

**Notable Private Residents in Whatton—1936**

Buxton John*		Whipling House,
Buxton Stanley J*		Elmcote
Buxton William		Wayside
Dawson, Rev. Eric Yelverton M.A.	Vicar	The Vicarage
Fry William Seager,		The Grange
Hall Mrs. E*		Karori
Heazall Edward H*		Manor Lane
Knight Herbert*		The Cottage (The White Villa)
Norris Mrs*		
Player William Goodacre*		Manor House
Sutton Cecil Alfred Leonard		

**Commercial Businesses in Whatton—1936**

Ablewhite Charles	Farmer,	Whatton Fields Farm
Baker Marcum	Cowkeeper	
Buxton George	Blacksmith	Grantham Road
Buxton Stanley John*	Farmer	Whipling farm
Crawford Roy Argyle*	Farmer	Vicars Croft Farm
Goulding Herbert. Mark Gibson & Alfd. Jas.	Farmers	The Gables & Lodge farms
Greasley Bros.	Carpenters	
Greasley Daisy Eliz. (Mrs)	Shopkeeper	
Grocock John.	Gardener to Wm. Goodacre Player esq.	Manor la
James John.	Farmer	Manor farm
Little Thomas. E.	Boot repairer	
Matthews Ernest Frederick.	Grazier	
Mitchell Arthur	Farmer	Hill farm (Whatton House)
Mitchel Josphe.	Farmer	The Hollies
Pride Percival Hugh	Butcher	
Richardson Edward Percy*	Cattle cake dealer	
Skerritt Thomas.	Farm bailiff to Wm. Goodacre Player esq.	Manor farm
	Boot repairer	
Slater John. Thomas.	Shopkeeper	
Summerfield Ellen Grey (Mrs)	Farmer, & Griffin's Head P. H. & refreshment rooms;	parties catered for.
Swingler William,*	Carrier	
Tyler Arthur*		

\*Denotes a telephone

Place names in brackets are the current names for the properties.



**Cranmer Local History Group**



# Local History Digest

**The Newsletter of the Cranmer Local History Group**

*Researching the history of Aslockton, Scarrington and Whatton-in-the-Vale*

**Volume 3**

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**April 2008**

## Cranmer Local History Group—Projects

### Photographic Archive

An ongoing project to scan, digitise and archive photographs of Aslockton and Whatton-in-the-Vale.  
Project leader: Gregg Redford

### Census Project

An ongoing project to transcribe the census records for Aslockton and Whatton –in-the-Vale.  
Project leader: Gregg Redford

### Whatton Churchyard Project

To transcribe and map monumental inscriptions in Whatton Churchyard.  
Project leaders: Rose Rennie and Kath Auckland.

### Aslockton Parish Council Minutes

To transcribe the Aslockton Parish Council Minutes from 1901.  
Project Leader: Gregg Redford

**Visitors, particularly residents of the three villages, are most welcome.**

Membership is only £5 per year (the Membership year runs from July to June). Come along to any meeting and join.

Visit our web site at [www.cranmerlhg.org.uk](http://www.cranmerlhg.org.uk)  
e-mail: [info@cranmerlhg.org.uk](mailto:info@cranmerlhg.org.uk)

## Commercial Businesses in Aslockton—1936

Baker, Frederick Reginald	Haulage Contractor	Abbey Lane
Baker, George C.*	Baker	Mill House
Baker, Jesse Edward	Farmer	
Bates, Harry	Plumber & Glazier	
Baxter, Samuel. Albert	Butcher	
Bissill William Rippon*	Racehorse trainer	Cranmer House
Cooper, John. Albert.	Newsagent	The Lilacs
Crawford, Hardy,*	Farmer	Aslockton Abbey
Fox , Arthur	Poultry farmer	Acacia House
Fryer H. & Sons*	Wireless dealers & engineers, automobile engineers & battery changing station.	
Goodwin Thomas	Farmer	Aslockton grange
Gretton Florence E (Mrs)	Shopkeeper	
Kent Harold	Baker	Main Street
May Walter	Poultry farmer	
Mee Wm & Son&		
Payling W. F. & Son*	Butcher	
Plunkett Dorothy (Mrs.)	The Greyhound	Main Street
Porter Annie Rachael (Mrs.)	Farmer	
Potter G. L & Sons	Grocers, & Post Office	Main Street
Pritchett James	Boot repairer	
Russel Minnie (Mrs)	Grocer	
Shepperson Charles Henry	Saddler & Boot Repairer	
Stokes, Frederick. T.	Crop reporter to the Ministry of Agriculture & clerk to Parish Council	Sherwood House
Swallow Eustace C.	Farmer	
Wallace Edith Emily (Miss)	District Nurse	Scarrington Lane
Watts Ethel (Miss).	Draper	
Winter Alfred,	Farm bailiff to Mrs John James Summer Richarson,	Greenedge farm
	Cranmer Arms.	Main Street

\* Denotes a telephone

**Notable Private Residents in Aslockton—1936**

Bell, James*	Spinney Corner
Bissell, Mrs*	Cranmer House
Blake, Valentine P	
Fryer, Francis Wiliam*	
Fryer, Harry	Scarrington Lane (Mill Lane)
Gothard, Miles*	Cliffholme (Cliff Hill Lane)
Mee, George W*	Belvoir House
Mee, John	Westcliffe
Neale, Thomas E	
Renshaw, William	York House
Short, Thomas Henry*	The Hall (Aslockton Hall)
Willson, Mrs	Huttoft Close

*Editors Note: The reason that Mr. Bissill is not shown in the above list is probably because he died on the 17th March 1936 (Source: Aslockton Parish Council Minutes 27th March 1936).*



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**Cranmer Local History Group**

The Cranmer Local History Group as part of its' constitution is committed to promoting the history of Aslockton, Scarrington and Whatton-in-the-Vale in particular and local history in general.

As part of that commitment the group organises a series of talks throughout the year and this digest is intended to compliment that programme.

**All information welcome**

We are always interested in photographs, anecdotes and documents relating to the villages. We have already archived in excess of 100 photographs and have extracted references to the villages from documents dating back to the 11th Century.

We are able to scan material very quickly so any documents or photographs you may loan to us will be returned very quickly, unharmed.

If you can help, please contact:

Gregg Redford on 01949 851597

Or e-mail: info@cranmerlhg.org.uk

It has been over a year since the edition of this Local History Digest. Unfortunately time has been the problem.

2007 saw a lot of lot of changes in both Aslockton and Whatton-in-the-Vale and 2008 is no doubt destined to produce a few more. Not all change is bad, in fact that is how our communities have grown and prospered over the years. But equally change for changes sake or for profit does not necessarily enhance or contribute to our society.

Gregg Redford  
 April 2008

## What a difference 72 years make!

Gregg Redford—April 2008

In 1936 **ASLOCKTON** boasted SEVEN farmers (including TWO poultry farmers) somewhat higher than today's figure. Only one of the farmers in 1936 farmed over 150 acres and that was Hardy Crawford whose descendants are the only resident farmers in Aslockton parish today.

In the days before supermarkets there were certainly more local shops. Samuel Baxter & W. F. Payling and Son provided the two butcher's shops in the village. Groceries were provided by GL Potter & Sons (who also ran the Post Office), Minnie Russell and Florence Gretton. You could even buy your drapery locally from Ethel Watts. Fresh locally made bread was also in abundance from either George Baker at Mill House on Mill Lane or Harold Kent from his shop on Main Street (now Cranmer News). John Cooper ran a Newsagent business from The Lilacs.

If you needed your boots repairing you had a choice of two, James Pritchett and Charles Shepperson. Charles also repaired saddles.

Aslockton also had a number of commercial operations; Frederick Baker was a haulage contractor operating from Abbey Lane. Harry Bates was a plumber and glazier. H Fryer & Sons operated several businesses as wireless dealers and repairers, general engineers, automobile engineers and a battery charging station (can anyone else remember 'Accumulators?'). Wm Mee & Son also operated their coal business from the village.

If you needed a drink, you had two public houses to choose from. Dorothy Plunkett was the landlady at the Greyhound and Dennison Widdison (how 'posh' does that name sound) was the landlord at the Cranmer Arms.

Aslockton was unique (at least locally) in having a racehorse trainer, William Rippon Bissell at Cranmer House.

Today, when everyone seems to have a mobile phone it seems strange not to have instant access to a telephone. 1936 was a different world, there were SIX private telephones in Aslockton all on the Whatton exchange, and businesses added another FIVE to the number. If you needed to make a telephone call (there were no 'phone boxes') the Aslockton Post Office was also a 'Call Office' and you could make use of the telephone there. You could send a telegram from the 'Telegraph Office' at the station, but that was a transmitting office only. Incoming telegrams would be handled by Whatton Post Office.

The shops and businesses were supported by a population of just 363.

Just across the rive Smite, which divides the two parishes, **WHATTON** had a slightly smaller population of 327. Despite the smaller population Whatton had EIGHT farmers, four of whom farmed over 150 acres, probably due to the fact that Whatton was the larger parish in area at 1,754 acres compared with Aslockton's 1,269 acres.

Whilst not as 'rich' in shops as Aslockton, Whatton did have its own butcher, Percival Pride and

Daisy Greasley and Ellen Summerfield were described as shopkeepers.

Thomas Little and John Slater kept Whatton residents boots in good order as they were boot repairers. George Buxton operated as a blacksmith from the forge on the Grantham Road (now the corner of Conery Lane and the Old Grantham Road).

Arthur Tyler was the carrier to Newark and Nottingham. Edward Richardson was a cattle cake dealer, in business in Whatton. The Greasley Brothers were carpenters.

Running a public house in 1936 may have been as difficult as it is today. William Swingler (probably not the best name for a publican), as well as being the Landlord of the Griffins Head was also a farmer. Because of its location on the Nottingham to Grantham road, it may have been popular with visitors or those travelling between Nottingham and Grantham. It was advertised as '*Griffin's Head P.H. & refreshment rooms; parties catered for.*'

William Goodacre Player was the largest landowner and it was he who planted the avenue of trees along the Grantham Road. For some reason he did not 'like' Whatton Church, he and the other members of the Player family are buried at Elton - a story for the future perhaps!

Whatton only had EIGHT telephones and for some reason one was on the Bingham exchange.

Whatton Post Office must have been a 'hive of activity', it was a fully fledged post office, a Money Order office, a telegraph station for both sending and receiving and a telephone exchange.

In the 72 years since the Directory was published the population of the two parishes has risen from 690 to 1,900. All the butchers, shoe repairers and bakers have disappeared. Out of a total of twelve shops in Aslockton and Whatton in 1936 only one now survives.

Whilst the garage and coal merchant survived into the latter quarter of the twentieth century they have now gone. The Aslockton Post Office has moved three times, but still survives.

The Whatton Post Office and the site of the original telephone exchange is now a private house. Although a Whatton telephone exchange does exist on Dark Lane, it is actually in Aslockton Parish.

Surprisingly, one business that still exists is that of Blacksmith, the business of George Buxton in Whatton is now long gone and the forge is now a private house. However, Gordon & David Gill now operate their Blacksmith & Farrier business from Mill Lane, Aslockton.

The Griffins Head closed and was demolished; it was replaced by private housing in the mid 1990's. The Old Greyhound was closed in May 2007. Today of the three pubs in 1931 only the Cranmer Arms remains open.

Probably most telling is of the fifteen farmers who lived and farmed in the two parishes in 1936 only three resident working farmers exist today. Pasture in and around the parishes that previously provided food from the commercial production of sheep, beef cattle and dairy cattle are now given over to grazing for horses.

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