

## High Wych History - 69 - Tales of the Rising Sun.



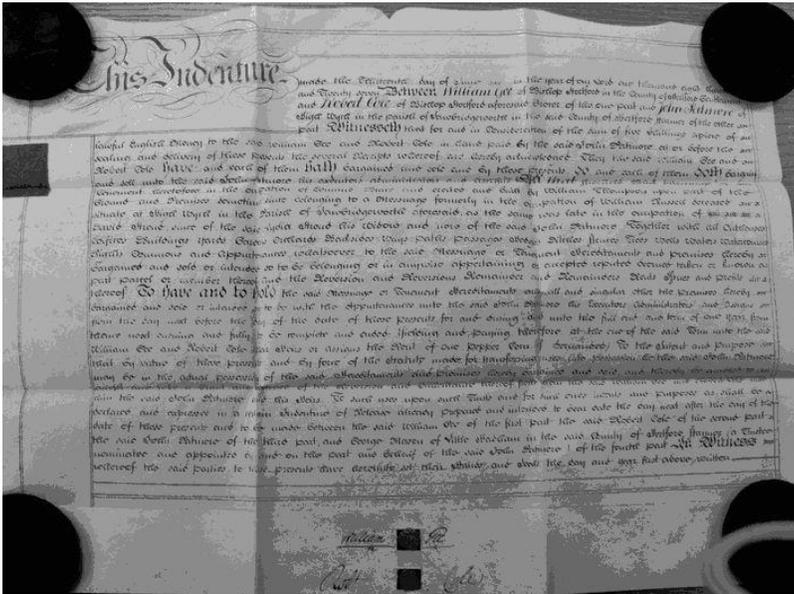
### The Rising Sun in the 1920s

Once upon a time High Wych had two pubs, three if you count the Hand and Crown There might even have been a fourth one, the White Horse, of which some records speak. The question that then springs to mind is: how old is the Rising Sun? My honest answer is that I do not know. An indenture or document of sale, on show at the pub, dates from 1864. That document mentions Thomas Chaplin of Harlow. Thomas Chaplin was a Harlow brewer and his business existed until 1926 when it was taken over by Barclay Perkins who became Courage & Barclay which became Courage

The first person I found to be definitely associated with the Rising Sun was John Patmore. He is mentioned on a sales document dated 1827. The tithe map of 1840 mentions him as the owner of a house in High Wych and the 1841 census records him as a grocer. Next door, or at least on the previous record on the census, is Richard Rivers a baker. Baking and brewing often went together; remnants of a bakers oven were in fact found on the premises. So were Rivers and Patmore more than just neighbours?

B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
1840 owner prefix	1840 owner forename	1840 owner surname	1840 owner suffix	1840 plot no	1840 name / description	1840 state of cultivation	1840 occupier prefix	1840 occupier forename	1840 occupier surname	1840 occupier suffix	1840 Acres	location
	John	Patmore		409	House			John	Patmore			HW

Ownership of the Rising Sun did change a number of times between 1825 and 1865. The document from 1827 does say that John Patmore bought the business/house. But there is also an advert announcing an auction of a number of items amongst which is the Rising Sun itself. This followed the bankruptcy of a Joseph Rivers. Was this Joseph related to neighbour Richard and or to the Nursery people? Did Patmore sell the business but remain as tenant? Bit of mystery there.



**VOTES for the COUNTY of HERTFORD.**

VALUABLE  
**FREEHOLD AND COPYHOLD ESTATES,**  
**A FREE PUBLIC HOUSE,**  
*Well known by the sign of The SUN, High Wyck,*  
**WITH**  
**FIVE ACRES AND A HALF OF EXCELLENT**  
**LAND,**  
 A convenient DWELLING HOUSE and  
 HOMESTEAD,  
**And 7 Acres of LAND;**  
**ALSO, SIX CAPITAL COTTAGES,**  
 And Eight Acres, Two Rods of rich Arable and  
 PASTURE LAND;

**BY HENRY REE,**  
 AT THE WHITE LION IN SAWBRIDGEWORTH,  
 IN LOTS;  
 On WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 1835, at 2 o'clock,  
*The property of Mr. Joseph Rivers, a Bankrupt:*  
**T**HIS Valuable Property comprises all that  
 well-known free PUBLIC-HOUSE, called  
 "The Sun," together with a Grocer's Shop, a good  
 Brewery, convenient House, large Barn, Stabling,  
 and 5a. 2r. of very rich ARABLE LAND.  
 Near the above, a substantial-built Dwelling-  
 House and Homestead, and Seven Acres of rich  
 Arable and Pasture Land, called Cobbes.  
 Two substantial-built Freehold Cottages, with  
 large Gardens, in the occupation of George Spring-  
 ham and Michael Smith, at the low rent of 9l. 4s.  
 per Annum.  
 Four other substantial Cottages, with good Gar-  
 dens, in the occupation of Messrs. Smith, Halden,  
 and others, at the low rent of 16l. 8s. per Annum.  
 Also, several Pieces and Closes of rich Arable  
 and Pasture Land, most desirably situated adjoining  
 the high road, and presents a favourable oppor-  
 tunity for building, containing 8a. 2r.  
 May be viewed by leave of the tenants.—Partic-  
 ulars may be had at all the principal Inns in the  
 neighbourhood; place of Sale; of—FONBLANQUE,  
 Esq., Bankrupts' Court; GEORGE SMITH, Esq.,  
 Solicitor, Quality Court, Chancery Lane, London; and  
 of Henry Ree, Appraiser, &c., Ware.

On the left the 1827 indenture - On the right the 1834 advert

Around 1850 the Tyser family moved into the Rising Sun. At the 1851 census Joseph and Mary Tyser and four of their children were resident plus three lodgers. Joseph, born in Harlow in 1822, described himself as a beer retailer and baker. The Tysers had 6 more children whilst living at the pub some of which carried on in the business. Most important amongst these was Susan, born 1854 who carried on living and working at the Rising Sun until at least 1919. The Tysers did well. When Joseph died in 1892 he left £2445 to his children. Around 1915 the Tysers owned various properties in the village.

One can suspect John Patmore and Joseph Tyser or possibly their wives brewing on the premises but this must have ended when Thomas Chaplin bought the beer house. When Steve Prior, former landlord, did some maintenance work at the pub in the seventies however, he found a well which provided clear good quality water which could very well have been used for brewing

In the 1920s Fred, 'baker' White was in charge He had been an employee of the Tyser sisters and was the last one to combine bakery with beer retailing at the Rising Sun. White probably took over in 1926 when Barclay Perkins took over from Chaplin's. Just continuing as a baker more than likely was a more interesting business proposition. So from 1926 White left the pub and continued baking in the house opposite where today's 'Old Bakery' houses are situated. He owned large parcels of land locally, some formerly the property of the Tysers (including the windmill meadow). A member and later chair of the Parish Council Fred White passed away in 1948.

William Oakley bought the Rising Sun from Fred White on 16 May 1929 for £82.12s and 8d. If pub landlords are supposed to be larger than life he certainly qualified. Born in 1874 in Aylesbury by 1881 he had moved with his parents to London. He joined the Essex Regiment at quite young age but in 1894 in Cork, Ireland he was declared medically unfit to serve. Returning to London he married Emily Fraser in October 1897 at St George's, Hanover Square. William and Emily had 3 children Cyril, Alfred and William. Alfred and William died in childbirth or soon after. Cyril Oakley served in the Great War where he was wounded. He married Florence Barrett in Wandsworth in September 1919 but died less than a month later.



On the left William Oakley in the army - On the right William and Rose Oakley and their son Alf

In 1901 William (describing himself as a 'confectionary assistant') and Emily lived in Islington. Four years later he married Rose Elisabeth Chappell in High Wych. William and Rose quite possibly met in London where Rose worked for a while. High Wych then remained William's home for the rest of his life.

Having been declared medically unfit earlier did not stop William joining up in the Great War. In 1915 he joined the Essex Regiment One year later he was transferred to the Rifle Brigade and served in Amritsar and Sialkot. A document dated Bombay, April 1917 shows him joining the International Order of Good Templars, an organization intent on 'preventing and reducing harm caused by alcohol and other drugs'.

Coming to High Wych did cause William to settle down a bit. Rose and he had 3 sons, Alf John and Tom plus 3 daughters, Elsie Bertha and Iris. Prior to buying the Rising Sun licence he seems to have been a painter and decorator. All three girls went into service in London with wealthy people or the aristocracy. Elsie and Bertha worked for Mr & Mrs Stirling at Battersea House. Iris is on the census records as Ladies Companion to Lady Eliza Hotham in Chelsea from 1929 to 1939. She went on long trips abroad with her employer, Egypt for instance.

Not much documentation has come to light about William's time at the Rising Sun. In 1933 according to the Chelmsford Chronicle he testified in court. Oakley had been a passenger in a car where the driver had caused an accident through drink driving.

William Oakley passed away on 28 April 1939. Rose Elisabeth took over the running of the pub. From what we were told, she had been doing most of the work already! Now she also held the licence. There will be more about the Rising Sun in a second instalment to be published next month.

Information for this article came from Stephen Prior, Michael Prior, Ancestry.co.uk and Wikipedia. As always, if you have anything to contribute or remarks to make, do get in touch. Contact me at [theo@vandebilt.co.uk](mailto:theo@vandebilt.co.uk) or phone me at 01279 725468