

**A HISTORY OF THE FERRER'S ARMS  
(FORMERLY THE "HORSE & GROOM")  
IN THE HAMLET OF LOUNT**



**The Quorn Hunt at the Ferrers Arms c.1950**

**BY SAMUEL T STEWART - OCTOBER 2021**

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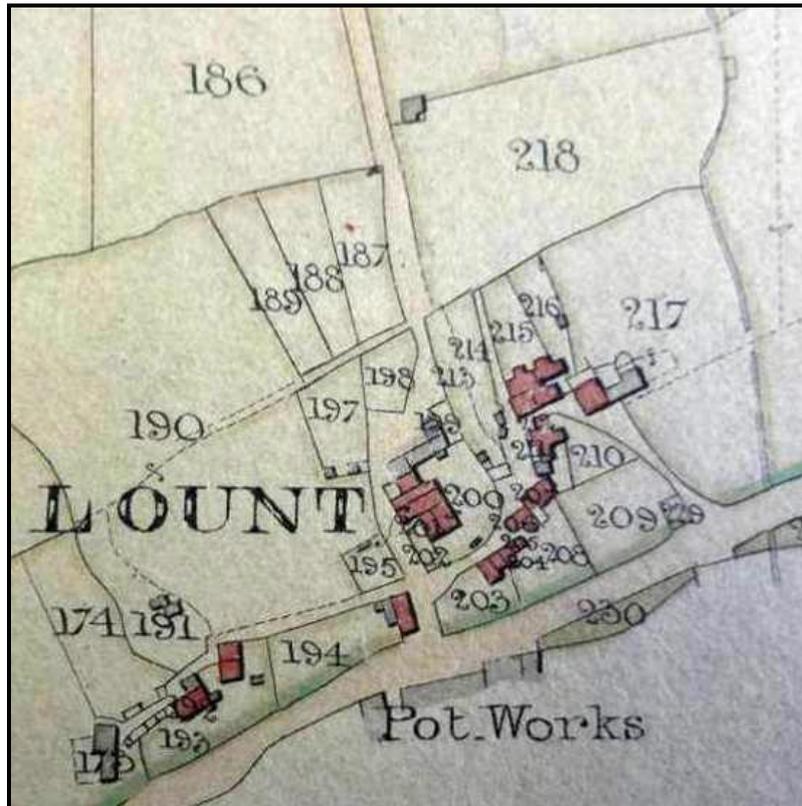


**Interior of Ferrer's Arms 1969**



**Interior of Ferrer's Arms 1969**

**Photographs by kind permission of Ashby Museum**



**Extract from the 1859 Staunton Harold Estate map,  
which shows the location of the Ferrer's Arms on plot 217**

The "Horse and Groom" was originally a farm house. It was quite normal in the 1700's and early 1800's for Alehouses as they were known then to be incorporated into farm houses, and the licensing laws did not require the Alehouse to be registered with a name, only a location was necessary. It was not until a new licensing act came into force around 1825 that the licensee had to register a name for the Inn or Public House as they became known as. It was also necessary for at least one person (not the licensee) to put up a surety of £10.

Information on the history of the Horse and Groom / Ferrers Arms at Lount has proved hard to come by. However, together with the Alehouse Recognizance Books, which are held at the L&RRO, and other information, it can be shown that what is now known as the Ferrers Arms was originally registered as an Alehouse in 1789 up to 1814 with Thomas Mason as the Licensee. There is then a gap in the records, but in 1820 Thomas Mason is again recorded as being the Licensee until 1827. As stated previously, it was not necessary to provide a name for an Alehouse until c.1825, and from 1825 to 1827 the records start to give the name of the Inn as the "Horse and Groom".

The author is in no doubt, that pre the Inn becoming known as the "Ferrer's Arms", it was called the "Horse and Groom" and under the "Ashby de la Zouch Register of Full Licenses" 1842-1936, Thomas Mason was registered as Victualler of the "Horse and Groom" from 1842 to 1855. From 1856 to 1893, Thomas Mason was registered as Victualler of the "Ferrer's Arms" which suggests that the name of the Inn probably changed between 1855 and 1856. A coal mining machinery sale in 1870 was held at the "Ferrer's Arms".

Thomas Mason is recorded as being the victualler (also occasionally recorded as a cottager, shopkeeper, farmer and carpenter at various times) of the "Horse and Groom" in trade directories dated 1846, 1854, 1855, 1860 and 1861.

In the "Gazetteer & Directory of Leics & Rutland" 1846, Thomas Mason was given as the victualler of the "Horse and Groom", Lount. In 1870, 1876, 1877 and 1881 trade directories, Thomas Mason is recorded as being the victualler at the "Ferrers Arms". Thomas Mason appears to have relinquished his position as victualler at the Ferrers Arms in 1893 which coincided with the death of his wife Hannah (see the following newspaper article).

#### **LEICESTER CHRONICLE – 26<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 1893**

##### **DEATH OF LANDLADY**

**Mrs. Hannah Mason** wife of **Mr. Thomas Mason** proprietor of the **Ferrers Arms, Lount**, died at Lount on Wednesday afternoon aged 64. Deceased had been ailing for some weeks, and recently was attended by Dr. C. R. Williams of Ashby.

In 1894, James Richards, aged 34, is the landlord, and described as a farmer also.

Interestingly, the Earls Ferrers are shown as being owner / leaseholder of the "Ferrers Arms" from 1872 to 1936, and their ownership presumably ended when the estate was sold in 1954.

#### **LANDLORDS FROM 1894 TO 1987**

James Richards	1894 to 1925
Frederick Henry Sargeant	1926 to 1927
James Richards	1927 to 1929
Frederick Henry Sargeant	1930 to 1946
Lewin Jobin	1946 to 1958
Transferred to Hugh Ernest Deneys	Oct 17 <sup>th</sup> 1959
Transferred to Raymond Frances Mathews	1960 to 1966
Maurice & Betty Baker	c. 1966
Transferred to Hylda Matthews	April 14 <sup>th</sup> 1965 till 1981?
Fred and Ethel Sibley	1983
Rodney Fern (ex Leicester City player)	1983 to 1987

#### **THERE FOLLOWS SEVERAL NEWSPAPER ARTICLES WHICH RELATE TO THE "HORSE & GROOM" AND "FERRER'S ARMS"**

##### **LEICESTER MERCURY – 21<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 1855**

Lount – Saturday last being the winding up of a club (what club ??) held at the "Horse and Groom" in Lount, the venerable host, Mr. Thomas Mason provided an excellent supper, at which about thirty members sat down, and did ample justice to the good things of life. After supper, the health of "The Marquis" was drunk with due honours. The members departed at an early hour, much pleased with the entertainment of the evening.

##### **LEICESTER JOURNAL – 27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 1856**

**PEACE DEMONSTRATION AT LOUNT - (*This was clearly to celebrate the end of the "Crimea War Oct 1853-Feb 1856*)**. Lount is a small village; situate about three miles from Ashby de la Zouch, and three miles from Breedon, on the Nottingham and Ashby Road, on the Leicestershire Estate of the Right Hon. Ferrers. A few of his Lordship's principal tenantry, and others, consisting of the following gentlemen, formed themselves into a committee, (viz., Mr. T. Earp, Mr. Bowles, Mr. Hassall, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Leadbitter, Mr. Hewlett, and Mr. Peters), for the purpose of giving the

villagers and the surrounding neighbourhood a treat of good old English fare, in commemoration of this recent peace with Russia, and with the handsome and liberal subscription of their noble landlord, were soon enabled to accomplish their purpose. Friday, the 6<sup>th</sup> inst, was fixed for the festivity, a spacious pavilion fifty yards long, was erected for the occasion, most beautifully decorated with evergreens, in front of the Horse and Groom Inn, and extended to the turnpike road, over which was suspended a beautiful flag, bearing the colours of our allies, worked by the countess Ferrers, and on the right of it was suspended the Flag of peace, white, with golden Dove in the centre, also worked by her ladyship, and on the left was the Union Jack, all kindly lent for the occasion by the noble Earl. We also noticed Mr. Wilson's house and manufactory (*Coleorton Pottery*), handsomely decorated with flags and devices, as also were most of the cottages. The females upwards of 163 in number, sat down to an excellent tea, and plum-cake, bread and butter, and "Jamaica Cream" of the right sort, - **in the school room (*Staunton Harold School*)**, the use of which was granted by his lordship for the occasion, and was tastefully decorated, the tea was presided over by Mrs. Haslop, his Lordship's house-keeper, to whom great praise is due. After tea, resort was had, two racing for dresses, shawls and other wearing apparel. And now for the dinner, "so much enjoyed, and duly appreciated by the sons of old England", and we may safely affirm that this was not to be surpassed by any of our neighbouring friends. Mr. John Cheatle of Ashby, slaughtered a four year old Ox for the occasion, fed by Captain Devoux, of Drakelow, which was served up, doing the worthy host, **Mr. Mason (*landlord of the Horse and Groom*)**, great credit. Besides the roast-beef and veal, there was rabbit pies and plum pudding, with the usual accompaniments, and about 160 sat down. When the cloth was withdrawn, the chairman gave the health of "the Queen", which was drunk with a bumper, with three times three, afterwards followed, "Prince Albert", the "Royal Family", the "Army and Navy", and "our brave Allies". The next toasts were the "Earl Ferrers", the "Countess Ferrers and family", which were drunk with musical honours. Mr. Leadbitter (his Lordship's house steward), and Mr. Hewlett, responded, thanking the company for the kind manner in which they had drunk the health of the noble family, whom they had the honour to serve, &c. The Ashby band was engaged, and played in their best style. The company sent a deputation to his Lordship for permission to parade on the grounds in front of the mansion, which was kindly granted. The procession was then formed as follows:-

**Guards with Firelocks, two and two,  
Banner bearers, four abreast, with scarfs, and rosettes, red, white and blue,  
each carrying the colours of the allied Nations.**

**The committee**

**The Band**

**The females, two and two, with the flag of Peace in the centre**

**The men in the same order, with the Union Jack in the centre**

When within a quarter of a mile of the Hall, the cannons gave their salute from the distant hills, surrounding the park, and their bells sent forth their merry peals. When in front of the Hall, the procession halted, where the Earl and Countess Ferrers, the youthful Viscount Tamworth, Lady Augusta Shirley, and their guests had assembled, to welcome them, three cheers were given for his Lordship, and for each member of his family, all of which were gracefully acknowledged; his Lordship then addressed them in a neat and appropriate speech, which he concluded by proposing "Three cheers for our beloved Queen", and the vibrations of the sound made those venerable woods echo, the Band struck up, and the procession returned to the scene of festivity, the cannons again saluting, and the bells ringing. In passing through the golden gates we observed suspended from the top, family banners and garlands of evergreens, with suitable devices, worked in various coloured flowers, and tastefully

arranged by Mr. Dean, his Lordship's head gardener. On arriving at **Mr. Mason's (Horse and Groom)**, an abundance of good nut brown ale, cigars, and tobacco were in readiness, dancing, and other pastimes were resorted to, and kept up with a determination to enjoy "time present" until the "shades of evening" closed around us. The National Anthem was played, and three cheers were given for the committee, thanking them for the admirable manner in which they had got up, and conducted the fete throughout, after which all dispersed to their homes, highly pleased with their "Peace Rejoicings", it was admitted by that venerable authority, the "oldest inhabitant", that never before was witnessed at Lount such rejoicings, as on the present occasion, and we will only add, should they ever occur again, "may we be there to see".

#### **ANOTHER NEWSPAPER'S VERSION OF THE ABOVE CELEBRATIONS LEICESTER CHRONICLE – JUNE 21<sup>ST</sup> 1856**

Peace rejoicing at Staunton Harold – The principle tenantry of the Right. Hon. Earl Ferrers, on his Leicestershire Estate, and a few liberal people adjoining, formed a committee to regale the inhabitants of Staunton Harold and Lount and the neighbourhood, with the good old English fare. The subscriptions far exceeded their expectations; the inhabitants were therefore liberally supplied, about 200 women partaking of an excellent tea, flavoured with Jamaica Cream, **in his lordship's school house (Staunton Harold school)** which was tastefully decorated with the banners of the allied nations. After tea they commenced running ?? for gown pieces. The men (numbering upwards of two hundred) dined in a large pavilion erected in front of **Mr. Mason's Inn, the sign of the "Horse and Groom"**. After the cloth was drawn, the Queen and other toasts were drunk. Facing the Nottingham Road was an immense flag composed of the French, Turkish and Sardinian colours, on one side of which was a large white flag, with a golden dove in the centre – the flag of peace. On the other, the Union Jack all kindly lent by Earl Ferrers. **Mr. Wilson and his house and manufactory (Coleorton Pottery)** ornamented with appropriate devices; several flags were also waving in the breeze, and different parts of the village were also likewise decorated, altogether giving it a gay and lively appearance.. The Ashby Band supplied by the noble earl, was in attendance and played in its best style. Previously a deputation had awaited upon his lordship, requesting that a procession might be formed to the hall, which was granted. After all had partaken of the good things provided, about 7 o'clock, between 400 and 500 formed in the following order:- Guards, armed two and four; the band; the women two and two, carrying the flag of peace in the centre; the men following in the same order, with the Union Jack also borne in the centre. On entering the lawn in front of the hall, they were saluted with cannon, planted on top of the hill opposite, the bells ringing a merry peal till the procession drew near the house, when the band struck up; the procession having entered through the golden gates on the bridge (which were beautifully adorned with garlands of flowers, bearing an appropriate motto (prepared by Mr. Dean, his lordship's head gardener), above which were family banners wound round the pool side, round the chapel to the front of the hall, where the noble Earl and Countess, with the youthful Viscount Tamworth, and Lady Augusta Shirley, and visitors were assembled. Here the procession halted, where three cheers were given for each member of the family. His lordship thanked the people for their kindness in a short and appropriate speech, and hoped they would enjoy themselves when they returned to the scene of their festivities. His lordship then proposed three cheers for the Queen, and afterwards three cheers for our worthy selves. The National Anthem was then played, **and the procession then returned to the "Horse and Groom Inn"**. The cannon roaring gave notice of their departure, the bells ringing and the band playing till they reached the Inn, where they were refreshed with some good nut-brown ale and tobacco. Dancing commenced, and was kept up with great spirit till the

shades of evening closed upon them. The National Anthem was then sung, and the party separated, highly pleased with their day's entertainments, which will long be remembered.

**LEICESTER CHRONICLE – SAT 20<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 1861**  
**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS APRIL 13<sup>TH</sup>**

**Thomas Mason of Staunton Harold (Lount), publican**, was charged by Inspector Ward with having in his possession, two quarts and seven pint jugs which were deficient. The defendant stated that he had kept an ale house for thirty nine years. **But they had caught “the old fox at last”**. Great praise is due to Insp. Ward for looking into the matter. – **Fined £1.**

**LEICESTER CHRONICLE – 9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 1880**  
**ASHBY PETTY SESSIONS**

Adulterated Whiskey – **Thomas Mason, Innkeeper, Lount** was charged with selling unadulterated whiskey on the 24<sup>th</sup> August.- Defendant said he had sold it as he had been told to do. – Inspector Holloway said that on the 24<sup>th</sup> August he went to the defendant's house; saw defendant and his daughter and asked for a pint of whiskey, which he was supplied in a bottle by the daughter in the presence of the defendant. He paid 2s 8d for the whiskey and then told the defendant that he was the inspector under the “Unadulterated Food and Drugs Act”. He divided the whiskey into three parts; sealed them, and gave defendant one of the bottles. Each was labeled “No.4R sample of whiskey”. Witness told defendant he should keep one and send the other to Dr. Emmerson to be analysed. He did so and produced his report, which showed the whiskey to be 36 degrees under proof.- **Defendant who pleaded ignorance of the law, was fined £1 13s 6d, including costs. – The money was paid.**