

# **WOODHURST PUBLIC HOUSES**

**Three Horseshoes**

**The Sun**

**Farmer's Boy**

**Plough & Harrow**

**Wheatsheaf**

**Traveller's Rest**

**Half Moon & Stars**



In medieval times due to the water supply often being polluted and dangerous to drink, beer was drunk by most of the population. The brewers were mainly women and some of them are named in the Manor Court Records for their area. One mentioned for Woodhurst is the wife of Nicholas the Miller. Woodhurst Manor belonged to Ramsey Abbey, and there are many instances of brewers being brought before the Court for brewing illegally, brewing inferior beer, selling short measures and making beer too sweet or too sour. To monitor the beer each Manor appointed ale-tasters. In 1561 the ale tasters for Woodhurst were John Byfields and Thomas Plome.

By the late 16<sup>th</sup> and early 17<sup>th</sup> century many houses and farms brewed their own beer. The Inventory for Henry Bearden of Woodhurst in 1668 says:- *In the Buttery hogsheads, barrels, brewing vessels, with a copper and some other things; value £6 – 6 shillings and 8 pence.* Thomas Christmas in 1680 has a *bruin vessel and a hogshead value 12 shillings.* The will in 1798 of Thomas Holdich, who lived in Holdich Farm states:- *I give and bequeath all my Household furniture, brewing and dairy utensils to my wife and sons to be equally divided between them.*

In 1620 there was a proclamation forbidding taverners, innkeepers and victuallers from selling any beer, except that which they had bought from a licensed brewer. Under the Beer Act of 1830 smaller types of houses were permitted to sell Beer (Beer houses) Any household that paid rates could apply after a one off payment to sell beer or cider in their own home. The number of these grew rapidly and in 1869 to stop this trend Licensing Courts and new licensing laws were introduced and this was the basis for today's licensing laws. Some of these beer houses then applied for a full license to become a public house. These licenses were jealously guarded and often they passed from parents to children.

The seven places in this booklet with dates that can be verified by written evidence are:-

Name of pub	dates	Name of house today
The Sun	1834-1861	Cherry Tree House
Half Moon & Stars	1802-1919	Harradine House
Travellers Arms	1871-1968	St John's House
The Three Horseshoes	1799-1922	Horseshoe Cottage
Plough & Harrow	1861-1949	Cowbut Cottage
The Wheatsheaf	1826-1901	
Farmer's Boy	1971-1911	Church View-----

The part of Woodhurst where the Plough and Harrow used to be was handed over to St Ives last year the Wheatshea, is included because of its proximity to Woodhurst and a Woodhurst family being landlords for much of the 19c.

The Woodhurst Beer / public houses all were copyhold to the Manor of Woodhurst. The occupiers paid a yearly rent to the Lord of the Manor, but they could leave them to someone in their will. To become free of the Manor they had to be enfranchised, which all were by 1922.

Census returns, Manor records and Directories were used to research these beer/public houses. The 1911 census records how many rooms there were in each house. This does not include scullery, landing, closet, bathroom, warehouse, office or shop.

# THE SUN

## Beer House

In the Manor Court documents in 1778 Cherry Tree House in Church Street was described as *a cottage situate on the Lady of the Manor's waste land in a place called Little End*. It was held by right of title and was subject to manorial customs and had to pay rent every year to the Lord or Lady of the Manor

Through the Manor Court the owners and occupiers of this cottage can be traced. Many houses at this time brewed their own beer, as it was safer to drink beer than to drink the water which was often polluted. Unfortunately few of them were named, but this one was. It was called The Sun. It is unclear when its life as a beer house began, but in 1836 Henry Munns was sent to prison for 12 months for stealing money from the Sun beer house. It is recorded as The Sun in some of the censuses for the 19c and also in legal documents. By 1897 it was no longer a beer house, and was freed from any obligation to the Manor by an enfranchisement. This document describes it as:-*Formerly used as a Beerhouse called "The Sun" situate in Little End in Woodhurst with the Barns Stables and other Outbuildings Yards, Gardens and Orchard.*

The newspaper report about the robbery states:-

***Henry Munns was charged with having stolen two shillings and nine pence, the property of Robert Cox of Woodhurst. In this case it appeared that the prosecutor was the keeper of the beer shop and that in April last, the prisoner, in company with another man named Cooper, called for some beer, which the daughter of the prosecutor supplied them, placed the money mentioned in the indictment in a cupboard in the apartment where the prisoners were sitting, and then left the room. Upon her return she missed the money and the prisoners. Robert Cooper the accomplice admitted to give evidence against Munns, and said that he took the money at the repeated request of the prisoner and gave it to him.***

Munns was sentenced to one year hard labour, Robert Cooper was discharged, case dismissed.

### Landlords named in documents

1836 Robert Cox

1861 James Cox



Cherry Tree House



# THE HALF MOON & STARS



This is what the Half Moon & Stars premises looks like today. It is Grade II listed built originally in the early 19c. It was one of the two Public Houses mentioned in the list of properties belonging to the Manor in 1802. Sometime before the end of the 19c the pub was taken over by the Huntingdon Brewery Jenkins & Jones. It was enfranchised from the Manor in July 1919. Not long after that it was bought by a member of the Gurry family, which at that time owned a number of farms in the village.

In 1877 the adjoining Farm house (to the right of the picture) was burnt down. Rumour stated at the time said that it was the work of an incendiary. The pub was damaged, but not completely destroyed. I think it may have been larger before the fire, because in 1871 there were 6 lodgers at the pub as well as the landlord, his wife and 5 children. After the fire they only ever had one lodger. Occasionally the Manor Court was held here.

In a newspaper report about the Half Moon and Stars it states:- In the autumn of 1836 Charles Darby of Somersham had a gun stolen from his barn. In July 1837 it was returned to him by John Furness of Woodhurst. Soon after John Furness, Darby, and Briggs the Somersham constable and John Austin the publican met in the Half Moon and Stars where John Furness offered Derby a sovereign to "make it up". Briggs the constable wrote a note stating that John Furness had paid expenses of one pound to Charles Darby. Darby signed the note and Briggs witnessed it.

When this came to court, John Furness was already in jail awaiting trial on a charge of violently assaulting Irish labourers and causing a riot. The Grand Jury reported that:- *it appears from the statement of the prosecutor (Darby) and his witness Austin (landlord of the Half Moon and Stars) that the felony was confounded by the prosecutor and the constable taking a sovereign of the prisoner to settle the matter and the Grand Jury request the Court will consider how far the prosecutor and the Constable are liable to be punished for their misconduct which they consider a gross misdemeanour.* It is uncertain what happened to Darby & Briggs, but for his part in the riot John Furness was given four months hard labour.



## Landlords and other people living in the Half Moon and Stars named in documents

1802 William Fisher

1837 John Austin

1861 CENSUS John White(47) his wife Sarah(43) & 5 children aged from 6 months to 11.  
**Four lodgers:** Thomas Chapman aged 47 a **shoemaker**; born in Warboys  
John Watts aged 47 an **Agricultural Labourer**; born in Woodhurst  
William Clarke a widower aged 64 a **blacksmith**; born in Hilton  
Benjamin Ilett aged 20 an **Agricultural Labourer**; born in Old Hurst

1871 CENSUS John White(52), his wife Sarah(53) and 4 children aged between 11 and 21  
**Five lodgers:** Thomas Chapman aged 60 a **shoemaker**; born in Warboys  
Isaac Cox aged 26 in 2 Reg 19 foot army; born in Woodhurst  
Daniel; Stokes aged 17 **Agricultural Labourer**; born in Woodhurst  
George Bennet aged 23 **Agricultural Labourer**; born in Woodhurst  
James Osborne aged 61 **Agricultural Labourer**; born in Woodhurst  
William Tomlinson aged 31 **Blacksmith**; born in Upwell Norfolk

1881 CENSUS John White(62) his wife Sarah (63) a daughter and a granddaughter  
**one lodger** Thomas Carter aged 50 an **Agricultural Labourer**; born in Woodhurst

1891 CENSUS John White (72) his wife Sarah (73) and one daughter Eliza (35)  
**One lodger** Thomas Carter (60) an **Agricultural Labourer**; born in Woodhurst

*Between 1894 and 1897 John White left the Half Moon and Stars and was succeeded by William Saddington, who was married to his daughter Eliza.*

*John White died aged 80 in November 1898 and was buried in the new graveyard at the back of the church. His wife Sarah died in the Workhouse in 1904 aged 86.*

1901 CENSUS William Saddington (41) Engine driver at brickyard & Tavern Keeper born in Woodhurst  
His wife Eliza (44) and three children aged 5 months to 5 years born in Woodhurst  
Mother-in-law Sarah White (83) born in Woodhurst  
Ethel Stringer aged (14) a **servant**; born in Peterborough  
Thomas Carter aged (70) a **servant and an Agricultural Labourer**; born in Woodhurst

1911 Woodhurst CENSUS William Saddington aged (50); **Publican and Labourer on Threshing Tackle** born in  
His wife Eliza (56). Have been married for 16 years. Has had 4 children born alive, but one has died. **Assisting in Public House** born in Woodhurst  
Daughter Hilda (15) **Assists in Public House** born in Woodhurst  
Daughter Ivy (12) and son Arthur 10 are **at school**. Born in Woodhurst  
**Lodger** Thomas Carter (80) a widower & **Old Age Pensioner** born in Woodhurst  
**Lodger** George Darby (52) Married a **Labourer on farm** born in Somersham  
**The Census records that there were 8 rooms in this house**

*This pub closed soon after it was enfranchised and became a private house. William Saddington died in October 1923, his wife Eliza is recorded as landlady of the Travellers Arms Public House in 1924. She died in 1941, still at the Travellers Arms.*

The meaning behind the sign Half Moon and Stars is obscure. Today no pubs called this could be found although there are a couple called Half Moon and five stars. There was a Half Moon and Stars in Ipswich which closed in 1985 and that dated from 18c. What the significance of the name is, is unclear, but it is probable that this public house had its origins in the 1700s.



# TRAVELLERS ARMS



Travellers Arms 1938

The Travellers Arms was built in the mid 1800s and seems to have been used as a Beerhouse from the beginning. When this pub was built the population of Woodhurst was at its height, about 560 people (which is about 200 more than it is today). It was copyhold to the Manor of Woodhurst and documents from the Manor Court give evidence as to the owner. Occasionally the Manor Court was held here.

The first landlord was John Austin, who had previously been landlord at the Three Horseshoes and the Half Moon and Stars. When he died he willed it to his niece Mary, (who had married a William Murden), to become tenant. John Austin stated in his will that this was subject to the payment of the sum of five shillings per week to his wife Mary during her life and permission to reside in and to occupy the end house next to Church Lane or to receive the rents thereof in her discretion during her life without. There were 4 houses adjoining the Travellers Arms fronting Church Lane which ran down the side of the pub.

In 1875 the Murdens transferred the copyhold to the brewing company of Marshalls of Huntingdon. It was enfranchised from the Manor in May 1920.

## Landlords and other people living in Travellers Arms

1871 CENSUS	John Austin (70) <b>Beer House Keeper</b> born in Woodhurst Mary Austin his wife (71) <b>wife of Beer House Keeper</b> born in Bluntisham
1873	John Austin dies and leaves Travellers Arms to niece Mary Murden
1875	Marshalls brewers of Huntingdon take over the pub
1881 CENSUS	George Dixie Page (30) <b>Publican, Farmer &amp; Wheelwright</b> born in Chelverton Northants Wife Sara (29) born in Caldecott Northants
1884	William and Mary Murden



- 1891 CENSUS** Thomas Furness (45) **Agricultural Labourer & Publican** born in Woodhurst  
Wife Sarah (38) born in Tips End Norfolk
- 1894** John Chapman
- 1901 CENSUS** John Chapman (60) **farmer & Tavern Keeper** born in Warboys  
Wife Mary Jane (42) born in Great Staughton  
Ada Chapman daughter (24) **day horse keeper for farmer** born in Woodhurst  
Walter Ruff step-son (21) **Ag Lab & Carpenters assistant** born in Great Staughton  
George Ruff step-son(18) **Ag lab & teamster** on farm Great Staughton  
Rebecca Ruff step-daughter (13) born in Wyton  
Olive Chapman daughter (4) born in Woodhurst  
Ronald Chapman son (1) born in Woodhurst  
Ebenezer Chapman grandson (son of Ada) (2) born in Woodhurst
- 1911 CENSUS** John Chapman (70) **Public House Keeper & labourer on farm** born in Warboys  
wife Mary Jane (51) married 15 years 2 children, **dressmaker** born in Stonely Kimbolton  
Olive daughter(14) born in Woodhurst  
Ronald son (11) **at school** born in Woodhurst  
**Lodger** Orland Kimpton (30) **Horsekeeper on farm**; born in East Hatley Cambs  
**Lodger** Charles Wilson (20) **Farm Labourer** born in Needingworth  
**The Census records that there were 7 rooms in this house**

*John Chapman died in 1922 aged 82 and Eliza Saddington took over. She stayed at the Travellers Arms until she died in 1941. By then her daughter Ivy and son-in-law William were running the pub and stayed there until a few years before it closed  
Gerald Bozeat (son of Ivy & William) was interviewed in 1999 about life in Woodhurst during the war. Here is a summary of his description of life in the Travellers Arms at that time.*

*We had no electricity, we used to have Tilly Lamps but you had to keep pumping them up all the time. We had one on the dart board, one in the middle, Dad had five or six of them We had to light all these before the pub opened. And in the living room at the back where we used to live Mother had one of those lamps with a mantle on, if you tapped it the mantle would fall to bits.*

*The pub was surrounded by airfields, Wyton, Warboys, Upwood, Oakington & Alconbury we were packed every night we were literally mown out with people. Our Pub had a piano and did a very good trade, our Dad used to sell beer for other local pubs that did not sell all their allocation. And the bloke from The Stag (Old Hurst) wasn't a very entertaining sort of chap and consequently we got crowded. The aircrew lads used to bike over, chucking their bikes outside. They'd all get drunk and singing when someone got on the piano, and it was great. They'd come round the next night and Dad would say 'Well where's Fred' or whatever. Oh he went for a burton, and that's how they went on. The crews used to sit together, they played and worked and died together.*

*They go on about passive smoking today, when I was a kid you couldn't see across the bar it was just thick with smoke. Honestly you couldn't see across the place for smoke. Jimmy Baxter from Old Hurst used to sit just inside the door and sometimes I used to creep in and he'd always give me a drink out of his beer.*





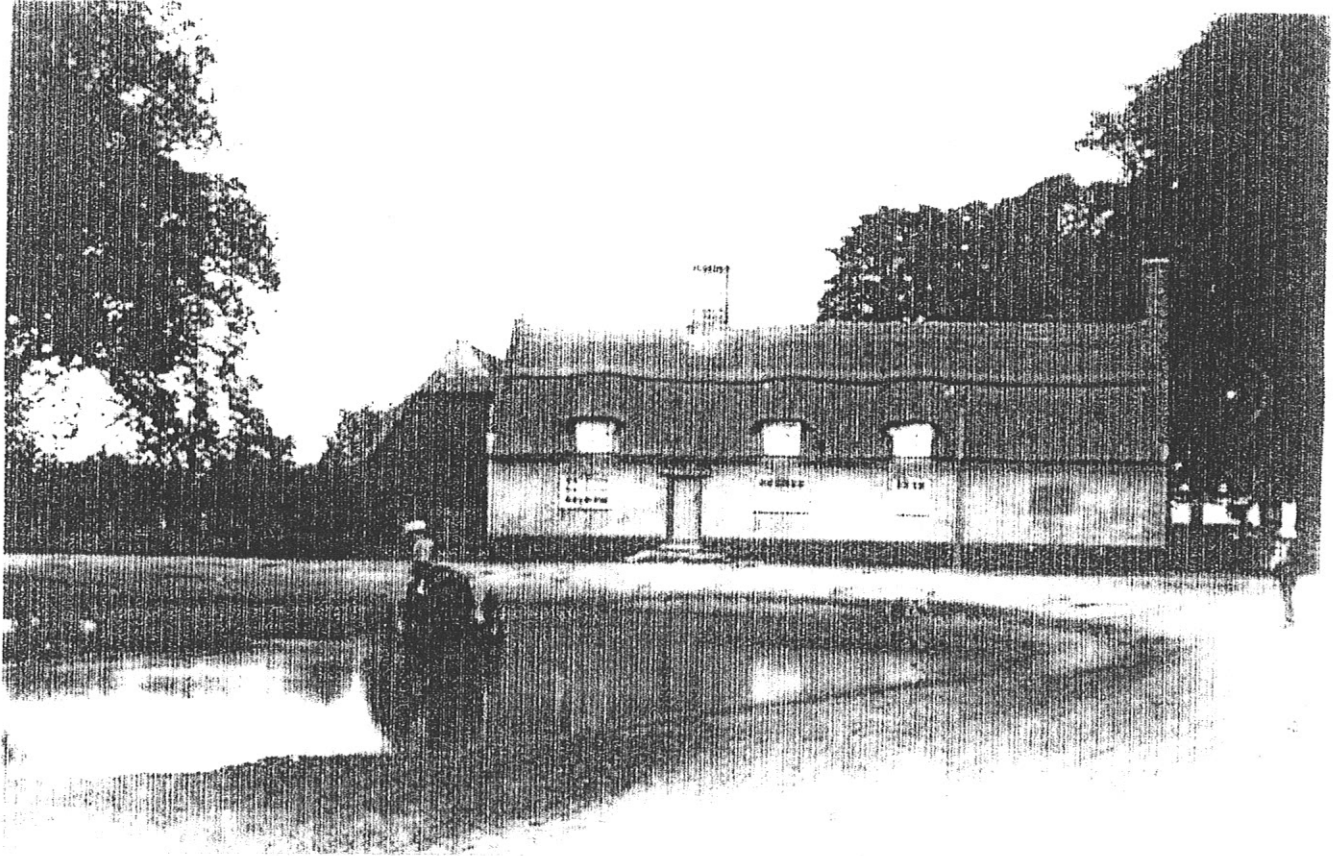
**Travellers Arms Darts Team 1962**



**Travellers arms is now St John's House 2011**



# THREE HORSESHOES



**The Three Horseshoes c1905**

In a court case in 1840 the Three Horse shoes was cited as being an old Public House. The building itself is a late 17c or early 18c cottage and Grade II listed. It belonged to the Manor of Woodhurst, and its position close to what was originally the Manor House, gave it an important role in the life of the village. The Manor Courts were often held here instead of in the Manor House, particularly in the 19 and 20c.

It was a very popular pub in its day, standing as it does not far from Manor Farm and opposite the pond. The most notable happening that was recorded was the fight between local labourers and the Irish labourers that used to come from Ireland to work during the Hay making and Harvest time. In August 1840 a group of Irish labourers attacked John Furness outside the Three Horseshoes. He shouted for help to his brother who was inside having a beer, with some Irishmen. The result was a full-scale fight just outside the pub, with John Furness and his brother Thomas, being cut with the small reaping hooks that the Irish were carrying. 8 Irishmen were arrested and two of them sentenced to one years hard labour. This incident was probably in revenge for a similar assault 3 years previously when the Woodhurst labourers attacked some Irish workers. The result that time was that six Woodhurst labourers were arrested; four were sentenced to periods of hard labour the other two were sentenced to death. This sentence was not carried out and they served a short time in prison.

**1891** Silver watch and chain stolen from Gerald Merrell son of the landlord by a tramp who was staying there for the night. He was traced to London, caught and brought to trial. He pleaded not guilty, but was convicted and sentenced to two months hard labour.

John Stokes who was landlord for many years. He and his wife Susannah had 13 children. Some of these prospered, one, Nathaniel ended his days in the workhouse. Their descendants are spread far and wide, One in Australia has written his family's story beginning in The Three Horseshoes Woodhurst. One settled in the Isle of Wight and there is one still living in Woodhurst. Information on this family can be found on the internet.



The pub was enfranchised (liberated from the Manor) in 1898 and sold to Elijah Eyres Brewery Kings Lynn for £500. Elijah Eyres Brewery was taken over by Patrick Leahy Morgans of Norwich and in 1920 was sold to Jenkins and Jones Brewery of Huntingdon for £450. In 1922 Jenkins and Jones sold it to Mr Robert Finn for £220 on condition that he would not at anytime permit it to be used as a Public House, Inn, Tavern, beer shop or Working Mens Club or otherwise for the sale of intoxicating liquor for consumption on or off the premises.

#### Landlords and others living in The Three Horseshoes

**1799** John & Ann Beck.

**Manor**

**1802** Ann Beck

**Manor**

**1817** William Bass

**Manor**

**1840** John & Susannah Stokes

**Newspaper**

**1841** John Stokes (50) **farmer**

**CENSUS** Susan Stokes (50) wife

James Stokes (20)

Ann Stokes (20)

Susan Stokes (15)

Charlotte (12)

John Stokes (10)

Frances Stokes (7)

Daniel Stokes (5)

Joseph Butcher (20) **Agricultural labourer**

**1851** John Stoles (65) **Farmer of 46 acres employing 1 man** born Woodhurst

**CENSUS** Susan Stokes wife (60) born in Witton

John Stokes son (20) **employed on farm** born in Woodhurst

Nathaniel Stokes son (14) **employed on farm** born in Woodhurst

Frances Stokes daughter (19) **employed at home** born in Woodhurst

Thomas Howell grandson (6) **Scholar** born in Houghton

**1861** John Stokes (75) **Farmer of 45 acres employing 3 men & 2 boys; Victualler** born in Wyton

**CENSUS** Susannah Stokes (70) **Farmer's wife** born in Wyton

John Stokes (28) **Farmer's son** born in Wyton

Nathaniel Stokes (22) **Farmer's son** born in Woodhurst

Thomas Howell (16) grandson **Agricultural Labourer** born in Houghton

**1871** James Hart (30) Beer House Keeper & Agricultural Labourer born in Hemmingford Abbots

**CENSUS** Emma Hart (26) wife born in Woodhurst

**1881** Thomas Merrill (31) **Publican & Agricultural Labourer** born in Woodhurst

**CENSUS** Mary Merrill (30) wife born in Woodhurst

Ellen Merrill (8) Daughter **Scholar** born in Woodhurst

George Marrill (6) son **Scholar** born in Woodhurst

Thomas Merrill (2) son born in Woodhurst

----- Merrill (1 month) son born in Woodhurst

Susan Relton (58) mother-in-law **Nurse** born in Woodhurst

**1891  
CENSUS**

Thomas Merrill (41) **Agricultural Labourer** born in Woodhurst  
Mary Merrill (41) born in Woodhurst  
George Merrill (16) son **Agricultural Labourer** born in Woodhurst  
Thomas Merrill (12) son **Agricultural Labourer** Born in Woodhurst  
Frederick Merrill (10) son **Scholar** born in Woodhurst  
Lizzie Merrill (7) daughter **Scholar** born in Woodhurst  
William Merrill (4) son **Scholar** born in Woodhurst  
Ada Naomi (1) daughter born in Woodhurst

**1901  
CENSUS**

John Atkins (55) **Innkeeper** born in Coates Cambridgeshire  
Martha E Atkins (51) wife born in Norwich

**1905**  
License Court

William Clarke *He was fined £2 and 4s 6d costs for permitting drunkenness at his pub.*

**1908**  
License Court

Patrick Leahy

**1911  
CENSUS**

Snarey Ding (64) **Laborer on farm Public House Keeper** born in Woodhurst  
Sarah Ding (63) wife **Married for 44 years 18 Children born only 5 still living; 13 died, several directly after birth.** Born in Woodhurst  
Frederick Ding (21) **Laborer on Farm** born in Barnsbury London  
The Census records there were 5 rooms in this house.

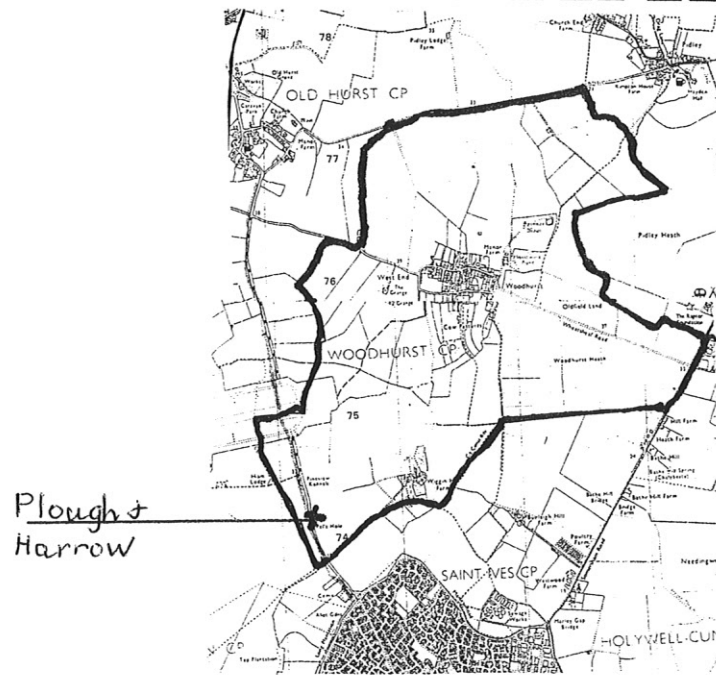
*Snarey Ding died in 1919. It is uncertain as to who ran the pub until it was sold to Robert Finn in 1922, to convert into a dwelling house.*



**Horseshoes Cottage c2000**



# PLOUGH & HARROW



The map above shows the parish of Woodhurst as it was until 2010. The District Council then altered the boundary between Woodhurst and St Ives giving a large area of the south-west of the parish to St Ives. The result of that was that Wiggin Farm and the house that was once the public house The Plough and Harrow are no longer in the parish of Woodhurst.

The Plough and Harrow, is in an area of Woodhurst known as Pells Hole; it was established on the road that led from Ramsey to St Ives. The pub itself was on the site of the toll booth on the turnpike road between Bury and Biggleswade. It would have been very popular in its day particularly for the workers at nearby Wiggin Farm which in 1861 employed over 50 people. Another period when it would have been vberly busy was the Second World War, when its position on the edge of Wyton airfield, which was very active at that time, would have made it an ideal place for the airmen to relax away from the base.

In the 1950s the road was closed just north of the pub to allow the runway at Wyton to be extended so that the V-bombers could land in safety. This was not popular amongst the population as it increased by several miles the journey between the two towns, and probably led to the closure of the pub.

## Landlords and others living in The Plough and Harrow

**1861**  
**CENSUS** Thomas Gale (57) **Ag Lab & Publican** born in Bluntisham  
Ruth Gale (58) wife born in Woodhurst  
Elizabeth Gale (28) daughter **Field Work** born in Woodhurst  
Ruth Gale (17) daughter **Field Work**; born in Woodhurst

**1871**  
**CENSUS** Thomas Gale (67) **Publican**; born in Bluntisham  
Ruth Gale (64) born in Woodhurst  
John Shelton (23) **son-in-law Roadman**; born in Broughton  
Ruth Shelton (27) daughter **Publican's daughter**; born in Woodhurst  
Ruth Shelton (1) granddaughter **Publican's grand daughter** born in Pells Hole

**1881** Ruth Gale (74) **widow & Publican** born in Woodhurst  
**CENSUS**

**1891** John Shelton (44) **Farmer & Innkeeper;** born in Broughton  
**CENSUS** Ruth Shelton (47) ; born in Woodhurst  
Sarah Shelton (26) daughter **no occupation** born in Woodhurst  
Dennis Ashton (44) **lodger & Ag. Lab.** Born in Houghton

**1901** John Shelton (52) **Farmer & Tavern Keeper** born in Broughton  
**CENSUS** Ruth Shelton (55); born in Woodhurst  
Sarah Shelton (31) daughter; born in Woodhurst  
John Saddington (34) visitor, **Ag. Lab. and worker on main road;** born in Woodhurst  
John Carter (53) boarder **Horsekeeper on farm;** born in Woodhurst  
Dennis Ashton (52) lodger **general agricultural labourer;** born in Houghton

**1911** John Shelton (63) , **Farmer own account & Publican;** born in Broughton  
**CENSUS** Ruth Shelton (66) **One child born and one still alive;** born in Woodhurst  
John Carter (63) **Farm Labourer;** born in Woodhurst  
Dennis Ashton(60about not known) **Farm Labourer;** born in Houghton  
May Kirby (15) **Domestic Servant;** born in Fenstanton  
**The Census states that there were 3 houses made into one and 8 rooms**

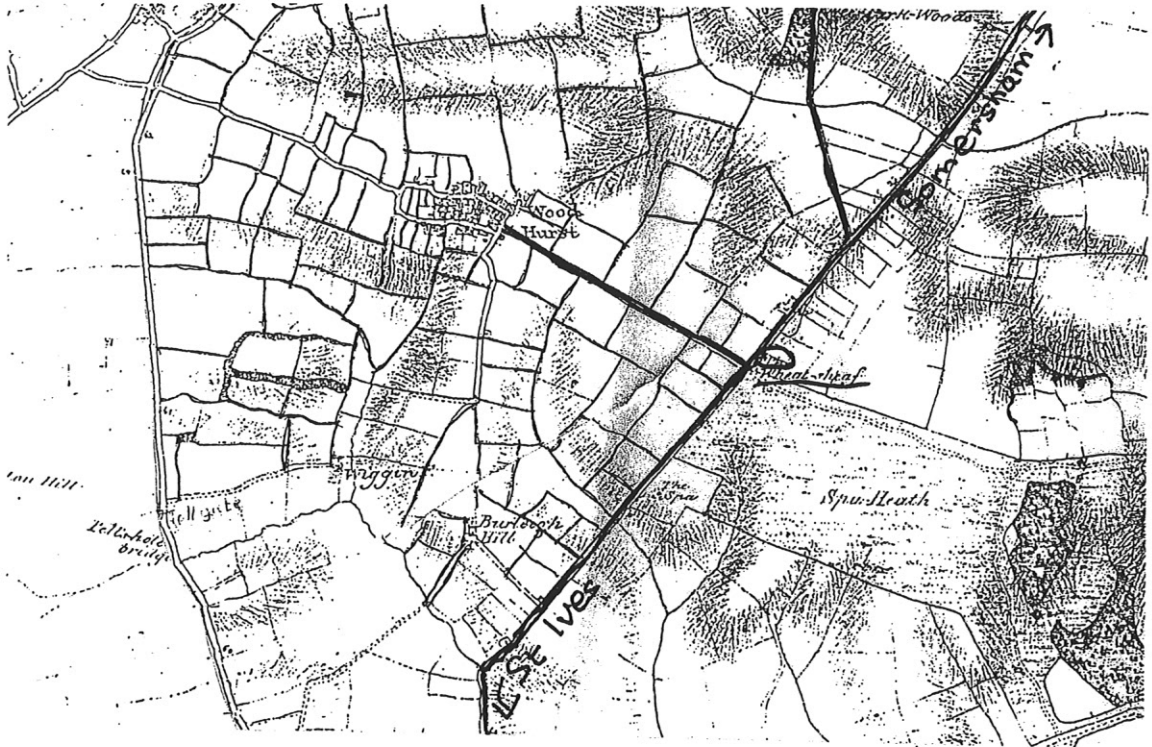
**1911** William Mayes  
**Directory**  
**1924** George Murphy  
**Directory**  
**1928-1948** Richard Wooten  
**Directory& Electors List**  
**1949** Frederick Garton  
**Electors List**



**The Plough & Harrow is now Cowbut Cottage**



# THE WHEATSHEAF



The Wheatsheaf is not in the parish of Woodhurst, but in the parish of Somersham. It is included in this book because its situation on the crossroads where the road from Woodhurst to Bluntisham crosses the road from Somersham to St Ives made it an important meeting place. It was also known as Halfway House or Heath House as the area it is in was called Somersham Heath.

The road leading to it from Woodhurst is known as Wheatsheaf Road and the crossroads Wheatsheaf crossroads. The name of the Public House lives on over a hundred years after it closed. Farmers from Somersham and Pidley used to bring their cattle for the St Ives Monday market as far as the Wheatsheaf on a Sunday, stay the night there and then drive the cattle on to St Ives for the market. Jeremiah Moseley, a Somersham farmer, wrote in his diary for December 17<sup>th</sup> 1826 '*Sent 2 Fat heifers to St Ives after Breakfast to rest two hours at the Wheatsheaf between this and St Ives & on for tomorrow's market*'

The family that lived there for much of the 19c had lived in Woodhurst for a while. John Viles moved from a house near the pond in Woodhurst to live at the Wheatsheaf. His son William married Susan Darrington who used to live in South Street. His second son John Married Charlotte Silk, had a daughter & they emigrated to America. Three generations of the Viles family were landlords of the pub; and William came back to the village to live in 1880s and died in Fullards Farm and is buried in the Chapel graveyard.

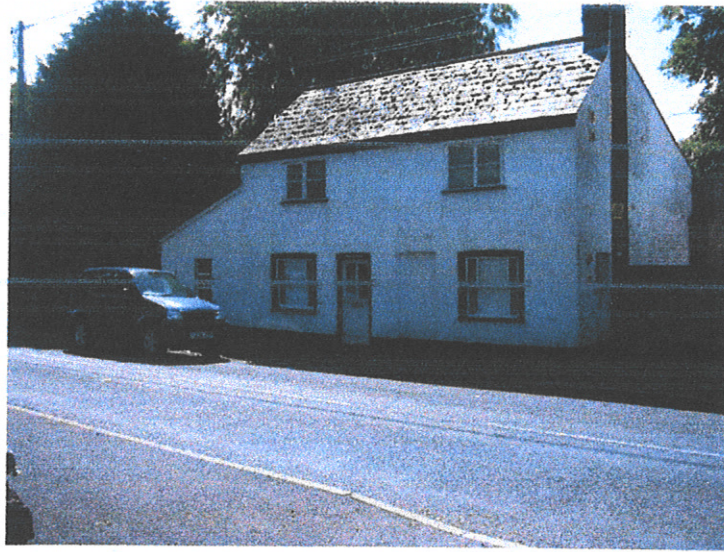
One of the Viles family, Florence Nelly, William & Susan's youngest daughter, wrote an account of the Viles family. She described the inside of the Wheatsheaf Inn. ***The Somersham end of the house was the large parlour with a big register stove with hobs either side, and a small room next, three steps to go up to the other room, the St Ives end. It had two bay windows in, one facing Woodhurst, the other St Ives, this was the public room commonly called in those days the tap room. This room had a cooking range in and two large settles, one on either side of the fireplace with very tall backs. There was the stairs door and a one handed Grandfather Clock stood near too, it was nailed to the wall and never moved for sixty years.***

## Landlords and people who lived in the Wheatsheaf/Halfway House/Heath House

- 1841 CENSUS** John Viles (50) **Innkeeper**  
Elizabeth Viles (48)  
William Viles (17)  
John Viles (15)
- 1851 CENSUS** John Viles (58) widower **Innkeeper & farmer of 55 acres. Employing 2 labourers**  
born in Hawnes Beds  
William Viles son, (28) **Ag. Lab** born in Woodhurst  
John Viles son (24), **Ag lab** born in Pidley  
Charlotte Viles son's wife (24) **Housekeeper**; born in Pidley  
Elizabeth Ann Viles granddaughter (6 months) , born in Somersham  
William Ainsbury servant (24); **Farm servant** born in Gamlingay  
Susan Darrington servant (14); **Farm Servant**, born in Woodhurst  
James Houston servant (12) **Farm Servant**; born in Bluntisham
- 1861 CENSUS** William Viles (38) **Farmer & Publican of 60 acres employing 2 men & 2 boys**  
born in Woodhurst  
Susan Viles wife (23) **& landlady** born in Woodhurst  
William Viles son (5) **Scholar** born in Somersham  
Mary Elizabeth Viles daughter (3) ; born in Somersham  
Fanny Ann daughter (1 month) ; born in Somersham  
James Mail servant (16) **Farm Servant**; born in Broughton
- 1871 CENSUS** Wheatsheaf Beerhouse  
William Viles (48) **Farmer of 50 acres employing 1 man 1 boy**; born in Woodhurst  
Susan Viles (38) born in Woodhurst  
William Viles son (15) **Farmer's son**; born in Somersham,  
Fanny Viles daughter (16) **Scholar**; born in Somersham  
John Viles son (8) **Scholar** born in Somersham  
Mary E daughter (2) born in Somersham
- 1881 CENSUS** William Viles(25) **Publican**; born in Somersham Heath  
Ruth Viles wife (23) born in Hemingford  
William Viles son (3) born in Somersham Heath  
Charles Lawrenson Lodger (25) **Farm Labourer** born in Thatcham Berks
- 1891 CENSUS** John Lawrence (61) **Farmer & Publican** born in Ely  
Rebecca Lawrence wife (56) Born in Earith  
Susannah Lawrence daughter (32)( born in Littleport  
Sarah Lawrence daughter (28) Born in Warboys  
John Lawrence son (16) **Farm Labourer** born in Fenton
- 1901 CENSUS** John Lawrence (71) **Publican & Farmer** born in Ely  
Rebecca Lawrence (66) born in Earith  
Susannah Lawrence daughter (43) born in Littleport



# THE FARMER'S BOY



Very little is known about this beer house/pub. It is not mentioned in documents before the 1871 census. It seems an unlikely position to have a small pub in between the Travellers Arms and The Half Moon and Stars which were both larger and more imposing.

Looking at the house today it is obvious that it was at one time two cottages. According to the Manor Court documents the St Ives Brewers Lindsell were admitted in the Manor Court to one half in 1894 and the other half in 1910. From 1871 to 1911 just two families, the Becks and the Stokes were Landlords. James Beck's wife Charlotte was the daughter of John and Susannah Stokes who kept the Three Horseshoes for many years.

It is recorded as having 7 rooms and still being used as a pub in 1911. But evidence shows that by 1918 it was a private house. A young lad John Murden aged 18 joined the army in that year and gave his address as Church View Woodhurst, which is what the house is known as today.

## Landlords and others living in the Farmer's Boy

**1871 CENSUS** James Beck(49) **Publican and Agricultural Labourer**; born in Woodhurst  
Charlotte Beck (47) **Ag Labs wife**; born in Woodhurst  
John Beck (17) son **Ag. Lab.:** born in Woodhurst  
Solomon Beck (15) son **Ag Lab:** born in Woodhurst  
Thomas Beck (13) son **Ag. Lab.** Born in Woodhurst  
Susan Beck (11) Daughter **Scholar**; born in Woodhurst  
Charles Beck (8) son **Scholar**; born in Woodhurst  
William Beck (6) son **Scholar**; born in Woodhurst  
John Watts (50) **boarder Ag Lab** born in Woodhurst

**1881**  
**CENSUS**

James Beck (57) **Portable Engine Driver & Ag Lab**; born in Woodhurst  
Charlotte Beck (52) wife Born in Woodhurst  
Charles Beck (19) son **Ag Lab** born in Woodhurst  
William Beck (16) son, **Ag Lab**; born in Woodhurst  
Nathaniel; Stokes (45) brother-in-law **Ag. Lab.** Born in Woodhurst  
Sophie Beck (32) daughter-in-law **Miller's wife** born in March  
Eva Beck (7) granddaughter **Scholar**; born in Godmanchester  
Lizzie Beck (6) granddaughter **Scholar**; born in Godmanchester  
William beck (4) grandson **Scholar**; born in Godmanchester  
Arthur Beck (2) grandson born in Godmanchester  
Thomas Chapman (70) **Lodger Cordwainer** born in Warboys

**1891**  
**CENSUS**

George Stokes (44) **Farmer & Publican** born in Woodhurst  
Elizabeth Stokes (70) Mother **Housekeeper** born in Warboys  
David Stokes (34) brother Ag. Lab. Born in Woodhurst  
George Stokes (15) Nephew **Ag Lab** born in Bacup Lancs.

**1901**  
**CENSUS**

Elizabeth Stokes (79) Widow **Housekeeper** born in Warboys  
George Stokes (54) son **farmer & Tavern Keeper** born in Woodhurst  
David Stokes (45) son **Yard man on farm** born in Woodhurst

**1911**  
**CENSUS**

George Stokes (64) **Jobbing Gardner & Public House Keeper** born in Woodhurst  
David Stokes (55) **Ag Lab.** Born in Woodhurst  
**This census records that there were 7 rooms in the house**

*Thanks to all the people who gave me information and photographs to help put this booklet together.  
To the Huntingdon Record Office for permission to use the photograph of the Traveller's Arms.*



