

Moses Pepper lived above the shop in the Market Place where the NatWest bank is now located. He was a 'Linen Draper and Hatter' as well as Romsey Postmaster from 1815 to 1859.



*Moses Pepper's draper's shop c1858*

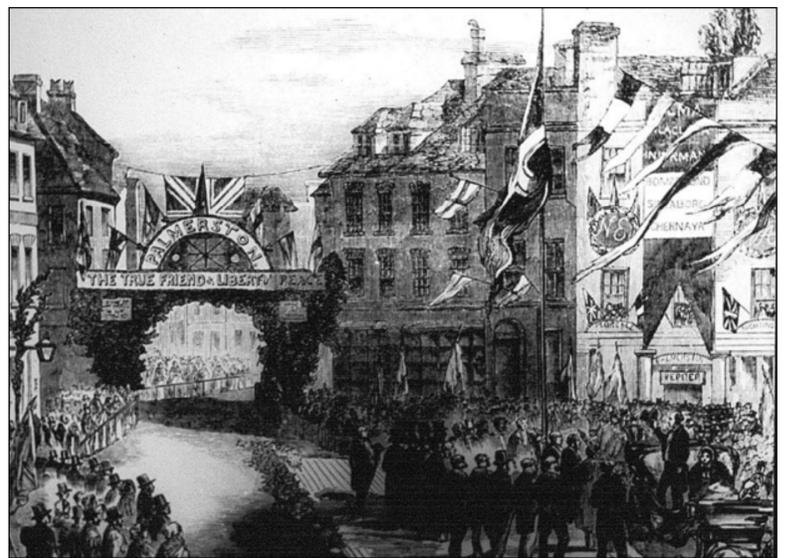


*Painting by Fanny Buckell c 1910*

Postmasters were usually tradesmen who would set aside a small portion of their shop to act as the post office. Dealing with the public during shop hours was only part of the postmasters' duties. He also had to bag up letters for collection by the passing mail coaches. Therefore his day started around 6 am. and ended at 3 am. the following day. With a long working day he could be forgiven the odd mistake. On one occasion the London mail bag, when opened, was found to contain his dirty linen, the letter bag was still in his bedroom.

With an annual Post Office salary of £66 plus numerous perquisites, and his drapers' business, he prospered and became a highly regarded figure in town life. In 1817 he was elected as a capital burgess of the town and was Mayor of Romsey, in 1826, 1838 and 1845. He was also Quarter Sessions Recorder in 1827 and In 1835, 1836 and 1839 was the paid treasurer of two local Turnpike Trusts.

He had periods of difficulty. In September 1848 he was reprimanded for being slow in sending his takings to the Post Office and threatened with dismissal. Moses appeared to be on the verge of bankruptcy. However, he survived his financial woes and continued as postmaster until his death in 1859 aged 77 years.



*Welcome to Lord Palmerston*

