



Friends of Berwick & District Museum and Archives Newsletter



NUMBER 30 – MARCH 2001

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

ARCHIVE ACTIVITIES

Friday 23rd March 2001

AGM. It will start at 7.00 pm in the Lady Waterford Hall, at Ford and be followed by a lecture. "Landscape Improvement at Ford in the 18th Century – The Practical People of Ford" by Dr. Stafford Linsley

Tuesday 30th October 2001

At 7.00 pm in the Guildhall – Mr. August, Director of the Duchess of Northumberland's Garden Project, will talk about his work on the gardens at Alnwick Castle.

MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS

- 25th November 2000 - May 2001 Exhibition "The Ancient Borders" The Archaeology of the Borders region in co-operation with the Borders Archaeological Society (BAS)
- 1st July – 31st October 2001 Summer Exhibition "Eating through the Centuries"

OTHER SOCIETIES' LECTURES

Details of time/venues of these lectures may be obtained from either the Record Office or Museum.

BELFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

- Wednesday 28th March 2001 The Reformation in North Northumberland : P Rowett
Wednesday 25th April 2001 Records of WWII Air Crashes in the Cheviots : P Clark
Wednesday 23rd May 2001 Wine in the Ancient World : J Paterson

BERWICK HISTORY SOCIETY

- Wednesday 21st March 2001 The Haggerston Family & Estate : Jocelyn Lamb
Wednesday 18th April 2001 AGM followed by a lecture:- The Landed Gentry of Northumberland : by Bill Purdue

COLDSTREAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

- Thursday 5th April 2001 Kelso Hunter Bridge : Robert J Young
Thursday 3rd May 2001 Security & Defence in 16thC Scotland : Dr. Peter Symms

NORHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

- Monday 12th March 2001 The Peninsula Wars : Elspeth Ewan
Monday 9th April 2001 Berwick Bridges : Jean Sanderson
Monday 14th May 2001 Josephine Butler : Janet Heywood
Monday 11th June 2001 Visit to Kirknewton Church
Monday 10th September 2001 Visit to Soutra Aisle : Bryan Moffat
Monday 8th October 2001 Winfield Airfield : Ian Brown

BORDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Monday 5 th March 2001	A potted history of Berwick-upon-Tweed : Francis Cowe
Monday 2 nd April 2001	The Northumberland National Park : Paul Frodsham
Monday 7 th May 2001	An update on archaeology in the Cheviot area : Clive Waddington
Monday 11 th June 2001	The fortifications of the Borders : John Dent
Monday 2 nd July 2001	Industrial archaeology in North Northumberland : Dr. Stafford Linsley
Monday 3 rd September 2001	Roman Women in the North of England : Lyndsay Allason-Jones
Monday 1 st October 2001	Berwick Archaeology : Roger Miket

NORTH SUNDERLAND LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Wednesday 28 th March 2001	The Alnwick to Cornhill Branch Railway : M. J. Oliver
Wednesday 25 th April 2001	The Appleby family of Embleton – The Early days of Whinstone Quarrying : Denis Malthouse

EMBLETON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Wednesday 21 st March 2001	Anglo-Saxons in Northumberland : C Baker- Cresswell
Wednesday 18 th April 2001	The Life of Mandell Creighton 1875-1884 : Mr and Mrs Denis Malthouse
Wednesday 16 th May 2001	Women in the Roman North : Miss Lyndsay Allason-Jones

NORTHUMBERLAND & DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND GROUP

Saturday 17 th March 2001	Custom House Records : Neil Richardson
Saturday 19 th May 2001	Bondagers : Mrs J Glass
Saturday 16 th June 2001	AGM plus Newcastle Quarter Sessions : Mrs. M Furness
Saturday 15 th September 2001	Old Photographs : Neil Richardson
Saturday 20 th October 2001	Coach trip to Newcastle City Library
Saturday 17 th November 2001	Freemen of Alnwick : C Petit

AGM

You should find enclosed with your newsletter the papers for this year's AGM which will be held on Friday 23rd March, starting at 7 pm in the Lady Waterford Hall in Ford. After the business meeting, Dr. Stafford Linsley will give a talk on "Landscape Improvement at Ford in the 18th Century – The Practical People of Ford". Many of you may remember that Stafford has spoken to us before on other aspects of the Ford Estate. It should be a very interesting talk, so please come along. If anyone needs a lift either there or back, please contact Barbara Herdman (01289) 307524.

Linda Bankier

BONDINGTON PROJECT

At present Berwick History Society and the Borders Archaeological Society are working on a bid to the Local Heritage Initiative Fund for a project on the medieval parish of Bondington. The project aims to initially compile and consult all primary and secondary source material available about this ancient area of Berwick, north west of the present town. Once this is completed, we would then like to identify areas for possible field work and further investigation and eventually publish a report on the project. In the past, most people have concentrated on Berwick's history within its walls and the time span it has covered. However, the town also has an earlier, rich history which is very important. I am involved in the Steering Group which is leading the project and we are looking for people who would be interested in doing research as part of the project or would like to help in any way. If you would like to know more about the project, please contact myself, David Brenchley (Chairman of the History Society) or Dr. Malcolm Aylett (Chairman of BAS) who are also members of the Friends.

Any help that the Friends could give with this project would be much appreciated.

Linda Bankier

NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES

CHOLERA AND THE BEDFORDSHIRE MILITIA

I recently received an enquiry from a gentleman in Birmingham who was researching his family history. He knew that his great great grandfather, Charles Hack had come to Berwick with his wife, Caroline as part of the Bedfordshire Militia in August 1854 and left by November of the same year. He was also aware that Charles' wife, Caroline had possibly given birth to a child whilst she

was here and had died of cholera and that Charles, himself, had then joined the Grenadier Guards and had fought in the Crimea War. I was asked to find out what I could from newspapers about his militia/regiment and the cholera epidemic of that time. The following are the newspaper accounts about these incidents and also a copy of the poster against Cholera Precautions which was mentioned :

BERWICK ADVERTISER, 19 AUGUST 1854

ARRIVAL OF THE BEDFORDSHIRE MILITIA - Yesterday (Thursday) the Quarter-Master Serjeant of the Bedfordshire Light Infantry Militia Regiment, and twenty six men, arrived in this town to prepare the barracks for the occupation of the regiment. The Quarter-Master left Bedford on Wednesday morning, and staying for the night in Newcastle came forward with his men on Thursday. This morning (Friday) the first division are expected to leave Bedford and to arrive here in the evening. Tomorrow the headquarters will come through; so that in the evening the whole regiment will be in the garrison. The Officers of the regiment are Colonel Gilpin, (M.P. for the county of Bedford and formerly of the Hussars), Lieut. Colonel Higgins, Major Russell (cousin of the Duke of Bedford, and formerly of the Grenadier Guards), Captain , Adjutant and Paymaster J. Smith (formerly of 56th Regiment), Captain Wilkinson, Captian Pymm, Captain Judd, Captain Cooper, Captain Stuart, Captain Linsdell, Lieut. Ledger, Lieut. Meaux Smith, Lieut – Smith, Lieut Brown, Lieut Grimshaw, Lieut Thornton and Surgeon Mc Cormack (formerly of the Honourable East India Company's Service). The strength of the regiment is one Colonel, one Lieut- Colonel, one Major (two staff), six Captains, 6 Lieutenants, two Surgeons, one Sergeant-Major, one Quarter-Master Serjeant, one Paymasters's Clerk, twenty seven serjeants, twenty seven corporals, 555 privates and eleven drummers. The Regiment has a Band Serjeant and thirteen instrumentalists. The men are all of the agricultural class and are said to be a fine well behaved body. We regret to learn that when the Third West York Militia arrived at Dublin from Berwick, the mob hissed them and gave other signs of hostility, in consequence of which the men have been confined to barracks ever since their arrival. This manifestation of feeling is due , we suppose, solely to their character as an *English* Militia Regiment, for whatever reports preceded them as to their conduct here would have been of the most favourable character.

BERWICK ADVERTISER, 2 SEPTEMBER 1854

THE BEDFORDSHIRE MILITIA

The *Morning Herald* and *Times* have intimated that the militia regiment, which is now stationed in the barracks here, is to be sent for garrison duty to Limerick. No intimation to that effect has as yet been received in this town: but we understand that yesterday Colonel Gilpin received an official intimation that the regiment will be inspected by a General Officer at the end of this month, from which the inference is reasonable that it is not intended to remove the regiment.

BERWICK ADVERTISER, 9 SEPTEMBER 1854

LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH , PRECAUTIONS AGAINST CHOLERA

The Clerk read a communication from the General Board of Health containing its suggestions as to the steps necessary to be taken as a precaution against the origin and infection of cholera. These are the same as appear in another part of our impression. He said that last year a number of handbills containing similar instructions had been circulated and he enquired whether the same should not be repeated this year ?

MR FLEMING thought such a step would only create alarm. If the cholera came here it would soon be enough to publish the rules.

ALDERMAN SMITH thought the rules were excellent and might be posted up on all occasions. THE TOWN CLERK thought it was not too soon to put people on their guard. The meeting were aware that one death from cholera had already occurred in the town. It was of no use concealing the fact, for a stranger gentlewoman had died in the town from that disease. The meeting agreed that 500 copies of the rules should be printed and circulated. The meeting now adjourned till Wednesday, the 11th of October.

BEDFORDSHIRE MILITIA – the following Commissions have been signed by the Lord Lieutenant of the county of Bedford – George Sharpe, gent., to be Ensign, vice Ledger promoted,. James Williams McCormack, gent. To be Ensign, vice Norborne Gilpin Smith, promoted. John Robert Gravson, gent. To be Ensign, vice Henry Meaux Smith, promoted.

BERWICK ADVERTISER, 16 SEPTEMBER 1854

THE CHOLERA

Considerable excitement has prevailed in this town during the present week on the subject of the cholera, in consequence of the occurrence of several very decided cases of that disease, which have proved fatal in a very short time after it had manifested itself. The most alarming feature in the visitation is that the victims have been neither the aged nor infirm, nor the emaciated,, nor the profligate nor the filthy. The first case which occurred was that of Mr Charles Forsythe, draper, Western Lane. Though he had been suffering the premonitory symptoms from the preceding Wednesday, he had not ceased attending to his business till eleven o'clock on Saturday morning. It was then when again urged by his medical adviser that he retired to his home and laid himself up. The disease from this period made rapid progress, and having in the course of a day passed through its various stages, at six o'clock in the evening it became known for the first time that the attack was one of cholera, and that no expectation of recovery existed. He, however, lingered on till next day at one o'clock, when he died.

About this time, the second case occurred, the victim being Mr George Gibson, also of Western Lane, a superannuated Excise Officer. He, too, had been ill throughout the previous night without seeking medical advice. The first discovery of the case was by a person seeing Gibson prostrate through weakness in the Redpath's Fields, whether he had gone for a walk. He was conveyed to a house near at hand and thence to his home. On medical advice being procured the case was declared a hopeless one. He lived till four o'clock next morning. Though considerable excitement was produced by these two cases we can scarcely say that any general alarm was exhibited. Both the funerals took place on Monday afternoon, and both were numerously attended by the respective friends of the deceased. At the funeral of Mr Forsythe, in addition to a numerous procession of Free Masons, of which society deceased had long been a member, and had filled in succession all the offices in his lodge, there was a numerous company of other acquaintances, among all of whom great regret was manifested for the sudden and premature death of one who had several years back taken part in all the popular proceedings in the borough, and had throughout exhibited the possession of a social and liberal disposition.

The above cholera cases have been accompanied or followed by several others. On Saturday night a child belonging to John Macounochie, nailer, died, and on Monday a second child of the same person. The one was 5, the other 1 ½ years old. On the afternoon of the same day John Ross, Castlegate, outpensioner and labourer died, having taken ill only that forenoon. On Wednesday morning, the wife of John Maconochie also died; and on the same day, the daughter of Hugh Hamilton, shoemaker, eight years of age, who had taken ill only on the preceding night.

All the above cases with the exception of that of Ross, occurred in Western Lane, and what is not a little remarkable, all were confined within a circuit of fifty yards – in a street which is one of the most airy, and has hitherto been considered one of the most healthy and orderly streets in the town.

On Wednesday night a fatal case occurred in Weatherley Square to a female named Cavanagh, an Irish woman, but for some years resident here. A fatal case occurred in Walkergate Lane yesterday at noon; the victim was a shoemaker, who had lately come to the town. In the afternoon one of the woman Cavanagh's children died.

Besides the above there have been numerous cases of diarrhoea, but as the individuals seized had the prudence to seek advice early, no serious consequence have followed.

THE BERWICK ADVERTISER 23 SEPTEMBER 1854

THE CHOLERA

We continue unfortunately, in the midst of alarm on the subject of the cholera, and have still to record its ravages on our community.

The cases which were under treatment at the period of our last issue have, we think, progressed favourably towards convalescence. On Saturday there was one death in Western Lane, an elderly female, one death in Spittal, and several new cases throughout the town were reported. On Sunday a child died in Weatherly Square, but medical treatment was apparently successful with others still ill. On Monday, however, we had four deaths, two elderly females resident in Chapel Street of the names of Scott and Haswell; a child belonging to James Paulin, residing in Cox's Lane; and Jane, wife of Robert Cleghorn, hatter. The last was a very distressing case; deceased, was a monthly nurse, and was attending the wife of a tradesman residing in Eastern Lane during her confinement. The master of the house took cholera last week, but he has continued to recover; the deceased female waited upon him in his illness. On Monday morning she answered the enquires made respecting his health when she herself appeared perfectly well. She was taken ill at ten o'clock, and at ten at night she was a corpse.

At a meeting of the Board of Guardians on Monday, the Board appointed Mr Alexander Laidlaw, late station master at the North British Railway station here, to be Inspector of Nuisances for this parish and that of Tweedmouth, during the prevalence of cholera. On Tuesday morning a meeting at the Committee of Works was held in the Town Hall, where Mr Laidlaw received instructions. A variety of places were represented as being in a filthy condition, and steps were adopted to compel the proprietors to abate the danger attending them. It was then ascertained, by comparing notes between the Vicar and the Registrar, that the deaths by cholera in this parish since the 5th instant, when the first case (that of a gentleman from London) is supposed to have occurred, had amounted to nineteen. The vicarage, which had been given up to the use of persons removed from houses where the disease existed or from their vicinity, was stated to be nearly full, there being eleven persons in it.

On Wednesday morning, at a meeting of Guardians in the Town Hall, four new cases were reported, two in Weatherly Square, and two in Eastern Lane. One of the first had been fatal, namely that of a middle aged man at the name of Joseph Brown, who had gained his livelihood by hawking a small stock of stationery. Deceased had taken ill on Tuesday night at half past nine o'clock, and died next morning at seven. It was reported that a proprietor of a house in Weatherly Square refused to have the rooms fumigated where the disease had been. Steps were thereupon ordered to be taken in conjunction with the Board of Health to have the said house closed for six months, and thus to prevent any tenant entering the same for that period. It was agreed to rent a house in Ravensdowne pointed out by the vicar, or some other, to be occupied as a convalescent hospital. A child resident in Weatherly Square who had gone through several stages of the disease, was represented as being much neglected by its father, as well as by the nurse who had been engaged by the Guardians to attend to it. The child Cavanagh alluded to in the foregoing paragraph died there on Wednesday night. The other patients are recovering.

At the Guardians meeting yesterday morning, the doctors reported three deaths and one new case. The former consisted of the child Cavanagh, a child in Eastern Lane, and a female of the name of Gibson, who had undertaken to wash the clothes of some parties who had been ill at the Steps- of Grace. The new case was in Narrow Lane, and it was reported to be the only one then under treatment.

Tweedmouth and Spittal were reported to be entirely free from the disease

It was reported to the meeting that the men engaged in spreading the lime in the back yards of occupied premises were demanding contributions of drink or money from the proprietors, and in consequence of these demands being complied with they were frequently to be seen in a state of intoxication. The Inspector was instructed to caution the men against making such demands, and to remonstrate with the inhabitants where they were disposed to comply with them.

Throughout the week the Inspector of Nuisances, with the aid of six labourers, have been busily engaged in white washing walls, and spreading hot lime and chloride in kennels, and throughout passages and streets. Conspicuous among the different parties who have interested themselves in the welfare of the sufferers and in making arrangements to mitigate the prevalence of the disease, has been the Vicar of the Parish. With an industry which seemed perfectly untiring, and an energy which was neither to be baffled nor discouraged, he has appeared ever on the scene of action. While we would award him every praise for his christian philanthropy and kindness we are persuaded that no little censure is also merited by our public authorities for allowing so large a share of labour, and of such a nature to fall to his hands to do.

From the statements made at the meetings of the Guardians respecting the filth and discomfort in the midst of which a large portion of our labouring population reside, their slothful indifference to the consequences, and the little trouble they are disposed to take upon themselves to combat with the visitation, we are not at all surprised at the ravages which the disease makes among them. Sanitary improvements have yet much to do with us and as they approach nearer to perfection we may expect to be freer from disease, and natural advantages of our healthy situation will be less neutralized.

FRIDAY – New cases three and one death.

SATURDAY MORNING – One death reported. Tweedmouth and Spittal reported still free.

BERWICK ADVERTISER 30 SEPTEMBER 1854

LOCAL NEWS

The Bedfordshire Militia is to be inspected on Monday, probably the afternoon, by General Arthbutnot, in the Magdalen Fields

BEDFORDSHIRE MILITIA --- The Lord Lieutenant of the County of Bedford has signed the commission of John Alexander Mitchell; to be Lieutenant, vice Grimshaw, resigned

BERWICK ADVERTISER 30 SEPTEMBER 1854

THE CHOLERA

Much less alarm on the subject of the cholera has prevailed during the past week than in the two previous weeks. Cases are still occurring, but they are chiefly in families and in localities where the disease formerly existed, and where the neglect of all preventative measures is most apparent. The infatuation of some parties in not only neglecting all precautions on their own part but in the opposition they offer to other persons supplying their deficiencies, is perfectly astonishing. The precautionary measures on the part of the public authorities continue as active as ever. As soon as a case is reported, the residence of the patient is immediately visited by some of the committee, where arrangements are made for improving the conditions of the patient, and the healthy members of the family are removed out of the way of infection, where they are found willing to be so removed.

The deaths which have occurred this week have generally not been preceded by so brief an illness as were those in past weeks, and the recoveries have borne a more favourable proportion to the total number of attacks.

At the meeting of the Guardians on Friday morning three new cases were reported and one death, namely the child reported ill on the previous day. On Saturday, one death, and five cases were reported under treatment. On Monday, one death, the widow of Joseph Brown, who died last week; and seven cases under treatment; all of which were stated to be in a fair way of recovery. On Tuesday, one new death and one new case. Six cases under treatment. On Wednesday, one new case, and one death reported. The meeting unanimously agreed to recommend The Board of Health, to provide a dust cart, to be permanently established for the town, in which to collect every morning the ashes and refuse from the dwellings, instead of allowing these to accumulate.

Yesterday morning (Thursday) the report was two deaths, no new cases and four patients under treatment. A model of a dust – bin was produced and examined. The Chairman of the meeting said, as an example of the exaggerated report current in the neighbourhood respecting the cholera here, that he had been in Burnmouth yesterday where he was told that some persons from that village had been in Berwick the day previous, and that while in a shop in High Street they were told by the young men of the establishment that there had been that day ten deaths from cholera!

BERWICK ADVERTISER 07 OCTOBER 1854

DEATHS

In this town, on the 26th ult., Agnes Richardson, daughter of John Robertson, husbandman aged 3-. On the 29th Margaret, wife of Patrick McEuan, labourer, Chapel Street, aged 28; same day Margaret, daughter of the above aged 2; also George, son of Thomas English, engine- driver, Castlegate aged 1. On the 30th Isabella Todd, daughter of Mr John Brown, grocer, aged 18 weeks. On the 2d inst., Matthew Bailey, hawker, workhouse aged 69. On the 3d inst. Caroline, wife of Charles Hack, private in the Bedfordshire Militia, aged 21; same day Isabella Hay, daughter of John Purves, shoemaker, Ness Street, aged 17 months. On the 6th, Elizabeth, widow of Adam Douglas, aged 78.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE MILITIA

The men of this corps appeared on Sunday in new regiments, new clothing for the entire regiment having been received from London on the Friday preceding. As is the case of every class of society where such a change of habiliments is made, the appearance of the corps was considerably improved, and this improvement was much enhanced by the more decided military bearing the men have lately acquired.

MILITARY INSPECTION

The regiment was on Monday subjected to its periodical inspection. The inspecting officer was Major- General Arbutnot, commanding the northern district.

The scene of the inspection was the northern most of the Magdalen Fields, a tolerably level area of about twenty five acres, situated at a short distance from the town, the use of which has been kindly granted to the militia by his Grace the Duke of Northumberland. The regiment marched out of the barracks shortly before ten o' clock, leaving the town by the Cowportgate. The General joined them at a quarter past ten. Two or three carriages were on the ground, and several equestrians besides a number of respectable inhabitants of the town on foot, as spectators. The weather was highly favourable, and the scene was altogether of an exciting character. Even to

civilian eyes the evolutions of the regiment were astonishingly exact, remembering the short time it had been embodied, and the large number of very new recruits in the ranks consequent on the heavy draughts made upon it from time to time by the Guards and other regiments of the time. We give the movements on the field, as described to us by one who is familiar with military life

The Major-General arrived on the ground exactly at a quarter past 10, and immediately placed himself near the saluting flag, opposite the centre of the Regiment, which was drawn up in line — ranks at open order ready to receive him. Colonel Gilpin after paying the usual salute, presented the Major-General with the field state of the Regiment. The Major-General then went to the right of the line, passed down the front and up the rear ranks, remarking upon the fine appearance of the men under arms, and the clean state of their appointments. After inspection the Major-General signified to Colonel Gilpin to proceed with the drill movements upon which Colonel Gilpin requested Lieut-Colonel Higgins to march the regiments past in slow and quick time. Lieut-Colonel took the command — formed open columns right in front — marched past in slow and quick time, and in quarter distance column. The Major-General, as the companies marched past him, frequently expressed his satisfaction at the steadiness of the men, and the accuracy of their cadence on the march, and the remarkably good dressing of all the companies. The band played very well, which reflects great credit upon the band master, who has had the men only a short time under training. After marching past in quarter distance column, line was again formed, and Major Hastings Russell called to the front to put the battalion through the manual and platoon exercises. This exercise was performed throughout to the great satisfaction of the General, who repeatedly expressed his thanks to Major Russell for the steady and expert manner in which it was done. Colonel Gilpin again taking the command took the battalion through a series of brilliant and well executed manoeuvres, comprising the advance in line — halt — charge front to the right — No 1 company, left thrown forward — fire one round from division to right to left — form close column on No 2 company — column left wheel — deploy on the leading division — fire one round by wings from right to left — change front to the rear upon the centre — advance in double column of subdivisions from the centre — form line to the right on right wing — the line will advance covered by the two flank subdivisions skirmishing — skirmishers recalled — form square on the two centre subdivisions — prepare to resist cavalry — file firing from the right of faces — kneeling ranks fire a volley. The firing in square was very good and well kept up — reform line — retire by divisions from the right in rear of the left — halt, front-right wheel into line — rear ranks take open order. The line advanced a short distance in slow time, the band playing a march — halt — general salute. The Major-General after receiving this compliment requested Colonel Gilpin to form square, and stated that he wished to address the men. When the square was formed the General entered, faced the men to the right about, and after addressing them, ascertaining that the men had no complaints to make addressed them as follows:-

“I am not in habit of addressing troops whom it is my duty to inspect, because soldiers do their duty without praise, but on this occasion I cannot resist expressing the opinion I really entertain from all I have seen. You have indeed astonished me in your steadiness and the admirable manner in which all your manoeuvres were performed, and with the perfect silence observed during them. I was also particularly struck with the ready intelligence shown by Lieut. Colonel Higgins, Major Russel, and your Adjutant in their duties, especially in taking up points correctly and quietly. To your Officers generally, gentlemen of Bedfordshire, whom I have often heard highly spoken of, and to your non-commissioned officers, much credit is due, as also to the men; but to you Colonel Gilpin, I suppose I must mainly attribute the high state of discipline and order in which I find your regiment, and indeed the efficiency of it cannot be higher: and as Major-General commanding this district, I therefore personally thank you. The regiment is a credit to the British Army, and I have no doubt would if required again sustain the high character held by the Belford Militia during the last war. After this address Colonel Arbuthnot left the ground, followed by the regiment.

In compliance with the rules of Her Majesty's service it became necessary for the sergeants of this Regiment when they arrived in Berwick to establish a mess. Their Commanding officer shortly after their arrival kindly presented them with a complete dinner service. Lieut. Colonel Higgins with his accustomed liberality gave 5', and the other Officers kindly helped them to complete their mess establishment.

A night school has been opened in the barracks for the men under the superintendance of Captain Stuart, who has liberally supplied them with books. The men are taught reading, writing and arithmetic.

The clergymen of the parish church who have the spiritual charge of the men have opened a bible class for them on Sunday nights. No doubt it will be gratifying to their friends in Bedford to know that the men are conducting themselves well; and that the Commanding Officer and his excellent Adjutant are unceasing in their endeavours to secure the comfort and the happiness of the non-commissioned officers and men.

THE CHOLERA

FRIDAY MORNING – The report was one new case, one death, and three under treatment. The meeting agreed to order the construction of a dust bin to be placed in Golden Square, there to be used as an experiment for three months.

SATURDAY MORNING – One death (a child), no new case, and two under treatment.

MONDAY – At the meeting of the guardians this morning the physicians reported that there had been no new case, and no death since Thursday night. That there were now only two cases under treatment, and these in a fair way for recovery. Mr Laidlaw, the inspector for nuisances, presented his account for expenses incurred by him during the past fortnight in removing nuisances and in assisting the distressed. These accounts, inclusive of his own salary of £1.5s per week, amounted to £5l 18s, 3d. The Chairman complemented Mr Laidlaw for the manner the account had been prepared, and expressed a wish that his abilities had been more lucratively employed. The Chairman next enquired of the Vicar, what charge he intended to make for the use of the vicarage, and was informed that he intended giving its use entirely free of charge.

TUESDAY – No new cases; no deaths; the two cases of last week still under treatment and progressing favourably

WEDNESDAY – The reports to-day was that the two cases remaining yesterday were progressing favourably towards convalescence. There had however been one fatal case yesterday forenoon in Wallace Green, a soldiers wife named Hack, who had left an infant six weeks old. This case was not intimated to the meeting of the proceeding day as the parish surgeons were not aware of it, the military physician being in attendance on the patient. The Inspector of Nuisances reported that a number of places are requiring immediate attention. It was resolved to communicate with the Board of Health, requesting it to take steps to abate the nuisances complained of. It was stated that several callers were inundated with water from local springs, which would be of great use to the sewerage if conveyed into it, and that the contractors for these works were willing to proceed with the work as soon as they were requested by the Board of Health.

THURSDAY – The report this morning was that there had been no new case, and that the two remaining under treatment were progressing favourably. It was proposed that one of these might be removed to the convalescent ward at the dispensary.

The progress of the disease has apparently met a check on this town, and we hope in a few days to be entirely free of it. We cannot give correctly the number of cases on the present occasion, as the cases reported are only those which come under the treatment of the parish surgeons, the other surgeons not having reported their cases. The number of deaths are stated to be 34. From the 11th to the 29th of September there were 44 funerals in the parish of these 27 had been deaths by cholera. It will be recollected that the deaths in 1832 were more than double the number of the present occasion.

BERWICK ADVERTISER, 14 OCTOBER 1854

THE PUBLIC HEALTH – In our last report we stated that two cases of cholera continued under treatment, and both to appearance were in a fair way for recovery. In one instance the party was shortly afterwards able to be removed to the convalescent ward in the dispensary, and has continued to improve. The other case, contrary to expectation, terminated fatally on Friday night. On Saturday morning the town was reported free from the disease and the Committee of Guardians thereupon discontinued their daily meetings. Since then one fatal case has occurred, a married woman residing in the Western Lane. She took ill early on Sunday morning and died that afternoon; she had been unwell the previous day but not so as to create any alarm. We have heard of no other case and the town is now considered again to possess a clean bill of health.

BERWICK ADVERTISER, 25 NOVEMBER 1854

THE BEDFORDSHIRE MILITIA VOLUNTEERING FOR THE LINE

The Secretary for War has addressed a circular to the Colonels of all Militia Regiments embodied and disembodied, calling upon them, in consequence of the necessity for a rapid augmentation of the regular army, to encourage the volunteering of their men into the Regiments of Guards, and the Line, and into the Royal Marines. The circular proceeds to say – “ It is intended to limit the demand thus to be made on militia regiments to 25 per centum on their strength, amounting in the case of the --- regiment to ----

“Recruiting parties will be forthwith directed to proceed to your headquarters, in order to recruit volunteers.

It is proposed to give a priority to the recruiting parties from those regiments which have a county connexion with your regiment, provided such regiments form a part of the force under Lord Raglan’s orders but men will be at liberty to join other regiments, or the Marines, if they prefer it.

The Guards will be allowed to send parties to regiments generally, their standard not enabling them to obtain enough recruits from any corresponding number of militia regiments. The Marines will likewise send parties.

All these parties will be recalled immediately the number to be raised shall have volunteered.

The men will be offered a bounty exceeding by £1 the augmented bounty authorised for ordinary recruits – namely £1 in addition to £5 or £7 in all.

Though the limit of 25 per cent is placed upon the number of men whom the recruiting parties be empowered to raise, any larger number of men will be accepted, provided you are willing with a view to further the public services in this emergency to consent to their discharge.”

On Wednesday afternoon, Colonel Gilpin assembled the regiment of Bedfordshire Militia on parade in our barrack yard, and having read the circular, addressed the men as follows : -

Men of Bedfordshire, I have now read to you the letter of the Secretary at War, and will first tell you the answer I have made to him, which was “ that I had indeed read his letter with some dismay for it was trying to the feelings and exertions of myself and officers to see the Bedfordshire Light Infantry twice in one year spoilt by so many men volunteering into the Lane, 200 men having already left and particularly when men are so well conducted as those always have been; but yet, as an Officer in Her Majesty’s Service and an English Gentleman, I could not but feel that the present was a time to support the exertions of the Government in carrying on this War “. And I do feel strongly that every possible effort should be made to send immediate reinforcements to that heroic army, now so nobly struggling in the East in upholding the honour of our Common Country. I told the Secretary at War that I trusted recruiting parties would not be

sent here to produce drunkenness and demoralization among the men – for I wish you to leave the Bedford Militia, and I trust there are many readily to do so, in the same orderly and soldierlike manner which has marked your conduct throughout, being confident that your own feelings will induce you to come forward and tender your services to your Queen and Country wherever they may be required. I am not aware that any particular regiment has a closer connection with us than others, although the 16th Foot are termed Bedfordshire. During the War, the 40th Regiment, through the exertions of Sir J. Osborne, then commanding the Bedfordshire Militia, obtained more of our volunteers than any other Regiment. On this subject, I must now tell you that there is a dear relative of my esteemed friend the Adjutant of the Regiment, which is a Major in the 38th Regiment, and who, judging from his letters alone, must be a clever and gallant soldier; and as many of our men have already gone to that Regiment, I do hope that many more of you will join your comrades there – and thus identify the 38th Regiment with the Bedford Militia I am sure I have now said all that is necessary for the purpose : and although I regret we cannot all go together, to share alike the glory and danger, I feel confident, in parting with you, that you will do credit to our regiment and honour to the service. You can now give in your names to your captains, and every assistance and advice that is in my power to give will be fully afforded to further your wishes.

Colonel Gilpin then asked the Adjutant, Captain Thomas Jones Smith, if he would wish to say anything to the men. The Adjutant merely thanked Colonel Gilpin for what he had so kindly said in reference to his brother. He informed the men that 30 or 40 of their comrades had already volunteered to the 38th Regiment and he felt quite certain that his brother, Major Smith, if indeed he had that brother still, would always in his duty prove a friend to the volunteers of the Bedford Militia.

The address of Colonel Gilpin and Adjutant Smith appeared to be well received by the men; and there can be no doubt that a large number of them will respond to the call of their country, and hasten to share in the glory which the gallant army in the East, is reaping in defence of the liberties of Europe against the half savage soldiers of the Czar.

The dispatch of Lord Raglan, giving an account of the battle of Inkerman on the 5th, and in which His lordship says the Russians “ abandoned on the field of battle five or six thousand dead and wounded multitudes of the latter having been already carried off by them . I never before witnessed such a spectacle as the field presented “, came to hand the next morning and was immediately read by Colonel Gilpin to the regiment, and with the happiest effect.

BERWICK ADVERTISER, 2 DECEMBER 1854

VOLUNTEERING FOR THE ARMY - in the course of the past week, we have witnessed displays of the enthusiasm and excitement which pervades all classes on the subject of the present war, and the undaunted devotion to the cause of the fatherland which actuates those who are destined to take a share in the manly struggle. In our last we reported the address made by Colonel Gilpin to the men of the Bedfordshire Militia on the subject of their volunteering into the line, the spirit of which address has been nobly taken up by the men, and on Saturday last, when an officer from the 26th regiment presented himself in the barrack square, offering to enlist any of the members of the militia who were willing to do her Majesty's Service in the Crimea, fifty three at once volunteered. They were accepted , and since that time a recruiting sergeant from the 38th has arrived here, and he has met with a similar success. The entire list of volunteers to these regiments with more than thirty to the Guards amounted yesterday to 108. On being enlisted the recruits have been decorated with the volunteer's cockade and as the wearers of these insignia pass through our streets, and on being recognised by the townsmen, they exhibit the utmost cheerfulness and hilarity on the subject of their change, in short have appeared more mirthful than any of their comrades, or than they themselves have hitherto done here. They have established a house of call in Church Street where they are to be seen going frequently in and

out. On Monday evening they with their acquaintances had a treat when mirth and music held sway. It was only in May last that the regiment gave 200 men to the Guards and other regiments of the line; and in the hasty recruiting, consequent on embodiment, to make up the deficiency caused by this draft, there was not that careful selection of men as at first, and many of them, are therefore barely of the militia stand and, which is half an inch below that of the line. All such men are ineligible for volunteers. It says something, therefore, for the military ardour of the men that so many eligible volunteers have already come forward.

Linda Bankier

MUSEUM NEWS

6: Trumpets at the Walls of Jericho

Berwick saw radical changes in the century and a half following the battle of Flodden. James IV's corpse was embalmed in a medieval town, with old decayed walls, a dank church, some poor Friaries and a rickety bridge. When James VI passed through the town 90 years later on his way to become James I of England, the Friaries were long gone, the Ramparts were gleaming and fresh but the church was still dank and the bridge still rickety. James saw to it that the bridge was replaced but never saw a replacement church, which was only complete after his son got the chop from the Puritans. It was they who would build the Church in their own austere style. But this was far in the future when in the winter of 1517 some Berwickers might have heard from merchants and travellers that an obscure German monk called Martin Luther was demanding reform of the Church. They probably thought it a bad joke, but the Henry VIII was outraged penning his *Defence of the Seven Sacraments* (1521) which gained him the title of 'Defender of the Faith'. Even as that book was being printed and Henry was beginning to have his doubts about his marriage to Catherine of Aragon, the Duke of Albany returned to Scotland from France and began to hatch plots against the Border on behalf of the French king. The siege of Wark Castle was the start of twenty years of raiding and military stand-offs during which time Henry systematically dismantled the secular aspects of Medieval religion, while trying a piecemeal reform of the theological. A religious conservative, Henry VIII maintained a life-long loathing of Luther and a fear of the unbridled effects of extreme Protestantism. He was often contradictory, celebrating some saints' days at court that were banned for his subjects; seeming to allow an English Bible then trying to suppress it. But he was clear about one thing - his authority. Even the dissolution of the monasteries was more about political will and financial assertiveness than it was ever about deep intellectual objections to the theology monasticism represented. The first wave of suppressions in 1536 passed Berwick by and the town seems to have played little part in the 'Pilgrimage of Grace', the group of counter-demonstrations in support of the monasteries and against new laws. Lindisfarne was closed down in 1537 but it was not until early in 1539 that Cromwell's agent Richard Ingworth got around to dealing with the dregs of monasticism, the impoverished northern Friaries. Busy with those in the NW he suggested George Lawson could deal with those in Berwick. Receiving the submission of a few bedraggled Friaries would have been a slight matter for George, he was already Berwick's Receiver, Treasurer, Master of the Ordnance, Letter and Setter of the King's Revenues, Customer, Controller, Bridge Master, Master Carpenter and Master Mason. Also Paymaster of the Garrison and overseer of the King's "brewhouses, bakhouses, milles, storehouse, garners and stables". He put some of the monastic buildings to good use, the Friary of Ravensdale stored weapons into the time of Elizabeth.

A far bigger problem for George was keeping the bedraggled walls of Berwick in repair. In 1532 the Duke of Norfolk had talked grandly of a Citadel in Berwick to rival any in Europe, but George

had to be constantly busy to stop the walls collapsing. In this he was not always successful. But the government were not bothered, until, in 1538 invasion seemed a real possibility. France, the Empire and Scotland were planning to attack simultaneously to divide up the country between them, with the North (including Berwick) being given to the king of Scots as appropriate to his "ancient right and heritage". Henry VIII leapt into action and himself devised a defence strategy which included a massive programme of forts. A government pamphlet of the time noted reassuringly that showing how "his highness careth for all, and not for some, he fortifyeth Berwick, both town and castle". Repairs were put in hand at the castle but the real cultural innovation was the bastion now called Lord's Mount.

This was explicitly stated to be to the king's own design and is a smaller example of his unique 'Henrician' style of fortification that line the south coast. All these forts have a series of round bastions with embrasures for cannon. In style they are transitional between the towers and curtain wall of a medieval castle and the squared bastions of the Elizabethan Ramparts. The Italians had experimented with rounded bastions in their wars of the 15th. Century but in action they found many problems with the form and by 1530s the latest style was squared bastions. Unfortunately Henry and his design team drew most of their examples from France and the Netherlands where the bastions were mostly round. Also the only illustrated books on the subject available at the time, by Albrecht Durer, showed idealised forts completely circular. So Berwick got a new fort, in a style that was already being outmoded. George Lawson, described as "cold and wise and hath good sight in such causes" was put in charge of the works. By the time of the next invasion scare in 1545, wars in France had thrown up the same difficulties with round bastions, and Henry was completely converted to the new Italian style. Lawson having died in 1543 the Surveyor of Calais, Richard Lee was brought with a team of Italian assistants to revise defences at Berwick, Wark and Holy Island. Most of this work was temporary and at Berwick, within a decade, would be overtaken by a much grander plan.

In the meantime Henry died and the English Reformation was given a new aggressive edge with the accession of Edward VI. In Berwick this took the form of the arrival of a young preacher by the name of John Knox (1513-72). Born in Haddington, he had been a Catholic priest, but became a fanatically zealous convert to the Reformation. Saved from life as a French galley slave by Edward VI, he came to Berwick in April 1549 and stayed for just over a year before going to Newcastle. The land was fully of religious debate, Cranmer's *Book of Common Prayer* had been issued the month before Knox arrived and for radicals like him it was a bitter disappointment. The *Book* was still very Catholic in tone, merely revising the old Medieval Sacramental rites and trying to please everybody by referring to "The supper of the Lord and Holy Communion, commonly called the Mass". In sermons and pamphlets Cranmer tried to emphasise that the Book was an interim measure, but in Berwick, Knox was having none of it. He instituted his own reconstruction of the "Lord's Supper" getting the communicants to *sit* around a table in the middle of the church to take bread and wine as if it were indeed supper, with no Papist flummery. In fiery sermons he lambasted Catholic doctrines in terms of warfare and conflict in which he referred to himself as blowing "Joshua's trumpets at the walls of Jericho". This must have been great fun for the soldiers in the audience, who got fined if they didn't turn up for Church, but Knox was soon summoned by the Bishop of Durham to explain himself. He won the argument and returned to Berwick to continue his mission. Clearly he was making an impact, Scots Protestant refugees were arriving in Berwick in increasing numbers to hear him preach and he wrote himself later that:-

"God so blessed my weak labours that in Berwick, where commonly before there used to be slaughter by the reason of quarrels that used to arise among soldiers, there was as great a quietness all time that I remained there as there is this day in Edinburgh"

When not preaching he deepened his study of the Bible and worked on a tract called *A Declaration what True Prayer is, how we should Pray and for what we should Pray*. In this he defined prayer as "an earnest and familiar talking to God" and stressed both private prayer and "common prayer". This was not of course "piping, singing or playing; nor to patter upon beads or books whereof they have no understanding; nor to commit idolatry honouring that for God which is no God indeed". While he was writing this he had more pressing personal concerns taking

up with a Mrs. Bowes, wife of a Captain at Norham Castle. Mrs. Bowes took Knox on as "her spiritual adviser" and promised him her daughter in marriage. Her husband took a dim view of this but Knox married the daughter, Margaret, anyway. In the summer of 1551 Knox was moved onto Newcastle but occasionally returned to Berwick to preach. When the more radically Calvinistic Prayer Book of 1552 was due to be issued, he published *Letter to the Congregation of Berwick*, saying that he accepted most of it, but that the last-minute rubric about kneeling at the Lord's table would have endured to avoid provoking the magistrates. But Knoxian-minded Berwickers had a lot more to endure than that as Mary came to the throne 8 months later and the whole Papist panoply of 'beads, books and idolatry' was legal again. Mr and Mrs. Knox fled to Geneva where Mrs. Bowes followed, having left her husband. This all caused such a comment at the time that twenty years later he published a defence of his actions: -

"to declare to the world what was the cause of our great familiarity, which was neither flesh nor blood, but a troubled conscience on her part which never suffered her to rest but when she was in the company of the faithful. Her company to me was comfortable, but yet not without some cross...my mind was seldom quiet for doing somewhat for the comfort of her troubled conscience."

In other words they were just good friends. His last formal contact with Berwick was in his *Godly Letter to the Faithful of London, Newcastle and Berwick* (1554) which urged them to look beyond their current persecutions and "dark sentences of prophane Prophecies" to the time when the "truth of God's Word" would shine through.

While Knox was blowing his own trumpet, an edifice born in the heart of the Pope's own land was being constructed by some of his audience. Throughout Knox's time in Berwick work was continuing on a massive citadel of uncompromisingly Italian design in the middle of the old Medieval Walls. By May 1557 more and more men were being thrown at this project. In January 1558 the deepening alliance between Mary of Scotland and France prompted the English government to commission Richard Lee to come up with a grand new plan for Berwick. Since his last trip here Lee had visited Antwerp where Paciotto D'Urbino had been commissioned by the Emperor Charles V to build a massive citadel and surrounded the city with ramparts with flanking bastions in 1545. Another inspiration was the ramparts of the Belgian town of Hesdin, completed for the Emperor in 1554. Some new books had also been published, such as G.B. de Zanchi *Del Modo di Fortificar le Citta* (1554/56), and so the new plan, unlike Lord's Mount, was at the forefront of the latest military thinking - the earliest full working out of the Italian system in Britain. Of course the plan was not without its difficulties or its critics. One of the criticisms Lee had to face was a scholarly one. The Roman engineer Vitruvius had written about the dangers of square towers in AD 27, and in the late 1550s this was still considered worthy of having to be answered by Lee in his reports. There was also the practical controversy about routing the wall along the ridge where the Maltings now stands, thus cutting off the lower part of the town.

While this debate was raging the Duke of Norfolk established his HQ in the town for the invasion of Scotland and called in a consultant to report on Lee's design. This was Giovanni Portinari, formerly a captain at Sandown fort, who had been forced through poverty to seek employment with the French. In 1554 unwilling to be sent to help the French against England, he begged to be taken back into Mary's service. Now in April 1560, he was in Berwick, not only criticising Lee's design but urging his own scheme. As the English battled the Scots and French at the disastrous attack on Leith, Lee was battling with an Italian over the plans for Berwick. The Leith campaign featured in the recent film *Elizabeth* while the Lee vs Portinari bout is buried in the official documents, but it is clear the two men had a major falling out and later Portinari complained that one of Lee's cronies had stolen his alternative design. By July both wars had been patched up, Portinari left and Lee was off on other projects leaving his hapless, over-worked and underpaid assistant Rowland Johnston to interpret the modified plans as best he could. Unfortunately when Lee returned more than a year later he found Johnston had built Brass Bastion askew. A crisis in France loomed and Lee had no time to sort it out before he was off again, leaving Johnston in charge. Soon the government needed funds for other things and in 1563 all work was suspended with only a few half-built walls and bastions. All this was a typical Tudor mixture of high-blown theory, often derived from ancient writers, practical common-sense experience

overlaid with government stinginess and inhibited by mismanagement. The same was true for the town garrison and the armies thrown together when crisis threatened. Fortunately for the security of the state, most of the time old-fashioned experienced soldiers were mostly in charge. But there was no government policy on training, rationing, chains of command, communication or logistics and commanders were often left to their own devices. This being a literate age several training manuals appeared to help out the inexperienced commander. Sometimes though the advice seems worthy of Brussels Bureaucracy at its most extreme, such as this from Sir John Smythe's *Instructions and Orders Mylitarie* of 1591: -

“the second and third ranks are presently to march up to the flanks of the first rank, that is to be understood, that the second rank shall march to the right flank of the first rank, and the third rank to the left flank of the said first rank, until they be all of one equal front, and in like and equal distances; at which time likewise the fifth and sixth ranks shall be in the very same order and shall march up to both flanks of the fourth rank, and the eighth and ninth ranks shall march up to both the flanks of the seventh rank, and so subsequently all the rest of the ranks that are of any sort of weapon shall march up to both the flanks of the ranks of the like sort of weapon before them.”

And this was a very simple manoeuvre compared with getting the raw recruits to march in a ring. This was a particular danger for captains who had read the books but did not understand them, they, Robert Barret wrote at time, would march their troops around in every-decreasing circles until the captain trapped in the swirling mass shouts from the depths of the chaos “Hold! Stand still until I have looked at my book!”

But books were not just about work, what might a literate captain in Berwick read for recreation while he was waiting for construction of the ramparts to resume? Apart from a host of translations of the classical authors, best-sellers of the day included the blood and guts (literally) of Foxe's 'Book of Martyrs', or more precisely *Actes and Monuments of these Latter and Perillous Dayes touching matters of the Church* (1563). This basically concerned the horrors carried out by “the persecutors of God's truth, commonly called papists”. Slightly less gory was Baldwin's *A Mirror for Magistrates* (1559) recounting the death of princes, and including in the 1563 edition a tale of the corpse of the executed Buckingham raising its head to curse its betrayer. More refined tastes might turn to Tottel's *Miscellany* (1557) with major poems by Wyatt and Surrey, and then there was John Heywood's *Epigrams* (1546) which went through four more editions by 1562. Heywood (1497?-1580?) was one of the major authors of the day, writing poems and proverbs but mainly known for the form of play called 'Interludes'. These were transitional between Medieval mystery plays and the sophisticated dramas of Marlowe and Shakespeare. Like the mystery plays they often have a moral purpose, but, like Shakespeare, the seriousness is mixed up with comedy. Some, like Skelton's *Magnyfycence* or Sir David Lindsay's *Ane Pleasant Satyre of the Thrie Estaitis*, the latter produced in Edinburgh before James V in 1540, are full length - very full length - plays, but most Interludes, as the name suggests, were intended as entertainments at 'interludes' in feasts or banquets. The 'mechanicals' playing Pyramus and Thisbe before the Duke in *A Midsummer's Night Dream* (1595/6) is Shakespeare making fun of the Interlude players he must have seen in his youth. We cannot be sure but it was probably an Interlude that the Earl of Bedford's players presented before the Guild in Berwick at Michelmas, 1564. The Guild Books record a payment of 10 shillings to "the players". Francis Russell, Earl of Bedford, had been recently appointed Governor of Berwick and his players appeared a couple of weeks before in Newcastle so it is reasonable to suppose they carried on to Berwick. The staging of Interludes was very simple: a platform set with a number of 'houses' or doors from which the various allegorical characters emerged to say their piece. Changes of scene might be indicated in the text or on title cards in the manner of a Victorian music-hall. There is one other possibility for a mechanical changing of title cards that may have left fragmentary evidence in Berwick. A hundred years ago a 16th.Century fresco was uncovered in the Old Bridge Tavern in Bridge Street which was transferred to the Museum in the 1960s when the Tavern was demolished. It is a rather crudely designed tempera fresco showing an elaborate forest of motifs, grotesque creatures, a chubby Cupid, and angels attending panels upon which are written mottoes. Only the letter 'G' is visible on the one, but the other is fully readable as “Wisdom and Science which are pure by kind/ Should not be writ in bookes but in mynd”.

What makes this potentially theatrical is that the lines are in a frame to which a handle is attached which the angle is clearly turning. One of the aspects of ancient classical theatre that fascinated theatre people in the Renaissance was Vitruvius' mention of "periaktoi", triangular shaped prisms, on each face of which different scenes could be painted to instantly change the setting of the play. They were used in 16th.Century as uprights but there seems no evidence until now for horizontal prisms for Interlude motto changes. But then there is very little surviving evidence for any form of Interlude staging anyway. What is certain is that the motto "Wisdom and Science..etc" is exactly the sort of epigram that the Tudors appreciated and that turned up constantly in Interludes, books of Epigrams and emblem books. The best known English emblem book is Geoffrey Whitney's *A Choice of Emblems and other devices* (1586) which has an emblem of two scholars in a library with the motto "The use, not the reading of a book makes men wise." The attached Epigram expands upon this and is highly pertinent to the Bridge Tavern motto:-

"First read, then mark, then practice that's good.
 For without use, we drink but Lethe's flood.
 Of practice long, experience doth proceed;
 And wisdom then, doth evermore ensue
 Then print in mind, what we in print do read.
 Else loose we time, and books in vain do view
 We may not haste, our talent to bestow
 Nor hide it up, wherby no good shall grow." (Whitney, p.171)

Like much else in Whitney the device and epigram is copied from an earlier publication, in this case Sambucus' *Embleta* published in Antwerp in 1566.

"Wisdom and Science" then is just such an appeal for the practical application of knowledge that a Guild of Freemen would appreciate. Was therefore the fresco commissioned by a Guild member after the visit of the players to permanently record their hearth-warming message as shown on their revolving message boards? Well possibly. But there is another lead that has recently come to light, as I have just discovered that the lines "Wisdom and Science which are pure by kind/ But written in mind will never be forgot" are the opening lines of a poem copied into a notebook now in the Bodleian Library. The writer was Thomas Brampton, owner of manors at Attleborough in Norfolk and at Kenton in Suffolk. The manuscript (Gough.Norfolk.43) is his commonplace book containing moral and religious poems of his own composition as well as documents and accounts relating to the estates, letters, proverbs and medical recipes. All of it written 1580 to 1590. *The Full-Text Data-Base of English Poetry 1000-1900* containing the texts of 10,000 poetry books on CD-ROM reveals no other poem containing these particular lines, so it must be the case that Thomas Brampton wrote them himself. In which case, how does a version of this Norfolk land-owners poem turn up on a fresco in Berwick? A mystery that I hope I can pursue.

Of course all this blather about knowledge and science and epigrams would have been way over the heads of most of the illiterate Berwick garrison in 1564. Few of them would have been able to read, but they did sing songs. One indeed is recorded as having been gaoled for singing a "seditious song". What it was we have no idea, perhaps a 'Border ballad'. Most of these are set way to the north and west of Berwick, their unknown authors preferring to celebrate the deeds of villains and Border raiders than the stirring work of the authorities. This is a shame, a fine ballad on the building of the walls centred on the rivalry of Lee and Portinari would be a great addition to the literate heritage. But in 1564 when the men met again in Berwick the dispute would have been a state secret. Work had begun again and after a three years absence Lee returned to find Johnston's building of the Brass Bastion had caused the old Medieval wall to fracture. Again the consultants were summoned, Portinari again but this time with Jacopo Aconzio (1492-1566). He had been secretary to Cardinal Madruzzo but with the accession of the extreme Pope Paul IV had repudiated Catholicism and joined the Dutch Reformed Church arriving in England in 1558 where he worked on land reclamation in Kent. Now he was recommended to Lord Cecil as an engineering consultant because although he lacked Portinari's "deep judgement" he was valuable "for the towardness that is him", also his fee was cheap. Cecil viewed the meeting between Lee

and Portinari with misgiving, noting “Both the parties are likely to stand so much on reputation as the truth shall not be so readily yielded”. He urged them both to “answer the other gently and without offence”, and in the event the meeting passed off smoothly. In his report Portinari went out of his way to praise Lee’s conduct of the project, and then laid into his terrible design. Unfortunately for Lee, Aconzio agreed with his compatriot and Cecil reckoned the only way to resolve the issue was to build two sections of wall to the rival designs and to fire cannon at them. To avoid the Italian’s wall being sabotaged by xenophobic local workers the Surveyor of Portsmouth was summoned to supervise the building. The Mayor of Berwick was to be the umpire in the tests. Alas, what happened we do not know, accounts for building the test walls exist but no record has been found of this remarkable experiment. Lee certainly continued in charge of the project but within a year all the workmen had been discharged, without the works being complete and very few of the necessary earthworks having been dug. The year after visiting Berwick, Aconzio published the *Stratagems of Satan* which was a plea for the reduction of dogma in religion. It is now regarded as one of the early foundation stones of the greatest religious toleration that occurred towards the end of 16th.Century. Portinari was never heard of again after 1566 and although Lee continued to be nominally in charge at Berwick until his death in 1576 he was far more interested in building a grand house at St.Albans. Such was his fame for this at the time that he features as a minor character in the play *Sir John Oldcastle* (1600), once attributed to Shakespeare.

As to who was right over the design, when Lord Willoughby become Governor of Berwick in 1598 he was strongly critical of the Ramparts saying they were “a mere show and opinion of a strong thing” and that soldiers in action would be “in more danger within than without”.

Further Reading

Colvin, H.M. (ed) *History of the King’s Works, v.4: 1485-1660* (pt.2) (1982)

Cruickshank, C.G. *Elizabeth’s Army* (1966)

MacIvor, I. ‘The Fortifications of Berwick-upon-Tweed’ in *Antiquaries J.* v.45 (1965)

Reid, W.S. *Trumpeter of God: A Biography of John Knox* (1974)

Chris Green

F.B.D.M.A. AND THE LINDISFARNE GOSPELS

Last year the Friends twice attended meetings to do with the Lindisfarne Gospels. The first was our Summer Outing – actually late summer. Although it was foul weather there were 30 of us at the newly opened Heritage Centre at Holy Island.

Community Development Officer Renee Richardson gave a resume of the ideas behind the scheme. She told how it had been funded and what the future held. The meeting began with a cup of tea and a chance to discuss or ask questions. Eddie Douglas was also present, more than willing to talk about his enormous collection of photographs of Island life.

The Friends were then at liberty to wander throughout the centre. There was the oral history machine to investigate and there was also the marvel of modern science and technology, the electronic ‘Turning the Pages’ version of the Lindisfarne Gospels. How intriguing to be able to turn a page, select a small area and zoom in – all at the touch of a finger! Everyone was enthralled at the intricate details revealed by magic! This was a most pleasant evening of information and delight.

The second event attended by the Friends was a talk given by the Reverend Canon David Adam. He said it was to be an oblique look at the Lindisfarne Gospels, and it was! Firstly, Canon Adam

put us in the picture before the Gospels were written. He talked us through the pagan history and the coming of the Christian Kings and holy men.

Because the Gospels themselves are such a rich and beautiful artefact it is right to assume that the Church on Holy Island was a wealthy one. The Gospels would have taken about two years to write and illustrate and therefore it needed peace in which to work and wealth to afford the rare colours and the other material.

Canon Adam showed some of his own slides of the Gospels. We were able to marvel at the detail and wonder at the patience needed to craft the beautiful illustrations. 129 calf skins would be needed for the pages, the red insect dye needed for the thousands of red dots covering the pages would have been obtained from Italy or West Africa – both very expensive items. On the title page of Matthew some of the pigments come from the Himalayas. These pieces of information tell us of the riches of the Church but they also tell us of the distances travelled to obtain items.

The talk ended with a 'potted' history of what happened to the Lindisfarne Gospels after they were written. Again a fascinating subject. Canon Adam left us with an unanswered question – if the Gospels were to come 'home' would that be Durham or Holy Island?

Barbara Herdman

A BOOK OF MEMORIES

Peter and I have a lot of older friends and recently, sadly, we lost a dear lady who was 93. For her 92nd birthday I had made her an album of her life. As we get older memory starts playing tricks on us and dates and events begin to merge and fade. Our friend was delighted with her album and showed it to visitors and staff alike. It jogged her memory when she thought she'd forgotten some event. It increased her ability to converse about 'the old days'.

I used an A4 hard-backed file with A4 transparent pockets. Alas I used pockets which were slightly textured and discovered, as our friend's eyes grew weaker she had difficulty in deciphering lettering or small photographs. The best pockets to use would be completely transparent.

I put a plain sheet of A4 in each pocket, either as a backing for documents or letters, or as a support for photographs. When mounting photographs do not stick them to the paper but use photo-corners. I found that by using the plain paper I could then write in any anecdotes about the photos. Please remember that the person for whom you are making this album may find ordinary print difficult to read. A good idea is to use large print and 'blow up' those dinky little sepia photographs. A letter or postcard written in the 1920's may not be as legible today, so a printed copy of the wording can make things easier. It might be an idea to make a photocopy of legal documents and to store the originals more sympathetically. If possible a family tree with dates will help both of you and your relation or friend to remember who was about at certain dates and events.

Because our friend had lived such a full life her album became very heavy. On reflection it might have been better to do three; early life, working life and retirement. Linda's warning when I suggested writing this article was, "Do not use anything sticky and do not stick down documents of any sort". That's the archivist speaking.

Our friend had lived a long time and had moved house a great deal so there weren't a lot of mementoes remaining from early life, but I used what she gave me. Sometime dates were hazy so I had to improvise. If our friend had lived longer I'm sure there would have been many avenues to explore, her school days, early years at work, the war years etc.

My advice is to make one of these albums as soon as possible either with or for someone whose memories are important but fading. So often all friends and relatives of one generation are gone before anyone has time to ask them about their early life

I enjoyed making my friend's album. It was constant joy to her and a wonderful memento for us.

Barbara Herdman

SNIPPETS FROM THE BERWICK ADVERTISER

November 1820 TO BE LET & entered into immediately – all that well accustomed PUBLIC HOUSE situated in the Wallace Green, in this town, called the ADAM & EVE. Together with large garden behind the same, & other excellent conveniences, lately occupied by Mr. John Samson, deceased. For particulars apply to Mr. Joe E. Samson. Nov 17th 1820

June 1820 THEATRE BERWICK, MR WELSH has the pleasure of informing Ladies & Gents & inhabitants of Berwick & its Vicinity that he has engaged for a FEW EVENINGS, MRS GARRICK from the Theatre Royal, Edinburgh, on her way to fulfil her engagement in the THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY LANE, LONDON. And on MON p.m. JUNE 12th 1820, she will perform (being her first appearance here these 4 years) in the popular grand DRAMA of ROB ROY MCGREGOR on DAYS OF AULD LANG SYNE. The part of Diana Vernon by MRS GARRICK, Frank Oskaltiston by MR GRAY, Rob Roy McGregor by MR PRIOR, other characters by the rest of the Company. After which the musical dance of NO SONG NO SUPPER, the part of Margarett by MRS GARRICK.

Tickets & places for boxes taken at Mr Wilson's, Stationer Head of Hide Hill.

April 1st 1826 OPENING OF THE NEW CHAPEL BELFORD.

The Society of Armenian Bible Christians at Belford return thanks to those who have assisted them in the erection of this Chapel & beg leave to inform them & the public it will be opened on Sabbath the 9th April. Public Worship to commence at eleven o'clock in the forenoon.

Belford, March 29th 1826

Muriel Fraser

If anyone has any articles, snippets and gleanings for the newsletter, please leave them at the Record Office for me.

Dennis Nicholson, Hon. Editor

*Dennis Nicholson
Hon Editor*