



York Civic Trust  
*Promoting Heritage - Shaping Tomorrow*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**York Civic Trust**

announce the unveiling of a blue plaque in honour of

# **JOSEPH TERRY**

## **Founder of Terry's of York**

### **Confectioners**

**The unveiling ceremony will take place**

**THURSDAY 17 AUGUST 2017**

**3PM**

*at the entrance to 3-5 St Helen's Square (Carluccio's)  
York City Centre*

## **York Civic Trust**

York Civic Trust is a membership organisation open to all who wish to protect and enhance York's architectural and cultural heritage, to champion good design and to advance the high place which York holds amongst the cities of the world. Founded in 1946, it has the key objectives of “Promoting Heritage—Shaping Tomorrow” at the heart of its work. Over the years the York Civic Trust has put up over a hundred information plaques to the places and people of York and continues to do so today in collaboration with its City Enhancement Fund, with the aims to preserve, restore, enrich, enhance and sustain the centre of York.

### **For further details, contact**

**David Fraser** Chief Executive York Civic Trust

[davidfraser@yorkcivictrust.co.uk](mailto:davidfraser@yorkcivictrust.co.uk)

01904 655543 or 07860 706282



**IMAGE OF BLUE PLAQUE DESIGN**

**Credit – York Civic Trust**

# Joseph Terry (1793-1850)

## BIOGRAPHY written by Pat Hill (York Civic Trust Historian)

*Founder of the Terry dynasty of confectioners and chocolate makers in York with a shop in St. Helen's Square. A factory in Clementhorpe was replaced by a larger factory on Bishopthorpe Road in 1926, finally closing in 2005.*

Joseph Terry was born in Pocklington in 1793, the son of a farmer, Thomas Terry, and his wife, Elizabeth Dale. After serving an apprenticeship, Joseph opened an apothecary's shop in Walmgate, York. In 1823 he married Harriet, the daughter of William Atkinson, of Leppington Grange near York. They had five sons and three daughters. Harriet was the sister-in-law of Robert Berry, one of the partners in confectioners Bayldon & Berry. Robert Berry had founded the business in York in 1767 and, after forming a partnership with William Bayldon, the shop and factory moved to new premises in St Helen's Square in 1818. William retired in 1821 and Joseph joined the business, utilising his skills as a chemist in the development of new sweet and confectionery products. On the death of Robert Berry in 1825, Joseph and Robert's son, George, formed a new partnership, renaming the business Terry & Berry.

### **Terry's of York**

On the departure of George in 1828, Joseph was in sole charge of the business, renamed Joseph Terry & Co, with a small factory at the rear of 'The Front Shop' in St Helen's Square making cakes, comfits, sugar sweets, marmalade, candied peel, mushroom ketchup and medicated lozenges. By 1840, assisted by the expanding railway network, Joseph was sending his products "to seventy-five towns all over the North of England, the Midlands and as far south as Luton and London". His products included jujubes, candied citron, mint cakes, candied eringo, coltsfoot rock, anchovies, acidulated drops, gum balls, pomfrit cakes, and lozenges made from squill, camphor and horehound.

Joseph died at Huntington in 1850 and his second son, also Joseph (1828-1898) and later Sir Joseph, educated at St Peter's School, took control of the business in 1854 with his two brothers, renaming it Joseph Terry & Sons. The brothers leased a riverside site in Clementhorpe which had access to the Ouse for transport to and from Goole and the Humber. A twice-weekly steam packet brought imported goods including sugar,

glucose, cocoa and orange and lemon rinds in brine as well as deliveries of coal for the steam plant.

In 1854 Joseph married Frances, daughter of Dr Joseph Goddard. They had three sons before she died in 1866. Joseph, with abundant energy for expanding manufacturing, transferred the business to a new site where he erected a steam-powered factory. Two years later there were 400 different items on the price list. In 1871 he married Margaret, daughter of William Thorpe of Aldborough House, Malton, with whom he had a son and three daughters. The eldest son, Thomas, a partner after 1880, built up exports to Australia and New Zealand. During that decade the firm received a number of exhibition awards for its confectionery.

Terry's had been making chocolate products since the 1860s and a separate chocolate factory was constructed at Clementhorpe in 1886, but chocolate to eat rather than drink was still a novelty. The firm was incorporated as Joseph Terry & Sons Ltd in 1895 when it had 300 employees. The premises in St Helen's Square were retained as a shop, restaurant and ballroom with a later cocktail bar and soda fountain. This now forms part of Carluccio's restaurant; the original shop front and lettering together with some of the internal fittings remain.

### **Civic duties**

A member of York City Council from 1860, Joseph served as Sherriff of York in 1870 and was Lord Mayor four times, the last time in 1891. In 1886 he was not only Lord Mayor but was asked to represent York at the Queen's Jubilee and was awarded a knighthood in 1887. He assisted all the main societies in York from the School of Art to the city's cricket club. He was a freemason, member of York Sunday School committee and President of York Conservative Association. However, these activities in addition to his business interests eventually proved too much; he overexerted himself at a by-election and died of heart failure at the Royal Station Hotel in 1898.

His son, Thomas, was already a partner; another son, Francis, was to be chairman for 35 years. Noel Goddard Terry MBE (1889-1980), his grandson, was to be chairman later. During the First World War, serving with the 3<sup>rd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> West Yorkshire Regiment at the Western Front, Noel sustained serious injuries to his right leg in 1916 and was invalided

out. Noel married Kathleen Leetham (1892-1980) in 1915 and the chairman for 11 years was no longer a Terry but H.E. Leetham, Noel's father-in-law.

Francis and Noel Terry bought a site in 1923 on Bishopthorpe Road and Terry's Confectionery Works, an impressive Art Deco building, was opened in 1926. On Leetham's death, Francis and Noel became joint managing directors, Noel concentrating on sales and Francis, often described as a perfectionist, on the production side credited with establishing the high quality and reputation of Terry's chocolate. It was Francis who was instrumental in introducing some of the most popular Terry's products which are still in production today. Produced at the Clementhorpe factory, Terry's first box of chocolates with a selection of different fillings, was called the *Britannia*. The interwar years saw the development of more chocolate selections including *Spartan* and *All Gold* (1931). Terry's *Chocolate Apple* was introduced in 1926 and the famous *Chocolate Orange*, which remains very popular today, in 1932. To commemorate the founding of the original business, the *1767* box of chocolates was also created by Francis who was knighted for his services to the industry and was considered a master chocolatier.

### **Arts and Crafts family home**

Noel commissioned Walter Brierley in 1925 to build Goddards, an Arts and Crafts house on Tadcaster Road, now owned by the National Trust. It was to be Brierley's last major domestic project; he died in 1926 and the house was completed in 1927. Noel filled the house with antiques and assembled one of the best private collections of Georgian furniture in the country. When the National Trust accepted Goddards in 1984, the importance of the house and its contents was not recognised. The house became the Trust's regional headquarters and the collection of furniture was rescued by York Civic Trust and put on public display, appropriately, in the restored interiors of Fairfax House, one of York's finest Georgian townhouses.

Also overlooked was the importance of the garden created by George Dillistone, the landscape and garden designer who established his own practice in 1926 on the strength of the Goddards commission. Of particular note is the extensive rock garden, a popular feature of gardens in the 1920s and 1930s. Dillistone was to design several other major gardens in the interwar period including the formal gardens at Castle Drogo in Devon with Edwin Lutyens as architect. Noel and his wife Kathleen lived at Goddards until their deaths

in 1980. More recently, the National Trust has re-evaluated the house and the major rooms were opened to the public in 2012. For the 2017 season, the display of items relating to the Terry's and the York chocolate industry has been extended.

### **Corporate takeovers**

During the Second World War, confectionery production was halted and the factory was taken over by F. Hills & Son of Manchester as a shadow factory to manufacture and repair aircraft propeller blades. After the war the business resumed in difficult times due to rationing.

In 1963 Forte took over the business. Noel remained on the board until he retired in 1970. Peter Terry, Noel's son, retired in 1985. The Colgate-Palmolive Company acquired Joseph Terry & Sons in 1977, then United Biscuits acquired it from Colgate. In 1993 Kraft Foods took control, amalgamating Terry's with Jacobs Suchard to create Terry's Suchard. From 2000 the brand was renamed Terry's removing the reference to York. In 2005 Kraft closed the factory and production was moved abroad. Famous names such as *Chocolate Orange* and *All Gold* continue to be made outside the UK. After a lengthy planning process, the key buildings on the Bishophorpe Road factory site are now being converted into luxury flats at the heart of the Chocolate Works development. The new townhouses on the site by David Wilson were awarded Best Design at the 2016 national Housebuilder Awards.

Noel and Kathleen Terry are buried at Dringhouses Cemetery; earlier members of the Terry family are buried at York Cemetery.

### **References**

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Hugh Topham, *Terry's of York 1767-1967* (published privately for Joseph Terry & Sons by Newman Neame, London and printed by Ben Johnson, York, 1967)

Van C.M. Wilson, *The Story of Terry's* (York Oral History Project, 2009)