

# Townscape Heritage Project

## Building Timeline

# 18 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.

## 1861 UNTHANK

William Senior's wife died in 1854.

The Unthank family is associated with 18 High Street from the 1860s. The 1861 Census records William Unthank senior, a joiner and cabinet maker and William Unthank Junior, a proprietor of houses at 18 High Street.

An advertisement regarding a lost dog answering to the name Jack s posted in the Stockton Herald, South Durham and Cleveland Advertiser - Friday 22 August 1862 by William Unthank of 18 High Street, Stockton.

Stockton Herald, South Durham and Cleveland Advertiser - Saturday 23 July 1870 reports that plans to approve the alteration of the Herald Office submitted by William Unthank were approved.

Stockton Herald, South Durham and Cleveland Advertiser - Saturday 13 November 1875 William Unthank of 18 High Street has asked it to be made known that he is not the owner of Unthank's yard subject of a report of nuisance

## C 1879 SHORT

John Short, Saddler is recorded at the premises in the 1879 Postal Directory. John Short, Master Saddler employing 2 men and a boy appears in the 1881 Census as a visitor at the home of William Sanderson, butcher 25 Portrack Lane. He appears also in the 1871 address as a resident, his father, Stephen Short, Contractor being recorded as the head of the household. John is recorded a Saddler.

The Northern Echo - Saturday 29 November 1879 confirms the presence of John Short, Saddler on High Street through his advertisement for a pony for sale. The Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer of 16<sup>th</sup> December 1880 holds an advertisement for a good stable helper of trustworthy character : wages £1 a week and lodgings. Applicants are to address themselves to John

Short, Saddler,



Stockton on Tees. No address is given. The Unthank family is recorded at number 18 High Street by 1881 so it may be that Short has moved on by this time.

The Northern Echo 9<sup>th</sup> November 1891 reports a fire in the warehouse of John Short, Saddler behind his premises on High Street, indicating his presence on the High Street in that year. Damage was reported to be slight and the cause of the fire was not known. The Kelly's Directory for 1890 records John Short, Saddler at 21 High Street and the 1894 Whelan's Directory records John Short, Saddler having a business as such on Front Street, Stockton. The 1891 Census records John, Short, Saddler residing at 12 Sydney Street, Stockton.

Advertisements throughout the late 1800s and early 1900s confirm the presence of J Short Saddler on High Street and give an insight into the variety of goods sold.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

**J. SHORT,**

SADDLER AND HARNESS MAKER,

**T**AKES this opportunity of thanking his friends and patrons for the liberal patronage bestowed upon him during the six years he has been in business, and begs to inform them that he has

REMOVED to NEW and MORE CENTRAL PREMISES

**No. 18, High-street, Stockton,**

(Near the Old Church, and opposite Messrs Sizith and Co.'s, Cabinet Makers) where he has on hand a FIRST-CLASS STOCK OF GOODS of every description connected with the trade, and hopes to merit a continuance of their support.

Harness of every description made to order. Repairing in all its branches.

Observe the Address,—

**J. SHORT,**

18, HIGH STREET, STOCKTON.

J. Short

Figure 1 Notice: Daily Gazette for Middlesbrough (14 August 1876)



Figure 2 Cart and Waggon Covers: Northern Echo (12th February 1887)

Lot 2.—All that HOUSE, being Number 22, High-street, Stockton-on-Tees, and the Surgery attached, and up to the time of his death in the occupation of the late Dr. R. W. Foss. Also all that SHOP adjoining, now in the occupation of Mr J. Short, Saddler. This Lot is well situated for business purposes, and will always command good tenants at remunerative

Figure 3 Lot 2 : Northern Echo (9 May 1894)

HUNTING SADDLES, Bridles, Whips, Spurs, Game and Carriage Bags, &c., of the best quality and lowest prices.—J. Short, Saddler, &c., 21, High-street, Stockton. 1857

Figure 4 Hunting Saddles: Northern Echo (18 October 1892)

The Short family business supported Stockton's Coronation festivities in 1911 with streamers and mottoes according to the Darlington & Stockton Times, Ripon & Richmond Chronicle, Saturday 24th June 1911

Mrs W. S. Short, of Stockton, has received official intimation that her husband, Pte. W. S. Short, of the 5th Lancashires, who has been missing since March 16th last, must be presumed as having died on that date. The deceased soldier was a son of Mr J. Short, saddler, of High-street, Stockton, and was employed in his father's business.

Figure 5 Mrs W.S Short: Daily Gazette for Middlesbrough (1st March 1919)



The Daily Gazette for Middlesbrough 30th May 1918 contains an advertisement for an errand boy, the ability to drive being specified as a requirement.

William Sanderson Short is shown in the 1911 Census for 20 High Street as 21 years old . He would therefore have been only 29 years old when he died. Military records show that William Sanderson Short died on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1918 in Flanders. Poignantly, the Probate Calendar records Private William Sanderson Short of 47 Wellington Street died on active service in France. Leaving an estate of £178. 7s 1d to his widow Lottie Elizabeth Short. They had married in January 1917.

### C 1881 UNTHANK & PEACE

Unthank is recorded at the address in the 1881 Directory with no occupation stated. The 1881 Census records William Unthank, aged 53, unmarried at the address with a domestic servant. His occupation is noted as House Agent.

Unthank Gentleman and L.C Peace, Hairdresser are recorded at 18 High Street in the 1898-1899 and 1900-1901 Ward's Directory. William Unthank is recorded in the 1894 Directory but no occupation is stated.

The 1834 Pigot's Directory records William Unthank at High Street in the category of shop keepers and dealers. No number is stated.

On 19<sup>th</sup> April 1828 The Durham Advertiser contains a notice referring to indenture to William Unthank . Indenture is a legal and binding contract usually associated with bond agreements, real estate, or bankruptcy.



**W**HEREAS JOHN DIXON, of Stockton, in the county of Durham, grocer, hath by indenture of assignment, bearing date the 9th day of April instant, assigned all his stock in trade, and other personal estate and effects, unto William Unthank, of Stockton aforesaid, joiner and cabinet maker, and John Richardson, of the same place, book-keeper, in trust for the equal benefit of his creditors;—Notice is hereby given, that the assignment is left at the office of Mr R. PULMAN, Solicitor, in Stockton, for the perusal and concurrence of the creditors; and that such of them as shall refuse or neglect to accept of the provision thereby made, on or before the 9th day of June next, will be excluded all benefit arising therefrom.— And all persons who stand indebted to the said John Dixon are requested to pay their respective debts, either to the said William Unthank or John Richardson, or to R. Pulman, otherwise actions will be commenced for the recovery thereof.

Stockton, 15th April, 1828.

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On 31<sup>st</sup> December 1830 the Durham Advertiser publishes a further notice.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS.**

**W**HEREAS WILLIAM UNTHANK, of Stockton, in the county of Durham, joiner and cabinet-maker, hath by Indenture bearing date the 22d day of December instant, assigned all his Personal Estate and Effects unto William Beckwith, of Stockton aforesaid, timber-merchant, John Richardson, of the same place, Accountant, and William Watson, also of the same place, Auctioneer, *In Trust*, for the equal benefit of his Creditors—*Notice is hereby given, that the Deed is lodged at the Office of J. LONGSTAFF, Solicitor, Stockton, for the perusal and signature of the Creditors; and those who shall refuse or neglect to execute the same, within 3 calendar months from the date thereof, will be excluded all benefit arising therefrom. And all Persons who stand indebted to the same William Unthank, are hereby requested to pay the sums due from them respectively to the said Trustees.*

Stockton, 23d Dec., 1830.

It appears that William Unthank senior has run into financial difficulties. By 1831 the Newcastle Courant was reporting a meeting of William Unthank’s creditors. The Durham County Advertiser of 21<sup>st</sup> October 1831 contains a notice of a pending court hearing for William and several others as insolvent debtors. The shame of this situation in society at the time is reflected in the criminalisation of the debtors who have clearly been imprisoned. The notice states the right of creditors to oppose the release of the prisoner.



**THE COURT FOR RELIEF OF INSOLVENT DEBTORS.**

*N. B. See the Notice at the end of these Advertisements.*

**T**HE Matters of the Petitions and Schedules of the Prisoners hereinafter named (the same having been filed in the Court) are appointed to be heard as follows:—At the Court House at Durham, in the county of Durham, on the 12th day of November, 1831, at 10 o'clock in the morning.

**WILLIAM OXLEY** the younger, formerly of Byer Moor, in the parish of Whickham, in the county of Durham, farmer, and late of Burnip Field, in the county of Durham, common brewer and publican, sued by the name of William Oxley.

**WILLIAM UNTHANK**, late of Stockton upon Tees, in the county of Durham, joiner, cabinet-maker, painter, and appraiser.

**JOHN PATTON**, late of Ayton Banks, in the county of Durham, joiner.

**WILLIAM HEPPEL**, formerly of Staindrop, in the county of Durham, stationer, music master, organist, and tea and coffee dealer, and late of Staindrop aforesaid, music master and organist.

**RICHARD WALTON**, late of South Shields, in the county of Durham, publican and cartman.

**THOMAS ANDERSON**, late of South Shields, in the county of Durham, boot and shoemaker.

**GILBERT BULCRAIG**, late of Gateshead, in the county of Durham, millwright and engine builder.

**RALPH SISTERSON**, of Birtley, in the parish of Chester-le-Street, in the county of Durham, farmer, and of Killingworth West Moor, in the parish of Long Benton, in the county of Northumberland, shopkeeper, and late of Birtley aforesaid, husbandman, and his wife was beer-drawer to Jacob Potts, of Birtley aforesaid, innkeeper.

**EDWARD HUGHES**, formerly of Colliery Row, in the parish of Houghton-le-Spring, in the county of Durham, pitman, and late of Eastington Lane, in the parish aforesaid, in the said county, pitman.

**WILLIAM HART**, late of Stockton upon Tees, in the county of Durham, grocer and draper, joiner, and cabinet-maker.

**THOMAS ROBSON**, formerly of Binchester, in the parish of Saint Andrew Auckland, in the county of Durham, farmer; afterwards of Bishop Auckland, in the said county, farmer; then of West Rainton, in the said county, farmer, and late of Pear Tree House, near West Rainton, in the said county, farmer.

**TAKE NOTICE.**

1. If any Creditor intends to OPPOSE a Prisoner's discharge, NOTICE of such intention must be given to the said Prisoner IN WRITING, three CLEAR days before the day of Hearing, EXCLUSIVE of Sunday, and EXCLUSIVE both of the day of giving such Notice and of the said day of Hearing.

2. But in the Case of a Prisoner, whom his Creditors have removed by an Order of the Court, from a Gaol in or near London, for hearing in the Country, such Notice of Opposition will be sufficient if given One Clear Day before the Day of Hearing.

3. The Petition and Schedule will be produced by the proper Officer for INSPECTION and EXAMINATION, at the Office of the Court in London, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, between the hours of Ten and Four; and Copies of the Petition and Schedule, if such Part thereof as shall be required, will be provided by the proper Officer, according to the Act 7 Geo. IV. c. 57, sec. 76.

*N. B.* Entrance to the Office, in Portugal Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields. 4. The Duplicate of the Petition and Schedule, and all Books, Papers, and Writings filed therewith, will be produced for INSPECTION and EXAMINATION by the Clerk of the Peace, Town Clerk, or other Person, with whom the same shall have been directed to be lodged for such purpose, at the Office of such Clerk of the Peace or other Person, and COPIES of the Petition and Schedule, or such Part thereof as shall be required, will be there provided, according to the Act 7 Geo. IV. c. 57, sec. 77, or the Act 5 Geo. IV. c. 61, sec. 11, as the case may be.

JOHN TAYLOR, G, Clement's Inn, London,  
For H. J. MARSHALL, Durham.

An account of the court proceedings has not been traced. However, the Durham County Advertiser of 25th April 1834 records the sale by auction of various properties on the High Street de to William Unthank being an insolvent debtor. Until 1861, only those who bought and sold goods to make a living could be made bankrupt. Others who were unable to pay their debts were referred to as 'insolvent debtors'.<sup>1</sup> Those imprisoned for debt could apply

<sup>1</sup> The Gazette In debt and incarcerated: the tyranny of debtors' prisons <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/>



to the court to be released, unless they were in trade or guilty of fraudulent or other dishonest behaviour, by reaching an agreement with their creditors that ensured a fair distribution of their present and future assets . The sale appears to have been part of the agreement with William’s creditors.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>STOCKTON.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,</b> (By order of the surviving Assignee of William Unthank, an Insolvent Debtor.) <i>At the Vane Arms Inn, in Stockton, on Tuesday, the 29th of April instant, at six o'clock in the evening,</i> Mr W. W. WATSON, Auctioneer.</p> <p><b>T</b>HE LIFE-INTEREST of the said Wm. Unthank, and Margaret, his wife. (during their joint lives,) in all <b>THOSE COPYHOLD MESSUAGES or DWELLING-HOUSES,</b> situate on the east side of the High-Street, and near the Church, Stockton, now or late in the several occupations of William Unthank, the Misses Middleton, James Atkinson, John Oliver, Mary Roberts, and others.</p> <p>The property may be viewed on application to the Auctioneer ; of whom or of Mr PULMAN, Solicitor, Stockton, further particulars may be known.</p> <p>April 17th, 1834.</p>	ne W Ba  of an im fro 2s.  sh pri  las sal va ma Be Ta  ha e.
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The list of items sold gives an insight into the contents of what must have been a very comfortable home in the period.



**HARTLEPOOL.**

**The Sale of the Valuable HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE at Hartlepool, BELONGING TO MR UNTHANK,**

*Will take place on **EASTER MONDAY, TUESDAY, and WEDNESDAY, the 4th, 5th, and 6th days of April, 1841,***

**By Mr WALKER, of DURHAM,**

**A**ND comprises, generally, mahogany dining, pembroke, card, dressing, and other tables; mahogany secretary and bookcases; handsome Grecian and other sofas; mahogany four-post bedsteads, with moreen and other hangings; camp bedsteads and hangings; feather beds; hair and wool mattresses; blankets and quilts; bed and table linen; pier and dressing glasses; handsome pictures, in gilt frames; carpets; china; cut and other glass; an eight days' clock; a good substantial London built Stanhope Gig, with new cushions, apron, &c.; a set of good harness; brass ornaments for a one horse chaise; two excellent side saddles, a good stuffed saddle, with double bridle, curb chain, &c., nearly new; a sailing boat, jib, fore and main spritsails, four ash oars, kedge and mooring chain, iron ballast, &c.; together with the whole of the Kitchen Utensils.

Also, a 21 **KEYED ORGAN**, with an elegant Gothic case, 5 stops, 5 barrels, 55 tunes, several of which are sacred music, and is admitted by amateurs not to be excelled as a powerful, melodious, and sweet toned instrument.

The sale will begin each day precisely at 12 o'clock, and catalogues may be had at the Vane Arms, Stockton; Hardwick Inn, Sedgfield; Castle Eden Inn; Mr Unthank, Hartlepool; and the Auctioneer, Durham.

The 1841 Census records William Unthank, joiner and his wife Margaret on High Street. It appears that he is able to continue working. The 1858 Post Office Directory for Northumberland and Durham records William Unthank, Joiner and Cabinet Maker at 18 High Street.

The 1851 Census records William Unthank senior, a Joiner and Cabinet Maker at 37 Grange Terrace, Norton. William Unthank, his son is recorded as resident with him working as his assistant. There is also a servant at the address. The death of Margaret Unthank on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1850 was recorded in the Richmond Chronicle 12<sup>th</sup> October of that year.

The 1861 Census shows William junior as a proprietor of houses living at 18 High Street with his father and a servant. His father William is a joiner and Cabinet Maker. William Unthank senior's death is recorded in the spring of 1866.

William Unthank, property owner is recorded in the 1871 Census at 18 High Street along with a servant. There is an article entitled 'A Hard Landlord' in the Durham County Advertiser dated 5<sup>th</sup> December 1879. William is clearly operating as a house agent on behalf of at least one other party.





**A HARD LANDLORD.**—At the Police Court on Monday, William Unthank, house agent, charged Alice Bell with removing her goods whilst owing £5 for rent.—Unthank said the owner of the house lived at Kirkby Stephen, and he was instructed by him to distrain upon defendant's furniture, but on entering he found there was no furniture there, and he was not sure whether there had ever been any.—Defendant said she had lived in the house for twenty years, and had always paid the rent until a year past in November. Her husband was dead, and she had 9s per week upon which to keep six children.—The case was dismissed.

The 1890 Kelly's Directory record William Unthank at 18 High Street. The 1894 Whelan's Directory also records William Unthank at 18 High Street. The 1891 Census records William Unthank at 18 High Street with a servant. He is 64 years old and stated to be living on his own means. His death is recorded in the spring of 1901 aged 73 years old. This ties in with the occupation by a new business around that date.

#### C 1902 MORIE

Mrs M Morie, milliner is recorded at the address in the 1902-1903 and 1904-1905 Ward's Directory.

#### C 1906 WILLIAMS & CO

Williams and Co Cycle Dealer is recorded at number 18 High Street in the Ward's Directory 1906-1907.

#### C 1908 LISTER

The 1908-1909 Ward's Directory records Lister 7 Co tailors at the address.

The 1912-1913 Ward's Directory records the address as The Board of Trade Labour Exchange with Mr W.H Williams manager.

There is an unnumbered entry in the Ward's 1918-1919 Directory that is occupied by the offices of Customs and Excise.

There is no number 18 recorded in the 1926-1927 Ward's Directory

The premises appears again in the 1936-1937 and the 1938-1939 Ward's Directory where is recorded as J.C Watson, Builder, T.W Bowman, solicitor and Ind. Coope & Allsopp, Ltd Brewers, T Littlefair, Agent with Mrs E. Alderson Caretaker.

