

Memories of Malton and Some of Its Inhabitants in the 'Sixties and Onwards.

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By Thomas Baker
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HORSEMARKET ROAD

The road commences near to the end of The Mount, not far from the Cannon, and continues through the Cattle Market, finishing about the Police Station. At the end of The Mount where the Wesleyan Minister's residence now stands was formerly known as the Gelding Hill, on which stood two or three small houses, and in of which lived a well known character of the name of Willie Martindale. Amongst other multifarious jobs he performed was that of chapel keeper for the Malton Wesleyan Chapel. He had evidently not been under military training for his gait was anything but smart, and his feet resembled clock pointers indicating ten minutes to two. He was walking along towards the Cattle Market one day with a yoke on his shoulders and two pails of pig food attached. Some boys playing at the top of the Green Man yard saw him walking in the middle of the road, and observed at the same time another individual walking exactly in the same manner, so they called out to Willie that there was a man mocking him. Willie turned round slowly with his two pails swinging from the yoke as though to rebuke the insolent man who dared to mock him, but discovered that it was his son following him, consequently Willie promptly continued on his way, and took no further notice of the boys' remarks.

Most of the road on the left hand side was occupied by fold yards and the pig market, the latter extending to Mr. Stabler's tallow chandler's premises which adjoined the old slaughter house. Many a time I have stood and watched old Tommy Britton, who was Mr. Stabler's principal candle maker, lowering candle wicks into the boiling fat and then raising them again with another coating of tallow around them, and so the process continued until the required thickness was obtained.

Of course, at that time the old slaughter house was in full working order, and many exciting scenes I have seen there because I had to visit it almost every day on account of my father's business.

Opposite to the slaughter house, there were three or four small houses which faced into the Cattle Market and the backs abutted on to the road leading immediately in front of the slaughter house towards Victoria Road. Before the pens were erected in the Cattle Market, and the Auction Mart built, it was a large open space where menageries and circuses used to stand when visiting the town. The Palmsun Horse Fair was held there for many years, and there was always a large show of entries on that occasion. The Spotted Cow – a very appropriate name for the locality – was there, and the old police station adjoined it. Jim Wood, a well known character, had the shop which Messrs. Hornsey & Wood now occupy. Jim dealt in fruit, nuts, sweets etc., in a rather large way, and always had a stall in the Market Place on Saturdays and fair days, acing the shops now occupied by Messrs. Clough and Sons. He frequented all the feasts and fairs in the neighbourhood, and consequently was well known.

The Police Station, as is well known, has of recent years been considerably improved and a Court House attached. Formerly the prisoners were taken from the police station to the Town Hall to be tried for their misdemeanours, and then taken back to the police station when convicted, and eventually sent to York, or Northallerton, or Beverley, by train on the Monday morning following the trial, to carry out their sentences.
