



Andrew Harper's court appearances, 1899, 1900

Petty Sessions

Andrew Harper, father of Arthur Frederick Monnier Harper, is mentioned as a witness in a court case in the *Belfast News-Letter*, Tuesday 25 July 1899. At the fortnightly court of petty sessions held in the Courthouse, Town Hall, Holywood, Co. Down, a prisoner, Joseph Kerney, was accused of stealing stamps during a burglary at the Royal Engineers' Barrack in Holywood, Co Down.

‘Andrew Harper, a clerk in the General Post Office, Belfast, deposed to the prisoner having come into that office on the 7th inst., and having handed in 6s worth of stamps, for which he wanted cash. The stamps were army official and witness questioned the prisoner as to where he had obtained them. Accused said from his brother, who was in the army, and stationed at Coatbridge. Witness did not take the stamps but told the prisoner to come back in the evening.’

The prisoner pleaded guilty to larceny and was sentenced to four months' imprisonment, with hard labour.

Andrew made another court appearance as a witness the following year – and the report helps to identify his residence at that time.

The *Belfast News-Letter*, Thursday 16 August 1900, reported the case against William Just, a Post Office telegraphist and sorting clerk charged with the larceny of £140 from three registered letters.

‘Andrew Harper, 7, Ulsterville Place, clerk in the Belfast Post Office, stated on the 8th June he was on duty as senior money order clerk. It was part of his duty to supply remittances to sub-post offices. He knew the prisoner, and on that date he gave witness a docket applying for money. Witness gave him £400 in all. ... Prisoner was returned for trial to the next winter assizes.’

It's a pity not to have any definite information about Andrew's two sons and their mother at this time, but Andrew definitely remained in Belfast.

The 1900 Belfast Street Directory lists six houses (odd numbers, Nos. 1-11) at Ulsterville Place. At No.7 is Harper, A., postal official. The previous year's Directory had listed Ulsterville Place as being off Ulsterville Avenue and at the end of Belgravia Avenue, but only with houses 'in course of erection'.