

## Hankerton Post Office

The cottage that is now known as "The Old Post Office" was called No 8 Hankerton, or Plot 151. It was a farm labourer's cottage owned by the Earl of Suffolk. The first reference I can find to it being a Post Office is in 1889 when John Smith lived there. He was a Basket Maker and first a "receiver" then a Sub-postmaster. He died in Oct 1896 at the age of 82 and had moved to Devizes.



In about 1895 Charles and Fanny Maria Woodward moved into the cottage and Fanny became Sub-postmistress, a position she must have kept for at least 20 years.

In 1898 letters arrived from Malmesbury at 6.45 am and dispatched at 6.35 pm. Postal Orders were issued but not paid. Crudwell was the nearest money order office and Charlton the nearest telegraph office.

Charles and Fanny's daughter Elizabeth married John Henry James Musty, known as Jim.

Fanny died in 1938 and her daughter Elizabeth, known as Eliza, carried on as Postmistress until she retired when the Post Office moved to No 3 Council Houses and run by Mrs Joy Manfield. Joy could remember the Gypsies, who camped regularly on the verges in the Tetbury Lane, coming to the Old Post Office and getting water from Musty's well.