



This spade is just into the peat layer at Corton Cliff known as the "rootlet bed".

Before the ice ages, Yarmouth was situated in a valley in rolling chalk hills that were part of the South Downs. There was then a thick layer of peat laid down on the land surface, in which the animal and vegetable remains of that period have been preserved (from as long ago as 1-200,000 years). The present surface of the sand at Yarmouth is 350 feet above the chalk. The cliffs on the North Norfolk Coast at Runton are only about 70 feet above the sea and the chalk which is often exposed at low tides. The peat layer is a few feet above the chalk at Runton, and so at Yarmouth may be a good deal of that 350 feet down. It is hardly surprising therefore that it has not been uncovered at Yarmouth, yet is visible sometimes as near as at Caister and Corton. It has always been

assumed that Yarmouth was under the sea in Roman times and even in the first few centuries after Christ, and that the sand here was washed up by the sea. Roman artefacts in low ground at Runham, and the digging of broadland peat below current sea level in the middle ages made this scenario completely impossible. It remained though to examine the make up of the land under Yarmouth, to be quite sure.

The Bore Hole on Church Plain, made in 1841 for Lacon's Brewery



In 1990, a new sewer was constructed in the town, to run from the new pumping station on South Quay, where formerly the town's sewage had been discharged straight into the river. The pipe picks up this effluent and takes it up Nottingham way, round the St Peter's Road junction, and down Lancaster Road to the Marine Parade. From there it runs all the way north to the Caister treatment works and the new outfall. The pipe trench was very important archaeologically, because for the first time, it excavated the ground to a depth of 5 metres right across the town. For the first time the geological structure of the layers below the surface could be examined. By good fortune the excavation was just deep enough to reach and penetrate the same undisturbed sand surface that is so easily seen at the very top of the cliff at Corton, at Gorleston and Runton. This was proof that the land surface at Yarmouth remained undisturbed as it was at Gorleston. It was laid down as glacial outwash, and was not a spit of sand washed up from the sea. This fact is of great importance in determining Yarmouth's origins. The geological and archaeological findings in the pipe trench will be related in

detail. It can be categorically stated that Yarmouth was dry land during the whole period from the end of the ice age, supported some sort of Roman presence, and was a substantial Saxon settlement that was razed to the ground by the Vikings in 1013.

There are 5 pages of correspondence in Rumbelows Diary vol 18, 1945-6, regarding the Lacons Brewery. Find them on the internet, or on the superdisk.

Rumbelow's Diary, Lacon's Brewery Items /documents/ rumbelows diary, extracts



Bronze axe heads were found at Stuart Close, Gorleston. This could be called “Gorleston hoard III”

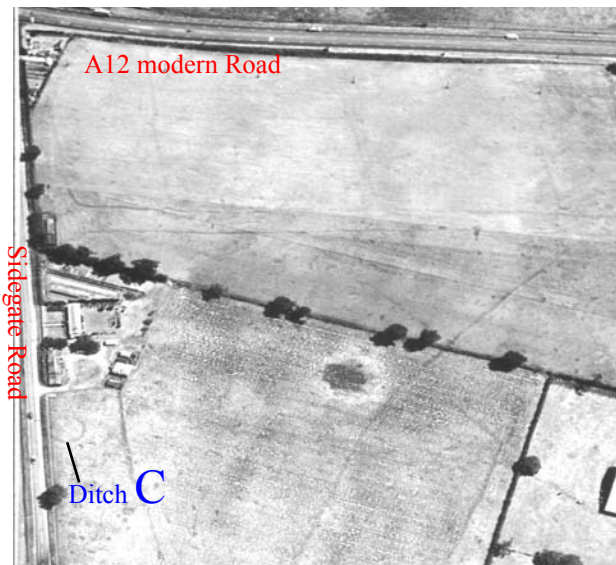
A find of several bronze axe heads was made in 1952 in a trench cut to lay a pipe. This has been called “Gorleston hoard I”. Another hoard was discovered some years prior to 1966, and has been

called “Gorleston hoard II”. The latter was exchanged with, and can be seen at, the Birmingham museum. The find was on the site of the Magdalen Arms public house. It was privately discovered and kept secret at the time. “Gorleston Hoard I”, can be seen on display at the Tolhouse museum. There are a considerable number of socketed axe-heads, parts of sword blades, and some scrap bronze. It is thought to represent the secret store of a bronze merchant or smith. It would have been very valuable. Andrews and Squires builders made one further find of a bronze axe head, in May 1991, when Dr.Kumar’s surgery in Stuart Close was extended towards the pavement. The axe head was lying only some nine inches or more below the surface, beside the public footpath.

Yet another discovery of Bronze age axes is recorded to have been made, at the old Rectory at Somerleyton, in 1926. [xiv] Somerleyton may also be of further archaeological interest in the future. On 12th.Sept.1994, I identified an area in a field about 500 yards south-west of the church, where there are many small fragments of brick and some small pottery sherds. The modern village is nowhere near the church, and so this may well be the site of the medieval village. There are other possible reasons for the incidence of such fragments, and a careful survey is needed, before jumping to conclusions. At the same spot I also identified a stone age tool, a large flint scraper of the semi-circular variety. A hundred yards further south in the wood, is a most unusual earthwork, that appears to be a claypit, but which has some curiously shaped mounds at the north-east corner, that may also be well worthy of further investigation.



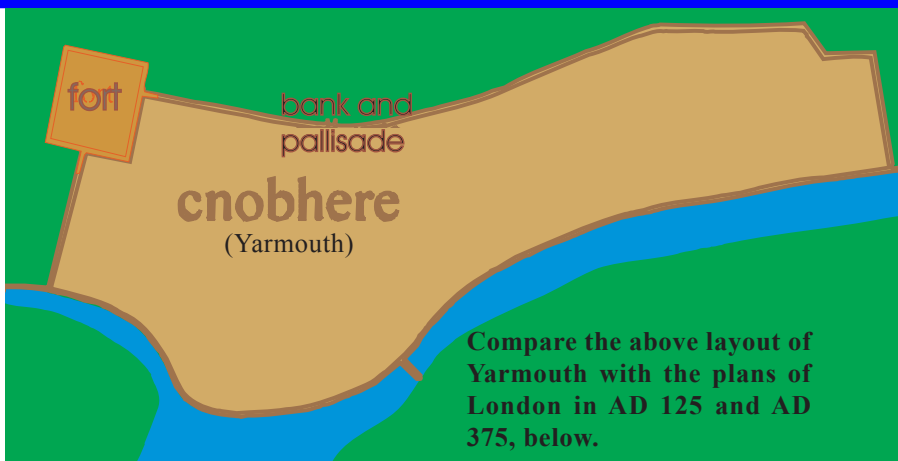
Just to be really confusing, the zig-zag ditches in this photo of a field north of Hopton Manor, are the trenches cut in WW2 as anti-tank measures.



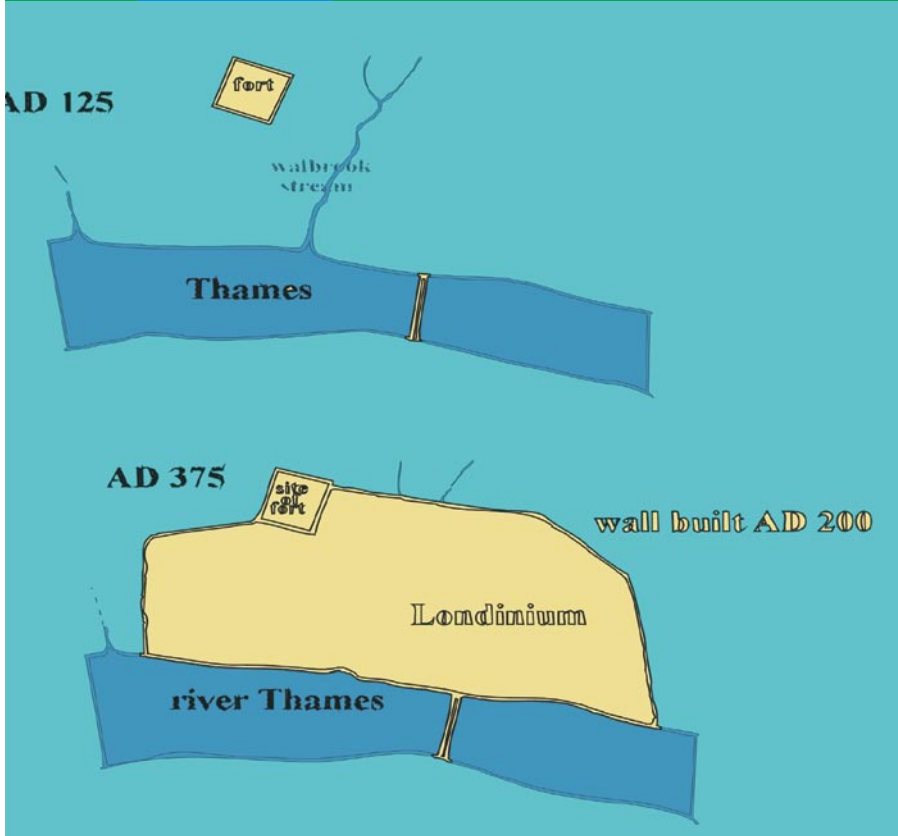
The A12 road is seen in upper part of this photo, Links Road comes off the A12, just out of view. The upper field is that referred to in the text. Note the ring ditch on the left lower edge of the photo. The dark lines in both fields are filled prehistoric ditches defining ancient field systems, and may date any where from 3,000-500 B.C. (see page 42).

(Photo copyright Norfolk Archaeology)

(Photo copyright Norfolk Archaeology)



This plan shows the Saxon town of Yarmouth or “Cnobhere”. The layout is virtually identical to that of Roman London. If there are more Roman remains, they are more than 5 metres down, and have never been exposed. Roman tiles were found under the town wall foundations at Alexandra Road in 1956. Any buildings were of wood and all the buildings were burned to the ground by the Vikings.



of mortar seven feet below the Belton footpath. There is also a photograph of a pit beside the road opposite to the Roman fort, which was thought by Rumbelow to be neolithic.[\[xxii\]](#)

There are many such pits across the area, which appear to be neolithic, and perhaps were for excavating flints or clay, both of which are resources not far below the surface locally.

The young historian John Ives junior, born in 1750, was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Antiquaries in 1771, at which time he appears to have been compiling his treatise “Remarks upon the Garianonum of the Romans”. This small book

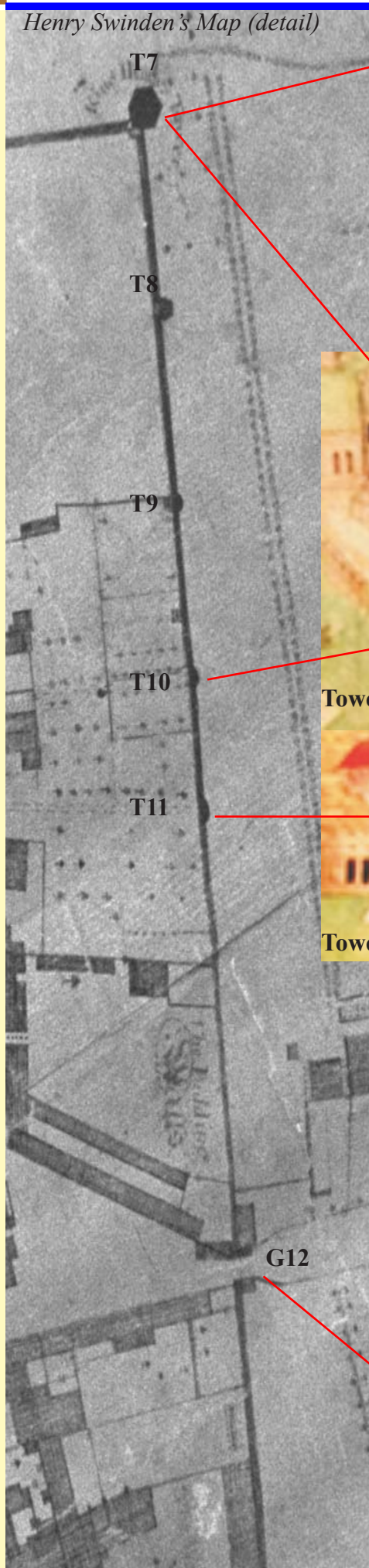
This observation of Rumbelow’s was extremely perceptive. It is unfortunate that when Charles Green was given permission to excavate at Burgh and Caister he had fixed preconceptions and then kept inadequate records. The reports that were subsequently written by the Norfolk Archaeology Unit show very different interpretations to those of Green.

In Rumbelow’s book of notes on Burgh Castle for 1930, there are items of correspondence and reports relating to disputes over the closure of the public footpath alongside the river at Burgh Castle. An original deed is enclosed dated 1683, which is a manor court deed referring to John Rake and Charles Rokan. The latter is thought possibly to have been the Lord of the Manor. Fourteen acres of tenement is referred to.[\[xxi\]](#) In an extract of Harrod’s report, there is reference to a solid mass

has some important items not covered elsewhere, and also is the earliest written record of the ruin at Burgh Castle. Some of his observations are as follows:

“In the area of the camp, and in many of the fields around it, vast numbers of Roman coins have been and are still found. None of them that I have met with rise higher than the reign of Domitian, and the generality are much later”. He says that he only personally saw one coin of silver, the others all were copper, and tells that his maternal great grandfather who owned the castle and manor, had a considerable number of silver coins, and two gold ones. The gold ones were presented to John Moore, Bishop of Norwich. Ives describes the foundations of the castle as being on a deep bed of chalk and lime which had been compacted, covered with earth and sand. Oak planks, two inches thick were laid on top, and the flint and brick structure built upon this firm base.

Henry Swinden's Map (detail)

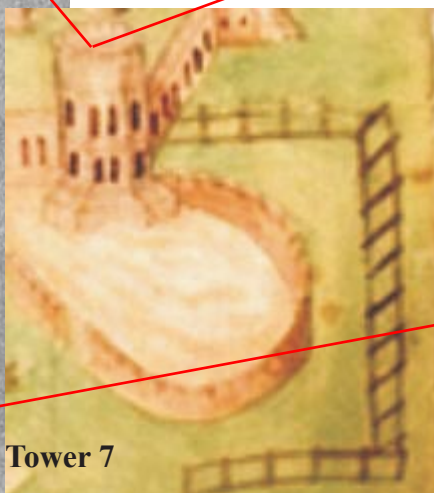


T7. King Henry's Tower (left),

still standing, once had a crenellated top, windows, a curtain wall and a fence. The lower part of the tower survives and is still filled with bones from the plague. It looks strange on the Elizabethan map, as it had a flying spur wall to the north-east angle. Old bones were taken there from the churchyard. When new graves were dug in ancient times, the bones disturbed were thrown in a heap into the tower.

T8 and T9, towers on Swinden's map, not seen elsewhere.

King Henry's Tower in Elizabethan times



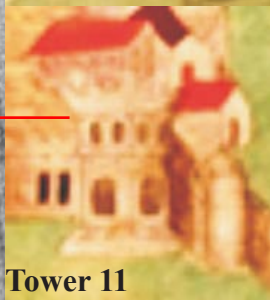
Tower 7



Tower 10

T10. St. Nicholas' Tower and gate, (above right),

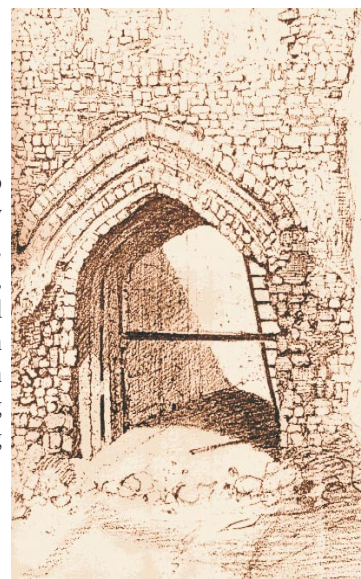
long demolished, is seen due east of St. Nicholas Church on the Elizabethan map. This second Gate was also a tower, with the gateway was through the centre. It had flying buttresses with small towers attached.



Tower 11

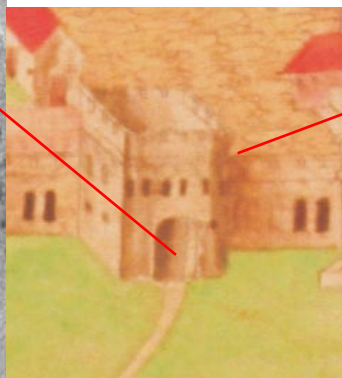
T11. The Priory Tower,

(my name) was a tower adjacent to the Dominican Priory. It is clearly shown on the Elizabethan map, but not described by Swinden, so presumably was demolished between 1600 and 1730 (tower in the centre of the picture). Swinden showed four towers between King Henry's Tower and the Pudding Gate.



T12. The Pudding Gate/Tower,

was on the route out of the town now known as St. Nicholas Road. It was a plain square tower with a gate in its centre. It is thought to have taken its name from the slaughter of animals outside it, from whose blood was derived black pudding.





This old brick and flint wall (above) was still present in Red Lion Alley in 1987 and may have been part of the Carmelite, "White Friars" Monastic buildings.

Below is the archway into Red Lion Alley on North Quay. (1990)



Carmelites established themselves in Scotland at Banff in the reign of Alexander III. They came to England in 1240, settled in Norwich in 1256, and arrived in Yarmouth in about 1278¹. They acquired extensive property, thought to have extended from White Friars Quay to the Market Place. Individual monks could own nothing, and were sworn to poverty, nevertheless they acquired for their monastery considerable riches. Their property included the "Half Moon Tavern", and they had leave to enlarge their monastic house in 1377. They sold letters of fraternity, and burial places within their church. They also sold perpetual prayers for the dead*1. Several persons are known as having been interred at the Church of the White Friars, including in about 1309, a Nicholas Castle and his wife Elizabeth; Dame Maud, wife of Sir Thomas Huntingdon in 1330; and Sir John De Monte Acuto, Steward to the household of Richard III, in 1382*3a. John Tylney was Prior in 1435, 1437, and 1455, both Prior and Sub-Prior being elected annually. In 1509 both the Church and the Convent were burned to the ground, Manship recording that there was insufficient water to put it out. One of the Priors, John Tylney, also known as John of Yarmouth, Prior in 1435, 1437, and 1455, was Professor of Divinity at Cambridge, and wrote many famous and well used sermons and lectures.(ref. Manship I , p. 427.) The suffix "of Yarmouth", was apparently quite common. One "Adam of Yarmouth" was bearer of the King's Seal at the court of Henry II. Robert Denton and Robert Nottingham in 1544 had a grant of all the property which had belonged to the White Friars, and in 1567 they obtained licence from the Crown to sell it, when the land was divided. It is not recorded what happened in the interim, assuming that on part of this land, William Browne was to build his residence in 1756, except that the deeds do refer to an earlier right of way to the north.

Throughout history, Carmelites have hit the headlines from time to time. A Carmelite called Robert Baston was taken by Edward II to celebrate his victory in verse. Instead Baston was captured by the Scots and forced to write for them. The results are said to be very unremarkable! [W.D. Macray Eng. Hist.Rev.xix (1904) p.507-8] When Edward II was deposed, there was a formal deputation that included two Carmelite Friars. [Lanercost, p.258] In the Peasant's Revolt of 1381, in the reign of Richard II, many monasteries were plundered. In Cambridge a chest full of parchments was taken from the house of the Carmelites and publicly



William George Edwards, above, top row, 2nd from left, on active service in France, about 1915.

born 26/2/22; John; Sewell; and Arthur. Tessie and John Ecclestone had a daughter- Louise; Gladys and John remained single. Arthur's wife was Daphne, but the couple were childless. Sewell married Sylvia and their son is Roger. In the wedding photograph, Tessie is in the white dress with pleats. To her left is Billy Ecclestone, brother of the bridegroom, then John Ecclestone, Arthur Rice, Hannah Rice, and on the extreme right of the photo is Jack Ecclestone, father of the bridegroom.

John Ecclestone was sent to Fleetwood during the war. After, he worked for H. Holmes as a bricklayer when they built the estates at Gorleston and Caysteward, and also Havenbridge House. He suffered an accident with a dumper truck that damaged his knee and caused a thrombosis. He later suffered a heart attack, dying suddenly in 1983.

In 1913, William George Edwards lived at no. 14 on the south side. He was away in France in the first World War, where he is shown, (above) second from the left whilst on active service. After returning to his wife and family, he worked for a while in the employ of Palgrave Brown the timber merchant. He and his wife Emma started their family well before the first war, the elder daughter, born in 1908, was Maud Lillian. Pictured as a little girl, she appeared then to be about six years old, making the date of that picture approximately 1915. Also depicted are William Samuel, the oldest child, born in 1904, and their second daughter, Lillian Florence.

Maud, William and Lillian Edwards.



Julia and Frank lived in row 22 on the site of the present furniture store. Julia, born 20th August 1913, came from Cambridge. Her mother moved to Yarmouth to keep house for her Uncle, Sam Murkin, after her husband was killed during WWI. Murkin, later spelled Markin, was a railwayman, who later worked as a roadbuilder. Julia's mother married John Henry Markin as her second husband, a sailor in the merchant navy. They lived at number 4, with his father, until January 1939, when they moved to Chaucer Road. Frank Futter started his furniture business stuffing mattresses at a shop in St. Nicholas Road, then progressed to a much larger one on the Conge, as well as one in Gorleston (now closed), and a third shop in Lowestoft, which has offices above.

Frank Futter started his furniture business in St. Nicholas Road, and Stanley Bircham from Row 27 worked there with him as his upholsterer. Stanley had some furniture of his own sold in the shop, but was never a partner, indeed when business was slack he was laid off on the Labour. There was a store-room above the shop which ran along over all three shops, and here the upholstery was carried on, and mattresses re-stuffed. Most boarding houses would have all their mattresses re-stuffed each year, prior to the season, as there were no spring mattresses available then. Some modern proprietors could benefit from this practice still, judging from many beds in low class lodgings and hotels that I have had the misfortune to inspect!

On the left (as seen in the photo of the shop) were the stairs to the store room. All the furniture was hauled up to the store room by the pulley and hoist seen above the first-floor doorway. The only other employee before the war was Wilfred Bircham, who was a bound apprentice. Five shillings a week was the pay of an apprentice starting in 1934.

The hours of an apprentice then were from half past eight in the morning, until ten at night. Frank Futter, whose father had worked the horse cabs, had been apprenticed at Boning's and Arnold's (King Street, site of Marks and Spencer). From the apprenticeship he qualified as a master tradesman.

Frank snr. was a cousin of another local Futter family, who have a bookmaker's business. Fred, brother of Frank, was a coal merchant, as is his son. Frank Jnr. married Barbara, and their two children went to Hopton school. Once or twice a year then their children went with the whole school, whilst Frank Etheridge was headmaster, to Hopton Hall, to be entertained to tea by Mrs Noel.

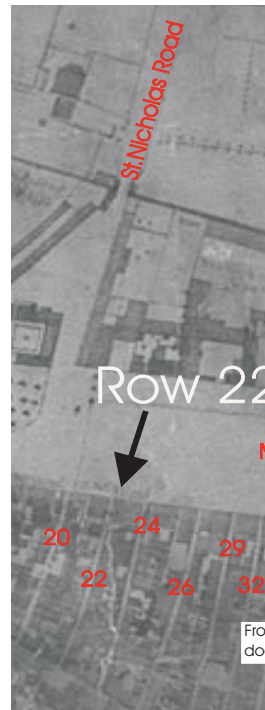
No.1 Row 22 was behind Barnes' shop on the north side. There was then a yard, and no.2 was on the east side within the yard, no.3 was opposite that, on the west side of the yard. No 4 was then next down the row, with its own small yard. At no.4 the front door opened outwards into the row, and inside was a

Frank and Julia Futter, 1931.

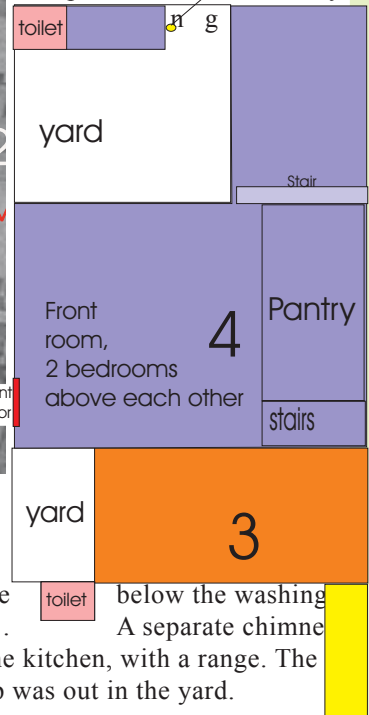
small porch. On the left front of the main room was a washing copper, and across the room, the stairs led up on the right hand side, beside



Photo. in Regent Road.



the pantry. The kitchen was separate, in the yard, with a staircase to a bedroom above. The two bedrooms above the "front" room, each had a fireplace, the tap chimney



from the fire copper. A separate chimney was in the kitchen, with a range. The water tap was out in the yard.

