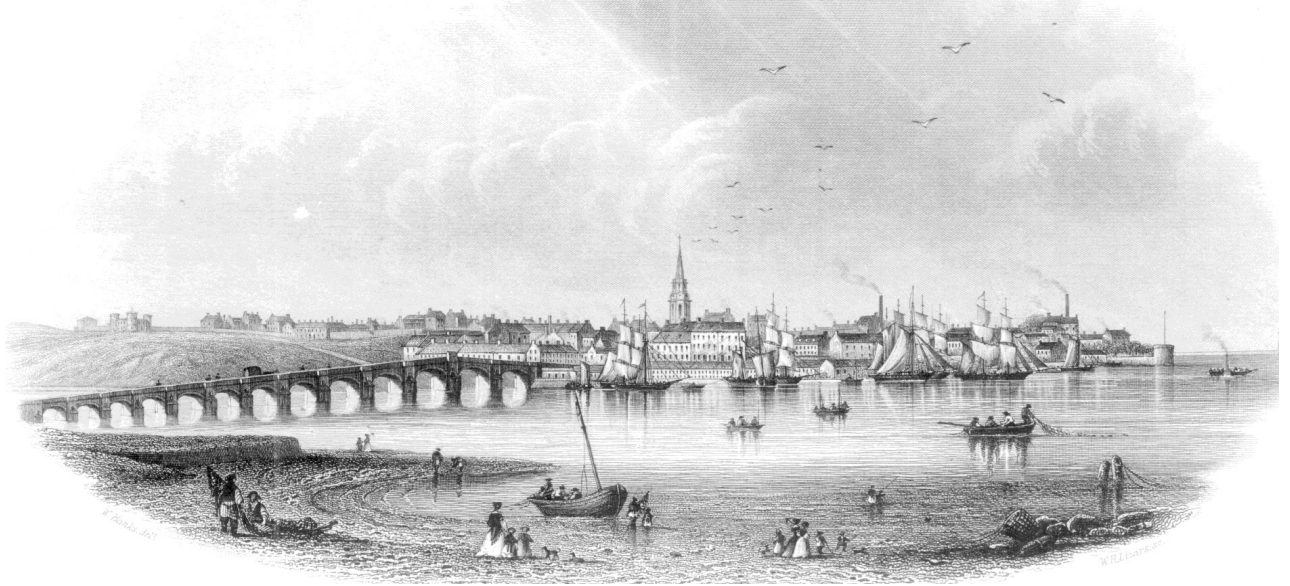


# Friends of Berwick & District Museum and Archives Newsletter



*NUMBER 37 - December 2002*

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Friday 17 January 2003

Union of the Crowns 400 – Public Meeting to keep everyone informed of progress and to encourage more people to be involved in the project. Come along and find out how you can help.

7 pm in Guildhall, Berwick.

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2003

AGM at Guildhall, Berwick at 7 pm.  
Followed by a talk on the Union of the Crowns 400 Project by Derek Sharman

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>/Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April  
2003

Visit of King James VI & 1 to Berwick and  
Bygone Borderlands ( see enclosed leaflet )

## **Other Societies' Lectures**

### **BORDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick.

Time: 7.00 p.m.

No meeting in January

Monday 3rd February.

A.G.M. followed by a talk by Bill Ford

Monday 3rd March

Gladiators: Jeremy Patterson.

(Note: This is a joint meeting with the Civic Society and will be held at the Maltings at 7.30 p.m.)

Monday 7th April.

Links between Danish Archaeology and The North-East: Christian Pedderson.

(Note: Starts at 7.30p.m.)

### **BERWICK HISTORY SOCIETY**

Venue: The Parish Centre, Berwick.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 15th January.

Fishing – A living tradition: Katrina Porteous.

Wednesday 19th February.

Berwick and the Accession of James I and VI: Chris Green  
and  
The Town Charter of 1604: Linda Bankier.

Wednesday 19th March.

Northumberland Castles:  
Dr Constance Fraser.

Wednesday 16th April.

A.G.M. followed by  
The Sound of History: Mike Yates.

### **DUNSE HISTORY SOCIETY**

Venue: Duns Social Club, 41 Newton St, Duns.      Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 29th January.

The Union of the Crowns: Derek  
Sharman.

Wednesday 26th February.

The History of Foxhunting: David  
M.Thomson

Wednesday 26th March.

Flodden – a Soldier’s Perspective:  
Alistair Hutton.

Wednesday 30th April.

The History of Newspapers in  
Berwickshire: Tony Langmack.

### **GLENDALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

Venue: Cheviot Centre, Padgepool Place, Wooler.      Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 8th January.

Paulinus, Barbarosa & The Magi:  
Mr. R. A. Humphrey.

Wednesday 12th February.

Annual Dinner.

Wednesday 12th March.

A Medieval Village: Rev. A. Wiltshire.

Wednesday 23rd April.

A.G.M. and Members Night.

### **BELFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

Venue: Meeting Room, Belford Community Centre.      Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 22nd January.

Grace Darling: Mrs C. Bell.

Wednesday 26th February.

The Gas Industry: Mr D.P. Dalby.

Wednesday 26th March.	Mining in North Northumberland: Mr D. R. Heywood.
Wednesday 23rd April.	Ragged and Industrial Schools of Northumberland: Mrs S. Lenderyou.
Wednesday 28th May.	The Coldstream Bible: Dr. B.J. Sproule.
Wednesday 25th June.	Exploration of Bamburgh Church.
Wednesday 23rd July.	A Belford Walk through History.

### **COLDSTREAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

Venue: Eildon Centre, Coldstream.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Thursday. 16th January.	Battle of Gettysburgh and a Coldstream Guards Observer: Mr J. Elliot.
(Note; Joint meeting with Cornhill and Tilmouth W.I. at Coldstream)	
Thursday. 6th February.	The Borders: Mr Alistair Moffat.
Thursday 6th March.	A.G.M. followed by Berwick Bridges: Mrs Jean Sanderson.
Thursday 3rd April.	Air Crashes in the Cheviots: Mr D. Bambro & Mr. M. Shepherd.
Thursday 1st May.	Local Plough Lad in the Charge of the Light Brigade: Mr T.Swan & Mr W. Murray.
Thursday 5th June.	Field Trip to Norham Castle.
Thursday 3rd July.	Field Trip with Mr Francis Cowe : A tour of the Riverside Area, Berwick-upon- Tweed.

### **EMBLETON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

Venue: Parish Church Room, Embleton.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 15th January.	Social Evening at Olde Ship Hotel, Seahouses.
Wednesday 19th February.	History of Forestry in Northumberland: Mr Bob Harrison.
Wednesday 19th March.	History of R.N.L.I. in the North East: Speaker to be confirmed.
Wednesday 16th April.	Anglo Saxon Political and Economic Organisation in Northumbria: Mr Bill Ford.
Wednesday 21st May.	Air Defence of the North East in World War II: Air Vice Marshal A. Hunter.
June	Outing to be Arranged.

### **NORHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

Venue; Norham Village Hall.

Time; 7.30 p.m.

Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> January	AGM and talk
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	History using metal detection
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	The Whaling Industry: Dr. Tony Barrow

### **NORTH SUNDERLAND & SEAHOUSES LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

Venue: St Paul's Parish Hall.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 22nd January.	Members Party Night.
Wednesday 26th February.	Mandell Creighton & the Victorian Era: Dennis Malthouse.
Wednesday.26th March.	Grace Darling & the Museum: Christine Bell

Wednesday 23rd April.

Members Evening.

Wednesday. 28th May

Local Stained Glass: Rev. David Rogerson

**NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**  
**( NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND GROUP )**

Venue: White Swan, Lowick.

Time: 10.00 a.m.

Saturday 15th February.

Memories of a Land Army Girl:  
Mrs Irene Sproule.

Saturday 15th March.

Plane Crashes in the Cheviots:  
Mr P. Clarke.

Saturday 12th April.

???????: Mrs. S. Lenderyou.

Saturday 17th May.

'Recollections' of World War 1:  
Mr Alan Findley.

Saturday 21 June.

The Bronte Sisters: Richard Moore.

**ARCHIVE NEWS**

Well, another year is nearly over and this one has certainly flown by. The last few months in the archives have been extremely busy for various reasons.

Despite the time of year, the Record Office has been extremely busy on Wednesdays and Thursdays. On average, about 20 people come in every day I'm open. These are a mixture of volunteers doing transcription work, people tracing their family history or history of their property and /or village; students and others. Some of the topics researched in the past few months have included Spittal; the Bondington area; inquests; trade in Berwick; and the fishing industry. On other days, I have been involved with a number of projects. I have been working with the Northumberland College Annexe at Berwick on running Family History classes. So far, we have just held them in the Record Office – I ran two 5

week courses in the Record Office in September and October.. However, in October, we decided to try a new 5 week course on Genealogy and the Internet out in the community. The first course was held in the Cheviot Centre in Wooler and this was very successful. So hopefully, I will be able to hold further similar classes after Christmas in other villages in the area. There is so much information available on the Internet and it can be a starting point for those tracing their family history.

The past couple of months have been quiet for school visits with only one school coming in – at the end of October a class from the Grove School in Tweedmouth spent a morning here finding out about Berwick and the Victorians. However, there have been several adult education visits to the Office – the Children’s and Intermediate Creative Writing Courses run by Maureen Raper and Derek Sharman’s course on the Second World War.

Recently,I have only given one talk – in October, I made a return visit to Crookham Village Hall to tell them some snippets about the village’s history. It was good to see some familiar faces but also to see that the people who have recently moved in to the village are interested in its past.

Finally, over the last couple of months, a lot of my time has been taken up with the Union of the Crowns 400 project. A grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund has been secured thanks to Derek’s hard work and we have run a number of successful marketing workshops. A leaflet on the proposed events is enclosed with the newsletter, so please keep the dates free and come along and support the Friends.

## **R.C. CLEMENTS OF SPITTAL – A POSTSCRIPT**

After writing the article on Robert Cooper Clements of Spittal in the last newsletter, I was contacted by Julia Butler with some further information on the family which was followed up by a visit to the Archives by his grandson and granddaughter ( Maureen Chambers nee Wall). Maureen provided me with the following notes on the family and some photographs of them all, including Robert.

Robert was survived by his wife, Minnie, and small daughter, Nancy ( christened Annie Weir Clements). Minnie Clements was born at 27 Woolmarket in Berwick,

the second daughter of Joseph Gregg and Annie Weir. She never remarried and went back to teaching at Spittal School. She lived at 1 Wilson Terrace with her mother and young daughter. Nancy, the daughter, attended Spittal school and had very happy memories of the area. In 1935, she married John (Jack) Wall and they moved away to Rotherham in Yorkshire. There, John had a very successful career in local government and became Town Clerk of Rotherham in 1946. John and Nancy had 4 children – 3 girls and a boy – and they stayed in Rotherham until 1968 when John retired and they returned to Spittal. There they had a house built at the end of Spittal Promenade. It still has their initials on the gable end.

On returning to Berwick, the couple became involved in a number of organisations. John became Director of the Berwick Preservation Trust and Anne became a school governor at Spittal. She also did some research into children's singing games and made a tape recording of these songs with children from the school.

In 1976- 77, they were Sheriff and Sheriff's Lady to Robert Blackhall, Mayor and in 1981- 82, John became Mayor of Berwick. John and Nancy (Annie) were buried in Berwick Civic Cemetery in the same plot as Minnie Clements.

Minnie always treasured the following note, written to her by Robert in pencil on a small piece of paper the night before he was reported missing . It is a very poignant message which must have summed up the feelings of many during the First World War :

*Dearest,*

*I'm going on a dangerous but glorious mission tonight.*

*Should I not return my batman will post this.*

*My last word is goodbye Minnie and Nancy. Be assured that I have loved*

*You more than I have been permitted to show because of the war. Let*

*Me bid you good-bye. God bless you all.*

*Heaps of love and kisses, yours Daddy.*

*Linda Bankier*

## **COMMEMORATION OF THE UNION OF THE CROWNS 400**

It looks like Berwick will be the place to be in 2003! Plans for the Commemoration of the Union of the Crowns are proceeding in leaps and bounds with an exciting programme of events to bring history vividly to life throughout the year.



The death of Elizabeth I on 24th March 1603 brought an end to centuries of warfare in the Borders. Although for years Elizabeth had been refusing to name her successor, finally, on her deathbed, she signalled her agreement that it should be James VI of Scotland, the son of Mary Queen of Scots. The messenger who first reached James with the news was Sir Robert Carey, Warden of the Middle March, and youngest son of the late Governor of Berwick, Lord Hunsdon. His three-day dash from London to Edinburgh was an amazing feat for those days. There are hopes that at least part of this ride can be re-constructed to launch the festivities in style.

The first major event takes place over the weekend of the 5th/6th April, recreating the events during the visit of King James on his way south to claim the English throne in 1603. Berwick was the first English town - and first place on English soil - that he passed through. In 2003, this will be a weekend of living history with re-enactments of life in a 17th century garrison town taking place around the walls and at Berwick Barracks. The English Civil War Society, The Sealed Knot and the Steel Bonnets will bring Berwick's 17th century garrison to life. At 10pm on the Saturday night the 'soldiers of the garrison' will light beacons on the Elizabethan bastions to celebrate the eve of the King's visit.

On the Sunday, for the first time ever, the principals from the Common Ridings of towns all along the border will join with Berwick's Riding of the Bounds riders, to form a magnificent Mounted Cavalcade to escort 'King James'. After a private ceremony at the actual Border between the Lords Lieutenant of Northumberland and Berwickshire, the cavalcade will proceed into Berwick to be met by musketeers and pikemen and others to form a costumed procession through the town. In 1603 James stayed overnight in the town, however, in 2003 his departure will be recreated later on the same day. He will leave via the old bridge - one of his first commissions as King of England, after famously complaining about the state of its wooden predecessor.

Later that evening, there will be a service in the Parish Church - using the King James Prayer Book, followed by a concert of early music performed by the York Waits on 17th century instruments.

These events will coincide with the 'East Marches Family Tryst' from 3rd - 8th April. In the days of the Border Reivers, the 'trysts' or truce days were called by the Wardens of the Marches of England and Scotland to decide matters of Border Law. This time it will be a chance for descendants of the old feuding families to meet and find out more about their family histories or for anyone else to find out more about local and family history.

Also during this weekend, 'Bygone Borderlands' will feature displays, talks and exhibitions in the Guild Hall, the Borough Museum and the Parish Church by various history, genealogical and archaeological societies from both sides of the border. We anticipate that the "Friends" will be playing an active part in this part

of the programme, in particular. The Civic Society will also have an exhibition in the Main Guard, created by Chris Green, on Berwick under the Stuarts.

And there's more to follow! On 10th/11th May, a festival of games that were played in the 17th century will be held in Berwick, co-inciding with the annual 'Border Marches'. 'King James's Sports' will comprise demonstrations and competition matches to watch, with plenty of participation games to allow everyone to join in for fun. Bowls, skittles, archery, fencing, golf, wrestling and tug-o'-war are among the activities, with something for all ages and interests..

In July we take a temporary detour even further back in time, to 1333, for the 670th anniversary of the Battle of Halidon Hill which ended the Great Siege of Berwick. This will be another colourful weekend of living history, medieval tournaments and battle re-enactments around the remains of Berwick's medieval castle and walls, and on the site of the actual battle. This weekend also links with National Archaeology Days and will provide an opportunity for involvement by Berwick's local history and archaeological societies, and excellent resources for children and adult learners alike.

Another spectacular event is planned for August with an unusual twist! An innovative version of Shakespeare's Hamlet will be performed in the open-air setting of Berwick's Elizabethan walls and the Barracks. It will be preceded by an alternative version of King James's procession involving giant puppets, also musical instruments and costumes created from recycled materials. Afterwards, the audience will be invited to join the performers in a torch-lit parade around the town.

Norham Castle is now a peaceful, atmospheric, setting beside the Tweed and overlooking the border, the perfect stage for a sound and light show in September (26th/27th/28th). The story to be told, however, is of a very different past. In the Middle Ages, Norham Castle was known as "the most dangerous place in England", besieged by the Scots on numerous occasions, and even fired on by the great canon 'Mons Meg'. It was also the scene for sumptuous banquets and courts of kings and prince bishops. The Union of the Crowns finally brought an end to Norham's military career. Alongside this event, Norham History Society are presenting a local history weekend, featuring an exhibition entitled 'Strongholds of the Border – East March'.

These are the main events, but many more special activities and regular festivals in the area are also being linked to Union of the Crowns 400 during 2003. More details are being added every week. So if you have friends and relations in other parts of the country, tell them this is the year to visit Berwick!

Among such colourful entertainment there should be something for everyone, of all ages and interests. For full details and updates watch out on our website [www.union-of-the-crowns.co.uk](http://www.union-of-the-crowns.co.uk)

## **ASPECTS OF BERWICK'S CULTURAL HISTORY**

### **ROBERT'S ROYAL RIDE**

One of the more dramatic exploits associated with Berwick is Robert Carey's ride from London to Edinburgh in March 1603 to inform James VI of Scotland he was, with the death of Elizabeth I, now also king of England. The tale of the dashing courtier racing north is also seldom told without mention of the ring taken from Elizabeth's dead hand by one of her ladies and dropped from the Palace window to Carey waiting below. As this ride will undoubtedly feature in the Union of the Crowns 400 celebrations in 2003 it is relevant to look in detail at the event. In 1603 Robert Carey, youngest son of the late Governor of Berwick, Lord Hunsdon, was 43. He delighted in a tough vital life and was certainly quite at home in the saddle, saying in his readable Memoirs, "few days passed over my head but I was on horseback". He was a veteran of the Borders having been engaged in attempting to suppress Border reivers for about ten years and had been sent on a number of official missions, including several embassies to Scotland. As a reward for this loyal service Carey ceaselessly petitioned for advancement and gradually acquired the Wardenships of the West, Middle and East Marches. In 1599 he became High Commissioner for the Province of York. But all these posts, and their income, were dependent on the Queen's continued favour. The two of them seemed to have got on very well and early in March 1603 he visited her at Richmond Palace. The Queen was in a deep melancholy and when he wished her long life, she squeezed his hand and said "No, Robin, I am not well". It was clear to Carey that she was dying and his whole future prosperity was in doubt, therefore he was determined to demonstrate his loyalty and indispensability to a new Royal master. He quite blatantly states in his Memoirs "I did assure myself it was nether unjust nor dishonest for me to do for myself". To this end he wrote personally to King James informing him of the Queen's perilous state and that "if of that sickness she should die, I would be the first man that should bring him news of it." Needless to say he had no official authority to do this, but then Robert was often doing things on the spur of the moment, in 1597 he had made an unauthorised trip to Enfield to see the Queen and, to everyone amazement, was given £500 and the Wardenship of the East March. Lord Burleigh had also been keeping James apprised of developments and certainly intended that there should be a smooth transition, but outside the tight circle of the Royal Council it was by no means known for certain, even at court, that James would succeed. One faction favoured Arabella Stuart, like James a grandchild of Margaret Tudor. Other rumours abounded, one Venetian

ambassador even reported back to the Doge that he was reliably informed that James should give up all thoughts of the throne as after Elizabeth's death England was going to be a Republic ruled by the Council. As it was Elizabeth almost left it too late to indicate her successor, having lost the power of speech, she had to make a sign of assent when James' name was put to her. Carey stayed watching the scene of her last hours until about ten o'clock on the night of Wednesday 23rd.March when she fell into a deep sleep and rain began to fall outside. Carey left instructions that he should be called immediately if there was any change and bribed the porter to let him in anytime. Between one and two the word came and he hurried back to the Palace. At this point of course, legend has it that he waited in the road beneath the gate until his sister, Lady Scroop, threw him the ring and he rode off into the dawn. It was even reported in 1973 that Old Palace Yard at Richmond, where the gatehouse still survives, was haunted by the sound of phantom hoof-beats. The story of the ring throwing seems to have originated with Carey's great-grand-daughter Elizabeth Spelman (d.1748) who also owned the now lost manuscript of Carey's Memoirs. Why she told such a tale is curious as Carey's own account reveals that it was all a lot more down-to-earth and difficult. At first, despite having being bribed, the porter would not let him in. Then, when he got inside, having made his way passed many weeping ladies (and perhaps stopping to collect the ring), in the chamber where the Council had assembled he found himself "caught hold of, and assured I should not go to Scotland, till their pleasures were farther known". He must have found this deeply frustrating and worse was to follow when the porter would not let him leave until Carey's brother answered for him. He returned to London and hung around at the Knight Marshal's lodgings sending word to Whitehall that he was waiting. They sent back that they were very glad he had not gone. Then he was sent for and he made haste to attend the Lords in Whitehall Orchard. Carey was approaching the Orchard gate when he met the Marshall who told to him leave at once saying that one of the Council had whispered to him that if Carey turned up "they would stay me, and send some other in my stead".

He returned to the Marshall's lodgings and it was from there, near Charing Cross, that he "took horse between nine and ten o'clock, and that night rode to Doncaster".

This is a remarkably matter-of-fact way of describing a ride of 164 miles and that he devotes so little space in his Memoirs to the ride itself, while giving a detailed account of his comings and goings the night before, shows how unremarkable he thought the achievement. It also gives us very little to go on to reconstruct his route, but it is safe to assume that once out of London he would have used the main well-established Post-road to the north with its regular staging posts where fresh horses were kept. But getting out of London was the first challenge, as he was on an unauthorised mission, and needed to avoid being stopped at the gates. Fortunately starting from Charing Cross he was already almost out in the countryside already. Back in 1603 St.Martin's Lane was literally that, a leafy country lane leading north, the first houses were not built along it until 1617.

Going up St.Martin's Lane (its one-way coming down now) he may have carried on till he reached another lane going east, Holbourn, or might have taken a shortcut through a new road called Long Acre. This was kept in good repair as it was part of the route to the grand house of Theobalds in Hertfordshire where the Queen had often stayed and which James I was later to acquire. Long Acre lead directly into what became Great Queen Street, later described as the "first regular street" in London the first houses being built along it in the 1630s. Lincoln's Inn lies ahead, though Carey Street near here is named after Nicholas Carey, not Robert. The 17th. Century road skirting Lincoln's Inn has been completely obliterated by Kingsway opened in 1905, but to the North lies Theobald's Road again back on the way to the great house. This leads to Clerkenwell Road, opened in 1878 to clear a way through the tangle of streets that had grown up blocking what was once known as The King's Way, clearly because James passed this way en-route to Theobalds. Old Street follows, so called because it was part of old route to the North, and finally the East bound routes reach the Post-road at Shoreditch High Street, where stood the Curtain Theatre, as reconstructed in the film Shakespeare in Love.

Once Carey had made it to Shoreditch he had access to the well-organised Royal Post- road system. It had been Henry VIII that had appointed Sir Brian Tuke as the first Master of the Posts in 1512 and by the 1590s the system had become highly developed with some 80 post-rooms staffed along more than a thousand miles of roads throughout the kingdom. At each, horses, and post-boys, were kept ready day and night to take forward the Royal Mail at a regulation speed, not less than 5 mph, but in practice at least 10 mph, sometimes faster. Fifteen minutes was the maximum allowed for hand-over of letters at each post-room of which there were 23 between London and Berwick. It was expected that a letter from Berwick should be in the Capital within 72 hours, which today's Post Office sometimes cannot match. Carey told James that he had "set horses along the route", which probably meant, he had alerted the various Post masters, usually inn-keepers, to expect him, otherwise without authorisation he may have found it an issue to get new horses.

However he organised the trip, once at Shoreditch he had a clear straight road ahead, courtesy of the Romans, Ermine Street, or as we call it the A10. For quite a while, some 20 miles or more he was riding through lands that were either owned or associated with his own family. At Stoke Newington still stands Brooke House, rebuilt by Carey's father Lord Hundson, but owned in 1603 by Edward de Vere, 17th.Earl of Oxford. Perhaps that night the Earl was putting the finishing touches to plays that some, even now, say are falsely attributed to Shakespeare. The Cock and Harp Inn here changed its name a few months later to the Three Crowns in honour of James passing by, after he had been welcomed to London by the Lord Mayor and Corporation at Stamford Hill a little farther North. The A10 now storms off left at Tottenham passing a surviving Elizabethan mansion, Bruce Castle, now Haringey Museum, but the old post-road goes straight on

(A1010). It passed the road to the then newly built Salisbury House at Edmonton, now surrounded by housing estates.

Twelve miles out, at Waltham Cross, a day's sad slow procession from Charing Cross in the 13th.Century, Carey would have passed another cross dedicated to Queen Eleanor. Just to the East of the road here was a familiar sight, the great house of Theobald's Palace built by Burghley and so liked by James I that he swooped Hatfield House for it. Carey would have got to know this house well in the following decades and it was here that James died on 27th.March 1625, twenty-two years and a day after he heard he was king of England. Alas of this Palace only single strip of brickwork survives as part of a cottage in the grounds of the later built Old Palace House.

At Great Amwell a small road led North-East to the Carey family house at Hunsdon. Once owned by Henry VIII the Royal children had been brought up there. Today Carey's brother John (d.1617) has an effigy in the Church, the quality of which is described by Pevsner as "of the highest then available in England".

This was a rich area in the 17th.Century and many of the houses built at Ware, home of the 'great bed' (now in the V&A), Buntingford and Royston survive. At the last place are the slight remains of James I's hunting lodge. At Caxton in Cambridgeshire both the Crown and George Inns have surviving Tudor features and it was at one of these that Carey would have got his fourth horse of the night. From there it was a straight run, all the way on the line of Ermine Street (A 1) through to Newark-on-Trent. North of Newark, at Carlton, the modern road goes off to the left and Carey's route leads along lesser roads (B 1164; A 638) to Scrooby (Notts) an important post house, partly on account of the Archbishop of York's grand palace of which now only fragments remain. Carey would have got one more horse here, his eleventh, to take him the ten miles or so into Doncaster. It was probably around breakfast time on Friday morning, and he was probably a good six hours ahead of any order to prevent him continuing. How long he slept we do not know, but soon he was off again back more or less on the route of the A 1. About four miles North of Boroughbridge the old route takes a sharp right to follow the A 168 to Topcliffe and then North-West (A 167) through Northallerton, Darlington, Durham, Chester le Street, Gateshead and Newcastle. Out of Newcastle the old road goes by the Town Moor through Gosford (A 189 & B 1318) to join the A 1 again at North Brunton. At Morpeth Carey branched off (B 1337) to reach his house at Widdrington by Friday night. He had acquired the house here during the summer of 1594, but, like so many other places associated with the Carey family, little survives of the Tudor building today. Carey gave orders for the keeping of the peace during the transition time and arranged for the King to be proclaimed the next morning at Morpeth and Alnwick. Early on Saturday he was up and off crossing the Post-road to Berwick to get to the more westerly route from Morpeth to the Coldstream (A 697) from this he branched off again to arrive at his own castle at Norham by

about noon. He had intended to get to Holyrood at supper-time, but he was thrown from his horse which then kicked him in the head. This injury made him "ride at a soft pace". Which route he took in Scotland is much more difficult to reconstruct. The 16th.Century topographer William Harrison lists two routes from Berwick to Edinburgh, one, the 'coast' route, goes inland from Berwick to Chirnside (A 6105) before weaving back to Coldingham and then on to Dunbar and round the coast. The other carries along the same inland route to Earlstoun before turning towards Lauder and Dalkeith (A 68). But Carey would have known this area especially well and would have made his own way from Norham partly on tracks unbeknown to any but locals. By the time he arrived at Holyrood, the King had gone to bed but Robert was readily admitted and greeted the King with his new titles. After describing the Queen death, the ring makes its appearance in Carey's account for the first time, as follows:-

"..he asked me what letters I had from the Council, I told him none: and acquainted him how narrowly I escaped from them. And yet I had brought him a blue ring from a fair lady, that I hoped would give him assurance of the truth that I had reported. He took it and looked upon it, and said. 'It is enough: I know by this you are a true messenger'"

Next morning when asked to name his reward he modestly deferred, briefly, saying he had hardly done anything, then he asked to be made a Gentleman of the Bedchamber. This was granted, and it was no mean honour, but when James reached London Carey was dismissed from the office, possibly to appease those Councillors he had disobeyed. Writing his Memoirs some twenty years later he still felt bitter about a King who had "deceived my expectation, and adhered to those that sought my ruin". But in the end he did not do too badly, his wife being given charge of the upbringing of the weakling Prince Charles. Carey prospered in Charles' service, was much involved in the negotiations over Charles' 'Spanish marriage' and was eventually made Earl of Monmouth. Robert Carey died in 1639 the same year that Charles marched to Berwick, confronted the Covenantors and began the events that lead to the Civil War. One mystery remains, next May an exhibition at Greenwich will include a ring, said to have been that taken by Carey to James. The only problem is that this gold ring, from the collection at Chequers, is decorated with diamond, ruby and mother of pearl. How then could it be the same as "a blue ring from a fair lady"?

Chris Green

#### Further Reading

Black, A & C.            Black's Guide to England and Wales (1864, rpt.1985)

Brayshay, M.            'Post-Haste by Post Horse?'

in History Today v.42 (Sept 1992) pp.35-41

Carey, R.               Memoirs (ed.F.H.Mares, 1972)

Hinde, J.H.            'The Old North Road'

in Archaeologia Aeliana Ser2. v.3 (1859) pp.236-55

Leland, J.             Itinerary in England and Wales (ed.L.T.Smith, 1964)

### **AMUSING MEMORIAL INSCRIPTIONS**

Here is a selection of Memorial Inscriptions. They are not local but come from various sources.

Here lyeth the body of Martha Dias  
always noisy, not very pious,  
lived to the age of three score and ten,  
gave to the worms what she refused to men.

.....

Erected  
to the memory  
of  
JOHN PHILLIPS.  
Accidentally shot,



as a mark of affection

by his brother.

.....

To the memory of

Emma and Maria Littleboy,

The twin children of

George Littleboy of Hornsey,

Who died 16th July 1837.

'Two Littleboys lie here

yet strange to say

these Littleboys are girls.'

Major James Bush, who was killed by the accidental discharge of a pistol by his orderly. 'Well done thou good and faithful servant'.

From Yorkshire comes the account of a man who ordered an inscription for his wife which read "LORD SHE IS THINE". Unfortunately the mason began the lettering too far over, with the result that it read "LORD SHE IS THIN". When the customer complained the mason sent one of the staff to correct the error. Sadly the lad misunderstood and carved the letter in the biggest space available- at the beginning, so that it finally read "E LORD SHE IS THIN".

Eric Herbert

## **THE AUTUMN LECTURE**

The Autumn Lecture was given by Doreen Grove an Inspector with Historic Scotland. Her subject was the use of the archive in writing her guide to the defences of Berwick. She referred to the various sources "The Kings Works" was one of the usual starting places but many less known sources such as local documents and records and extracts from the financial records and correspondence of the period had formed the basis of her work.

Her lecture was enlivened by interesting quotations from the source material and contained some very rewarding slides which were new to many of the audience and included some less well known maps.

The evening finished with a question and answer session at which very many questions were asked and the majority of them were answered although some were going to require further research.

Gus Fairbairn

## **SNIPPETS FROM THE BERWICK ADVERTISER**

November 11<sup>th</sup> 1834

### THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

The Editor of the PAWTUKET CHRONICLE issues Ten Commandments calculated for the meridian of Yankee Land. He has our thanks for the hint; a strict observance to them would most surely add to the happiness of Editors and Subscribers in a southern latitude. We profess to have faith in the creed, and hope the time is not far distant when the commandments will not only be professed, but practised in every Newspaper patron in the United States.

### THE COMMANDMENTS :

- 1 Thou shalt subscribe for the paper printed in thine own country.

- 2 Thou shalt not take the Newspaper without paying the Subscription money punctually; for Printers are a race of men deserving to be fed on the fat of the land; and to have their purses filled with the riches of the earth, though they seldom get either.
- 3 Thou shalt not steal another's articles and publish them as your own.
- 4 Thou shalt not write prose or insane rhyme and expect the vile effusions to be published as the out-pourings of youthful genius.
- 5 Remember the Advertisements, and keep the printer blessed with the fullness thereof.
- 6 Thou shalt not borrow thy neighbours newspaper, nor anything else that is his, but go to him that hath to sell, and buy for thyself.
- 7 Thou shalt not fly into a passion when thy milk and water communications, and they stolen thoughts are rejected by the Editor.
- 8 Honor the contemporaries of the type and quill, and set always a good example before thy brother's eyes.
- 9 Remember the ladies – and beware. For if thou presumptuously prevail on them to marry, the Clerk of the Court shall issue his licence, and though shalt be brought into the altar, and there be made to exchange thy state of single blessedness, for one of double dolefulness, and thenceforth have no more peace.
- 10 Beware of meddlers and double-faced politicians, of sea-serpents and common scolds. "Evil communications corrupt good manners".

November 15<sup>th</sup> 1834

TO BE LET. For such a term as may be agreed upon, and entered into at Mayday next;

All that well-known and commodious POSTING-HOUSE called the "BLUEBELL INN" in the town of Belford, on the Great North road, with its appurtenances, including a Brewery, and any quantity, not exceeding 220 acres of excellent tithe-free arable and Pasture land. The whole may be viewed by applying to MR. WEATHERLY, Belford, who will furnish every requisite information, and receive proposals, until the 6<sup>th</sup> day of December next.

Belford 6<sup>th</sup> November 1834.

*Muriel Fraser*

### **Letter from the Editor.**

Well it has been another busy year for the 'Friends' with many successful events and outings but we must not forget to say a big 'Thankyou' to all those people who regularly give up their time to help transcribe and index documents etc. for the Records Office making life much easier for researchers.

Family History has become one of the most popular pastimes and with the use of the computer is making records and relatives from all over the world more accessible. This year I discovered a host of distant relatives in Canada and one of them has the family Bible which has given me more leads to research. If you are researching your family history perhaps you could share some of your interesting or unusual finds with us, or maybe you have a query we could put to our readers.

Don't forget any interesting stories, items, events, letters or queries for the newsletter will be most appreciated. You may give them to Linda or send them by E-mail to [gallagher@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:gallagher@ukonline.co.uk) or by post c/o. Records Office, Wallace Green, Berwick upon Tweed.

**Yvonne Gallagher**  
Hon. Editor