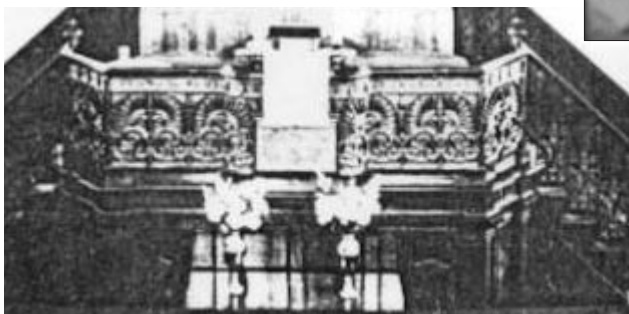


Chapter 33

# Regent Road

Named after the Prince Regent, later George IV, Regent Road was originally a track in the sand across the denes (or dunes) to the middle well. It ran from Oxney's Gate in an easterly direction towards the sea. It appears to me that the gate was placed here by the earliest builders of any sort of mound, palisade or wall, so as to get conveniently to the well that had already been dug there. Wells were dug from very ancient times, and even an attempt to divert the river to bring fresh water to the town could have had problems from salt water rushing in at high tide. Theatre gate was called Oxney's gate before Swinden's time and then Steele's gate during Swinden's lifetime. The tower associated with the gate was pulled down in 1776.<sup>3</sup>



On the east side of British Home Stores can still be seen a portion of the ancient town wall. Here is the site of Oxney's gate, mentioned above. East of the wall (1992) was "Spud-u-like", in a flat-roofed shoe box

In 1992, from the south-west end of Regent Road, there was Greens outfitters; "Occasions" -Quality Gifts and Cards; then, crossing Deneside, there was the British Home Stores on the site of the old Wesleyan Chapel and School.

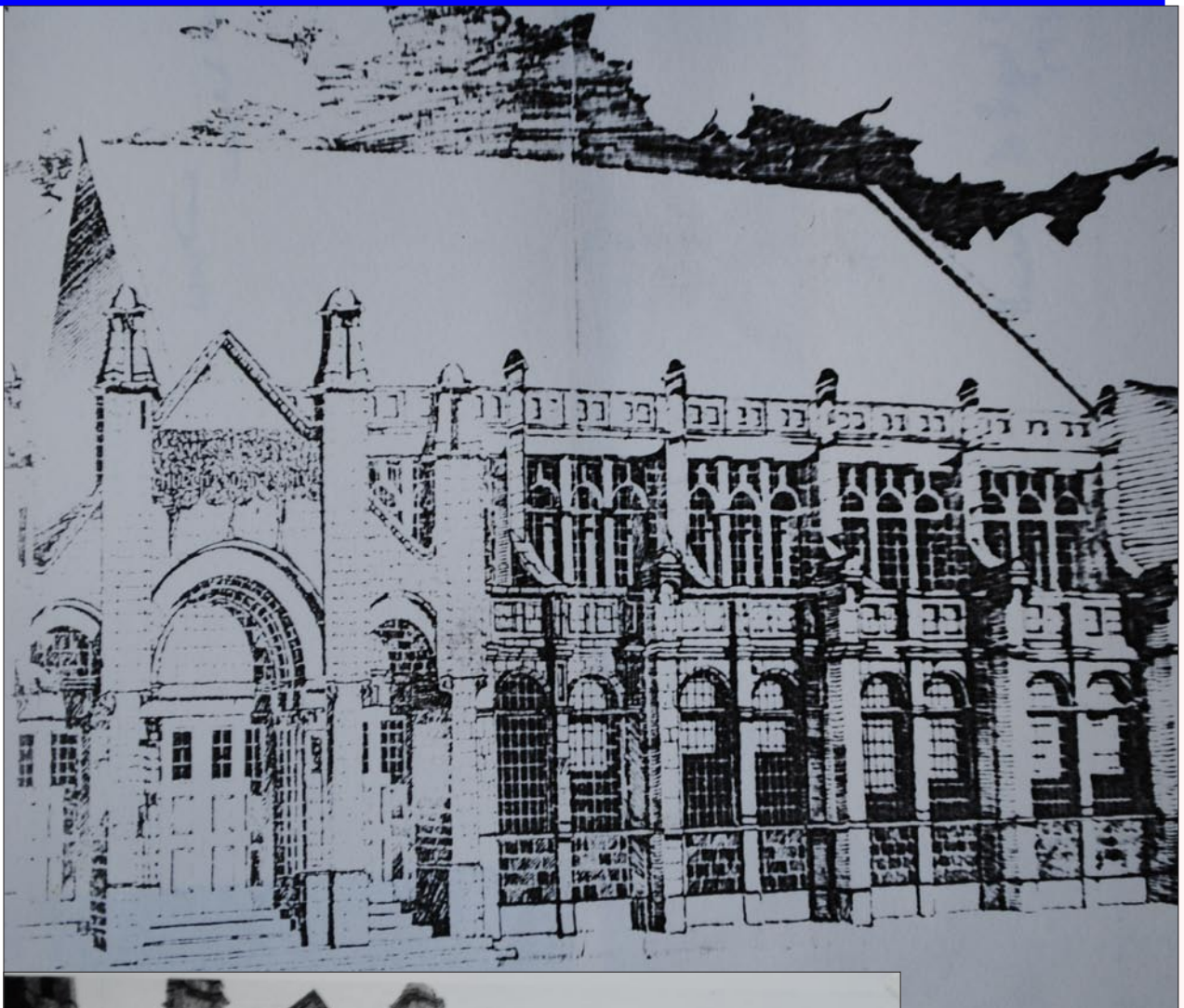


*the organ that was in the Wesleyan Hall shaped building, beside which was the 1923 Billiard Hall. This still had billiards and snooker on the top floor. Entrance was free, and the tables 2 pounds and fifty pence for a session. Below it were*



*The Wesleyan Church in Regent Road (corner of Deneside) now British Home Stores.*

**On 30th May 1855, the first stone was laid of the Wesleyan Chapel by S. C. Marsh.**



Mayor, J.Martin White, and his wife, lady Mayoress. The middle photo is of the Deneside face, showing the entrance to the school.

At the top we see an architect's drawing of the proposed changes to the chapel. This print was printed on the front of a booklet on the occasion of the opening of the new lecture hall. The stone laying ceremony was held at 3pm on Monday March 17<sup>th</sup> 1904. Thirty memorial stones were laid by the



Regent Road



*Above is the view into Regent Road, from King Street 27 April 2007.*

*To the left is the view back towards King Street from Regent Road in about 1890.*

*Below is the same view towards King Street in about 1965.*

*On the right hand page is the same view in 2005.*

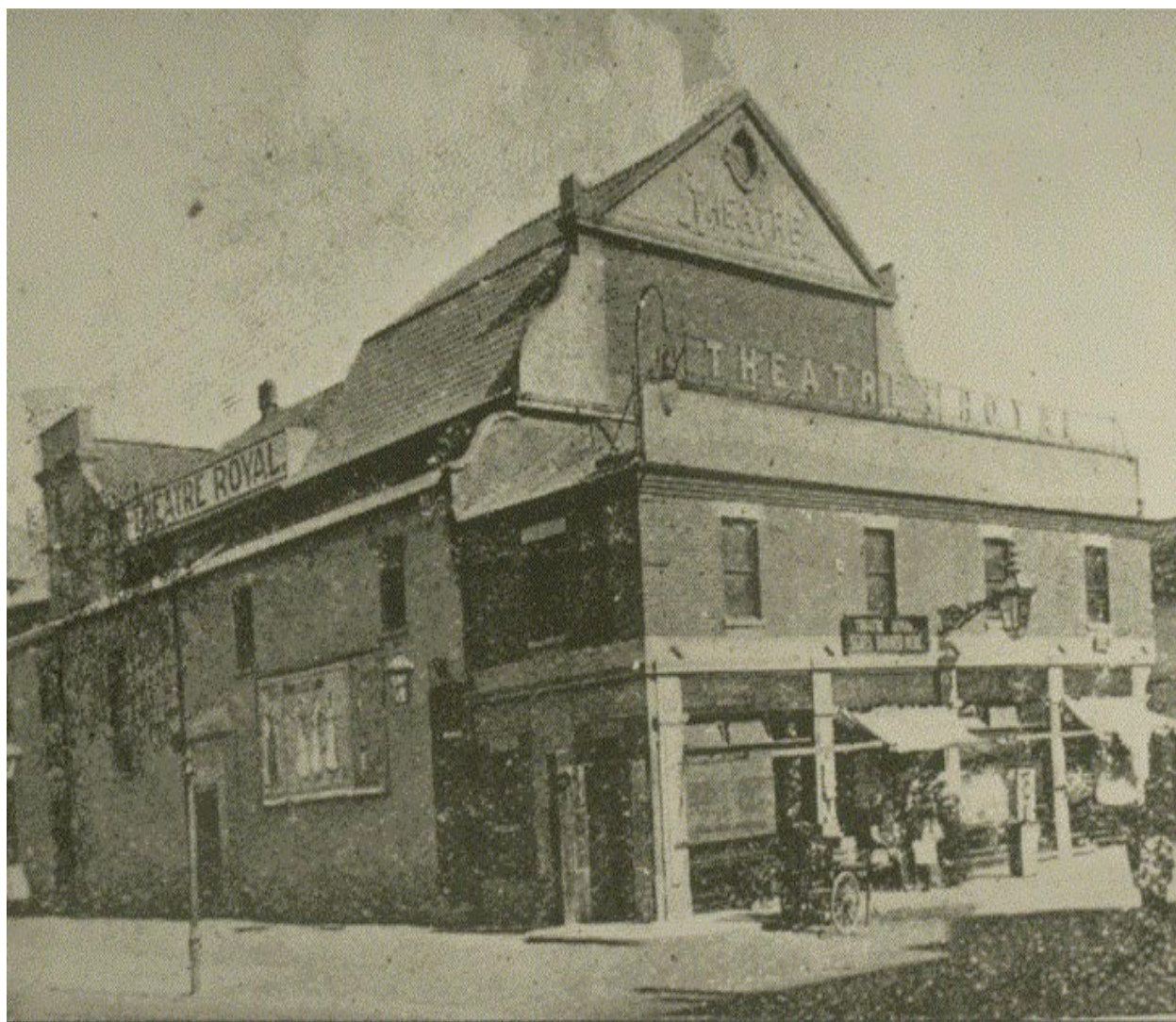


### The Theatre Royal

The north-west side of the street starts from the junction with King Street with Clark's Shoes, changed from "Farmers" (1992). Here was Diver's public house and off-licence. Across Deneside, there is the site of the former Theatre. The old Theatre Royal seated some 7-800 persons.

Silver tokens were issued as season tickets at the Theatre Royal. Examples are seen right, engraved with the subscriber's name, and the date of issue.

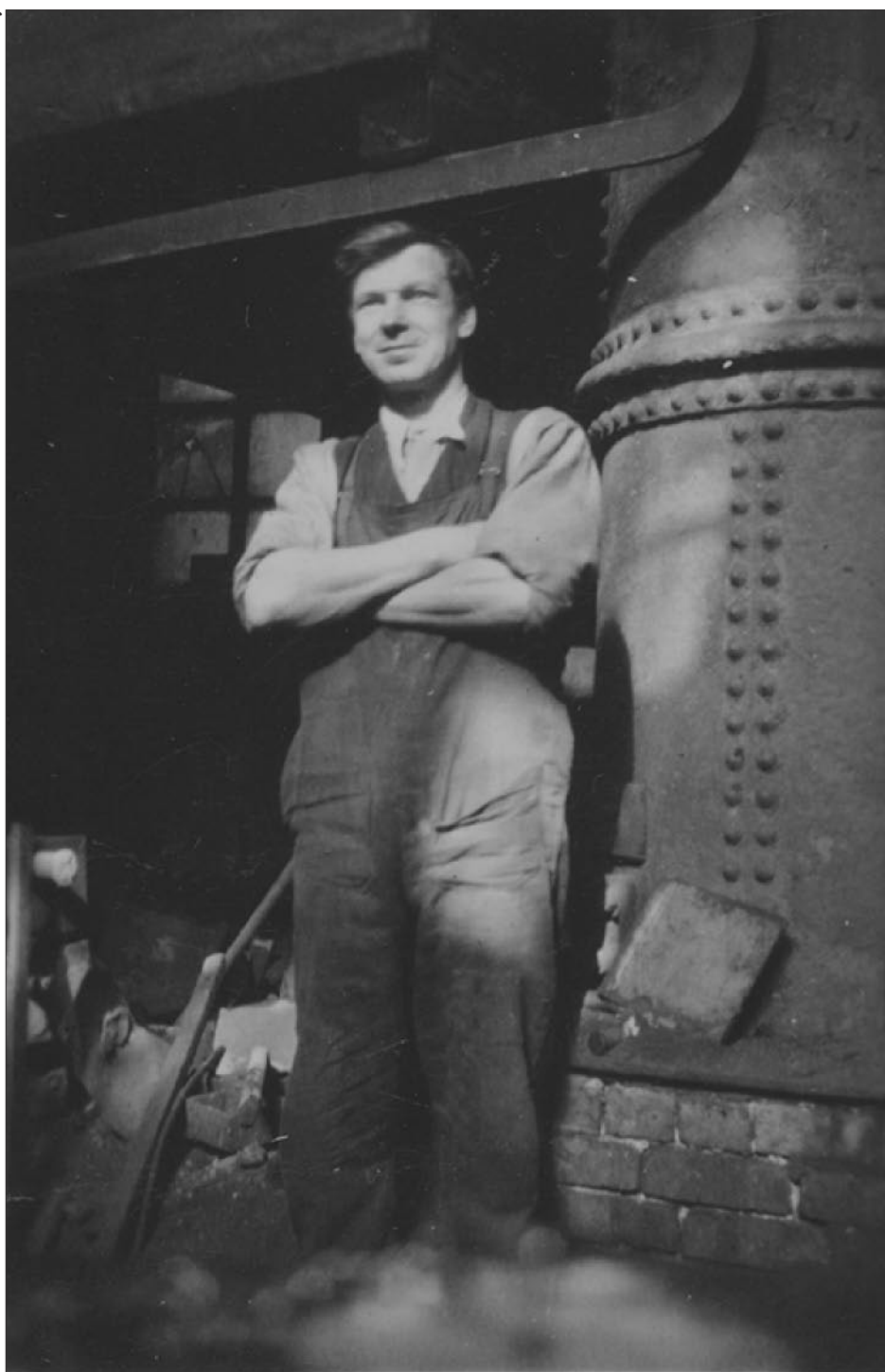
Before the 1914 war, the Theatre Royal had closed in the winter, whereas the Royal Aquarium had been open all year round. In 1915 the Defence of the Realm Act placed restrictions on lighting, and power. The trams in the winter ceased to run down



*Theatre Royal, prior to WWI.*

Ipswich. She herself died at the young age of 43. Agnes married Tom Tripp, and they were publicans at Gorleston. Harriett married William Salter. Florence married Harold Hardy, and had two sons. Maud married a sailor called Charles Jennings, who served in a submarine in the First World War, and who was taken prisoner and interned in Holland. It is said that he was allowed home on condition of returning to Holland, and was extremely well treated. Florence Married Robert Hubbard as his second wife, who being the only tax collector in Yarmouth at that time, had people call at his house to deliver their taxation (on Victoria Road).

The foundry was very dark inside, the sand on the floor was jet black from the iron, which sparked everywhere as it was poured. The walls were whitewashed to improve the light. The foundry was destroyed by bombing in the second war, on 7th. July 1941. It had been one of several foundries in the town. Others had been Webber's in Cobholm; Pertwee and Backs; also Crabtree's. Many of Brett's staff worked for Crabtree after the bombing, although initially Walter Brett was offered part of Webbers. The foundry was bombed in



*Walter Swithin Brett in the iron foundry.*

the night, and eight houses were also destroyed, but the inhabitants are thought to have been evacuated. The letter heading of the foundry states that it commenced business in 1835 (as Yetts).

Herbert Powley, a bargee, at no. 11, married the sister of Jane Maddeys who married Victor Palmer of Row 129 in his second marriage. Powley had a boy, George who worked for Davies the painters, of Selby Place, and a girl, Vera. Arthur Palmer of Row 129 also worked at that shop for several years, prior to the war.

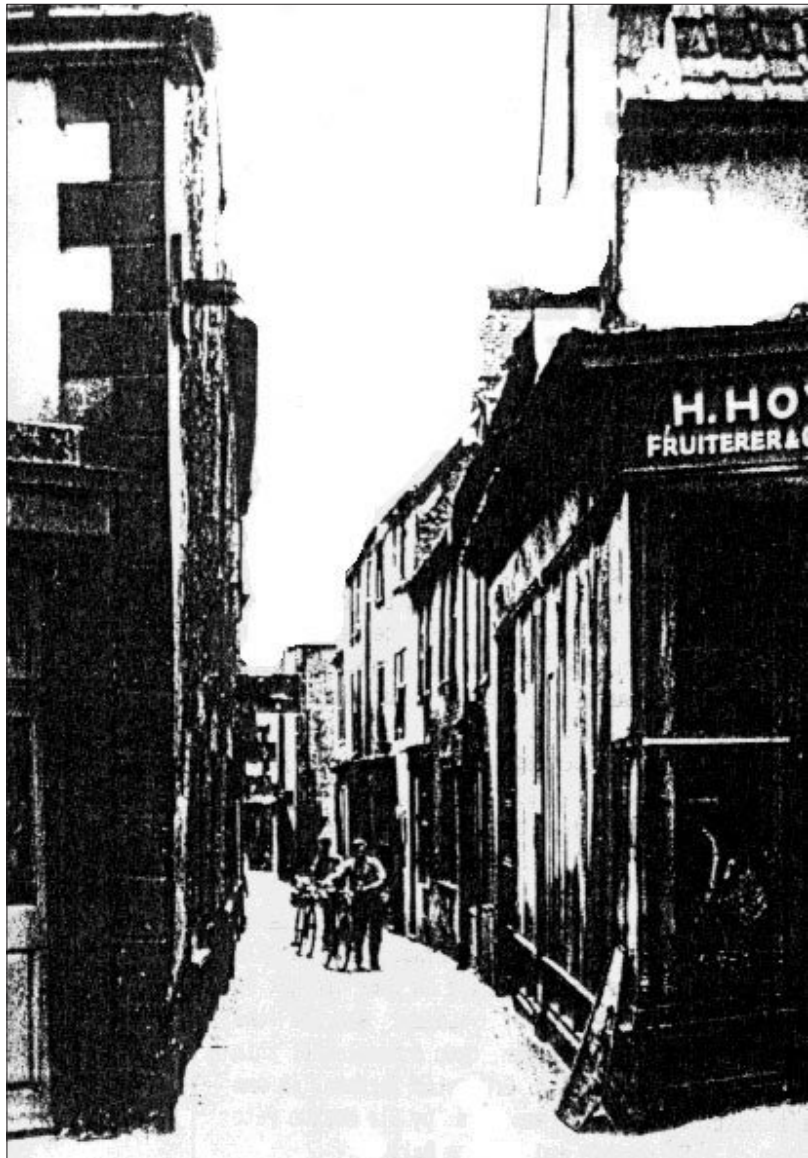
**ROW ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY,  
WHITE LION ROW**

ST. PETER'S ROW EAST (Palmer)

OLD WHITE LION Row

ST. PETER'S Row East (Johnson)

From Middlegate Street to King Street. Johnson wrote: "Visitors must not miss the splendid panelling and oak staircase at the really old "White Lion" tavern. This property was owned by James Symonds, bailiff 1660, and who signed the address to Richard Cromwell. Gates into the town wall spanned St. Peter's or Jetty Road, and were known as "White Lion Gates". Fortunately the White Lion still survives. It was for sale by Whitbread's in April 1994. As a result I was able to arrange to view and photograph this wonderful old building on the 26th. The roof (inside) was probably unseen by Johnson. It was accessed through a small door, looking like a landing cupboard. Up a very narrow steep flight of stairs, the ancient floorboards looked original, as did the dust, although there was clearly a Victorian attic bedroom, with a small coal burning fireplace. The ancient wallpaper was hanging from battens with no actual wall behind it. Many of the roof beams were suspect and enormously bent. Ecclestone wrote an excellent guide to this pub. when Lacons restored it before the war.



Palmer wrote of this row that it was called formerly White Lion Row, and now St. Peter's Row East. At the southeast corner, immediately fronting St. Peter's Road, is an old house which for the last two centuries (17th., 18th), has been known as the "Old White Lion" tavern. In 1684, James Symonds, by his will devised it to his widow for life, and after her death it was purchased by John Fisher Esq., in 1738. John Symonds of Yarmouth who died in 1657 descended from John Symonds of Cley next the Sea, who died in 1492, leaving a son John Symonds whose son Ralph



*Roof beams in the Old White Lion, photo. 1988.*

**ROW ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY  
THREE TRENDLE’S ROW**

UNION ROW (Palmer)

Trendle’s Row, bailiff (1624)

Union Row, (1707)

Lee the Pawnbroker’s Row

Graves the pieman’s Row

Spratt the Shoemaker’s Row

Bellamy the Baker’s Row (1926, six row names here from Johnson’s notes)

Seago’s Row, (1925, Yallop)

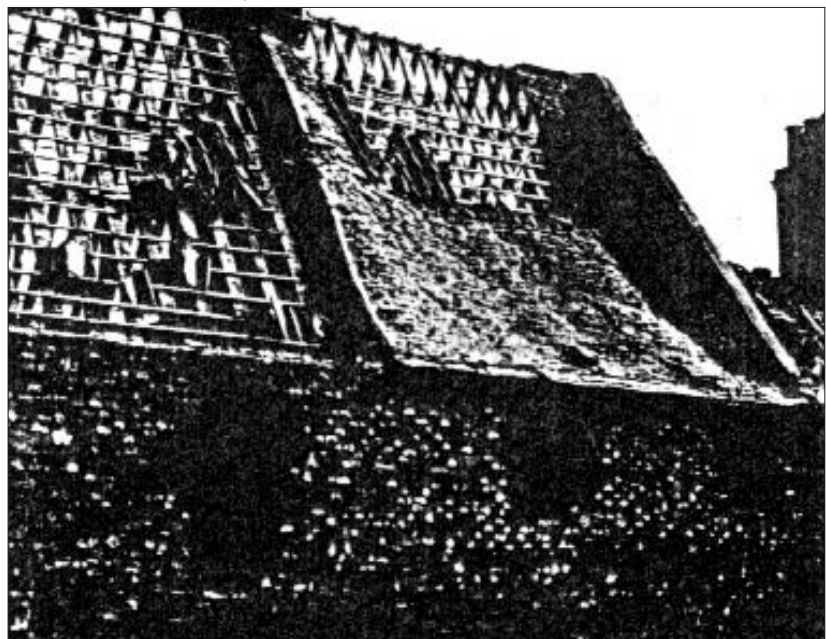
From South Quay to Middlegate Street: Harry Johnson wrote: “Visitors to a town prefer to hunt up relics of the past in out of the way places. This row provides a happy hunting ground. On the south side close by the covered way, may be seen a splendid carved doorway with the date 1674, and the spandrils containing the Yarmouth arms, and the initials J. C. E., of John Cooper and his wife Elizabeth. The two residences contain some excellent panelling, oak frames, beams etc.” The covered way was part of the Yallop’s house, and the door remained until the war (see below).

Palmer wrote: which in the last century was the property of Jacoba Watson, and subsequently of J. D. Palmer Esq., who in 1809 sold it to Isaac Lee, a merchant of Jewish persuasion. It is now a public house called the “Bell and Crown”. It stands on the site of a house, which in the 17th. century, was the property of John Trendle, Bailiff in 1624, who took a leading part in municipal affairs. On the outbreak of civil war he contributed plate to the value of 21 pounds in support of Parliament, and in 1652 gave 5 pounds to the children’s hospital. In row 133 lived a family named Neale, and in 1825 Mary Neal



*This would have been the southwest corner of Row 133, as seen 21.5.1998.*

and Susan and William Neal (Palmer gives these different spellings), were tried at the sessions for attempting to poison William Hales, a cordwainer, and his family. The prisoners were all found guilty, and judgement of death was



*The rear of nos. 7 and 8, Row 133.*

The Gowens went away to Nottingham again for the rest of the war. This was something they did voluntarily. People had been alarmed after bombs fell in Southtown road causing a large crater, and many decided to evacuate. People used to shelter in the tunnels under the malthouse during the air raids. During the war he had also had a job in the stone yard on the South Quay, where they mixed granite with hot tar and then took it away to be used to build the runways at the airfields. Later he was working on the quayside loading coal onto the trawlers that went out as patrol boats. Altogether, including time after the last war, he worked for 40 years on the docks. There were no cranes on the dockside then, and the boats had their own winches. The coal was shovelled into baskets by the men, to be winched on board.

On 8th. June 1994, a small group of members of the Great Yarmouth Society were shown around the malt-houses of R. J. Beavans in Cobholm by Mr. Auger, the manager, who had moved to Yarmouth within the trade some years previously. In October the malt-houses, although still very profitable, making an 18% profit per annum, were to be closed after some 140 years of making malt in the same premises. The malt-houses in Cobholm were built during the 1850's on a virgin site, by Robert Watling, who over a number of years built up a very substantial business, with some 12 malt-houses in the town. No. 1 malting was on the southwest corner of the

Conge, and the then surviving houses on Mill Road, Cobholm, are numbers 5, 6, and 7, with the numbering from the west. There were previously also malt-houses on Steam Mill Lane and High Mill Road, and two in Caister on the site of the present police station. Watling built several more malt-houses in East Anglia. The buildings on the Yarmouth site were three of only five that survive from the 19th. century. All the others now used elsewhere are modern automated plants of very recent construction.

The malt-house known as no. 5 at the west end of Mill Road, was the most original, virtually unchanged from when it was built in about 1855. There were four floors including the one in the roof. On the ground floor there were sliding shutters with small mesh in the centre to let air circulate even when the shutters were closed. The original Pamment tile floor was still to be seen. The temperature for malting had to be maintained at around a constant 55 degrees. Any higher temperature causes the barley to rot, and a colder temperature will arrest germination. During the postwar recession of the 1920's and 30's the other malt-houses were gradually sold off by Ralph Watling,





## Chapter 36

### ROW ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIVE (Palmer gives no name)

Emms' Row, 1719

Old Prison Row

Hayes the Butcher's Row, 1867

Tomlinson's Arms Row, 1870 (Johnson)

Delf's Row, 1926 (Florence Waters)

From Middlegate Street to King Street:

"This row has a covered entrance at the east and west. The lofty residence that was a grocer's store in 1927, and formerly a public house, was typical of houses in Middlegate Street. Here Thomas Emms, and his wife, Preserved, lived. Note the nine inch square tablet inset on the south gable, bearing the initials, E.T.P., and 1719. Note the shop shutter rack under the west entrance, now rarely seen. An old prison existed here, probably for prisoners of war as in Row 110".<sup>2</sup>

At the northwest corner is a lofty house of red brick erected in 1719 by Thomas Emms. Upon the site of a more ancient one purchased by him with some adjacent property belonging to Thomas Marsham, of Stratton Strawless in Norfolk in 1704. In the south gable of the above-mentioned house there is a stone bearing their initials T E P, with the date 1719. The E is above, with T and P below in a triangle. A view is opposite P.380, vol.2, P.P., of no.65 Middlegate Street. The house was depicted in Corbridge's map, being then in the occupation of Robert Emms. A later occupant of the house was Major Alexander, a native of Beccles, who went early to India, and narrowly escaped being consigned to the black hole of Calcutta by leaping into the Ganges.

At about the commencement of the 19th. century, the house was purchased by William John Hurry Esq., who resided in it for many years. In his time the apartments were all lined with wainscot, which in the dining and drawing rooms was particularly handsome, the wood having acquired by age a rich colour, uncontaminated by paint<sup>3</sup>. There was also a broad and fleet staircase, common to houses of the same period. After Mr.Hurry had ceased to reside there the house was sold, and the ground floor in the front was converted into a liquor shop, called the "Tomlinson arms". At the northeast corner is a house which for many years was occupied by Mr.Matthew Butcher, and in which he established the agency business of Matthew Butcher and sons. He died in 1849, aged 65.

Between this row and the next, facing Middlegate Street, there was an old public house, no.74, rebuilt not long prior to 1874, called the "Cock"(see 2 pages further). In it were some curious moulded ceilings, of which drawings were made by Winter, and a specimen appears in P.P. The house



*Row 135½ ran here beside the British Legion Club in King Street*

no.73 fronting west was long the residence of the Rev.Alexander Creak. An old house no.75 adjoining the "Cock", had the date 1682 in iron letters upon its front. No.71 Middlegate Street was in 1652 the property of the Ingram Family. John Ingram, in 1626, stood by the ancient form of municipal government and in 1635 was appointed collector of ship money for the first and second south Wards. He was Bailiff in 1647, but resigned as Alderman on the execution of Charles I.<sup>1</sup>

Florence Waters and her family lodged here at no.1 with the Smith family. George Waters was a cooper, and Florence worked at Suttons fishhouse. Florence met her husband when they were teenagers and he made the barrels for the fish which were stored in layers of salt. After their son was born at her parents house in Row 137, there was insufficient room for them all there, so they moved here in 1921. She had another son the next year, but had all her other children later, at Runham, some ten years later. (another five children). There were George, Kenneth, Brenda, Doreen, Derek, and two others. Florence had been at School in the same class as Rosa Westgate of Row 125, and was shocked when I told her that Rosa had died in an air raid. Florence had not known this, and Rosa had sat in a desk right behind her at school, and was "a lovely girl", very pretty.

<sup>1</sup> C.J.Palmer

<sup>2</sup> H.B.Johnson <sup>3</sup> Clearly, unpainted wood was admired then, as now.