



Wheathampstead History Society

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News and events

- **The Herts Association for Local History** will hold their Spring Meeting and AGM on Saturday 19 May at Tewin Memorial Hall. A programme of short talks will be followed by lunch and the Lionel Munby Memorial Lecture *The Concealed-Revealed Project* by Dr Ceri Houlbrook.
- A workshop on '**Food in Wartime, 1914-1920**' will be held on Friday 27 April (10:30am-3:30pm) at the University of Hertfordshire College Lane campus to coincide with *Beyond the Battlefields*, an exhibition of Käthe Buchler's photographs of Germany during the First World War.
- **Next meeting:** 7.30 Wednesday 16 May. Jane Kelsall will give a talk about *Christina of Markyate: c.1096 to 1155/60*.



Notes and queries



In this group of graves, near the western end of St Helen's church, lie fourteen members of three generations of the Hooper family, licensees of The Bull from 1818 to 1895.

William Hooper, who took the licence in 1818, married his wife Joanna in 1804 in Cornwall where the first of their eight daughters, Eliza, was born. A second daughter, Frances, was born in Staffordshire, Jane and Lucy were born in Hatfield, and Emma, Lavinia, Anne and Harriet were born after the family moved to Wheathampstead.

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

William Hooper held the licence until he died in 1850. Evidence suggests that he ran a

respectable house. In the 1840s, he was the official receiver of letters delivered to Wheathampstead. When he died, his widow Joanna took over the licence and the post office duties. Letters were delivered from St Albans on foot by 8.30 am and were dispatched at 6.00 pm.

Joanna died in 1855 and the licence was transferred to her eldest daughter, Eliza. A new Licensing Act was passed in 1872 which introduced a closing time of 11.00 pm. Eliza fell foul of this immediately and was fined one pound.

The licence passed to Harriet after Eliza's death in 1882 and then to Anne (known as Annie Elizabeth and married to Henry Scarborough) in 1884. Henry then held the licence for some years. He and their three sons were rather more 'colourful' than the Hoopers and made several court appearances, usually involving assaults.

Annie took back the licence after Henry died in 1890. At her death in 1893, the licence passed temporarily to her brother-in-law Charles Scarborough, then to Walter Batchelor who had married Annie's daughter Elizabeth. In 1895, they passed the licence to Thomas Myles, a Scot who was not a member of the Hooper family.

The story of The Bull in the 19th century is the story of the Hooper family.