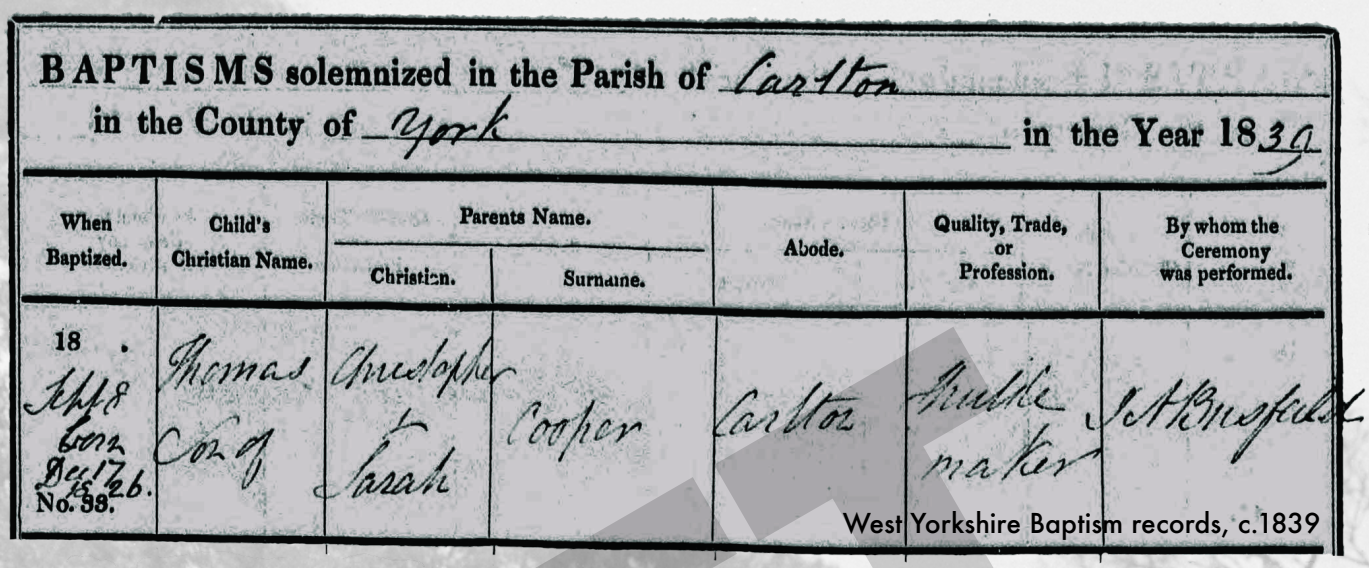
Thomas Cooper's 200th Anniversary Historic Pub-crawl

Thomas Cooper, founder of Coopers Brewery, was born on 17 December 1826 in Carl(e)ton in North Yorkshire, England. He married twice and was survived by two daughters, seven sons, a successful brewing business and a reputation for quality ale.

By the mid-840s Cooper was working as a shoe-maker in nearby Skipton where, on 3 June 1849, he married Ann Laycock Brown (1827–1872). On 29 May 1852 the Coopers emigrated to South Australia on the SS Omega, arriving on 24 August and settling initially in a small cottage next to the Rising Sun Inn in Bridge Street Kensington. Over the following decade Thomas worked as a shoe-maker, builder, dairyman, moved to George Street Norwood and, on 13 May 1862, brewed his first recorded batch of beer.

In 1870 Cooper moved to High Street, Kensington where, sustained by a growing reputation for the excellence of his pale ale – "brewed from malt and hops only, quite free from the peculiar flavour of colonial ales" – he devoted himself exclusively to brewing and, through research and a scientific apporach, improved both the quality and consistency of his ale and stout. On 14 July 1872, Ann died; in 1874 Thomas remarried, to Sarah Louisa Perry (1842-1928).

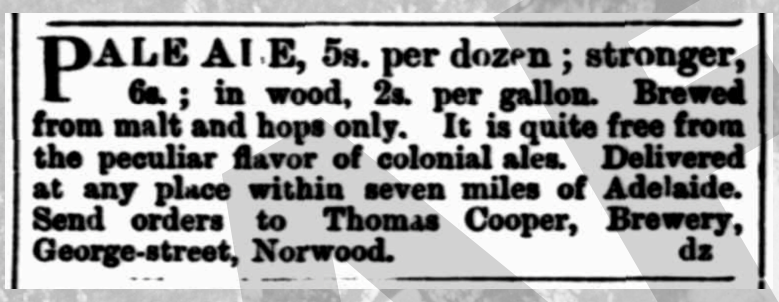
In mid 1881 Cooper moved to Statenborough Street in (now) Leabrook and, in October 1881, opened a new purpose-built brewery. At about the same time he set up the partnership of Thomas Cooper & Sons. In December 1884 Cooper & Sons were granted a storekeeper's license, allowing the brewery to sell small quantities of beer and therefore to compete more effectively with the major breweries. Thomas Cooper died on 30 December 1897, aged 71.



BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of Carlton in the County of York in the Year 1839

When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents Name. Christian.	Parents Name. Surname.	Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
18 Sept 8 Born Dec 17 1826. No. 33.	Thomas Son of	Christopher & Sarah	Cooper	Carlton	Shoe maker	J. H. Brayfield

West Yorkshire Baptism records, c.1839



PALE ALE, 5s. per dozen; stronger, 6s.; in wood, 2s. per gallon. Brewed from malt and hops only. It is quite free from the peculiar flavor of colonial ales. Delivered at any place within seven miles of Adelaide. Send orders to Thomas Cooper, Brewery, George-street, Norwood. dz



PUREST MATURED ALE.

FOR CHRISTMAS have the Best. Order from COOPER'S IMMENSE STOCK, equal to English or German.

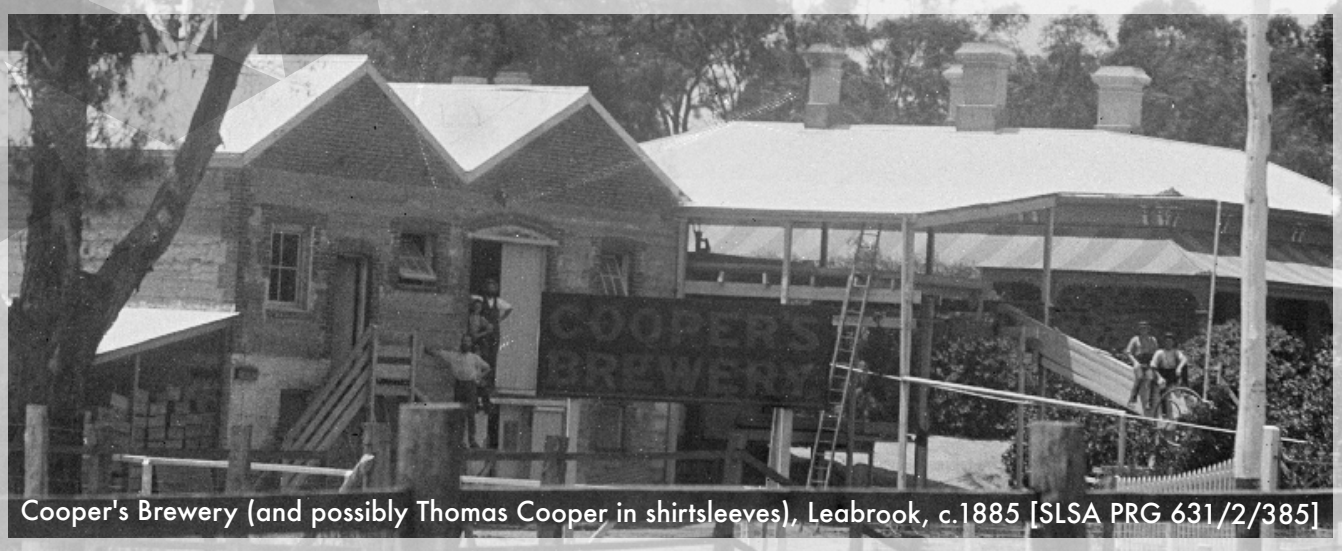
ALSO STOUT, UNSURPASSED, 6s. 6d. PER DOZ.; delivered anywhere, from the Sea to the Hills. Packed, 7s.

TELEPHONE 591.

THOS. COOPER & SONS, COOPER'S BREWERY, UPPER KENSINGTON.

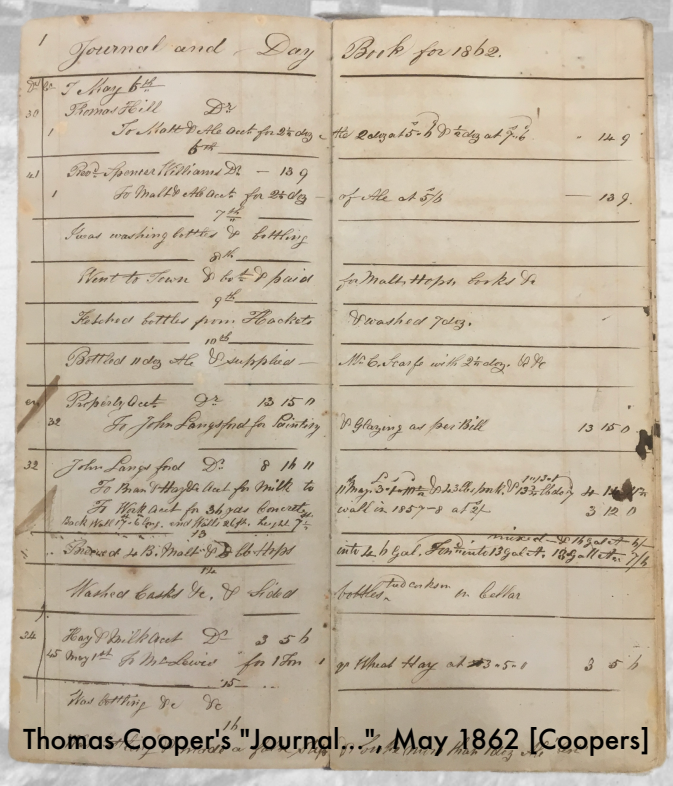
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Above: Possibly the first newspaper advertisement for Cooper's ales, Advertiser, 9 March 1868, p.1
Right: Newspaper advertisment for Thomas Cooper & Sons' "Purest Matured Ale...also Stout, Unsurpassed", Evening Journal, 30 December 1897, p.1



Cooper's Brewery (and possibly Thomas Cooper in shirtsleeves), Leabrook, c.1885 [SLSA PRG 631/2/385]

For more on Thomas Cooper and Coopers Brewery, see Alison Painter, Tim Cooper & Rob Linn: *Jolly good ale and old, Coopers Brewery 1862–2012* (Coopers Brewery Ltd, 2013)



Journal and Day Book for 1862.

Thomas Cooper's "Journal..." May 1862 [Coopers]

"Another thing against me was I declined to serve Public houses; well, all the other Brewers serve the Publics and get rich on the trade, and whilst they served them they also competed for my private custom and could afford to serve them even at a loss because of the profit from the Publics."

Letter, Thomas Cooper to his brother, 30 November 1877 [Coopers]

Liquid History

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Images courtesy of Coopers Brewery [Coopers], the State Library of South Australia [SLSA]

❶ Arab Steed (1849–)

Opened in September 1849, in March 1850 the pub temporarily lost its license partly because the area of the public bar was only about 16 square metres. In late-1876 the pub was mortgaged to Syme and Sison, leesses of the Adelaide Brewery and who, in mid-1877, rebuilt the pub as "a fine two-storied house of 16 rooms." It was leased in August 1887 to Haimes and Mallen, founders of the Waverley Brewery. In 1915 the pub was "one of the most popular, profitable, and easily run of our city hotels." There were regular changes to the pub from 1926 and in May 1938, "plastering and remodelling elevations", in 'Art Deco' style, to its facade.

Arab Steed Hotel, c.1926 [SLSA B 3771]



❷ Exeter (1851–)

Built in 1851 with "11 rooms, two stor[e]y brick house [with] cellar, [external] brick cookhouse and stable", the Exeter served the market-gardeners, especially Germans from the east of Adelaide. The pub was "re-erected" in 1888. In 1923 the Exeter was descibed as "a two-stor[e]y stone-and-brick structure...exceptionally well built... comprises 23 rooms and has three cellars... The hotel does a first class legitimate and very profitable trade...[it is] an absolutely free house." A new saloon bar with Art Deco frontage and double doors was added on the western side of the pub in 1937 and the facade remodelled, with green ceramic tiling, in 1939.

Exeter Hotel, c.1860 [SLSA B-13424; modified]



❸ Mentropolitan (1858–)

The Metropolitan Hotel was originally built on an adjacent property in 1858 by John Penaluna, mason/builder and "convict-exile". A completely new pub was built on the current site and the license transferred in1884. The original pub was demolished in 1909. The new hotel was extended and modernised in 1908–09, 1912–13 and 1928–29 incorporating electrical lighting, modern plumbing, a separate oyster bar, a "bottle department" and boasting the then longest front bar (over 20m) in Adelaide. Located opposite the popular Central Market, in 1925 "The Met" was "one of the best known hotels in Adelaide".

Metropolitan Hotel, c.1892 [SLSA BRG-400-1-76]



❹ Coopers Alehouse (1850–)

The original pub on this site was built as the "Bird in Hand" in 1847 but not licensed until June 1850 as the "Devon Arms Inn". Following adverse police reports, the pub was renamed the "Earl of Aberdeen" and extended, "replete with every comfort for boarders", in 1878-79 by brewers Chambers & Blades. A return balcony and verandah was added in 1914 and the building upgraded in 1924 and 1954. In 1976 the pub was purchased by Recooperate Pty Ltd, the property arm of Coopers Brewery, and renamed "The Coopers Ale House", featuring such draught beers as Aberdeen Scotch Ale, Carrington Ale and Earl's Best Light. Coopers sold the pub in 1998.

Devon Arms/Earl of Aberdeen Hotel/Coopers Ale House, 1993 [SLSA B 70869/18624]





Adelaide Brewery

Base map: *Delisser's Plan of Adelaide, c.1861* [SLSA C183]

Liquid History

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