

Oliver Wheatcroft a Dishonest Man.

Oliver Wheatcroft was born in Radford, Nottinghamshire in 1838. His parents were Richard Wheatcroft, a butter seller and Mary.

He had one sister Mary, a dress maker and three brothers, Richard a potato merchant, George, a joiner and William a butcher.

Oliver was to follow William into the butcher trade.

In 1841 the family were living in Pelican Street, Radford before moving to 3 Birch Row.

In 1861, aged 23 and boarding with the Clarkson family in Baldwin Street, Radford, Oliver made the first of many appearances at court. He was convicted of being in possession of light weights, upon the information of Supt. Palethorpe and was fined 10/-

In 1866 he was in court again charged with disorderly conduct. It appears that he struck George Holmes whilst quarrelling in the Shambles, an area in the centre of Nottingham where the towns butchers would display their meat for sale. He was found guilty and fined 10/-



The Shambles

In 1868 he was charged with receiving stolen property, a side of pork. He gave Samuel Walker 10/- for the delivery of the said pork to his house in Narrow Marsh. Apparently he was a “mark” and bought stolen meat on a regular basis.

Serious charge against a butcher, the newspaper headline read in 1870. Oliver Wheatcroft, butcher of Red Lion Street was charged with having deposited for sale for the food of man in premises in Collishaw’s yard, about 15 stone weight of beef. This was proved to be unfit for human consumption and Oliver was fined £5 with £2.1s.6d costs.



Red Lion Street Narrow Marsh

He married widow Sarah Richardson in 1871. She lived at 56 Red Lion Street but moved with her children Mary and John in to Oliver's home at 24 Red Lion Street.

They had a daughter Ann born in 1866 and Elizabeth 1871.

Marriage and fatherhood didn't change his errant ways.

In 1878 he found himself before the court yet again on a charge of being drunk and disorderly at the Manvers Arms Inn, Cotgrove. He was ordered to pay 12s. 6d.

According to the Nottingham Evening Post in 1888 he hopped on the Newark to Carlton train without a ticket. For defrauding the Midland railway Company he was fined 21/-

Two years later in 1890 he was again fined for selling meat unfit for human consumption and fined £20.

This was obviously not a deterrent when in 1895 he was before the court again on a similar charge. He was imprisoned for 3 months.

His wife Sarah died in 1899. His daughter Elizabeth and her husband Charles Matthews Adlington moved in with him.

Oliver Wheatcroft died in Nottingham in 1903.