



Stow Parish Archive

Newsletter

June 2008

With so much community concern about the The Royal Hotel we thought we could try and make it this month's topic.


The Railway Hotel

When exactly the hotel was built we are not sure, but The Railway Hotel was its original name. It seems to have been built to attract city people looking for fresh air and country pursuits, especially fishing in the Gala water. We do know that the rail line to Hawick was opened in 1849 and to Carlisle in 1862. Also, Stow did not get a decent water supply until 1855. There was also demolition of a number of old houses in Townfoot in 1863 where an improvement was made to the line of the road to allow a view from the Town Hall in the direction of the Gala water and railway station. This was part of Mr Mitchell's plan for the village.

We do have reference to a presentation of a painting in 1867 made in The Railway Hotel to James Compton the stationmaster, by Mr Peake of Craigend. There is also mention to it being called George Ovens Railway Hotel in the late Victorian period - Mr Ovens owned the grocers shop now the Café. However as you can see from the attached invoice for Port Wine for the U.P. Church dated 1876/7 that it was William Dickson's name that appeared in our earliest artefact. Therefore we can maybe guess that The Railway was probably built early 1860's.

The Post Office and print workshop next door were not erected until 1896.

Thomas Gibson Esq
for W. P. Church




W^m DICKSON,
(RAILWAY HOTEL)
STOW.

1876
PHAETONS, GIGS, DOG CARTS &c FOR HIRE

Mar	18 th	To	Rattle Port	-	5	-
July	8 th	"	do do	-	10	-
Dec	9 th	"	do do	-	7	6
1877						
March	10 th	"	do do	-	10	-
July	7 th	"	do do	-	10	-
1877						
Aug	28 th	To	Cash	£	2	2
						6
					2	2
					6	

Wm Dickson



The Russell Hotel

The picture below shows a sign over the main door saying The Russell Hotel. This was after the owner, Mr T. Douglas Russell. Again we are not clear just when he became proprietor, but the postcard seems to be from about the 1910's as there appears to be a road sign on the right and the bike in the distance just maybe an early motorcycle.



The Royal Hotel

When the name changed to the Royal Hotel we are not certain but are prepared to make a suggestion. There were coronations in 1902 and 1911 but when The Great War started in 1914 the country became very patriotic. Just maybe, it was at the start of this conflict? Unless you can enlighten us!

If you can give us any new information about the Royal Hotel then please come along to the Town Hall on Wednesday 25th June from 7.30 onwards and tell us. We can also copy any photos or documents on any other memories that you have that would be of interest.