

The Half Moon Inn.



The Half Moon with the old Street Farm.

The building itself may be a little later than the date given on the panel (1827-29) and might have been a private house before becoming an inn. It's also possible that it may have been intended to serve passing travellers on the new road.

The first recorded publican in 1861 was Evans Rolph but the building was not named 'The Half Moon' until 1865 when the publican was James Rolph.

2007-2022. The campaign for Real Ale in Suffolk. Tony Green

Robert Rolph lived at the Half Moon with his parents and grandparents from the age of 3 years until 1966. His grandparents moved out in the 1950's.

The Half Moon Inn stood in quite a large yard and garden, the yard comprised of several out-buildings, stables with granary above and cart sheds along with another storage building. Its garden extended north with its boundary, a large privet hedge (as I remember it) alongside the spur to Lakenheath Lode quayside. Much of the garden supported numerous and varied fruit trees and bushes and the vegetable garden was very fertile; in the winter months water was not much more than a spit deep.

The large cellar was victim to this high-water level and water was pumped on a regular basis, often every day in the winter months, until in 1963 (a very hard winter) the flood relief channel was excavated west and north of the village and the cellar problems ended. The terrible and extensive floods of 1947 led to the idea of a flood relief channel to enable the highland water to pass quickly through the fens to the sea via Denver sluice. It only took sixteen years to complete but has worked very well.

A new road to Sedge Fen was created and a bridge over the so called cut off channel. The new road came through the Half Moon property reducing the size of the yard and garden somewhat.

In 1913 my grandfather William Rolph became the tenant landlord of the Half Moon having previously been landlord of the Anchor and the High Bridge local public houses. Grandfather also ran other business from the premises-farming with dairy cows and other livestock, arable, with horses contracted out for other work pulling barges along the lode and stone from the warren. He also had the contract to cart coal to the Co-Op from the railway station. The yard was large enough to house corn stacks at harvest time, and steam driven threshing tackle later in the year. In the 1950's my father Stanley George Rolph took over and ran things in a similar way with tractors. Following ill health he moved out in 1966.

Robert Rolph