



Villagers and their Occupations

These days, Marston has no local amenities such as a shop or pub (although it does have a telephone box, post box and chapel). But that has not always been the case.....

BAKERS/GROCERS - In 1855 there were at least two people plying their trade - George Holloway and Samuel Marshall in Worton and in Marston. It was up to John Coleman to supply the village with bread and staples. In 1865 Thomas Dyke became the baker in Marston. Prior to WW11, Mrs. Burbage ran a shop from rooms in her home firstly at Close Farm and then at Orchard View Cottage in Marston. In 1935 Edward William Ellis was named in a conveyance as grocer and draper of Worton.

BASKET MAKER - John Thomas gained his indenture at a cost of £5. 0s. 0d.

BLACKSMITH - Isaac Watts was the "smithy" in 1855

BREWER - There is some evidence that there was a brewery in the village. Mrs. Burbage was known for her elderberry wine!

BUILDER - James Holloway was in business in 1865. His firm or that of his family built the old school house on the High Street in 1896.

BUTCHER - 1865 William Oram. Most of the meat produced in the county was pork (hence the growth of both Harris's in Calne and Bowyers in Trowbridge"

CARPENTER - 1728 Thomas White became apprenticed to John Davies of Poulshot for £8. 0s. 0d. A carpentry apprenticeship lasted 7 years; in comparison a surgeon qualified after 6.

CARRIER/COURIER - Mr. Oram would charge 3d for a small parcel and 6d for a large one during the late 1920's and 1930's . He would go to Devizes weekly on Thursdays to collect parcels and get the local children to deliver them for a halfpenny on his return.

CLOTHIER - John Flower of Worton, was a prominent clothier who in c1550 possessed over 800 sheep and had 4 looms

COOPER - William Oram doubled up his duties in 1865 taking on the barrel making for the

area.

CORN FACTORS & MERCHANTS - James Glass in 1855

DOCTOR - There was no doctor in the village itself; patients had to travel to Bratton for medical advice. The nearest hospital was in Westbury this has obviously changed but until at least the 1960's. I can remember having to travel to a nearby village to see Dr. Hoffman when a Welsh corgi decided to bite me on the arm.

DRAPER - In 1935 Edward William Ellis was named in a conveyance as grocer and draper of Worton.

FARMERS - This has been probably the highest employer over many centuries not only in the villages but all over the county. I doubt that anyone has traced their family history without encountering the "Ag Lab" or "Yeoman" in the census returns. Being for a long time the main employer in the village there are too many names of farmers and agricultural labourers to mention but they all played a major part in village life. I remember as a little girl wandering up to "Uncle Bill Sumner" who farmed next door to our cottage to visit "Daisy the cow" he used to call me "Blossom" - I don't think he was good at remembering names. By 1991 farming was in the minority with residents seeking employment much further afield having the benefit of modern day transport systems.

HORSE BREAKER & BREEDER - Donald Richens at Prince Hill from 1936.

LADIES MAID - Hilda Biggs (nee Sharpe) was employed at the Grange by Mrs. Hume until she married in 1911.

LAUNDERESS - Several villagers worked in the laundry in a tin shed on the other side of the brook. Run by Mrs. Bodman, several villagers worked there carrying water to the hut from the brook. The laundry closed before the 1920's.

MILITARY MEN - General Pattle Beadle was a village resident for a few years during the 1880's. Mark Haines served with the Wiltshire Regiment in India during the early 1900's. During WW1 Commander Lovatt was resident at the Grange. Commander Wardell-Yerborough and Commander Richardson also lived in the village after the Great War. General Stevenson was resident at Prince Hill and would make sure the Marston children got to school at Worton by picking them up in bad weather; he lived in the village around the 1930's. Major Finch was resident at the Grange in 1962.

MILLER - Thomas Potterne in 1660 at Worton Mill followed by Jacob Moore in 1700 and James & Ruth Moore in 1722. John Moore followed and in 1813 the Axford family took over. George Dowse worked the mill until 1855. Mr. Fry purchased the mill in 1933 selling it to R. J. Edmonds in 1940. Henry Galpin was a miller in the village during the 1940's. In 1962, R. F. Ford took over until 1970 when Worton Mill closed.

PARISH CLERK - Post held by Samuel Sumner amongst others.

PEST CONTROLLER - 1927 James Holloway

POLICEMAN - PC Lovedday (sic) was based at Potterne during the 1930's. He was the local village bobby for Worton & Marston until the day he collided with a chicken that ran out in front of his bicycle. PC Lovedday was killed in the line of duty.

POSTMASTER - Thomas Sumner between 1862 and 1882 was the first holder postmaster. After his death his wife Kate took over. See table under Village Shop article for other postmasters)

PUBLICANS - There were three landlords in 1895 all in Worton serving just 300 residents - The Royal Oak, The New Inn and The Rose and Crown of which only The Rose & Crown remains open. The Plough Inn at Marston closed in 1965 when Fred Strange was the

landlord. Fred can remember when you could buy a pint of Wadworth's beer (brewed in Devizes) and 10 Woodbines for 1/-.

SHOEMAKER/CORDWAINER - Henry Sumner in the early part of the 1820's and was still trading in 1855. His son Samuel followed his father as well as carrying out his church and village duties.

SHOPKEEPERS - For Marston - Mrs. Burbage up until the late 1930's early 1940's. One villager remembers that there was no counter and the goods were spread all over and in sacks. There was a smell of paraffin, candles and leather. The shop sold most things from bootlaces to sweets. Black treacle was dispensed from stone jars into customer's own receptacles. Paraffin was delivered to the shop from Poulshot by Benny Presser pushing his barrow. The shop premises burnt down in 1956 long after the shop had ceased trading. The table below shows the shop history at Worton.

26 June 1762	Thomas Sumner from Charles G.W. Kensington
13 Sept 1882	Thomas Sumner
14 Apr 1905	George & Ann Jane Bathard of Tinhead
11 Oct 1906	John Henry & Mary Ann Sansom of Worton
22 Sept 1931	Reginald Jack Coleman (John) of Devizes
15 Mar 1935	Edward Wm Ellis of Yew Tree Cottage Worton
26 Nov 1947	Morris Jones of Longford, Glos
11 Nov 1955	Wm James Johnson of Kent
9 June 1958	Joseph Worth of Birmingham
31 May 1961	Bernard James & Joan MacLachlan
2 Aug 1967	John Gilchrist & Winifred Paterson
26 Feb 1972	Dennis Stanley Phillips

Dennis Phillips and his wife Lorna were running the shop and post office at Worton until 1991 which also serves the village of Marston.

TEACHERS - Around 1844 Sarah Bolter began teaching in the village with a Sunday School type curriculum. Thomas Cook was the Schoolmaster during 1850's. In 1882 Thomas Sumner was named as Schoolmaster in a deed. Miss Williams, Miss Hodgkinson and Miss Lewis were one set of teachers at Worton, followed by Mrs. Williamson and Miss Amerson. Then Miss Ford (later Mrs. Few) who was Headmistress and Miss Hillman and Miss Holloway, her teaching staff. During the 1960's Mr. Hayter was the Headmaster.

THATCHER - Bill Tuck was the only thatcher in the village. He was a first class craftsman but could neither read nor write. He ran his business in a laid back way from his home in Mill Road. If anyone wanted a job doing they would need to find him at his workplace wherever that may be or catch him at home before he left for work at six in the morning.

TOBACCONIST - 1637 Thomas Horner paid £4 for a license to sell tobacco in the Parish of Potterne including Worton & Marston.

TRANSPORT SERVICES - During the 1860's and 1870's John Nash ran a service to Bath on Saturdays and Alfred Phillips to Devizes on Thursdays. Bodmans Coaches set up in the Old Forge Garage in 1922.

UNDERTAKER - Mr. Holloway was the funeral director for the villages. The funeral bier was a wooden flatbed cart probably horse drawn.

WEAVER - 1719 John Stawbridge was apprenticed to Thomas Garden for £2. 2s. 0d.

WHEELWRIGHT - 1906 John Henry Sanson

Trading licenses were granted during the C16th although no trade has been recorded against the licenses.

1560 - William Piers of Worton
Johanns Hobbys of Worton
1577 - Roger Matthews of Worton