

PUBLIC HOUSES

Brewing is an ancient practice and by the Middle Ages beer was one of the most common drinks, being drunk with every meal, as local water was often unsafe. Beer was made on a domestic scale until the C14/15 when it also became a more artisanal activity with pubs and monasteries brewing for a wider consumption.

Early beer, or rather ale, was made from malt and water. Hops were introduced from the Netherlands by 1400, its addition to the malt and water brew making it into a beer. By the C16 'ale' had come to refer to any strong beer, and all ales and beers contained hops. Changing tastes for hopped beer eventually replaced the old English ale.

Whilst there has been no recording of brewing in Toft it is certain that farmsteads and homesteads would have produced ale for local and domestic consumption. Beer was sold from people's homes, being usually served in jugs or dispensed directly from tapped wooden barrels lying on a table in the corner of the room. Eventually a room was set aside from domestic uses and seats provided (Tap Room) and later, counters were installed in a separate room (Bar) with standing room only for the drinkers. Domestic brewing faded into insignificance during the C19, overtaken by the Industrial Revolution, and its manufacturing innovations with the development of hydrometers and thermometers allowing better control of the process.

No records have come to light of the origins of the two public houses in Toft, **The Black Bull** and **The Red Lion**. Documentation reveals the existence of a third public house, **The Sun**, on Hardwick Road by the corner with Daws Lane (Comberton Road), but in its case there are no standing remains of it today. The Sun is seen on the Tithe Map of 1845 and recorded as a Beer Shop in the Parish register of tithes of 1842 and as the Sun Public House and shop in the Tithe Commissioners' report of 1846. William Williamson was noted as occupier of the property (Mrs Munn owner) in the 1842 register and was cited as Beer Retailer in Kelly's Directory of 1847. Charles Mean is later noted as Beer Retailer in Kelly's of 1864, although there is no correlation with a property. Tighter regulation of the brewing trade in 1869 led to the closure of smaller alehouses. The Valuation Map of 1910 indicates that by that date the Sun no longer existed. During the period when the village boasted three public houses, the resident population of Toft in 1811 was 210 increasing to 338 by 1841.

The original fabric of the building housing the Black Bull is C18 and possibly earlier, contemporaneous with other surviving cottages in the High Street. Its exterior appearance is of the C19; brickwork cladding and infill have subsequently transformed its earlier timber-framed and pargetted structure. The building certainly predates that of the former C19 Red Lion, but in both instances the earliest

documented designated use as a public house, as distinct from a farmstead or dwelling, is from the beginning of C19.

THE BLACK BULL

- 2.6.1804 Sale - at the Black Bull public house. High Street, Toft.
A desirable freehold estate in the occupation of Mr James Keep, who has notice to quit next Michaelmas, includes a pigeon house.
- 25.5.1812 For sale: the Black Bull public house, Toft - tenant Surplus Fuller.
- 18.12.1812 Conveyance of The Black Bull Estate from Thomas Day to Rev. Dr. Samuel Smith and Eliz. Smith. At this time the estate comprised the Bull public house, stable, garden and close, and allotments of land, including orchard, on the east side of the High Street.
(see reference to butchery trade below)
- 13.12.1817 Conveyance of the Black Bull to William Searle.
- 17.3.1918 Sale held at the "Bull Inn", Toft.
- 27.2.1824 Conveyance of the Black Bull to Thomas Edleston.
- 2.1.1841 Conveyance of the Black Bull to Peter Grain and Elliot Smith.
- 1852 For sale the Black Bull (Old Licence) freehold - tenant John Paine.
- 28.9.1852 2.1.1841 Conveyance of the Black Bull to Henry Thurnall.
- 13.12.1852 Conveyance of the Black Bull to Edward Fordham of Fordhams Ashwell Ales, Ashwell, Hertfordshire.
- 1875 Licensee - George Jakins.
- 1879 Licensee - John Chapman.
- 1883 Licensee - John Chapman

- 24.3.1893 John Chapman, publican and butcher, based at the Black Bull Inn, Toft, has voluntarily disclosed a deficiency (liquidation).
- 1896>1916 Licensee - Frank Davies.
- 1916>1940s Licensee - William Allen.
- 1958 Licensee - Florence Allen.
- 1966 Conversion of the Black Bull public house to form a private dwelling.

THE RED LION

The tenanted Inn/Public House was owned by J & JE Phillips Brewery, Royston, Hertfordshire (founded 1690). JW Green Ltd. Luton, Bedfordshire acquired the Brewery in 1949 and it was subsequently retitled Flowers Breweries Ltd. Flowers were acquired by Whitbreads in 1962. The Red Lion became a Free House in the 1970s.

- 30.5.1812 For Sale: The Red Lion public house, Toft - tenant Richard Carrington.
- 19.1.1813 For sale by auction: freehold land, horses, barns, live and dead stock, at Toft, by Thomas Hagger 1pm Tuesday 19 January 1813 at the Red Lion public house, on the premises of Mr Odum.
- 2.4.1813 Sale of household furniture and effects of Mr R Carrington at the Red Lion public house, Toft.
- 13.5.1818 For Sale: the Red Lion public house, Toft.
- 20.7.1822 For Sale at Toft: The Red Lion public house lately in the occupation of Mr W Townsend.
- 1842 Occupant (Licensee?) John Silk. Owner James Gotobed.
- 1844 Large fire at Toft, appears to have started at the Red Lion public house.
- 1845 Occupant (Licensee?) Henry Smith. Owner James Gotobed.
- 1864/1883 Licensee: George Simons.
- 1896/1900 Licensee: James Collin
- 1904 Licensee: Mrs Emma Collin.
- 1912/1929 Licensee: Henry James Robert Peach.
- 1930 Licensee: William James Carter.
- 1931 Licensee: Charles William Pink.
- 1932/1937 Licensee: David William Manderson.
- 1946 Licensee: John Charles Howkins

- 1959 Licensee: Henry John Sadler
- 1964 Licensee: Donald Hiatt.
- 1965 Licensee: William Patrick Lineham.
- c1966 Licensee: William Hamilton.
- c1968 Licensee: George Humphreys.
- c1980 Licensee: Denis Rodman.
- 1980s Licensee: Lawrence Shakespeare.

(there was one further licensee - no details available)

In October 1991 the property became a Chinese restaurant *Tai Yuan*, owner Mrs Yun Tai Lyn.

The history of Phillips Brewery, Royston states that the Red Lion public house has four bedrooms, tap room, parlour, clubroom, kitchen, electric light and earth closet.

sources - Kelly's Directory; Cambridgeshire Collection; Royston Museum; and Toft Chronicle (Andrew Smith 1981).

Pub sale notices

Appeared in the 'Cambridge Chronicle' 8.5.1812

A FREEHOLD FARM, PUBLIC-HOUSE, TWO COTTAGES, and also 37 acres of LEASEHOLD, Situate at TOFT, Cambridgeshire

TO be SOLD by AUCTION,
By THOMAS HAGGER,

At the Eagle and Child, Cambridge, on Saturday 30th May, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon,
divided into small and convenient lots,

Comprising a good Freehold Farm-house, 4 barns, stabling, hovels, wheat case, dovecot, 140 acres of rich open-field and inclosed arable and pasture land, a usual sheep walk, three extra common rights, with immediate possession, if required; also two Freehold Cottages, with some inclosed pasture and common rights to each, 37 acres (more or less) of leasehold arable, and pasture, held under St. John's college, Cambridge, 17 years of which re unexpired at Michaelmas 1812.

Also, all that good accustomed Freehold Red Lion Public-House, situate at the Cross, Toft aforesaid, with yard, barn, stabling, with about two acres of inclosed pasture adjoining, and fine arable in the open fields with

common rights, in the occupation of Mr Richard Carrington, tenant at will.

N.B. As Toft is under an Act for inclosing, it is presumed, that any purchaser of an adjoining parish may, by request, get his allotment of land contiguous thereto.

Half the purchase money on Freehold may remain at legal interest; and printed particulars may be had 14 days before the sale, at the Crown Inns, Royston, Caxton and St Ives; George, Huntingdon; White Lion Buckden; Bull, St Neots; Red Lion, Toft; Eagle and Child, Cambridge; other inns in the neighbourhood; and of the auctioneer, at Potton.

**VALUABLE FREEHOLD FARM AND PUBLIC HOUSE, with LAND attached,
TOFT, CAMBRIDGESHIRE
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION
By ELLIOT SMITH**

At the Eagle and Child Inn, Cambridge, on Saturday, the 23rd day of May 1812, between the hours of 4 and 6 in the afternoon, in two lots, subject to such conditions of sale as shall be produced;

A most desirable FARM; consisting of 219 acres (more or less) of old inclosed Pasture, Arable, and Ley Ground, in a high state of cultivation, in a walk for 93 sheep, with exclusive right of the foldage, cow common, and all the privileges attached to the same; together with a convenient homestall, very good farmhouse, roomy barn, stables, dovehouse, and other outbuildings, and good garden.

The above is in the occupation of Mr Wm. Hart, tenant at will.

Also, all that excellent PUBLIC HOUSE, at Toft aforesaid, called the BULL; together with good barns, and two Closes of old-inclosed Pasture Ground, containing 5 acres (more or less) and 10 acres of Arable and Ley Ground in the fields of Toft aforesaid. And also of an allotment of LAND at KINGSTON, very near the public house, containing by admeasurement 7a.0r.4p

To the Bull is attached a walk for six sheep, and cow commons, and is in the occupation of Surplus Fuller, tenant at will.

N.B. An Act of Parliament has lately passed for inclosing Toft.

Printed particulars may be had in a few days at the Auction Mart, London; Red Lion, Royston and Linton; Crown, St Ives; George, Huntingdon; Rose and Crown, Walden and Wisbech, Greyhound, Bury and Newmarket; of Mr Finch, Attorney at law, and of Elliot Smith, Cambridge.

(Appeared in the Cambridge Chronicle 8.5.1812)

(Appeared in the Cambridge Chronicle 6.3.1818)

**FREEHOLDS
TOFT, CAMBRIDGESHIRE
To be Sold by Auction
By J. REMINGTON**

On Tuesday the 17th March, 1818, at the Bull Inn in Toft, between the hours of six and eight in the evening, subject to such conditions of sale as shall be then and there produced (unless sooner disposed by Private Contract, of which due notice will be given);

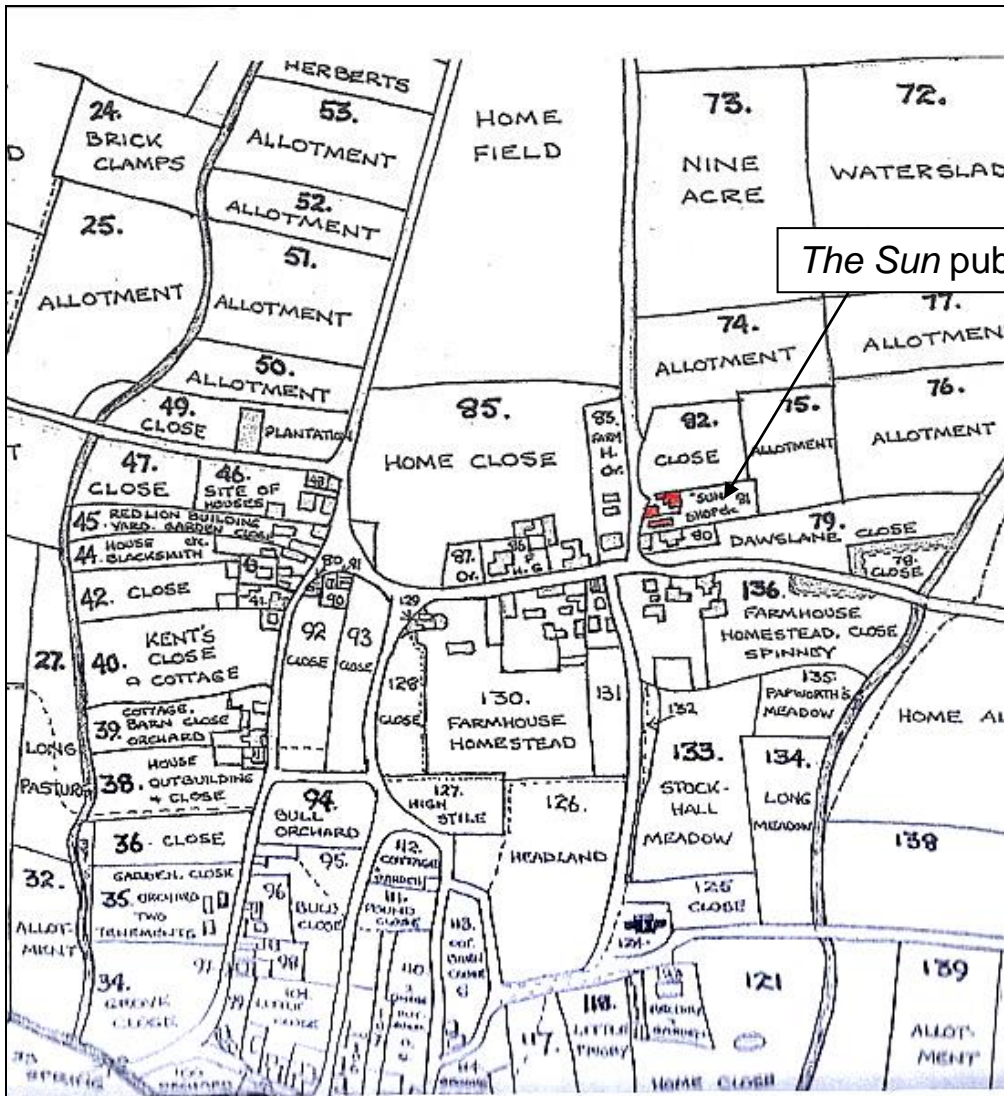
A most desirable FREEHOLD ESTATE, situate in the parish of Toft aforesaid, comprising an eligible house, fit for the reception of a genteel family, containing five good rooms on the ground floor, and five sleeping rooms over them, with good closets, and other suitable conveniences thereto, the whole being in a most complete state of repair; with a well of excellent water contiguous to the premises; a large barn very recently floor'd and thatched with reed, a stable, good Butcher's shop, with necessary pens and outbuildings, fit for carrying on the business to a great extent; with an Orchard adjoining, planted with choice thriving fruit trees, containing about one acre, now in the occupation of Mr John Hurst, tenant- at -will. Also Eight Acres Two Roods of valuable inclosed Freehold Land, Part Pasture, part Arable, lying close to the town, in a good state of cultivation, and in the occupation of the said John Hurst.

Also a very good Cottage or Tenement, situate in Toft aforesaid, covered with tile, consisting of two low rooms and two chambers, in the occupation of the widow Lovett.

The above will be sold in one or more lots, as may be agreed upon at the time of sale; and further particulars may be known by applying to Mr Charles Thorp, Needingworth; Mr Poulter Margetts, Hemingford Grey; Or, to the auctioneer, St Ives, Hunts.

Researched by Colin Ward

Maps and photographs next page



The Sun public house

The Sun Public House/Beer Shop 1845



MURIEL PEACH AND SISTER OUTSIDE THE RED LION TOFF. CIRCA 1923



The Red Lion prior to 1962



Henry Peach

Toft.

LOT 15.

The BLACK BULL (*Old Licence*), FREEHOLD.

Tenant, JOHN PAINE.

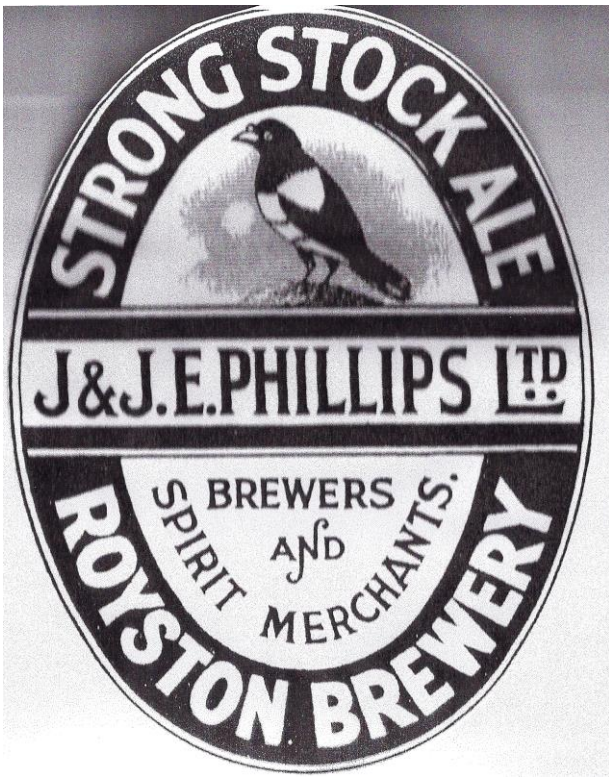
The HOUSE contains Tap Room, Dairy, Pantry, Club Room and Room adjoining, Three Bed Rooms, and Cellar; together with detached Back Kitchen, Stable, GARDEN, and a CLOSE of fine OLD PASTURE LAND, containing altogether

2A. 1R. 10P. (more or less),

over which there is a Footpath.

The Fixtures, which are trifling, belong to the Tenant. The Purchaser to pay 20s. for the Beer Stalls.

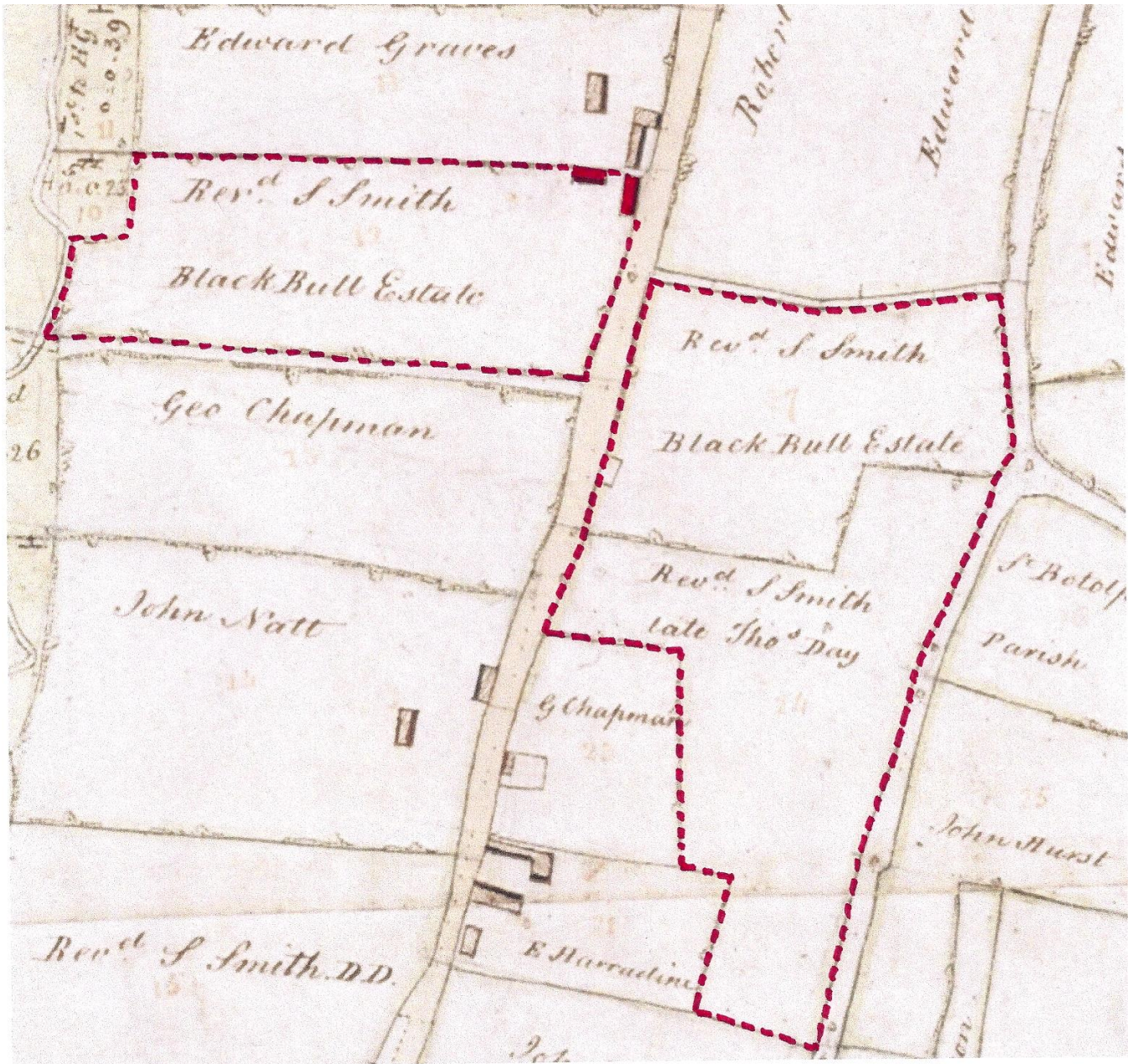
Black Bull sale notice



Brewer's label



The Black Bull and Florence Allen, licensee's wife



The Black Bull estate, 1812



Residence in 2007, formerly the Black Bull