

# THE RED HOUSE

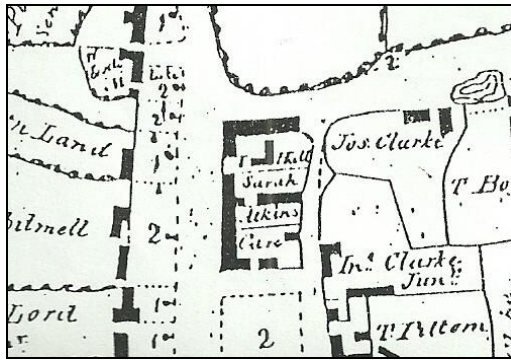


**BARBY LOCAL  
HISTORY GROUP  
FEBRUARY  
2025**



## THE RED HOUSE/ 20 THE GREEN

The site on which *The Red House* stands is shown on Barby's earliest extant map as part of the property occupying the corner plot on *Rugby Road*.<sup>1</sup> This was listed in the Enclosure award of 1778 as belonging to Cave.<sup>2</sup> In 1840, the Oakley Survey map showed this plot divided into three, part being plot 436, *The Black Horse* public house; part being plots 433 and 434; and another part, the site of *The Red House*, being plot 435, belonging to Ann Watson, a grocer, who was the tenant of plot 431 in the allotments. Her property was described as being a house with shop, outbuildings, yard and garden.<sup>3</sup>



1778



1840

Ann Watson (1768–1841, widow of John) was in residence at the time of the 1841 census, living with her daughter Frances Watson (b1804), daughter Ann Peace (b1789), Henry Watson (b1832, probably a grandson) and John Mantle (b1834, also probably a grandson). In 1851, Ann's three daughters, Frances, Ann and Mary Mantle (b1795, widow of Thomas), were living in the house, together with Mary's daughter Mary Ann (b1832); Ann was the shopkeeper and Mary Ann a milliner. In 1861, Frances and Ann (now a retired grocer) were living next door to the shop, which was being run by James Roddis (1804–1887). James was described as a baker & grocer, living with his wife Harriett (1804–1866) and daughter Harriett (1842–1885), who married Thomas Woodfield (1837–1888) of *The Black Horse*.<sup>4</sup>

In 1871, the Roddis household consisted of James, still a baker & grocer; his son James (b1839), a baker, and his wife Fanny (née Young, b1847); and his daughter Sarah Jane (1837-1910) and her husband George Hopkins (1838-1901), a carpenter, and their son Walter George (b1871). In 1874, *Tait's Rugby Almanac* described Roddis snr as a postmaster, but at the 1881 census he was described as 'Formerly Baker', living alone. The property now described as 'Grocer's Shop & Post office' was occupied by George and Sarah Hopkins and their five children.

<sup>1</sup> Present-day names of streets are used in this article; streets were not named in census returns until 1901; house numbers were not assigned until the 1960s.

<sup>2</sup> Northamptonshire Record Office (NRO), 24P/211 & Map 5082

<sup>3</sup> NRO, ZA 431 & Map 4418

<sup>4</sup> References for census data and parish records of births, marriages and burials, are not detailed. For more information about the *Woodfield* family, see *Barby's Public Houses and Licensed Premises* at [www.barbylhg.org.uk](http://www.barbylhg.org.uk)

In 1891, George was described as a wheelwright and the only 'baker & grocer' was John Vincent, who lived on the South side of *The Green*. During the 1890s George founded a building business; he was responsible for building *Shakespeare Terrace* on *Rugby Road*. He died in 1901, when his wife and family were living on the East side of *The Green*, next to *Pinfold House*; Sarah ran the post office there. Their old house was now occupied by Edward Thomas Clarke and his family; Edward was described as a 'Builder & Grocer', so there was once again a shop on the premises.

Edward was the son of Joseph Clarke, possibly a descendant of the Joseph Clarke who appears on the 1778 map living in *Ware Road*. In 1871, Joseph owned 6½ acres, his son Eli was a bricklayer and Edward was a 15-year old apprentice bricklayer. By 1881, Edward was a fully-fledged bricklayer and married to Martha (née Coleman), a dressmaker, with two daughters; it is not clear where they were living in Barby. However, at the 1891 census the family was in the centre of the village and in 1901 they were established next to *The Black Horse*: see census return below. The house was put up for sale later that year and the Clarke family disappeared from Barby parish records.

Administrative County		The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the													Page																																				
Civil Parish		Ecclesiastical Parish		County-Borough-Municipal Borough-Urban-District		Ward of Municipal Borough or of Urban-District		Rural District		Parliamentary Borough		Town or Village or Hamlet																																							
Barby (Northants)		Barby (Northants)		Northants		Barby		Northants		Northants		Barby																																							
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The 1910 surveyor described the house as 'well built and pleasant overlooking the green'. It was being let at 'a reasonable rent', to G Batchelor.<sup>6</sup>

However, in 1911, a retired farmer, Albert Edward Hand, and his wife Sarah Jane, were living in an 8-roomed house in Barby. (They were from Leicestershire, having previously lived in Cotesbach. Albert was already retired in 1901.) Albert was listed on the Barby electoral register every year from 1912 to 1915, and then in 1918 living in 'Red House', this being the first recorded use of the house's name. Jane died in 1915 but was not buried in Barby. In 1921 Albert was being visited by his two sisters, who were given probate after he died in 1935, having run the shop for many years.<sup>7</sup> He is remembered as an impressive man.



Barby Local History Group (BLHG) archives: P02/087B



BLHG archives: P1761

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<sup>6</sup> TNA, IR58/5910

<sup>7</sup> England & Wales Government Probate Death Index 1858-2019, 1936

The photos above, dating from the 1920s (top) and 1912 (below) show the house adjoining the neighbouring building and with a clearly defined shop window and separate shop door.

In 1919, Margaret Anne Batchelor, born in Barby in 1898, married Thomas William Collins at St Mary's; and this was the couple in residence when the 1939 Register was compiled, as seen below.

House No.	Name	Sex	Age	Marital Status	Occupation
1	Collins Thomas W	M	21.9	M	Gen. Moulder
2	Collins Margaret A	F	5.2	M	Wife of Thomas Collins
3	Collins Jane M	F	10.4	S	Collects stamps work
4	Collins Mildred G	F	23.0	S	Miss Splicing (long short)

The house was still owned by Rev Mitchison, but was no longer run as a shop. The Collins family remained in the *Red House* until the 1950s, being joined by Ernest Weston when he married their daughter Mildred. Thomas worked for *BTH* in Rugby; he died in 1955. Margaret was the 'box office' for the *Barby Players*; she died in 1981, when living elsewhere in *The Green*. Mildred and Ernest died in 1986 and 1992 respectively; neither was living in the *Red House* at the time of their death. However, in 1970 Lucy Henson was recorded as living there at the time of *her* death.

A photograph taken about 1975 shows the house no longer with a shop window or door. The



replacement window now matches the other windows in the house, emphasising its status as a purely residential property. There is also a gap between the house and the neighbouring property which replaced *The Black Horse*; the formerly adjoining wall is now rendered.

BLHG archives: P1730