

## **Bishops Come to Hampshire**

In the 2014 edition of the EMHT journal 'ECHO', our Hon. Archivists reported that they had discovered another public house in Emsworth, in New Brighton Road, to add to the records in the Museum.

The publican was Charles BISHOP, described as a tailor and beerhouse keeper, whose son, William was a shoemaker.

My own family history research, based mainly in Hampshire, has revealed a branch of my family called Bishop who were listed as publicans and shoemakers in Southampton in several censuses.

Added to this, my forebear Daniel Bishop came from Chaldon Herring, Dorset and Charles Bishop came from Wareham, Dorset, only about 10 miles apart. I felt that somewhere in the past there could be a family link, so I decided to look at the ancestry of Charles Bishop in the 18th and 19th centuries.

### **Charles Bishop (1818 – 1893)**

Charles Bishop was born in 1817 in Wareham, Dorset. In the parish register he was named Charles Prince Bishop. His parents were Charles (bap. 1784) and Ann Bishop, née Hooper. They married in Wareham in 1808.

Charles Bishop and Ann Short were married on 27th December 1838 at Lady St Mary Church, Wareham. One of the witnesses was Ann's father, William Short. The Banns were read in the previous three weeks.

I have found Charles Bishop and his family in the 1841 census. Charles and Ann were living in Mill Lane, next to Bacon's Mill in Wareham. Charles was listed as a tailor.

By 1851 Charles and Ann were living in North Street, Wareham and had produced two children, Esther (11) and William (8).

In the 1861 Census they had moved again, to West Street, Wareham. Charles's occupation was master tailor and their son William was a shoemaker. Charles was about 43 years old.

Sometime between 1861 and 1871, the family moved to New Brighton Road in Emsworth. The 1871 census lists Charles as a tailor and beerhouse keeper and William, his son, as a shoemaker.

Various Hampshire trade directories between 1870 and 1880 list Charles as a publican or beerhouse keeper.

Their pub was called "The Half Way House" as they refreshed travellers on their way between Emsworth and Westbourne.

In 1881 census Charles and Ann were still living in New Brighton Road, both 63 years old and Charles' occupation was listed as a tailor and beerhouse keeper.

In the autumn of 1881 Ann died. Charles is recorded next in the Havant Union Workhouse in 1891 where he is listed as a widower, tailor, born in Wareham. His son William seems to be in the Bath Union Workhouse in that year, 1891, a shoemaker, but also a pauper.

Charles died in 1893 aged 76. The only member of the family to survive into the 20th century was Alice Solomon, the daughter of Esther. Esther had married Abraham Solomon in 1869 and they were living in London in 1871.

Alice was born in Emsworth in 1873, I assume that Esther had come back to Emsworth to be with her mother for the birth of her first child. Unfortunately, Alice's birth certificate gives no details of the address in Emsworth.

So, Charles Bishop lived and worked in Emsworth for about twenty to twenty five years.

I have researched back two generations before Charles, both his father and grandfather were named Charles and they lived in Wareham.

### **Daniel Bishop (1787 – 1858)**

Of my own Bishop family, my four times great grandfather, Daniel Bishop, had moved to Southampton from Dorset and started a business as a baker, having previously been a dairyman in Dorset.

As I have not found any definite links in Dorset in the past between the two families, I cannot claim any direct link to Emsworth although I am Hampshire born and bred. My research continues.

### **Unanswered questions.**

1. Why would Charles have been attracted to the idea of setting up a business selling beer in Emsworth, as previously to their move from Dorset, he was a tailor.
2. I have not scanned the local newspapers of the time to see if Charles Bishop or The Halfway House was mentioned or advertised.
3. It may be possible to find whether Charles continued his trade after his wife died.
4. How did Esther meet Arthur Solomon, a shorthand writer from Suffolk?

*I am indebted to the Dorset FHS and the Hampshire Genealogical Society for much of the information pre 1837 and our Hon. Archivists, Roy and Sheila Morgan for setting me off on the trail plus supplying local information from their records.*

***Geoff Higgins***