

HELHOUGHTON SHOP - ROYS

The village shop was owned from approximately the 1860s-1890s by my mother's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Young.

I have no knowledge of their origin other than that they came from Scotland. Mr. Young was a shepherd, and I believe they owned the shop jointly when they came to Norfolk. Mrs. Young ran the shop with her own staff, and Mr. Young continued as a shepherd to a local estate until his death. In due course as Mrs. Young got older she sold the shop in the early 1900s to Herbert and Katie Roy. Herbert Roy was from Burnham Market, and Katie was born at Reepham. One of her brothers managed the Roys shop at Coltishall, and the other established and developed Roys of Wroxham.

Herbert and Katie were cousins, both named Roy. To my knowledge and childhood memories the shop was in two parts, Herbert running the grocery area and Katie in charge of the household section, selling haberdashery, basic clothes, work clothes for the farmers, toys, etc. They lived over the shop and so did all the staff. They had two children – two boys and one girl. The eldest was Jack, then Margaret and finally George.

Leaving school, the children went to Norwich to learn about retailing. Margaret went to Chamberlin's Drapers on Guildhall Hill, Norwich (now Tesco). Jack and George went elsewhere. They all lived over where they worked.

Jack had his first shop at Burwell, Cambridgeshire. In due course he bought a shop in Docking, Norfolk. When their parents retired Margaret and George took over the Helhoughton shops. Their parents moved to a lovely house in Hayes Lane, Fakenham. Margaret moved in with them and travelled to Helhoughton daily. George and his wife Margery lived over the Helhoughton shop. George and Margaret retired after the Second World War ended. I have no further information as to the ownership of the shop.

Ann L. Roy, 17/06/2013