

WHITFIELD Archives, DOVER

Birchington items

COBB PAPERS

EK / U1453 / E 28

Re – James Andrews – Carpenter

1810

This item is an account book for work done by James Andrews, Carpenter and Joiner, for building a public house at Birchington and repairing an old one. The account covers from 16th May 1810 to 23rd March 1811.

After reading through the book, it remains unclear where the 'new' public house was being built. The old one is almost certainly what we now call the Powell Arms, then owned by the Cobb family.

The final cost of all the work was £215 3s 5d, of which £150 had already been paid by 23rd March 1811, leaving £65 3s 5d still owing. Beneath the signature of Edward Whyte (for Francis Cobb), James Carpenter has signed his name in a very creditable hand.



New Inn - right
1850s

There is no mention of which public house this is referring to, but since it mentions "cellar, first floor and second floor" it sounds as if it could well be the Powell Arms. At this date it was owned by Cobb and went under its old name of "New Inn". The only other three storey inn is /

was the Queen's Head, but this was no longer trading as an inn by this date and was a Wealden house, providing accommodation for three families.



1848

At the foot of first page of the accounts it states :-
"Paid for digging Cellar £3 12s 8d."

There are references to removing the chalk using a horse and cart. A new oak door was put on the cellar. This sounds as if it is talking about the building of a new inn, but where this was is not yet clear. The references to the three storey building come at the end of the booklet.

The work is paid for by the day or half day, and also priced as to whether it was for a man or a boy. The use of the horse and cart is also accounted for time and again. The 'parlour' floor is mentioned. Whether this refers to the bar-parlour on the ground floor or the larger parlour on the first floor is unclear in this instance. There are constant references to framing, floor-boards, rafters, purlins, door jambs etc.

On the 23rd of February 1811, Andrews was paid 3s 0d for a journey to Margate with a horse and cart "& Boy" but the purpose of the journey is not disclosed. The work that was being done on the Powell Arms (?) was very extensive. This could well have been because it was a new acquisition of the Cobb enterprise and they wished to bring it up to the standards of their other holdings.