

## Chapter 17, HALL QUAY

*A New Perustration of Great Yarmouth*

In 1994, Hall Quay starts at its north-west corner with "B. and B. Insurance". These offices are however empty and for sale, having previously offered Motor, Life, Fire, and Marine Insurance. They were subsequently purchased by Mr Sinclair for his Estate Agency. (In use as such in 2000)

In 1938 at no. 1 Hall Quay (where today is Havenbridge House, built by Harry Hyam), was the building that became Steward and Patteson's off-licence and wine stores. Formerly this was the private residence of Mrs. Munday. Taken before the turn of the century there are some splendid photographs of her and this beautifully sited residence, one that compares well with that fine site just west of the north-west tower during the same period.

Next to the empty offices mentioned above is the fine Georgian house that once belonged to Sir Edmund Lacon. This became the Hall Quay Club, then Falstaff's Restaurant; now Quay Leisure.

With regard to the Hall Quay Club, the west end of the building is but two stories high, having a Georgian doorway. The main part of the house looks to all intents as though it has three stories, with three tiers of windows. In fact the upper windows that appear to represent a second floor merely reflect the great height of the first floor rooms, and the third storey does not exist. For many years there has been a club at these premises. When the Conservative Club were here, Ernest Bullent was steward, and resided on the premises with his wife Ethel.

Ernest Bullent, born 9/4/1900, started work here in 1914, whereas Ethel, his wife, did not start at the club until 1936. She described the club as having the centre upstairs room as a billiard room. Here a man named Mason was employed as a billiard marker for 50 years. He wore a bowler hat at work. There was a boy allocated to each room, with the bells ringing downstairs from each. They wore black trousers and

*Mrs Munday at her front door, about 1890. This became Steward and Patteson's as seen at bottom. About 1950. Summer business was brisk then.*







1971



*The slipper baths, 24.10.2010*



*Bunting's shop, no.7 in 1874, was Clarke's (above) in 1971.*

business with iniquitous rates of interest on borrowings; a deliberate step taken to bankrupt many businesses in the late 1990's, taken by Margaret Thatcher, and

her chancellor, Nigel Lawson. (For more about the Ferrow family, see "Middlegate")



*Malcolm and Joy Ferrow's Antiques shop, seen in 1987. On the extreme right edge of the photo, the block on the corner of George Street is under construction.*

No.6

No.7





27.4.2007

**PRICE LIST.**

- :0:—
- Cocoa, Coffee, Tea, Large Cup or Mug, 1d.
  - Small ditto, ½d.
  - Tea, special brew of 2 large cups, 3d.
  - Chop or Steak, 6d. & 8d.
  - Cold Ham, per plate, 2d., 3d., 4d. & 6d.
  - Salt Beef, 3d., 4d. & 6d.
  - Ham & Veal Pies, 2d. each.
  - New Milk, 1d. per glass.
  - Erated Waters of all kinds, 1½d. per bot.
  - Hot or cold Temperance Drinks, 1d.
  - Hot Soup daily, 1d. per pint.
  - Bread and Pastry of the finest quality.

—:0:—

**TRY OUR**  
Beef Steak Puddings



**BOVRIL**  
Served Hot 3d. per cup.

**HOT JOINTS**  
DAILY.

**Sausage and Bread 2d.**

Rooms specially fitted and adapted for  
**LADIES' LAVATORIES, &c.**

**GOOD BEDS.**

**OUT-DOOR TRADE.**

- :0:—
- Fam ... 1/4 per lb.
  - Salt Beef ... 1/6 ..
  - Tea ... 1½d. per pint
  - Coffee or Cocoa 1d. ..
  - Choice Cigars. Tobacco.

—:0:—

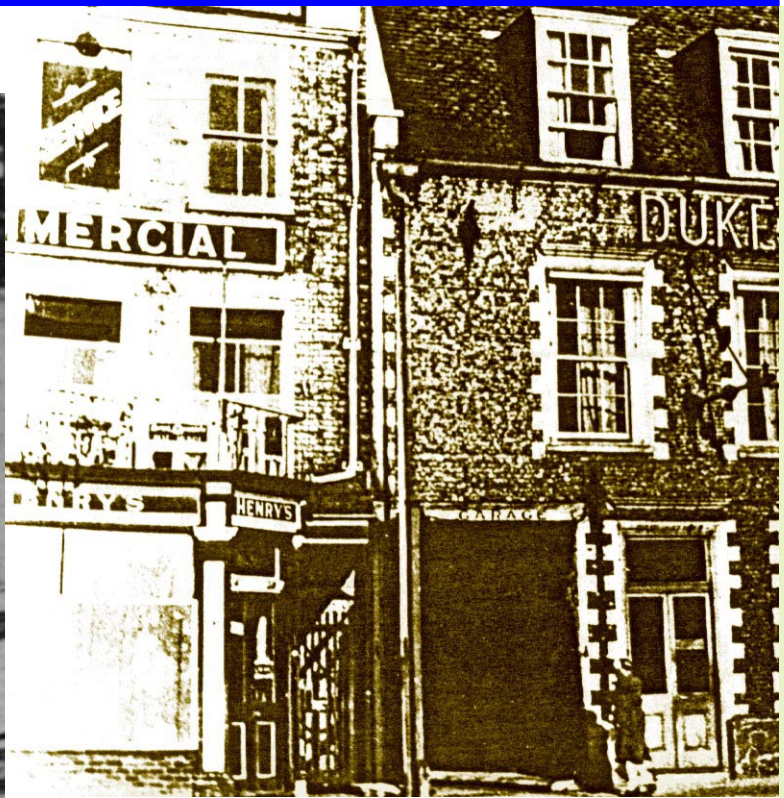
**SELECT**  
**DINING ROOM**  
with use of PIANO.



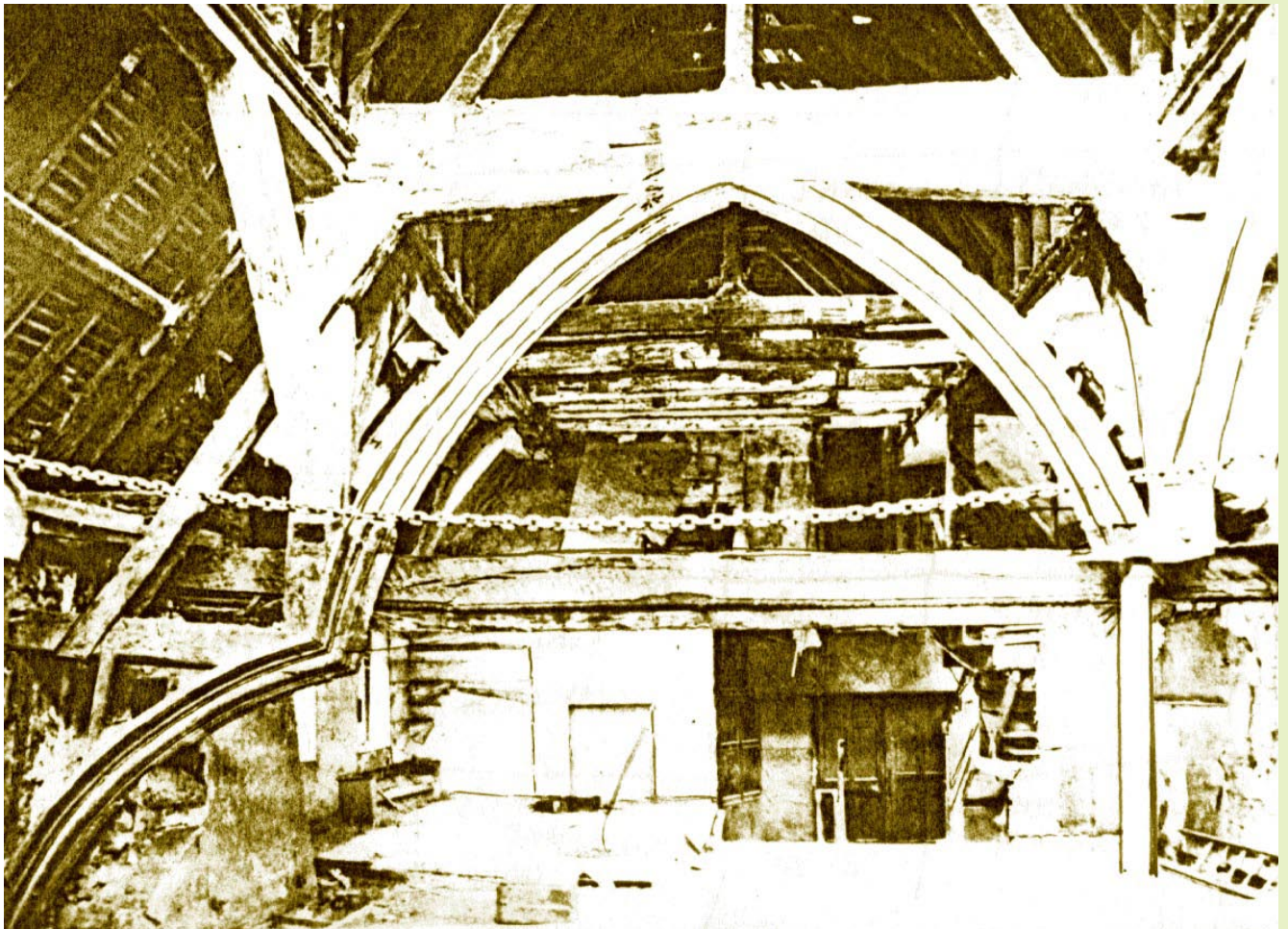
wake up to an excellent breakfast.  
Food from 11am-1am!”



*The Duke's Head was once part of the Foulsham Group.*



*Henry's Commercial Cafe, no 12., in 1938, was a brothel. This photo. dated 1945.*



*The fabulous ancient roof inside the Duke's Head, was removed in 1971.*



to a USDA (US government) report (Time Magazine 174 – no. 21, p.13). This is in the apparently richest country in the world. It is not lack of resources that is the problem; it is the inequality within society. The recent bailout by government has thus far simply preserved the wealth of the rich, and prevented levelling and distribution. If more radical action is not taken to redistribute resources within society it is simply a matter of time before the society will collapse. In the meantime, inequality grows ever greater and the consequences will be all the more severe.

The Star Hotel was previously called the “Cromwell” Hotel. Cut flint faces the front, with Tudor style timbering. This an hotel of the “Queen’s Moat House” group, of national hotels that in 1993 had to be written down in value by many millions of pounds. Julian Wooldridge and Gerald James Bell were the licensees in 1994.

The Star Hotel overhangs Row 62, Ben Dowson’s Row.

There is a large doorway to the side of British Telecommunications, the old telephone exchange. This building is of brick with a stone front on the ground floor. Built in 1936, it is of three stories, but with five dormer windows in addition on an attic floor, cut into the roof. There is a winged head in stone over there doorway here. (nos. 25-26) The post office, of small red bricks, has red sand stone detailing around the windows and door. George V is celebrated as the monarch at the time of its construction, with his name over the door on the corner of Regent Street. Reported June 18th. 1881, found in the old post office premises, was a human skeleton, and that of a small monkey. Two clerks had gone exploring in the roof. It was pitch dark, so they took some tiles from the roof to let in some light, and so saw an iron bedstead, enclosed at the sides head and foot by wood, and upon it the skeletons, which fell to dust when touched. The Government had then acquired the premises between the Star hotel and Mr. Barnaby’s establishment for a Post Office. The house had many years before been the property of Dr. Cox.\*7 Who the skeleton once was, and how the bones got there. remains a complete mystery.

\*1 writing by C.J.Palmer

\*2 writing by H.B.Johnson

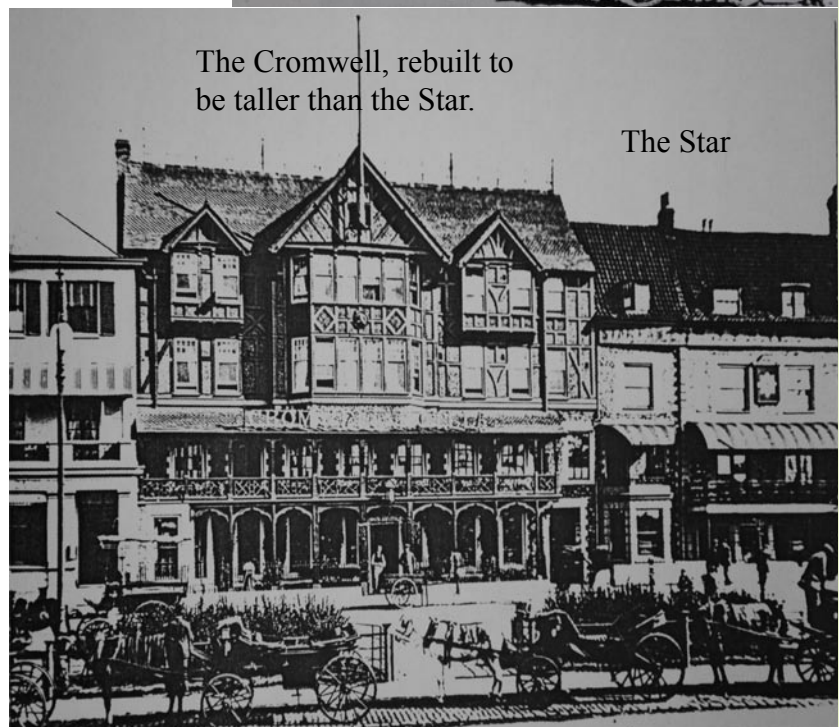
\*3 East Anglian Magazine April 1950. (Rumbelow, diary vol. 24.)

\*4 The Rise of Great Yarmouth- Ecclestone.

\*5 as described by Florence Waters and others, see row 137.

\*6 Rows of Gt.Yarmouth by M.Teun, pt.2.

\*7 Rumbelow’s Diary, vol. 20, p.42.



The Cromwell, rebuilt to be taller than the Star.

The Star

This and opposite page, the original Star Hotel



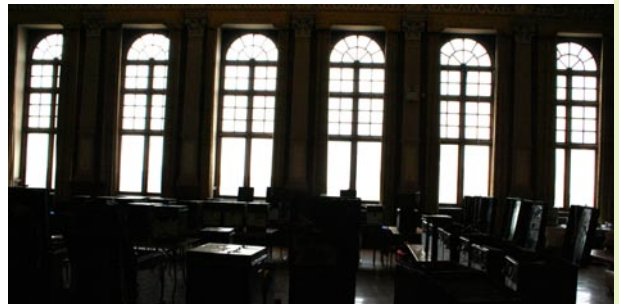


*This old trunk, known as "The Hutch", used to contain the ancient records of the council.*



*Butcher's painting of the jetty hangs in the Town Hall. (detail) Photo. 27.04.2007.*

having no aesthetic value inside, has remained mainly unaltered. It is unable to accommodate all of the council departments, and some of the housing offices have moved into the converted Middlegate Church, and the planning department is lodged in temporary "portacabin" buildings at Gorleston, on the site of the former Watney's maltings.

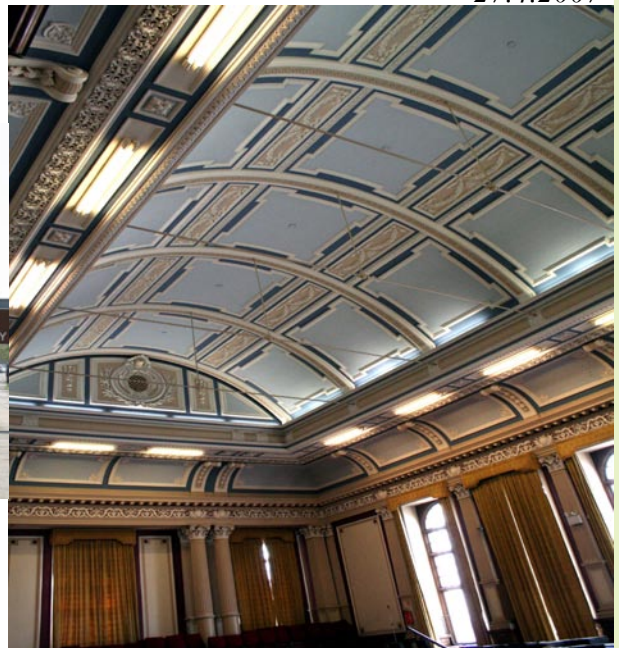


27.4.2007



15.05.2008.

*Bottom right, the grand Assembly Room, much under utilised these days. 27.04.2007*







*Some of the family of George "Lolly" Ruffold. On the left is seen Alice Turner, the mother of Alice, who married George and Elizabeth's son Tom, and lived in this row in 1913. In the centre of the photo. is seen Janet, next is Nellie, and on the right is Ethel. Janet married Walter Allen; Nellie married Walter Prince; Ethel married Clarence Denton. The full list of children of George and Elizabeth Ruffold was - Tom, Lucy, Nellie, John, Annie, Mary, Lucy and Elizabeth. For more about this family, see Row 19.*

Thomas Ruffold at no.13, Row 63 in 1913, died suddenly in his thirties, leaving a young widow, Alice, who still lived here in 1917. He was a newsagent, and therefore had a telephone in the row house to take and print the late news. Their children were Alice, Rose, Elsie and Tommy. Tommy went to London, Alice married Andrew Wemyss. Rose married George Whiley, a dustman, now deceased (1992) and lived in Yarmouth. George then had a guest house in Camperdown. Elsie married Arthur Richards, a cooper, who became remarkably prosperous by some astute investment. He acquired some holiday flats in Northgate Street and Crown Road, a house on the east side of The Street, at Lound, as well as the "Standard" (the triangular building) on St Peter's Road, that had baths. Their children were Pauline (later,

Steward, who became Practice Nurse at my G.P. Surgery at no.55 and then at no. 43 King Street) and Patrick, a painter and decorator, and builder. George Ruffold, father of Thomas, married Elizabeth Dowd. They had lived in Row 21 prior to 1900.



*George "Lolly" Ruffold (see Row 19)*

it to John Watson, at that time town clerk. Watson held office until 1822. He married Mary, daughter of William Fisher, and died in 1828, aged 78, his wife dying in the same year aged 77. During the last few years of his life, John Watson resided at No. 14 Regent Street, where after his death his books and paintings were sold in 1829. Among the latter was a view of Yarmouth harbour by Butcher, Palmer suggests that this is probably as fine a view as those in the town hall, and questions what has become of it. What indeed? (There is a well known print of the Market Place by Butcher, also one of the Quay, and the originals are in the Town Hall, but this was altogether a different picture). In 1835 the above mentioned house was purchased by William Travers Cox M. D., who resided in it for some years. Subsequently a corn hall was erected on a portion of the garden, having an entrance to it

from Regent Street. The house when sold by Dr. Cox was fitted up as a commercial clubhouse, but after a few years the club was broken up. The adjoining house to the south was called

Detail from Butcher's painting

Ramey's House

Dobb's House



Photos inside empty telephone exchange, 27.4.2007.



uncovered, and sometimes they might be three feet deep. Of course the adults never knew what the boys were up to - they would have been distraught. This particular minefield they walked through regularly, and none of them was ever blown up, but whether it really was a dummy field or not will never be known. There were wires leading from one mine to another that were sometimes exposed. Some boys crept around the minefields avoiding the mines to collect the small parachutes that were attached to the two inch mortar bombs. Several dogs had been blown up in the minefields though. The minefield was a strip of land immediately inland from the beach, about 50 yards across. The parachutes were fun to play with when a weight was attached and the string and parachute coiled up. These parachutes were about two and a half feet in diameter. The best time was to be when out at night. Crowds of the boys went up the cart sheds beside the pubs. They messed around by these sheds at night, but on the range the tracer would be fired, and they could get around out of sight of the adults.

Other favourite games were making bicycles from scrap parts, racing tin cans down the sand hills; and crouching up inside old rubber tyres that were rolled down the sand hill with the boy thus inside it. One day Mally (Malcolm King), George, and John found a stove in the far plantation, dragged it to the near plantation, and there they cooked pheasants eggs by boiling them. These were children's games when the imagination was used to great advantage.

There were gangs in the village, the boys would be affiliated to one gang or another such as the Smith's gang, and used to fight each other. If an outsider came into the village the word would be round like wild-fire and they would appear from everywhere to "ston-em-home". They would drive any other child out by throwing stones at them. The children of one village could never go into another, even say from Winterton to Martham. One day mother sent John to the tally man in Martham on father's "biceckle". This was a frightening experience indeed. He had to "run like hell", or



4th January 2010



*The grand entrance to the offices of the Port and Haven Commissioners, 27.4.07*