



John Hibel

John Hibel, after whom Hibel Road is named, was a wine and spirit merchant, and kept the Black-a-Moor's Head, Mill Street, later known as the Black's Head. The pub, along with the adjoining spirit vaults, became popularly known as

Hibel's Vaults. In 1849, he had the added distinction of being the sole agent for that up-and-coming Dublin brewing concern, Guinness & Co.

In addition to his pub, he had other business interests, being the occupier of Wood Vale Quarry, Hollins Lane, Sutton and owning houses in Stanley Street. He was obviously an influential man in Macclesfield and, when the railway station on Cockshute Lane, as it was then named, was being constructed, and the approach to it was levelled and widened, John Hibel, the Surveyor of the Highways for the Police Commission, took an active interest in the construction of the road. In 1841 the name was changed to Hibel Road in recognition of John's work.

Unfortunately, I have been unable to find any record of the birth or baptism of John Hibel or his brother William. There was a Hibel/Hibill family in Macclesfield, around the right time, and two children of Thomas and Betty Hibill were baptised at Christ Church, but I can find no connection to John.

The first record of John Hibel in Macclesfield is of his marriage to spinster Elizabeth Barber of Macclesfield at Saltersford Cum Kettleshulme, on 25th December 1815. John is described 'as of Macclesfield, a cordwainer (shoemaker).'

John and Betty [Elizabeth] Hibel had one daughter, Sarah, baptised at St Michael's, Macclesfield on 31st August 1817. In 1844, Sarah married William Bullock, a silk manufacturer who served as Mayor of Macclesfield in 1856-7 and 1869-70. John and Betty had two sons, both of whom died young. Thomas was baptised at St Michael's on 1st July 1821 and was buried at Christ Church on 23rd November 1846 when he was 25. Their second son James was baptised at St Michael's on 25th December 1823. He married Mary Ann Thomas, on 14th January 1851, and they had a son, William Thomas Hibel who died in 1862 aged 10. James was buried at St Paul's Macclesfield on 7th May 1858 aged 34. Betty Hibel, née Barber, was buried on 5th August 1840 at Christ Church. She was aged 53 years.

In the 1841 census, John was living at Mill Street, Macclesfield, was aged 50 years, and was a publican. His children, Sarah Hibel, aged 20, Thomas Hibel, aged 20, and James Hibel, aged 15 were living with him. Also living with him were his brother William Hibel, aged 45, a male servant, Charles Gee, aged 15, a male servant, Elizabeth German, aged 15, a female servant and Martha Barber aged 30, a seamstress.

In the 1851 census, he was still at Mill Street, a widower aged 63, a wine merchant and was blind. Also at that address was his brother William Hibel, aged 60, a wine merchant's assistant, John Longdon, aged 16, a wine merchant's assistant, George Brown, aged 16, a waiter, Elizabeth Hulme, aged 22, a house servant, and Ann Hulme, aged 17, a house servant.

His brother, William Hibel, who had lived and worked with him, was buried on 30th March 1853 at Christ Church, aged 61.

On 30th March 1855, John Hibel, of Macclesfield, was buried at Christ Church, aged 68. In his will, he left his son, James Hibel, 'the sum of one shilling only he having refused to convey to me or for my use certain freehold or copyhold property in Yorkshire which was conveyed to him but I paid the purchase money for the same.' The rest of his estate was left to his daughter, Sarah, and her children.

The Hibel gravestone at Christ Church reads: 'Sacred to the memory of Elizabeth wife of John Hibel wine merchant of the town who departed this life August 1st 1840 aged 53 years Thomas Hibel son of the above who departed this life November 18th 1846 aged 25 years. Also William Hibel who departed this life March 27th 1853 in the 62nd year of his age.'