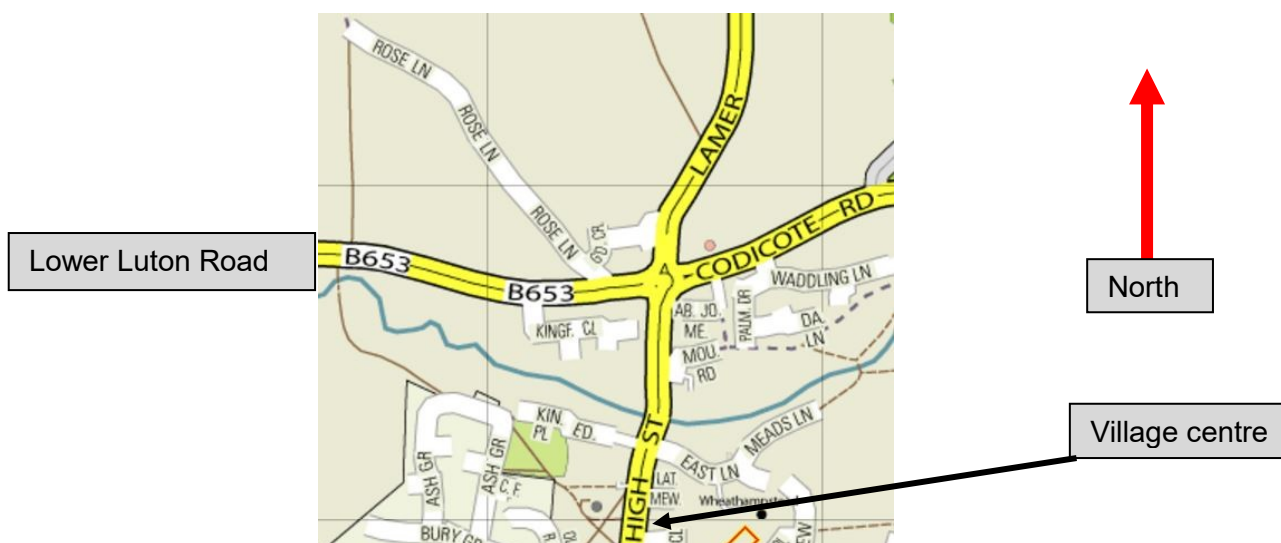


The Locomotive: where and when?

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 undermentioned Houses are situated within the Boundaries of the

[Page 19]

Parish (or Township) of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town of	Hamlet or Tything, &c., of	Ecological District of	Ward or District of
Wheathampstead							
No. of Households	Road, Street, &c., and No. or Name of House	Name and Surname of each Person	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born
88	Wileys	George Simons Head	Mar	39	British Emp. Sec.	North. Hampshire	
		John Head	Mar	44	Br. Sec.	North. Hampshire	
		Mary E. S. Son	Un	15	Scholar	North. Hampshire	
		Emma E. S. Son	Un	12	Scholar	North. Hampshire	
		Harriet A. S. Son	Un	11	Scholar	North. Hampshire	
		William R. S. Son	Un	11	Scholar	North. Hampshire	
		George S. Son	Un	5	Scholar	North. Hampshire	
		Arthur B. Tomlin	Servant	Un	18	British Emp. Sec.	North. Hampshire
89		Thomas Coleman	Head	44	Master of (Journeyman)	North. Hampshire	
		William S. Son	Un	37	Scholar	North. Hampshire	
		Arthur S. Son	Un	11	Scholar	North. Hampshire	
90		John Foster	Son	22	Railway Porter	North. Hampshire	
		John S. Bradsen	Son	17	Scholar	North. Hampshire	
91	The Locomotive	Thomas Spence	Head	31	Blacksmith	North. Hampshire	
		John S. Son	Un	37	Scholar	North. Hampshire	
		Mary Smith	Son	32	Scholar	North. Hampshire	
		Arthur S. Son	Un	1	Scholar	North. Hampshire	
92		John Beardsley	Son	37	Railway Labourer	North. Hampshire	
		John S. Son	Un	37	Scholar	North. Hampshire	
93		John Bath	Head	41	Blacksmith	North. Hampshire	
		William S. Son	Un	37	Scholar	North. Hampshire	
		Thomas S. Son	Un	7	Scholar	North. Hampshire	
		George S. Son	Un	4	Scholar	North. Hampshire	
		Mary S. Son	Un	2	Scholar	North. Hampshire	
		John S. Son	Un	2	Scholar	North. Hampshire	
	Total of Houses...						
		Total of Males and Females...					

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.

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the											
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											
No. of Schedule	Household No. and No. of HOUSE	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	AGE	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN					
1	1	Henry Roberts	Head	31	Licensed Hawker	Worfolk	Worfolk				
2	2	Charles Chapman	Head	31	Fishmonger	Worfolk	Worfolk				
3	3	Jane Chapman	Wife	26	Wife of Charles Chapman	Worfolk	Worfolk				
4	4	Elizabeth Chapman	Daughter	4	Scholar	Worfolk	Worfolk				
5	5	George Chapman	Son	1	Scholar	Worfolk	Worfolk				
6	6	George Simons	Head	31	Butcher	Worfolk	Worfolk				
7	7	Thomas Dunham	Head	31	Bricklayer	Worfolk	Worfolk				
8	8	Eliza Dunham	Wife	27	Wife of Thomas Dunham	Worfolk	Worfolk				
9	9	Mary Smith	Sister-in-law	28	Plaiter	Worfolk	Worfolk				
10	10	Sarah Dunham	Daughter	1	Daughter of Thomas Dunham	Worfolk	Worfolk				
11	11	George Brown	Head	31	Carpenter	Worfolk	Worfolk				
12	12	William Mowbray	Head	70	Butcher	Worfolk	Worfolk				
13	13	John Dorrington	Head	70	Farmer	Worfolk	Worfolk				
Total of Houses..		12		Total of Males and Females..		12					

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.



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,

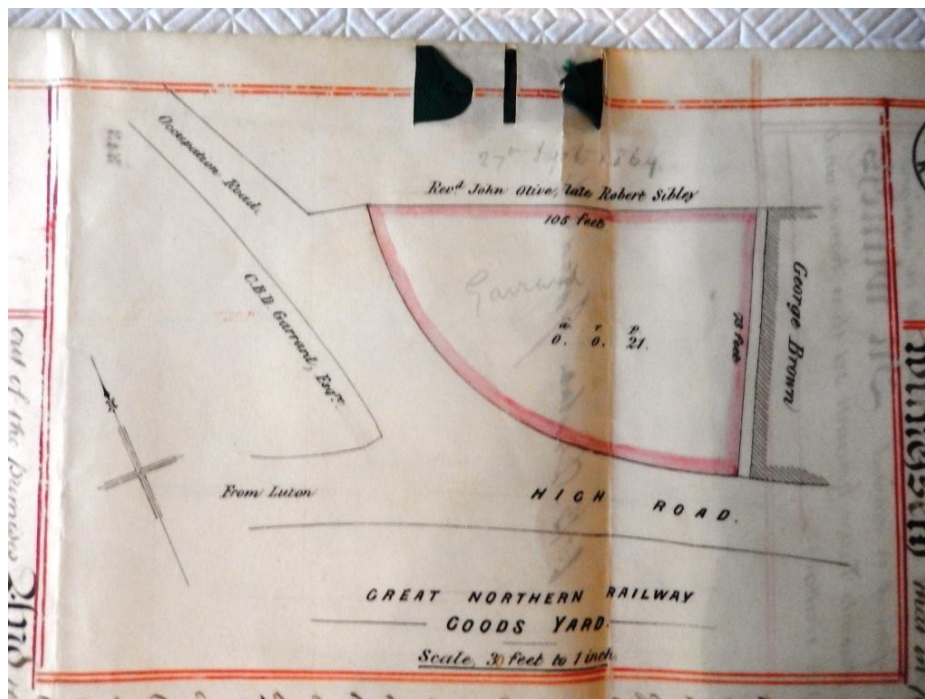
THE genuine **HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE** and Effects, comprising bedsteads, feather beds, mattresses, blankets, washstands, dressing tables and glasses, chairs, carpets, mahogany dining and other tables, chimney glasses, fenders and fireirons, kitchen furniture and requisites, ladders and other effects.

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.

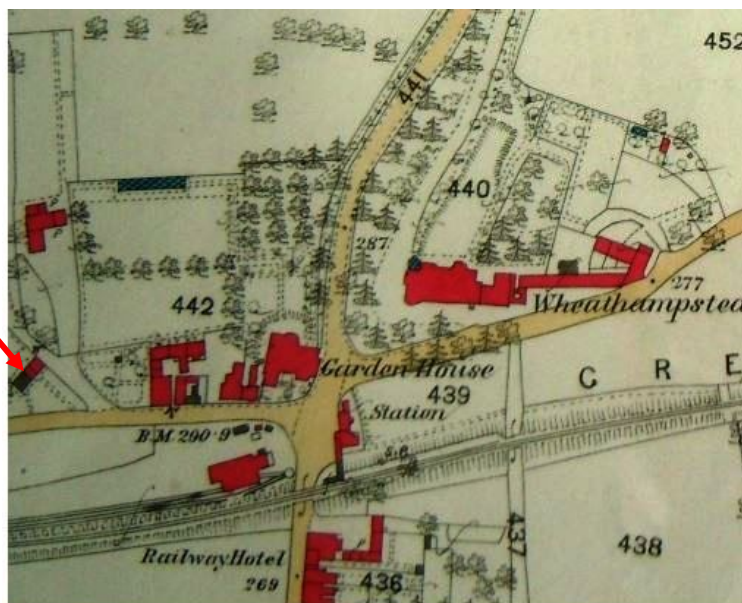
The next two pieces of evidence are crucial parts of the puzzle.

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:

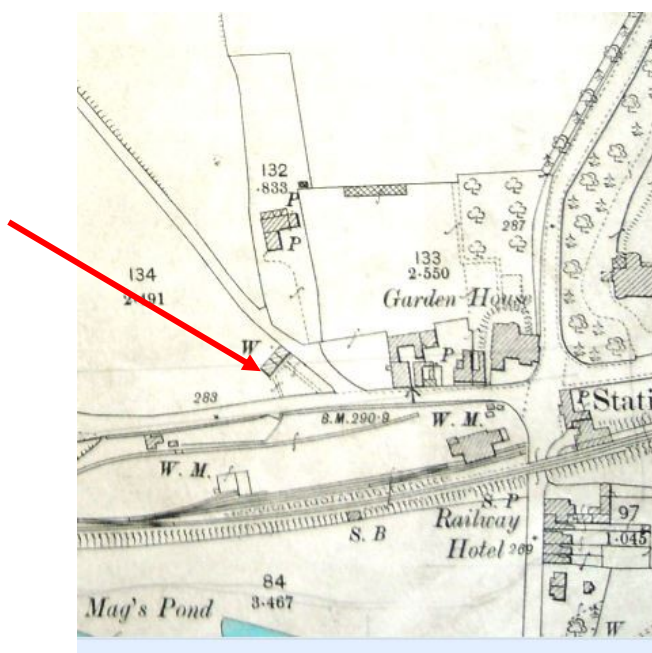
Gardens, situate adjoining the Railway Hotel, Wheathampstead, in the occupation of Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Lockhart, and others.
TWO COTTAGES, adjoining The "Locomotive" Public House, Wheathampstead, occupied by George Row, and Widow Lins.
A COTTAGE and HALF-AN-ACRE of GARDEN GROUND, known as "Brogdell Hall,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

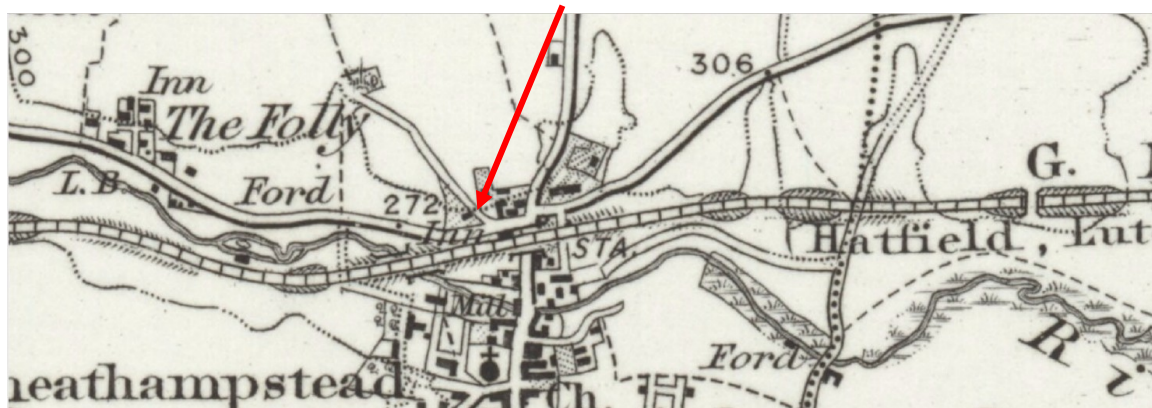


As does the 1898 map, which shows three linked buildings in a terrace:



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.