

**BENJAMIN DAWSON & COMPANY:
BREWERS OF KIRKSTALL, LEEDS**

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Introduction

Whilst gathering material for this article, I soon realised very little was known about the brewery through the family. Sadly, our Great Aunts, Uncles and Grandparents did not pass on knowledge they must have had. Perhaps they did not think it important, or more likely, think it of any interest.

Originally, the information provided in this piece was intended as a chapter in my book titled, *Pubs, Ploughs and Petticoats, The Journey*. However as time went on, I could see myself being side tracked, and so therefore I was encouraged by a member of the local genealogy club to produce a booklet to share with the family now. The original aim was to provide a brief overview of the brewery, my Great-great grandfather John Dawson, his wife Annie and his involvement in the brewery known as Benjamin Dawson & Co., however, as the research progressed I gleaned more and more information as to past owners and their involvement in the local area of Leeds and places further afield, such as, London and New Zealand.

Cloth to corn

The Dawson family were traditionally Clothiers, being either cloth merchants or cloth manufacturers, but never had been it seemed, millers, maltsters and/or victuallers. So the question is; why did John the elder decide to leave the comfort of a well-established family business of Clothiers and venture into a new occupation as a Corn Miller and Maltster? The answer may lie in his

father's Will. Benjamin Dawson, Clothier of Yeadon married Hannah Hodgson on 28 June 1756 at All Saints, Otley and died 7 June 1807 and was buried at St Oswald, Guiseley. Benjamin and Hannah produced 15 children; however it is John who we are interested in. When Benjamin died he had eight children noted as recipients to his Will. William and Samuel, who were the youngest surviving men in the family, were left the house and land, and Benjamin's rights to the 'Cloth Hand' at the Cloth Hall in Leeds. William would also receive the allotment upon the common which had been purchased off William Child, his father's brother in law. Joseph received £20 and James, Benjamin, Joshua, Mary and granddaughter Hannah Baldwin, daughter of Grace all received £15, as did John. I don't doubt that when John found out what his father had apportioned in his Will to him, he felt somewhat irate about the imbalance of the sharing of his father's estate. Or was it just a token gesture as John was already well established in a business which his father may have already financially helped him in to?

John indeed had broken from the family tradition to become a corn miller in the Holbeck area. Mill Green Mill, also known as Holbeck Water Mills, was advertised to let in 1795, the year he married. Could this lease possibly been a wedding present from his father with the prospect of purchase in the future? This mill was described as being equipped as follows; 'having one pair of French stones, one pair grey stones, shelling mill, flour machine, drying kiln.' Along with the mill, a dwelling house, stable and other conveniences were noted. John Dawson is mentioned in the 1828-1829 *Pigot and Co.'s National Commercial Directory* as still

having an interest in Mill Green Water Mill. It is interesting to note though, that in 1826 (Parsons) John Dawson was noted as the miller and by 1829 the mill was let with John Dawson as tenant and Francis Sowry, a woollen manufacturer, as the owner.

John married Sarah Womersley at St James's Midhope (St Oswalds, Guiseley registration) on 13 September 1795. John and Sarah produced eleven children. From the two boys who were able to undertake adult employment, that is, who did not die in infancy, only one of the children followed John's trade.

John Jnr, he will now be known as, was undoubtedly taken under his father's 'wing' and taught the milling trade. Here John Jnr met Mary Popplewell his future wife whose father Benjamin Popplewell occupied Phoenix Cottage. Phoenix Cottage was one of the out buildings of Upper End Farm, in the township of Guiseley. It was occupied by Benjamin and his brother William who enlarged it to suit their operations as maltsters. It appears to be a very clever move on John's behalf to marry into a family with existing maltings. One can see the move into vertical integration! Where did John meet his prospective wife? It is highly likely that John's father would have had a professional association with Mary's father and it is possible that John may have spent some time with Benjamin developing his skills in the maltstering trade.

The trade directories of 1817 mention John Dawson Jr 'Master Miller' of Spence Lane, New Wortley. This implies that his business was an established one, and that the fact that he is entitled to call himself 'Master' also implied that he had completed an accepted period of indenture as an apprentice, it would seem approximately five years. John now aged 21 had the right to own property and was eligible to vote in the parliamentary elections. The qualification was based on property ownership with an annual leasable value of £10 or more.

Not only did he manage to marry the daughter of an existing milling operator he managed to entice his older brother, William, into an exciting business proposition. William took over the New Cross Inn with Stables and an associated brewery at numbers 24 and 25 Meadow Lane Hunslet, the common thoroughfare linking Holbeck and Hunslet with Leeds.

Brothers William and John appear to have a good working relationship. William ran the establishment that used John's produce and William had the brains to select a location virtually next door to the Mixed Cloth Hall. This establishment was full of the thirsty Yeadon clothiers and others from various parts, and not too far from St Helen's Woollen Mills (that William would eventually buy and return him to the Clothier business). Also, living in New Wortley along Wilson Row was John Dawson Snr Gent. At times John styled himself John Dawson, Corn Miller, Maltster, Warehouse and Wharf, and Brick Manufacturer.

John Jnr married Mary Popplewell on 31 December 1822 at St Oswald, Guiseley. Their first two children, Benjamin and Susanna were born in Holbeck, however by April 1827 they were living in Wortley. Two years later John purchased a corn mill at 20 Wortley Lane/Barleycorn Street from S. Dawson (no known relative) and it was to be known as 'New Wortley Steam Mill.' In the 1828-1829 *Pigot and Co's National Commercial Directory*, John Dawson Jnr is noted as being at New Wortley Steam Mill Corn Mill. In the same year John and Mary's fourth child was born; Jane. Five other children were to follow; Edwin 1830, John 1833, Mary Hannah 1836, Emily 1837 and Elizabeth 1840. When John Snr died in 1835 at Wortley, in his Will he left his mill and associated buildings to his son John Jnr. John and his wife Sarah are buried at St Oswald Parish Church Yard in Guiseley.

The earliest documented information held by the family was taken from the death certificate of Emily. Emily was born 22 January 1837. Her death certificate states that she died on 27 March 1838 at Spence Lane, New Wortley aged one year and two months old. Her father's occupation was a Master Corn Miller. Sarah Cady, who was employed as a general servant, was present at the death. John Dawson is listed in the Leeds Whites Directory of 1837 of Professions and Trades. He is noted under the heading of 'Corn Miller' - John Dawson of New Wortley.

In the 1841 Ancestry Census John was still living at 'New Wortley', in Spence Lane. John now known as John Snr after the death of his father in 1835, is described as a Corn Miller aged 42 living with his wife Mary and four of their six children (two had died as infants) - Edwin, Elizabeth, John Jnr and Mary.

Benjamin was at the King Edward VIth Grammar School, Priory, East Gate in Louth, Lincolnshire. Research undertaken for Sarah Jane has failed to locate her at this time. Also living with them were Elizabeth Marthey and Sarah Cady. Sarah had been living with the family at the time of Emily's death, and both girls were noted as general servants. James Staron and Thomas Simpson were both described as a 'carter' (it was not uncommon for employees to be living with the family). Just a few years later after the 1841 census, John and Mary and the family moved to Whitehall Road in Wortley, as Mary died on 1 December 1845 at this address aged 44.

It was during this time that John, now known as John the elder as his father had died in 1835, purchased what was later to become known as 'Benjamin Dawson & Co. Brewers' of Kirkstall Leeds.

By 1851 the census informs us that John is living at Clearfield House in Whitehall Road, Wortley. His occu-

pation was noted as a Miller and Corn Dealer employing 18 men. The next few years were busy times for the Dawson family. Sarah Jane married Robert Craven in 1852, he too was a Maltster. Benjamin married Mary Ann Hurst (a widow - married name Taylor) in 1853. Edwin Popplewell married Isabella Hodgson in 1854, and, also during that year Mary Hannah married David Richard Wright Porritt. Then the following year in August 1855, John married Annie Whitham.

Purchase of the brewery - Benjamin Dawson & Co., brewers of Kirkstall

Benjamin, the eldest son of John and Mary, would have only been twenty and was still regarded as a minor, and his brothers Edwin and John even younger, when the brewery was purchased by his father.

The brewery started life around 1793 when two young men, Henry Cooper and Joseph Musgrave, leased two



Figure 1. St Stephen's church - Kirkstall c.1918-19.



Figure 2. The Kirkstall Brewery - canal view.

plots of land by the canal which formed part of Monk Wood from Sir James Graham, a major local landowner, to start independent malting operations. Joseph Musgrave leased the first plot in the angle between Broad Lane and the canal and built maltings, cottages and 'Grove House'. Henry Cooper built maltings, wharf, and 'Cooper House' for himself and 'Poplar House' for his manager. This was undertaken on the next plot upstream from Joseph Musgrave.

One of the chief difficulties in brewing is the obtaining of the right kind of spring water and here the Brewery was fortunate. Repeated analytical tests over a long period have proved the sound judgement which led, in the first place, steps to be taken to secure for all time the rights of a certain spring found in the Monks Wood area.

From 1814 to 1832 the maltings were operated by Ephraim Elsworth. In 1833, Musgrave's former maltings was bought for £7,000 by Hunslet born Thomas Walker, who stopped malting and converted the two buildings into a very well equipped brewery. There

appears to have been no other actual Brewery in the district, although eleven Brewers and 84 Maltsters are mentioned. This then establishes, in some degree, the priority of the Brewery at that period. In those days it was a common custom for the trades folk and the gentry to purchase malt directly to do their own brewing.

The Duke of Wellington's Beerhouse Act of 1830 had given an enormous boost to the brewery trade and this looked an exceptionally good investment. However, the building costs proved to be too much for Walker's resources and he died bankrupt in 1844 owing the Musgrave's the original purchase price. On his death, the brewery fell into the hands of Simeon Musgrave, Joseph's eldest son, who promptly sold it to John Dawson Snr by auction in 1843/4 and finally executed in 1845.

Published research information has stated that Benjamin, the eldest of the brothers, purchased the brewery in 1845. However it was their father, John the elder who took the first steps to ensure that his sons

were to serve an apprenticeship and have a notable career and a future for their families. He also had an eye for a bargain - a mortgagee sale and a prime piece of real estate.

Edwin did not become involved in the brewery in the early stages of its development, as he remained with his father at Spence Lane to help run the mill. In the 1851 census, Edwin, along with his father and sisters, Elizabeth and Sarah Jane, lived at Clearfield House in Whitehall Road. Edwin, now aged 21, no longer regarded as a minor and having been under the close guidance of his father learning the corn milling trade, took over the running of the business, but was not granted ownership. With Edwin now settled John the elder would have no doubt left the New Wortley Steam Corn Mill under his control and would have concentrated his efforts with his eldest son Benjamin and John Jnr watching on, mentoring them in the trade of Brewer and Maltster. Such were his investments now, John the elder would have lurked in the background of both businesses ensuring they were operating as they should.

Benjamin and John the younger were at this time living at Kirkstall Bridge. Benjamin was first mentioned in the 1849 Register for Parliamentary Electors living at 'house and brewery,' Kirkstall Bridge. The 1851 census confirms this, as he is described as a brewer employing 26 men and with him was his brother John, a managing brewer. It is interesting to note that Benjamin Dawson & Co. is never mentioned in the trade directories before 1853.

With Benjamin marrying in 1853, Edwin in 1854 and John in the August of 1855 (to Annie Whitham, the daughter of Joseph Whitham, a 'very well to do' iron foundry owner who owned Perserverance Works in Leeds), by 1857 John the elder must have felt that his 'boys' were more than capable of operating the mill and brewery. He certainly kept the corn mill and the malting process under his ownership until then. In reality the boys' partnership of 1857 came into effect only after John Snr dissolved his partnership with Benjamin in that year. Ensuring the profitability and continuation of the brewery, the father probably refused to exit until his sons had bound themselves together.

The following notice was issued in the *London Gazette* on 16 January 1857, page 191. It read as follows:

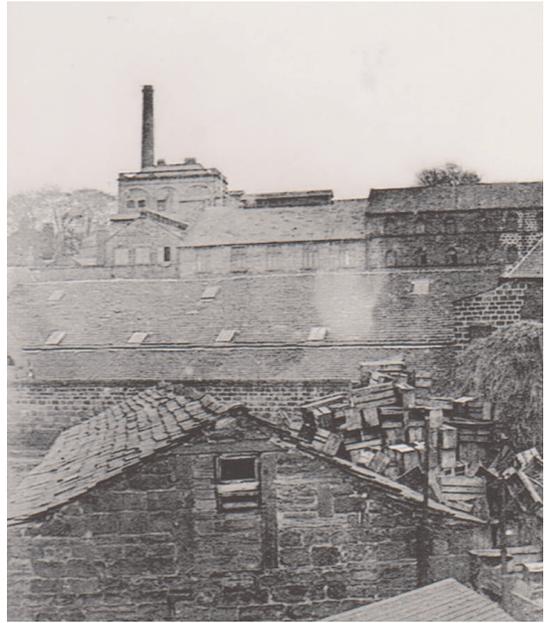


Figure 3. Kirkstall Brewery c.1918-19.

Notice is hereby given, that the partnership hereto fore subsisting between us the undersigned, Benjamin Dawson and John Dawson the elder, in the business of Brewers, carried on at Kirkstall, in the parish of Leeds, in the county of York, under the style or firm of Benjamin Dawson and co, hath been dissolved by mutual consent -

Dated this 14 day of January, 1857

Benjamin Dawson

John Dawson

This now paved the way for Benjamin to establish himself as a businessman in the town of Leeds.

After passing over the family business of the corn mill and his interest in the brewery John Snr by 1861 was living at Belle Vue House, Spring Mount, Bramley and was noted as 'out of business' or retired. Living with him was his daughter Elizabeth and two domestic staff. Sarah Jane Craven, his daughter was visiting.

Not only did the boys have an interest in the brewery, they appear to have expanded their financial interests and brought in partners - no doubt to help with financial backing. Apart from John the elder providing for his sons, he also appeared to have included his son-in-laws in the business, thus ensuring that his daughters lived

a comfortable life and their husbands became involved in a notable trade. In an article in the *London Gazette* dated 13 November 1857, one of their brother-in-laws, David Richard Wright Porritt, removed himself from the interest in the brewery as notice was given that the partnership between Benjamin Dawson of 9 Miles Lane in the county of Middlesex and of Kirkstall and Edwin Popplewell Dawson of Kirkstall and John Dawson the younger and David Richard Wright Porritt, Brewers carrying on business as common Brewers dissolved by mutual consent their partnership with him.

In the *London Gazette* of 20 September 1859 an example is found of the first time Benjamin, Edwin and John call themselves as Brewer and Corn Millers.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Partnership heretofore subsisting between us the undersigned, Benjamin Dawson, of No. 11, Red Cross-street, in the borough of Southwark, in the County of Surrey, and of Kirkstall, in the parish of Leeds, in the County of York, Brewer and Corn Miller, Edwin Popplewell Dawson and John Dawson the younger, both of Kirkstall aforesaid, Brewers and Corn Millers, and James Swales, of Wortley, in the parish of Leeds aforesaid, Corn Miller, carrying on business in co-partnership together as Corn Millers, at Wortley aforesaid, under the style or firm of John Dawson, was dissolved by mutual consent, as and from the 31st day of August last. As witness our hands this 15th day of September, 1859.

Benjn. Dawson. John Dawson. junr.
Edwin P. Dawson. James Swales.

The New Wortley Steam Corn Mill continued to operate with James Swales in partnership with Benjamin, John and Edwin. The mill provided the necessary brewing materials required for Benjamin Dawson & Co., brewers of Leeds to successfully run a malting business. Although the partnership was dissolved in the September of 1859, John Swales was still in attendance at the mill in 1861; however by 1866 it was sold to R. & J. Barton for £725.

When Benjamin married Mrs Mary Ann Taylor a widow (nee Hurst) in October 1853 his address was noted on his marriage certificate as Newington, Surrey. Neither of his brothers or father was noted as a witness at his marriage. So why was he in London leaving his younger brothers and father to run the business? It is assumed he



Figure 4. John, Mary, Susanna and Emily. St John the Evangelist, Wortley.

was already there before his marriage ‘working his way’ into the London business sphere, developing contacts for the leasing of buildings and also to find a suitable merchant for the local and international market for the companies beer distribution.

By the mid 1850s (when Benjamin, Edwin and John had reached the age of majority - 1846, 1851 and 1854 respectively) John Snr had all but transferred his businesses over to the three. Now satisfied that his ‘boys’ were more than capable of working together and undertaking a profitable venture, moved out to Cookridge. Cookridge at this time was a ‘small village four miles from Leeds.’ John the elder ‘called it a day’ and became the ‘gentleman farmer.’ He died at ‘Dawson’s Farm’, Cookridge on 8 January 1864. John and his wife Mary are buried at St John The Evangelist, Wortley. Elizabeth, his daughter, continued to live on the farm with two domestic staff. It was noted on the census of 1871 that she was an ‘imbecile fr birth’ [sic]. In the 1881 census Elizabeth was living with her sister Sarah Jane Craven

Expansion of the brewery

If the brewery was to expand and be profitable it was time to explore new ventures, other than in the Leeds and Yorkshire area. Benjamin, by all accounts, had proved his worth in the brewing industry in Leeds and so too had his brothers, so it was a wise move for him to decamp to London and oversee an office there. The Victoria & Albert Beershop in Bethnal Green Road were being supplied ale as was the Three Compasses in White's Yard. The Dawson men wasted no time in setting up other offices. In Sculcoates, Hull, they had a free hold Steam Cooperage which produced the hogsheads for the storage and transportation of beer, Maltings at Stowmarket and Stonham in Suffolk, leasehold stores in Goole and London Bridge, and a leasehold private wharf known as 'British Wharf' at Clink Street, Southwark, Surrey. They also owned public houses, one of which was the Old Malt Mill Inn, a 'tied' house, situated in Lower Headrow in Leeds. This Inn was managed by William Wilshire in the early 1860s through to the early 1870s. William was the landlord, living at the Inn was his wife Ann and family. Ironically the Wilshire family were to become related to the Dawson's through marriage. Their daughter Emily married John Dawson's son Benjamin Percy Dawson in 1878. During this time John Snr and boys also purchased Henry Coopers buildings. They demolished the maltings but retained the wharf running alongside the canal and erected in their place the enormous four story warehouse-like building, where the beer was prepared and stored ready for dispatch onto canal boats.

The brewery continued to operate very profitably until the death of John Dawson Jnr on 9 April 1867, aged 34. John, if we recall, had married Annie Whitham, whose family had been involved in the engineering industry and owned Perseverance Works. This company had provided engines for use in the brewery. John and Annie were living at Knottfield House in Rawdon (see Fig. 7).

Exactly a year after John died, Annie passed away on 17 April 1868, aged 33. A year later, Benjamin died on 19 April 1869 at 11 Hanover Terrace, Regents Park in London. Benjamin and Mary Ann had no children. This unexpected turn of events now left Edwin the sole surviving partner in a very profitable and lucrative business. John and his wife Annie and Benjamin are buried at Stephens's church yard, Kirkstall, Leeds.



Figures 5 & 6. John Dawson and Annie Dawson (nee Whitham).



Figure 7. Knottfield House, Rawdon, c.1873.



Figure 8. Benjamin Dawson's grave, St Stephen's, Kirkstall, Leeds. Photo 2009.



Figure 9. The grave of John Dawson and Annie (nee Witham), St Stephen's, Kirkstall, Leeds. Photo 2009.

‘and so to the future ... ’

The future of Benjamin Dawson & Co. was now in question. There were five children under the age of twelve with no parents living and one widow to be financially cared for, not forgetting that the recipients to John and Annie and Benjamin's Will needed to have their financial future secured, and trusts were required to be set up for them so they could access their money when they reached 21. Edwin had the unenviable task of administering the financial arrangements and making decisions as to the future of the company.

For the next two or three years after the death of John and Benjamin the business continued to trade. Two steamships, the ‘SS Charante’ and ‘SS Kirkstall’, were built to order by Benjamin and launched in late 1870. They had been specially adapted for the canals were used to ply goods between Goole and London. Although Goole is situated in the East Riding of Yorkshire and its port located 72 kilometres (45 miles)

inland on the River Ouse, strategically it was important for the transportation of hogsheads of ale down to London.

At the Kirkstall Brewery the hogsheads of ale were rolled through large arched doorways which were situated close to the waterline. This enabled easy access onto the barges. The hogsheads would then be transported up the Leeds-Liverpool Canal and onto Goole and then transferred onto the SS Charante and the SS Kirkstall and then onto London.

These vast supplies, some 26,000 hogsheads of India Pale Ales, strong ale, mild ale, light bitter, imperial stout, double stout and porter were not only sold in Leeds and throughout Yorkshire but were carried to much more distant locations, chiefly to Australia and New Zealand (see Fig. 11). To meet Admiralty demands it became necessary to transport the hogsheads by Aire and Calder Canal boats as far as Goole. In view of the long sea journeys and the stresses of the climate, great care was necessary to ensure that the hogsheads would stand the strain, and to this end Government Inspectors were taken on board during transhipment in order that leaky or faulty casks might be detected and eliminated.

In August 1870 a prospectus was issued to purchase the ‘Brewery and accessories’ and extend the business of



Figure 10. Kirkstall Brewery arched doorway.

**FROM BENJAMIN DAWSON & CO.'S
BREWERY,**
KIRKSTAL, LEEDS, ENGLAND.

Ex Chapman and Martin Luther.

65 hhds Ale, export, No 3
10 hhds Ale, pale
15 hhds Stout
A. P. STUART & CO.,
Agents.

Wellington, July 19th, 1865.

Figure 11. Advertisement in the Wellington Independent, 22 July 1865.

‘Messrs. Dawson and Co., of Kirkstall, near Leeds.’ The business was to be transferred to a limited company due to the death of two of the partners and the intervention and winding up the estate in the Court of Chancery. The arrangement was made under the authority of that court. Edwin, being the only surviving partner, accepted the position as managing director. There were four directors; Viscount Torrington, James Le Geyt Daniell, Henry Labouchere (Member of Parliament) and John E. Riley. The offices at this time were situated at no. 28, Martin’s Lane, Cannon Street, E.C. The company was renamed Benjamin Dawson and Company’s Brewery Company (Limited).

On the Saturday 27 August 1870 the *Leeds Mercury* reported that:

An important company has been introduced for the purpose of purchasing, working and extending the well-known prosperous brewery of Messrs. Benjamin Dawson and company, at Kirkstall, with its accessories at Hull, Stowmarket, Stonham, Goole, London Bridge, and Southwark, including the valuable steamships which ply between Goole and London, which ships incidentally conduct a lucrative carrying trade. The death of the late Mr. B. Dawson necessitated the intervention of the court of Chancery to close the accounts; and the sale has been effected under the same sanction, at a valuation, for £176,294, including the actual working capital, stock and so forth, as well as the profits from the 1st May last. It is therefore proposed by the new company, which is designated “Benjamin Dawson and Co.’s Brewery Company Limited,” to raise a capital of

£300,000 in 30,000 shares of £10 each, to complete the purchase and extend this remunerative business. Not more than £8 10s, per share are to be called up, the remaining 30s. being held in reserve, while the payment of the instalments extends over a period of twelve months from allotment. It is unnecessary in Yorkshire to dwell upon the success of Dawson’s brewery. The new company will have the benefit of Mr. Edwin P. Dawson’s services as managing director; and it is introduced to the market by the same firm of stock brokers, Messrs. Seymour, Elwyn, and Godden, who floated the two prosperous companies that arose out of the firm of Calvert and co., and Goding, Jenkins, and Co., now the “City of London Brewery Company” and the “Lion Brewery Company”.

The brewery was thus re-launched as a limited liability company. However, by mid-1871 an undertaking was introduced to the public under the title of ‘Benjamin Dawson and Company’s Brewery Company (Limited)’. A large proportion of the capital was subscribed, but the company was withdrawn. This was partly due to the financial disorganization caused by the Franco-German war of 1870, but also because it appeared more advisable to separate the brewery from the various other enterprises, such as the steamships plying between Goole and London and the maltings in Suffolk etc. These had been associated under the private management of Benjamin Dawson & Co. and had not proven as profitable as first thought.

One such enterprise was the partnership with Joseph Hurst, his late brother Benjamin’s, father in law. It was noted in the *London Gazette* of 3 March 1870 that they dissolved the partnership which they had ‘of British Wharf, Clink Street, Southwark Surrey (dealers in bottled ale).

The Kirkstall Brewery Company Limited came into existence on 23 June 1871. Henry Labouchere and John Staniforth, Archibald Calvert and Christopher Empson on behalf of a company intended to be forthwith formed and registered and called ‘The Kirkstall Brewery Company (Limited)’ (Late Benjamin Dawson & Co.)

Although Edwin had taken on the job of managing director he had his own businesses to oversee. Whilst managing the brewery he purchased the Brewers Arms at Stonham Parva on or about 1869 and employed a couple to manage it. Edwin also had his brewery at

Moor Street, Burton-on-Trent and here he traded under the name of Edwin Dawson & Co. To increase distribution of his ales, wines and spirits he purchased an outlet in 1884 at Market Place, Howden and employed John Hillkirk to manage it. John was still there in 1891. Edwin also had another store at Castlegate and Samuel Wells acted as the agent for him there. By September of 1880 Edwin wound up one of his business interests, the Birmingham Brewing, Malting and Distilling Company Limited which traded under the name of Edwin Popplewell Dawson and Co.

However, it does appear that Edwin got himself into a little strife. After spending nearly 15 years in the brewing industry in Leeds with a very well-known and trusted company he certainly would have made some very secure contacts and acquaintances. The one thing that Edwin was somewhat remiss about was the fact that he was not at liberty to solicit orders from his old customers, as they were part of the goodwill which went with the purchase of the brewery. The trustees of the brewery sort a motion for an interlocking injunction to restrain the Edwin from carrying on business in opposition to and soliciting orders from the plaintiffs, namely Mr Fry, Q.C., and Mr Marten. The interlocking injunction was sought on the allegation that Edwin had issued circulars to the plaintiff's customers and that he had no right after selling the business to try and get it back again, that is, the goodwill. Edwin's lawyer, however, noted that he could not be prevented from carrying on a like business, as long as he did not hold himself out to the world as carrying on the business he had sold, as the purchaser took the business with the knowledge that the surviving partner was at liberty to carry on the same business. Did 'goodwill' prevail?

Edwin, undoubtedly, survived this challenge, bowed out gracefully as the managing director and continued on as a brewer in the area. He owned the Brewers Arms at Stonham Parva for over 20 years, however, a piece in the *Bury & Norwich Post* on 19 July 1892 reports otherwise.

George and Angelina Markin were the landlords and the landlady states that: They had been in charge of the Brewers Arms at Stonham Parva. There had never been a written agreement between the tenants and the owner, Edwin Popplewell Dawson, brewer, until 1889. By 1890 they had been issued with a notice to quit, and left October 1891, being

replaced by George Wright. Their departure was far from smooth with Dawson suing the Markins for £34 11s. 9d. for dilapidation citing 84 separate repairs. The Markins counter sued for £50 for damage to their garden (caused by Dawson's builders). The Court ruled that Dawson pay £15 compensation and the Markins £10 to each other in compensation.

It appears that Edwin was a business man not to be fooled around with.

In 1881 he was living at Cavendish Road South, Kirkstall Lodge in Nottinghamshire. Edwin had two children, Benjamin and Mary. Edwin's wife Isabella died Friday 2 May 1890 at Bath. In 1891 aged 60 he was living in Little Stonham in Suffolk and his address was 'on Turnpike' and he was still noted as a Maltster. Between 1891 and at the time of his death in 1908 little is known of Edwin's activities. He was living at Long Clawson Hall, Melton Mowbray and also at Singleton Park, Westmoreland.

Edwin died on 9 October 1908 at 41 Temple Road, Stowmarket, Suffolk, aged 77. His effects were noted as £79,017.7s.4d. Edwin was buried at St Mary, Stonham Parva, with him is his wife Isabella, their son Benjamin and his wife Alice.



Figure 12. The grave of Edwin Popplewell Dawson and Isabella (nee Hodgson) Benjamin Dawson and Alice Mary (nee Bouch).

After the sale - Kirkstall Brewery

The Company was fortunate in securing the services as manager and brewer of Mr J.T. Swift late of the Albion Brewery, Mile-end who had been for some years the principal brewer at one of the most successful London breweries. The workers of Benjamin Dawson & Co. brewers transferred their services to the new company.

The books of the Brewery reveal the fact that there was a yearly output of 26,000 barrels of beer as far back as the year 1871. In 1874 a newspaper article stated,

the Brewery was not performing as expected and that £4,000 had been lost in the trading of the brewery for the last two years. A new local board of directors was recommended to immediately look into the affairs and a greater care should be devoted to the extension of the business amongst the publicans of the district of Leeds, Bradford and Yorkshire generally.

Re-equipping the plant, and building a high tower brewery so that it could operate on the gravity principle, production increased to 72,000 barrels by 1898.

In 1928 the controlling interest in the Albion Brewery (Leeds) Limited in Woodhouse Lane was purchased. In the following year the whole of the share capital of the Willow Brewery Co. Ltd. was acquired and the Willow Brewery in Kirkstall Road closed down.

In 1936 Dutton's Blackburn Brewery Ltd. purchased Kirkstall Brewery Co. Ltd. and its subsidiary, the Albion Brewery (Leeds) Ltd. The brewery closed for a short spell in the 1950s and was later taken over by Whitbread. The Brewery was again re-equipped and the production of bitter and mild went up to quarter of a million barrels a year. Sadly the brewery was closed in June 1982, bringing to an end a 150 year tradition of brewing in the Kirkstall Valley.

Kirkstall brewery stood empty and unused for several years until it was given a new lease of life in the late 1990s and a project was undertaken by the Leeds Metropolitan University to create Kirkstall Brewery Student Village. Within the student village is a block named after Benjamin Dawson & Co., simply known as 'Dawson House'. Parts of the brewery are known to be 200 years old; however official records only go back to



Figure 13. Building on left - Dawson House.

1834 when Thomas Walker was registered there in the Parish of Bramley as an 'Ale and Porter Brewer and Maltster.'

Acknowledgements

It would be an oversight if I failed to mention Keith Dawson who lives in Perth Australia, who stems from John the elders brother William. His mentoring, hypotheses, and endless supply research material of his own, has helped me unravel many mysteries. Special thanks to Diane Warrington CVA, MA, Dip. Tchg for proof reading my project.

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Leodis - A photographic archive of Leeds - Malt Mill Inn	St Stephen's Kirkstall, Leeds Church records
<i>London Gazette</i> (Copyright granted, The British Library Board, 16 December 2009)	The Law Reports (1871) M. B. Labouchere v Dawson
<i>One Hundred Years of Brewing</i>	The National Archives
Papers Past - New Zealand archival newspapers	<i>The Suffolk Real Ale Guide</i>
Peter Wood - Isle of Man	West Yorkshire Archive Service
<i>Pigot and Co.'s National Commercial Directory</i> 1828-1829	White Rose Etheses Online (Volume 1 and 2)
<i>Post Office Directory</i> 1766-1949	<i>Whites Gazette, History and Directory</i>
St John The Evangelist, Wortley - Monumental inscriptions	Wills and Probates of the Dawson family
	<i>Yorkshire Evening Post</i> 22 June 1982 p.4

Appendix: Timeline

Benjamin Dawson born 02.10.1733 Yeadon
 Marriage to Hannah Hodgson at All Saints, Otley on 28.06.1756
 Benjamin Dawson death 07.06.1807 Yeadon. Buried at St Oswald, Guiseley
 Occupation: Clothier

(Child) ↓

John Dawson born 01.03.1770
 Marriage to Sarah Womersley at St Oswald, Guiseley 13.09.1795
 John Dawson death 11.03.1835 Wortley Leeds. Buried St Oswald, Guiseley
 Occupation Corn Miller and Maltster

(Child) ↓

John Dawson born 08.09.1797 Yeadon
 Marriage to Mary Popplewell 31.12.1822 St Oswald, Guiseley
 John Dawson death 08.01.1864. Buried St John The Evangelist, Wortley Occupation Master Corn Miller

(Children) ↓

1825	Birth of Benjamin - Holbeck
1827	Birth of Susanna - Holbeck
1827	April - Death of Susanna - Wortley
1829	Birth of Sarah Jane - Wortley
1829	Purchase of corn mill - 20 Wortley Lane/Barleycorn Street, from S. Dawson a flourmiller/cornmiller/farmer from Knox Mill, Nidderdale (1829). Originally D. Dunderdale a Holbeck clothier sold the land. J. (John) Dawson junior operated it as 'New Wortley Steam Mill.
1828-9	<i>Pigot and Co.'s National Commercial Directory</i> John Dawson Jnr - New Wortley Steam Mill Corn Millers (noted as junior as his father was alive)
1828-9	<i>Pigot and Co.'s National Commercial Directory</i> John Dawson Snr - Mill Green Water Mill
1830	Birth of Edwin Popplewell - Wortley
1833	Birth of John - Wortley
1834	Professions and Trades for Leeds in <i>Pigots Directory</i> John Dawson, New Wortley - occupation - Miller
1835	Birth of Mary Hannah - Wortley
1837	Professions and trades for Leeds in <i>White's Directory</i>

John Dawson of Spence Lane, New Wortley, Corn Millers
 1837 Birth of Emily - Wortley
 1837 *White's 1837 Gazetteer; History and Directory*
 John Dawson, Spence Lane
 1838 Death of Emily, Spence Lane
 1839 Birth of Elizabeth - Wortley
 1841 Address: Spence Lane, New Wortley, occupation - Corn Miller
 1843/44 Acquisition of Brewery
 1845 Death of Mary at Whitehall Road, Wortley
 1851 Clearfield House, Whitehall Road, Wortley
 Miller and Corn Dealer, emp. 18 men
 1853 *White's Directory and Gazetteer of Leeds*
 Corn miller, Warehouse, wharf, Maltster & Brickmaker, New Wortley
 1853 *White's Directory and Gazetteer of Leeds, Bradford, Halifax, Huddersfield and Wakefield*
 Benjamin Dawson & Co. Brewers, Kirkstall & Warehouse Hill stores
 1857 *Post office Directory 1766-1946*
 Miller & Maltster, Whitehall Road, New Wortley (home address) Wortley Lane
 1861 Belle View House, Spring Mount, Bramley Leeds
 Occupation - Out of Business - retired
 1864 Death of John Dawson original owner of brewery
 1866 John Dawson Jnr sold the mill in 1866 for £725 (John d1867)
 1867 Death of John Dawson
 1869 Death of Benjamin Dawson
 1871 Kirkstall Brewery Company Limited came into existence
 1908 Death of Edwin Popplewell Dawson