

Axminster's Bakers and Butchers

Introduction

The following information is drawn almost entirely from published trade directories. Whereas a listing on a specified date means that the business concerned was almost certainly active as recorded, the absence of a listing could be an error or omission, and the careful guidance that 'absence of evidence should not be regarded as evidence of absence' applies.

The evidence regarding butchers is patchy. It is not until butchers had full-time retail outlets that the records become more consistent. Before that some butchers were based on farms, and would only have sold meat from market stalls on market days.

The places and occupations of all named individuals can be assumed from the headings, and the use of the descriptor 'baker' or 'butcher' is not always included.

Market Place

Bakers

In 1838 John Bowdige had a bakery on Market Place, and as early as 1792 John Bowdige was recorded as a baker in Axminster, albeit in an unidentified location. It seems highly likely that at least three generations of bakers called John Bowdige worked from Market Place, because that combination of name and place recurs until 1870. Sometimes they were also described as grocers, but mainly they were just bakers.

In 1873 John Ryall was a baker, followed from 1878 until 1883 by Robert Butt Ryall. Charles Norman was the Market Place baker from 1889 to 1893, followed by William Bastable (1902) and then by Amos Bennett (1906 to 1910). No further bakers were recorded up to and including 1939.

Butchers

The directories do not record who had butchers' stalls in the market 'shambles'.

Sidney Dare had a butcher's shop on Market Place from 1923 until 1926.

Castle Hill

Bakers

In 1838 George Willmott was a baker and confectioner (as well as a grocer and cheesemonger) on Castle Hill. He was followed by William Willmott (1844 to 1856) in conjunction with Misses Mary and Elizabeth Willmott. They later moved to Chard Street.

After a long gap came Arthur Knight (1883), Thomas B Heal (1889, combining baking with being a timber merchant), James Aplin Phillips (1890), Miss Mary Jane Ryall (also 1890), Robert Butt Ryall (1893) and William Swain (1893 to 1914).

The Ryalls had previously been in Market Place (see above).

Butchers

Robert and William Loud were butchers on Castle Hill in 1838. The next entries are for John Patterson (1879/79) and Charles Augustus Loud (a pork butcher, from 1883 to 1889).

Victoria Place

Butchers

The sequence of butchers on Victoria Place was as follows: Henry Loud (1866), John Aplin Loud (1870 to 1902), John Patterson (1883 to 1914, having previously been on Castle Hill), Frederick Daniel Chick (1906 to 1939) and George Denslow (1919 to 1939).

It appears that there were two butcher's shops; one occupied by Loud then Chick, and the other by Patterson then Denslow.

Trinity Square

Bakers

Henry Badcock was a baker and confectioner on Trinity Square from 1850 to 1879. In later years his shop evidently sold a wider range of goods.

Mrs Elizabeth Harris was a baker and confectioner from 1883 to 1890, followed by her son William Joseph Harris (1893 to 1910). After 1914 their shop was described as a grocer's shop rather than a bakery (and is traced in the document dealing with other food shops).

Sidney Owen Gill (who also had premises on Chard Street) was a confectioner on Trinity Square from 1914 to 1939 (and beyond), and from 1935 ran the New Commercial Café, also on Trinity Square.

Butchers

Frank Edward Ellett was listed as a butcher in Trinity Square in 1939.

West Street

Bakers

Henry Badcock was a baker and confectioner in 1838 (he later moved to Trinity Square: see above).

Miss Annie Pile was a confectioner on West Street in 1923, followed by the Misses Audrey and Phyllis Parsons in 1926. From 1935 to 1939 the listing has the Misses Florence and Phyllis Parsons, again as confectioners.

Miss E M Pile was a confectioner from 1935 to 1939.

Butchers

Alec Samuel Powell was a butcher in 1935.

Church Street and Silver Street

Bakers

George R Summers was a baker on Silver Street in 1866.

Butchers

George Palmer was a game dealer (but not so far as can be seen also a butcher) on Church Street in 1870.

William H Stuart (of the Axminster Inn) was a butcher on Silver Street from 1926 to 1939. It is believed that he also ran the small slaughterhouse behind Purzebrooke House, on Musbury Road. The shop was subsequently run by Lionel Stuart into the 1950s at least.

South Street

Bakers

Thomas Denzilow Fry was a baker from 1838 to 1844.

William Fry was a baker in 1838, followed by Thomas Waldron in 1844.

William Phillips was a baker from 1850 to 1866, followed by James Aplin Phillips (1870 to 1879, also acting as a mail cart contractor), followed by Thomas William Hoyle (1883 to 1893) and then by Edward Manger Mayo & Son (1902 to 1939, and for some considerable period thereafter).

Butchers

John Denning was listed from 1856 to 1857, followed by Henry Broom (in 1866).

Lyme Street

Bakers

George Bradford was a baker and confectioner in 1838. After a considerable gap George Henry Newbery was listed from 1873 to 1893, followed by Albert Newbery & Son (1902 to 1939).

Albert John V Gower was a baker in 1889, followed by John Davey Cummings, a confectioner, from 1906 to 1910.

Miss Ellen Restorick was a confectioner (and sometimes also a grocer), from 1919 to 1939.

Mrs Beatrice Hooper was a confectioner from 1923 to 1926.

Butchers

George Hook (of the Red Lion) was a butcher in 1838. Later butchers included Henry Hanning (1857), John Denning (1866 to 1873) and Samuel Denning (1878).

John Griffin Broom was also a butcher in 1873, followed by Henry Loud (1878).

Samuel Hencher was a cattle dealer, pork butcher and cheese factor on Lyme Street from 1890 to 1893, followed by Mrs Hencher in 1902.

George Restorick was a butcher and sometimes also a game dealer from 1890 to 1914. Before that he had been described as a greengrocer and game dealer, also on Lyme Street (1883 to 1889).

Eastmans Ltd had a butcher's shop on Lyme Street from 1906 to 1939. The business was later bought by the Dewhurst chain, and closed in 1992.

Frederick Dare was there from 1923 to 1939.

Chard Street

Bakers

Robert Grigg Knight had a bakery on Chard Street from 1838 to 1873. In the latter years he also acted as a brewer's agent.

William Willmott was a baker and confectioner from 1850 to 1857, and also a grocer. He had previously had his premises on Castle Hill.

William James Gill was a baker, confectioner and brewer's agent from 1878 until 1902, followed by Sidney Owen Gill (1906 to 1939). He was mainly described as a confectioner, and from 1914 also had premises on Trinity Square (see above).

Butchers

Arthur Nunn Snell was a painter and game dealer (but not a conventional butcher) on Chard Street from 1902 to 1919. He was later also described as a provisions dealer.