

## 2,4 & 6 West Main Street – Mystic Drawbridge Ice Cream

The site of the Mystic Drawbridge Ice Cream store, located at 2, 4 and 6 West Main Street, has had many businesses including a clothing store and a fish market. The building that exists today was rebuilt after the fire in 1880 and has had as tenants a confectionery store or ice cream store ever since. It was known for its homemade ice cream and a place where you could take your loved ones. It has earned its name as Mystic's first ice cream parlor, established by Randall Browne . But what was it previously?

Daniel Burrows purchased the lot in 1861 and a few years later he secured a mortgage to enable him to build what was known as "Central Market". This was a meat market managed by C.C. Burrows and Mr. Park.

In 1870, Irish-born Anthony Ryan, a tailor and dealer in ready-made clothing (which was considered very strange at the time) purchased that building, moving his business there from the Exchange Building in Mystic Bridge. He also made the upstairs home for himself, his wife Margaret, and his family of seven children. This building became known as Ryan's Block. Unfortunately, the fire of 1880 destroyed that building and Ryan rebuilt it a year later.

By 1892 the building was owned by Captain James Lennon and became known as the Riverside Block with a number of tenants occupying the building. The store adjacent to the Mystic River was first run by Randall Browne whose ice cream store was called Riverside Ice Cream Parlor followed by the Morgan Brothers whose ice cream store was called Morgan Ice Cream Garden. What a wonderful place to sit and enjoy your ice cream and watch the drawbridge go up and down.

By the way, the original drawbridge was built in 1819. For more information about this bridge, read the plaque located on the front of the store which to this day is still a delicious ice cream store.