

## MILL ROAD HISTORY PROJECT

### BUILDING REPORT

# 206 Mill Road, Cambridge

Private dwelling (c.1886–c.1910)

Pharmacy (c.1909–94)

Antique shop (1994–present)



**Katie Blyth**

The Mill Road History Project was officially launched in 2013 under the umbrella of Mill Road Bridges<sup>1</sup> to study the heritage of Mill Road, Cambridge, its buildings (residential, commercial and industrial), institutions and community. It was supported by a two-year grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

First edition – May 2015

Second Edition – September 2015

Author: Katie Blyth

*Cover picture: 206 Mill Road 'The Old Chemist Shop Antique Centre' (photograph by Katie Blyth, 2014)*

---

<sup>1</sup> 'Mill Road Bridges seeks to grow and maintain the community spirit, heritage and rich cultural diversity of the Mill Road area by improving the flow of information between and about individuals, businesses, voluntary organisations and local stakeholders.'

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	5
<b>BACKGROUND</b>	6
<b>THE BUILDING TODAY: DESCRIPTION</b>	8
<b>PRE-HISTORY OF THE SITE</b>	10
<b>MELVILLE HOUSE AND ITS EARLIEST OWNERS AND OCCUPANTS (1887-1901)</b>	11
<b>MOSS &amp; PALMER CHEMIST SHOP (c.1902 at No. 210)</b>	15
<b>ALTERATIONS TO No 206 (1907)</b>	17
<b>MOSS &amp; PALMER AND J M PALMER (c.1907-1946)</b>	19
Extracts from James Marsh Palmer's <i>Chemist's Diary</i>	25
Other Chemists and Druggists in Mill Road (1902–40)	28
<b>HERBERT JOHN PALMER (1946?-93)</b>	28
<b>THE OLD CHEMIST SHOP ANTIQUE CENTRE (1994-PRESENT)</b>	40
 <b>APPENDIX I : Harris Norman: Jewellery Traveller (c.1901–07)</b>	 42
<b>APPENDIX II : Sale of Chemist Business at 83 Victoria Road</b>	46

## Abbreviations

<i>CIP</i>	<i>Cambridge Independent Press</i>
<i>CN</i>	<i>Cambridge News</i>
<i>CWN</i>	<i>Cambridge Weekly News</i>

---

## NOTE

This report was produced by Katie Blyth, a resident of Romsey Town, Cambridge and volunteer for the Project. The focus of the report is No 206 Mill Road, currently a local business trading as The Old Chemist Shop Antique Centre.

### Location

206 Mill Road, Cambridge, CB1 3NF

The building is situated on the Romsey side of the railway bridge on the south side of the street.

### National Grid reference

TL 46702 57625

X: 546702 Y: 257625

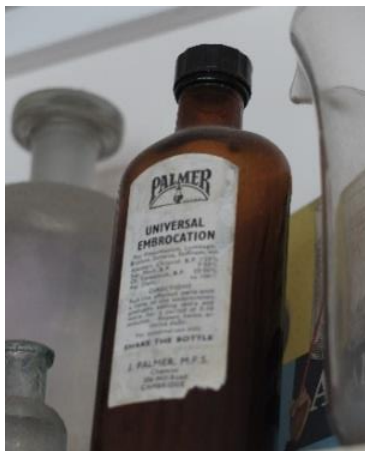
Latitude: 52.197346, Longitude: 0.14563378

The building is classified as a 'building of local interest' by the local planning authority (Cambridge City Council 2014).



## INTRODUCTION

This building was selected for research for the Mill Road History Project because as one of many independent shops trading on Mill Road it has a unique character which adds to the overall diversity of the road. Architecturally, it retains many original features which have survived for over one hundred years and its antiquated physical appearance adds something to the character of Mill Road. The building has been occupied by the same family for three generations. For two generations it was a pharmacy and since 1994 it has been an antique shop. The sign above the shop and certain pharmaceutical objects displayed within are reminders of its history.



The Old Chemist Shop : traces of the past<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup> Photograph Katie Blyth, 2014

## BACKGROUND



View of Romsey from the railway bridge c.1910.<sup>3</sup>

No 206 Mill Road is located on the right past the belltower of the Baptist Church

In 1881<sup>4</sup> on the Romsey side of Mill Road on the south side between the railway line and Cyprus Road there appear to be no shops as such and just twelve houses occupied by: railway workers, a laundress, a brewer, financial agent, builder, journalist and labourer. The last building on that side of Mill Road at the time was the 'Royal Standard' pub occupied by publican, Charles Watson. The north side of the road was more populated and the houses were occupied mainly by railway workers, labourers and tradesmen such as bricklayers, carpenters, a bookbinder, a blacksmith and a cab driver. There was also a dressmaker and a charwoman.

By 1910 a substantial number of shops and businesses had appeared along Mill Road to serve the growing community. The following list (taken from Spalding's Street Directory 1910) gives a flavour of the variety of shops and businesses trading on the Romsey side of the bridge on the south side of Mill Road in 1910. There appears to be little in the way of everyday items from food to clothes that could not be purchased by residents of Romsey at

<sup>3</sup> Cambridgeshire Collection

<sup>4</sup> Spalding's Street Directory, 1881.

that time. The list of businesses suggests a thriving self-sufficient community that would not need to venture into the city centre very often.

*Stockwell Street*

Stockwell St Baptist Church

178 Sennitt George Henry, butcher and sausage maker

180 Bradshaw William, goods foreman G.E.R

182 Redhouse W, musical instrument dealer

184 Jacobs Harry, labourer

186 Bement William J, undertaker

188 Tingey Samuel, grocer, tea and provision dealer

190-192 Harmer T J, Milliner, hosier and draper

*Cockburn Street*

194 Mansfield Walter, railway inspector, Vernon House

196 Peacock Aungier, tram inspector, Richmond House

198 Beacham F, Digswell House, G.N.R. guard

200 Kelly, Edwin Robert, cab proprietor, Merton House

202 Martin H J, Butcher

204 Cox David, fruiterer, dairyman and confectioner

206 Calcott Mrs, Melville House

208 Kerry J W, Pontesbright House

210 Moss and Palmer Chemists, Palmer J M, Fern Villa

212 Tuck Mrs J, Penrose House

214 Barton George, bootmaker

216 Law George, tobacconist and confectioner

218 Skipp J W, fishmonger etc

220 Eastmans Ltd Butchers, Childs W, shopman

*Hope Street*

222 How Edward J, baker, pastry cook & confectioner, patent smoked ovens

224 Walls S B & Sons, grocers, tea and provision dealers

Risely Henry, college cook

226 Maltby A, tailor and outfitter

228 Hyde Mrs, greengrocer and confectioner

Laboreau Mrs

230 Watts J, newsagent and stationer

Romsey Town post and money order office savings bank. Insurance and annuity office

232 Martin J and Son, cycle agents

234 Hyde Charles, engine driver

236 Hurrell Simeon

238 Wolfenden C J, railway porter

240 Rayner Frederick

Howard, Rev Charles MA Vicar, St Philips Vicarage

Building land

254 Towle Jas., superintendent assurance agent (Britannia)

256 Williams Frederick, stonemason

258 Lindsey Herbert John, fancy dealer and stationer, Councillor of the Borough

260 Freeman F, tobacconist and general dealer

262 Anderson Mrs, baker, pastry cook, confectioner and mineral water dealer

264 Radford Newman, family butcher, sausage maker etc.

266 Stalley Mrs Annette, general stores

268 Dawson A, greengrocer, fruiter, florist and seedsman

#### *Romsey Terrace*

270 Kerry & Co, Leeds House

272 and 274 Building Land

## THE BUILDING TODAY: DESCRIPTION

Number 206 Mill Road is a brick-built end-of-terrace, two-storey building with shops either side and opposite. Neighbouring businesses towards the bridge include Himalaya (selling clothes and crafts and providing money and travel services), Bamboo Hairdressing, vacant shop, and Otto Café. On the other side is a pedestrian passageway leading to Hope Street Yard – an area with small units and lockups selling antique furniture, bric-à-brac, vintage clothing second-hand doors and garden furniture. On the other side of the passageway is the Cambridge Building Society, BLD's Café/Restaurant, and Limoncello (delicatessen).

Opposite on the north side of the road is the Monarch Coin launderette, Tesco supermarket and Bush Estate Agents.

The building comprises, on the ground floor, four rooms currently used as a shop. The internal staircase was removed in c.1994 and replaced with a metal external staircase at the back of the property. This provides access to the first floor which is let by the current owner as a flat. The shop front dates back to c.1907–10<sup>5</sup> when the premises were first used as a pharmacy. The shop front has distinct green tiles beneath two large mahogany framed windows. A mahogany framed door stands between the windows. The frontage has undergone few alterations since its original construction. To the back of the property is a garden. A two-storey extension was added to the back of the property in c.1994. An original door with coloured glass remains in the front ground floor room near the location of the original staircase which has since been removed.



Mill Road showing No 206 in 2014<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Document ref No KCB/2/3E/3/9/2558 (Cambridgeshire Archives)

<sup>6</sup> This and the following photograph both by Katie Blyth





Original stained glass door seen from the back room of the shop today.

## PRE-HISTORY OF THE SITE

Deeds to the property<sup>7</sup> show that the land on which No 206 Mill Road was built was owned by the Geldart family in the early part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1839 the Revd James Geldart bequeathed the land (which formed part of the Barnwell Estate) to his sons James William Geldart and Thomas Charles Geldart. Revd James Geldart also had a daughter, Mary Ann, and rent and profits generated by her brothers' ownership of the land were intended to support her and her husband, John Evans Riadore, and their children.

In 1871 the land passed from brothers James William Geldart and Thomas Charles Geldart to their nephew James Evans Riadore. In February 1881 Frederick Parker, an estate agent

---

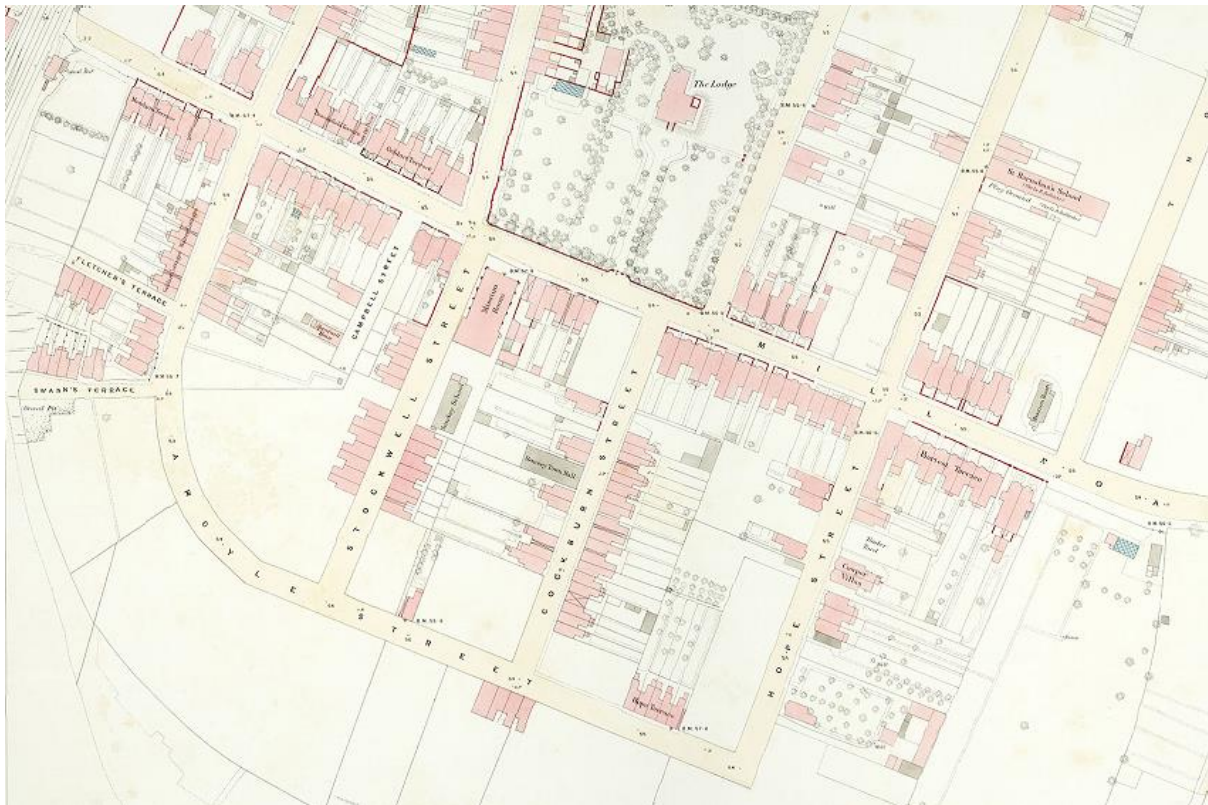
<sup>7</sup> Tansy Tucker, current proprietor.

from Cambridge, bought the land from James Evans Riadore and Glennel Wilkinson, a clerk and William M Deny, a gentleman, for the sum of £575. In May 1881 Frederick Parker sold a portion of the land to James William Jasper, a carpenter from Cambridge. The price paid for the land was £53 11s .

The deeds do not show who built the property or when it was built. There are no building plans with the deeds and none have been found at the Cambridgeshire Archives. The earliest record of the property's existence found so far is the 'Poll of Owners and Ratepayers for 1886 Registration'<sup>8</sup> in which James Jasper is indicated as the owner/occupier of the property.

## MELVILLE HOUSE: EARLIEST OWNERS AND OCCUPANTS (1886–1901)

Between 1887 and 1898 the building is listed in Spalding's and Kelly's street directories as Melville House and was occupied by James Jasper. The property is shown on the 1888<sup>9</sup> Ordnance Survey map of the area below. It is located in the terrace between Cockburn Street and Hope Street.



Ordnance Survey map 1888 (detail) © Crown Copyright

<sup>8</sup> Document ref No KCB/2/CL/19/6/181 (Cambridgeshire Archives )

<sup>9</sup> Ordnance Survey 1888 XLVII.3.21 scale 10.56 feet to one statute mile. (Cambridgeshire Archives).

This detail shows Melville House, marked with a red cross.



Ordnance Survey map 1888 (detail) © Crown Copyright

The 1891 England census record<sup>10</sup> for Melville House lists the following individuals:

Name	Relation to head	Status	Sex	Age	Occupation	Where born
James W Jasper	Head	M	M	40	Carpenter (employed)	Hinxton, Cambs
Fanny Jasper	Wife	M	F	36		Fendrayton
Annie Jasper	Dau	S	F	4	Scholar	Cambridge
George Jasper	Son	S	M	4	Scholar	Cambridge
Arthur William Jasper	Son	S	M	? 4m		Cambridge

The deeds indicate that on 16 May 1898 James Jasper sold the premises to Mrs Susan Elizabeth Symonds, a widow from Southampton, for £100 plus interest. The deeds also show that in August of the same year he sold the property to Mrs Emily Calcott. (It is not clear from the deeds why he seems to have sold it twice.)

<sup>10</sup> 1891 England RG12 1283 ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk))



According to the 1901 census<sup>11</sup> Mrs Emily Calcott was a retired lodging house keeper when she lived at 206 Mill Road with her son and his family and a boarder named Harris Norman. She had previously been living at 46 Parker's Piece<sup>12</sup>. The census record is shown below

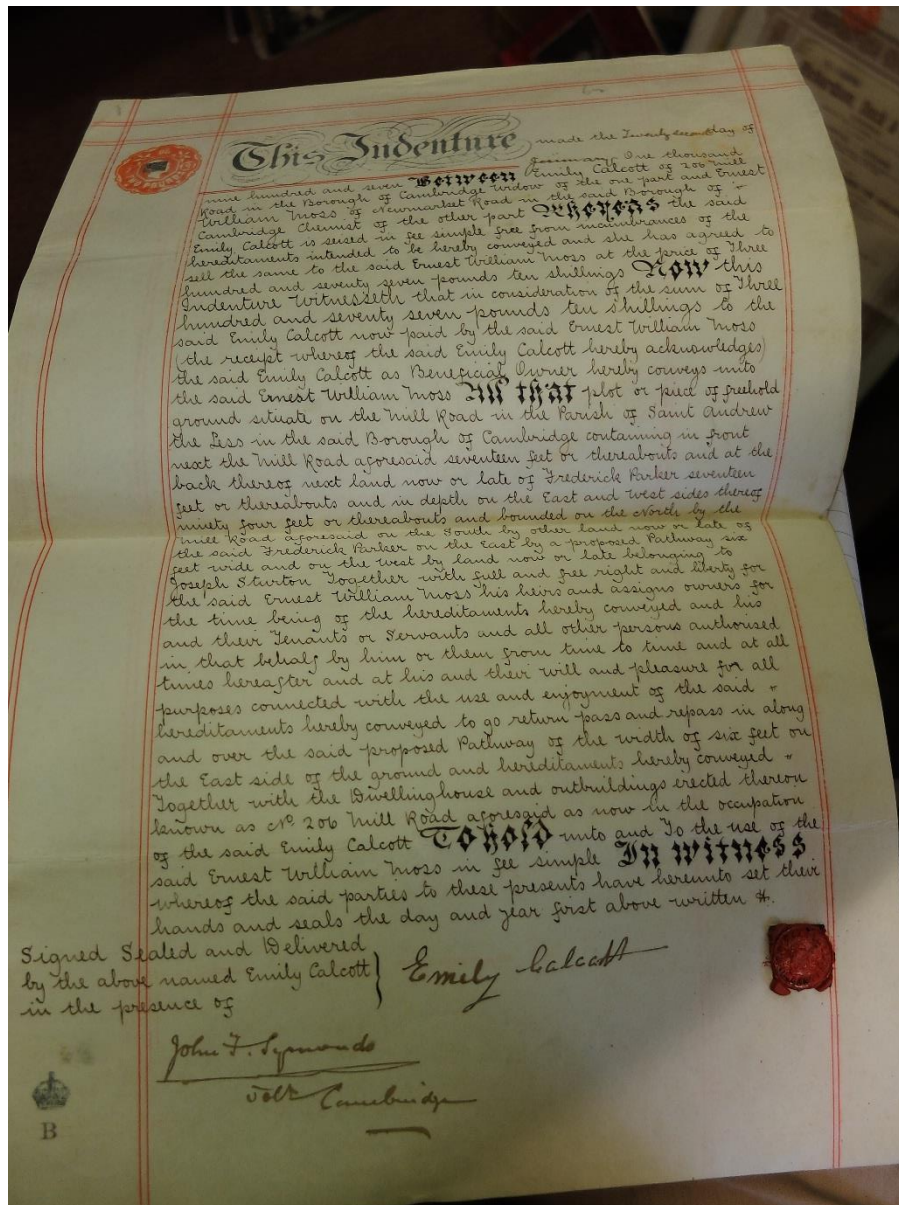
Name	Relation to head	Status	Sex	Age	Occupation	Where born
Emily Calcott	Head	Wid	F	65	Retired Lodging house Keeper.	Capel St Mary, Suffolk
Sidney Calcott	Son	M	M	27	Scientific Instrument Maker	Cambridge?
Phoebe Calcott	Dau in law	M	F	25		
Elsie M Calcott	Grand dau		F	1		
Harris Norman	Boarder	S	M	72	Retired Jewellery Traveller	Russia Poland

Emily Calcott's boarder, Harris Norman, was a Polish Jew and retired hawker of cheap jewellery. He lodged with her at No 206 from c.1901 till his death in 1907, rising to fame posthumously after his will was found in the silk lining of an old hat. The story of the discovery of his will and the huge legacy of £12,000 he bequeathed to Addenbrooke's Hospital and the London Jewish Synagogue was widely reported in the press. (For further information, see Appendix I.)

<sup>11</sup> 1901 England census RG13 1530 ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk))

<sup>12</sup> 1891 England census RG 12 1287 ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk))

In 1907 Mrs Calcott sold 206 Mill Road to chemist, Mr Ernest William Moss for £377:10. This figure gives us some idea just how large Mr Norman's £12,000 legacy was at that time.

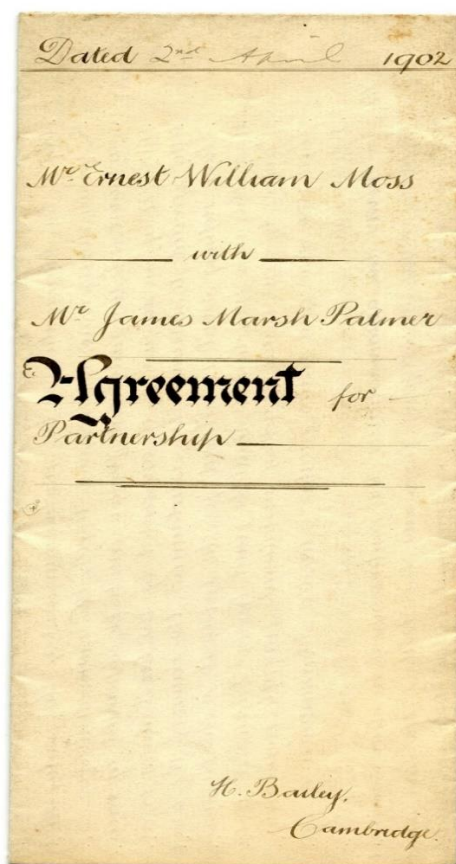


Indenture dated 22 January 1907<sup>13</sup> showing the sale of the property to Ernest William Moss

<sup>13</sup> Deeds to No 206 Mill Road (property of Tansy Tucker, reproduced with kind permission)

## MOSS & PALMER CHEMIST SHOP (c.1902 at No. 210)

On 2 April 1902, Ernest William Moss and fellow chemist James Marsh Palmer agreed to enter into a business partnership and set up a pharmacy at 210 Mill Road (two doors along from 206). Mr Moss already owned another chemist shop at 121 Newmarket Road, which he was to continue with while James Palmer would manage the new business. It was agreed that James Palmer would live rent free in the private part of the premises and 'devote the whole of his time to the business'.



Front cover of agreement for partnership between Ernest William Moss and James Marsh Palmer<sup>14</sup>

<sup>14</sup> Property of Tansy Tucker, reproduced with kind permission.



**An Agreement** made the *Second* day of *April* One thousand nine hundred and two  
**Between** Ernest William Moss of Newmarket Road in the Borough of Cambridge Chemist of the one part and James Marsh Palmer formerly of Kimberley Park Wymondham in the County of Norfolk but now of the Borough of Cambridge Chemist of the other part ~~Wymondham~~  
 that the said Ernest William Moss and James Marsh Palmer hereby agree to become partners in the business of Chemists and Druggists upon and subject to the following conditions namely:-  
 The partnership shall commence on the Twenty fifth March One thousand nine hundred and two.  
 The name of the firm shall be "Moss and Palmer" and the business shall be carried on at the Premises situate Number 210 Mill Road Cambridge or at such other place as the Partners shall from time to time agree on.  
 The Bankers of the firm shall be The London and County Banking Company Cambridge Branch or such other Bankers as the partners shall from time to time agree on All Cheques shall be signed by both partners with their separate individual signatures of "Ernest William Moss" and "James Marsh Palmer".  
 The Capital of the firm shall consist of the sum of One hundred and fifty pounds to be brought in by the partners and to be made up as follows: as to the said Ernest William Moss of certain stock in trade recently purchased by him of ~~John Colston~~ and which shall be deemed to be of the value of ~~ninety two~~ *ninety two* pounds and eight pounds — in cash making in all One hundred pounds and as to the said James Marsh Palmer of Fifty pounds in cash the said sums of ~~ninety two pounds eight pounds~~ *ninety two pounds* and Fifty pounds to be paid by the partners to the credit of the firm at the said Bank immediately after the execution hereof and all such further sum and sums of money as the partners shall from time to time contribute in the like proportions.  
 The profits of the business shall be divided between the partners in the proportions corresponding to the amount of Capital

First page of partnership agreement between Ernest Moss and James Marsh Palmer

A transcription of parts of the partnership agreement between Ernest William Moss and James Marsh Palmer reads:

The name of the firm shall be Moss and Palmer and the business shall be carried on at the premises situate number 210 Mill Road or at such other place as the partners shall from time to time agree

.....

The capital of the firm shall consist of the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds to be brought in by the partners and to be made up as follows:- as to the said Ernest William Moss of certain stock in trade recently purchased by him and which shall be deemed to be of the value of ninety two pounds and eight pounds in cash making in all one hundred pounds and as to the said James Marsh Palmer of fifty pounds in cash the said sums of eight pounds and fifty pounds to be paid by the partners to the credit of the firm at the said bank immediately after the execution hereof and all such further sum and sums of money as the partners shall from time to time contribute in the like proportions.

The profits of the business shall be divided between the partners in the proportions corresponding to the amount of capital.

The said James Marsh Palmer shall devote the whole of his time to the business and diligently employ himself therein and promote to the utmost of his power the benefit and advantage of the partnership and shall receive and be paid the sum of two pounds weekly as remuneration for his active management of the business and this remuneration shall sink into and form part of the working expenses of the firm as if it were the salary of an ordinary manager of the firm and the said James Marsh Palmer shall occupy free of rent the private part of the said premises number 210 Mill Road aforesaid except the room at the back of the shop which room and the shop shall form the business premises of the partnership.

The said Ernest William Moss shall not be obliged to attend to the business any further than he shall think proper and shall be at liberty to continue and carry on the business of chemist and druggist which he now carries on at Newmarket Road aforesaid....

## ALTERATIONS to No. 206 (1907)

Soon after taking over the premises in 1907 Mr Moss had some alterations made to the property. An invoice<sup>15</sup> found amongst the property deeds show work carried out by *C J Newman Funeral Furnisher Builder Carpenter and Joiner*. Alterations included: removal of fireplace, making and fitting doors, cleaning, repairing and distempering ceiling in shop; taking down and refitting mantelpiece in sitting room at back of shop; taking out old closet and refitting with new Ophir[?] pedestal with pine seat, providing and fitting 2 gallon flushing cistern; opening ground and unstopping drain and altering position of pipes to suit new pedestal closet pan etc; taking down fixtures at old shop in 210 Mill Road and refixing them in new shop and fitting new shelves. The cost of these alterations came to £121 11s.


---

<sup>15</sup> Property of Tansy Tucker



The building plans (shown on the following pages) were dated and approved in 1907 and show proposed alterations to the front of the premises which included fitting the shop front.<sup>16</sup>

3



**To the Council of the Borough of Cambridge**  
*Acting as the URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.*

I HEREBY GIVE YOU NOTICE, in accordance with Bye-Law 90, that it is my intention to erect certain Buildings in this Borough, and that the following particulars relate thereto, namely :—

No.	QUESTIONS.	ANSWERS.
	Owner of Buildings :—	
1	Christian Name and Surname ... .. Address in full ... ..	<i>Ernest William Thorpe</i> <i>121 Newmarket Rd Cambridge</i>
2	Description of Buildings ... ..	<i>Addition to front and new shops</i>
3	Situation of Buildings ... ..	<i>206 Mill Road</i>
4	Distance from Street Line to front main wall of Building ... ..	
5	Description of the Materials to be used in construction of same ... .. (Vide Bye-law 10).	<i>Bricks Wood Stone etc</i>
6	Level of Lowest Floor, with reference to surface of Street ... .. (Vide Bye-law 90).	<i>6" above pavement</i>
7	Area of clear open space at rear of Building exclusively belonging thereto ... .. (Vide Bye-law 52).	
8	Distance across such open space ... .. (Vide Bye-law 52).	
9	Width of Street, or open space in front of proposed Buildings ... .. (Vide Bye-law 51).	<i>32 feet</i>
10	Height of Walls from footings to top of wall or half the height of gable ... .. (Vide Bye-laws 18 and 19).	<i>14'-6"</i>
11	Thickness of outside walls ... .. (Vide Bye-laws 18 and 19).	<i>9"</i>
12	Description of the means of ventilating rooms in which fireplaces are not provided ... .. (Vide Bye-law 56).	
13	Size, inclination and description of Drains ... .. (Vide Bye-law 60).	
14	State if drains pass under any part of the house or building ... .. (Vide Bye-law 60).	
15	Number of sheets of Drawings or Tracings... (not including Drainage notice plan).	<i>one</i>

AND I herewith leave at the Offices of the Borough Surveyor complete Plans and Sections of every floor of such intended Buildings, drawn to a scale of not less than one inch to every eight feet, showing the position, form and dimensions of the several parts of such Buildings; and also, a Block Plan drawn to a scale of not less than one inch to every forty-four feet, showing the position of the Buildings and Appurtenances of the Properties immediately adjoining.

AND I will give to the Borough Surveyor the following notices in writing required by the Bye-laws:—1. Before beginning to erect the Building or execute any work. 2. Before covering up any drain or foundation. 3. After completion of Building.

AND I am aware that the passing of these Plans by the Council does not entitle me to erect any building or any part thereof contrary to the provisions of any Bye-law.

Dated this *9th* day of *January* 190*7* Signature *Ernest William Thorpe*  
 (Of Owner, Architect, or Builder)  
 Address in full *121 Newmarket Rd Cambridge*

RECEIVED  
17 JAN. 1907

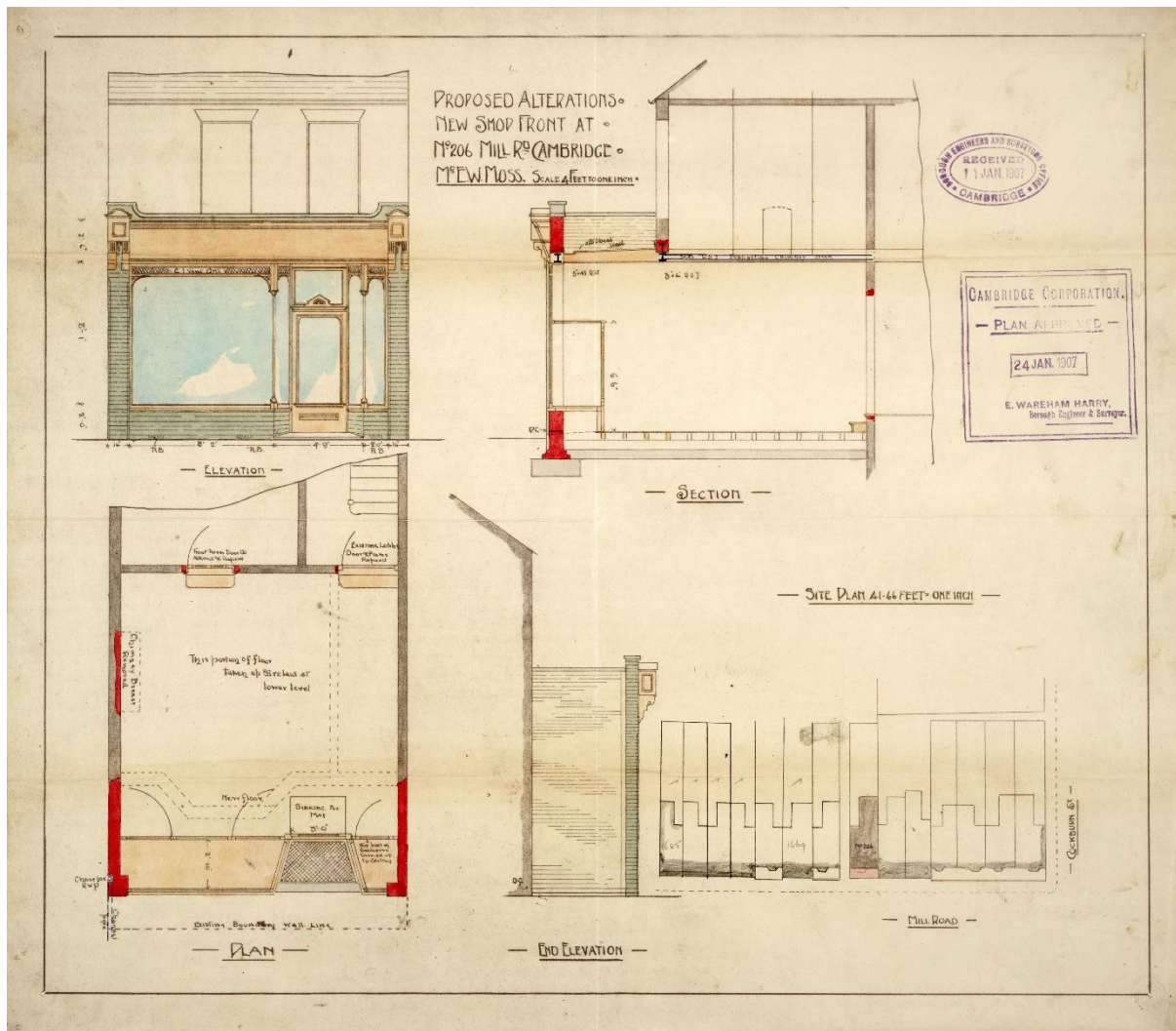
N.B.—This form is prepared and supplied for the convenience of Persons submitting Plans, but it is not to be understood to prevent the Council requiring further information in any cases, as may be seen fit.

The attention of persons intending to build is particularly directed to the BYE-LAWS FOR REGULATING THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUILDINGS, and the penalties thereby provided in case of the contravention of such Bye-laws.

A separate drainage plan and notice, on forms which may be obtained at the Borough Surveyor's Office, must accompany the Building Plans, and where it is intended to connect two or more houses to a public sewer in the highway on the COMBINED DRAINAGE system, an Agreement must be entered into between the OWNER of the Buildings to be so drained, and the Corporation.

The drainage notice plan should be drawn in accordance with the last paragraph of Bye-law 90 and to a scale of not less than 16 feet to an inch. For further particulars see DRAINAGE REGULATIONS.

<sup>16</sup> Building Plans KCB/2/3E/3/9/2558 Cambridgeshire Archives



## MOSS & PALMER AND J M PALMER (c.1907–46)

It is not clear exactly when Moss and Palmer moved their chemist business from 210 to 206 Mill Road but it is likely that it was sometime between 1907 and 1909. The street directory entries for the period confuse the picture somewhat by showing that Mrs Calcott was still occupying the premises until 1911. However, we know that she sold the property to Mr Moss in 1907. Land Value Records for 1910<sup>17</sup> list Moss & Palmer as occupants and Mr Moss as owner (although living at 121 Newmarket Road). Furthermore, an optician's prescription dated 1909 (shown on the following page) shows the business operating at 206.

<sup>17</sup> Cambridgeshire Archives



*Moss. Palmer*  
*206 Mill Road*  
*Cambridge*

*2965*

12

THE PRESCRIPTION.

LENSES.	Right Eye (R)			Left Eye (L)		
	SPH	CYL	PRS	SPH	CYL	PRS
Reading Distance.	+2.50			+2.50		

*Spectacles* FRAME MEASUREMENTS. *W. L. Lawton*

- Facial Breadth.....*4.8*.....
- Pupillary Distance.....*2 1/4*.....
- Height of Bridge from Centre.....*3/16*.....
- Position of Bridge { ~~A~~ Projecting from Wearer's Face.....  
 B Receding towards Wearer's Face.....*6*
- Sides { Single.....  
 Curl.....

Name.....*W. L. Lawton*.....

Date.....*20/7/09*..... Signature.....*W. L. Lawton*.....

*41 Tenison Rd*

A spectacle prescription dated 1909 showing the business address at No 206 Mill Rd<sup>18</sup>

<sup>18</sup> property of Tansy Tucker, reproduced with kind permission



The census record below of 1911 shows James Marsh Palmer residing at 206 Mill Road with his wife, Jennie Palmer, two daughters, Audrey aged eight and Patricia aged three and a domestic servant aged fourteen. His occupation is listed as 'Chemist (shopkeeper)'. The number of rooms in the property is five, including the kitchen but not the bathroom (if there was one), nor the shop. It also tells us that he was born in Chetwynd, Shropshire.

**CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.**

*Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.*

*The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.*

Number of families... 178  
(To be filled up by the Enumerator after completion)

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE (last birthday) and SEX	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE		PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards		BIRTHPLACE of every person	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country	INFIRMITY		
			For Males: Single, Married, Widowed, or Divorced, or other status, etc.	For Females: Single, Married, Widowed, or Divorced, or other status, etc.	Personal Occupation	Tidiness or Service with which worker is connected					
1 James Marsh Palmer	Head	38	Married	8	2	2	0	Chetwynd (Shropshire)	Employer & Partner	Chetwynd Shropshire	270
2 Jennie Palmer	Wife	33	Married					London		London London	000
3 Audrey Marsh Palmer	Daughter	8						London		London London	
4 Patricia Palmer	Daughter	3						London		London London	
5 Gertrude Jane Clarke	Servant	14						London		London London	

(To be filled up by the Enumerator)

4 empty lines

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge of this dwelling)

Write below the Number of Rooms in this Dwelling (Kitchens, Parlours, or Apartments). Count the W.C. as a room, but do not count scullery, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom, and warehouse, office, shop.

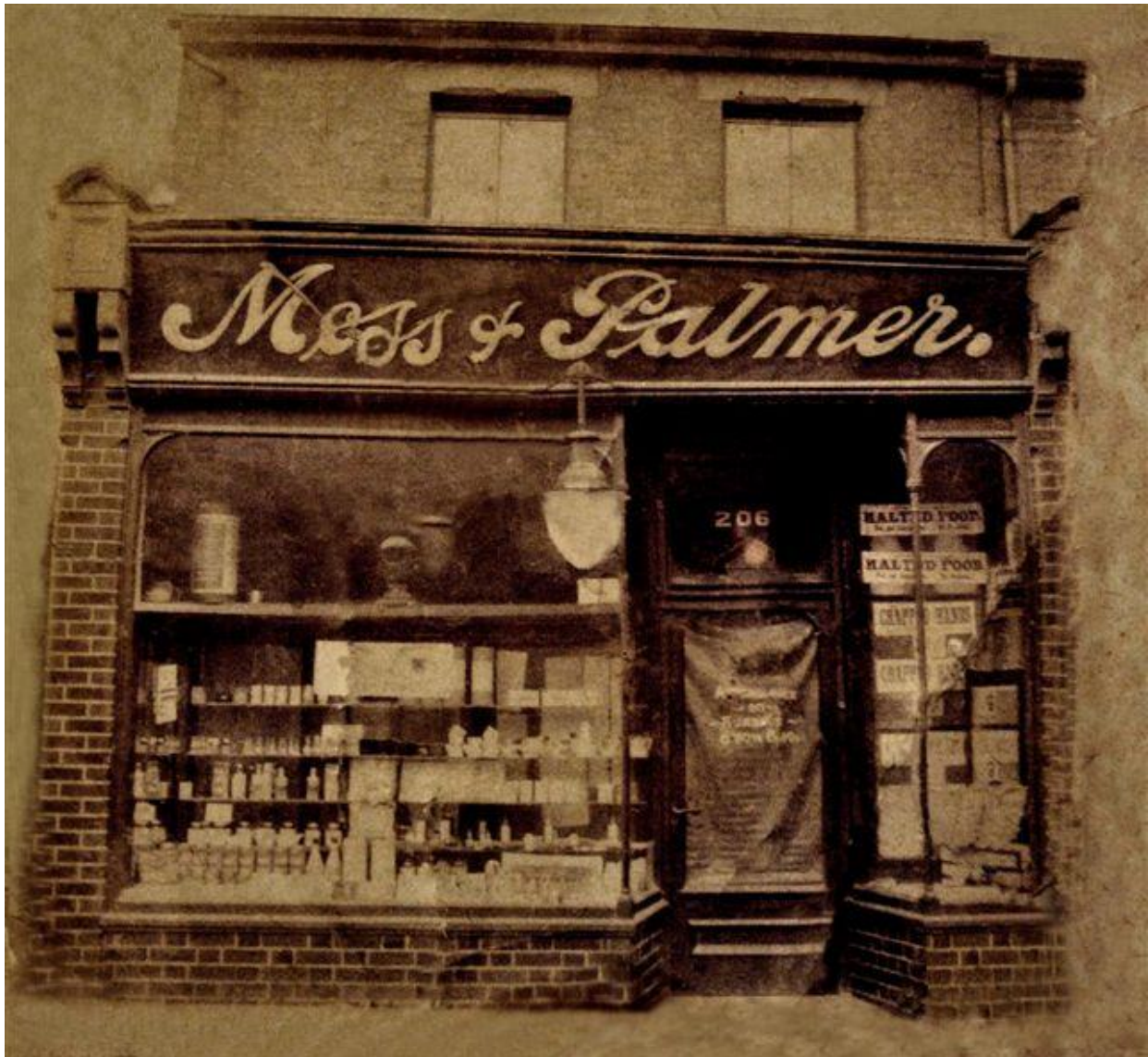
I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: James Marsh Palmer  
Postal Address: 206 Mill Road, London

1911 England census record<sup>19</sup>

It is not apparent when Ernest Moss left the partnership. All street directory references to the business list it as J M Palmer, although an early photograph of the shop does show it named as 'Moss & Palmer'.

<sup>19</sup> 1911 England census, Ancestry.co.uk



Moss & Palmer's shop c.1908<sup>20</sup>

---

<sup>20</sup> Property of Tansy Tucker, image supplied by Cambridgeshire Collection





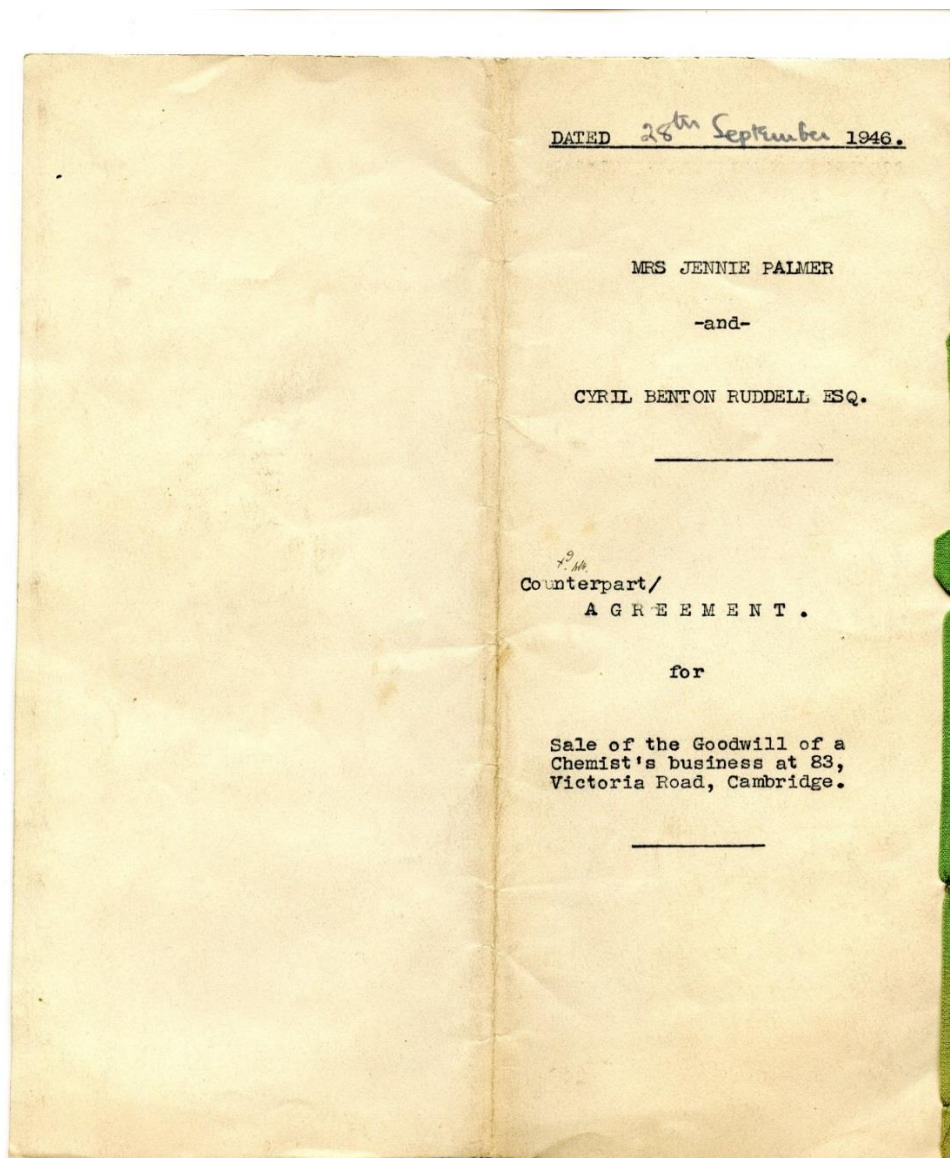
The Palmer family in c.1915. James Marsh Palmer (right),  
Jennie Palmer, (left) holding Herbert John Palmer,  
daughters Audrey (back) and Patricia (middle) and Spot the dog<sup>21</sup>

---

<sup>21</sup> Property of Tansy Tucker, reproduced with kind permission

In c.1929–30 James Marsh Palmer and his family moved out of what must have been cramped living quarters for a growing family at No. 206 Mill Road (there were only three rooms upstairs) and into No. 2 Hope Street (Hertford House), conveniently situated around the corner from No. 206, where he continued to run the pharmacy.

From c.1934 till his death in 1946 James Marsh Palmer also owned a chemist shop at 83 Victoria Road Cambridge. After his death in 1946 at the age of 74, his wife Jennie Palmer sold the goodwill of the chemist business at 83 Victoria Road to Cyril Ruddell and leased the premises to him. The image below shows the cover of the sale agreement (see Appendix II for entire document).<sup>22</sup>

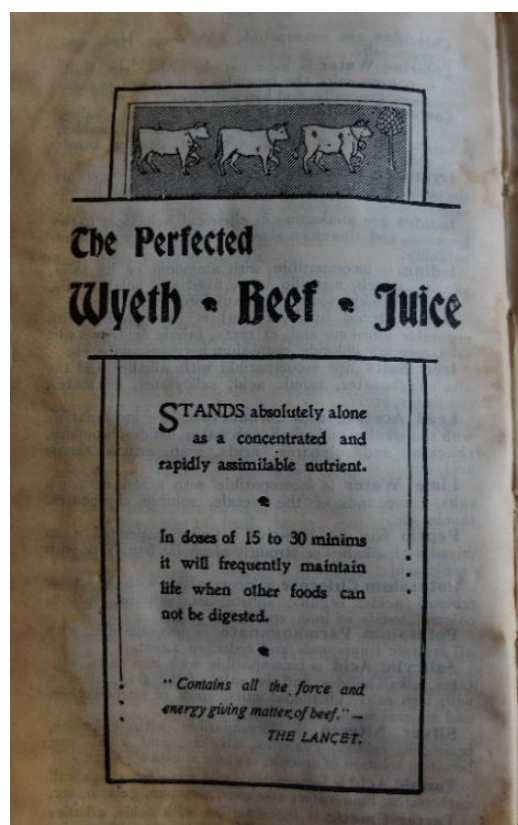
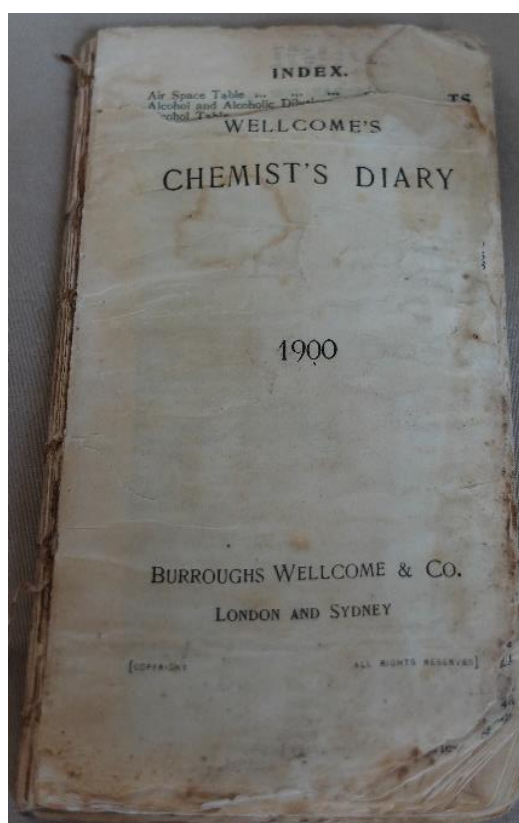


<sup>22</sup> Property of Tansy Tucker, reproduced by kind permission.

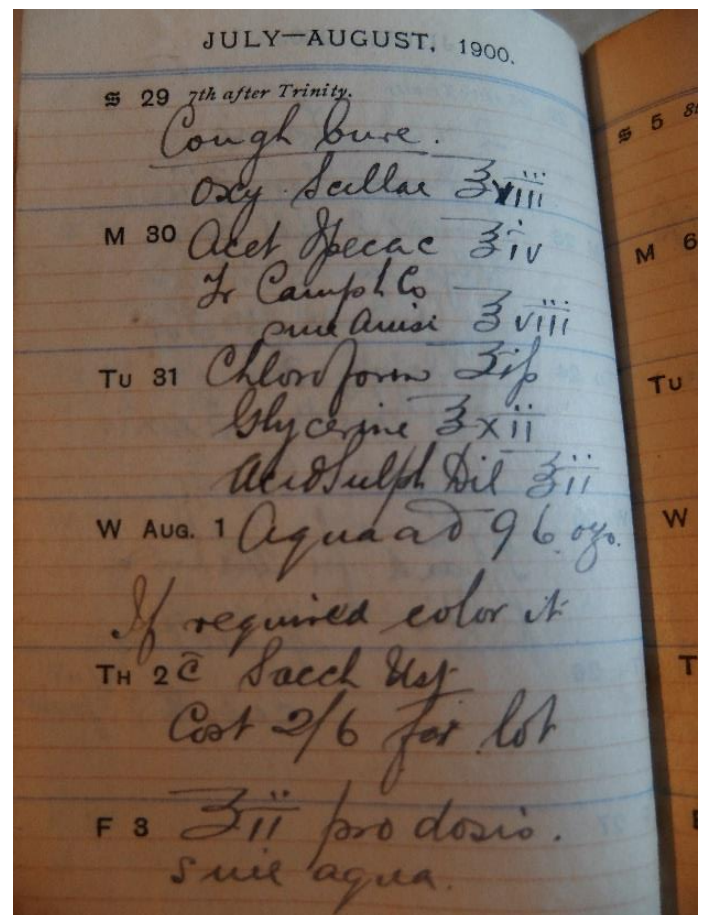
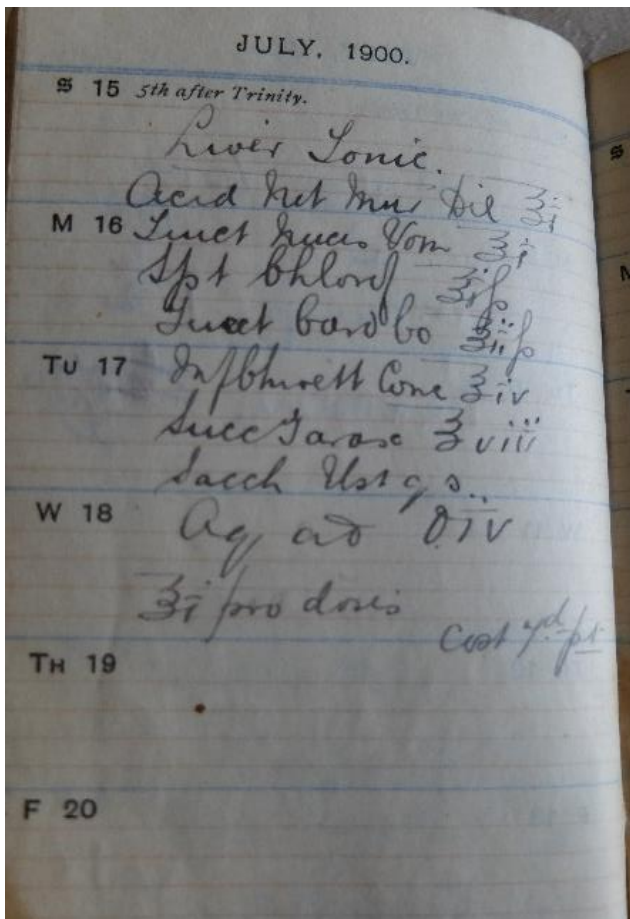


### Extracts from J M Palmer's *Chemist's Diary*

This *Chemist's Diary*<sup>23</sup> published by Wellcome in 1900 was found amongst John Palmer's documents. It appears to have been used by James Marsh Palmer mainly for jotting down recipes for various tonics and cures. Extracts are shown below and on the following two pages.



<sup>23</sup> *Wellcome's Chemist Diary* (London: Burroughs Wellcome & Co., 1900); property of Tansy Tucker, reproduced by kind permission.





AUGUST-SEPTEMBER, 1900.

S 26 11th after Trinity.

Cold Cream.

M 27 Cetaceum  
Cera Alb aa 3ip  
Ol Amygd sec 3viii  
Aq. Selt. 3iv

Tu 28 Sod Bior 3i  
Cros Beyamsh 3p  
Ol L. 3x

W 29 Ol L. 3x  
Ol Caryophl m iii

Th 30 Syrup Runionis  
Puls Acid bitric 3vi

F 31 Tr Runionis 3ip  
Syr Simplex 3xvi

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER, 1900.

S 28 20th after Trinity.

Coral Dentifrice

M 29 Mag Carb Lewis 3iv  
Puls Sod Bior 3i  
Lap Pume 3i

Tu 30 Coelacrae 3x  
Ol C. 3x  
Ol L. 3x

W 31 Ol C. 3x  
Ol C. 3x  
Carnine gr xlv

Th Nov. 1

Rub Carnine 3x  
Liq Am  
Liq 3vi & then dry

F 2 slightly rub & a little  
C. 3x & then spread  
out on paper to dry

S 3

ADDRESSES RS

Rheumatism  
Sod Salicylate gr xx.  
four times a day.

Embrocation for d. t.  
Liq opii 3iv  
Chloroform 3ii  
Ol Camphor 3ip

Mix & shake before using.

Ruison  
Hydraz Oleat 10% paint o.n.

Sciatica  
Potass Iodid gr 40  
Vin Colchic m 40  
Sp Ammonia 3i  
Syr Aurant 3i  
Aq ad 3viii 3i

4 t. d.

Antipyrine gr x.  
Tr Cimicifuga mxx.  
collective t. d.

ADDRESSES. STUV

Skin R. for sunburns etc.  
Zinc Oxid 3ii  
Glycerin 3iii  
Aq Chloroform 3iv  
Aq Plumbe 3p  
Aq Rosae ad 3vi

Calamine lotion  
Calamine gr xlv  
Zinc Oxid gr xx  
Liq Am 3x  
Aq Rosae ad 3i

## Other Chemists and Druggists in Mill Road (1902–40)

When Moss & Palmer set up their business in 1902 there was one chemist and druggist (possibly two) trading on the Romsey side of the bridge. William Lyon was at No 229,<sup>24</sup> John Colston was at No 189 in 1901,<sup>25</sup> but the absence of a street directory for 1902 make it difficult to ascertain whether he was still there when Moss & Palmer started trading. He is not listed in the 1904 street directory. By 1907 Moss & Palmer was the only chemist shop on that side of the bridge and remained so till 1925. The name changed to J M Palmer in c.1910.

In 1938 further out of town from J M Palmer there was a chemist called L Stearn at No. 268.

On the other side of the bridge, meanwhile there were two chemists and druggists from 1901 till 1915. These were M E Parson at No. 74 and Flanders at No. 104. By 1919 Boots Ltd appeared at No. 86 and these three continued to trade till round about 1938. At some point in the 1920s Flanders moved to 92a Mill Road.

## HERBERT JOHN PALMER (1946?–93)



Herbert John Palmer<sup>26</sup>

Herbert John Palmer (or John Palmer as he preferred to be called) was born in Cambridge on 7 November 1912 (birth certificate). He attended the County School and according to Tansy Tucker, qualified as a chemist in 1936.

---

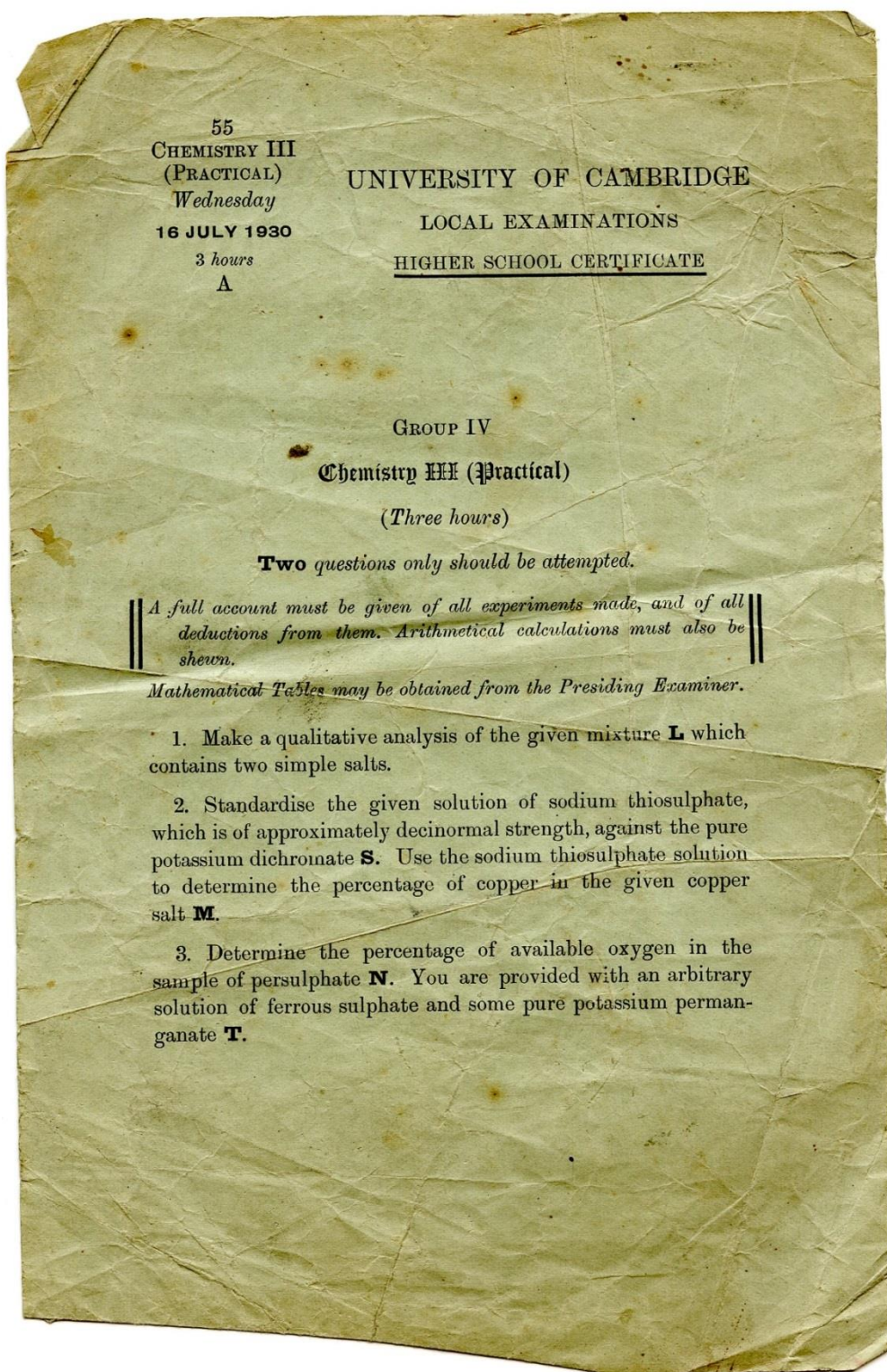
<sup>24</sup> Spalding's Street Directory, 1901, 1904

<sup>25</sup> Spalding's Street Directory, 1901

<sup>26</sup> Property of Tansy Tucker, reproduced by kind permission

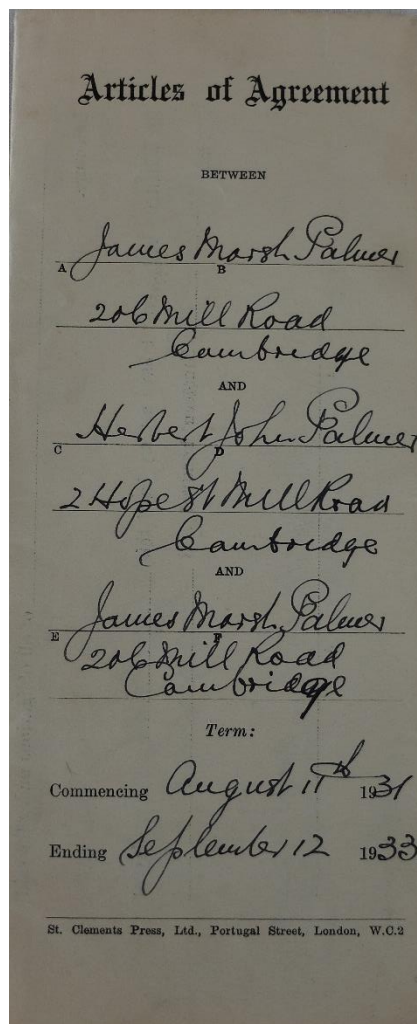


The Chemistry examination paper shown below, found amongst some of his papers, is probably one he sat at school at the age of 16.<sup>27</sup>



<sup>27</sup> Materials presented in this section are in the possession of Tansy Tucker.

Between leaving school and starting his formal training as a chemist it appears from the document below that John Palmer served an apprenticeship with his father from August 1931 – September 1933.<sup>28</sup>




Covering page of Pupilage Agreement

---

<sup>28</sup> Tansy Tucker





Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.  
Articles of Pupilage

It is Agreed between James Marsh Palmer  
 of 206 Mill Road Cambridge  
(Address)  
 (hereinafter called "the Employer") of the first part, Herbert  
John Palmer of 2 Hope Street Mill Road  
(Address)  
Cambridge  
 (hereinafter called "the Pupil"), son or ward of James Marsh  
Palmer of the second part, and the said Jennie  
Palmer of 2 Hope Street  
(Address)  
Mill Road Cambridge  
 (hereinafter called "the Parent or Guardian") of the third part, as follows:—

1. THE PUPIL and THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN jointly and severally bind themselves that the Pupil shall honestly, faithfully and diligently serve the

Part of the first page of the pupillage agreement between James Marsh Palmer and his son

The rest of the document is transcribed on the following page.

1. *THE PUPIL and THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN jointly and severally bind themselves that the pupil shall honestly, faithfully and diligently serve the Employer in his business of Dispensing Chemist for a period of two years one month from the eleventh day of August, Nineteen hundred and thirty one which day is declared to be the commencement of the pupillage of the Pupil; that the pupil always shall keep the Employer's secrets and shall obey his lawful commands, and shall not without authority make copies of any papers or books belonging to the Employer, that the pupil shall not absent himself from the Employer's service without leave, shall behave himself civilly and respectfully to the Employer and his customers, and shall attend all such classes of instruction as are recognised under the Regulations by the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, and as are in the opinion of the Cambridge Branch of the said Society reasonably accessible, and that the Pupil shall both during and outside of business hours abstain from all illegal practices.*
2. *AND THE EMPLOYER (in consideration of the Premium of £.... Now paid by the Parent or Guardian, the receipt of which the Employer hereby acknowledges) binds himself to grant facilities to the Pupil for attending the classes aforesaid; to instruct the Pupil in his business of Dispensing Chemist; to afford the Pupil such reasonable opportunities and work as may be required to enable him to learn the same; to discharge his indenture on its due completion in the form provided; and to furnish the Pupil with the declaration as to practical training required by the Regulations for either of the Qualifying Examinations.*
3. *AND THE EMPLOYER further binds his executors and administrators to repay to the Parent or Guardian a proportionate part of the premium aforementioned in the event of the death of the Employer before the expiration of this Indenture, or alternatively at their discretion to make provision for the completion by the Pupil of the remainder of the apprenticeship under conditions acceptable under the aforementioned Regulations without cost to the Parent or Guardian.*
4. *In witness whereof the parties to this indenture have set their hands and seals this eleventh day of August nineteen hundred and thirty one.*

*Signed, sealed and delivered by the said Employer in the presence of*

*Jennie Palmer*

*(witness)*

*James Marsh Palmer*

*(Employer)*

*Signed, sealed and delivered by the said pupil*

*Herbert John Palmer*

*(Pupil)*

*Signed, sealed and delivered by the said*

*Parent or Guardian*

*James Marsh Palmer*

*(Parent or Guardian)*

#### *Discharge*

*I, James Marsh Palmer, in respect that Herbert John Palmer has served me in the terms of the foregoing indenture during the whole period therein stipulated, do hereby discharge him and also James Marsh Palmer of all obligations under the said indenture.*

*In witness whereof I have set my hand this thirteenth day of September, nineteen hundred and thirty three.*

*James M Palmer.*

These exam papers below, also found amongst John Palmer's documents, were probably those he sat as an undergraduate.<sup>29</sup>

TERMINAL EXAMINATIONS

PHARMACY THEORY

1st Year Course.      March 17th, 1936.      Time allowed, 3 hours.

All questions to be attempted.  
-----

1. Show, in tabulated form, the solvent action on drug constituents of the following: water, alcohol, ether, acetone, glycerin. What disadvantages are attached to water as a pharmaceutical solvent?
2. Give a detailed account of the process of percolation when used for (a) Tincture of Quillaia; (b) Liquid Extract of Hamamelidis. Explain the reasons for each step in the process.
3. What considerations usually determine the strengths of (a) dry extracts; (b) liquid extracts; (c) subcutaneous injections. Mention the defatting processes in the B.P. What special value is attached to Acetone as a defatting solvent?
4. State briefly how the following are prepared, giving the strength of alcohol (if used) and the proportion of potent constituents (if any):- Ext. Bellad. Sicc.; Tincture of Opium; Inf. Buchu Conc.; Ext. Sennae Liq.; Ext. Colch. Liq.
5. State the specifications which are laid down in the Pharmacopoeia in order to control the production of (a) a standard size powder; (b) a standard sieve. What do you understand by (a) Belladonna leaf in powder and (b) powdered belladonna?
6. Explain the difference between Digitalis in powder and Powdered Digitalis. State clearly what forms may be used for (a) Tincture of Digitalis; (b) Infusion of Digitalis. What dispensing regulation governs the infusion and the powder? What do you understand by the term "one unit of activity"? If Infusion of Digitalis possesses 0.05 unit of activity per mil, how much powdered digitalis containing 13 units per gramme will be required for one pint of the infusion?

<sup>29</sup> Property of Tansy Tucker, reproduced with kind permission



PRIZE EXAMINATIONSJune, 1936.PHARMACOGNOSY.

1. Define agar and describe the process of its manufacture. By what physical and sensory characters and chemical tests is it distinguished from gelatin and from sterculia gum?
2. Discuss the main conditions that should be observed in the storage of crude drugs, illustrating your account by examples from the British Pharmacopoeia.
3. How is starch obtained from fruits of maize? Describe the diagnostic characters of the starch and explain how it is distinguished from soluble starch.
4. Write an account of the cultivation, collection and preparation of Buchu leaves. Name the commercial varieties and adulterants and explain how each may be distinguished from the official drug.
5. Describe the smoothed transversely cut surfaces of Jalap and of Ipomoea. Write an account of the constituents of these two drugs.



CALCULATIONS

25. How many Lamellae Homatropine, each containing  
1/100 gr., must be dissolved in  $\text{3j}$  so that 30 mins.  
diluted to  $\text{3iv}$  gives a 1 in 2000 solution? 175
26. R. Potass. Bicarb.  $\text{3iij}$   
Aquam ad  $\text{3vj}$   
Ft. m.  $\text{3ss}$  t.d.s. c. pulv.  
R. Pulv. Acid. Citric q.s. 10½ grs.
27. How many Lamellae Atrop. Sulph. each containing  
1/5000 grain must be dissolved in a litre of water  
so that 25 mils. contain 0.026 milligram? 80
28. In making Ext. Bellad. Sicc. how much powdered leaf  
is necessary for making the extract from 2 litres  
of a tincture?  
data The tincture assayed gave 7.5% solid residue  
0.09% total alkaloids  
The leaf assayed gave 0.97% total alkaloids
29. If a winchester contains 8 lbs. of glycerin  
(S.G. 1.26) what would be the weight (in lbs.)  
and the volume (in pints) contained in a winchester  
of the following:-  
Castor Oil S.G. 0.96; 6.1  
Liquid Paraffin S.G. 0.88; 5.7  
Syrup S.G. 1.33; 8.4  
Chloroform S.G. 1.48; 9.3  
Ether S.G. 0.73; 4.6
30. What will be the S.G. of the following mixture?  
R. Syr. Simplic.  $\text{3iij}$   
Glycerin  $\text{3ij}$  1.19  
Aquam ad  $\text{3viiij}$
31. 2 ozs. opium contain 10.5% morphine. How much  
Lactose must be added to produce a 10% opium? 43.75 grs.

x (53.75%)

During World War II John Palmer served in the Royal Navy.

It is not clear exactly when John Palmer took over his father's business. His father died in 1946 but according to the street directories the business continued to trade under the name of J M Palmer till c.1956.

In 1948 John Palmer married Mollie Wareham whom he had met on the road to Fulbourn whilst out on a cycle ride.<sup>30</sup> John Palmer had a house built in Queen Edith's Way for him and his family. When his wife, Mollie, died of cancer in 1954 his sister moved in to help care for his two daughters.

---

<sup>30</sup> CN, 29 July 2003





Shopping in Mill Road in 1976<sup>31</sup>  
(John Palmer's chemist shop is to the right of the lamp post next to P J Hurst & Co)

<sup>31</sup> Payne Sara, *Down Your Street. Cambridge Past and Present II East Cambridge* (The Pevensey Press, 1984) © Cambridge Newspapers Ltd.



Cutting from *Cambridge Weekly News* 1982<sup>32</sup> showing staff from the chemist shop.



CWN, 26 August 1982

When Mr Palmer retired in December 1993 he sold the contents of his pharmacy shop to the Co-op Pharmacy on Mill Road.<sup>33</sup> His daughter, Tansy Tucker then took over the shop and set it up as an antique shop. John Palmer died on 20 July 2003 aged 90. It was reported in the *Cambridge News* (shown on following page) that it was his dying wish for his funeral cortege to travel at 70mph.<sup>34</sup>

<sup>32</sup> CWN, 26 August 1982 (Cambridgeshire Collection)

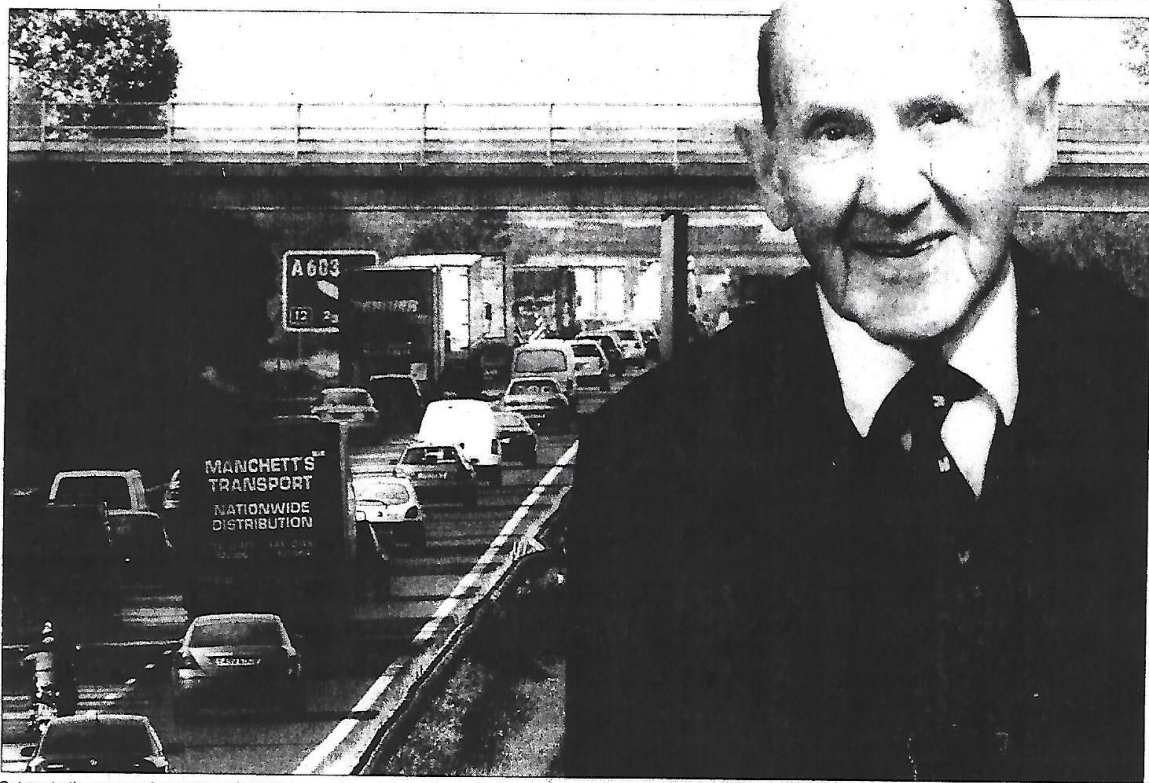
<sup>33</sup> Letter from Few & Kester solicitors (Tansy Tucker)

<sup>34</sup> CN, 20 July 2003 (Cambridgeshire Collection)

S, TUESDAY, JULY 29, 2003

www.cambridge-news.co.uk/news

## NEWS



Get me to the crematorium on time: John Palmer, whose dying wish was to be taken for a dash up the M11 in his funeral procession.

# Final lap of honour on M11 for funeral cortege

THE dying wish of a former chemist will be honoured on Monday when his coffin is taken for a motorway spin.

John Palmer, who ran a pharmacy in Mill Road, Cambridge, for nearly 50 years, wanted his funeral cortege to travel at 70mph and now his family is set to make it a reality.

Tansy Tucker, his daughter, said: "I think he thought the whole funeral thing was morbid and just wanted to get it over and done with as soon as possible."

"He said he would give a case of champagne to the funeral director who takes him at 70mph down the motorway."

By Jon Ball

Mrs Tucker, of Thoday Street, Romsey, Cambridge, has arranged with undertakers Cambridge Funeral Services, of Newmarket Road, to honour his wish.

Funeral director Robin White said: "You get some really strange requests and, when we can, we are happy to honour them, as long as they are in good taste."

Mr Palmer's hearse will depart his home in Queen Edith's Way and travel down Mill Road, past his old shop, through the city to the M11.

The cortege will continue on to the A14 to Cambridge City

Crematorium for an 11.30am service. Mr Palmer died at his home on Sunday, July 20, aged 90.

Mrs Tucker said: "Everyone knew him down Mill Road. If people were ill, they used to go and see him rather than go to the doctor."

"He just worked until he was 82, then retired. The pharmacy was his whole life really."

The pharmacy was opened in 1908 by Mr Palmer's father. He took over at the end of the Second World War, running it until his retirement in 1994.

"He trained at college in London as a pharmacist, not as a doctor who failed his exams as was generally thought by the local

people," said Mrs Tucker.

Mr Palmer married Mollie Wareham in 1948, after meeting on the road to Fulbourn.

"He dropped his wallet while on a cycle ride and it was found by mum, who waited by the side of the road until he came back," said Mrs Tucker.

"The couple found they lived close to each other in Cambridge, with her in Tenison Road and him in Hope Street."

The couple had two daughters, Mary, who died from a viral infection aged 39, and Tansy. Mollie died in 1954 from cancer.

jonball@cambridge-news.co.uk



## THE OLD CHEMIST SHOP ANTIQUE CENTRE (1994–present)

The shop area today comprises the entire ground floor, which includes a rear extension added in c.1994. As well as selling antique furniture, collectibles and bric-à-brac Tansy also hires out theatre props and vintage costumes. The upstairs area of the premises is let as a flat. The following images (taken in 2014 and 2015) show the interior of the antique shop.





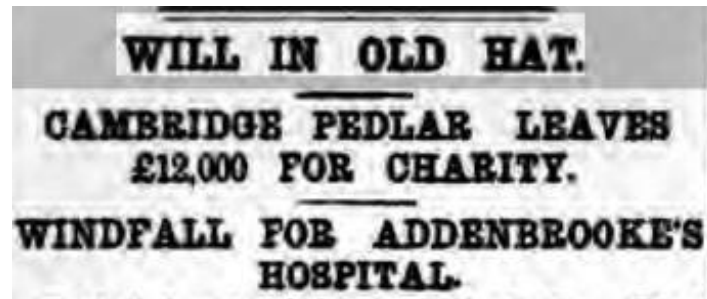


Tansy Tucker and her shop 2015<sup>35</sup>

<sup>35</sup> Photographs by Katie Blyth

## APPENDIX I

### Harris Norman: Jewellery Traveller (c.1901–07)



*CIP*, 2 October 1908

Harris Norman, who lodged at 206 Mill Road, was a Polish Jew and pedlar of cheap jewellery who rose to fame posthumously when his will was found in the silk lining of an old hat. He was born in Poland and according to one newspaper report<sup>36</sup> he came to England from Pisa where he was known as Paul Hirsch. He travelled to England with jeweller Simeon Harris, who after Norman's death described him as a 'very mean man; he would not pay a penny to go home in the 'bus even when his legs were bad'<sup>37</sup>

The earliest census record of him living in England is from 1851<sup>38</sup> showing him lodging at Downham Road, Ely. He was aged 21, unmarried and worked as a hawker. By 1861<sup>39</sup> he had moved to Gt. Coggeshall, Essex where he boarded with another Polish hawker (Isaac Greenbirt). Norman seems to appear on two different census records for 1871. One is at an address in Cambridge<sup>40</sup> (7 Albert Street, Chesterton), the other at an address in Bishopsgate, London<sup>41</sup>. On both records he is shown as aged 42, a boarder, and a jewellery hawker, born in Poland, Russia. Harris Norman does not appear on the 1881 census. There is, however, a George Norman boarding at an address in Colchester who is the same age, nationality and has the same occupation as Harris Norman.<sup>42</sup> (As Harris Norman has a history of changing his name perhaps he also went under the name of George Norman.) By 1891<sup>43</sup> he is shown as retired and lodging at an address in East Road, Cambridge and by 1901<sup>44</sup> he was living at 206 Mill Road where he spent the remainder of his life till his death in January 1907. He appears to have remained a bachelor and despite his wealth always lived as a boarder or lodger.

<sup>36</sup> *CIP*, 31 January 1908, British Newspaper Archive ([www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk))

<sup>37</sup> *CIP*, 31 January 1908, British Newspaper Archive ([www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk))

<sup>38</sup> 1851 England Census HO 107 1764 ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk))

<sup>39</sup> 1861 England Census RG9 1107 1111([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk))

<sup>40</sup> 1871 England Census RG10 1581 1584 ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk))

<sup>41</sup> 1871 England Census RG10 413 418 ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk))

<sup>42</sup> 1881 England Census RG11 1788 1793 [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

<sup>43</sup> 1891 England Census RG12 1284 ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk))

<sup>44</sup> 1901 England Census RG13 1530 ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk))

Harris Norman made his fortune ‘by selling cheap jewellery and investments’<sup>45</sup> and ‘by crafty speculation and miserly habits’.<sup>46</sup> It was reported that his relatives, with whom he did not get on, were always ‘bothering’ him for money and he had no intention of leaving them anything after his death<sup>47</sup>. As the newspaper stories report, his friend Mr William Wall, a hairdresser who lived across the road at 171 Mill Road, asked him if he wanted to make a will. At first he said that it was too much bother and he had nobody to leave his money to. He then commented that he had once been a patient at Addenbrooke’s Hospital, where, according to a friend, ‘he had received very kind treatment’,<sup>48</sup> and when Mr Wall suggested he might leave it to the hospital he agreed. He decided that he would leave half of his money to the hospital and half to the London Jewish Synagogue, for the benefit of poor and needy Jews. Mr Wall then drew up a will for him, copying the basic text from his wife’s will. Mr Norman had poor eyesight and could not see well enough to sign his name but Mr Wall suggested he make his mark with an ‘x’ which he did.<sup>49</sup>

The following newspaper report<sup>50</sup> shows the content of the will (dated 15 January 1903), which was witnessed by his friends, Mr William Wall and Mr Simeon Hurrell (236 Mill Road).

This is the last will and testament of me Harris Norman, bachelor, resident at 206 Mill-road, Cambridge, in the county of Cambridge. I give and bequeath the whole of my property whatsoever and wheresoever, to be equally divided between the two establishments named herein. To Addenbrooke’s Hospital, Cambridge, and the London Synagogue for the poor and needy Jews, and I name the Governor of the Hospital sole executor.

Some three and a half years later in the summer of 1906 Mr Norman brought a sealed envelope to Mr Wall saying it contained his will. It was then given to their friend, Mr Hurrell, who locked it away in his safe. Mr Wall had kept a copy of the will and after Mr Norman’s death in January 1907 when the solicitors asked to see the original, the sealed envelope was opened but all it contained was a set of instructions for writing a will.<sup>51</sup>

The stories then go on to report that Mr Wall eventually came across the will in the silk lining of an old hat that had been lent to him by Mr Norman when he attended a funeral. Mr Wall had once tried to return the hat to him but Mr Norman said he might as well keep it as his landlady (Mrs Calcott of No 206) complained that it was in the way.

So when the existence of the will came to light Mr Norman’s half-brother Maurice Kutner, a pauper from Whitechapel, contested it on the grounds that it was a forgery. The court case that followed was widely reported throughout Britain (reports appear in newspapers from as far away as Cornwall and Dundee). It was finally decided that the will was valid and Mr Norman’s estate, which amounted to £12,000, was divided between Addenbrooke’s Hospital and the London Jewish Synagogue.

<sup>45</sup> CIP, 31 July 1908, British Newspaper Archive ([www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk))

<sup>46</sup> CIP, 31 July 1908, British Newspaper Archive ([www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk))

<sup>47</sup> CIP, 31 July 1908, British Newspaper Archive ([www.britishnewspaperarchives.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchives.co.uk))

<sup>48</sup> CIP, 31 January 1908, British Newspaper Archive([www.britishnewspaperarchives.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchives.co.uk))

<sup>49</sup> CIP, 31 January 1908, British Newspaper Archive([www.britishnewspaperarchives.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchives.co.uk))

<sup>50</sup> CIP, 31 January 1908, British Newspaper Archive([www.britishnewspaperarchives.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchives.co.uk))

<sup>51</sup> CIP, 31 January 1908, and 2 October 1908 ([www.britishnewspaperarchives.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchives.co.uk))



A selection of newspaper reports relating to the story reported from around the country are shown below: (All courtesy of the online British Newspaper Archive).

PEDLAR LEAVES £12,000 TO

CHARITIES

Mr. Harris Norman, of Mill-road, Cambridge, a pedlar and a Polish Jew, left estate valued at £12,000 gross. By his will, which was found in his hat, testator left the whole of his property equally between Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, and the London Jewish Synagogue for Poor and needy Jews.

*Cheltenham Chronicle*, 31 October 1908



*Manchester Chronicle*, 30 September 1908

## FORTUNE IN AN OLD SILK HAT

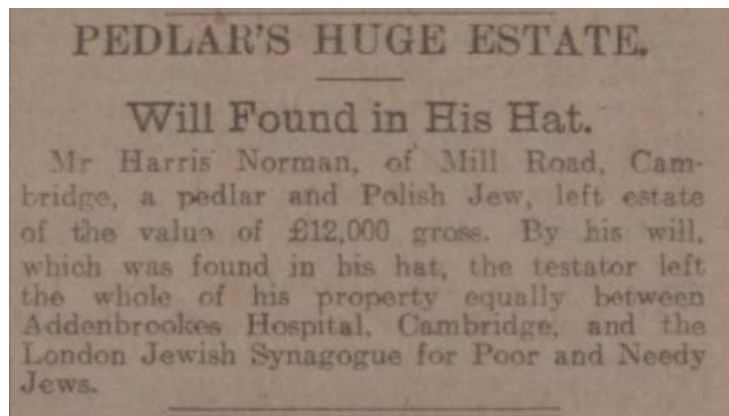
Twelve thousand pounds left to charities by a pedlar's will, found in an old silk hat, was the subject of a resumed case in the Probate Division on Thursday.

The will was set up by the trustees of Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, which benefited by it equally with the London Jewish Synagogue for poor and needy Jews. Maurice Kutner, of Whitechapel, half-brother of Harry Harris Norman, the testator, alleged that the will was a forgery, and accordingly opposed it.

An old silk hat (so the story runs) was lent by the testator, a Polish pedlar, to William Thomas Wall, a hairdresser, of Cambridge, that he might attend a funeral, and he returned the hat directly afterwards. Subsequently the pedlar brought the hat of Mr. Wall saying, "You may as well take charge of it." After the pedlar's death his will was found in the hat's silk lining.

The President, in giving his decision, said the story of the finding might seem a very remarkable one, but in the probate registry at Somerset House there were just as singular curiosities in wills. He came to the conclusion that the will was established, and granted probate of it, the costs to come out of the estate.

*The Cornishman*, 6 February 1908



*Dundee Evening Telegraph*, 29 September 1908

## APPENDIX II

Agreement for the sale of the goodwill of James Marsh Palmer's chemist business at 83 Victoria Road

AN AGREEMENT made the twenty eighth day of September One thousand nine hundred and forty-six  
BETWEEN JENNIE PALMER of 2, Hope Street in the Borough of Cambridge Widow (hereinafter called the Vendor) of the one part and CYRIL BENTON RUDELL of 77, Mawson Road in the said Borough of Cambridge Pharmacist (hereinafter called "the Purchaser") of the other part

WHEREBY IT IS AGREED as follows:-

1. The Vendor will sell and the purchaser will buy the goodwill of the business of a Chemist now carried on by the Vendor as personal representative of the late James Marsh Palmer M.P.S. at the shop situated at and known as 83, Victoria Road in the Borough of Cambridge together with the stock of the said business on the completion date and all fixtures and fittings, loose effects instruments, trade utensils receptacles for drugs and other chattels used by the Vendor in and about the business.
2. The price for the said goodwill and stock shall be SEVEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY POUNDS.
3. The Vendor hereby acknowledges the receipt of a deposit of SEVENTY FIVE POUNDS on account of and in part payment of the purchase money and the balance thereof shall be paid as hereinafter provided.
4. The Purchase shall be completed on Monday the thirtieth day of September One thousand nine hundred and forty-six.



(hereinafter called the completion date) at the office of the Vendor's Solicitors situate at Montagu House, Sussex Street in the said Borough of Cambridge at which time and place the Purchaser shall pay the balance of the said purchase money of SIX HUNDRED AND SEVENTY FIVE POUNDS.

Upon such payment the Vendor will if required execute and deliver to the Purchaser a proper assignment to him of the said goodwill to be prepared and completed at the expense of the Purchaser and will deliver the said stock fixtures fittings and chattels to the Purchaser.

5. The Vendor will until completion of the purchase as far as practicable continue to purchase stock and carry or procure to be carried on the said business on the scale and in the same manner as heretofore.

6. The Vendor shall retain possession of the said shop and business until the actual completion of the purchase but the said business shall from the completion date be carried on for the benefit and at the risk of the purchaser who shall be charged with all outgoings paid by the Vendor between the completion date and the day of actual completion and the profits up to the completion date being received and retained and the outgoings and all liabilities up to that date being borne by the Vendor.

7. If from any cause whatever the purchase shall not be completed on the completion date the purchaser shall pay



interest at FIVE POUNDS per cent per annum on the unpaid balance of the purchase money up to the day of actual completion. \_\_\_\_\_

8. The book debts owing to the Vendor on the completion date shall belong to and may be collected received and retained by him in priority to all trade debts which shall become due to the purchaser. \_\_\_\_\_

9. The books of account prescription books and all other books and papers relating to the said business shall become the property of the purchaser from the day of actual completion but they shall remain at the said shop for three months from the date hereof and during that period shall be open to the inspection and use of both parties who may make such extracts therefrom and such proper entries therein as they may think fit. \_\_\_\_\_

10. If any question or dispute shall arise as to any part of the said stock being old or damaged the same shall be referred to Messrs. E.J. George & Co of Bank Chambers 329 High Holborn, London, or if they be unwilling to act to Messrs. Orridge & Co of Columbia House, Aldwych, London and the decision of the said Messrs. E.J. George or the said Messrs. Orridge & Co. (as the case may be) as to the amount if any to be deducted from the purchase price shall be final and conclusive. \_\_\_\_\_

11. The Vendor shall on completion grant to the



Purchaser a lease of the said premises for Seven Fourteen or Twenty-one years at the yearly rent of SEVENTY POUNDS in the terms of a draft which has been approved by the Purchaser's Solicitors. Each party shall pay his own costs in respect of such lease. \_\_\_\_\_

12. In addition to any covenants implied by law the Vendor shall not for a period of Five years from the completion date of the purchase be engaged concerned interested either alone or jointly or in partnership with or as manager agent servant director or member of any other person firm or company or otherwise in the business of a Chemist and Druggist within a radius of one and a half miles from 83. Victoria Road aforesaid or permit or suffer her name to be used in connection with any such business nor within the same period solicit (except in respect of any business other than that of a Chemist and Druggist) any person who has during the period of two years before the date hereof been a regular customer of the said business contracted to be sold and the Vendor will in the Assignment of the Goodwill to the Purchaser enter into a covenant accordingly. This clause shall not apply to the Lessors shop at 206, Mill Road Cambridge. \_\_\_\_\_

13. If the Purchaser shall for three months after the completion date fail to complete the purchase the Vendor may forthwith by notice in writing rescind this Agreement and retain the said deposit and resume possession of all



the property comprised herein of which possession may have  
been given to the purchaser. \_\_\_\_\_

IN WITNESS whereof the parties hereto have hereunto  
set their hands the day and year first above written. \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNED by the said CYRIL BENTON )

RUDELL in the presence of: - \_\_\_\_\_ )

*C. B. Ruddell.*



*Gwendolen V. Ruddell  
77 Newson Road  
Cambridge*

*Head Teacher.*