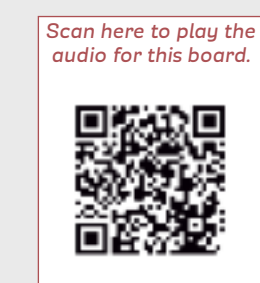


Shops & Trades

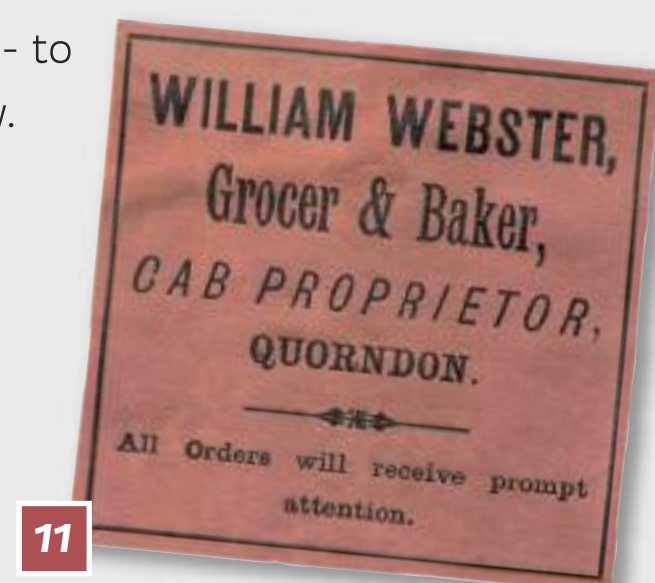
Quorn largely developed around agriculture but as other trades became established, Victorian Quorn became regarded as a semi-industrial village. By the late 1800s, Quorn supported a wide variety of shops and businesses that made it virtually self-sufficient and many residents would go for years without leaving the village. There were shops on almost every street and workshops tucked in amongst the houses.

General Grocery Shops

With no supermarkets, cars or fridges, shopping for groceries was a daily activity. In the early 1900s on Quorn Cross there was North's (which was also the Post Office), Albarn's on Leicester Road, Quorn Co-op on Station Road, Adcock's on Sarson Street, Wiseshall's on the corner of Farnham Street and Barrow Road, Birkin's (later Clarke's) on Freehold Street, Priestley's on High Street, Fanny Clarke's on Meeting Street - to name just a few.



Scan here to play the audio for this board.



With no such thing as bank cards, all transactions were in cash, although if you were trusted you may be allowed 'tick' (credit) and pay later.

Butchers and Bakers

There were four or five butchers and bakers and some would have a cart and take their wares around the streets. Selvester's butcher's on High Street and Harry Hardy's on Barrow Road both had their own slaughter-houses. Bakers would open on Sundays to allow women to bring their Sunday roast along for cooking in the bread oven.

Dairies

There were many local dairies including Russ's Dairy on Nursery Lane, Tommy Allen at 46 Station Road, Roy Moss (Quorn Fields Dairy) and Harry Halford. Milk was originally delivered direct from the churn, with dairies being part of a farm. Separate dairies and milk in glass bottles came along in the first half of the 20th century.

Blacksmiths

When transport was horse drawn, Quorn Hunt was at Quorn Hall and cooking pans were mended rather than being thrown away, there

was plenty of work for blacksmiths. The Holmes family were blacksmiths from the early 1800s and Thomas Holmes was still working on Meeting Street in the early 1940s. The Gartshores, another old Quorn family, came to the village around 1860 when farrier George Gartshore settled here.

Wheelwrights

Carts and carriages needed wheels and each one was custom made. The Bates family were wheelwrights in Quorn for at least four generations from the 1700s to the 1930s. There were two branches, William Bates and his forebears at (what is now) 53 Meeting Street and brothers Tom and Joe Bates, descendants of Edmund Bates, on the corner of School Lane and Leicester Road.

Builders, Joiners and Undertakers

Henry Fewkes, his son Benjamin and grandson William Henry Fewkes were builders in Quorn from the early 1800s to 1930. They built Quorn War Memorial and many houses including some on Barrow Road, Chaveney Road and Loughborough Road.

There were two large woodyards in addition to many small joiners and carpenters.

John Sanders ran his steam driven sawmill at 27 Meeting Street from the 1860s. His son John carved the roodscreen for the Church in 1913.

Henry Facer, a young carpenter arrived in Quorn in the late 1860s and his son Harry established a large woodyard on Meeting Street, where Sanders Road is today. This was destroyed by fire on 5th November 1885.

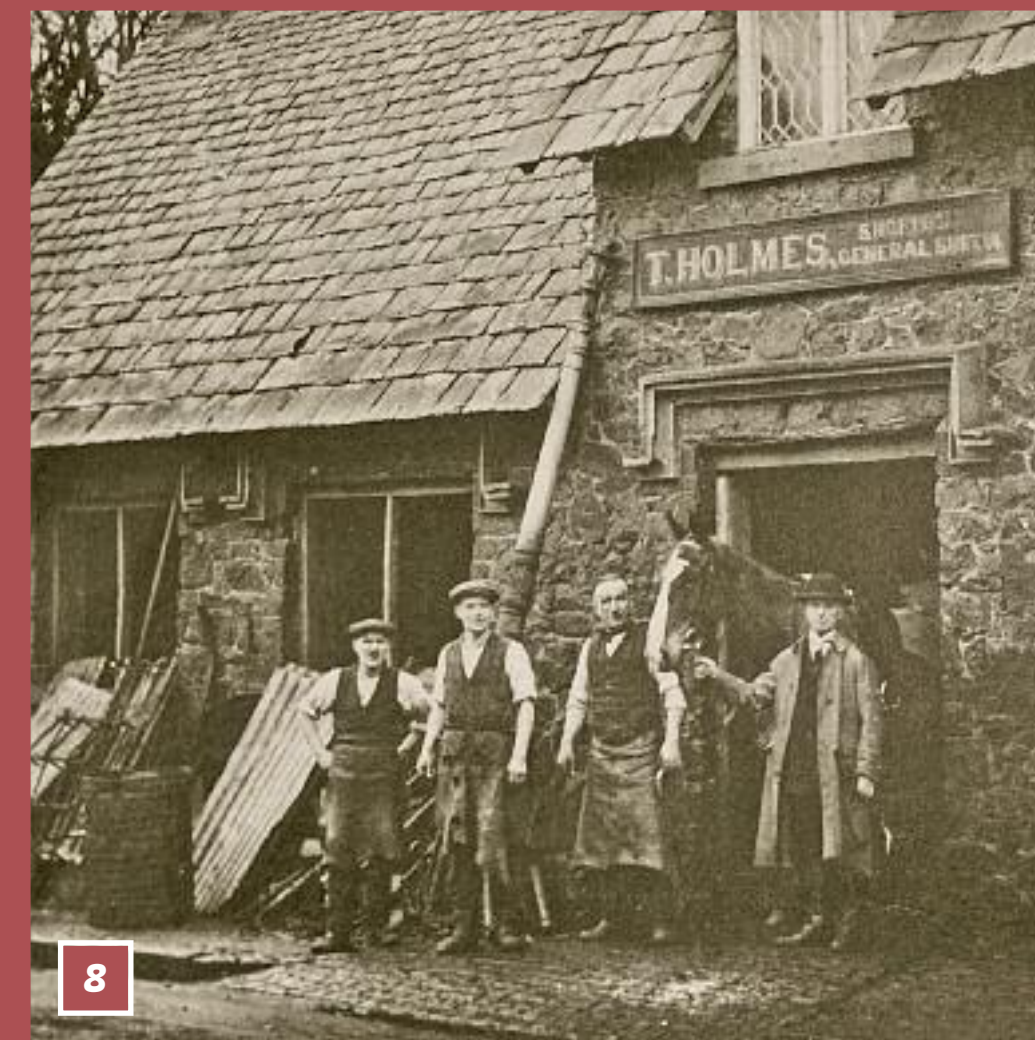
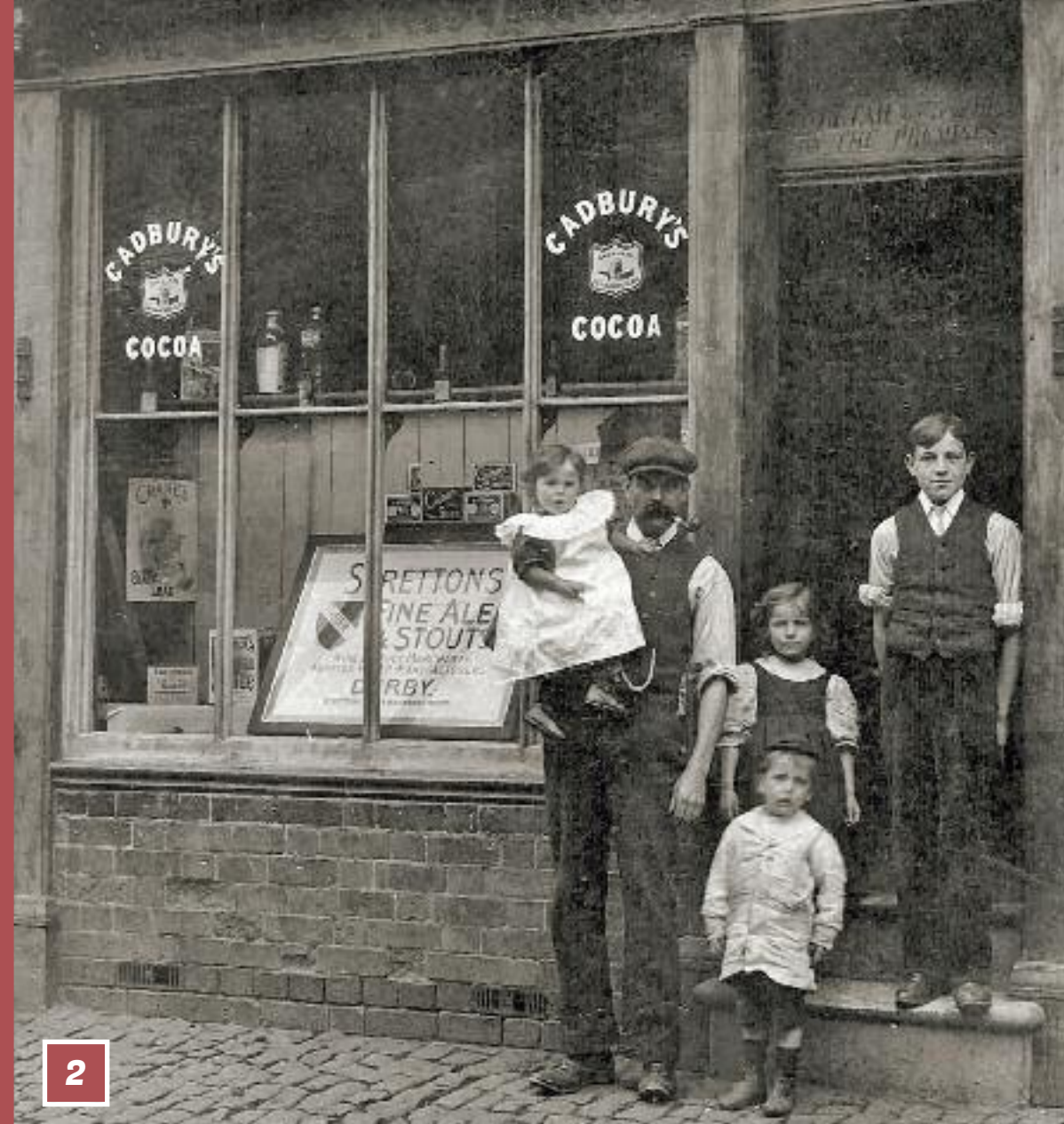
Builders and joiners also made coffins. John Thompson and George Gamble established a building partnership on Mansfield Street in 1900, which later became G. Gamble and Sons and moved to Meeting Street, where they eventually specialised as funeral directors.

Tanners

Since the early 1600s there was a tannery making leather in Quorn and for many years there were two, with the last one closing in the late 1870s. The smell would have been very unpleasant with the skins being soaked in urine or lime to get rid of the hair and rubbed with dog or pigeon poo to make them supple!

Other Shops and Trades

Census records, trade directories and old Quorn memories reveal many other shops and trades such as boot and shoemakers, a candle maker, nail makers, dressmakers, tailors, haberdashers, drapers, hardware shops, antique shops, a jeweller, chemists, bicycle shops, three garages, two banks, electrical shops, hair-dressers, barbers, fish and chip shops and even a furrier and a gas showroom. A wealth of information about these businesses can be found on Quorn Village On-line Museum, www.quornmuseum.com



1 Station Road, 1905. On the left is Facer's furniture and hardware store. It was demolished in the 1960s and replaced with new shop units. To the right is the Quorndon Co-operative Society Store which opened in 1862 and to the rear was their bakery. Bradley's took over in 1976.

2 Joseph Birkin in the early 1900s, outside the family general store and off-licence, 12 Freehold Street.

3 Baker John Wakerley in 1950 on Beacon Avenue, Quorn. The girls are Frances (left) and Judith Long.

4 William Wilders was an early greengrocer in Quorn in the 1880s and sold some of the first oranges and lemons from his shop opposite the White Hart on High Street. He also ran a carrier service to Loughborough.

5 John (Jackie) Mann ran the former Quorn Hall Home Farm, now 30 Soar Road, in the early 1900s. He sold milk from a churn on his cart.

6 Burton's newsagent shop at 25 High Street taken in 1936. Outside are Gladys Burton, her daughter Freda and son Brian. Quorn had several newsagents in the late 19th century and 20th century.

7 Joe Bates standing outside his wheelwright's workshop. This made School Lane very narrow and was demolished in 1907. Driving the rag and bone cart is Billy Lovett.

8 The blacksmith's forge on Meeting Street, 1930s. Left to right are Thomas Broom, Charles Sykes and Thomas Holmes. The man holding the horse is unknown.

9 This hand-drawn hearse belonged to Joseph Hand who ran a joinery business from the 1880's to the 1940s. His workshop was where 33 and 33a Freehold Street are today.

10 Handmade nails in a wall on Meeting Street, note the square profile. These were almost certainly made by the Disney family who dominated nail making in Quorn from the 1700s up until the 1890s.

11 An advert from 1891. Family firms had to make money where they could and would run more than one business.