



Eveline's House

“A Hastings Old Town terrace, was home to a licensed victualler and his family, twice married with ten children born but two deceased.”



George Arscott – Census project

George Arscott, born in South Tawton/Taunton around 1848, lived and worked in Hastings, ending up at my house, * Old Humphrey Avenue

1881 Census, 32 years old George worked as a barman at the Queens Hotel, the grandest hotel in Hastings, on the corner of Harold Place. It opened in 1862 with 200 rooms, first and second class coffee rooms, saloons, suites for families, meeting rooms, billiards and smoking rooms and a library. Originally it had two towers, but these were taken down around the 1920s. The building is still there, but as flats and a restaurant. George must have just married, so around 1879/80, to Charlotte, 24 years old, from Ashford Derbyshire, as they had a son, George in 1880 and a daughter, Ethel a year later. At the time of the census, they lived at Mann Street, just above the present Priory Meadow.



The hotel around the 1880s when George worked there.

1881 summary

Work

- Barman at Queens Hotel, Hastings

Married to

- Charlotte, 24 from Ashford, Derbyshire Children
- George
- Ethel

Lived at

- Mann Street, Hastings

*The hotel with a (huge!) German submarine in front of it in 1919.
Note the hotel twin towers, taken down shortly after.*



1891 Census, 42 years old

It looks like George's career progressed as he was now a manager and licensed victualler, but we don't know where in Hastings. His eldest son George died, but he now had five more children, Grace, another George, William, Annie and Lily. He had also moved round the corner to Earl Street.

1891 summary

Work

- Manager, licensed victualler, Hastings Still married to
- Charlotte

Children living there

- George - deceased
- Ethel

New children

- Grace
- George
- William
- Annie
- Lily

Lived at

- Earl Street, Hastings

1901 Census, 52 years old

George was now managing the Hastings Arms on George Street (still there, a pub with a history linked to smuggling at the turn of the 19th century). We don't know if he owned it, but he did live there, still with Charlotte. Another child, Annie seems to have died, but three more arrived, Winifred, Victor and May. The two eldest daughters Ethel (20 years old) and Grace (15 years old) are listed as barmaids, while George (14 years old) was a pot boy, collecting empty glasses and sweeping the bar.

1901 summary Work

- Manager, Hastings Arms, George Street Still married to
- Charlotte

Children living there

- Ethel now a barmaid
- Grace now a barmaid
- George now a potboy
- William
- Annie deceased
- Lily

New children

- Winifred
- Victor
- May

Lived at

- Hastings Arms, George Street

The Hastings Arms today



1911 Census, 62 years old

George was still a licensed victualler, we don't know where but he was no longer living at the Hastings Arms. A new child was listed, Reginald, born 1902, so when his wife Charlotte was around 44 years old, which even now is considered old to give birth. She had given birth to 11 children, and at least two had died. She also died before this census, as George was listed as a widower. At some stage he moved into 7 Old Humphrey Avenue. This is now a prosperous twitern, but when built in 1878 by a wealthy local builder, Henry Chapman, it was described by a contemporary as below; "A late Catholic Bishop of Southwark sold Hastings House with an acre of garden on the East Hill which had been left to him by the late Duchess of Leeds for an orphanage, to a London speculator, Henry Chapman, who pulled down the good old house which should have been sacred if only because it had been the abode at different times of Lord Byron and the Duke of Wellington, and erected two rows of stucco tenements which are the only absolute stain upon the beauty of the charming old town" The stucco tenements referred to is Old Humphrey Avenue.



Old Humphrey Avenue around 1905, so very likely when George and family were living there.

The Avenue today, much greener with some spectacular palm trees and well kept gardens, so definitely not a 'stain' on the Old Town but rather a popular photo opportunity for tourists.



1911 summary

Work

- Licensed victualler, Hastings Children moved out, or perhaps deceased

- Ethel
- Grace
- George
- William

Children living there

- Lily
- Winifred
- Victor
- May

New children

- Reginald, born 1902

Lived at

- Old Humphrey Avenue

.....where I now live with the odd pet and odd flatmate.

