

ECONOMIC HISTORY

Medieval Wilton was relatively poor. In 1327 the highest taxpayers were in Galmington with Sherford, where the larger farms were. Four people were assessed at 2—4s. and paid three quarters of the tax. The lowest assessment was 7d. but in Fons George two people were assessed at 6d. and the highest assessments was 1s.¹ In 1332 of 13 Galmington taxpayers half had not been taxed in 1327 including William de Bykelegh assessed at 13s. 4d. double the second highest assessment. Only one Fons George taxpayer was assessed in 1332 and the highest assessment was 2s., which was the lowest at Galmington.² In 1334 Galmington was assessed at £3 8s. 10d., the third highest tithing in the hundred whereas Fons George at 6s. 8d. was one of the lowest.³ The disparity continued in 1524 when 17 men in Galmington tithing were assessed at £2 to £18 with four over £10 and seven in Fons George between £1 and £8.⁴ In 1581 Galmington people were taxed more highly than those of Sherford. From 1628 the whole parish was taxed together, over half on goods.⁵ In 1641 the seven highest taxpayers paid more than half the parish's tax and in the 1664—5 hearth tax more than half the hearths recorded were in five houses although at least one was divided into tenements.⁶

Agriculture including market gardening was the main employer until the early 20th century. There was some clothmaking and later malting, tanning and wood turning. Wilton's popularity of Wilton as a residential area by the 19th century saw a large influx of people whose work and business was in Taunton. The only large employment site is Musgrove Park Hospital.

¹ F. Dickinson, *Kirbys Quest etc*, 149, 151.

² TNA, E 179/169/6.

³ R. E. Glasscock, *Subsidy of 1334*, 264—5.

⁴ TNA, E 179/169/180.

⁵ A. Webb, *Tudor Subsidies*, 101, 119; SHC, DD/SF/1/5/11.

⁶ Howard and Stoate, *Prot. Returns*, 260; R. Holworthy and E. Dwelly, *I. Hearth Tax for Somerset 1664—5* (1916), 36—7.

AGRICULTURE

There were apparently no open fields. The larger farms like Cutliff and Pool comprised farmsteads surrounded by their fields although some included distant small parcels of former overland, possibly shared meadow.⁷ The main farmsteads were in existence by the 13th century, mostly in the bishop of Winchester's estate. There are few records for the priory holding, which centred on Wilton village.⁸

Middle Ages

In the mid 13th century Galmington tithing, which comprised most of the bishop's land in Wilton, had 18 tenants holding nine and a quarter virgates and 25 a. Two men held additional land. The largest holding was one virgate, apparently 37 ½ a., and the commonest was a half virgate. The total recorded arable was c. 370 a. Labour services were onerous depending on holding size and comprised ploughing, threshing, sowing, harrowing, mowing, reaping and carrying produce although two virgate holders were not required to mow. One half-virgate tenant had only to reap 1 a. of wheat for which he received 2 bushels of wheat and a quarter of oats but carried the bishop's letters wherever he was ordered, potentially very burdensome.⁹ By contrast it is apparent that holdings on Fons George manor were mostly 5-a tenements although by the post-medieval period many were amalgamated.¹⁰

In 1301—2 wheat was grown east of the Taunton fishponds, meadow in the 19th century. In 1331 the bishop as tenant was to manure the land with 'slime' but could take a crop every year. It may have been 'Brodeldond by the pool'.¹¹ The early 14th century saw litigation over boundary breaking, ditches and felling of a pear tree and vines. An acre called

⁷ SHC, DD/WY/9/28; tithe award

⁸ SHC, T/PH/win 1209—10, 1246—8.

⁹ T.J. Hunt, *The Medieval Customs of Taunton Manor* (SRS 66), 37. There is no custumal for the priory estate.

¹⁰ SHC, DD/DP/57/9; DD/SP/417/2, nos 2, 67; DD/AY/1, 9, 33B; Q/AGW/1/2, 5.

¹¹ M. Page, *The Pipe Roll of the Bishopric of Winchester 1301—2* (Winchester, 1996), p. 29; SHC, A/BFA/6; tithe award.

Woodland let out in 1316—17 was possibly cleared.¹² The demesne arable at Fullands, divided into three or four fields, was let for winter pasture although frith reduced its value in 1347—8 and wheat was the only crop recorded. Some tenants held parcels of overland in tithings other than their own.¹³ In Fons George in 1322 one woman had a granger, another was accused of bad gleaning of ten stitches of beans and later of taking tithe beans. Tenants owed each other for ploughing, sowing, wool and pasture for plough beasts.¹⁴ One man claimed he had six oxen stolen in 1340.¹⁵

In 1348—50 several large holdings in Galmington tithing changed hands, one man gave £13 6s. 8d. to marry a woman who had taken over her father's virgate. Relatives of deceased tenants usually succeeded and there were no lost rents.¹⁶ In 1409—10 Chillisworthy mead was overland, possibly the later Chilstone Heathfield.¹⁷ In the 15th century land at Hardgrass, Haygrass in Pitminster, was overland in Galmington tithing. Tenants held parcels of meadow called Poorsmore, later said to be in Holway tithing, and Chilversmede.¹⁸ Overland at Poolsmore formed part of Pool farm by 1646.¹⁹ On the priory estate works had been commuted for cash by the early 15th century and manual works had been more valuable than mowing and reaping.²⁰

16th to mid 19th centuries

In 1566 most Taunton Deane holdings were half-virgate tenements although one man held two and most had additional arable and meadow, presumably former demesne. Freehold and

¹² SHC, A/BFA/4.

¹³ SHC, T/PH/win 1320—1, 1347—50.

¹⁴ SHC, A/BFA/5.

¹⁵ *Cal. Pat.* 1338—40, p. 65.

¹⁶ SHC, T/PH/win 1348—50.

¹⁷ M. Page, *The Pipe Roll of the Bishopric of Winchester 1409—10* (Winchester, 1999), pp.19—20; SHC, tithe award.

¹⁸ SHC, T/PH/win 1476—7, 1486—7, 1529—30; DD/ASC/13/1.

¹⁹ SHC, DD/WY/8/5/3.

²⁰ SHC, DD/SP/408; A/BFA/7—9.

cottage tenements were tiny but one man held 40 a. of land without a homestead.²¹ Sheep were recorded in the 16th century but no wool tithes.²² Dairy cattle were common heriots in the early 17th century.²³ A Sherford copyhold was sublet for a short term at a substantial rent before 1620 but some arable was to be left fallow for two years.²⁴ Later 17th-century inventories reflect wealth in horses, oxen, cows, sheep and pigs, wheat, the main crop, barley, peas, cider and some malt. At least one farmer was a moneylender.²⁵

At least one man grazed other people's livestock on his pasture in the 18th century.²⁶ In 1773 Sir Benjamin Hammet required a tenant of six fields not to take more than two crops without re-dressing the fields.²⁷ In a tithing dispute one farmer was said to have cropped 20 a. each of wheat, barley, hay and pasture and 10 a. of beans and peas, shorn 60 sheep and produced 40 lambs, implying a large holding even if the figures were over-estimated.²⁸ Holdings varied greatly in size but in 1782 Robert Gadd was tenant of Pool, Cutliff, Sherford, and other farms. It is not clear if he farmed them himself or sublet.²⁹ There were 253 a. of arable in 1801, nearly half under wheat, a quarter under turnips and the rest producing barley, peas and beans a pattern established in the later 18th century.³⁰ Grassland and arable fields were interspersed throughout the parish. Some holdings were used as accommodation land with their farmhouses let as cottages in 1821.³¹ The Taunton Agricultural Association held a ploughing match at Pool farm in 1837. Willows were grown on the farm, which had 56 a. arable out of 86 a. in 1839 when the farmer thought his tithing apportionment made no allowance for his pasture. Only three quarters of the parish was still tithable of which c. 270

²¹ SHC, DD/SP/71 (Galmington).

²² SHC, T/PH/win 1529—30; *Valor Eccl.* I, 169—70.

²³ SHC, Q/SR/77/84; DD/X/HPS/4 (1641/2); DD/SP/325/202.

²⁴ TNA, C 3/374/41.

²⁵ SHC, DD/SP/1661/19, 1671/46, 1679/48, 1680/3, 1688/54, 1689/21; *SDNQ*, V, p. 174.

²⁶ SHC, DD/SAS/C795/PR/460/6/7.

²⁷ SHC, DD/DP/97/1.

²⁸ SHC, DD/SP/431.

²⁹ SHC, Q/REI/35/29 (1782).

³⁰ M. McDermott and S. Berry, *Edmund Rack's Survey of Som.*, 286; *Crop Returns 1801* (List and Index Soc. 1900), 197.

³¹ SHC, D/P/wilt/13/1/48.

a. was under grass and 201 a. was arable.³² Cutliff was said to have been worked by oxen in the mid 19th century.³³

In 1841 half the eight farms had resident male servants and 37 agricultural labourers were recorded. By 1851 there were only six farms: three with 120 a. or more, one with 41 a. and the others with 14 a. Only 16 men were permanently employed out of 60 men and one woman described as agricultural labourers.³⁴ By 1861 the two largest farms were over 160 a., four women were dairymaids, two resident on farms, and a shepherd and two carters were recorded.³⁵ From the 1860s only about a quarter of the parish was arable, producing wheat, barley, beans and turnips, mangolds and other fodder crops although some vegetable may have been for human consumption. The main livestock were *c.* 600 sheep, *c.* 170 cattle, and 100—120 pigs.³⁶ In 1869 Galmington and Musgrove farms were let together comprising 77 a. of meadow, 13 a. of orchard and *c.* 40 a. of arable all ring-fenced and with new farm buildings at Musgrove.³⁷ In 1871 Cutliff farm covered 262 a. and employed 9 labourers but had shrunk below 200a. by 1881 when only 23 agricultural labourers were recorded in the parish.³⁸ Sherford farm (60 a.) created by John Kinglake, included the Vivary parkland in 1873.³⁹

Late 19th century to present

Much arable land was lost to housing from the early 19th century especially along the Trull Road and at Haines Hill. By the 1880s fields with frontages to Wellington Road were advertised as building sites although not developed until the early 20th century.⁴⁰ Farmers

³² SHC, DD/HC/10/18/3; DD/WY/9/9/3, 16/3/37; tithe award.

³³ VCH Som. office, draft history of Wilton.

³⁴ TNA, HO 107/959, 1922.

³⁵ TNA, RG 9/1617.

³⁶ TNA, MAF 68/59. 486.

³⁷ *Taunton Courier*, 31 March, 12 May 1869: BNA accessed 22 Nov. 2023.

³⁸ TNA, RG 10/2372, RG 11/2367.

³⁹ *Taunton Courier*, 18 June 1873: BNA accessed 22 Nov. 2023.

⁴⁰ SHC, A/BLW/6; above, intro.

suffered from disease like swine fever, which struck Galmington in 1889 the year in which several Galmington boys were fined for attacking sheep.⁴¹

In 1890, after the loss of Cutliff and Pool farms to Taunton, there were 19 holdings all under 50 a. of which 11 were allotments of under $\frac{1}{4}$ a. In 1891 only seven agricultural labourers and four resident farm servants were recorded, a farm bailiff ran one farm and a milk boy was the only dairy worker. However, by 1896 the dairy herd had increased and in 1901 five dairy workers, mostly male, and four farm carters were recorded.⁴² By 1905 only 20 a. of arable and 100 a. of grass were recorded.⁴³ In 1910 Pool (68 a.) was a pedigree pig farm, Musgrove (122 a.) and Sherford (124 a.) were dairy farms and the latter had a piggery as did Pikes (16 a.).⁴⁴ Musgrave farm had new buildings, described in 1928 as a model farm, but had been reduced to 75 a. by development.⁴⁵ In 1911 two farms were run by bailiffs, there were two dairy farms and a poultry dealer.⁴⁶

In 1926 250 a. of agricultural land was mostly grass supporting 134 cattle including 72 dairy cattle, 361 poultry but only one pig and no sheep. Agriculture employed 17 men.⁴⁷ In 1939 flax was grown in Galmington and horses were still kept.⁴⁸ Pikes dairy farm expanded to 31 a. mostly grass by 1947 when it had cowstalls for 16, some modern, a milk cooling shed and a piggery, an acre of orchard and a $\frac{1}{2}$ -a. fruit and vegetable garden. Sherford Bridge farm (24 a.) was for sale in 1947 with cow, calf and fattening stalls, a dairy and piggeries. It had only one arable field and no house, having been created out of land previously held by many

⁴¹ *Taunton Courier*, 17 Apr., 19 June 1889: BNA accessed 22 Nov. 2023.

⁴² SHC, DD/SAS/C2273/3/14; TNA RG 12/1876; MAF 68/1626; RG 13/2278.

⁴³ Bd. of Agric. Returns 1905.

⁴⁴ TNA, IR 58/8219 (471), 82654 (237, 238).

⁴⁵ *Taunton Courier*, 23 May 1928: BNA accessed 22 Nov. 2023.

⁴⁶ TNA, RG 14/14242.

⁴⁷ TNA, MAF 68/1626.

⁴⁸ *Taunton Courier*, 5 Aug. 1939: BNA accessed 22 Nov. 2023; TNA, RG 101/305/1/WOOT, WOOV.

tenants.⁴⁹ One of the last farms was Cutliff, which produced potatoes in the 1970s but now supplies tractors.⁵⁰

Orchards and market gardens

At least two tenements had orchards in 1572 and in the 17th-century some farmers produced a large quantity of cider.⁵¹ In the later 18th century a Taunton innkeeper owned an apple mill and cider press at Galmington.⁵² Orchards also were important for fruit as Wilton became an important centre of market gardening. In 1774 a gardener leased a walled garden to plant 127 apple, plum, cherry, peach, nectarine and apricot trees.⁵³ In 1801 there were reportedly many orchards and large productive vegetable gardens.⁵⁴ By 1839 there were at least 42 a. of orchard, eight per cent of tithable land, although 7 a. at Highlands had been cleared for parkland for a large house.⁵⁵ Theft led to the setting of traps.⁵⁶ In 1841 11 gardeners were recorded rising to 22 in 1851, many described as market gardeners.⁵⁷ Of 10 Taunton gardeners in 1864 nine were based in Wilton.⁵⁸ There were large cider orchards at Galmington and the produce of 7 a. was sold in 1866 together with 150 casks.⁵⁹ In 1876 there were still 27 a. of orchard and over 12 a. of market gardens or nurseries.⁶⁰ Before 1880 Mr Nash had demolished two cottages to extend his market garden to 3 a. including fruit trees and had a shop at his house.⁶¹ In 1896 over 45 a. was under market gardens, tree and soft fruit and c. 18a. of potatoes and vegetables. The number of gardeners and nurserymen rose to 31

⁴⁹ SHC, DD/KW/1947/24--5; tithe award.

⁵⁰ Dunning, *Sources for young historians*, 93.

⁵¹ SHC, DD/MT/1/36; DD/SP/71 (Galmington), DD/SP/1661/19, 1680/3, 1688/54; TNA, PROB 4/13151.

⁵² SHC, DD/DP/43/2.

⁵³ SHC, DD/X/FR/1; DD/DP/97/1

⁵⁴ *Crop Returns 1801* (List and Index Soc. 1900), 197.

⁵⁵ SHC, tithe award.

⁵⁶ *Taunton Courier*, 28 Aug. 1839: BNA accessed 22 Nov. 2023.

⁵⁷ TNA, HO 107/959, 1922; SHC, A/AHH/5.

⁵⁸ *Goodman's Dir. Taunton* (1864), 85.

⁵⁹ *Taunton Courier*, 26 Sep. 1866: BNA accessed 22 Nov. 2023.

⁶⁰ TNA, MAF 68/486.

⁶¹ *Taunton Courier*, 14 July 1880: BNA accessed 22 Nov. 2023.

in 1901 and 34 in 1911.⁶² In 1910 four market gardens, one a former orchard, covered 12 ½ a. including glasshouses in Wilton village.⁶³ In 1939 11 gardeners and a rabbit trapper were recorded.⁶⁴

A large area of orchards south of Fons George was established as Wilton Nurseries with glasshouses c. 1900. Until the 1970s it was run by the Wyatt family who had eight glasshouses producing tomatoes and cucumbers. They also grew flowers and had a florist's shop in Corporation Street. The nursery closed before 1983 and was redeveloped for housing. In 1922 a specialist carnation and chrysanthemum nursery (5 ½ a.) with extensive glasshouses was established by Margaret Napier south of the gaol. Called Stepswater Nurseries it closed in 1959 for redevelopment.⁶⁵ A large florist's garden at Footlands, Sherford in existence in the 1900s was largely destroyed to build Middleway camp.⁶⁶

In 1922 allotments behind the church, sometimes called the temperance allotments and still in use, were conveyed to trustees and registered as a charity in 1929 to benefit the church.⁶⁷ During the Second World War large allotments were cultivated and 4 a. at Galmington became permanent.⁶⁸

Mills

There is no record of a mill and Wilton people probably used Pool Wall mill, Taunton. In 1589 a man was charged with grinding in a 'woodmill' at Galmington causing a nuisance to

⁶² TNA, MAF 68/1626; RG 13/2278; RG 14/14242.

⁶³ TNA, IR 58/82705/143, 168—9, 173.

⁶⁴ TNA, RG 101/305/1/WOOT, WOOV.

⁶⁵ *Taunton Courier* 2 Apr. 1930, 25 Apr., 12 Dec. 1959: BNA accessed 22 Nov. 2023; SHC, A/EBH/1/2—3.

⁶⁶ VCH Som. office, draft history of Wilton; below, soc. hist.

⁶⁷ Char. Com. Reg. 257877.

⁶⁸ *Taunton Courier*, 10 July 1948: BNA accessed 22 Nov. 2023.

his neighbours.⁶⁹ A yeoman had a hand mill in 1661, possibly for malt.⁷⁰ There was a treadmill for grinding corn at the gaol from the 1820s.⁷¹

INDUSTRY

A rack was recorded in 1310.⁷² In the mid 16th century a clothier obtained wool from Yarcombe, Devon until the price rose.⁷³ Weavers included at least six in Galmington in 1634.⁷⁴ Later in the century a couple were buying and selling yarn.⁷⁵ Most late 17th-century immigrants were weavers and combers who had first moved to Taunton.⁷⁶ Some clothiers may also have been farmers but a few amassed great wealth including Nathaniel Hutchings (d. 1682) who had a comb shop, a pair of looms, yarn, wool and dyes worth over £168, serge, mostly at London and elsewhere, presumably being sold, worth over £450. He was owed over £100 including from his workfolk.⁷⁷ William King (d. 1686) had seven pairs of looms presumably to let out as he had only two serges and modest quantities of wool and yarn.⁷⁸ Many sergemakers and combers were at work in the early to mid 18th century but few local children were apprenticed to the trade by then.⁷⁹ Despite the decline in trade in 1762 the magistrates ordered the felling of an elm, which prevented a Taunton fuller drying serges on his racks.⁸⁰ A peruke maker and three sergemakers were recorded in 1768 and the manufacture of duroys and druggets reputedly continued. Two weavers stole wheat in 1800.⁸¹

⁶⁹ SHC, DD/SP/4 (March 1588/9).

⁷⁰ SHC, DD/SP/1661/19.

⁷¹ SHC, Q/AGW/2/7; below, local govt.

⁷² SHC, A/BFA/1.

⁷³ TNA, C 1/1117/33.

⁷⁴ SHC, D/D/Cd/130 (c. 1626); DD/SP/339.

⁷⁵ SHC, Q/SR/115/86.

⁷⁶ SHC, Q/SR/173/12, 173/16, 183/3; D/P/tau.m/13/3/3, 6; DD/SAS/C795/PR/460/7.

⁷⁷ TNA, PROB/4/13151.

⁷⁸ TNA, PROB/4/16060.DD/DP/38/16

⁷⁹ SHC, Q/SR/290/1; DD/NW/58; DD/L/50/61; A/AHD/1/2; DD/DP/80/3 (1721); DD/SAS/C795/PR/460/12; TNA, C 11/779/64, 783/45, 2286/1.

⁸⁰ SHC, Q/SR/330/2/12, 332/4/1.

⁸¹ McDermott and Berry, *Rack's Survey of Som.*, 286; SHC, Q/RJL/43; DD/SAS/C795/PR/460/11/11; DD/DP/61/8.

Many women worked in the Taunton silk mills and collar factories in the 19th and 20th centuries.⁸²

Malting

A man gave surety in malt in 1320.⁸³ Maltsters were recorded from 1728, although some malt was made on farms and at Fullands. A Wilton malthouse recorded in 1782 was vacant by 1815.⁸⁴ In the 1850s a malthouse in Galmington was operated with the Malt Shovel beerhouse by a maltster, hop merchant and brewer and another maltster employed five men.⁸⁵ Both were apparently short-lived but there was a malthouse at the New inn, Wilton in 1876.⁸⁶

Tanning

Tanners were recorded in 1700 and 1737.⁸⁷ Issac Winter was a tanner in 1762 and had a tanyard at Sherford by 1782. He enlarged the house, now Sherford House, probably in 1789.⁸⁸ His sons, especially William, continued the business, which employed three men in 1851.⁸⁹ William (d. 1875) may have moved the pits across the Sherford stream, possibly building a dam to divert water to them, but ceased tanning before 1871.⁹⁰ In 1876 the property was sold and most tannery buildings were demolished.⁹¹

Building and Woodworking

⁸² TNA, HO 107/959; RG 10/2372; RG 14/14242; RG 101/305/1/WOOT, WOOV.

⁸³ BL, Add. Ch. 16332 (1320).

⁸⁴ A. Webb, *Somerset Freeholders List 1733* (Taunton, 1999), 29, 31; Siraut, *Som. Wills*, p. 94; SHC, DD/BR/ry/2; DD/DP/96 (1782); DD/AY/29.

⁸⁵ TNA, HO 107/1922; SHC, D/P/wilt/13/1/21; *Taunton Courier* 10 Sep. 1856: BNA accessed 5 Dec. 2023.

⁸⁶ *Taunton Courier* 26 Sep. 1876: BNA accessed 29 Nov. 2023.

⁸⁷ M. Siraut, *Som. Wills* (2003), p.168; SHC, D/P/wilt/4/1/1 (1737).

⁸⁸ SHC, D/P/west.m/2/1/2 (1762); Q/REI/35/29 (1782); DD/ED/1846/266; above, intro.

⁸⁹ SHC, Q/RJL/35/28 (1812—64); *Taunton Courier* 15 Nov. 1848 : BNA accessed 22 Nov. 2023; TNA HO 107/959, 1922.

⁹⁰ TNA, RG 10/2372; SHC, D/P/wilt/2/1/19 (1875).

⁹¹ SWHT, HER 31859.

A hellier was recorded in 1299 and a turner in 1317.⁹² A Sherford carpenter left tools and coffers to his children in 1621.⁹³ Building and wood workers moved into the parish in the late 17th and early 18th century.⁹⁴ Brick Meadow, Sherford may have been a site of early brickmaking.⁹⁵ The growth of housebuilding in the mid 19th century employed c. 20 local workers and in 1861 a bricklayer employed eight men and two boys.⁹⁶ There was a stone yard on Middleway by 1888, possibly explaining the weighing machine at Sherford.⁹⁷

Several generations of the Wyatt family specialised in round and hollow wood-turning at Sherford in the 19th century employing three or four men until 1881 or later.⁹⁸ Coachbuilding workers were recorded in the mid 19th century probably working in Taunton but before 1881 the Marks brothers set up a business in Galmington in part of a former farmhouse. There were a blacksmith at Three Bridges on the Wellington Road in 1871 and a smith and wheelwright's shop in Galmington in the early 20th century.⁹⁹

A Taunton grocery business had an 'old-established' candle factory with a shop at Galmington, whose stock including 600 dipping rods and 1 ¼ cwt of cotton, was sold in 1871. The business continued but suffered destruction by fire in 1873 when-candle making was probably abandoned.¹⁰⁰

RETAIL AND SERVICES

A carrier was recorded in 1613.¹⁰¹ Arthur Keogh had a horse breaking, training and dealing business at a training stables in Galmington in the late 19th century.¹⁰² In 1909 a livery stable

⁹² SHC, A/BFA/1, 4.

⁹³ Siraut, *Som. Wills*, p. 76.

⁹⁴ SHC, D/P/wilt/13/3/4; Q/SR/310/47.

⁹⁵ SHC, tithe award.

⁹⁶ SHC, Q/SR/520/90—6, 522/67—70; TNA, HO 107/959, 1922; RG 9/1617

⁹⁷ OS Map 1:500, SOM. LXX.12.16.6, 11 (1888 edn).

⁹⁸ SHC, Q/RJL/35/28 (1813—49); DD/ED/1837/47; TNA, HO 107/1922; RG 9/1617; RG 10/2372; RG 14/14242; Taunton Courier 26 Nov. 1913, 17 Sep. 1924: BNA accessed 3029 Nov. 2023.

⁹⁹ TNA, HO 107/959, 1922; RG 10/2372; RG 11/2367; RG 12/1876.

¹⁰⁰ Taunton Courier 28 June, 19 July 1871; 31 Dec. 1873: BNA accessed 29 Nov. 2023.

¹⁰¹ SHC, Q/SR/17/34.

in Wilton Grove had eight carriages, a hansom and a cart. It may have been the site south of the street occupied by motor engineers in the 1920s.¹⁰³

Wilton residents probably used Taunton shops and services but there was a general store on Wilton Street and another at Sherford both still open in 1957 but since closed.¹⁰⁴ From 1883 the inhabitants of Galmington asked for postal and telegraph services. They already had a bakery and general store¹⁰⁵ There was a grocer's shop in 1957 but to provide for the growing population in the 1960s a row of shops was built on the site of cottages in the old village of Galmington. One remained a post office and general shop in 2024 with a hairdresser, funeral director and pet shop. Since 1968 there has been a launderette, laundry and dry cleaners at the south-eastern end of Galmington road and later a fish and chip shop.¹⁰⁶ In 1985 a small shopping centre, designed by Stone and Partners at Pitts Close, Galmington, includes a small supermarket and post office.¹⁰⁷

Public Houses

Several people were charged with breaking the assize when brewing in the late 13th and early 14th century.¹⁰⁸ During the 17th century only one licensed inn was recorded, probably the Wilton, later New, inn but by the early 18th century there were three. The site of the Cross Keys recorded in 1767 and 1777 is unknown. The Cherry Tree, Sherford closed after 1786 and was cottages by 1821.¹⁰⁹ Other short-lived beerhouses were the Cottage inn in 1833 and

¹⁰² *Goodman's Dir. Taunton* (1887); *Som. Co. Gaz.* 21 Jan., 25 Feb. 1888: BNA accessed 22 Nov. 2023; SHC, A/EJF/2/1 (1892).

¹⁰³ SHC, DD/KIT/16/13; *Kelly's Dir. Som.* (1927); *Goodman's Dir. Taunton* (1929), 93.

¹⁰⁴ *Kelly's Dir. Taunton* (1957), 120, 150.

¹⁰⁵ *Taunton Courier* 9 May 1883, 12 Sep. 1893: BNA accessed 30 Nov. 2023.

¹⁰⁶ *Kelly's Dir. Taunton* (1957), 52; SHC, A/DQO/404/26/8.

¹⁰⁷ SHC, PAM1222.

¹⁰⁸ SHC, A/BFA/1, 5—6.

¹⁰⁹ SHC, Q/RLa/19/1—15; D/P/wilt/13/1/48; DD/ES/2/2/7.

the Royal or Grand Turk, Turkey Court 1833—7, probably the beerhouses abetting theft that the Guardians wanted suppressed *c.* 1838.¹¹⁰

The New inn, presumably rebuilt in the early 18th century, on the corner of Wilton Street and Fons George was extended down the latter possibly in 1800. By 1810 it was several dwellings, in 1839 four cottages, two on the street and two in the court. Three were demolished to create outdoor space before 1973 when the inn absorbed the remaining one, which has a very thick north wall possibly the site of a large fireplace. The inn was thatched in 1803 but later pantiled. Doors and windows are modern.¹¹¹ The Unicorn was a new house in Park Street in 1849—50 on the corner of Compass Hill, possibly the Bakers Arms recorded there in 1858.¹¹² The Corner House hotel, a former private house on Park Street, opened in 1934. It was extended from the 1970s to provide 23 bedrooms and dining facilities for 50. It remained open in 2024.¹¹³

There were also beer and cider houses in Galmington by the 1830s.¹¹⁴ The old Galmington inn, reportedly once known as the Fleur de Lys, was the Malt Shovel by 1856. The contents offered for sale in 1863 included 150 gallons of beer.¹¹⁵ A second beerhouse built after 1821 as the Galmington inn, was renamed the Shepherd's Rest in 1867.¹¹⁶ In 1874 the landlord of the Malt Shovel closed that beerhouse and moved to the Shepherd's Rest, which he renamed the Galmington inn. It had a skittle alley by 1878 and was extensively

¹¹⁰ SHC, DD/SAS/C795/CH/8 (1833); D/P/wilt/13/1/1 (1837); TNA, HO 73/8.

¹¹¹ SHC, D/D/AY/13; T/PH/dvs/1; SAHNS Tite colln, Taunton scrapbook (painting by H. Frier).

¹¹² SHC, DD/KIT/11/9; D/V/Ta/13/1/1; DD/CHA/22; *Taunton Courier* 7 July 1858: BNA accessed 8 Aug. 2017.

¹¹³ SHC, A/DQO/404/23/4b.

¹¹⁴ SHC, Q/RJL/35/28; *Taunton Courier* 13 Dec 1837: BNA accessed 30 Nov. 2023.

¹¹⁵ TNA, HO 107/1922; SHC, D/P/wilt/13/1/21; D/P/wilt.m/23/1; *Taunton Courier* 10 Sep. 1856, 1 Apr., 17 June 1863: BNA accessed 5 Dec. 2023.

¹¹⁶ SHC, D/P/wilt/13/1/48; tithe award; *Taunton Courier* 6 Jan., 1 Sep. 1869, 22 March, 19 Apr. 1871: BNA accessed 30 Nov.-6 Dec. 2023.

altered in 1934 having returned to its former name of Shepherd's Rest. The crooked 1930s frontage followed a bend in the road, since eliminated. It remained open in 2024.¹¹⁷

Public houses were built on both detached plots on the Wellington road. The Traveller's Rest, later the Red Lion and in 2024 the Stonegallows, was in business probably by 1821. Further west and south of the road the Three Bridges was built between 1821 and 1839 but closed in the 1870s.¹¹⁸

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¹¹⁷ *Taunton Courier* 14 Oct., 11 Nov. 1874, 18 July 1877; *Som. Co. Gaz.* 5 Jan. 1878: BNA accessed 5 Dec. 2023; SHC, D/B/ta/1/91/1949

¹¹⁸ SHC, D/P/wilt/13/1/48; DD/X/SP/2; tithe award; TNA, HO 107/959, 1922; RG 10/2372; RG 11/2367; Bishops Hull, econ. hist.