

Waggon and Horses

744 Ripponden Road

Mark Buckley 1795-1799
John Buckley 1799-1805
Robert Buckley 1805-1838
John Dronsfield 1839-1843
Hannah Lees 1845-1850
John Lees 1850 – 1889
Edmund Pickup 1890-1905
Sarah J Pickup 1905-1914
John W Crowther 1914-1916
Joe Brook 1916-1917
Arthur Atkinson 1917-1941
Edward Thomas 1941-1942

Patricia E Dunn 1942-1952
Harold Woolley 1952-1953
Elsie Shaw 1953-1955
Hilda Carney 1955-1956
Brenda Baker 1956-1959
John Platt 1959-1960
Ida Platt 1960-1963
Mary Ward 1963-1965
Edith Stafford 1965-1968
Charles E Petrie 1968-1984
John A Meadows 1984-

In 1795 an Act of Parliament was obtained to enable the construction of the Oldham-Ripponden turnpike road and Mark Buckley wasted no time in getting an alehouse licence for what until then had probably been a farmhouse. John Buckley took over in 1799, when the house appears to have been known as the Trough Inn. (There would doubtless have been a horse trough outside the pub, the last before the township boundary and the highest in Oldham. Travellers coming out of Oldham still faced the climb to Grains Bar, so a watering place for horses was a necessity.)

Robert Buckley took the licence in 1805 and stayed for thirty three years. Trade directories reveal that he was a coal master as well as a victualler. He owned the Waggon & Horses which, according to the 1829 survey, covered 293 sq yards. There were stables covering 45 square yards.

In 1845 the property was advertised in the Manchester Guardian: "To be let - Waggon & Horses, Sholver Moor, and gardens, outbuildings, with 5½ acres of good meadow land. Part of the outbuildings may easily be converted into a power loom shop. Coals are close at hand, and an ample supply of water for a steam engine of sufficient power. Apply Mr Raynor. .



By 1850 John Lees was in charge. He was 30 years and as well as running the pub he farmed nine acres of land. Mr Lees stayed for about forty years and during his time a lodge of a local friendly society, the Mountain Bee Lodge, was established at the pub. Things went badly wrong for him one Saturday night on 1889. About ten o'clock a policeman went into the pub and suddenly all the lights were put out. The policeman restored the lights and found thirty men had been playing cards. John Lees was fined £5 and there was probably objection to his licence, as following year the pub had a new tenant.

The 1894 survey found the Waggon & Horses in good condition and owned by a nearby textile company, Thomas Mellodew and Co. The pub had four drinking rooms but no bathroom and no accommodation for travellers. There were two horse stalls in the open yard.

Gartside's Brewery of Ashton bought the Waggon & Horses in 1895. The next change of ownership came in 1939 when Bents of Liverpool merged with Gartside's Brookside Brewery. This company was in turn swallowed by the brewing giant Bass Charrington in 1967. Today the Waggon & Horses is a Bass North West property.

Inns and Alehouses of Oldham and their licensees 1714 – 1992. Rob Magee, Werneth November 1992