

## Haydn House, 19 Broad Street, Lyme Regis

<https://www.lymeregismuseumresearchteam.co.uk>

Graham Davies, December 2020



Photo by Mike Applegate, 2010

In architectural terms, No.19 should be considered as part of the group of buildings, Nos.19-23 Broad Street. They exhibit Georgian re-fronting of buildings from the 16/17<sup>th</sup> century which have been further adapted with the introduction of shops in Broad Street which began to take place in early Victorian times.

The property can be identified on the Tithe map of 1841 which is described as houses, shops and garden, owned by James Edwards Snr, and occupied by James Edwards Jnr and others. James Edwards Snr was a Lyme banker and merchant, who handled many Lyme properties in the period 1800-1840.

No.19 was linked with the Radford family and its business from Victorian times to the 1950s. Robert Radford (1827-1888) married Julia Penny in 1848. From just being a cabinet maker, he expanded his business to an 'Upholstery Warehouse and House Agency' (1857) employing 6 men and 4 boys (1871), which was based in a yard below the Three Cups Inn, on the site of today's No.16. The warehouse was burnt down in 1875. Houses in Lyme were not given street numbers until 1900, and the author was unable to trace 'Haydn House' before the 1890s, but he believes that, after the warehouse fire, the business was transferred to today's No.19 as 'Upholsterers, Undertakers, Auctioneers and House Agents'. Before that, the author is uncertain what role No.19 played in the home and/or business life of Robert Radford.

In the late 1870s, Robert Radford went into partnership with his son, Francis Edmund Radford (1856-1933), so creating the firm of 'Radford & Radford'. Robert retired in 1883 due to ill-health and moved away from Lyme. Francis's younger brother, Robert Charles Radford (1864-1911), joined the firm, with Francis in charge. Francis married Ada Glover in 1883 and lived at West Cliff (today's Shire End). Robert married Helen Best in 1884 to live at No.19.

## Timelines

### 19 Broad Street – Ground Floor<sup>1</sup>

1875-c1906	Radford & Radford
1909-18	J Baker, hairdresser
1920-33	Walter R Baker, restaurateur
1933-54	Radford & Radford
1959-81	SWEB
1984-91	Lyme News
1994-2003	Lyme Newsmarket
c2014-	The Cornish Bakery

The timelines refer to known dates that persons or business occupy a property. Unless stated, no distinction is made between owner or tenant. Occupations may well extend beyond the known timeline.

### 19 Broad Street – 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors Haydn House<sup>2</sup>

1884-1911	Robert Charles & Helen Radford
1911-48	Helen Radford
1919-21	Robert Guy Radford
1922	Rev George Chatterton
1930	Geoffrey J Williams
1930-32	Edith C Greenhalgh (Miss)
1930-39	Nellie Radford (Miss)
1930-39	Charlotte & Miss Muriel Crisp
1934-35	Edna Beaufoy
1945-50	Nancy M Storrs
1949-50	Gertrude L Chilvers
1949-50	Helena K Macbeth
1954	Gerard J & Miriam O'Connor
1960	Rosaline F Nute
1960-81	Jean E Potter
1963-81	William A J Potter

### 1<sup>st</sup> floor Business

1941	Mrs Storrs, chiropodist
1950s-78	D M Sanders, dentist
1978-2002	Daniel J Burke, dentist
2003-	Studio 19

- <sup>1</sup> In about 1906 Radford & Radford transferred their business to the newly built, much larger, premises at 15/16 Broad Street, returning to No.19 in 1933 and remaining there until the business closed down in the 1950s. Throughout the 1920s No.19 was part of the Clarence Hotel, Cosy Café and catering business, owned by Reginald and Margaret Baker, based at 21 Broad Street. The South West Electricity Board purchased 19 Broad Street and opened their showroom in December 1959. Mrs Potter was the manageress. In November 1983 the Lyme Regis News reported that the SWEB premises in Broad Street, empty for 2 years, was to be transformed into a newsagents and confectioners shop by Mr Peter Fortnam who ran the Toby Jug at 8 Broad Street. (Also refer to appendix A)
- <sup>2</sup> Helen Radford (Mrs R C Radford) (1864-1948) was a lodging-house keeper for over 40 years. Her husband was killed by an exploding cannon whilst celebrating the coronation of George V on June 22, 1911. They had two children: Nellie (1886-1944) who did not marry and remained living with her mother, and Robert Guy (1888-1975) who married Violet Board in 1920, moved to 19a Broad Street in 1922 and took over the running of Radford & Radford in 1934. (Also refer to appendix B)

**Appendix A**

**Radford & Radford,**  
 AUCTION, VALUATION & ESTATES  
 AGENCY OFFICES.  
 AGENTS for the Atlas Life, Fire,  
 and Accident Assurance Co.  
**General FURNISHING WAREHOUSE.**

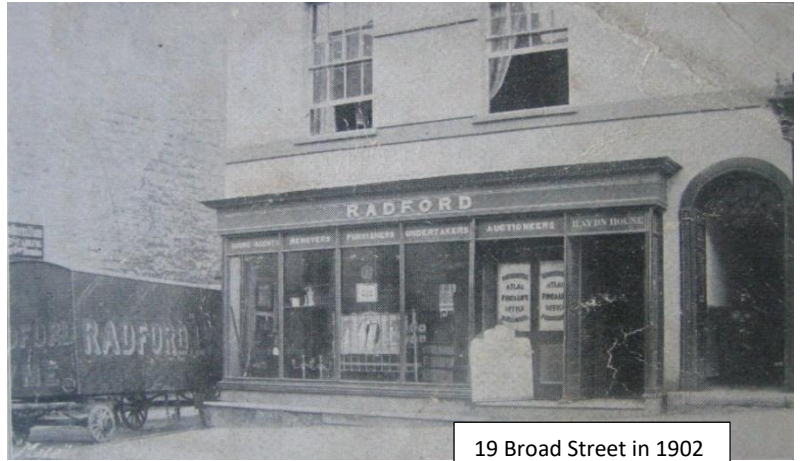
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1889



19 Broad Street in 1902

Telephone 217

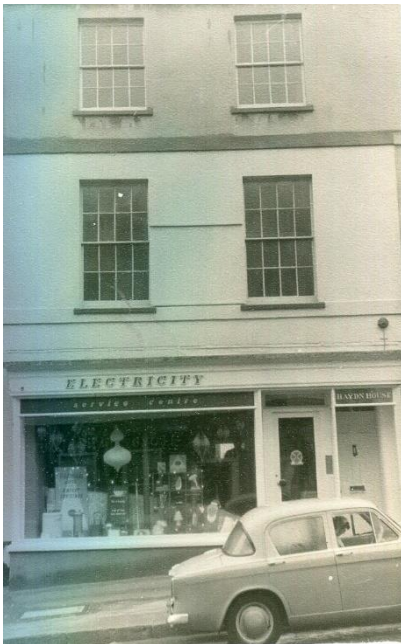
**Radford & Radford**  
 (R. G. RADFORD)

**Auctioneers, Valuers  
 and Undertakers**

—

**INSURANCE AGENTS  
 FURNITURE REMOVERS  
 LYME REGIS**

1954



Opening of SWEB showroom at 19 Broad Street in 1959

The Mayor [E W Grote] performing the opening ceremony, accompanied by (L to R) Mr H F Castle, District Manager, the Mayoress and Mr A N Irens, Chairman of the Board.

**LYME NEWS**

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1984

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1995

## Appendix B

### Western Gazette, Friday, June 30, 1911

#### *The Lyme Regis Fatality – Inquest and Verdict*

Mr C G Nantes, coroner for West Dorset, held an inquest at Haydn House, Broad Street, Lyme Regis, on Friday morning, on the body of **Robert Charles Radford**, of the firm of Messrs Radford & Radford, auctioneers and house furnishers, who was killed by the bursting of a cannon on Coronation day [Coronation of George V, Thursday 22 June]. Mr George Henley was foreman of the jury.

Evidence of identification was given by Mr Robert Guy Radford, son of deceased, who stated that his father was 48 years of age. Witness said he last saw his father alive on Whit-Tuesday. Questioned by the Coroner, witness said he lived at Exeter, and knew nothing about the tragic accident.

Charles Henry Alfred White, licensee of the Three Cups Hotel, Broad Street, stated that about 5.45 am on Thursday he was awakened from his sleep by a loud report. Witness looked out of his bedroom window, and saw Mr Radford. He also heard Mr Camplin speaking. They appeared to be the only two men in the street. Shortly afterwards witness heard another report, and, as he was rather annoyed, he called out to deceased about the noise created by the firing of a cannon. Deceased was then intently looking at some object in the road, and with the same there was a terrific explosion. Stones seemed to fly in the air in all directions. Witness noticed Mr Radford stagger, and thereupon fall to the ground. Mr Camplin, who appeared to be somewhat dazed, went towards deceased, crying out "Doctor, doctor." Witness next saw members of the Town Band arrive on the scene and Mr Radford was conveyed into his residence, Haydn House. Replying to the Coroner, witness said he could not see the cannon from his window, but when the explosion occurred something seemed to strike deceased.

Harold Munro Emmett, a member of the Town Band, stated that as he was coming up Broad Street with other members of the band on Thursday morning, he heard the report of a cannon. Witness saw Mr Camplin, who was standing about a yard from the pavement, suddenly run across the street to render assistance to Mr Radford, who was injured, and was lying in the gutter. Mr Camplin beckoned to witness to hasten to the spot. On arrival witness assisted in removing Mr Radford to his house. Two doctors were summoned, and some boy scouts ran to fetch the matron of the Cottage Hospital. As witness was coming up the street a large piece of the cannon flew past him, and dropped near Mr Randall's shop, a distance of about 40 yards from the scene of the accident.

Albert Ambrose Loud, butcher, of Broad Street, stated that on Thursday morning, while he was looking at the decorations on his premises, he saw Mr Camplin fire a small cannon in a passage on Mr Radford's premises. Witness then went on the verandah of his house, and his brother-in-law remarked, "Here they come with a bigger cannon." Witness thereupon went indoors, and almost instantly there was a loud report. On looking up the street witness saw Mr Radford lying on the ground.

Samuel Govier, blacksmith, of Broad Street, who was on the jury, stated that he first saw Messrs Radford and Camplin bring into the street a small brass cannon, which they fired. Afterwards the two men brought out the cannon which was the cause of the accident. This cannon, which was about two feet in length, was placed in the middle of the street, with the muzzle pointing up the hill. The cannon was loaded before it was brought into the street. Witness at the time was standing on a ladder which was against his house, and when the explosion occurred, he was nearly knocked off the ladder. On looking round witness saw Mr Radford fall into the gutter alongside the street. The cannon was fired by a fuse attached to a stick.

Similar evidence was given by P S Thomas, who added that Mr Camplin was too ill to attend the inquest. Witness had seen Mr Camplin at his house, and the latter stated that he was in the act of firing the cannon when it burst.

Answering the Coroner, witness said Mr Camplin was working under the directions of Mr Radford.

Dr H J Cooper, medical practitioner, of Lyme Regis, stated that when he arrived at Haydn House, he found Mr Radford lying on the floor of the front room, with his wife supporting him. There was a large gaping wound on the left side of Mr Radford's body. Mr Radford was semi-conscious when witness first saw him, but he gradually became unconscious, and died after seven o'clock.

The Coroner, in reviewing the evidence, said the apparent cause of the unfortunate occurrence was through using an old cannon which was not fit to be used. There was no blame attached to anyone except the men themselves. It was an awful sad accident to happen on a day which was to have been one of general rejoicing. He was sure that the widow and family would have not only the sympathy of the jury and himself, but also that of the whole of the townspeople in their sad bereavement.

The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death"

#### References

Ancestry.co.uk

British Newspaper Archive

Dorset Historic Towns Survey, Peter Bellamy et al, DCC and WDDC, 2011

Electoral Registers for Lyme Regis, Dorset Heritage Centre

Lyme Regis Museum archives and Research Team's digital archive

