

Clarence House, 21 Broad Street, Lyme Regis

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

Graham Davies & Richard Wells, 2015

In architectural terms, No.21 should be considered as part of the group of buildings, Nos.19-23. A visit by the authors to a second floor flat at No.20 Broad Street confirmed their belief that today's image of this group reflects Georgian buildings, subsequently adapted to the introduction of shops in Broad Street which began to take place in late Regency/early Victorian times. The former houses themselves are Georgian makeovers of earlier buildings.

Timeline

The timeline refers to known dates that a person(s) occupies a property. Unless stated, no distinction is made between owner and tenant. Occupations may well extend beyond the known timeline.

1885-1911 - William Notting Farnham, jeweller, watchmaker & gunsmith.



William N Farnham standing outside his shop in about 1900. In addition to his core business, He was also described as a stationer and fancy dealer.

William learnt his trade, with his brother, from their father, James Farnham, who ran his jeweller & watchmaker business from No.61 Broad Street.

1915 - Walter R Wood, jeweller.

1917-46 - Reginald Walter Baker & his wife, Margaret Sarah Baker.

They were astute business people who, at one time, owned much property in the town. Margaret was the driving force & brains behind the business ventures, whilst Reginald's interests lay in Town & County politics. Apart from being Mayor of Lyme Regis, 1928-31, he was also a county councillor and a Justice of the Peace.

In 1917 No.21 Broad Street was the Cosy Cafe & Dairy providing high class confectionery, teas & luncheons, with the Clarence House apartments having 2 sitting rooms & 8/9 rooms. The business expanded involving adjoining properties.

In 1923, an advert quotes, 'The Cosy Cafe caters for Charabanc parties. Accommodation for 400'. The upper floors of No.22 Broad Street were taken over & No.19 Broad Street was also part of this complex of shop, cafes, restaurant & residential hotel. By 1933, they had vacated No 19 Broad Street and taken over the upper floors of No.23 Broad Street.

In 1927, they also owned the Rock Point Hotel, and in 1934, The Gables. They also bought The Regis cake shop & accompanying bake house, which was later sold to the Co-op. They eventually sold the business at No.21 Broad Street to Mr Hammett after the war, and bought the Bay Hotel and Sundial House on Marine Parade. The following images will give a better impression of their time at Clarence House -

1919

**THE COSY
Cafe & Dairy**

21 BROAD STREET.

Dainty Luncheon & Tea Rooms

DAIRY PRODUCE FROM
LOCAL FARMS.
FRESH DAILY.
DEVONSHIRE CLOTTED CREAM.

"The Cosy" Residential Hotel

Private Entrance to Sea Front.

TERMS MODERATE.

W. R. BAKER, Proprietor.

1921

LYME REGIS.

**THE COSY
Temperance Hotel and Cafe,
BROAD STREET.**

Visitors, Commercial Gentlemen, and others, will find this Establishment most Comfortable and Convenient.

Excellent Cuisine. Moderate Terms.

W. R. BAKER, PROPRIETRESS.

1921

The COSY

Cafe & Dairy . Luncheon & Tea Rooms.

LARGE PARTIES CATERED FOR.

+

**RESIDENTIAL
:: HOTEL ::**

PRIVATE ENTRANCE TO SEA FRONT. TERMS MODERATE.

+

**DAIRY PRODUCE
FROM LOCAL FARMS FRESH DAILY.**

— **DEVONSHIRE** —
CLOTTED CREAM.

21 BROAD STREET, LYME REGIS.

W. R. BAKER ————— Proprietor.

1931

**THE COSY
Restaurant**

RECENTLY Reconstructed and Renovated. Handsome Oak Panelled Dining Room opened to the Public. Luncheons and Dainty Devon Cream Teas. Morning Coffee and Biscuit—10 to 11.30 o'clock.

Caterers for Large or Small Parties.

Residential Hotel.

Private Entrance to Sea Front. Garage. Terms Moderate.

{ **DAIRY PRODUCE** }
from Local Farms Fresh Daily.
- **DEVONSHIRE** -
CLOTTED CREAM
SENT BY POST.

19, 21 & 22 Broad St., Lyme Regis.

W. R. BAKER Proprietor.

1939

**THE REGIS and
COSY CAFES**

High-class Caterers & Pastrycooks

21, 22 & 23 Broad St.

Wedding & Birthday Cakes made to order.

Inspect our windows for special week-end offers.

Proprietor, R. W. Baker. Phone 76

The following photos clearly show the extent of the Cosy Café/Restaurant in the early 1930s. In 2006, it was just possible to make out the words 'Clarence Hotel & Cosy Café' in the glass fanlight above the door between Nos.21 & 22.





"THE CLARENCE" PRIVATE HOTEL

Central position, private path to sea front and public gardens. Own dairy produce. Devonshire Cream a speciality. No absurd extras or restrictions. Terms moderate.

ESTABLISHED 25 YEARS

Tariff on application. Proprietors: Mr. & Mrs. R. Baker

BROAD STREET, LYME REGIS

1939-40

R. E. HAMMETT
High Class Baker, Confectioner
Caterer and Grocer
 FOR YOUR SUPPLIES OF—

BREAD	GATEAUX
FANCY CAKES	WEDDING, BIRTHDAY
SWISS ROLLS	& ANNIVERSARY CAKES
SPONGE SANDWICHES	
FRUIT TARTS, ETC.	

GROCERIES OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS

OUR HIGH QUALITY GUARANTEES
YOUR SATISFACTION

21 BROAD STREET, LYME REGIS
TEL. 76

1947-70 - Mr R E Hammett took over the business from the Bakers, and for a short time continued with the Cosy Café, renamed the Regis Restaurant, occupying the first floors of Nos.21-23. The business soon returned to only occupying No.21, trading as pastrycook, confectioner & grocer, and continuing to run the Clarence Hotel, which was described as a rabbit warren by a guest staying there at the time.

Hammetts became a V&G grocer towards the end.

1950

P. & A. GADSDEN

Your V.G. Grocer

FRESH BREAD AND CAKES

BAKED ON THE PREMISES



GENERAL PROVISIONS,

FROZEN FOODS

BROAD STREET,

LYME REGIS 2076

1984 - P & A Gadsden, Baker & Grocer

1991-2004 - Collins of Lyme. (1999-2004, Mr & Mrs Goodridge)

Collins of Lyme

BAKERS – GROCERS

Provisions, Delicatessen, Bread & Cakes

21 BROAD STREET, LYME REGIS, DORSET

Tel: 01297 442076

BREADS - CAKES - PASTIES & PIES

DAIRY PRODUCTS - PASTA - TEA - COFFEE

COLD MEATS - PICKLES - SAUCES

JAMS - SPICES - CLOTTED CREAM - WHOLEFOODS

TO TAKEAWAY

SANDWICHES · COLD DRINKS

PASTIES – HOT or COLD