

## The Old Brewery in Allithwaite

There is clear evidence of brewing on the premises in both the beer and ale-houses in Allithwaite. The first references are sale or let advertisements indicating brew-houses [1] [2] in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. There was a ready supply of malt for brewing the ale from the corn mill / malt kiln in Allithwaite at the west side of the village (fig.3) from the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century [1].

It was reported that there was a fire which burnt down the Corn Mill in 1824 and destroyed a large quantity of the malt [3]. The fire originated in the drying kiln which had not been regularly cleaned, and the miller and his man were away at a raffil in Allithwaite [4]. In 1855, the drying kiln was rebuilt with new roof spars [4]. Subsequently the rebuilt corn mill became a brewery sometime in the second half of the century [5], and able to supply the local ale-houses.

Whilst there is no clear evidence when exactly the brewery was operational [5], by 1871, the industry appears to be established, with a brewer, James Postlethwaite, and a cooper, William Bouch living in the cottages at Beckside [6] next to the brewery (fig. 1).



Figure 1: The location of Allithwaite Brewery in 1890

James Simpson Young appears to be the owner; the "Letters" beer-house was

probably located there in September 1874 when James Postlethwaite was the licensee [7]. The licence was transferred to John Lambert in Dec. 75, to Sarah Lambert in Nov. 78 and then to William in Feb 79. The Letters is a somewhat comical name and is the short form of "Let us in" [8].

The first reference to the Brewery is in 1875 when an advert appeared in the Westmorland Gazette for the premises to be let [9]. The Brewery was described with water power for Grinding and Pumping, and an excellent supply of pure water. The advert states 'the brewery has a licence for the sales of beer to be consumed off the premises. There is also three acres of land and the Dwelling House contains two Sitting Rooms, five bedrooms, a kitchen and a larder. Application to be made to Mr James R Riley, of Underwood, Grange-over-Sands'. NB James was the brother-in-law of James Simpson Young.

Fourteen lots the late Mr Young's estate was advertised to be sold by auction at Grange Hotel on the 30<sup>th</sup> July 1879 including Allithwaite Lodge + Brewery [4]. William Lambert bought the premises in 1879 [10], and purchased the brewery for £1200 after the auction [4]. By 1881, William Lambert was the brewer with his wife Alice [11] producing mild and bitter ale [12].

Later, in about 1910, the brewery was occupied by Henry Barrow Battersby, who was described as a joiner and wheelwright living at the beer-house [13]. Ye Olde Brewery's licence expired in 1920 and was awarded compensation of £240 for non-renewal [14].

In the Barrow archive, there are some notes on a 1910 trial involving money owed by Henry Barrow Battersby to Jonas Alexander & Sons (Beezon Brewery,

Kendal) [15]. The Brewery Beer House had a Gross Valuation of £235 in 1910.

Today the property has been converted into residences (fig.2), and it also accommodates a B & B establishment named The Old Brewery House [16].



Figure 2: The Old Brewery (Pat Rowland 1990)

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## References

- [1] *Manchester Mercury*, 5 Nov 1799.
- [2] *Westmorland Gazette*, 29 Aug 1840.
- [3] *Lancaster Gazette*, 8 May 1824.
- [4] William Field Logbook.
- [5] B. Copeland, "Allithwaite Mill," [www.cartmel-peminsula-lhs.org](http://www.cartmel-peminsula-lhs.org).
- [6] "1871 Census".
- [7] North Lonsdale Licence Registers, Held at the Barrow Archive.
- [8] wikipedia.
- [9] *Westmorland Gazette*, 25 Sept 1875.
- [10] *Lancaster Gazette*, 2 Aug 1879.
- [11] "1881 Census".
- [12] P. Mannex, *History & Directory of Furness and Cartmel*, 1882.
- [13] J. Bulmer, *History, Topography and Directory of Furness and Cartmel*, 1910.
- [14] *Lancashire Evening Post*, 30 July 1920.
- [15] "BDL/P4/34," Barrow Archive.
- [16] Tripadvisor.