

Wheatley connection to the Alden butcher's shop in Osney Mead

In 1792, Lord Edward Seymour was admitted to Christchurch College, Oxford and with him came his personal assistant Isaac Alden (1764-1832). A year later Lord Seymour became the 11th Duke of Somerset. Isaac stayed in Oxford and opened a butcher's shop on Bear Lane in 1793. He lived above the shop with his wife and young son, Thomas.

This son and grandson Robert Rhodes expanded the business and moved to Eastwyke Farm – less than a mile from Oxford city centre. Today the business is a well-respected butcher based in Osney Mead, Oxford, see <https://aldenoxford.co.uk/about/>

Along the way and in 1898, two of Isaac's grandsons and two of his great-grandsons ran competing butcher businesses in eight units in the Covered Market. Confusing for the customers!

According to an article in the Oxford Mail in March 2000, four generations of the family also owned and farmed Wheatley Bridge Farm, east of Wheatley bridge, and now in Great Milton. At that time, Jonnie Alden had 170 milking Holstein Friesians on his land with 200 other animals.

Ernest Alden, one of the great-grandsons, took over the Rose family's butcher business in Wheatley at the west end of Church Road in 1911 (photo shows the shop during the Rose ownership) and owned this until 1938. There was a slaughter house on the site from 1809 to 1938, and cattle were pastured on the Rose-owned and almost-adjacent (village) green awaiting slaughter.

