

18 Horsefair Kidderminster – The Cock Inn

Many people moved into Kidderminster seeking work and a better lives for their families. One such family was the Dudley / Cosson family.

In 1849 **Jesse Harry Dudley** was born in Birmingham and as a young man he joined the army and clearly travelled. In 1880 Jesse married **Julia Clara Cossons** (born in Southampton, Hampshire in 1856) also it seems from an army family. Her father **Henry Cossons** was born at Wotton under Edge, Gloucestershire.

Jesse and Julia had thirteen children. **Clara Maud Dudley** born 1878 in Fleetwood, Lancashire, **Ernest William Dudley** born 1880 in Chatham, Kent, **Jessie Gertrude Dudley** born 1881 in Dover, Kent, **Lionel Albert George Dudley** born in 1882 in Gibraltar, **Mildred Julia Dudley** born 1884 in Aldershot, Hampshire and **William Harry Dudley** born 1886 in Dover, Kent. **Mabel Edith Dudley** born 1888 in Bewdley, **Dorothy Dudley** born 1890 in Wolverley, **Leonard Dudley** born 1892 in Kidderminster, **Lawrence Dudley** born 1894 in Kidderminster, **Frank Seymour Dudley** 1896 in Cookley, **Marjorie Dudley** born 1900 in Kidderminster & **Daisy Helen Dudley** born 1901 in Kidderminster

On the 5th April 1891 census night **Jesse Harry** 42 is still a Sergeant in the army and he and wife **Julia Clara** 34 and children **Clara Maud** 12, **Ernest William** 11, **Jessie Gertrude** 10, **Lionel Albert George** 9, **Mildred Julia** 7, **William Harry** 5 were all in school and **Mabel Edith** 3 & **Dorothy** 1 were at Mulbury House, Austcliffe Row, Cookley, Wolverley, Kidderminster, Worcestershire.

By 1901 **Jesse Harry** was 52 years old and was no longer in the army but the publican at 18 the Horsefair, Kidderminster. His wife **Julia Clara** aged 44 and 11 of their children were with them aged between 4 months and 20 years old. **Jesse Gertrude** 20 was a Letter Rug (wool) carpet worker, **Lionel Albert** 18 was a carpet designer and **William Harry** 15 was a labourer in the carpet works.

However by 1911 **Jesse Harry** aged 62 and some of the family had moved from Kidderminster to London living at 47 Whiskin Street, Clerkenwell, Holborn, London. With him was his wife **Julia Clara**, and 7 of their unmarried children, sons **Leonard** 19 a gas fitter, **Laurence** 17 a baker and **Frank** 15 a labourer and daughters **Mildred** 26 a cook, **Dorothy** 21 an optical case maker, **Marjorie** 12 and **Daisy** 10 no occupation but would have been in school plus in the household boarder Joseph Major 25 single a butcher. Jesse and Julia had no occupation but had been married for 35 full years and had 13 children all still living. There were five children working and the boarder.

As yet we have no specific date between 1891 and 1901 that the Dudley's moved into number 18 The Horsefair or between 1901 and 1911 that they left for London. We are trying to track down **Jesse Harry Dudley's** Army Discharge papers and The Licence for the public house to establish this.

We do have an undated newspaper article from The Hive about son **Ernest William Dudley** born 1880 going off with The Worcestershire Volunteers for South Africa as a bugler with the First VB Worcestershire Regiment A company off to The Boer War. He is listed as home address The Cock Inn Horsefair, Kidderminster. During the Boer War both the 1st Battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment was in actions between March 1900 to 1902. We know he served 17 years as he states this when being signed up for WWI Sep 1914 from 11 Radford Avenue, Kidderminster, Worcestershire.

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