

# Uncovering Penrith

## Local History



Ref: Cumbria Image Bank c105077  
Devonshire Street, Penrith

In Penrith, there are a number of well-established businesses that can be traced through history using directories and census entries, including the newly-released 1921 census.



Here in Slater's Directory for 1848, we can see The George Hotel, Arnison's Drapers and James and John Graham's, Grocers Merchants.

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## The George Hotel

Trade directories are always a useful tool for discovering more about the commercial history of an area. The “Yellow Pages” of their day, they contain information on the local area as well as listing businesses and their owners. You can find out how many butchers are in a place, or who owns the local public house.



Ref: ct05071 George Hotel

You can see the way a town grows and develops over time by checking different years and noting the change of ownership or number of similar businesses.

Below are examples of The George Hotel entries in trade directories from 1910 and 1921.

COMMERCIAL  
Early closing day, Thursday 1 p.m.  
Airey Elizabeth (Miss), dress maker, 23 Queen street  
Alcock & Co grocers, Rowcliffe lane  
Alderson Isabella (Mrs.), temperance hotel, 50 Castlegate  
Alderson William White Horse P.H. 11 Great Dockray  
Alhambra Hall (William Forrester, propr.), Middlegate  
Allan Charles Henry, solicitor & commissioner for oaths, see Scott, Allan & Graham  
Allison Albert, hair dresser, Crown square  
Altham Thomas & Son, ironmongers, ironfounders, stove & range makers, cycle agents, gunsmiths, ammunition dealers, silversmiths & athletic outfitters, 22 Devonshire street; 40 & 43 Burrowgate & Albion iron works  
Alves David, artificial teeth maker, 25 Great Dockray (tuesdays)  
Anderson William B. fruit salesman, Station road  
Armstrong Elizabeth, Annie & Dora (Misses), farmers, West view, Bowscar  
Armstrong Emma (Miss), drpr. see Mounsey & Armstrong  
Armstrong Frederick, George hotel, & farmer, Forest Hill farm

Armstrong Mary Elizh. (Miss), apartments, 11 Victoria rd  
Armstrong Thomas, farmer, Bowscar  
Armstrong's (Penrith) Coach & Motor Co. Limited; registered office, George hotel  
Arnison N. & Sons, drapers, 18 Devonshire street  
Arnison & Co. solicitors, estate agents for Lord Brougham & secretaries to the Penrith Tradesmen's Association, 1 St. Andrew's place. T A "Arnisons, Penrith;" T N 7 Penrith  
Arnison Charles, solicitor & commissioner for oaths (firm, Arnison & Co.), 1 St. Andrew's place  
Arnison Charles Nathan (firm, Arnison & Co.), solicitor, commissioner for oaths, clerk to the West Ward magistrates & superintendent registrar of Penrith union, 1 St. Andrew's place  
Arnison Nathan Henry, solicitor & commissioner for oaths (firm, Arnison & Co.), 1 St. Andrew's place  
Arthur Street Hall (Thomas Lester, propr.), Arthur st  
Atkinson T. & H. egg merchants & packers, tuesdays only at Penrith market; & at Carlisle  
Atkinson Barbara (Mrs.), shopkeeper, 24 Stricklandgate  
Atkinson William, painter, Duke street  
Bainbridge Harold, grocer, 4 Corn market

As well as The George Hotel, there are other Penrith businesses listed, which are familiar names today.

Ref: Kelly's Directory of Cumberland 1910



Gardiner Janet & Elizh. (Misses), confrs. 48 King st  
Gardiner Robert, grocer, Brunswick road  
Garlick Agnes (Mrs.), shopkeeper, 3 Friar street  
Gas Works (Edwd. Shaul, mgr.), Old London rd. & Arcade  
George Hotel (Frederick Armstrong, proprietor), leading family & county hotel, Devonshire street  
Gibson William, mineral merchant, Grey fell, Beacon rd  
Gilbanks George William, land agent, Central buildings, Corn market. Tel. No. 48  
Glasson's Penrith Breweries Limited, brewers, Union Court brewery & wine & spirit merchants, Corn mrkt  
Gloucester Arms Hotel (John Edwin Newton), family & commercial, Great Dockray  
Graham James & John Limited, grocers, 6 & 7 Market square & 39 King street

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The image above is taken from the 1921 edition of Kelly's Directory of Cumberland and Westmorland and lists another hotel, the Gloucester Arms, as well as James and John Graham Ltd, the grocers.

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The unenumerated House are those within the jurisdiction of the

Grid Point (or Township) of Penrith

No. of House	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	AGE last Birthday	Sex	Birth, including the County	WIDOW	Remarks
129	John Armstrong	Head	48	M	Penrith, Cumberland		
130	Robert W. Armstrong	Son	18	M	Penrith, Cumberland		
131	John C. Armstrong	Son	17	M	Penrith, Cumberland		
132	Frederick Armstrong	Son	15	M	Penrith, Cumberland		
133	Isaac Armstrong	Son	10	M	Penrith, Cumberland		
134	Joseph Armstrong	Son	8	M	Penrith, Cumberland		
135	James Armstrong	Son	5	M	Penrith, Cumberland		
136	Elizabeth Dawson	Serv.	40	F	Northumberland		
137	Elizabeth Hamilton	Serv.	38	F	Cumberland		
138	Roseanna Burt	Serv.	20	F	Durham		
139	Margaret Napier	Serv.	20	F	Northumberland		

4. Total of Houses 4

5. Total of Males and Females 12, 12

Notes.—Draw the pen through each of the words of the headings as are inappropriate.

Penrith, Cumberland

RG 11 5141



Ref: ct05120 George Hotel

The proprietor of the George Hotel in 1881 was John W Armstrong, according to the 1881 census return and this etching image.

His eldest son Robert is listed as Hotel Clerk, while his younger sons are all listed as scholars. However, by 1894, Frederick Armstrong is listed as proprietor of the hotel, as seen in the Kelly's Directory entry.

George Hotel	1	John W Armstrong	Head	Unm	48	Hotel Keeper & Farmer	Northumberland	Wathburgh
		Robert W. Armstrong	Son	Unm	18	Hotel Clerk	Cumberland	Penrith
		John C. Armstrong	Son	Unm	17	Scholar	do	do
		Frederick Armstrong	Son		15	do	do	do
		Isaac Armstrong	Son		10	do	do	do
		Joseph Armstrong	Son		8	do	do	do
		James Armstrong	Son		5	do	do	do
		Elizabeth Dawson	Serv.	Unm	40	Housekeeper & Nurse	Northumberland	Podale
		Elizabeth Hamilton	Serv.	Unm	38	Cook & Serv.	Cumberland	Wathburgh
		Roseanna Burt	Serv.	Unm	20	Waitress	Durham	Wathburgh
		Margaret Napier	Serv.	Unm	20	Housemaid	Northumberland	Wathburgh

Gas Works (Edward Shaul, manager), Old London road  
George Family & Commercial hotel & posting establishmentmen (Frederick Armstrong, proprietor), Devonshire street  
Gibson Charles, fishmonger & poultry & game dealer, 9 Devonshire street

Ref: Kelly's Directory of Cumberland 1894

John Armstrong died in 1882 and by looking at his will, we can see who his executors were and how his personal and business estates were to be divided.

John William Armstrong

I John William Armstrong, of The George Hotel, Penrith, Cumberland, Hotel and Proprietor and Stationer, hereby revoke all former Wills, and declare this to be my last Will.

1. I appoint my Friends William Dewley of Penrith aforesaid, Cabinet Maker, and James Little of No. 21, Big Place, Holborn in the City of London, Watch Manufacturer (hereinafter called "my Trustees") Executors and Trustees of this my Will. And I appoint my Sons Robert Ward Armstrong and John George Armstrong respectively when they respectively shall attain the age of Twenty one years Executors and additional Trustees of this my Will. And I direct that as each of my said Sons shall attain the age of Twenty one years the Trust property shall thereupon be transferred so as to be vested in him jointly with the then other Trustee or Trustees of this my Will.

2. I declare that all trusts and powers hereinafter imposed and vested in my Trustees may be exercised by the survivor of them or the heirs Executors, or administrators of such survivor or other the Trustee or Trustees for the time being of this my Will.

3. I appoint my Trustees and the survivor of them Guardians and Guardian of my Infants.

Ref: PROB 1882 w176





Uncovering Penrith Local History

The George Hotel

One of the most valuable tools for local and family history researchers is the census.

The census takes place every 10 years and provides a snapshot into the lives of people through the decades. It shows where someone was on that particular day and gradually more and more information has been added to the form.



Ref: ct31530 George Hotel

For more information on the census, visit the Cumbria Archives Family History website [cumbria.gov.uk/archives/familyhistory](http://cumbria.gov.uk/archives/familyhistory)

For example, Frederick Armstrong, proprietor of The George Hotel was not in residence for the 1911 census. He and his wife were enjoying a well-earned holiday, as the census entry for the Metropole Hotel in Blackpool shows!

18	Frederick Armstrong	do	46	Married	70	Veterinary Surgeon & Hotel Proprietor	Employer	Penrith Cumberland	390	do
19	Annie Armstrong	do	41	"	20			do	1	do

It must have been a fairly grand hotel, as the census return shows it has having 60 rooms. The guests are generally professionals such as a chemist, a barrister, an engineer, merchants and a brewery director.

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family, or Partner, or Son-in-law	AGE	SEX	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE	PERSONAL OCCUPATION	Industry or Service with which Worker is connected	Whether Employed, Working, or Working on Own Account	Whether Working at Home	BIRTHPLACE	NATIONALITY of your Person, born in a Foreign Country	INFIRMITY
1 George Edward Richardson	Visitor	44	M	Married	Managing Director	987	Employer		Willington on Trent	do	
2 David Bechella Richardson	do	42	M	do			Employer		Willington on Trent	do	
3 William Bell	do	35	M	do	Jeweller	726	Employer		Leicester	do	
4 Maude Beadley Bell	do	40	F	do					London	do	
5 Henry Beattie Manners	do	35	M	do	Brewery Director	938	Employer		London	do	
6 Annie Beattie Manners	do	31	F	do					London	do	
7 Gordon Robertson Manners	do	8	M	do					London	do	
8 Jaga Manners Manners	do	6	F	do					London	do	
9 Ethel Manners	do	18	F	do					London	do	
10 John Robertson	do	70	M	Married	Domestic	950			London	do	
11 Elizabeth Robertson	do	59	F	do	Probationer Minister (Relig)	423			London	do	
12 Frank Ross	do	52	M	do	Text Manufacturer	877	Employer		Warwick	do	
13 Frank Ross	do	39	M	Married	Brewery	938	Worker		Warwick	do	
14 Louisa Ross	do	37	F	do					Warwick	do	
15 Philip Ross	do	57	M	do	Gentleman				Warwick	do	
16 Ralph Ross	do	24	M	do	Merchant	876	Worker		Warwick	do	
17 Francis Ross	do	21	M	do	Motor Mechanic	695			Warwick	do	
18 Frederick Armstrong	do	46	M	Married	Veterinary Surgeon & Hotel Proprietor		Employer		Penrith Cumberland	390	do
19 Annie Armstrong	do	41	F	"					do	1	do
20 Edward Thomas	do	43	M	do	Chemist	789	Employer		do	04	do
21 Sam Thomas	do	35	M	do	Barkeeper	427			Whitehall Lane	050	do
22 William Thomas	do	36	M	Married	Miner	456	Employer		Whitehall Lane	050	do
23 John Campbell	do	34	M	do	Barkeeper	456			Whitehall Lane	050	do
24 Henry Campbell	do	47	M	do	Barkeeper	456			Whitehall Lane	050	do
25 Robert Campbell	do	41	M	Married	Shipping Merchant	449	Employer		Whitehall Lane	050	do
26 Alan Bay	do	42	M	do	Director of Chamber of Commerce				Whitehall Lane	050	do
27 Josephine Mitchell	do	33	F	do					Whitehall Lane	050	do
28 David Sharp	do	68	M	Widow					Whitehall Lane	050	do
29 John Sharp	do	36	M	do					Whitehall Lane	050	do
30 Edward Sharp	do	44	M	Married					Whitehall Lane	050	do

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

ENUMERATION BOOK FOR AN INSTITUTION OR LARGE ESTABLISHMENT.

Name and Description of Institution or Establishment: *The George Hotel, Penrith, Cumberland*

LOCAL SUB-DIVISIONS IN WHICH THE INSTITUTION OR ESTABLISHMENT IS SITUATED.

Chief Parish:	Subordinate Parish:	Parish in Urban District:	Parish in Rural District:	Parish in Sanitary District:
<i>Penrith</i>	<i>Penrith</i>	<i>Penrith</i>	<i>Penrith</i>	<i>Penrith</i>





# Uncovering Penrith Local History

## The George Hotel & the 1921 Census

The newly-released 1921 census gives us more recent information on people and places. The 1921 Kelly's Directory listed Frederick Armstrong as the proprietor but the 1921 census form gives is more detail about others in the establishment.

**STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.**

Please read the Instructions and Examples shown on the back, and then fill up the Schedule carefully and in Ink.

Page 1.

NAME AND SURNAMES	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Household	AGE	SEX	MARRIAGE or ORPHANHOOD	BIRTHPLACE and NATIONALITY	Personal Occupation	OCCUPATION and EMPLOYMENT	Place of Work	Number and ages of all living children and step children under 16 years of age, whether enumerated on this schedule or not, i.e. whether residing as members of the household or elsewhere.
1 Frederick Armstrong	Head	56	M	Married	Penrith Cumberland	Hotel Proprietor	Employed	George Hotel, Penrith	None
2 Annie Armstrong	Wife	52	F	Married	Penrith Cumberland	Hotel Proprietress	Employed	George Hotel, Penrith	None
3 Margaret Jacobs	Step Sister	44	F	Single	Penrith Cumberland	Hotel Manageress	Employed	George Hotel, Penrith	None
4 Cyril Clapham Thompson	Visitor	21	M	Single	Alston Cumberland	Insurance Inspector	Employed	25 Mosley St Newcastle on Tyne	None
5 George Harold Martin	Visitor	23	M	Single	Penrith Cumberland	Technical Engineer	Employed	Hutton Park Newcastle on Tyne	None
6 Harold Lascruis	Visitor	24	M	Single	Newcastle on Tyne	Hatters Furrier	Employed	Bells Court Newcastle on Tyne	None
7 Sarah Lindsley	Visitor	28	F	Single	Bradford West Yorkshire	Office Assistant	Employed	George Hotel, Penrith	None
8 Henry Darro	Visitor	49	M	Married	Penrith Cumberland	Wholesale Boot and Shoe Manufacturer	Employed	29/30 Friday St London S.W.4	None
9 Annie Linsley Darro	Visitor	48	F	Married	Nottingham	Home Duties	At home	At home	None
10 Alfred Stephenson	Servant	42	M	Married	Yorkshire	Hotel Boots	Employed	George Hotel, Penrith	None

(Continue at line 11 on page 2.)

The census is listing ages in years and months, but also looking at personal occupations and places of work. "Men, Widowers and Widows" are also asked to list all living children and step-children, regardless of where they are at the time.

Page 2.

NAME AND SURNAMES	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Household	AGE	SEX	MARRIAGE or ORPHANHOOD	BIRTHPLACE and NATIONALITY	Personal Occupation	OCCUPATION and EMPLOYMENT	Place of Work	Number and ages of all living children and step children under 16 years of age, whether enumerated on this schedule or not, i.e. whether residing as members of the household or elsewhere.
11 Elizabeth Ann Hall	Servant	60	F	Married	Leeds	Cooks	Employed	George Hotel, Penrith	None
12 Mary Wilson	Servant	33	F	Single	Leeds	Servant	Employed	George Hotel, Penrith	None
13 Mary Fox	Servant	20	F	Single	Newcastle on Tyne	Servant	Employed	George Hotel, Penrith	None
14 Margaret Reynolds	Servant	22	F	Single	Middlesbrough	Servant	Employed	George Hotel, Penrith	None
15 Ellen Mableson	Servant	18	F	Single	Leeds	Servant	Employed	George Hotel, Penrith	None
16 Samuel Peel	Servant	67	M	Married	Leeds	Head Waiter	Employed	George Hotel, Penrith	None
17 Amelia Pether	Servant	32	F	Single	Leeds	Servant	Employed	George Hotel, Penrith	None
18 Alexander P. Dett	Visitor	26	M	Married	Manchester	Carriage Maker	Employed	51, Darnley St Manchester	None
19 Alice Mary P. Dett	Visitor	23	F	Married	Manchester	Home Duties	At home	At home	None
20 James C. H. Hildesley	Visitor	23	M	Married	Leeds	Shipowner	Employed	51, Darnley St Manchester	None
21 Dorothy Ann Hildesley	Visitor	22	F	Married	Leeds	Home Duties	At home	At home	None
22 Jack Simons	Visitor	26	M	Married	London	Commercial Traveller	Employed	Leeds	None
23 Sarah Lorthian	Visitor	32	F	Single	Brampton Cumberland	Home Duties	At home	At home	None
24 William Spiller	Visitor	49	M	Married	Leeds	Shipbroker	At home	At home	None
25 Lucie Spiller	Visitor	51	F	Married	at Leeds	Home Duties	At home	At home	None

(Continue on page 3 at line 26.)

Page 3.

NAME AND SURNAMES	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Household	AGE	SEX	MARRIAGE or ORPHANHOOD	BIRTHPLACE and NATIONALITY	Personal Occupation	OCCUPATION and EMPLOYMENT	Place of Work	Number and ages of all living children and step children under 16 years of age, whether enumerated on this schedule or not, i.e. whether residing as members of the household or elsewhere.
26 Maggie Middleton	Visitor	36	F	Single	Leeds	Home Duties	At home	At home	None
27 James James Wilson	Visitor	44	M	Married	Leeds	Carriage Maker	Employed	Leeds	None
28 Christina Wilson	Visitor	38	F	Married	Leeds	Home Duties	At home	At home	None
29 Charles H. Wilson	Visitor	35	M	Married	Leeds	Carriage Maker	Employed	Leeds	None
30 James Hildesley	Visitor	41	M	Single	Leeds	Carriage Maker	Employed	Leeds	None
31 Frank Wilson	Visitor	40	M	Married	Leeds	Carriage Maker	Employed	Leeds	None
32 Mary Ann Wilson	Visitor	36	F	Married	Leeds	Home Duties	At home	At home	None
33 Robert Hildesley	Visitor	40	M	Married	Leeds	Farmer	Employed	Leeds	None
34 Margaret Jane Wilson	Visitor	41	F	Married	Leeds	Home Duties	At home	At home	None

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Images courtesy of [cumbriaimagebank.org.uk](http://cumbriaimagebank.org.uk)

Census information from [findmypast.co.uk](http://findmypast.co.uk)

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