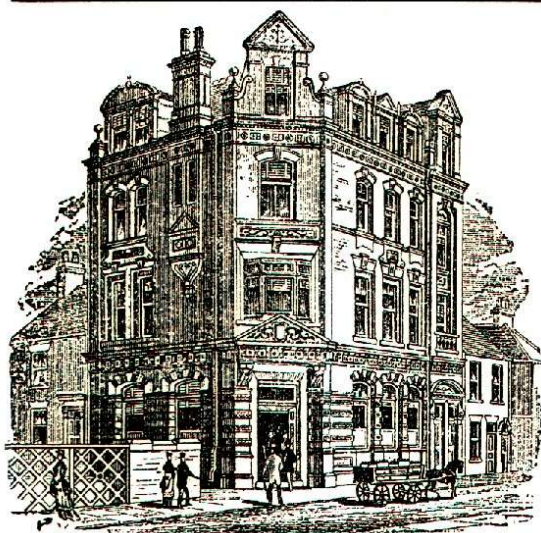


FIZZY WATER - THE SOFT DRINKS INDUSTRY

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries Hull had a thriving industry making what we would now call soft drinks. Ginger beer had been made since the early nineteenth century. The 1823 Directory has 2 ginger beer makers, and this had doubled by 1829. The drink was made from a plant culture, and was produced in many homes for domestic consumption right up to modern times.

Hull People's Public House Co., LIMITED.



"THE COBDEN,"
Corner of Charles Street.

GOOD ACCOMMODATION for CYCLISTS.

All the Accommodation of a First-class Temperance Hotel.

SITTING, LADIES', AND SMOKE ROOMS.

BEDS from 1/- to 1/6.

THE BEST REFRESHMENTS AT MODERATE PRICES.

Breakfast or Tea, Plain, 10d.; with Meat, 1/4.

Dinner by Arrangement. Large Refreshment Rooms attached

List of Company's Houses:

- No 1-Hessle Road
- " 2-Railway Dock
- " 3-Dansom Lane
- " 4-Engine Street
- " 5-Prospect Street
- " 6-Lowgate
- " 7-Cumberland-St.
- " 8-Porter Street
- " 9-Witham
- " 10-Brook Street
- " 11-Paragon Street
- " 12-Park Pavilion
- " 14-Queen Street
- " 15-Wilberforce Cafe
- " 16-Cafe De-la-Pole
- " 17-Stepney
- " 18-"The Cobden,"
Charles Street
- " 19-Alexandra Cafe,
Hedon Road

HOT DINNERS

Every Day from 11-30

TEA, COFFEE, COCOA

1d. per Cup.

AERATED WATERS, all kinds

1d. per Bottle.

BREAKFASTS, LUNCHEONS, DINNERS, TEAS, &c.,

AS PER BILL OF FARE, AT THE

WILBERFORCE CAFÉ, ST. JOHN STREET,

CAFÉ DE-LA-POLE, SILVER STREET.

VIANDS of the BEST QUALITY at MODERATE PRICES

EXCELLENT BEDS (Separate Bed Rooms) at

	Per Night		Per Night
"The Cobden".....	1/- to 1/6	Brook Street House.....	from 6d
Paragon Street House	from 1/-	Railway Dock House	" 6d
Alexandra Cafe, Hedon Road ..	" 1/-	Cumberland Street House ..	" 6d

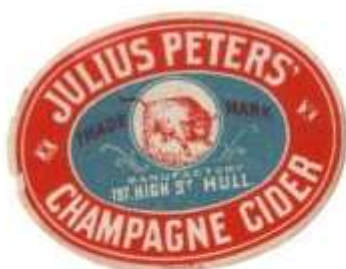
Every endeavour is made by prompt attention, cleanliness, and civility, to ensure the comfort of customers.

“Aerated water” had been available since the 1790s. It was actually carbonated water, with carbonic acid gas introduced under pressure to make the water fizzy. A Swedish chemist, Bergman, had invented a commercial process for this, but it was Jacob Schwebbe in Geneva who developed a condensing machine to impregnate the water with gas and made a viable industry possible.

There wasn't much call for “aerated water” in England until the Temperance movement got under way. The critical year for Hull appears to have been 1874, when the Good Templars held their first meeting and the Band of Hope was established. Bulmer's Directory of 1892 reports: “The Temperance Friendly Societies, the Sons of Temperance, the Independent Order of Rechabites and the Sons of Phoenix are also strong here, having a large number of divisions and tents.” Individual churches and chapels had their own Temperance groups. To cater for this abstemious market, and provide an alternative to the vast number of pubs in the city, the **Hull People's Public House Company Ltd.** was formed. An advertisement of 1891 shows that the company owned 19 hotels and cafés, two of them described as “high class” by Bulmer's – the Café De-la-Pole in Silver St. and the Wilberforce Café in St. John St. To add to the Cobden hotel on the corner of Charles St. the company built the Grosvenor Hotel in Carr Lane in 1892. It also built two factories to produce its own brand of aerated water, in Marlborough Terrace and Pearson St. The Hull People's Public House Company Ltd. was a commercial success.

The 1892 Directory lists at least 20 other manufacturers of aerated or mineral waters, cordials or other soft drinks. The Hull Publicans had their own factory in Somerset St. Some of the others were small operations but at least five were major employers, surviving, in some cases, well into the 20th century.

Julius Peters made such varieties as Kola Champagne, Hop Ale (a very popular beverage of the time), Ginger Beer, Champagne Cider, Lemonade and Orange Champagne. Their trademark was the buffalo.



The firm was created by Julius Peters, born in 1840 in Germany, who in 1871 was running the Fleece Inn at 197 High St. with his wife Johanna. He died in 1880, and his wife took over the company, which in 1881 employed 84 men. Johanna remarried in 1888. Her Danish husband, Peter Gerdt, ran the pub, and no mention is made on the 1891 census of the soft drinks factory, but by 1901 Peter was the manager of the firm and 196 High St. was the company offices. It continued as

such until 1936 when the headquarters moved to 138 Walker St. The firm disappeared in 1966.

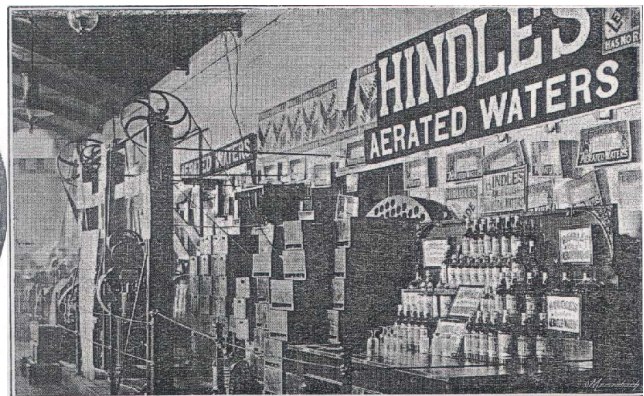
Messrs. Binnington and Co. moved from small premises in Blackfriargate to a new factory in Regent St. in 1892. The factory had 30,000 square feet of floor space and state-of-the-art machinery, described with some awe in “Modern Hull” of 1893. In the summer it produced

“1000 dozen” bottles a day.

James Hindle took over a company from Brameld and Branton and bought up other small firms. He had a large factory in Chapel Lane, and a rullely shed with 20 horses next to his own house in Durham St.



CHAPEL LANE.



HULL EXHIBITION, 1893.



Hay's Aerated Waters were manufactured at 4 Regent's Terrace, Anlaby Rd. William Hay was a bachelor who combined the soft drinks industry with being a chemist. His products included Orange Quinine Tonic, Soda & Potash Water and Lithia Water, as well as Hop Ale, a kind of alcohol-free beer. A surviving Hay's bottle, and one of Julius Peters, show that it was common to sell the soft drinks in moulded bottles bearing the company's trademark.

Robert Hawkshaw was in business as a mineral water manufacturer by 1891, with premises at 10½ Spring St. He was born in Lincolnshire in 1868, the son of an Irish innkeeper who, in 1881, kept the Rock Arms in Dock Office Row. By 1901 he had married and was living at 34 Albany St., while his new premises were in Spencer St.

(The Spring St. factory had been taken over by Henry Burstall.) In the same year he joined forces with two members of the firm of William Wheatley & Sons, who were agents for some of the biggest breweries and themselves owned pubs in the area. The new company was called Robert Hawkshaw Ltd. and manufactured mineral waters, squashes, soda syphons etc. In 1928 it moved to Mason St. Surprisingly, the workforce was only 6 people, including the Managing Director, and their customers were the local pubs and clubs. In 1932 the horses used to pull the delivery cart were replaced by lorries. Robert Hawkshaw retired in 1934. Hawkshaw's was still in business in the 1960s, with a workforce of 25.



Murden's are the only company which has survived from the 19th century into the 21st.

Based on Rix Rd., they have remained a family-run firm. Charles Murden was born in London in 1851, but his family came to Yorkshire when he was a child, and Charles found work in the oil mills. He married and for many years lived on Hodgson St. By 1891, while Charles was still working as a pressman in the oil mills, his son George, aged 15, was working for **Straker's** making ginger beer. The story in the family is that George left Straker's after a dispute, and his father decided that the lad might as well work for him. Charles and George started making horehound, a cough remedy, and hot bitters, as well as ginger beer. With a loan of £100 Charles acquired the equipment to make “aerated water” and by 1901 it had become the family's livelihood, with his 3 sons all taking part. They made lemon squash, then lemonade and sarsaparilla, initially using second-hand bottles. In December 1910 the firm became a limited company. Charles retired and the brothers George, Alfred and Henry bought the business. George Murden died in 1921, but the firm

continued to be a family business. During World War II Murdens bought out Straker's. In 1972 they were producing 3 – 4,000 dozen bottles a week. They have continued to produce soft drinks, but have now diversified into other drinks and fast food.

Sources:

Bulmer's Directory of Hull, 1892
Port of Hull Journal, Vol 7, p57-59
"Modern Hull", 1893.
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Hull Times, 5/5/1972



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