



The Prince of Wales Rectory Road

The first entry for the Prince of Wales in the Bluntisham census is in 1861, when Stephen Cox (52) is listed as the publican of the Prince of Wales. He is there with his sons James and Thomas, daughters Louisa and Susanna. Stephen Cox, died in 1862 in the village and by 1871 the pub had changed hands.



In the 1869 Post Office directory, John Ambrose is listed as a beer retailer. In the 1871 census he is listed at the Prince of Wales and his occupation given as publican. John, aged 55 is there with his wife Eliza aged 52 and their two children Eliza and Charles. Perhaps the Ambrose's stay was short lived as the pub was put up for let in 1872:

Lot 3.—The "PRINCE OF WALES" PUBLIC HOUSE, abutting upon the High Road between St. Ives and Earith, with YARD, STABLE, convenient OUTBUILDINGS and GARDEN, occupied by Mr. Charles Hinkins, also TWO TENEMENTS, with GARDEN and OUTBUILDINGS adjoining, one occupied by Mr. Goody and the other unoccupied. Possession will be given of the above lots on 11th October next.

In 1877, Charles Hinkins is listed as a Beer retailer in the Post Office directory. In 1881 Charles Hinkins (49) and his wife Mary are listed at the Prince of Wales. They are there with their daughter Emma (24). Charles is described as the publican and also as an agricultural labourer. In comparison to some of the other pubs in the village the Prince of Wales, appears to be a quiet place to have a drink. In 1887 there is one mention of the Prince of Wales in the press, but only as Mrs Hinkins made a statement when the landlord of the Swan was in trouble for allowing drunkenness on the premises.

They are again listed in 1891 census, this time with their grandson Burley Carter aged 6. In 1901 Mary is no longer listed, she passed away in 1897. Charles, now 70, is listed, along with his sister Charlotte Groom (66) and his brother in law John Groom (70). In the 1911 Census, Charles now 82 is still listed, but now with more of his extended family. Son William, daughter Elizabeth (42), her husband Alfred Hook and four of Charles' grandchildren. Charles is listed in the 1914 Kellys directory as being a beer retailer. Charles passed away in the village in 1915.

PERMITTING DRUNKENNESS ON LICENSED PREMISES.—*George Stanion*, landlord of the "Swan" Inn, Bluntisham, was charged by Mr. Supt. Hibbins, with having permitted drunkenness on his licensed premises on the 11th October last.—The defendant pleaded not guilty.—*Kate Goodey*, assistant School mistress, said that she was passing the "Swan" Inn, on the morning of Bluntisham Feast day, when she saw a man named *Henry Abbs* come from the door. He was in charge of a horse and cart and was very drunk. This was just after 12 o'clock.—*Mary Hinkin*, landlady of the "Prince of Wales" Inn, said that *Abbs* came to her house the worse for drink, and she refused to supply him with any beer.—*Mr. E. Collinson*, of St. Ives, saw *Abbs* with a horse and cart on the Earith road; he seemed to be quite drunk and witness was obliged to pass him on the wrong side of the road.—*Abbs* himself was next sworn, and said that he had no beer that morning except what he had at the defendant's house. He did not pay for any himself, but he had two pints given him, and some men were playing at "Puff and dart" in another room, and he was allowed to drink what he pleased from the beer which was brought in. *Stanion* himself brought all the beer into the room.—Defendant in his defence said that he observed nothing strange in *Abbs*' appearance while he was in the house. He did not show the slightest sign of intoxication. If, however, he really did get too much to drink in the house he was extremely sorry for it.—*Mrs. Sarah Bradley* said that she saw *Abbs* leave the house, and he did not then seem any the worse for drink.—*Mrs. Sophia Stanion*, the wife of defendant, said that there no difference



In April 1920 the pub is put up for sale:

VALUABLE FREEHOLD PUBLIC HOUSE, known as The "PRINCE OF WALES," with Dwelling House, good Garden, and Cottage adjoining, in the occupations of Messrs. W. C. Edwards, Mr. J. Phillips, and Rev. G. W. Neville, at the moderate annual rent of £18. Further particulars may be obtained of the Auctioneers, Market Hill, Huntingdon, St. Ives, and St. Neots; or of Messrs. LYON and SON, Solicitors, 21, St. Andrew Street, Cambridge.

In the 1921 census, William Edwards (35) who's occupation is given as bricklayer, is living at the Prince of Wales, with his wife Jessie and children Walter and Francis. He is not listed as being a publican, however we can assume that he was, as in 1926 the licence passed to his widow Jessie;

TRANSFERS.

The transfer of the licence of the Three Horse Shoes, Needingworth, was granted from the late Mr. Harry Barker to his widow (Mrs. Emma Barker); and that of the Prince of Wales, Bluntisham, from the late Walter Charles Edwards to his widow Mrs. Jessie Edwards).

In the 1939 register, Henry C Baker is living at the Prince of Wales and is described as a bootmaker and a licenced victualler. He is with his wife Marjorie and son Frederick. Henry was still in place in 1941, when a bonfire in Rectory Road made headlines:

BONFIRE CAUSES ACCIDENT.

John Laud, farmer, Hawthorn Farm, Bluntisham, was summoned for making a bonfire 50 feet from the centre of the Rectory Road, Bluntisham, to the personal danger of persons travelling there on September 5th. — Defendant pleaded guilty.

P.C. Dighton said he went to the scene of an accident on the Rectory Road, and there found several cyclists who had been involved in an accident. He saw several rubbish fires burning in an orchard belonging to defendant, and from which smoke was being blown right across the road and obscuring one's vision for 40 yards. Defendant told witness he was responsible for lighting the fires.

Henry Baker, landlord of the Prince of Wales, Bluntisham, said he heard a crash and went to the scene of the accident. Visibility was not more than six to seven feet.

Defendant, on oath, said he did not think there was enough smoke to do any harm. There was a good deal of fog about at the time.

Fined £1 and 5s. costs.

It's not recorded when Henry Baker left the pub, but in 1970 an advert was placed in the local press for an Evening Barmaid:

**PRINCE OF WALES
BLUNTISHAM**
requires
**PART-TIME
EVENING
BARMAID**
For further details, please apply
The Prince of Wales
Rectory Road
Bluntisham
(on St. Ives to Earith
main road)
Tel: Earith 385

Another announcement is published in 1973, to announce that Carol and John were opening their new bar:

CAROL AND JOHN
wish to announce that their new
bar is now open for service.
**THE PRINCE OF WALES
BLUNTISHAM**

The pub closed it's doors in 2015 and is now a private residence.

The pub sign sits proudly in the Village Hall in Bluntisham as a reminder of the pub that served the village for over one hundred and fifty years.

