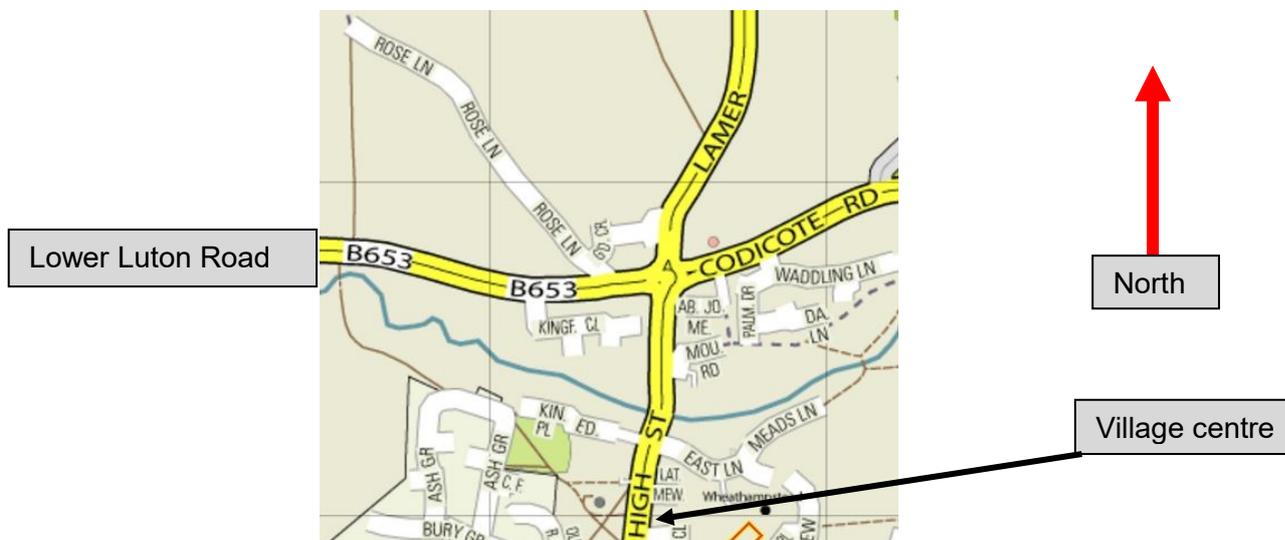


The Locomotive: where and when?

Wheathampstead is known for having had a remarkably large number of pubs, alehouses and beerhouses for its size in the late 19th century – 26 at the last count. Some are still with us, such as The Swan, The Bull, The Elephant and Castle and The Cross Keys. Many others have closed relatively recently; a few were active for only a few years.

One of this last group is The Locomotive. Very little is known about this establishment so some careful research was needed to find out more about it. To understand the context, it helps to know the names and layout of the roads in this part of the village today.



The first record of The Locomotive beerhouse can be found in the 1861 census.

28

The unmentioned Houses are situated within the Boundaries of the [Page 19]

Parish (or Township) of <i>Wheathampstead</i>		City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town of	Hamlet or Tything, &c., of	Ecological District of	Waters (Borough or District)
No. of Schedule	Road, Street, &c., and No. or Name of House	Houses in the House	Name and Surname of each Person	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of (Males Females)	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born
88	<i>Wileys</i>	1	<i>Georgina Simons</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Married</i>	39	<i>British Emp. Clerk</i>	<i>North. Hampstead</i>
			<i>John</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Widow</i>	44	<i>Gr. Dau</i>	<i>St. Stephens</i>
			<i>Mary E. S.</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>Widow</i>	15	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>St. Stephens</i>
			<i>Emma E. S.</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>Widow</i>	12	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>St. Stephens</i>
			<i>Martha A. S.</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>Widow</i>	11	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>St. Stephens</i>
			<i>William R. S.</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Widow</i>	5	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>St. Stephens</i>
			<i>Georgina</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>Widow</i>	5	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>St. Stephens</i>
			<i>Arthur B. Tomlin</i>	<i>Servant</i>	<i>Widow</i>	18	<i>British Emp. Clerk</i>	<i>St. Pauls Waltham</i>
89		1	<i>Thomas Coleman</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Married</i>	44	<i>Miner (Lancashire)</i>	<i>Waltham</i>
			<i>Richard</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Widow</i>	37	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>North. Wheathampstead</i>
			<i>Arthur</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Widow</i>	11	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>St. Stephens</i>
90			<i>John Foster</i>	<i>Servant</i>	<i>Widow</i>	22	<i>Railway Porter</i>	<i>Wheathampstead</i>
			<i>John M. Bradshaw</i>	<i>Servant</i>	<i>Widow</i>	17	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>Wheathampstead</i>
91	<i>The Locomotive</i>	1	<i>Thomas Spink</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Married</i>	31	<i>Quilting & Dress Making</i>	<i>North. Wheathampstead</i>
			<i>John</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Widow</i>	27	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>St. Pauls Waltham</i>
			<i>Mary Smith</i>	<i>Servant</i>	<i>Widow</i>	28	<i>Widow</i>	<i>St. Pauls Waltham</i>
			<i>Arthur</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Widow</i>	1	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>St. Pauls Waltham</i>
92			<i>John Boardman</i>	<i>Servant</i>	<i>Widow</i>	37	<i>Railway Labourer</i>	<i>Waltham</i>
			<i>John</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Widow</i>	27	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>Waltham</i>
93		1	<i>John Bath</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Married</i>	41	<i>Miller (Jurymen)</i>	<i>North. Wheathampstead</i>
			<i>Matilda</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Widow</i>	35	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>St. Pauls Waltham</i>
			<i>Ann</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>Widow</i>	9	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>St. Pauls Waltham</i>
			<i>Georgina</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>Widow</i>	7	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>St. Pauls Waltham</i>
			<i>Mary</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>Widow</i>	4	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>St. Pauls Waltham</i>
			<i>John</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Widow</i>	2	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>St. Pauls Waltham</i>
Total of Houses...		4	Total of Males and Females...		12	13		

This records that the licensee was Thomas Dunham, aged 31, who was also a bricklayer and lived on the premises with his wife Eliza (27), sister-in-law Mary Smith (28), who was a plaiter, and her daughter Sarah, aged 1 year. The Dunhams were a large extended family in Wheathampstead at that time, several of whom were bricklayers and/or beer retailers. Thomas was born in Wheathampstead. The 1851 census shows him as a bricklayer living with his parents and sister at Bury Green; his aunt Mary was a beershop keeper living next door.

The census returns of 1861 lack detail of the address of each household so the entry says only that The Locomotive was located in the village of Wheathampstead. However, other evidence (see below) tells us that George Simons, the butcher listed in the first line, lived with his family in the house that stood on the corner of what is now Lamer Lane and B653 Lower Luton Road. This suggests that The Locomotive was somewhere nearby.

The next record that we have of The Locomotive is from the 1871 census, which was taken on 2 April.

Page 2]										
The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the										
Civil Parish (or Township) of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town of	Village or Hamlet, or	Local Board, or (Improvement) Commissioners District of	Ecclesiastical District of			
Wheathampstead	Wheathampstead	Wheathampstead	Wheathampstead	Wheathampstead	Wheathampstead	Wheathampstead				
No. of Schedule	ROAD STREET, No. and No. of NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES (No. of HOUSES in the PARISH)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	COE. DITION	AGE of	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	Whether 1. M. 2. D. 3. I. 4. S.	
4	High Street	1	Henry Roberts	Head	Man	31	Licensed Hawker	Norfolk Norwich		
5		1	Charles Chapman	Head	Man	28	Fishmonger	Wheathampstead		
			Jane Chapman	Wife	Woman	26	Wife	London St. George's		
			Jane Chapman	Daughter	Girl	6	Scholar	London St. George's		
			Elizabeth Chapman	Daughter	Girl	4		Wheathampstead		
			Henry Chadell	Son	Boy	1	Fishmonger	Wheathampstead		
7	Corner of Luton Road	1	George Simons	Head	Man	30	Butcher	Wheathampstead		
			Eliza Simons	Wife	Woman	27	Butcher's Wife	Wheathampstead		
			Thomas Simons	Son	Boy	22		Wheathampstead		
			Charles Simons	Son	Boy	21		Wheathampstead		
			William Simons	Son	Boy	20	Butcher	Wheathampstead		
			George Simons	Son	Boy	18	Scholar	Wheathampstead		
			George Simons	Son	Boy	17	Scholar	Wheathampstead		
			Charles Simons	Son	Boy	16	Scholar	Wheathampstead		
			Elizabeth Simons	Daughter	Girl	14	Scholar	Wheathampstead		
12	Luton Road	1	Thomas Dunham	Head	Man	31	Journeyman Bricklayer	Wheathampstead		
			Eliza Dunham	Wife	Woman	27	Beer Seller	Wheathampstead		
14	The Locomotive	1	Sarah Smith	Head	Woman	1	Plaiter	Wheathampstead		
15		1	Joseph Smith	Son	Boy	1		Wheathampstead		
			Joseph Smith	Son	Boy	1	Farm Laborer	Wheathampstead		
Total of Houses..			Total of Males and Females..			12 11				

This confirms that George Simons lived in a house on the 'Corner of Luton Road' and shows that the neighbouring households, including Thomas Dunham and his family at The Locomotive, were in Luton Road. At this date, Eliza Dunham is listed as the licensee and there are no other members of the household.

To look for any earlier evidence of The Locomotive, the first source is the census reports for this part of Wheathampstead for the years before 1861, ie 1841 and 1851.

The 1841 census report has minimal detail; occupations are given but locations are vague. However, in a location described only as 'Wheathampstead', we find the names of John Dorrington (farmer aged 70), William Mowbray (butcher, 70) and George Browne (carpenter,

40). These three names and occupations can be cross-referenced to the Tithe Map of 1841 and its Index. This confirms that these three men lived in this part of Wheathampstead, between what are now Lamer Lane and Rose Lane. There is no sign of the Dunhams, The Locomotive or a beer seller.

The 1851 census includes George Simons, the butcher listed in 1861 and 1871, and his family but the location given is simply 'Village'. The neighbouring households are shown as being in 'Lamer Lane', 'Village' and 'Gustard Wood'. There is no mention of the Dunhams, The Locomotive or a beer seller.

At this stage, therefore, it appears that The Locomotive was established at some time between 1851 and 1861 and was still active in 1871.

This extract from the Herts Advertiser tells some more of the story.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 1873

To the Overseers of the Poor, and the Constables of the Parish of Wheathampstead, and to all whom it may concern.

HERTFORDSHIRE TO WIT.

I, **THOMAS DUNHAM**, Retailer of Beer, now residing at Wheathampstead Hill, in the parish of Wheathampstead, in the Division of Dacorum, in the county of Hertford, and for six months last past having resided in the said parish of Wheathampstead, and being the holder of a license (certificate) for the sale of beer by retail in and upon the house and premises known by the sign of the Locomotive, in the parish of Wheathampstead, aforesaid, **DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE**, that it is my intention to apply at the General Annual Licensing Meeting, to be holden at the Town Hall, Berkhamstead Saint Peter, in the Division of Dacorum, and County of Hertford, on the **3RD DAY OF SEPTEMBER** next ensuing, for permission to remove the said license (certificate) to the house and premises, thereunto belonging, situate at Wheathampstead Hill, in the parish of Wheathampstead, in the Division and County aforesaid, my property, and now in my occupation, the same not having been kept or used as an Inn, Alehouse, or Victualling House within the last three years.

Given under my hand, this 10th day of April, 1873.

THOMAS DUNHAM.

It shows that Thomas Dunham had decided to close The Locomotive and open a new beerhouse at his home on Wheathampstead Hill. It seems reasonable to conclude that Thomas, at the age of about 30, had spotted a commercial opportunity when the railway opened in Wheathampstead in 1860, followed the family tradition by opening a beerhouse nearby and calling it by a suitable name, decided in a little more than ten years that he would do better selling beer from home, and closed The Locomotive in 1873. The 1881 and 1891 censuses show that The Locomotive was not reopened by another licensee.

Thomas's plans to open a new beerhouse on The Hill came to nothing. This advertisement appeared in the Herts Ad. dated 19 September 1874. Thomas is leaving the village and there is no mention of anything to do with a beerhouse.

WHEATHAMPSTEAD.

MR. RUMBALL

Will sell by auction, on the premises, Wheathampstead Hill, on **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH**, at Twelve for One o'clock, by direction of Mr. Thomas Dunham, who is leaving,

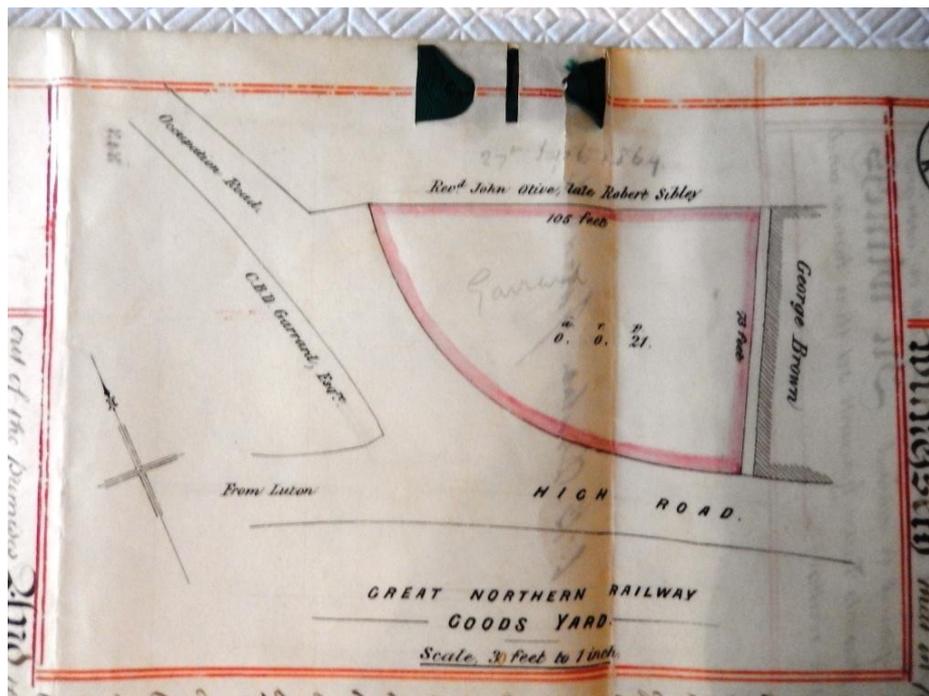
THE genuine **HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE** and Effects, comprising bedsteads, feather beds, mattresses, blankets, washstands, dressing tables and glasses, chairs, carpets, mahogany dining and other tables, chimney glasses, fenders and fireirons, kitchen furniture and requisites, ladders and other effects.

May be viewed the morning of sale, and catalogues had at the usual inns, and of Mr. Rumball, land agent and surveyor, auctioneer, &c., St. Alban's.

But where exactly was The Locomotive located?

It can be concluded from the above that it was not located in any of the houses that stood between the corner of Lamer Lane/Lower Luton Road corner and Rose Lane.

This photograph (*see next page*) is taken from the 1872 conveyance whereby Charles Benet Drake Garrard of Lamer sold the plot of land outlined in pink to the Reverend John Olive, owner of Wheathampstead House from at least 1872 to 1874. His daughter married the 9th Earl Cavan, which explains how the 10th Earl came to inherit the House.



It shows a plot of land, outlined in pink, between 'Occupation Road' (now Rose Lane) and 'High Road' (now Lower Luton Road), with George Brown shown as the neighbour to the east, and C.B.D. Garrard as owner of the land to the west of Occupation Road (as was also the case in the 1841 Tithe Map). Clearly, The Locomotive did not stand on the plot that was the subject of this conveyance, which is now the garden of Sunny Cottage¹.

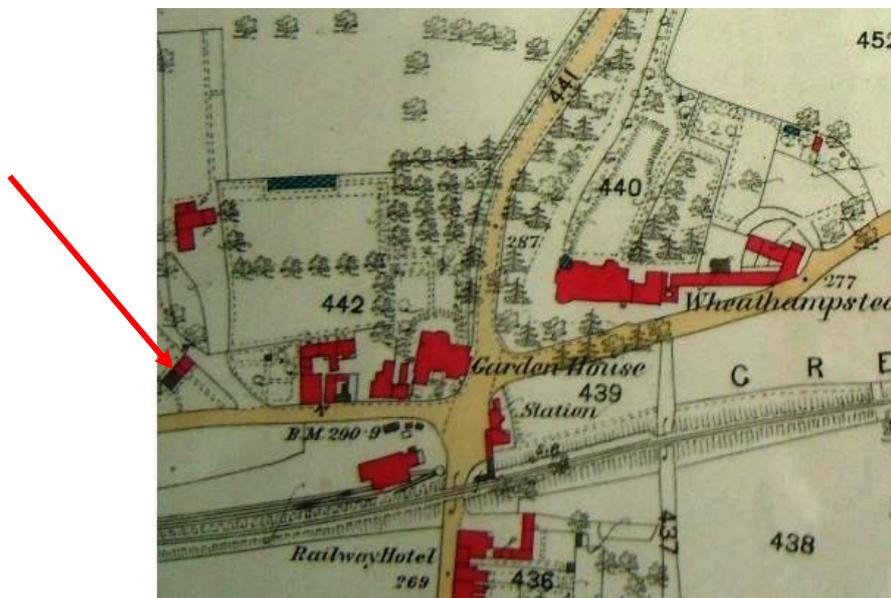
The next two pieces of evidence are crucial parts of the puzzle.

1. The late Dennis Toyer, who lived in the same house in Rose Lane all his life, recalled that, as a child, he was told by an old man that the gravel-diggers who worked at the top of Rose Lane used to call in for a drink at a pub on the west side of Rose Lane near the main road.
2. The Hertford Mercury of Saturday 25 November 1871 included notice of an auction sale by the executors of the will of John Isaac House, who owned a lot of land and property in Wheathampstead. The notice included the following:

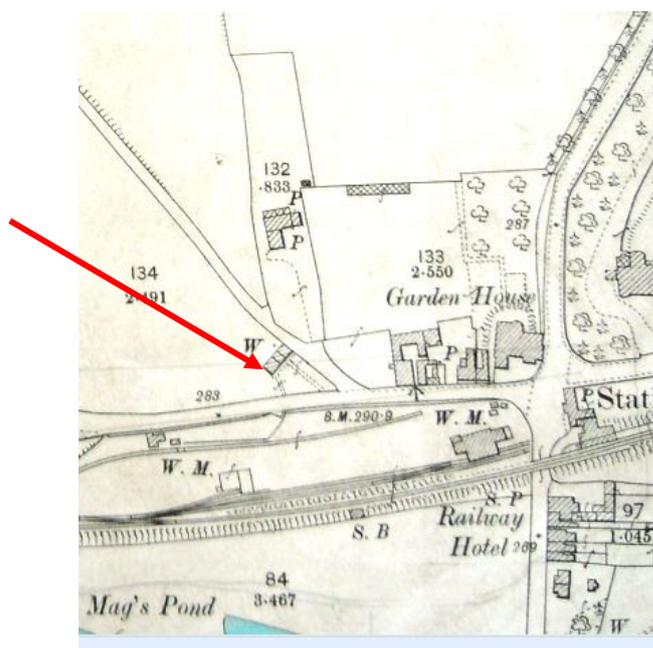
Gardens, situate adjoining the Railway Hotel, Wheathampstead, in the occupation of Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Lockhart, and others.
TWO COTTAGES, adjoining The "Locomotive" Public House, Wheathampstead, occupied by George Row, and Widow Lines.
A COTTAGE and HALF-AN-ACRE of GARDEN GROUND, known as "Brogell Hall, situate on

¹ The 1872 conveyance document is in the possession of the current owners of Sunny Cottage, to whom thanks are given for allowing this photograph to be reproduced here.

The 1879 Ordnance Survey map of the area shows a small building or buildings in this location, on the west side of Rose Lane.

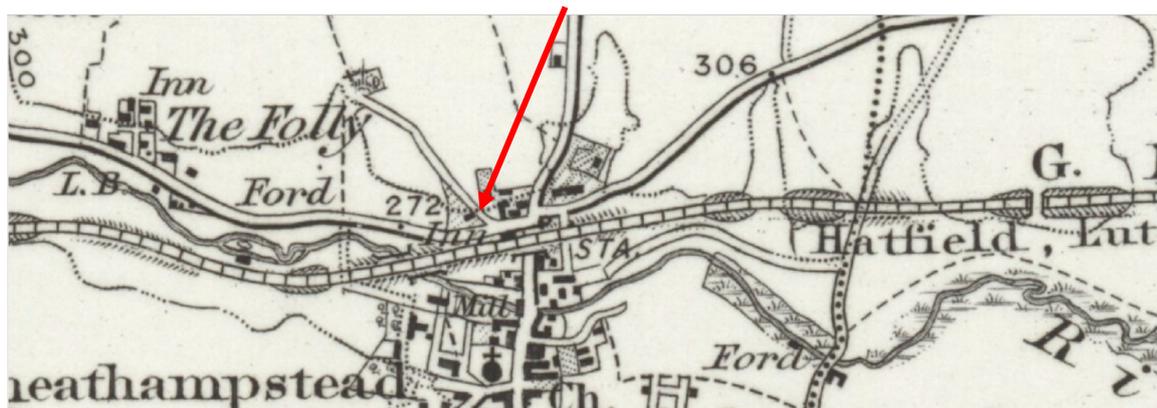


As does the 1898 map, which shows three linked buildings in a terrace:



Neither of these maps, however, indicates the nature of these buildings. The symbol 'W' indicates only a well or spring.

The relevant section of the 1896 OS map of the Hertford area, on the other hand, looks like this:



Crucially, this map has the word 'Inn' at the right location, though the scale is such that the building is shown as a single unit. This map was surveyed in 1865-1880 and revised in 1894. The original survey would have shown an 'Inn' in this location on the dates in question; the revisers did not check whether it was still there.

The building has been demolished. Today, the site is part of the garden of a large modern house.

Conclusion

The Locomotive was one of a terrace of three small buildings on the west side of Rose Lane, near the junction with the Lower Luton Road. It opened in 1860 or 1861 and closed in 1873.