

The Coates family were well known in Baslow as providers of groceries and drapery for 110 years

It all started with The Rev George Henry Coates 1789 who was Vicar of Chelmorton, having been curate in Bakewell and headmaster of the grammar school in the town. He had a number of children including Alfred and George Henry, twins born in 1826

Alfred 1826-1880 was an apprentice to the chemist in Bridge Street Bakewell before moving to Corner Cottage in Baslow, where he was tenant in 1848 (Baslow Tithe Award). The 1851 census ( a date ending in "1" implies census information) records him as a chemist and druggist, single and living with his sisters Isabella and Caroline. A year later a gazetteer adds that he was also a grocer. In 1861 he married Isabella Milner by whom he had two children. During the 1860s he moved to King Street Bakewell to take over a Chemist shop. He died in 1880

George Henry Coates 1826-1883 was trained as a draper and by 1861 he had his own premises in Chelmorton. Some time in the 1860s he moved to Baslow to take over his brother Alfred's business bringing his expertise as a draper with him. He married Mary Furniss in 1871 and had a single son Arthur in 1875. He died at the young age of 57 in 1883. His widow Mary ran the shop eventually handing over control to Arthur before she died in 1921.

Arthur JW Coates 1875 -1952 trained as druggist in Chesterfield before joining the family shop. He married Edith Rose Clarke a nurse in 1917 but had no children. Well known locally as Pinny Coates he continued running the business until he died in 1952.

## Corner Cottage

Corner Cottage in Baslow is opposite Baslow Church in the angle between School Lane and Church Lane. Maps show that it was built soon after 1827 replacing an earlier cottage closer to Church Lane. It is possible that some early features came from that house. The adjoining Willow cottage was originally part of Corner cottage.

The first tenant recorded in the 1841 census was John White a butcher. In the early 1840s he moved to Nether End where he renovated the old Barrell Inn into the Devonshire Arms (renovated again in the 1960s). He was followed by Arthur Coates who had his shop downstairs and lived upstairs.

Little changed for years. At some date the shop relocated to York House, leaving Corner Cottage as the Coates family home. Perhaps at the same time it was divided into two and Willow cottage let to a sub tenant.

The 1920 Rutland Sale describes it as a House, Cottage and 2 Gardens let to M & A Coates and J Marples. The Coates bought the house for £660. Arthur died in 1952 leaving the house to Edith Rose who remained there until 1962 when she sold it to the Kershaws and moved to Winchester, where she died in 1966

## York House

York house is the large 3 storied building in Church Street. Originally the site was occupied by Matthew Marples a Saddler. He died in 1871 leaving his business to his nephew George Taylor b1839. The 1879 OS map shows that Marples' original

building had been demolished and the York House rebuilt closer to the road. Little is known about its early history. George Taylor may have rebuilt it himself or sold it to developers. In any case he was working locally as a saddler in 1881 but died in 1884

It looks as though it was built as a shop with two large display windows either side of the main door but it is not known who occupied until the Coates moved in. This may have been when it was built, or even after the 1<sup>st</sup> World War. At the time of the 1920 Rutland Sale it was described as a "Double Shop (Grocer's, Chemists and Draper's and Post Office) with Show and Stock Rooms; also Farm Buildings", leased to A J W Coates. The sale map shows a strip of land extending to the rear as far as Hulley's garages. It is remembered as a shop with the Post Office and grocers downstairs and the other departments upstairs.

In the Rutland Sale of 1920 (the freehold of) York house was sold and bought by Coates. It adds that AJW Coates has a lease dated 1901, for a term of 60 years from 1874 for the low rent of £10 10s per annum. This suggests that another leased the house 1874 to 1901.

It served the village well and remained the main village shop until Arthur Coates died in 1952. It was bought by William and Kathleen Taylor who had fishmonger and greengrocery business down the road in the old post office (opposite the Rutland Arms). William died five years later in 1957 and the business was bought by Sharmans, grocers based in Sheffield. Trade dwindled and it closed in the late 1970s. Later it became the second hand shop Labels then an extension of "Avant Garde"

### Postal History of Baslow

The postal service started in Baslow in 1841. The first postmaster was (probably) John Stroyan. He had been in the village since at least 1800, and was recorded as a draper in 1829 (Glovers Gazetteer). He lived in the house on the corner opposite the Rutland Arms ("The Old Post Office"). His wife was Isabella nee Marples brother of Matthew Marples (the saddler mentioned above).

The draper shop and the post office remained with the family after John died in 1845. He was succeeded by his widow Isabella then his son John and then his widow Esther.

Around 1901 things were changing. Esther sold the drapers shop to George Taylor and his son William, fishmongers and greengrocers. The post office went to the Coates' shop in York House.

In 1952 Arthur Coates died and the business was bought by William Taylor (grandson of George Taylor above) who now had two shops, the Coates one and the fishmongers close by in the Old Post Office. Kathleen Taylor wife of William had been the official postmistress in York House for some time, and continued when her husband bought it. The arrangement lasted only three years. William died suddenly in 1957 at the early age of 47. Sharmans the grocers after a short period decided that they did not want the post office. Kathleen Taylor, back in "the Old Post Office" had given up the fishmongers and was selling a reduced range of groceries and confectionary. She agreed to take it on and was once again the postmistress until she retired in the early 1980s.

The next post mistress was Mrs Fletcher then her daughter Cynthia Morten in the old bank premises (next door to Charlies). Later the Post Office was at Church Cottage first under Peter Smith then Mr & Mrs Holmes. Finally, after nearly 150 years in four different houses in Church Street the Post left Bridge End and moved to the present Spar shop at Over End.