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JAN 1979

The Records of R.D. Silver,
15, Market Place, Kettering.

Accession 1978/177

The firm of R.D. Silver has its origins back in the year 1825, for which proof remains in the form of a glass plate which originally made up one of the front windows of the shop. Sometime after this the business was bought by a Walter Hitchman, who died approximately at the turn of the century. Mr. Hitchman also had connections with a shop in Gold Street, Kettering (the site of which is now occupied by Eastern Carpets), but it is not known if the two shops were run jointly or if Hitchman moved from one to the other.

Next door to the pharmacy in Market Place was a wine and spirit shop called Everards and owned by the company E.M. Blacketts. Sometime after this the pharmacy was the subject of a marriage settlement with the family of Everard and the two premises were united (by means of a small hatch in the dividing wall!). Following this, the chemists shop was run by Richard Dixon Silver (a Scotsman). Eventually, Mr. Silver's daughter married a Mr. S.K. Harris, who owned the business from 1941-1963 following the death of Mr. Silver. The living accommodation was downstairs in the basement and an old member of the Everard family, Mr. Leslie Everard (2-3, Cranleigh Road, off the Headlands, Kettering) can remember taking afternoon tea with his aunt, who occupied the living accommodation.

In 1963 the present proprietor of the firm, Mr. E. Simms, bought the business from Harris and has since made alterations to the premises in 1969, adding a new shop front. The building is owned by Mr. J.H. Everard, who lives at Cold Brayfield, near Olney.

Records held at Premises:

Prescription Books retained by Mr. Simms, the oldest of which dates from 24th. March 1865-August 1879.

Records held by Delapre Abbey, Northampton:

1 Prescription Book - for Walter Hitchman (Chemist), Market Place, Kettering: Indexed day book showing prescription number, name (includes names of the local nobility and gentry), date with a breakdown of the ingredients of the medicine and its cost.

22nd. Aug 1879-9th. July 1894

The Records of R.D. Silver

(cont.)

Records held at Delapre Abbey, Northampton (cont.)

- 2 Indexed Ledger - for the firm of Everard's Wine and Spirit Merchants, Market Place, Kettering: Seperate page for each individual or body, with date, goods, cost individually and totals over a three month period on the left-hand side. On the right-hand side is a column for date, bottles, crates, etc. returned, refund with a total and an entry for total owed. The shop served various people, including the Masonic Lodge, Kettering General Hospital and His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch.

1927-1933

April, 1978.