

Stickney's Six Post Offices



The first Post Office in Stickney was the old mud and stud cottage that once stood in the churchyard, just behind where the war memorial is now. The Lincolnshire Directory of 1841 and the census of Stickney, name James Blay as Post Master and then his widow Elizabeth or “Widow Blay” until her death in 1857. The Blays had three sons William, Thomas and John. William took over the Post Office after his mother died, and later moved it to the house, now called “Herds House” opposite Tempest's Garage on the main road, as indicated in the 1871 records of the village and the 1873.

At Lincoln Court in March 1876 William Blay was found guilty of Embezzlement and sentenced to serve seven years imprisonment for stealing sixty shillings from “The Queen” By the time the next Census was taken William was listed as a convict in Woking Prison Knaphill.



In 1876 The Post Office had now moved to the shop where it is today. Thomas Bryant was the Grocer here and had been for the last twenty years and was now the Post Master. The Post Office remained here until the middle of the 1880s, now with John Short as the shopkeeper, who had moved from the smaller premises at Holland House a few years early.

William Fox was the village Police Constable at one time but had to leave the Police Force when he became partially disabled. He had a milk



round for a short while afterwards, but eventually took the Post Office to where he was living at “The Briars” until his death in 1892.

John Herbert Coulson a boy from Carrington, was apprentice to John Houlden, a boot and shoemaker who worked from premises opposite the old Doctors Surgery. When John Coulson had completed his training, he worked on his own as a shoemaker, at the house (now called “Lynbay” just south of today's village store.) in 1887 John married Sarah Ann Spring the widow of William Spring who once kept the Rising Sun Inn

When William Fox died John took over the Post Office and ran it as well as shoemaking from these premises for about the next fifteen years. In 1909 he is recorded as being just “Post Master” suggesting he'd given up the leather trade. Some of his assistances and postmen were, A Spring. G Lovell. FE Medcalf and G Hardy. There were no postal deliveries on Sundays but letters could be called for.

The Parish Council first requested a telegraph service for the village in 1900 and a system was eventually installed at by 1909, and by the 1930s a “white” telephone kiosk stood on the roadside just outside the Post Office John Herbert Coulson was the Post Master of Stickney for over forty years. When he died in 1935 the business moved once again to the premises of Bertram J Scarborough.

John Scarborough, a coal merchant, from Tattershall and father of Bertram, moved his coal business to Stickney at the end of the first world war. Bertram or “Blackjack” as he was known took over the coal yard in the early 1930s but disposed of it later to become full-time Post Master.



Mr Scarborough's Post office was situated in the cottage opposite the church, where he resided until retirement at 76 years old. The cottage is now a private residence called The Old Post Office, but its original name was Mossgyle.

In 1966 due to the retirement of Mr Scarborough, several applications were received by the GPO to take over the Postmasters duties at Stickney. The position was awarded to Mr A Gill, the owner of the Village General Stores, but at that time there were objections from a few of the villagers because the shop was also an off licence. The Gills left the business in the mid 1970 and sold it to Plants. Bradleys ran the shop and Post Office between 1989 and 1994 .The General Store is now kept by Linda Wooding who took over on April 13th 1994.

The Nags Head Inn was demolished in 1877 and was recorded at the time as being a "Ancient Posting Inn". The old thatched building once stood opposite the shop called Holland House and was most likely where the horses were changed on the Mail Coach, and from here letters could be left and collected. There are many references in the old Church books of payment for the delivery of a letter and even a fee being paid for receiving one.