

## Historical Records involving the Whalebone Inn

### SALES AT WHALEBONE INN

The Hereford Times on the 17<sup>th</sup> August **1839** advertised the sale of a desirable Freehold Property in Woolhope and Fownhope to be sold by Auction by William James at the **Whalebone Inn**, situated at Eign within the liberties of the City of Hereford, on Wednesday the 21<sup>st</sup> August, instant, precisely at Five o'clock in the afternoon.

Similarly, on August 17<sup>th</sup> **1839**, at Eign, W .M. James sold a useful team of Horses, implements, husbandry, Gates, Building Materials, etc. at the **Whalebone Inn**, on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August.

In 1852: **William Stanton** advertised 'a bay pony mare, believed to be in foal, and found on the Mordiford Road. The owner may have her if her keep and other expenses were paid, or the mare would be sold to defray the costs.'

The **1850s** saw great changes in Hereford's transport with the building of the railways connecting it to Shrewsbury from Barrs Court Station and Newport and Abergavenny from Barton (Eign) Station. Later the railway from Worcester connected at Barrs Court station and finally the Hereford, Ross and Gloucester broad gauge railway opened there on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1855. Thus passenger and goods in particular were transported much more by rail and therefore river transport declined so that the **Wye Navigation** collapsed in **1855**. This would result in a decline in the trade at the **Whalebone Inn**.

### INN KEEPERS

**1840:** The Inn is shown on the 1840 Tithe Map of Bartonsham. and **William Watkins** was the Inn keeper at that date.

**1851:** The Census records that the innkeeper was **William Stanton** aged 39 Farming 30 acres and keeping the Whalebone Inn. He was born in Kemsey Warwickshire. His wife Ann Stanton was 41 years and was born in Eaton Bishop, Herefordshire, (By 1861 William and Ann Stanton had moved back to Kemsey where William was keeping a 'Public House'.)

**1859:** The Directory and Gazette of Hereford shows that **John Large** was the licensee of the Whalebone Inn in 1859. In October 1860 his wife **Jane**, aged 50 died, it was recorded in the Hereford Times and it stated that she was then the widow of **Mr John Large** of the Whalebone Inn, Hereford.

**1860:** The next tenant was **Mrs Anne Williams** of The **Whalebone Inn**, Eign, Hampton Park, also recorded in the Gazette.

**1861:** Anne Williams was succeeded at the **Bladebone** Inn (as shown in the 1961 census) by **Thomas Spenser** -Publican aged 51, born in Broadway Worcester and Sarah Spenser his wife aged 30, born in Kings Caple. They had a maid servant also born in Kings Caple, Jane Cooper, a widow aged 28.

*(Family History Researchers please note that **SPENSER** was transcribed as **PENEER** and Jane Cooper was a Visitor. Also Whalebone is written as **Walebone**.)*

In 1863 **George W. Downing** advertised in the Hereford Times on Feb 21<sup>st</sup> that his business of Anatomical Last and Boot Makers of Leominster, London and Paris had gone into partnership with **Mr T. Spenser** at the **Whalebone Inn** at Eign.

Later that same year on 6<sup>th</sup> June **Thomas Spenser** announced in the Hereford Times 'that he was not answerable for any debts occurred by **Geo. Downing** in **Mr T. Spenser's** Name.'

**1867: David Griffiths** Esq. was the tenant of The **Whalebone Inn** at Eign and he was still there when the **1871** census was taken

**David Griffiths** aged 47 Compositor & Innkeeper born St. Mary's, Breconshire  
Elizabeth Griffiths aged 58 born Hereford.

There were 2 lodgers, John Jones aged 60 and Samuel Smith aged 28, both labourers.

**1874:** The ownership of the **Whalebone Inn** changed on 22<sup>nd</sup> August **1874** and passed by inheritance from **John Jackson Sudbury** to **George Oliver Merrick Herron** of Richmond in Surrey

**1876: Mrs Anne Williams** became the innkeeper and was recorded in the **1881** census: **Anne Williams**, widow, aged 53 ,innkeeper born in Monmouth, Richard Williams, son aged 19, a bricklayer born in Hereford. Albert Williams , son aged 14, a printers apprentice. Emily Williams, daughter aged 12, a scolar. There were also a servant and 3 lodgers.

In 1871 **Anne Williams** was living at 40 St Owen's Street with her husband **Robert**, a stonemason, born in Bristol, together with their 3 young children.

Robert died on 5<sup>th</sup> October **1874** and is buried in St Paul's Churchyard, where his gravestone records that him as Robert Williams of the Whalebone Inn, so probably he was the licensee before 1874 and after his death his wife **Ann Williams** took over as the innkeeper.

**1889:** on 18<sup>th</sup> May the Inn was purchased by **Charles Watkins** and **Alfred Watkins** of the City of Hereford, Brewers, for £500.00. The Inn was occupied by **Mrs Williams** as tenant, the rent being £18.00 per year.

The Inn was a 'tied house' for the **Hereford & Tredegar Breweries**, owned by Charles and Alfred Watkins.

**Charles Watkins**, an Innkeeper in Eign Street moved to the **Imperial Inn** which had a brewhouse. In 1858 he bought the Hereford Brewers in Bewell Street and named it the Imperial Brewery. The Imperial Mills had been established by **Captain Radford** in 1834 in Widemarsh Street. In 1874 they were bought by the Berrington Street brewer **Charles Watkins** who modernised the mill. The complex stretched from Widemarsh street along Bewell Street. When Charles Watkins retired in 1989 he sold the business to the Tredegar Brewery Company which registered its name as the Hereford & Tredegar Brewery Co. Ltd. In 1899. The company went into liquidation in 1942 and was acquired by the Cheltenham Original Brewery in 1945 thus becoming the Cheltenham & Hereford Brewing

*Co.. Many public houses were sold to the Rhymney Brewery. Brewing ceased in Hereford in 1960.*

In **1890** on February 5<sup>th</sup> **Ann(e) Williams** died and was buried in St Paul's churchyard in her husbands grave. At a Special Sessions held in the Guild Hall Hereford on 7<sup>th</sup> April 1890 the licence of the **Bladebone Inn** was transferred to **George Lane** of 78 Eign Road due to the death of **Anne Williams**. The transfer was for 6 months up till 10<sup>th</sup> October 1890.

**1890:** On 29 September **George Tringham** became the innkeeper of the Whalebone Inn on and as recorded in the **1891** census:

**George Tringham**, aged 44 , as a painter (his previous profession) born Hereford. Eliza Tringham , wife, aged 38. Emily Tringham, daughter, aged 18, dressmaker. Alfred Tringham, son aged 15, apprentice. Rose Tringham, daughter, aged 9, scholar.

**1899:** On November 1 the **Tredegar & Hereford Breweries** Ltd made an indenture with the Hon George Higginson Allsopp of Foston Hall, County of Derby, M.P. And the Rt. Hon. Sir Herbert Eustace Maxwell of Monteith, Wauphill, Wigtownshire, Scotland Bart. M.P. (present Trustees). The Company acknowledged its indebtedness to the present trustees in the sum of £80,000, paying interest at £4 per centum, paid half yearly on 30<sup>th</sup> June and 31<sup>st</sup> December – the first payment due on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1899. There is mention in section 12 – 'Whalebone Inn, as in or public house , including outbuildings and garden, in the township of Tupsley in the parish of Hampton Bishop in the City of Hereford and at the corner of Old Eign Road and now in the occupation of **George Tringham** as a tenant from 29<sup>th</sup> day of September 1890 at a yearly rent of £18.

**1901:** The census recorded **George and Elisa Tringham** still at the Whalebone with their two remaining children, Alfred and Rose.

Alfred Tringham died aged 28 on 12<sup>th</sup> July 1903 and was buried in St Paul's Churchyard, and 2 years later on 21<sup>st</sup> January 1905, his sister Rose, the youngest daughter of George and Eliza Ann Tringham died aged 23 and was buried in the same grave.

Thus the 1911 census records only George and Elisa Tringham living at the Whalebone Inn together with Emily Louise Daws, a niece. Elisa Tringham's maiden name was Daws and her parents kept the Lichfield Vaults in Church Street.

**George Tringham** died on 20<sup>th</sup> February 1912, aged 66 and was buried in St Pauls churchyard. **Eliza** died aged 79 on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1932.

**1917: Albert Footitt** took over the Inn.

**1922: Richard S. Mailes** took over.

In 1927 it was reported in the Western Mail on 12<sup>th</sup> April that Major E. Amplett Capel M.C. Had applied for permission, on behalf of others, for certain structural alterations to the **Whalebone Inn** – necessitating the building of a club room for anglers belonging to the Hereford and District Angling Association to weigh their catch. The article was titled 'The Weigh Inn'. Permission was granted. Plans for the Whalebone are shown.

In the 1939 Registration **Richard Mailes** was still the innkeeper of the Whalebone Inn, Eign Hill.

Richard S. Mailes born 9<sup>th</sup> July 1884 – licensed innkeeper and Master butcher.

Emma J. Mailes born 7<sup>th</sup> Jan 1889 - unpaid domestic. Ellen Price born 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1870 – widow – domestic.

**1948:** After the voluntary liquidation of the Hereford & Tredegar Breweries the Whalebone Inn was bought by the Cheltenham and Hereford Breweries.

**1956:** On 12<sup>th</sup> July, 1956 the premises were bought for £1,260.00 by the **British Wheelstud Co. Ltd.**, whose registered office was Barrs Court Works, Rockfield Road . The Director was H. H. Johns. The Cheltenham & Hereford Breweries transferred the license to the private house 'The Steppes' on the other side of Old Eign Hill and named the public house **The Salmon Inn**. The **Whalebone Inn** became the **Whalebone Stores**, but its trade was restricted by the C&H Breweries as there was a covenant on the Whalebone Stores not to trade as a licensed Victualler or sell beers, wines or spirits, or use as a club, or brew beer. This affected the trade as a corner shop. The anglers had to weigh their catch at **The Brewers Arms** just beyond the railway bridge.

The building was described as 'a messuage tenement or dwelling house known as the **'Whalebone Inn'** with outbuildings and garden area of 1 rood & 20 poles or thereabouts.

**1969:** After trading for 13 years, on 3<sup>rd</sup> February the **Whalebone Stores** was sold to **Daniel Wright** and his wife Angela Wright, of The Lawns, Gorsty Lane for £8,950.00. The Wrights purchased the goodwill for £500.00.