

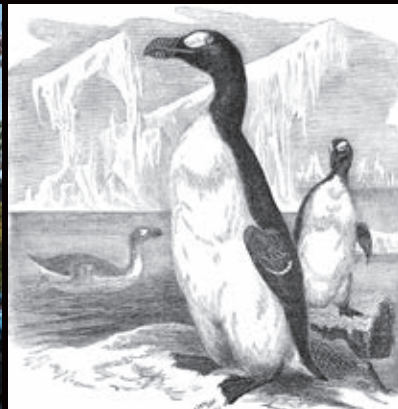
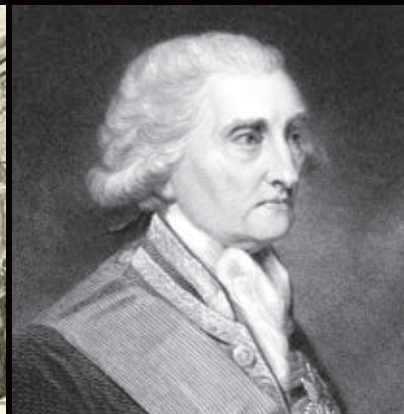


ADMIRAL RODNEY

HOTEL, EATERY, COFFEE HOUSE

A BRIEF HISTORY

BY WILL SWALES



WELCOME

Welcome to a brief history of The Admiral Rodney Hotel, Horncastle, Lincolnshire. During the late spring and early summer of 2016 we had the good fortune to be able to revitalise and refurbish one of our fabulous sister inns, The King's Head in Richmond, North Yorkshire.

During the planning stage of this project we started to look hard at the building and its many historical attributes, at how some parts of the building had been added during its 300 years of existence. And whilst contemplating the small changes and additions we wanted to make, it dawned on me that we will only be its custodians for a generation or two at most. I can't foretell who will follow but started thinking about who had been its keepers in the past.

Therefore, we asked a good friend if he would research The King's Head and try to separate the fact from the fable; what's true and what has been elaborated during the storytelling process over the years.

Will Swales made such a good job of The King's Head that we then asked him to complete the same task for The Admiral Rodney Hotel.

What follows is that research. We think it's as accurate as can be, but naturally there are many gaps and we would welcome any additional information.

I hope you enjoy this small booklet and the hospitality and service we provide within The Admiral Rodney Hotel. Please feel free to take this copy with you.

Kevin Charity

CEO

The Coaching Inn Group

www.coachinginngroup.co.uk





**“...AN EXPERIENCED AND PROFESSIONAL
INNKEEPER... IN CHARGE OF THE NEWEST
AND BEST-EQUIPPED INN IN THE TOWN.”**



RODNEY – THE GREAT BRITISH NAVAL HERO BEFORE NELSON



The Admiral Rodney Hotel.

"Rodney captured his opposite number, the Comte De Grasse, brought him home, and personally handed him to the King."

The Admiral Rodney Hotel in North Street, Horncastle, Lincolnshire, was formerly called The Rodney Inn – a name given to it in honour of the great British naval hero Admiral George Rodney.

It was in 1782 that Admiral Rodney shot to fame, and after which several inns throughout England were named in his honour. And it was in 1793 that we find the earliest reference to The Rodney in Horncastle, in what was then called Millstone Street. There might previously have been an inn on the site with a different name but no records of one have been found, and the building offers no clues.

George Rodney was born into a Somerset family in 1718, and became a life-long navy man. As a captain and then a rear-admiral he inflicted several defeats over the French in the Atlantic during the War of the Austrian Succession (1740 – 48) and in the Seven Years War (1756 – 63). As a full admiral in the American War of Independence (1775 – 83) he achieved victories over the Spanish off Portugal and Spain, and repelled a blockade and attempted siege of Gibraltar.

But the victory that made him famous came in April 1782, in a campaign during the American War to protect British Caribbean islands from attack by the French. At the Battle of the Saintes, near the island of Dominica, Rodney won a crushing and decisive victory, and in doing so devised an innovative battle tactic, known as 'breaking the line' that would change the pattern of future warfare. The French were routed. Rodney captured his opposite number, the Comte De Grasse, brought him home, and personally handed him to the King.

Rodney was created a baron, given a life pension, and proclaimed a national hero. It might be significant that the first reference to The Rodney in Horncastle appeared in a press notice almost exactly a year after the admiral's death in May 1792, which must have provoked a final wave of praise and acclamation for his achievements. The next great naval hero to be honoured by the naming of inns was Admiral Horatio Nelson after his famous victory at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805, in which he copied Rodney's innovative battle tactic.





Admiral George Rodney, by Joshua Reynolds in 1789. © Royal Museums Greenwich.



WORLD-FAMOUS OWNER WHO SAILED WITH CAPTAIN COOK



The Great Auk. Illustration by Robert Kretschmer in *Merveilles de la Nature*, published Paris 1878.

When The Rodney Inn was given its name sometime between 1782 and 1793 it was owned, in common with most of the town, by the ancient Manor of Horncastle, which was part of the considerable Lincolnshire estates of one of the world's most famous and revered scientists – Sir Joseph Banks.

The Banks family resided at Revesby Abbey, seven miles south of Horncastle. Joseph Banks was an accomplished scientist since his youth, and aged 23, within two years of inheriting the house, manors and estates in 1764, he was elected a member of the distinguished Royal Society. In the same year he sailed to Newfoundland and Labrador where he documented 34 species of birds including the now-extinct Great Auk.

Most famously, from 1768 he led an international group of scientists on board Captain James Cook's three-year voyage of discovery. Banks collected samples and made the first scientific descriptions of hundreds of plant species during the ship's visits to Madeira, Brazil, Tierra del Fuego, several of the South Pacific islands, New Zealand, Australia and Java.

In 1778 he was elected president of the Royal Society, a post he held for more than 41 years. He was made a baronet in 1781 and became adviser to King George III on the development of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. He commissioned many more voyages of discovery, despatching scientists around the world to collect plant species for Kew.

He was the leading proponent of the colonisation of Australia, recommending Botany Bay as a destination for convicts, and he became the chief adviser on the development of the colony to its first three governors. He was invested as a Knight of the Order of the Bath in 1795. Although Sir Joseph Banks was 25 years younger than Admiral George Rodney, it seems likely that they knew each other. They were both at the height of their fame during the 1780s, were both associated with the national ruling elite, and clearly shared an interest in global adventures.



Sir Joseph Banks died at his London home in 1820, aged 77. He was held in such worldwide esteem that he is commemorated in numerous place-names in Canada, New Zealand, Australia, and several of the South Pacific islands. His image has featured on Australian bank notes and postage stamps. In Britain, his life and work are commemorated in various ways at the London institutions with which he was associated, and in Lincolnshire he is remembered through the work of the Sir Joseph Banks Society, which has a research centre, shop and tribute-garden in Bridge Street, Horncastle, and through the Sir Joseph Banks Tropical Plant Conservatory at the Lawn next to Lincoln Castle.



Joseph Banks by Joshua Reynolds, 1773. © National Portrait Gallery.





The Lincolnshire Wolds.

THE RODNEY IN 1793 AND THE COMING OF THE CANAL

The earliest reference to The Rodney appeared in 1793, in a June edition of The Stamford Mercury, in which a lease on the inn was advertised.

The property was described as 'an accustomed public house... in complete repair... and now in the occupation of Mr Christopher Dickinson and others as tenants at will.' The premises included 'stabling for 20 horses and other buildings... a capital malting office with a large granary over... two cottages... four acres of land... with rights of common in Horncastle Fields and on Wildmore Fen.'

A month later, a lease was also offered on the next inn along the street, The New Inn (now The Old Nick Tavern). It had similar buildings, land, and rights of common pasture on the nearby fens. However in this case the advertisement expanded on the benefits: 'The premises are well-accustomed and stand in the best situation for fairs and markets, which are likely to be much increased by the great improvement now going on in forming a navigable canal from the Witham to the Town of Horncastle.'

Horncastle was noted for its several special livestock fairs – for cattle and sheep during Lent, for horses in June and August, for foals and sheep in September, for sheep, cattle and horses in October, and for sheep and cattle at Christmas.

It isn't known whether or not a leaseholder was attracted for The Rodney, but it is clear that the Banks family retained the primary ownership of the inn within the Manor of Horncastle and the Revesby Abbey Estate for the next 162 years. Christopher Dickinson remained the tenant innkeeper for the next 30 years – a period when The Rodney would become especially important because of its location at the heart of Horncastle's most famous market of all – the Great August Horse Fair.



AT THE HEART OF ‘THE LARGEST HORSE FAIR IN THE WORLD’

"Thousands of horses changed hands. Sellers came from all over the British Isles."

Lincolnshire was internationally renowned for horse-breeding, and was the home of several breeds. The Wildmore Tit – a pit pony – originated on the Wildmore Fen, which was a vast grazing ground to the south of Horncastle. The large Lincolnshire Black was bred in the fens around Boston, and was popular for ploughing and as a cavalry horse. The Lincolnshire Trotter was widely used to pull coaches.



Horncastle Great August Horse Fair, Illustrated London News, 20 August 1864. © Illustrated London News Ltd/Mary Evans.
With thanks to the British Newspaper Archive www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk.

Horncastle was the county's main centre for horse fairs, and principal among them was the Great August Fair, which could run for two or three weeks. It dated from an original charter in 1229, which permitted the fair to begin on the Feast of St Lawrence, 10 August. By the early 1800s the start date had become fluid, although it was always in early August.

As early as 1814 the Horncastle August Horse Fair was acclaimed the 'largest held in the British Dominions, and therefore in the world, for no other country has anything like it.' Thousands of horses changed hands. Sellers came from all over the British Isles. Their stock attracted the nation's leading buyers plus many from the Continent, especially from France and Germany. Among them were purchasing officers for armies, institutions, aristocrats, and even monarchs.

During the 1820s and 30s, some of the best thoroughbreds in the world achieved prices of up to £200 each at the August Fair. Accommodation was required for sellers, buyers and horses, and so the town gained a reputation for having an exceptionally large number of inns, and especially inns with extensive stabling and paddocks where the best-quality horses could be housed, examined, and traded at the highest prices.

The Rodney was one of the principal inns in this regard. A large paddock at the back of the inn, which is now a car park, was the scene of hectic activity as horses were brought in and out of surrounding stables, were paraded and inspected. It was where traders exchanged large amounts of cash, and where buyers engaged horsemen known as 'caddees' to deliver their newly acquired horses to their own premises, whether in this country or abroad. The Rodney and its neighbour The New Inn became the traditional haunts of the Irish dealers whose hunters were always in high demand.

The street outside was also buzzing with trade for lesser-quality horses that were stabled away from the town centre, or were locally bred and could be brought into Horncastle for the day. Successful sellers in the street sales wasted no time in celebrating with a drink or two at the nearest inn. So the drinks trade for The Rodney and the other town-centre inns was always exceptional during the Great August Horse Fair.

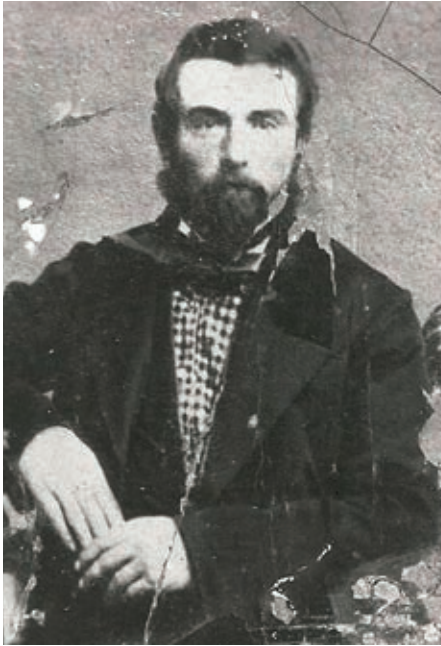


One of the renovated Admiral Rodney bars today.

"Successful sellers in the street sales wasted no time in celebrating with a drink or two at the nearest inn."



START OF THE BARKER- THARRATT FAMILY'S 102 YEARS IN CHARGE AT THE RODNEY



John Sharp, who was raised at The Rodney from 1838 to 53, pictured later in America. Image courtesy of his descendant Susan Ollei.

Horncastle and its markets enjoyed steady growth during the 1820s and 30s. By the 1840s the Great August Horse Fair was attracting up to 30 or 40 buyers from the Continent, including some from as far away as Poland and Russia.

During the same period there were significant changes at The Rodney. The tenant innkeeper Christopher Dickinson died in 1823, aged 83, after at least 30 years in charge. He was replaced by a young family man, John Bloodworth, 28, and his wife Sarah. By 1838 they had moved to the neighbouring New Inn, and were replaced by James Sharp, 26. He and his wife Elizabeth and young family came from the village of Belchford, five miles north-east of Horncastle.

James Sharp died in 1849, aged 37, leaving his wife Elizabeth with three children aged 14, 12 and nine. Elizabeth ran the inn for the next four years until her death, aged 41, in 1853. The immediate fate of her children is unknown, but the middle one, John, would later migrate to America where he settled and established a family. Descendants of John Sharp have recently visited The Rodney from America, in search of their roots.

In 1853 the replacement tenant innkeeper at The Rodney was John Barker, a 32-year-old widower. He transferred from the Nags Head in Horncastle with a capital float of £50. With him were his two children, aged five and four, and a housekeeper Margaret Tharratt, 43, who was an elder sister of John's late wife, Susanna. John had employed Margaret for the previous three years at least, and probably ever since his wife's death in 1850, aged 32.

Margaret had never married but had a 17-year-old daughter living elsewhere. This was Mary Anne Tharratt, who was recorded at baptism as 'base born'. The precise meaning of the phrase is unclear but it was apparently distinct from 'illegitimate' which the same vicar used to describe the next child listed in the baptism register. Mary Anne Tharratt reappears later in the story of The Rodney.

John Barker married his housekeeper Margaret Tharratt in September 1854. They didn't have any children, but they soon established themselves as leading innkeepers in the town, and began a family connection with The Rodney that would run for 102 years.



COMING OF THE RAILWAY AND REBUILDING THE INN

The economy of Horncastle was transformed in August 1855 with the coming of the railway. It arrived via a seven-mile branch-line from Kirkstead, on the Lincolnshire loop line, which in turn connected at both ends to the main east-coast route.

The railway provided the first bulk transportation of livestock to and from Horncastle, and would revolutionise trading at the Great Horse Fair. By 1856 the railway laid-on four livestock trains per day in and out of Horncastle during the Great Horse Fair, bringing about 500 horses to the town, and taking away up to 1,000. In subsequent years the numbers kept growing. Many sellers and buyers would no longer need overnight accommodation, although The Rodney was not significantly affected. The Irish horse traders, whose stock was always among the stars of the fair, maintained their tradition of establishing a base at the inn, and of conducting their sales in its paddock.

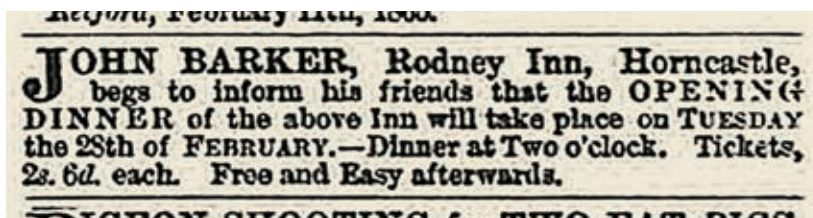
And while other Horncastle inns lost their coaching trade to the railway, The Rodney had none to lose and maintained its strong trade of local carriers with rustic wagons bringing passengers and goods to the inn from outlying villages for the Saturday market.

The owner of The Rodney at this time was James Banks Stanhope of Revesby Abbey, who must thought it the right time to invest in his commercial properties. By September 1863 the local press reported that the buildings of The Rodney had been demolished and work had started on their replacement.

It must have been then that innkeeper John Barker took on a farm at Low Toynton, about a mile outside Horncastle. It would be a temporary means of earning a living while The Rodney was being rebuilt, although apparently he kept it on after returning to the inn. When completed it was equipped with stabling for 164 horses, a new malting and a brewery. Early in 1865 John Barker advertised an official opening dinner to be held at 2pm on February 28th, tickets priced 2s 6d.

The rebuilding of The Rodney seems to have coincided with the renaming of Millstone Street as North Street, which was probably inspired by more building work and street naming elsewhere in the developing town.

"The railway provided the first bulk transportation of livestock to and from Horncastle..."



Stamford Mercury, 17 February 1865. © The British Library Board. All rights reserved. With thanks to the British Newspaper Archive, www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk.



THE NEW RODNEY AND THE HEIGHT OF THE HORSE FAIRS



The newly refurbished bar seating area at The Admiral Rodney.

"The Rodney became the preferred inn for holding certain regular meetings of the estate..."

In 1862 John Barker took on an addition to his family – a great nephew, Joseph Tharratt Bower, who was his second wife Margaret's grandson. Joseph would be a highly significant figure in the future story of The Rodney.

He had been born just over a year before the marriage of his parents, who were Margaret's daughter Mary Anne Tharratt and Thomas Bower. The couple went on to have several more children who they raised themselves, so it's not clear why their first-born was despatched to the care of his grandmother.

From 1865 Joseph Tharratt Bower, then aged five, was raised in the exciting and vibrant environment of the newly rebuilt Rodney Inn. At this time John Barker, aged 44, was in his prime. He was an experienced and professional innkeeper, and was now in charge of the newest and best-equipped inn in the town. It already had a great reputation as a centre for horse trading at the highest level, and now it probably had the biggest and best range of stables.

During the 1870s the August Horse Fair went from strength to strength and started attracting buyers from the USA, while The Rodney paddock became the venue for leading auction sales of top-quality hunters, hacks and carriage horses at both the August and October fairs. John Barker also attracted to The Rodney the meetings of the Horncastle Agricultural Labourers' and Ploughing Society, which started holding its annual sheep-shearing competition in the paddock.

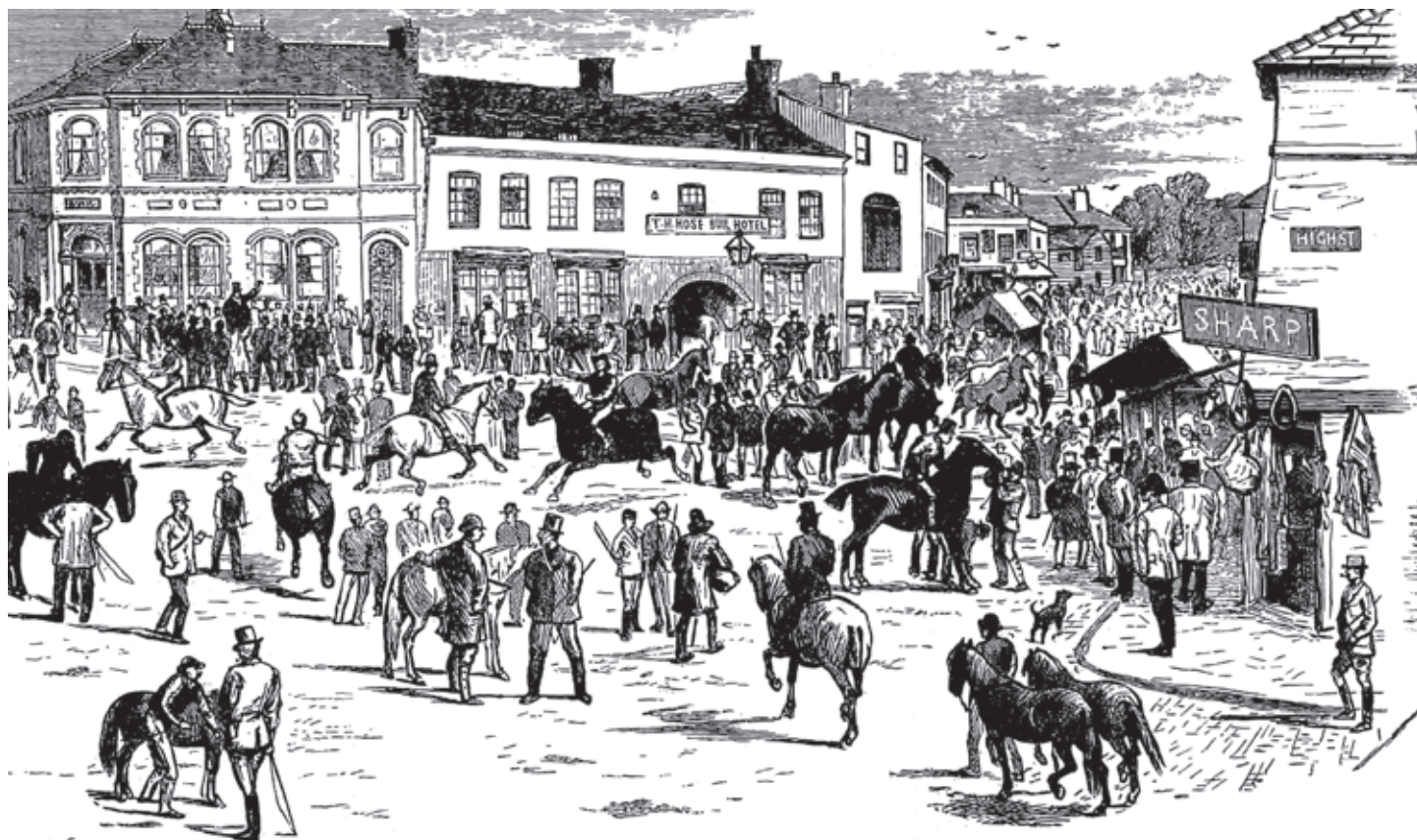
The Rodney became the preferred inn for holding certain regular meetings of the estate of its then owner, James Banks Stanhope, of Revesby Abbey. His estate's half-yearly rent audit was held there. This was the day the tenants attended to pay their rents, and were given a formal dinner chaired by their landlord. The Rodney also hosted the annual meetings of the ancient Court of the Manor of Horncastle, when changes in tenancies during the year were confirmed and approved.



SALUTARY TALE OF HEAVY DRINKING

During the Great Horse Fair, traders flush with cash could buy alcohol from 6am to 11pm.

Then in 1873 John Barker successfully applied to the magistrates, on behalf of all the inns, to extend the hours to 5am to midnight. Sometimes there were serious consequences, none worse than for an Irish horse trader who, as an inquest heard, remained at The Rodney for two months after the August Fair of 1882 and carried on drinking in a state of delirium tremors until a chambermaid found him dead in his bed, aged 29.



Horncastle Great August Horse Fair, by Alfred Chantrey Corbould (1852 – 1920), published in The Graphic newspaper 22 August 1874.

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JOHN BARKER'S GRIEF AND SLIDE INTO PENURY



One of the bedrooms at The Admiral Rodney.

By 1881, John and Margaret Barker, aged 60 and 71, had been able to take a back seat at The Rodney, while John's son, John Tharratt Barker took over the reins. But things were about to go wrong.

In 1883 John senior's daughter, the widowed Susanna Shaw, died aged 35 leaving an eight-year-old orphan daughter. Then in 1885 his son John Tharratt Barker died, aged 36, leaving a widow and six children. John Barker had now lost his first wife and both their children while they were in their 30s. He had no choice but to resume control of The Rodney in order to provide for his daughter-in-law and grandchildren.

A glimpse into one aspect of his character at this time is found in a court report of 1886 when he faced a charge of drinking after midnight at the New Inn. The court heard he was so drunk that next morning he had no recollection of being challenged at the bar by the local police sergeant. The licensee, who was also in the dock for serving the alcohol, said he had tried to eject his guest but he refused to go, adding: "he always had a good deal of trouble with Barker when he got like that."

John Barker gave up The Rodney in 1889, by which time he had accumulated savings of about £450, but he was ill-prepared for life after running the inn. His woeful story came out in a press report of the proceedings at Lincoln Bankruptcy Court in 1892. It was said that when he left The Rodney, his Low Toynton farm was already running at a loss, so he took on Post-Office contracts to deliver the mail by cart on two routes through the county.

However, in 1890 he was ill for six months so he had to pay someone else to deliver the mail. It tipped the contracts into losses, just as he was running up medical bills of £40. He borrowed from a money-lender but defaulted on the repayments. He gave up the farm in 1892, but by this time his liabilities were more than double his assets, and his income was nil, so he declared himself bankrupt. Within six months of the hearing, his wife Margaret died in Horncastle, aged 83. John Barker must have endured his twilight years in lonely penury. He died in 1897, aged 76.



DECLINE AND EVENTUAL DEMISE OF THE HORSE FAIRS

In 1889 John Barker passed the tenancy of The Rodney to his great nephew, Joseph Tharratt Bower, aged 28. Joseph had lived at the inn since the age of two and had been raised there by his great uncle and his grandmother.

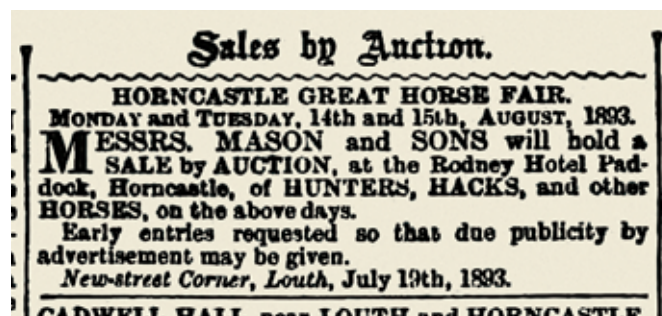
As a young man he trained as a silversmith. On taking over the inn he was newly married to Annie, aged 23. Together they would run The Rodney during a period of great change, most notable for the decline and eventual demise of the town's horse fairs.

The signs of decline were already in evidence when Joseph and Annie first took charge at the inn. The centuries-old tradition of livestock changing hands by private sales at open markets was slowly giving way to the growth of auction marts, where third-party auctioneers controlled the trade and achieved better prices for the sellers. Auction marts for the sale of cattle, sheep and pigs were being established in traditional market towns throughout the country. However it was in the industrial towns and cities where the demand for horses was greatest, and where sales were increasingly conducted through local specialist auction houses known as horse repositories.

As the Great August Horse Fair at Horncastle attracted fewer traders, the Irish trade based at The Rodney and New Inns remained faithful to the tradition for the longest period, although even this was now largely controlled by auctioneers operating in the paddocks. By 1889 one newspaper reported that the large majority of horses at the fair came from Ireland, quickly filling the extensive stables at the two inns, and that 'without them there would scarcely have been a fair.' The following year sales were reported to be slack, even among the best horses at The Rodney and The New Inn.

A measure of the continuing and rapid decline of the fair can be seen from the number of horses shipped in and out of Horncastle by train. In 1895 there were 1,580, but in 1905 the figure was down to 391. By 1914 the motor-vehicle was emerging as the new form of personal, commercial and military transport, and the August Fair was over in two days. After the Great War of 1914 – 18, the fair was reduced to a one-day event, and for the trade of local horses only. It was the end of an era for The Rodney and for the town.

"...livestock changing hands by private sales at open markets was slowly giving way to the growth of auction marts..."



Stamford Mercury 21 July 1893. © The British Library Board. All rights reserved. With thanks to the British Newspaper Archive. www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk.



THE BANKS-STANHOPE FAMILY OWNERS



James Banks Stanhope in the late 1860s.
Photograph by Maull & Co. © National Portrait Gallery.



Hon. Edward Stanhope. Lithograph from photograph
by Elliott & Fry. © National Portrait Gallery.

From the 1700s to the 1900s The Rodney Inn remained within the ancient Manor of Horncastle, and part of the Revesby Abbey Estate. Its most famous owner, Sir Joseph Banks, died in 1820. He had no children so his properties were vested in the wider family.

In 1825 the estate was inherited by four-year-old James Banks Stanhope, a grandson of Charles Stanhope, the 3rd Earl Stanhope, who was connected to the Banks family through marriage.

On reaching his age of majority James Banks Stanhope assumed control of the estate, but by this time the house at Revesby Abbey had not been lived in for several years and was dilapidated. He sold the contents in 1843 and commissioned a new house, which was completed in 1845. He was MP for North Lincolnshire from 1851 to 1868, and was active in local affairs, but otherwise he lived a quiet life and never married. In 1885, at the age of 64, he gifted the estate to his distinguished second cousin, Edward Stanhope, 45, the second son of the 5th Earl Stanhope.

This was the year in which Edward Stanhope became MP for the newly created constituency of Horncastle, and in which he was appointed President of the Board of Trade in the Cabinet of Prime Minister Lord Salisbury. It was reported that James Banks Stanhope gave him the Revesby Abbey Estate so that he should be: 'in a proper position to maintain the honour and dignity of a Minister of the Crown.' Edward Stanhope was promoted to Colonial Secretary in 1886 and the next year to Secretary of State for War.

In Horncastle he was a celebrated landowner, and he earned yet more admiration when he gave three of the town's market areas – the Market Place, The Wong, and the Pig Market, together with their revenues – to the local board of health to benefit the people of the town.



SHOCK DEATHS OF SUCCESSIVE OWNERS

In 1893 the Revesby Estate rent-audit meeting at The Rodney Inn was interrupted by a telegram reporting the shock news of Edward Stanhope's sudden death of heart failure.

The townsfolk erected a large and elaborate memorial to him in the Market Place. After the death of his widow in 1907, the estate transferred to a brother of the 7th Earl Stanhope, Richard Stanhope, who was killed in September 1916 during the Battle of the Somme.

His widow, Lady Beryl Stanhope, was a daughter of the 5th Earl of Clancarty. She retained ownership of the Revesby Abbey Estate, later marrying Walter Gilbert. After a divorce in 1927 she married again, in 1931, to Francis Groves, a farmer from Sleaford. As Lady Beryl Groves, she was a popular and generous lady of the manor.

ANNIE BOWER'S WARTIME BLACK-OUT LAPSES

By the end of the Great War in 1918, Joseph and Annie Bower had successfully run The Rodney Inn for 30 years.

During this period its fortunes must have been in relative decline because of the diminishing horse fairs. Nonetheless they had survived and raised six children into adulthood. They kept going through the post-war economic depression until Joseph's death in January 1927, aged 67. Annie, then aged 62, carried on running The Rodney. She was clearly a very fit and capable woman, although years later she was prone to lapses of concentration when it came to observing the blackout during the Second World War. Between 1940 and 1942 she was in court on four occasions for leaving a light showing; her fines ranging from 15 shillings to £2.

Amazingly, Annie Bower was still running The Rodney in 1953 when her landlord, Lady Beryl Groves, reached the age of 60 and decided to reorganise her affairs. She and her husband moved out of the grand house at Revesby Abbey and into the Home Farm on the estate. She disposed of the contents of the house in a lavish country-house auction sale.



The Stanhope monument in Horncastle.



ANNIE BOWER CALLS TIME IN HER 90TH YEAR



The Admiral Rodney's enclosed courtyard.

In October 1954 the Revesby Abbey Estate advertised the freehold of The Rodney Inn for sale by auction.

An agreement had been reached that Annie Bower would retire in April 1955 when she would be a few months short of her 90th birthday. The sale details noted that The Rodney had 'been in the occupation of the present tenant's family for approximately 200 years.'

Research for this booklet confirms the family connection stretching back to John Barker in 1853, but kinship with innkeepers before him has not been found. Nonetheless, 102 years confirmed in one family is still a fine achievement, and 67 years under the control of Annie Bower is truly remarkable.

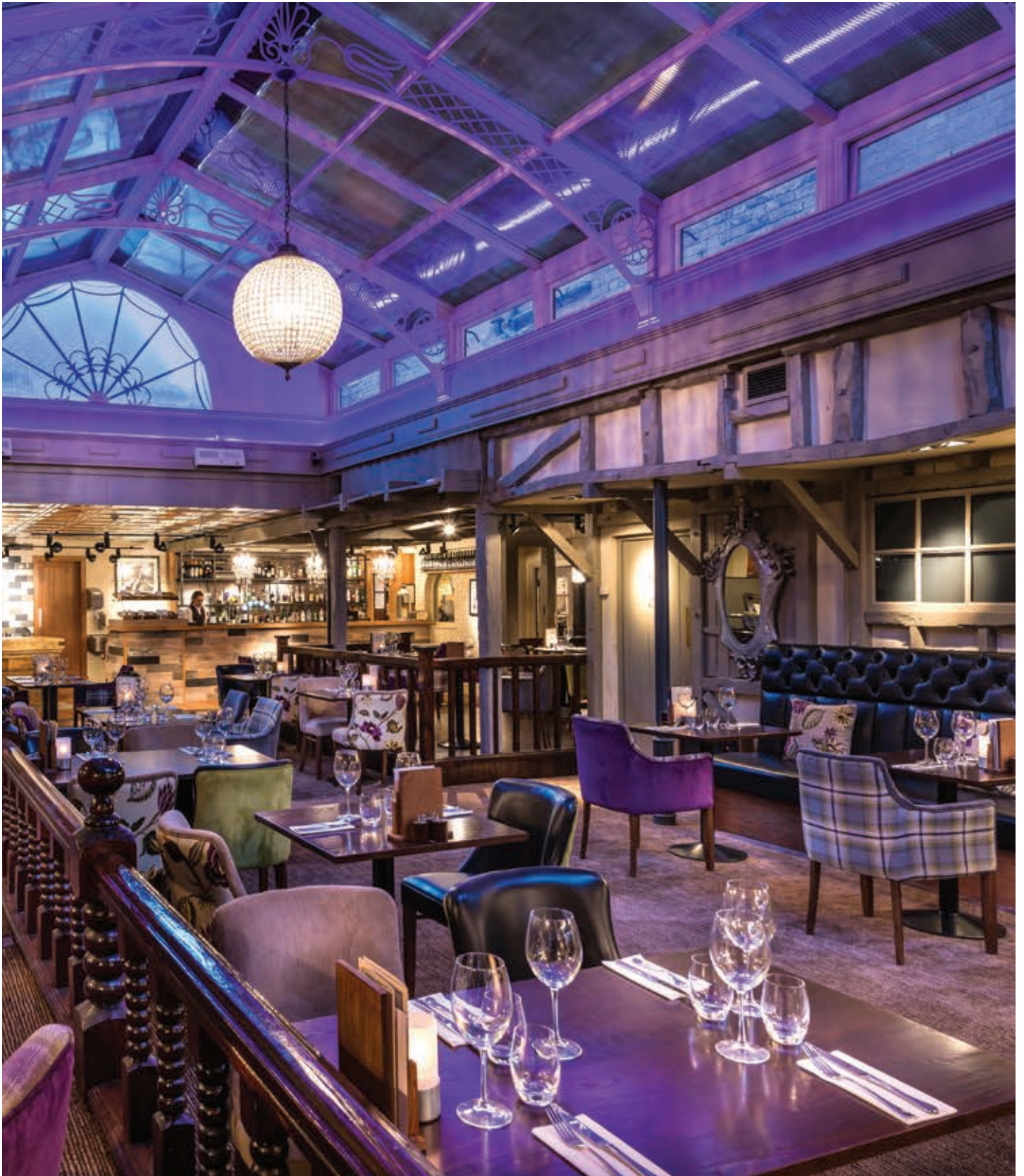
ANOTHER MAJOR BUILDING PROJECT AND A NEW NAME

The Rodney changed hands many more times in the decades that followed.

It underwent a major rebuilding in 1989 when an estimated £2 million was invested by a Lincolnshire firm, doubling the number of bedrooms to 32, creating a new entrance by enclosing the passageway between the inn and its adjacent former outbuildings in North Street, and enclosing the courtyard to make it part of the interior. At the same time the name was changed to The Admiral Rodney.

After several more changes of ownership, The Admiral Rodney was acquired by The Coaching Inn Group in 2011, since when it has been successfully adapted to meet the modern hospitality needs of 21st-century Horncastle, and has been restored to its leading role in the town.





The Admiral Rodney restaurant, newly refurbished by The Coaching Inn Group.



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The Admiral Rodney Hotel, Horncastle, is part of The Coaching Inn Group Ltd. The group has a particular passion for lovely old historic inns and is fortunate enough now to have fifteen of these iconic buildings in our collection, several of them former coaching inns. We have established a reputation for refurbishing, revitalising and breathing life back into these inns, creating elegant, comfortable and well-priced accommodation, tempting menus, relaxed and stylish bars and coffee lounges where friends, families and business people can relax and enjoy everything we have on offer.

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We hope you've enjoyed your visit to The Admiral Rodney Hotel, Horncastle, and would love to invite you to try our other venues, nationwide. For full details please visit www.coachinginngroup.co.uk.



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