

## The Bull Inn



In this photograph, dated about 1890, the corner of The Bull is on the left. The White Hart, The Bell and The Bricklayers Arms are just visible further up the High Street.

Together with The Swan and The Bell (closed in the 1980s), The Bull is one of the three oldest licensed establishments in the village centre.

According to English Heritage, the timber frame of the building is 16th century with 17th and 18th century additions at the river end of the building, which were once two cottages, but there may have been a building on the site since as early as the 13th century.

It is not possible to establish who owned The Bull in its earliest years but by 1617 it was owned by the Garrards of Lamer and had stabling and 119 acres. It seems to have been licensed as an inn and alehouse from its earliest years. Until the 1960s, there was a yard behind the building, where the car park is today – more of this later.

In 1665, the licensee Roger Austin was in trouble with the justices for refusing to lodge a traveller, as was the obligation of an inn at this time. Two years later, he was in trouble again for failing to maintain his wife and their two children, Shadrach and Abednego.

Eighteenth century licensees included George Dennis (1756 Billeting Survey), Joseph Gregory (died 1791), Sarah Gregory (1792), William Titmass (1806 Victuallers' Recognizances) and William Nannaway (1817 Victuallers' Recognizances).

The Bull has always been one of the more prosperous licensed establishments in the village, being valued at £10 in the Victuallers' Recognizances throughout the 1820s and at £18 in the Poor Rate Assessments in 1833 and 1834.

In 1830, William Hooper was licensee, having first been granted the licence at Dacorum Petty Sessions in 1818. He held it until his death in 1850 and his widow Joanna and their

descendants then held it until 1898. In effect, the story of The Bull in the 19th century is the story of the Hooper family.

William and Joanna Hooper were a remarkable couple. They married in 1804 in Cornwall where their first child (Eliza) was born in 1813, moved to Staffordshire, where their second daughter (Frances, later known as Fanny) was born, then to Hatfield, where two more daughters (Jane and Lucy) were born, and then to Wheathampstead where they had four more daughters, the last (Annie Elizabeth) in about 1826.



Four of the eight daughters never married. Of these, two held the licence for The Bull for at least a short period. One of the four married daughters became the licensee as did her husband, brother-in-law, daughter and son-in-law.

William, Joanna, all eight daughters, one son-in-law and three grandchildren are buried in a group in the churchyard at St Helen's. For details, please see Appendix 1.



Though the 1830 Beerhouse Act prompted the opening of a number of small beerhouses in the village, eg The Bricklayers Arms and The Two Brewers, the 1830s and 1840s were a relatively quiet period for The Bull. As with many larger establishments, it was used for auctions, for example in 1835.

**WHEATHAMPSTEAD, HERTS.**

**SIX COTTAGES,**  
NEAR WHEATHAMPSTEAD, HERTS.  
Pursuant to the Will of the late Mr MESSER, deceased,  
IN THREE LOTS,  
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,  
By Mr. RUMBALL,  
On THURSDAY, November 26th, at Two o'Clock,  
AT THE BULL INN, WHEATHAMPSTEAD;  
COMPRISING four brick-built Freehold Cottages,  
&c. at Gastard Wood, in the occupation of MIL-  
LARD, Sen. and MILLARD, Jun., EDMUNDS, and  
HIGDON, at 4l. per annum each.—Also two brick-  
built Copyhold Cottages and Premises at Amwell, be-  
tween Wheathampstead and Harpenden, in the occu-  
pation of BURGoyNE and FIELD, at 5l. per annum  
each.  
Particulars and Conditions at the usual Inns; and  
of Mr. RUMBALL, Land Surveyor and Auctioneer,  
St. Albans.

Until the 1960s, the area behind The Bull was occupied by the Bull Yard. This photograph, though taken in 1946 (Britain from Above), gives a good idea of what it will have looked like in the 19th century. All the buildings on the south and east sides (left and bottom in the picture) were demolished in the 1960s to make space for the new car park. In 1851, the five cottages were occupied by a wheelwright, four straw plaiters, five agricultural labourers, one washerwoman, six schoolchildren and two infants.



Washing clothes was one of the 'cottage industries' of Wheathampstead in the 19th century and indeed into the 20th. After the railway station opened in 1860, washing was brought from London so that it could be dried in the clean air of Wheathampstead.

There was some excitement in 1840 when there was a fire in the yard, as reported in the Hertford Mercury of 11 April. The fire brigade had to pull down the roof over the gateway to the yard to stop the fire spreading to the main building. The barn was filled with hay, straw and a horse-chaise that belonged to Mr Sutton who occupied the stables. In addition, Mr Dorrington's malting was completely destroyed though the malt was saved.

The Tithe map and index of 1841 confirms that Plot 48 was owned by Charles Benet Drake Garrard and occupied by the Bull Inn, maltings and gardens, the licensee being William Hooper. In the same year, the Parish Poor Rate Assessment valued the property at £24.

As an inn, The Bull was licensed to take in lodgers and travellers but the 1841 census shows that it was fully occupied by William and Joanna Hooper and their eight daughters, now aged between 10 and 30, whose presence must surely have helped to attract the custom of local young men.

The Hertford Mercury and Reformer dated 16 June 1849 reported that The Bull had provided 'an excellent tea' on the occasion of the anniversary event of the Wheathampstead Independent Chapel.

In the 1840s, William Hooper was the official receiver of letters delivered to Wheathampstead. He died on 26 August 1850, though the 1851 Post Office Directory still lists him as "postmaster".

His widow Joanna took over the licence and the 1851 census lists her as innkeeper and widow, living with Eliza, Frances and Annie Elizabeth, who are all governesses, Jane, who is a dressmaker, Charles Matthews (21), a lodger and groom, and two servants, Albert Arnold (38) and John Wells (56).

The inquest into the death by burning of Harriet Hawkins, a little girl, was held at The Bull and reported in the Hertford Mercury on 5 March 1853.

**DEATH BY BURNING.**—On the 23rd ult. an inquest was held at the Bull Inn, Wheathamstead, before R. Grove Lowe, Esq., and a most respectable jury, on the body of Harriet Hawkins, a little girl, who was burnt to death on the previous day. It appeared from the evidence that the mother of deceased had gone out washing some distance off, and left her children alone. The poor child went to take a kettle off the fire, when her clothes touched the bars, and in an instant she was enveloped in flames. She ran out of doors to obtain the assistance of the neighbours, and by so doing, of course, greatly increased her danger. Mrs. Webb, who lives next door, wrapped a blanket round the unfortunate child, and extinguished the flames; but, after enduring great suffering, she died between two and three o'clock the following morning. Mr. Crisp, surgeon, attended deceased, and applied the customary remedial agents, but from the frightful nature of the injuries sustained, it was impossible that she could recover. Verdict—"Accidental death."

Kelly's Directory of 1855 lists Joanna Hooper as receiver of letters at the Post Office. Letters were delivered from St Albans on foot by 8.30 am and were dispatched at 6.00 pm. The coach from Luton to Hatfield Station stopped at Wheathampstead at 9.00 am and returned at 6.15 pm.

Joanna Hooper died on 20 October 1855. Within two months, the Herts Guardian reported a proposal to move the Post Office from The Bull to John Chennell's druggist and grocery shop. It appears that this move took place; a report in the Herts Guardian of 5 January 1856 suggests that it did and Kelly's Directory for 1862 says the Post Office is at John Chennell's shop.

A major event in the village at this time was the opening of the railway from Hatfield to Dunstable via Luton in 1860; the station stop at Wheathampstead opened on 8 September. This not only made the wider world accessible to villagers but also resulted in the opening of The Railway Hotel next to the station and a short distance up the road from The Bull which meant immediate competition. The Herts Ad dated 7 September 1861 reported that, at the Annual Licensing Meeting in Berkhamstead:

"James Johnson of the Railway Inn applied for a licence for the sale of exciseable liquors. Mr Simpson of Luton appeared to oppose for the Misses Hooper of The Bull Inn. Licence granted."

The Locomotive, which opened near the station in 1861, was never more than a small beerhouse and closed in 1873.

Eliza Hooper, listed as Elizabeth in the 1861 census, took over the licence from her mother and shared the household with her sisters Frances, Lucy Messer (née Hooper and now a widow) and Harriet, together with Lucy's daughter Emily (6) and son James (4). Also at The Bull on census night was four-year-old Eugenie Scarborough, daughter of Annie Elizabeth who had married Henry Scarborough of Luton in the mid-1850s. The only other member of the household was John Ashby, a 19-year-old ostler who came from Redbourn.

Curiously, Lucy Messer does not appear in any other census between 1851 and 1891. She died in 1895.

At this date (1861), the census lists five households in the Bull Yard, headed by: John Chapman, blacksmith; Sarah Hulks, laundress; Elizabeth Palmer, washerwoman; Joseph Hulks, agricultural labourer; and Susan Arnold, dressmaker

Eliza Hooper held the licence throughout the 1860s. The only untoward incident reported in the Herts Ad was an example of what would today be called domestic violence.

**CHARGE OF ASSAULTING A WIFE.**  
*Charles Hill*, of Wheathampstead, was charged with assaulting his wife.  
 Complainant: I live at Wheathampstead, and am the wife of the defendant. He has not earned any money for some time. Last Tuesday night I went to my husband, who was in a dancing room in the Bull public house, Wheathampstead. He was coming down the passage, and I said "It is time you came home." He said he had not a home to come to. My husband returned to the dancing room, and I sent my little girl for the 1/6. He sent word if I wanted it I was to fetch it. I went home. I was going to bed when my husband came in and abused me, and said I should not go to bed till I had dressed his leg. I refused to do so. He was going to beat the children, and I told him he should not do so. He then beat me with a strap; he ran down stairs, locked the door, and put the key in his pocket. The children were frightened and jumped out of the bedroom window. He beat me several times with a leather strap. He beat me afterwards several times down stairs. Some neighbours broke the window and tried to undo the door that I might get out. My husband has abused me before. I have only been married four months. The children are illegitimate. He has assaulted me four times since we have been married.  
 The defendant denied the truth of his wife's violence.  
 Susan Arnold said: I saw the defendant assault his wife down by the neck and try to put her under the table. I went to the window because I heard Mrs. Hill halloo "Murder" twice.

A witness supported the wife's story and the defendant admitted that "he was very much irritated and struck his wife" though denying that he had hurt her. Nevertheless, the Chairman of the Bench, while ruling that the assault was proved, was "of the opinion that it was not a severe one" and bound the defendant over to keep the peace for six months in his own recognizance of £10 with six shillings costs.

The Herts Ad dated 5 September 1863 included this report:

## **A treat at the Bull Inn**

### **WHEATHAMSTEAD**

THE RINGERS OF WHEATHAMSTEAD had an excellent repast given them by R.B. Baxendale, Esq. at the Bull Inn, prepared by my hostess, Miss Elizabeth Hooper, on Thursday evening the 27th inst., for their great improvement of late in the art of bell ringing. We are happy to add that there is now a complete set of ringers, and that we often hear with considerable pleasure a merry peal rung out upon these hitherto neglected bells, which certainly for brilliancy of tone possess musical powers that all must admire if they are lovers of music.

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Eliza was still licensee of The Bull in 1871, now aged 58. Also resident were her two unmarried sisters Harriet and Frances, her niece Emily Messer, now aged 16 and at school, plus two lodgers both of whom were jockeys, William Ducker (28) and George Jarvis, whose age is given as 12 though other evidence suggests that he was 15. The servants were Anne Adams (18) who came from Winchester and an 18-year-old 'Odd boy'. The census record includes an entry for a boarder, Edward B. Paglar (39), curate of Wheathampstead, but suggests that his was a separate household. He came from Battersea.

It seems likely that the two jockeys were there for the Harpenden races which were established in 1848 and continued until 1914. They may even have ridden in The Wheathampstead Stakes, a race run over a course of four and a half furlongs.

On 17 February 1872, an inquest was held at The Bull into the death of a two-day-old baby, the child of Charles Lines, a platelayer on the railway who lived in East Lane with his wife Eliza. The coroner returned a verdict of natural causes.

It must have been shaming for Eliza Hooper to be convicted at the Liberty Petty Sessions in November 1872 for selling beer out of hours – 11.25 pm on a Saturday. She was fined £1 including costs with her licence being endorsed. At the same hearing, she was fined £2 for permitting drunkenness on the premises; for this, she was fined £2 and her licence was endorsed again.

The 1874 directory confirms that Eliza, Fanny and Harriet were living at The Bull but also states that Eliza and Fanny were running a "ladies' school". The new Church of England school had opened at Bury Green in 1862 so this must have been a private venture set up for the daughters of those who could afford the fees.

The 1881 census records that Eliza (now aged 70) is still the “licensed victualler”. Her niece Stockie Scarborough (aged 19, whose full name was Frances Gravestock Scarborough and was the daughter of Annie Elizabeth) lived with her, together with her cousin Frank Pike, a 21-year-old bank clerk. There was no bank in Wheathampstead at this time so Frank must have commuted to a nearby town, perhaps on the railway. He came from Lambeth where his father was an accountant and his brother was also a bank clerk. George Smith (35), the ostler, completed the household.

Eliza died on 14 November 1882, leaving an estate valued at £143. Administration of the estate was granted to her sister Harriet to whom the licence was transferred on 13 January 1883.

Almost exactly two years later, on 18 November 1884, Harriet died, leaving an estate of £179. The executors of her will were her sisters Lucy Messer and Annie Elizabeth Scarborough. The licence was transferred to Annie Elizabeth Scarborough, now aged 56. A month later she, her husband Henry and their sons moved back to The Bull from Luton.

Henry Scarborough was born in Hatfield and was working there as a coachman aged 22 in 1851. He married Annie Elizabeth Hooper in the late 1850s and in 1861 they were living in Luton with their son Joseph aged 3. Their daughter Eugenie (4) was at The Bull on census night. Ten years later, Henry and Annie were at Dallow Farm near Luton. He farmed 300 acres and employed eight men and three boys, plus a live-in governess and a servant. They were still at Dallow Farm in 1881 and moved to The Bull in late 1884 or early 1885.

The first mention of the Scarborough family in the Herts Ad was on 12 December 1885 when Henry and one of his sons attended the funeral of George Jarvis, the jockey who had been at The Bull on census night in 1871.

George Jarvis came from Somerset and, despite this report stating that he had resided at The Bull for 20 years, the 1881 census shows that he was at that time one of nine men lodging at The Swan, where he was described as a “trainer of race horses (hunting)”.

An advertisement in the Herts Ad on 27 February 1886 for an auction at The Bull is a reminder of the rural economy that prevailed in the area at this time. The advertisement stated that “the winter timber is felled” and that Mr Rumball, auctioneer from St Albans, will sell “timber trees of oak, ash and elm”. Five hundred trees came from nine farms on the Lamer estate, 50 from the Hyde estate and 70 from Dowdell’s and Pryor’s Woods on the Ayot St Lawrence estate.

By 1886, the Post Office Directory shows that Henry Scarborough had taken over the licence from his wife and it was not long before he began to appear in court, though on the first occasion he was not directly involved. The case, reported in the Herts Ad on 9 April 1887, concerned a dispute about the ownership of “certain goods”, including some harness. Thomas Skillman was accused of stealing the goods from Jonathan Cox but claimed they were his in the first place. The goods had been left at The Bull. Henry Scarborough had been ordered to secure them and not hand them over to Thomas Skillman, who had until recently been manager of a butcher’s shop in the village owned by Jonathan Cox but had been dismissed. Henry Scarborough had followed instructions and secured the goods

behind a door with two padlocks but Skillman had broken in and removed the goods. After hearing witness evidence the magistrates dismissed the case.

A more serious case was reported at length in the Herts Ad on 28 July 1888. Henry, Joseph and Frederick Scarborough were charged with assaulting Jonas Jarvis, a jockey; Frederick Scarborough counter-charged Jarvis with assaulting him. Jarvis had been living at The Bull for three years and was a "turf commission agent and trainer of horses". He had trained a horse called "Mary Cadman", owned by a Mr Kirby, to run at the Herts Yeomanry Races and was so confident that it would

Jonas Jarvis was aged 27 at the time of this case. He came from Lambourn, Berkshire and in 1881 had been living in the household of his brother Clement Jarvis (40), who was a race horse trainer and jockey. It seems very likely that they were related to the late George Jarvis.

win that he had encouraged Frederick Scarborough to "have a sovereign on". The horse had lost. There had been "much dissatisfaction" about this at the racecourse and the jockey, Mr Chennells, had been attacked. Jarvis, Kirby and Chennells had returned to The Bull. Witnesses gave sharply divergent accounts of what followed.

Jarvis claimed that Frederick and Joseph Scarborough had struck him, knocked him down and kicked him on the ground. When he recovered, he found that £3 was missing from his pocket. Frederick Scarborough had attacked him again when he was outside the house "dead beat and insensible". The Scarboroughs, including Henry, had also attacked Kirby.

Frederick Scarborough's version of events was very different. He claimed that he had given Kirby a sovereign to put on the horse but he had not done so and, when Scarborough asked Kirby for his money back, Jarvis had struck him from behind. Jarvis and Kirby then fell to the floor and were kicking each other. The three Scarboroughs then threw Jarvis and Kirby out of the building but Jarvis had thrown a flower pot through the window and challenged Scarborough to a fight. This had taken place outside and he had thrashed Jarvis.

Both sides of the argument were supported by witnesses who gave equally contrasting versions of what had happened.

**At this point the Bench stopped the case, and said that they had heard sufficient to be able to dismiss all the summonses. They considered it a most disgraceful thing that Mr. Scarborough, the landlord of a licensed house, should have permitted this fighting by his son. The Bench ordered each party to pay their own costs, which were—Jarvis's, £1 2s., and the Scarboroughs, £1.**

Two months later, when applying for the renewal of his licence at the Petty Sessions, Henry Scarborough was warned about his conduct due to the recent 'riot' at The Bull, even though he had not been convicted of anything. His licence was renewed.

There is a sequel to this story. The Herts Ad of 25 June 1892 reported a hearing At St Albans County Court where Mrs Thrale, lately of Wheathampstead, sued Jonas Jarvis for £71 in unpaid rent. He had been taken to her house (her husband, the baker, was a friend of Jarvis) after the assault in July 1888 when he was “very much knocked about”. He had stayed until January 1891. No rent had been agreed but he had paid her various amounts at various times. He had left in the middle of the night taking “all his property that he could”. She calculated that he owed her £71. She had been unable to find him but had eventually served a summons on him at Harpenden races.

Jarvis accepted that he owed Mrs Thrale money but thought that about twelve to fifteen pounds would be fair. His Honour Judge Holt awarded Mrs Thrale £40.12s.

Henry Scarborough died on 10 April 1890 and is buried at St Helen's. The licence was transferred to his widow, Annie Elizabeth Scarborough. The Scarboroughs were soon back in court.

In an unusually long report for a case of this kind, the Herts Ad of 25 April 1891 described how William Dawes had been summoned for being drunk and disorderly in Wheathampstead. He pleaded guilty to being disorderly but not to being drunk. Annie Elizabeth Scarborough was charged with permitting drunkenness on licensed premises. Inspector Yorke said that he had seen Dawes being ejected from The Bull at 10.00 pm and that he was “very drunk, swearing very much and very disorderly”. His friends took him home. His sister gave evidence that he was drunk when he got home and was “quite incapable”. James Westwood, on the other hand, said that Dawes was not drunk and that he was inclined to shout and be noisy anyway. The next witness, Walter Batchelor, said that Dawes had been in the bar but had been “unusually quiet” that evening; this evidence was supported by Joseph Scarborough and by Dawes' neighbour, Mr Nash, who had also been in the bar. The magistrates decided that Dawes had been making a noise in the street and fined him five shillings but there was no evidence that he had been drunk on licensed premises so the charge against Annie Elizabeth Scarborough was dropped.

While it is perhaps no surprise that Joseph Scarborough gave evidence to support his mother, it may be relevant that Walter Batchelor married her daughter Elizabeth 12 years later and took over the licence of The Bull.

The 1891 census confirms that Annie Elizabeth Scarborough was licensee at The Bull and that her son Joseph, now 33 and a cattle dealer, and daughter Elizabeth were living at home. They had one elderly servant, Thomas Brown (73).

The next court appearance of a member of the Scarborough family was a sad story; Frederick Scarborough, aged only 27, had been found dead near the level crossing on the railway line near what is now the footbridge over the river at Newbridge. At the inquest, held at the Bell Inn and reported in the Herts Ad dated 11 June 1892, it became apparent that he

was unhappily married; he may also have been a heavy drinker. His wife Matilda, who he had married towards the end of 1890, gave evidence that he was a coachman in the employment of his brother but was not in constant work. She had last seen him on the Monday night on his way from The Bull to The Bell, where he was lodging. She denied that he had recently been drinking heavily but said that he "had been excited at times". The police witness said that he had not slept at home since the previous Wednesday.

Frederick's brother Joseph then gave evidence that he had found him in the hayloft at The Bull at 10.30 on the Monday evening. He had told him he could not sleep there and asked him to come into the house; Frederick had said he would go home. When the foreman of the jury said that he had heard that Frederick had been drunk and quarrelsome during the day, Joseph denied it. The next exchange between Joseph and the police witness is revealing:

**Supt. Parish :** As a matter of fact I believe he had lived uncomfortably at home?—I do not know.  
**You know he has been living away from his wife?—No.**  
**Is he married?—I suppose so.**  
**Do you know that for a fact?—I do not know. He was away from us for a long time before he was supposed to be married.**  
**I am only asking this from what has been brought to my knowledge?—He never told us anything about it.**  
**The foreman :** He has told me more than once that people would not believe he was married. The reason was that his wife's father would not allow him to sleep there when he was at home.

Further research has found that Matilda was the daughter of bricklayer Francis Dunham. In 1881 she was living at home in Bury Green with her parents and their 8-year-old granddaughter Frances Dunham. In April 1891, now with the surname Scarborough, she lived in a cottage in the High Street with her widowed father and his grandchildren Frances and Frederick, both with the surname Dunham. This is surely the home where Frederick Scarborough was not allowed to sleep. It is not possible to confirm that the grandchildren were the illegitimate children of Frederick Scarborough but it seems highly likely, particularly given the boy's name. He married their mother six months before the April 1891 census and was killed in June 1892.

At the inquest, PC Keating gave evidence that, having received a report, he went to the location and found the body about five yards from the level crossing. There ensued what the Herts Ad described as "angry exchanges" between Superintendent Parish, representing the Great Northern Railway, and other witnesses, the allegation being that the nearby underpass for the railway was usually so flooded that people had to use the level crossing which was not safe and should have been kept locked. Parish insisted that railway staff pumped water from the underpass whenever necessary. When pressed as to why a footbridge had not

been built over the railway, he said that the company had great difficulty in persuading people to use footbridges.

A witness stated that she had seen Frederick Scarborough walking along the path towards the level crossing at 10.45 that evening. When the question was asked where he might have been going at that time of night, the foreman of the jury, John Chennells, said that there were some sheds in the field on the other side of the road where Frederick was in the habit of sleeping "if anything had upset him at home".

After the doctor gave evidence that Frederick's injuries were consistent with having been struck by a train, the jury returned a verdict of accidental death and added a rider:

**The jury then agreed to a verdict of accidental death and added as a rider: "In the opinion of the jury this accident might have been avoided if a bridge had been erected instead of the subway, which is sometimes in a bad state from standing water, and that it is their desire that the coroner communicate this opinion to the railway company."**

Frederick Scarborough is buried with his parents in St Helen's churchyard.

The Scarboroughs were back in court in December 1892, the Herts Ad of 10 December reporting a case where one Charles East was charged with assaulting Joseph Scarborough. The court heard that East had objected to Scarborough, helped by James Westwood, throwing another man (unnamed) out of the pub for fighting, and had challenged Scarborough to a fight. East was convicted but the magistrates felt that the offence was not serious and fined him only 15 shillings.

Annie Elizabeth Scarborough died on 14 March 1893 leaving effects of £111 to Charles Scarborough, to whom the licence was transferred on 6 May.

Charles Scarborough was almost certainly Annie Elizabeth's brother-in-law. Born in Hatfield in 1831, he was blind from birth, as was his mother. In 1871, he was unmarried, living at home, and working as a wine and spirit merchant. The 1891 census shows him married to Frances aged 46 (not Frances Hooper). After a very short stint as licensee at The Bull, he was back in Hatfield in 1901 where he died later that year.

Business at The Bull must have been good at this time; sometime in the 1890s, it was enlarged to take in the two cottages along the river bank.

<sup>1</sup> The footbridge was never built. The underpass was filled in after the railway closed in 1965; the brick arch is still visible at what is now ground level.

In September 1893, Annie Elizabeth's daughter Elizabeth married Walter Batchelor at St Helen's, the wedding breakfast being celebrated at The Bricklayers Arms. Two months later, the licence of The Bull was transferred from Charles Scarborough to Walter Batchelor.

The 1895 Post Office Directory lists Walter Batchelor as licensee but also as "Assistant overseer & tax

collector". The Bull is described as "nicely situated for the accommodation of commercial gentlemen and cyclists; all comforts studied and moderate charges; good stabling."

In 1895, Wheathampstead Parish Council decided that the village fire appliance should be moved from St Helen's Church to the Bull yard at a rent of £2.10 shillings per annum. It was there until the 1960s when the new fire station was built on the Marford Road.

The 1898 directory shows that the licence for The Bull had been transferred to Thomas Myles. He was a Scot born in Edinburgh in 1842. In 1881, he was living with his wife Louisa, two children, aged 2 and 8 months, and mother-in-law and working as a gardener at The Grange in Lamberhurst, Kent, a wealthy household employing several servants and two gardeners.

The size and status of The Bull at this time is confirmed by the Poor Rate Assessment of 1899 when it was valued at £22. Only three of the 22 licensed houses in Wheathampstead were rated higher.

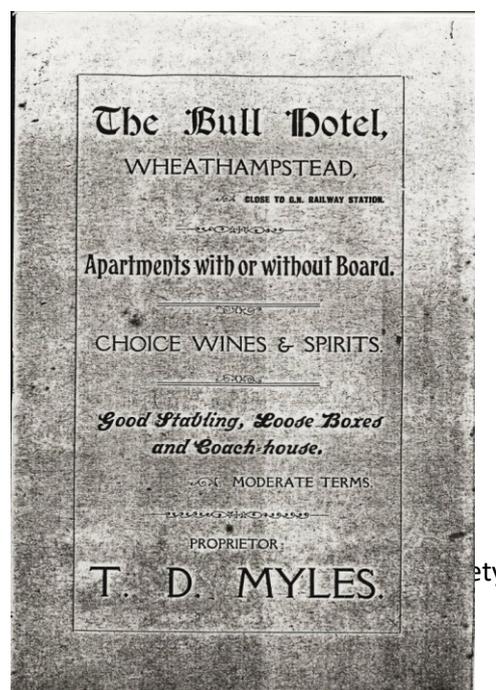
The 1901 census lists Thomas Dickson Myles (59) as licensee, living with his wife Louisa (55), their daughter, also Louisa (18), his widowed sister-in-law Eliza Allberry and a boarder, 26-year-old Kate Wait, who was a certificated school mistress.

A contemporary advertisement states that The Bull offered "Good stabling" and was "nicely situated to accommodate commercial gentlemen and cyclists".

It was of course still owned by the Garrards of Lamer who appear to have maintained it reasonably well. Financial records include the following:

1905	Repairs to Bull Yard drain	£ 21.4s 0d
	Painting and repairing cottages and painting outside the Bull Inn	£47 6s 9d Cottages
	general repairs	£33 10s 2d

Walter Batchelor was a local man aged 36 and son of baker Thomas Batchelor. Listed in the 1881 census as living at home and working as an "Assistant overseer", by 1891 he is described as a "Rate and tax collector". After a short spell as licensee of The Bull, he and Elizabeth moved to Elstree where in 1901 he was working as a clerk at a builders' merchant. By 1911, they had moved to Aldenham and had two sons aged 7 and 5. He was still working as a builders' merchant's clerk.



- 1906 'Lady Day' total bill including emptying the cesspool    £128 14s 1d
- 1910 New wash-house for the cottages    £30
- 1911 'Sanitary Pails' for cottages    9s 11d

The 1904 Licensing Committee confirmed that the freehold of The Bull was owned by Major-General Cherry Garrard and that it was leased to JW Green brewery. It was clearly an up-market establishment.

An important auction was held at The Bull on 2 November 1906 when the Hatfield and Harpenden Breweries sold their brewery on Brewhouse Hill:

**THE BRICK and SLATED FREEHOLD BREWERY**, situate on Brewer's-hill, Wheathampstead (suitable for converting into a Factory), with extensive yard at side, in which are several large brick, timber and slated Outbuildings.

A BRICK and TILED FREEHOLD COTTAGE, adjoining the Brewery, containing 2 sitting-rooms, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, 2 attics, etc. And, adjoining the last-mentioned,

A BRICK and TILED FREEHOLD RESIDENCE known as "Barton House," containing 3 sitting-rooms, kitchen, etc., and 5 bedrooms.

This Lot has the total frontage of 281 feet to Brewer's-hill.

N.B.—There are extensive Collars under these premises.

Louisa Myles died in 1906 and was buried at St Helen's. Thomas Myles still held the licence in 1911 when the census shows that, aged 69, he was at The Bull with his son Thomas, a seaman aged 25, Phyllis Roe (37) an unmarried woman assisting with the business, and Ethel Margaret Pye (20), a visitor who was an actress. There were 12 rooms but the census does not show that there were any occupants on census night.

Thomas Myles died in 1916 and was buried at St Helen's.

## Postscript

At an auction at The Peahen in St Albans on 23 July 1919, The Bull Hotel (*sic*) was sold by Apsley Cherry-Garrard (Junior) to J.W. Green Ltd, brewers of Luton for £2000. It was occupied at the time by John William Sheard. The five cottages in the yard, which were included in the sale, were occupied by Messrs Thrale, Hulks, Rowe, Brasier and Tomlin. Also included were the 'stabling sheds, storehouses, sinks, pumps, stalls, boxes, coachhouses, laundry, water tanks, lofts, poultry houses, wood barns, washhouses, erections, buildings and appurtenances etc'. The sale was completed on 16 October.



## Appendix 1

### The Hooper family

- William Hooper, born about 1776 in Cornwall. Died 26 August 1850.
- Joanna Hooper (née Grey), born 1786 in Truro, Cornwall.
- Eliza, born in Penzance 1811. Took over the licence in 1856. Died unmarried on 14 November 1882.
- Frances (Fanny), born in Ingestre, Staffs. c.1816. Died unmarried on 10 April 1877.
- Jane, born in Hatfield c.1818. Married John GF Blow. The 1861 census shows them living in Battersea, he working as a furrier and she as an agent in the leather trade. There were two daughters from his first marriage and two sons from this marriage. Died in 1863.
- Lucy, born in Hatfield c.1820. Married Mr Messer of Ayot St Peter in the late 1840s. At least two children. Died 5 December 1895.
- Emma, born in Wheathampstead c.1822. Died unmarried on 9 February 1877.
- Lavinia, born in Wheathampstead c.1824. Married Mr H Kohne (*sic?*) of Belgravia. One daughter died aged 2 in 1864, another died aged 10 in 1869. Died on 16 March 1863.
- Anne (later known as Annie Elizabeth), born Wheathampstead c.1828. Married Henry Scarborough in the mid-1850s and took over the licence in 1884.
- Harriet, 10. Born in Wheathampstead c. 1831. Took over the licence in 1883. Died 18 November 1884.

They are all buried in the churchyard at St Helen's in the following graves<sup>2</sup>.

17.13

- Emma Hooper died 9 Feb 1877
- Frances Hooper died 10 April 1877
- Eliza Hooper died October 1882

17.14

- Henry Scarborough died 10 April 1890
- Annie Elizabeth Scarborough died 14 March 1893
- Frederick Scarborough (son) died 7 June 1892

18.14

- Jane Blow died 16 May 1863

18.15

- Lucy Messer died 5 December 1895
- Harriet Hooper died 18 November 1884

18.16

- William Hooper died 26 August 1850
- Joanna Hooper died 20 October 1855

18.17

- Lavinia Kohne (*sic?*) died 16 March 1863
- Ada Kohne (daughter) born 1862, died 1864
- Florence Kohne (daughter) born 1858, died 1869



<sup>2</sup> The numbering system is that used in 'Hertfordshire Monumental Inscriptions: Wheathampstead, The Parish Church of St Helen' MI.Series No.52, published by the Hertfordshire Family History Society in 1994.