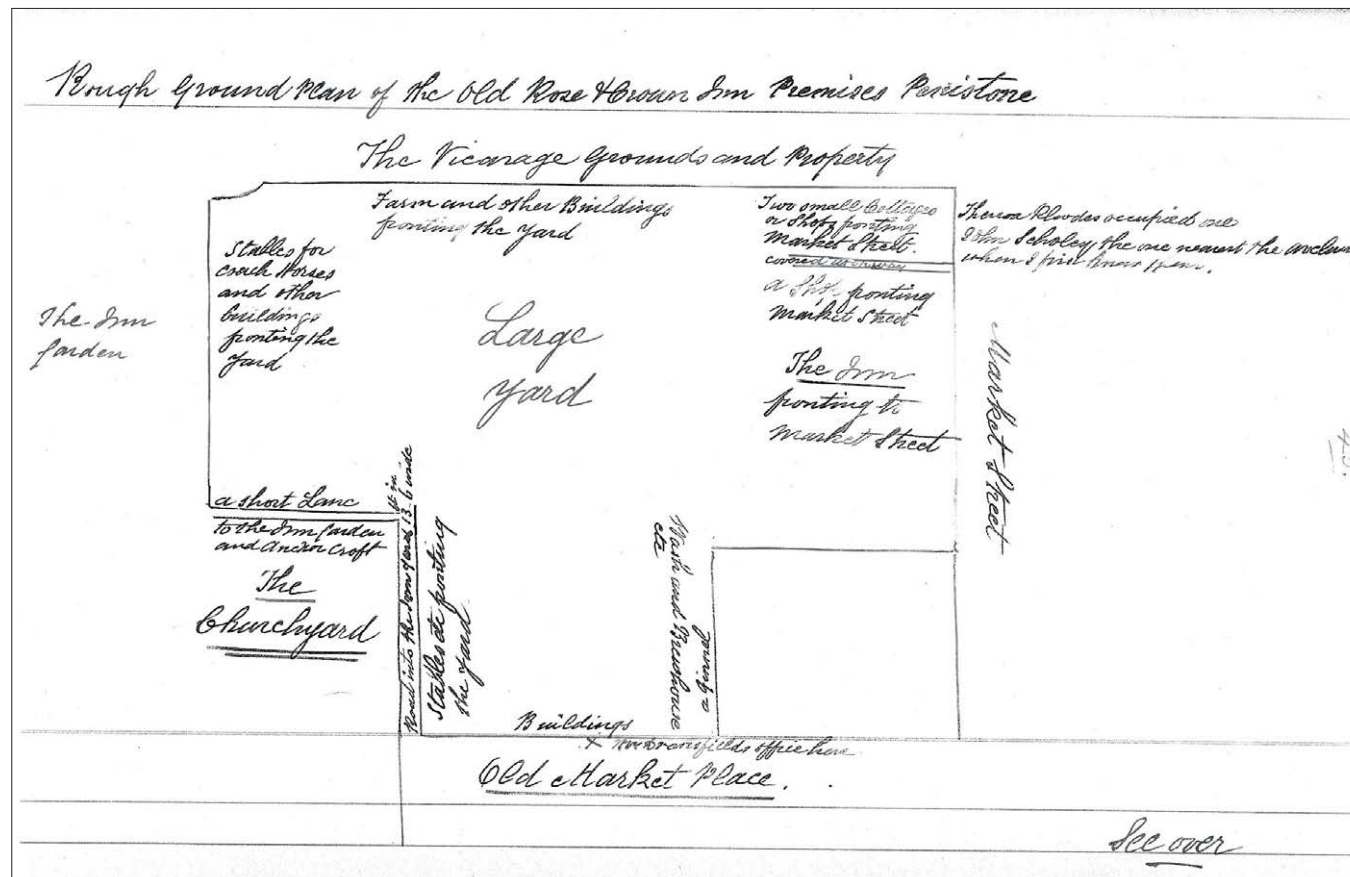


# The Rose and Crown, 1749 – 1868

by Kevin Neill

In 1917, John Ness Dransfield wrote a descriptive piece of work about the old Rose and Crown Inn. He accompanied this writing with what he titled 'rough ground plan of the Inn premises'. My work is a consequence of Dransfield's recollections, important for the historical heritage of Penistone, written just over a hundred years ago.

Below: Dransfield's 1917 plan. Right: Dransfield's original notes. A full transcript can be found on page 6. Kevin Neill.



stories high and during the time I knew it the room on the right hand side of the front door and which had bow windows via a large window with a narrow one on each side was used as the Commercial Room. The room on the left hand side of the front door had only a plain window to the front in a line with the wall and was used as a market Room - at the back of the Commercial Room was the Filling Bar and adjoining it the Common Bar with large windows looking into the back yard into which it had a door - behind the market Room was the Kitchen - a passage went from the front door to the staircase. On the second floor over the Commercial Room was a large Dining Room which had similar Bow windows to the front as the Commercial Room and over the market Room was a room that could be used either as a sitting or Bed room - The rest of the Rooms upstairs were mostly used for bedrooms and on both the 2nd and 3rd stories there were three windows fronting the main street. There was a Lamp on a Lamp Post on the pavement before the front door until Gas came to Penistone. Adjoining the Inn to the south was a Shop then a crooked incline into the large yard at the back of the Inn and to the south of the incline two cottages - sometimes occupied as Shops. Around the yard on the south and east sides were the Inn stables etc and farm buildings - on the north side were other buildings and one of them my father occupied as an office from the time he came to Penistone in 1831 to the time of his marriage in 1837 - it had steps into it from the cattle market and Messrs. Miller, Blackie & Shortridge railway contractors used it afterwards as a pay office when they were making parts of the Railway near Penistone. My father kept some live Grouse for a time in this office there but I think afterwards turned them out on the moors. The main entrance to the Inn was once before was from the cattle market adjoining the Churchyard.

John Dransfield  
June 5. 1917.





The Rose and Crown  
in 2001. *Penistone  
History Archives.*

When I was appointed Assistant Master of Physical Education at the Grammar School in January 1977, I lived first of all in Norton, Sheffield, with the brother of a friend I had made whilst at teacher training college.

The journey into work was difficult. So after nine months, I jumped at the chance of house sharing on Gledhill Avenue, Cubley, together with two teaching colleagues, Neil McGeorge and the late Simon Womack. The pub we chose to frequent at this time was the Rose and Crown. These were the days of impromptu music provided by the likes of Robin Garside and Chris McShane.

I eventually moved into Church Street, living at numbers 6, 3a and 3, the latter two being at School Terrace. I was very close to the Rose and Crown. The landlord at this time, was Alec Hurst, who ran a tight ship together with



his wife Charlene. The beer was cask conditioned Stones and wonderful, as was the company of the day, people such as Frank Roebuck, George Morris, Claude Simpson, Ralph Kilner, Ken Wilson and Mike Slater. Two of the ladies who worked behind the bar were Edna Daly and Elaine Gibson.

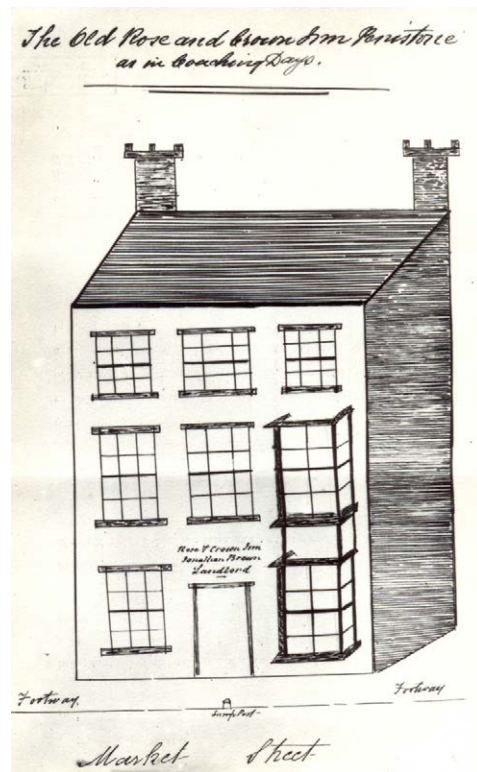
I got to know Penistone very well through conversations with these people, over the years that Alec and Charlene were there. The Rose and Crown occupied a central position, not only in my life at the time, but also in Penistone.

What I did not realise, until much later, was how important this inn had been to the lives of many other Penistone people. Penistone itself had revolved around the Rose and Crown as the premier coaching Inn of the area, occupying a vast central position when there was no Shrewsbury Road.

Alec Hurst landlord of the Rose and Crown on the left together with Dave Crossland on a trip to the top of the church tower around 1985.  
*Kevin Neill.*



Depiction of the Rose and Crown some time between 1835 - 1849, thought to be by John N. Dransfield, drawn in 1910. The sign above the door states that the landlord was Jonathan Brown who was known to be the tenant during that period.  
*Penistone History Archives.*



It is difficult to believe, that at one point, the main through route in and out of Penistone, Shrewsbury Road, did not exist. The original Rose and Crown Inn was built specifically to cater for the growing trade in coach travel. Dransfield suggests that it was built around 1749 and occupied a vast swathe of land owned by the Shrewsbury Hospital Trust. The landlords, not only looked after the coaching side and day-to-day running of the Inn, but were also tenant farmers for the Trust. Dransfield in his 'History of Penistone', 1906, gives a little insight on page 441.

*It was a hostelry which in the old coaching days, as a commercial and posting house, was well known throughout the kingdom for affording good accommodation to both man and beast, notably when George Brown, commonly called "Old Rumbo" was the host. He kept a first-rate table – everything on as soon in season. Many travellers, rather*

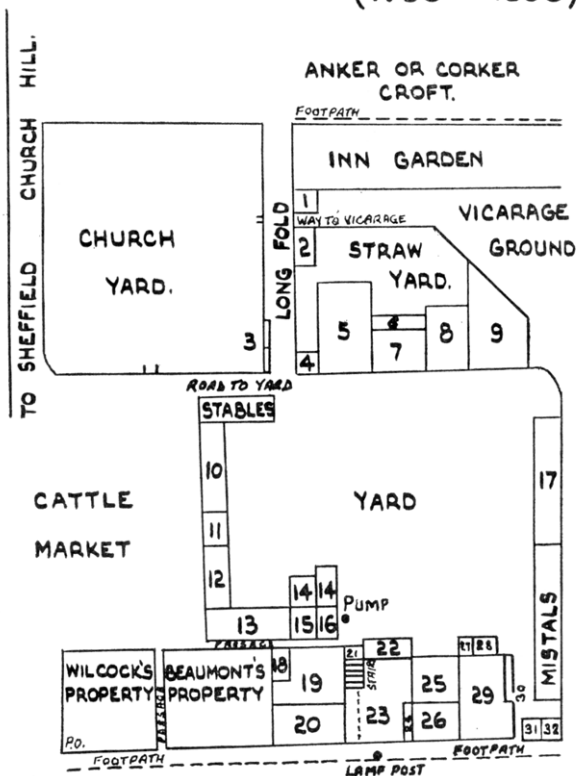
*than spend Sunday at Sheffield, Huddersfield, or Barnsley, often on the Saturday night journeyed a further stage to Penistone, and met there in those days such and not a few characteristic worthies, as they did in no other place...The old house was in the year 1868 pulled down, and a new and larger one, having the same sign, erected near. It is however, by no means so comfortable or likely ever to rival the glories of its predecessor.*

In 1823, George Brown was appointed landlord and was well qualified in this form of business. Prior to this position, he had been owner of Green House and had run a coach and farming business there. As landlord of the Inn, he must have been the main employer of the day in Penistone. Green House was to become the Dransfield's family home and John Ness Dransfield was born there in 1839.

Dransfield was turning thirty years of age, when the Inn was demolished and the new one built. He would have passed the building on many occasions. His father had an office there, in the early days of the solicitors practice (1831-1837). This office was part of the Inn buildings, which fronted the Market Place. They faced the rear of what is now Clark's the Chemist and stretched across the road to the churchyard. There was an entrance into the yard between these buildings and the church wall. Dransfield, when he drew the rough diagram of the Inn, was at pains to point out that the entrance was 13' 6" wide. The coaches from Sheffield would have been driven up Church Hill turned the corner past the Grammar School and through the entrance and into the yard. Church Hill was the main route in and out of Penistone, for a very long time. A young Dransfield would have been very familiar with the buildings. The Inn itself was tied into an existing build which is now Cinnamon Spice. The build ran across what is now Shrewsbury Road, to link with the Well pharmacy shop by a covered archway which is now a fashion shop called Nine A. Extensive outbuildings ran all the way towards the vicarage and surrounded a massive Inn yard. There was even an Inn garden on the other side of the entrance, towards the vicarage.



# GROUND PLAN OF THE OLD ROSE & CROWN INN AND PREMISES PENISTONE AS IN COACHING DAYS. (1750 - 1860)



1. YARD.
2. CHAISE & IMPLEMENT ROOM, AND ROOM OVER.
3. THESE PLACES & MESSAGE OCCUPIED BY MR. HADFIELD.
4. CHAISE HOUSE ETC.
5. MISTAL FOR MARKET CATTLE
6. PIGGERIES.
7. STABLE FOR TRAVELLERS HORSES.
8. LAITHE.
9. LONG STABLE FOR COACH AND POSTING HORSES WITH CHAMBER OVER.
10. COAL & ASH PLACES.
11. BEMONTIS STANYES HOUSE
12. MR. DRANSFIELD'S SOLICITORS OFFICE.
13. WASH HOUSE ETC.
14. DAIRY.
15. BREAD HOUSE.
16. BOOT HOUSE.
17. STABLES FOR FARM HORSES.

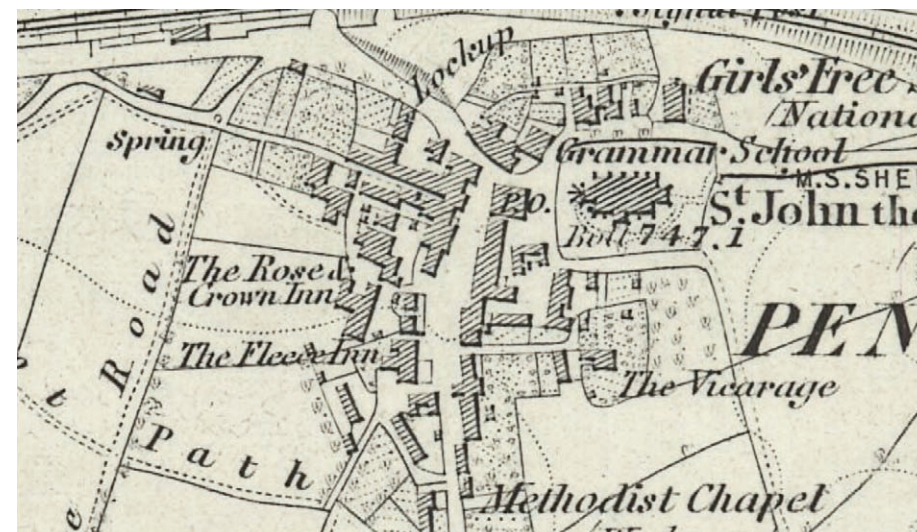
18. SCULLERY.
19. KITCHEN.
20. MARKET ROOM.
21. FILLING BAR.
22. SITTING BAR.
23. PASSAGE
24. PANTRY

25. CATTLE DEALERS ROOM.
26. COMMERCIAL ROOM.
27. PIGGERIES.
28. DAIRY.
29. SHOP OCCUPIED BY JOHN MARSDEN.
30. COVERED ARCHWAY.
31. JOHN PEHILL'S COTTAGE.
32. THOS. WOODS COTTAGE.

On the left is a detailed diagram by John Addey of the exact layout of the old Inn. He produced this in his book 'A Further History of Penistone' published in 1965.

It is a remarkable piece of work in the days when there was no technology to aid his research. It is very useful when trying to identify where the buildings were in relation to modern day Penistone and the extent of the rooms together with their function.

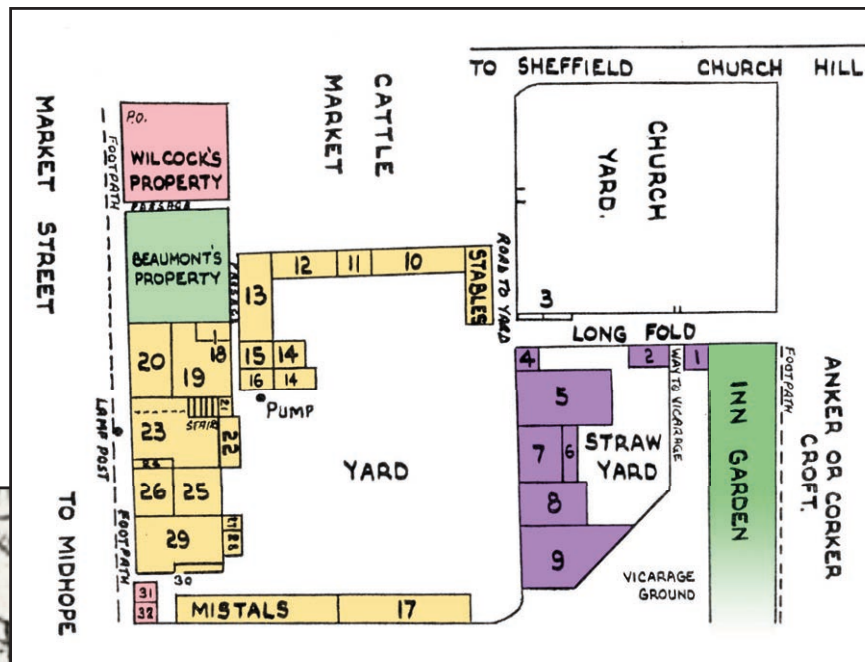
Ordnance Survey map 1854 of Penistone. The centre is dominated by the Rose and Crown Coaching Inn. Detail of old OS map from [maps.nls.uk](http://maps.nls.uk).



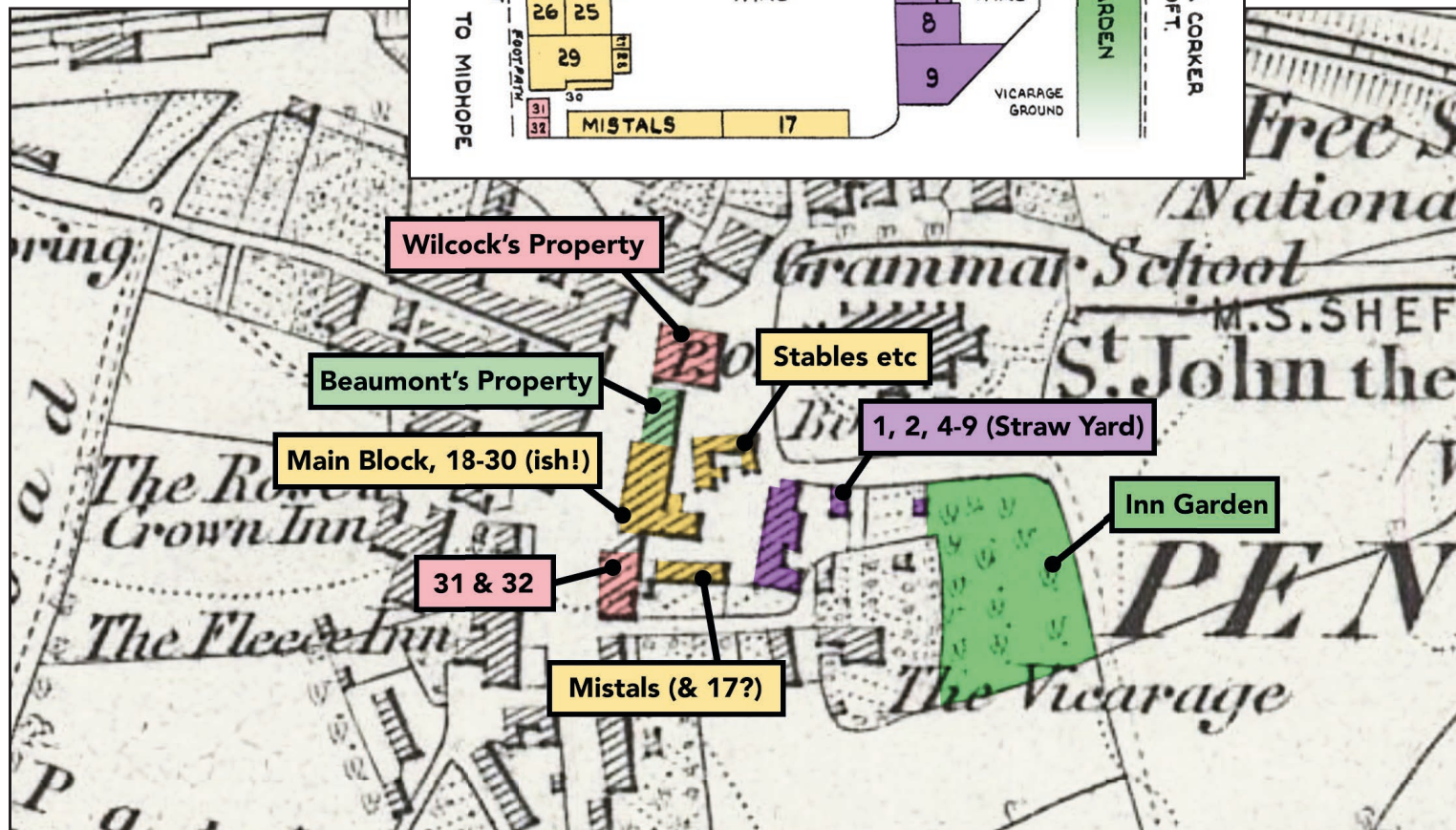


The 1854 map together with Addey's diagram, colour coded for ease of navigation.

Wilcock's property is now Clark's Chemist and Beaumont's property is Cinnamon Spice.



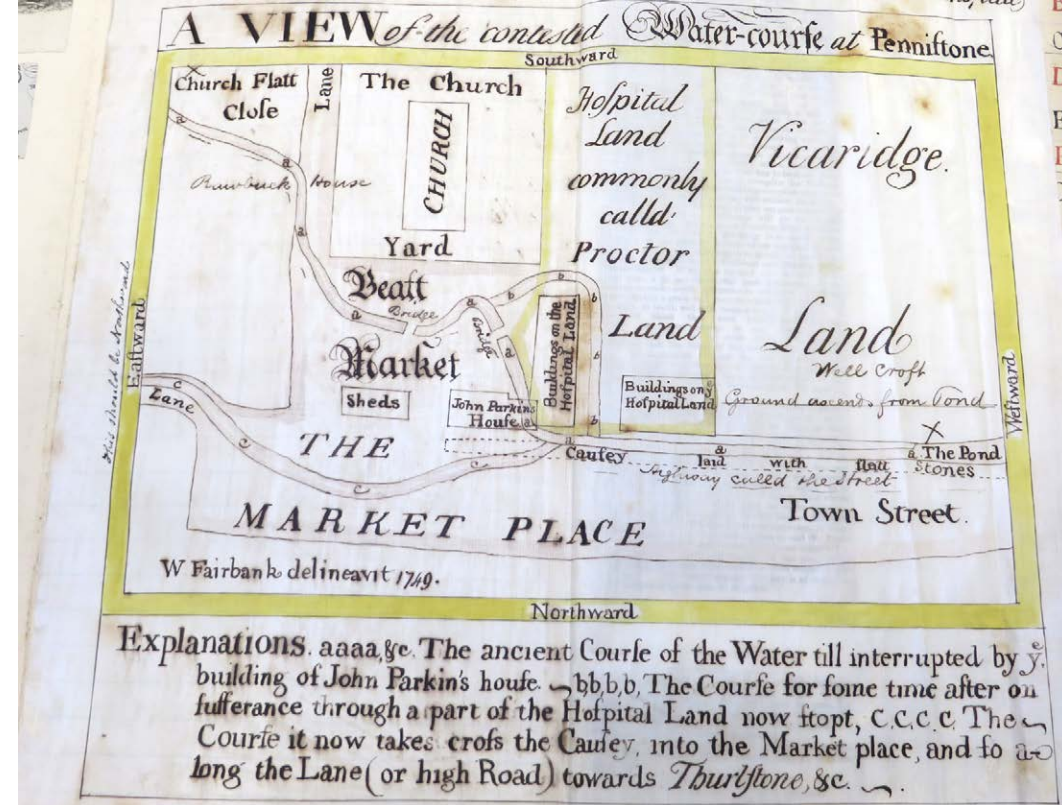
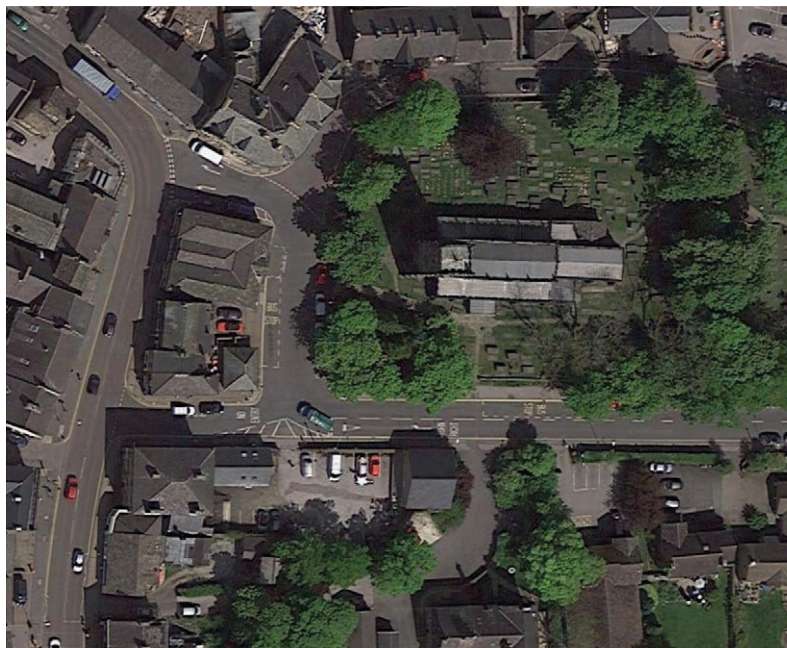
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32. THOS. WOODS COTTAGE.





A Google Maps satellite view overlaid with the 1854 map.

The original version is included below for easier comparison.



The following is a transcript of Dransfield' essay.

*The old Rose and Crown inn at Penistone which was pulled down in 1869 fronted the main street was 3 stories high and during the time I knew it the room on the right hand side of the front door and which had bow windows viz a large window with a narrow one on each side was used as the commercial room.*

*The room on the left hand side of the front door had only a plain window to the front in a line with the wall and was used as a market room – at the back of the commercial room was the filling bar and adjoining it the common bar with large windows looking into the back yard into which it had a door – behind the market room were the kitchens a passage went from the front door to the staircase.*

The original copy of the map reproduced in Dransfield's book *History of Penistone*, page 282. The map is dated 1749 and it is assumed that the Rose and Crown Coaching Inn was built shortly afterwards. John Parkin's house is now Cinnamon Spice. The compass directions are incorrect.  
Kevin Neill.



*On the second floor over the commercial room was a large dining room which had similar bow windows to the front as the commercial room and over the market room was a room that could be used either as a sitting or bedroom – the rest of the rooms upstairs were mostly used for bedrooms and on both the 2nd and 3rd stories there were three windows fronting the main street.*

*There was a lamp on a lamp post on the pavement before the front door until gas came to Penistone.*

*Adjoining the inn to the south was a shop then a covered archway into the large yard at the back of the inn and to the south of the archway two cottages sometimes occupied as shops.*

*Around the yard on the south and east sides were the inn stables etc and farm buildings. On the north side were other buildings and one of them my father occupied as an office from the time he came to Penistone in 1831 to the time of his marriage in 1837. It had steps into it from the cattle market and Messrs Miller, Blackie and Shortridge railway contractors used it afterwards as a pay office when they were making parts of the railways near Penistone.*

*My father kept some live grouse for a time in his office there but I think afterwards turned them out on the moors. The main entrance to the inn yard was by a road from the cattle market adjoining the churchyard.*

*The exchange of lands between the trustees of the Hospital of Gilbert Earl of Shrewsbury at Sheffield and the Rev Wm Stephenson Turnbull vicar of Penistone in A.D. 1890 and sales, leases etc of both Hospital and glebe lands and premises have made great changes in and about the centre of the town since 1870. The large garden of the old inn is now part of the vicarage garden and the field on parts of which the free library and town hall are built was prior to 1890 part of the glebe land attached to Penistone church.*

Dransfield gives details of the coaches calling at Penistone, in his book on page 60, prior to the railways taking their place:

***To London** – The ‘Royal Hope’ from Halifax called at the Rose and Crown Inn daily at 9.30 am; went through*

*Sheffield, Chesterfield, Nottingham, Leicester etc.*

***To Barnsley** – A coach from Manchester called at the White Hart Inn every afternoon at 4.30.*

***To Halifax** – The ‘Royal Hope’ from London called at the Rose and Crown Inn daily at 5.30 pm; went through New Mill, Honley, Huddersfield etc.*

***To Manchester** – A coach from Barnsley called at the White Hart Inn every morning at 10; went through Ashton’.*

## Dransfield’s Square

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It is hardly surprising that Dransfield and Son, Solicitors, based in Penistone had first-hand knowledge of local property and land sales.

One of their acquisitions was a slice of land that formed part of the old coaching inn. The lease remained in their hands for nearly fifty years and became known as Dransfield’s Square. It could be said that this piece of land fell outside of Hospital Trust ownership and, therefore, became available to purchase at the time of the demolition.

The same could be said for the other side of the Inn premises, which is shown as two fields behind the mistals and number 17 on Addey’s diagram. This could have been glebe land belonging to the church and therefore sold off. There is a building on this land now, the business premises of Greg Walters.

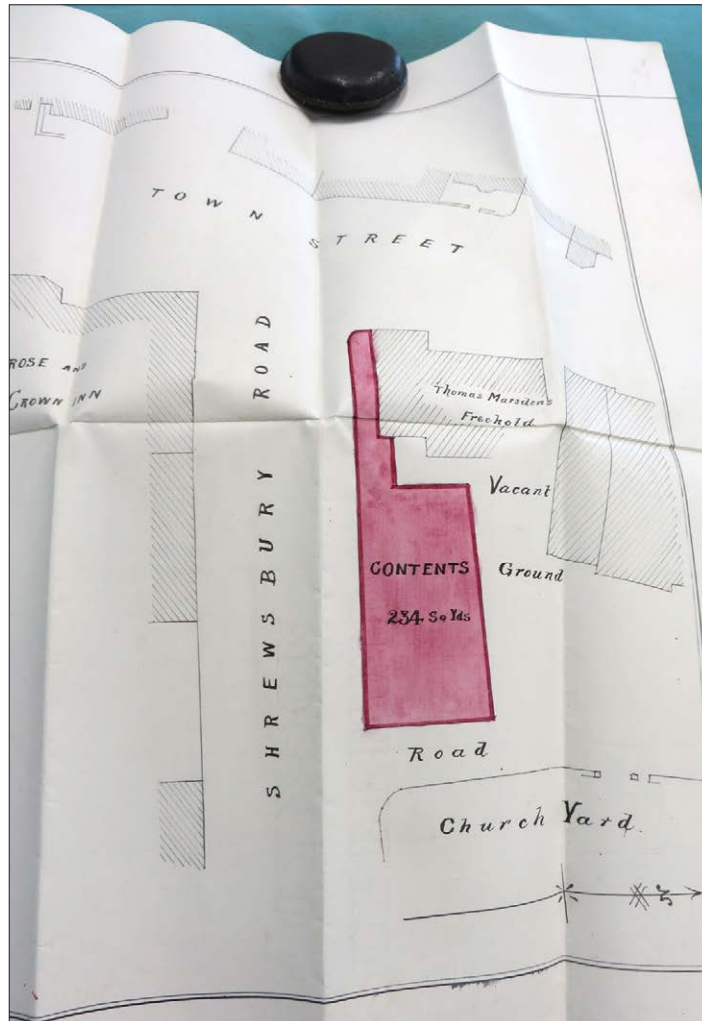
Dransfield’s Square had contained, at one point, his father’s office, which fronted onto Market Place. It gives a good indication of the extent of the boundaries of the old coaching Inn, as it almost reaches the corner of the Cloth Hall (Clark’s Chemists).

An aging John Ness Dransfield, around 1913, would annoy the then Council by placing marker stones to delineate the area. He had tried several times to get the Council to purchase the land, but at an exorbitant cost. The narrow red strip, on the



documents below, was running alongside what is now Schofield's Butchers. Thomas Marsden's Freehold is now Cinnamon Spice. A new building was added here, possibly in the 1890s, which is now Wards Fish and Chips, The Cafe and Barbers Shop.

The area that was left was held in Dransfield's possession, probably until his death in 1930, and remained undeveloped throughout this time.



Detailed diagram from Dransfield's own documents outlining the area known as 'Dransfield's Square'. The area basically contained the stables and numbers 10-16 on Addey's diagram. Number 12 was Dransfield's fathers original solicitors office from 1831-1837. Kevin Neill.



Unveiling of the Penistone War Memorial, August 9th, 1914. Photo by Joshua Biltcliffe & Sons.

Above is remarkable photograph showing the unveiling the new war memorial in 1924. The buildings behind the screens are the large sheds built into the straw yard of the old Rose and Crown. These sheds are across on the other side of what is now Shrewsbury Road. They remained in situ until at least the 1950s. The wall on the left of the picture is the church yard wall. Possibly the most interesting aspect of this picture is the line of stones running under the feet of the group of musicians. These are the foundation stones of the old stable block forming an edge of Dransfield's Square. The distance from these stones to the wall of the church yard is estimated at approximately 13' 6", which Dransfield put in his rough ground plan. This is the road that the coaches would travel to gain access into the Inn yard.





Detail of the Biltcliffe War Memorial photo.

The aerial photograph below shows the extent of the outbuildings, which had been constructed on part of the old straw yard. They are quite extensive and, at the time of writing, their purpose remains unknown. The date of this shot is supposedly 1930. The build containing Ward's chip shop is now there, as is the Greg Walters business premises, built on the narrow fields at the back of the Inn.

Detail of aerial photo. *Photographer unknown.*



Below is a photograph of St. John's Church taken around 1905. The rough ground area underneath the writing is again Dransfield's Square, clearly showing the approach road for coaches.

*Photographer unknown, possibly Bamforth of Holmfirth.*







Part of the old Straw Yard and Inn Yard.

The top two photographs show aspects of part of what was the old straw yard.

The middle left shows the interior of the yard and the middle right the rear of Pennine Law, which would have been 27-30 on Addey's diagram.



The two photographs on the left show the extent of the Inn itself.

Its frontage faced Market Street and stretched all the way from Cinnamon Spice to the end of Pennine Law.

The curved shop front, now known as 'Nine A', was the covered archway leading to the rear of the Inn yard and the two shops from there, the Well pharmacy and ecloud, are numbers 31/32 on Addey's diagram.

*All photos: Jenny Hurt.*





The passage way shown left was the most direct route to the Market Place and the buildings at the rear of the Inn. It is between Wilcock's property and Beaumont's property on the Addey diagram.



These two photographs show the passage that separated numbers 13-16 from the rest of the Inn buildings.



The building which is ecloud (far left) is number 32. The G. Walters business premises (centre) have been built in what were narrow fields at the rear of the mistals and stables. The wall at the side of the bus shelter is the last remnant of Dransfield's Square. It is the corner of number 13.

*All photos: Jenny Hurt.*



# Conclusion



Photo:  
Jenny Hurt.

It is the opinion of the author that Schofield's is a piece of the original Inn. If correct, then the shop used to be the Market Room.

Dransfield described the building as being of three stories but not on the scale of the new Rose and Crown (Pennine Law).

The Inn was tied into Cinnamon Spice and, during demolition, there may have been a fear that a complete removal might damage the other building. It is the same colour stone as Pennine Law (assuming that they used recycled material in the new build) and was clearly added at a later date.

Both these buildings are grade two listed.

In photographs taken around 2000, from the top of the church tower, Schofield's clearly had a stone slate roof. This has now gone and been replaced with slate.

It is hoped that this article raises awareness of Penistone's rich heritage. This needs to be protected.

Right: The Rose and Crown months prior to its conversion into offices occupied by Pennine Law and Butcher Residential.  
*Penistone History Archives.*



This article could not have been produced without the invaluable assistance of Stuart Gibbins and Jenny Hurt, as well as the much needed technical assistance from Julie-Ann Neill. Your help has been most appreciated.