

BARBY'S PUBLIC HOUSES And LICENCED PREMISES



**BARBY LOCAL
HISTORY GROUP
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INTRODUCTION

Barby has had at least four public houses in its modern history from the nineteenth century onwards:

The Black Horse, demolished in the 1950s, on the north west corner of The Green: see Page 4;

The Crown (or Old Crown) which is now Crown House in Kilsby Road: see Page 9;

The Star or Old Star at Star Corner, now a private residence: see Page 14; and

The Arnold Arms (formerly known as The Horse & Jockey), still in existence: see Page 19.

For a few decades in the early 1800s there was also a beerhouse at Norman's Wharf on Hillmorton Lane by the canal; this was owned by The Rector as it came within the lands granted to him at Enclosure in 1778.

There may have been one or more other beerhouses: there is a metal plate on Walnut Cottage in Kilsby Road, between two of the upper windows, that may have held an inn sign; this of course could have been brought from elsewhere, although it has been *in situ* for many years.

Barby's Licenced Premises & Enclosure in the Eighteenth Century

The Crown was Barby's premier public house in the eighteenth century. There is a notice of sale of a property to be held in 1768 at The Crown, landlord Mr Tildesley.¹ It was here too in 1778 that the Commissioners met to discuss the proposals and objections in connection with the Barby Enclosure Act and Award.²

Mr Tildesley is the earliest known landlord of a named Barby public house until the census returns of 1841 and the advent of county trade directories from the mid-nineteenth century. Licences would have been granted in the Quarter Sessions held before the local JPs, but these have not yet been consulted to find earlier references

¹ Northamptonshire Record Office (NRO), Daventry Collection, D10/131

² NRO, 24P/211 & Map 5082

to licenced premises in the village. However, John Salisbury of Barby, in his will proved at Northampton in 1814, describes himself as a farmer and victualler.

The 1778 Enclosure map and award does not mark the pubs as it was concerned with allocating land parcels to those who owned land in the open fields, not with showing the properties of those without farmland. However, there is a field belonging to Lumley Arnold of Ashby Lodge referred to as "Inn Field" in the Enclosure Award. This is situated on the old top road from Daventry to Rugby, now a foot and bridle path from Barby water tower, on the section between its junction with Elkington Lane and where it emerges into the fields above Barby Wood Corner of Onley Lane. This would have been a good place to have had a small alehouse as it would have saved drivers of carts and wagons coming into the village itself and having to negotiate its long hill, but it seems by 1778 to have no longer existed. It could easily have been supplied from the village or Ashby Lodge if it did not have its own brewhouse. Alternatively the name may refer to it being an inner field.

The Oakley Survey of 1840³

The 1840 Oakley Survey, with its detailed map and description of every property in the village, is the first time we can state for certain that the four public houses were in existence, although The Arnold Arms is not named, just called a beerhouse. By this date all four businesses were run by owner/occupier families. This situation mostly continued for the rest of the nineteenth century, although The Star had the most chequered fortune as it was in different tenure at every census until 1901.

Valuation Survey of 1910-14⁴

The Valuation Survey was instigated by the government to establish property values for taxation purposes, but it was never used. The Survey was carried out over a number of years, Barby's mostly in 1914. By this time all the pubs were owned by local brewers or breweries: the time of the independent free house had run out, the large breweries were buying up small local pubs and vying with one another for the trade.

³ NRO, ZA 1431 & Map 4418

⁴ The National Archives (TNA), IR58/5910

This was not great in Barby, as the Surveyor himself noted in his comments on the pubs. Each of the premises sold about half to a barrel of beer a week, as well as one to four dozen bottles of beer and half to one gallon of spirits.

The extent of the premises and the valuation gives an idea of their relative prosperity: The Black Horse 660 yards £481, The Crown 1100 yards £702, The Star 1560 yards £700 and The Arnold Arms 1760 yards £860. Clearly, The Arnold Arms was the most prosperous.

Twentieth Century Decline

By the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939 there were only two public houses left in the village: The Star and The Arnold Arms. Only The Arnold Arms now remains.

The Cricket Club on Longdown Lane has a licence for matches and private functions, as does the Sporting Club in Hillmorton Lane, both built in the 1980s. The latter has a licenced restaurant which is open to the public when the club is open.

THE BLACK HORSE



*The Black Horse on extreme right with Shakespeare Terrace and The Arnold Arms beyond,
from a postcard sent in 1920⁵*

We do not know if The Black Horse was in existence as a public house at the time of Enclosure in 1778. The site appears on the Enclosure map (below) under the occupation of "Care/Cave". This could have been Thomas Cave, who married Sarah Salisbury in 1770 and died in 1799.



⁵ Barby Local History Group Archives (BLHGA), P02/080

In his will proved in 1814, when John Salisbury described himself as a victualler, he desired his wife Jane and son John to carry on the business together; if not, then Jane is to have the "little house (formerly occupied by Thomas Roberts but joined to my own house) ... for as long as she remains my widow." Since The Black Horse was the only pub with an adjacent cottage, we can assume the Salisburys lived here, and perhaps acquired the property through a family connection with Sarah Cave (née Salisbury).

Richard and Christiana Woodfield are the first documented occupants, Richard being described as a "publican" when three of their children were baptised at Barby in 1827. Richard died in 1830 aged only 33, leaving everything to his wife, including his "freehold messuage in Barby known as The Black Horse public house" together with a mortgage of £220 owed to Mr John Bazeley of Farthingstone.⁶ This is the first known reference to the pub by name. It is likely that the premises were already licenced when the Woodfields moved in, or what would be the attraction for them to take out a mortgage on it for £220?

In the 1840 Oakley Survey, Christiana is recorded as owner/occupier of The Black Horse, referred to as a beer shop on the "Square" in the census of 1841.



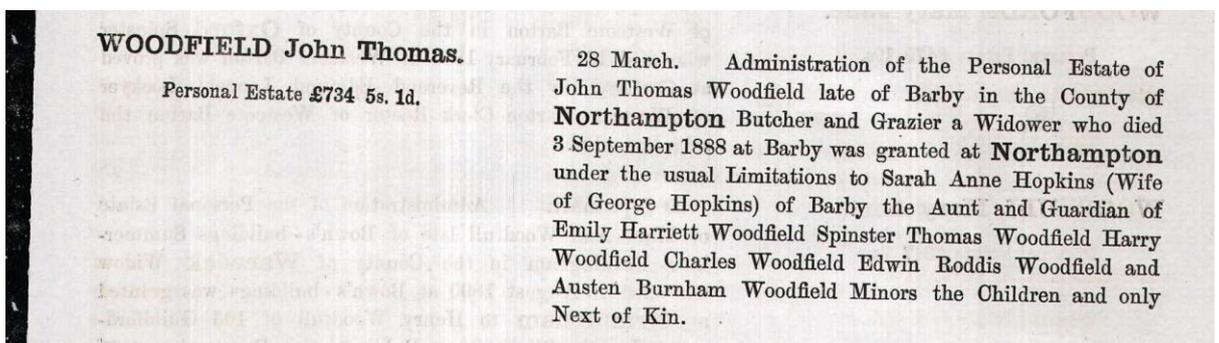
The Black Horse, No 436 on the Oakley Survey map of 1840. There were extensive outbuildings behind the pub, and a sizeable piece of ground or yard.

⁶ TNA, PROB11/1779/323

Christiana Burnham was born c1799 at Rothwell, Northamptonshire, and married Richard there on 25 January 1821. Their older children were born at Napton on the Hill, Warwickshire, but two were born in Barby. Christiana became the mother of at least two more children during the 1830s. She continued to run the pub, whilst her sons Austin (b 1821) and John Thomas (b 1837) used the premises as butchers, John eventually taking over the running of the pub after his mother died in 1870.

The Woodfields integrated into Barby life, several of the children marrying locally. Harriet, one of the children born in Napton, married Thomas Baker York, a cooper from Napton, at Barby in 1844, and with her young daughter Clarissa was visiting her mother in 1851. They were then living in Croydon by which time Thomas was a schoolmaster at a Barracks there. Cordelia married Richard Roberts, a shoemaker, in 1846; Richard was the son of Thomas Roberts, a former occupant of the cottage adjoining the pub. Emily married Edward Radbone, a wheelwright, in 1857 but died two years later, six weeks after the death of her six-week-old second daughter; Edward then married Emily's younger half-sister, Rosanna, who also died young. Austin died childless at the end of 1881, a few months after his late marriage to Frances Ridley in Coventry.

John Thomas Woodfield inherited The Black Horse under his mother's will – her estate was valued at under £100. In 1870 he had married Harriet Roddis whose father James, born in Bugbrooke Northants, was a wheelwright at Holborn in London although by 1861 he had come to live in Barby with his wife and daughter, and was now a baker and grocer.



1890 entry in National Probate Index for Administration of estate of John Thomas Woodfield

Harriet Woodfield died in 1885, and John in 1888: he appointed Harriet's sister Sarah Ann Hopkins as the guardian of his minor children. Sarah's husband George was a carpenter, and later established a building firm in the village. He was the builder of

the houses known today as Shakespeare Terrace in Rugby Road, seen in the picture of the Black Horse above.

In 1891 John's sons Edwin and Austin Woodfield were living with their uncle and aunt George and Sarah Hopkins and their family at the Post Office on The Green; by 1901 Sarah was widowed and acting as Barby's postmistress.

The Black Horse after the Woodfields

After the death of John Thomas Woodfield in 1888, The Black Horse was taken over by John Richard Pittom and his wife Lucy (née Haddon). John Pittom died in 1892; his widow married William Elkington the following year and her new husband continued to run the pub. In the Valuation Survey of 1910 however, the premises, described like The Crown as a "good spirit house more than anything" but with a structure of mud and thatch described as "poor", were owned by Hunt Edmunds & Co of Banbury. The brewery must have bought the property between 1888 and 1910, perhaps from the widowed Lucy Pittom. William Elkington died in 1921 aged 80, and the licence must have lapsed as the pub does not appear in later trade directories.



The Black Horse c1910

⁷ BLHGA, P17/054

It is probable that the Woodfield family retained the ownership of the cottage attached to the pub and the brewery must have sold the premises back to Woodfield descendants, because the whole site was sold in 1939 by Phyllis Cordelia Roberts, daughter of Cordelia Roberts and granddaughter of Christiana Woodfield, to William (Bill) Cockerill who was then living in the cottage. Both cottage and pub were demolished in the 1950s, but Tom Mason, a local blacksmith, was still using the outbuildings in the 1960s. The whole site was sold to the builder Bernard Nangle in 1965; he built four houses there, two in Pittoms Lane and two on Rugby Road.

THE CROWN INN



This photograph of Crown House was taken in 1999, many years after it closed as a pub. The main entrance is now on the side.⁸

The Crown was probably the oldest established hostelry in the village, and was certainly the chief one until the rebuilding of The Arnold Arms in the 1890s. It became a private dwelling in the 1930s.

As previously mentioned, a sale of land took place there in 1768 when the licensee was "Mr Tildesly". Thomas and Elizabeth Tildesly had four children baptised in Barby from 1764 to 1771 and several buried. There were three adult Tildesly burials: Nathaniel in 1769 aged 61, Hannah aged 66 in 1767 and Thomas, "a poor man", in 1780, but there is no earlier mention of the family.

When The Crown was used in 1777-78 by the Enclosure Commissioners for their meeting with the landowners of the village to hear objections and register exchanges of land, it was probably constructed of stone or cob with a thatched roof; the latter

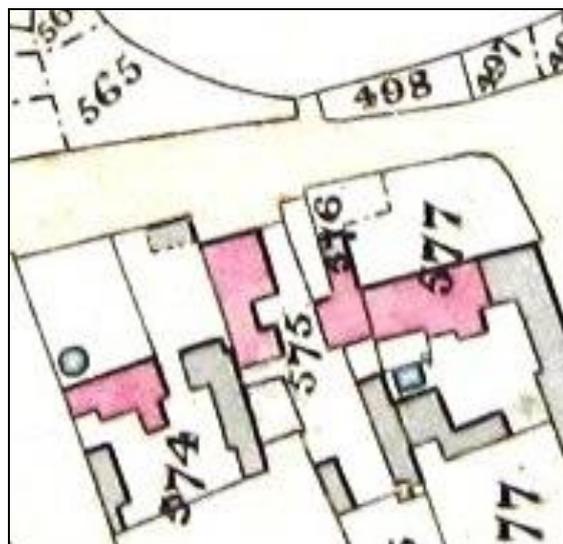
⁸ BLHGA, P04/81B

may have caused the fire which destroyed the building in 1810. A new one was built of brick and slate in 1811 – there is a brick date stone high in the eastern gable of the present building, easy to miss if you don't know it is there.

The Riddey Family

The deeds of the property go back as far as this new building, when it was sold in 1825 to Charles Riddey by the owner C Gregory. Charles was a publican from Yardley Hastings, Northamptonshire, where he ran The Red Lion which his brother had inherited from their father John Riddey. Both boys were only small children when their father died in 1788, and the property was left to their mother Rebecca during her lifetime; she died in 1803. Perhaps Charles ran The Red Lion for, or with, his brother and then decided to work for himself when the opportunity arose. He had also been left property and money by his father which he would have been able to use to set himself up. With his wife Hannah and four children he moved to Barby around 1816 as their youngest daughter Esther was baptised here in 1819, her father being a publican. Another child, John, was baptised in 1826.

The Riddeys lived at The Crown for many years. Charles died in 1833 aged 60 and his wife Hannah applied for Letters of Administration to his estate in January 1834. She is listed as the occupier in the Oakley Survey of 1840 and in the Tithe apportionment of 1845, with her son Richard as the owner, so she may have made it over to him. There was also a bakehouse attached to The Crown.



The Crown is No 575 in the Oakley Survey above

Richard Riddey is noted as a baker in the 1851 census which records:

Hannah Riddey, head, widow, age 67, innkeeper, b Weedon Bec

Richard Riddey, son, unmarried, age 44, baker, b Yardley [Hastings] NTH

James Riddey, son, married, age 40, carpenter, b Yardley [Hastings] NTH

Esther Eagles, daughter, age 31, b Barby

George Eagles, son-in-law, age 25, miller, b Grandborough WAR

Lucy Smith, granddaughter, age 4, &

2 servants: one a miller, the other Esther Rainbow (general servant) who later married William Elkington of Lodge Farm.

From this it can be seen that a miller has now been added to the family following the marriage of Hannah's daughter Esther to George Eagles in 1850.

In 1861 Hannah, aged 77 and a former publican, is living next door with George Eagles, who had remarried after the death of Esther in 1860, and whose second wife was Ellen (née Jackson), aged 23 and born in Braunston. Hannah Riddey died in 1865 aged 81.

Later occupants

By 1861 the running of The Crown had passed to the widowed Thomas Boyes born in Kilsby and living with his two children and mother-in-law. He must have been a tenant because the inn was sold by the Riddeys in 1862 to the next licensee, Zachariah Foster, who had been running a pub in Rugby. He continued at The Crown until his death in 1894.

In 1901 the licensee was Cornelius Thomas Davis, aged 31, born in Hinckley Leicestershire, with wife Ada born in Welford and daughter Annie, aged 4 and born in Rugby. He was followed by the last licensee, a Barby man named William Flavell who in 1911 was 41 years old and a bricklayer, living with his wife Elizabeth and seven children aged one to sixteen, plus a couple of visitors.



William Flavell and his family in 1913; photo courtesy of Helen Atton⁹

At the time of the 1910 Valuation Survey, the premises were owned by W H Wood, a brewer from Daventry. It is described by the Surveyor as follows:

*Accommodation: Bar/Parlour Bar-3pulls/Taproom/Living Room/Pantry/Scullery/Cellar/4 Bedrooms/washhouse. Large yard, ties for 7 horses, haystore
Trade 1 barrel average. 1 dozen bottles (only Bass kept). 1.75gallons spirits.
"Good spirit house more than anything"*

William Flavell retired in the 1930s, and the pub closed. It was sold to a farmer, William Henson from Nortoft, whose son inherited it on his death; both Hensons ran it as a farm although their land was not nearby. It has continued as a private residence ever since, undergoing renovations and alterations by its successive owners, mostly internal. The old stone inn cellars are still there under the brick building, and there are two wells in the garden.

⁹ BLHGA, P17/054



Mr & Mrs Henson outside Crown House c1930¹⁰

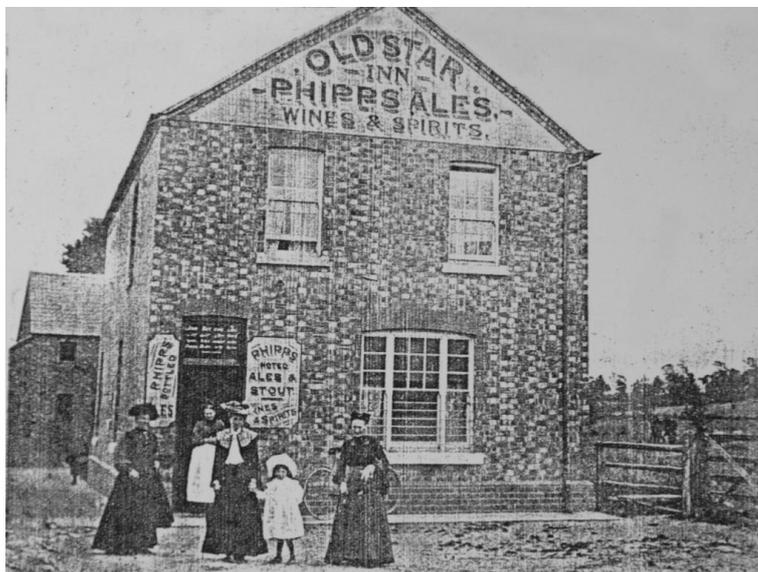


The farmyard of Crown House in the 1940s¹¹

¹⁰ BLHGA, P02/020

¹¹ BLHGA, P02/022

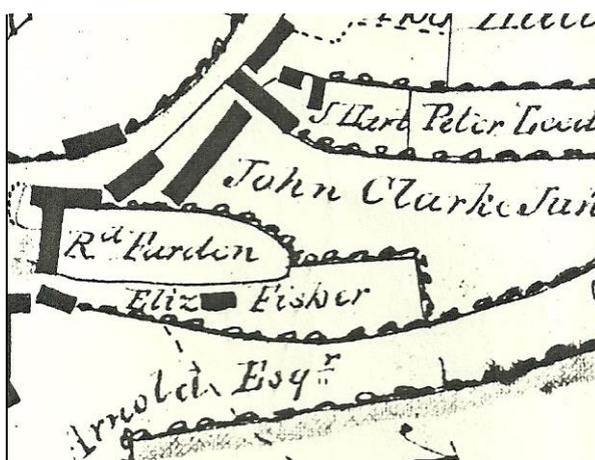
THE OLD STAR INN also known as THE STAR INN



The Old

Star Inn c1910¹²

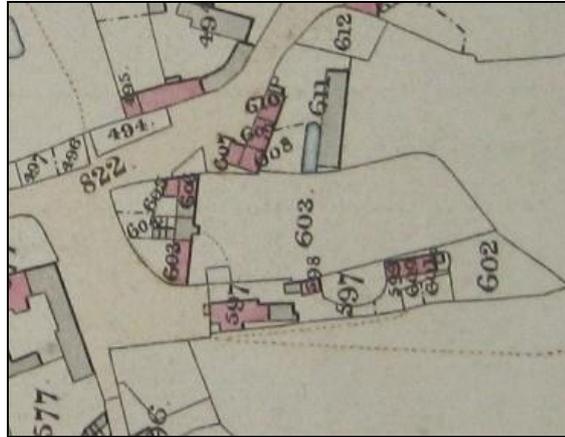
There was no building on the site at the present Star Corner when the Enclosure map was drawn up in 1778 (below). The land was then owned by Lumley Arnold who maybe had the pub built and then sold it, or sold the strip of land beforehand.



It is likely the building was erected in the early 1820s by John Musson who became its first licensee. It is first mentioned by name in the Oakley Survey of 1840 (No 597

¹² BLHGA, P02/137

on the map below), when it was owned by William Musson who also owned the four cottages behind the pub. It was occupied by his father John who died in 1843.



Knowledge of the occupants has only been gained from census returns and trade directories. From 1841 to 1861 no public houses in the village were named, but from local knowledge we can deduce the occupants of the premises.

In 1841 John Musson is not listed, but his son William, a shoemaker, appears with his wife and family. By 1851 The Star was in the occupation of Joseph Peasnall with his wife and daughter, both named Mary. By 1861 George Haddon, farm labourer and publican, was running the pub with wife Sarah and family of three daughters.

In 1871 Mary Ann Smith is listed, a widow born in Barby with three children aged eleven to seventeen, all born a long way from the village. It seems as if Mary Ann came back to her birthplace after the death of her husband. No licensee is listed in the 1881 census, and it may have been about this time the pub was bought by Phipps Brewery of Northampton. By 1891 Joseph Thompson appears, with his wife and nine children; he is still listed in the *Rugby Almanac* in 1894.

By 1901, when the name "The Old Star" first appears, the Batchelor family is in occupation, firstly John with his wife Elizabeth and 3 sons, then, probably after John's death in 1913, his son John George who was living there with his wife Alice Kezia (née Southam) at the time of World War I.



John Batchelor Snr at his son's wedding in 1903¹³

The 1910 Valuation Survey describes the premises as follows:

Area 1590 sq yds Freehold. Gross Value £700. Occupier J BATCHELOR, owner Phipps & Co, Northampton

Accommodation: Passageway, Smoke Room, Tap Room (no pulls). Cellar on level. Back kitchen, closet, urinal, 4 beds. Stabling 3 stalls, Coach house with loft over. Full licence, tied for all.

Trade per week, 1.5 barrells, 3-4 doz bottles, 0.5 gall spirits, takings average about £4pw all through.

"Would be hard place to let, bad position"



Alice Kezia Batchelor outside The Old Star c1930¹⁴

¹³ BLHGA, CD9/08

¹⁴ BLHGA, P05/040

Despite having six children, John George Batchelor enlisted in the Army in 1915 at the age of 35, and was reported missing in action in 1918. His distraught wife begged the Rector, Rev Mitchison, to write to the War Office to find out what had happened to her husband. He was eventually located in a hospital, having been injured and gassed, and returned home in 1919.



John George Batchelor¹⁵



*Alice Kezia and her children
c1920¹⁶*

A descendant has told us that Alice was renowned for her cooking, and the pub attracted many who came for a singsong in the evenings. An added attraction was no doubt her three pretty daughters! The Batchelors stayed until the 1930s when John retired and they moved to Kilsby.

The Star remained a public house until 1965 when it closed, the last licensee being Bill Toney. He told a village resident that he moved to Barby the day before the German air raid on Coventry, and that his house there was flattened by a bomb. Another story about him was that he refused to serve men in uniform, and one of his regulars was so incensed when he went in with his soldier son that he never set foot in there again!

¹⁵ BLHGA, CD3/16

¹⁶ BLHGA, CD3/03

In 1965 the building was bought by the local builder Bernard Nangle. While erecting the houses in Brackendale Drive he converted the ground floor into a site office and the upper floor into a flat. In 1970 he rented the ground floor out as a shop. This was called The Clothes Line, which sold mainly baby clothes and wool, although a stock of Airfix models was popular with young boys.

In the 1970s Mrs Betty Henson bought the building, living in the upstairs flat and turning part of the ground floor into a greengrocer's shop and part into a hairdressing salon. The shop only lasted about three years but the salon remained open until 1992-93 when Mrs Henson converted the entire building into a private house as it is today. Since then it has changed hands several times but has none of the character of the former pub.



The Star in 1966 shortly after closure; photo courtesy of David Harris¹⁷



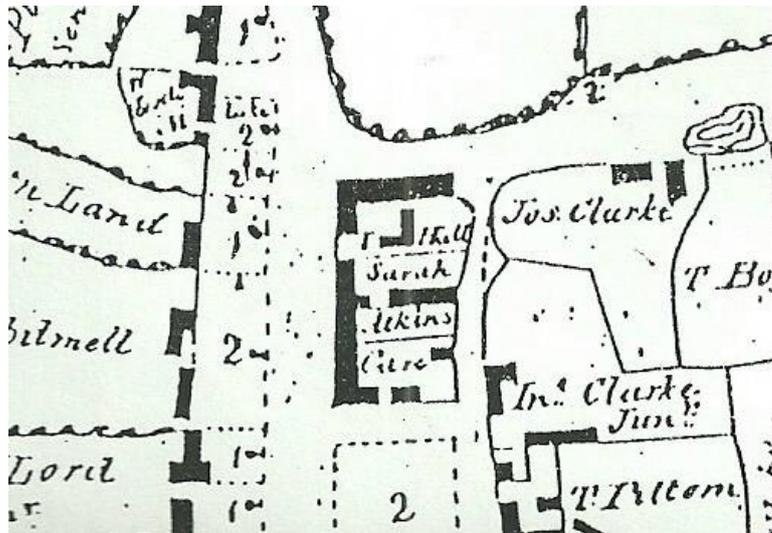
As a private house in 1999¹⁸

¹⁷ BLHGA, P17/053

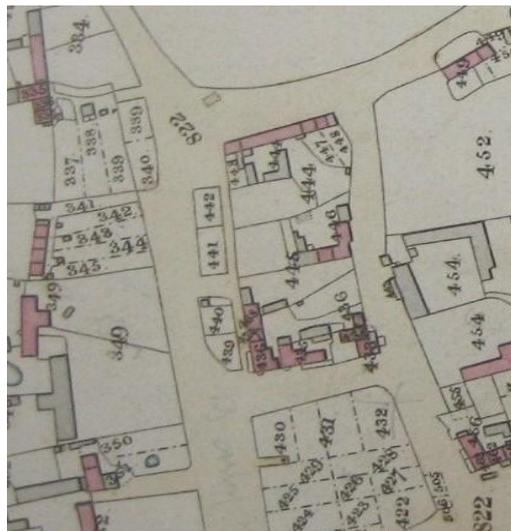
¹⁸ BLHGA, P04/89

THE ARNOLD ARMS

Nothing is known of the history of The Arnold Arms site before enclosure in 1778 when the property is marked (below) as being owned by T[homas] Hall who died in 1803. There may have been a beerhouse there then.



The footprint of the building is similar to that of the Oakley map (below) of 1840, where it is recorded as a beerhouse owned by Henry Coleman and after his death by his widow Eliza, the site measuring quarter of an acre (no 444). It stands in a prominent position on the road from Rugby to Daventry.



The building appears from the map to be divided into four sections, with the licenced premises consisting of the large portion in the middle where Henry & Eliza lived with their family. The other three parts were cottages also owned by Henry and let to

tenants. Henry's trade in census returns however is given as carpenter; he carried out his business in the extensive outbuildings behind the pub.



This photograph, taken about 1880-90, shows a cob and thatched building.¹⁹

The Arnold Arms was one of four known public houses in the village. In earlier times it was called The Horse and Jockey, but the photo above shows its present name. It was named after the Arnold family who were Lords of the Manor and lived at Ashby Lodge on Welton Road (demolished between the two World Wars).

It was probably after Eliza's death that the pub was bought by the Northampton Brewery Company who acquired it in 1879. Different non-local licencees then ran it for a number of years, and the old premises were demolished and the present building erected c1895.

From the 1910 Valuation Survey, we can see that The Arnold Arms, valued at £860, was the most prosperous pub, not unnaturally as the brewery had spent a lot of money rebuilding it, and it was in a prominent position on the road through the village. It also had the added attraction of a quoits ground where matches were played in a league against other teams from around the district and as far away as Banbury.

¹⁹ BLHGA, P02/67



Above: The Arnold Arms from Castle Mound field c1930²⁰ The road to Daventry winds up the hill beyond.

Susanna Andrews became the licensee of the Arnold Arms after the death of her husband who had retired to Barby from the police force around 1904. He tragically died by falling (or maybe jumping) into the well in 1905.

Susanna continued to run the pub until World War II, when John Batchelor took it over. John (unrelated to the Batchelors who ran The Star) also ran a bus service and transport business.



Right: Susanna Andrews with her granddaughter Joan Chandler (née Blake) outside The Arnold Arms in the 1930s; photo courtesy of Joan Chandler.²¹

²⁰ BLHGA, P02/027A

²¹ BLHGA, P05/08



Left: the pub sign which was replaced in 2009²²

The pub has continued with varied success since then with several owners and many different landlords. It was modernised in the 1980s, extensively refurbished and a restaurant added in the 1990s; it is now the only public house in Barby.



The Arnold Arms in 2012

²² This sign, though damaged when it was removed, is part of Barby Local History Group's collection of memorabilia.