



# Friends of Berwick & District Museum and Archives Newsletter



NUMBER 42 – MARCH 2004

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2004

Family History Day in the Berwick Youth Project Building ( see article)

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2004

Friends AGM in the Guildhall followed by short talks by Chris Green and Linda Bankier. Starts 7pm

Saturday/Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup>  
April 2004

BYGONE BORDERLANDS – local history displays, talks and court scene re-enactment in the Guildhall, Berwick. 10 – 4 ( Saturday) and 1 – 5 ( Sunday)

Friday April 30<sup>th</sup> – Monday  
3<sup>rd</sup> May 2004

Union of the Crowns Charter 400 Weekend – see Derek's article for further information.

Saturday/Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> /8<sup>th</sup> May      Family History Weekend

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> – Monday 31<sup>st</sup>  
May 2004      May Fair Weekend

### **Other Societies' Lectures**

#### **BELFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

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

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2004      Berwick Museum: Mr Chris Green.

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2004      Northumberland's Airfields: Mr  
A.Findley.

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2004      Wills and Family History: Mrs S.  
Lenderyou

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2004      Evening Visit to Middleton Hall.

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2004      Evening Visit to Hulne Park, Alnwick.

#### **BORDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick.      Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2004      Financing the Romans: Jeremy  
Patterson.

**(N.B.** This is a joint meeting with the Civic Society in the Maltings at 7.30pm)

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2004**      **AGM followed talk : Howick Dig Results:**  
**Clive Waddington**

**n.b. AGM starts at 7pm**

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2004      Cataloguing the Rock Art of  
Northumberland : Aron Mazel

### **BERWICK HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: The Parish Centre, Berwick.**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2004

The Hind's View: Collingwood  
Thompson

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2004

AGM followed by The Ellem Fishing  
Club: Dr. J. H. Mitchell.

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

**Venue: Eildon Centre, Coldstream.**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2004

AGM followed by 'Local Histories':  
Mr A. Douglas-Home, Mr J. Elliott  
and Mr T. Swan.

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2004

History of Galashiels: Mr I. Miller

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2004

History of Kelso: Mrs A Mitchell.

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2004

Field Trip to The Henge, Milfield Plain  
with Mr C. Waddington.

### **DUNSE HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Duns Social Club, 41 Newton St, Duns.**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2004

Papermaking in Berwickshire: John  
Reid.

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2004

Cumledge 150 : talk and social evening.

### **EMBLETON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Parish Church Room, Embleton.**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2004                      Embleton and the Merton Connection:  
Dr Richard Lomas.

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2004                      A History of Music in the English  
Church: Dr Alan Gidney.

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2004                      Admiral Lord Collingwood:Mr Denis  
Malthouse

### **GLENDALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Cheviot Centre, Padgepool Place, Wooler.**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2004                      The Northern Arthur: Mr R.A.  
Humphrey. O.B.E.

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2004                      AGM and Members night.

### **NORHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue; Norham Village Hall.**

**Time; 7.30 p.m.**

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2004                      Upsettlington : Mrs Eleanor Moffat

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2004                      Jacobite Rebellion – the Merse Troop :  
Mr Francis Cowe

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2004                      Air Crashes in the Cheviots Part I, 1939  
1945 : Mr Mike Shepherd & Mr Derek  
Balmbro

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

**Venue: St Paul's Parish Hall.**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2004	Collingwood: Dennis Malthouse.
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2004	Safety at Sea (Lighthouses and Lifeboats): Ken & Irene Lillico
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2004	Members Evening.

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

**\*PLEASE NOTE: Meetings will now be held at Black Bull, Lowick. (Unless specified otherwise!)**

**Third Saturday in the month.**

**Time: 10.00 a.m.**

Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2004	Aspects of Jacobitism in North Northumberland: Mr Richard Sharp (* <b>Note:</b> Feb and March meetings had to be re-arranged)
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2004	Heraldry in Berwick and the Borders <i>(with particular reference to the Royal Heraldry associated with the Union of the Crowns and Parliaments)</i> Mr Roy Humphry MA OBE
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2004	Four Centuries of Coal mining in North Northumberland: Mr David Hayward
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> June 2004	Border Murders by Norrie McLeish

---

**LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

The Friends have had a successful year. The Union of the Crowns Projects which we are leading have all been very successful and very well supported. There are further events to take place up to the end of May 2004 culminating in the May Fair weekend.

We also took part in a Scoping Exercise about the possible siting of the Museum and Archive moving to a single campus. There is no final decision on this as it depends on the finding of a suitable site when matters could proceed further.

I wish to thank all Committee Members for their help in these [matters](#), particularly those who serve on the steering committee. I also wish to thank Linda Bankier, Chris Green and Jim Herbert for their heroic efforts in the Union of the Crowns projects. Last but by no means least I thank Derek Sharman, our Project Officer for his efforts well beyond the call of duty in making the project a success. In order to raise funds the Friends are running a big raffle organised by Barbara Herdman and I trust that you will do your best to sell tickets on our behalf. We are moving swiftly towards the AGM, this year the officers other than myself are up for election and we will need a Secretary, an Assistant Treasurer and a Vice Chairman. In addition there are vacancies for committee members. I know that you will give this matter your attention and hopefully some will propose themselves for office or Committee, others may propose another (but please let them know first!). The Friends can only work effectively with a strong committee and officers.

*Gus Fairburn*

## **ARCHIVE NEWS**

Newsletter time seems to have come round very quickly. The Record Office continues to be busy with a mixture of volunteers and other individuals researching various topics including the isolation hospital at Wooler; Berwick in the 17<sup>th</sup> century; and archaeology in Berwick.

As well as looking after the public, the last couple of months have been spent doing various things, mainly trying to keep up to date with all the post, e-mails and research enquiries I receive and doing some preparation for events which will take place between March and the end of May. That will be a very busy time for the Record Office.

A number of groups have shown interest in holding local history courses and so I have just completed a 5 week Sources for Local History course for Lowick and am in the middle of teaching a similar course at Seahouses. These courses are run through Northumberland College and are free.

Normally the post Christmas time is a quiet period for talks but in February (after it was delayed because of the snow) a Writers' group came to the office to find out about sources for historical research. I've also been down to Belford to speak to the Local History group who are interested in doing a project.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

I have been talking to the Registrar for Berwick, Rob Gray about a collaborative project that we would like to undertake. Some of you may be aware of the FREEbmd project on the Internet which is trying to index all the national indexes of births, marriages and deaths in England and Wales from 1837. To complement this, a number of district Registrars are also indexing their records on databases, some of which are appearing on the Internet. The Registrar at Berwick keeps copies of the births, marriages and deaths for the North Northumberland area from July 1837. We would like to enter the records into a database on the computer, initially the marriage registers which are the most difficult entries to trace. A copy of the database will be made available at the Registrar's Office and in the Record Office. The project won't start until April and will be based in the Registrar's Office in the Community Centre – I think you will be able to go in any of the mornings they are open. To start with, I am collecting names of people who might be interested in helping with this project. So if you are able to spare an hour any weekday morning and want to help, please let me know – (01289) 301865 or e-mail : [lb@berwick-upon-tweed.gov.uk](mailto:lb@berwick-upon-tweed.gov.uk)

### **FAMILY HISTORY DAY – SATURDAY 6 MARCH IN THE BERWICK YOUTH PROJECT BUILDING, GOLDEN SQUARE**

In conjunction with Berwick Youth Project, the Office is running a Family History Day in the Youth Project Building. The day will run from 11.00 to 12.30 and 2.00 to 4.30. Although it is specifically aimed at young people and encouraging them to find out how to trace their Family History, everyone is welcome to come along. As part of the day, you can see the old films we have of Berwick (1920s – 1970s); an exhibition on family history; some old photos of Berwick; as well as find out what information is available in the Record Office, elsewhere and on the Internet to help you trace your family history. Please come along and if you have any children or grandchildren, bring them along too! They might become hooked on tracing their own Family History.

If you would like to help on the day, I'm still looking for volunteers, so give me a ring.

### **BYGONE BORDERLANDS – 17<sup>TH</sup>/18<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2004**

Following the success of the previous two Bygone Berwick/Bygone Borderlands, we are holding another one in April. The Friends will have a table at the event and we will need volunteers to man it. If you can spare a couple of hours over that weekend to help, please contact Barbara Herdman on (01289 307524)

## **THE DEATH OF P.C. GREY AT EGLINGHAM**

About a year ago, I was contacted by the First School at Eglingham who were researching the story of the murder of a Police Constable in the village. George Grey was killed on the 25 January 1873 as the result of a poaching incident he went to investigate. Charles Richardson was accused of his murder and various reports appear in the Berwick Advertiser until March when he was acquitted. We found the following information about the case

### **THE FATAL POACHING AFFRAY AT EGLINGHAM**

It is understood that the detention of Richardson as one of the murderers of the policeman Gray is chiefly owing to his refusal to explain the absence of a gun well-known to the police. The route, supposing the men belong to Alnwick, would be by Eglingham Moor, where there is a small lake of about six acres in area, called Kimmer Lough. This has been dragged by the police, under the impression that the poachers, after the murder, might have thrown their guns into it; but nothing came of it. Considerable excitement, however was caused in the immediate locality of Eglingham and in Alnwick when it was known that a gun had been found on Eglingham Moor on Tuesday last week – a double-barrelled one, with one barrel fired and one not. But this was not Richardson's gun, for it is a short one, single barrelled, and "bright as silver," as a person describing it who knew it.

At the Alnwick Police Court, on Saturday, before Major Grey, Major Browne, and Mr Craster, the three men in custody on the charge of having been connected with the murder of P.C. Grey, at Eglingham, were brought up on remand. On the application of Mr. Superintendent Wookey, the prisoners were further remanded for a week when evidence will be given. "Elfin" in the Newcastle Chronicle of Monday writes:- "I have received a very long letter from a correspondent at Alnwick with regard to the late poaching case at Eglingham and the death of Sergeant Gray; and it furnishes to me the most conclusive evidence of the folly of the police holding their magisterial investigation into the circumstances of the poor man's death in private. It appears that facts and conjectures elicited by the examination leak out into the streets of Alnwick, and are discussed under considerable exaggeration: whereas, if the court had been an open one, the public would have been put into possession of the evidence through accredited reporters, and they would most likely have been able to aid the police rather than



thwart them in their investigations. With regard to the man Schofield, there might have been some verbal inaccuracies in the statements I made last week regarding him, but the account was substantially correct. He did work at North Shields. He left that town on the Friday evening before the murder with a woman, supposed to be his wife, and there was the strongest reason to believe that the man and woman who took tickets at the North Shields Station for Alnwick by the six p.m. train the same evening, were the same individuals. He and the woman did not return to North Shields. They could not be discovered afterwards, though sought after in all the seaports, until Schofield was apprehended in Sunderland on suspicion of being concerned in the murder of Gray. As I said last week, we would like to know what was the nature of the strong alibi he proved. Schofield had left Alnwick, according to my correspondent, previous to the murder, because he had been fined £3 for poaching or in default three months' imprisonment in Morpeth gaol. I suppose he is undergoing that term of imprisonment now. The writer from Alnwick says further:- "With regard to Richardson, no evidence at all has been brought forward except a missing gun, which he refuses to account for. Richardson has now been in custody four or five weeks. While the policemen have been floundering and seeking for his gun – dragging all the ponds and digging up the ground in their search for it. As Richardson has a small family to work for, I think it is hard that he should be detained in custody, as there seems nothing to connect him with the case. Is he to be remanded from time to time till this gun is found?"

March 21<sup>st</sup> 1873

### **THE EGLINGHAM MURDER – DISCHARGE OF RICHARDSON**

Charles Richardson, brick maker, Alnwick Moor, charged with the murder of P.C. Grey, at Eglington, on the 17<sup>th</sup> January last, was again brought before the magistrates at Alnwick on Saturday, on remand from the previous week, and as will be seen from the subjoined report was ultimately discharged. The magistrates upon the bench were Mr John Craster (chairman), Major Grey, Mr J. H. Carr-Ellison, Mr T Clutterbuck, and Mr S. R. Widdrington, Mr Middlemas, solicitor, Alnwick, now appeared for the prosecution; and Mr Weatherhead solicitor, Berwick, again appeared on behalf of the prisoner.

Mr Middlemas narrated some of the principal points which he was to bring before the bench. He also put in a plan of the locality. He then proceeded to call the evidence.

John Field, recalled, examined by Mr Middlemas-I am a shoemaker. (The prisoner's boots produced) This boot has a swedge heelplate. It is not a common thing for a heelplate like this to be in a hob-nail boot of this description; the toeplate is regular. A shoemaker might put on the heelplate, but if he did I think he would be in a hurry.

I saw a footprint in the soil in Coxon's field on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January with a swedge heel upon it. I did not notice the second footprint. The footprint with the swedge heel on it was near the plantation fence. It was a freshly made mark.

Ven, Geo. H Hamilton, archdeacon of Northumberland, recalled, examined by Mr Middlemas

In company with Superintendent Gillespie, about half-past eight or nine o'clock, I examined very particularly the footprints in Coxon's field. One impression had a hollowed-out heelplate. I noticed that they had nails, but I cannot say particularly. We put stones to protect two of the impressions, lest the people should tread upon them. I noticed that there were several impressions without a heelplate. I did not remember that till the last court-day. There were nails in that footprint; but I could not speak to them particularly. The two impressions were of a large man's boot. I could not swear they had been made by the same man. I could not say whether it was the right or left boot without the heelplate.

By Mr Weatherhead: At this time, the prisoner's boots had not been got from him.

Robert Wilson, surgeon, Alnwick recalled, examined by Mr Middlemas, repeated the evidence which he gave last week.

Supt, Thomas Harrison, recalled, examined by Mr Middlemas: I examined the foot-prints pointed out to me by Supt, Gillespie; it was on the second drill from the plantation. The boot which I hold in my hand corresponds with the left foot-print, in length, in nails, and in heel-plate; it is likely to have produced the impression. The impression which I saw had been made by a boot exactly similar to the one I have in my hand, if not with this. I saw another footprint, which was covered up farther away from the plantation; it did not correspond with either of the boots produced. The second boot-mark was very indistinct; but I think the boot had been nailed all over; it had no heelplate. One of the prisoner's boots is without a heelplate. When I apprehended the prisoner, he was dressed as he is now. He wears a grey Tweed coat and moleskin trousers.

By Mr Weatherhead-I have described the peculiarities of the boot and the print to the best of my ability.

By Mr Middlemiss –There is not much projection in the heelplate.

Superintendent Gillespie recalled by Mr Middlemas: I saw impressions of the prisoner's second boot. I saw the impression of a much smaller heel; studded all over with round headed nails. I never saw an impression of a boot which had had a heelplate and then wanted it. The heelplate of the boot produced corresponds exactly with the footprint which I saw in Coxon's field; the four nails which are put in diamond wise exactly correspond.

I saw something beside the four-heeled nails which I could not make out. I did not notice the whole of the impression of the boot.

By Mr Weatherhead: Superintendent Wookey called my attention to a small projection in the groove, at the very point of the heelplate; and the footprint had the same..

By Mr Middlemas: There are three nails in the heelplate of the boot produced, and I distinctly saw three nails in the heelplate of the footprint. I produced the belt of the deceased, which I got in Field's Cottage; it has 21 shot corns through

it. I got it, along with the other clothes, in Field's cottage after his death. I produce his coat, which is riddled through the breast with shot corns. The coat shows corresponding marks of shot corns where the belt would go around. I also produce the vest; it is riddled and bloody. The trousers I produce also. Several shot corns have gone through them.

Superintendent W. Wookey, examined by Mr Middlemass: From information which I received, I went to Eglingham on Sunday, the 19<sup>th</sup> January. I went with Superintendent Gillespie to a cottage. We went into Coxon's field, opposite the cottage; and Superintendent Gillespie pointed out to me some footprints in the field; they were covered with stones. I examined them particularly. In the first one which I examined, the sole of the print had been partly washed away with the rain, but the heel was left perfect, and was covered with large nails; it had no heelplate on it. I took down the number of nails; there were five at the bottom part of the heel; five above, running parallel with the bottom row; and five from top to bottom. It had been studded all over with nails. I have not seen a boot which would make this impression. About 10 yards further down the field, and closer to the plantation hedge, I observed another print of a foot. The indentation had been made by a groove-heeled plate. I examined this impression very particularly, and measured it. It measured each way 2 7/8<sup>th</sup> in, where it turns in, the heelplate measures 2 5/8<sup>th</sup> in. There were impressions of three nails in the groove of the heelplate. The two ends of the heelplate bevelled inwards; instead of the ends of the heelplate standing straight, the two ends turned in obliquely. The boot produced corresponds in every particular with the impression I noticed. The impression had been injured by the rain; that was at the sole; you could see the outline of the foot. I measured it. The length of the foot was exactly 12 1/4 inches. The boot produced exactly corresponds in measurement with the impression; it corresponds in length as near as possible; it is one foot and a quarter of an inch in length. I did not notice any other impression. I examined this footprint on the Monday as well as on the Sunday. I saw it several times, and I believe that the boot produced made the impression. I saw the boot for the first time on the Monday night; and the moment I saw it, I said "That is the boot which made the impression" There is a piece of dirt inside the heelplate of the boot, and it did not show in the indentation. There is a nail omitted in the heel; it was not observable in the impression. There are four nails in the heel, but only three were observable in the heel; the impression of the print is the same. I took a note on Monday as to the width and length of the boot; I entered the note in my pocket-book which note I now produce. Isaac Ramsey, examined by Mr Middlemas; I live at Crawley. I was summoned to appear at the court on 8<sup>th</sup> inst, I did not come. On Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> of January, I was taking a walk round about the fields at Crawley before I went to bed. I came down to the road which leads from Titlington to Hedgeley. It was near ten o'clock at night. I saw three men upon the road. They were passing to the northward. They got past me about fifty yards. I had heard there was to be a meeting of hinds that night at Glanton. I passed on one side of the road and the men on the other. After they passed I thought they were hinds and had been at the meeting, and I turned back to ask them if they had been. I spoke to the man on the west side of the road where I

passed; he was the nearest; I asked them if they had been to Glanton; he replied "No" I am not sure whether the prisoner is the man or not. He was something like about the size of him; but I am not exactly sure. I did not notice his dress. It was cloudy that night when the moon rose; the moon was scarcely up then, and did not give much light. I did not see whether their pockets hung down; I believe I have said the prisoner was like the man; that was when he was pointed out to me in Alnwick, lock-up; and I said "I believe it to be him; but I am not so sure now, since I am on my oath." I could not tell whether the man who spoke to me had a beard.

Mary Vint, examined by Mr Middlemas: I am sister of the prisoner, and live in Alnwick . Supt Gillespie came to see me; I can hardly tell when . He asked me if my brother had been at my house on the Friday night of the murder. My brother might be in my house that night for anything I knew; I was at my mother's that night; there was never a night that he was not in my house; I did all for him. I did not tell Supt. Gillespie that I was at my mother's that night. I told him that my brother was in the house the night before, I did not say my brother was not there on the Friday night; he did not ask me the question three times, and caution me.

Mr Middlemas said this was the whole of the evidence he had to offer.

Mr Weatherhead submitted that the only question was whether there was *prima-facie* evidence to go to jury. He did not wish to go minutely into the case at that time, but even assuming that the magistrates believed as facts the evidence which had been given, did they think that a jury would convict a man of wilful murder on such evidence? He submitted that a jury would not convict on this especially about the footprints, which he did not feel justified in going into before the magistrates; he should reserve these matters for elsewhere, supposing the magistrates decided to commit, but he thought the case was hardly one even to send for trial. It was one of the weakest possible nature, even supposing that the magistrates were satisfied about the footmarks.

The Chairman said there might be a sufficient case for Mr Weatherhead to give his opinion upon, and sufficient to send the case for trial.

Mr Weatherhead hardly felt justified in going into that question; he must leave it to be dealt with elsewhere, if the magistrates thought there was a *prima-facie* case; but they must be satisfied he submitted, that in the first instance there was such a case as the jury were likely to convict upon.

The Magistrates retired to their room; and in a few minutes returned into court, and said their opinion was that the prisoner must be discharged.

The decision was received with cheers and clapping of hands by the people inside the court. The prisoner had awaited the result with the greatest anxiety depicted on his countenance, and the immense relief which he experienced when he heard he was immediately set at liberty, and bounded out of the dock amongst his friends.

*Linda Bankier*

## **FUND RAISING ( PART TWO)**

Things have changed since last I wrote for our newsletter, explaining about our fund-raising for the Union of the Crowns Project. The two nights out will now not be taking place. Instead, I am organising a big raffle to be drawn at the end of the long list of events.

We have already received a goodly supply of raffle prizes from many local firms and businesses. Our star prize has been donated by Fred Stott. He has, very generously, donated a signed, framed limited edition print of Berwick in 1970. The main feature is the old Bridge which is associated with the departure of James VI and I on his way to London in 1603.

Raffle tickets will be available soon. They will be on sale at all our main events, starting with the A.G.M. I will need help to sell tickets at Safeway (Morrison's) on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, so if you can spare an hour then; please contact me.

If Friends who don't live in the area would like to support the raffle, tickets are £1.00 for a book of 4 and can be obtained from the Record Office by sending a cheque (made payable to FBDMA) for the relevant amount. Your tickets will be posted to you.

*Barbara Herdman*

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

### **BATTLE OF THE SHEEP**

While Britons were striving hard on land and sea during the Napoleonic Wars, other less fatal but equally bitter battles were being fought far inland in Berwick's countryside. The captains were farmers and their loyal hordes were sheep. Dr.Fuller, author of Berwick's first history, was besotted with agriculture, his *History* (1799) abounds in praise for it and he is keen to advise farmers to abandon their traditional ways and fully embrace science and reason. While, he says, the "philosopher should sedulously follow the plough", the farmer should study maths, chemistry and get expert advice from Edinburgh's Professor of Agriculture, "and thus the practice and theory, by being united and acting reciprocally on each other, would certainly tend to improvement of both." He hoped he would live to see this "auspicious epoch" and its arrival would be surely hastened by that "wise and most important institution" the National Board of Agriculture under the inspired leadership of the great, good, "unremitting, and truly patriotic" Sir John Sinclair who deserved "his name engraved not only on

pillars of marble, but on statues of gold, to perpetuate, to the latest ages, his memory and well earned labours.” Fuller offers his own small tribute by dedicating his *History* to Sinclair, who also, he records with awe, looked over an early draft of the text. John Sinclair was passionately committed to agricultural improvement but, with golden statues of him not that common today, it perhaps should be noted that modern scholars reckon the Board of Agriculture was a bit of a flop. Founded in 1793 with Sinclair as President (he was a crony of the Prime Minister) its main achievement was to commission a series of county reports on the state of agriculture. Typically it was done on the cheap with miserable expenses for the reporters who were expected to dash around their regions in the depth of winter, when little farming was going on, and report back within six weeks. Most of the reporters had little real experience of farming and the subsequent reports, which the Board then took years to publish, were long on personal theories and short on practicalities. Once published, the Board made no effort to follow them up and it limped on until 1822, its sole other success being a reduction in the fees for Enclosure Acts. It must have been a great disappointment to Fuller. It is remarkable therefore that the Northumberland report, *General View of the Agriculture of the County of Northumberland with Observations on the Means of its Improvement* (1794, 3<sup>rd</sup> edn 1805) was as good as it was. This is due entirely to the reports’ authors, John Bailey and George Culley, being expert farmers as well as men willing to try new techniques. Of the two, George Culley was by 1800 probably the most famous name in agriculture in the north of England. His book *Observations on Livestock* (1786) was the standard work on the subject, but more than that he enjoyed a huge reputation as a practical farmer and a successful innovator. Originally from County Durham, George, and his brothers Matthew and James, had come to north Northumberland in 1767.

There was excellent scope for pioneer endeavour. In the south of the county was the great estate of the Duke of Northumberland, but nearby the only other real attempt to manage things was at Ewart Park where Cheviot Legionnaire Horace St.Paul had laid out a neat estate. Most of the rest of North Northumberland was then what we would call unspoilt countryside, but they would have seen as a desolate wilderness. The social reformer Josephine Butler recalled that her grandfather George Grey (d.1793), a neighbour of the Culleys who arrived at about the same time, took his axe “and like a backwood settler cut away the broom and cleared for himself a space on which to begin farming operations”. The Culleys did likewise and over the next forty years ran a network of highly profitable farms in Berwick’s hinterland from Wark-on-Tweed to just north of Wooler. One of their major innovations was the Norfolk system of crop rotation, which by 1800 was over a five-year period of oats, turnips, barley/wheat and then pasture. This was fairly uncontroversial and the *General View* notes that “many have been obliged to adopt this system, by which they find their lands renovated.” Another success for the Culleys were turnips. Turnips for animal feed in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century were a deeply suspected foreign invader, little known in Northumberland and the idea of using a machine, such as that pioneered by Jethro Tull, to drill-plant the seeds was even more exotic. The

*General View* recounts that turnip drilling was first introduced into Berwickshire by a Mr Pringle, a retired army surgeon, in 1756-7, but for a decade it was ignored by all his neighbours “but no sooner did Mr Dawson (an actual farmer) adopt the same system, than it was immediately followed, not only by several farmers in his vicinity, but by those very farmers adjoining Mr Pringle, whose crops they had seen...so much superior to their own”. This is typical of the farmers’ reactions to many innovations at the time. It was all very well for rich gentlemen farmers like Pringle to experiment, he always had his army pension to fall back on if things went wrong, the hard-headed sensible thing was to wait till a tenant farmer risked his own money to innovate, if that worked, then everybody rushed to copy it. This was one of the keys to the Culleys’ reputation; they were hard working practical farmers who risked their own money. Dr Fuller, and many gentlemen theorists like him, would simply have been ignored. Mind you, there were those that could be taken in, one man announced in the *Newcastle Courant* that he had an infallible remedy for turnip fly caterpillars the secret of which he would reveal to subscribers to a fund whose target was £2000. Farmers duly sent in their cash only to be told that the fly was not the problem, it was the slugs that came out at night which could be crushed with a roller. Another piece of advice offered by the same newspaper was to let loose ducks on the caterpillars to “stamp them out” –literally.

Not everything the Culleys did was copied. They spent considerable time and effort sending a worker to the country’s leading expert on water-meadows and then established water meadows at Wark-on-Tweed, George predicting that they would be copied all over the county. They never were. That same expert, George Boswell, was invited to address the Board of Agriculture on the subject, he refused, and candidly told George Culley why:

“Country Farmers are not at home when they are with such sort of Folks...to dance attendance upon great Folk, & to answer such Questions as they may deign to ask you and then with an ungracious Nod to be told you are done with – will not suit the stomach of your sincere Friend”.

But getting the ear of ‘great folks’ was part of the Culleys’ success in pushing their innovations, and in this his co-author of the *General View*, George Bailey, played a crucial role. Bailey, a Yorkshireman who had married into an old respectable Durham family, obtained the post of steward and land agent to the Earl of Tankerville at Chillingham Castle. Bailey was convinced of the need for innovation and was in an ideal position to persuade the Tankerville tenant farmers, often against their wishes, to adopt the Culley methods be it crop rotation, turnip drills or the Culley breeds of cattle and sheep. What the very grand Earl of Tankerville was doing was good enough for lesser gentleman and so people like Francis Sitwell, briefly one of Berwick’s MPs, threw a lavish party at his house at Barmoor Castle in 1804 where “a large company was entertained” and viewed their host’s “first show of rams of the improved Leicester breed”. The company was enchanted, Sitwell proud, the rams probably bemused, but it was the Culleys who pocketed the cash. For it was the Leicester or Dishley breed of

sheep that lay at the heart of the Culley's growing fortune and reveals just how ruthless a businessman George Culley could be. To a great extent the *General View* is a propaganda tract for the Culley methods, and any that spoke out against them would be damned, so in the conclusion to the report we read:-

"The misfortune is, that those who know the least about stock, are generally the most bigoted for retaining the original breeds of the country, and the loudest to raise a clamour against innovation and attempts at improvement."

The truth was that these 'bigots' were the farmers who preferred to stick with the breeds they knew rather than pay high prices to the Culleys for the new breed that they were promoting. There were four distinct sheep breeds in the area when the Culleys arrived: Cheviots on the highest hills, Blackfaces on the high ground to the south of the county, the Bamburg-Lincoln breed on the coastal pastures and in the lowland areas the long woolled breed called 'Mugs' because they had wool growing over their eyes. The Culleys launched a campaign to get all these replaced with the Dishley breed to which they had exclusive access through a deal with the sole supplier, Robert Bakewell in Leicestershire. The Dishley's appeal was that it yielded a lot of mutton, rather too fatty for modern tastes, but suitable for a mass market in growing urban centres such as Tyneside. Everyone wanted a piece of the action, but the Culleys ruthlessly controlled access eventually setting up their own breeders association. This was a final straw leading to a farmers' boycott of the Culley produce (they also made a mint from turnip seed and other things) in Berwick, Alnwick and elsewhere, and the social ostracism of the Culley family. Within a year the Culley's breeding association had collapsed and George was still sending out apologetic circulars two years later. Despite this reverse, by the time 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the *General View* came out in 1805 the Mugs breed was being mostly replaced by the Dishley, but the Bamburg-Lincolns were still stubbornly clinging to their coastal strip, and the Cheviot and Blackface breeders looked down from their hill-tops in contempt at Culley's profiteering. The Culleys could afford to ignore these small pockets of resistance while raking in the profits for sheep, cattle, and wheat, which in the Napoleonic war period, was in huge demand. Farmers all over the area switched from oats to wheat and 1801 was a bumper year, the Culley receipts from all grain products being £13,654, an increase of £6670 on the previous year. George knew such a boom could not last but he wrote, "...let us be thankful, that we have had our share of wonderful good times; what is more, we made good use of them, so we can bear a brush". The Culley's ruthlessness and George's ceaseless propaganda paid off. In 1807 they purchased Fowberry Tower, a Gothick mansion, from Sir Francis Blake for £45,000. The family had arrived and George's son Matthew would subsequently take his place among the ruling county families. A couple of years before his death in 1813, George wrote to his son

"Whenever I am at Fowberry, I am struck with astonishment when I reflect on our beginning in Northumberland 43 years ago. To think of my son, now inhabiting a



Palace! altho' his father in less than 50 years since worked harder than any servant we now have, & even drove a coal cart!"

Chris Green

### Further Reading

Bailey, J. & Culley, G. *General View of the Agriculture of Northumberland, Cumberland & Westmorland* (3<sup>rd</sup>.Edn 1805, reprint with intro by D.J.Rowe, 1972)

Butler, J. *Memoir of John Grey of Dilston* (2<sup>nd</sup>.edn.1874) [Nat.Lib.Scot]

MacDonald, S. 'The Role of George Culley of Fenton in the Development of Northumberland Agriculture' in *Archaeologia Aeliana* 5<sup>th</sup>.Ser, vol.3 (1975) pp.131-141

Rowe, D.J. 'The Culleys, Northumberland Farmers, 1767-1813' in *Agricultural History Review* vol.19 (1971) pp.156-74

## Union of the Crowns 400 – Programme for 2004

I am pleased to report that we have been awarded an additional £49,500 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to support our Royal Charter 400 events in April and May this year.

There is still a need to draw in about £5,000 of match funding from the private sector, to complete our total budget, but this new grant means that we shall be finishing the Union of the Crowns commemorative festival in as spectacular a fashion as we began in April 2003.

There is still a variety of activities to look forward to in our remaining programme :

At 11am on **10<sup>th</sup> March**, linking with National No-Smoking Day, Chris Green and Jim Herbert will present a costumed enactment based on the "Counterblaste to Tobacco". Written in 1604 by King James VI/I, this is one of the earliest and most eloquent condemnations of the noxious weed. In the full text, King James argues against the supposed benefits of smoking tobacco to improve health and cure diseases, and proposed to protect his subjects from its damaging effects by introducing a new tax on the importation of tobacco!

An England v Scotland Curling Bonspiel, the last event in the Union of the Crowns Festival of Sport, takes place at Kelso Ice Rink on **13<sup>th</sup> March**.

Following the success of last April's "Bygone Borderlands" exhibition, another programme of displays by local and family history societies, historical role-playing

scenes and talks on topics of history will be staged on the weekend of **18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> April**, in Berwick Town Hall and other locations in the town.

At 11am on **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April**, up to 30 veteran and vintage cars from both sides of the Border will set off from Berwick town centre for a scenic drive around the Borough.

The main event of the 2004 programme is Royal Charter 400, marking the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the granting of a Charter to the Borough of Berwick-upon-Tweed by King James VI/I, a year after he visited the town at the Union of the Crowns. At noon on **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April**, the actual anniversary of the granting of the Charter, the three regiments that have the Freedom of the Borough will exercise their right to march through Berwick "with Colours flying, bands playing, drums beating and bayonets fixed". The Salute will be taken in Marygate by the Lord Lieutenant of Northumberland.

At 6pm, the Regimental Band of the Coldstream Guards, the Corps of Drums of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and the Pipes and Drums of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, King's Own Scottish Borderers will Beat Retreat in the Barracks Square. A limited number of tickets will be available for this unique display at a cost of £5 (accompanied children free). Friends can reserve tickets by telephoning 01289 301861 or by emailing [ds@berwick-upon-tweed.gov.uk](mailto:ds@berwick-upon-tweed.gov.uk).

The annual Riding of the Bounds takes place on **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May**. This year's special occasion is expected to attract up to 200 riders, including representatives of Berwick's twin towns in Australia, Europe and the United States, and a troop of cavalry dressed in 17<sup>th</sup> century costume.

For those who missed the Visit of King James VI/I in April 2003, the Royal Charter 400 weekend provides another opportunity to experience 17<sup>th</sup> century Berwick. The garrison will again be brought to life by hundreds of members of the English Civil War Society and the Steel Bonnets, depicting everyday activities of the soldiers and their families at locations around the town's fortifications. On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> and Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, there will be cannon firing displays near Coxon's Tower.

On the morning of **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**, there will be an impressive historical re-enactment in Marygate, based on the handing over of King James' Charter in 1604.

In the late evening, parts of the riverside walls and Old Bridge will be illuminated in a dramatic display with music and narration. The best viewing point will be from the grass area in Dock Road, Tweedmouth, between the Docks and the Lifeboat House.

Royal Charter 400 ends on Bank Holiday **Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May**, with the Tweed River and Old Bridge Festival, supported by Northumbrian Water.

An exciting programme of activities, displays and entertainment will be staged on both sides of the Tweed, in Tweedmouth and Berwick. The sights, sounds and smells of a 17<sup>th</sup> century Quayside will be recreated, and scenes will be performed on the Old Bridge depicting the story of its construction during King James' reign. In Tweedmouth, there will displays of historic boats, seafood cookery

demonstrations, and a programme of family entertainment, music and songs that fit the themes of the River Tweed and Berwick's maritime heritage. We can certainly promise that Union of the Crowns 400 will end with a bang and not a whimper.

A special Souvenir Booklet will be published in April, containing images from the year-long festival as well as full details of this Spring's Royal Charter programme. As all income from sales will go to the Union of the Crowns festival funds, we hope that all members of the Friends will wish to purchase a copy as a memento of an unforgettable commemorative year.

*Derek Sharman (Union of the Crowns 400 Project Officer)*

## **BERWICK ADVERTISER BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS**

*As Muriel has been unable to contribute her usual snippets from the Advertiser, Gill Lee who is entering all the births, marriages and deaths into a database has found the following entries. Gill's database covers the period 1808 to 1814 at the moment and includes both local and non local entries. If anyone would like to look at it, please contact the Record Office.*

**HARRISON** (Marriage) 19 March 1814 At Gretna-green, Mr Richard Harrison, of the Royal Artillery, to Miss Goodfellow, of Cross-hill, Cumberland. The following singular circumstances attended this union: - Wm. James, a bombardier of the Royal Artillery, paid his addresses to this young Lady, who is under age, and an heiress. Having obtained her consent, he engaged Mr Harrison, his friend, to accompany them to Gretna, that he might assist in case of a rescue being attempted. He placed his intended bride upon a horse behind the last-mentioned, and, mounting another himself, they set off for the Temple of Hymen. Upon the road they fell in with some company, to whom James could not refrain from communicating his successful negotiation (sic) with the lady, and the prospect of his approaching happiness. In the mean time the lady, being as appears, more anxious for the completion of her wishes, urged her conductor to a more speedy flight, and they alighted at Longtown some time before the intended bridegroom. On his arrival, he found them taking a little refreshment, and, as ill luck would have it, he could not avoid reproaching them for "leaving him on the road." - The lady retorted, pretty warmly, his want of attention; the friends of both interfered; and, in short, a violent quarrel ensued: blows were exchanged, and it required the salutary aid of the constables to restore quiet. When the parties had time to recollect themselves, the lady declared, that, from the specimen she had seen of Mr James's gallantry, she was determined not to marry him; but being at the same time resolved not to return home without a

husband, she made a surrender of her person and two estates to Mr Harrison, if he thought proper to accompany her to the place of her first destination. Mr H. was too much of a man of spirit to refuse the challenge; they were instantly upon horseback again, and the Old Cobler (sic) at Gretna soon made them one - within a very few hours after their first acquaintance.

**JAMES**(Marriage) 19 March 1814 At Edinburgh, on the 11th inst. C. F. James, Esq. of Kirknewton, to Miss Mary Thompson, of the same place.

**WILLIAMS** (Marriage) 12 March 1814 Last week, at Doddleston, near Chester, John Williams, Labourer, aged eighteen. to Miss Elizabeth Woods, an amiable damsel of seventy-three!!!

**ROBINSON** (Death) 12 February 1814 At Tweedmouth, on Tuesday last, James Robinson, commonly called Jemmy Dumps, aged 94, an eccentric character, and well known on the Streets of Berwick these many years. He was drum-major at the battle of Prestonpans in 1746, and was highly offended when told that he ran away on that day. - He gained his livelihood these many years by driving coals and sand, and attending to farmers' carts on the High-street, while the horses were baiting and the men taking their refreshment. He slept in the same apartment with his asses, and has not lain on a bed these 22 years. He was going about in his usual way on Saturday, and was taken ill on Monday.

**HUGHES** (Death) 5 February 1814 Suddenly on Thursday se'nnight, at his lodgings, in Castle street, Oxford-road, London, in the 63d year of his age, Mr William Hughes, formerly faro-dealer, at the Lady's Banks. This person never had a day's illness, or went to bed sober for the last 30 years, and drank on an average a quart of gin every day during that period, making in the whole 2752 gallons.

**BLACK** (Death) 29 January 1814 At Terraughtie, James Black, one of the oldest men in Dumfries-shire. This extraordinary old man, was 110 years of age, retained his distinct hearing to the last, and within a few weeks of his death could, with his spectacles, read his 'small print' bible. What is still more remarkable, he lately got an entire new set of teeth.

**UNKNOWN** (Marriage) 18 December 1813 Last week, a couple were married at Tynemouth Church, the bridegroom was eighty!, and the bride twenty-one!. They seemed to have studied economy, as the bride was churched and the child christened at the same time.

**SKERRINGTON** (Death) 13 November 1813 Lately, at Gloucester, Mr Skerrington, aged 82, at his house on Westgate Bridge, known by the name of the Beggar's Opera, or Cripple College; this house was the lodging-house for all kind of beggars, which he kept for a number of years; he made up from fifty to sixty beds nightly; had 240 pair of sheets and a like number of blankets, with counterpanes and other furniture to correspond. He died worth £1,500. in the Stocks, 70gs found in the coalhole, and a peck of silver, which he had secreted from his family during his life.

**LAMBERT** (Marriage) 13 November 1813 Sunday se'nnight, at Corbridge, Mr Robson Lambert, to Ann, second daughter of Mr C. Snowball, both of Dilston. The lady had been affianced to another gentleman for the last three years; nay, the licence was actually purchased, and they were to have been married the

following morning. In the middle of Friday night, the bridegroom set off for Newcastle, knocked up a Surrogate, procured a licence about three o'clock in the morning, and was back at Corbridge sufficiently soon to have the ceremony performed.

**BROWN** (D) 31 July 1813 Suddenly, on 20th inst. at Torryburn, Mrs Brown, better known under the facetious name of Merry Jean. She kept a public house in that village for 30 years, from the profit of which, she realized £500. sterling, which she has bequeathed to the poor of that parish. Although a very eccentric character, yet her heart glowed with the warmest emotions of pity for the distresses of her fellow creatures, and with an unsparring hand administered to their wants. Rude and untutored as she was, yet she possessed a strong and intelligent mind, and her convivial qualities were unequalled when she chose to exert them. It is supposed that her death was occasioned by eating fresh herrings to an excess. Her loss will be much and justly regretted by travellers of every description.

*Gill Lee*

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

It seems a very short time since the last Newsletter. Thankfully my computer is up and running again just in time for this edition. I had a few panicky days not knowing if I would be able to retrieve my family tree, (which I had foolishly not backed up for over a year!), or the e-mail addresses of all my contacts relating to it. If you have any valuable information or photographs make sure you back it up regularly!

Luckily I didn't lose much but I still don't understand why all the instructions in my Paint program are now in French!

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