

MIDDLETON'S PUBLIC HOUSES

Henry Strickland, born 1777, was a son of Sir George Strickland of Boynton and in 1802 he married Mary Cartwright the daughter of the inventor of the power loom. After enclosure had largely been achieved in the East Riding he was commissioned by the Board of Agriculture to compile a survey (published in 1812) of conditions prevalent at that time. His general tone is somewhat superior but nevertheless his comments make interesting reading as in the description of public houses in the area:

“The number of public-houses, which present themselves in almost every village, are allurements to deviate from sobriety, economy and domestic comfort which few of the lower ranks can resist, and it is scarcely possible to point out such simple and expeditious means of reforming their characters, and improving their conditions as that of considerable reducing the number of these nuisances, leaving only what would be requisite for the accommodation of travellers, in convenient situations and at regular distances, and gradually suppressing all others not so circumstanced as perniciously superfluous”.

With regard to Middleton there is mention in Baines directory of 1822 of two victuallers – John Petch at the “Robin Hood” and Matthew Kirby at “The Board” which could have been the coaching house in South Street, parts of which are said to date from the 18th Century.

THE ROBIN HOOD

Situated next to the church this distinctive white building with its mounting block presents an attractive feature in the village scene. Since the 1820s landlords and land ladies have included:

John Petch
Thomas Petch
Elizabeth Petch
John Outhret
Thomas Appleton
Mr Blanchard

John Postill
Frederick Dent
George Watson
Samuel Beal
Mrs Hotham

Before the war the premises operated with a six day licence.

When the Middleton Hall estate was sold in 1932 the Robin Hood was included.

Over the years the Robin Hood had been associated with the annual feast organised by the Middleton Branch of the Ancient Order of Foresters and indeed the branch (Court Devonshire of the Ancient Order) had been founded at an inaugural meeting on the premises by William Moate and three others on 15th February 1839.

In the early years of the 20th Century there was a court case involving the landlord who was accused of attempting the murder of his son-in-law by shooting with a revolver.

Internal alterations were carried out in the 1970s and recently further changes have been made.

THE ROSE AND CROWN

On the 16th February 1867 the following advertisement appeared in the Beverley Guardian:

“Middleton – To be let either together or separately with possession at Lady Day next – the Rose and Crown Inn and Brewery adjoining with garden, stabling, granaries etc, etc.

An extensive business has been done at the Brewery for many years which is situated in a favourable circuit and is seven miles from Market Weighton, eight from Drifffield, nine from Beverley and ten from Pocklington.

For further particulars apply to Christopher Witty of Middleton, the owner”.

Christopher Witty is listed in the 1841 census as a brewer in South Street and the 1851 census names him as a common brewer and victualler at the Rose and Crown.

Other landlords in the 19th Century were George Chapman, Henry Ruston and Henry Thurlow.

Over the years the appearance of the pub has changed and during the war it was particularly popular with younger people. It was also the unofficial and secret rendezvous for members of the secret army.

In 1963 Percy Dove the then landlord retired at the age of 67. His grandfather had sold home brewed beer. Percy was born at the Rose and Crown where his family had lived for over a century. He became licensee in 1929 succeeding his father, Henry Simpson Dove and his grandfather George Chapman. He was with Sir Mark Sykes's Waggoners Reserve Volunteers at Mons, Belgium by the 19th August 1914 and was in the retreat. He served for 5 years with the horse transport detachment of the Royal Army Service Corps and won the 1914 star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. He was also the starter at the Kiplingcotes Derby.

In addition to these establishments the 1841 census mentions the “Half Moon” at West End and names William Petty as the publican.

The 1861 and 1871 censuses list the “Middleton New Inn” at the South End with Thomas Palfreyman named as a beerhouse keeper in 1861 and Henry Ruston as a brewer there in 1871. By 1871 Thomas Palfreyman had reverted to an agricultural labourer.

In 2011, following a long period of uncertainty and the failure of the new owners to find a tenant, planning permission was given by the East Riding Council to convert the Rose and Crown to dwellings, much to the dismay of a loyal group of customers.