

## BREWERIES OF LLANGOLLEN: PART I

GORDON W STONE

### Introduction

Visiting Llangollen in April 2012 I became aware of the visual remains of the once significant brewing industry. Tanqueray's Llangollen Brewery stands on the hillside, overlooking the town. Part of the Sun Brewery frontage can still be seen, as well as what was once the Crown Brewery. A number of public houses which formerly brewed on the premises exist, although some have changed their function. Street names changed as the town developed but the establishments in question remained where they were.

For this study Llangollen Museum provided invaluable information on the industry and the families associated with it. In addition the piecing together of census returns, town and county directories, newspaper reports and adverts plus old maps, gradually allowed a more complete picture to emerge. Walking the town played an important part, giving an additional perspective. Unfortunately there are gaps in our knowledge: production figures, investments, profits, raw materials (local barley and water). However, I hope the information I have assembled does provide a picture of the brewing industry and those who played a part in it.

19<sup>th</sup> century trade directories describe Llangollen as a market town; a centre for the exchange of different commodities. In the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the principle industries were flannel manufacturing, tanning and brewing and malting. In the neighbourhood were mines of lead and iron-stone, quarries of slate and limestone but throughout the larger area the labouring class was chiefly dependent on agriculture.

Following developments in communications - Telford's

road in the 1820s and rail, which arrived in 1852 - the valley bottom was opened up for the town to become a tourist centre. From 1860 speculative building took place to reflect the town's position. By 1889 there were five up-market hotels, some 25 pubs and taverns with eight temperance establishments.<sup>1</sup>

Early in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and before brewing was carried out on a small scale within the home and farm. Public houses, inns and shops brewed for sale, before the arrival of larger scale producers. Many local inns possessed a brew-house.

Following W.T. Simpson's visit to the town his observations were published in *Some Account of Llangollen and its Vicinity* of 1827:

There are twelve licensed inns and public houses in this little town, all of them very respectable; and whether it is owing to superior management, or to the excellence of the water, which is the most pure imaginable, and flows abundantly in every part of the town, the ale brewed in Llangollen is great and deserved repute all over the kingdom.<sup>2</sup>

Unfortunately, there are no indications of who exactly brewed this excellent ale. Several years later, in 1829 and 1831, local directories name maltsters, but not brewers in the town:

John Jones, maltster and publican [Butcher's Arms]  
John Jones, maltster  
Owen Owen, maltster and publican [Golden Lion]  
Evans Robert, maltster

Following the Beer House Act of 1830 there was a growth in commercial breweries and as we shall see

Llangollen beers became highly regarded and widely sold. The 1835 directory names six brewers:

Edward Humphries [Pen y Bryn]  
Edward Jones  
Thomas Jones [also publican at the Woolpack]  
William Morgan [Llangollen Brewery]  
Owen Owens [also publican at the Golden Lion]  
Roberts and Davies

### The larger breweries

This study covers the brewing activity which took place for most of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and into the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century- a time span of some 80 years. This period, within its historical and geographical setting is an interesting and even exciting one to the brewery historian. Everything was in a state of fluidity, with the inevitable change from domestic to commercial production. This involved changes in technology, economies of scale, and the end of family lines.

Also in the background was the existence of the temperance movement. This has not been taken into account here; it being out of the parameters of this study.

Baker's Sun Brewery and Tanqueray's Llangollen Brewery were long lasting, whereas some of the smaller breweries did not survive for so long. I have included all those which were recorded, regardless of size and longevity; each being part of the whole picture.

### The Sun Brewery

The Sun Brewery was the longest running brewery in Llangollen. The Baker family were associated with the enterprise for much of its life. Early evidence of their link with the brewery came in the form of beer bottles, date stamped 1738. These were discovered during the digging of foundations for a new tennis court in the grounds of Plas-yn-Llan, the Baker's home.

The brewery, initially, was most likely located in the Sun Inn on Regent Street. Slater's *North Wales Directory* of 1829 shows Elizabeth Jones at the Sun public house. She was born in Burlton, Shropshire as were her nephews - Robert and John Baker, who in



Figure 1. The Sun Inn. Photo G.W. Stone, 2012.

different ways were to become part of the brewing and retailing of beer in Llangollen. By 1851 she was recorded on the census as a widow and brewer, aged 66 and was probably taking a back seat as her nephew Robert Baker, unmarried, aged 37, is shown as a brewer at the same address.

After the death of his aunt in 1859 (effects under £800) Robert Baker took over control of the brewery and became established across the road from the Sun Inn. He purchased the former chapel at the bottom of Butler's Hill and had a large vat installed there. Brewing could now take place for the wholesale trade rather than being situated in a public house; although there would still be family connections with the latter.



Figure 2. The former chapel to the left with Robert Baker's malthouse. Photo: G.W. Stone, 2012.

The Butler's Hill premises were sold some time before 1871, at which date they were occupied by George Hartley and the Crown Brewery. Following this sale, Robert built a new brewery further along Regent Street/London Road opposite the school.<sup>3</sup>

Three men were employed in the brewery in 1861 plus Robert Baker aged 47, listed as brewer and maltster, being unmarried at the time. Following the construction of the new brewery, the number of employees had increased to six by 1871. Robert had married Martha c1863, with the household comprising of 4 children, 1 governess, 1 nurse and 1 domestic servant. The business was clearly prospering.

The Sun Brewery frequently advertised in the local press over the years, with the same wording, usually via one of its outlets as in this example from the *Llangollen Advertiser* 10 January 1868:

Mr W Owen, Forrester's Arms, Regent Street  
The well-known and celebrated Ales from Baker's Sun  
Brewery  
And all Spirituous Liquors supplied

A final part of the expansion was the construction and completion of a new malt-house in 1873 (Fig. 4). The *Llangollen Advertiser* 21 November 1873 spoke of an immensely large malt-house being built by Mr Robert Baker opposite the Sun Inn. The report observed that the spirited proprietor was doing an enormous trade to require such a large block of buildings to turn barley into malt, in addition to the malt-house he already had.



Figure 3. Sun Brewery malt-house. Photo: G.W. Stone, 2012.

Unfortunately Robert Baker died 17 May 1875 aged 61, according to probate, at the Sun Brewery and left effects of under £5,000. His widow Martha E. Baker took over the running of the brewery. Prior to the death of Robert, a family home had been built - Plas-yn-Llan, in the town. This was the subject of an advert in the *Liverpool Mercury* of 24 June 1875:

Property to let  
A newly built villa, standing in its own grounds of about one  
acre and a half  
Apply to Mrs Baker, Sun Brewery

A further insight into the running of the brewery is illustrated by this advert in the *Llangollen Advertiser*, 5 May, 1876:

Wanted  
Young man to attend to a pony and go out with ale  
Apply the Sun Brewery

By 1881 Martha (48) living at Plas-yn-Llan was shown as a brewer and maltster. Her three daughters Patty (12) Emma (12) Edith (9) and son Robert Llewellyn (17) lived there with her. A governess and two domestic staff were also employed.

Problems occurred during day to day working at the brewery. In March 1880 the surveyor's report to the Llangollen Water Board had shown that, 'Mrs Baker had not used any water in her brewery for the previous twelve months from the supplier. After some deliberation the brewery was charged for the rent of the meter, plus the minimum tariff of £1'. It is difficult to imagine the brewery functioning without water and what reason was given for this state of affairs. This was one example of a number of problems relating to the measurement of water use in breweries in the town.

A further problem emerged in 1885 concerning smoke nuisance from the brewery malt house. This was voiced in a letter to the local newspaper from a ratepayer and provides a picture of the brewery at work.

The nuisance is of long standing ... complaints are on all sides ... the volume of abominable smoke that is poured from Mr Baker's Brewery every Sunday evening at 8-30, just as places of worship are emptied ... this vile nuisance spreads itself about the time the brewery lights up its furnaces ...

those who have authority in such cases should compel the Brewery owners to raise their chimneys or cease to light their fires till after midnight on Sundays ...

Martha's son Robert Llewellyn (aged 22) was seen to be taking an active role in the brewery's affairs and evidence of diversification is shown in this advert from the *Liverpool Mercury* 29 November 1886:

Building plots for sale - apply Robert Baker, Sun Brewery

Martha Baker, in 1891, is still shown as a brewer and employer with her three grown-up daughters and one general servant living at Plas yn Llan. Robert Llewellyn living at a separate address with his family, together with one servant and a nurse, is listed as a brewer.

Mindful of public opinion with regard to arsenic in beer, the brewery issued this statement in the *Llangollen Advertiser* 14 December 1900:

**MESSRS BAKER & CO**  
**BREWERS**  
**LLANGOLLEN**  
OWING to the BEER SCARE have had  
SAMPLES OF  
**THEIR BEERS**  
AND BREWING MATERIALS SPECIALLY  
EXAMINED and they have  
BEEN CERTIFIED  
FREE FROM ARSENIC  
OR ANY OTHER DELETERIOUS  
MATTER

We can also say that  
WE ARE AND HAVE BEEN FOR SOME TIME IN THE  
HABIT OF HAVING EVERY BREWING TESTED  
AND ANALYSED AND THAT WE HAVE NOT HAD TO  
MAKE ANY ALTERATIONS IN THE BREWING OF OUR  
BEERS OR THE MATERIALS USED IN THEIR  
PRODUCTION

Emissions continued to cause difficulties in the town as highlighted in the *Llangollen Advertiser* 2 August 1902; 'An abatement order made against M E Baker, brewers, in respect of nuisance caused by smoke from their premises was adjourned on the understanding that steps would be taken to alter the chimney to prevent nuisance'.



Figure 4. Sun Brewery 1920s. Photo: Llangollen Museum.

Martha Elizabeth Baker died aged 71 in May 1907 and left effects of £9,343. The business was continued by her son, Robert Llewellyn who was recorded in the 1911 census as a master brewer. He continued to operate the brewery until closure between 1922 and the end of 1924. Robert Llewellyn Baker died, aged 61, in December 1924 leaving effects to the value of £26,204. The following are extracts from his obituary in the local newspaper:

He was the son of the late Mr Robert Baker, of the firm of R. Baker & Co, Sun Brewery, and was the owner of several of the principle licensed houses in the town and neighbourhood. Several years ago he formed the extensive business of the Sun Motor Company, which was the first motor works in the town, and under his directorship has developed into one of



Figure 5. Sun Brewery premises in 2012. Photo: G.W. Stone.

the leading motor works in the Principality ... Some years ago he occupied a seat on the Urban District Council ... His departure will be a great loss to the poor in the town, who always at this time of the year had been remembered by the Baker family ...

That the Sun Brewery carried on trading from before the 19<sup>th</sup> century well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century is due to the continuity of an entrepreneurial family line, which included strong female figures. Activities such as improving brewing capacity together with the ownership of outlets and diversification into land and property as well as the motor trade, ensured the Sun Brewery lasted into relatively modern times. Of course, without the production of good local beer, the life of the brewery would have been much shorter.

The *Llangollen Advertiser* 6 May 1938 obliquely suggests that the premises of the brewery were converted into use for the Sun Motor Company:

Another industry which has been lost to the town is the Malting and Brewing. Firms like Tanqueray's Brewery, the Sun Brewery, the Prince of Wales Brewery and the Hall Street Brewery, which used to employ a large number of persons. All these have now been converted, some into motor garages and others into workshops and dwelling houses.

During the 1920s Plas yn Llan, became a private hotel under the proprietress, Miss M E Johnson, late of the Royal Hotel, Llangollen. The hotel ceased trading and after the 1980s the house became known as Oakmere.

### **Tanqueray's Llangollen (Pen Y Bryn) Brewery**

William Morgan, by about 1835, had set up a brewery on Hall Street, initially calling it the Llangollen Brewery, but he later changed the name to the Hall Street Brewery. This will be studied in a later section but was unrelated to the premises later owned by John S. Tanqueray on Berwyn Road.

Early owners of this brewery used the Pen y Bryn name and on occasion called it the Llangollen Brewery. Walter Booth, upon his arrival, finally confirmed the name as the Llangollen Brewery c.1853. The Pen y Bryn Brewery had an illustrious number of brewers with expertise coming from out of the area and particularly

the Tanqueray family from London with experience of distilling and brewing. The occupant of Pen y Bryn Hall was usually associated with the brewery which was part of the same estate and was situated close by.

As noted earlier, the local directories of 1829 and 1831 show no brewers for the town. In 1829 Henry Parry Esq. was shown living in Pen y Bryn Hall, listed under Nobility, Gentry and Clergy. The sale of 1834 (details shown below) includes a comprehensive collection of brewing equipment but not the premises. Brewing was obviously taking place, but I have been unable to find details.

An extract from the *Chester Chronicle* 9 September 1834 carries a detailed sale at the Pen y Bryn Brewery but there is no identification of the previous owner:

#### TO BREWERS

Large and unreserved sale at Pen y Bryn Brewery, Llangollen

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION BY Mr BOWEN (auctioneer) on the 23rd 24th 25th and 26th days of September 1834 on the premises at Pen y Bryn

The whole of the truly valuable, genteel, and modern HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE [details given] ... as well as the STOCK-IN-TRADE, and the whole of the valuable BREWING UTENSILS, comprising thirty barrels of good old ale, twenty barrels of porter; upwards of eight hundred capital ale barrels, different sizes; excellent copper pan, capable of brewing twenty barrels; 300 gallon iron boiler, with flange pipes; two large and capitally-made mash tubs, with patent false bottoms, adapted for 45 measures each; excellent under-back, and two square coolers proportionately large; two strongly-made working rounds, one adapted for fifteen, and the other seven barrels; exceedingly strong and capitally made porter vat with jig pump, coupling ...?, ...?, forcing pump with drain barrel on top ...?, capable of holding 143 barrels; and a general and extensive assortment of small coolers, tubs and other brewing utensils. Also an excellent and superior built waggon, with six-inch wheels and iron arms; cart, plough, winnowing machine, patent straw cutter, and numerous other effects; being the entire establishment, stock-in-trade, and brewing utensils, on the said premises.

Order of sale

First day: kitchen, three bedrooms, office, yard, waggons, &c.

Second Day: dining, drawing, and three bed-room suites, plate and books

Third Day: large brewing utensils, ale and porter

Fourth Day: ale casks, &c.

Edward Humphreys was recorded as a brewer in the local directory for 1835, perhaps taking up occupation following the sale of 1834. Unfortunately, things were not going well for him. According to the *North Wales Chronicle* 9 July 1839 Edward Humphreys, formerly of the Llangollen Brewery (Pen y Bryn), living at Penllyn, at the other end of town from the Pen y Bryn estate, was to appear at the Court for Relief of Insolvent debtors in August 1839, being a prisoner in the gaol of Lancaster Castle. His other occupations included being a retail dealer in ale, a joiner in Llangollen and latterly a warehouse-man in Liverpool.

By 27 March 1835, according to the *Chester Chronicle*, Pen y Bryn Hall - a desirable residence, was for sale, together with/or without 16 acres of land. The prospectus for the sale carried an impressive description of the Hall, out buildings, gardens and grounds, without mention of the brewery. This could have been worked by Edward Humphreys, living away from the Pen y Bryn site.

Charles Clare Berry was established there in 1840,<sup>4</sup> in the aftermath of the previous owner. He was born in 1812 in Ibstock, Leicestershire. In 1841 he is a brewer, living at Pen y Bryn Hall with his family and four servants and also listed at the Pen y Bryn Brewery. The *Chester Chronicle* of 24 February 1843 carried an advert indicating there were ambitions to expand trade out of the area and into Cheshire:

GENUINE LLANGOLLEN ALE STORE, GROSVENER STREET, CHESTER

JAMES DOBSON is induced from his connection with one of the first Brewers in Wales, to open a store for the sale of this far-famed Ale (only).

From the natural position of the Brewery, the water springs from the mountain into the boiler. The malt is prepared and ground on an entirely new principle and the richest and most brilliant ale is the result.

Families have now an opportunity of obtaining this delicious ale in small or large quantities.

Six pence and eight pence per quart  
Eight-pence per bottle, or 7s 6d per dozen  
Grosvenor Street Carpet Warehouse

The Pen y Bryn Brewery fits the above description, although the tenuous nature of the trade is shown by the fact that within three months, the Hall, the Brewery, and the estate would be up once more for auction. Perhaps the Chester outlet (confined to bottled ale), was a belated attempt to increase revenue in difficult times.

It was to be a short stay for Charles Clare Berry in Llangollen. By 1851, aged 39, he had returned to Ibstock following the sale of the brewery, living on a farm with his aunt, who was a landed proprietor. He continued to list his occupation as that of a brewer.

The whole Pen-y-Bryn estate, which included the mansion and the brewery, was put up for auction in May of 1843.



Figure 6. Advert for the auction of the Pen y Bryn Brewery. Photo: Llangollen Museum.

Lot 6 - The most substantial, well-built and celebrated brewery, at the foot Gerant Hill, capable of brewing upwards of 100 barrels a week, and late in the occupation of Charles Clare Berry Esq and which is so admirably constructed to save manual labour that it is pronounced by most able judges to be one of the best planned in the kingdom.

Unfortunately we do not know of the actual weekly output, although potential production at this time, before the expansion of the town, would indicate a good share of the local market.

From the date of the sale to the probable arrival of the next occupant, Walter Booth, there is a gap in documentation; the brewery does not appear in trade directories for 1844 and 1850. The 1851 census for Pen y Bryn Hall shows only a groom, a farm labourer and a carpenter in residence. Edward Jones may have been in occupation at the brewery from 1850 (lease for Pen y Bryn Brewery given) as documentation names him in the surrender of the lease in 1853. In the same year a valuation of articles in the brewery took place.

*Bagshaw's Directory* of 1850, for Cheshire, shows Walter Booth as a brewer at St Werburgh's Place and living in Fore-gate Street, Chester. The following year he is recorded in the 1851 census, operating as a master brewer, employing four men at Brook Street West, Chester. He obviously was an individual with wider interests in the trade as he had business involvements with timber and spirit merchants in Chester. Preparation for his future move is evidenced in this item in the *Chester Chronicle* 15 January, 1853:

TO BE LET

With immediate possession the THREE following well-known and old established PUBLIC HOUSES - the Waterloo Tavern Hand Bridge, the Forester's Arms Northgate Street, and the Painter's Arms St Martin's-in-the-Fields.

For particulars apply to Mr Walter Booth, St Werburgh Street Brewery.

These interests may have included the ownership or possession of the two breweries - one in Brook Street and the one in St Werburgh Street. The 16 April 1853 edition of the *Chester Chronicle* carried the following item:

TO BE LET with immediate possession, that old established BREWERY, situate in Saint Werburgh Street, in the city of

Chester, capable of brewing from 20 to 30 barrels per week, and now for the last 10 years in the occupation of Mr Walter Booth, who is leaving Chester, having taken a more extensive brewery at Llangollen.

For particulars apply to Mr Walter Booth, on the premises.

Walter had arrived in Llangollen by 1853, as his daughter Eva was born there. The brewery was renamed the Llangollen Brewery. Tragically on 16 January 1854 his son Walter Everard Litherland, aged two years and four months, died of scarlet fever.

Walter is shown in local directories for 1858 and 1859 as 'Walter Booth and Company, Llangollen Brewery, Brewer/s'. An advertisement in the *Birmingham Daily Post* of 24 December 1860 gives an idea of the development at the Brewery and the trading area, bearing in mind that many tourists would visit from the Midlands:

LLANGOLLEN ALES

W BOOTH and Co. respectfully beg to announce that, in consequence of the great and increasing demand for these healthy and delicious beverages, they have greatly enlarged their Brewery at Llangollen, and are now prepared to send out any quantity, at short notice, in 18, 36, or 54 gallons, without any increase in price, and with a liberal discount.

Apply to

MR W PRICE,

5, VILLA STREET, HOCKLEY: SOLE AGENT for BIRMINGHAM and its vicinity.

The census of 1861 shows Walter, living at Pen y Bryn with his family, as a brewer, employing 22 men and 2 children. This seems to be a rather large labour force, but probably is a reflection of the enlargement of the brewery that had taken place; although the 1843 bill of sale spoke of the brewery of the time as being admirably constructed to save manual labour.

An agent was retained in Chester. *Slater's Directory* for 1855 shows David Lloyd of Abbey Gate as agent to Walter Booth, Llangollen Brewery. This was to result in a court case, which reveals interesting details about the everyday workings of the trade as reported in the *Chester Chronicle* of 30 August 1856:

At the County Court on Wednesday, Mr Walton, brewer of this city, summoned Mr Walter Booth of Llangollen, for £2 10s 0d, the price of some ale which Mr Lloyd, late agent to

Mr Booth, in this city, had purchased of plaintiff. The facts were that a publican in Boughton, a customer of Mr Booth's, went to R Lloyd some time since for some ale. Mr Lloyd had none in store, and as the article was wanted immediately he went and obtained some from Mr Walton. Mr Booth said his agent had left him, and knew nothing of the transaction. He never authorised Mr Lloyd to buy goods on his account. His Honour said that unless an agent had a separate authority from his principle to buy as well as for him, debts incurred by him were irrecoverable from the principle. A nonsuit was accordingly entered.

Chester directories for 1860 show Edward Watson acting as agent on behalf of Walter Booth, brewer, maltster, Ale and Porter Merchant at 3 Little Abbey Street/Northgate Street.

The Llangollen Brewery, in addition to the outlet in Chester, seemed to be consolidating and expanding its market position out of the locality and making use of the now established rail and shipping networks as evidenced by the following advertisement from *Freeman's Journal*, 25 July 1860:

WELSH ALES

WALTER BOOTH and Co., Llangollen Brewery, beg to inform the public that they have OPENED a STORE in Dublin for the sale of their celebrated Llangollen Ales in casks of 18, 36, and 54 Gallons, which may be had at 14 CROWN ALLEY Commercial Buildings, at the following

Prices:-

Strong Welsh Ale ... 60s per Barrel of 36 Gallons

Mild Welsh Ale ... 54s & 44s per Barrel

East India Pale Ale ... 54s per Barrel

Brazilian Bitter Beer ... 44s per Barrel

The usual discounts allowed to the trade

This shows the Strong Welsh Ale to be of considerable strength, judging by the price differential. One of the two types of Mild Welsh Ale appears to be the same strength as the East India Pale Ale.

I am uncertain of the origin of Brazilian Bitter Beer but according to on-line information it is a blonde beer and may relate to German immigration to Brazil in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the first breweries there dating from the 1830s. I have been unable to discover anything of the market for this beer, which obviously existed, in North Wales (Wrexham?) and Ireland.

Further problems occurred with agents/travellers when:

Mr George Hodgson, traveller to Walter Booth, and Co, brewers, Llangollen, who had been admitted to bail on the charge of having embezzled several sums of money which he had received on account of his employers, appeared, on remand at the Liverpool Police Court on Monday last. Mr Cobb endeavoured to elicit from Mr Booth that twelve guineas paid to him by Mr Hodgson were on account of the three charged as the embezzlements. After the case had proceeded for some time, it was adjourned, the prisoner being again admitted to bail.<sup>5</sup>

Two newspaper adverts appear under the name of Thomas Booth who managed the brewery and may have been Walter's brother. The penetration of the Midlands continued with advertising in the *Birmingham Daily Post*, 16 December 1863:

BOOTH'S LLANGOLLEN ALES

THESE celebrated WELSH ALES are now in fine condition and are supplied direct from the Brewery, in Hogsheads, Barrels, and Kilderkins.

Prices on application and orders with cash or reference will have prompt attention.

THOMAS BOOTH The Brewery, Llangollen.

Shortly afterwards, on 21 January 1864, *the Birmingham Daily Post* announced:

BOOTH'S LLANGOLLEN ALES - AGENTS WANTED, at West Bromwich, Walsall, Bilston and Stourbridge, for the Sale of these celebrated Welsh Ales. Exceptionable references and

Security required. Only those need apply who understand the trade

And have a good connection. -

Apply by letter only

Thomas Booth,

The Brewery, Llangollen

N.B. Applications not answered may be considered unsuitable.

The Midlands were a close urban area, linked by rail, whose population would be familiar with the beers and the town of Llangollen through holiday excursions. Geographically it would be a logical step to move in this direction but it also displayed a confidence in the quality of the beers, particularly in the light of the Midlands



having an extensive brewing industry, as well as being close to Burton-on-Trent.

By 1868 the Llangollen Brewery was listed under the name of Thomas Booth & Co. in the local directory. Ownership is unclear; Walter had moved to live in Anglesey, where in 1871 aged 47, he had no occupation and was receiving income from houses and land.

In 1869 John Samuel Tanqueray had purchased the brewery from Walter/Thomas Booth. It is unclear why he moved to Llangollen. There were stories of some kind of connection between Booth and Tanqueray as they were both well-known brands of gin but there is no evidence of any relationship in Llangollen.

At this time it was not only the Midlands that Llangollen drew upon as the following description illustrates:

the tall yellow-bricked buildings form a gravity system for the brewery of John S Tanqueray who came to Llangollen in opposition to the earlier breweries of Robert Baker in Regent Street (London Road) and of William Morgan of Pentre Morgan of the Hall Street Brewery. The deep gravel water beds follow an earlier River Dee course. It was customary for char-a-bancs to arrive from Liverpool with passengers eager to sample Tanqueray's well known brew. Most of the Bridge and Church Street inns brewed their own beer but the new style of large brewery changed this pattern.<sup>6</sup>

The Tanqueray family was connected with the Willaume family through marriage. David Willaume was an English goldsmith of French origin. His daughter, Anne (1691-1733), married the Huguenot goldsmith, David Tanqueray. The Willaume name occurs later in this study. This background most likely provided a source of investment for the business enterprises of the Tanqueray family.

John Samuel Tanqueray, the son of a clergyman, was born in 1818 in Tingrith, Bedfordshire and was part of the family associated with the introduction of the well-known gin. This was initially distilled in 1830 by Charles Tanqueray (born 1810 and brother of John) in the Bloomsbury district of London. Charles died in 1865 (probate of £60,000 revised 1867 to £45,000). His son Charles Waugh Tanqueray, aged 20, inherited the distillery. By 1871, William H. Tanqueray, 57, brother

of John Samuel was living at 4 Bloomsbury Street and was shown as a rectifier (distiller), employing 7 clerks and 15 men. The Bloomsbury Distillery merged with Gordon's in 1898 and continued to operate until it was severely damaged in World War II.

John Samuel was associated with the family trade. In 1851, aged 33, he was recorded as a distiller and a magistrate, living in Hendon, London. In 1853 he joined the brewers, Combe Delafield, as a partner and by 1864 he was a Master of the Brewers' Company. In 1869 he left Combe's to found his own brewery; set up in an old builder's yard at 17, Arthur Street, New Oxford Street. By 1871 it was listed as Tanqueray & Co. but ceased the following year.

Presumably to publicise John Samuel Tanqueray's arrival at the Llangollen Brewery, the *Llangollen Advertiser*, 9 January 1869, records:

On Saturday evening last J.S. Tanqueray of the Llangollen Brewery treated all his workmen, about twenty-five in number, with a sumptuous supper at the Cambrian Hotel, made by host and hostess Mr and Mrs Jones. After the table being cleared, the chair was taken by Edward Tanqueray and vice-chair by Mr Edward Rowlands. Several speeches were delivered during the evening.

Later in the month a visit to the brewery reported, 'the costly and modern machinery, which [is] made use of in the malting and brewing departments ... a vast quantity of ale sent out daily ... a reservoir being made at Nant y Bachau'. Further, an advertisement of 25 February 1869, in the *Birmingham Daily Post* outlined the trading area of the brewery:

JOHN S.TANQUERAY  
LLANGOLLEN BREWERY, LLANGOLLEN  
BIRMINGHAM STORES, SHERBOURN ROAD,  
JOHN BIGFORD, AGENT

As part of the on-going debate concerning the water supply to and in the town, in 1869 mention was made of 'Tanqueray's excellent scheme, to obtain plenty of splendid water for the use of his eminent brewery from the inexhaustible spring, Nant y Bache'.

The annual dinner was held in the Ponsonby Arms for 30 men:

A first class Christmas dinner was given, with John Samuel Tanqueray present. A letter was read out from Arthur [Charles] Tanqueray (son of John Samuel and a brewer) expressing regret at his inability to attend but said he was pleased with conduct and service during the past year.<sup>7</sup>

Shortly afterwards the following disastrous event took place, recorded by Llangollen Advertiser:

At about 3.00 a.m. on the 15 April 1870, a destructive fire took place at the Llangollen Brewery, the extensive premises of Messrs Tanqueray and Company, by which a large portion of the building, together with its contents were totally destroyed.

For about half an hour, there were fears the whole premises would be destroyed. Books were removed from the offices together with the large stock of malt and hops, stored at the other part of the building. 'A chain of men was formed from the yard to the roof ... a number of slates were taken off, the rafters cut, and hundreds of buckets of water poured in, which completely checked the fury of the fire ... the Fire Brigade were promptly on the spot, but the hose was 50 yards too short to reach from the hydrant to the building, therefore they were of no avail. Ultimately a large supply of water was obtained from the reservoir belonging to the Brewery, which was poured on to the burning mass with their private hose.

The loss was estimated to be £1,500, the premises being insured with a London office. Business would be suspended for a few weeks; the origin of the fire was unknown.

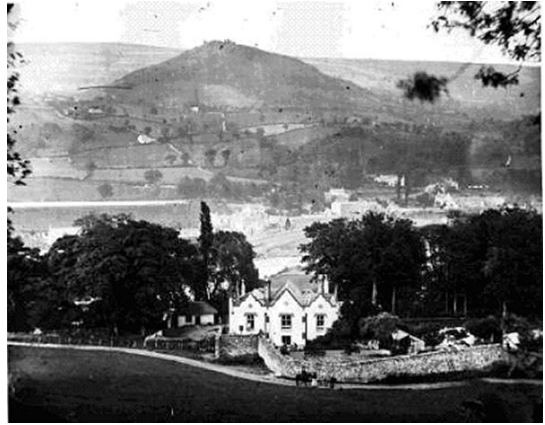
By 20 May 1870 a local newspaper report observed the new building was said to be:

A vast improvement on the old structure and would allow brewing to take place on a more extensive scale than before. The new machinery, it was hoped, would be the means of producing the very best ale and plenty of it to satisfy the increasing demand.

A further item from 8 July 1870 observed that,

On Friday evening last, the bricklayers and labourers employed to rebuild the Pen y Bryn brewery having completed the brickwork, were regaled with bread and cheese and cwrw da (good beer). A pleasant evening was spent.

In September, as part of the reconstruction of the brewery, an immensely large boiler was conveyed on



*Figure 7. Pen y Bryn Hall, the home of John Samuel Tanqueray - demolished 1978. Photo: Llangollen Museum.*

a timber carriage from the railway station to the newly built brewery which was now drawing to completion.

There were 16 men and 3 boys working at the rebuilt brewery in 1871. John S. Tanqueray aged 53, brewer and magistrate was living at Pen y Bryn Hall, a short distance from the brewery, with his wife, four daughters and two sons: Arthur Charles Tanqueray aged 24, brewer and John William (Willaume) aged 19, brewer, plus 4 servants.

In 1881 John Samuel was still at Pen y Bryn Hall with his family which included 6 daughters. His son, John Willaume brewer, was living and working with his father.

Four years earlier, in 1877, Arthur Charles Tanqueray was left Llangollen for a position as manager in a large London brewery. A presentation was made to him by various organisations and brewery workers.<sup>8</sup>

He joined Reid & Co. in 1881 and was recorded as a practical brewer at their Griffin Brewery, Clerkenwell Road (formerly Liquorpond Street). Two years later Mr Strout, the head brewer, moved to Sheffield. Arthur took his place until the amalgamation in 1898 (Watney, Combe, Reid & Co.). In 1891, he was living at Reid's Brewery Buildings, Brewery House, Leather Lane, with his sister and brother, together with 3 servants (including a page). That year he became President of the Institute of Brewing. The 1901 census return shows Arthur Charles aged 54, as head brewer at Combe's

Woodyard Brewery, Castle Street (later Shelton Street), Long Acre. Presumably after closure in 1905 he moved to the Watney's Stag Brewery, where he became head brewer until 1910. By 1911 Arthur Charles was retired, living in Bournemouth, aged 64. He died in 1917, in Kent leaving probate of £1,880.

On the 15 November 1899 Charles Hanbury Tanqueray (brother of John Samuel), a wine merchant and rectifier of 5 Pall Mall and Reading, died. Probate was to his widow Mary, James Truman Tanqueray, gentleman and Arthur Charles Tanqueray, brewer. Effects after being re-sworn were £20,181 [Hanbury and Truman, two noted brewery names].

In 1871, shortly after John Samuel's arrival in Llangollen, Averling Tanqueray, his brother, aged 52, and also a brewer was living in Westminster [perhaps involved in the Arthur Street / New Oxford Street enterprise?] but by 1881 he had left London and was living in Cambrian Terrace, Llangollen, as a lodger, unmarried, in the same dwelling as a widow and a domestic servant, his occupation being that of a brewer.

Shortly after 1881 it seems John Samuel had vacated the running of the Llangollen brewery. His brother, Averling, is shown in proceedings at the County Court at Wrexham in 1883. Creditors of Mary Ann Hill, inn keeper, of the Berwyn Inn, Glyndyfrdwy (a few miles to the east of the town on the A5) were required to prove debts and send claims to Averling Tanqueray, brewer of Llangollen, the trustee under the liquidation.

In 1891, at the time of the census, only the gardener and his wife were listed at Pen-y-Bryn Hall. Averling Tanqueray, aged 72, was recorded as a brewer and employer and living at 66, Berwyn Street with his wife and two servants.

The marriage of Averling's step-daughter took place during February 1894. Following the departure of the bride and bridegroom by rail, the employees sat down to a splendid repast, kindly given by Averling Tanqueray, at the Waterloo Inn. A pleasant evening was said to have taken place, during which the usual toasts were given.

In 1901, Averling was shown as widowed, an employer and brewer, living in Cambrian Terrace, Llangollen, with one servant.



Figure 8. Llangollen from the bridge looking towards the brewery c. 1900. Photo: Llangollen Museum.

The issue of water supply continued with a report in the *Llangollen Advertiser* 18 August 1899 that the main water pipes from the brewery to the reservoir were being re-laid with larger ones.

No longer lived in by the Tanqueray family, in 1901 Pen y Bryn Hall was occupied by George Gouys Barker aged 40 and his four sisters from Huyton in Lancashire, together with three servants. The sisters were shown as living on their own means. George was recorded as a brewer. They were the family of Richard Barker, owner of the Huyton Brewery, Archway Road/Derby Road, Huyton, which was established in 1823 and recorded in *Pigot's Directory* of 1828/29 for Prescott.

John Willaume Tanqueray aged 49, son of John Samuel, had returned to the brewery (1901) and was shown as a brewer and an employer. He was the last recorded working member of the family. In 1911 he was listed as a brewer, living at Glenwood in Llangollen with his wife Jane Lucy.

Meanwhile, in 1901, John S. Tanqueray, aged 83, retired brewer, was living in Hastings with 5 of his daughters (ages 34-56 years, all un-married) plus 2 servants. He died in Hastings the following year.

The Barkers may have had a financial interest in the brewery and could have been partners alongside Willaume. However, by 1911 George Barker had moved to Birkenhead, living in Hoylake and working as a brewer, probably in the family business.

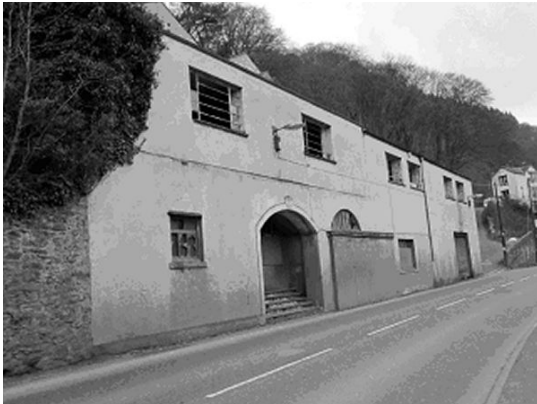


Figure 9. Brewery frontage. Photo: G.W. Stone, 2012.



Figure 10. Figure 9. Side view. Photo: G.W. Stone, 2012.

The Llangollen Brewery's local eminence was coming to an end. Averling Tanqueray, brewer there since coming from London, probably before 1881, died in 1914, a few days short of his ninety-fifth birthday - effects: £197.0s.9d.

The obituary, published in the *Llangollen Advertiser* of 20 March 1914, spoke of him

arriving from London, where he had received his early business training, to take over the control of the Llangollen Brewery, having resided in the town for almost half a century. He had won the esteem of his numerous employees by the generosity with which he always treated them ... for many years he had lived, more or less in retirement ... a very charming personality ... a Conservative of the old fashioned type ... in early days rode the hounds ... knowledge of racing matters was remarkable ... perhaps one of the oldest Freemasons in the Kingdom.

The bearers at the funeral were four of the old employees of the deceased; Mr Gomer Rowlands, Mr Ivor Morris, Mr Charles Andrews and Mr Edward Davies. They had laid a wreath upon the grave 'In respectful memory of one of the best of masters, Gomer, Ivor, Charlie and Ted'.

He was succeeded, as noted above, by John Willaume. However, in 1919/20 the brewery was for sale, the public houses being acquired by F.W. Soames & Co. of Wrexham.

A sale was scheduled to take place on 26 February 1920 at the Hand Hotel, Llangollen concerning:

The very extensive and commodious Freehold Premises well known as Tanqueray's Brewery Llangollen  
 Good road and rail links  
 Complete brewery plant  
 Excellent stabling for 3 horses, harness room and cooperage  
 Famous artesian well, with abundant water supply  
 Property substantially built, the back portion being four stories high  
 Loading stations accessible to several large rooms - 14 in number, 31 to 59 feet long and 15 to 31 feet wide  
 2 good offices  
 Well adapted for any industry  
 Large covered wash-house  
 Boiler shed in a large, enclosed yard  
 The brewery plant, in good working order, comprising of a large Lancashire boiler - 6 feet in diameter, malt mill, another large iron boiler and 8 fermenting vessels

The outcome of this sale is uncertain:

there were reports the brewery had been acquired by a temperance reformer to use the premises as a milk and cheese factory.

Llangollen Museum information indicates a sale of the brewery had occurred 23 September 1919 and the purchaser James Cook was described as a former roundabout proprietor

*Century of British Brewing* refers to a later attempt to re-establish the brewery not being realised

Llangollen Museum says beer was produced there until the 1930s, when closure took place.

After its chequered history the substantial buildings remain, although not in use.

### **Smaller establishments**

As well as the above larger organisations there were smaller concerns producing beer in public houses and other buildings.

### **Morgan's Hall Street Brewery**

William Morgan born 1803, came from Llandinam, Montgomeryshire and was one of the first to establish an actual brewery (as opposed to brewing in a pub) in Llangollen. He set up as a brewer and maltster possibly in 1828 and first recorded in 1835 as such. Until 1869 he developed the brewery at Pentre Morgan on Hall Street (initially calling it the Llangollen Brewery, but later known as Morgan's Hall Street Brewery). Finally, it was run by Miriam Jones, before it disappears from records in the 1890s.

In 1829 William Morgan married Elizabeth Hughes, one of the maids of the 'Ladies of Llangollen' - two upper-class women from Ireland who came to live in the town. Four men, including a boarder, William Lewis, aged 18, a brewer's labourer, were employed at the brewery in 1851. Ten years later, aged 57, William Morgan was employing five men at Hall Street.

In 1869 the purchase of the King's Head (renamed the Royal Hotel) added to the number of outlets for the brewery. However, by this time he was described in the *Llangollen Advertiser* of 10 December 1869 as a retired brewer of this town continuing to live in Hall St after his first wife died (1871 census).

Miriam Jones, a widow, aged 40, was recorded as the brewer at Hall Street in 1871. She was living at Brewery Cottage with five children - the youngest only five months old. She was to play a prominent part in the remainder of the Brewery's history. It is not clear how her brewing skills were obtained, presumably through observation and practise.

Her husband may have been Edward Jones, brewer and maltster of Bridge St. (the location of the Red Lion). He is shown in the Directories of 1859 at this address but has not been identified in the years following. The licence of the Red Lion was temporarily transferred to Miriam in 1877 whilst she was still at the Hall Street Brewery.<sup>8</sup> She continued brewing for both Hall St. and the Red Lion, suggesting some close connections between the two.

William Morgan re-married in 1878 and played a prominent role in the life of the Rehoboth chapel (Calvinistic Methodist) near to the brewery. In 1881 a retired brewer, he was recorded as a lodger (guest) at St. Bidolph's Hotel, Aldersgate, London (an up-market hotel) his wife being in Llangollen. He died in Llangollen in 1882. Probate of £7,723 9s 2d was to his second wife Jane Morgan.

In 1881 Miriam Jones continued as the brewer for Hall St. Brewery. The life of the brewery was perhaps in decline; two men were now employed compared with five in 1861, a possible reflection of a reduction in production and a decline in demand. However, there seems to have been an attempt to maintain and increase the number of outlets.

By 1882, The Rickman's Arms at Trevor, 3 miles from Llangollen and owned by the brewery, was being advertised to be let, applications to Mrs Jones, Hall Street Brewery.<sup>9</sup> In 1885 she purchased the Queen's Head where a gas explosion took place, being erroneously ignited by her during an inspection of the property.<sup>10</sup>

Problems in Llangollen continued with the water supply and the metering of it (evidenced by the previously mentioned lack of metered water for a whole year at the Sun Brewery). In a letter to the council, Mr Morgan said that he had some years ago made a place near his malt kiln in Berwyn Street to wash the barrels belonging to his brewery and agreed that water used for this purpose (in future) should pass through the meter in the ordinary way.<sup>11</sup> In 1886 Miriam was reported to be washing her barrels near the malt kiln in Berwyn Street. This was said to be unfair to other brewers as the water was not supplied through her meter. It was suggested an approach be made for a better arrangement.<sup>12</sup>

The flow of money presented a problem for the brewery. In 1882, Richard Evans of the Drover's Arms, Llandrillo was sued by Miriam Jones brewer, for £23 12s 9d for non-payment of beer supplied.<sup>13</sup> Morris Jones of the Butcher's Arms Inn, Llantysillio, was also sued by Miriam Jones for the sum of £14 19s.<sup>14</sup>

By 1891 she is listed at the Red Lion Inn, Bridge Street, as an employer, brewer and inn keeper. Interesting that brewing was still taking place on premises when there was no doubt much competition for outlets locally.

An advert in the *Llangollen Advertiser* of 18 November 1898, stated

A brewery to be let at Llangollen, established 70 years  
Apply Mrs Morgan, Plas Hafod.

Miriam perhaps had some financial or family interest in the former Morgan's Brewery or may have been acting on behalf of Mrs Morgan, who in the above announcement seemed still to have some control.

On 3 March 1899 in the *Llangollen Advertiser*, the following announcement was made:

THE BREWERY - HALL STREET  
AN IMPORTANT SALE OF BREWING PLANT AND  
TRADE VESSELS AND EFFECTS AT THE BREWERY

Jones and Son (auctioneers) have received instructions from Mrs Miriam Jones to conduct the above sale on 17 March, 1899, and announced a sale at the Brewery, Hall Street, of brewing plant, trade vessels and effects, because she was giving up business.

Up to this point she had been engaged in brewing in Hall Street and the Red Lion but had decided to retire, perhaps prompted by a declining market and her age. The brewery was no longer to be let, the brewing utensils were to be sold off and consequently the life of the brewery came to an end, following a period of slow decline.

By 1901 Miriam, now aged 70, was living on her own means with her son-in-law, a draper, and her youngest daughter Margaret Ann and continued to do so until she died 23 December 1912 in Llangollen - probate to her daughter Margaret Ann, spinster - effects £4593 9s 4d.

Morgan's three storied gabled brewery was demolished in the 1960s. Following the end of brewing the premises had become the Ship Inn, with cavern-like brick vaults extending into the hillside, one of which contained a deep well of the purest water.<sup>15</sup>

### Red Lion Brewery - 19, Bridge Street

Brewing at the Red Lion is not mentioned at times in the records. This may be an omission or due to a lack of skill of the tenant who was unable to brew. There were varying degrees of skill within the trade which may have led to some inconsistency in the quality of the beer sold.

- 1759 John Jones, tenant [Red Lion] Register of Ale Houses
- 1829 Thomas Jones, Red Lion Public House/Tavern
- 1831 Thomas Jones, Red Lion, tavern/public house
- 1835 Thomas Jones, brewer and maltster, inn keeper, Red Lion
- 1840 Jane Jones (wife of Thomas?) brewer and



Figure 11. The former Red Lion Brewery. Photo: G.W. Stone, 2012.

- 1841 maltster, Red Lion Brewery, Market Place  
Jane Jones, publican together with her son,  
Edward, and 2 servants
- 1844 Jane Jones, Red Lion maltster
- 1850 Jane Jones and son, brewer and maltster  
Bridge St.
- 1851 Edward Jones, brewer Market St. plus 2  
female servants
- 1858 Edward Jones, brewer and maltster Bridge  
St.
- 1859 Edward Jones, brewers Bridge St.
- 1868 John Davies, brewer Red Lion Bridge St.
- 1877 Licence of the Red Lion was temporarily  
transferred to Miriam Jones whilst she was at  
the Hall Street Brewery.<sup>16</sup>
- 1878 Conveyance of Red Lion Inn from Thomas  
Jones to Miriam Jones for the sum of £470
- 1881 John Adams (36), joiner and inn keeper Red  
Lion Inn Bridge St.
- 1889 Miriam Jones moved to the Red Lion taking  
charge.<sup>17</sup>
- 1891 Miriam Jones (60), widow, employer, brewer  
and inn keeper Red Lion Inn, Bridge St.
- 1899 Miriam Jones continued at the Red Lion  
until this date, after which, she was living  
with her daughter and son-in-law

The Red Lion appears to have been run by the Jones family through much of its existence. Miriam Jones became involved in 1877 when brewing at the Hall Street brewery. Her presence would seem to indicate some family continuity with previous occupants. She was obviously a skilled and resourceful individual within the brewing trade and one who carried on brewing to a comparatively late stage.

### **Crown Brewery - bottom of Butler's Hill**

The Crown Brewery was established about 1866 in a building that had previously been a small Welsh chapel with a date of 1773 outside. It was at the bottom of Butler's Hill across the road from the Baker's Sun Inn. In 1836, it had been made redundant as a chapel by the building of the already mentioned Rehoboth Chapel nearby (refer to Figure 2).

Robert Baker bought the old chapel for part of his brewery and had a large vat installed there. The Baker

family sold this brewery and the old chapel later in the century. Brewing took place for the wholesale trade rather than being situated in a public house.

Following the sale by the Bakers, the brewery was worked by George Hartley, born in Worksop. He was previously a brewer in Sheffield. In 1851 he was living and working in the Park district, most likely at the St. John's Brewery. He sold this brewery in 1857 to Robert and John Mellor (cheese factors of Cheshire) and Francis Henry Chambers, the brewer of Sheffield. In 1861 George was still working as a brewer in Aston Street in the Park district, presumably at the same brewery. In 1865 the business passed into the hands of the Hooson brothers; one a corn factor, the other a maltster, both from Worksop. The brewery afterwards became the Park Brewery, being listed on Aston Street.<sup>18</sup>

Shortly after this sale, George, aged 40, moved to Llangollen probably about 1866. He was listed as a brewer at the Crown Brewery in 1871.

Things were not going well. According to a report in the *Llangollen Advertiser*, 30 September 1870:

As Thomas Evans and his wife passed the house of George Hartley one evening there followed an acrimonious exchange over allegations of theft of beer and malt from Garrett's brewery (Victoria Brewery), resulting in Hartley and his son Frederick being charged with assaulting Thomas Evans on 5 September.

Evans told the court he had been in Mr Hartley's employ about four years ago and had accused Hartley of taking ale from the vat of Garrett's brewery for the cow to drink.

As Evans was passing Hartley's house Hannah Hartley had heard Thomas Evans shouting that George Hartley had been taking barrels of beer and bags of malt many times. George Hartley then responded with dog and sticks in an attack on Evans.

After various witnesses were called, the bench said that Evans should not have provoked Hartley who should not have responded - fined £1 with 16s 6d costs each.

Earlier in the month, an advert appeared in the *Llangollen Advertiser*, 7 September 1870, for the sale of about eight tons of good hay - applications to be

made to George Hartley at the Crown Brewery. There was no mention of beer.

Further, in 1872, notice was announced of liquidation, by arrangement of George Hartley, brewer of the Crown Brewery Llangollen. The first meeting was to be held at the Crown Hotel, Llangollen on 20 January 1872.<sup>19</sup>

Less than two weeks later the *Llangollen Advertiser* announced that under the terms of the liquidation and from instructions by the trustee the sale by auction of the unexpired portion of the lease of the brewery and dwelling house (occupied by Mr George Hartley) was to take place on 2 February, 1872. This included the valuable brewing utensils and the household furniture:

In The Brewery - 16 Barrels, 44 Half Barrels, 10 Kilderkins, Large Mash Tub nearly new, Cooker nearly new, Sundry Tubs, Malt Crusher, Large Iron Boiler and Furnace, Water Pipes and Taps, Ale Strainer, Tin Pump and Appendages, Large Flagstone Tun, 2 Pockets of Sussex Hops of 1870, smaller quantities of Hops, also a Capital Cart.<sup>20</sup>

It was to be a brief stay for George Hartley in Llangollen, no doubt leaving shortly after the liquidation and sale. 1881 found him living in Douglas on the Isle of Man, working as a brewer. Ten years later he was listed as a livery carriage proprietor.

Ownership of the brewery over the next few years was between Hugh S. Jones and Mr John Morris, his brother-in-law. Hugh Samuel Jones was born in Anglesey. He was listed as a brewer at the Crown Brewery in 1881, 1883 and 1886. He had previously been a publican at the Talbot Inn, Church Street Llangollen in 1871. By 1885 ownership of the brewery had passed to John Morris.

Once again, uncertainty and change appeared in the life of the brewery concerning rent arrears and sub-letting, with a resultant sale:

The sale by auction of the whole of the fixed and other brewery plant, material and stock in trade contents of the Crown Brewery, to be sold by auction on the premises, 16 November 1886. [This included a] Large brewing boiler with curb, Mash Tuns, Fermenting Square, Coolers, Working puncheons, Hop Press, Quantity of Hops, Large number of barrels, Kilderkins, Patent Weighing Machine, Measures,

Pulleys, Ropes, Barrel Truck, Sack Truck, Pumps, Malt Mill, together with all other Brewery Requisites.<sup>21</sup>

Things were becoming more involved and complex. Disputed possession of the brewery had reached the County Court, but no decision was reached due to the complexity of the case.<sup>22</sup> The dispute continued and on 4 February 1887 had reached the District Sessions in Wrexham. Hugh Samuel Jones, head of the Crown Brewery, Llangollen was charged with false and fraudulent pretences involving Mr Thomas Brookes of Wrexham and the attempted sale of shares in the brewery. On 7 April 1887 Hugh Samuel Jones was acquitted of this offence.<sup>23</sup>

The local directory in 1889 lists the business under the title of E. & J.E. Jones (Edward Jones of the Smithfield Inn, and his son, John Edward Jones of Butler's Hill, Crown Brewery).

In 1891, aged 73, Hugh Samuel (not in employment) was living with his son-in-law, John E. Jones, aged 31, who was shown as brewer and employer at the Crown Brewery and who had later, in 1891, purchased the Talbot Inn (Brewery) on Church Street.

The following report in the *Wrexham Advertiser*, 15 December 1894, refers to the Victoria Brewery and appears to be erroneous. The Crown Brewery was under the ownership of J.E. Jones and would be within earshot of the Star Inn:

#### DROWNED IN A BEER VAT AT LLANGOLLEN

Resumption of inquiry into the cause of the death of Edward Edwards (see Related Occupations) who fell into a beer vat at the Victoria Brewery [Crown Brewery] on 30 November ... Humphrey Jones was passing the brewery about ten o'clock, hearing shouting he went in the brewery and found a man named John Humphreys leaning over a fermenting vat and succeeded (with others) in lifting him out, and ultimately he became conscious.

Minnie Roberts, a maid servant at the Star Inn, Queen Street, said she went to the brewery, about twenty minutes after she heard the first shouting. John Humphreys was there, but no one mentioned anything about the deceased. Thinking he must have fallen into the vat, she directed the attention of Thomas Roberts to it. Thomas Roberts and Edward Evans got



the deceased out. Thomas Roberts said he was at the Talbot Inn, when Henry [Hugh] Samuel Jones arrived there to tell his daughter Mrs Jones, that the deceased [Edward Edwards] had fallen into the square at their brewery. Jones was quite dazed and in a very excited state. When he [Hugh Samuel Jones] arrived at the brewery, they had restored John Humphreys, but no one had thought of the deceased being in the square. He, with the assistance of Edward Evans [see Related Occupations] got the deceased out and the doctor on arriving there, pronounced life to be extinct ... A verdict of accidental death was returned with a recommendation that some efficient protection be provided round the square ... the owner, Mr J.E. Jones, undertook that this should be at once attended to.

The local directory entry for 1899 is for J.E. Jones, Crown Brewery brewer. In 1901 he was shown as brewer and employer at the Talbot. It would appear he was running both concerns until his death in 1902.

Four years after John's death, the following announcement was made in the *Llangollen Advertiser*, 9 February 1906:

Freehold property for sale, all the buildings called and known as the Crown Brewery together with the dwelling house, Brookside Villa

However, the Brewery and an interesting list of plant and equipment still remained for sale, to be auctioned on the 14 May 1907 according to the *Llangollen Advertiser*.

Auction of Brewing Utensils at the Brewery, Old Chapel Square - Including Gas Engine and Shafting, Mash Tun, Cooler Copper, Hop Bin, Fermenting Vat, Platform Weighing Machine, Sack Truck, Hop Press, Pump, Conducting Trough, Hogsheads

The *Llangollen Advertiser*, 3 April 1908, announced that a general provender business was to be opened at the Old Crown Brewery for the sale of hay, straw, corn etc.

The Brewery changed hands a number of times, some of which were not conducive to a sustained period of growth. In addition, production was on a small scale for what was a commercial brewery. The evolution of the local brewing industry had excluded the presence of the Crown Brewery as a long term producer.

Dual ownership of the Crown and the Talbot echoed that of Miriam Jones with the Hall Street Brewery and the Red Lion; both it could be said, caught in a cross section of the changing brewing structure in the town. Considering the adverse circumstances encountered, it is credible that the Crown Brewery existed as long as it did. The former chapel which became the Brewery still exists at the bottom of Butler's Hill.

*The second part of 'Breweries of Llangollen' will appear in a forthcoming issue of Brewery History.*