

31 Market Hill

Using the online website <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk> I have searched through the newspaper Cambridge Independent press from the 1850s through to the 1940s. Using that resource only I have gained an outline of the businesses that operated through the shop address of 31 Market Hill.

I have viewed the entry for the shop address on your website and note the entries as most likely obtained from census data. Multiple advertisements by various businessmen and one woman show how the lease was used for various going concerns.

One thing that comes through is that over a period of ninety years one family dominated the lease. That family being the Tredgett family consisting of two generations. The first being Husband and wife Ebenezer and Sarah Tredgett. The second being three of their sons Harry, Ebenezer Jnr and Sydney.

Another thing that shows is a pattern of business types. Several stand out. Fruit, flowers and related goods, drapery and banking.

Another note to make is that while the shop lease was for the ground floor a separate lease for the flat above was maintained. This can be seen in that during Ebenezer Tredgett Senior's tenancy a lady ran a cooking school upstairs. Alternatively census data shows folk lived at the address which presumably would have been in the flat.

I offer the following timeline as per the above explanation as follows:-

Circa 1850-1856.	C Cook and Son Florist, Fruiterer and seedsman'
1862-1869	R Smith Drapery "dress materials for ladies, gentry, and other Cambridge residents suitable for formal clothing
1869	R S Graves brother-in-law of R Smith buys the business
1875	Business advertisement shows R S Graves still operating the business.
1875	E Tredgett has a stall on Market Hill CIP 04 December 1875. This might have been pre the shop or have been soon after leasing the shop.
1878-1885	Local businessman Ebenezer Tredgett known as "owner" of Ainger Nurseries advertises 31 Market hill as a Seed and bulb warehouse.
	Other adverts for the shop address offer a range of floral, seedling, and produce items for sale under the names of E Tredgett and Ainger Nurseries.
1885-circa 1900	After Ebenezer's departure his wife Sarah took over the lease. For the first year the shop adverts continued the connections with the nursery. In a separate advertisement in 1886 Ainger nursery advised its customers of its' closure. Thus from this date the adverts related to the shop only.
Circa 1901/1902	Sarah formed a partnership with her sons rebranding the business as "S Tredgett and Sons. The family consisted of five sons. It is most likely the first two were part of the partnership due to their ages although adverts show two more worked in the business.
1906	Sarah's death redesigned the business into the third family format.
1907-1913	During this time the trading name of S Tredgett and sons. The next business name change occurred somewhere near the end of the time frame.

1914	A advert informs Cambridge customers E Tredgett (Jnr) opened a store selling nuts and providing floral arrangements. It is unclear how long the shop was trading as this E Tredgett was conscripted and served in the Great War. A separate advertisement in 1917 declares his bankruptcy so it is unclear how much of this time frame the shop was trading and how much it was dormant.
1914-1918	1914 advertises the new name as H Tredgett and Son. Just who the son is, is unclear as family ancestral records create confusion. Another source in a Horticultural magazine dated 1932 implies it might have been a son named Harry.
1920s-1930s	No clear evidence for who is the Tennant and what the business is.
1992	Photographs taken by a Turner Family member show the Tennant to be the Midland Bank
2018.	Google maps show the bank has changed its' name to HSBC Bank
2019	Google maps show the address as being a Cath Kidston children's clothes store. This chain went bankrupt closing most of its stores in 2020.
2021	The clothing chain Anthropologie opens up their new store located in 31-33 Market Hill

Notes as per the website.

(1) I assume the census material listed relates to the tenancy of the flat above.

(2) The 1881 date for E Tredgett might relate to a census as a tenant but was not the opening date of the business. Newspaper dates show tenancy was operational in 1878.

(3) 312 Histon Road was his family's residence. A 1886 map shows "Providence House" as being located next to Ainger Nursery on one side of the road while more of the nursery being on the opposite side next to 297 Histon Road.

(4) Enid Porter's recollection of the owner operator of the shop being George Tredgett is incorrect. He founded Ainger Nursery in 1852 approximately as per an advertisement Ebenezer put in a newspaper in the mid 1870s.

(5) A Jabez Carter appears in articles between 1865 and 1870 as being a doctor and board member/councillor. The Mill Road connection is confusing. It won't be Harvey. He went bankrupt in 1870. It won't be Ebenezer either as he lived in Chesterton and bought the Histon Road property. It might be their father George. This would imply His nursery had three locations.

Additional notes

(1) Rose Cottage

The map I refer to in note three above refers to a "Rose Cottage". The map also refers to "Providence Cottage" which has been by some sources used as the name for 312 Histon Road. In an advertisement in the Cambridge Independent Press dated 14 November 1868 the reader is informed the property next to Rose Cottage was up for new tenancy/ownership as the then owner/resident had died being a Mr O Germany. This might be the property the lady quoted in your listing was referring to.

A advertisement in the CIP dated 15 July 1876 refers to properties next to two cottages and gardens let to "Mr Tredgett".

(2) "Ebenezer Tredgett"'s involvement in Ainger Nursery can be traced to 1867. This was one year after he was married. At the time of the advert he had turned twenty. Cambridge Independent Press 02 November 1867