

# Oxfordshire

## 20-22 HART STREET: OCCUPIERS



*Nos 22 (left) and 20 Hart Street, in origin the cross wing and hall of a medieval house. No. 22 became a pub called the George, and was later occupied by bakers and rope makers. No. 20 became a pub called the Union (closed 1911).*

No evidence survives for who lived in the house in the Middle Ages, or who modernized it in the 16th or 17th centuries. The building was divided before the 1620s, when the left-hand part (now No. 22) was a tavern or pub called the *George*. In 1730 it was sold to the baker John Vickers or Vicars (died c.1762), who was followed by several more bakers. In 1851 the occupant was the baker Thomas Briant (1851 census).

From 1861 to 1928 William Cook and Sons traded as rope and twine merchants at 22 Hart Street. The 1861 census shows 44-year-old William Cook living here, with his wife Hannah and sons William and John. The Cook family remained into the 20th century, when Trades Directories listed William Cook & Son, the son and grandson of the earlier William. In recognition of this long history the shop became the *Old Rope Walk Café* in the 1950s.

No. 20 Hart Street (the right-hand part) became the *Union* or *Hand-in-Hand* beerhouse during the 18th century, probably in celebration of the union between England and Scotland. The *Union* closed in 1911.

In 2009 the premises were occupied by a bar and an estate agents (see photo).

*Research by Jill Kendal and Antonia Wellesley Davies (Henley Census Group), based on:*

- *Ann Cottingham, The Hostelries of Henley (2000)*
- *Ann Cottingham, A Walk Around Henley on Thames (Henley Archaeological and Historical Group)*
- *Henley Bridge Rentals and Court Leet Book in Oxfordshire Record Office*
- *Henley censuses 1841-1901 (transcripts by Henley Census Group)*

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