

## A Tale of Peter Allen of Lindale



A gravestone in Lindale churchyard commemorates Peter Allen, drowned in Windermere, May 10 1900, aged 18 years. Peter Allen was an apprentice coach painter from Lindale who took a canoe from Newby Bridge and was found drowned soon after in ten feet of water. One newspaper report says he and his father had a contract to paint the Swan Hotel at Newby Bridge.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century a Peter Allen was the innkeeper of the Commercial Inn, Lindale. Were these Peter Allens related?

Peter Allen, the future Innkeeper, was born in 1796. His occupation was a miller when he married Margaret Tugwood in 1818. Their son, John, was baptised in 1820, when Peter Allen was recorded as 'of Kirkby Lonsdale'. Soon after Peter, Margaret and John moved to the Commercial Inn in Lindale and census records and directories show that Peter ran the Inn until his retirement in the 1860s. He was also the mail car proprietor.

This advert appeared in the Lancaster Gazette Railway Timetable and Reference Sheet for December 1858

**TO THE  
GENTRY OF THE SURROUNDING NEIGHBOURHOOD,  
COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS,  
AND THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL.**

I herewith beg to return you my grateful thanks for the kind and liberal support bestowed upon me through the Summer Season, and further beg to state that I intend running the Omnibus during the Winter Season as usual, from the Grange Station on the Ulverston and Lancaster Railway to Newby Bridge, and trusts by strict attention and punctuality, to merit a continuance of public support.

The Omnibus will leave Grange Station at 11 45 a.m., arriving at Newby Bridge at 12 40 p.m.; will return from there at 12 50 p.m., and reach Grange at 1 50 p.m., in time for the Express Train at 2 o'clock to the South.

**PETER ALLEN.**

*Commercial Inn, Lindale-in-Cartmel,  
November, 1858.*

**N.B.—POST HORSES, GIGS, CHAISES, AND EXCELLENT  
ACCOMMODATION AT THE ABOVE INN.**

John was a farmer, another son Robert became a surgeon and their third son William was a ship's captain. In 1843 son John Allen married Elizabeth Sedgwick of Wilson House, Lindale and they had at least 3 children. Another Peter, the Innkeeper's Peter's grandson, was baptised in 1845, Mary Margaret was baptised in 1852 and William was baptised in 1855. This Peter became a coach builder or painter. He left Lindale, married Mary from Flint, Wales and they had a son whom they named Peter. This third Peter, was born in 1882 in Swindon, Wiltshire. It is this Peter that sadly drowned in Windermere in 1900 and he was the great grandson of Peter, the Innkeeper.

By the 1891 census William Allen, Innkeeper and farmer (born 1855) and Margaret (born 1860) and 4 of their children including another Peter Allen (the fourth Peter, born in 1886) were living at the Commercial Inn. A report in the Manchester Times dated 22 June 1900 records that William Allen was sent to prison for not maintaining his wife and five children. He had recently sold an inn at Lindale in Cartmel for £1604 and owned land worth £2000. Soon after, the 1901 Census records William and Margaret Allen and their two younger children William and Ethel, born 1893 and 1896, living 'on own means' at 12 Victoria Street, Morecambe. Also recorded there was Peter Allen, born 1844, a coach builder of Lindale-in-Cartmel and said to be single, who was visiting his brother. This is the father of Peter who had drowned the year before, in Windermere. By the 1911 Census Peter Allen of Lindale, born 1845, was an inmate of Ulverston workhouse. It is recorded that he had been married for 30 years. However neither his wife Mary nor William and Margaret Allen have been identified in the 1911 census. No Allens appear in Bulmer's 1914 directory, and there are no Allens listed for Lindale in any of the Grange Red Books. Therefore after being central to village life during much of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Allen family name no longer exists in Lindale. Perhaps after the tragic events of 1900 when Peter drowned and William went to prison starting a new life away from Lindale was the best solution.

*Sylvia Woodhead and Pat Rowland* April 2016

Thanks are due to Nick Mortimer for the gravestone photo and information.