

## THE BUTCHERS ARMS A TIME LINE OF OCCUPANTS 1840 – 2000

The building known as The Butchers Arms was constructed sometime in the early 1800's. The use of the premises as a place where beer was sold can be confirmed from information in the Census of 1861.

However, that does not mean that beer had not been previously sold there. The same Hunt family are named on the 2 previous Censuses – 1841 and 1851. Head of the family was George, a butcher by trade, with his wife Dinah and 5 children.

Page 4		The enumerated Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the						
Parish (or Township) of		Municipal Borough of		Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town of	Hamlet or Ty	
No. of Inhabitants	Road, Street, etc., and No. or Name of House	NO. OF HOUSES In which the Inhabitants (Males or Females)	Name and Surname of each Person	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation
						Male	Female	
22	Butchers Arms	1	Dinah Hunt	Head	W	58		Publican
			Thomas do	Son	W	21		by 100
			Emma do	Daughter	W	19		by 100

*This extract from the 1861 Census is believed to be the first official record of the pub being named the 'Butchers Arms'*

By 1861 Dinah's husband, George, had died and 3 of the grown-up children had moved on. John, their second eldest son, had married and set up home in nearby Westwood Row.

Following the death of Dinah in January 1868 it appears son John, together with his wife Emma, and their 4 children, moved from Westwood Row to the Butchers Arms.

The 1871 Census confirms the name Butchers Arms which is situated in Harmoor, Tilehurst with John, Emma and children; Ellen 12, John 11, George 9 and Emma 8 in residence.

John's wife, Emma, died in 1875 and by 1881 eldest son John, now aged 21, is no longer shown at the address.

The 1881 Census shows the remaining members of the family are still ensconced at the Butchers Arms. John is described as a Publican and all 3 children's occupations are listed as 'Inn helper at home'.

When the 1891 Census is taken John is still shown as a widower and listed as a Publican and Market Gardener. Ellen, George and Emma's marital status are all shown as single. In 1913 when John dies at the age of 81, George takes over as Licensee of the pub with siblings Ellen and Emma still in residence. However, within 3 years of Ellen's death in 1926 it was all change.

In early 1929 the Butchers Arms was purchased by SH Higgs of 18 Castle Street, Reading; George and Emma Hunt then moved into 5 Lower Armour Road and in June of that year the Licence was transferred to Martin Flitter, a retired Police Constable. It is at this time that the pub is granted an on-licence for the sale of beer – not licenced at that time for the sale of spirits.

So certainly from 1861, the Butchers Arms had been run by the same Hunt family for 68 years. Moreover, if beer had been sold from the premises since 1841 that period would increase to 88 years!

On the 18th January 1940 Ernest Turner, aged 58, formerly a brick kiln worker at Kentwood Kiln, took up the licence of the Butchers Arms which he held until his death in 1947. At this point Ellen Ann Turner, Ernest's Widow, became the licensee. When Ellen Ann died in July 1960 her youngest son, Richard (Dick), who was helping with the running of the premises and living there with his wife Isabella (Issy) and 3 children, took on the Licence. With the death of Dick in May 1976 the licence was taken up briefly by his widow, Issy, before retiring a year later.

The Turners had been running the Butchers Arms for 37 years.

In May 1977 Ken Miles became the licensee and together with wife Rita and 3 children, took up residency having previously been the licensee of The Greyhound, Peppard and prior to that the Berkshire, Kings Road, Reading.

The Miles family remained at the Butchers Arms for around 30 years.