

“About ye year 1766, Nathaniel Matthews, by will, left his sister Ann Matthews a Cottage in the occupation of John Brockman, situate in the parish of Birchington, with Garden and Premises and one acre of land during her natural life, and after her decease, to his nephew Israel Matthews during his lifetime, and after his decease, to his nephew John Matthew and his nephew Nathaniel Rawland, their heirs and Assigns, to be equally divided between them. Also if said Nathaniel Matthews, by the same will, gave to his sister Ann Matthews, all that messuage in Birchington Street divided into two dwellings¹, the premises, backway joining the other cottages, this last mentioned messuage and all its premises left during her life, to his said nephews John Matthews and Nathaniel Rawland, their heirs and assigns for ever, to be equally divided between them, the said dwellings occupied by Thomas Thunder and Jane Blue. [She was the widow of the late landlord of the New Inn – now called the Powell Arms]. It appears that Nathaniel Rowland sold his part of the said messuage to Joseph Norwood and his wife Ann.

“For by deeds dated 12 July 1769, that the last mentioned messuage and premises was conveyed from John Matthews and Joseph Norwood and Ann his wife to Richard Alaby. **Thus, in the words following**, ‘the said messuage or tenement, now in two dwellings with outhouses, Edifices, Buildings, Barn, stable yard, Backsides, Grounds, members’ rights and Appurtenances to the said messuage or tenement belonging or in any wise appertaining, situate in the parish of Birchington aforesaid, and now or late in the tenure of occupation of Thomas Thunder and Jane Blue, with all ways, paths, passages, waters, watercourses, Easements, privileges, profits, commodities, Advantages, emoluments, Hereditaments, or premises or Either of them belonging or in any wise appertaining or which now are, or **formally** have been, Reputed or Accepted, taken, known, **occupied, Used or Enjoyed**, to or with the same or as part, parts or member thereof or any part thereof.’ “

“These words taken from ye deeds this 15th day of May 1829, by G. Stringer.”

¹ This house was the one that stood on the corner of Park Lane, opposite the Queen’s Head. It was occupied in its latter time by the Darby family until the last daughter died or left in 1906. The house was very old, with a probable build date of about 1500-1550.