

**The Pandy Inn from
The Pubs of Hay on Wye and Golden Valley
By Eisel and Bennett
Logaston Press
2005**

The next village after Peterchurch is Dorstone, in the vicinity of which men have lived, presumably drank, and died for thousands of years. On the top of the hill to the east of Dorstone is Arthur's Stone, a prehistoric burial chamber said to date from about 3,500 B.C.



Dorstone village in the early 20th century. The Pandy Inn is on the right

(Photo: Derek Foxton collection)



The Pandy Inn about 1904

Dorstone village has a history that goes back before the Norman Conquest when the manor belonged to Earl Harold Godwinsson. At the time of the Domesday survey it was held by Drogo, son of Poyntz. On the west side of the village is a prominent motte and bailey castle.



The Pandy Inn about 1920

(Photo: Derek Foxton collection)

In the centre of the village sits the **Pandy Inn**, which is said to have been built to house Richard de Brito's workmen when they were working on a chapel, since demolished, that was originally attached to the parish church. He is said to have been one of the four knights who murdered Thomas à Becket in 1170, and built the chapel in expiation of his sins. However, there is good evidence that the chapel was not built until 1256, which rather throws doubt on the whole story. Neither is the inn of such antiquity.

Fairs were held in front of the **Pandy Inn** until the last third of the 19th century. Cooke's *Topographical Description of the County of Hereford*, published about 1830, states that there were fairs on 27 April, 18 May, 27 September and 18 November 'for horned cattle, horses, sheep, and pigs'.

An early reference to the **Pandy Inn** is in the *Hereford Journal* of 28 December 1780 when it was advertised that coppice wood and timber was to be sold by auction 'at the Public-House called The Pandy, in Dorston'; a similar advertisement appeared in the *Hereford Journal* on 14 March 1810. The **Pandy** first appeared in a directory in 1851, although John Reece, who took out alehouse keeper's recognizances in this parish in the 1820s, must have been there.

The **Pandy Inn** was the venue for an annual assembly which took place on 9 January 1845, and was presided over by Colonel Powell of Hardwick, when 'upwards of 160 sat down to supper, which consisted of every delicacy of the season'. The company was entertained afterwards with songs, and dancing took place until a late hour. The report in the *Hereford Journal* concluded by stating:

We have heard that it is the intention of the gallant Colonel, who is the owner of the Pandy Inn, to build, by next season, a new and more commodious room for the accommodation of his numerous friends.

The visit of the gentlemen of the Woolhope Club to the Golden Valley on 25 May 1882 has already been mentioned. A favourable impression of the **Pandy Inn** was gained, as the report of the meeting the *Transactions* of the Club records:

Assembled at the Pandy Inn (Pandee – a tannery – we are in the midst of old Welsh memories), with appetites sharpened by the journey and the weather, such a dinner was waiting that showed that the resources of the Golden Valley are quite equal to entertaining all the visitors that it can reasonably expect.

The attractions of the Golden Valley around Dorstone had not been exhausted by the Woolhope Club members and on 28 June 1888 another visit was made. Peterchurch was visited again, as was Snodhill Castle, and then a

walk through to Dorstone — with a short stop at the rectory, from which they were summoned by the sound of a bugle — and then a climb up to Arthur's Stone, and a return by Scotland Bank. Dinner was no doubt very welcome after such an energetic day:

Dinner was the next business, served *al fresco* by the landlady of Pandy Inn, Dorstone, under the trees growing upon the adjacent ancient mound, misnamed Dorstone Castle.

The day finished with scientific papers read in the schoolroom, and then a return by the Golden Valley Railway.

By 1890 the landlord of the **Pandy Inn** was George Probert — who is remembered as having a tame jackdaw — and in 1902 he advertised 'Every accommodation for cyclists and visitors. Good beds. First-class wines and spirits'. George Probert was a mason on the Moccas estate, and the **Pandy** was actually run by his wife.

The 1903 printed list indicates that the premises were owned by the Rev. Thomas Prosser Powell, rector of Dorstone and the son of the protagonist of the Golden Valley Railway. The elder Thomas had served as a surgeon with the East India Company, and then, on his father's advice, had come home and taken holy orders. He married Clara Prosser, daughter of the then rector of Dorstone, whose family had held the living since the 17th century. He served as rector from 1843 until 1886, and in 1887 his son, Thomas, who had been vicar of Peterchurch from 1875, took over the family living which he held

An Old Established Fully Licensed and Highly Popular Free House

KNOWN AS

"THE PANDY INN"

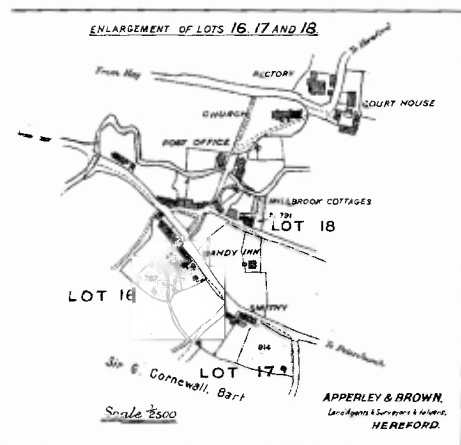
practically the only house of call within a road radius of about 3 miles. Situate in the Village of Dorstone within 5 minutes of Station. The accommodation represents Entrance Passage through to back, Tap Room with Bar, Sitting Room, Club Room, Spirit Store, Private Sitting Room, Kitchen with Baking Oven, and good Cellar having yard approach. Above are large Landing, 4 good Bedrooms, Bathroom, Box and Servants Bedrooms. In close proximity to the House are Dairy, 3-Stall Cart Stable and Coach House with Lofting over, 2 Piggeries with yards, Open Wainhouse, and Cowhouse for 3. There is an excellent supply of water to the premises, and the area, which includes a valuable though small Orchard, represents

0a. 2r. 36p. (or thereabouts).

For many years past this house has been in the occupation of Mr. G. Probert on yearly Candelmas taking at an arranged Rental as between Owner and Tenant.

The commuted Tithe Rent charges amount to 3s. 5d., and the Laud Tax to 2s. 10d.

The 1919 sale of the Pandy Inn



The map showing the Pandy grounds
— lot 16 — in the 1919 sale

until his death in 1905; the following year his son George took the living in his turn. It is assumed that Colonel Powell of Hardwick was a member of the same family and that the **Pandy Inn** was inherited from him.

In 1919, what were described as the outlying portions of the Dorstone Estate were sold by auction. They were then in the possession of T.P.P. Powell, the older brother of George, described as a ‘well-known barrister, who has been serving in the Army’. The **Pandy Inn** was 16th of the 18 lots,

and the report in the *Hereford Times* stated that:

There was some spirited bidding for the Pandy Inn, at Dorstone, a first offer of £500 rapidly rising to £1,300 in hundreds, when Mr. Pikes secured it, amid applause.

The purchaser was Ephraim Pikes, the wheelwright and carpenter at Penpound, Dorstone, and he ran the **Pandy Inn** for a short while, but it was said that ‘It interfered with his business, and so he gave it up’. As well as being a wheelwright, he was also the village undertaker, and when he died in the later 1930s his grandson, Mr. Reg Dawe, was encouraged by local people to take over that side of the business. This he did — at the age of 17— and went on to found the well-known Hereford undertaking business of Dawe Brothers.

Tel.: PETERCHURCH 273

PANDY INN

(J. T. PAINTER)

DORSTONE — HEREFORDSHIRE

A 1960s advertisement for the Pandy Inn



The Pandy at Dorstone in 2005

In 1922 the licensee of the **Pandy Inn** was Robert McCann, who advertised 'good accommodation for commercial and cyclists; within five minutes of station; centre of village'. He owned the premises, having presumably bought them from Ephraim Pikes. On 16 June 1924 the licence was taken over by Richard Arthur Palethorpe, and Robert McCann moved on, later being at the **Red Lion Inn** at Bredwardine. The ownership of the **Pandy** also changed, as McCann sold it to Arnold, Perrett & Co. of Wickwar. However, in May 1925 it was sold on to the Cheltenham Original Brewery, and then in 1927 back to Arnold, Perrett & Co. by then with offices in Broad Street, Hereford. Meanwhile on 14 September 1925 the licence was taken over by Evan Evans who was at the **Pandy** until at least 1941.

At this period and later, one of the regulars was Leonard Lewis, who had served in the First World War and liked to wear his medals and sash as a member of the Royal and Ancient Order of Foresters at any celebration. He was also a good story-teller with a fine voice and, on coach trips and in the **Pandy Inn**, he and his brother would entertain with old soldiers' songs and songs of the day. He and his wife lived in one of the last houses in Dorstone to be modernised, even lacking electricity, and at the end without part of the roof. He died in 1985 at the age of 93.

A good description of the **Pandy Inn** was given by CAMRA in 1985:

Marvellous 17th century timber-framed village inn, well worth a visit, consisting of one large but comfortable bar with a huge old fireplace which, in winter, had a large warm and welcoming wood fire ... The original inn on the site was said to have been built in 1185 by Richard le Breton, one of the four knights who killed Thomas a Becket in 1170. The inn was built to accommodate workers for a local cloth mill – Pandy being the name for a machine used in the mill.

In February 1999 the new owners of the **Pandy**, Paul and Marja Gardner, had an unusual house warming. On the day that they received their first licence they lit the fire for the first time but, because the chimney was in poor condition, the whole of the upstairs was filled with smoke and firefighters, one of whom was a regular at the pub, had to be called to deal with the blaze. Fortunately, not too much damage was done. Despite this rather warm welcome to the **Pandy**, the Gardners moved on in 2004.



The short-lived Pear Tree Inn, Dorstone

In the mid-19th century there were two other licensed premises in Dorstone parish. One was, not too surprisingly, attached to a blacksmith's shop. At this time there were two blacksmiths in Dorstone, one having a smithy on the west side of the minor road leading south to Hinton, while the other lived near the church in a cottage that is now part of Church House. It was formerly one of a pair of buildings called Penbont Cottages, belonging to the wife of Rev. T.P. Powell, and in 1895 the left-hand one was rebuilt as a reading room at her expense. The right-hand half included a smithy and it was here that the blacksmith, Thomas Lewis, ran

the short-lived **Pear Tree Inn**, having only a single directory entry in 1867. The blacksmith's shop continued for many years and in 1906 was taken over by John Lewis. He had settled in the village after service in the South African War, and in that year married Sarah Moseley from the **Pandy Inn**. She was an orphan who had been taken in at the **Pandy** by her aunt, Mrs. Probert. John and Sarah Lewis, settled in at Penbont Cottage, he working as the village blacksmith and

both acting as Reading Room caretakers. The premises were bought by the Hendys about 1930, but they continued to allow the free use of the Reading Room. After the death of John Hendy in 1931 Sarah Hendy continued in the business, employing a number of blacksmiths for the practical side. She finally gave up the blacksmith's shop in 1943. The premises are still owned by a descendant.

On the north side of the village, at the junction of the village road and the main road, there is a minor road signposted to Mynnydd Brith. Folk memory in Dorstone recalls a drinking place there, although it has not yet been traced in any official records.