The Saracens Head
Wood End

The census returns of 1841 and 1851, lack the detail needed to record who was living in the Saracens Head, but we can be sure that by 1854, Henry Wells held a license, as he was listed as Beer Retailer in the 1854 Huntingdon Gazetteer and Directory of Huntingdon.



Henry Wells was living in Bluntisham in 1841, with his mother Anne. She was living alone with her children in East End, described as a Sergeants Wife. Henry is listed as being 12 at the time. In 1851 he is still in Bluntisham, this time with his maternal Grandfather John Townsend and his siblings. Aged 22 his occupation is listed as Farmer's Grandson. Interestingly, living close by in 1851 is one Lydia Mole, who Henry will go on to marry.

In the 1861 census, Henry is listed as a Farmer and publican, living in the Saracens Head. His grandfather John Townsend, who was 79 in 1851, can't be located in the 1861 census. So it is possible that Henry was living in what was to become known as the Saracens Head in 1851 and took over occupancy in the early 1850's. Clearly we can't be sure, but there are similarities with regards to the amount of land that he was farming. He is listed as being married to Lydia and having 3 children. It appears that Henry's mother Anne, is now living with her brother John Townsend in East Street. Henry, continues with this dual role of farmer and publican, he and Lydia are listed in the building in 1871 and 1881, In 1871 they have another child Arthur, and in 1881 a daughter, Matilda. It appears that Henry passed away in 1888/89 as there is an an approved application to transfer the licence from Henry to Lydia.



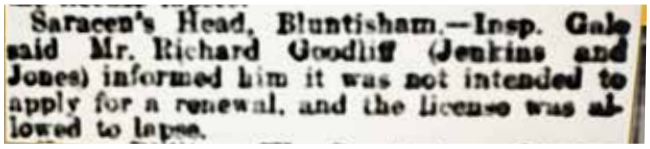
DIVISION SESSIONS.—(Monday).
Before Messrs. H. C. Geldart, Bateman Brown, and C. P. Tebbutt.
LICENSE TRANSFER.
Application was made to transfer the license of the Saracen's Head, Bluntisham, from the late Mr. Wells to his widow, Mrs. Lydia Wells.—Granted.

In the 1891 census, it is now Lydia who is the Head of the household at the Saracen's Head and her occupation is listed as Publican,Grocer and Draper. However, in the1901 census, Lydia appears to have left the pub, and is now living on her own in Wood End. The occupant of the Saracen's Head is now listed as Arthur T Wells, Lydia and Henry's son. He is not listed as a publican, but as a grocer and shopkeeper. There was no mention of him being a publican and there is no transfer of the licence from Lydia to Arthur.



In 1911 Arthur is still in situ, but his occupation is listed as Fowl Dealer. There is no further documentary information available until 1914 when the pub is put up for sale by Jenkins and Sons brewery.

So, although Arthur was living there in 1911, they were clearly gone by 1914. A further update in 1918 suggests that the Brewery allowed the licence to lapse and that put an end to the Saracen's Head operating as a pub.


Saracen's Head, Bluntisham.—Insp. Gale said Mr. Richard Goodliff (Jenkins and Jones) informed him it was not intended to apply for a renewal, and the license was allowed to lapse.

Peterborough Standard · Saturday, 25 April 1914

The Pub and outbuildings passed in to private hands, with the James family living there in the 1930's; thanks to Pam Kipling for her recollections of visiting her Grandparents Harold and Florence James.



Harold passed away in 1951 and the house and contents were once again put up for sale. It was purchased from the James family by the Boulter family and the Saracens Head remains in private hands to this day.


FORTHCOMING SALES.
APRIL 16th.
BLUNTISHAM, HUNTS.
Sale of
17th Century Freehold House
situate WOOD END, BLUNTISHAM (formerly the Old Saracen's Head). The accommodation is Three Bedrooms, Two Reception and One Living-room, Scullery, Large Pantry and Bath. The main structure includes Coat Place and Store Shed, also Range of Outbuildings Yard and Kitchen Garden. Companies' Electric Lighting, Gas and Water are laid on. Which
Mr. A. W. Smith