

THE HISTORY OF THE HAYCOCK INN, LITTLE HAY LANE

Author: Paul Harrison, August 2026 ©



Image of the former Haycock Inn taken July 2024 © Google 2026

Overview

This piece of research traces the history of the former Haycock Inn which is situated on the historic border of Little Hay in Staffordshire and Sutton Coldfield in Warwickshire. Although the building has not been used as a pub for some time, its gable end wall facing the road features a faded but legible painted sign indicating its past use. Having passed the building many times on bike rides, I decided to investigate its past.

The research was carried out using online resources, chiefly from websites containing genealogical information and scans of historic newspapers. I've included newspaper cuttings where possible, however I've transcribed longer articles and those that were difficult to read.

About the building

The former Haycock Inn is situated on Little Hay Lane and has long since been converted into private dwelling. The building has been Grade-II listed since 1988 and its listing details are as follows, "House. Late C18 with mid-C19 alterations. Red brick, tiled roof (possibly rebuilt) on dentilled eaves course; end stacks. Two-storey and gable lit attic. Two-window front; widely spaced 3-light casements with gauged brick heads. Central entrance with small gabled porch and part-glazed door".^{1, 2}

According to more recent sales particulars, "The Haycock was once renowned as being the Haycock Inn dating back to the late 18th century and still displays the original sign on the end gable. The main part of the property still maintains some of its original features, with the cellar still having the stone steps with roller trims for the barrels of ale to be lowered down. This picturesque Grade II home is ideally located within the popular village of Little Hay set on this lovely size plot totalling 1 acre and enjoying views of the surrounding countryside. The property has been vastly modernised and updated by the current owners".³

The above descriptions were of interest as they both indicated that the building dates from the late 18th century albeit with later alterations. However, my research found that there has been a pub named The Haycock Inn Little Hay since the 1830's. This prompted me to question if the current building is the original one, was it rebuilt in the later 1800's or has it just been greatly altered? Unfortunately, I was unable to answer this conclusively. I found no record of the pub being rebuilt but of course that does not rule it out. I did however discover that it was restored and modernised around 1990 and that, going back to 1884, "great alterations" were made by the then landlord. Details of the alterations were not given other than implying it was now more commodious and had a larger capacity for customers.

The original sign referred to in the above paragraph is a 'Ghost sign' on its west wall facing the road which is legible though faded and reads, "The Haycock Inn. Allsopps Burton Ales". Ghost signs are the fading advertising signs or shop signs that are preserved on buildings longer than the businesses they represent.

The name of the inn reflected its rural setting, a haycock being a small cone-shaped pile of hay left in the field until dry enough to carry to the rick or barn.

The Haycock Inn building is located at the southern end of Little Hay in Staffordshire. The modern boundary of Sutton Coldfield runs along the line of Watford Gap Road and Camp Road. Historically however, the municipal boundary of Sutton Coldfield jutted out northwards. It ran from Watford Gap, along Little Hay Lane and to the east of the road to approximately 100m north of the Haycock Inn before heading northeast until it met the Littlehay Brook, where it then headed southwards along the route of the watercourse towards Camp Lane⁴.

Historic mapping showed the boundary to run immediately east of the Haycock Inn, between the pub and some cottages to its rear. As the inn was located on the former boundary between the two counties, I believe it is eligible for inclusion in the Sutton Coldfield Local History Research Group library. Historic newspaper articles and adverts variously described the pub as being in; Shenstone near Lichfield, Woodend and Four Oaks.

¹ https://www.closedpubs.co.uk/staffordshire/littlehay_haycock.html

² <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1038864?section=official-list-entry>

³ https://media.onthemarket.com/properties/3808918/doc_0_1.pdf

⁴ <https://sclhrg.org.uk/history-spot/104-articles-121-160/2011-little-hay-perambulation-3-143.html>



Extract from historic Ordnance Survey map dated 1884. The Haycock Inn is labelled P.H.(Public house) and the dashed line shown immediately to the left of the pub is the old country boundary between Staffordshire and Warwickshire (Image from NLS website⁵)



Extract from historic Ordnance Survey map dated 1884 showing the location of The Haycock Inn (labelled P.H. at the south of the village) within Little Hay with the Holly Bush Inn at the north. (Image from NLS website⁶)

Early History

Establishing the early history of the pub was not easy and the evidence was not conclusive. It was not possible to establish exactly when the Haycock Inn was constructed nor when it became a pub, but it is likely that it was not purpose built and was probably originally a farmhouse. It was common in the early to mid-1800's for a farmhouse to be used as a pub or beer house, often run by the farmer's wife.

It is worth noting that historically, Little Hay had two pubs, the Holly Bush at the north of the village and the Haycock Inn at the south. The earliest documented use of the name "The Haycock Inn" found dated from 1835. It was included in Pigot & Co's National Commercial Directory of that year and listed Benjamin Shaw as the proprietor. The Haycock was listed as being in Shenstone, but we can be reasonably confident that this is the same pub as there has not been another pub with the same name in the district. In addition, The Hollybush was also listed as being in Shenstone and its landlord was named J Griffin.

The earliest census records found recording the existence of the Haycock Inn were the 1841 and 1851 census returns. Both these census returns listed William Johnson as having the occupation "Publican" or "Licensed Victualler" (a dated term meaning a licenced pub landlord

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<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/side-by-side/#zoom=16.0&lat=52.61727&lon=-1.82536&layers=257&right=ESRI World>

⁶

<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/side-by-side/#zoom=15.6&lat=52.62010&lon=-1.82239&layers=257&right=ESRI World>

or innkeeper) in Little Hay. No details were given regarding the address in either census other than “Little Hay”.

1841 census Little Hay, Shenstone (no further address details given)

William Johnson	52	Victualler	b Not given
Elizabeth Johnson	49	-	b Staffs
John Smallwood	15	Agricultural Labourer	b Staffs

1851 census Little Hay, Shenstone (no further address details given)

William Johnson	Head	M	65	Publican	b Sutton, Warwks
Elizabeth Johnson	Wife	M	62	-	b Staffs
Joseph Marshall	Lodger	U	37	Grocer	b Shenstone, Staffs

Census abbreviations: M – married; U – single; W – widow or widower; b - place of birth. Warwks – Warwickshire; Staffs – Staffordshire.

Both the above census returns listed Joseph Griffin living in Little Hay close to Shenstone Park which is immediately north of Little Hay. He was also recorded as a publican. So how can we be sure Griffin definitely worked at The Hollybush in Little Hay?

In 1851, the enumerator appeared to have travelled from Fotherley to the west, then east to Shenstone Park, then south through Little Hay, which indicated that Griffin worked at the Holly Bush and Johnson at the Haycock Inn.

However, the landlords' names and associated pubs were finally confirmed via contemporary trade directories. William Johnson was listed as the landlord of The Haycock in both the Staffordshire Post Office Directory of 1850 and Whites Directory of Staffordshire from 1851. The directories also recorded that The Hollybush was run by Joseph Griffin.

The above conclusion was confirmed with reference to the Tithe map⁷ for Shenstone, Staffordshire, dating from 1839. The Tithe Awards Index (1836-1845)⁸ identified the plots of land where the Holly Bush pub now stands to have been owned and occupied by Joseph Griffin. The plots were recorded at the time as “House, Outbuildings, Yards & Gardens” and “House Piece”.

Identifying the owner and occupier of the land where the Haycock Inn was situated was less straightforward. As mentioned previously, the site sat on the boundary of the Parish of Shenstone and Sutton Coldfield and, as a result, are split over two data sets. The aforementioned Tithe map for Shenstone recorded the plot as being owned by Edward Grove, Esq and occupied by John Weston and was described as “House, Outbuildings, Yards & Gardens”. Edward Grove lived nearby at the large Shenstone Park estate at that time and owned a lot of land in the area which appears to have been occupied by tenant farmers.

The Corn Rent maps for Sutton Coldfield⁹ showed the rear of the Haycock Inn to be owned by the Warden and Society and William Careless as the Occupier, the plots being described as “Big Croft, Meadow, Little Croft and Cottage and garden”. The plot is also shown on the Enclosure Award maps from 1851, though the owners and occupiers could not be identified from the Enclosure Award Schedule Book.

⁷<https://www.search.staffspasttrack.org.uk/Details.aspx?&ResourceID=42585&PageIndex=13&SearchType=2&ThemeID=774>

⁸ <https://www.staffsnameindexes.org.uk/default.aspx?Index=P>

⁹ <https://sclhrq.org.uk/research/research-tools/2682-photos-of-the-corn-rent-and-enclosure-map-book-and-ancillary-books.html>

In the 1850's, the Haycock Inn was used for auctions regarding sales of land to be held at the pub.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—Valuable FREEHOLD LAND and BUILDINGS, at LITTLE HAY, in the parish of Shenstone.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by SAMUEL KEMPSON, at the HAYCOCK INN, in LITTLE HAY, on Wednesday, the 8th day of June, 1853, at six o'clock in the evening, in the following or such other lots, and subject to such conditions as will be then announced:—

Lot 1.—Two FREEHOLD DWELLING-HOUSES, and Gardens, Piggeries, Shoemakers' Shops, &c., in the village of Little Hay, in the occupation of John Rickson and Cornelius Hall, containing about eighteen digging roads of land.

Lot 2.—Two FREEHOLD DWELLING-HOUSES and Gardens, with Piggeries, &c., and Pump of Water, in Little Hay, in the occupation of James Hawkins and James Mills, containing about twenty digging roads of land.

Lot 3.—An excellent Piece of FREEHOLD GARDEN LAND contiguous, and open to the last lot, with a frontage of about 18 yards to the road, in the occupation of Mr. James Russell, containing about twelve digging roads.

Lot 4.—A valuable Close of FREEHOLD MEADOW LAND, on Little Hay Green, in the occupation of Mr. James Russell, containing 1A. 3R. 33P., adjoining and abutting on lands belonging to John Shawe Manley, Esq., Mr. Joseph Ellis, Mr. James Russell, and others.

Little Hay is a dry and healthy village, at the eastern extremity of Shenstone Parish, and is distant from Lichfield about four miles; from Walsall eight miles; and from Sutton Coldfield four miles.

The respective Tenants will show the lots; and particulars may be had from Mr. ELLIS, Little Hay; Messrs. BOND and BARNES, Solicitors; and Mr. NADEN, Land Agent, of Lichfield; and the AUCTIONEER, Sutton Coldfield; and at the Haycock Inn, Little Hay.

Staffordshire Advertiser, 28th May 1853 (BNA).

Note: A digging road was 64 square yards, small plots of land for cottage gardens and vegetable plots.

Sales by Auction.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE.—LITTLE HAY, near LICHFIELD.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by Messrs. C. and H. GILLARD, at the HAYCOCK INN, LITTLE HAY, in the parish of Shenstone, on Monday, the 10th day of August, 1857, at six o'clock in the evening, in the following lots, or otherwise, as may be determined, a valuable FREEHOLD PROPERTY, pleasantly situate at Little Hay aforesaid, viz.:—

Lot 1.—A substantial and newly-erected MESSUAGE, with hovel, pigstye, and other conveniences, and excellent GARDEN adjoining, containing about twelve digging roads, now or late in the occupation of Mr. Benjamin Russell.

Lot 2.—Two MESSUAGES, adjoining each other, near the above, in the respective occupations of James Hawkins, and William Holderoft, or his under-tenant, with piggeries, and out-offices and good GARDENS attached, containing about twenty digging roads.

For further particulars, apply to the AUCTIONEERS, or Mr. BARNES, Solicitor, Lichfield.

Staffordshire Advertiser, 1st August 1857 (BNA)

Despite an extensive search, only limited records for Little Hay on the returns for the 1861 census were found. Those found were for Manley Hall to the northeast of the village, and for a few properties at the very south and southwest of Little Hay, near Watford Gap and Lichfield Road. The areas to the east and west of Little Hay seem to have been covered by the census, leading me to believe that the village itself was overlooked or the records were either incomplete or lost. However, the Post Office Directory of Staffordshire from 1860 listed Mary Russell as running the pub. The Russell family were recorded on previous census returns as living either next door to, or very close to the pub.

The census return for 1871 recorded a Mary Russell as a Licensed Victualler. Although her property was simply recorded as "Little Hay, Shenstone", we can be reasonably confident that she was still running the Haycock Inn because she was listed as the landlady of The Haycock in the 1872 edition of the Post Office Directory of Staffordshire.

1871 census Little Hay, Shenstone (no further address details given)

Mary Russell	Head	W	65	Licensed Victualler	b Shenstone, Staffs
James Russell	Son	U	24	Farmer of 40 acres 1 Labourer	b Little Hay, Staffs
Hannah Hastelow	Servant	U	15	Domestic Servant	b Hill Wood, Warwks

Mary died aged 67 in July 1872. That was a very important month for her son James because he married Sarah Mary Headon at St John the Baptist Church in Shenstone on July 9th, 1872. He subsequently took over the pub following his mother's death.

In 1874, James and Sarah had a son named Arthur who would later run the Haycock Inn. Arthur was baptised at St John the Baptist Church in Shenstone on April 5th, 1874. The baptism record listed James' occupation as "Inn Keeper & Farmer".

In 1878, James Russell had trouble with a wisecracking poacher.

TRESPASSING IN PURSUIT OF GAME.—William Passam, Littlehay, were summoned for trespassing on land in the occupation of James Russell in pursuit of game. Mr. Barnes (Magistrates Clerk) :—Well, are you guilty or not guilty?—Defendant : I am guilty of setting a wire, but not of catching the hare. I set it with the intention of catching a rabbit. (Laughter).—Edward Chapman deposed to having seen the defendant on the 28th ulto., on the land in question. He went to a hedge where a wire was set, and taking a dead hare out, stuffed it into his pocket. Witness let him get a short distance away, and then accosted him. The hare had not long been killed.—Fined 10s. and the costs 11s.

Lichfield Mercury, 15th November 1878 (BNA)

Later in 1878, the pub was in the news in relation to a court case where two customers were prosecuted for disorderly behaviour at the inn. The *Lichfield Mercury* dated December 13th, 1878, reported the incident as below.

“REFUSING TO QUIT – William Ingram and George Pointin were charged with being disorderly on the 30th of November, at the Haycock Inn, Little Hay, and refusing to quit the same when requested.

James Rusell, the landlord, stated that the defendants came into his house together. Having supplied them with a quart of beer, he observed them become “fresh”. He ordered them to leave, when Ingram threatened to strike him, and they refused to go. He then endeavoured to put them out, pulling Pointin to the door. He by words encouraged Ingram not to go. After being ejected, they created a disturbance.

John Lakin, labourer, Little Hay, who was present at the time, gave corroborative testimony.

Sergeant Hammond spoke of the disorderly conduct of the defendants, and the difficulty he had in getting them off the road.

This being their first offence, they were each fined 10s., besides having to pay 14s. 6d. costs.”

James Russell was listed as the landlord of The Haycock in Kelly's Directory of Staffordshire of 1880.

The above article indicated that that following the death of his mother, James combined running the pub with farming which was a common practice in rural areas at the time. This was confirmed in the 1881 census return. A piece in the *Lichfield Mercury* dated December 1st, 1882, indicated that James Russell was a tenant farmer on the Manley Estate, Manley Hall being located to the northeast of Little Hay.

1881 census The Hay Cock Inn, Little Hay, Shenstone

James Russell	Head	M	34	Publican & farmer of 30 acres employing 1 man & boy	b Little Hay, Staffs
Sarah Mary Russell	Wife	M	27	-	b Fotherley, Staffs
Arthur Russell	Son	U	7	Scholar	b Little Hay, Staffs
Amelia Tew	Visitor	U	12	Scholar	b Walsall, Staffs
Alfred Craddock	Visitor	U	14	Scholar	b Walsall, Staffs
Louisa Smith	Servant	U	20	Domestic servant	b Walsall, Staffs

The Haycock Inn had a new landlord in early 1884 named Edwin Joseph Smallwood. His time at the pub was to be both eventful and short lived.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY MESSRS. WATKINS & POWELL,
on MONDAY, February 4th, 1884 (without
reserve), a quantity of very superior
HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,
belonging to Mr. E. J. Smallwood, who is removing
to the Haycock Inn, Little Hay, comprising elegant
Suite of Rosewood Drawing Room Furniture, covered
in crimson rep; Mahogany Sofa, covered in horse-
hair: Mahogany Dining Room Suite, covered in
horsehair, consisting of 4 Circular-backed Chairs,
Lady's and Gentleman's Easy Chairs and Couch;
Mahogany and other Centre and Accommodation
Tables, fine-toned Harmonium, in walnut case;
8-day Clock, Windsor and Chamber Chairs, Basket
Gig, with cushions; Sets of Mahogany and Half-
tester Iron Bedsteads, Mahogany Washstands and
Dressing Tables, with marble tops; Feather Beds,
and numerous other Household Requisites and
Effects.
Sale to commence at 11 o'clock precisely.
Auctioneers' Offices, Bridge Street, Walsall.

Walsall Observer, 26th January 1884 (BNA)

LITTLEHAY. — TRANSFER OF LICENSE. — The
license of the Haycock Inn, Littlehay, was tem-
porarily transferred from Jas. Russell to Edwin
Joseph Smallwood.

Lichfield Mercury, 29th February 1884 (BNA)

It appears that he first obtained a temporary transfer of the licence in February 1884 which was subsequently made permanent in April that year.

BEERHOUSE LICENSES.—At the Petty Sessions, on
Wednesday, Edwin Joseph Smallwood applied for
the transfer of the license of the Haycock Inn, Shen-
stone, to be made to him. There being no objection
on the part of the police the application was granted.
He also applied for an extension of 1 hour on the occa-
sion of a supper to be held at that house, but the Bench
declined to acceded to the request. Licenses for beer

Lichfield Mercury, 11th April 1884 (BNA)

Edwin Smallwood apparently made alterations to the Haycock Inn and heavily advertised the pub during 1884. It is possible that the improvements were funded by the sale of his possessions prior to the move in January 1884, as detailed above.

E. J. SMALLWOOD,
LATE OF BUTTS ROAD,
BEGS to inform his Friends and the Public at large that he has taken to the
HAYCOCK INN, LITTLE HAY,
 And has made GREAT ALTERATIONS, and has now ACCOMMODATION for about 60 PEOPLE to
 DINE AT ONE TIME.
PLAIN TEA 9d. EACH.

N.B.—Mr. W, ABBOTT will Run a BREAK EVERY SUNDAY, on and after the 11th day of MAY.
 FROM THE BRIDGE AT HALF-PAST TWO O'CLOCK.
 FARE 1s. 6d. EACH, THERE AND BACK.

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Walsall Free Press and General Advertiser, 17th May 1884 (BNA). This advertisement appeared repeatedly in various local newspapers between April and August 1884.

It seems Edwin Smallwood's advert may have led to him being a victim of his own success as in August 1884, it was apparent from a report on a licensing session featured the *Lichfield Mercury* dated August 29th, 1884 (transcribed below), that his running of the inn had not been going smoothly.

"On the application of the licence of the Haycock Inn, Little Hay, Supt. Gilbride said numerous complaints had been made in respect to this hour, particularly as to what took place there on Sundays. A great number of vehicles came from Walsall and other towns during closing hours. They were travellers no doubt, but they blew their horns and created a great disturbance to the annoyance of the neighbours. The Chief Constable had been complained to and had instructed him to mention the matter to the Bench. Mr. Smallwood was cautioned in June last, and it was only just to say that there had been no complaints since.

Mr. Smallwood admitted that there had been disturbances on one occasion, but he had since refused to serve noisy parties.

The Chairman said the matter was one of great difficulty to Mr. Smallwood if the disturbances occurred off his premises. One occasion there was a disturbance in front of the chapel (the chapel was situated around 100m north from the inn along Little Hay Lane).

Mr. Smallwood said that particular party had nothing to drink at his house before the disturbance, but they pulled up at his house afterwards.

The licence was renewed."

Despite having his licence renewed, just over a year later, Edwin Smallwood was replaced as landlord by a George Stanton. Whether this was a result of the trouble mentioned above is unclear.

TEMPORARY LICENSE.—George Stanton, Little Hay,
applied for a temporary license to the Haycock Inn,
Little Hay, belonging to the Lichfield Brewery Com-
pany, Limited.—The application was granted.

Lichfield Mercury, 11th September 1885 (BNA)

On November 5th, 1887, the *Walsall Observer* reported on a crime in which James Russell was the victim of theft by one of his employees.

"STEALING A WATCH – At the Brownhills Police Court, last week, before A. Hinckley and L.T. Birch, Esqrs., William Hall, wagoner, lately employed by Mr. James Russell, farmer,

Little Hay, was charged with stealing a silver watch valued at £1, the property of Thomas Aden, at Little Hay, on the 11th October.

Prosecutor, who was a wheelwright and carpenter living at Little Hay, identified the watch produced as his property, and valued it at £1. He last saw it on Sunday, the 9th inst., in the room where prisoner left the house on the 11th October, but witness did not miss his watch until the following day, the 13th inst. On the next day (Friday), the watch was presented to him by Police Constable Fisher.

Police Constable Fisher, stationed at Shenstone, deposed to arresting prisoner on the 13th inst., at Little Sutton, Warwickshire, about three miles from Little Hay. Witness saw prisoner and told him he had come to see him about a watch and some brasses he had taken from Mr. Russell's to which he answered that he knew nothing about the watch. Afterwards he said the watch was at his mother's and he accompanied witness to her house, and reached the watch from the mantel piece, remarking it was the first thing he'd taken, and it would be the last.

A second charge was preferred against prisoner of stealing a martingale and a brass ornament valued at 4s., the property of James Ruseell, farmer, Little Hay.

Prosecutor said prisoner had been employed by him for four years as a wagoner. He identified the martingale and the brass ornament produced at his property. He missed the articles on the day after prisoner left his employment.

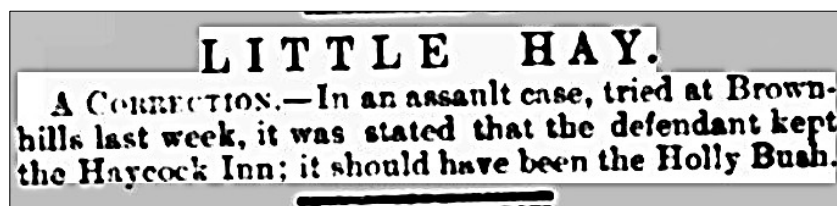
Police Constable Fisher said on the 13th inst., he apprehended prisoner on this and another charge at Little Sutton.

In reply to the charge, Hall said Mr. Russell had given him the things. He afterwards delivered them to witness.

Prisoner's father said this was the first time his son had been in trouble and hoped the Bench would deal as leniently as possible with him. He also presented a good character respecting his son from his former employer.

The Bench informed prisoner that he was liable to imprisonment for three months, but having received such a good character, they would impose a money penalty. He would have to pay 10s. and costs in each case, altogether £3 18s. 6d."

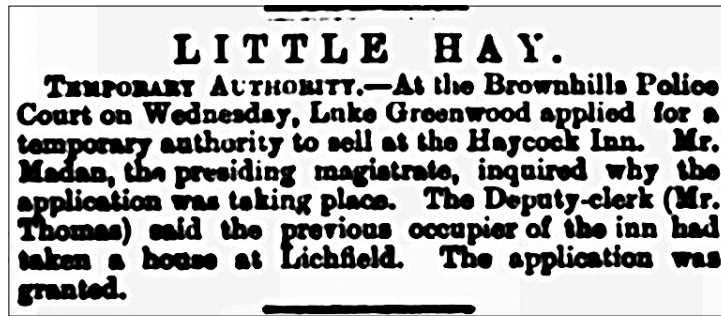
George Stanton must have been a temporary landlord as James Russell was apparently running the pub in 1888 as there was potential for embarrassment for him when the *Walsall Observer* mistakenly reported that he'd been the defendant in a recent assault case.



Walsall Observer, 23rd June 1888 (BNA)

Despite this, the 1888 edition of Kelly's Directory of Staffordshire recorded James Russell as a farmer only and the Haycock Inn was not listed.

A new landlord named Luke Greenwood took over the running of the pub in 1889.



Walsall Observer, 13th April 1889 (BNA)

The above clipping from 1889 is somewhat confusing. It states that the “previous occupier of the inn had taken a house at Lichfield”. This reads as though James Russell had left the Haycock Inn to run a different pub in Lichfield. Although it is possible he was running another pub but not residing at it, I was unable to find any evidence proving the statement. The 1891 census returns recorded Luke Greenwood as a publican at the Haycock Inn and James Russell as a farmer in Little Hay. Furthermore, Kelly’s Directory of Staffordshire from 1896 listed Luke Greenwood as landlord of the Haycock Inn. James Russell was recorded in the same document as a farmer in Little Hay.¹⁰

1891 census “Haycock”, Little Hay, Shenstone

Luke Greenwood	Head	M	45	Publican	b Edgehill, Warwks
Eliza Greenwood	Wife	M	52	-	b Cherrington, Warwks
Jane Shread	Servant	U	15	General servant domestic	b Hurley, Warwks

1891 census Little Hay, Shenstone

James Russell	Head	M	44	Farmer	b. Little Hay, Staffs
Sarah M Russell	Wife	M	37	-	b Fotherley, Staffs
Arthur Russell	Son	U	17	Farmers son	b Little Hay, Staffs
Ernest GRussell	Son	U	4	-	b Little Hay, Staffs
Mary E Russell	Daughter	U	0	-	b Little Hay, Staffs
Thomas Headen	Brother in law	U	40	Wheelwright	b Fotherley, Staffs

Both the 1894 and 1896 editions of Kelly’s Directory of Staffordshire listed Luke Greenwood as running The Haycock. James Russell was recorded as a farmer in the latter.

The Haycock Inn was used as the location for an inquest into the “Sudden death of a child at Little Hay” as reported in the *Warwickshire Herald* on June 18th, 1891. It was a common occurrence at this time for public houses to be used for such purposes. This very sad instance was reported as below.

“An inquest was held at the Haycock Inn on Tuesday morning, before Dr. Iliffe, coroner, on the body of the infant daughter of George and Mary Greatrex, who died somewhat suddenly on Saturday. The evidence of Dr. Brown, of Sutton Coldfield, who was called to see the deceased child, was to the effect that it had died of convulsions, and a verdict in accordance with medical testimony was returned.”

The Haycock Inn was mentioned in a somewhat florid article in the *Walsall Advertiser* on July 13th, 1895, which evokes a scene of bucolic idyll.

“ST. LUKE’S COMMUNICANTS’ GUILD EXCURSION. The members of the above Guild had a very enjoyable trip by brake (a type of open horse-drawn carriage) to Little Hay on Saturday afternoon. The party started from St. Luke’s Church, Selbourne Street, shortly after two o’clock, and the route lay through Aldridge, Little Aston, and Blake Street, the destination being reached at a quarter to four. The party took a stroll down a quiet lane. Wild

¹⁰ <https://leicester.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16445coll4/id/370316>

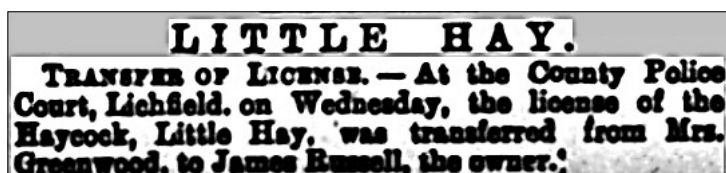
flowers were eagerly plucked and much admired. At five o'clock the trippers sat down to tea at the Haycock Inn, and they did full justice to the sumptuous repast provided by the hostess.

After tea, Mr. Ellis, of Little Hay, invited the party to his grounds. His vinery received the first attention. Then the visitors observed a carefully kept yew bush which formed a beautiful representation of a swan on water. In another portion of the grounds was a pool on which some of the party tried their skill as oarsmen. Mr. Ellis very kindly presented the visitors with sweet smelling roses and gave them permission to gather his fruit. The return journey through Shenstone was begun at half-past seven. The ride home was by no means the least pleasing part of the picnic, as the heat of the day was then past. Newly made hay perfumed the air, and now and then a rabbit showed itself. Songs were enjoyed and jokes were cracked until home was reached at a quarter to ten, everybody having been delighted with the trip."

The *Lichfield Mercury* dated January 17th, 1896, reported on an evening of merrymaking at the inn thus.

"A PARTY. A merry party of the Little Hay villagers met at the Haycock Inn, on Saturday night last, under the presidency of Mr. S. Hawkins to enjoy hospitality provided for them by Mr. and Mrs. John Hathaway, in recognition of the recent happy events in their family. Host and hostess Greenwood catered for the company in their usual good manner. "The Health of the Hathaway Family" was drunk with much enthusiasm, and the proceedings, which were interspersed with songs, terminated at the usual hour, all and everyone having spent a very enjoyable evening."

Luke Greenwood died on February 4th, 1897. Subsequently, James Russell took on the licence once again. The below cutting indicated that James Russell had always owned the pub whilst Luke Greenwood had been running it.



Walsall Observer, 27th March 1897 (BNA)

The *Walsall Observer* dated January 14th, 1899, reported the following.

"Supper — On Saturday night last, a supper was provided by Mr. and Mrs James Russell, at the Hay Cock Inn, Little Hay, when upwards of sixty of their most intimate friends say down to a most excellent supper, under the presidency of Mr. C. Smallwood, including Messrs. J. Marler, Sturgeon, Johnson, Stevenson, Wilson, Harrison, S Hawkins and others, and after due justice had been done, toasts and songs followed, making the evening of a most enjoyable character, everyone appreciating the admirable catering of the host and hostess".

The Haycock Inn in the 20th Century

The Russell's were apparently keen on hosting events at the Haycock Inn. Another supper was described in the *Lichfield Mercury* on February 9th, 1900, as below.

"A number of friends recently assembled at the well-known Haycock Inn to partake of a supper, provided by the host Russell. Mr. J Hathway, Shenstone Park, presided, and was supported by Messrs. H. Harrison, Jospeh Russell, L. J. Meakin, Biddle, Marlow, and others.

After full justice had been done to the excellent repast the toast of "The Queen" was given by the Chairman and cordially received. Songs were given at intervals by several of those present, and a most enjoyable evening was spent.

Shortly before the proceedings closed Mr. Hathaway proposed a vote of thanks to Host and Hostess Russell for their kind hospitality, wishing them and their family a happy and prosperous new year.

This was heartily received, and Mr. Russell suitably responded. After singing the National Anthem the party dispersed."

EXTENSION.
An extension of one hour was granted to James Russell, Haycock Inn, Little Hay, the occasion being a supper on the 12th inst.

Walsall Free Press and General Advertiser, 12th January 1901 (BNA)

1901 census Hay Cock Inn, Little Hay Road, Little Hay, Shenstone

James Russell	Head	M	54	Farmer & publican	b Little Hay, Staffs
Sarah M Russell	Wife	M	48	-	b Fotherley, Staffs
Arthur Russell	Son	U	27	Farmers son	b Little Hay, Staffs
Ernest GRussell	Son	U	14	Farmers son	b Little Hay, Staffs
Mary E Russell	Daughter	U	10	-	b Little Hay, Staffs
Frank Russell	Son	U	7	-	b Little Hay, Staffs
Sarah L Lort*	Servant	U	16	General servant domestic	b Birmingham, Warwks

*Surname illegible

The below clipping confirms that James Russell's occupation as given on the 1901 census was splitting his time between running the pub and farming. He was listed in Kelly's Directory of Staffordshire editions from both 1900 and 1904 as "Farmer & Haycock PH".

LOT 4 — Little Hay, near Shenstone. — The FREE-HOLD PROPERTY, consisting of the four Cottages now or recently in the occupation of Messrs. Hall, Nash, Hill, and Passman, at rents of 8s, 9s4d, 6s, and 7s 9d monthly; and a Field of ARABLE LAND adjoining, let to Mr. James Russell, at a rent of £3 per annum. Total area 2a. 3r. 13p.

Lichfield Mercury, 23rd May 1902

In 1904, an apparently eccentric man who had been lodging at the Haycock Inn was found dead at a local pool with no obvious explanation of what had happened to him. The *Birmingham Daily Gazette* dated December 5th, 1904, reported the flowing.

"The body of a man found at Higg Pit, Little Sutton, on Friday last, has been identified as that of James Crabtree, seventy-five, butcher, a native of Little Sutton, who for some months has been lodging at Haycock Inn, Little Hay. He left his lodgings on Wednesday morning to visit the Birmingham Cattle Show. On the way he called at the White Lion, where he remained a short time, and nothing further was heard of him until his body was discovered in the pool. He had 16s. on him when he left his lodging, but only 4s. and some coppers were found on the body. Deceased was respectably connected but was most eccentric in his habits."

James Russell was called to give evidence at an inquest regarding the death of a local man as reported in the *Lichfield Mercury* dated July 7th, 1905. The article was very lengthy, so it has been summarised here. It appears a Charles Smallwood was returning from a pub in Lichfield in a pony and trap to his home in Little Hay, calling at several other pubs on the way, one of which was the Haycock Inn. Along the way Smallwood picked up his friend named Davis. After testament from the landlords of three pubs Smallwood and Davis visited

before stopping at the Haycock Inn, James Russell (described as the landlord of the Haycock Inn) then gave evidence that they'd had a drink in his pub. Several witnesses then recounted that soon after leaving the Haycock Inn, the horse took fright and bolted and that the driver appeared to be out of control despite his strenuous efforts. Upon reaching a sharp bend to the right, the horse made for a fence on the left resulting in the trap overturning and the two men being thrown from it. Smallwood was killed and Davis very badly injured, being too unwell to attend the inquest. It was acknowledged by the Coroner that the deceased had taken some drink but that his actions indicated that he was not much, if any, under its influence and a verdict of Accidental Death was recorded.

At some point between 1905 and 1909, James Russell's son Arthur took over as landlord of the Haycock Inn, with assistance from Arthur's wife, Emma.

The Haycock Inn was referenced in the *Lichfield Mercury* of May 1st, 1908, regarding a dispute between George Simkins, a farmer of Little Hay and Ernest Russell, "son of the landlady of the Haycock Inn" about ownership of a dog. The article was very long and so the dispute is summarised here. Apparently, Simkins would go to the Haycock Inn and walk off with Russell's dog, named Joe, and take him back to his farm. Joe had been trained by Russell as a gun dog and eventually went missing. Simkin was ordered to pay £5 compensation or 1s. if the dog was returned.

The *Lichfield Mercury* dated November 12th, 1909, reported that the Haycock Inn had recently experienced trouble with a drunk customer.

"REFUSING TO QUIT – Thomas Gee, of Spring Hill, Muckley Corner, painter, was charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of the "Haycock," Littlehay, and with using bad language on the 25th Oct.

Emma Russell, wife of the landlord, said that defendant came to the house at four o'clock in the afternoon, and was supplied with a pint of ale. Two other men followed him in, and she refused them, considering that they had had sufficient. Gee then gave his jug to one of them men to drink out of. Gee requested her to re-fill the jug, and she refused. She noticed that Gee had had sufficient. Gee afterwards asked another man for a drink and told him that he would pay for it. She requested him to leave, and he refused to do so, saying that he would stay to aggravate her, and using bad language. She was alone in the house.

Ernest Russell, brother of the landlord, stated that he was passing the house, and saw Gee coming out of the Haycock Inn. He threw a stone at witness' dog and used bad language to a passing gentleman. Children were coming from school at the time.

Defendant was fined 2s. 6d and 9s. 6d. costs in the first case, and 2s. 6d and 18s. 6. Costs in the second, £1 13s. altogether."

1911 census The Haycock Inn, Little Hay, Lichfield, Staffs

Arthur Russell	Head	M	37	Farm Labourer	b Little Hay, Staffs
Emma Russell	Wife	M	32	Public House Business	b Hall Green, Warwks
Mabel Elizabeth Russell	Daughter	U	8	School	b Haltwhistle, Northumberland
Phyllis Clicker	Servant	U	16	General servant	b Shenstone, Staffs

The 1911 census recorded the building as having seven rooms.



Taxis gathered outside the Haycock Inn used for a day out c1911. Reproduced with permission from Conrad Szamocki via Facebook¹¹. Note that the painted sign on the gable end was different to the current day sign. It appears to have read, "The Lichfield Brewery Company Ltd. Ales & Stout" around an image of a bottle of ale.

The pub was clearly hosting a lot of fund-raising events around this time as the *Lichfield Mercury* dated January 27th, 1911, reported the below.

"CONCERT – A very successful concert was given on Wednesday evening in the tea room at the Haycock Inn, the Rev. Eben Molloy (Vicar of Shenstone) presiding. All the items of the programme were well rendered and highly appreciated by a large and enthusiastic audience. The proceeds are to be devoted to a fund in connection with the Little Hay Mission Room". The article then gave a long and detailed list of the many songs performed and their performers. Of note is that the article states pub had a "tea room".

Another charitable event was held at the inn during March 1911. The event was described in the *Lichfield Mercury* dated March 3rd, 1911, as below.

"CONCERT – A concert was given in the tea room at the Haycock Inn, Little Hay, on Friday evening. Mr J. Barney, of the Lichfield Theological College presided over a fair audience.

The following artistes kindly gave their services: - Messrs. Vaughan, Goodwin, Salmon, Wilkie, Wyman, and Barney, Mrs. Higley, Miss Ayres, and Miss Mabel Harrison. Mr. Toulouse acted as accompanist. The proceeds are to be devoted to the funds of the Little Hay Mission Room."

¹¹ <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10162887142409150&set=p.10162887142409150&type=3>

On July 8th, 1911, the *Staffordshire Advertiser* reported that both Arthur Russell and his counterpart at the Holly Bush Inn were charged with breaching licensing hours regulations. The case hinged on whether the patrons were “bona fide travellers”. This term was tied to historical legislation which legally required pubs to close on Sundays. Exemptions were made for bona fide travellers who travelling on business or those who were journeying a minimum distance of 3 miles. If a person was on a genuine journey, establishments were legally allowed and required to serve them refreshments. However, this exemption became a popular loophole, prompting locals and people from towns to take Sunday walks or bicycle rides outside their local village just to qualify for a drink. Publicans were expected to prove they had made sincere efforts to check the *bona fides* of drinkers but given the vagueness of the rules, they quite possibly just took the customers word for it.¹² Of note in the article, is that it indicates that Little Hay and its pubs were popular weekend and Bank Holiday destinations for people from further afield.

“SUNDAY DRINKING AT LITTLEHAY. – Arthur Russell, landlord of the Haycock Inn, and Herbert Mortimer Berry, of the Hollybush Inn, Littlehay, Shenstone, were charged with having kept their houses open for the sale of intoxicating liquors during prohibited hours on Sundays, May 28 and June 4.

Mr. W. H. Breton prosecuted on behalf of the police and Mr. A. W. Barnes, of Lichfield, appeared for the defence. The case against Russell in respect of Sunday, May 28, was taken as a specimen of the others, and Mr. Breton said the prosecutions were of considerable importance, inasmuch as they were instituted under Section 61 of the Licensing Consolidation Act and involved the question of what reasonable precautions were required to take to prevent drink being supplied during prohibited hours to other than *bona-fide* travellers.

The police had visited the houses in consequence of complaints of the extent of Sunday drinking in the village of Littlehay, found large numbers of people supplied with drink, and no precautions such as it was contended should be taken to challenge the *bona-fides* of the visitors.

Evidence was given by Police-sergt. Cooper and Police-constable Wilcox to the effect that they visited the Haycock Inn in plain clothes on the Sunday before Whitsuntide and on Whit-Sunday, found the door open, and people passing in and out who were supplied with drink by the landlord. On May 25 they remained in the house from 1140 to 1225 at noon, and saw about 30 people, none of whom were challenged, supplied with drink.

On Whit-Sunday they visited the inn again at 1045 a.m. and found 43 persons drinking at the front of the house and on the highway adjoining, and about 40 other persons inside the house. The place, indeed, was quite full, and there were numbers on the green which fronted it. On the same afternoon the officers visited the house a third time and found a similar state of things. They then spoke to the landlord and pointed out to him that he had neither asked them nor any of the others whether they were travellers. The defendant replied that he generally asked visitor, and that it was impossible to always ask everybody.

For the defence, Mr. Barnes said Littlehay was a picturesque village on the borders of Shenstone, which was largely visited on Sundays by people from Birmingham, Walsall, Wednesbury and the Black Country. It had gone on for a great number of years, and at the two licensed houses in the village precautions were taken by placing men outside on guard to see that nobody but *bona-fide* travellers went inside. The defendant Russell said visitors came in parties by brakes from Birmingham for breakfasts, luncheons, and teas, and that he placed a man outside and paid him specially to look after vehicles. Only at the last court he had prosecuted two Shenstone residents who had sneaked in with a *bona-fide* traveller, and he did all he thought he could to adhere to the law.

Charles Harrison, as resident of Littlehay, said that he had been engaged for the last five Sundays at 2s. per day and his eating to look after the vehicles, and he challenged all

¹² <https://boakandbailey.com/2015/03/bona-fide-travellers-fibbing-for-a-pint/>

the people he saw. In answer to Mr. Breton, the witness said he could not account for the police officers escaping his observation.

The Bench held the case against the Haycock Inn fully proved and imposed a fine of £5 and £2 costs on Russell in respect of May 28. Mr. Breton withdrew the case against the same landlord for Whit-Sunday, and Mr. Barnes said the landlord of the Holly Bush Inn, acting on his advice, would plead guilty in regard to the Sunday before Whitsuntide. The case was quite analogous to that of the Haycock Inn, excepting that the landlord had taken the precaution of placing a man on guard at the back as well as the front of the house. Col. Williams, the presiding magistrate, said both must be treated alike, and a penalty of £5 with £1 11s. 8d costs, was inflicted in his case also. The fines and costs in the two cases amounted to £13 12s. 4d."

The above article mentioned that Arthur Russell had recently taken action against customers abusing the "bona-fide traveller" rules. This was reported in the *Lichfield Mercury* earlier in the year on June 16th, 1911.

"SUNDAY DRINKING.- Wm. Dodd and James Hearne, Shenstone, Labourers, were summoned by Arthur Russell, licensee of the Haycock Inn, Little Hay, for being upon his premises during closing hours.

Mr. A. W. Barnes appeared for the prosecution, and stated that it was a rather unusual case, inasmuch as his client was the licensee. The Haycock Inn was very much resorted to on Sundays by travellers from Birmingham, Walsall, Sutton Coldfield, and on this occasion, a man named Morgan, who was bona-fide traveller, went to the house, and the defendants went along with him. Mr. Russell was informed that the defendants had been on his premises and had brought the case in order to keep within the law, and to warn other people. He did not wish for a heavy penalty to be inflicted but had brought the case in justice to himself.

Annie Lucas, wife of Alfred Lucas, Little Hay, said that on Sunday, May 28th she was in her garden which adjoined the garden of the Haycock Inn, and saw the defendant Dodd get over Mr. Russell's fence into her garden. He had a jug of beer and a glass in his hand.

Charles Harrison, labourer, Little Hay, said he was assisting at the Haycock Inn on the Sunday in question, and saw the two defendants and another man in the arbour of the garden adjoining the house at 5.30.

Defendants pleaded guilty, and Dodd said that he did not know the time or he would not have been on the premises.

The Bench ordered the payment of the costs, 10s., in each case."



Image of the Haycock Inn from a vintage postcard dated January 1913. The photograph shows James Russell's name on the sign above the door and the recently constructed Wesleyan Chapel in the distance. Reproduced with permission from Jono's Tourism Facebook page¹³

The staff of the Haycock Inn were referenced in relation to an alleged theft reported in the *Lichfield Mercury* on September 12th, 1913.

“DISCHARGED – George Rogers, labourer, no fixed abode, native of Rowley Regis, was charged on a warrant with stealing a pair of gentlemen’s boots, value 6s., the property of Henry Harrison, Little Hay, near Lichfield, on March 9th, 1913.

Mary Ann Weldon, Little Hay, said that on Sunday March 9th a man came to her house about 2.30 p.m., and asked her for some potatoes to eat. He told witness that he was on the road and had grown tired of eating bread. Witness did not sell him any potatoes, and the man went away from the house. Later in the afternoon witness saw the same man go by her house, carrying a parcel under his arm. She did not recognise the prisoner as being the man.

Rose Weldon (14), domestic servant, employed at the Haycock Inn, Little Hay, and Emma Russell, wife of the licensee of the Haycock Inn, could not identify the prisoner as the man they had seen on March 9th.

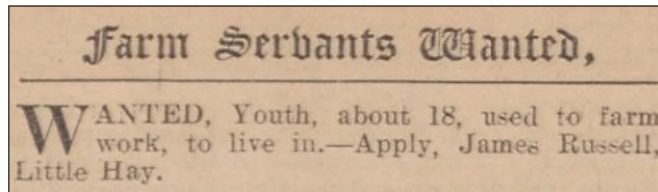
Clara Alice Harrison, wife of Henry Harrison, The Post Office, Little Hay, said that on the Sunday in question she missed a pair of boots belonging to her husband. She could not identify the prisoner.

P.C. Matthews said he received the prisoner in custody from the Stafford Police. Witness read the warrant to him and charged him with the theft. Prisoner replied, “I shall get out of it. I thought that place was in Warwickshire.”

Prisoner was discharged.”

An advert seeking a farm labourer in a local newspaper provided further proof that James Russell was still very much involved in agriculture.

¹³ <https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=1620055700119930&set=a.473239111468267>



Lichfield Mercury, 12th December 1913. The same advertisement appeared in the Lichfield Mercury on 26th December 1913

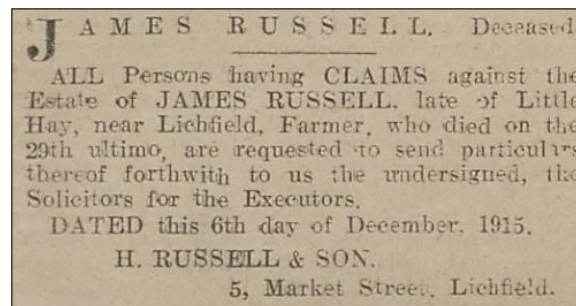
The inn held yet another bash in February 1914 as reported in the *Walsall Advertiser* on February 7th of that year.

“LITTLE HAY SMOKING CONCERT – Under the auspices of the Lichfield Division Unionist Association a largely attended smoking concert was held at the Haycock Inn on Thursday evening. Mr. G. Orme was in the chair, and amongst those present were Dr. Coates, Mr. H. Sturgess, Messrs. W Bartlett, J. Russell, F. Bayliss, C. Moore, G. Ingram, A. Orme, F. Johnson. C. Harrison, S. Hawkins, and A.A. Perrins (Unionist Agent).

Dr. Coates delivered a short address on the present political situation. On the proposition of Mr. W. Bartlett, seconded by Mr. A. Russell, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded Dr. Coates. The doctor responded.

Selections were rendered by Messrs. J. Waters, Wal Bull, W. Bartlett and F Johnson. Mr. P. Hunter officiated at the piano.”

James Russell died in 1915 and was buried on December 4th of the same year at St John the Baptist Church in Shenstone.



Lichfield Mercury, 10th December 1915

The Haycock Inn made the news again in 1916 when some patrons lied about breaking licensing laws by pretending to be “bona fide travellers”. This case was reported in the *Walsall Observer* on May 13th, 1916.

“AN EXPENSIVE JOY RIDE. GOOD FRIDAY DRIVE DESCRIBED AS A DRUNKEN SPREE.

At Brownhills Police Court, on Wednesday before Mr. W. G. Leckie (Presiding), Sir Thomas Blomefield, Dr. Wolverson, and Mr. T. Emery, John Clarke (who did not appear, licensee of the Levett’s Arms, Lichfield; Ernest Arthur Kettle, miller’s labourer and Arthur Whitby, chimney sweep, all of Lichfield, were charged with contravening the Licensing Consolidation Act, 1910, by falsely representing themselves to be bona-fide travellers for the purposed of obtaining intoxicating drink during prohibited hours on Good Friday.

Mr. W. E. Breton (Longton), who prosecuted on behalf of the police, said that defendants were not bona-fide travellers, as they visited three public houses within an hour. He was please to say that in all three cases the licensees took precautions to see that they were bona-fide travellers. In one case defendants said they had come from Walsall, but as a matter of fact they were clearly out on a drunken spree. He had often had to prosecute licensees and had these not been so careful as they had been might have found themselves

alongside defendants that morning; but when they did the best they could it was only fair that it should be recognised.

Mrs. Dexter, wife of the licensee of the Blue Ball, Wood End, Shenstone, said two of them went into her house, and Clark stayed outside and had his drink taken there. They signed the book as coming from Walsall.

The wife of the licensee of the Haycock Inn, Little Hay, spoke to the defendants coming to her house and obtaining refreshments, saying they had come from Lichfield.

The case of the other public house was not taken.

Police-constable Hutchinson said he traced the movements of the three men on Good Friday afternoon. When witness saw them, Clark, who was driving, was so drunk as to be incapable of taking charge of the trap and witness insisted on one of the others relieving him of the responsibility. Clark gave up the reins but afterwards took them again.

Whitby was also summoned for using bad language in the Birmingham Road. The police constable said that when he was speaking to Clark, defendant became abusive and threatened to fight the witness.

This case was dismissed, but on the first charge each defendant was fined 15s. and costs (including £1 1s. advocate's fee), or a total of 24s. 6d. each."

1921 census Hay Cock Inn, Little Hay, Lichfield

Arthur Russell	Head	M	47	Publican & Farmer	b Shenstone, Staffs
Emma Russell	Wife	M	43	Household Duties	b Yardley, Warwks
Mabel E Russell	Daughter	U	18	Brass Worker	b Haltwhistle, Northumberland

The death of Emma Russell was announced in the *Lichfield Mercury* on August 26th, 1926.

"RUSSELL – On August 15th, 1926. Emma, beloved wife of Arthur Russell, Little Hay, aged 48. Sadly missed by all."

Arthur Russell was listed as the landlord of the Haycock Inn in the 1912 and 1916 editions of Kelly's Directory of Staffordshire and in Kelly's Directory of Birmingham, Stafford, Warwick and Worcester from 1921. However, the Haycock Inn had a new landlord as of March 1929, with Harry Slyfield taking over from Arthur Russell. This was reported in the *Rugeley Times* dated March 30th, 1929, thus, "Harry Slyfield, of Hints, was also granted a protection order for the Haycock Inn, Little Hay, in succession to Arthur Russell". The 1921 Census recorded Harry Slyfield as living with his wife and 3 daughters at Hints near Tamworth. He was then aged 37 and his occupation was "Coal Miner Horse Keeper at Glascote & Amington Collieries, Tamworth".

Soon after becoming landlord of the Haycock Inn, Harry Slyfield was in the local papers for vehicular related matters; offering a car for sale and subsequently for committing a motoring related offence.

MOTOR CARS AND CYCLES.
AUSTIN Seven TOURER, in good condition; cheap.—Apply, Slyfield, Haycock Inn, Little Hay.

Lichfield Mercury, 11th July 1930 (BNA)

Motorist's Offence.—Harry Slyfield, of Haycock Inn, Little Hay, was fined 7s. 6d. for failing to illuminate the rear identification plate on his motor-car.

Lichfield Mercury, 13th November 1931 (BNA)

Available information indicates that the pub was supplied by the Lichfield Brewery Co. Ltd of St John Street, Lichfield. However, in 1930, the brewery was acquired by Samuel Allsopp & Sons Ltd. Brewing ceased at Lichfield and beers were supplied from Burton.¹⁴ This is reflected by the differences on the painted signs on the gable end of the building on the image earlier in this document from c 1911 to the present day “ghost” sign. Presumably the present-day sign dates from sometime around or shortly after 1930 when the brewery was taken over by Allsopps.

The South Staffordshire Hounds

Many records were found in contemporary newspapers showing that the inn was popular with fox hunters. The pub appears to have been used as the starting place for the hunt. The first record pertaining to fox hunting found dated from 1883 but then there was a large gap in between until the 1930's from which time there were several notices placed in local newspapers of the time.

ROUTE.
MONDAYS.—By Hopwas, Hints, Weeford, to the Haycock Inn, Little Hay (to bait); thence by Watford Gap, Four Oaks, and Hill, to the Fox and Dogs Inn, Little Sutton, for night.

Tamworth Herald, 28th April 1883 & Saturday 5th May 1883 (BNA)

HUNTING APPOINTMENTS.
The South Staffordshire Hounds will meet on Tuesday, 30th December, at Haycock Inn, Little Hay; Thursday, 1st January, Holly Bank (by invitation); and Saturday, 3rd January, Shaw Lane Lodge, Kings Bromley, at 11 o'clock.

Rugeley Times, 27th December 1930 (BNA)

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE.
Saturday, Feb. 4..... Farewell Village 11 0
Tuesday, Feb. 7..... The Haycock, Little Hay ... 11 0
Saturday, Feb. 11..... Longdon Green 11 0

Birmingham Daily Post, 2nd February 1933 (BNA)

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE HOUNDS.
Tuesday, November 6th. — Haycock Inn, Little Hay (collection for Earl Haig's Fund).
Saturday, November 10th. — Dog Kennel Lodge, Fisherwick (collection for Earl Haig's Fund).
At 11 a.m.

Lichfield Mercury, 2nd November 1934 BNA

THE SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE HOUNDS
will meet at 11 o'clock each day as follows:—
Tuesday, Haycock Inn, Little Hay; Saturday, January 9, Fradley Canal Junction.

Tamworth Herald, 2nd January 1932 (BNA)

The South Staffordshire Hounds will meet at 11 o'clock each day as follows:—
Tuesday, Manstey Toll Bar; Saturday, Feb. 8, Haycock Inn, Little Hay.

Tamworth Herald, 1st February 1936 (BNA)

In addition to the above notices, the description of three hunts starting at the Haycock Inn were found in newspapers dating from the early 1930's, each giving details of the route taken and the outcome. A typical example is presented below. Thankfully for the foxes, though no doubt tired and frightened by their ordeal, they escaped the hounds on each occasion.

¹⁴ https://breweryhistory.com/wiki/index.php?title=Lichfield_Brewery_Co._Ltd

A Poor Scenting Day From Little Hay.

A meet of the South Staffordshire Hunt was held on Tuesday at The Haycock, Little Hay, when a collection was made for Earl Haig's Fund. It was a fine morning with a keen wind. A fairly large field assembled. Iron House Covert failed to provide a fox, and hounds were taken to Manley, and, after trying the drain, they found at Broad Heath. The fox crossed the brook, ran through the osier beds and made for Mr. W. Burton's farm, Thickbroom. Here he was viewed as he crossed the main road towards Blackbrook, and ran on to Monymoor, where he was lost. It was a poor scenting day.

Lichfield Mercury, 9th November 1934 (BNA)

Cycling Clubs

The pub was also a popular spot with cyclists, especially with various branches of the Cyclists Touring Club (CTC), with the Haycock Inn being used as a meeting place and stop off point during rides.

CYCLISTS' TOURING CLUB.

The Tamworth section of the Cyclists' Touring Club held their annual general meeting at the Haycock Inn, Little Hay. Mr. C. L. Earp was elected chairman for the ensuing year. The Secretary, in his report, said that funds showed a slight increase, and that runs attendances kept a steady average. Officers were elected thus: Mr. F. Walcott (hon. secretary), Mr. A. Barnes (D.A. representative), and Mr. L. Martin (auditor and hon. press secretary). Prior to the meeting the party went to Brocton for lunch, proceeding to Little Hay via Cannock, Brownhills and Little Aston. The Secretary will be pleased to give a free invitation to a run to any prospective member. His address is: 125 South road, Erdington, Birmingham.

Tamworth Herald, 15th November 1930 (BNA)

ACORN UNITY.

On Sunday last about 20 members of the Acorn Unity C.C. had an enjoyable run to the Haycock, at Little Hay. Leaving headquarters (Acorn Hotel, Wheeler-street?) about 9.45, they travelled by way of Walsall, Streetly, and Blake-street, returning through Four Oaks, Sutton, and Wylde Green.

Anyone wishing to become a member should see the hon. secretary, Mr. G. Harper, 4, St. Stephen's-place, Newtown-row, Birmingham.

Sunday's run is to Catherine de Barnes, when a start will be made from headquarters at 9.30 a.m.

Sports Argus, 21st April 1923 (BNA)

WALSALL C.T.C. ACTIVITIES.

Walsall Section, C.T.C.—To-day (Saturday): Aquamoor, Bloxwich, 2-45; tea, Hartley Arms, Wheaton Aston (captain, H. Proffitt). To-morrow (Sunday): Devil's Causeway, The Bridge, 9-0; tea, Railway Tavern, Much Wenlock (captain, L. Keeling). Appleby Hill, The Bridge, 9-30; tea, Haycock Inn, Little Hay.

Walsall Observer, 5th February 1938 (BNA)

Final Days as a Public House

In the late 1930's, the pub was facing closure as reported in the *Lichfield Mercury* on March 5th, 1937, in a column detailing several applications for removals of licenses at the recent (but delayed) Lichfield Licensing Sessions.

"THE HAYCOCK – The first was on behalf on John Phillips to remove the full licence of the Haycock Inn, at Little Hay, to the Royal Oak, as Shire Oak.

Mr. F. Cooper, who appeared for the applicant, said the existing Beerhouse "on" at Shire Oak was a very old licensed house, and was a house which quite obviously was not up to present day standard. It belonged to a firm which had been absorbed into Messrs. Ind Coope and Allsopp, who were making a very genuine effort to bring their houses up to date. The Brewery Company felt, having regard to the very increased population around the house, that the only proper method of dealing with it was by completely rebuilding it and by putting up a building which could be used by residents in the locality and by traffic along that main road. It was obviously a house which ought to have a full licence, and they asked the bench to consent to the removal of the full licence from the Haycock at Little Hay, where the population was already quite adequately provided for. They would have a house which would meet the needs of that rapidly growing population.

The bench granted the application."

A similar article that offers a little more clarity appeared in the *Staffordshire Advertiser* on May 1st, 1937.

"Also referred from the Lichfield and Brownhills division was the proposed removal of the full licence of the Haycock, Little Hay, Shenstone, to the premises to be erected at the rear of the Royal Oak, Shire Oak. Mr Cooper stated that the Royal Oak was a beerhouse in the centre of a rapidly growing district, in addition to being on the main Chester Road, and was quite inadequate to cope with the needs of the locality. In submitting the plans for its rebuilding, the owners thought they were quite justified in asking for the removal to the new premises of the full licence of the Haycock Inn, Little Hay, a village where there had been little development and where, in any case, there was adequate alternative accommodation. As in the previous case, the beerhouse licence would be surrendered and the number of licences in the division reduced. The application was granted."

I'm not familiar with historic licensing laws but my interpretation of the situation is given hereupon. The aging and outdated Royal Oak public house, which was located on Chester Road, a busy main road with a growing population, was no longer fit for purpose and it was proposed to replace it with a brand new, modern and purpose build pub. The old Royal Oak was only a beerhouse and as such, not licensed to sell spirits. The new Royal Oak was to be fully licensed, however, there were only a finite number of licenses available. Therefore, the Haycock Inn was stripped of its licence, which was assigned to the new Royal Oak. It appears that the licensing committee deemed that the Haycock Inn was surplus to requirements due to Little Hay

I. JOHN PHILLIPS, of the "Royal Oak,"
Shire Oak, in the Parish of Shire Oak in the County of Stafford, Beerhouse Keeper, DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that it is my intention to apply at the Adjourned General Annual Licensing Meeting for the Petty Sessional Division of Lichfield and Brownhills to be holden at the Guildhall Lichfield on Wednesday the 3rd day of March 1937 at the hour of 10-30 o'clock in the forenoon for the Provisional Grant of an Order sanctioning the Removal of the Justices' Licence now in force and held by the said Harry Slyfield in pursuance of which the said Harry Slyfield holds an Excise Licence to sell by Retail at the licensed premises situate at Little Hay in the Parish of Shenstone in the said County and known by the sign of the "Haycock" any intoxicating liquor which may be sold under a Spirit Retailer's (or Publican's) Licence for consumption either on or off the premises from such premises to a House and premises proposed to be erected upon land at the rear of the premises known as the "Royal Oak" Shire Oak in the Parish of Shire Oak in the said County and of which Licence when removed I desire to be the holder.

AND I HEREBY GIVE FURTHER NOTICE that The Lichfield Brewery Company Limited of 107 Station Street Burton-on-Trent are the Owners of the said premises known as the "Haycock" and also of the said land at the rear of the premises known as the "Royal Oak."

Given under my hand this eighth day of February One thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven.

Formal legal notice from *The Walsall Observer*,
13th February 1937

being a rural and relatively sparsely populated settlement plus the village had another public house, The Hollybush.

Confirmation of the removal of the licence from the Haycock Inn was reported in May 1938.

REMOVAL OF LICENCE
The removal of the full licence of the Haycock Inn at Little Hay was transferred to new premises erected at the rear of the Royal Oak at Shire Oak.
Lichfield Mercury, 27th May 1938 (BNA)

Incidentally, at the time of writing, The Hollybush was still operating as a pub/restaurant, and the Old Royal at Shire Oak was fenced off and derelict.

The Haycock as a Residential Property

The 1939 Register recorded that The Haycock was occupied by the Stacey family and two probable lodgers or relatives. The 1939 Register was taken on September 29th, 1939, and indicates that at that time, The Haycock was in use as a residence and no longer a public house.

1939 register, The Haycock, Little Hay

Allen Stacey	M	b 1877	Machine Tool Maker Retired
Rosina Stacey	M	b 1878	Unpaid Domestic Duties
Constance M Eeles	S	b 1928	At School
Eunice M Heath	S	b 1922	Dental Receptionist

The Haycock was not listed in the 1940 edition of Kelly's Directory of Staffordshire.

However, there appeared to be new residents three years later as shown by the below cutting, a Mrs. Dewsbury who was fundraising for the Merchant Navy during World War Two.

LITTLE HAY
FOR THE MERCHANT NAVY
Mrs. Dewsbury, of The Haycock, Little Hay, Shenstone, has received a very grateful acknowledgment of the £16 11s. raised by dances held at the Parochial Hall, Mere Green and Little Aston, from Mr. Kirkland Bridge, Director of the Merchant Navy Comforts Fund. "Your kind gift," he writes, "will be turned into wool for knitted comforts, games, books or maybe emergency clothing, and put on board a merchant ship as quickly as our voluntary workers can manage it."
Lichfield Mercury, 12th June 1942 BNA

Harry Slyfield died in January 1944 aged 60.

Numerous classified adverts appeared in the *Lichfield Mercury* and *Birmingham Mail* between 1944 and 1949 offering a variety of items for sale from The Haycock. Living items included; geese (and their eggs), cockerels, hens, rabbits and Alsatian puppies. Objects for sale included; a table tennis table, a drum set, a camera, a typewriter, a four-berth caravan plus a Crossley 1.5 litre Regis Saloon car. Interestingly, some of the adverts described Little Hay as being in Shenstone, some in Four Oaks.

The building was up for auction in 1947.

SALES BY AUCTION
By Fraser Wood and Mayo, F.A.I.
now delicensed "Haycock" Inn,
being some 2½ miles due north of
Four Oaks and 5 miles due south
of Lichfield.
Rateable value £21. Water Rate
£2 1s. per annum..
Vendor's Solicitors: Messrs.
Lenton Lester and Co., 28, Bridge
Street, Walsall (Tel. 2287).
For further particulars and per-
mits to view apply to the Auc-
tioneers, Fraser Wood and Mayo,
F.A.I., 136, Lichfield Street Wal-
sall (Tel. 3886).

Lichfield Mercury, July 4th, 1947

The next occupier of The Haycock was in trouble for a motoring offence in 1950 as reported in the *Lichfield Mercury*.

HIS OWN FAULT
Richard Eric Dewsbury of The
Haycock, Little Hay, Lichfield,
was summoned for not having
front or rear lights on his motor
cycle at 9.50 p.m. on November
4th. P.c. Williams said he was
in Little Aston Lane, Little Aston,
when he saw defendant driving
a motor cycle towards him from
the direction of Aldridge without
a white light showing at the
front. He stopped defendant,
and on examining the machine
found there were no front or rear
lights fitted. When the offence
was pointed out to defendant the
latter replied: "I have been try-
ing to get a battery. It is my
own fault." Defendant, who said
it was a bright moonlight night
and he was carrying a torch, was
fined 15s.

Lichfield Mercury, 27th January 1950 (BNA)

I was unable to find any further reference to The Haycock until 1984, and it was under unfortunate circumstances.

TWO Shenstone houses were broken into last week, but burglars escaped empty handed.

A house in Birmingham Road, Shenstone Wood End, and one in Haycock, Little Hay, Shenstone, were broken into, searched but nothing was stolen.

A police spokesman said there is a possibility the incidents were connected.

Lichfield Mercury, 11th May 1984 (BNA)

Anecdotal evidence from Facebook recounted that the building was semi derelict in the early 1990's but was renovated in 1994.¹⁵ It appears that planning permission for adding an extension to The Haycock had previously been submitted for consideration in 1989.

Parish/ Designated Conservation Area	Application	Proposed Development	Shenstone	L.891121/ LB.890075	Extension, The Haycock, Little Hay Lane, Little Hay (Grade II Listed Building).
Shenstone	L.920849/LB920061	Extension to existing and new dwelling. The Haycock, Little Hay Lane, Little Hay. (Grade II Listed Building).			

Lichfield Mercury, 8th December 1989 (BNA)

Lichfield Mercury, 19th November 1992 (BNA)

The planning permission was subsequently approved, and The Haycock was on the market for purchase in 1994 with said planning permission in place for renovation into the impressive and substantial home present today.

THE HAYCOCK LITTLE HAY, NR SHENSTONE



A unique opportunity to acquire a detached grade II listed property and outbuildings with planning permission for renovation which would provide a 4/5 bedroomed residence with three reception rooms, two car garaging. The Haycock occupies a lovely rural position with grounds of approximately 1.5 acres, and easy access to Sutton and Lichfield. Further details from Uptions.

Rugeley Mercury, 26th May 1994 (BNA)

¹⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/share/18o4tT7Mob/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

**THE HAYCOCK
LITTLE HAY**



Unique opportunity to acquire a detached Grade II listed property and outbuildings, planning permission for renovation which would provide a four/five bedroom residence with three receptions, two car garage, rural position. Easy access to Sutton, Lichfield.

Offers around £150,000

Lichfield Mercury, 28th July 1994 (BNA)

General Internet References

<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> - Historic newspaper articles, abbreviated to BNA above

https://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/book/volume.php?master_event=Trade%2C+Residential+%26+Telephone&event=Staffordshire – Historic trade directories

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/> - Census records & historic newspaper articles, abbreviated to FMP above

Other Sources of Information

Lichfield Library – Historic trade directories

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All information is provided in good faith but, on occasions errors may occur. Should this be the case, if new information can be verified, please supply it to the author and corrections will then be made.