

# Townscape Heritage Project

## Building Timeline

# 13 HIGH STREET



## INTRODUCTION

The research to create a timeline of the historic buildings of Stockton has drawn on resources such as trade directories, newspapers and census information. Whilst we have been able to construct some quite detailed pictures, there are gaps which we would like to fill. If you have any further information that could assist us, please contact [Eleanor.blyth@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:Eleanor.blyth@stockton.gov.uk).

We would like to thank volunteers who have worked on the timelines.

## C 1851 HUMBLE

John Humble, a butcher was in occupation of 13 High Street in the early 1850s.

The 1849 Marriage register records the marriage of John Humble to Margaret Kingston. John is noted on record as a Widower. The York Herald of 26th May 1849 records the marriage taking place to Mrs Kingston on 20<sup>th</sup> of that month.

In 1851 John Humble is 42 years old according to the Census The 1851 Census records John Humble, Butcher residing at 13 High Street with his wife and children. He employs 1 apprentice.

By the time the 1861 Census is published, the Humble family have moved to another part of Stockton and from there to High Street. This is indicated by an advert in the Daily Gazette for Middlesbrough, Wednesday 2nd April 1884 for a butchery assistant, the applicant is directed to apply to John Humble at 69 High Street. Indeed, John Humble aged 72 years, Butcher is recorded at 69 High Street with his wife, son Richard and an assistant in the 1881 Census.

In 1873 Humble, is caught up in proceedings initiated by the Inspector of Nuisances along with 20 other Stockton butchers. The summons to court related to the collective failure of the butchers to provide sealable tubs for the removal of blood and garbage from their slaughter-houses. William Lund, G.W Airton, also of High Street were included in the list of defendants. The butchers were reported by the northern Echo 30<sup>th</sup> May 1873 to present a united front, stating they “sailed in one boat and were prepared to sink or swim together”. It was concluded that the Corporation should provide facilities for the removal of the waste if the butchers filled the tubs as required.



This case underlines the concern for sanitary conditions in towns and cities. Diseases such as cholera which had spread through the country in 1831 and epidemics of influenza and typhoid in 1837 and 1838 caused great concern. In the 19th century, there were two main theories about what caused disease. These two theories had a profound effect on public health. Miasma theory explained diseases as caused by the presence, in the air, of a miasma. A miasma was a kind of poisonous gas in which minute particles of decaying matter invisible to the naked eye were suspended. The miasma theory made sense to those trying to improve public health. Industrialisation and the rapid growth of towns had created many dirty, foul-smelling areas in cities. It was these areas in which disease was rampant therefore if housing and sanitation were improved so would public health. The germ theory of disease gradually replaced the miasma theory as the existence of micro-organisms and their role in causing disease was accepted.

Edwin Chadwick's publication THE SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE LABOURING POPULATION published in 1842 showed the link between poor living conditions, disease and life expectancy and his investigation prompted the Public Health Act of 1848 and the establishment of the General Board of Health. By the 1850s, the appointment of an Inspector of Nuisances in each area was mandatory. The Public Health Act 1875 resulted in part of the country having a public health authority with at least one medical officer and one sanitary inspector to ensure that the laws on food adulteration, housing, water supplies and cleansing were enforced. Local authorities were given wide powers to lay sewers and drains, build reservoirs, parks, public baths and public conveniences. It is not surprising that there was a drive to ensure the streets were clear of the debris from the butchery businesses in the town.

Humble appears to have had some political aspirations. He was a candidate in the 1865 elections unfortunately receiving no votes according to the Newcastle Daily Chronicle 2<sup>nd</sup> November of that year. Newcastle Journal Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1869 records John Humble being elected as auditor/assessor.

John Humble junior, who was 8 years old when the family lived at 13 High Street also became a butcher. An article entitled 'Freak of Nature' in the Durham County Advertiser of Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 1868 describes how John slaughtered a sheep that turned out to possess only one kidney which weighed in at 6oz, the average weight being 2 ½ to 3oz.



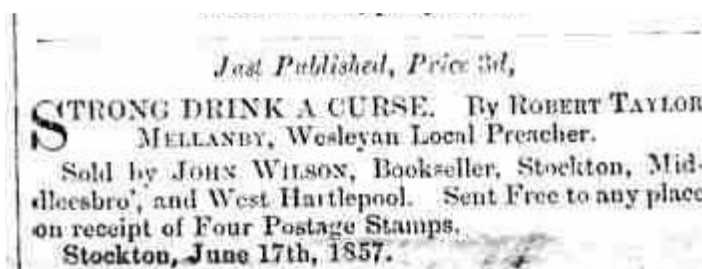
## C 1855 WILSON

John Wilson is in the 1855 Slater's Directory of Stockton in the Booksellers, Stationers and Printers Section at 13 High Street. Wilson had premises in Hartlepool, Middlesbrough and Stockton. He is recorded as occupying number 8 High Street in 1851.

In the 1858 Post Office Directory he is registered at 13 High Street Stockton and 30 Church Street West Hartlepool John Wilson Bookseller is at the premises according to the 1861 Census. He is a widower, residing there with a housekeeper, his 5 children. In 1877 John Wilson is advertising from 13 High Street

Advertisements from the time provide us with some evidence of the type and variety of goods on sale as well as some insight into some of the social issues of the day, a prominent theme being Temperance.

Wilson's advert for 'Strong Drink A curse' is reflective of the concern in the nineteenth century that excess consumption of alcohol as a social problem. The temperance movement aimed to change the culture and practice of drinking. The movement had a strong religious dimension. Primitive Methodists strongly supported temperance and the Salvation Army took the anti-drink message directly onto the streets.



Durham Chronicle - Friday 10 July 1857

A likely author can be traced locally. The 1871 Census records Robert Taylor Mellanby, born 1831 and residing at 158 High Street aged 39. He is a Dried Fish Merchant and Wesleyan Local Preacher. He would have been a very young man when he published this work. In 1851 he is recorded by the York Herald of 6th March 1889 as marrying Alice Weddell. His death at 142 High Street aged 57 is recorded by the York Herald of 6<sup>th</sup> March 1889.

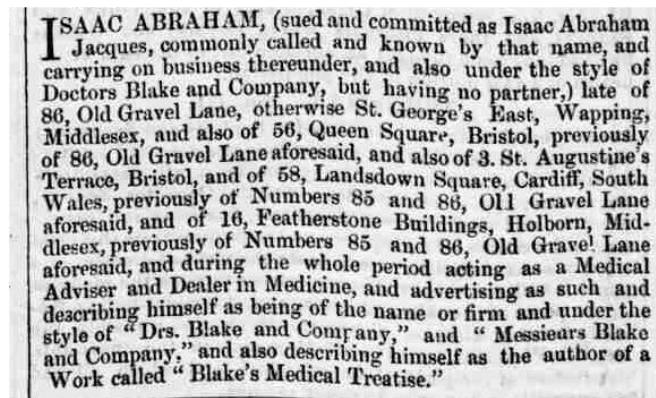
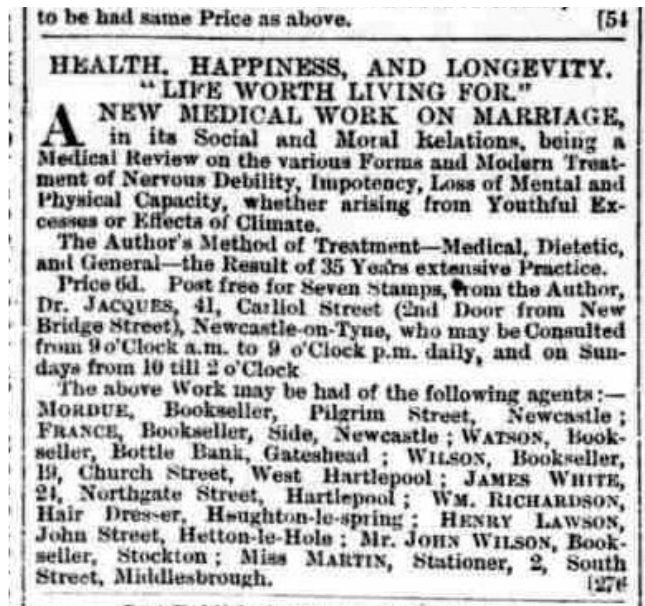


The Newcastle Courant of 15<sup>th</sup> July 1870 offers a “medical work on marriage”. This advert was run several times.

This was a time when there was little information available on sex and contraception. ‘Medical’ advice was often secured anonymously via advertisements. Of course, the quality of the advice and indeed the credentials of the person offering that advice were not always reliable.

There is an Isaac Abraham Jacques registered at 41 Carliol Street Newcastle in the Newcastle Burgess Lists from the years 1853 to 1876. This indicates that Jacques was entitled to vote. The address is recorded as a house. There are numerous advertisements for cures for a variety of complaints in the press related to Jacques at 41 Carliol Street. There are several advertisements related to a move to 41 Carliol Street from 27 New Bridge Street under the name Isaac Abraham Jacques. There are also advertisements relating to Jacob Abraham Jacques at 27 New Bridge Street. Jacob Jacques is confirmed in the Burgess Lists.

Note of court proceedings against a person named Isaac Abraham Jacques, acting as Medical Adviser and Dealer in Medicine are recorded in the Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian, Glamorgan, Monmouth, and Brecon Gazette of 11<sup>th</sup> September 1858.



Jacques also appears in the Perry's Bankrupt Gazette of the same day.

Isaac Abraham Jacque's death on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1875 is recorded in the National Probate Calendar. His occupation is recorded as Dealer in Medicine.

The South Durham & Cleveland Mercury Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1877 and South Durham & Cleveland Mercury show the range on sale. A huge range of goods are offered including Christmas Annuals. Magazines and periodicals especially for children began appearing in England in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Early examples were *The Boy's Own Paper* and its counterpart, *The Girls Own Paper*. The *Boys' Own Annual* and *Girls Own Annual* provided a seasonal offer of a mix of stories and educational articles, along with coloured illustrations and often poetry.

John Wilson's death aged 62 years on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1878 at his home address of 28 Reid Street West Hartlepool is recorded in the Hartlepool Northern Daily Mail of 28<sup>th</sup> May 1878.

The 1879 Postal Directory records the continued presence of John Wilson's booksellers at 13 High Street. By the 1880s the Stockton branch is under the control of William Frankland.

John Wilson junior's death is reported in the Northern Echo 11<sup>th</sup> January 1894. Mrs Wilson announced that she was continuing the business at West Hartlepool.

Hartlepool Northern Daily Mail 10<sup>th</sup> February 1894

**DEATH OF MR JOHN WILSON, OF WEST HARTLEPOOL.**—It is with regret we announce the death of Mr John Wilson, bookseller and newsagent, Church-street, West Hartlepool, which took place at his residence, Esk House, Lucan-street, on Wednesday morning, about three o'clock. The deceased gentleman had been in indifferent health for the past few weeks, but was able to attend to his business until a week ago. He was first seized with an attack of influenza, and afterwards caught a cold, which ultimately caused his death. He has been under the careful attention of Drs. Loan and Davis. He took the management of his father's business about sixteen years ago for the benefit of the whole family. Shortly after this he married, and after his father's death took the sole charge of the business, which, in its kind, is the largest in the Hartlepoons. He was very cheery and obliging, thus gaining for himself a large amount of public support. In his establishment he had placed a large quantity of books, to which he kindly allowed free access on the part of the local press representatives, who much appreciated his kindness. Mr Wilson always took a great interest in local and Imperial matters. He was a Liberal in politics, although he was not a member of any local body. The deceased gentleman was in his forty-third year, and his widow and child are left with many sympathisers at their bereavement. This news will be received with surprise by all who knew him, as his illness was comparatively short.

**TRADE ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

**JOHN WILSON,**  
BOOKSELLER, NEWSAGENT, STATIONER,  
19, CHURCH-ST., WEST HARTLEPOOL.

Mrs JOHN WILSON respectfully intimates that she is CONTINUING THE BUSINESS of her late husband as hitherto, and hopes she will continue to receive the patronage of the Public, which has for so many years been bestowed upon the firm.

London Parcels Daily. All the latest Publications.  
Newspapers, Magazines, &c., delivered to all parts of the town twice daily.  
Postal orders per return.  
Enquiries as to Books, &c., gladly received and answered.



C 1871 FRANKLAND

The 1871 Census shows William Frankland, Book Seller at 13 High Street whilst the premises was still operating as J Wilson. He resides with his wife, siblings and a servant. William Frankland was the son in law of John Wilson.

The 1881 Directory records William Frankland Bookseller, Stationer, Newsagent and Fancy Goods at 13 High Street. The 1881 Census shows William Frankland, his wife, sister-in-law, 6 children, a servant and a nurse. The 1891 Census shows William Frankland at the address with his wife, 9 children and a servant.

Frankland, Book Seller is recorded at 13 High Street Stockton in the 1890 Kelly's Directory of Durham. There is also reference to an address at 2 Yarm Lane. The family's continued residence at 13 High Street is recorded in the 1891 Census. In 1894 Frankland is recorded in the Newsagent, Stationer and Bookseller sections of the Whellan's Directory of that year.

The Frankland family are also reported in the press. An audacious theft of valuable books from his warehouse was widely reported in the national news.

An accident is reported in the Blyth News - Saturday 30 April 1892. Frankland's son was at the shop, playing with a revolver and accidentally shot himself.

**THEFT OF 1,500 VOLUMES OF OLD BOOKS.**

At Stockton, yesterday, a man named John Raine was charged with breaking into the warehouse of Mr. William Frankland, bookseller and stationer, High-street. Mr. Frankland stated that his warehouse was situated in Middle-street, and had in it a very large quantity of valuable old books which had been collected by his father-in-law, the late Mr. J. Wilson. He had recently missed about 1,500 volumes of books, and had discovered that an entrance had been effected through the roof of the warehouse from a workshop which the prisoner had above prosecutor's warehouse. He estimated the value of the stolen books at not less than £100.—Sergeant Cameron deposed to arresting the prisoner, and finding a quantity of books and other articles in prisoner's house, which had since been identified by Mr. Frankland as some of the stolen property. Witness examined the warehouse, and found that several boards had been taken out and then screwed down again, so that prisoner could readily effect an entrance from his workshop. The lock of Mr. Frankland's warehouse had also some short time ago been forced off, which would give the impression that an entrance had been effected in that manner, but since a new lock had been put on. Witness had made inquiries and found that on the 18th of April prisoner had sent a quantity of books to Mr. Lewis, auctioneer, West Hartlepool, who sold them for five guineas. On the 8th May prisoner sent another lot to Mr. Lewis, and they were sold for £4 12s. 6d. He had also sent 52 books and a quantity of other articles, consisting of ink-bottles, pictures, flower-holders, &c., to Mr. Lithgow, Middlesbrough, for sale; Mr. Metcalfe, auctioneer, Stockton; Mr. Pybus, Mr. Hansell, Mr. Apleton; indeed, witness said, nearly all the auctioneers in the district had been selling books for the prisoner during the last three months. Witness had also discovered that a box of books had been sent by prisoner to his brother in Lunedale. Prisoner pleaded guilty, and upon the application of Superintendent Bell he was remanded till Thursday.

York Herald 10th June 1890

**NEWS IN BRIEF.**

C. T. BULL & Co., have the best and newest goods for press.

**REVOLVER ACCIDENT.**—On Saturday Robert H. E. Frankland accidentally shot himself on the premises of his father, Mr. William Frankland, bookseller, Stockton. He was playing with a revolver, and turning sharply round to see someone who had entered the shop, he accidentally discharged the weapon. The bullet lodged in the lower part of the back of his head, but fortunately not in a vital place. Master Frankland was taken to the hospital, where he remains. He is happily not dangerously hurt.

**FEMALE CORRECTIVE MIXTURE,** a never-failing remedy for the many maladies to which the sex are liable, removing obstructions, from whatever cause. —For book, &c., address D. HIGSON, Box 384, North Street, Nottingham.

Extraordinary accident: Richmond and Rippon Chronicle (30 April 1892)



In October 1892 it was announced in the press that William Frankland, bookseller of 13 High Street, Stockton and 2 Yarm Lane, Stockton was subject of bankruptcy proceedings. In an account of the proceedings William Frankland stated that he had taken on the business carried on by his father in law John Wilson in 1878. Prior to this he had been working as a stationers assistant. He had invested in improvements to the fixtures and fittings of the shop but business had been greatly affected by the Durham strike.

The 1901 Census records that William Frankland is working as an art and antique dealer.

## DICKENSON

The Ward's Directory from its 1898-1899 to its 1917-1918 edition show Dickenson, Confectioner at the address. George Dickenson is resident at 13 High Street with his wife and children according to the 1901 Census.

The Northern Echo of 15<sup>th</sup> December 1893 reports that George Dickenson, Confectioner was fined 2S 6d plus costs for allowing his chimney to be on fire.

The 1911 Census records George Dickenson still at 13 High Street. He is a widow, working as a confectioner. He has 4 of his children living with him, the two older children are stated to be working as assistants. The property is stated to have 6 rooms.







C 1981 HARRIS

In 1981 Harris Furnishers is at this location.



Figure 1 <https://picturestocktonarchive.com/2012/11/09/stockton-high-street-1973-11/>

