

**ROW EIGHTY SIX** (Palmer gave no name)

Fisher's Row, (1750) (Johnson gives this name and that below)

Fielding's Row, (Mayor 1787)

From King Street to Deneside: Johnson wrote: "The splendid family residence occupied by Doctor Wyllys, in 1927, always attracted attention at the southwest corner by reason of its original spacious half circular bay front. This residence contains some unique oak panelling, and a lovely staircase. This mansion was typical of the King Street residence of three hundred years ago".

Palmer informs us that "At the northwest corner stood a house which early in the eighteenth century was in the occupation of John Fisher, the elder, merchant. In 1772 the executors of his will sold it to Nathaniel Colby, who died in 1793. In the following year it was purchased by General Wemyss of the Royal Marines, who resided here

until 1798, when he conveyed the house to Benjamin Fielding". Nathaniel Colby was also owner of property at 55 King Street, a cobbler's shop and yard, that became a school for industry for girls prior to 1800 (from deeds of 56 King Street, now part of 55 King Street doctor's surgery). In 1991 there remained families in Yarmouth both Wemyss and Colby. Andrew Wemyss then lived in Tottenham Street, aged 84, whilst his son Malcolm, some two years previously, sold the Alexandra Hotel in Euston Road, to become an old peoples residence, as with a lot of holiday accommodation. Although it may be said that this was one of the better hotels, it had sadly become uneconomic as an hotel. This family of Wemyss is unrelated to General Wemyss above, for Andrew's father was a cooper who came to Yarmouth to seek work in the 1930's.

Benjamin Fielding was a surgeon who married Ann, daughter of John Fisher, grandfather of the late J.G. Fisher. After Mr. Fieldings death, the house was purchased by William Webber, Surgeon, son of Joseph Webber of Friston, Suffolk.



*Row 86, from King Street to Deneside*

*This splendid house had panelling and a fine staircase, and once belonged to Dr Wyllys, who took Dr Ley as a partner. 7*



*Inset, 22nd April 2012.*

*Mrs Brown and daughter Lilly at no.2 Row 90, looking towards King Street  
(inset, 22.04.2012, same view now.)*

Negus, His Grace's Secretary, at his house, for which he was allowed £30.

At the southwest corner of this row, was a house and shop, formerly the property and residence of Godfrey Goddard, working as a whitesmith [with lead]. At the opposite corner facing Middlegate Street was an old house by then divided, which had on the first floor three large oblong windows that had been modernised. In 1674 it was in the possession of William Tracey, and in 1770 it was conveyed by the Rev. Robert Adkin to Mr. Briggs, whose widow in 1786 sold it to Thomas Ridge, surgeon, who resided here until he moved to the quay.

The 1936 row survey says "Mews Half Row has on its north side the base of a medieval wall, below a wall of more recent date. This is said to be a boundary wall of the Friars Minor. There is an overhanging storey in this Row".

In 1890 there was a brothel here. The town Clerk was instructed to prosecute Alice Shearing for keeping a brothel in Row 90. In the same year it was noted that there were 18 deaths from Typhoid Fever. The Rows still had an open drain down the middle, and the houses had earth closets. The local press thought this better than a sewer and water closets, a view supported by Dr. Wyllys, who said that sewer gas was the cause of Typhoid, and that the disease was more frequent amongst the better class of people who had installed flush toilets.

In 1992 prevalent infectious diseases haven't really changed that much. There are a substantial number of people who have contracted Shigella Dysentery, a very similar disease to Typhoid, spread easily by imperfect hygiene when using flush toilets! Only twelve or so years ago there was an enormous outbreak of Typhoid in some local hotels, and at Pontin's camp at Hemsby, with over a hundred cases. (1979) Scabies and head lice today are common enough, though Tuberculosis is



It seems to me that the numbering of the Rows in this area has changed several times, leading to considerable confusion. For centuries the Rows were not numbered at all, and when they were, there was no real system, and then there were changes such as when Queen Street was created by widening what appears to me to have first been Row 91, however by the time that Charles Palmer compiled the *Perlustration*, the Row that became Queen Street had removed one Row, and Row 91 was the Row immediately south and running east, which then intersected the south end of Howard Street South. This section was called Mew's Half Row, and led almost directly into Row 90, which then led on to King Street. In 1922, Harry Johnson referred to the whole length as being Row 90. This is so in the directories 1886-1927, as quoted. I think that it is after the bombing and the second World War, that this pair of Rows having disappeared, the Row on the other side of King Street was numbered 91, and number 90 omitted. That Row opposite, was previously numbered 94.

## ROW NINETY ONE AND A HALF

### Palmer gave no name

Greyfriars Row, Cloisters Row

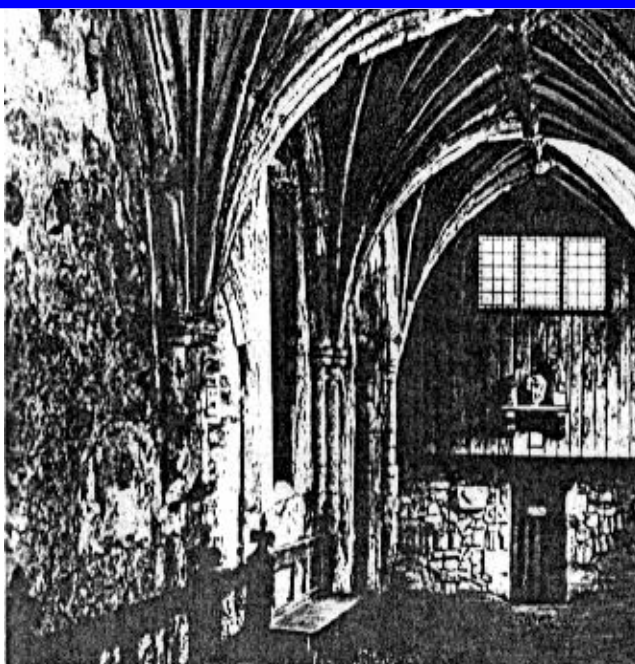
(These two names in Harry Johnson's notes.)

Johnson wrote, in 1927: "Of the Rows most treasured by the artist and photographer, this short Row is unequalled. At the west end stand the cloisters of the Greyfriars, and these are well worth a visit. The Franciscan monks settled in Yarmouth in the 13th. C. The elaborate ceiling needed in 1927 immediate attention, and a fund was started for the necessary renovations, long overdue. As an attraction the cloisters were a valuable asset to the town". Severely damaged by bombing in the last war, the remains of the cloisters are now inaccessible behind high iron railings".

Row ninety one and a half was no thoroughfare, and led from Middlegate Street to a cottage built over the east cloister of the church of the Greyfriars. A portion of this in a very perfect state formed the entrance to the house as seen in the picture engraved on page 128, vol. II, Palmer's Perlustration.

The 1936 row survey says: "Greyfriars Cloister. This has an overhanging storey on its south side, and leads to the old Franciscan Church.

The tenements in the row should be made stores, and closed to habitation".



*Greyfriars cloisters had an amazing vaulted ceiling.*



*Photographed in 1987.*

## ROW NINETY TWO

### Palmer gave no name

Carrington's Row (1776)  
(this and names below from Johnson's notes)

Hurry's Row, (1798)

Old Meeting North Row

From South Quay to Middlegate Street. Johnson wrote: "For traces of the thirteenth century Greyfriars Church, pass into the passage midway on the south side, and there on the north walls of Row 96, property could (in 1927) be seen interesting relics. There were two carved stone arches of windows, and a bricked up entrance. The fine mansion, nos. 13 and 14, was erected about 1776 at the southwest corner, and the house at the northwest corner demanded attention as an example of the lofty residences existing along the Quay".

Palmer recorded that this Row was formed through the precincts of the convent of the Greyfriars in pursuance of the condition already made, by the corporation on the sale by them of the property in 1659. The house at the southwest corner fronting the quay, now divided into two occupations, 13 and 14, was built about the year 1776 by Thomas Kerrington, who had leave to bring out the front to the present line,



About 1944. as with much of Yarmouth, this Row was in a very poor state. It was financially beneficial to say that this was war damaged beyond repair, and pull it all down.

## Middlegate Street

Middlegate Street ran from Hall Plain to Friars Lane. It never had any gates, and did not lead to or from a gate either, rather it was the centre street of the town, and ran north-south, with the numbering of the houses running along the east side to Friars Lane, and then back along the west side to Hall Plain. During the Second World War, much of Middlegate was closed up. The houses were mainly small shops, and business was non-existent there during the war. Approximately 70% of Middlegate Street stood intact at the end of the war, although very run-down. The area between Greyfriars and the fire station was destroyed, and the area between row 139/140, and 145 also, but elsewhere, even where almost the whole of Rows 124, 128, 129, 132, 133, all west of Middlegate were destroyed, nevertheless the majority Middlegate itself was still very much standing. Instead of being restored however, almost the whole street, in common with the south end of King Street, was pulled down. This was “justified” by the need to claim the grant for bomb damaged buildings. Unfortunately the government after the war, decreed that grants for building work could only be claimed if the building concerned had been damaged beyond repair. Almost no restoration was therefore undertaken, Instead whole areas were declared to be damaged beyond repair and simply bulldozed to the ground, so sacrificing the historical and aesthetic beauty.



Middlegate, looking north, by Phillip Rumbelow, 19.5.1946.





*Photo. 31st July, 1947, by Philip Rumbelow (Lillian Rumbelow on left). Note that the house which was Dawson Turner's birthplace number 40 and 41 Middlegate is that depicted on Corbridge's plan. There is also a note about the house in Nall's Yarmouth, the large paper edition. These houses should have unquestionably been preserved and restored. Row 119 is to the left.*



Docwra

Row 107

Beer retailer

Opposite to row 90 was Row 91½, where could be found the entrance to the Greyfriars' Cloisters. The cloisters had been saved by the Great Yarmouth Preservation Company in the time of Frederick Danby Palmer, and were for some years advertised and used by Frere and Co. as a wine vault.

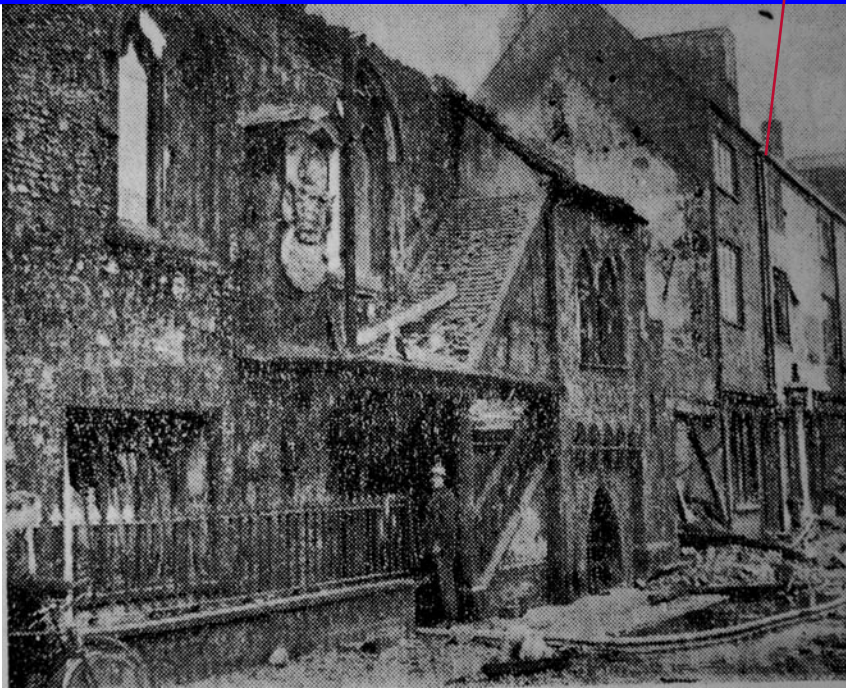
On the north-west corner of this was Charles Carr's furniture store. Carr is an old family of



Continuing along the east side from Row 88 in 1938, there was Eddington's coffee bar, William Hubbard, boot repairer, and George Salter's residence. (nos.10, 11, and 11a) Then came row 90, of which there is some notable detail (see that Row). At no.13, Miss Mildred Payne had a greengrocery. Next-door was another grocer, Archibald Saul.







From 1622 the council meetings were held at the Tolhouse (previously at the

**The Tolhouse**, was so called because in the first floor room, the Bailiffs were paid the tolls or dues from the port, such as the revenue charged upon the fish that were landed on the quay. The town gaol was below, in a large chamber, at one time twenty feet by twelve, in which all prisoners were held together. There was a beam running along the centre, with iron rings allowing the prisoners to be chained to it. Records exist of criminals held here as early as 1295, when prisoners found guilty of theft were then taken to be hanged. (One for stealing some cloth, another for stealing a pair of shoes.) A grant of Henry III in 1261 established the gaol here. It is not known if this was then a new build, or whether the building was acquired from another use. Either way, the building dates from at least that date, so is now 762 years old. Court cases were tried here and coroner's cases held. In 1381 there was an uprising and the prisoners freed, all except three, who for some reason were put to death. The gaol was also besieged under Kett in 1549, in the bread riots of 1792, and in the sailor's riot of 1852. In 1597 Christina Church was imprisoned for five years for failing to attend church. She was later pardoned as her husband was then left to care for eight children. Women were persecuted and held here for witchcraft in 16th and 17th centuries. During the Civil War, when the town supported Cromwell, various Royalists were held in the gaol. In 1671, fees due to the gaoler were 4d for every person whipped, 12d. for a person branded, 6s 8d for a person hanged. There were set fees to the jailer for such as providing a meal and for a bed. (See P.P. vol2., p.249.) In 1756, 14 French prisoners escaped by mining under a wall, and only four were recaptured. A few years later 28 French prisoners escaped, but this time all were recaptured except three. In 1768 the French prisoners escaped, took a boat off the beach and made off out to sea, but were recaptured by some Lowestoft fishermen. In 1814, Rev. Richard Turner was voted thanks by the Corporation for his attention to the prisoners and to John Hannah, convicted of murder.



Guildhall.) Early in 18th century auctions were held here. The circular window was closed up in 1827, because the debtors used to sit in there and beg. County Courts were held at the Tolhouse from 1847. The Tolhouse was substantially destroyed in an air raid, September 1945, and later restored. Many museum collections were lost for ever in the fire.

The property of Joseph G Plummer, for sale in 1881, then called the Liverpool Tavern, in 1913 was called The Cock, in 1927 called the Middlegate Tavern.

**Particulars & Conditions of Sale**  
OF IMPORTANT  
**FREEHOLD PROPERTY**  
IN GREAT YARMOUTH,  
COMPRISING  
**23 SMALL HOUSES AND COTTAGES,**  
Situate in Rows Nos. 54, 56, 58, 116, 128, and 140;  
**FULL-LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE**  
KNOWN AS THE  
"Liverpool Tavern," Middlegate Street,  
**FAMILY RESIDENCE,**  
No. 133, KING STREET.  
"GROVE HOUSE," A COMFORTABLE RESIDENCE,  
WITH  
GARDEN & STABLES, St. Peters Road,  
BUILDING SITES Next the St. Peter's Road,  
*Suitable for Shops and Dwelling Houses,*  
**3 SMALL HOUSES IN NEPTUNE TERRACE,**  
*2 COTTAGES and a SITE, in the rear;*  
WHICH  
**MESSRS. SPELMAN**  
Have received instructions from the Executors and Trustees of the Will of the late J. G. PLUMMER, Esq., to Sell by Auction,  
On **THURSDAY, the 24th day of FEBRUARY, 1881,**  
*At Six for Seven o'clock in the Evening,*  
**AT THE STAR HOTEL, GREAT YARMOUTH.**  
Particulars and Conditions of Sale may be had of Mr. CHARLES DUFFY, Solicitor, Great Yarmouth, and of the Auctioneers, at Norwich and Great Yarmouth. A Plan of lots 19 to 27, can be seen at the Offices of the Auctioneers, Hall Plain, Gr. Yarmouth.  
COOPER AND SON, STEAM PRINTERS, YARMOUTH.

LOT 11.—A well-built Freehold small HOUSE, adjoining lot 10, similarly planned, in the occupation of Thomas Leach, at the annual rental of £9 2s. 6d.  
LOT 12.—A well-built Freehold small HOUSE, adjoining lot 11, similarly planned, in the occupation of William Mingay, at the annual rental of £9 2s. 6d.  
LOT 13.—A well-built Freehold small HOUSE, on the opposite side of the passage to lot 12, and containing 1 low and 2 upper rooms, cellar, wash-house, yard, common closet, and the Company's Water laid on, in the occupation of Robert Wells, at £9 2s. 6d. per annum.  
**IN YARD WITH ENTRANCE FROM ROW No. 128.**  
LOT 14.—Two Freehold Cottages, each containing 1 low and 2 upper rooms, with wash-house and common closet, also yard and the Company's Water laid on, in the occupations of Maria Adams and John Ives, at rents amounting to £13 6s. 6d. per annum.  
**MIDDLEGATE STREET.**  
LOT 15.—The old-established full licensed  
**FREEHOLD PUBLIC HOUSE**  
KNOWN AS  
**THE "LIVERPOOL TAVERN,"**  
In the occupation of Mrs. Harriet Arnold, at the low annual rental of £30 6s. 6d. The premises consist of a bar next the street, divided to form a snugger, sitting room, private entrance from Row 140, club room, bedroom, 3 attics and cellarage, also in the rear tap room with separate entrance from Row 140, 2 rooms over the same, small wash-house, common closet, paved yard, partly covered in, also a skittle ground.  
**ROW No. 140, MIDDLEGATE STREET.**  
LOT 16.—Two Freehold well-built COTTAGES in the rear of lot 15, each containing 1 low and 2 upper rooms and cellar, with common yard and closet, and Company's Water laid on, in the occupations of George Pembroke and Isaac Pembroke, at rents amounting to £13 per annum.  
**KING STREET.**  
LOT 17.—The

A Plan of the site of Cock Tavern (from old deed) is depicted, previous page.

At no.82 was Mrs.R.Palmer, and then numbers 83, 84, and 85 were all Delf's properties. Numbers 83 and 84 were vacant in 1937 and 1938. They were both shops, with separate entrances with a water tap out in the back yard, and no electricity. There was also a separate tiled cottage behind, with two bedrooms. There were three bedrooms on two floors

in association with the two shops. There was a single outside W.C. in the yard. At no.85 Middlegate Street was a house let to Mr.Harry Botwright. This again had a cellar and electric light. The house was let at 22 pounds a year. Row 141 was previously Houghton the Baker's Row. There had been cowsheds in this row.

To continue down the west side: on the south of Row 137 was no.122. One of Fred Delf's properties, let to Mr.Robert Walter Brackenbury. There was a double fronted shop, but this was not let to Brackenbury, who only rented the living quarters. There was a separate entrance to these, a living-room, scullery with water, no electricity, two bedrooms, and a yard with W.C., and an entrance from a passageway. He paid 18 pounds and 4 shillings a year. At 121 was Louis Fisher, then at 119 lived Mrs. Annison, after which came Row 128. No.117 and 118 was Nelson Dennis



Nos. 74 and 75 Middlegate

**ROW ONE HUNDRED AND ONE**

(Palmer gave no name)

Reynolds' Row, (Mayor 1781, 1784) (name and below, from Johnson's notes)

Victualling Office Row

Penrice's Stables Row

Charles Symonds' Row.

From Middlegate to King Street: Johnson wrote: "Some splendid flint foundations still existed under the property owned in 1927 by W. Docwra at the southwest corner. Remarkable early eighteenth century arches had been discovered in the cellars belonging to the brewery built by Jacob Arnold. Later the property was the residence of John Reynolds, a solicitor".

Palmer wrote that between this Row and Row no. 102, there was a large house fronting Middlegate Street, now divided into two occupations nos. 21 and 22, which earlier in the eighteenth century was built by Jacob Arnold, beer brewer. He married Mary, one of the two daughters and coheirs of Thomas Harpley, who had previously established a brewery here. The buildings connected with which extended a considerable way eastward. In 1740, on the marriage of Martha, their only child with Robert Gimingham of South Walsham, beer brewer, Arnold made a settlement of this property in her favour. He died in 1762, aged 54. The issue of the above marriage was Robert Gimingham the younger, who in 1775, sold the brewery to William Mallett, who died in the following year, leaving two sons, William and Joshua. He had a messuage near the North Gate, and a brewery and public houses attached to the same, two of which were "The Keel", afterwards "the Griffin", and the "Dolphin and Crown". Harriott, the last surviving daughter, who was then residing at Bath, sold the brewery in 1802 to F. R. Reynolds, who afterwards erected new brewery premises on the Denes, and the old buildings in the Rows were turned to other uses. The house was purchased by John Reynolds, a solicitor, who filled the office of Mayor in 1781, and again in 1784, and died in 1799, aged 60. At the southeast corner of Row



FIG. 3. Row 101, Nos. 5, 6, 7, and 8.

