

57 Ravensdowne

1891 - Edward M. TOWERS

Summary:

Edward Morley Towers was born in St. Helens, Lancashire c. 1863, the second son of John Towers, Confectioner. John Towers was for many years the senior and managing partner of the Berwick Confection firm of Towers and Bishop. John Bishop married Catherine Towers, John Towers' sister, in 1860 and established the Marygate business in 1867. He died on 2 October 1871 and John Towers took over the business. He retired in 1899, and went to live with his elder son, John, in Wallasey, where he died in 1908.

In the 1881 census, Edward M. Towers is recorded as an ironmonger, but in 1891 he is a Confectioner, presumably he joined the firm of Towers and Bishop with his father. In January 1889 he married Margaret Eleanor Ord, second daughter of George Ord of Tweedmouth, and they had 3 children, John, Agnes Ord, and William Morley. Edward died in Berwick in 1896.

His widow married William Plenderleith Knowles, and, in 1911, with her 3 Towers children, they were managing the Victoria Hotel in Blenheim Street in Newcastle.

Information and Sources:

Liverpool Marriage - Ancestry

1860 - MARRIAGE

3 December 1860, John Bishop, aged 23 years, bachelor, Grocer, residing at 63 Hopwood Street, Liverpool. Son of John Bishop, Grocer. AND

Catherine Towers, aged 27 years, spinster, residing at 63 Hopwood Street, Liverpool. Daughter of John Towers, Book Keeper.

Witnesses: Thos. A. Towers, Catherine Towers

1861 census - 63 Hopwood Street, Liverpool

John TOWERS	H	W	51	Bookkeeper	b. Afford, Cheshire
John BISHOP	Son-in-law	M	23	Grocer	b. Scotland
Catherine BISHOP	D	M	28	Grocer's Wife	b. Liverpool
Elizabeth JOHNSON	Serv	S	17	Domestic Servant	b. Northwich
Elizabeth BRYAN	Sis-in-law	M	43	Sea Captain's Wife	b. Liverpool

Catherine Bishop is sister to John Towers (Edward's father)

National Probate Calendar - Ancestry

1872

John BISHOP, 27 January 1972. Administration of the effects of John Bishop late of Berwick-upon-Tweed in the county of the Borough and Town of Berwick-upon-Tweed Confectioner who died 2 October 1871 at Berwick-upon-Tweed was granted at Newcastle-upon-Tyne to Catherine Bishop of Berwick-upon-Tweed Widow the Relict.

Effects under £450

1881 census - 10 Bank Hill, Berwick

John TOWERS	H	M	43	Confectioner	b. Liverpool
Ann TOWERS	W	M	50		b. Liverpool
John TOWERS	S	S	20	Grocer	b. St. Helens
Edward M. TOWERS	S	S	18	Ironmonger	b. St Helens
Margaret TOWERS	D	S	16	No occupation	b. St. Helens
Margaret MORLEY	Sis-in-law	S	55	Assistant Housekeeper	b. Liverpool

1881 census - 81 Marygate, Berwick

Catherine BISHOP	H	W	47	Confectioner of Firm "Bishop & Towers" employing 3 mne & 2 boys	b. Liverpool
John BISHOP	S	S	19	Confectioner apprentice	b. Liverpool
Thomas BISHOP	S	S	18	Grocer apprentice	b. Liverpool
William BISHOP	S	S	15	Corn Merchants Clerk	b. Scotland
Frederick BISHOP	S	S	13	Scholar	b. Dcotland
Isabella CRAIK	Serv	S	21	General Servant	b. Tweedmouth

Berwickshire News and General Advertiser**Tuesday 5 February 1889 - page 3**

MARRIAGE - at Chapel-street Church, Berwick, on the 24th ult., by the Rev F. C. Inglis, Edward Morley Towers, to Margaret Eleanor, second daughter of George Ord, Tweedmouth.

1891 census - 10 Bank Hill, Berwick

John TOWERS	H	M	53	Confectioner (master)	b. Liverpool
Ann TOWERS	W	M	60		b. Liverpool
Margaret MORLEY	Sis-in-Law	S	66		b. Liverpool

1891 census - 57 Ravensdowne

4 roomed house

Edward M. TOWERS	H	M	28	Confectioner	b. St. Helen's, Lancs.
Margaret E. TOWERS	W	M	29		b. Newcastle
John TOWERS	S	S	1		b. Tweedmouth

Kellys Directory**1894**

John Towers, 10 Bank Hill.

Towers & Bishop, wholesale and retail confectioners, 81 High Street.

Free BMD - Ancestry**1896 DEATH**

Edward Morley Towers, aged 34 years, died September quarter 1896 in Berwick Registration district.

1901 census - Temple Cottage, Grove Road, Wallasey

John TOWERS	H	W	63	Retired Confectioner. Breadmkr	b. Liverpool
John TOWERS Jnr.	S	S	40	Confectioner. Baker	b. St. Helens
Margaret TOWERS	D	S	36		b. St. Helens
John TOWERS	GrSon	S	11		b. Tweedmouth
Elizabeth Cockburn	Serv	S	23	Cook	b. Tweedmouth

John Towers, aged 11, is the son of Edward Morley and Margaret Eleanor Towers

1901 census - 4 Church Road, Tweedmouth

2 rooms occupied

George ORD	H	W	63	Foreman Manure Factory	b. Berwick
Margaret E. TOWERS	D	W	40		b. Newcastle
Agnes O. TOWERS	Gr.Dau	S	7		b. Berwick
Edward M. TOWERS	Gr.son	S	4		b. Berwick

Margaret E. Towers is Edward M. Towers widow and Agnes and Edward M. their children - John the 3rd child is living with his other grandparents, the Towers.

Berwickshire News and General Advertiser**Tuesday 14 July 1908 - page 3**

Death of Mr John Towers

We regret to announce the death on Friday, at Wallasey, Cheshire, of Mr John Towers for many years the senior and managing partner of the firm of Messrs Towers and Bishop, manufacturing confectioners, Berwick.

A native of St Helens, Lancashire, Mr Towers was destined to a professional career in the laboratory of one of the large chemical factories which abound in his native town; but his health gave way and a train of

circumstances led to his settlement in this town. Genial and jovial in disposition, Mr Towers made many friends and no enemies. A man of ability, well read, of sound judgment, and much experience, he had no taste for public life and while he always supported what was calculated to advance the interest of the town, he would never allow himself to be nominated for membership on any public board. He was associated with Chapel Street Church, and for a very long time was Superintendent of the Sunday School. This was to him a real labour of love, and afforded him great pleasure. At home Mr Towers was always the happiest of hosts and the kindest of friends. He retired from active business some years ago. His wife and second son pre-deceased him, and he is survived by a son and daughter.

1911 census - Queen Victoria Hotel, Blenheim Street, Newcastle

4 rooms

William Plenderleith KNOWLES	H	M	44	Hotel Manager	b. Tweedmouth
Margaret Eleanor KNOWLES	W	M	48	Married 9 years 2 children both still living	b. Newcastle
John TOWERS	Stepson	S	21	Engineer Fitter. Motor car manufacturer	b. Tweedmouth
Agnes Ord TOWERS	Stepdau	S	17	Housework	b. Berwick
Edward Morley TOWERS	Stepson	S	14	Engineer app. Steam engine maker	b. Berwick

Margaret E. Towers has re-married and now has all 3 children with her and her husband.

Berwickshire News and General Advertiser

Tuesday 30 January 1923 - page 4

We regret to record the death of Mr John Towers, at Waverley, Wallasey, on Jan. 16. Mr Towers, who was 62 years of age, was the son of the late Mr John Towers, of Messrs Bishop and Towers, Berwick. After serving his apprenticeship with Messrs Ralph Dodds and Sons, grocers, Berwick, he went to Liverpool, where he went into partnership with a Mr Smith, and the firm of Messrs Smith and Towers is noted for manufacture of Anvil caramels.

Berwickshire News and General Advertiser

Tuesday 28 September 1937 - page 8

Well-known Berwick man passes

Head of Firm of Messrs Towers and Bishop (Photograph)

Mr Thomas Bishop, well-known business-man of Marygate, Berwick, died at his home in Bankhill early on Wednesday morning, at the age of 74. His illness lasted only a short time, and it was only a few days ago that he paid his last visit to his business premises.

Mr Bishop was a native of Berwick, and received his education at Berwick Grammar School. He served his apprenticeship with John Gunn, grocer, of High Street, Berwick, and later joined the firm of Ellis Davis Tea Company, of Liverpool.

Afterwards he started his own grocery business in Liverpool, and continued until 1899, when he returned to Berwick to become partner in the firm of Towers and Bishop with his brother, the late Mr John Bishop.

Since then Mr Bishop took an active part in the business, which was controlled jointly by his brother and him. Mr John Bishop died in February 1935, and since then Mr Bishop has had the assistance of his son, Mr Thomas Bishop, who has been with the firm for three years.

Mr Bishop was one of four sons of the late Mr John Bishop, confectioner, who established the Marygate business in Berwick in 1867. His father came from Dalkeith. On his father's death, in the seventies, the management of the business was taken over by an uncle, the late Mr John Towers, who retired from business in 1899.

1901 - Edward MOLLOY

Summary:

For details of his army service see PDF of information from *Borderers Research*.

In 1880 Edward Molloy was serving as a Sergeant with the Royal Jersey Militia where he probably met Clemence Francoise Saunders who was an 18 year old dressmaker living with her uncle in St Saviour, Jersey in 1881. He was finally discharged from the Militia in January 1885, after 25 years service, and returned to Berwick where he and Clemence were married. He then worked, for about 14 years, as the Canteen Steward at the Barracks, surviving a serious assault in 1888 at the Canteen, and arranging popular entertainment at the Barracks for both soldiers and civilians. Early in the 20th century he and Clemence moved back to Jersey where they lived until his death on 5 January 1928.

Information and Sources:

1881 census - Main Road, St Lawrence, Jersey

Clemence Saunders	Niece	S	18	Dressmaker	b. St Saviour
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Clemence is living with her uncle Zacharie Poignand, born in France, Ag. Lab. as she was in the 1871 census when aged 8 years.

Free BMS - Ancestry

1885 - MARRIAGE

Edward Molloy and Clemence Saunders, June quarter 1885 in Berwick Registration district.

Shields Daily Gazette

Wednesday 8 February 1888 - page 3

THE MURDEROUS ASSAULT AT BERWICK

At the Berwick Police Court yesterday, John Narry, private in the King's Own Borderers, was charged on a warrant with an assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm to Edward Molloy, canteen steward at the Barracks.

Private James of the K.O.B. said that on Saturday night, about twenty-five minutes to ten o'clock, he found the canteen door shut; but, on looking through the window, saw Narry go from the bar into a little office where Molloy was clerking. He came out again, but went back, and in about two minutes returned with a black garment over his arm. He put out the gas and left the canteen. When brought before the court-martial on Monday Narry had, in the hearing of witness, admitted his guilt. - Surgeon Hopetoun Collier said he was called to the military hospital at 12.30 a.m. on the 5th inst. witness found Molloy had a large contused lacerated wound on the right temple, two wounds on the temple, one of which extended to the bridge of the nose, a large wound on the left side of the head about two inches above the left temple, and a wound on the back of the scalp. Molloy was now doing very well. The wounds seemed to have been inflicted by a blunt weapon, such as a mallet. The one on the back of the head might be caused by a fall. - Narry, who said he was guilty of the crime, was remanded for a week.

Southern Reporter

Thursday 22 March 1888 - page 3

THE ATTEMPTED MURDER AT BERWICK

At the Newcastle Assizes on Thursday, before Mr Justice Charles, John Narry, private in the King's Own Borderers, stationed at Berwick, was charged with wounding with intent to murder Edward Molloy, keeper of the canteen at Berwick Barracks. The prisoner was employed as assistant in the canteen, and on the night of Saturday, February 5, he and the prosecutor were left together in the bar after closing time. Molloy was in the act of putting into his pocket the day's takings, when the prisoner came up and struck him behind the left ear. He turned round, and the prisoner then struck him with a mallet on the head, knocking him down, rendering him unconscious, and inflicting severe wounds on his head. No motive was assigned for the crime. When charge before the colonel of the regiment, the prisoner said he had no occasion to deny it. he did it. he was driven to it. the jury found the prisoner guilty of unlawfully wounding, and he was sentenced to seven years penal servitude. Narry was a mill-worker belonging to Hawick.

1891 census - Military Barracks and Hospital, Parade and Ravensdowne, Berwick

3 roomed house

Edward MOLLOY	H	M	48	Canteen Steward	b. Ireland
Clemence MOLLOY	W	M	28		b. Jersey, Channel Is.

1901 census - 57 Ravensdowne

4 rooms occupied

Edward MOLLOY	H	M	59	Canteen Manager	b. Ireland
Clemence MOLLOY	W	M	38		b. Jersey, Channel Is.

Berwickshire News and General Advertiser

Tuesday 18 March 1902 - page 7

Garrison Gossip

Prior to departure on Friday night from Berwick for South Africa of the Borderers Volunteers, the draft was entertained in the Artillery Hall, where Mr Edward Molloy, Canteen Steward at the Barracks, arranged a first-class bill-of-fare. Before the men marched off for the station, Col. Ravenhill and Capt. Stevenson spoke.

Berwickshire News and General Advertiser

Tuesday 27 October 1903 - page 4

Garrison Gossip

The quadrille parties so very well attended last year in the Gymnasium at Berwick Barracks commenced on Friday, when there were a good number of couples present. It will be remembered that these were conducted last year under the able management of Mr Edward Molloy, and gave great delight to the non-commissioned officers and men of the Depot, as also to their civilian friends whom they were allowed to invite. These pleasant reunions will continue this year, and will take place twice monthly.

Berwickshire News and General Advertiser

Tuesday 22 December 1903 - page 5

Garrison Gossip

The fortnightly dances of the Sergeants at Berwick Depot, on Monday nights, continue to be a very great success, there being about 40 couples on the floor each time..... Under the able organisation of Mr Molloy they are becoming more popular every month, and the standard of the programme is not only maintained, but advanced as time goes on..... Nor must one important matter be omitted - that is the fine sentiment prevalent over these concerts between military and civilians of the good old Town of Berwick-upon-Tweed. This is just as it ought to be. But, there is a man at the wheel; and the right man at the wheel - otherwise we couldn't have such a happy state of things. And the skipper is none other than the veteran Edward Molloy, or, as the boys call him, "Ned." Mr Molloy has given ungrudging service to local institutions over a long series of years now; and it shows the esteem in which he is held generally in the town that he can call upon civilians to do their turn in such a praiseworthy work at the Barracks, and never need to ask without a ready response. And he fully deserves all the assistance he gets from the citizens.

1911 census - 5 Simon Cottages, Tunwell Street, Jersey CI

3 roomed house

Edward MOLLOY	H	M	69	Army Pensioner	b. Roscommon, Creggs
Clemence MOLLOY	W	M	48	Married 25 years no children	b. St Saviour, Jersey

National Probate Calendar

1928

MOLLOY Edward of Woodbrook Trinity-road Saint Saviour Jersey died 5 January 1928 Probate London 20 March to Clemence Francoise Molloy widow.
Effects £282 13s 7d.

Berwickshire News and General Advertiser

Tuesday 17 January 1928 - page 8

Mr Edward Molloy, Soldier, Sportsman, Entertainer.

By A.S. Berwick

Many Berwick people will remember well Mrs Molloy, who was so attached and devoted to her gallant husband, and will extend to this good lady deep sympathy and kindly thoughts in the sore loss of her gallant husband.

During the last 40 years, there have been very few Berwickers who did not know, who have not seen, or who have not heard of Mr Edward Molloy, of King's Own Scottish Borderers, Canteen Steward for many years at Berwick Barracks, who, after spending a lengthy retirement in Channel Islands, has passed out at a great age. He was probably very well on in the 80's

Two noted Borderers, after considerable residence in Berwick, during the last 2 decades, spent the evening of Life in Channel Islands. One was the late General Godfray, C.B., who was at Berwick as C.O. 25th R.D., and a distinguished and gallant Borderer he was, and an able speaker too, as he demonstrated when he appeared at the Annual Prize Presentation Ceremony of Berwick Rifles. The other Channel Islander was Mr Molloy, who in the sunny clime kept in touch with Berwick and Borderland by means of "Berwick Journal," which he often told us he always read with great interest, for he was steeped in Berwick Life, in all its phases; and dearly welcomed and loved the old Home Paper.

From time to time, Mr Molloy had the pleasure of meeting Berwickers visiting Channel Islands. it was a pleasure to hear from them that "Ned" Molloy was well and in great good spirits, and that he held fragrant memories of Berwick and Berwick's People. During his long stay in Berwick he was, to my own knowledge, closely associated with the Rifles, for he often came out to witness the parades and the work being done; and he was always a willing and valued entertainer at the Rifles' Concerts, and also at the Concerts of Berwick Harriers, in the days when the latter functions were among the best in Berwick.

"Ned" Molloy besides being a real live Man of the World, had, in outstanding fashion, the triple title of "Soldier, Sportsman, Entertainer." I knew him, intimately and well, in his every capacity, and found him, invariably, just "one of the Best." I had almost daily contact with him during his residence in Berwick, and he was, always, the excellent, useful, helpful citizen. I played cricket with him and against him, and did something to help him to weld together his cricket and football teams - "Molloy's Boys from the Barracks." In his later years in Berwick he was a Cricket Umpire second to none. I was often associated with him in Concerts and in Entertainments which he either promoted or loyally helped to make the big successes they were.

"Ned" Molloy was just the fine type of man the British Soldier is, and he did much to fashion and to mould, and to put on the right road, many a youngster who left Berwick Barracks to join the Battalion at Home Station, and also in Foreign Parts. "Ned" Molloy was deservedly popular with all ranks, typical as he was of the British "Non-Com" who knows his job, can do his job, and has the job done, as it should be done.

Many of us have seen the fine painting by Mr Frank Wood, Native of Berwick, of the interior of the Guard Room at Berwick Barracks, featuring "Ned" Molloy telling one of his many good stories to the men of the Guard. It is a life-like picture, and is, I believe, now in the possession of an old and esteemed friend of mine - Mr Robt Riddell, Surgeon Dentist, Quay Walls, Berwick.

Many of us remember the very unfortunate experience Mr Molloy had one night in Berwick Barracks, when he was alone in the Canteen, closing up accounts after the day's work. He was the victim of an unexpectedly brutal attack, by a man, who was afterwards suitably dealt with by the Recorder at Berwick Quarter Session. Mr Molloy's fine constitution enabled him, happily, to make complete recovery from his injuries, chiefly to the head, for the inflecting of which grievous wounds no one was more sorry afterwards, I believe, than the ill-guided man who caused them. "Ned" Molloy, the big-hearted man he was, forgot all about it soon after; and it would not surprise me if later on in life did his assailant a good turn.

There are very few of Mr Molloy's contemporaries in Berwick Barracks now alive. He was a typical Borderer, steeped in the traditions of K.O.S.B.*rest of column about men who were in the Barracks with Molloy....*

There is a famous Frank Wood painting of 'The Guard Room' which shows Molloy telling tales to young soldiers- sadly I cannot trace where it now is but it is available on the Internet. Ian Martin tells me he has photos of Molloy.[KOSB]

1911 - John SLACK

Summary:

John Slack was born in Edinburgh in 1855, the oldest son of Benjamin Richard Lilly Slack (a Berwick Freeman admitted 12 September 1853), a tailor, and was himself a tailor and a Berwick Freeman admitted 11 July 1876. In 1879 He married Efflina Richardson, a daughter of Alexander Richardson of Spittal, also a tailor. In 1881 they were living in Church Street, Berwick, in 1891 in Woolmarket and in 1901 they occupied 3 rooms at 27 Ravensdowne. 1911 finds them at 57 Ravensdowne where, in 1921, John died. Efflina stayed on at that address until her death in 1925. It seems this house stayed in the Slack family as Elizabeth Jane Slack, his second daughter, died there in December 1945.

Information and Sources:

1871 census - Castlegate, Berwick

Richard SLACK	H	M	39	Tailor & Provision Dealer	b. Berwick
Elizabeth SLACK	W	M	36		b. Berwick
John SLACK	S	S	15	Tailor apprentice	b. Scotland
James SLACK	S	S	4	Scholar	b. Berwick
William SLACK	S	S	2		b. Berwick

1871 census - Castlegate, Berwick

Alexander RICHARDSON	H	M	49	Tailor	b. Spittal
Efflina RICHARDSON	W	M	49		b. Spittal
Samuel RICHARDSON	S	S	21	Tailor	b. Spittal
John RICHARDSON	S	S	18		b. Spittal
Mary RICHARDSON	D	S	13		b. Spittal
Efflina RICHARDSON	D	S	11		b. Spittal
Phillis RICHARDSON	D	S	8		b. Spittal
Alexander RICHARDSON	S	S	6		b. Spittal

Roll of Berwick Freemen

1876

Admitted 11 July 1876, John Slack, eldest son of Benjamin Richard Lilly Slack (admitted 12 September 1853). Tailor, Castlegate, Berwick

Free BMD - Ancestry

1879 MARRIAGE

John Slack and Efflina Richardson, in June quarter 1879 in Berwick Registration district.

1881 census - 46 Church Street, Berwick

John SLACK	H	M	25	Tailor	b. Scotland
Efflina SLACK	W	M	21		b. Spittal
Joanna E. SLACK	D	S	1		b. Spittal
Elizabeth I SLACK	D	S	Under 2mths		b. Berwick

1891 census - 34 Woolmarket, Berwick

2 rooms occupied

John SLACK	H	M	35	Tailor	b. Scotland
Efflina SLACK	W	M	32		b. Spittal
Joanna SLACK	D	S	11	Scholar	b. Spittal
Elizabeth SLACK	D	S	10	Scholar	b. Spittal
Richard SLACK	S	S	8	Scholar	b. Spittal
John SLACK	S	S	6	Scholar	b. Spittal
Sarah SLACK	D	S	4		b. Spittal
James SLACK	S	S	2		b. Berwick
Phillis SLACK	D	S	5mths		b. Berwick

1901 census - 27 Ravensdowne, Berwick

3 rooms occupied

John SLACK	H	M	45	Tailor	b. Edinburgh
Efflina SLACK	W	M	41		b. Spittal
John A. SLACK	S	S	16		b. Berwick
Sarah SLACK	D	S	14		b. Berwick
James F. SLACK	S	S	12		b. Berwick
Phillis R. SLACK	D	S	10		b. Berwick
Margaret H. SLACK	D	S	8		b. Berwick
Janet F. SLACK	D	S	10mths		b. Berwick

Berwickshire News and General Advertiser

Tuesday 10 October 1905 page 5

Berwick's New Freeman

Richard Slack, 19 High Greens, Berwick, civil service clerk, eldest son of John Slack, tailor 19 High Greens, Berwick.

Berwick Advertiser

Friday 6 March 1908 - page 5

MARRIAGE at Berwick Parish Church, on February 21st by the Rev O. W. Owen, Francis Thomas Crow, painter, Tweedmouth, to Joanna Efflina Slack, eldest daughter of John Slack, Ravensdowne, Berwick.

1911 census - 57 Ravensdowne

4 roomed house

John SLACK	H	M	55	Tailor	b. Edinburgh
Efflina SLACK	W	M	52	Married 31 years 10 children all still living	b. Spittal
Margaret Helen SLACK	D	S	18	School	b. Berwick
Janet Fallow SLACK	D	S	10	School	b. Berwick
Annie SLACK	D	S	8	School	b. Berwick

Berwickshire News and General Advertiser

Tuesday 21 October 1913 page 8

We are pleased to hear that Mr J. F. Slack, a Berwick engineer, has been successful in passing his Board of Trade examination for 2nd engineer. He is a son of Mr John Slack, Ravensdowne, and served his apprenticeship with Mr T. A. Landels, Palace Street Works, Berwick. Both Mr J. F. Slack and his father were prominent members of Berwick Rifles. They are Freeman of Berwick. Mr Slack was a winner of the Mayor's prize for oral examination while at the corporation Academy.

Berwick Advertiser

Friday 22 January 1915 - page 3

MARRIAGE at St Bartholomew's Church, Tweedmouth, on 2nd January, by the Rev R. W. de la Hey, James, youngest son of J. Slack, Ravensdowne, Berwick, to Thomasina, youngest daughter of W. Webster, Dock View, Tweedmouth.

Berwick Advertiser

Friday 28 January 1921 - page 6

DEATH - Slack at 57 Ravensdowne, Berwick, (suddenly), on Jan. 24th, John Slack, the dearly beloved husband of Efflina Slack, aged 65.

Berwick Advertiser

Friday 14 January 1925 - page 7

DEATH Slack at 57 Ravensdowne, Berwick, on January 13th, Efflina, widow of John Slack, tailor. Cortege leaves residence at 2 p.m. on Friday, January 16th. Friends please accept this intimation and invitation.

Berwickshire News and General Advertiser

Tuesday 1 February 1921 - page 5

VETERAN BORDER VOLUNTEER

A veteran Volunteer has been removed by the death, which took place suddenly on Monday night of Mr John Slack, Ravensdowne. Mr Slack took suddenly ill when preparing to retire to rest and expired almost at once. "Just One of the Best" is how John Slack may well be described. He has passed out not a very old man, as things go, but still his 65 years made up a busy, useful life. Born in 1855, he came of a good old Berwick stock; and his people have been Freemen of the ancient Town for generations. John Slack himself was "made free" July 11, 1876 - almost 45 years ago. So that he had been a Freeman for as long as many men have lived.

A Tailor to trade, he was one of the most expert in his Craft on the Borderland: most of his long and busy life was spent under the late Robt. Craik, at Hide Hill Corner, and with Paxton and Purves, near Scotsgate; and "Jack" Slack, as all his fellow-craftsmen best knew him, was always reckoned a 1st-class workman, putting his best every time and all the time into his work. He carried the same high purpose into whatever he took in hand.

For a long number of years John Slack was one of our leading Local Volunteers, and never a better man than he stood in the ranks of Berwick Rifles. The Veteran loved his old Corps, and had seen stirring times with "The Rifles," and been active participator in these stirring times. He served under 3 Commanding Officers - Col. Weddell, V.D., Capt. Douglas, and Major Steven, T.D. There was no more regular attender at Drill than our old friend, and he had excellent Camp record. A fine shot, Pte. Slack won many of the chief prizes at "The Rifles" Annual Meeting; he was one of the Team, and as such did well at Northumberland Rifle Meeting at Morpeth; and as a member of old Berwick Rifle Club he could hold his own in the Club's Competitions and Matches. Many a Camp he was in with his old Corps, and every recruit and new hand always found a good friend in Pte. Slack. Contemporaries of his in "The Rifles" were among others,*listed*.....

John Slack, who was one of the 1st Volunteers in Berwick to qualify in Ambulance work and win his certificate, was the proud possessor of the Volunteer Long Service Medal. During the War when the need for men was great he joined the volunteer Force and was a faithful attender on parade. One of his 1st Camps, if not his 1st, was at Newbiggin-by-the-Sea in 1892, when Major Steven was in command. Then, with that Officer, John Slack was at such places as Aldershot (for King Edward's Coronation), Salisbury Plain, Castleton in the Peak of Derbyshire, and many other training centres.

There was no man happier in his Home life than John Slack, and he and his wife had the great satisfaction of seeing their children do well, exceedingly well, at Berwick Corporation Academy; and afterwards take good places in Life, and bring the reward of "Well Done" to their parents.

Especially fond was our old friend of his Native Town and her beautiful walks - the Walls, especially, which he loved to take in the mornings on his way to work. And, in the Sunday evenings of Summer the Fields and the New-road were his delight, always accompanied by his wife and members of his family, enjoying fully what the late Ald. Jos. Weatherston best described as "A Bit of a Dander."

At some of the municipal elections he was a keen worker and canvasser.

John Slack was fine type of Citizen, a loyal Comrade, a typical Volunteer, and exemplary Husband and Father - "Just One of the Best."

National Probate Calendar

1921

SLACK John of 57 Ravensdowne Berwick-upon-Tweed tailor died 24 January 1921 Administration Newcastle-upon-Tyne 28 February to Efflina Slack widow.

Effects £456 3s 5d.

National Probate Calendar

1925

SLACK Efflina of 57 Ravensdowne Berwick-upon-Tweed widow died 13 January 1925 Administration Newcastle-upon-Tyne 4 February to John Alexander Slack house painter.

Effects £431 0s 1d.

Berwick Advertiser

Friday 19 September 1940 - page 5

GIFTS TO BERWICK INFIRMARY in August 1940

...include from: John Slack, 57 Ravensdowne, Cabbages and Turnips.....

Berwick Advertiser

Friday 21 January 1943 - page 3

OBITUARY

Mr J. A. Slack

The death took place on Monday in Glasgow of Mr John Alexander Slack, second son of the late Mr and Mrs J. Slack, 57, Ravensdowne, Berwick. A native of Berwick, Mr J. A. Slack was a freeman of the town, being admitted to the roll in 1905. He was educated at Berwick Corporation Academy, and later served his apprenticeship as painter with the late Mr H. Crow, painter and decorator, Berwick. Some 14 years ago he went to Glasgow. He served during the 1914-18 war with the Scottish Rifles. He is survived by his widow, who before her marriage was Miss Wright, Infirmary Square, Berwick.

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DEATH - SLACK at 57 Ravensdowne, Berwick, on December 21, 1945, Elizabeth Jane, second daughter of the late John and Efflina Slack.