

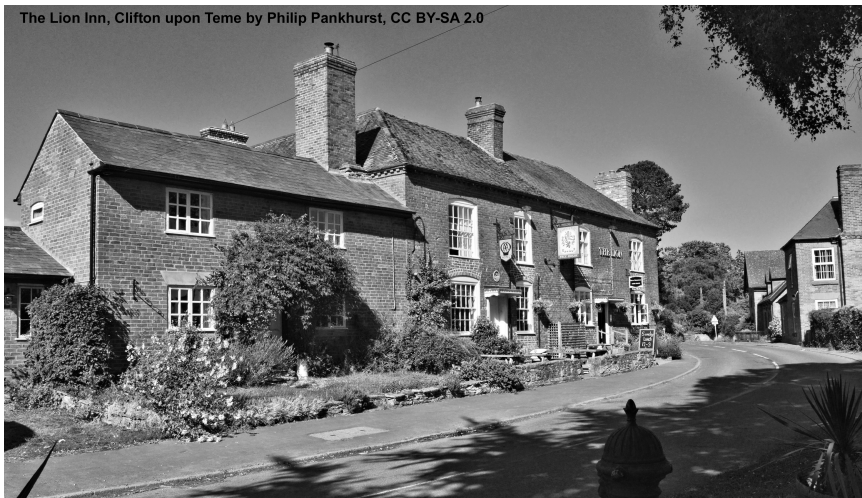
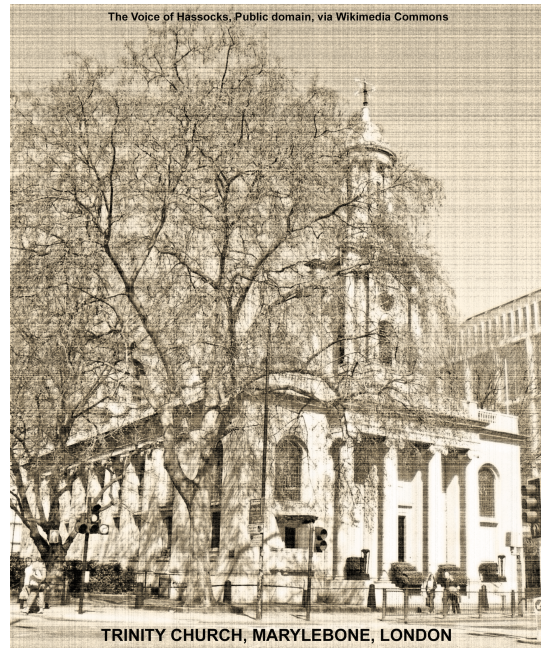
William Derbyshire 1851 - 1927

This piece of research started by accident while seeking information on another railwayman named Derbyshire. It is an interesting record of a man who spent his entire working life on the GWR.

William was born 13 April 1851 to Joseph Derbyshire & Sarah Anne Brown. Joseph was born in West Hallam, Derbyshire and Sarah was from London. It is possible that both were in service in Worcester City. The 1851 census indicates that Joseph, age 28, was Under Butler to the Dean of Worcester. They were un-married at the time of William's birth which was registered at Shardlow, Derbyshire. He was Baptised in the parish church of Spondon on 20th April 1851.

Joseph and Sarah were married July 5th 1851 at Trinity Church, St Marylebone, London. Joseph took the tenancy of the Lion Inn, Clifton on Teme, Worcestershire and set up business as Publican and Farmer.

A son Joseph John is born in 1852. He sadly died age 2.1/2 and was buried at the parish church of Clifton on Teme, Feb 22 1855. A daughter, Harriet was born in November 1854. A Son, John Ross was born in December 1857.



Between 1858 and 1862 Joseph had 3 convictions at the local assizes 2 for assault and one for non payment of a road toll. Joseph gave up the tenancy of the Red Lion in September 1862. What became of him thereafter is unclear. He passed away some time before 1881. The census that year identifies Sarah as a widow. Harriet was married in July 1874 and John Ross Married in August 1881.

The 1861 census finds the Joseph & Sarah at the Lion Inn, Clifton. Also at the address are William age 9, Harriett age 6, John Ross age 3, Sarah Ross (Aunt) age 69, Robert Wormington age 12 (Boarder), John Church age 25 (servant) and Mary Teague age 18 (General servant).

By 1871 Sarah was living apart from Joseph. The census shows her as "agent for a Temperance Society". Quite a change from running a pub. it is possible that family life at Clifton was difficult.

Worcestershire Chronicle, September 17th 1862.

CLIFTON-UPON-TEME.

*Valuable LIVE STOCK, AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS,
Dairy Articles, and Effects, at the
LION INN, in the Village of CLIFTON UPON-
TEME, in the County of WORCESTER;*

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

BY W. HIGGS,

*By direction of Mr. JOSEPH DERBYSHIRE, who
is leaving ;*

ON Friday, the 26th of September, 1862,

commencing at 10 a.m.

Particulars next week.

William Derbyshire began work with the GWR at Worcester in January 1867. He was age of 15 and commenced as an office boy.

The 1871 census finds the family at 30 Wylds Lane, Worcester. Sarah is age 42, William, 20, is an engine fitter, Harriet is 16, John Ross, 13, also a lodger Fanny Porter age 26 (Dress maker).

In 1872 William was married to Bertha Davies of St Johns, Worcester. May 13 1872 he was made a Fireman with the GWR. In October 1872 a son William John is born. The 1881 census finds William and Bertha at 35 Wylds lane, Worcester with son William J age 8. In February 1884 William is made an Engine Fitter.



Aberdare showing the railway complex C1868

From 1884 to 1885 The family possibly lived in South wales. William served at GWR depots in Landore, (Swansea) and Aberdare training/serving as an engine driver. on September 28 1885 William was made an Engine Man 3rd Class.

The 1881 census finds William, Bertha and William J at 35 Wylds lane, Worcester. GWR records for May 1898 states “ *Specially allowed to forego promotion with removal to Slough on account of the illness of his wife*”. In December 1886 Bertha passed away.

In September 1897 George remarried to Louisa Harris in Merthyr Tydfil. the 1891 census finds William and Louisa Staying with the Harris family at 42 Francis Street, Wolverhampton. The head of the household, Thomas Harris is a Railway Engine Driver. His wife, Clara is Louisa’s sister, she has 4 children aged 1 to 9.

The 1901 Census finds William living at Park House, Fort Royal Lane, Worcester with Louisa, age 46, a visitor Louisa Ellery age 21, nephews William Harris age 13 and Cecil Harris age 11 plus a boarder George Pearce, age 25 (a railway stoker). William’s Mother, Sarah is living nearby in Silver Street.

William’s GWR Employment Record shows between 1900 and 1904 he had 4 accidents involving slips or falls and some minor injuries. There may have been concerns about his health and weight. An entry notes:

1905 27 May. Messrs Churchward & Naister discussed this mans Case as to the large number of accidents he has met with and his great weight and it was decided that he may be allowed to continue his present duties but if he meets with further accidents when on duty it will be a question whether he should be remain on the footplate.

On October 8 1906 William retired due to ill health. The GWR Assurance Co paid £40.

The 1911 census finds William at 3 Fort Royal Lane with wife Louisa, a nephew George Seabright age 19 (Engine Fitter) and a boarder, Freeman Merriman age 27 (Policeman). Sarah is still in Silver Street along with John Ross, his wife Amelia and 4 adult offspring.

William’s mother, Sarah Passed away in 1918. His son William John, Passed Away in 1925.

William Derbyshire, Passed Away in 1927 in Worcester.