



Devon Family History Society
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DEVON RECORD OFFICE

TEIGNBRIDGE – REGISTER OF PUBLIC HOUSES

1872

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In 1552 an act of parliament required the sellers of alcoholic drinks to be licensed by two justices of the peace. A later act, in 1753, required the licensees to produce sureties of good behaviour and the clerk of the peace at the Quarter Sessions to keep a register of victuallers and their recognizances. This situation changed with the Licensing Act of 1828 and the Beer Act of 1830. The Licensing Act repealed all the earlier licensing acts and stated that victuallers were to be licensed by licensing divisions, but it made no provision for the keeping of records of licensees and their premises. The boundaries of Petty Sessional Divisions were more clearly defined following an act of parliament passed in the same year and licensing divisions usually followed the same boundaries. The Beer Act, to encourage the sale of beer, drew a distinction between beer houses, which could sell only those drinks, and public houses which could also sell wines and spirits; the act made it possible for any householder paying the poor rate, to buy an excise licence and sell beer, ale and cider without obtaining a licence from the magistrates. In 1869, the Wine and Beerhouse Act reversed this situation by requiring retailers of beer and wine to obtain a licence from the justices. In 1872 the Intoxicating Liquor Act, made the clerks of the divisions responsible for keeping registers of all the licences granted. In practice, this means that records of licensees will be found among Quarter Sessions records until 1828, from 1828 to 1872 there are no records of licensing at all and from 1872 onwards, most records of licensees and licensed premises are to be found in Petty Sessions records.

The register which is indexed here is for the division of Teignbridge. Most of the licenses were granted on 27th August 1872, with a few the following month, on 24th September. There were various types of licence which all had to be renewed annually: full licences, licences for the sale of beer either on or off the premises, refreshment licences (for alcohol to be consumed on the premises with a meal) and grocers' licences. The register is divided into sections according to the type of licence issued. It records the particulars of the licence, the name and address of the premises, the name and address of the owner of the premises and the name of the licence holder. There are a few pages at the end of the register recording the transfer of licences in December 1872 and April and June 1873. The register is the first in a series of registers for Teignbridge division which includes the following towns and villages: Abbotskerswell, Ashburton, Bickington, Bishopsteignton, Bovey Tracey, Chudleigh, Dawlish, Denbury, Hennock, Holne, Ideford, Ilsington, Ipplepen, Kingskerswell,

Kingsteignton, Manaton, Newton Abbot, Staverton, Shaldon, Stokeinteignhead,
Teignmouth, Torbryan, Trusham and Widecombe.