

-:BLYTHE BRIDGE and BLYTHE MARSH:-

Blythe Bridge is a small town about four miles north of Fulford as the crow flies. It takes its name from the nearby River Blithe, 'blithe' being an Old English word meaning 'gentle or pleasant'. It stands on the line of the old Roman Road from Buxton which ran through Leek, Cheddleton, Blythe Bridge, Hilderstone and Stafford to Pennocrucium on Watling Street. Much of the line of this old Roman Road still remains undiscovered. At Blythe Bridge the road crossed Richmilde Street, another Roman Road which ran between Derby and Chesterton. For centuries Blythe Bridge was just a small hamlet standing partly in the Normacot township in Hilderstone quarter in Stone ancient parish and partly in Forsbrook township in Dilhorne ancient parish. Then in 1848 the Stoke-Uttoxeter railway line reached it and it began to grow quickly and is now a residential suburb at the tail end of the Potteries.

There have been a number of inns and public houses in the Blythe Bridge area over the years, including the Black Cock, the Duke of Wellington, the Traveller's Inn (previously the Traveller), The Swan (previously the White Swan), and the Isaac Walton. Amongst the past landlords and landladies of those establishments were:-

The Swan (previously 'The White Swan'), Blythe Bridge

William Ford	1834
Janus Ford	1863 to 1872
John Ford	1880

('The Swan' was not recorded in 1896 or later)

The Isaac Walton, Cresswell (established circa 1850)

S. Gosling	1860
Thomas Burton	1872 to 1881
Mary Agnes Rowley	1896
James Moreton	1904
Hannah Elizabeth Tongue	1928
Gwen May Tongue	1940
Anne Elizabeth Jenkinson	? to the present



The 'Isaac Walton' in 2002

(Note - Isaac Walton was the famous author and angler and lived between 1595 and 1683)

The Black Cock Inn, Blythe Marsh

Sarah Betts (Mrs.)	1860 to 1863
John Cheadle	1872
Joseph Boulton	1880 to 1881
Joseph Podmore	1896
Samuel Wilkinson	1904
Frederick Biddulph	1928

The Duke of Wellington, Blythe Marsh

John Johnson	1860 to 1880
Sarah H.Salt (Mrs.)	1896 to 1904
George Baker	1928
Samuel Buttery Jones	1940

The Traveller's Inn (previously 'The Traveller's Rest), Blythe Marsh

(Was recorded as 'The Traveller' in 1860)

M. Jakin (Mrs.)	1860
Samuel Walters	1863
William Botham	1872
James Weaver	1880 to 1881
Ann Love (Mrs.)	1896

(The 'Traveller's Inn was not recorded in 1904 or later)

At the time of the 1881 census there were already over a hundred residences in Blythe Bridge and Blythe Marsh, and the residents were involved in a multitude of trades including gardener, greengrocer, grocer, confectioner, dressmaker, shoemaker, butcher, publican, postmaster, policeman, farmer, agricultural labourer, general labourer, straw dealer, blacksmith, farrier, wheelwright, joiner, cork cutter, stonemason, earthenware manufacturer, potter, potter's placer, china ground layer, washerwoman, laundress, charwoman, stationmaster, railway porter, railway plater, and vicar.

Well known people living in Blythe Bridge at the time of the 1881 census were George Coppin, the Vicar of St. Nicholas Church in Fulford, and his wife Sarah, postmaster George Lees, school master William Harwood, police constable John Wickes, and a lady named Elizabeth Medina who was a retired music seller. Other well known residents in the 19th century were George Wakefield who lived between 1822 and 1888 and who had been born in Uttoxeter and was a poet and the stationmaster at Blythe Bridge, and Sgt. Albert Edward Egerton who was born in Longton in 1897, joined the North Staffordshire Regiment, transferred to the Sherwood Foresters and gained a V.C. for a brave solo attack at Ypres. He died at his home in Uttoxeter Road and is buried in Forsbrook churchyard, where in October 1994 a gravedigger found a one-metre high Ice Age boulder weighing 200 weight and dating back 475 years. Then in 1953 Mr. Day, the headmaster of Blythe Marsh School at the time, found a perforated stone axe-hammer head near the school.