

Northamptonshire Record Office

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NRA 21512



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= APR 1978

The Records of Goss Bros.Stationers, of
34, High Street,
ThrapstonAccession 1978/31

The firm of Goss Bros. was founded sometime before 1900, just off the High Street in Kettering, by Walter Edward Goss and his brother, John (born 1857-died 1916). John Goss came from Woburn in Bedfordshire and is the grandfather of the present Misses Goss. He married Elizabeth and they had seven children: May (who married and had one girl); John (father, born 1883); Cyril (born 1884, who married and had four girls); Bernard (born 1887, died due to war injuries); Lily (born 1889 o.s.p.); R. Hubert (born 1893 o.s.p.) and Francis (born 1897 o.s.p.). Of W.E. Goss we do not know very much, except that soon after the partnership was set up, it became evident that the brothers should split up and the Misses Goss have no idea as to what became of their side of the family.

During the early years of the firm's history they concentrated on printing, stationery and book-binding. The premises moved to the bottom of Market Street, Kettering and again to the High Street on the site on which Woolworth's now stand. A Col. Howard Burdett also started a boxmaking section of the firm, which operated from the same premises.

In 1912, Goss Bros. opened up a second shop on the corner of the Main Street and Chancery Lane, Thrapston (on the left-hand side of what is now Barclay's Bank - Chancery Lane being a much narrower road). This shop has long since been demolished, but was run by John Goss's second son, Cyril W. Goss, until just after 1919, when the shop moved to its present position in High Street. Cyril moved to Frinton in Essex. After Cyril moved, his elder brother, John, took over the Thrapston office and ran it until the outbreak of war in 1939, when he decided that he wanted to do more for the war effort and joined the Thrapston Washed Sand and Ballast Co., for whom he continued to work until he was forcibly retired at the age of 70. His wife, Elsie, took over the business and ran the shop throughout the war and indeed up until the October before her death in January 1966 (aged 79). John carried on a certain amount of printing and, although this gradually dropped off after the war, they were still agents for another printer - Walter Knight of Rushden, who has since been taken over by Frank Eady Bros.

John and Elsie Goss had three children; Patricia (born 1917); Pamela (born 1924) and Prudence (born 1930). Prudence had worked in the shop with her mother since 1950. Patricia, although working for seven years before the war, did not return to her home to work

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The Records of Goss Bros.

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until after 1965 (when her father died). During the intervening years she worked on a farm for a year during the war and then went into the fire service until 1945, after which she joined the W.V.S. abroad until 1958. After her parents death, the business was divided between the three sisters, but although they still consult each other, Pamela is now a sleeping partner as she lives in Lincolnshire.

The shop is now divided - what was the wool section was originally let to Horner's the baker, during the war it was used for paper salvage, then as a Conservative Committee Room. After that, Mr. Russell (the outfitters next door) rented the premises as a bicycle repair shop and taxi service and it is now let to Norman Curtis, the barber. Originally, part of the rent included the cutting of Mr. Goss's hair!

Over the years the shop has sold various commodities, including newspapers (before 1919). They were also agents for picture framing and now sell a wide range of goods, from wools to toys, stationery and childrens books, including some by the local author 'BB' - Denys Watkins-Pitchford, who lives at the Round House, Sudborough. Miss Goss also had a sign advertising the Waverley pen which read "They come as a boon and a blessing to men, the pickwick, the owl and the Waverly pen"!

The Misses Goss live over the shop in the connected house, which was once a farmhouse for which they hold deeds going back to the 1700's. The shop today is a flourishing business and it is interesting to note that in 1914, the takings for Christmas week amounted £28/7/1. During the comparative week leading up to Christmas 1977, the takings were £900. Evidence which surely shows that small firms are still very much going concerns and provide a useful and interesting way to purchase one's goods.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE RECORD OFFICE

Goss Bros.

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Section A - Ledgers, Account Books, Cash Books, Etc.

" B - Pay In Books, Cheque Books

" C - Trade Literature

" D - Bills and Miscellaneous

SECTION A

- 1 Ledger: Indexed, showing firm's accounts on separate pages, including local organizations such as Drayton Park Cricket Club; Overseers, Sudborough, Twywell, Slipton, Old Weston and Thrapston and British Legion.

2nd April 1924-3rd Dec 1924

- 2 Ledger: Indexed, showing individual accounts of people and firms in the district. Totalled up monthly with individual pages for the various firms. At the back of the book is a section dealing with sundries - those people who were not regular enough customers to warrant a private page. Columns for discount are also shown.

1935-1940

- 3 Ledger: Indexed, showing firms accounts, including Parish Council's; Rushden Electric Supply Co.; Young Farmers Club; Estate accounts and, at the back, private individuals accounts which do not require a full page.

1st Jan 1941-1st Jan 1954

- 4 Account Book (in two parts):

a) Part I

Showing printed weekly cash sheets, receipts and payments and sections for payments out with headings for stock (actual payments); salaries/wages; rent, rates, insurances; light, heat, power; sundries and payments NOT stock or expenses.

7th April 1962-30th March 1963

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE RECORD OFFICE

Goss Bros.

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SECTION A (cont.)

- 4 b) Part II
Private Ledger: Showing weekly summaries for the year ending 30th March 1963, also profit and loss account and other section not filled in.
- 5 Account Book (in two parts):
a) Part I
Showing printed weekly cash sheets, receipts and payments and sections for payments out with headings for stock (actual payments); salaries/wages; rent, rates, insurances; light, heat, power; sundries and payments NOT stock or expenses.
3rd April 1965-8th Jan 1966
- 5 b) Part II: not filled in.
- 6 Cash Book: Showing individual sales with name and goods sold with price and, in some cases, date paid. At the side of each entry is what appears to be a cross reference number and first letter of customer's name.
1st Oct 1914-7th March 1919
- 7 Cash Book: Showing cash received and cash paid out for the Thrapston branch, with carbon copies for each page dealing with Monday-Saturday for each week with a section at the bottom of the page for accounts received and remarks - none of which have been filled in. The duplicate top copy has not been torn out.
21st Nov 1914-29th July 1916
- 8-14 Cash Book: Showing receipts (on left-hand page) and payments (on right-hand page)
(8) 11th Dec 1916-2nd Feb 1917
(9) 12th Feb 1917-19th Dec 1917
(10) 20th Dec 1917-12th Aug 1919
(11) 14th Aug 1919-6th March 1920
(12) 8th March 1920-22nd June 1921
(13) 23rd June 1921-12th July 1922
(14) 29th July 1922-2nd Aug 1923

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE RECORD OFFICE

Goss Bros.

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SECTION A (cont.)

15-17 Receipts and Payments Books: Showing weekly receipts with each day listed and payments out with printed sections for rent, carriage, wages, etc. At the bottom, a section for weekly cash report and weekly cash balance. At the back of the book are printed sections for summaries of weekly takings; summaries of payments for goods purchased; summary of expenses under their own headings; bank summary, profit and loss account and trading account.

(15) 10th Jan 1966-2nd Jan 1967

(16) 9th Jan 1967-6th Jan 1968

(17) 8th Jan 1968-5th Jan 1971

18 Bank Pass Book: Showing receipts and payments in account with the Northamptonshire Union Bank Ltd.

27th Nov 1912-31st Dec 1913

19-22 Bank Pass Books: Showing receipts and payments in account with Messrs. Barclay and Co. Ltd.

(19) 12th Dec 1912-1st Feb 1915

(20) 2nd Feb 1915-30th Aug 1917

(21) 31st Aug 1917-23rd Nov 1920

(22) 27th Nov 1933-6th Nov 1940

SECTION B

1 Pay-in Books:

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| (a) 30/9/16-8/5/17 | (g) 22/3/19-7/8/19 | (m) 20/12/21-13/5/22 |
| (b) 12/5/17-11/8/17 | (h) 20/1/20-30/6/20 | (n) 16/5/22-13/9/22 |
| (c) 15/8/17-18/11/17 | (i) 5/7/20-14/12/20 | (o) 21/7/23-6/12/23 |
| (d) 3/12/17-30/7/18 | (j) 20/12/20-1/4/21 | |
| (e) 6/8/18-21/11/18 | (k) 5/4/21-28/7/21 | |
| (f) 30/11/18-17/3/19 | (l) 3/8/21-13/12/21 | |

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE RECORD OFFICE

Goss Bros.

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SECTION B (cont.)

2 Cheque Stubs:

- (a) 27/4/17-14/8/17
- (b) 25/8/17-14/11/17
- (c) 16/11/17-30/1/18
- (d) 2/2/18-4/5/18
- (e) 7/5/18-28/8/18
- (f) 30/8/18-3/12/18

SECTION C

Trade Literature:

- 1 Catalogue of Stationery and Stationers' Sundries -
W.H. Smith and Son, 186, Strand, London W.C.

20/11/1909

- 2 British Industries Fair catalogue Royal Agricultural
Hall
Showing names of stall holders in alphabetical order,
also stating their address and the goods in which
they specialized. At back of book - a map of the
ground.

May 10th-12th 1915

- 3 Catalogue of net trade prices from W.H. Hayden and
Co. Ltd., Wholesale and Manufacturing Stationers,
Merchants and Shippers, London E.C.1

No date

- 4 Catalogue of Carlton Heraldic China
Showing pictures and prices. Made by Wiltshaw and
Robinson Ltd., Carlton Works, Stoke-on-Trent.

No date

- 5 List of Childrens Annuals published by the R.T.S.;
Cassells; O.U.P. and Hodders and Stoughton Ltd.

No date

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE RECORD OFFICE

Goss Bros.

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SECTION C (cont.)

- 6 Literature on Collins Commercial or Office Diaries.
No date
- 7 Literature on Lett's Diaries
1920
- 8 Literature on Swan Mechanical Toys
Showing pictures of various model making machines,
such as drills and lathes.
1919/1920
- 9 Advertisement of new showrooms and warehouse at
16, Regent Street, London S.W.1, for William Johnson
and Sons.
No date
- 10 Two advertisement papers for Selsdon Fountain Pen
Repair Service.
No date
- 11 Paper advertising new style N.S.C. "Zanetic" Patent
Copying Book.
No date

SECTION D

Bills and Miscellaneous:

- 1 Peterborough Diocesan Leaflet (Temporary Issue)
June 1921
- 2 Annual Report of the National Provident Insurance
for Mutual Life Assurance including balance sheet
and revenue account.
22nd February 1918
- 3 Six letters from:
(a) The Pencarbon Co. Ltd. 12/12/1913

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NORTHAMPTONSHIRE RECORD OFFICE

Goss Bros.

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SECTION D (cont.)

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|-------|---|---------------|
| 3(b) | Slazengers Ltd. | 21/6/1913 |
| cont. | (c) The Caxton Magazine | 17/12/1919 |
| | (d) A. & E. Dickens (printed letter) | No date |
| | (e) Slazengers Ltd. (printed letter) | No date |
| | (f) Letter from G. Nichols | No date |
| 4 | Loose Bills | |
| | (a) W.E. & J. Goss to Rev. ? | 31/12/1912 |
| | (b) Bernard Cawdell | Lady Day 1918 |
| | (c) Rushden & District Electric Supply Co. Ltd. | 30/6/1939 |
| | (d) Carter & Parker Ltd. | 21/9/1939 |
| | (e) W.N. Sharpe Ltd. | 5/10/1939 |
| | (f) Hadden, Best & Co. Ltd. | 3/8/1951 |
| | (g) Hadden, Best & Co. Ltd. | 28/2/1952 |
| 5 | Headed note paper: | |
| | W.E. & J. Goss
Goss Brothers | |
| 6 | Box of bills and receipted bills from various firms, private individuals including electricity accounts, etc. | |

1959

February, 1978