Chapter 11
Business & Employment

Today very few of Upton's residents have employment within the parish boundary; those who do are most likely to be 'working from home office' or in small local service supply. Upton has never had any large industrial employers but two of its sources of employment have been with us for a good while - the zoo and the hospital – although formerly as an asylum it existed quite isolated from Upton. The history of these two establishments is well covered in other publications but are summarised here for the completeness of Upton's history. The other large concern was Dicksons nursery which ceased in the early 1930s. All other businesses have tended to be small family concerns – many of which are covered within this chapter.

As a rural community, most employment before the mid-1800s was either in agriculture and its supporting roles or in domestic service. As the demand for farmland declined and the business gentry moved in, building large country residences, the number in domestic service increased considerably. These included grooms and gardeners as well as those engaged within the house. Those directly employed in agriculture as farm workers or agricultural dealers are not recorded in this chapter having been covered in earlier chapters. Similarly the publicans, clergy and teachers are covered elsewhere along with the history of their premises and organisations.

1841 was the first census to record individuals and their occupations. Over the period to 1901, the census records clearly show the gradual influx of those with occupations unconnected with agriculture. As well as the more well-off owners of businesses within the North West there was a steady increase of professionals and clerical staff and those associated with the 'new' industries such as the railways in the 1800s and the Merseyside industries in the 1900s. Initially this served to increase the demand for servants with many households having at least one servant.

By the beginning of the 20th century the community was very mixed with those in employment ranging from commuting professionals and retailers to the servants and labourers. While the rest of this chapter provides an insight into employment over the years it clearly has not been able to cover all types of employment. Those with extensive local community involvement, such as the local tradesmen, have been singled out. The advertisements within '*Church & Parish*' – the magazine of the Parish Church – have been used as self-contained records of well-remembered local businesses.

The history for two of the three main businesses, as recorded here, have drawn extensively on original research carried out by others, namely Carol Coles for the Asylum and Dr Roger Wilkinson for the Zoo.

The Asylum and later the Hospital

The Cheshire County Lunatic Asylum opened in September 1829, under the auspices of the 1808 County Asylum Act. This allowed for Justices of the Peace to levy a county rate in order to establish asylums to accommodate pauper lunatics. The original building, still called 'The 1829 Building' consisted of a long front with two return wings. It was built on land purchased from the Egerton estate; the architect was W Cole Jnr and the contractor W Quay of Neston. It was built in brick with stone dressing. Around the front courtyard there were stables, repair shops and the mortuary. The basements in the front section of the building housed the kitchens, brewhouse, storehouse and laundry. In the central section of the house there were the offices of the doctor and matron and other staff quarters. At the rear were the exercise yards and well. The Asylum had accommodation for 90 patients, men in the south wing and women in the north. The patients slept on straw bedding and used unbreakable bowls, horn feeding mugs and wooden spoons. To look after these patients there were 12 attendants and a matron – Mrs Bird – but no regular night nurse. The two doctors– L I Jones & Mr W Rose – were neither resident nor full time. Only in 1853 was the first full time resident Medical Superintendent appointed.



Reproduced from 1873 Ordance Survey Map

Throughout the nineteenth century the Asylum expanded in order to accommodate an ever increasing number of pauper lunatics. 'The 1829 Building' was extended and in 1896 a major building programme started which resulted in the complex known as 'The Main'. It included accommodation for 404 patients, attendants and administration blocks. In the early twentieth century further building took place which resulted in 'The Annexe'.

The Medical Superintendent had his own house and servants, the principle aspects of his job being concerned with the administration and legal aspects of the running of the Asylum. There was very little medical treatment available for mental illness except for sedatives such as bromide & paraldehyde. The assistant medical officers were principally dealing with the general health of the patients. Due to this lack of medical treatment the attendants were appointed principally for their practical skills such as farm work, carpentry, laundry, cooking etc. The

Asylum was as far as practicable a self sufficient organisation. Attendants were poorly paid and lived in with part of their pay consisting of free lodgings, food and laundry. The 1881 Census does not include any one on the staff with obvious links to Upton. By 1901, an attendant lived in one of the Frog Hall Cottages and a nurse in local lodgings. Edward Twist Jones of Upton Park was clerk to the Asylum during the 1920s & 1930s and the store keeper lived in Caughall Road. An inhabitant of Swindley's Row is recorded as having been the asylum gate keeper.



The 1829 Building – taken from the 1831 Hemmingway book 'The History of Chester'

The isolated and stagnant world of the Asylum was broken by the impact of the First World War on the British home front. The most immediate issue was the loss of male staff to the armed forces. This staffing crisis was aggravated by the fact that the Asylum had to accommodate patients from Winwick and imbeciles from the Chester Workhouse as these institutes were taken over by the Government as War Hospitals. The only solution was to employ more women and break the traditional practice of male attendants nursing male lunatics. During WW1 the Asylum ploughed up more of its land including some of the airing courts. A poultry farm was set up in some of the outbuildings at Bache Hall under the control of a Miss Hartley. Female staff and patients as well as male were employed on the land and the buildings deteriorated.

During WW2, the female section of the Annexe was taken over by the military for the nursing of soldiers. Conditions for patients improved from the 1930s with the introduction of occupational health schemes. The introduction of effective drug treatments during the 1970s meant that there was far less requirement to take people with mental health problems into hospital. 'Care in the Community' introduced in the late 1970s resulted in the gradual closure of the hospital. The 1829 Building is now the offices of Cheshire West Primary Care Trust. The provision of mental health care is by the Cheshire and Wirral Partnership Trust who have their clinics, offices and limited inpatient facilities

principally in the Annexe. On the land between the former Asylum and Bache Hall stands the Countess of Chester NHS Foundation Trust - the principal provider of acute care for Chester and its environs.

George Mottershead's Zoo

The Zoo – governed by the North of England Zoological Society – is one of the largest zoos in the United Kingdom. It covers more than 100 acres, being just under a quarter of its total landholding which includes farmland. The austere economic climate of its early years prompted the zoo to create the innovative enclosure designs for which it became known. It has furthered its international reputation through its scientific and conservation work with numerous breeding successes. More than 1 million people now visit each year.



George Mottershead and lion clubs in the 1930s

George Mottershead's daughter, June, recounts how her father (shown here) was badly wounded in WW1 and was advised to work on the land until he was fit. From earlier experiences with a small zoo near Crewe, he founded Chester Zoo in the early 1930s purchasing Oakfield with under ten acres of land. He met stiff opposition from Upton Council who claimed '*it would be a serious menace to the whole neighbourhood'* In 1932 his animal collection formerly held at Shavington, which included a polar bear, a tapir, and a chimpanzee, were transferred to Upton. By 1934 it had a council chaired by Richard Blair Young. Mottershead served as director-secretary with his wife, Elizabeth, as catering manager; his father, Albert, as head gardener, and his older daughter, Muriel, as assistant curator. His school-age daughter, June, later proved to have a special interest in fish, perhaps promoted when an aquarium with six cold-water tanks was built in the wine-cellar basement of Oakfield and opened by Lady Daresbury in 1934. They remodelled the monkey house, added parrot aviaries and a penguin pool, and recorded its first successful hatching of a black-footed penguin chick.

Visitors were few and financial success still eluded the Zoo but it extended its landholding. Major benefactors including the Holt family shipping line and the Duke of Westminster gave help and collections of animals. A lion house opened by Lord Leverhulme in 1937 accommodated African lions. Mottershead asked the zoo council to consider a '*zoo without bars*', proposing to build a large, outdoor lion enclosure surrounded by 12foot high chain-link fencing.

Almost half of the council opposed this idea, fearing the lions would escape, and many council members resigned. Not until 1947 did Mottershead finally realise that dream.

During WW2 Mottershead had regular broadcasts on BBC's Children's Hour about his animal adoption scheme and the plan received much support. Animal numbers grew as they were evacuated from other zoos. The post-war period saw great success with expansion to 65 acres and 320,000 visitors by 1949 and association with names such as Peter Scott. The present aquarium, built by Fred and June (Mottershead) Williams, opened in 1952 and included the innovative feature of a roof tank with glass panels set in its base. This design allowed visitors to view fish from below and may be seen as a precursor to contemporary tunnel tanks. New visitor facilities included two cafeterias and a souvenir shop. The zoo's gardens became a feature in 1952, complementing the animal enclosures with flower beds, borders, rose and rock gardens, and shrubbery. P W Gallup, appointed the head gardener in 1953, oversaw the development of greenhouses and nursery areas to supply the zoo's rapidly expanding needs—some 80,000 plants being required for the summer bedding alone.



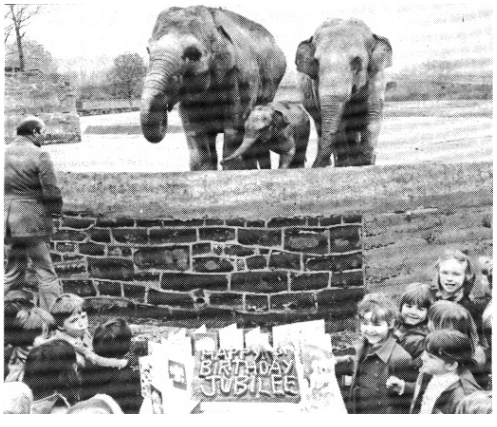
Aerial photograph of the zoo from the 1951 'WI Book'

Annual visitors had reached 500,000 by the mid-1950s when Demage Farm and the Riding school were bought. Linking the zoo across Flag Lane required the building of a footbridge. Mr Edge, who farmed Caughall Farm, rented the zoo a field for car parking until by the mid-1960s they had procured the farm, taking their land ownership to 330acres. The approximate 840,000 visitors in 1960 enjoyed the new Fountain Restaurant and Cafeteria, additional gardens, a pair of gorillas, and the new small mammal house. The present elephant house was built in 1961 as the pachyderm house; at the time it also housed rhinos,

tapirs, and hippopotamuses. Construction work continued with the building of cafeterias and a souvenir shop in 1965, a cat house in 1966, and a jaguar enclosure in 1967. Visitor numbers peaked around 1.14 million in 1967. The small veterinary laboratory built in 1968 has recently been replaced by a modern veterinary hospital.

For his outstanding zoological achievements, Mottershead was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the 1973 New Year's Honours List five years before his death at the age of 83. A while later Dr. Michael R Brambell, formerly curator of mammals at London Zoo, became director of a zoo estate that now totalled more than 500 acres, including adjacent farmland, which was used to grow food for the animals. The present director is Prof. Gordon McGregor Reid.

The last three decades have seen more innovations with the penguin pool, the twilight zone walk through bat enclosure and the monorail – pulling back from declining attendance figures. Chester Zoo has won many other awards for its environmental contributions, for its famous gardens, for zoo business and marketing, and for education. Its crowning achievement at the end of the 20th century was being named Britain's Zoo of the Year in both 1998 and 1999 and gaining the Queen's Award for Enterprise in 2001. Upton abounds in stories of zoo animal antics – and these are covered in Tale Ends (page 291). One zoo animal however made its biggest mark on Upton. The elephant is featured on the Upton crest and the most famous surely is Jubilee born in 1977 – shown here on his first birthday.



The zoo has acted as a major containment on Upton. By its acquisition of farmland in the days before Chester's Green Belt policy and planning regulations, it has prevented the potential urban sprawl northwards. In 1960 the zoo owned 8 private dwellings and this peaked at around 18 in the 1970s. These have been used for housing some of its staff while many others have had their own homes in the Upton area. Employment has risen as the zoo has expanded and today about a quarter of these live within the CH2 postcode area amounting to over a million pounds of annual salary. This helps quantify the expansion over the 70 years since Mottershead started with what appears to have been a family business. While most of the permanent and part-time staff now live within the Chester area, the zoo's international standing means that many others from around the world are here for various periods of time. The zoo's commitment to education has meant that many students have benefited from work experience and local schools have frequently been involved in visits and major events.

Dicksons Nurseries

At the height of their business around 1880 – Dicksons was very extensive covering much of Newton and the southern parts of Upton. While the main showground gardens were in Newton, the nursery is very much a part of Upton's history. The old maps and some of our current road names reflect that period. At first there were two businesses, which later became a limited company. Dicksons was probably one of the largest general nursery businesses in Great Britain. Their nurseries were reputed to have extended to over 400 acres in the Newton / Upton area and employed hundreds of local men and women. Due to the suitable conditions other nurseries have existed within Upton but Dicksons was by far the largest.

The story starts with two cousins, Francis R Dickson and James H Dickson, who moved here from Scotland c.1821 when they were aged 32 and 25 respectively. They married Chester sisters Selina and Lavinia Roberts and by 1836 had established their nursery and seed business. Although initially combined, the cousins eventually severed this partnership forming 'F & A Dickson' and 'James Dickson & Sons'. Francis and Selina settled in Upton House (later Upton Villa then Stanton House) while James and Lavinia built and settled in Newton Villa after acquiring more of the Kilmorey estate in 1845. The Upton and Newton Tithe surveys of c1840 show that the cousins between them already owned land stretching from Brook Lane to Upton's Mill Lane. The Upton Township Minute book for 1840 records them as claiming reassessment of Rateable Value on a property. James died in 1867 the year after Francis.

Their families were large and many family members became involved in the business. Employment seemed to draw largely on the Newton and Chester areas. In 1851 only one Upton resident – Charles Bebington - is recorded as a nursery labourer but by the 1881 census some addresses occupied by nursery managerial staff are given as Upton Nurseries and Nursery Cottages, located nearby to widow Selina 's home of Upton House.

The second generation of the family business took it to the heights for which it is remembered and after the deaths of the two founders they combined to form a single limited company. A son from each founder went on to become the two key figures - Francis Arthur Dickson and George Arthur Dickson. They were both very successful businessmen and became Aldermen of the City and Mayors in 1870 and 1885 respectively. George was Hon.Sec of the Royal Agricultural Show in 1893 and was known in royal circles. Francis moved to Chester's Queens Park but other family members lived in Newton, Hoole and Upton. Newton Villa passed to William Dickson and eventually became the main nursery offices. George moved to Springfield in Newton and James from Upton Lodge to Brookfield in Newton - both Newton farmhouse residences that the family had acquired along with the local land purchases. They all had such large families that by the third generation the family was very extensive within the Chester and North Wales area.

The successful business occurred during the strong national interest in horticulture resulting from the explorations of the new plant hunters. The Newton

part of the nursery show grounds was very resplendent at its height, with floral gardens and features. From the main entrance on Brook Lane, the long drive (now residential Dicksons Drive) was lined with red, white and blue flowers and what is now Sandon Road, lined was pansies. Newton Villa was a magnificent building and the gentry customers were received there as their carriages swept up the drive. There were extensive greenhouses and potting sheds as well as features such as the 'Marble Arch' - remembered post-WW2 as a ruin amongst the waste ground (see page 131).

The whole nursery area was reputedly never short of water with springs and brooks draining from the Upton Heath area. Dicksons appear to have managed these water sources with culverts taking them under the various lanes. Many of the greenhouses (especially on the Newton Brook side of the drive) had their own wells. One of the springs was horseshoe-shaped and produced lovely clear water. In the 1920s it was a watercress pond but now is under concrete at the junction of Thornton and Ellesmere roads.

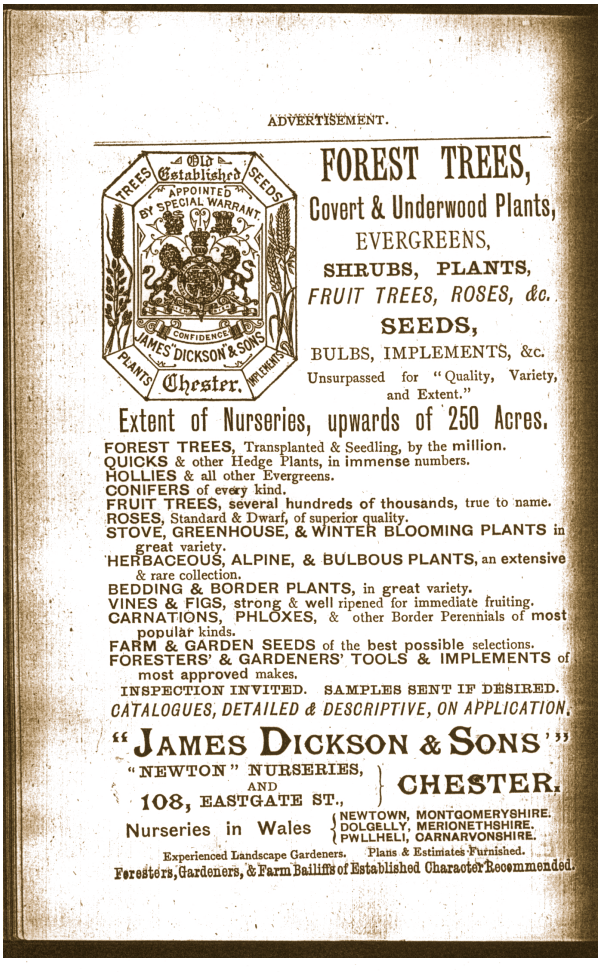


Newton Villa (see also caption on next page)

The business appears to have been in financial difficulties by the beginning of the 20th century. They were selling off ground and the 1908 OS survey shows a considerable amount of housing development in Newton. There were attempts to sell land in Upton at this time but none was developed until the 1920s and then only for the land readily accessible and suitable.

From the 1920s the nurseries were closing down and were finally closed in 1933. The Chester shop continued for a further three years. Auctions and sales distributed many items such as gardening tools to locals and former workers. Several of these ran small businesses growing and selling garden products – many locals still remember produce stalls and seeing people harvesting from the abandoned grounds.

The business took a while to wind down during which Mr. Scarratt strictly policed the site from his cottage – the former time-office just inside the newly positioned main gate.



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FOREST TREES,
Covert & Underwood Plants,
EVERGREENS,
SHRUBS, PLANTS,
FRUIT TREES, ROSES, &c.
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FOREST TREES, Transplanted & Seedling, by the **million.**
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INSPECTION INVITED. SAMPLES SENT IF DESIRED.
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"NEWTON" NURSERIES, AND 108, EASTGATE ST., } **CHESTER.**
Nurseries in Wales { NEWTOWN, MONTGOMERYSHIRE. DOLGELLY, MERIONETHSHIRE. PWLLHELI, CARNARVONSHIRE.
Experienced Landscape Gardeners. Plans & Estimates Furnished.
Foresters, Gardeners, & Farm Bailiffs of Established Character Recommended.



Besides supplying much of this history, both drawings are by Mike Hoddinott based on his memories of Newton Villa (previous page) and of Scarratt's cottage (above).

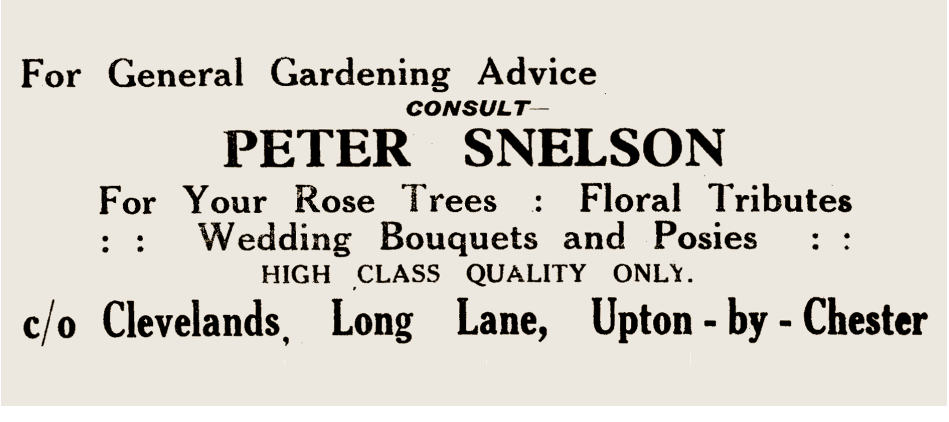
The 1951 W I Upton History scrapbook notes that Mr. Dickson used to drive his trap to the station every morning at 6 a.m., except Christmas Day and Sundays, to fetch the letters, of which there would be 800 - 1,000. In time, the nurseries had their own special post bag and postman. Well-to-do Welsh farmers apprenticed their sons to Dicksons in order to learn English while working. Finally they noted that Pedrog, a former Archdruid, had worked in Dicksons Nurseries as a young man.

Dicksons nurseries is still remembered today by those who played in their youth within the abandoned site. Some housing development within the Upton area started in the 1920s but much of the site stayed as waste ground until the extensive post war housing boom. This is all covered in chapters 7 &9.

Moston Nursery

From all accounts this was never part of Dicksons. Charles Dandy of Belmont Cambrian View, Chester, appears to have established the nursery post-WW1. It was then taken over by the Shenton family – Hilda Shenton recalls her memories in the Reminiscence Chapter (see page 283).

Peter Snelson



Peter Snelson (bn c1900) was a well reputed gardener through much of the post-war period and is remembered here through his 1956 advertisement. He had worked for the Beresford-Jones at The Heyes until Mrs. Beresford-Jones moved to Rose Cottage. Peter then established a nursery where the 'park & ride' is now sited on Moston Road. He was remembered for cycling to work each day from his home in Brooke Avenue and he built up a good reputation for roses. He was a well known member of the community and the business continued until his death in a car accident in 1971.

Deans Country Maid Bakery

Upton Mill is covered on page 46 – here we tell the story of Deans Bakery. Edward Dean had married Elizabeth the daughter of Mill owner and farmer William Carter. By the late 1870s Edward, aged around 40, was the miller and owner of the mill and was succeeded c1900 by his son Edward. Timescales of how the bakery business developed have not been deeply researched but indications are that early in the 1900s it was an established bakery with its own local outlet – shop being too grand a name since locals bought their bread and cakes through little more than ' a hole in the wall'. Apparently, in the early days, villagers would bring their dough ready to be baked into 8lb. loaves. Arthur Cooper recalls buying 'Chester cake' in the late 1930s which they nicknamed 'Tram Stopper' since it was a solid but tasty block of a mix of different cake bits.



In 1929 they built a new bakery and under the name Country Maid it served bread in North Wales and throughout the North West of England. After expanding with a modern bakery in Cardiff, by 1938 they had amalgamated with Allied Bakeries. Now under the management of the 3rd generation, Geoffrey Dean retired in 1950 and the Upton business was entirely wholesale with the bakery now in Saltney. Numerous stories abound from older residents of the bread baking smells and of buying bread direct from the bakery. They would bake overnight for a string of delivery wagons to leave early each morning. One appealing story tells of a wealthy but incapacitated lady customer, for whom they started ready slicing and wrapping the bread in waxed paper. Whether this is the actual origin of 'ready sliced' is unproven but clearly the product was the success story of Country Maid – see their 6-wheeler from the early 1930s.



How many local people were employed has not yet been identified but this photograph records Geoffrey Dean presenting Emily Griffiths with her long service award. Seated on the wagon is either a younger Emily Griffiths or Dorothy Cooper.

Rural crafts



In the 1800s there were a number of blacksmiths with the Darlington family being predominant. In their name for several generations, the last practicing family member died in 1941 and the forge and all its tools sold. The drawing shown here is their smithy – now demolished - on the Liverpool Rd alongside Kingsmead estate.

James Hayes blacksmith is recorded in the 1841 census probably operating out of the smithy understood to have existed on Upton Lane (then Smoke Street) just up from Upton Farm.

Before the WW2 JR (Dick) Jones had been looking for a site to set up a more modern blacksmiths with welding equipment and providing a variety of fabrication work. Eventually he settled on Flag Lane South, the site of the former coal merchant Enoch Davies, and built the workshop shown here. His two sons Bob and Bernard became blacksmiths and later took on the business. They employed several local craftsmen over the years tackling work for the remaining farmers and jobs further afield. Amongst these were Tom Jones (no relation) who continued with traditional tasks such as wheelwright – putting the metal hoops on wheels – and shoeing horses. Barry Crump served his time here before setting up himself in Christleton. In the early 1990s the business was wound up and the equipment sold by auction. Tom had completed 23 years moving on later to work for his son Tom on the Sealand Industrial Estate. This Upton site is remembered by the housing development named The Smithy.



The 1850 & 1874 Directories record Charles Darlington as a Boot & Shoe Maker – presumably operating out of the building in Demage Lane opposite the Vicarage known as the Cobblers. In 1881, Frederick Jones of Cromwell Bank was recorded as a boot manufacturer but his premises not identified. The last cobbler, based in the building opposite the Vicarage, was Mr Peacock who as an old man was still working during WW2. The cobblers ceased after his death.

The 1851 census records a wheelwright - Thomas Knight – who by 1874 is recorded as both beer seller and wheelwright, located where the Wheatsheaf pub now stands. By the turn of the century Henry Griffiths had a wheelwrights shop on Long Lane. He is pictured here in the early 1900s with an unknown worker. The workshop, demolished c1996, stood where the entrance to Dulas Court now stands, and was used by his grandson upholsterer Peter Griffiths.



The 1841 census records Joseph Jones as a Carriage Proprietor and in 1881 William Smith as a Carter. Coal Merchant and carrier Enoch Davies is pictured here in the 1920s. He operated from Flag Lane South (site of the Baptist church) and was reputedly quite a character – generous and liked his drink. He collected coal from the Bache sidings. His son however bought a lorry and took on council haulage work.



The Garages

The three main road garages all started out in the 1930s as traffic built up and car ownership becoming more common.



Upton Heath Motors is believed to have been started by Mr Davies whose engineering business was on the other side of Heath Road. By the 1940s the Post Office and one or two petrol pumps were owned by Mr & Mrs Bradley. Mrs Bradley would serve in the Post Office and go outside to serve petrol when someone was at the pumps. Mr Bayley, Mr Taylor and Mrs Reece (who later became Mrs Burgess) bought shares in the garage in the late 1940s. Mr Jagger then joined the team and in 1959 took on Derek Ryder - a young keen enthusiatic worker. In 1960 Mr Jagger died and by this time his daughter Susie had married Derek. Together they ran the petrol station and tyre business for 36 years with Susie's brother Richard joining them later. Derek was tragically killed in a car accident in 1996 and their two sons - Geoff & Steve - who had come into the family business as teenagers then took over the business.



From 1962 to 1986 the Heath Motors workshop was taken on by Don Stacey, as shown here, who had previously been the mechanic at Moston garage.

The Bache garage was also originally operated alongside a Post Office business. Built in the early 1930s by Mr Nixon these pumps were only attended when a vehicle was waiting and there were no Post Office or grocery customers. With a milk road to attend to as well, the story goes that petrol service was rarely available in the early morning. Pre-war, the mechanic here was Mr. Gallagher who later moved to run his own business in Sandicroft.



Weston Grove garage was built in the mid-1960s, at the same time as the shops, and run by Derek Moffatt until the early 1980s. Returning to Upton in the late 1980s Derek took on the Bache workshop when the petrol station ceased and the forecourt became used by car sales businesses.

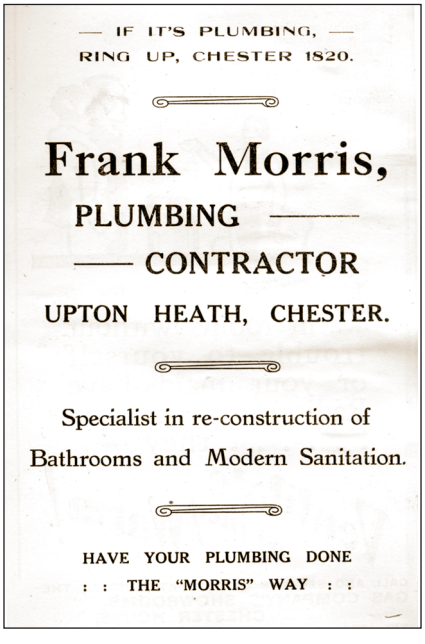
Mr Bocock ran Moston Garage when it was built c1932, shortly after the new road was completed. As this 1956 advert shows, Moston operated a car hire service while Davies had previously operated a taxi service from Upton Heath.



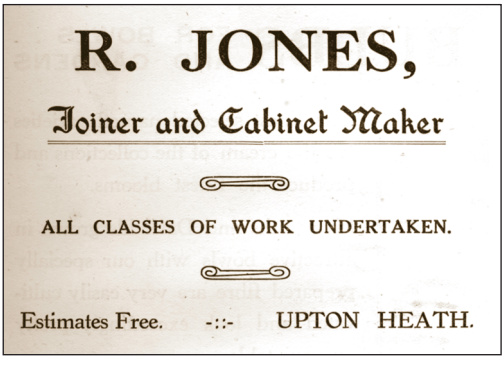
Building & allied trades

The earliest identified named local 'builders' are William Bagley recorded as a bricklayer in the 1850 Bagshaw's Directory and a stonemason William Lewis from the 1851 census and 1874 Directory. Whether they worked on Upton properties is not known. The many local builders of later years are mentioned throughout the chapters covering the development of the area.

Plumber Frank Morris married into the Ithell family and lived in Heath Road. Very involved in village life and on the Parish Council - he is understood to have been a key figure in the mid-1930s celebrations. Both the Frank Morris and the Bob Jones adverts shown here are from 1930. Bob Jones died in 1995.



Besides the wheelwrights, the other early named joiners and carpenters are recorded c1850 as Samuel Davies and Joseph Jackson.



and from 1956



Wilfred John had been making the wooden frames for the metal windows of 'Williams & Williams' of Grange Road Chester. The outbreak of war killed the market for housebuilding and John was forced into finding subsistence work. His machinery was initially stored in the Upton Golf Club until, through the builders 'Capstick & Owen', a potential site was found. This was the triangle of ground opposite the Wheatsheaf previously used as a tip. He was able to build a simple corrugated roofed wooden shack and produce field gates and potato boxes amongst other local requirements. Such was subsistence that his son Graham recalls his father delivering firewood in winter. The John family lived initially at 8 Bache Avenue then moving to 128 Liverpool Road opposite to the hospital. The firm's machinist - Horace Caroll - followed Wilfred John and settled in Upton. Eddy Edison became their apprentice working with three others. Post war an MOD depot at Mickle Trafford became available and Deeside Sawmills relocated.

The brickyards and sandpits would have employed labourers and work for carriers. The 1881 census records a Mr Thomas as a brickmaker living in the Heath cottages as well as naming others as bricklayers. A well remembered road maintenance and road sweeper of the 'between the wars' period was Abraham Woodward. On duty he was always seen wearing a bowler hat.



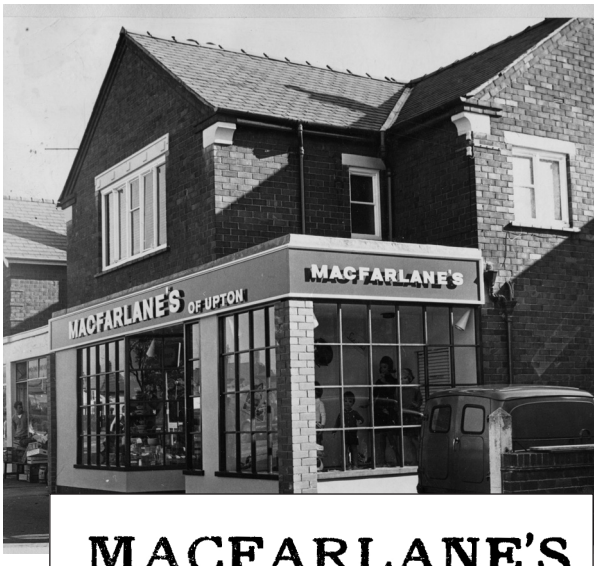
Workmen on the Capstick & Owen 'Upton Drive' site, mid-1930s

The many local builders as mentioned through Chapters 7 & 9 would have employed several local men. Arthur Cooper, shown here on the right, was an apprentice joiner to Capstick & Owen while working on Upton Drive. Behind them was the current site office that progressed up the road with the work. The old lorry, previously belonging to Arthur Jones, to bring gravel to site but with age stayed on site unlicensed as the site wagon. With labour on site they could always give a helping hand and on one occasion had to help Godwin's horse (page 7) out of the brook when it got stuck.

Furley's Electrical and later MacFarlanes

Arthur Walter Snead Furley and later his son - provided electrical services from the 1920s – opening their own shop on Long Lane in the early 1930s. Locals brought their accumulators in for recharging as well as buying the new electrical provisions. From his place on the Parish Council he assisted in Upton's take-up of this new utility.

Roy and Molly MacFarlane took over the shop in 1952, operating as their 1956 advert shows. They later expanded the shop with a 2nd floor for childrenswear. A very popular local couple, their 1987 retirement was marked with the celebration shown below. Derek Ryder of Upton Heath Motors is shown next to Roy.



MACFARLANE'S

CHANDLERY, HARDWARE
— and CHINA —

Authorised Hoover Dealer

Try us for
ALL HOUSEHOLD REQUISITES

LONG LANE,
UPTON.

Tel. CHESTER 20936



The early shops



Located near the site of the current Bache local shoppers carpark, Nixons was a general provisions and grocers that also housed the Bache Post Office. It was trading back in the 1870s and was still in business post-WW2. Miss Nixon's father ran a milk business from here – later taken on by his brother-in-law Arthur Godwin. See page 271 and Eddy Edison's reminiscences (page 272).



Another early shop still stands on Heath Road but is now a private residence. Known pre-war as the 'Urban Stores' it was run by Mrs Saunders. From 1936 -1974 it became Brookfields and is shown here in the early 1960s. Built around 1900 it was owned pre-WW1 by David Watkin. He initially lived at Rose Cottage but later built a bungalow behind the shop.

The former chapel (see page 81) became a shop after the new chapel was built in 1900. Seemingly always a newsagents/confectioners it has been known as Jacksons for many years but was formerly Hammonds. During the 1940s it was run by the Masons and earlier in the 1930s it was the Heath Post Office prior to re-location onto Long Lane.

Mr Jones had a newsagents by The Frog pub during the 1930s to 1950s. Pre-war there were attempts to establish a Post Office but these failed. This advert is from 1966 shortly before the shop was demolished for housing.

Telephone: Chester 23243
HAMMONDS
Newsagents : Stationers
Tobacconists : Confectioners
Booking Agents for British Railways
Heath Road -- Upton - by - Chester

THE FROG STORES
(H. N. M. Martin)
Family Grocers and Provisions
Frozen Foods — Confectionery
LIVERPOOL ROAD
UPTON-BY-CHESTER Tel. 22566

Other local shops recalled through their adverts

From 1956

John A. GITTINS M.P.S.
TOILET and
PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTICLES
KODAK AGENTS
PERSONAL SERVICE
BACHE PHARMACY, MILL LANE, UPTON
'Phone Chester 23691

S. G. YOXALL CONFECTIONER of DISTINCTION
:: Wedding Cakes a Speciality ::
MILL LANE, BACHE, CHESTER. Tel. 22562

From 1980

SHAW'S
THE BACHE POST OFFICE,
17, Mill Lane,
Upton, Chester.
Groceries & Provisions
TEL: CHESTER 22860

D. ALLMAN
High Class Fruiterers
Fresh local Vegetables
Fresh Fish Daily
13 MILL LANE, UPTON, CHESTER.
Telephone: 23895
Orders Delivered Daily
Fresh Cream & Salad Dressings

WEINHOLTS
Bakers and Confectioners
11, MILL LANE
THE BACHE
Telephone: 22562

OWEN'S STORE
Long Lane, Upton
Confectionery by P. & A. Davies
Home Baked Bread, Groceries
Specialists in Cooked Meats
Telephone 20815

Orders taken for
Wreaths and
Floral Bouquets
N. W. HINDE
LONG LANE, UPTON
Tel: 40022
High Class Fruit and Vegetables

Deliveries Daily
S. NICHOLSON & SON
QUALITY FAMILY BUTCHERS
82 Weston Grove, Upton, Chester
Telephone 21358
29 Faulkner Street, Hoole, Chester
Telephone 25520

YORK BROTHERS
THE GROCERS
72/74, WESTON GROVE
For the Finest Quality Provisions
We are a privately owned store under the personal supervision of one of the York Brothers

And finally those in domestic service

For the period between the mid-1800s and the mid-1900s, the largest single group of employed females within Upton were those in domestic service. Inspection of the 19th century census records, show large numbers, not only serving the rich 'local barons'. In 1851, 11 of the 61 households employed a total of 16 female domestic servants. By 1900, the number of households with domestic servants had grown significantly. By the 1930s, the numbers were reducing to serve only the more comfortably well-off. Male servants tended to be grooms, gardeners and drivers. Most properties with larger gardens employed a gardener.

The following reminiscence is from Eunice Evans (nee Jones) born in 1916.

When I was 14 years old, I started in service for Mr and Mrs Wooliscroft who lived at Taluca, in Church Lane, and had a hotel in Chester. I had been recommended by their gardener, at that time, Mr James Stacey. My normal day started at 8am after I had cycled to Church Lane from our home, at Upton Grange Farm. There were no lights along Long Lane and one day, on the way home riding in the fog, I passed the farm and ended up, almost, where the Hoole roundabout is now. I wore a blue dress, white apron and cap and finished work about 2pm. If they had guests, I used to wear a black dress and white apron and would work until later in the day. My duties included cleaning, waiting, lighting fires, washing and ironing. Initially, my pay was five shillings. They treated me well and I am still in touch with the family