

Ref: Cumbria Image Bank ct05077

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.





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: cto5071 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 Castlegte
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), aparts. 11 Victoria rd Armstrong Thomas, farmer, Bowscar Armstrong's (Penrith) Coach & Motor Co. Limited;

registered office, George hotel registered office, George hotel

Arnison N. & Sons, drapers, 16 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

commissioner for oaths, clerk to the West Ward magistrates & superintendent registrar of Penr th

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



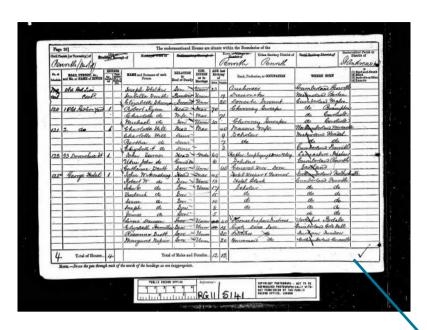
Gardiner Janet & Elizh. (Misses), confrs. 48 King st Gardiner Robert, grocer, Brunswick road Garlick Agnes (Mrs.), shopkeeper, 3 Friar street Gas Works (Edwd.Shaul,mgr.),Old London rd.& Arcade George Hotel (Frederick Armstrong, proprietor), leading family & county hotel, Devonshire street Gilbanks George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



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.



The George Hotel





Ref: cto5120 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. Amstrong	New Man		Hotel Keeper & Farmer	Mothermberland Halhoriste
	Robert m do	Dow Win		Hotel blenk	Cumberland Penrith
	John & do	Son Um	N 17	Scholar.	do do
100	Frederick do	Bon	15	do	Olo do
	Isauc do	Bon	10	do	do do
	Joseph do	Bon	8	do	do do
	James do	Bow	5	1,	do do
	dissie Daivson	Sero Uni	W # 40	Housekeeper-histress	york here Godale
	Clisabeth Hamilton	Sen Unn	w 38 38	Look Domo Serv	Cumberland Cole fell
	Rosunna Best	Sere Um		// / -	Durkam Jumdon
	Margaret Makier	Serv. Um	20	Houseman do	Northemberland Newcastlo

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

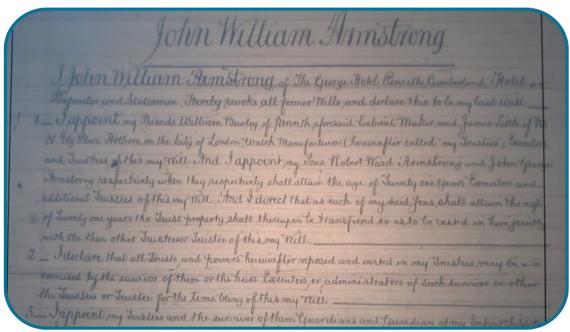
Ref: Kelly's Directory of Cumberland 1894

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.

Your Place -

Be Part of it!





Ref: PROB 1882 w176

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.



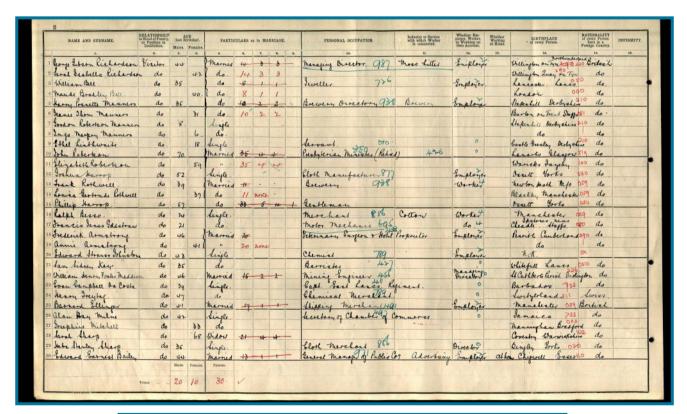
Ref: ct31530 George Hotel

For more information on the census, visit the Cumbria Archives Family History website cumbria.gov.uk/archives/familyhistory

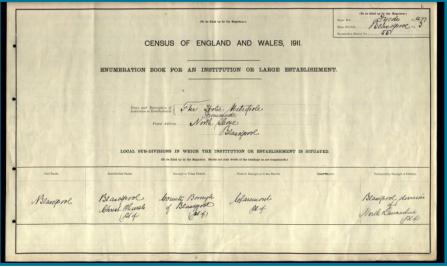
For example, Frederick Armstrong, proprietor of The George Hotel was not in residence for the 1911 census. He and his wife were enjoying a well-earned holiday, as the census entry for the Metropole Hotel in Blackpool shows!



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.



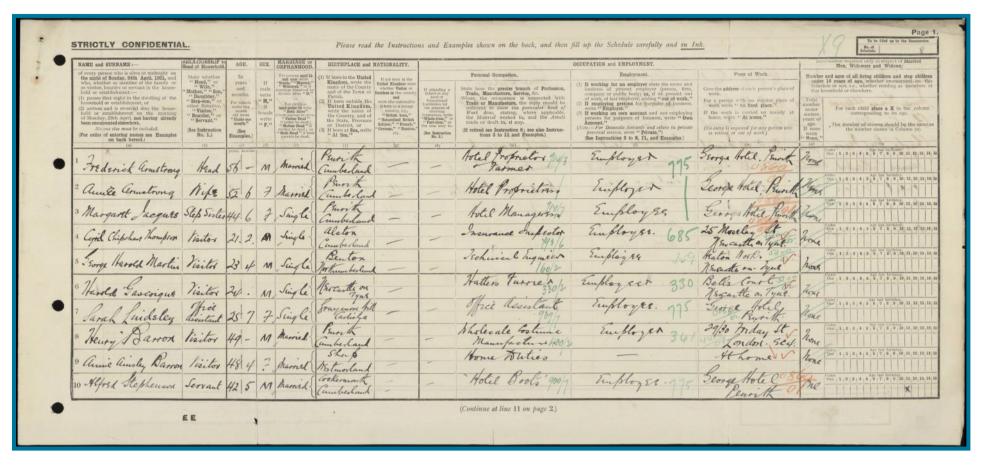




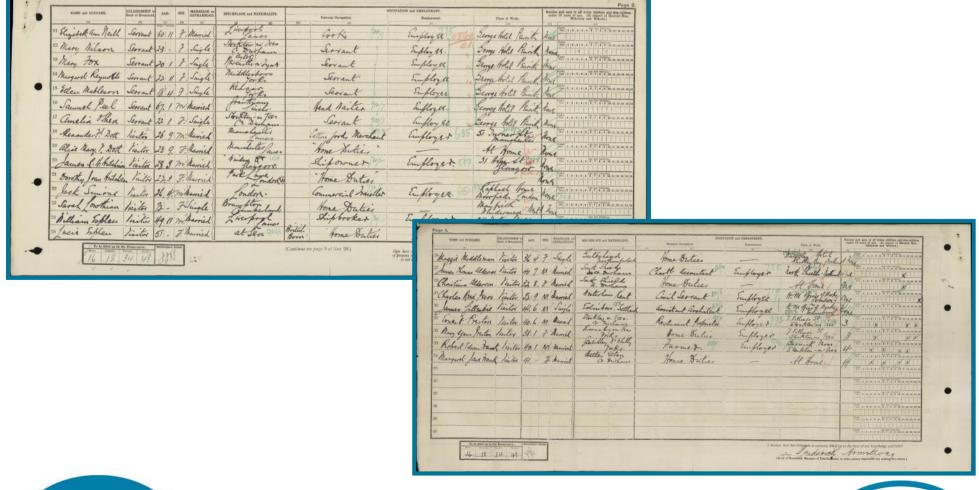


The George Hotel & the 1921 Census

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.



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.





Produced by Carlisle Library & Carlisle Archive Centre Images courtesy of cumbriaimagebank.org.uk

Census information from findmypast.co.uk

