

Bishopwearmouth Pubs Profile (Demolished) – The Royal Tent

Project Pub REF: 017

NGR: NZ 39276 56992

Name of Pub: The Royal Tent

Did it have any previous names?: Listed as Prince of Wales on the 1881 census.

Are there any explanation of the pub's name or changes of name?: Supposedly, the 'Royal Tent' took its name from Third West Militia, who camped in tents in the Bishopwearmouth Rectory Park in c.1806 (Ron Lawson, 2019).

What did it look like in the past?

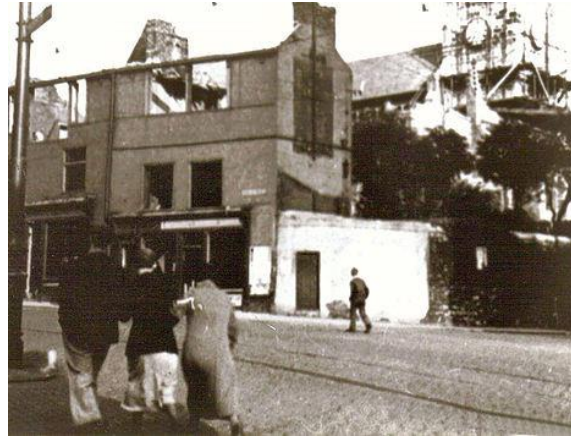


Image 1 – Gable end of the Royal Tent

Image 2 – The Royal Tent c. 1920s showing suspected bomb damage.

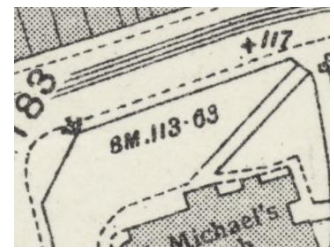
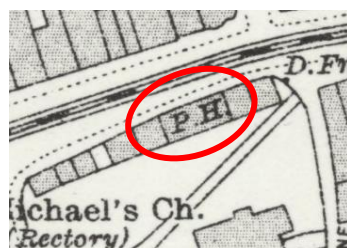
Current Photographs:



© John Tunman, 2022. Photographs showing approximate location of the Royal Tent.

Building Description: There are little remaining photographs that show the Royal Tent intact. However, existing photographs show a three storey gable ended building of brick construction with a brick chimney to either gable. It appears as though there were two windows to the first and second floors.

Map regression:



Map 1 – Rain’s Eye Plan 1785 [Accessed via Sunderland Antiquarian Society].

Map 2 - 1887 Ordnance Survey Map (25”) [Accessed via National Library of Scotland].

Map 3 – 1919 Ordnance Survey Map (25”) [Accessed via National Library of Scotland].

Map 4 - 1946 Ordnance Survey Map (25”) [Accessed via National Library of Scotland].

Rain’s Eye Plan of 1785 shows The Royal Tent, forming part of a short terrace fronting directly onto High Street West and immediately abutting St Michael’s Churchyard to the rear. At this point, there was no outdoor space of its own, therefore there was no scope for external alterations to its footprint during its life. There is no change to the plan form by 1919, however by the 1946 OS map, the building had been demolished, possibly as a result of bomb damage or to enable the widening of High Street West.

How long had it been a pub?: The building was there at the time of Rain’s Eye Plan, but there is no name attached to it. It first appears in a Trade Directory in 1820 (Commercial Directory). It is unclear what its use was in 1785 on the Rain’s Eye Plan. From Trade Directory numbering it might possibly have been reduced in size from the late 1880s as directories after that date indicate another occupier at 320; alternatively, the street numbering may have been changed.

Story timeline

Owner

???????? Mrs Isabella Arnison Sandyford Newcastle upon Tyne

23/10/1896 : Robert Deuchar Shortridge Hall Northumberland

18 /12/1901: Robert Deuchar Sandyford Rd Newcastle upon Tyne

License Holder

19/10/1887: Mathew Charlton

22/08/1888: Daniel Batley

13/02/1889: Patrick Fincham

19/06/1889: James Linin

21/08/1889: Charles William Best

22/10/1890: Farquhar Deuchar

31/05/1916: Charles Rivett (7 Roker Park Terrace)

07/07/1917: Adjourned General Annual Licensing Meeting

10/05/1917: Preliminary Meeting of Compensation Authority decided not to proceed

03/02/1927: General Annual Licensing Meeting – license renewal opposed by Chief Constable – renewed

09/02/1928: General Annual Licensing Meeting renewal adjourned

07/03/1928: Adjourned General Annual Licensing Meeting license renewal referred to competent authority

04/05/1928: Principal Meeting of Compensation Authority license refused

24/12/1928: Compensation paid to R Deuchar £3,500. 0. 0d

31/12/1928: License expired

(Above from A Historic Look at the Pubs of Bishopwearmouth Ron Lawson pp 82- 83)

Trade Directories

Commercial Directory 1820: Royal Tent Jane Allison (Tavern/Public House)

Parson & White 1827: Thomas Porter (under Hotels/Inns/Taverns)

Pigot 1828: **Thomas Porter** (Tavern/Public House)

Whites 1847: Jane Lloyd (Hotel/Inn/Tavern)

Slaters 1855: T Dryden (Taverns & Public Houses)

Whellans 1856: Thomas Dryden (Hotel/Inn/Tavern)

Wards 1857/58: 320 High St T Dryden (Innkeeper; first time a number is given)

Wards 1859/60: 319 T Dryden (Innkeeper)

Wards 1861/62: 320 T Dryden (Innkeeper)

Whellans 1865: 320 Margaret Dryden (Innkeeper)

Campbells 1866/67: 320 T Walls (Boiler maker – no mention of a publican or the Royal Tent)

Buchanan's 1867/68: 320 T Wales

Christies 1871/72; Wards 1877; PO Directory 1879; Wards 1881/82; Kellys 1883; Wards 1883/84; Kellys 1886; Wards 1887/88: Mrs M Wales (Innkeeper)

Wards 1889/90: 319 D Batley (Innkeeper – at 320 was a Fishmonger)

Kellys 1894: 319 Farquhar Deucher (Public House; 320 not listed the next number being 322)

Wards 1895/96; Wards 1899/1900; Kellys 1906; Wards 1909/10; Wards 1911/12: 319 F Deuchar – next is 322)

Wards 1913/14: 319 F Deuchar (next 320 a pie shop; all occupied to 325)

Kellys 1914 : 319 R Deuchar (next is 321)

Wards 1915/16: 319 R Deuchar (next is 320 an 'eating house')

Wards 1918: 319 R Deuchar (next is 320 an 'eating house')

Kellys 1921: 319 Charles Rivett (next is 320 an 'eating house')

Wards 1923; Wards 1925; Wards 1927; Wards 1929: R Deuchar (next is 320 an 'eating house')

Wards 1931: No entry – the buildings were still standing as both 318 and 320 were occupied)

Census

1851 (Under 319) Thomas Pike, married, 35, Glassmaker & Publican; Jane, wife, 35; William John, son, 15, Glasshouse Labourer; 3 other sons; 1 daughter.

1861 (Under 321) Thomas Dryden, married, 42, Licensed Victualler; Margaret Dryden, wife, 47, Victualler's Wife; James ????, 13, nephew.

1871 (Under 319) Margaret Wales, widow, 56, Publican; Margaret Rowntree, mother, 90; Elizabeth Wales, niece, 22, Barmaid; Eleanor Rowntree, niece, 21.

1881 Named 'Prince of Wales Inn' Margaret Wales, widow, 66, Licensed Victualler; Briats Rowntree, brother, 60, Shipwright; Elizabeth Henderson, sister, widow, 58, Domestic

1891 Noted at 319 but no entry

1901 No appropriate entry (ie no publican recorded)

1911 Not found

Who drank here?: Unfortunately, there are no sources to suggest the type of clientele who may have frequented the Royal Tent .

Brewery link:

Robert Deuchar – The pub appears to have been consistently owned by Robert Deuchar. Deuchar, born in 1831, arrived in Newcastle in the 1860's as an innkeeper at the Argyle Hotel (Oxford Dictionary of National Biography). By the late 19th century, Deuchar had rapidly diversified and built up a prosperous trade, benefitting from the brewery boom that was occurring, eventually resulting in purchasing the Monkwearmouth brewery and maltings in Sunderland (ibid). Following this, in 1897, Deuchar registered his own company Robert Deuchar Ltd, building up substantial trade in Tyne and Wearside, including the Dun Cow (ibid). By the time of his death, Deuchar had built up a portfolio of over 150 public houses and hotels, all supplied by his own brewery. His business, Robert Deuchar Ltd, ran from 1897-1959 by which point it was subsumed into Newcastle Breweries ([Co-Curate Newcastle](#), accessed May 2022).

Story timeline:

The following information has been extracted from Ron Lawson's The Old Pubs of Bishopwearmouth (2019).

7th March 1917 – General Annual License Meeting refer the license renewal to the ?Complete Authority

10th May 1917 – Preliminary meeting of the ?Complete Authority decide not to proceed.

3rd February 1927 - General Annual License Meeting, the license renewal is opposed by the Chief Constable, however it is renewed despite this.

9th February 1928 – At the General Annual License Meeting, the license is adjourned

7th March 1928 - General Annual License Meeting refer the license to the ?Complete Authority again.

4th May 1928 – the Principal Meeting of the ?Complete Authority refuse the license.

24th December 1928 – Compensation paid to R. Deuchar Ltd of £3,500.0.s.0.d.

31st December 1928 – License is expired and building subsequently demolished

(Ron Lawson, 2019).

Summary of Research by John Tunman:

The building which was the Royal Tent was constructed prior to 1785, as it features on the Rain's Eye Plan; however it is not clear whether at that time it was a public house. It was definitely present in 1820, the Royal Tent as Tavern or Public House, with Jane Allison in occupation featuring in a directory of that year (Commercial Directory 1820). It continued to be a public house until its closure at the end of 1928 (1) to allow for the widening of High Street West in front of St Michael's Church (today the Minster). Compensation of £3,500 was paid to R Deuchar Ltd. (Ibid)

It was known as the Royal Tent for most of its existence, but the 1881 census records it as the Prince of Wales. It appears in Trade Directories at various times as either 319 or 320 High Street West, the address fluctuating between them until towards the end of the 1880s, after which it was exclusively 319 High Street West. Indeed, by 1887 a fishmonger was listed at 320 High Street West; by 1913 there was a pie shop there, then by 1921 an eating house. There are two possible explanations for this – either the building had been sub-divided to create a smaller public house with a shop next door, or there had been a minor street numbering in this part of High Street West. We will probably never know which it was, although it may be relevant to note that in 1890 the Building Committee approved unspecified alterations to the premises – could this have been the sub division? (2)

In the early days the publican seems to have changed frequently, but from 1855 it was Thomas Dryden. He is listed in the 1861 census along with his wife Margaret, who was a "Victualler's Wife" By 1865 Margaret Dryden was the publican – perhaps Thomas had died. There seems to have been a bit of a 'blip' the following year, as the neither the Royal Tent nor a publican is listed at 320 High Street West. Instead, there is a T Walls, described as a Boiler Builder. However, the next year the pub is listed with a T Wales in occupation. He was there until 1871, after which Mrs M Wales, his 56 year old widow, was listed as Innkeeper. She was to remain there until around 1888. It is possible that the T Walls was a mis-spelling of Wales and that, in common with some other publicans in the area, he was a Boiler Builder as well as publican. From 1895/96 directories record the premises as being in the occupation Farquhar Deuchar of Newcastle, although a 1921 directory notes Charles Rivett as having it. He had been the license holder since 1916, and may have continued there until the pub's closure in 1928.

In a report on the renewal of licenses in 1890, at which time the renewal for the Royal Tent was opposed, Charles William Best was noted as the licensee. From 22nd October of that year, according to the book "A historic Look at the Pubs of Bishopwearmouth" the licensee was Farquhar Deuchar; possibly his taking on the license led to the opposition to renewal being removed. (3)

In 1893 the Health Committee recommended to the Council that the "occupiers of the Royal Tent, High-street West, be ordered to provide and maintain, upon or adjoining such premises, urinals to the satisfaction of the Council ...". The implication here is that up to that date there were no toilet facilities at the premises (4).

The pub may have been the meeting place for Druids. A report of 1883 refers to the "usual meeting of the Loyal Albert Lodge Sunderland Equalised District of the Ancient Order of Druids" having taken place there. (5)

Two cases heard before the magistrates in the early twentieth century were a little out of the ordinary. One was Farquhar Deucher, the owner, being charged with permitting drunkenness on the premises (6). Another was the alleged assault of a customer by a barman, having refused a customer a drink, jumped over the counter and knocked him several times against the door as he was leaving (7). This was in addition to family feuds such as occurred in 1910 when two related couples were each charged with assault on the other (8). During the First World War opposition was raised to the renewal of the license

on the grounds of contraventions of the Treating prohibition (9) which made it illegal for one party to buy another a drink, in an attempt to keep the consumption of alcohol down. (10).

References:

- (1) A Historic Look at the Pubs of Bishopwearmouth, Ron Lawson, p 82
- (2) SDE 17/06/1890 p 3 col 4
- (3) SDE 28/08/1890 p 3 cols 1-3
- (4) SDE 17/05/1893 p 4 col 1
- (5) SDE 08/02/1883 p 3 col 4
- (6) SDE 07/11/1900 p 3 col 1
- (7) SDE 09/05/1902 p 3 col 2
- (8) SDE 20/10/1902 p 6 col 4
- (9) Article by specialist licensing solicitors Poppleston Allen in "The Morning Advertiser" (a pub trade magazine) 11/02/2019 updated 14/09/2020
- (10) SDE 08/02/1917 p 6 col

Sources consulted:

- A Historic Look at the Pubs of Bishopwearmouth, Ron Lawson, p 82
- Article by specialist licensing solicitors Poppleston Allen in "The Morning Advertiser" (a pub trade magazine) 11/02/2019 updated 14/09/2020
- Bishopwearmouth Village Atlas (2021). Available at: <https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/article/16351/History-of-Bishopwearmouth>
- British Newspaper Archives. Available at: <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>
- Historic England, Search the List. Available at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/>
- National Library of Scotland Ordnance Survey Maps. Available at: <https://www.nls.uk/maps>
- SDE 07/11/1900 p 3 col 1
- SDE 08/02/1883 p 3 col 4
- SDE 08/02/1917 p 6 col
- SDE 09/05/1902 p 3 col 2
- SDE 17/05/1893 p 4 col 1
- SDE 17/06/1890 p 3 col 4
- SDE 20/10/1902 p 6 col 4
- SDE 28/08/1890 p 3 cols 1-3
- Trade Directories. Available at: <https://specialcollections.le.ac.uk/digital/collection/p16445coll4>

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