

Saddlers and Shoe Makers



An old house and shop once stood just to the north side of the Rising Sun Public House. This building belonged to the owner of the pub and was let for many years to various leather workers associated with the village and the surrounding area.

John B Ablard was a Boot and Shoe maker in Stickney. He was born in 1817 and most likely learnt his trade as an apprentice to his father John in East Kirkby. He lived in this house with his wife Eliza and children and worked in the shop from the 1840s. William Greathead was the land lord of the Rising Sun and charged John eight pounds a year rent, until the summer of 1853 when the Ablards all left England and emigrated to Canada.

Richard Brand Coupland took over the premises for his Saddle and Harness making business. He had previously operated for many years as a Beer house keeper and a Saddler, from the end terrace house near to Horbling Lane end that later became the village Police House and is now named "Honeysuckle Cottage". Richard died in December 1874 when he was sixty eight years old.

John Boyers continued the trade of a harness maker from this building for probably ten years or more after Mr Coupland had died. John was originally apprenticed to his father William in Sibsey, who continued to work there when his son came to Stickney to work on his own account.

Edwin Dunn and **Arthur Dunn** were two brothers, who were trained as Harness and Saddle Makers in Scamblesby by their father Clark Dunn. They worked in Stickney for a short while before moving to Navenby in the middle of the 1890s. Another brother called Tom was also a Saddler.

Arthur Clark known locally as "Saddler" Clark was a popular resident of the village for many years. He was born at Coningsby in 1883 and came to occupy this property and shop from around 1907 when **Thomas Parkes** left it and retired from the saddle and harness trade. Because of the decline in heavy horses between the

wars, Arthur diversified and sold boots and shoes from his shop instead of making Tack. In 1961 at the age of seventy eight he died and the building was later demolished to allow for the road to be widened. The remainder of site is now a car park for the Rising Sun Pub.

Charles Norris was another shoemaker that lived in Stickney for many years during the Victorian era. He was born in Mareham-le-Fen in 1811 and spent most of his working life in the village working from the house at the top of Green Lane that is now called "The Cottage" *and was once the home of Eva Hewitt*. He is first mentioned in the 1841 census as a Shoemaker and later as a Cordwainer. His wife Elizabeth was a Straw Bonnet maker, and they also employed a live-in servant girl. Susanna, the eldest daughter lived at home and was a Dressmaker. When Elizabeth died in 1880 Elizabeth Christopher came to live as house keeper for Charles until his death in January 1886 when he was seventy five. Charles and Elizabeth Norris are both buried in Stickney Church Yard. Stephen Would a Stickney Carrier, then occupied the premises.

Just to the south side of Green lane where two bungalows now stand, once stood a pair of Primitive Chapels and a row of terraced houses that have since been demolished.

John Leak lived with his wife Jane, eight children and an apprentice. Born in 1811 at Friskney he was a trained boot and shoe maker and was recorded as living in Stickney by the 1840s. He appears to have worked from the same premises until he died in 1877 at the age of sixty eight. His son Edwin eventually became the Inn Keeper of the Plough and also the Market Carrier. Two other sons, Charles and **Motley Leak**, followed their father's trade as "Cordwainers" His wife Jane moved to a cottage near the Plough Inn and survived the last few years of her life as a pauper until her death in 1888.

John Herbert Coulson was a well-respected village Postmaster for the last forty three years of his life, but as a young boy was originally apprenticed to John Houlden and trained as a shoe maker. Born in Carrington in 1865 he was married to Sarah and by the end of the 1880s was living and working from the house to the right of the Methodist Chapel next to Shorts Shop. In 1892 he took over the role of Postmaster when William Thomas Fox died but still continued with the making and

repairing of boots and shoes. Around 1907 John discontinued with the Shoemaking profession and concentrated merely with the Royal Mail and the Post Office. He died in October 1935 aged seventy and is interred in Stickney Church Yard next to Sarah who had died sixteen years prior to him.

John Houlden was a Shoe Maker from Fulstow near Louth. He first appeared in Stickney around the end of the 1870s and worked from his house opposite the Hollies (or what was the old Doctors house) with John Herbert Coulson as his lodger and apprentice. His second wife Susan was a Dressmaker from Carrington. In January 1884 John Houlden was buried in Stickney church yard after being found dead along the foot path through the fields from the village to West Fen Lane. He was sixty eight. Susan died in 1893.

James Arthur King was born in 1878 at Little Somerby near Grantham. In the 1880s his father Charles was a Provision Dealer in that area and his twin sons William and John became Basket makers. Arthur the youngest boy was trained as a Boot and Shoe maker, and by the turn of the century he was married in Sleaford to Esther Porter, a Dressmaker and was working on his own account at Ewerby. A few years later he had moved to Stickney and in 1909 he was living and working as a Shoe Maker from "Waggoners Cottage" down West Fen Drain Side. Later on he had purchased a wooden workshop and sited it behind his next home, along the main road, just south of Horbling Lane junction. In 1939 he took on an apprentice, a 14 year old school leaver from the village, called Robert Kingston. When Arthur died Bob inherited his workshop and moved it in 1949 to Hall Lane near Cyril Hardy's yard and then finally, in 1980 to its present site in West Fen Lane. J A King was laid to rest at Ewerby alongside his wife who had died some years earlier.

Bob Kingston has lived and worked in the village all his life and eventually retired when he was eighty.

Nathaniel Weston was born in 1839 at Banham in Norfolk. At the age of twenty four he was recorded as a Shoe Maker serving a prison sentence in the Norfolk County Gaol. After being released, he married Martha Ann and had three sons, William, Nathaniel and Godfrey. Martha died in 1884 and soon afterwards Nathaniel moved to Stickney, living and working in a cottage on the main road near

the Plough Inn. Two of his sons most probably came with him, as William lived to be eighty one and is buried in the parish, Nathaniel died in 1889 when he was only sixteen. Their father married Betsy Taylor from New Bolingbroke in 1895, and continued as a Shoe maker in Stickney until his death in 1906. Betsy remained in the village for the next thirty two years until she died at the age of eighty seven.

Alfred P Wilson moved from Branston to Stickney with his wife Ann and eight children around the late 1870s and took the licensed premises called "The White Horse" on the main road. From here Alfred also worked at his trade as a Shoemaker while Ann ran the Public House. They didn't stay very long in the village and left about 1886 moving to Market Deeping.

Isaiah Ashlin died in 1859 and is buried in the Church Yard. He was born at Sibsey in 1800 and moved to Stickney with his wife Sarah and five children in 1838. They lived down Hall Lane next to The Bridge Tavern Inn where three more children were later born. Isaiah worked at his trade as a "cordwainer" as his father Robert had done. By 1861 Sarah was a widow and three of her sons were still living with her in the same place. Samuel who was thirty eight was a Coal Dealer, and Robert and brother Isaiah were both Shoemakers. Two years later Robert and his new wife Selina were the head of the house with his Mother and brother Samuel living with them. At the age of thirty one Robert had four children and was still Shoemaking in Stickney. After this date the whole family seemed to have disappeared, although a Sarah Ashlin's death was recorded at Hull in 1878 and this may have been the Mother.

George Shilcock Hudson born 1909 in Stickney was the son of Edward Hudson the Carrier and a farmer in West Fen Lane. George was apprentice to Alex Yates a boot and shoemaker in Stickford and learnt his trade there in the workshop near to the Bridge. After leaving Mr Yates he used a shed in the garden of his father's house at Stickney to work on his own account. When the family were turned out of the house in West Fen Lane, George used the "lean-to building at the back of the Primitive Chapel on the Main Road for a workshop. He eventually married Nora Wainwright the daughter of the Rising Sun Landlord, and moved away from the village. He died at Lincoln in 2000 at the age of ninety one.

Alfred Abraham Vickers was married to Betsy Wray in 1894. He was born in 1863 and trained as Shoemaker in Tetford. Round about the turn of the century they moved to Stickney, and lived down Thornsedale Lane, working as a shoe repairer from their home, "Coates Cottage". Betsy and Alfred died in 1944 and 1945 respectively, and are both buried in Stickney Church Yard.

A few other Boot and Shoemakers are mentioned as living and working in Stickney at various times in the past, although very little is known about them.

Thomas Harrison Listed in the parish tax records of 1780 to 1810 as a shoemaker.

Francis Grantham was born in Stickney in 1786 and lodged with Mary Spittal a flower seller near Poppy Alley. He is quoted in the census of 1841-51 as a Shoe mender.

John Haw was a Shoemaker in the village in 1781 to 1813.

William Pell was a journeyman shoemaker from Marsh Chapel. He was born in 1827 and appeared in Stickney in 1856. He later became a Police Constable.

Martin Hatcliffe a journeyman shoemaker was the son of a brickmaker from Langton. He was in Stickney in 1900 when he was twenty three years old.

Samuel Procter born in 1798 and came from Fulletby. He lived at East Fen Side Stickney and worked as a shoe repairer in 1851.