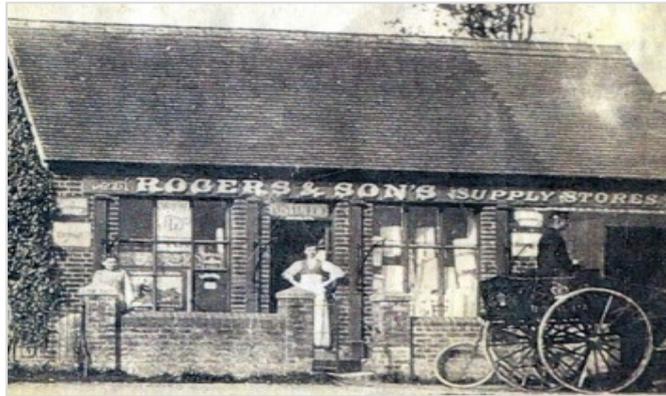


Semley Grocer's Claim 1938



Semley Village Stores c1910

A claim for £26 7s 6d alleged to be due for goods supplied was made at Shaftesbury County Court on Monday, by Thomas Alan Grocott, baker and general storekeeper of Semley, against H J Perrett, Billhay Cottages, Semley.

Plaintiff, who was represented by Mr W Farley Rutter, gave evidence of supplying the goods and said he had examined the bundle of "receipts" which defendant produced but the signatures on them were not his (plaintiff's).

When the Judge asked to see the receipts, defendant handed a bundle of papers to him. The Judge handed one of them to Grocott, who said the signature on it was neither his nor that of anyone of his employ and he did not know whose writing it was.

When handed another account, witness said he did not know whose writing it was, but the signature appeared to be the same as on the previous one.

Defendant, on oath, said that as far as he knew, he did not owe Mr Grocott a penny. Answering the Judge, he said his wife paid the bills. The Judge: Did your wife bring back these accounts? Defendant: These bills were paid and settled in our cottage. The money was paid to Mr Grocott himself and he signed these bills, every one of them.

Plaintiff, recalled, was shown further bills and in each case he said it was not his signature attached.

In accordance with the Judge's request, he wrote on a piece of paper the words "Paid, with thanks, T E Grocott".

This the Judge carefully examined.

Answering His Honour, defendant said he was not present when his wife paid the money.

The Judge: Why isn't your wife here?

Defendant replied that she was not well and she would have had to walk up. She came to the last Court but was told that he (defendant) must come.

The Judge remarked that he could not accept these as the signatures and receipts of the plaintiff in the absence of the evidence of anybody who saw him sign them "and I have a very grave doubt whether he did", added the Judge, giving judgement for the amount claimed.

Asked how he could pay, defendant said he did not owe the money and he did not see why he should pay.

The Judge: You must settle with your wife.

Defendant: I could swear it is Mr Grocott's handwriting.

Further questioned, defendant said his wages were 35s a week and he had three children dependent on him.

Making an order for payment at the rate of 2s a month, the Judge advised plaintiff not to give credit for such large sums to people in Perrett's position.

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