

WILLIAM HUMPHREY GOLDING (1876-1952): A BREWER TOO LATE TO THE FEAST?

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In its issue of 15 February 1900, the *Brewers Journal* announced that a new brewery was about to be erected at Sevenoaks for Mr W.H. Golding. Prior to this, on 3 November 1899, at a meeting of the Plans and Sanitary Committee (Rev. J. Jackson, Chairman) of Sevenoaks Council, plans for the brewery in Otford Road, submitted by Golding and his architects, Messrs C. Johnson and Sons, had been considered. Their recommendation was that the plans be approved, subject to plans and sections for a cottage shown on the block plan being approved by the Council before the erection of the same was commenced.¹ The story of the brewery could have been one, typical of small country breweries in the early twentieth century, of reasonable success before acquisition by a larger local concern. But this brewery was to last for just thirteen years, its story characterised by repeated attempts by its proprietor to obtain the grant of a retail off sales licence, against implacable opposition from the licensed trade, temperance organisations, other local and non-local brewers and the Sevenoaks Police. Online access to press reports of the time, mainly in the *Sevenoaks Chronicle*, through the British Newspaper Archive website, has made it possible to trace Golding's trials and tribulations, as well as throwing a new light upon his personal life.

William Humphrey Golding was born on 24 August 1876 at East Peckham, Kent. He was the son of a prosperous hop grower, William Golding, proprietor of the 270 acre Leavers Farm at Goose Green, near Hadlow; Leavers Oast still stands and operates now as bed and breakfast accommodation. They were quite possibly members of the Golding family of hop growers, one of whose antecedents in the mid-18th century identified a vigorous sport amongst his rows of Canterbury Whitebines, which he developed into the world-renowned Golding hop variety. It would not have been difficult for William snr, with his trade connections, to have arranged a brewing pupillage for his youngest son, but I have found no evidence that this happened in William Humphrey's case. Indeed, I have found no hard evidence that he was even a practical brewer. His father died in 1902,

leaving an estate with a probate value of some £82,092 1s 3d.,² and William Humphrey, being the youngest son by some thirteen years, one might be justified in thinking that perhaps William snr. had financed his son's brewery. It was later stated before the Sevenoaks Licensing Magistrates³ that the erection of the brewery had cost between four and five thousand pounds.⁴ This would certainly have been a considerable sum for a young man of just twenty-four years of age.

Golding's motivation for going into the brewing trade remains unclear, although it may have had something to do with concerns for the purity of the beer then available locally, or the drinking public's attitude thereto. He later made many references to the purity of his product as a selling point over other beers available locally.⁵ Having no tied estate, his target market was private customers, what was known as the family trade; we can only conjecture whether he had conducted what we would today call market research. However, we now know that the family trade was a diminishing market, already adequately supplied by the common brewers and licensed grocers, hence the subtitle of this piece. Golding's wholesale brewer's licence allowed him to sell his 'pure' products in quantities of not less than four and a half gallons in cask, or twenty-four dozen quarts in bottle. This restriction was to become a thorn in his side as we shall see.

Even before his 5qtr brewery was complete, Golding applied for a retail off licence for the premises.

I, WILLIAM HUMPHREY GOLDING, trading as GOLDING & COMPANY, now residing at No. 1 Park Lane in the Parish of Sevenoaks in the County of Kent, Brewer, do hereby give Notice, that it is my intention to apply at the General Annual Licensing Meeting for the Division of Sevenoaks in the County of Kent to be holden at The Police Station, Sevenoaks in the said County of Kent on the THIRTY FIRST day of AUGUST next ensuing at 11 O'clock in the forenoon for a Certificate of Justices for the grant of a License to sell by retail Beer in pursuance of the Wine & Beerhouse Act, 1869, the Wine & Beerhouse Act Amendment Act, 1870, and other



Figure 1. Beautifully sign-written spring van emphasising the purity of Golding's products. The young man standing on the loading dock at the rear of the van is William Humphrey Golding. C.1900. Photograph courtesy of Peter Miller, Wexford, Ireland.

Acts in that behalf, to be drunk or consumed off the Premises, at a House situate near the Bat and Ball Railway Station, St. John's, Sevenoaks, known as Golding's Brewery and which is bounded on the north by land belonging to the Sevenoaks Estate Company Limited, on the south by land of the Sevenoaks Gas Company, on the east by land of the London, Chatham and Dover Railway and on the west by an intended new road. Given under my Hand this THIRTY FIRST day of JULY One Thousand Nine Hundred. WILLIAM HUMPHREY GOLDING.⁶

The above notice gives the first accurate location for the brewery; it was just off of the Otford Road, north of the Bat and Ball Station, on the Sevenoaks Branch of the London, Chatham & Dover Railway. There was a horse-drawn tramway for hauling coal or coke, running from the station yard on the land to the south of the brewery belonging to the Sevenoaks Gas Company, up the 'intended new road' to their gasworks. This road appears to have been made up at about this time and was named Crampton (or Crampton's) Road, this henceforth being the street address of Golding's Brewery. The new road was named for Thomas Russell Crampton (1816-88) who, among many other engineering achieve-

ments, had been the engineer of the Sevenoaks Railway in the 1860s.⁷ Crampton was a Man of Kent, having been born in Broadstairs.

In applying for a retail licence so soon, Golding had perhaps realised that his potential market was maybe not as large as he had assumed. Whether or not Golding anticipated objection to his application, we do not know; however, he certainly got it. It will perhaps be illuminating to reproduce in full the relevant section of a report of the Sevenoaks Brewster Sessions for 1900 from the *Sevenoaks Chronicle* of 7 September 1900.

Mr William Humphrey Golding, of Sevenoaks, applied through Mr Gregory (solicitor, Bromley) for a license under the Beer House Act, 1869, to sell beer in less quantities than 4½ gallons at his newly erected brewery at the Bat and Ball. Mr Clinch (solicitor, Gravesend) opposed the application on behalf of the Sevenoaks, Dartford and West Kent Licensed Victuallers' and Beer Retailers' Mutual Protection Association. Mr Gregory explained that Mr Golding had recently erected, at a cost of four or five thousand pounds, a brewery at Sevenoaks, and he proposed to carry it on for



Figure 2. Ordnance survey map, six inches to one mile, 1909. Courtesy National Library of Scotland.

the purpose of supplying private individuals only with beer, and not the trade. Mr Gregory thought the Bench would agree with him that it would be unlikely that Mr Golding should propose to supply the trade, because there was no trade to supply, the whole of the public houses in the district being absolutely tied to the brewers who owned them. Mr Golding would not sell less than twelve bottles or a one-gallon jar, and if he undertook that, although it might not be legally binding, if it was found at any future sessions that he had broken the agreement it would be open to the magistrates to refuse to renew the license. Applicant was called and gave evidence bearing out Mr Gregory's statement. In answer to Mr Clinch he stated that he did not produce any evidence to show that the brewery, as he had suggested, would be for the public convenience. The brewery was not yet completed, but it would be finished in about six weeks-time, as also would be the house which he proposed to live in adjoining the brewery. He anticipated getting his trade from the district extending to 15 or 20 miles around. Mr Clinch addressed the magistrates in opposition to the application. He pointed out that the undertaking proposed to be given by Mr Golding not to sell in less quantities of beer than a dozen bottles or one gallon in a jar, was absolutely illegal, and there was nothing to prevent him, if he chose, if the license was granted, from putting up

an engine on the premises and serving beer in a jug or selling a single bottle, which might be taken a little way from the brewery and consumed, to the annoyance of the neighbouring residents. He urged that no case had been made out shewing the necessity of the brewery or the manner in which the public could be benefitted by it, and asked that the license should not be granted. The bench refused the application.

Disappointed as Golding may have been with the refusal of his retail licence application, he pressed ahead with establishing his business. It seems that brewing did not commence until well into January 1901; a newspaper retrospective of the year stated 'January 21st. Messrs. Golding's new brewery, erected at St. John's was finally set in working order'.⁸ This wording would seem to imply that there had been some difficulty or delay. Among planning applications approved by the Plans Committee of Sevenoaks Council in February 1901 were a 'Yeast House at Golding's Brewery, Crampton Road, St John's for Mr. W.H. Golding' and a 'new cellar at Golding's Brewery'.⁹ A detailed description of the new brewery appeared in the press under the headline 'A New Brewery at Sevenoaks'.¹⁰

GOLDING & Co.
Oak Brewery,
SEVENOAKS.
FAMILY TRADE BREWERS
ALES and STOUTS in Crates of 4 Flagons from 1s. 1d. per Crate
Daily Deliveries in Sevenoaks and District.
Orders for Single Crates should be sent to
NEPICAR BREWERY STORES, WROTHAM,
Nr. SEVENOAKS.
GOLDING & Co., OAK BREWERY, SEVENOAKS

Figure 3. 1912 Advertisement, emphasising Golding and Company's logistical difficulties in having to deliver small quantities of beer via Wrotham. Author's collection.

Sevenoaks is rapidly developing, and one of the latest additions to the industrial life of the town is a brewery, which has recently been opened and is now in full swing.

This is erected near the Bat and Ball Station, the premises abutting on the railway on one side and the Otford Road on the other, the building is an imposing one, and is one of the most substantial blocks in the town. The walls for a height of some forty feet are quite two feet in thickness, and the floors are supported on massive iron girders. Brewing at the present day is an important and scientific undertaking. By an Act of Parliament, passed about 1880, brewers are permitted to use other materials than malt and hops, and many of them take advantage of this and use chemical ingredients to a large extent. Messrs. Golding and Co., the proprietors of the new brewery, guarantee their beers to be made entirely of malt and hops, and a glance at their stores of these materials shows that they use a very large quantity of them, although their business is in its infancy.

Here we see Golding, for there can be little doubt that the piece is what would today be known as 'advertorial', seeking to make purity a selling point to set his beers above those of his competitors. The piece continues:

Time was when anybody could brew, and little shanties abounded all over the country in which varying quantities of beer were made. Now the demand for alcoholic beverages has increased so enormously that the brewing business is one requiring the most

complicated arrangements. There are five or six operations connected with the art of brewing. First of all, the malt has to be ground. In Messrs. Golding's brewery this is done on the second floor of the building. The malt is bruised or crushed by smooth metal rollers and then left in a heap for a few days, by which means it becomes mellow and is more readily exhausted by the water in the mashing. Hot water is added, and a rotating screw mixes the ingredients well together. The mixture then flows into the mash tun beneath where the process of mashing takes place. The bruised malt, with water added at a temperature of from 158 degrees to 172 degrees F., is macerated for three or four hours, assisted during the first half hour by constant stirring. Then the liquor is strained off through finely perforated plates in the bottom of the mash tun into the "underback", from whence it is pumped into the copper – a huge vessel capable of holding 32 barrels, which stands on the ground floor. Here great care has to be exercised that the temperature is maintained at a uniform and proper level. If it falls below that recognised level the diastase in the malt becomes inactive; on the other hand, too high a temperature would be liable to destroy the diastase. This, by the way, is a peculiar nitrogenous substance produced during the malting of grain, converting part of it into sugar and rendering it soluble.

As soon as the wort, as it is technically called, is collected in the copper, hops are added and the whole boiled for about three hours. The object of boiling is to coagulate and precipitate the excess of albumen present and to extract the aromatic oil and bitter of the hop.



Figure 4. William Humphrey Golding (right) outside the door of the brewery office, the two gentlemen in caps are unidentified. c1900. Photograph courtesy of Peter Miller, Wexford, Ireland.

In order to prevent as much as possible, the formation of acid it is necessary to cool the wort as quickly as possible. This is done very rapidly. The liquor is pumped to the top of the building and there exposed to a current of air in a large shallow vessel, another method being that of running it over refrigerating pipes. As soon as the temperature of the liquor has fallen to 60 degrees F., the wort is run into fermenting vats on a lower floor and here yeast is added. In about four hours fermentation takes place and is allowed to continue for 48 hours when the yeast is skimmed off and the beer run into large casks. It may be mentioned that fermentation is the most delicate operation in brewing as on it chiefly depends the quality and condition of the beer. The aim of the brewer is not to decompose all the sugar in the wort but to leave sufficient to give body to the beer and keep up the evolution of the carbonic acid gas. Then the liquor is run off into settling vats where it is "cleaned" of any superfluous

fermentation. Afterwards it is run off into casks, and in due course finds its way to the consumers. Golding's brewery is admirably planned to meet all the requirements of the business.

A five-horsepower engine furnishes the necessary power for driving the machinery and the pumps. The water is derived from an artesian bore 102 feet deep. The water is heated for brewing in a large iron tank on one of the upper floors. This is covered with a thick coating of silicate cotton; the whole being enclosed in a wooden case so that no heat can escape. There are large store rooms for hops, malt and casks; spacious yeast troughs, a well-arranged engine room, and huge cold-water tanks. A strong platform on one of the upper floors has above it a lifting apparatus by means of which stores are taken in. At the top of the building – over 80 feet from the ground – is a small, square platform, guarded by an iron railing, from which a magnificent view of the district can be obtained. The shaft is a square erection about 90 ft. in height. At the rear of the brewery are commodious dray lodges, beyond these being comfortable stables and fodder stores. Beneath the brewery are huge cellars filled with barrels, many of them already filled and others daily in course of filling, whilst there is also a large store for bottles and other necessary adjuncts of a brewery. At the front of the brewery stands the office, to which is attached a well-planned house.

Brewing is now in full progress and residents can test for themselves the quality of the beverages brewed, whilst housewives anxious to prove their adeptness at bread making on old-fashioned lines will find here an endless store of yeast, which the firm are always ready to sell.

Whoever wrote the above encomium, be it a newspaper reporter, or Golding himself, there is a certain laxity in the use of correct brewing terms which might lead one to believe that it was not written by a practical brewer.

When the annual Brewster Sessions came around again in September 1901, Mr F.S. Stenning, a Maidstone solicitor, made application on behalf of 'Messrs. Golding & Co., of the New Brewery, Sevenoaks, for two licences – one an off-cider licence, the other for a beer off-licence. The service of notices having been formally proved, Supt. Taylor, for Sevenoaks Police, stated that if a license was necessary, he should consider Mr W.H. Golding a fit and proper person to hold the same.' Golding stated that he was the owner of the brewery and that the premises were rated at £140 per annum. Mr Clinch was once more in court representing the licensed victuallers; he stated that there was no objection to the cider licence, which was at once granted, he would confine himself to opposing the beer licence. Mr Stenning then formally applied for the beer licence; he stated that the applicant was frequently asked for less than 3½ dozen bottles at once, going on to also state that 'Mr Golding was selling a thing which other houses did not sell, that is, absolutely pure beer,



Figure 5. View of the brewery and office/dwelling house from Crampton Road, c.1900. Photograph courtesy of Peter Miller, Wexford, Ireland.

made of English malt and hops'. Mr Knocker, the magistrates' clerk, responded with 'Other people claim to sell good beer as well as your client.'

Mr Stenning: 'But not pure beer.'

Mr Knocker: 'Yes, and pure beer too.'

Mr Clinch, representing the opposers: 'I suggest the remark of Mr Stenning is a libel on my clients.'

Clearly the above exchange is indicative of Golding's belief in the superior quality of his products over those of surrounding common brewers. However, one might be tempted to wonder why the Clerk to the Magistrates rose to the defence of the purity of the other brewer's products ... it may be germane to the point to know that Mr William Knocker's brother, Mr Edward Newman Knocker, was a Director of Messrs Bushell Watkins & Smith Ltd., of the Black Eagle Brewery, Westerham, who were operating a depot in Sevenoaks at this time.¹¹ The Chairman of the Magistrates put a stop to this discussion by stating firmly that 'We have already decided not to grant the beer licence'.¹²

Not to be thwarted, Golding continued to apply for a retail licence each year, with no success. Then, in 1905, he purchased Walter Morgan's Nepicar Brewery near Wrotham, together with its two licensed houses, private trade and goodwill. As well as securing more outlets for his products, this was a shrewd move on his part because the brewery possessed an all-important retail off sales licence. The following, probably written by Golding himself, appeared in the local newspaper next to a retouched photograph of the Bat & Ball Brewery.

Any new industrial enterprise, or any addition to a prosperous concern in the neighbourhood, calculated to increase work for the residents, is always welcome news, therefore, our readers will be pleased to learn that Messrs. Golding and Co., of the Bat and Ball Brewery, Sevenoaks, have purchased the Nepicar Brewery, Wrotham, from Mr Walter Morgan, one of the oldest establishments in the county. A considerable amount of licensed property is also acquired in the transaction. Although the old brewery at Wrotham will be kept on by the firm as stores, Messrs. Golding have

transferred the whole of the brewing business to their Sevenoaks place, and have already imported several of the hands in the employ of Mr Morgan at the time of the transfer. The fine new brewery of Messrs. Golding is quite capable of meeting the extra demand, and commodious enough for the increased number of hands necessary owing to the larger output.¹³

However, Golding had to once again enlist the assistance of Mr Stenning when it came time to renew the licence in 1906 as there was an objection from the police. Superintendent Hoare said that he was present at the Licensing Sessions in 1896 when Mr Morgan, who then had the Nepicar Brewery, applied for and was granted an additional retailer's licence in respect of the premises. The reason for the application was that he wished to sell smaller quantities than 4½ gallons, to be delivered in vans. Continuing, he stated that there was a fully-licensed house, the Spring Tavern, within three-hundred yards of the brewery, while at Wrotham, which was about a mile away, there were four fully-licensed houses and one grocer's licence. The Royal Oak public house, at Wrotham Heath, was only a mile away. The number of private houses in close proximity to the brewery was only four. He said the brewery had now ceased to exist and, in his opinion, the license seemed unnecessary.¹⁴

Mr Stenning said that the licence served a large scattered district. By refusing the licence, the magistrates would be depriving some eight men and their families of their means of subsistence. Mr Golding would get no compensation and would, at the same time, lose the plant, which was valued at £1,000, and he asked their worships not to take away the licence unless they had a very strong reason for doing so. When called to the witness box, Golding stated that the customers numbered about 2,000, and the area served by the licence was about a 15-mile radius. The Chairman of the magistrates averred that the convenience of the public did not come into it at all, to which Golding replied that he thought that it did. The licence was not for the benefit of the immediate district, but for outlying districts, in which Golding no doubt included Sevenoaks. He then presented a petition, signed by 850 customers, in favour of the renewal of the licence, as well as letters from the Vicars of Stansted, East and West Peckham, and Mereworth. Golding had obviously been busy canvassing support.

The Magistrates retired for private deliberations and, after a brief absence, they returned to court where the Chairman announced that they would renew the licence. This was obviously good news for Golding, but it had a logistical drawback; customers in the Sevenoaks area who wanted a lesser quantity than 4½ gallons of beer, which was brewed at Bat and Ball, would now have to send their order to Wrotham, from whence the beer would be delivered back to Sevenoaks!

This situation was obviously not ideal, and Golding would continue his attempts to get a similar licence for Bat and Ball.¹⁵ In an attempt to refute the objectors' repeated assertions that the brewery was of no benefit to the public, Golding wrote to the *Sevenoaks Chronicle* in February of 1906.

Dear Sir, - With reference to my recent application for an off-licence for my brewery, and as to my contention that it would be of benefit to the town.

Assuming (and none but our strictly teetotal friends will, I think, dispute this) that beer is to many a necessary, then I contend that it must be more beneficial for the trade of the town and immediate district that it should be brewed locally than sent from a distance. £7,000 has been spent on labour alone at my brewery in the last six years, and I consider that this money and employment that I give must be of value either directly or indirectly to the majority of the inhabitants who have any commercial interests in the town since practically all of this money must have been spent locally either in food, clothes, or rent.

I have also made some £10,000 of other purely local payments for various goods etc., making in all £17,000 of trade to the town in six years.

I am, your obedient servant,
W.H. GOLDING

The following year the ongoing saga of Golding's attempts to obtain a retail licence took an unusual turn when two other brewers applied for similar licences. At the Brewster Sessions in February 1907, Superintendent Taylor, who had never been supportive of Golding's applications, reported that he had received notice of intention to apply for off licences from 'Mr W.H. Golding, of the Brewery, Otford-road, Sevenoaks; Mr T. Newton, Secretary to Bushell, Watkins and Smith Ltd., of the Black Eagle Brewery, Westerham; and Mr J.S. Bligh, of the Brewery, Sevenoaks. In his opinion these licenses were not required'.¹⁶ Golding was represented by a Mr Brennan, who said that his client made the application again with a certain amount of confidence, as he now held a licence at Nepicar, in the Malling Division, which was about two-and-a-half miles from the boundary of the Sevenoaks Petty Sessional Division. There he could sell any quantity, even to a half pint. But if the present application was granted Mr Golding did not intend, nor would sell in a lesser quantity than one gallon, as he did not wish to compete unfairly with licence holders in the district. However, he did wish to compete with the various brewers who came from a distance, such as the Northfleet Brewery Company, and Messrs. Lovibond, who paid no rates or taxes, nor employed any labour in the district. Mr Golding paid about £1,200 a year in wages, but it was not worth his while to have two breweries going, as at present he had to get the orders sent to Wrotham by cart, and bring it back to Sevenoaks by cart in order to serve his customers in this district.

The cost to Mr Golding was something like £1,000 a year, which un-necessary amount would be saved if the Bench would grant the application, and Mr Golding would give up the licence at Nepicar in favour of the one at Sevenoaks.

Mr Brennan then called Superintendent Taylor, who testified to the good character of the applicant. In answer to questions, Taylor said that he had been Superintendent at Sevenoaks for eight years, and he had considerable knowledge of the need for intoxicating drink in the district; he considered that they were more than sufficient. In his opinion there was absolutely no need for the licence that Golding was applying for, and if it were granted there would be nothing to prevent him from putting in an engine in the brewery and selling beer in half-pints or pints or any other quantity.

Mr Brennan: 'But Mr Golding gives his word that he will not sell in less quantities than one gallon. If Mr Golding does not carry out his promises the Bench could refuse the license next year.'

Supt. Taylor: 'And you would be the first to come and say that no offence had been committed, and, therefore, no reason why it should not be renewed.'

Mr Brennan: 'No, I don't think I should, and Mr Golding gives his promise to the Bench.'

Supt. Taylor: 'Promises of that sort are not much good.'

Mr Cripps, once again representing the objectors to the application, stated that if the Bench granted the licence to Golding, then they could not then very well refuse the applications of the two other brewers, a fact no doubt not lost upon them. 'It is a case of a goose and two ganders. Mr Golding is the goose, and Messrs. Bligh and Bushell the ganders.' It is quite probable that Messrs Bligh and Bushell believed that Golding had a chance of success this year, and if he got his retail licence, then they wanted one too. In reply to Cripps, Mr Brennan averred that the others were not in the same position as Golding, who merely wanted to transfer his licence. He wanted to compete fairly with the brewers who came from other districts.

Mr Cripps: 'When Free Trade comes, I shall not oppose it.' (Laughter in the court.)

Golding then entered the witness box, stating that his brewery had been built for seven years, and since then he had spent about £12,000. He was the leaseholder of the Nepicar Brewery at Wrotham and was willing to give up that licence if this application was granted. He also reiterated his promise not to sell in quantities of less than a gallon. The Solicitors having summed up the evidence, the magistrates retired to consider the case and after a few minutes' deliberation,

returned to the court. The Chairman said that the Bench were unanimous in their decision to refuse the application. Mr Warner then applied for a retail off licence on behalf of Messrs Bushell, Watkins & Smith, Mr Wright opposing on behalf of two licensed grocers in Westerham. Superintendent Taylor, once again, formally objected to the licence. The Chairman of the Bench reminded Mr Warner that they had already refused one application, but Warner said that his arguments would be more weighty than in the other case. At this point the Sessions were adjourned for one month with no mention of Bligh's application, presumably he had seen the writing on the wall. The newspaper report of the resumed Brewster Sessions¹⁷ makes no mention of Bushell's application; perhaps, with time to think about it, the Westerham brewers had realised that their application was probably doomed to failure.

At the Brewster Sessions in February 1908, there does not initially appear to have been an application from Golding and Company for their long-sought-after retail off licence, certainly the newspaper report thereof makes no mention of such.¹⁸ However, an application was made; it was heard at the adjourned Brewster Sessions, held on 13 March. The application was by 'Mr Charles Campbell MacLeod, brewer, residing at Fir Bank, St. John's Road, Sevenoaks, being a person duly licensed to sell strong beer in casks containing not less than four-and-a-half gallons or in not less than two dozen bottles at one time to be drunk or consumed elsewhere than on premises known as Golding's Brewery, for an additional license to sell by retail at Golding's Brewery aforesaid to be consumed off the premises in pursuance of the Act 26, 27 Vict., C. 33, S. 1.'

Before dealing with the proceedings before the court, let us consider who had made the application. Who was Mr Charles Campbell McLeod? Notwithstanding his thoroughly Scots name, Charles Campbell Macleod was Australian, having been born in Emerald Hill, Victoria in 1879, the son of Murdoch MacLeod, a Banker, who was Scottish.¹⁹ Macleod came to England in the 1890s when his father retired as a result of a banking crisis in Australia. Charles was living in Haverhill, Suffolk, in 1901²⁰ where he was working as a brewer for Messrs F.C. Christmas & Co., of the Haverhill Brewery. He hadn't been working there for very long at that time because in 1907, at an inquest into the death of a brewery worker who had died from blood poisoning after being severely scalded by steam from the brewery boiler, he stated that he had worked there for seven years.²¹ At some time in the ensuing two years he had moved to Kent to become the Managing Brewer for William Humphrey Golding. We now find him in March 1908, before the Licensing Justices in Sevenoaks trying, once again, to get that retail licence for the brewery at Bat and Ball. In the census for 1911, Mac-



Figure 6. Rear view of the brewery with the yard still under construction, c.1900. Photograph courtesy of Peter Miller, Wexford, Ireland.

Leod was staying at Smedley's Hydropathic establishment in Matlock, Derbyshire, no doubt taking a fashionable water cure. He is listed as a Brewer & Maltster and, more specifically as an 'Employer'. This must lead us to suppose that he had a financial interest in Golding and Company. After the eventual collapse of Golding's brewing endeavours, Macleod became the proprietor of a brewery, in Manning Road, Bourne, Lincolnshire. During the Great War he raised funds for Queen Alexandra's Rest Home for Nurses, even spending two months in 1915 driving a Red Cross ambulance in France, for which he earned the Victory Medal and the 1915 Star.²² He sold his business to Messrs Soames & Co., of Spalding, taking a financial interest and becoming firstly their Head Brewer and then Managing Director.²³ Charles Campbell MacLeod passed away on 18 July 1955 at his home, Cawthorpe House, in Bourne.

The week after MacLeod's application was heard, the local newspaper, which routinely reported the annual Brewster Sessions, felt the need for a headline: 'Sevenoaks adjourned

brewster sessions. Successful application for brewer's retail license' Mr Brennan was again in court to represent Golding and Company, while Mr Mann, a Barrister, opposed 'on behalf of a number of influential residents' and Mr Warner opposed on behalf of Messrs Bushell, Watkins and Smith. Superintendent Taylor, of course, was opposed. Mr Brennan proceeded to open upon the application, but was stopped by the Chairman, who stated that 'they all remembered this from last year. Had Mr Brennan no new facts?'

In reply Mr Brennan said that there was a new fact, which he would commend to the Magistrates for their careful consideration. Within a month after the Bench refused the application in the previous year, a similar application was made by a rival firm of brewers in a neighbouring Licensing Division and was granted; although it was opposed, it was confirmed by the Quarter Sessions without any condition or opposition at all. He was certain that the Bench would give this their fairest consideration, this circumstance coming as it did within a month after Golding had made his application

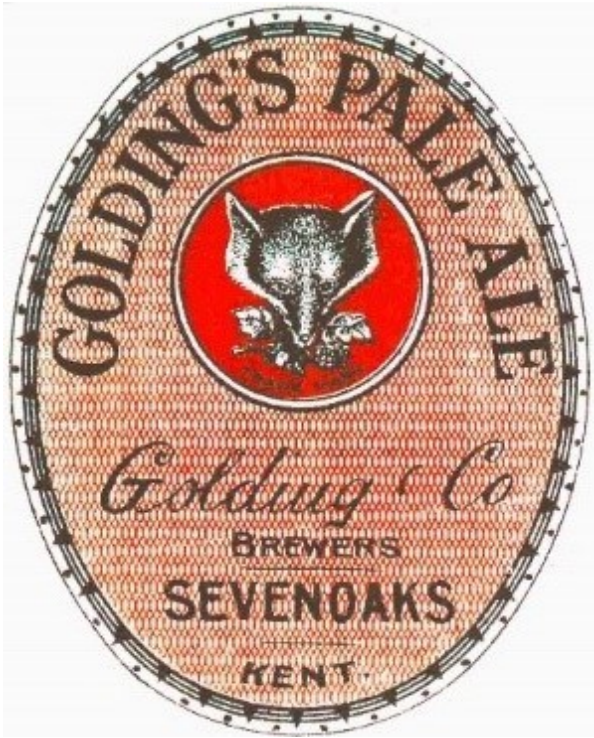


Figure 7. Label, c.1910, showing Golding and Company's adoption of Messrs. Fox's trademark and brewery name. Courtesy Roger Bristow.

unsuccessfully, which was a hardship upon him. Once again Mr Brennan explained to the Bench the situation with regards to sending beer to Wrotham and then delivering it back along the same road to customers in Sevenoaks. He was not asking for anything more than could already be done under the Wrotham licence, merely a change which would affect an economy of effort and cost.

A Magistrate: 'Don't you brew at Wrotham?'

In reply, Mr Brennan pointed out that it would not be worthwhile to brew at two breweries within eight miles of each other. Surely, they must agree with him that prima facie every man in the country had a right to carry on his trade to the best advantage to himself, providing there was no harm to anybody else. They had no public house in Sevenoaks at all; if they had they could get over the difficulty, but they did not possess a public house.

The Magistrate: 'Can't you buy one? They are very cheap now.' (Laughter) It is difficult, at this remove, not to think of this comment by the Magistrate, a Mr Willis, as rather crass.

At this point, the Chairman stated that, in his opinion, Golding had 'started a brewery in a place where there was no room for it, and that there was no question that this license would give increased facilities for obtaining drink. While his first point may well have been true, there being no free-of-tie licensed houses in the district, Mr Brennan was quick to refute the second point, re-iterating that they had a licence now, so this one would not give them one facility which they had not got at present, and probably they would not increase their sale of beer in consequence. Mr Brennan further thought that the Magistrates were there to see if there were any objection from the public point of view to the application being granted. If it were not going to do any harm, he felt that Mr MacLeod was entitled to the application being granted. If it could do harm, he submitted that it could be done now, and the Magistrates could not prevent it.

Mr Mann, in opening his opposition to the application, referred to the fact that the application had become a 'hardy annual' and had been fully dealt with in previous years. In his opinion, there were no new circumstances at all to justify the application, in fact the only thing that struck him as being at all new was Mr Brennan's courage in coming before them once more to urge that the licence should be granted. Mann submitted that the district did not need the licence and urged the Magistrates not to increase the facilities for drinking and to refuse the application. Whereupon the Chairman replied that 'The point against you is that he (MacLeod) is already able to do it.' Mann's response was that if MacLeod was already able to do it, then it was not necessary for the Bench to further strengthen his hands. Mann believed that Mr MacLeod ought not to have facilities granted to him to sell beer in an easier way than he could at the present time.

Mr Warner, on behalf of his clients, stated that Messrs Bushell, Watkins & Smith had applied for a similar retail off licence on two previous occasions, but had not done so this year because they were under the impression that the matter had been dealt with. He objected to the application merely on trade competition grounds; if the licence were granted then his clients would be in a worse position than they had been previously. The Chairman said that he took it that Mr Warner's argument was this, - if they granted this licence then his clients would immediately apply for a similar licence. Mr Warner replied in the affirmative, he felt that Mr MacLeod was asking the Magistrates wholly and solely to help him in his financial position. Superintendent Taylor then voiced his objection, with which we are already familiar.

Mr Brennan then said that Mr Mann had suggested that that he was asking for further facilities, but he was only asking the justices to enable them (Messrs Golding and Company)



Figure 8. Label, undated, showing Golding's emphasis on the purity of his beers. Courtesy Labologists Society.

to do what they were prima facie entitled to do. If that application were granted it would do no harm to anybody.

Mr Willis: 'Except their brother brewers.'

With regard to Messrs Bushell, Brennan contended that they had got the licence already in a sense, because they possessed ten or twelve licenced houses in the town, where they could sell their beer by retail to the extent of half a pint. He was sure that Mr Warner would not mislead the Bench, but he had in fact, because his client was not applying for the same licence; his clients were not on the same footing, because Messrs Bushell could sell retail through their public houses. Superintendent Taylor, determined to have the last word before the Magistrates retired to consider the case once more, he summed up what were, one suspects, the views of all of those in opposition to Golding's efforts to obtain a retail off licence: 'Mr Golding had come to Sevenoaks,

erected a brewery and then, in a speculation, bought Morgan's brewery with the license at Wrotham with the idea, no doubt, that he was going to get it transferred here. These are the real facts of the case!'

When the Magistrates returned to court, the Chairman made the following statement: 'In this case there has been in previous years considerable differences of opinion on the bench, and the majority of the bench are of the opinion that it will not be an increased facility, and they will grant this license; we cannot attach a condition, but we grant it on the understanding that the Wrotham license is given up.' Mr Brennan duly gave an undertaking that it would indeed be surrendered. This must have seemed like success at last and that all of Messrs Golding and Company's troubles were over. All that was required now was the approval of the Maidstone Licensing Committee.

A meeting of the Maidstone Licensing Committee in April 1908, considered the matter of 'the retail brewer's license granted to Mr C. C. McLeod, by the Sevenoaks Bench, for Golding's Brewery, Crampton's road'.²⁴ It is interesting to note that one of the members of the Committee was Colonel Rogers, D.S.O., who happened to also be the Chairman of the Sevenoaks Bench and whose impartiality might have been questionable. Also in court, although not called, was our old friend Superintendent Taylor. After hearing arguments similar to those submitted to the Brewster Sessions, for and against the licence, the committee refused to confirm the grant of the licence. So, Golding's hopes were dashed again, although he was not in court to hear the decision. His mind was probably elsewhere at this time, as we shall see anon.

Nothing if not tenacious, Golding applied for the licence yet again in February 1909, and yet again the case was adjourned until March. The same familiar faces appeared in court, the only addition being Mr Neve, who represented the Dartford Brewery Company in opposing the application.²⁵ There were no new circumstances, nevertheless the whole situation was argued out again, with the somewhat predictable result that the application was refused. Then, several months later, the opportunity arose for Golding and Company to purchase the substantial private trade, goodwill and trade mark of Fox & Sons Ltd, of the Oak Brewery, Green Street Green, Farnborough, Kent. The local newspaper, under a heading 'Local Enterprise', reported the acquisition and commented that 'This doubtless will mean a large increase of the commercial interests of this town. We understand Messrs. Golding and Co., have engaged a number of extra employees, practically all of whom have been in the service of Messrs. Fox and Sons for years. The firm have opened stores at Farnborough to enable them to deal with this increased trade'.²⁶

Fox's business had its origins in farm brewing by John Fox at Oak Farm, Chelsfield, in the early years of the nineteenth century. It had flourished under firstly John Fox alone, then with his sons, and was latterly run by two grandsons. Under their leadership, the brewery had been completely modernised and an imposing new fermenting block had been built in 1897. The firm had a tied estate of some thirty licensed houses, but relied on a wide delivery network to service a 'well-appreciated and extensive free trade and private custom'.²⁷ However, the brothers were over-extended financially, and in July of 1909 the firm collapsed, the local newspaper reporting that 'The Oak Brewery, Green Street Green, is to be closed from 15th July 1909'.²⁸

Such was Messrs Fox's reputation that their trade-mark, a fox's mask, was adopted by Goldings and the brewery at Bat & Ball was henceforth known as the Oak Brewery. The increase in trade must have been very welcome, but it brought its own problems.

There does not appear to have been another licence application at the 1910 Brewster Sessions, nor in 1911; perhaps the company was too busy, as a newspaper article²⁹ in August 1910 stated that: 'Ever since June 1909, Messrs Goldings have found great difficulty in coping with the increase in trade brought to them by the purchase of the goodwill and private trade of Messrs Fox & Sons of Farnborough. This trade, coupled with their own rapidly increasing business, made some immediate alterations necessary and three additional fermenting vessels were at once installed. Extensive plant and machinery for the quick and successful bottling of their beers was also installed about June 1909. For the last twelve months, as a matter of fact, every month has seen some alteration, addition or improvement in the plant till the present date, when the whole of the machinery and equipment may be considered among the most modern and up-to-date of any brewery in the south of England.

Amongst other additions was that of a duplicate boiler in November 1909. These additions have just been completed by the erection of a new mash tun and grist case, the whole of this work being carried out by one of the most celebrated firms of brewer's engineers. This has a capacity of 15 quarters, whilst the old mash tun which it re-placed had a capacity of 5 quarters only, and had necessitated continual brewings by day and by night. In addition to the mash tun, a large steel grist case (or receptacle for the ground malt), has been erected, re-placing a wooden grist case of one-third the size of the new one.

The new mash tun (than which there is no more important vessel in the brewery), is fitted with the latest improvements in every detail, a very large part of the vessel is carried out

in gun metal and copper. It is indeed a handsome example of the latest efforts of the engineering art.'

Once again, this piece could possibly have been written by a reporter from the *Sevenoaks Chronicle*, or possibly not, although some of the wording gives this impression. 'Whilst inspecting the premises, we asked a few questions as to the development of the business, and ascertained that the trade had been increasing by leaps and bounds, the total output now being nearly three times as much as in 1907, and when we say that nearly all this increase has been obtained in competition in the free and private trade, it will be understood that the beers must be maintained at the highest standard of quality. That this is so is proved by Messrs, Golding's Sevenoaks brewed ale, having obtained the Certificate of Merit of the Institute of Hygiene, samples of their ale being a permanent exhibit at the Pure Foods Exhibition.

In taking leave of this local enterprise, we must wish it every success. The establishment and enlargement of such a business means the circulation of thousands of pounds a year in our town and the employment of local labour.' Advertiser or not... the reader must decide. Another aspect to Golding's trade at this time is the fact that they were undercutting other brewers in order to win annual contracts to supply ale and porter to the Sevenoaks Board of Guardians.³⁰

In August 1911, there appeared in the *Orpington & District Times*, a brief report of the fact that the Standard Co-operative Brewing Society had held its Annual General Meeting in Green Street Green and that it had 'spent a lot of money on its brewery.' The writer has so far been unable to find any further information on this organisation; it would seem, by virtue of the location of the AGM and the reference to having spent a lot of money on their brewery, to refer to Goldings, and if so, it may have been some sort of umbrella operation. One can hypothesize that one or more of the Fox brothers may have been involved, together with Golding and MacLeod and perhaps others... as we shall see later in this piece. Whatever the truth of the matter, their efforts proved ultimately futile.

In February 1912 Golding once again applied for a retail off licence; the matter was referred to the adjourned Brewster Sessions held on 8th March.³¹ Mr Brennan presented the now-familiar arguments on behalf of his client, before calling William H Golding to the witness box. Golding stated that he, as a brewer, was entitled by Act of Parliament to apply for and to hold the licence, under the terms of the Finance Act, for which he continued to apply. Under the current arrangement he had to employ a clerk at Wrotham, and to incur transport costs, in order to supply lesser quantities of beer that four and a half gallons to his customers in

Sevenoaks, whereas there were seven or eight brewers who did not belong to Sevenoaks or district who had the licence he was applying for and traded in the district by means of it. He mentioned Messrs Lovibond, of Greenwich, Messrs Page & Overton, of Croydon, and Messrs Reffells, of Bexley.

Cross-examined by Mr Cripps, for the opposers, Golding was asked whether he suggested that there were any reasons in his application to benefit the public.

WHG: 'No, I do not suggest that.'

Mr Cripps: 'You say there is certain competition in the district from Messrs Lovibond, Page & Overton, Reffells and other brewers?'

WHG: 'Yes.'

Mr Cripps: 'That is competition not only with you but with the other licensed victuallers of the district?'

WHG: 'Yes.'

Mr Cripps: 'And it is also competition with the other brewers at Sevenoaks?'

WHG: 'I am the only one now.'

Mr Cripps: 'Do not Messrs Bushell, Watkins and Smith brew at Sevenoaks?'

WHG: 'Not in the Division.' (By which he meant that their brewery was in a different licensing district)

Mr Cripps: 'This license would increase that competition?'

WHG: 'I already have the facilities.'

Mr Cripps: 'In 1909 the application was not made in your name?'

WHG: 'No, it was made in the name of Mr MacLeod, who had a financial interest in my business.'

Mr Cripps: 'You heard the evidence which he gave in 1909 before the justices?'

WHG: 'I think I did.'

Mr Cripps: 'Do you agree with his evidence that this application involves an extra profit to you of £500?'

WHG: 'No, I do not agree with that. Mr MacLeod had an active part in the business then. Mr MacLeod gave his answer probably on the spur of the moment.'

Mr Cripps: 'In 1909 you made your fifth application?'

WHG: 'Yes.' Mr Cripps: 'It had been refused prior to that three times by this bench and once by the quarter sessions at Maidstone?'

WHG: 'Yes.'

Mr Cripps: 'In March 1909, did not the Chairman say the magistrates were unanimous in refusing the licence?'

WHG: 'I believe that is so.'

Mr Cripps: 'Is there a single circumstance today which did not exist in 1909?'

In answer to this, Golding said that the population of the area had increased by about 300 inhabitants. He considered that the amount of the saving would be from £40 to £100 a

year. He accounted for the difference between this figure and that given by Mr MacLeod by the fact that the firm worked trade rather differently now than they did in 1909. He did think however, that £500 was an excessive figure.

Mr Cripps: 'Did you correct Mr MacLeod's figure when you afterwards went into the witness box?'

WHG: 'I do not really remember.'

Mr Brennan: 'Perhaps he was not asked.'

Mr Cripps: 'Having heard Mr MacLeod make such a serious statement to the magistrates that it would make a difference to you of £500 did you not think it was right to correct it when you knew it was wrong?'

WHG: 'I did not take it as such.'

Mr Warner now questioned Golding, asking whether the only object he had in applying for the licence was for his own personal advantage.

WHG: 'Yes, and for better supervision.'

Mr Warner: 'You said you will profit to the extent of about £100 which capitalised at 5 per cent., makes £2000?'

WHG: 'I should not put it at that.'

Mr Warner: 'And you would be bringing a licence into the Sevenoaks Division out of a place which is a comparatively small one, taking Wrotham and Borough Green together. Isn't there a considerable difference in the number of inhabitants of Sevenoaks and Wrotham?'

WHG: 'I could not say.'

Mr House, representing the Temperance Party in Sevenoaks, then asked Golding whether the licence would increase his facilities in the district. Golding, once again, answered in the negative, this point having already been made in successive applications.

Mr House: 'Your brewery is right in the centre of the new houses you referred to, and the people there could come to you more readily than they could go over the bridge?'

By this he meant the railway bridge to St John's and the Bat and Ball crossroads.

WHG: 'We deliver there daily from Wrotham. It would make a difference perhaps of a few hours or possibly a day in the delivery of the beer.'

Mr House: 'It would mean that these people would go to your brewery to get their beer without going to the public houses over the bridge?'

WHG: 'Yes, it would mean that.'

Mr House: 'Consequently you would sell more beer there?'

WHG: 'It would have very little effect on our trade. I have no desire to interfere with the business or trade of Messrs Bushell, or the licensed victuallers in the district.'

Chairman: 'I quite see your point of view and I also see Mr

House's point of view, but I do not quite understand Messrs Bushell's position.'

Mr Warner: 'Bushell's are an old-established firm of brewers, and they consider that the trade ought to be conducted through their tenants. They contend that this is the proper means of selling their beer. They do not think that this licence ought to be granted, but if the Magistrates granted it, they could not reasonably refuse a similar application by Bushells.'

Mr Cripps: 'The Magistrates do not sit on the Bench for the purpose of improving the facilities which Mr Golding desires to have for increasing his trade in intoxicating liquors in the Sevenoaks Division. Mr Golding wants to do what is called the hawking trade, which I suggest is not a form of trade that ought to be encouraged. There is no possible reason why the Bench should revise their unanimous decision of 1909 and grant the licence to Mr Golding, which he is so persistent in asking for. I suppose that he thinks, like the unfortunate widow of the scripture, that if he keeps asking then he is bound to get what he wants.' (Laughter)

The Magistrates then adjourned for a short consultation in private, and upon their return the Charman said that the application was refused.

Golding and Company continued to trade despite the now-accustomed setback. However, their regular newspaper advertisements ceased at the end of March 1913 and in August a brewing trade publication reported that 'Messrs Golding & Co, Oak Brewery, Sevenoaks, discontinued business on June 30th and the brewery and plant were offered for sale by auction on July 24th but did not find a purchaser'.³²

We cannot know what prompted Golding to give up brewing. Possibly he was just tired of hitting his head against the brick wall of the Sevenoaks Licensing Bench, trying to get what he saw as fair treatment. He was now a family man, having married Georgiana Jones in 1909, with one child and another on the way. Perhaps he felt that it was time to find something more stable. The company's trade was acquired by Messrs Hoare & Co Ltd. of the Red Lion Brewery, Lower East Smithfield, London, a firm already well represented in the Sevenoaks area having acquired most of the licensed houses of Fox & Sons Limited. The Oak Brewery buildings were used for many years as a furniture repository, until their eventual demolition in the early 1970s; the site is now occupied by a branch of a nationwide chain of builder's merchants.

It seems obvious from all of the above that William Humphrey Golding was perhaps no great shakes as a businessman. So, we must consider by what means he was able to afford

to buy a nearby brewery business and the family trade and goodwill of another, in 1905 and 1909 respectively, and who, or what was the Standard Co-operative Brewing Society? For a possible answer it is necessary to take a closer look at Golding's private life, and it is quite some story.

Georgiana Frances Watts was born in Kensington in 1882, the daughter of George Nelson Watts, a prosperous builder.³³ Her father, the son of a publican, was employing over sixty men by 1881 and was probably what would be termed a property developer today, riding the Victorian building boom. Georgiana grew up in Castelnau, Barnes, where a near neighbour was a Doctor, Walter Paul Jones, eight years her senior and the son of a 'Newspaper & Advertising Agent'. They were married in 1901 and lived at his Surgery in Walton Place, off the Brompton Road in Knightsbridge, and in April 1904 a son was born to them. Georgiana however, being still in her early twenties wanted to be off to dances and parties and Walter sold his Dispensary business in order to give him more time to accommodate her wishes. Later, she moved into a separate bedroom, complaining of her husband's snoring, and he arranged to have nasal surgery in order to alleviate the problem. Georgiana's social life included visits to Eastbourne and to Sevenoaks where she met, you guessed it, the young brewer William Humphrey Golding. Their relationship blossomed to the extent that on a number of occasions he stayed overnight at Walton Place while Dr Jones was away from home preparing for his operation, and the couple even stayed together at the Grosvenor Hotel. He implored her to elope with him, but she said that she could not do so without consulting a Mr Richard Burbidge.³⁴

Who was Richard Burbidge? His life is well documented,³⁵ as least the public aspects of it. He was born in 1847 in South Wraxall, Wiltshire, the son of a farmer, whom he would later describe as a 'Yeoman'. At the age of 13 he was sent to London to be apprenticed to a grocer in Oxford Street. At the age of nineteen he set up business on his own account but, noticing the development of 'departmental stores' he sold up and joined the Army & Navy Stores, rising to become its general manager. He later managed Whiteley's of Kensington and, in 1891, became the general manager and then managing director of Harrods. Within ten years he had increased the store's turnover tenfold and created the institution which we recognize today, his son and then grandson following in his shoes in their turn. He was a well-respected public figure, supporting charities and good causes and the fact that he personally gave £30,000 to help save the Crystal Palace at Sydenham is a measure of his affluence. Burbidge had a country home in Shepperton, but maintained an apartment at 51 Hans Mansions, luxury mansion flats

which Harrods had built above their store during its substantial redevelopment during the 1890s. Dr Jones, just around the corner in Walton Place, attended upon the Burbidge family when they were in Town, so Richard Burbidge knew Georgiana Jones on a social level.

When his wife's relationship with Golding came to Dr Jones' attention, he allegedly threatened violence and Burbidge intervened to protect her. The couple separated and Dr Jones wrote his wife a letter pleading for her to return to him and stating that if there were a divorce then she would be losing not only her husband and son, but also her honour. Meanwhile, Golding and Mrs Jones met with Richard Burbidge, who later claimed that Georgina was like a daughter to him, and he advised that if there were a divorce then Golding must marry her and that he would provide them £1,000 per annum. In addition, they would claim that he offered to leave them capital sums of £8,000 and £12,000 in his Will.

Georgiana returned to her husband with a promise that she would not see Golding for two years, but it later became clear to Dr Jones that his wife was communicating with Golding by telephone, and that the pair were exchanging letters, one of which confirmed their tryst at the Grosvenor Hotel. Jones sued for divorce, citing Golding as co-respondent. Burbidge instructed a Solicitor on Georgiana and Golding's behalf and covered their costs, despite it being made clear during the proceedings that she had a personal estate and had inherited property since the marriage. Dr Jones was granted a decree nisi and custody of their son in April 1908. As one might expect, the divorce case featured in the national press, the newspapers making much of the flighty young wife and her immoral ways! The story was even syndicated to many local newspapers; the details here recounted have been distilled from many such reports. The decree was made absolute in the following year and in 1918 Jones was re-married to Beatrice M. Morgan; he died in Carshalton in 1957.

Golding and Mrs Jones were married in 1909; things appeared to be going well for them, despite the failure of his brewing business in 1913. Then, in 1916, they jointly brought an action against the lately-ennobled Sir Richard Burbidge for breach of a verbal contract – he had stopped paying the £1,000 per annum. Burbidge had been created a Baronet in the New Year's Honours list, no doubt for building and equipping two military hospitals in Belgium at his own expense. The details which came out on the first day in court are illuminating and I can do no better than to quote a report on the case in the *Daily Express* of July 26 1908, the first sentence of which tells us a great deal about Golding's financial dealings.

Early in 1908, Mr Golding was thinking of selling his brewery business, but Sir Richard advised him not to, and promised to see that Mr Golding lost nothing by remaining in the business. All three were constantly together in that year. Sir Richard took the plaintiffs to the seaside, paying all expenses, and there was voluminous correspondence in which he expressed himself in the language of a father to an affectionate daughter. They took a rather expensive house at Shepperton, which Sir Richard had himself occupied. Such a house was entirely beyond their means, apart from the income that the defendant had promised them. Sir Richard also advised them to take a flat in Albert Hall Mansions at £150 yearly, where plaintiffs could reside during the winter. In November 1909, when Sir Richard was seriously ill, he pressed for the marriage to take place at once, and renewed the promises already made. During plaintiff's honeymoon, Sir Richard spent a good deal of time with them. The relationship between the parties continued until the end of 1913 to be as confidential as they had been since the time of the marriage. In January 1914 an unfortunate dispute arose which culminated in a meeting on January 5th, at defendant's office, when defendant said that he had received a letter in which Mr Golding had made the grave accusation that Sir Richard's relations with Mrs Golding had been immoral relations. Mrs Golding at once repudiated it. From that time onwards defendant had discontinued all payments. He referred Mr Golding to a solicitor to settle the terms which the promised income would be.

Sir Richard's legal representative stated that his client had made no such contracts and that if any payments had been made, then they were in the nature of a gratuity and that Mr Golding's claims were tantamount to blackmail. The case was adjourned and when it resumed the next day the Goldings' counsel rose to address the bench, saying:

This morning my client Mrs Golding, and her husband agrees with her, states that Sir Richard has been to both, and particularly to her, an honourable and generous friend, and she thinks under these circumstances that this action should proceed no further. She feels that no imputation should be made upon Sir Richard.

Burbidge's counsel found it necessary to state that

There was no condition of any kind, secret or implied, connected to the judgement which Sir Richard Burbidge now takes. There is no condition as to compensation or otherwise, and he leaves court as a defendant against whom the plaintiffs recognize they have no claim. Sir Richard does not propose to ask his lordship to make any order for costs.

Why the sudden change of heart? We shall never know, but obviously something had gone on behind the scenes. Burbidge's financial dealings with Golding included the fact that Golding was the leaseholder and licensee of the Royal Oak at 21 Keppel Street, Chelsea, when the licence was

extinguished under the Compensation Act in 1914, Golding received £1,250, as did the freeholders, who were... Harrods Ltd.³⁶ One report of the divorce case states that Burbidge promised Golding directorships which would make him a further £1,000 a year in addition to monies already promised to the couple. So, it might seem that Burbidge's money and financial nous was possibly behind the Standard Co-operative Brewing Society, in an attempt to prop up the business of the husband of a lady of whom Sir Richard was very fond. Whether their relationship was any more than fondness we will also never know, she was thirty-five years his junior. Burbidge's wife, who was six years older than him, died in 1905 and he married again in 1910 to a Lillian Preece, a lady in her early thirties, half his age. Early in 1917, Sir Richard retired at 8.30pm one night but rose again at 10 feeling faint. He sat by the bedroom window to get some fresh air and his Doctor was summoned, but 20 minutes later he collapsed and died.³⁷ His Doctor was, of course, Walter Paul Jones M.D., F.R.C.S.

William and Georgiana Golding had two daughters; Renee, born in 1911, and Yvonne, born in 1914. I have found no record of Golding having served in the armed forces in the Great War, despite the fact that he was a Lieutenant in the 1st Sussex Royal Engineers Reserve³⁸ prior to the outbreak of hostilities, allowing the use of a field adjacent to his brewery for the Corps' annual camp. Little is known about Golding's life after he forsook brewing; his wife passed away on 17 February 1930 in Marylebone, London,³⁹ and in 1932 he sailed from Gibraltar to Plymouth on the P&O steamer Malwa,⁴⁰ he gave his address as the 'Sports Club, St. James Sq., W.I.' and his profession as 'Gentleman'. Golding was living in Cavendish Avenue, Harrow, Middlesex in 1935 with an Edwina Alexandra Golding.⁴¹ This lady, not one of his daughters, was actually named Winnie Spinks at this time; the couple did not marry until 1939, in Fulham.⁴² When the 1939 Register was compiled, the couple were living in Church End Road, Newton Abbot, in Devon. Golding was at this time describing himself as a 'retired brewer, farmer, market gardener and a director of companies', the latter being no doubt a result of his involvement with Sir Richard Burbidge. Golding passed away in Newton Abbot Hospital on 3 March 1953, at which time his home address was given as Kingshill, Kingkerswell, Devon.⁴³ He left effects valued at £519 16s 6d,⁴⁴ probate being granted to the National Provincial Bank and his widow, Winnie Golding. Winnie, being some 26 years William's junior, outlived him considerably. She passed way at the couple's house on 1 July 1978.

Golding's brewing career occupied only perhaps 14 of his 76 years, but we have seen that 26 years after he left the trade, he still considered himself a brewer, albeit retired.

Would his business have been more successful had he gained the retail off licence he sought in such a protracted and determined manner? Would it have been more successful had he not fallen in love with the already married Georgiana Jones? Would it have been more successful, or less so, without the involvement of Georgiana's admirer, Sir Richard Burbidge? The answers to all of these questions, and more, are open to conjecture, but what is certain is that, in building his brewery where and when he did, and in relying on the dwindling family trade, he was too late to the feast.

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3. *Sevenoaks Chronicle*, 7 September 1900.
4. £436,000 to £545,000 in 2019 terms.
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6. *Sevenoaks Chronicle*, 10 August 1900
7. *Dictionary of National Biography*, 1901 supplement.
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10. *ibid.*, 1st February 1901.
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