seltzer. Also medicine & chemist bottles.

Potlid printed "OTTO OF ROSE, COLD CREAM, T & F J TAYLOR, CHEMIST, NEWPORT PAGNELL". Also several different examples of clear, amber and blue soda syphons.

Small table jugs, ceramic ashtrays in Hamilton shape, and later-period decorative mustard pots.

William Taylor came to Newport in 1825, and set up his chemist shop in 1830. He had a well on his premises in the High Street, with a yard that led through to Union Street. He made soda water, cordial, and other soft drinks, which did very well, but he then perfected a recipe for prepared mustard, using Colemans powder, but predating their own prepared version. Previously, you had to buy mustard powder and mix it yourself, but William found a way to stabilise the mixture so it did not go off quickly. His two sons were Thomas and Frederick James. They took over their father's business and built it up even further. Frederick was wealthy enough to have Lovat Bank built for himself in Newport, a large imposing classical mansion.

The company history states that stoneware pots were used until 1940, when they had to switch to glass due to shortages. The drinks side of the business became part of the Dayla company of Aylesbury. After many company changes, production of the mustard finally moved to Cheshire in 1990, (when the chemist's named Taylors finally closed up too) and then later production moved on to Glasgow, where it is still made. The company policy is not to sell to large supermarkets, so it can only be found in speciality food outlets.

Mustard pots were sealed with a cork pushed down flush with the rim, with green wax completing the seal. Various rumours exist of unused pot supplies being used to fill wells or cellars in Newport Pagnell!





JOHN WILMER & SONS, THE CANNON

Active 1860-1904.

Many different flagons, some with plain text, "WILMER & SONS, WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANTS, NEWPORT PAGNELL", some with a pictorial Cannon, "WILMER & SONS, TRADE [CANNON IMAGE] MARK, NEWPORT PAGNELL", and some with a decorative design. "WILMER & SONS, [DESIGN], NEWPORT PAGNELL"

Ginger beer bottles, marked "WILMER & SONS, TRADE MARK [CANNON IMAGE] REGISTERED, NEWPORT PAGNELL" in two-tone or Honey, and another Ginger beer with the same design as some flagons, marked "WILMER & SONS, [DESIGN], NEWPORT PAGNELL" in two-tone.

Many designs of glass bottles, Coddys, Hamiltons and soda syphons.

Originally farmers from Gayhurst, they took over "The Cannon" public house in Newport in 1860. The pub came with a suite of brewery buildings behind it. From 1866 they traded as Wilmer & Sons. The Cannon had no malting of its own, and so they rented the one owned by James Coles at "The March of Intellect", in Silver Street.

From 1891, they also advertised themselves as mineral water manufacturers. When the founder's son, John Robert Wilmer, died in 1904, his only surviving brother lived in Falmouth so in 1906, the business was sold out to...





EDGAR LESLIE WARMAN, THE CANNON

Active 1906-1909.

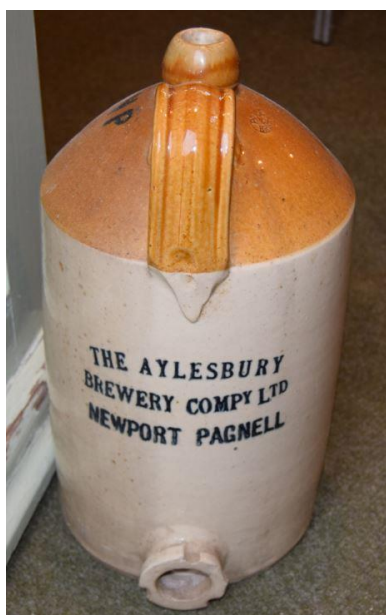
Flagon, One-gallon, printed "E. L. WARMAN, CANNON BREWERY, NEWPORT PAGNELL, WRIGHTSON'S PATENT" Made by Stiff. It has a metal handle & tap hole at the base.

Ginger beer bottle, "E. L. WARMAN, CANNON, [CANNON IMAGE] BREWERY, NEWPORT PAGNELL".

Edgar only lasted a few years in the business, before he sold up to the Aylesbury Brewery Company in September 1909, who thereby established a depot for themselves in Newport Pagnell to go along with others at Stony Stratford and Fenny Stratford.

[For more info. on Wilmer & Warman, see "One More for the Road".]





AYLESBURY BREWERY COMPANY (NEWPORT DEPOT)

Active 1910-????

In September 1910, the Newport Pagnell Board of Guardians reported receiving a letter from "...the Aylesbury Brewery Company (Cannon Brewery) Newport Pagnell", so the change must have been completed by then. This added Newport Pagnell to ABC's local branches, along with Fenny Stratford and Stony Stratford, as well as two in Buckingham. The Newport depot was managed by Reginald Linthwaite, who had worked for Wilmers, and resided in Woburn Sands.

Old Bradwell

FOOLKS MUSTARD

Active ????-????

Mustard pot printed "FOOLKS, PREPARED MUSTARD, OLD BRADWELL".

Edwin Foolks made a mustard, which sold in pots which look very much like those of Taylors, of Newport Pagnell, but Foolks pots are much, much harder to find. It took a long time to even get a photograph of one!

A George Foolkes, described as a grocer's porter, of Newport Pagnell, was charged with assault of a Lilian Florence Cooke in February 1906, and convicted. Fined 10s. I wonder if he could have been working at Taylors, and copied the recipe?

A Private Thomas G. Foolkes of the Ox. & Bucks. Light Infantry, was listed as Wounded in August 1916. He was described as being the eldest son of Thomas Foolkes of Old Bradwell.

A James Foolkes also served in France, and married a French woman. After working in Wolverton as the Co-op baker's roundsman for some years, they went back to France in 1927, where he worked for the Imperial Graves Commission, (now Commonwealth War Graves Commission) and died in 1940.

Sadly, I can find no reports or adverts specifically for Foolks Mustard.

Locals recall the Foolks family being at Manor Farm.



Olney

JOEL DAVISON

Active c.1846-1884

Three-gallon (?) flagon impressed "JOEL DAVISON, ALE PORTER & WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANT, OLNEY".

Joel Davison, grocer, married Sophia Alibone, dressmaker, at the Baptist Chapel, Olney on 15th September, 1846. Their nine-year old daughter died of Scarletina in 1858. His shop was at 24 High Street South. In May 1860, he was one of the Jury at an inquest of a child who had died after being given Diacodium, which had been bought from his shop. He is described as a grocer and druggist.

In 1864 he was on the management committee to erect a new public hall in Olney.

Knight says his licence was granted in 1870, and on the 1872 Return of public licenced places, his was the only one with an 'off' licence.

One night in May 1873, a burglar, Thomas Labutt, broke into his shop and stole some butter, lard, cheese and 14 bottles of port wine. He only got as far as the neighbour Mr. Talbot's yard before he started the port, and was found the next day, still drunk, by John Wykes Davison, Joel's son. Labutt was sentenced to seven years.

Davison himself was in trouble in November 1876, when his grocer's scales were found to be out by 1/4 oz. He complained that this was trivial for scales designed to weigh 56lbs, but was fined 2s.6d. He was fined again, 1s., in July 1881 for not having his trade name written on his delivery cart.

In August 1884, his Grocer's licence was transferred to Richard Hayllar.

[The Eastbourne Gazette reported in January 1902 that Joel Davison, late of Olney, had died after living there in retirement for "some time", and noted his son Edward Davison ran the "Sussex Stores".]

HIPWELL & CO

Active 1853-1921

Various flagons, impressed "WILLM HIPWELL & CO., OLNEY" or printed "HIPWELL & CO., THE BREWERY, OLNEY". Also some coloured glass bottles marked "HIPWELL & CO., OLNEY, BREWERS".

In 1831, William Hipwell snr. took the Anchor Inn at 61-63 High Street, Newport Pagnell, having previously run the "Lion and Lamb" in Silver Street. His son of the same name came to Olney in about 1850, and set up a brewery. The family also bought a small brewery in Newport from James Price Coles behind some houses near Tickford Bridge in 1854, and ran a malting in Silver Street too. William jnr. married the daughter of Joseph Salmons, who had the coachworks in Newport. The Hipwell family also kept running The Anchor in Newport until at least the mid 1870's, and in Olney, he began as landlord of The Bull, which still exists in its commanding position overlooking the Square, and acquired land behind the inn, a cart-way at the side for access, and further land later, on which to build his steam brewery, which was in a partnership with Charles & John Thomas Coling. In 1882, William Hipwell jnr. died, aged 54, but the brewery continued. By this time, Hipwell & Co. had acquired every public house in Olney bar two, and had an estate of other inns in the surrounding area, including 10 in Newport Pagnell.

Eventually, the Hipwell & Co. Brewery sold out to Phipps of Northampton in 1921, with a family member joining the Phipps Board. Various Hipwell's worked as brewers for other businesses up until the 1980's. [For more info. on Hipwell, see "The Old Inns of Olney"]



C. R. HALLYAR

Active c.1898-????

Flagons, two versions known, both impressed "C R HALLYAR, WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANT, OLNEY"

Also dark green 1pt glass Bottles, embossed "R. Hayllar & Sons, Olney Bucks."

In 1898, C. B. Hayllar took over the wine licence in Olney previously held by Richard Hayllar. I believe this was his son. More than one flagon exists with the name "C R Hallyar" on, and this is not a spelling error, they had purposely changed the spelling of the name to separate their family businesses in Newport and Olney. There are references to a Charles Hayllar and a Clarence Hayllar in records.



Sherington

OLDHAM & CO.

Active c.1894-c.1935

Flagon, printed "OLDHAM & CO., NOTED, GINGER WINE, WORKS, SHERINGTON".

Flagon, printed "OLDHAM & CO., RUSDEN & SHERINGTON, THIS JAR MUST BE RETURNED OR WILL BE CHARGED FOR"

Ginger beer, printed "OLDHAM & CO., NOTED GINGER BEER, GUARANTEED PURE, RUSHDEN & SHERINGTON, BOTTLE & STOPPER CHARGED FOR IF NOT RETURNED"

Large amount of different glass bottles, Codd's with "Sherington", "Sherington, Newport Pagnell" or "Rushden & Sherington". Internal screw mineral bottles and a crown-top skittle.

An 1891 Trade Directory shows "Oldham, Owen, baker & coach builder", but by 1895 "Oldham & Co, non-intoxicating ale-brewers" had been added, although Owen was still listed too.

In June 1894, they advertised for an agent to cover Northamptonshire for their "new non-intoxicating ale from Oldham & Co XL-ALL Brewery". Three years later, they needed an agent for Bedford.

By August 1900, adverts had added "Rushden and" to Sherington. The premises in Rushden were in Duck Street in 1903 and in Church Street in 1906 and then in Wellingborough Road in 1908.

The war meant labour was in short supply, or were they just a close family firm? One of their mineral water carts overturned in Bletchley in May 1918, Miss Oldham was unhurt, but Mrs Fisher, who was with her, broke her leg. She was taken to Bedford Hospital.

Still listed in directories in 1920 "Oldham & Co. mineral water manfrs.", and by 1924 a telephone number had been added.

The Sherington Historical Society: "High Street South. No.6, The Small House, is the location of the Oldham & Co.'s bottling plant. It is rumoured that it is called the Small House because it housed the servants from the manor and it is the smaller of the two properties.

Oldham & Co. was a manufacturer of "non-intoxicating liquor". Little is known about the factory, they sold Ginger Beer and other such bottled drinks. The water for the drinks came from a spring at the rear of the property and was piped into the factory. It is thought that the factory closed in about 1935."

1935 was the last Trade Directory they appeared in, as there was no entry in the 1939 one. George Oldham died May 1954, aged 81, he had been a lay Methodist preacher.



Stony Stratford

CHARLES COX & WILLIAM ROBINSON

Active 1760-Now.

Half-gallon flagon, impressed "COX & ROBINSON, CHEMISTS, STONY STRATFORD", made by Doulton.

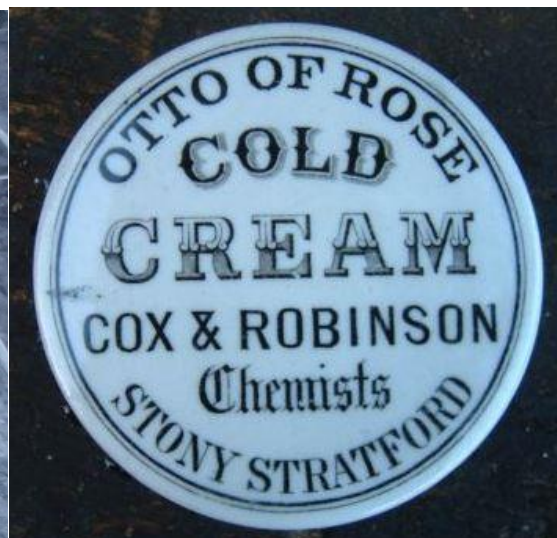
Pot lid printed "OTTO OF ROSE, COLD CREAM, COX & ROBINSON, CHEMISTS, STONY STRATFORD".

William Robinson came from Milton Keynes village and worked at his Uncles chemist shop in Stony, and their assistant was Charles Cox. Thus, a partnership was born.

The firm's current website says: "We started business in 1760 as an early version of the Chemist shop in the north Buckinghamshire town of Stony Stratford. It was usual in those times to provide human medicines at the front of the shop and animal remedies at the rear – very often the medicines were the same for animals and people!"

The first online press mention I can find is an advertisement for Himalaya Tea, in the Beds Times of February 1864, which mentions them as an agent. Their shop was originally at No.75 High Street.

The chemists' trading name is still in use today, at No.1 Market Square, Stony, and two other outlets in Milton Keynes. The animal products side of the business is now separate, and is run from South Molton, in Devon.



WILLIAM DUMBLETON

Active 1889-1917.

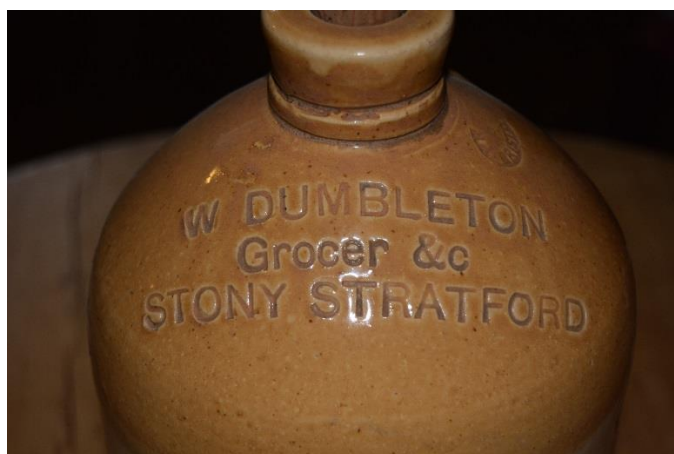
Flagon impressed "W. DUMBLETON, GROCER & C., STONY STRATFORD".

William Dumbleton had a grocer's shop in the High Street, Stony. From the advert when he sold his business, it would have been about 1889 when he first opened. The first news report which mentions Dumbleton, Grocer, that I can find is from November 1893.

In February 1903, he made the newspapers when he was assaulted by James Pollard, a Stony tailor, in an argument about some lights.

In April 1905, Samuel William Penn Dumbleton, grocer of Stony, was charged with not having had his child vaccinated. He had obtained a medical certificate to defer the vaccination, but had not entered it in time.

William put his business up for sale in Northampton Mercury in July 1917: "TO GROCERS – A GENUINE BUSINESS FOR DISPOSAL, bearing every investigation; twenty-eight years established; caused by the action of the Tribunal; owner is a chronic invalid; unable to manage it – W. Dumbleton, 12 and 13, Prospect Road, Stony Stratford."



JOHN REEVE

Active 1846-1903.

A quarter-gallon and half-gallon flagons, both impressed "JOHN REEVE, WINE MERCHANT, STONY STRATFORD". No makers mark.

There were three generations of John Reeve in Stony Stratford, but it seems just the first ran a grocer's shop for about 60 years.

The first John was born in Nash, 31st August 1816.

"John Reeve, grocer" is recorded in Pigots Directory of Stony Stratford in 1846.

His first son, John Attwood Reeve, was born in January 1848.

An advert in an 1859 Croydon Weekly Standard gives High Street, Stony Stratford and also Bury Street, Wolverton addresses, and the types of cheese he sold.

John Attwood Reeve also called his son John, John Barnes Reeve, born Sept 1879.

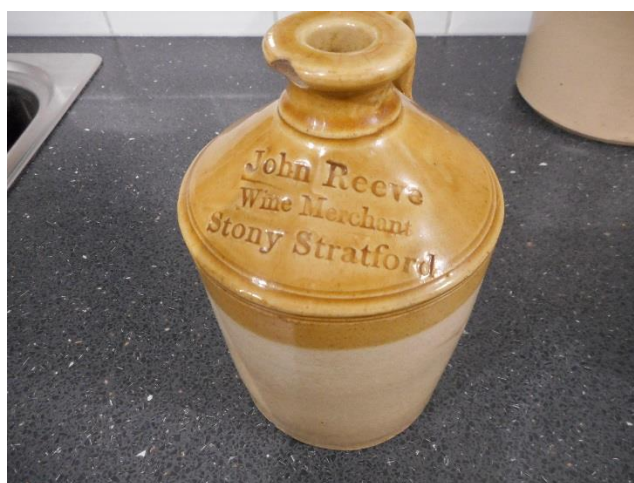
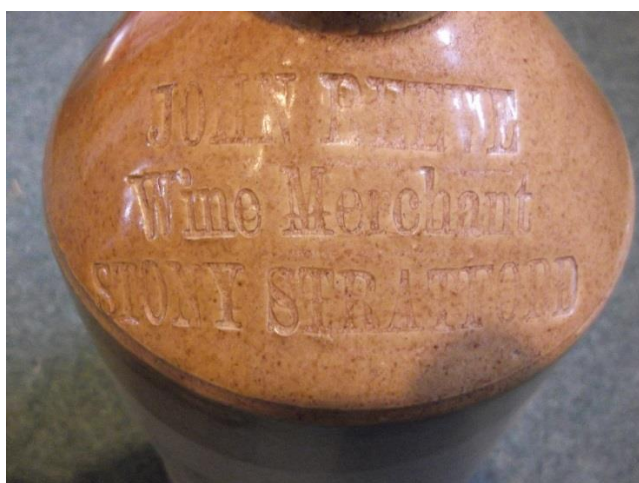
In June 1885, John Reeve "grocer of Stony Stratford" gave evidence at the inquest on his brother's death, who had died aged 63.

Reeve obviously had no spirits licence, as he was fined for selling a bottle of whisky in June 1897.

Entries for John Reeve "grocer and wine merchant" in Kelly's 1891-1903, when No.76 High Street is given as the address.

October 1903 Northampton Mercury – "The wine dealer's licence granted to Mr John Reeve, Stony Stratford, last February, was transferred to Mr Frank Hurry, who has acquired Mr Reeve's business."

John Reeve Snr. died in November 1906. He had been a Guardian of the Poor of the Pottersbury Union for 46 years; Chairman of the Board and Sanitary Authority for 27½ years; he was Chairman of the Assessment Committee for 30½ years; and Chairman of the School Attendance Committee from its formation until his retirement in 1894. On his retirement he was presented with a silver tray, inscribed: "1894: Presented to Mr John Reeve by the Guardians and Staff of the Pottersbury Union on his retirement, having held the office of Guardian for 45 years, and Chairman for 17 years". He was a church warden at St Giles church, Stony Stratford, and a freemason. In 1923, a new bell was hung at St Giles in memory of Mr & Mrs John Reeve.



FRANK HURRY



Active 1903-1919.

Half-gallon flagon, impressed on a slab-seal, "FRANK HURRY, GROCER, STONY STRATFORD".

Frank Hurry continued in the grocer's business until 1919, when he took over "The Cock Hotel", in Stony Stratford. After 13 years, in December 1932, he went broke, blaming the new beer taxes and other local hotels opening nearby and taking his trade.

JOHN SMITH TIBBETT

Active 1899-1916.

One-gallon flagon, impressed "J S TIBBETTS, WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANT, STONY STRATFORD". No makers mark.

In August 1881 there was a court case in Stony Stratford for grocer John Reeve to recover costs from a debtor. A J. S. Tibbett is listed as traveller (salesman) for Reeve.

By June 1889, there are adverts for Pett & Tibbett, grocers in Stony, but by December 1899, the adverts featured Tibbetts name by himself.

He was a Stony Stratford & Wolverton Rural District Councillor for many years.

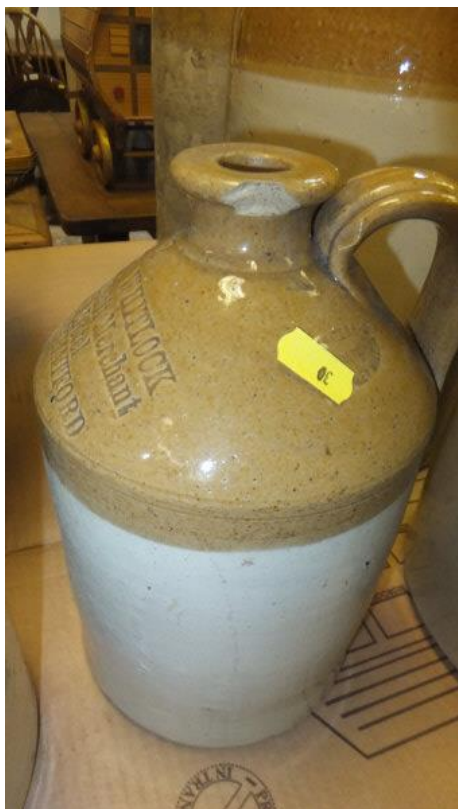
In December 1909, he had cigarettes stolen from a window in his storeroom which "overlooked the churchyard".

The adverts continue as "Tibbetts, The Grocer, Stony Stratford" until May 1916, then in March the next year, it was trading as T. J. & F. Tibbetts, possibly his sons?

Thomas James Tibbetts also went onto the council 1933. They were still trading as grocers in Stony Stratford in 1940.



WALTER WHITLOCK, THE COCK HOTEL



Active 1899-1900

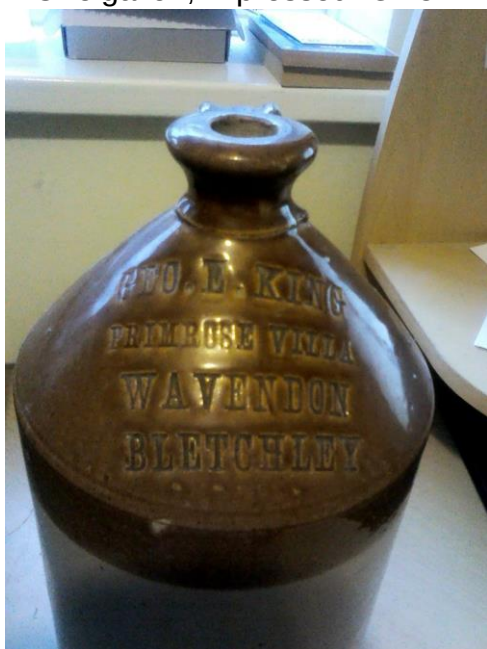
Flagon impressed "WALTER WHITLOCK, WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANT, COCK HOTEL, STONY STRATFORD".

Walter bought the Hotel in February, 1899, for £3550, having come from the "The Stags Head" in Northampton. The official licence transfer wasn't made until July, which was the same month that his twin sons were born. Perhaps the added responsibility was too great for him, as after several reports of successful dinners and events, and becoming a member of the local Ancient Order of Foresters, he put the Hotel up for sale again by auction in November 1900. It was sold to Messrs. T. Manning & Co. of Northampton for £5800, a nice return on his investment less than two years before, but it was noted that Walter had spent £1000 on renovations during his tenure. He was there until at least the middle of December 1900, as he oversaw some events still.

Wavendon

GEORGE KING, PRIMROSE VILLA

One gallon, impressed "GEO. E. KING PRIMROSE VILLA WAVENDON BLETCHLEY", made by Doulton.



Primrose Villa is a few doors up from the ex-Leathern Bottel pub, now known as The Wavendon Arms. The King family were maltsters, brewers and farmers in Wavendon for many generations.

Woburn Sands

FREDERICK DOWN & WILLIAM NEEDHAM

Active 1891-1903.

Ginger beer bottle, two-tone, black printed "DOWN & NEEDHAM, CELEBRATED, HOME BREWED, GINGER BEER, WOBURN SANDS". Internal screw stopper, domed or pinchtop, also marked "DOWN & NEEDHAM WOBURN SANDS". Made by Bourne.

Flagons, Quarter-gallon and Half-gallon, both with blue print "DOWN & NEEDHAM, WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANTS, WOBURN SANDS". Quarter has print on face of flagon, and Half has print on a white background on the shoulder. Both made by Buchans.

Variety of glass Codd, Hamilton and internal screw bottle. All clear apart from a small spirit bottle in brown.

William Needham ran an ironmongers shop at the very end of the High Street. I believe it was he who set up the "Woburn Sands Mineral Water Works" which became the "Woburn Sands Aerated Mineral Water Company", which used glass Codd and internal screw bottles with those names on, as they have an "N" on the base.

In 1891, a local businessman Henry Down died, and his business partner and brother, Frederick Down, went into partnership with Needham, to form Down & Needham. The glass bottles continued, but now had "D&N" on the base.

As well as the Eagle Malting Works and Mineral Water Factory in Woburn Sands, (still a wine shop at the top of Russell Street today) they also set up a bottling factory by the river in Bedford, and so some glass bottles say "Bedford Bridge Works" on. There is no known stoneware with 'Down & Needham - Bedford' on.

Frederick Down died in 1903, and William Needham inherited his share of the company assets. Although the rest of the Down family sued, and won a small share, Needham was able to retire, and sell off further assets as he needed to. He died in 1930.



THOMAS GREGORY, THE SWAN HOTEL

Active 1896-1903.

Flagons, 1/2 gallon and miniature, both marked "T. GREGORY SWAN HOTEL, WOBURN SANDS" and made by Skey. The miniature flagon is just 11cm tall.

I believe Thomas Gregory also ran "The Royal Engineer" at Wolverton before this, which also had flagons with his name on.



GEORGE TANSLEY



Active 1877-1939

Footwarmer, printed "GEO. TANSLEY,
IRONMONGER, WOBBURN SANDS"

A George Tansley appears as a grocer in the 1877 trade director, and entries continue for over 70 years. In 1898, Tansley added Glass and China dealer to his description, then gradually 'Grocer' stops being used.

Some local pieces of crested china bear a "G. Tansley, High St, Woburn Sands" stamp underneath.

Tansley was a large family in the village, and this trade spanned two generations, but I am unsure if they were father and son. George jnr. died in 1950.

Wolverton

THOMAS GREGORY, THE ROYAL ENGINEER



Active 1890-1896.

Flagon impressed "T. GREGORY, ROYAL ENGINEER, WOLVERTON"

When the railway first came to Wolverton, a station was built, and two enterprising local businessmen built an inn near the station. Then the railway company decided to move the station, and the newly-built inn was left isolated, so the owners were compensated and offered some new land nearer the new station. Thus the "Royal Engineer" was built, standing at the

start of the Stratford Road, in 1841.

Thomas Gregory was landlord here 1890-1896. I think this is the same T. Gregory who ran "The Swan Hotel" in Woburn Sands from 1896-1903, and produced flagons there too. I don't know when it closed as a pub, but it had become a Charles Wells pub by the end of its life. The building is still there, and has had many other uses.

WILLIAM HENRY TARRY, THE QUEEN VICTORIA HOTEL



Active 1894-c.1925.

Two-gallon flagon, printed "THIS JAR IS THE PROPERTY OF VICTORIA HOTEL, W. H. TARRY WOLVERTON, 84". No makers mark, has a metal handle & tap hole at base.

The "Victoria Hotel" was operating by 1861, and still stands on Church Street.

William Henry Tarry took the licence in Sept. 1894, and the next year oversaw alterations to add a billiard room to the existing hotel.

He was still there in March 1918, when he was fined 10s. for failing to notify that a foreigner was staying at the hotel (he completed one official form, but not another!) and was advertising for staff in Oct 1923.

I can't see exactly when he left, but by Jan. 1925, the licensee had become Mr. F. C. Kettle.

Tarry died in Dec. 1933, aged 75, and his obituary in the Buckinghamshire Advertiser says he was an original member of Wolverton Urban District Council, a chorister

of Wolverton St George Church, and a member of the Wolverton Freemasons.

And just outside the MK area...



ASPLEY GUISE, GOODALL

Active ????-????

Ginger beer bottle, two-tone, impressed "ASPLEY, GOODALL".

This bottle may or may not be connected to Aspley Guise, as there is also an area called Aspley in Nottinghamshire, but Goodall is a local Woburn Sands name, which had connections to The Royal Oak in Aspley Heath, and also a baker's shop in Aspley Guise, and a baker would be an ideal person to be making ginger beer!

CRANFIELD, THE CROW INN

Active 1812-1916.

One-gallon flagon, impressed "CROW INN", CRANFIELD" by Doulton.

The site of this inn is now underneath RGR Garage and Willow Springs road. The Crow Inn can be traced back in newspapers to 1812. Became Crow Inn in 1905???

An early postcard of the building has the name "Richard H Hewett" over the door as landlord (c.1910)



The Crow Hotel burned down in August 1916: "CROW HOTEL AT CRANFIELD DESTROYED BY FIRE. The ancient timber and thatched hostelry at Cranfield known all round the Ampthill Woburn district as the "Crow Hotel" was on Friday of last week destroyed by fire. This was first discovered at 5 a.m. and the flames spread through the old building with very great rapidity, and despite all the efforts made by the police and public, the building was destroyed. The "Crow Hotel" was a free house, tenanted by Mr A. W. Townsend and leased by Mr H. Whitbread of Bedford."

WOBURN, BARR, THE BEDFORD ARMS

Active 1861-1867.

Quarter gallon, impressed "J BARR, BEDFORD ARMS, WOBURN" by Doulton & Watts.

WOBURN, PUDDEPHATT, THE BEDFORD ARMS

Active ????-1901.

One-gallon flagon, impressed "T. PUDDEPHATT, WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANT, BEDFORD ARMS, WOBURN"

He also drove the Duke of Bedford's coach on some occasions. Thomas Puddephatt ran the Bedford Arms after John Barr, until 1901. He had previously run the Queen's Inn at Luton.

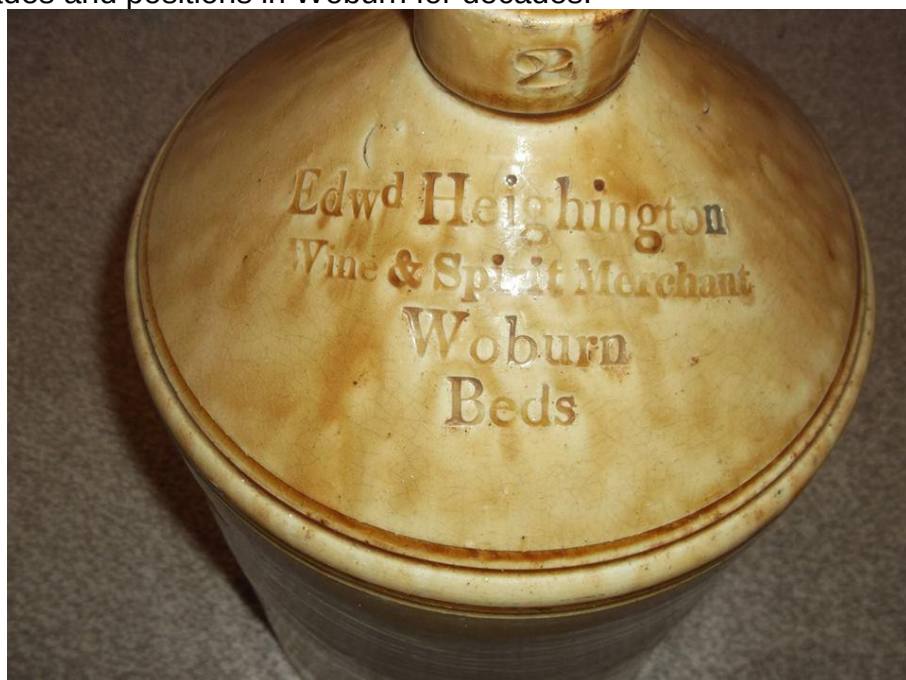


WOBURN, EDWARD HEIGHINGTON

Active ????-1859

Two-gallon flagon, impressed "EDWD. HEIGHINGTON, WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANTS, WOBURN, BEDS"

Could be quite early, as he was running adverts in the Northants Mercury in June 1834, selling J. T. Betts Brandy at 18s. per Imperial Gallon. Edward died 1859. The Heighington family held many trades and positions in Woburn for decades.



Acknowledgements

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...and other members of the Facebook group "*Milton Keynes Old Bottles & Flagons*"

Books

Ayers, Robert & Lambert, Audrey; "*Stony Stratford Past*" History Press, 2003.

Brown, Mike; "ABC: *A Brewers Compendium: A Directory of Buckinghamshire Brewers*", Brewery Hist. Soc., 2007.

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Institutions

Kind assistance was also given by:

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Sherington Historical Society

Rushden & District History Society Research Group

The online British Newspaper Archive at www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk was invaluable.

... and the second-hand shops, collector's shops, junk shops, and all the other dealers from market stalls to antique shops who look out for items for me!

TO BREWERS AND WINE MERCHANTS.

BUCKS AND BEDS.

IMPORTANT SALE, by direction of the Bletchley Breweries, Limited, in consequence of the Company's intention to develop its Export Trade in Solid Beer.

Messrs. JOHN HART BRIDGES & SONS
Are favoured with instructions TO SUBMIT TO
PUBLIC AUCTION,

At an Early Date (unless privately disposed of during the interim),

THE VERY DESIRABLE SIX-QUARTER FREEHOLD BREWERY (late Holdom's), situate at FENNY STRATFORD (one mile from Bletchley Station), together with the FREEHOLD SHOP, with Retail Wine and Spirit Off-Licence, Manager's Residence, Offices and Stores adjoining; also the several exceptionally valuable FULLY-LICENSED FREEHOLD PROPERTIES (with possession), comprising—

THE SWAN HOTEL,	} FENNY STRATFORD;
THE BULL,	
THE BULL & BUTCHER,	
THE RED LION,	
THE BELL, TODDINGTON;	
THE FLEUR-DE-LIS, HOCKLIFFE;	
THE CROOKED BILLET, WINSLOW;	
THE ROSE & CROWN BEERHOUSE,	
DEANSHANGER;	
THE NEW INN, SOULBURY, BUCKS	
(Leasehold).	

The several Properties may be inspected on application to Mr. G. Cave (Managing Director), at the Brewery, or by permission of the Tenants.

Further Particulars, with Cards to View, obtained of the Auctioneers, 20, Hart Street, Bloomsbury Square, W.C.

Solicitor—S. D. Stoneham, Esq., 2, St. Michael's House, E.C.

By Mr. ALFRED THOMAS.

BREWERY AT NEWPORT PAGNELL, BUCKS, With RESIDENCE and MALTINGS, 34 INNS and PUBLIC HOUSES, and other Property.—An Old-established Country Concern, seldom brought into the open Market.

Mr. ALFRED THOMAS

Has received instructions from Messrs. Rogers and Co.,

TO SELL BY AUCTION,

AT THE MART, LONDON,

On MONDAY, the 8th FEBRUARY, 1875, at One o'clock precisely,

THE NEWPORT PAGNELL BREWERY, a very desirable Property, with SPIRIT TRADE attached, situate within a short distance of Wolverton, on the London and North Western Railway. Connected therewith is a good FAMILY RESIDENCE and GROUNDS, STABLING, and other PREMISES; also FOUR MALT HOUSES, wetting together 42 Quarters, and 34 PUBLIC and BEER HOUSES, 9 being situate in Newport Pagnell, and the remainder at Bradwell, Bedford, and the neighbouring Towns and Villages.

The Home Premises and 25 of the Public Houses are of Freehold Tenure, and the total trade about 2,400 quarters a year.

The LONDON and NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, at WOLVERTON, will form a separate Lot.

A portion of the purchase money may, if desired, remain on mortgage.

Particulars may be had of Messrs. W. B. and W. R. Bull, Solicitors, Newport Pagnell; and of Mr. Alfred Thomas, Brewery Auctioneer and Valuer, 2, Adelaide-place, London-bridge, E.C.

WILLIAM HIPWELL & Co.,

Late COLING & HIPWELL,

Ale and Porter Brewers, Wine and Spirit Merchants, OLNEY, BUCKS.

W. H. MOST gratefully thanks the customers to the late firm, and now earnestly solicits a continuance of their kind patronage, and takes this opportunity of informing them he has made arrangements to supply the public with good sound Wines and Spirits in small quantities for Cash as below.

Good sound Port Wine	2s. per bottle or 24s. per dozen.
Ditto ditto Sherry	2s. " or 24s. "
Fine strong Gin	No. 1, 2s. " or 12s. per gallon
Best Cordial ditto	" 2, 2s. 6d. " or 14s. "
Old Jamaica Rum	3s. " or 18s. "
Cognac Brandy	4s. " or 24s. "
Old Pale ditto (Martell's)	4s. 6d. " or 27s. "

All the Articles are genuine and can be well recommended.

Hungarian Wines, Demerara Rum, &c., at lower prices than those above quoted.

Fine Old Ports and Sherries, from three to eight years in bottle, from 36s. to 56s. per dozen. Claret 21s. to 42s. Champagnes 42s. to 62s.

The above can be obtained at the Brewery Stores; also in sealed bottles of Mr. THOMAS BIGG, Ball Hotel, and Mr. ALF. PATRICK, Swan Inn, who are Agents for the town of Olney; Mr. WILLIAM SALMONS, Anchor Hotel, Agent for Newport Pagnell; and Mr. GEORGE HICKSON, County Arms Inn, agent for Stenbury and Wolverton.

Good Store Ale 1s. per gallon	} In any size Casks.
Ditto, equal to Burton, 1s. 2d and 1s. 4l.	
Porter 1s.	
Stout, equal to London and Dublin, 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d.	