

# 53 Ravensdowne

## Summary:

Margaret Richardson was born at Berwick on 4 October 1814, the second daughter of Henry and Catherine Richardson. Henry, although apprenticed as a cooper, became a successful printer and in 1808 founded the *Berwick Advertiser*, which he continued to run until his death in November 1823. He married Catherine Robson, a widow with a son Andrew by her first marriage, who had a grocers shop in Eastern Lane, and they had 3 children, Catherine, Margaret and Henry. Catherine married James Smail, a draper in Marygate, and Henry trained as a doctor in Edinburgh, joined the Royal Navy as a surgeon until returning to Berwick to run the *Berwick Advertiser* on the death of his stepbrother Andrew. Margaret did not marry and lived in Eastern Lane with her mother and stepbrother Andrew, who, on his stepfather's death, ran the paper. Andrew became ill and in 1861 he is in Rothesay, (possibly in search of a health cure) with his stepsisters, and dies in May of that year. When Dr. Henry returned to Berwick he bought 18 Castle Terrace and lived there with his sister Margaret until his own marriage to Margaret Crossman on 28 September 1869. Initially the married couple lived at Cheswick and later at Berrington. Neither however was so convenient for running the newspaper, and in 1879/80 they returned to the house in Castle Terrace and Margaret moved out to live in Ravensdowne. She was joined by her sister Catherine when James Smail died, and had various Smail nieces living with her at times. Latterly she had poor health and in Dr Henry's diaries of 1884 and 1885 he comments on going to see her nearly every day, and that her health was not very good, and in 1885 (the year he died) he thinks he will buy her a new bath chair. Margaret died on 13 April 1894.

In 1901 the house was classed as 'In Occupation' meaning it was occupied but the occupier was temporally absent.

In 1911 Catherine Robson Smail, Margaret Richardson's niece lived at number 53. Catherine Robson was the spinster daughter of James Smail, Draper, and Catherine Richardson. She died on 26 March 1918.

## Information and Sources:

### Select Births and Christenings - Ancestry

#### 1814

Margaret Richardson, born 4 October 1814 at Berwick daughter of Henry Richardson and Catherine

### Berwick Advertiser

#### 5 November 1823

#### AWFULLY SUDDEN DEATH

On Wednesday last, about three o'Clock in the afternoon, HENRY RICHARDSON, proprietor and printer of this paper, called at the shop of Mr William Wilson, Ironmonger, Bridge Street, and after some conversation took leave, and when he had reached the door, Mr. W. observed his staggering, sprang over the counter, and caught hold of him in time to prevent him from falling...

### 1841 census - High Street

James SMAIL			35	Draper	b. Scotland
C. SMAIL			25		b. Northumberland
Wm. SMAIL			22mths		b. Northumberland
[E] CUMMINGS			15	App	b. Scotland
Wm. McDONALD			15	App	b. Not Northd
John MARSH			15	App	b. Not Northd
M. DUMBLE			25	Female Servant	b. Not Northd

### 1841 census - East Lane

Cath RICHARDSON			60	Printer	b. Scotland
Andw ROBSON			30	Printer	b. Northumberland
Margt RICHARDSON			20	Printer	b. Northumberland
Mary HINDMARSH			20	Female Servant	b. Northumberland

**1851 census - Marvgate**

James SMAIL	H	M	46	Draper	b. Scotland
Catherine SMAIL	W	M	35		b. Berwick
William SMAIL	S	S	11		b. Berwick
Catherine R. SMAIL	D	S	9		b. Berwick
Janet SMAIL	D	S	7		b. Berwick
Henry R. SMAIL	S	S	5		b. Berwick
Thomas S. SMAIL	S	S	2		b. Berwick
Margaret R. SMAIL	D	S	4mths		b. Berwick
Jane DOUGLASS	Serv	S	22	House Servant	b. Berwick
Catherine STANLEY	Serv	S	24	House Servant	b. Berwick

**1851 census - Eastern Lane**

Catherine RICHARDSON	H	W	64	Grocer Printer & Publisher. Employed 9 workmen	b. Mitford
Andw ROBSON	S	S	43	Letter Press printer	b. Berwick
Margt RICHARDSON	D	S	36		b. Berwick
Margt NEWITT	Serv	S	27	House Servant	b. North Shields

**1861 census - 2 Argyll Place, Rothesay**

Andrew ROBSON	H Lodger	S	53	Printer	b. Berwick
Catherine SMAIL	Sister		48		b. Berwick
Jane PURBER	Sister		48		b. Berwick
Marg. RICHARDSON	Sister		46		b. Berwick

**Newcastle Journal****Saturday 11 May 1861** - page 3DEATH - At Rothesay on the 5<sup>th</sup> inst., aged 53, Mr Andrew Robson, publisher and proprietor of the *Berwick Advertiser*.**Free BMD - Ancestry****1869 - September quarter**

MARRIAGE Henry Richardson and Margaret Crossman in Berwick Registration district.

**1871 census - Dunse Road, Castle Terrace**

Margaret RICHARDSON	H	S	56	Annuitant	b. Berwick
Elizabeth MARSHALL	Serv	S	27	Domestic Servant	b. Scotland

**1871 census - High Street**

James SMAIL	H	M	66	Draper employing 1 female, 2 men, 5 boys	b. Scotland
Catherine SMAIL	W	M	58		b. Berwick
Catherine R. SMAIL	D	S	29		b. Berwick
Henry R. SMAIL	S	S	25	Printer & Compositor	b. Berwick
Margaret R. SMAIL	D	S	20		b. Berwick
Thomas J. SMAIL	S	S	22	Draper	b. Berwick
Ellenor Fanny SMAIL	D	S	15		b. Berwick
Jane PIKE	Visitor	S	28	Draper daughter	b. Scotland
John P. HAMILTON	Visitor	S	30	Commercial Clerk	b. Scotland
Isabella Thew	Serv	S	22	Domestian Servant	b. Berwick

**Electoral Register - North Division****M966 1879**

Berwick upon Tweed Parish

RICHARDSON Henry Abode-Berrington House, Beal Freehold Houses &amp; shops High Street, Eastern Lane and Western Lane

**Electoral Register - North Division****M966 1880**

Berwick upon Tweed Parish

RICHARDSON Henry Abode-Castle Terrace  
Eastern Lane and Western Lane

Freehold Houses &amp; shops High Street,

**1881 census - 53 Ravensdowne**

Eliza Fanny SMAIL	Niece	S	25	No occupation	b. Berwick
Margaret RICHARDSON	H	S	66	No occupation	b. Berwick
Catharine BROWN	Serv	S	26	General Servant	b. Berwick

**1881 census - 28 Woolmarket**

James SMAIL	H	M	76	Draper (Retired)	b. Scotland
Catherine SMAIL	W	M	68		b. Berwick
Henry R. SMAIL	S	S	36	Publisher Newspaper	b. Berwick
Margaret KERR	Serv	S	22	Domestic Servant	b. Berwick

**1891 census - 53 Ravensdowne**

Margaret RICHARDSON	H	S	76	Living on own means	b. Berwick
Catherine SMAIL	Sis	W	78	Living on own means	b. Berwick
Janet SMAIL	Niece	S	47	Housekeeper	b. Berwick
Eliza F. SMAIL	Niece	S	34		b. Berwick
Alice MILLER	Nurse	S	43	Nurse	b. Ladykirk
Margaret DAVIDSON	Serv	S	28	General Servant	b. Tweedmouth

**National Probate Calendar****1892**

SMAIL Janet of 53 Ravensdowne Berwick-upon-Tweed spinster died 7 May 1892 at 56 Blackett Place Edinburgh Probate Newcastle-upon-Tyne 6 September to Henry Richardson Smail newspaper proprietor Effects £704 18s 1d in the United Kingdom resworn February 1895 £1459 18s 5d.

**National Probate Calendar****1894**

RICHARDSON Margaret of 53 Ravensdowne Berwick-upon-Tweed spinster died 13 April 1894 Probate Newcastle-upon-Tyne 13 June to Henry Richardson Smail newspaper proprietor and Catherine Robson Smail spinster Effects £652 12s 8d in the United Kingdom resworn February 1895 £1247 1s 6d

**1901 census - 53 Ravensdowne**

In occupation ( <i>occupier absent on night of census, but property liable for rates</i> )
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**1901 census - 4 Ravensdowne**

Henry R. SMAIL	H	W	55	Newspaper Proprietor	b. Berwick
Henry R. SMAIL	S	S	11		b. Berwick
Frank W. SMAIL	S	S	8		b. Berwick
Ingram A. M. SMAIL	S	S	6		b. Berwick
Catherine R. SMAIL	Sister	S	59		b. Berwick
Eliza F. SMAIL	Sister	S	43		b. Berwick
Abigail F. CHISHOLM	Serv	S	21		b. Scotland

**1911 census - 53 Ravensdowne**

7 roomed house

Catherine Robson SMAIL	H	S	69	Private Means	b. Berwick
Margaret FAIRLEY	Serv	S	20	General Servant	b. Berwick

**1911 census - 4 Ravensdowne**

11 roomed house

Henry Richardson SMAIL	H	W	65	Publisher (newspaper)	b. Berwick
Eliza Fanny SMAIL	Sister	S	55	Spinster	b. Berwick
Henry Richardson SMAIL	S	S	21	Journalist	b. Berwick
Margaret WHITE	Serv	S	18	General Servant	b. Berwick
Jemima Mather	Serv	S	19	Housemaid	b. Berwick

**National Probate Calendar****1918**

SMAIL Catherine Robson of 53 Ravensdowne Berwick-upon-Tweed spinster died 26 March 1918 Administration (with Will) London 4 September to Margaret Richardson Hamilton widow. Effects £2458 10s 9d.

**National Probate Calendar****1918**

SMAIL Eliza Fanny of 4 Ravensdowne Berwick-upon-Tweed spinster died 28 March 1918 Administration (with Will limited) Newcastle-upon-Tyne 11 March to Henry Smail Hamilton journalist and Thomas Cleghorn Smith solicitor the attorneys of Henry Richardson Smail. Effects £2891 4s 4d.