

Bishopwearmouth Pubs Profile (Demolished) – Lambton Arms

Project Pub REF: 020

NGR: NZ 39442 56968

HER REF: N/A

Name of Pub: Lambton Arms

Did it have any previous names?: Listed as the King William Inn in the 1881 census.

Are there any explanation of the pub's name or changes of name?: According to Alan Bolan, the Lambton Arms was named after a local landowning family (Bolan, nd).

What did it look like in the past?



Image 1 – Photograph showing the Lambton Arms in c. early 20th century [Photograph from Alan Bolan].

Image 2 - Photograph showing the Lambton Arms in c. early 20th century.

Current Photographs:

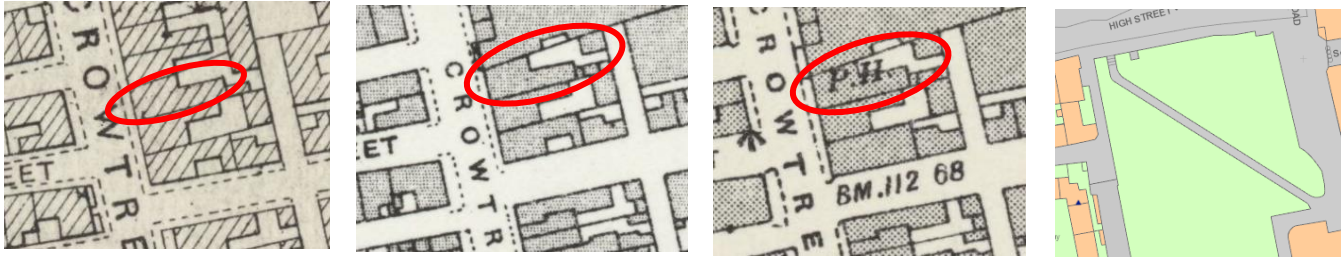


© Sam Neal, August 2022. Photograph showing approximate location of the Lambton Arms.

Description from Alan Bolan (nd): Like its neighbor the Londonderry, it too had been named after a local landowning family. In 1844, Simpson Hodgson was landlord at the Lambton Arms. The pub was lucky to survive a raid during the last war. On 16th May 1943 incendiary bombs destroyed the King's Theatre which stood next door. The Lambton Arms itself was to meet its end in the town centre redevelopment of the late 1960s early 1970s.

Building Description: The Lambton Arms was a two and a half storey public house of painted and rendered brick construction. The ground floor comprised two entrances into the pub with timber, raised and fielded doors. These flanked a central window which had pilasters to either side and a timber panelled plinth. Above the window and entrances, there was a fascia board which read 'LAMBTON ARMS' with 'TRUMAN'S' above. To the first floor, there were two, 2/2 timber sash windows and above these, projecting through the eaves were two, 1/1 timber sash windows which sat directly next to one another, giving the appearance of a large 2/2 sash.

Map regression:



Map 1 - 1887 Ordnance Survey Map (25") [Accessed via National Library of Scotland].

Map 2 – 1919 Ordnance Survey Map (25") [Accessed via National Library of Scotland].

Map 3 - 1946 Ordnance Survey Map (25") [Accessed via National Library of Scotland].

Map 4 - Modern Ordnance Survey Map (25") [Accessed via Historic England, Search the List].

Historic Ordnance Survey mapping of 1887 shows the Lambton Arms, then an unnamed building, as part of a row of terraces with an outshut to the rear. There is little change to the plan form by 1919, however two small outbuildings had been constructed to the rear, and the buildings to the south had been demolished and replaced with the Empire Theatre. Between 1919 and 1946 there had been little notable change to the plan form however the public had become a Public House. At some point between 1946 and modern day, the pub had been demolished in favor of a green open space.

How long had it been a pub?: There is little evidence that pre-dates 1835, when the Lambton Arms is first mentioned in Perry's Bankrupt Gazette. In addition, it should also be noted that in a newspaper article dated 1882, the owner of the Lambton Arms, Arthur Hodgson is described as a 'Beer Housekeeper'. A beer house was a type of public house created under the 1830 Beerhouse Act whereby beer was sold to be consumed on the premises.

Who worked here?

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

Owner:

- 1881: William Whinham, Tunstall Vale
- Mar 1903: Elizabeth Ann Thompson
- Nov 1916: Lessees William Jackson Ltd., Sunderland
- Aug 1919: John D. Heaton, Sunderland
- Nov 1928: Trueman, Hanbury, Buxton & Co.Ltd., 93 Brick Lane, London

Trade Directory:

- 1841 – 42: Gilbert Hodgson
- 1844 – 51: Simpson Hodgson
- 1855 – 57: John Hutchinson
- 1857: Mrs S. Hodgson
- 1858: Mrs. Barbara Hodgson
- 1858 – 67: Simpson Hogson
- 1871: Mrs Sarah Hodgson
- 1873 – 81: William Whinham
- 1881 – 83: Mark Harmon
- 1886: Mrs Isabella Harmon

License Holder:

Dec 1886: Robert Watson Wharton
Oct 1892: John Mark Ormston
June 1904: Frederick Ormston
Oct 1908: John Gray
Aug 1915: John Elliot
Sep 1916: Dorothy Elliot
Sep 1919: John D. Heaton
May 1921: John James Harding
Jan 1929: Arthur Dickinson
Nov 1933: George Brown
Sep 1954: Robert Applegarth
Sep 1960: Francis Henry Baker

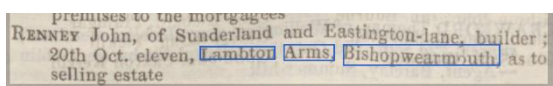
Who drank here?: Through an analysis of historic newspaper articles, it appears as though the Lambton Arms was frequented by a wide range of people. Notably, there are several mentions of the Freemasons Society meeting at the pub as well as other societies such as the Durham County Agricultural Society and Ship Building Committee. The Lambton Arms was also host to a series of inquests around the mid-late 19th century, which would suggest that the pub was a well known building amongst the local people.

Brewery link:

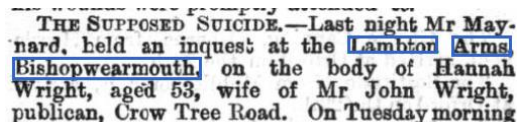
Truman Hanbury and Buxton & Co Ltd: The Lambton Arms was owned by these brewers from November 1928. They owned many other pubs in Sunderland around the same time period, including the Beehive, Shipwrights Arms and the Jamaica Arms ([Brewery History, nd](#)).

Story timeline:

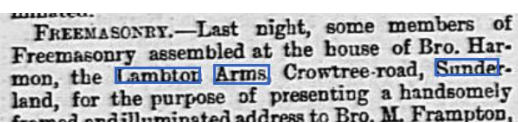
All images accessed via the British Newspaper Archives unless otherwise specified.



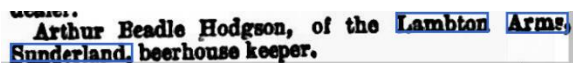
Saturday 26th September 1835 – Perry’s Bankrupt Gazette – Estate with the Lambton Arms is for sale.



Tuesday 31st December 1867 – Shields Daily Gazette: Inquest is held at the Lambton Arms.

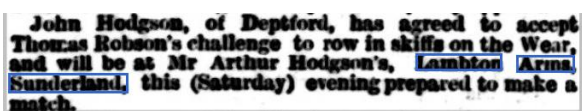


Thursday 9th February 1882 – Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette: The Freemasons meet at the Lambton Arms.

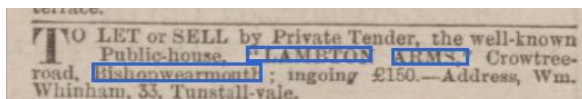


‘Beerhouse Keeper’).

Saturday 19th August 1882 – York Herald: Arthur Beadle Hodgson of the Lambton Arms goes into liquidation. (Note – Hodgson is noted as a



Saturday 29th September 1883 – The Sportsman: John Hodgson and Thomas Robson challenge each other to row in the skiffs of the Wear and meet at the Lambton Arms to prepare.



Wednesday 1st September 1886 – Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette: Lambton Arms for sale or to let.

Yesterday, an inquest was held at the **Lambton Arms, Sunderland**, respecting the death of Thomas Burton, who was found in a pond in his garden at High Barnes. He was in the habit of getting water from the pond, over which there was a shaky plank. The deceased, who had

Saturday 22nd October 1887 – Hartlepool Northern Daily Mail: An inquest is held at the Lambton Arms.

MR SHORT'S PROPOSALS.

At a combined committee meeting held last night at the **Lambton Arms, Crowtree Road, Sunderland**, of the various trades of the shipbuilding industry on the Wear the following resolution was passed:— "That we, as a joint committee of the various trades employed in the shipbuilding industry, accept the proposal to shorten the hours of labour, and that we take the necessary power of calling the Conciliation Board together to have the opinion of all the employers in the shipbuilding trade on the Wear before this meeting decides how the 48 hours is to be worked." It was further decided to forward to Mr

Wednesday 16th December 1891 – Shields Daily News: Ship building committee meeting is held at the Lambton Arms and pass an important resolution.

LOCAL PRESENTATION.—Last night there was a representative gathering of members of local friendly and trade societies, &c., at the **Lambton Arms, Crowtree road, Bishopwearmouth** the occasion being the presentation of a handsome testimonial to Mr Charles Wingate, in recognition

Wednesday 22nd February 1893 – Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette: The Durham County Agricultural Society host a local presentation at the Lambton Arms.

NATIONAL ORDER OF FREE GARDENERS—
The annual meeting of the Grand Board of Management was held at the **Lambton Arms, Crowtree Road, Sunderland** on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday last. The

Tuesday 3rd September 1895 – Shields Daily Gazette: National Order of Free Gardeners hold their annual meeting of the Grand Board of Management at the Lambton Arms.

Mr John Mark Ormston, a well-known licensed victualler, died on Sunday at the **Lambton Arms, Crowtree Road, Sunderland** of which house he had been landlord for about eleven years.

Tuesday 8th March 1904 – Shields Daily Gazette: Licensed Victualler, John Mark Ormston who had been the landlord at the Lambton Arms, dies.

Said to have been drunk and disorderly when ejected from the **Lambton Arms, Sunderland**, Osborne Robson (42), of Robert Street, Seaham, was fined £2 in **Sunderland Magistrates' Court** to-day.

Wednesday 16th May 1951 – Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette: Robert Osborne is ejected from the Lambton Arms for drunk and disorderly behavior.

Sources consulted:

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>

Trade Directories. Available at: <https://specialcollections.le.ac.uk/digital/collection/p16445coll4>

Completed by: Caitlin Osborne (TDR Heritage)

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