

## Northamptonshire Record Office

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NORTHAMPTONSHIRE RECORD OFFICE



Records of T.A. Cobley & Son,  
Grocers, of  
7, Dalkeith Place, Kettering.

Accession 1978/147

In 1899, two brothers, Thomas Arthur and Benjamin George Cobley, formed a grocery business at 62, Rockingham Road and 10, Dalkeith Place, Kettering, trading under the name of Cobley Brothers. Thomas Cobley had served a four year apprenticeship from 1887 under Alfred Lewin, a local grocer and provisions dealer.

In 1919, the two brothers decided to split the business into two parts - B.G. Cobley and Son at 62, Rockingham Road and T.A. Cobley and Son at 10, Dalkeith Place. Thomas Cobley and his son, Wilfred, also purchased the grocery business of J.W. Baines at 26, Newland Street.

In the 1920's, Wilfred Cobley introduced the sale of freshly roasted and ground coffees; an item which remains a speciality of T.A. Cobley and Son today.

In 1929, the firm of T.A. Cobley and Son moved from number 10 to 12, Dalkeith Place until the lease of the premises expired in 1936, when a new shop at 7, Dalkeith Place was built for the business.

Thomas Cobley's grandson, Mr. John Cobley, became a partner in the business in 1957. In 1962, the business of B.G. Cobley and Son closed down and amalgamated with T.A. Cobley and Son. In 1967 the shop at 26, Newland Road was also closed and the whole grocery business was consolidated at 7, Dalkeith Place.

Today the business of T.A. Cobley and Son retains the atmosphere of an old-fashioned grocer's shop with personal service to customers and selling high quality provisions and groceries, specialising in freshly roasted coffee and fine and unusual blends of tea. A delivery service is still maintained throughout Kettering and the surrounding villages.

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T.A. Cobley & Son

- 1 \*Indenture of Apprenticeship of T.A. Cobley to Alfred Lewin, Grocer & Provisions Dealer. (xerox copy obtained for the Record Office) 1887
- 2 \*Railway Goods Inwards Book: This book lists grocery items sent by suppliers to T.A. Cobley & Son by rail. Since 1977 goods are sent by road only. 1962-1977
- 3 Paying-in Bank Book Stubs of B.G. Cobley & Son. March 1913-June 1913  
Aug 1918-Dec 1918
- 4 \*Price Catalogue of Goods sold by T.A. Cobley & Son. (xerox copy obtained for the Record Office)
- 5 Photographs
  - a)\*The shop at 10, Dalkeith Place with Mr. T.A. Cobley and Mr. W. Cobley as a boy. (photocopy obtained for the Record Office) c.1907
  - b)\*The shop at 10, Dalkeith Place under management by others. (photocopy obtained for the Record Office) 1920's
  - c)\*Window displays at 12, Dalkeith Place (5 views). (one photocopy obtained for the Record Office) c.1936
  - d) T.A. Cobley & Son's exhibition at the Trades Fair. Wilfred Brambell tasting cheese. Oct 1961
  - e) Wilfred Brambell presenting Mr. J. Cobley with a cup at the Trades Fair (2 views). Oct 1961
  - f) T.A. Cobley & Son's exhibition at the Chamber of Trade Exhibition (2 views). 1967
  - g) The Christmas Groceries display at 7, Dalkeith Place. 1965

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T.A. Cobley & Son

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h) The Kettering Civic Society Cheese and Wine Party. 1976

6 Newspaper Articles

a) \*Article in the Evening Telegraph on the 80th. birthday of Mr. T.A. Cobley. March 1952  
(xerox copy obtained for the Record Office)

b) Article in the Northants Advertiser on the 90th. birthday of Mr. T.A. Cobley. March 1962

c) \*Article in the Northants Advertiser on the emigration to Australia of Mr. Chappell, an employee of T.A. Cobley & Son for 45 years. July 1962  
(xerox copy obtained for the Record Office)

d) Article in the Northants Advertiser on the death of Mr. T.A. Cobley. Dec 1963

7 \*Letter to customers from B.G. Cobley & Son informing them of the closure of the business. c. Jan 1962  
(xerox copy obtained for the Record Office)

8 \*Letter from T.A. Cobley & Son to customers of B.G. Cobley & Son recommending them to his firm. Feb 1962

9 Certificate from the Institute of Certificated Grocers presented to Arthur John Littleton Cobley on his having passed the 1st. Examination of the Institute. 1953

0 Certificate from the above Institute to Arthur John Littleton Cobley on his having passed the intermediate examination of the Institute. 1954

11 Law's Grocers Manual 1895  
An alphabetical description of groceries

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T.A. Cobley & Son

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11 and provisions.  
(cont.)

\*Records or xerox copies of records obtained by  
the Record Office.

April, 1978.