

The Black Horse

112-114 Westgate



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Wakefield Historical Society welcomes all those interested and curious about the remarkable history of Wakefield and beyond. We encourage research, provide talks, publish books, and are happy to respond to historical enquiries.

Website: www.wakefieldhistoricalsociety.org.uk

The Upper Westgate Heritage Action Zone (HAZ)

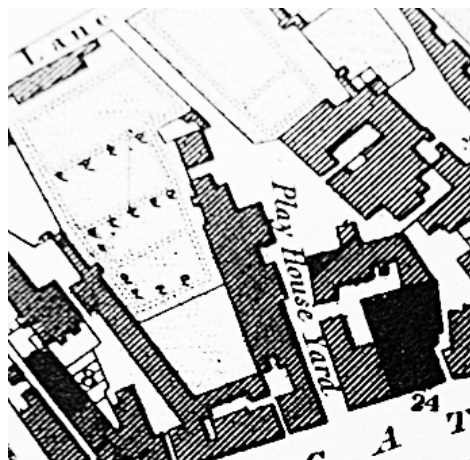
Wakefield Council and Historic England are investing nearly £4 million pounds in 2020-2024 to regenerate historic buildings in the Upper Westgate Conservation Area to bring new life and make it flourish again. As their contribution to the project, members of Wakefield Historical Society are researching the buildings and yards and publishing their stories



The Black Horse in 1977. By kind permission of Mr R G Pearson and Wakefield Libraries.

It's been there a while!

The Black Horse, seen above in 1977, opened its doors to the drinkers of Wakefield for the first time in 1818. This was, let's not forget, a year before the future Queen Victoria was even born and was also the birth year of two people who gained fame in their respective and contrasting fields - Karl Marx and Emily Bronte; thus making it one of Wakefield's oldest surviving pubs.



Walker's map of 1823 shows the building, already an inn by that time. Number 24 is marked in the key as the theatre, and a theatre still stands on Westgate on this site. The Black Horse stood on the west side at the end of Playhouse Yard. This yard was altered to create Drury Lane as a through road in 1834. (Wakefield District Heritage Vol 1 p 73)

Ale and charity

There is perhaps a rather surprising connection between the drinkers of Westgate and the welfare and education of the poor of Sandal.

In an Indenture of 1704 Joseph Wood, Minister of Sandal, with John Wood and Joseph Hall, Sandal yeomen, leased a property in Wakefield to James Norton of Wakefield, joiner, already their tenant, for another 21 years, for the sum of £4 a year. The property was described as 'one messuage or tenement with a barn and a foldstead situate at Westgate Barr in Wakefield' (a messuage is a house, including gardens, outbuildings, orchards etc.)¹

In the early eighteenth century the small plot was developed with more housing as the population grew and a Westgate street frontage

¹ West Yorkshire Archive Service, Wakefield, C 674/3/1/4.

position became more valuable. Upon his death in 1749 Joseph Hall left four messuages in Westgate, Wakefield. These were to be held in trust for the benefit of the poor of Sandal Magna. This formed the basis of the 'Taylor and Scholey' or 'Sandal Charities'. These properties were leased out to raise money for the Charity to continue its works which included poor relief, almshouses, and Sandal Endowed School which is still in operation today.



In the early 1790s the leaseholder was a Thomas Hadfield. The enclosure map prepared at this time² shows two very small areas on the Westgate frontage. 782 is the Charity's property of 'several messuages' occupied by Hadfield and his tenants, with 783, to the south west, owned by a Joseph Gosney. The huge area of 781 behind these small plots and higher up the street included the

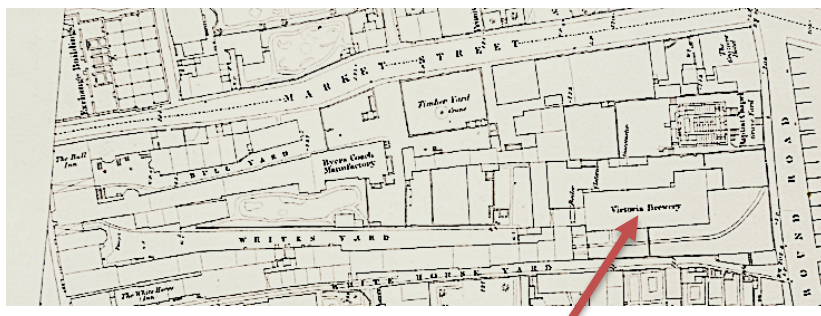
theatre, house, and extensive gardens of the Banks family.

The Victoria Brewery years

The main house on the corner became the Black Horse in 1818, with two adjoining shops on Westgate, and three cottages in Black Horse Yard. The public house was leased for most of the nineteenth century to Mark Henry Carter owner of the Victoria Brewery, which was situated on Fairground Road, Wakefield. As can be seen on the plan below, taken from a large-scale Ordnance Survey mapbook of 1851,³ Fairground Road was the back lane of the Westgate yards, and ran along the top of the former cattle market; today it is part of George Street where the main Royal Mail sorting office now stands.

² West Yorkshire Archive Service, Wakefield, Excerpt from Enclosure Map of 1790s ref QD5/3/ Vol 4/28

³ Wakefield Local Studies Library



1851 Ordnance Survey, showing the Victoria Brewery, Wakefield Library

The Taylor and Scholey Charity's Cash Book preserved in the West Yorkshire History Centre⁴, which runs from 1880 to 1897, records that in 1880 it would:-

'Let Black Horse Inn, Westgate, Wakefield. Rent £60.00 per annum, paid half yearly on May 11th & November 11th (the rent increased to £75.00 per year from 1892).

From November 1897 this rent was paid by the Leeds and Wakefield Brewers Ltd., Wakefield, the Victoria Brewery having merged with Kirk, Matthews & Co of Leeds in 1889 to form Leeds & Wakefield Breweries Ltd.

By this time, as well as the public house, there were probably three shops with live-in households adjoining the Black Horse, and three cottages situated in Black Horse Yard behind the pub. The cash book of 1880 records that a Mr. John H. Rowbotham, a draper, rented his shop and house for £16.00 per annum, while another shop owner William Wood, clog maker, leased two shops and houses plus three cottages for £35.00 a year. It is interesting to note that while the buildings in Black Horse Yard no longer exist the adjacent shops have survived until, in recent years, they have been incorporated into the pub itself.

⁴ Taylor and Scholey Charity, West Yorkshire Archive Service, Wakefield C647/4/1/1

There appear to have been alterations made to the pub since 1818: by 1899 it was a substantial establishment as in that year the lease was taken over by John Smiths Brewery of Tadcaster and an inventory of the premises was done as part of the process of transferring the lease. These were listed as follows:-

Attic No.1	Fire range and fittings
Attic No.2	Fire range and fittings
Billiard Room	2 Fire ranges and fittings
Sitting Room	Fire range and fittings, cupboard in recess
Bedroom No1	Gas Bracket
Filling Bar	Long seating with back under window
Tap room	Long seating with stuffed seats & backs in American cloth
	Fire range and fittings 2 light glass pendants
Concert Room	Long seating with stuffed seats & backs in American cloth, 8 elbows and turned legs.
	Fire range and fittings
Kitchen	Oven fire range, Boiler and fittings, Top rib(!)
Pantry	Old meat shelving
Passage	Glazed inner door with frame and fittings, gas bracket.
	Gas bracket at front
Scullery	Sink stone with Brick and Bearers and waste pipe to drain.
	Brass water tap. Shelf over window.
Stable	3 Stand partition and bearers
	Long manger
	Long heik(!)
	2 Harness pins
	Steps to Chamber
Cellars	4 Stone shelves and Brickwork
	Barrel slide & guarantee
Gas & Water	All gas piping throughout the house to 13 lights

All the water piping from main in yard to
Kitchen, Stable, Cellar and Bar.

From the Trade Directories

The Inn was substantial enough to be included in the nineteenth century Trade Directories, which listed businesses in the town. These are to be found in the Local Studies Library. They provide the names of landlords in the years of their publication as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Licenced Victualler</u>
1818	Isaac Beadle
1822	Isaac Beadle
1830	Thomasina Shuttleworth
1834	Francis Nettleton
1837	Francis Nettleton
1842	Rosetta Cawthorn
1847	William Watson
1853	Joseph Harrop
1857/58	Joseph Robinson
1861	Joseph Newsome
1866	William Burrows
1867	Mrs. Angelina Burrows
1875	Henry Jessop
1883	Not Listed
1887	William C. Taylor

Up to this time the pub was listed as 95 Westgate - going forward it became 102 Westgate.

1892	Friend Green
1904	George Cook

Interestingly, as can be noted above, between 1887 and 1892 the street numbering of this part of Westgate changed from odd to even numbers.

Who Lived There?

Who lived in the pub and the cottages in Black Horse Yard? At this remove in time I don't suppose we can know for sure but the census returns of the period, while only a snapshot of one night every ten years, give us some idea. They are recorded as follows:-

1841

Black Horse Inn

Frederick Cawthorne-25yrs- Innkeeper

Rosetta Cawthorne-25yrs- Innkeepers Wife

Walter Cawthorne-3yrs- Son

Mary Cawthorne- 7mths

Sarah Smith-20yrs-Female Servant

Anne Metcalf-15yrs- Female Servant (Ages rounded down to 5yrs in 1841)

1851

Black Horse Inn

James Stanwix -35yrs- Inn Keeper

Jane Stanwix-31yrs- Inn Keepers Wife

Robert Stanwix-10yrs-Son-Scholar

Hannah Stanwix-9yrs-Daughter- Scholar

Thomas T. Stanwix-7yrs-Son-Scholar

William Stanwix-4yrs-Son- Scholar

Mary E. Stanwix-2yrs-Daughter

Sarah Jane Stanwix-7mths- Daughter

Nancy Charlesworth-18-House Servant

Mary A. Robinson-19- House Servant.

Black Horse Yard

Thomas McHale -52yrs- Oyster Dealer---b. Ireland

Mary McHale-Wife- 31yrs----b.Ireland

Mary McHale-Daughter- 18yrs

Black Horse Yard

Thomas Broadhead-37yrs.-Cordwainer

Ann Broadhead-Wife-31yrs.

Thomas Broadhead-Son-18-Labourer

Black Horse Yard

Thomas Murray-44yrs-Labourer-b. Ireland

Ann Murray- Wife-42yrs.- b. Ireland

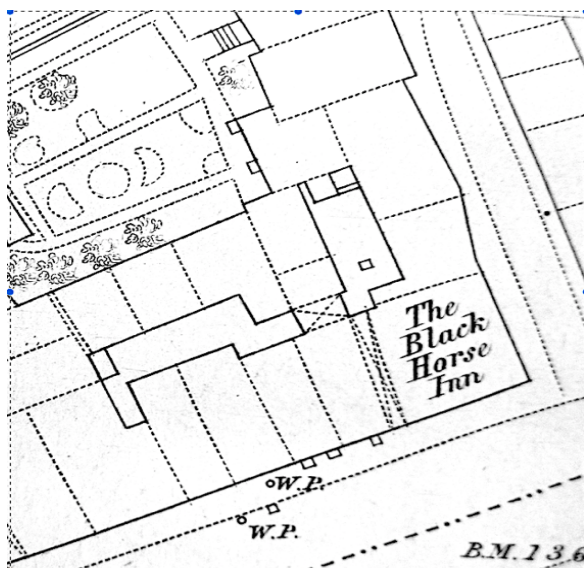
John Murray-Son- 18yrs.- Labourer- b. Ireland

Ann Murray- Daughter-15yrs.

Bridget Murray-Daughter- 11yrs.

Thomas-Son- 4yrs.

Ann Gilray- Visitor-20- b Ireland



This extract from the 1851 OS map shows the Black Horse and other properties nearby at the same period as the census listing. The enclosed yards behind the inn are only accessed through a narrow passageway from Westgate. The formal gardens beyond are in marked contrast to the densely-packed, airless yard spaces. Wakefield Local Studies Library

1861

Black Horse Inn

John Newsome-31yrs-Innkeeper

Elizabeth-Wife- (?)yrs.

Joe Newsome-Son-10yrs.

Ann Copley-24yrs- House Servant

1871

Black Horse Inn

Henry Jessop-26yrs.- Innkeeper

Maria Jessop-Wife-29yrs.

Louisa Jessop-Daughter-3yrs.

Arthur Jessop- Son- 1yr.

Clara Rogerson- 14- Domestic Servant

Richard Shepherd-30yrs- Boarder- Professor of Music

Eliza Shepherd-Wife- 24yrs-Boarder- Lace Manufacturer

Beatrice Shepherd- Daughter-4yrs.

Black Horse Yard

Helen Duffy-80yrs. – Head-Widow- Rag Dealer-b. Wexford, Ireland

Helen Cattley-Boarder-54yrs.-Boarder- (?)Hawker- b. Limerick,
Ireland

Ann Broadhead-69yrs.- Head- Widow- Charwoman

Irene Mallinson-66yrs-Head –Widow

William Bennet-46yrs. –Son-in-Law – Striker

Lucy Bennet-37yrs.- Daughter

Mary Ann Bennet- 9yrs.- Grand Daughter- Scholar

John Bennet- 4yrs.- Grand Son

Jane Bennet-2yrs. – Grand daughter

1881

Black Horse Inn

Joe Siswick- 47yrs-Head- Licensed Victualler

Sadha(!) Siswick- 49yrs- Wife

Ellen Siswick - Daughter - Unmarried-18yrs. – Bar Maid
Mary Siswick - Daughter - Unmarried-14yrs. – Servant
Ada Siswick - Daughter - Unmarried- 13yrs – Scholar
Alice Siswick - Daughter- Unmarried.- 8yrs.- Scholar
Emma Harrap – Daughter - Widow - 23yrs.- Cloth Weaver
Charles V. Harrop- Grandson - 3yrs.- Scholar
John Starrs- Unm.- 20yrs.- Billiard Marker
Levie Brown- Lodger- Married - Brewer
Harriet H. Brown- Lodger – Married - 27yrs.- Vocalist
Annie A. Fielding- Lodger - Unmarried -26yrs.- Vocalist
Annie F. Davis- Lodger-Widow -35 - Vocalist - b Limerick Ireland

Black Horse Yard

Joseph Askew-Head-Marr.- 44yrs. – Sailor
Ann Askew- Wife- 51yrs.

John Callaghan- Head- Marr.- 28yrs.- Labourer for the Corporation.
b. Ireland
Mary Callaghan- Wife-28yrs. b. Ireland
Dominick Callagan- Son- 9yrs- Scholar b Ireland
Patrick Callaghan –Son- 8yrs – Scholar b Ireland
Catherine Callaghan -Daughter- 7yrs. –Scholar b Ireland
Bridget Callaghan- Daughter- 2yrs.

Bridget Fallon – Head- Married- 56- Rag Sorter b Ireland
Sarah Fallon – Daughter- Unmarried – 17yrs. – Mill Hand

1891

Black Horse Inn

William C. Taylor- 53yrs. – Innkeeper
Sarah Taylor- 55yrs.- Wife
Fanny Green –21yrs.- Daughter- Assistant
Friend Green-28yrs. –Son-in-Law- assistant

Black Horse Yard

No.1. Ann Askew-60yrs.-Head- Widow-Taylorress—b. Mayo, Ireland

No.2. Walter MacDonald-26yrs.-Scavenger
Emma MacDonald-46yrs.
Herbert Bedford-10yrs. – Stepson- Scholar
Albert Bedford – 12yrs.- Stepson – Scholar
Walter MacDonald- 3yrs.- Son

1901

Black Horse Inn

George Cook- 50yrs. – Innkeeper
Emily Cook-57yrs. –Wife
James Sharp-18yrs.- Stepson-Commercial Clerk
Samuel Sharp- 15yrs.- Stepson- Commercial Clerk
Hannah Jackson- General Servant Domestic
Frank Colgate Elliot-47yrs. –Boarder- Musician

Black Horse Yard

Helen Killy- 66yrs. –Head- Widow- Provision Dealer- b Mayo, Ireland.
Mary Elizabeth Hardman- 12yrs.-Niece

1911

Black Horse Inn

James Sharp- Head -28yrs.-married- Licensed Victualler
Hannah Sharp- Wife- 26yrs.- Assisting in the Business
David Hines- Father in Law- 54yrs.-Barman
Emma Spires- 19yrs.- Unmarried- Servant.

Thoughts on the Census returns

Black Horse Inn

I had wondered if the Inn may have been a place that performers at the theatre would have stayed, but evidence from the censuses does not bear this out. In the main it seems to be the publican and his family

plus a couple of domestic servants. In 1871 a professor of music was a boarder, as was a musician in 1901, but as the pub boasted a concert room they may have been entertaining the locals.

The exception was in 1881 when as well as eight members of the Siswick family (Joe was listed as licensed victualler) we find a Billiard Marker, a Brewer and three vocalists.

Black Horse Yard

There were no listings for the Black Horse Yard in the 1841, 1861 and 1911 censuses but the other censuses record a total of 40 people living in the cottages there. I found it interesting that what seems a high percentage of some 37% are recorded as being born in Ireland. But these were the years following the Irish potato famine of the mid 1840's when millions either died or were forced to emigrate. These must have been very mean dwellings of maybe two rooms but we see 5, 6 or 7 people living cheek by jowl in some of them.

A large and sometimes unusual range of occupations are listed for the occupants:-

Oyster Dealer	Striker (presumably
Cordwainer (shoemaker)	blacksmith)
3 labourers	Sailor
Rag Dealer	Tailoress
Char Woman	Scavenger
	Provision Dealer

Death and Squalor in Black Horse Yard

That it cannot have been very pleasant there, nor indeed in other similar yards, of which there were many in Wakefield, was attested by a report in the local paper "The Wakefield Journal and West Riding

Herald" on 14th February 1849 which stated that – *'In Wakefield up to yesterday afternoon 32 persons have died from Asiatic cholera, and yet in the worst part of town nothing has been done to improve a street where not a single drain or sewer exists'*. It asked why some of the worst areas including Nelson Street, New Street and the yards off Kirkgate and Westgate have not been *'thoroughly cleaned out and the houses personally inspected'*.

The town, it said, had three bodies - The Town Council, Street Commissioners and Board of Guardians - which have had *'great powers'* entrusted to them by the Board of Health. But the paper had seen no *'recognised system of action'*.

The paper went on to list and name the 32 victims of the outbreak who had died in the previous fortnight. I was struck by the fact that they had all died within a day or two of being struck down with the disease. The victims included:-

'Philip McHugh, Black Horse Yard, Westgate, aged 46, labourer; died on the 9th February. After 43 hours illness.'

A Tragic Case

Despite the censure of the local press things seem not to have improved a great deal in the ensuing twenty years or so. The Wakefield Express of 27th January 1872 reported the details of an inquest held in the Black Horse three days previously. It was common in those days to hold inquests in a convenient public house. This concerned the death of Mary Jeakle, the youngest child of Bridget Jeakle widow of a shoe maker John Jeakle.

She and her four children were living in *'a shocking little hovel'* in Theatre Yard, just above the Black Horse off Westgate. Evidence was given that she was a *'very industrious and honest woman'*, who went out to work as a char, cleaner or general household duties whenever she could get it. But she would have to leave the children locked up in

the hovel all day with what food she could provide. The evidence indicated that the baby slowly starved to death, probably because the older siblings were better able to consume the food; but the jury '*exonerated the mother of any criminal responsibility*'. They appear to have felt that this sort of thing was the norm for the poor, even the industrious poor, nor were the alternatives available any better; for Mrs. Jeakle rather poignantly told the hearing that she did not want to go into the workhouse as her husband had died there.

The Sudden Death of a Child.

Further tragedy struck in Theatre Yard later in the same year. The Wakefield Express of Saturday 1st June 1872 reported that on the Monday T. Taylor Esq. held an inquest at Mr. Jessop's, The Black Horse Inn, Westgate, on the body of a female child, a month old, the daughter of Teresa Brady, a charwoman living in Theatre Yard, Westgate. The child had always appeared to be strong and healthy. On Saturday its mother took it to bed about half past eleven o'clock and about a quarter to four on Sunday morning, a Mrs Bartley, a neighbour who slept with the mother, awaking she found the child lying dead, with blood coming from her mouth. Mr. Jennings, surgeon, who had made a post mortem examination of the body, said that in his opinion the cause of death was hydrocephalus convulsions.

The jury returned a verdict of '*Died from natural causes*'

Did the Freemasons meet at the Black Horse?

We were told by the current owner that it was thought that the Freemasons had held their meetings at the Black Horse at some point in the past. It seems that this may not to be so as, in reply to my enquiry, Mr Gary Parker of the Masonic Hall kindly informed me that Freemasonry in Wakefield began in March 1766 and the only record of meeting in a public house refers not to the Black Horse but the Black

Bull Inn on Market Street. From 10th April 1844 they met in a leased building on Thornhill Street, until in 1853 they purchased the Old Rectory House on Zetland Street where they still meet to this day.

Major fire at the Black Horse

A letter in the History Centre dated 12th June 1867 shows Mr Carter asking the trustees of the charity about a renewal of his lease on the pub, he writes that :-

'I trust it will be bourn in mind that the house was burnt down in 1854 and re-built by myself at our expense of about £240.00.'

He was asking the trustees to take account of this in the renewal of his lease; it must have been a substantial fire as the £240.00 equates to around £120,000.00 in today's terms.

This fire appears to have led to a court case as the Wakefield Journal and Express of 29th June 1855 reported on an action for damages brought by a Mr Bairstow against Mr. Wainwright of the Black Horse Inn. The action was brought to recover the alleged value of a clock, deposited with the defendant with a view to being raffled for, and which was destroyed along with other furniture by a fire in the defendant's house, the Black Horse. The evidence having been given on both sides, his honour gave verdict for Mr. Bairstow in the sum of £1.00 about £500.00 in today's terms

'I predict a riot'

So sang the Leeds band The Kaiser Chiefs after a weekend visit to Westgate, but in truth there's been bother in Westgate long before The Kaiser Chiefs' visit. As a couple of newspaper reports from our period attest.

The Wakefield Examiner & Journal of 13/7/1855 reported that James Hudson of Alverthorpe accused William Barker of the Black Horse of assaulting him. But evidence was given to the magistrates, that the plaintiff, Hudson, went into the Black Horse and misconducted himself and therefore was taken hold of and put out of the door.

The case was dismissed.

A Tragic Death

Some drinkers in the Black Horse may well have gone onto the Opera House on the night of a tragic death.

The Wakefield Express of 9/6/1903 reported that a Jesse Robinson, aged 38 of White Horse Yard was employed as an exit doorman (bouncer?), at the Opera House.

He tried to evict a customer, a Mr. Lockey, who he thought was being a nuisance by rattling glass bottles, which in those days were sealed by means of a glass marble. During his efforts to evict Lockey he trod on a marble which had got out of one of the bottles, slipped and fell down three flights of steps to his death.

The inquest heard evidence that Lockey's behaviour did not warrant being thrown out and that Mr. Robinson had overreacted.

A verdict of death by misadventure was found.

Finally in 1988 the Black Horse transferred ownership from the Victoria Brewery of Wakefield to the John Smiths Brewery of Tadcaster where it remained for well over another 100 years.

And at this point in the pub's history I end my research into it. I hope the reader may find it interesting; maybe someone else may take the story on to more recent times.

**This series of booklets about
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