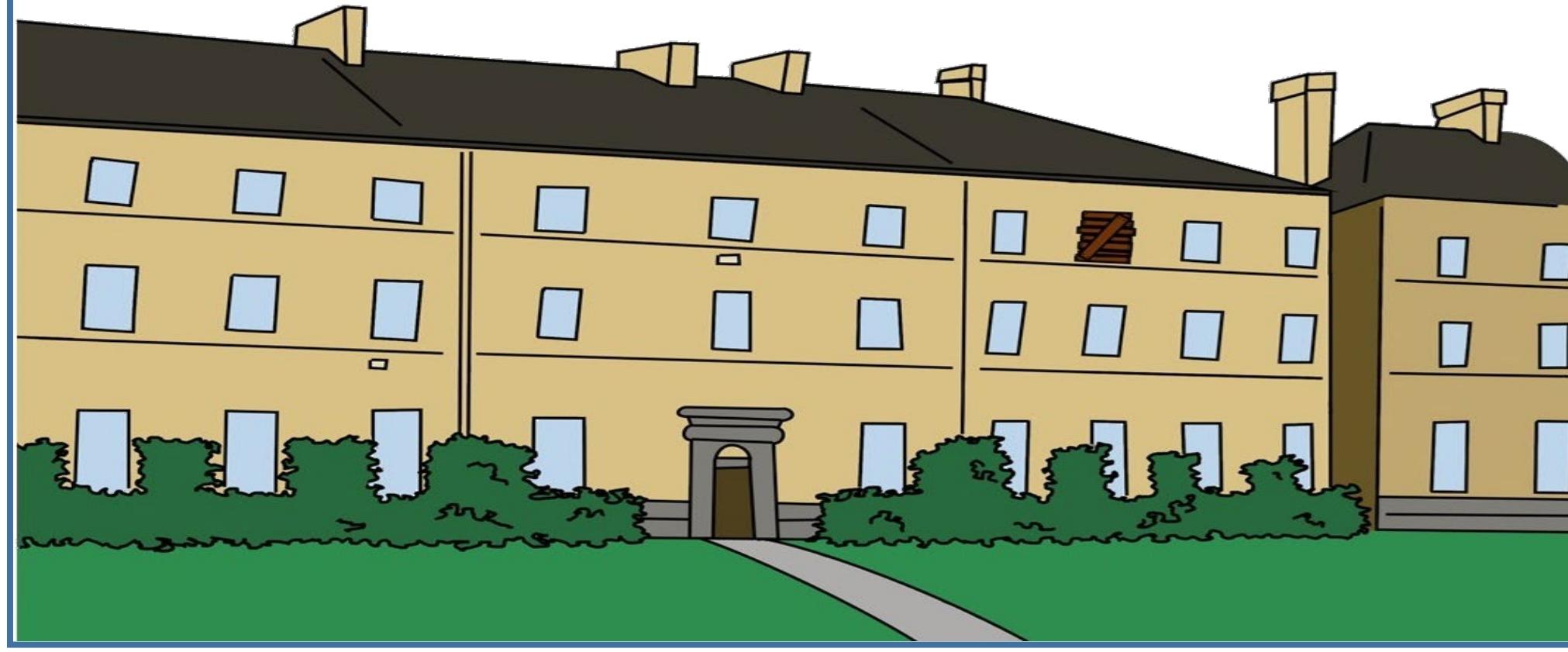


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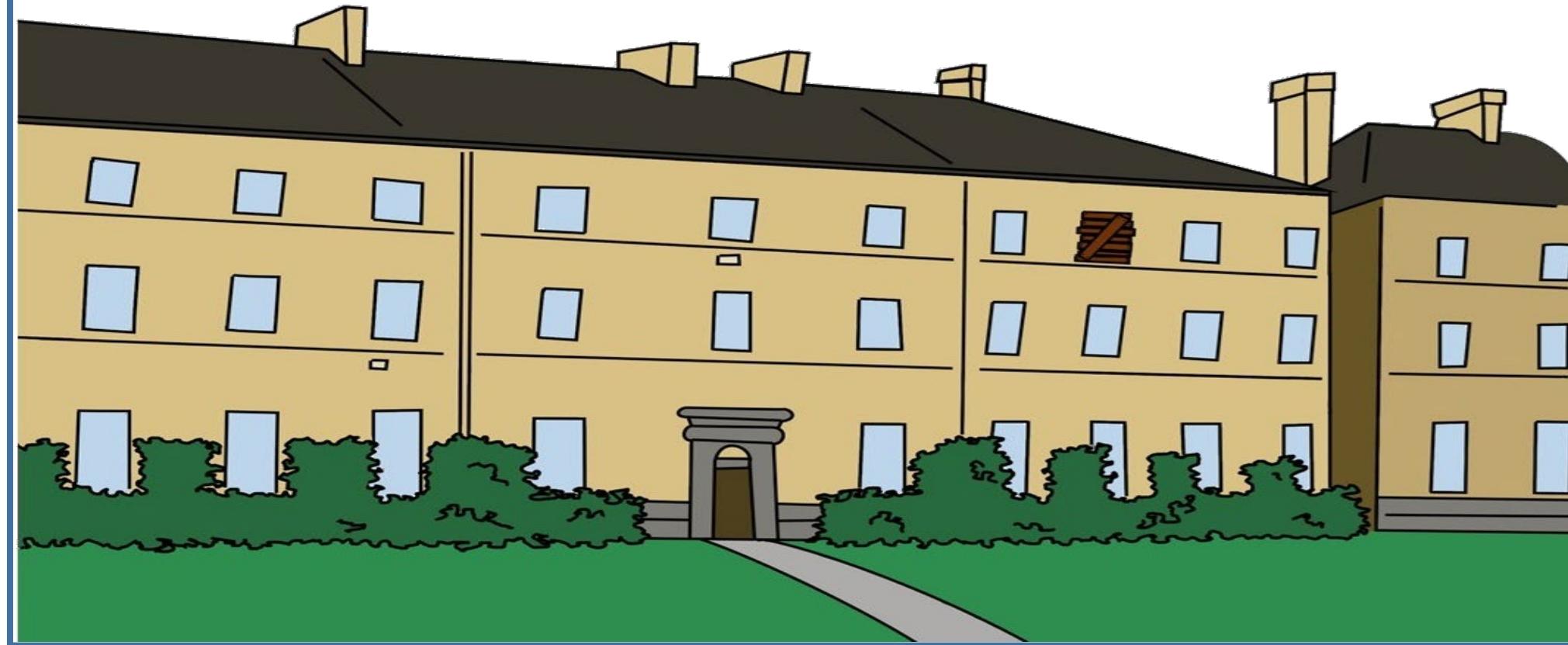
Presents
"The Life and Times in Victorian London"



Baker Street Elementary

The Life and Times in Victorian London

048 -- Belly Up to the Bar, Boys -- February, 2022





Welcome to topic # 048... today
Master Gregson and I will be
looking at the role pubs play in
Victorian times.





In "The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist," Holmes notes that pubs—or public houses—are "the centre of country gossip."

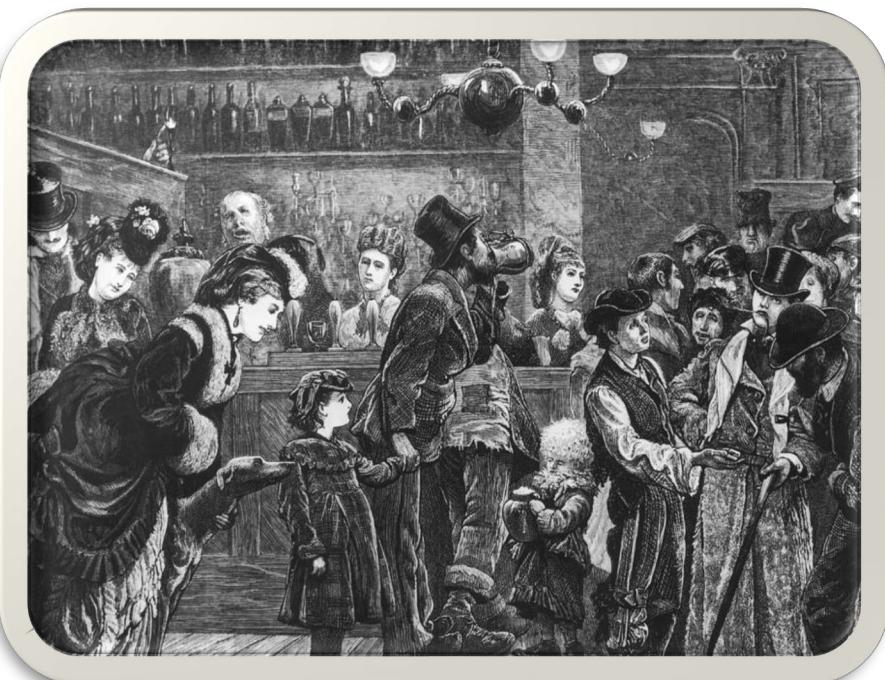


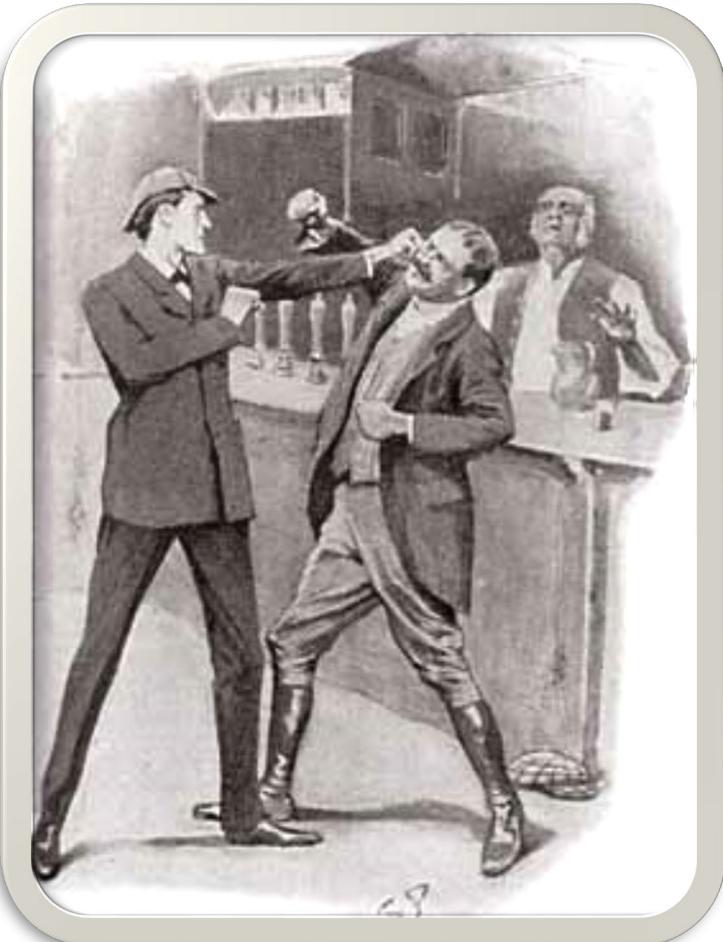


*He then makes a visit to one
in the Farnham area to collect
information on the tenant at
Chiltern Grange.*



When he reports back to Watson, he explains he gathered the needed information from the pub owner (publican).

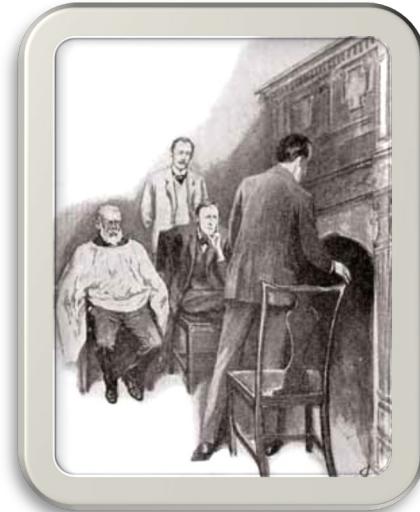




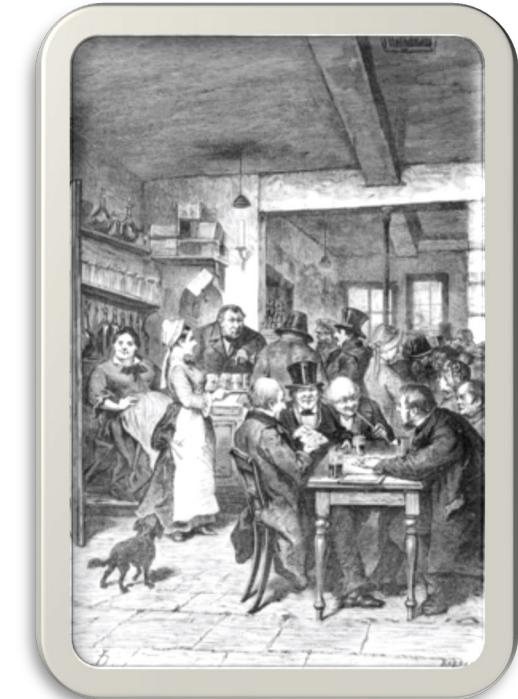
*While drinking at the bar,
Woodley, the object of
his inquiry, enters and a
fight ensues.*



*Right, Master Lestrade.
Understanding the significance of
Holmes' preference for the pub's
bar provides insights into both...*

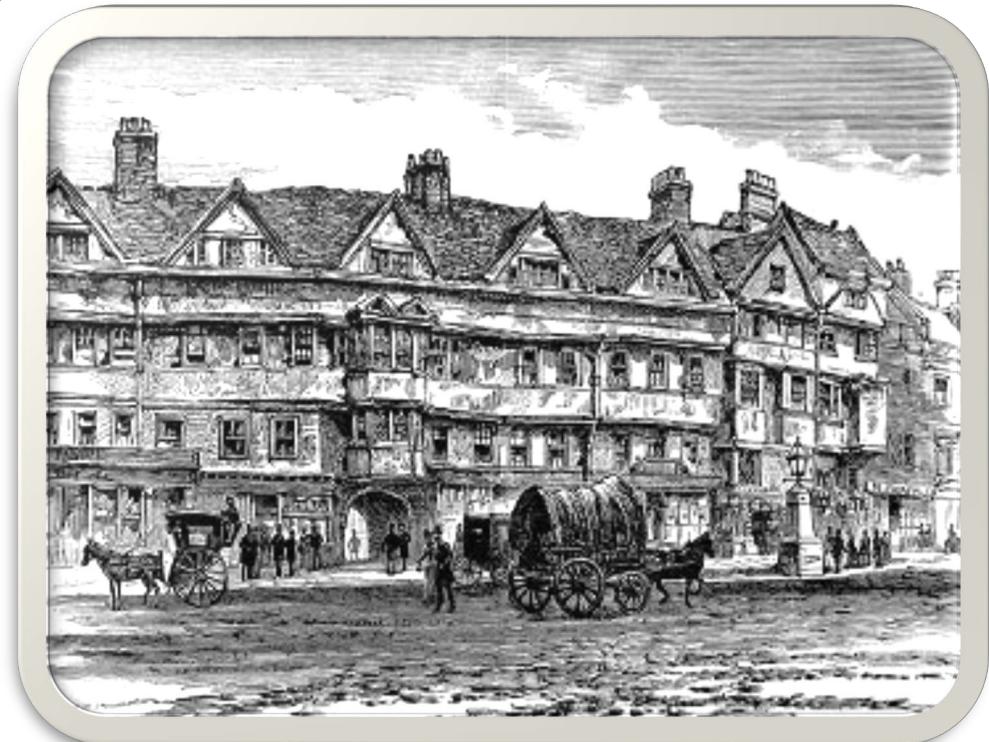


*...Holmes' abilities to blend
in with the working class
as well as Woodley's own
social status.*



Victorians could imbibe in three different types of establishments.

The one with the most extensive services were the inns.



These facilities first appeared in Europe during Roman times when travelers required lodging as they journeyed throughout the Empire.





In England, inns evolved to satisfy the need for way-stations between towns, providing meals and shelter to both the traveler and horse.





*In addition, they served
as a delivery point for mail
and newspapers.*



Public houses, or taverns, were considered less prestigious. Pubs trace their roots to Roman tabernas where wine was served.



*After the Romans left Britain,
local wives would brew and sell
beer from their kitchens.*



*As these businesses
became more lucrative,
husbands took over and
provided a place...*



*...for those who
purchased the beer to
also consume it in their
home's front room.*



Over time, the more successful enterprises took over the entire home, and the publican would move into a bigger and more lavish home.



Brewers who expanded to a number of alehouses or pubs selling their brand made considerable fortunes, and their daughters were viewed as desirable marriage prospects by the gentry.





The lowest class of drinking establishments were the alehouses that served only beer and cider to working class patrons.

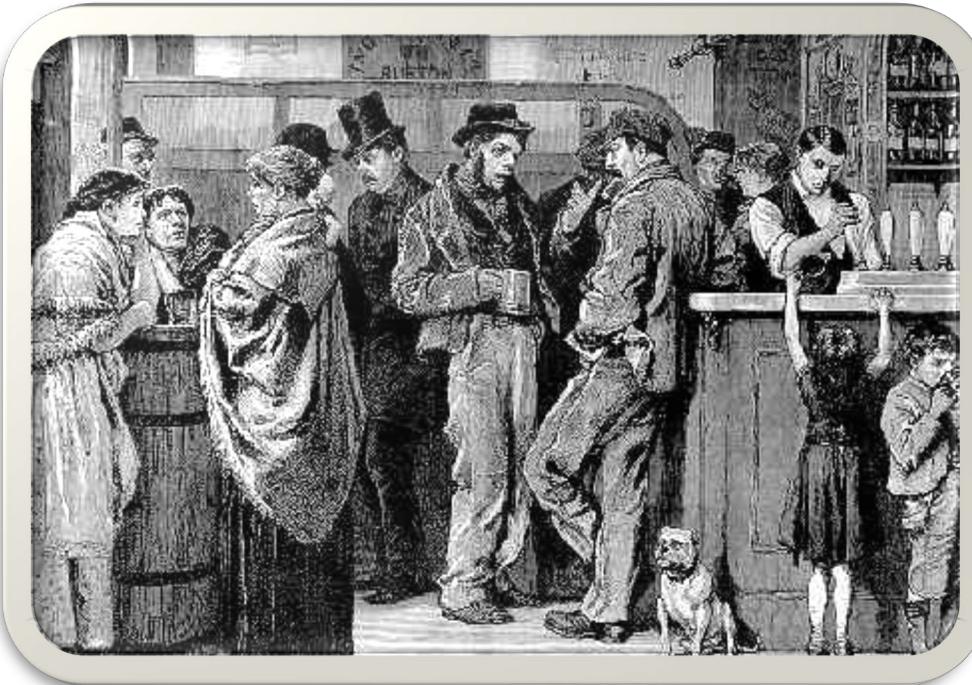




*These enterprises expanded in
the 1800s following the passage
the Beer House Act of 1830.*



This legislation dropped the permit for those houses selling only beer to two guineas a year in an effort to encourage beer consumption (considered a more healthful drink) instead of gin.



In 1869 (due, in part, to the rise of the temperance movement) licensure was moved to local magistrates, and the number of beer houses dropped from 49,000 to 31,000 by 1894.



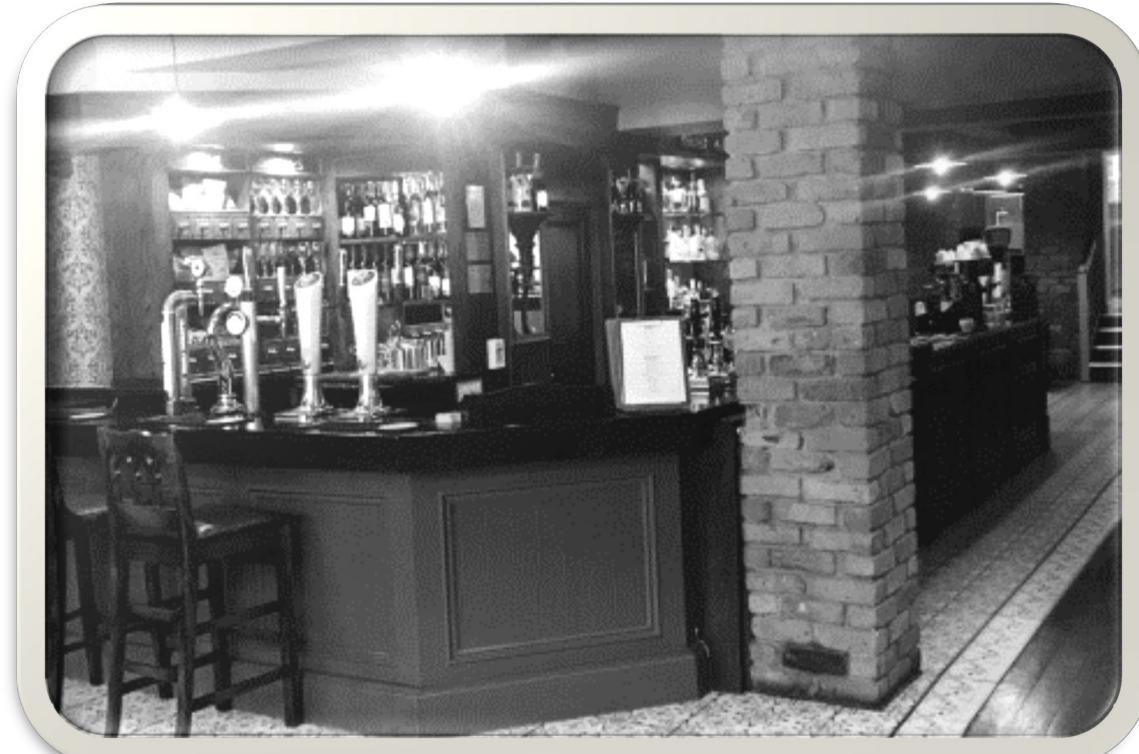
With more modern methods and better transportation, brewers consolidated their businesses by purchasing alehouses and using them to sell their own product.



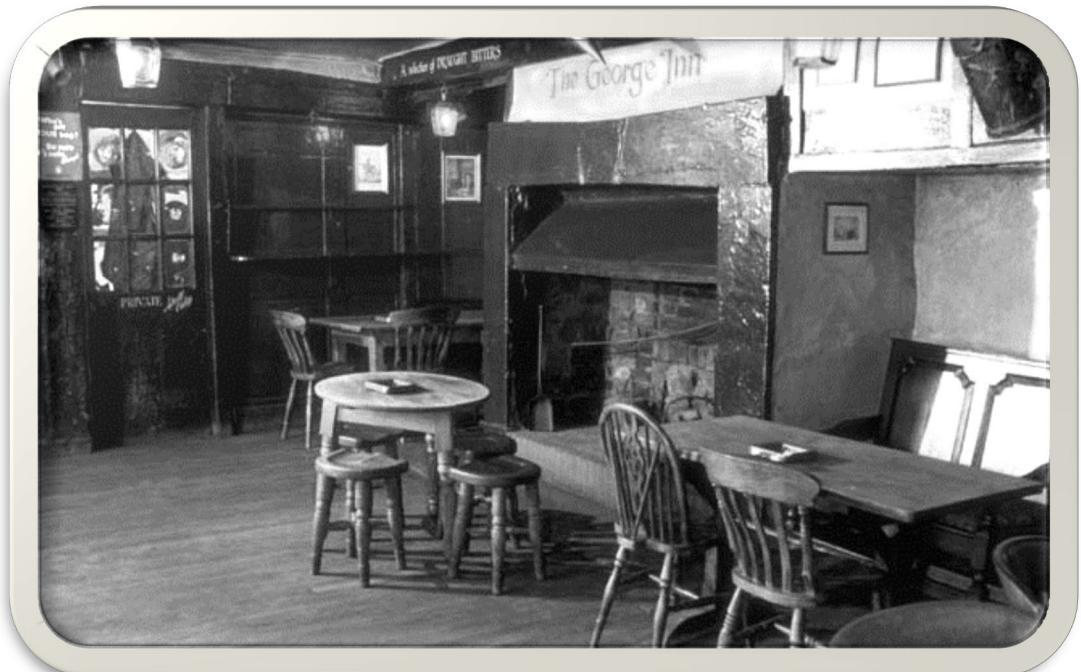
*By the end of the century,
90 percent of the public
houses were tied to a
specific brewery.*



*Within the public houses,
different rooms offered
different amenities to
patrons.*



The vault served the working class,
but women were not allowed to sit at
the wooden benches or belly-up to
the bar counter in these areas.





Tap rooms often offered
a more club- or game-
like atmosphere than the
vault or public bar.





For women or upper-class patrons, the "best rooms" offered the same beer, but at a higher price to compensate for nicer furnishings.



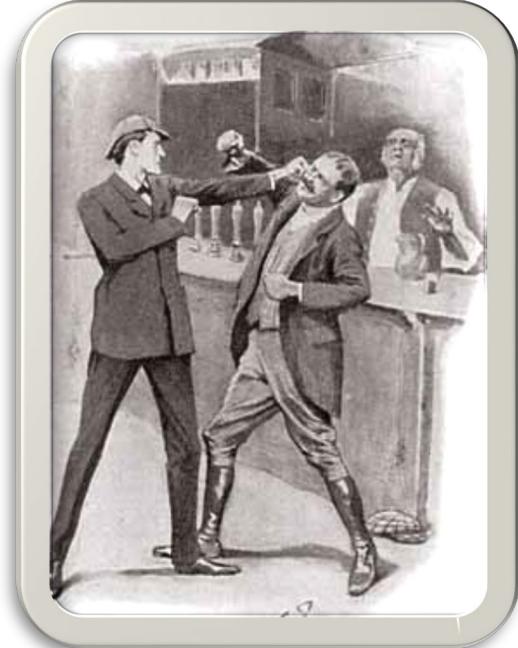
*Entertainment, such as singers,
might even be offered, and
depending on the features, could be
called by any number of names...*



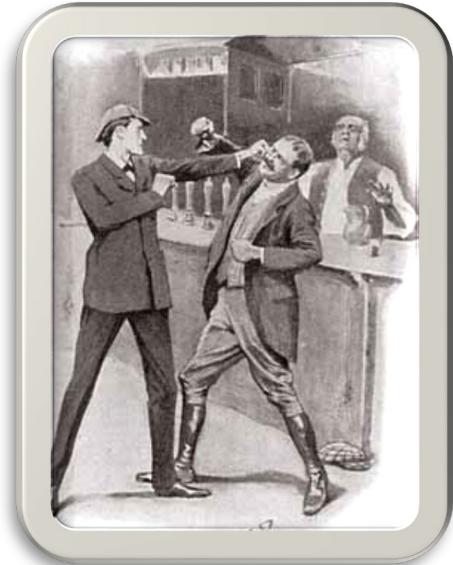
the "music room," "concert room," "lounge," "parlor," "saloon," "commercial room," or "snug."



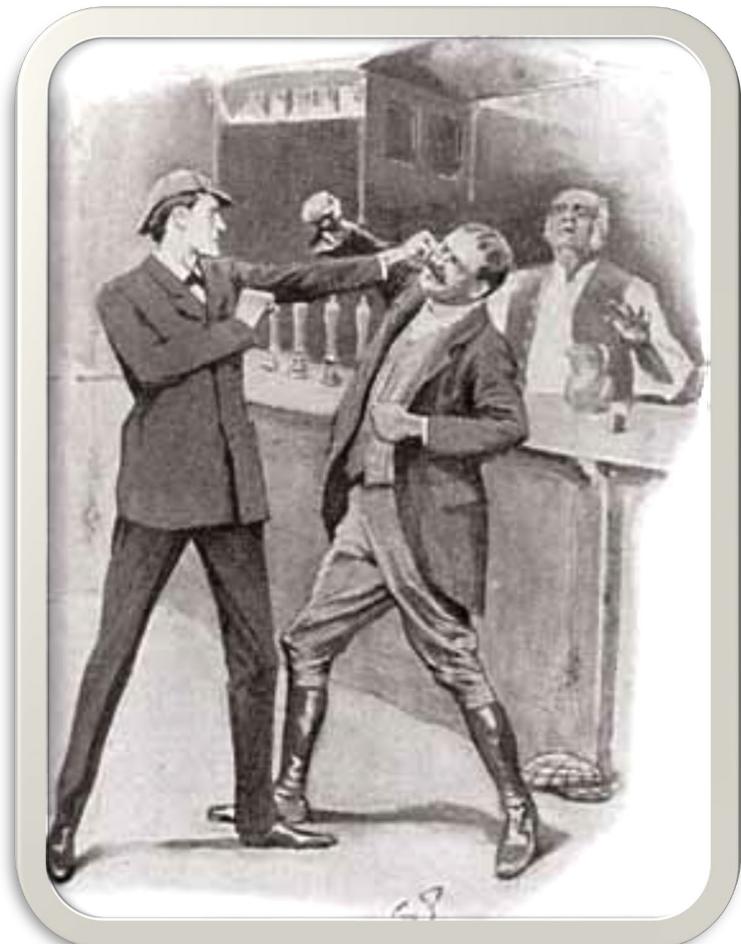
*Knowing that a person of
Woodley's caliber would not be
welcomed in the best rooms,
Holmes understood that...*



...any information would have to be gathered from the pub's more public areas and wisely chose the bar over a more elite parlor room.



*In Farnham, this intimate
knowledge of where to go to
gather the needed information
paid off for the detective.*



*So we have completed
topic # 048 in our
series...*

*Yes, but we'll be back
with another topic
soon...*



References for this topic:

1. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pub>
2. Daniel Pool, *What Jane Austen Ate and Charles Dickens Knew*, New York: Simon and Schuster, Inc., 1993, page 211.
3. <http://www.countrylovers.co.uk/fun/histpubs.htm>
4. Pool, page 210.
5. Sally Mitchell, editor, *Victorian Britain: An Encyclopedia*, New York: Garland Publishing, Inc., 1988, page 91.
6. <http://barclayperkins.blogspot.com/2011/07/vault-tap-room-and-lounge.html>



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