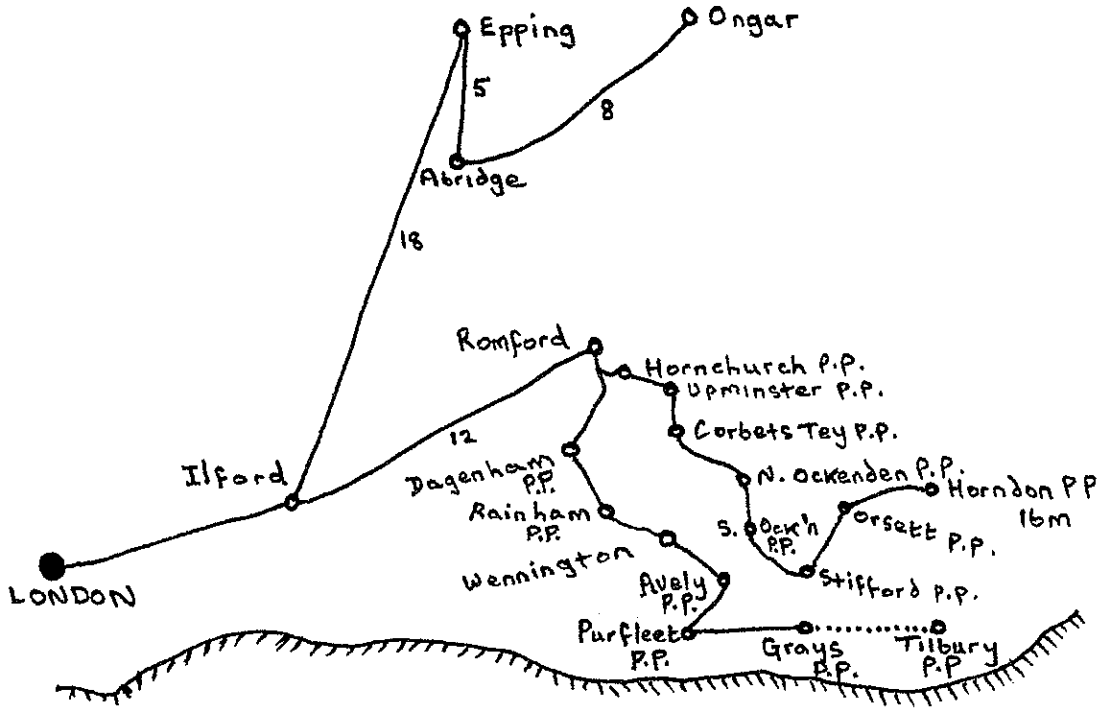


ROMFORD


THE POSTAL HISTORY OF AN ESSEX
MARKET TOWN
AND ITS SURROUNDING AREA


By
Glenn H. Morgan
1983

Mr. Western's District ~ DECEMBER 1819



-:Key:-

———— Daily Horse Rides.

..... Messengers on Foot.

ROMFORD

- 1838 1 clerk only, earning £110:9s:0d. 1
- 1739 Romfordian Sir John Eyles appointed P.M.G. 1
- 1793 Mail from London destined for ROMFORD was delivered 4
the same night as arrival. Time of arrival: 10 p.m.
Time of Departure: 4 A.M. Postage on a single
sheet letter ~ 3d.
- 1838 During May, 1,149 letters and 94 newspapers were 1
handled. Of these, 50 were "privileged", i.e. M.P.
mail sent free.
- 1672 First record of a P.O. 1
- 1844 Number 668 allocated. 1
- 1811 Penny Post established to speed the Yarmouth mail 1
Mail was carried by a Contractor who earned
£320 per annum for 2 rides each of 16 miles, being
one journey in each direction a day.

PARCEL POST

1883 A four horse mail van service to Chelmsford was started from Mount Pleasant Parcel Office, travelling through Romford.

ABRIDGE

Status: Sub-Office under Romford H.P.O.

Location:

Post Code: RM14 1UA

Date Opened: Before 1794

Telegraphic Code: ABZ

Building dates from 18th Century.

- 1692 Served by footpost of the London Penny Post. 1
- 1794 Receiving House established. 1
- 1832 William Hodges, Draper + Grocer, Receiver. 1
- 1834 Mr Mead Receiver. 1
- 1848 T. Champness, Auctioneer, Surveyor + Estate Agent, Postmaster. 1
- 1882 Richard Bryant, Postmaster. 1
- 1845 Thomas Champness, Auctioneer + Surveyor, Postmaster. 2
Letters arrive every Morning at 8 and are delivered immediately. Box closes at half past five and the letters are despatched at 6.
- 1793 Abridge was a Receiving House under ONGAR. 4
Postage to London was 4d for a single sheet letter.
- 1697 P.O. advert in "London Gazette" newspaper: 27 Decr. 4
"On the usual post days a Post will go by way of Epping, Bishop's Stortford and Saffron Walden to Cambridge. Bags will be left at the said towns, as also at Woodford, Chigwell, ABRIDGE and Farlow."
- 1698 P.O. advert in "London Gazette" newspaper: 28 March. 4
"Every Night (Sunday's excepted) a Post is appointed to go and come from the G.P.O. in Lombard Street to and from the towns following Low Leyton, Walthamstow, Wanstead, Woodford, Chigwell, ABRIDGE, Ongar, Epping, Copthall and all parts adjacent."

ABRIDGE

1820 Penny Post Rides . Mailcart from Romford to Havering, Passingford Bridge Receiving House (with a footpost from there to ABRIDGE) and onto Ongar. The mailcart contractor was H.D. Cook, and the journey was 12 miles. Departure from Romford was at 05:30 am, returning at 18:00 pm.

1865 Ongar mailcart service withdrawn due to Ongar being reduced from a Post Town to a Sub-Office. The cart was therefore diverted to ABRIDGE, daily.

POSTAL MARKINGS:

1. 1854-1858 Noted.
Undated namestamp.
Blue or black seen.

BULPHAN

Status: Was sub-office under Upminster P.O.

Location:

Date Opened: 1890 - 1900

Date Closed:

1

BULPHAN, HIGH BANK

Status: Was sub-office under Uppingham P.O.

Location:

Date Opened: 1935/1941

Date Closed: 1961

CHADWELL HEATH

Status: Branch Office under Romford H.P.O.

Location: 1-2 Tudor Parade, High Road

Post Code: RM6 6PT

Date Opened: 1972. Present site since 1972.

Telegraphic Code: CEE

1
4

CHERRY TREE

Status: T.S.O. under Rainham P.O.

Location:

Post Code: RM13 8TU

Date Opened: 1930/50

CRANHAM

Status: Sub office under Upminster p.o.

Location:

Post Code: RM14 1XL.

Date Opened: Before 1937.

DAGENHAM

Status:

Location:

Post Code:

Date Opened:

Telegraphic Code: DGM

FAIRVIEW AVENUE

Status: T.S.O. under Rainham P.O.

Location:

Post Code: RM13 9RL

Date Opened: 1935/50

1

HARE STREET

Status: Was sub-office under Romford H.P.O.

Location:

Date Opened: Before 1794

1

Date Closed: Between 1931/5

1

Telegraphic Code: HSS

4

1820 Mailcart to Havering, Passingford Bridge and HARE STREET, from Romford.

1

HAROLD WOOD

Status:

Location:

Post Code: RM3 0PB

Date Opened: After 1930

Telegraphic Code: HWC

1

4

HAVERING-PITTE-BOWER

Status: Sub-Office under Romford H.P.O.

Location:

Post Code: RM4 1PR

Date Opened: 1820

Telegraphic Code: HFI

1
4

1820 Mailcart from Romford to HAVERING, Passingford Bridge and Hare Street.

1

1863/7 "A service of delivery and collection had been guaranteed by David McIntosh Esq. of Havering Park, Romford in the sum of £6:10:4d. Expenses amounted to £15:12:10d each year, and the revenue at 1/4d per letter amounted to £9:2:6d for 1864; £6:2:6d for 1865 and £7:10:0d for 1866. In the circumstances the full amount of the guarantee had been paid each year."

3

HORNCHURCH

- 1811 Cost of posting single sheet letter to London ~ 4d. 5
1821 -"-, unchanged. 5
1811 First P.O. opened. 1
1871 P.O. sited at No. 50 High Street. Postmistress was
Eunice Hampshire, aged 50 years.
1851 Postmaster was Thos. Hampshire.

LAMBS LANE

Status: T.S.O. under Rainham P.O.

Location:

Post Code: RM13 9XA

Date Opened: 1935/50

LANGDON HILLS

Status: Was sub-office under Romford H.P.O.

Location:

Date Opened: Before 1882

Date closed: Between 1920/1930

Telegraphic Code: LIA

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1
4

Office seems a long way from Romford. However, Sub offices could be an unrestricted distance from Parent office providing^{ed} that it was considered to be expedient.

MARDYKE

Status: TSO under Rainham P.O.

Location:

Post Code: RM13 8QD

Date Opened:

MUNGO PARK LANE

Status: T.S.O. under Rainham P.O.

Location:

Post Code: RM13 7PP

Date Opened: After 1950

1

NAVESTOCK

Status: Sub Office under Romford H.P.O.

Location:

Post Code: RM4 1HD

Date Opened: 1840/1855 period |

1840 Application for Post Office refused by P.M.G. |

1855 P.O. known to be open by this date. |

NAVESTOCKSIDE

Status: Was Sub. Office under Romford H.P.O.

Location: See below.

Date Opened: 18~~8~~4.

Date closed: Before First world war.

Telegraphic code:

1870 The only P.O. was at Shonks Mill, letters being received
to
1884 from Romford.

1884 P.O. opened at Navestockside.

1890 Telegraph equipment moved from Shonks Mill by this date.

1894 Shonks Mill closed and replaced by an office at Sabine's
Green (Navestock Heath).

NEW ROAD

Status: T.S.O. under Rainham P.O.

Location:

Post Code: RM13 8SH

Date Opened: 1920/30

1

NORTH OCKENDEN

Status: Sub office under Romford H.P.O.

Location:

Post Code:

Date Opened:

1968	Present premises occupied.	
1832	John Elliott, market gardener, Postmaster	
1855	- " -	

PASSINGFORD BRIDGE

Status: Renamed Stapleford Tawney.

Date Opened: By 1793

- 1820 Served by Mailcart from Romford to Havering,
PASSINGFORD BRIDGE and Hare Street. |
- 1692 Letters were being delivered by the London Penny
Post footpost. |
- 1793 Receiving House established by this date. Letters
were received from Epping on a ride through
Ongar. |
- Receiver received a salary of £2 per annum. |
- 1840 Salary increased to £4 per annum. |
- 1848 Receiver was William Roach, a grocer. |
- 1896 Name changed to Stapleford Tawney. |
- 1800/50 Present building erected sometime between these
dates. |
- 1793 Passingford Bridge came under Ongar. |
- Postage to London was 4d for a single letter. |
- 18 Receiving House Number 18 No. 18 |

RAINHAM

Status: Head Office under Romford H.P.O.

Location: 32 Wennington Road

Post Code: RM13 9TB

Date Opened: 1794

Telegraphic Code: RAK

- | | | |
|------|--|---|
| 1871 | F42 allocated to Rainham. | 1 |
| 1811 | Postage of a single letter to London — 5d. | 4 |
| 1821 | — 11 — Rate reduced to 4d. | 4 |
| 1794 | P.O. opened, mail being opened received from Ilford. | 1 |
| 1832 | Letter box at the Phoenix Inn. Mail received and despatched from Romford. Express mail could be sent by special horseman from the Phoenix. | 1 |
| 1837 | Rainham was included in London District Post, country area. | 1 |
| 1873 | Telegraph facilities provided. | 1 |
| 1952 | Present premises built. | 1 |

SOUTH OLKENDEN

Status: Head Office under Romford H.P.O.

Location: 8 Derwent Parade

Post Code: RM15 5EB

Date Opened:

Telegraphic code: SOK

SQUIRAELS HEATH

Status: Town Sub Office under Romford H.P.O.

Location:

Post Code: RM2 6DB

Date Opened: 1865. Renamed "Station Road, Gidea Park" |
in 19

STAPLEFORD ABBOTS

status: Sub-Office under Romford.

Location: 1

Post Code: RM4 1JH

Date Opened: 1896. 1

1896 P.O. opened in a room at Standish Farm. 1

Two rural deliveries a day.

1930 Premises closed. Moved to garage at Horsford, 1
2 doors away from Royal Oak public house.

1947/8 Garage at Hillside used. 1

1948 Present office opened, 2 doors from Royal Oak. 1

STAPLEFORD TAWNEY

status: Sub-Office under Romford H.P.O.

Location:

Post Code: RM4 1SH.

Date Opened: Was opened in about 1793 and named
Passingford Bridge. Renamed in 1896.

Telegraphic Code: XDT.

1897 Became Telegraph Office.

1904 Mr + Mrs Page ran business from 9, Passingford Bridge
Business previously carried out at village shop, then
at Blacksmiths. The premises were rented from
Sir Charles Smith, Lord of the Manor.

1944 RAF station at Airfield — see "Camps" section.

UPMINSTER

Status: Head office under Romford H.P.O.

Location: 55/57 Station Road

Post Code: RM14 2TA

Date Opened: 1811

Telegraphic Code: UMS

1
4

UPMINSTER ROAD

Status: T.S.O. under Rainham P.O.

Location:

Post Code: RM13 9BH

Date Opened: 1930/5

WENNINGTON

Status: T.S.O. under Rainham P.O.

Location:

Post Code: RM13 9DY

Date Opened: 1811

CAMPS

GREY TOWERS BARRACKS, HORNCHURCH 1916

New Zealand Base Depot. Used as a convalescent home during the 1914/18 war for wounded New Zealand troops.

Grey Towers was built for Colonel H. Holmes in 1876 as his home. He was a Brewery owner who ran the Hornchurch Brewery.

CAMP S

STAPLEFORD TAWNEY 1944.

An RAF Station existed. Number One Camouflage Unit from Group 11 were based there. They flew Oxfords, Proctors and Tiger Moths.
Were there postal facilities?

4

LETTER BOXES

The oldest in the Borough is believed to be the Victorian wall box sited on the corner of Parkstone Avenue and Nemes Road, Hornchurch.

MAIL COACHES.

- 1789 In February the Mailcoach was almost stopped and robbed by three Highwaymen at Romford Heath, but the guard levelled his blunderbus at them and they prudently escaped empty handed.
- 1785 Mailcoaches serving Essex established.
- 1837 Norwich coach via Ipswich and passing through Romford left from the Swan With Two Necks Public House in Lad Lane, London on its 113 mile journey.

slogans

- 1972 16 July - 2 Sept. Orsett Show. Used Grays & R.
1971 18-19 July (standard in error at R.
18 July - 4 Sept. Used at R. after 18:40 & Grays.
1969 9 July - 6 Sept @ Grays.
1970 7 June - 5 Sept @ Grays + R.
1968 10 June - 7 Sept at Grays.
1974 4 - 30 Nov. Havering Samaritans @ R.
1971 12-18 April Ludwigshafen Twin Town Havering @ R.
1972 30 Apr. (error) 1 May - 8 July (Trans.) Dagenham Town Show.
1975 27 March - ?. Remember to use the Post Code! @ R, G & U.
1974 25 March - 15 June Festival of Havering @ R
1974 21 Jan - 17 Feb. Age Concern Havering 25th Anniversary @ R.
1974 24(?) June - 7 Sept. Orsett show. @ G & R.

Special Handstamps.

- 1970 30 May IPA METROKAY GREAT BRITAIN 70, Romford
1983 26 Jan. 14th Anniversary Tisbury Fish Farm, Noak
Hill, Romford, Essex.
1974 23 June. Stapleford Tawney Airfield 40th Anniversary
Romford, Essex
1973 15 Oct. Ford Philaletic Society 21st Anniversary Romford
1978 22 Nov. Music for All London Borough of Havering, Romford.
1978 5 July. Horses on Stamps Exhibition, Havering - Atte Bowes, Rom
1974 29 June. Carnival Day, Romford.

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