

# ***INNS AND INNKEEPERS IN THE HORMEADS***

## **Introduction**

The inn was a centre of village life, used much more often in the past than nowadays for business transactions, billeting of troops, meetings of justices in petty sessions and coroner's inquests; a meeting place for the Wadesmill Turnpike Trust Committee, manorial courts, collections of tithes, hearth tax, land tax, etc. and the gathering of all male adults to sign such statutory declarations as the Oaths of Allegiance.

During the reign of Elizabeth I anyone could hang out the traditional holly bush sign and supply thirsty neighbours or passers by with home brewed ale. Such houses flourished for a while, especially in busy Hare Street, until the owners were caught by the authorities and prosecuted for not having obtained a license.

At this time there was little physical difference between a house and a tavern or tippling-house, an inn or a small hall house, and at different periods in their history several houses in the villages have been either private or public houses. Sometimes maltmen were tempted to brew and sell ale and the son of the maltman who owned The Swan got caught for selling ale and cooled his heels in Hertford jail for a while until he learned his lesson and applied for a license.

Maltmen in the villages included William Martendale in 1587, John Halden in 1587-1609 and Robert Brand of The Swan in 1590. When Henry Hawke died in 1611 he left 'malthouses' in the grounds of his Hormead 'mansion-house Basiers'. There was a malthouse attached to Hare Street House as late as 1783 for this village was in the heart of the good barley growing country.

Gradually the rules about alehouse keeping were tightened and in the reign of James I, in 1605, certain regulations were published:

Articles Concerninge alehouses commanded to be observed by the Lords of his majesties most honorable privye counsell viz.

- That they suffer no neighbours children or servantes nor any dwellinge in the same towne to tipple in their houses
- That none be suffered to Tuipple in their houses on the Sabaoth or ffestevall dayes, at the tymes of Service or Sermons nor at any tyme after nyne of the clocke at night
- That none be sudfered to Tipple in their houses in any one daye above one houre
- That if any vagabonds or Suspicious persons come to their houses they shall acquaint the officers with it, and so of any goodes be offered to be sold in their houses by any
- That they suffer no Cardinge, Cidinge or other playe in their houses
- That they suffer no Drunckennes or dissolute disorder to be in their houses and if any happen to be then to acquaint the Constables of the towne with it that the offenders may be punished
- That they drawe out their drinke by the Alequart or pint and not by Juggs or Cupps, and sett the best after the rate of iij<sup>d</sup> the Ale gallon and the worst after the rate of ij<sup>d</sup> the Ale gallon.

In 1596 the authorities 'put downe Alehouses' in Great Hormead kept by 'Henry Brande & Willm Osborne alehousekeepers no lycense'. Having dealt with Much Hormeade they then searched diligently down the road and reported 'Little Hormead nono'. Illegal tippling houses in the Hormeads which the courts dealt with included:

1621 20 June Robert Piggott of Gt Hormead kept a tippling house there without a licence and selling ale there until 9 July following

1624 1 October Richard Piggott of Great Hormead, tailor, kept an alehouse there without license'.

The Piggotts may have acquired their taste for good ale from their grandfather John Halden the maltman who had died in 1609 leaving their mother his property and some land in 'Washing Pond Piece' in Great Hornead. Richard Toogood, a labourer, was caught and indicted 20 November 1623 and Richard Lewis (alias Ward) a husbandman in July 1653.

No doubt many others managed to escape the law, provided their clients were well behaved, but a disorderly alehouse soon drew the attention of the justices. Drinking out of hours was treated severely if persisted in. On 5 September 1658 Edward Gynne, a husbandman of Great Hornead, was censured for having been caught 'sat drinking and tipping in the house of John Powtler during the time of divine serve'. John Powtler, the victualler, was not let off either for on the following 20 October he was presented at court accused of having 'allowed persons to sit and tipple in his house on the Lord's Day'. John Powtler was also a husbandman, and kept his alehouse 'on the side' He may have feared divine judgement as well as trouble down at Hertford, for he made his Will in good time. This was quite unlike most of the villagers who usually left it literally to the last gasp. John had two hearths or chimneys in his house for the taxman to charge him 2/- each in 1663, perhaps a family hearth and a convivial hearth.

The last time in the court records that a Hornead man was caught occurred in 1697-8 when Ned Shelford was charged with keeping a disorderly alehouse, but he was also a 'profane curser and swearer' which seems to have been the more objectionable offence in the eyes for the Justices.

In 1577, according to an Order in Council, there were 152 inns, 16 taverns and 359 alehouses in Hertfordshire, i.e. 527 licensed premises in the county. The earliest records of licensed inns in Hare Street and Great Hornead occur in the Victuallers Recognizances listed in the Hatfield Sessions Rolls (HCRC) and the innkeepers are also named in this, and in the Muster Books for the 1580s and 1590s. From these the following village innkeepers are known:

'1596 5<sup>th</sup> November Ancient Inns and Taverns

The signe of the gray hounde an acient Inne Thomas Bowness Inkeper there.

The signe of the dogges head in the pottle an ancient Inne Joane Wheler inholder there.'

There then follows a note of 'Alehouses allowed to continewe: Joan Piccass alehousekep. at the bull lycensed...'

This last alehouse, according to another source, was run by 'Joan Viccas of the bull, Great Hornead, widow'. I believe this to be later the Bell in Hare Street but I do not know where Thomas Bowness (a son of the Stonebury owner) kept his Graye Hounde.

These early inns were owned individually by the village tradesmen, butchers, tailors, wheelwrights, carpenters, blacksmiths, farmers (including husbandmen and labourers). One suspects that their wives and families kept the inn for the main part with the men helping out in the evenings and at the weekend. This is underlined by the fact that when the husband died first, his widow often took over the inn and continued to run it successfully for many years, so providing an income for herself and her family. For the most part the owner brewed his own ale, though sometimes a local brewer had an interest in the inn as mortgagee or owner.

About the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century the pattern of private ownership changed. The brewers became aware that by owning a number of inns where their own ale was sold exclusively they could maintain steady sales and so achieve better profits. The brewers could also discourage their own licensees from brewing their own ale. The change of ownership from individual innkeeper to brewer was made feasible when porters, which had a longer life than beer and a much longer life than ale, began to be brewed outside London.

From c1750 onwards the majority of Hertfordshire inns became tied to one brewer. This is reflected in the Hornead and Hare Street inns: Three Jolly Butchers (formerly

Doggeshead) was bought by John Gillman, brewer of Hertford, in 1786; Three Horseshoes bought by Thomas and Noah Young, brewers of Hertford, in 1787; The Swan, bought by John Phillips, Brewer of Royston, in the 1790s; The Bell, bought by John Phillips, brewer of Royston, in 1814; and the Three Tuns, bought by John Izard Pryor, brewer of Baldock, in 1817.

The Beehive is the exception. This was not established until the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century as a beer house (it never rose above that status until a full license was granted in 1954) and the Haydon family who owned it continued to make and sell their own beer and ale until 1900. The Beehive was not tied to one brewer, therefore, until bought by McMullen of Hertford in 1904.

The Hare Street inns flourished due to the number of travellers from London to Cambridge and Norwich. First pilgrims (see the graffiti in Little Hornead church), then students at the Cambridge colleges (including Samuel Pepys and his brother John), then the stage coach traffic, all kept the Hare Street inns busy. Pepys sometimes came through this way on his route home to Huntingdonshire and probably tried all three inns in the village at one time or another to taste their ale and to discover which had the prettiest barmaid.

The most important inn during the stage coach era was The Bell in Hare Street. The mail coaches did not pass through Hare Street but went from Puckeridge by way of Buntingford to Cambridge and the north. However, the Cambridge Telegraph stage coaches ran from Fetter lane, London, via Puckeridge, Hare Street, Barkway, and so on to Cambridge. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century coach travellers could put up at The Bell and the Three Jolly Butchers.

Trade would have been brisk here during the coaching days, falling off sharply in the 1850s when the coaches were declining. With the opening of the railway line to Buntingford in 1863 business declined still further and the innkeepers reverted to the practice of Elizabethan and Caroline days by having dual roles as craftsmen and mine host. There was a smithy and iron foundry in the inn yard of the Swan, a smithy in the grounds of the Three Holly Butchers, and the innkeepers there were wheelwrights; and Lawrence the innkeeper at The Bell was also a carpenter; James Gould at Three Horseshoes was also a higgler or carrier. Edward prior at Three Tuns only admitted to being a victualler in official documents, but he also farmed some land (Peas Closes) then attached to the inn.

In Hare Street only one of the inns has survived to the present day, The Beehive. The other inns became private houses – Three Jolly Butchers in 1966; The Swan in 1908/9; The Bell in 1930. In Great Hornead the Three Horseshoes survived as a public house until 1955 whilst the Three Tuns, which had been a private house until the 1730s when it became a public house, still remains a public house today.

## **HARE STREET**

### **The Swan**

The story of The Swan starts before the records preserved at HCRO refer to it. The Great Hornead parish registers began in 1538 and the first known owner of The Swan appeared in these registers. He was *Robert Brand* who died in 1608, aged 85. Robert was thus born about 1525 when the house was probably already 40 to 50 years old and a private residence of some note. A number of architects agree that The Swan was built before the year 1500 but the nearest we shall get to a firm date is to say it was built in the last quarter of the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

A brick vaulted tunnel and cellar were constructed under the house and I suspect it was for the storage of quantities of grain and malt since Robert, and perhaps his father before him, was a maltman.

With all that barley and malt stored in the cellar, it is no wonder that Robert's elder son *Henry Brand* (1562-1623) was tempted to earn a bit of extra money by selling ale. All went well until Her Majesty's commissioners paid Hare Street a visit and discovered 'Henry Brand alehousekeeper no lycense' and forthwith placed him among the 'Alehouses put down' category in 1596. Henry persisted in his illegal breweng however until the authorities really cracked down on him in 1598. On 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1598 'Henry Brand of Hormead, tiler, in £20; Thomas Brand of Smith Hill in Hormead, husbandman, and Christopher Browne of Hormead, husbandman, in £10 each' paid their sureties (a kind of bail) and promised to appear in court at some future date 'and meanwhile to be of good behaviour'.

When Henry's case came to court he was sent to jail for alehousekeeping without a license. Having spent some time in the county jail, Henry returned home to Hare Street a wiser man and a sadder one after that unpleasant experience – and proceeded to obtain a license. Victuallers Recognizances: 30 Sep. 1601 Henry Brand of Great Hormead, yeoman; 15 Nov. 1606 Henry Brand of Great Hormead, labourer.

In 1605 there is also an indication (in the Hatfield Sessions Books, HCRO) of how such a recognizance and license were obtained: '1605 15 Nov. Sureties: Henry Brand labourer acknowledged his debt to the lord king, ten punds. Henry Edmonde of the same town tailor and Michael Hawke of the same towne innholder' each put down sureties of £5 on behalf of Henry Brand.

Similarly another inn landlord, Henry Edmond, acknowledged his debt of £10 to the king and his sureties were Henry Brand labourer and Titus Chapman blacksmith, paying their £5 each. So the village inn keepers stood surety for one another because about this time Henry Brand owned The Swan, Henry Edmond the Doggeshead in the Potte, and Titus Chapman was at The Bell.

Henry Brand married Elizabeth Bull in 1588 and they had a daughter, Agnes, in 1589 who married in 1615; a son Edward (1591-1658) who was the next owner of The Swan, then John 1598, Mary 1601, Joan 1604 and Daniel (1610-77). According to the burial register of Great Hormead, 'Henry the elder of Harestreet was buried 12 February 1623'.

Henry was succeeded by *Edward Brand* (1591-1658) his son, and Edward's wife Alice who remained at The Swan until 1677. They had three children who survived infancy: Alice who married into the Crouch family of Alswick hall, Edward 1651, and William who was scalded to death in 1638. Young William might well have been a victim of all the brewing activity in the yard at The Swan, where vats of boiling wort presented a once, if not twice, weekly hazard for any small child.

The Swan had two chimneys on which Alice Brand had to pay the Hearth Tax in 1663. When Edward had died in 1658 he bequeathed the land adjoining The Swan, amounting to 2 acres, plus another 3 acres in Bradbury and Stonyland fields, first to his wife Alice for as long as she lived, and then his son Edward, born in 1651. Alice also left a will, in 1677, giving her son-in-law Robert Crowch some land in Millfield and The Downes. She also showed herself to be a shrewd woman who appreciated the value of silver and left silver spoons and cups besides the usual household goods such as pairs of sheets, some of them 'flaxen and some of the towan'. Fortunately she did not dispose of the beds and tables and stools in the inn, but left the furniture to Edward so that the inn was retained as a going concern.

*Edward Brand* (born 1651) married a girl called Mary and they had six children, three boys and three girls, but only two girls survived. One of them was Martha (1684-1739) who married William Bassum in 1709 and this couple succeeded as victuallers of The Swan. After Brands had owned The Swan for two centuries, the name of the owner and innkeeper there is now Bassam, although a Brand, in the person of Martha, who continued to live there until 1739.

*William Bassum* was known as a 'victualler of Hare Street, Great Hormead' when he left his very simple will and died in 1731. All his estate was devised to Martha. It is not until Martha died in 1739 after having written a more detailed will that we find out

exactly what William and Martha's estate comprised. Their two elder sons William and Timothy inherited some 23 acres in Broxbourne and Amwell and their three daughters inherited land in Hoddesdon. Their third son, Edward, got little and remained at The Swan in Hare Street, though not as the owner.

*Edward Bassum* (1716-1779) appeared in the Militia Lists of 1758 to 1762 as a victualler and paid the land tax on The Swan and other land (1746-56) including Crofts Mead. In 1772 he bought another 2 acres in Bradbury Field in an attempt to build up his estate. However he never married but fathered two children, one in 1747 and another, surprisingly, in 1771, but both infants died before their first birthday.

When Edward Bassum died in 1779 he left a number of legacies to his nephews and nieces, amounting to £60, and to his nephew Edward Johnson, born in 1749 the son of his sister Mary and her husband John Johnson, the owner of Oak Cottage and two others. He left 'all my lands messuages and tenements and hereditaments with all the Rents Issued and profits thereunto belonging and goods, chattels etc'. This did not include The Swan, however, for the inn had been sold prior to the first preserved land tax return of 1746 to *Richard Smith* who was a Hare Street butcher. Richard Smith owned a lot of land in Great and Little Horneads and Chishill. This Richard died in 1755 and his land was split up, some being sold and some divided among his children. By the time the land tax for 1780 was drawn up *Mr Hurrell* or *Hurkell* was the owner of The Swan, with Edward Johnson (1749-1833) the occupier and victualler.

*Edward Johnson* remained at The Swan until about 1793. He was a wealthy man, having steadily built up his ownership of land and houses in Hare Street over the previous twenty years. He owned the site of the present-day Well House and the large plot of land to the south of it; land and cottages in the Old Stores area (since demolished and rebuilt); also the site of Rosemary/Melgum on which stood two earlier cottages before the present one.

At some time in the 1790s, *John Phillips*, the brewer of Royston, bought The Swan. Messrs Phillips retained possession of this inn until it ceased to be a public house in 1908-9. Phillips of Royston survived as independent brewers until taken over in 1952 by J. W. Green of Luton.

When Edward Johnson retired from inn-keeping *Thomas Mitchell* and his wife came to Hare Street to run the inn. Mrs Mitchell had the unusual christian name of 'Bell' and their son may have had another strange name 'Swan'. He was buried in 1815, aged 24, and the vicar entered him in the burial register as 'Swan of Hare Street 20 March 1815'. I suspect the entry may be the product of a mental aberration and the vicar intended to ask the name of the man from The Swan whom he had buried – and forgotten. The Mitchell's children were baptised at Great Hornead between 1793 (the date they took over from Edward Johnson?) and 1808. After Mitchell died in 1812, Bell kept the Swan until 1817.

The Victuallers Recognizances for the period are valuable for they confirm Bell's unusual name and also record, officially, the use of the name 'The Swan' for the first time in any preserved document: Victuallers Recognizances: The Swan – Thomas Mitchell 1806; The Swan – Bell Mitchell 1817.

When Bell Mitchell retired, another husband and wife team took over at The Swan. *Paul Tonson* (1818-28) and *Mrs Alice Tonson* (1828-183?) were not natives of Hare Street and appear to have been taken back to their own original villages to be buried for there is no record of their burials here. Paul Tonson married Alice King of Furneaux Pelham at Great Hornead on 15<sup>th</sup> March 1821 and four of their children were baptised prior to Paul's death in 1828 or 1829. Alice then remarried, her second husband being *William Barron* (1799-1878) the Hare Street blacksmith. This marriage took place about 1834 (their first child being baptised June 1835) and it is likely that Alice presided at the inn while William busied himself with his other enterprises. He farmed the Brick House Farm employing eight men on its 150 acres; ran his smithy (to the south of 'The Bakery' in a shed behind the house which was then a carpenter's home); and iron foundry with the assistance of three men; and helped Alice raise their two families of children.

Although William Barron was entered in the local directories as being in charge of The Swan up to 1878, e.g. 'William Barron, Swan PH and iron foundry, blacksmith' in reality he only stayed at The Swan until 1854 when he moved to the house we call The Warren in the Layston section of Hare Street. He kept strictly to his farming (280 acres employing 8 men and 4 boys in 1861) and blacksmithing business about this time but also took a keen interest in the iron foundry he had established in the yard of The Swan.

This must have been the busiest and most interesting period in the history of the old inn. While the Bell and Three Jolly Butchers were putting up travellers including drovers for the night, the front parlour of The Swan functioned only as a drinking place, but it was a hive of activity in the yard at the back. The OS 6" map, surveyed 1876-8, showed the foundry adjoining Swan Lane on the north side. The foundry turned out household articles like flat-irons, and farming utensils such as animal feeding and water troughs. The strangest products of this foundry lie in the Great Hornead churchyard. In the north-east corner are six Barron graves and one Tonson grave, each marked with an identical coffin lid shaped cast iron cover. The seven graves were covered in the thirty year period 1861-93.

The Swan, including the foundry, were the concern at this time of William's son *Henry Barron* i.e. c1854-1882. Henry was William's son by Rebecca, his first wife, baptised in 1830. He was in the household of James Lambert, a journeyman smith in the 1841 census for Hare Street. He was apprenticed to Lambert to learn blacksmithing following the smith's ancient tradition that fathers did not apprentice their own sons. Once Henry had completed his apprenticeship and became a journeyman smith, he returned to his father's household and smithy and in the next census (1851) he is back home at The Swan. About 1854 he married Martha, a Langley girl, and by the 1861 census they are in charge of The Swan and Henry is giving his occupation as blacksmith and ironfounder. Once again one suspects that it was Henry's wife Martha who was in charge of the inn.

Henry died in 1862 and from then on *Martha Barron* is victualler of The Swan until her death in 1893. She leased the smithy and iron foundry to Thomas Saggors of Buntingford for ten years 1882-92, since she and Henry had no sons of their own to carry on the business. After 1892 the iron foundry ceased to function.

*Arthur James Cannon* was the next licensee at The Swan (Electoral Registers 1894-5 to 1903 and Directories 1895 to 1902) and also a blacksmith. Henry Barron's smithy was next to The Swan (shown on OS map 1899) and this is where James Cannon worked while his wife Fanny Judith ran the inn and bore him three children between 1894 and 1904. In 1905 a disastrous fire at The Swan burned the outbuildings, but fortunately did not damage the old house. A picture of the Buntingford Fire brigade at the scene of the fire was printed in the Hertfordshire Countryside.

The next tenant of The Swan was an innkeeper only and the last publican of The Swan. *James Housden* was there 1905-1909 when The Swan closed its doors to the public. The Land Survey of 1909-10 states that George Sallows was the occupier of 'house & premises, formerly The Swan, now Farm Homestead & dwelling'.

As a private house The Swan became Swan Villa, later Old Swan Cottage and now the Old Swan. A preservation order was placed on it by the Department of the Environment in 1967, as a building of special historical and architectural interest.

## **The Bell**

Some large cellars were built under The Bell which suggests it was purpose-built to hold the firkins, kilderkins, barrels and hogshead made by Elizabethan coopers. Certainly the men who owned The Bell were men of substance and counted among the chief inhabitants of the village.

Whoever had The Bell built made a curious arrangement whereby the house straddled the parish boundary between Layston and Great Hornead. It stands on the corner of the

crossroads in Hare Street by the old cart track to Buntingford. Anyone staying at The Bell had the choice, therefore, of going to bed either in Layston or Great Hormead, even though he were convinced he was putting up for the night in Hare Street.

Added to that confusion the name of the first occupants of whom I am certain was spelt and misspelt to an unusual degree even allowing for the variations in the spelling of peoples' names at that date. In the following paragraph anyone called Piccas, ffickis, Viccas or even Figgis, with other minor variations, is of the same family. Similarly I am sure that the inn named as the Bull was, or became, The Bell!

The first intimation that there was ale to be bought at this house was found in 1596 among the 'Alehouses allowed to continewe' with *Joan Piccas* alehousekep. at the bull lycensed'. This note was appended to the list of men mustered to train as troops for Her majesty's army. This is confirmed by Victuallers Recognizances (Hatfields Sessions HCRO) '1596 3 Dec Joan Viccas of the Bull Great Hormead widow'.

I think the story of The Bell goes back at least a generation before this. Joan's father in law was Henry fficcas or Viccas who married Katherine Barnes 14 October 1546. Katherine had relations who were maltmen, Thomas Barnes (1548-) probably a nephew and the Halden family. When the men of these families turned up for the musters they were listed among the 'Cheif inhabitants and householders' or among the 'Moste hable men for service'. Henry and Katherine had two children who were to become the innholders at The Bell, a son John and a daughter Joan (who married Titus Chapman).

John Vickesse was a butcher (Muster Book 1587) and he probably combined this with inn-keeping. The inn had three acres of land adjoining, up Bell Hill, and the pigs kept there would supply the inn with meat then, just as this arrangement was to continue throughout the long history of The Bell until this century. The two jobs kept John busy and preoccupied and he either forgot, or deliberately stayed away from the court at Hertford where he was supposed to attend as a juror on the Hundred Jury Panel in 1590. As a defaulter, 'John Vyckes of Great Hormead' was fined 20d for his non-attendance.

John died some ttime before 1596 having inherited the house from his father Henry and so in turn left the property to his wife Joan. Joan thus became the widow Viccas and Piccas of the 1596 documents. One would have expected Joan to pass on the house to her own sons but disaster befell them in the 1603 outbreak of pestilence and instead, when she died (Layston burial 14 April 1608 Joan w. of John Fickasse) the house and business were taken over by Titus Chapman who had married Joan Viccas the daughter of old Henry in 1574.

*Titus Chapman* was a blacksmith and attended Layston church where Chapman baptisms, marriages and burials took place. Inhabitants of The Bell not only had a choice of which pareish in which to sleep, but also in which parish they wuld worship. Titus and Joan or Joanna had eight children who survived, among them a son called Titus and another small infant christened 'Joyels' who later turned out to be Giles and lived from 1592 to 1671.

Titus stood no nonsense from any man, as befits the village smith, and he was in conflict with officialdom in 1590 and was called to account before a Grand Jury in Hertford. He was not alone, for Robert Brand of The Swan and his son Henry got into trouble for the same reason. The story is told succinctly in the Sessions Book for 1590:

Titus Chapman of Layston, smith, and Agnes his wife 'did withe stande her maiesties comyssion when it was brought to them & allso did contentuously dryve back the constable when he came to ayd the said comyssioner who came to take pasture for certayne of her maiesties lambes who by comyssion upon a peyce has attorytie to take the same. Robert Brand of Great Hormead, maltman and Henry brand labourer also abused the comyssion and constable in the same matter'.

The drover was probably high handed and got short shrift from the Hare Street men. The episode did not do Titus Chapman any harm in the eyes of the villagers and there was no loss of standing, for Titus was voted village constable in 1608.

Titus died in 1615 and was buried at Layston. He was succeeded by *Titus Chapman*, his son, Innholder of Hare Street, who married Ann or Agnes Osborne 1613 and after she had died in 1625, he married Jane. This Titus was also a blacksmith but when he wrote his will he described himself as Innholder of Great Hormead parish in 1641. Titus was very clear in his wishes concerning the disposal of his goods but the most interesting part of his will is the indication it gives of the various rooms at the inn. He had a 'great parler' and a 'littell Parler' in which were the beds and trunks in which the clothes were kept, and little else in the way of furniture. The house at this stage had been boarded in to form upstairs rooms described as 'the Chamber over the Hall' and a 'Chamber over the Parler'. So there were two large rooms downstairs and a small one, with two rooms upstairs over the larger rooms. The kitchen would be a separate room, out at the back of the inn. Since Titus gave all his beds and bed linen to his sons, it is not surprising to find that the Chapman family now gave up innkeeping.

Titus might well have installed an inkeeper to assist him during the early years at the inn, when he was fully employed as a blacksmith. The entry for 'Philip Pluckrose of Harestreet, Layston Baker' among the Victuallers Recognizances for 1617 suggests that he was at The Bell.

*William Plomer* of Aspeden (as it was spelled then) Buntingford, next owned the inn, up to 1659. He made an indenture concerning a 'messuage called the Bell and 3 acres in Hare Street' with his son 'John Burgoyne' (i.e. his son in law) promising to leave the inn to the sons of John called John and George. William Plomer's provision for his grandsons also gives us the first documentary reference to the inn as The Bell and was signed in 1659 (HCRO D/Ex107 T2G). It affords the additional information that at that date George Longe, a butcher, was in occupation of the inn.

*John and George Burgoyne* owned the inn from 1659 for many years but there is only one piece of evidence that either of them lived in the village. In 1655 at Little Hormead church, John son of John and Elizabeth Burgen was baptised on 16 February.

*George Longe* seems to have been here as victualler for some time. He took two of his and Ann's children to Great Hormead to be baptised: William 5 September 1654 and Robert 24 February 1656-7. George was a butcher and may have used his land to provide some herbs and vegetables as well as the meat for meals at the inn for travellers. People in those days did not go out for meals, only eating out when travelling. George had to pay tax on five hearths or chimneys when the taxman called in the 1660s. He might well have collected the tax from George Longe and the other residents of the Hormeads in the 'great parler' whilst being refreshed with George's home-brewed ale. One can imagine them gathered round a roaring fire on one of the five hearths.

*James and Mary Bateman* (at The Bell to 1710) were the next victuallers. The taxman who called while James was in charge was collecting money for the Militia in March 1706. James Bateson paid 2½d on his own behalf and then 9½d on Mr Clark's land. James, it seems, combined farming with innkeeping. The Clarks owned Milburns at this time. When James Bateman/Bateson wrote his will in 1703 he devised his estate to his executrix and wife Mary and died in 1709. Two members of the Burgoyne family were witnesses to the will – a link with the former owners of the inn. After his death, Mary Bateman married James Castle, somewhat hastily the following January, i.e. four months later. She may have desperately needed help at the inn, but men in those days were quick to realise such an asset as a childless widow with a house, not to mention a flourishing business in the form of an inn.

*James and Mary Castle* covered the period at The Bell from 1710 to 1736. James Castle farmed as well as being a victualler. There were no children of this marriage so when James died he left all his 'freehold and copyhold estates to Mary' his wife. When Mary came to dictate her will she left the inn to 'Edmund Brown and neice Elizabeth Brown his wife all my messuage tenement or Inn known by the name of The Bell in Harestreet Great Hormead together with barns stables outhouses buildings gardens orchards & appurtenances together with close of pasture adjoining...' and some more land.



*Edmund Brown* farmed the various pieces of land in and around the village e.g. five acres in Bradbury called Russlow (part of the Cocks/Red House/Hare Street Cottage farm) and some land he inherited from Mary Castle. He had married Elizabeth Brown at Layston Church 15 April 1729 and their seven children were baptised at Layston between 1731 and 1741. The parish registers record that Edmund was an innkeeper from 1735 onwards so he evidently assisted his aunt before her death as a part time innkeeper/farmer. Edmund died in 1752 and Elizabeth sold The Bell.

The Land Tax returns for Great Hornead and Layston both included The Bell:

Great Hornead	1746	Robert Allman paid £1;
	1752/6	Mr Hammond owner John Pearson occupier £1.
Layston	1746/54	Edmund Brown 11-0;
	1755/56	Mr Hammond owner John Pearson occ 11-0.

The apparent conflict in the land tax returns may be resolved by *Robert Allman* while working at The bell being sent off to pay the tax and when asked his name he gave it and was put down as the payer, instead of the owner's name being recorded. Robert Allman also paid for 'Dawsbone Land' in 1746, the small strip of land opposite The Bell, still unbuilt on today, which is in the Great Hornead section of Hare Street, sandwiched between Layston land to the north and south.

Elizabeth Brown sold the inn to *Joseph Hammond* in 1752. The Poll Book of 1754 described Joseph Hammond as a gentleman of Bearden, Ex, who owned a house and land in the Horneads occupied by 'John Pierson'.

*John Pearson* was the licensee at The Bell for a decade, 1752-62. He had come from Shepperd in Cambridgeshire and two of his daughters were born here in 1751 and 1757. His wife Mary died in 1762 and John died the following year.

He was followed by *Philip King* and his wife Mary as publicans of The Bell. Philip King appeared in the Great Hornead Militia Lists, 1761-5 and was registered as being 'at the sine of The Bell'. He died in 1766 and his widow married again four years later: 'Joseph Baker of Layston, bachelor, married Mary king, widow of Great Hornead 10 November 1770'. *Joseph Baker* appeared on just one further occasion in the Hornead records, in the Militia List of 1772, as a victualler. The next November Joseph was buried at Great Hornead. The 1780 land tax shows 'widow Baker' as the occupier of The Bell and, three years later, Mary died in November 1783.

Joseph Hammond of Bearden had owned the inn from 1752 until he sold to another Bearden resident, *George Mickley*. In the 1774 Poll Book for the Horneads, George Mickley of Bearden, Essex, owned a house and land occupied by widow Baker. There is a link between the Hammond and Mickley families through a Layston married in 1727: Ann Hammond of Corneybury married Thomas Mickley of Wakeley. The Bell may have been handed down to Ann by Joseph Hammond and she passed it on to George Mickley (her son?).

Whatever the route, George Mickley owned The Bell by 1774 and the next land tax returns for Great Hornead and Layston almost agree:

Great Hornead	1780-1	George Mickley owner Mrs Baker occ. £1
	1782-3	Mr Gilby owner Mrs Baker occ. £1;
Layston	1780-2	Mr Mickley owner widow Baker occ. 11-0
	1783	Wm Gilby owner widow Baker occ 11-0.

Unfortunately there is a gap in the land tax returns deposited at the HCRO between 1757 and 1779, then again between 1784-1789. However, the next owner bridges one of these gaps.

*William Gilby* owner 1782-1806 was a Buntingford man and while he owned The Bell he had three tenants there: Mrs Baker, who was licensee when he bought it from George Mickley, Simon Townsend, and then Samuel Lee. Gilby also owned Girton House c1798-1805 though he did not live there. Gilby had bought it from Simon Townsend who owned Girton c1790-96.

*Simon Townsend* was living at The Bell 1783-1797 and took his children to Great Hornead church to be baptised: Simon Gishford Townsend son of Simon and Susannah on 8 September 1789; Harriet on 5 July 1791, and Arabella Gishford on 13 July 1797.

*Samuel Lee* was a very wealthy man, owning Cockes Farm, i.e. Hare Street Cottage with forty acres, and he made a good marriage when Kitty Milton became his wife. She was the daughter of James Milton who owned Wayside and land attached to that house down to the Meads. Samuel Lee had a map drawn up showing his estate in Hare Street in 1806 and he retired from innkeeping in that year. This is the first map of Hare Street to survive and shows each house in the hamlet besides the strips of land scattered in the surrounding fields which Lee owned. The Victuallers Recognizances showed Samuel Lee as the licensee in 1806 and this is confirmed by the two land tax returns:

Great Hornead	1798-1806	Mr Gilby owner Samuel Lee occ £1
Layston	1798-1806	Wm Gilby owner Samuel Lee occ 11-0

On the map of 1806 The Bell is drawn with a large yard behind it with a sweeping drive around the back of the inn for coaches and horses to drive in from Hare Street and out onto Bell Hill.

*William Kirby* succeeded Samuel Lee as publican, staying a decade. The land tax returns disagree slightly over William Kirby's tenure:

Great Hornead	1809-13	William Kirby owner self occ. £1
	1814	Phillips owner Jn Kirby occ £1
	1818	Phillips, Jn Esq owner Kirby's exors 2/1d
	1818-20	Phillips, Jn Esq owner John Biden occ 8/-
	1821-2	Phillips, Jn Esq owner late Kirby John Biden 2/1 + 8/-
Layston	1809-13	William Kirby self 8-0
	1814-15	Mrs Kirby self 8-0
	1818-23	Phillips owner Mr Byder occ 8-0

What is definite is that William Kirby was the last publican to own and occupy the inn and sell his own ale before the brewers John Phillips of Royston bought the inn in 1814-17.

William Kirby of Hare Street was buried 30 January 1816, aged 58, at Great Hornead, so that should settle how long a William Kirby was at The Bell. It does not do so, however, for he had a son, inevitably called William, who owned that bit of land opposite the inn called Dawsbone's Land. This accounts for the 2/1d in the land tax, most of the rest of the land attached to The Bell having been sold to the brewers. I believe the Kirbys, Mrs Kirby and sons William and John, remained at The Bell as licensees for a little while after selling it. They decided to quit innkeeping in 1817 and *John Biden* came instead. In the Victuallers Recognizances he appeared from 1817 to 1822 but he was still in Hare Street in 1823 according to the Layston land tax (see above). He and Sarah had two children while he lived at The Bell, John in 1818 and Charlotte in 1820.

*John Phillips* the brewer of Royston, bought The Bell just as it was about to enter its most exciting period, the golden days of stage coaching. The Cambridge Telegraph, plying between London and Cambridge at the exhilarating speed of ten to twelve miles an hour and taking about seven hours to complete the journey, drew in to The Bell for a few moments to take up and put down passengers. Some of them stopped overnight, most merely passed through the village. At that time The Bell utilised the semi-circular drive behind it to full advantage. The coaches could turn off Hare Street behind the inn, unload their passengers, change horses if necessary, and drive out onto the Buntingford lane and across the opposite corner and on to Barkway. This way there was no need to lose time turning in The Bell yard. The little piece of land opposite The Bell was of importance out of all proportion to its size and Phillips had to negotiate and buy it back from William Kirby in order to control passage over it by the coaches and horses. The land tax return of 1823 shows that this had been achieved:

1823 Messrs Phillips owner George Weedon occupier 10-1d.

Mine host in these busy days was *George Weedon* from 1823-1835. The Weedons were a family of innkeepers, occupying other Hertfordshire inns at various times. George was named in the Victuallers Recognizances for The Bell in 1823 and 1824-8. He also farmed land in Brandscroft (of the manor of Corneybury) and in 1825 'Weedon, Mr George of Hare Street Publican entered upon an Inclosure in Brands Croft containing by estimate 9a25p @ 30/- per acre tithe free in the parish of Layston late in the occupation of Wm Pigram deceased'.

He relinquished this on 19 September 1835 and quit the inn this same year. In 1834 he had been summoned to Hertford to act as a witness in a court case. Our innkeepers were always regarded as reliable men of some standing in the local community and were regularly listed among the jurors over the centuries for which records have been kept.

The 1823 Enclosure Award and map for Great Hormead shows the inn with the parish boundary line between Great Hormead and Layston running across the corner of the building, leaving about two thirds of the house in Great Hormead and one third in Layston. The land tax suggests a half and half split (£1 and 11-0) but that is due to the amount of land altering the balance between the two parishes.

*William Lawrence*, senior and junior, kept The Bell from 1835 to 1890. The first intimation that William Lawrence (1810-75?) was at The Bell is found in the Great Hormead parish registers where in 1836 his son Frederick was baptised on 7 August and William was then a 'victualler'. Frederick was his second son, the first born to his wife Barbara having been christened William (1834) at Brent Pelham and this elder son was brought up to his father's main trade as a carpenter. Both of them combined the two jobs of innkeeping and carpentry until 1890.

The directories of Hertfordshire first listed each village's main residents and traders in 1850 and 'William Lawrence, Bell and Builder' was fulfilling this dual role from 1850 to 1890. The 1838 Tithe Map of Layston also confirms that John Phillips was the owner and William Lawrence the occupier of The Bell with its outbuildings yard and garden and home close amounting to 1 acre 3 rods and 13 perches. Phillips also owned more land further up Bell Hill (as far as the cemetery).

The census returns show William senior at The Bell from 1841 to 1871 and he consistently gave his occupation as carpenter and builder. In 1851 he was employing two men and by 1861 six men. By 1871 he had handed over the building business to his son and he was just an innkeeper. In the 1881 census, William Lawrence junior is now a builder employing 8 men and 2 boys in the building business, but he is also at The Bell. Emma, his wife, was the person who presided at the inn for most of the time.

After having a Lawrence at The Bell for 55 years, it must have seemed strange to the villagers having new people there. Perhaps they did not take to the next publicans for there were three in quick succession. *George Glue* (c1890-98) was succeeded by *William Ellis Thresh* who was there for an even shorter period – 1899-1900. *John Smith* was the victualler c1900-1903 and then he was followed by a couple who settled in Hare Street for a few years.

*John Main* c1906-17 and *Mrs Mary Jane Main* 1917-1922 were another example of a husband and wife team who, when the husband predeceased his wife, she continued to run the inn successfully after his death. At this time there was a sign over the door of the inn declaring ALL ROYSTON ALES THE BELL. There was also an accommodation sign or notice in the southern window. This was a bay window to the left of the door and a matching bay window was situated on the right hand side of the door. This was too near the road on the corner and kept getting knocked by motor vehicles – a sign of the changing times – and it had to be replaced by a flat window as a safety measure.

The last publicans at The Bell were *John Kirby* and *Mabel Maud Kirby* from c1924-1930. They ceased to open their doors to the public for the sale of beer and spirits in 1930, though they carried on business at The Bell after that in their sweet shop for many years. They also supplied milk to a number of villagers from the cows pastured on the

land behind The Bell. John Kirby died in 1936 and Mrs Kirby continued to live at The bell until her death in 1970. The Old Bell is now split into two dwellings.

### **Dogges Head in the Potte** **Three Jolly Butchers**

According to Mawer and Santon *The Place Names of Hertfordshire* page 281 'An uncomplimentary field name in Hertfordshire, Doggeshead in the Potte, occurs in 1593'. Its use as an inn name is known to have been applied to the old timber framed house overhanging the road in the middle of Hare Street by 1594. The first time we meet with this inn it already had this name. John Norden published a *Description of Hertfordshire* in 1598 and labelled the small hamlet of Hare Street not with that name, but 'Dogshead' which makes one wonder how much more to the hamlet there was at that date, or whether John Norden merely had a hazy memory of a convivial visit to the inn.

The commissioners who drew up the list of 'ancient inns and taverns' of Hertfordshire were perforce more sober in 1596 and they not only knew of this inn in Hare Street but correctly placed it in the parish of Great Hornead. 'The signe of the doggshead in the potte an ancient Inne Joane Wheler inholder there'.

*Joan Wheler* died in 1600 having been widowed as far back as 1556 when her husband John Wheler, a carpenter, had died. Joan left many goods and chattels in her will to her children and grandchildren. among the last was Mary, the daughter of Joan's son John who had died in 1605. Mary was born in 1588 and married Henry Edmonds, one of the wealthy Edmonds of Hare Street in Layston in 1606. *Henry Edmonds* became the next victualler to obtain a license for this inn:

Victuallers Recognizances    30 Sept 1601 Henry Edmunds of Gt Hornead yeoman  
   15 Nov 1605 Henry Edmunds tailor

Henry was much more interested in his land and his tailoring however than in his wife's innkeeping and so *Edward Payne* became mine host at the Doggeshead. Both men were present at the inn and became involved in some underhand dealing in 1612. This resulted in their taking an involuntary trip to Hertford to appear in court. The story is told in the Calendar of Assize Records:

Herts Indictments James I: 13 March 1612

'Robert Payne of Barkway yeoman entered a recognizance for the appearance of Edward Payne of Hare Street in Great Hornead, victualler, who allowed Thomas Clarke (a glover of Barkway) who had stolen at Barkway a fustian doublet (6/8d) a pair of green russet breeches (4/-), a white canvas doublet (5/-), a pair of botehose (18D) FROM Henry Cumphrey on 10 March 1612, to sell stolen goods in his house and on the 16 March 1612 Thomas Barnes of Layston (husbandman) and Henry Edmonds of Hare Street (tailor) who bought the stolen goods, entered recognizances to appear. Confessed: allowed clergy'.

Did Edward Payne know the goods to be stolen when he allowed them to be sold to Henry Edmonds who would have a keen eye for a good pair of botehose, breeches and doublets since his trade was tailoring? Thomas Clarke was fortunate to get off without being sentenced to hang, though he would, in all probability, have been branded before being released. Being 'allowed clergy' was a device whereby if a man could read a sentence, like clergymen could read (and few others when the device was introduced) then he got off lightly. The clergy could claim to be exempted from trial in a secular court.

The Wheelers, Edmunds and Edward Payne were innkeepers and victuallers, but the owners of the Doggeshead at this time were members of the Hammond family. *Henry Hammond* who died in 1610 and whose will referred to him as Henry Hammond the Elder of Hare Street, wrote his will in 1608, leaving four houses and land in Hare Street. Among the legatees was his son Robert to whom he bequeathed the 'Dog's Head in le

Pott'. Robert took three children to be baptised at Great Hornead church, John in 1563, Alice in 1566, and Agnes in 1568, otherwise nothing further is known of him. I believe that *Robert Hammond* sold the inn soon after he inherited it, but the history of the Doggeshead is not clear from c1627-87.

Following Edward Payne's escapade, *Michael Jordan* became victualler at the Doggeshead. He was licensee 1614-17 and died in 1627.

The next innholder whose name is known was *Robert Christy*, a butcher in 1687. He married three times, his second wife being Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas and Ann Wheeler. Robert and Elizabeth were married in 1696 but she died in 1698. However Elizabeth's brother Radulph or Ralph was victualler at the Doggeshead by 1701. so the Doggeshead was very much a family concern at the turn of the century.

Robert Christy senior died in 1730, still a butcher by trade, but leaving the Doggeshead to his son, another Robert (1688-1731) also a butcher and innkeeper. At this time some land in Raycroft was attached to the inn. Since the son followed his father to the grave within one year, we have a third *Robert Christy* as the owner of the Doggeshead in 1731 with his mother Ann. Robert the third left the village and sold his Hornead estate to two different buyers in 1734 and 1736. *Thomas Mottley* acquired the Doggeshead in 1736 when Nicholas Wooton was the tenant or occupier. Thomas Mottley was 'of Leadenhall Street, London' and bought land and property in the country as an investment. He died in 1750 and left the Doggeshead to his niece *Ann Bage* or Page who retained it until her death seven years later. During this short time there had been two other innkeepers – *Thomas Knight* and *Francis Bullman* c1750-6.

At the time Thomas Mottley wrote his will, 3 December 1750, the Dogg's Head in the Pott was occupied by Frances Bullman. Francis had married Ann Goose of Datchworth at Little Hornead church in January 1749 and they proceeded to have thirteen children in the next eleven years. The village must have been agog in 1756 when Francis and Ann produced twins called Francis and Mary at the Doggeshead. But that was nothing in comparison with the amazement in 1757 when even the vicar could not refrain from showing his surprise:

Baptisms Gt Hornead:	Joseph	Children of Francis	Baptised
	Jacob	& Ann Bullman, all	13 July
	Martha	three at one birth	1757

The twins had died within three days of their birth and the triplets fared little better for Joseph was buried on 24 July, Jacob and Martha succumbed together on 28 July. Only two of all those thirteen children born to the Bullmans survived, both of them girls.

During all this excitement at the Doggeshead, Francis devoted his time to the inn and when called on to train with the Militia 1758-61 gave his occupation as 'Vittler'. Men with children were usually discretely crossed off the list and their names not put forward for the lottery in case of call-up. Francis appeared in this category, though with only two children alive. He remained at the Doggeshead as innkeeper over the next change of ownership.

*Thomas TEayloor* of 'Bell-Inn Spittlefields' was the devisee of Ann Bage's will in 1757. She bequeathed to 'my brother Thomas Taylor all my freehold and copyhold messuages and lands and tenements in Great Hornead, including Dog's Head in the Pot'. Thomas Taylor soon decided he did not want the responsibility of a second, smaller inn some thirty miles away out in the countryside, and sold it to Jeremiah Smith, a butcher, who already lived in Hare Street, in 1760.

*Jeremiah Smith* was the son of Richard Smith, a butcher who had died in 1755 leaving Jeremiah 1 acre 1 rod in 'Moores Land' bought by Richard from Robert Christy. Jeremiah (1715-74) lived in the Moorfields/Layston farm area of Hare Street and continued with his trade as a butcher, leasing the Doggeshead to a licensee. Francis Bullman may well have remained until c1764 when a new name appeared in the Militia Lists: 'Colton, Henry, Victualler'. Henry and Martha Coulton's first child was baptised at Great Hornead

that same year, suggesting that Henry succeeded Francis Bullman at the Doggeshead then. Henry was still at the inn in 1786.

To return to the Smith family, the owners. Jeremiah married the girl next door, Abigail Milton of Moorfields/Wayside, in August 1758 at Layston church. Abigail's father was grocer in Hare Street and since they all lived in the Layston section of the village it was natural for them to go to Layston church for their baptisms, marriages and burials. It is a Layston, therefore, that Jeremiah and Abigail's children must be sought. This is important, due to the well-known legend about Abigail Smith's changing the name of the Doggeshead in the Pot to Three Jolly Butchers in order to commemorate her three butcher brothers, or sons.

The Layston vicar of the time was very conscientious about giving the trade of his parishioners. Consequently we know exactly what the Miltons all did for a living. Without exception they were either grocers, or farmers of Ashdown farm, or kidders/badgers i.e. carriers and traders from carts. So the wife of Jeremiah had no butchers in her family, only her own husband Jeremiah.

The records of Jeremiah and Abigail's own children are also found in the Layston parish registers. They had three children – all girls. Elizabeth was baptised in 1759 and died in 1760, Mary was born 1761 and Abigail was baptised 19 August 1764. Jeremiah died in January 1774, leaving a will. He bequeathed the Dog's Head in the Pot to his daughter Abigail and, since she was a minor, his wife had the custody of the inn until Abigail should come of age. Young Abigail was eleven years old at the time of her father's death, and came of age in August 1786.

1786 was to prove a turning point in the inn's history for the old Doggeshead got a new owner, a new name and, I believe, a new publican. These events are told, prosaically as is the way of manorial and legal documents, in the Hormead Bury manor records:

Abigail Smith to John Gillman, attested copy of absolute surrender of an estate at Hare Street. 7 Aug. 1786

Abigail Smith spinster... (surrendered) messuage heretofore called or known by the name or sign of the Dogs head in the Pott and now by the name or sign of the three Jolly Butchers with the gardens, orchards... 3 rods, now in the occupation of Henry Cotton or his undertenant, to the only and absolute use of John Gillman the younger of the town of Hertford, aforesaid Brewer.

Why Abigail Smith, widow or spinster, had given it the name Three Holly Butchers prior to selling it in 1786 we may never know. What is certain, however, is that one of the Abigails relieved the Doggeshead in the Pott of its ugly name some time in the 1780s.

Now that *John Gillman* had bought it and it became a tied house, he made a present of it to his son, another John who was a 'Groter and Tallow Chandler'. This investment for his son's future was in vain, for John junior died in 1790 and his father had to duly report again at Hormead Manor Court and take responsibility for paying the annual rent of 1/8d once more. John Gillman died in 1796 and bequeathed the inn to his nephew Benjamin. *Benjamin Gillman* did not live long to enjoy his inheritance but died in 1802 and the inn then came into the possession of his brother *Mosely Gillman*, a brewer of Hertford.

While the Gillmans owned the inn and supplied it with beer from their own brewery, *William Bridges*, was the licensee or victualler. There is evidence of his presence in Hare Street from 1788 until 1808. The Victuallers Recognizances of 1806 name him as being the victualler at Jolly Butchers. He and Mary, his wife, had four sons between 1788 and 1796 then Mary died in July 1808 and William left the village soon after.

William Bridges was succeeded as the landlord of the inn by *William King* (1777-1836) who, incidentally, was the grandson of Philip King one-time victualler of The Bell. William King married Elizabeth Rayment in 1806 and they started their family of seven children that same year. William and Elizabeth, between them, served at the Three Jolly

Butchers from 1808 to 1843. Their third child, Wren King (1811-1891) helped his widowed mother over the last seven years of that long period.

The King family saw a change of ownership in 1822. Mosely Gillman sold to *John Christie and George Cathrow* of Hoddesdon, Brewers and co-partners in trade, for '£450, being part of a sum of £16,500' for the Gillman brewery and tied houses, including the Jolly Butchers in Hare Street occupied by William King, and the tenement adjoining'. The tenement was a house between the Three Jolly Butchers and Oak Cottage. Behind the inn, and the other side of it by the footpath, there were large stables and at one time the ostler lived over the top of the stable in the hay loft.

Christie and Cathrow's devisees sold to *Henry Boldero* some forty to fifty properties including tied houses, schools and private houses, in 1843. However, Christie's brewery continued to supply the Three Jolly Butchers until the brewery was sold to Cannon Brewery in March 1928 and they promptly closed it down. In the Licensed Victuallers, Buntingford Alehouses lists of 1946-59, Cannon Breweries are still named as the owner of Three Jolly Butchers. Taylor Walkers next took it over and then, right at the end of its life as a public house, Ind Coope took over Taylor Walkers (1959). Ind Coope sold it off in 1966, removing the pumps and taking down the inn signboard. Since that date it has been a private house.

That is the complete story of the owners and now we can return to the men who really mattered, as far as the villagers are concerned, the landlords of Three Jolly Butchers.

We left William and Elizabeth King in charge. William died in 1836 and Elizabeth, with the help of Wren, continued as licensee. At the time of the 1841 census, Elizabeth had in her household Wren and his wife Mary, her daughters Fanny, Emma and Maria, and two sons, Thomas and William. There was also a male servant and staying overnight were two drovers.

Wren King gave his occupation as victualler or publican at the baptisms of his children from 1836 to 1843 and then when his daughter Maria was baptised in 1845, Wren King was a grocer. He had moved across the road to Leveret Cottage where he remained to keep his grocer's shop until his death in 1891. Elizabeth King probably retired also c1843 but lived on to be 92 in 1868. In the 1861 census, now moved out of the pub after so many years in charge there, she nostalgically told the enumerator that her occupation was 'formerly publican'.

At the end of the King era there followed two publicans in quick succession. *George Miller*, a tailor, was listed in a local directory of 1850 and then *Thomas Thorogood*, a bricklayer, doubled as victualler for a few years. He was present in the 1851 census at the Jolly Butchers and then was named in the local directory 1854/5 as 'Victualler, Jolly Butchers'. His bricklaying would prosper more when Piper's brickworks on the site where East Bank/Amberley/High View/Kemps Close now stand, came into production in the early 1860s. His occupation of building and farming a few acres took preference over his innkeeping and Thomas Thorogood left the Jolly Butchers c1860.

*George Mole* (married to Alice Thorogood in 1857) moved to Hare Street c1860. In the census the following year, George, a 'wheelwright and publican' is present at the inn with Alice, three children, George's mother, a lodger who was also a wheelwright and two strangers staying overnight. In the 1871 and 1881 censuses George Mole only bothered to mention that he was a wheelwright, suggesting that yet again it is the lady of the house who is running the inn,

In 1890 tragedy struck. George Mole died and the Jolly Butchers was burnt to the ground. The timber framed house, which had stood so close to the road for over 300 years, disappeared. In its place, but much further back from the road, a Victorian red brick house with a small bar room was built by Christie & Co. A small wall plate was inserted in the brickwork on the front of the house saying REBUILT 1890.

The new publican succeeded George Mole in two ways, for he was a wheelwright by trade as well as a beer-retailer. The wheelwright's site in Hare Street had been

Shangles/Timbers/Mead villas, for two centuries or more, and the new publican *William Walter Choldcroft* inherited these from his grandfather George Choldcroft (1796-1891) and father William Choldcroft (1830-1911). William Walter combined the two jobs of wheelwrighting and publican until 1908, then concentrated on the inn until he retired, aged 70, in 1926.

During this period the Christie's brewery was retailing its popular 'AK' beer at 1/- a gallon, and 'KT' at 6d a gallon. KT was nicknamed Kicking Tom and when mixed half and half with AK the cost was 9d. This mixture was given by the farmers to their haymakers and they calculated the allowance per man at 9d per day. A teetotaler got a cash allowance of 8d per day instead.

After the Choldcrofts left, *William Baker* was innkeeper for the next decade, followed by *William Edwards* who, with his wife Mrs Annie Edwards, was named as licensee by Cannon Brewery Co Ltd until the end of 1954.

*Walter Stanley Rutter* first obtained a licence for the Jolly Butchers on 7 January 1955 and held it until 1960 when his son-in-law *Frederick Ernest Hines* took over. Mr Hines was the last licensee when the public house was closed in 1966. Since that time it has been a private house.

## **The Beehive**

The Hayden family, carpenters who came to Hare Street from barkway mid-w8th century, owned this beer house for the best part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It lies in the Layston section of Hare Street and records concerning it have to be sought in Layston parish documents.

The first indication of the Hayden family being present at the Beehive (I shall call it that, though it had no name until christened The Beehive c1870) occurs in the 1819 Land Tax return for Layston. *William Hayden* owned the private house then. he was the brother of Henry Hayden who lived at The Bakery, built by their father Henry Hayden in 1748. In Great Hormead church there is a wall memorial to the two Hayden brothers.

William Hayden died in 1833 without issue and the house passed to his nephew Henry Hayden (born 1813 at The Bakery). Young Henry married a girl from Foulmire c1834 and by his wife Mary had seven children. He died prematurely in 1849. Two years later *Mary Hayden* 'widow aged 37@ was, according to the 1851 census, a 'pauper'. It took a very long time to settle the affairs of Henry's estate due to deeds having been lost, and his property was not sold and the estate finally settled, until 1854. In the meantime Mary had to do something to make a living and support her seven children (and an eighth which she had 'acquired' in 1853 so she turned to brewing and selling beer.

When the sale of Henry's estate took place in 1854 their house was Lot 4, described as THE BEER SHOP and was bought by Mary. The beer shop details in the sale advertisement were:

### **A FREEHOLD DWELLING HOUSE**

Used for the Sale of Beer, having brick parapet front, and containing 2 front parlours, Kitchen or bakehouse, with a Good Trade Oven, and 3 Bedrooms; Yard, Garden, and Gateway Entrance, as staked out, now occupied by Mrs Henry Hayden ju. and well adapted for the carrying on a good Beer and Baking Trade.

The directories of Hertfordshire first began listing tradesmen under the villages in 1850 and there is no entry for Mary at that date. The next directory, 1854, included Mary Hayden as a 'beer retailer' and the Haydens were consistently described in that way up to 1898. It would appear, therefore, that The Beehive first functioned as a beerhouse c1852-3. From 1902 tenants following after the Haydens were also listed as beer



retailers and The Beehive as a beerhouse. This is because The Beehive did not obtain a licence to sell wine and spirits until 1953 and a full licence was first granted in 1954.

The earliest reference to the name The Beehive in any document which I have seen occurred in the census of 1871 in the return for Hare Street, Layston:

Mary Hayden head widow 55 Bee Hive Beerhouse born Foulmire, Cambs  
William Henry Hayden son 35 Bee Hive Beerhouse born Hare Street

Mary appeared in successive directories until 1878 as a beer retailer. She died in June 1880 aged 65. Her eldest son, born 1835, *William Henry* then took over the beerhouse. He retained The Beehive until his death in 1900, but was not present there all that time.

William Henry Hayden went off to Stratford, in Essex, about 1871 and married a Buntingford girl c1876. William Henry and Emily's first three children were born in Stratford between 1877 and 1880. The family was back in Hare Street for the 1881 census:

Beehive PH	William H Hayden	head	45	Beerhouse Kpr	born Layston
	Emily Hayden	wife	32		born Buntingford
	Emily A	dau	4		born Stratford, Ex
	William H	son	2		born Stratford, Ex
	Harry	son	1		born Stratford, Ex
	John Sanders	boarder	36	ag.engineer lab.	born Dunmore, Ex
	James Milles	boarder	29	ag.engineer.lab	born Dunmore, Ex

Though William Hayden owned The Beehive, valued at £50+ annually, with the cottage next door, he still retained his link with Stratford, giving his Stratford address in the Electoral Registers up to 1885.

In the parish registers of Great Hormead the baptisms of five of his children are recorded: Kate 1882 when her father was a publican; Mary 1885, Henry 1885 (born 1880), Lilian 1887, and Nellie 1890 when their father declared himself to be an 'Engine Driver'.

With business slackening off, Emily is capable of running The Beehive while her husband is driving his steam engines. She may have had some assistance from Charles Phillips, for he appears in the Electoral Rolls c1894-5 as being at the beerhouse Hare Street, Layston. William and Emily retired and went to live at Leytonstone and from thence were brought back to Hormead to be buried, William Henry in 1900 when he was aged 65, and Emily in 1922 when she was 76.

After the Haydens ended their association with The Beehive c1898, *Ernest William Wisbey* combined beerhouse keeping with blacksmithing for some years. The directories note that he is a 'beer-retailer and blacksmith' from 1902 to 1914 and after 1914 he is only a blacksmith, working at the smithy where Kenton House is now, though he lived in part of the Old Swan.

In 1904 *McMullen*, brewers of Hertford, bought The Beehive and it became a tied house. Today, 80 years later, McMullen still own The Beehive.

Between Wisbey quitting The Beehive and the next long-serving publican, *F J Stubbing* filled the gap 1914-15. The changeover from F J Stubbing to John Wilberforce Chapman occurred on 20 August 1915.

When *John Wilberforce Chapman* first came to Hare Street he went to live in Elm Cottage, then moved to The Beehive in 1915. He signed an agreement with McMullen to lease 'the cottage next to the Beehive Beerhouse on a quarterly tenancy of 15/-'. The Haydens had always owned the two properties and this arrangement was to continue with McMullen who retained the Beehive Cottage, as it was known, until they ordered it to be pulled down in 1966 to make way for the car park. Jack and Emma Louise Chapman were in charge of The Beehive until 6 February 1953 when they retired. They did not

enjoy long retirements for Emma Chapman died in 1956 aged 79 and John Wilberforce Chapman in 1957 aged 77 and were buried in Little Hornead churchyard.

*James Ernest Shepherd* took over from the Chapmans and it was he who obtained the full licence in 1954. He remained at the public house for another ten years after this. *Frederick William Sell* and his wife Margaret were the licensees from 1964 until 2 February 1967 when *Arthur J* and *Jean M Clifton* came to The Beehive. Arthur Clifton died 1985, Mrs Clifton completed 19 years at the inn before retiring in July 1986.

## **The Red Lion**

This public house in Hare Street was open from 1854 until 1878. During this time it was the fifth place in Hare Street in which 'intoxicating liquor' could be purchased and must have greatly disturbed the attendees of the chapel in Great Hornead as well as the Reverend Charles Colson.

In this Victorian period there was a great effort to persuade men not to spend their hard earned wages on beer and temperance tracts were printed in great numbers. No doubt the locals pointed to all the people passing through Hare Street who used the facilities in the village thereby bringing prosperity to the village. However, the opening of this pub coincided with the falling-off in stage coach travel and the coming of the railway to Buntingford, so one wonders how all five pubs survived.

There is just one reference to *William Green* being at the Red Lion and that occurred in the 1854 directory, 'Green, William Red Lion Harestreet'. William did not have a very happy time here for two of his children died in the same year, Frederic James aged five was buried on 21 September, and Hannah aged '1 yr and some mo.' on 29 September. Apart from these fleeting references, nothing further is known of William Green.

The next owner appeared in the Electoral Registers for 1856-78. He was a Victorian entrepreneur on quite a scale considering the size of the villages in which he operated. *William Barron* owned the Warren, the inn and ironfoundry at The Swan employing three men, farmed the Brick House Farm then 280 acres with eight men and four boys, and rented the limehouse and blacksmith's shop and shed on the Hayden property now called The Bakery.

Why he took on a second public house when he already had The Swan is a mystery, but his son Henry with his wife Martha may have had The Swan well in hand and William wanted somewhere else to go in the evenings. Whatever the reason, William Barron kept the Red Lion until his death in 1878. His son closed it then and the public house once more became a private house, soon to be renamed Girton House.

## **GREAT HORMEAD**

There were two licensed inns in Great Hornead, both dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, though one was a private house prior to being used as an alehouse. One cannot really believe that there were no others before the 18<sup>th</sup> century, but they are not recorded in any of the usual sources. Apart from illegal tipling houses as mentioned in my Introduction, the two inns to record in Great Hornead are the Three Tuns and the Three Horseshoes.

## **The Three Tuns**

Situated at the corner of Hornead Dane and Smith's Hill, now better known as Hornead Road and Horseshoe Hill, this early 17<sup>th</sup> century (or late 16<sup>th</sup> century) house was not converted into an inn until the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The story of the inn begins about 1726 with the Wiggs, already an old Hornead family owning extensive property, many goods and chattels, all taxed by successive governments, and the remainder left in their wills.

The first Wigg in the records was Henry who died in 1558, succeeded by his son Henry who lived to the then great age of 73. The vicar thought Henry remarkable because he was 'beardless'. He died in 1617 when all men wore beards – except Henry Wigg, and this unusual fact was recorded in the burial register. He was childless so a nephew called John continued the Wigg family tree. John had a son called Henry (died 1643) who also had a son Henry (1611-64) who married Mary the sister of Elizabeth Wheler whose family were inn keepers at the Doggeshead in Hare Street.

Mary Wigg left a will when she died in 1695 in which copyhold and freehold land and tenements were bequeathed to her son Michael. The Three Tuns, including its land, was partly freehold and partly copyhold, of both Hormead Bury Manor and Hormead Redewells (i.e. Hormead Hall). Michael Wigg disappears from the scene but his brother Joseph remained in Hormead (and paid tax on two chimneys in 1663) with his wife Elizabeth nee Dellow and they had a son William (1663-1736). This brings us to our starting point where the inn is concerned.

*William Wigg* (1663-1736) owned the cottage and orchard behind it and was admitted a tenant at Hormead Redwells Manor Court in 1726. William had paid 4d militia money in 1706, showing he was better endowed with goods and property than most of the cottagers who only paid a halfpenny.

William died in 1736 leaving all his 'copyhold messuages lands tenements houses outhouses yards gardens orchards barns and stables and appurtenances' to his wife Mary. He did not really own multiple examples of each of those things, the verbosity was the lawyers way of making William's will longer and more impressive, which in turn warranted larger fees. The most interesting item in William's will occurs near the end, where he carefully stipulated that he was leaving Mary his 'stock of beer'. Everyone then brewed their own ale and usually had some in stock, so William's 'stock of beer' has special significance or would not otherwise have been mentioned. It was on a par with his other stock in trade, his farming stock and equipment and household goods, and it is the earliest hint to clue that the house is being used to sell beer. This is confirmed 11 years later when Mary died as was described in the burial register for 1747 as an 'Inholdre'.

William and Mary's eldest son *William Wigg* (1706-59), a cordwainer or shoemaker, inherited the house – still merely referred to as a 'messuage' with no name. William owned the house until his death in 1759 when he left his wife Ann 'all that Messuage or Tenement with all the Appurtenances thereunto now in the Occupation of my Brother Joseph Wigg'. After Ann's decease the inn and some land called Peas Closes which William had bought from William Allen in 1752, also in the occupation of brother Joseph, were to become the property of their daughter Ann born in 1737.

Brother *Joseph Wigg* was married to a Rose and owned his own separate cottage in Great Hormead which he leased to Thomas Berry. Joseph was the victualler by 1754 when his brother William wrote his will and still the publican in 1770 when he died.

In 1770 Ann, widow of William, was left with an inn with no innkeeper. Ann employed *Henry King* for a few years. Henry King of Hare Street was the son of Philip King who had been the victualler at the Bell when Henry was a small boy. Henry married Elizabeth Dines in 1782 and I think this was the year in which he began his career as an innkeeper. He remained until the 1790s and smoothed over the transition period from private ownership by the Wigg ladies to ownership by John Gripper, the Hertford brewers, in 1784. It may have been that Henry and Elizabeth were not particularly good brewers of their own ale or efficient innkeepers, that the Wiggs decided to sell out to a brewery. Henry was entered in the Militia Lists as a labourer 1780-86 so was working on the land during the day, while Elizabeth was trying to rear their brood of three boys and one girl in the same period.

With the *Grippers* of Hertford supplying the liquor until 1817, when both brewer and innkeeper next changed together, *William Devall* became the licensee at the Three Tuns. William Devall (Duvall Devile etc etc) came from a very large family and after marrying Catherin in 1791 proceeded to produce his own very large family. After 11 children

between 1793 and 1813, Catherine produced twins in 1815. Somehow William managed to raise enough money to buy the inn on 21 November 1808 and it was in the deed of conveyance to him that the 'messuage or tenement or public house called or known by the sign of the Three Tuns' is so-called for the first time in an official document. His ownership was of short duration – his every increasing family saw to that – and he sold to the brewer *John Izard Pryor* of Baldock in 1817, then quit innkeeping.

Pryor paid him £270 for the inn and £230 for Peas Closes, and William Devall moved house up the hill to live in one-third of Cosy Cottage. How they all fitted into the tiny dwelling does not bear contemplating.

The Pryors of Baldock owned and supplied the Three Tuns from 1817 to 1854. During this time there were four publicans: Thomas Tolfts 1817-21, Edward Dew 1821-7, Thomas Skinner 1827-c1835 and Edward Pryor c1835-1872.

*Thomas Tolfts* and his wife Ann did not take to the job of innkeeping and left when Thomas found a job on a local farm. *Edward Dew* and his wife Ann may have persevered, but Ann died young in 1823 and Edward struggled on for only another four years before he too gave up the inn. There was then another short period when *Thomas Skinner*, who had come to the village as a carpenter in 1820, turned his hand to innkeeping c1827. Thomas had lived in a house in Hare Street with his wife Elizabeth up to the time of their removal to the Three Tuns, and they kept this house, renting it out, a safety precaution. This proved just as well in the circumstances.

With the license being granted to *Edward Pryor* in 1835 by the brewers, a real innkeeper who knew his business arrived at the Three Tuns. He stayed for 37 years, despite the loss of his wife Ann in 1838 when she was only 31 years old. Edward Pryor appeared as the publican in four censuses, 1841-71, his small family being reduced at each decennial return as his children left home. By 1871 he was left at the inn with a housekeeper, Sarah Spicer, to assist him and a granddaughter Emma Spicer also present.#

The next thirty years was spanned by *Frederick Reddall* who was born at Sacombe Green forty-one years before he came to Hormead to become the Three Tuns publican. He must have been happy here for he remained until his death in 1903. The usual sorry tale of numerous children dying early in life is relieved in his case by the help and comfort brought to him by his daughter *Eliza Jane* who married *David William Bardwell* when she was 29 in 1902, and they succeeded her father at the Three Tuns.

A local resident informed me that Mr Reddall was a large strong man who, for a bet, pulled a pony cart with a quarter load of straw (nine trusses) from the Brick House down Anstey Lane (i.e. Anderson's Lane) over the bridge and up Horseshoe Hill as far as the entrance to the Three Tuns and so into the yard. He won his bet, and refreshment too, no doubt.

The yard, used by Reddall to deliver the straw in the story above, is the present-day car park and was purchased by the brewers Joseph Simpson in 1855. At that date it had a house standing on it and Simpsons bought the house, plug hogstye and the usual untidy conglomeration of sheds and shacks, from Edward Baer for £52-10-0. Simpsons only suffered it to remain inhabited until 1888 and after that it fell into ruins and was cleared away.

*Joseph Simpson* of Messrs Simpson & Co. Brewers of Baldock, had bought out J I Pryor's brewery in 1853, along with 122 tied houses, for £81,904. The Three Tuns was one of the tied houses. The brewery men at Simpsons all wore the symbols of their trade, a red woollen stocking cap with a tassel. They would become a familiar sight in the village as they rolled the barrels off the carts into the cellars at the Three Tuns. AS well as the public house, Simpsons also owned the land Peas Closes and the orchard behind the inn. To this they added the house mentioned above in 1855. They had paid £290 for the inn and proceeded to enfranchise it on 29<sup>th</sup> November 1867, i.e. release it from its copyhold status by paying a fine or fee of £53-15-8d to Hormead Redewells Manor.

*David William* (or William David at his baptism 1871) and *Eliza Jane Bardwell* stayed at the Three Tuns the rest of their lives, until she died in 1940 and he in 1941. aThen history repeated itself, and their daughter *Irene May*, married to *Albert Cecil Hummersons* in 1941, took over the tenancy of the inn and were there during the bleak war years and carried on into more peaceful times until Mr Hummersons retired in 1873. From the arrival of Frederick Reddall in 1872 until Mr Hummersons' retirement in 1873, the keeping of the Three Tuns had remained in the same family – a remarkable record and achievement.

Simpson & Co of Baldock were the owners of the Three Tuns from 1854 until their brewery was acquired in December 1954 with 130 tied houses by Greene King. The Simpson's Brewery continued its output under Greene King until 1965 when it was shut down.

So it was Greene King who was responsible for closing the inn in 1873, the modernisation programme, and the re-opening in 1976. *Tony and Erika Hill* were at the inn in 1976 until *Trevor and Gloria Sanders* came in 1980. They left in April 1986.

Reported in the Royston Crow 23 January 1987, p.5 'One fire, at the Three Tuns public house Great Hornead, caused damage to a sitting room, but afterwards a spokesman said it could have been much worse but for the icy and wet conditions.'

### **The Three Horseshoes**

This was a tar-boarded rambling house on the west side of Smith's Hill, later named Horseshoe Hill after this public house. In England, tar-boarding was rarely used for domestic buildings until the 18<sup>th</sup> century and this was a mid-18<sup>th</sup> century building and public house.

The Land Tax returns for Gret Hornead, preserved at HCRO, begin in 1746 and Edward Baker paid his 4/- tax on this property and land. This was *Edward Baker* (1722-66), the eldest son of Edward baker of Hare Street, a higgler (a carter who visited the villages with wares such as pots adn pans, grain, cloth, etc for sale in a cart). Edward junior married first Ann brown of Little Hornead in 1746, but after bearing a son in 1746 both Ann and the boy died. In the burial register the vicar noted that Ann was the wife of Edward Baker, an 'Innholder'.

Edward Baker married second Alice Brown in 1753. He had come from a wealthy family who owned property in Anstey and two cottages in Great Hornead (the Old Rectory and the cottage once on the Three Tuns car park). It is quite likely therefore that when Edward junior married in 1746 the Three Horseshoes was built for him and his bride. Edward died in 1766 and within a few years Alice sold the public house to Henry Coulton or Cotton who employed *William Ginn* as the 'Alehouse Keeper' as the Militia Lists called William in 1773. In 1772 William Ginn was listed as a 'Victualar 3ch' i.e. with three children and so unlikely to be chosen to go to war.

Henry Cotton also appeared in the Militia Lists. In 1764 he too was a 'Victular' and that same year the first of his and Martha's eight children was baptised. It is curious that, according to the Land Tax returns 1780-83 a Henry Colton/Cotton owned the Three Horseshoes and was occupier of the Three Jolly Butchers in Hare Street. Henry appears to have first come to the Horneads in 1764 and he disappears again, with all his family, twenty years later.

In 1787 there is a new owner and new victualler. Also in 1787 this alehouse became a tied house for the new owners were Young, brewers of Hertford. Thomas Lawrence was in residence when the house was named as a 'copyhold cottage or tenement situate at Smith Hill in Hornead Dane called the three Horse Shoes' to which Noah Young was admitted at a Hornead Manor court. So the alehouse now had a name, a brewer as owner, and *Thomas Lawrence* as publican. When Thomas Lawrence died in 1795 his daughter Jemima (born 1760) who had married Edward Cousins in 1789, took over as victualler. (Victuallers Recognizances 1806-24: Three Horseshoes Edwd Cousins.

*Edward and Jemima Cousins* kept the inn throughout the ownership of Noah Young. The brewer purchased a piece of land adjoining the inn c1803 which gave it a spacious and generous plot on that side of the hill. Noah was co-partner in the Hertford brewery with his brother Thomas Young. When Thomas died the brewery became vested in his son, Noah. In October 1824 Noah sold the Three Horseshoes to *Messrs Hawkes* brewers of Bishop's Stortford, for £175. The Hawkes family supplied the inn with its liquor until acquired by *Messr Benskin* at some date between 1900 and 1910. Messrs Benskin were taken over and absorbed by the Ind Coope organisation in 1957 and they in their turn were to become part of Allied Breweries. However, before that happened the Three Horseshoes had ceased to exist as a public house.

At the start of this chain of events in the brewers' history, Edward Cousins was the victualler and then in 1834 he retired and two complete strangers came to the village, *Timothy Bush* of Manuden and his new wife *Mary Cannon* of Aggesden were married in February 1825 at Great Hornead.

Timothy is listed as the Licensed Victualler in the Recognizances from 1825-8 and when his children Martha, Philip, John and Charlotte were baptised between 1826 and 1843, he gave his occupation as 'victualler'. Timothy gave up inn-keeping about 1834 and went to live in Hare Street where he traded as a butcher until he died in 1856. Very shortly after he moved he was called to appear in a court case at Hertford as a witness against Edward Dockerell, a Barkway labourer, charged with stealing two sheep valued at £2 from William Eling, a butcher of Buntingford. The labourer was found guilty and sentenced to be transported for ten years. Timothy Bush also had another problem on his hands for his daughter Martha was a cripple from birth. When her parents died she had no alternative than to go to the workhouse, where she died.

Timothy Bush gave way for *James Gould* at the Three Horseshoes. James combined two jobs for many years. He was a higgler as well as victualler of Three Horseshoes where he lived from 1838 until his death in 1885 at the ripe old age of 84. He came to the village with Sarah, his wife, and three children. Their last child was born shortly after their arrival and called Mary Ann. Appropriately it was this Hornead child who was to carry on the family connection with the public house after the death of her father in 1885.

James Gould was born at Little Hadham where his three elder children were born, Thomas, Caroline and Joseph. They left Hornead when they grew up and James was left alone at the pub after the death of his wife Sarah in 1868. His grand-daughter Sarah Lewis came as housekeeper and barmaid for awhile which allowed James to continue his business as a carrier. In the 1870s however he gave that up (he too was in his seventies then) and became a full time victualler.

There is a story current in the village about James Gould who was a bit of a miser. He slept on top of his money but was robbed one night by being tipped over onto his side and the money whisked out from under the mattress. It was suspected that the only person who knew of this arrangement for the safe keeping of his cash was a daughter and that she planned the raid. His careful habits provoked the villagers into petty theft for he kept his loose change in a tin box in a cupboard by the fireplace in the bar. His village customers got James to go out and fetch them a pint, took his pennies out of his tin box in the cupboard while he was gone, and used them to pay him when he returned with their beer.

James Gould was laid to rest in Great Hornead churchyard on 21 May 1885 and was succeeded at the public house by *Hamar Bardwell* (son of James' daughter Mary Ann Bardwell who died at Hare Street in 1900 aged 87) with his wife Bertha. Hamar was born in 1860 but there are no further parish register records for him. This may be explained by the Bardwells being Congregationalists at this period. Hamar was in the 1890 local directory as the resident publican, but the 1899-1908 directories list *Mrs Bertha Bardwell* as being at 'Three Horseshoes PH'.

At the time of the 1909/10 Land Survey, the owners were Messrs Benskin & Co. and the occupier was 'Late Horace Gray now Garland, A.W.'. *Horace Gray's* tenancy can only

have been of two or three years' duration at the most. The rateable value of the house and land in 1910 was £10 and the gross rental £12-10-0.

The last chapter in the history of the Three Horseshoes begins with *Alfred Wilberforce Garland* 1910 and ends with his son, the last publican there, Bill Garland in 1955. It is an odd coincidence that there was a 'Wilberforce' both at Three Horseshoes and the Beehive about the same time. However the Three Horseshoes' Alfred Wilberforce Garland was known to the locals as Alf, and his wife was called Florence. Alfred renewed his license annually until February 1950 then the license was transferred to his son, *William Alfred Potter Garland* on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1950. Bill obtained a full license for the first time on 5<sup>th</sup> February 1954 and then the record of the Alehouse Licences for the Buntingford area states 'Forfeiture of Licences 7 October 1955'.

Louis Scheuber (died 1958) bought the Three Horseshoes house as a private residence for his son-in-law Thomas Hinds who lived there until it was sold to developers and the old house pulled down 1969/70.

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To my local informants I am very grateful for their help with difficult sections of the histories towards the end of their active lives. Finding what happened in the 1920s so often proves more difficult than tracing events in the 1720s or 1820s since many recent documents are not yet available to researchers. The last days of some of our inns proved more elusive than records of their earliest days in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. May I also extend my good wishes to all in the villages who take an interest in their local history and I thank you for your help and encouragement. Finally, a special 'thank you' to Mr P Barrett and Miss Stephanie Smith.

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