

Inns and Alcohol

Alcohol, and its imbibing, has been popular since fermentation was discovered and many of our ancestors were involved in the making and selling – as well as the drinking – of such liquids. Whilst inns, taverns and public houses had to be licenced, there were many little secondary occupations held by people who brewed and sold their ale on the side. Licencing in Britain started in the mid-18th century but the laws were not really tightened up until the mid-19th century. Many copies of these licences may be found in the local Record Office or County Archives.

What did they do?

The occupations of those involved with the brewing and selling of alcoholic beverages are many and varied but here are some of the more obscure job titles that you might come across:

Ale Conner – A man who inspected the ale sold in public houses for quality and measure (Also known as an Ale Founder)

Ale Tunner – He was responsible for filling the barrels (tuns) with beer

Brewster – Female Brewer

Hush Shop Keeper – Someone who brewed and sold beer without a licence (this was usually a side-line to their normal occupation.)

Malster – A brewer, maker or seller of malts (beers)

Mashmaker – He made the mash vats or mashels used for mixing malts to make the beer.

Pot Boy – Usually a boy or young lad who collected the used pots/glasses in the Inn and washed them. He would also do other menial tasks.

Zytheplarist – A brewer.

Please be aware that this is just a small list of the more unusually-named occupations in the brewery and inn trade. You will probably find a lot more!

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If you have a question about your ancestors who were in the Brewing and Hospitality trade, we have a forum where you can post those questions. It may be that you are unable to visit the Archives or Record Office but someone else could do so on your behalf. Register for FREE at <http://www.genealogy-specialists.com/> and tell us about the ancestor that you are researching. The members will do their best to help you.

If you would like to discover more about your ancestors who worked in Brewing and Public Houses, the types of work that they did or want to know more about their lives, listed below are some products that will certainly help you - and all of them are available from [www.parishchest.com](http://www.parishchest.com). Just pop the reference number in the website search box to see the details:

- Beers and Breweries of Britain (Book) Ref: KFHS-3956
- Researching Your Brewery Ancestors Ref: NWA-OHM15
- The Encircling Hop (Book) Ref: KFHS-3503
- Researching Brewery and Publican Ancestors Ref: FHP-127
- Victuallers' Licences Ref: FHP-126
- 1895 Licensed Victuallers Official Annual Ref: YBM-SKU77-Y00212

Many more products are also available from Parish Chest that would be specific to the area that you are researching. Check out the **Directories** section and use the website search box to pop in key words such as **Brewer**, **Tavern** and **Victualler**. You never know what you might find!