



Friends of Berwick & District Museum and Archives Newsletter



NUMBER 67—SEPTEMBER 2010

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 9th October 2010

“Archive Study Day”- FREE course.
10am-4pm in the Parish Centre. See
enclosed leaflet for further details.

Friday 15th October 2010

“A Closer Look at the Berwick Roll, 1557
- 1560”- Talk by Francis Cowe. 7.30pm
in the Parish Centre.

BRO 30 TALKS

Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick-upon-Tweed.

Time:7.30 p.m.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Friday 15 th October 2010 | "A Closer Look at the Berwick Roll, 1557 – 1560 : Francis Cowe |
| Friday 19 th November 2010 | The Story of Berwick Archives : Bob Steward; Linda Bankier; Margaret Fox and Teresa Maley |
| Friday 3 rd December | Collingwood's Northumbrians: Tony Barrow |
| Friday 14 th January 2011 | Bednelfysch and Gode Red Herring: Katrina Porteous |

OTHER SOCIETIES' LECTURES

AYTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Ayton Bowling Clubhouse.

Time:7.30 p.m.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Tuesday 28 th September | Cromwell was here: Laurie Petit |
| Tuesday 26 th October | Yorkshire Lad looking for Mac: Tony Bolton |
| Tuesday 30 th November | Celtic Connections: Rev Robert Higham |
| Tuesday 25 th January 2011 | A History of Robert Burns: Rev Bill Paterson |

BELFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Meeting Room, Belford Community Centre.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

| | |
|---|---|
| Wednesday 22 nd September | AGM followed by Nostalgic Views of Northumberland: John Moreels |
| Wednesday 27 th October | Garden History: John Harris |
| Wednesday 24 th November | Harry Hotspur: Chris Hunwick |
| Wednesday 15 th December | Christmas get-together in the Ferguson Hall. Music by Alice Burn |
| Wednesday 26 th January 2011 | Shipping at Alnmouth: Adrian Osler |

BERWICK HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

| | |
|---|---|
| Wednesday 13 th October | The Northumbrian Jacobites: Richard Lomas (<i>Jointly with Civic Society</i>) |
| Wednesday 17 th November | Start 7pm: AGM: to resolve position of Chairman. Then, at 7.30pm, The Story of a Lifeboat: Tim Kirton |
| Wednesday 8 th December | The Scholar, the Wizard, and the Sheer: Isabel Gordon |
| Wednesday 19 th January 2011 | Upsettlington and Ladykirk : Eleanor Moffat |

BORDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick

Time: 7.30 p.m.

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Monday 4 th October | Clues to the Past: The Eddleston Parish Project: Trevor Cowie |
| Monday 1 st November | Recent findings at Lanton Quarry: Ben Johnson |
| Monday 6 th December | Prehistoric Farming in the North: Professor Peter Roly Conwy |

BORDERS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Corn Exchange, Melrose

Time: 2.30pm

| | |
|--|---|
| Saturday 11 th September to Sunday 12 th | Monumental Inscription Recording Days at Stow. Subject to change in adverse weather conditions. |
| Sunday 26 th September | Local Families of Ancient Origin: Gregory Lauder-Frost. Venue: Foulden Village Hall |
| Saturday 9 th October | Stand at Borders FHS Silver Jubilee Conference and History Fair. 10am-4pm |
| Sunday 28 th November | Small Island, Big World, Border Roots: Colin Murray. Venue: Abbey Row Centre, Kelso |

COLDSTREAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Eildon Centre, Coldstream.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Thursday 7 th October | Lord Armstrong of Elswick: Mr Alan Fendly |
| Thursday 4 th November | Burns Tour of the Borders: Mr Ian Landles |
| Thursday 2 nd December | Milne Graden letters and Journals 1795-1832: Mrs Chris Pawson |
| Thursday 16 th December | Christmas Social |
| Thursday 6 th January 2011 | Scottish witchcraft: Mr Roy Pugh |

DUNSE HISTORY SOCIETY

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

Time: 7.30 p.m.

| | |
|---|--|
| Wednesday 29 th September | The Scholar, the Wizard and the Steer: Mrs Isabel Gordon |
| Wednesday 27 th October | War and Poetry: Willie Anderson |
| Wednesday 24 th November | TB or not TB: Rosi Capper |
| Wednesday 26 th January 2011 | Dunse Masonic Lodge - 250 anniversary- Open Night |

GLENDALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: The Cheviot Centre, Padgepool Place, Wooler.

Time: 7.30pm

| | |
|---|---|
| Wednesday 13 th October | Fortification of Northumbria: Alan Fendley |
| Wednesday 10 th November | The Story of Durham Cathedral: John Field |
| Saturday 20 th November | Coach trip to Durham with guided tour of the Cathedral. Booking essential, enquiries to Rosemary Bell |
| Wednesday 8 th December | The History of Northumbria Music: Alistair Anderson |
| Wednesday 12 th January 2011 | The Alnwick Freemen & The Dukes 1757 to date: Cliff Pettit |

NORHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Norham Village Hall

Time : 7.30 pm

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Monday 11 th October | Ford Moss & Colliery: Alan Bertram |
| Monday 15 th November | More on the Viking Costumes: Paula Constantine |
| Monday 13 th December | A Social evening with a local flavour |

NORTH SUNDERLAND & SEAHOUSES LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: St Paul's Church Hall, North Sunderland

Time: 7.30 p.m.

| | |
|---|--|
| Wednesday 22 nd September | Mining memories: Barry Mead |
| Wednesday 27 th October | Nurses on Bikes: Celia Darling and Friends |
| Wednesday 24 th November | Old Alwick: Adrian Ions |
| Wednesday 26 th January 2011 | Party Night with Dave Herbert |

NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND BRANCH

Venue: Bell View Resource Centre, 33 West Street, Belford

Time: 10.00am

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Saturday 18 th September | Language and Beliefs in North Northumberland Fishing Communities: Katrina Porteous |
| Saturday 16 th October | Recent Projects of Berwick Record Office: Linda Bankier |
| Saturday 20 th November | One of My Ancestors: 4 or 5 members volunteer to give a short talk on their most interesting ancestors |
| Saturday 11 th December | Christmas Lunch: The White Swan, Warenford |

ARCHIVE NEWS

There is certainly never a dull moment in the Archives. Carole and I are never sure what we will be doing next. The last couple of months have flown by and you may be interested in what we have been doing.

At the moment we seem to be doing a lot of work with young people either through schools or otherwise. This is a great way to introduce them to Archives at an early age – an opportunity that I was never given at school – and one I am very keen to pursue. School wise, we have been working with the little ones – 4 + 5 year olds. I have been out to Longridge to deliver a session on “At the Seaside” with the Reception Class which was great fun. It has given me and the teachers some ideas for developing the topic. I have also been working with Year 8 at Berwick Middle School who near the end of the summer term were doing a topic on Tudor Berwick. I worked with Mr Shaw, the History Teacher on this one and we developed a series of lessons for the children using the archives and the built environment to introduce them to Tudor Berwick. It was very successful and included a walk round the walls led by Jim Herbert in authentic soldier’s attire and a visit to the Record Office to have a go at reading some Tudor handwriting, with a little help. It was very interesting to see how sceptical they were of their ability to do it but they certainly surprised themselves and some of them had a real aptitude for it.

On the school front, I have also been working with Mr Shaw’s Year 5 class on a Time Capsule project. This was a joint project with the Berwick Preservation Trust where we were trying to create a time capsule for the new Dewars Lane Granary building. We started this project in October and the children have been working on it on and off since then. At the beginning of July, they put the finishing touches to their contributions for the Time Capsule and it was buried just before the Schools broke up. It was fascinating to see the type of material they created and I made sure there was a contribution from each child in the capsule – all their other material is to be kept here permanently in the Archive. They wrote diaries of their life today, made a plan of the High Street, naming all the shops; speculated about what they wanted to be as their future career. We have asked them to come back in 50 years to open it up. I won’t be here but it would be great if they did !

Finally, education wise, I have been working on a project with the Maltings as part of a Challenging History Project which is being run throughout the North East by the Archive Learning Arc Group of which I am a member. Like last year, Wendy Payn and I ran a week long Drama School for young people (9-14) in the School holidays picking up an historical theme. We chose the Coming of the Railways and the construction and opening of the Royal Border Bridge. It was a very intense week for

the young people but it was very enjoyable. They carried out their own research; had a visit from Lars Rose, one of my volunteers who talked about what he had found out about the period and visited the Civic' Society's exhibition at the Main Guard. At the end of the week, the children put on a short ad lib performance (all their own work and ideas) dressed up in the wonderful costumes which had been made, thanks to the Stephenson 150 Project. They tightened up the script, practised a bit more and put on two further performances at the Maltings as part of Open Doors Days which were very well supported. I have been really impressed with what they have all managed to achieve and how much of the historical information they actually took in and retain. It would be lovely to do something similar again and so, keep your fingers crossed.

Over the next couple of months, I will be continuing to do further education work with Early Years and looking to develop resources for Family Learning. We are trying to develop a Family Historical Tour for Berwick, using the Walls as the route. Watch this space !

If any of you have visited the Record Office, recently, you may have noticed a couple of new members of staff – Dan Brigham and Graeme Dawson. They are our two new apprentices who will be working with us until July 2011 gaining experience for their NVQ Level II in Culture. They are working at the Record Office and also the Museum and hopefully will also be putting in some time at the Library. They are settling in very well – we have plenty of jobs for them to do.

That's all for now!

Linda Bankier

ARCHIVE STUDY DAY

You should all have received with your newsletter a flier about our Archive Study Day which is being held on Saturday 9th October as part of the celebrations for the 30th anniversary of the Record Office. There are still places left and so, do please contact me if you want to come along – lbankier@woodhorn.org.uk or (01289) 301865.

BERWICK IN THE LATE 1840S

As part of the preparations for the Drama School, Lars Rose read through the Berwick Advertiser, picking up information on the Railways and life in Berwick at the time. Graeme Dawson, one of our apprentices, typed up many of the entries for the young people to use. Below is an entry which appeared in the Advertiser about Elizabeth Knox/White who was placed in the stocks for her behaviour. She was obviously a well known character in Berwick at the time.

BERWICK ADVERTISER 6 MAY 1848

A Woman in the Stocks

We had imagined that punishment by exposure in the stocks had, like its predecessor the pillory, fallen into disuse, and become regarded as a means for effecting a reformation in conduct more in accordance with the past than the present age. In this however, we find we had miscalculated, for on Saturday last, after a very long disuse of the punishment in this town, it was revived, and the person subjected to it was a woman. Most sincerely we do hope that the punishment will have the desired effect, and we may not soon again see another of the sex so degraded. Shortly before the time appointed the place of punishment was crowded by a throng of old and young, boys and women, so great that some of the shopkeepers had to put the shutters on their windows.

At twelve o'clock the culprit was brought from the jail in the custody of two policemen; and immediately had her legs fastened into the jaws of the stocks. Here she sat exposed for two hours, during which time she was gazed at by some hundreds of passers by. The punishment, however, we must not omit to mention, was somewhat deprived of its former severity – there was no throwing of rotten eggs and other missiles at the culprit. The person so degraded was Elizabeth White or Knox, who is described as an indoor pauper in the union workhouse, and the punishment was awarded for incorrigible turbulence and drunkenness. She has been repeatedly brought before the magistrates on the complaint of the governor, and we believe the court on the last occasion was puzzled as to the nature of the punishment which should be awarded, the ordinary means of correction having been tried so often tried in vain. She apparently is in robust health, and her appearance altogether suggested to us the question how such a person should be an “indoor

pauper” – why one so able to labour for her maintenance should be a burden and a tax on the community. We have since made some enquiries at the proper quarter and find the following to be the particulars of her latter history: she is 31 years of age, was deserted by her husband 5 years ago, when she with four children came under the care of the parochial authorities. Her conduct has been and is the most outrageous and indecent possible to conceive. She escapes from the establishment, and when out of doors is the victim of every vice. She returns when tired of every debauch, at hours the most unreasonable and in conditions the most disgusting. This is not merely occasional – it is her habitual and constant mode of life. And yet the law which has been so decried for its inhumanity and pinching severity (to a certain extent with justice) forbids that such a woman should be allowed to run the risk of starving, - the most powerful incentive to industry, - or to be discarded from the establishment she so much annoys. The pardon for her offence, it appears is not to be limited to seven times or seventy times seven, but for all. She has been punished and degraded in the house until the routine of correction had been over again exhausted; and we regret to state that the exhibition on Saturday had no better result. She has since, more than once, been in state of brutal intoxication.

Linda Bankier

BURIAL AT DODDINGTON

Val Glass found the following entry in the Doddington registers

29 November 1795 Anne Cowen of Barmoor, aged 102

I have not had the opportunity to check it in the original. Saw it on a microfiche copy but the page was for baptisms not burials. I suppose the vicar could have entered it on the wrong page. If the age is correct, she certainly survived a long time.....

Val Glass

MUSEUM NEWS

The season is almost over at the Barracks – where does the time go? We seem to have been really busy over the summer, and though the overall visitor numbers are slightly below those of last year – probably due to the fine weather early on in the season - we are awaiting a late rush, particularly over the Heritage Open weekend, when the Berwick Food Festival will be taking place outside on the Barracks Square.

The Clock Block had a very successful start to the new season, with the exhibition about Frank Wood. We have welcomed good number of Berwick people who have come specifically to see the Frank Wood exhibition - sometimes just to look and admire, but often to compare with their very own examples hanging on the wall at home! On the other hand, most of the tourists had not heard of Wood before visiting the museum, but have been very impressed by the quality of our man's workmanship. We have altered the exhibition slightly recently, so that it now fits into one exhibition gallery, but have included a few different pictures which we were unable to display earlier in the year. We are very grateful to those members of the Friends who lent Wood paintings and drawings to the Museum, as several particularly good examples of Wood's work greatly enhanced the museum's own collection.

The second temporary exhibition of the season has just opened – *Hatches, Matches, Dispatches* - a display of the costume in the collections, a greater part of which does not seem to have been exhibited in the past. The exhibition came about as a result of the donation to the museum from Mrs Elizabeth Light and her family, who gave us a very beautiful 1840s wedding dress, which belonged to their ancestor Isabella Robertson, a publican's daughter from the Berwickshire area. The dress was originally purple, as it was made before Queen Victoria set the trend for white wedding dresses. Sadly, the dress has now faded to brown with the passage of time, though it still looks very elegant. The museum was given a great deal of help in costume expertise by the staff and volunteers at Tyne & Wear Museums, as well as by local experts Bob Gregory, Naomi Kenny of the Underwear Project, and Val Knowles. So keen to help were these last two that they have been out and about in Berwick town centre in full period costume, helping to publicise the museum.

It would be good to hear from any of the Friends who might be interested in volunteering their services for a possible project re the costume collection. We are looking into the possibilities of grant funding to help purchase training sessions in

collections care, as well as materials to package the collection properly once the season is finished.

We are planning to show a selection of work by the Quintet in the opening exhibition of next season, in view of the fact that 2011 is the centenary year of James Wallace. As reported in an earlier newsletter, a sizeable collection (121 items) of Wallace paintings and drawings was donated to the museum by the estate of Mrs Elsie Clark. Mrs Clark and her sister Grace Wallace donated other paintings and family memorabilia to Berwick Museum while they were alive, some of which were exhibited in the "James Wallace and The Quintet" exhibition held in 1995. The majority of the drawings and paintings are by Andrew Wallace, and we are now researching the pictures to find out where they were drawn and painted – many are of places other than Berwick.

We are hoping to set up a modern "Quintet" project with local Berwick schools, to run over the winter and to produce a complementary exhibition to the main event. This project will be delivered by our recently appointed "Young Advocate" from the "Changemakers" Programme, Ruth Scrase. The "Changemakers" programme, which is being piloted in the North East at the moment, aims to get young people involved in arts organisations. Other Berwick participants in the scheme include the Maltings, Berwick Youth Project, the AONB and Berwick's Conservation Officer.

The museum has been awarded an MLA special grant as part of the *Effective Collections* scheme. This will help in sorting out the collections at the museum with a view to getting more of them out on display, as well as improving their cataloguing. The grant is worth £10,000.00, with the possibility of further funding of £5,000.00 if the initial project goes well. Work will start over the winter months.

The Museums Officer North has been part of the current Cultural Leadership Programme (North East) Cohort, together with two other colleagues from Woodhorn. This has been an excellent programme, consisting of formal training and development opportunities as well as a chance to build on an existing network of contacts throughout the northern region. Other members of the cohort include people from Seven Stories; Baltic; Newcastle Gateshead Initiative; MIMA and Northern Stage. The Museums Officer has been on work placement at Baltic, Gateshead, which has also welcomed other members of the Berwick staff to share expertise. There is an international aspect of the programme also, and the Museums Officer has received a travel grant to visit the Metropolitan Museum in New York later this month.

Two new faces at the museum and archives belong to Daniel Brigham and Graeme Dawson, who have been appointed as modern heritage apprentices. Both are not long out of school, but have made a keen start on the world of working for a living!

The museum will close for the season at the end of September. It would be nice to record my thanks to the 4 part time seasonal staff - Philippa Booth, Rosemary Dale, Karen Page and Elona Wells have all worked very hard to make the day to day operation of the museum run smoothly. I hope to see at least some of them back next season. My thanks also to the indefatigable Sue Handoll, who has turned up regularly on Thursdays to help out on the Front Desk (and cheer on contestants playing on the table football game we brought out for the World Cup!)

Anne Moore (Museums Officer North, Woodhorn Trust)

FORD CASTLE ESTATE BREWING

Coming from a family of brewers and a brewer & maltster myself , I am always interested in old breweries. One day, browsing through the Delaval family papers (now stored in the Record Office at Woodhorn) I came across letters written by Joseph Oxley, the estate manager at Ford , about beer brewing on the estate in the late XVIIIth Century. At that time the Ford Estate was owned by the Delaval family having been inherited by Lord Delaval from his mother's side of the family around 1730. The estate remained in the Delaval family until 1822 when John Hussey Delaval bequeathed it to his grand-daughter Susanne, Marchioness of Waterford, in 1808.

Lord Delaval's estate included two breweries - one at Ford and one at Hartley, Seaton Sluice. Joseph Oxley wrote from Ford to Lord Delaval saying "*you may depend the malting and brewhouse will be the compleatest in Northumberland and both large enough*". Then on Dec 20th "*My son attends almost every day from morning to night, my son has brewed ever since the first brewer went away and has always done well and the drink is well liked, and we have not lost or missed any*

brewing yet". It may seem strange that family estates had their own breweries but in those days drinking-water supplies were often contaminated giving rise to cholera etc. Beer was a safe alternative because the brew is boiled in the brewing process. The day to day beer issued to estate workers was called Small Beer and had a low alcohol content. Stronger beers were made for the Family and for storage during the winter months.

The Seaton Delaval estate included many heavy industrial enterprises including coal mines, copperas works, bottle manufacture and salt pans. It was also heavily dependent on shipping, a reason why the Delavals built the Sluice to keep the harbour open. So there were many thirsty mariners and miners who needed to slake their thirsts on a safe drink which also contained carbohydrates and minerals to replace those lost in heavy labour.

In January 1786 Oxley again writes from Ford to Lord Delaval :"*my son will not continue at the brewery at Ford any longer than Whitsuntide next - a tenant will therefore be wanted for it*". The resignation was accepted and an arrangement was proposed for the Berwick brewers (Gregson & Barber) to supply the beer. Five years later, July 27th 1791, an estate worker at Seaton, Robert Hogg, hears of the vacancy for a brewer at Ford and successfully applies to Lord Delaval. Detailed instructions were prepared for the new brewer. He was to be based at Hartley brewery but required to travel to Ford from time to time to brew there. At Ford the brewing work would be part time, cleaning, labouring and gardening were to fill the rest of his time there. His time on the road between the two sites would be paid and a house at Ford would be allowed, but he would have to pay for his own coal.

The supposed weekly consumption of beer when the family was at home would require one brewing for ale with one (occasionally 2) hogsheads (each holding 54 gallons) of small beer after each brewing of ale. These brews were to be made on a single day for which the brewer would be paid 5 shillings. When the family were away as few brews as possible were to be made "only to keep up a sufficient quantity of small beer - perhaps one brew per fortnight". In September and October, however, "two (weekly) brews of ale will be made to keep up the stock for winter".

Joseph Oxley wrote many letters, mainly about farms and ale around 1780. I mentioned that his son resigned as brewer at Ford in 1786, but lo & behold there is a record of a Benjamin Oxley leasing part of a farm on the estate at South Flodden, May 10th 1787 for 9 years at £100 per annum. Was this indeed Joseph's son ?

IT DID NOT BODE WELL FOR THE FUTURE

Over the last nine months, members of the Belford Local History Society have been trying to track down the experiences of the men from the village who fought in the First World War. One of the sources we looked at was the War Diaries of the 1st Northumberland (the Regulars) in the Fusiliers Museum at Alnwick where we found this account of their experience of arriving in France.

The 1st Northumberland Battalion was part of the British Expeditionary Force to France in August 1914, just after the outbreak of war. The Battalion assembled at Cambridge Barracks, Portsmouth, before taking two special trains to Southampton on the 13th of August. There they and their transport wagons embarked on the S.S. *Norman*, while the horses were shipped separately on the S.S. *Italian Prince*. The *Norman* sailed at 3pm, docking at Le Havre twelve hours later. It took another two hours to get the battalion and its equipment disembarked, and then there was a problem. The ship with the horses had not arrived, so a platoon was left at the docks to see to the wagons, while the rest of the battalion marched five and a half miles to the rest camp. It was so hot that 82 men fell out on the march, and when they arrived it was to discover that the camp was not ready and there was no water for the men to wash with. The camp was at the top of a long steep hill, and the transport wagons which finally set off at 3pm, became stuck behind motorised vehicles which broke down on the hill. The last of the wagons finally arrived at midnight. The following day was one of continuous heavy rain. At 5p.m., the Battalion was ordered back to Le Havre to get the train at 3a.m. the following morning. By now the transport wagons had sunk into the mud, the horses could not pull them out, and the soldiers had to manhandle them on to the road. The return journey was no easier – with tired horses and muddy roads it was only a matter of time until something went wrong. Both water carts overturned, completely blocking the road, and delaying the Battalion for one and a half hours. All in all, it was not an auspicious beginning. Eventually, they got the train east from Le Havre to

Landrecies, arriving just before midnight. After the previous two days it must have been a relief to find themselves welcomed with open arms by the French who showered them with fruit, flowers and cigarettes.

Jane Bowen & Jan Ward

**CAN YOU HELP FIND
ANYTHING FURTHER ON
RALPH DIXON ?**

An aide-memoire in Nelson's hand, dated about Aug/Sept 1805, begins, 'Ralph Dixon of Doris transport lost an arm carrying my dispatches. Wants a pension.' It continues, proposing reward and recompense to others. And on the reverse side is a rough diagram of the Trafalgar battle tactics.

I'd like to find out more about this incident involving Ralph Dixon and about his short RN career and wonder if any of the Friends can help - Ralph was my grandfather Davison's great great grandfather.

His pension - 1820, Establishment number 130 - has him serving on Doris. And he joined the navy as a seaman 'on board a transport' in January 1805, with pension records suggesting he'd left the service by 1806. (I've been informed that 'According to Parliamentary Papers of 1837, the date of the order of Ralph Dixin's pension was the 8th July 1805.' My correspondent speculated whether this had been backdated to the date of the injury or discharge from Doris.)

One of the problems is that I've been unable to find muster records/log for Doris transport (as opposed to HMS Doris.)

A life of Nelson published in 1806 states that on 11th May 1805 HMS Wasp and transport Doris received Nelson's dispatches - somewhere off Cape St Vincent. I've been told, too, that 'Nelson's fleet was anchored in Lagos Bay, and later that day he sailed for the West Indies in search of the combined enemy fleet.'

HMS Wasp's log revealed that she 'made sail with two Transports under convoy on 7th May, with the Captain boarding Victory on 10th and returning on 11th and , on

12th, in 'fresh gales' having ship Queen with a large convoy of Transports at 2 hove to The Captain went on board the Queen at 2.30.' Wasp seems then to have sailed for British waters. There was no mention of Doris or any incident. (And HMS Queen's log didn't mention anything relevant.)

Family legend has 'one of the Dixons' being with Nelson at Trafalgar but there was no relevant Dixon at the battle, so this incident might be the source. And a brother of my great grandmother (Ann Davison, nee Dixon) idolised Nelson and used to get sloshed every Trafalgar day!)

According to Lloyd's Register, Doris was built at Whitby in 1803 and was about the same weight as Cook's Whitby built 'Endeavour', though Doris was a 'ship.' She had a draught of 15' and this would make her a fast vessel, apparently.

Ralph Dixon was born in Branxton, Northumberland in 1785 and died at Spittal, Tweedmouth in 1860. He seems to have been resident in Spittal (classed as being in County Durham until 1836) from probably 1800. He was a Pilot, registered at Berwick, from 1816 to 1849, and was owner and skipper of the four crew fishing boat 'Hero' of Spittal and he was a Greenwich Out-Pensioner. (He held copyhold property on Spittal (transferred to him c 1816 from William Dixon, blacksmith - presumably Ralph's father who was called William . 'And Ralph's son, William, who was also in the Royal Navy, married Philis Atchison of Horncliffe Mill'?)

So, can anyone shed any light on this individual or the Doris. You can contact me via the Record Office

Peter Davison

**BITS AND BOBS
FROM
CALEDONIAN MERCURY**

Caledonian Mercury Monday 27th February, 1804.

Depredations of various kinds continue to be attempted in Berwick-upon-Tweed, with uncommon, and frequently with successful daring. A few nights ago, between

nine and ten, the cabin of the Diamond packet, lying at the quay, was broken into by three of these depredators, but finding themselves observed from a vessel at anchor near her, they decamped without obtaining any thing of value, and dropped in their hurry a hat and a pair of boots. On the night of Thursday se'ennight, a more successful attempt was made on the shop of Mr John Bird, grocer, Hyde-hill. The thieves had entered from the passage by means of a false key, and having plundered it of black and green teas to a considerable amount, several loaves of sugar, &c., relocked the door, and got off undiscovered.

The night following, some logs of timber were stolen from the shore, belonging to Mr Johnston Pattison. And early on Tuesday morning last, the house of Mrs Sibbitt, in Church-street, was attempted to be entered by the kitchen window. The barking of the house-dog alarmed the family in time enough to defeat the intentions of these villains; and the light of the moon enabled Mrs Sibbitt to notice the dress, &c., of one of them so very minutely that strong hopes are entertained of his detection.

Last week, Mr Andrew Kidd, a person of some property, was committed to the jail of Berwick-upon-Tweed, for beating his wife so unmercifully, (though, according to some accounts, not without provocation,) as to endanger her life.

On Saturday last, a son of Mr Morrison, grocer in Berwick-upon-Tweed, aged 20, but who has been in a state of idiotism from his birth, having been left by the servant for a few minutes, was found by the shopman almost literally burnt to death. And in the evening of Tuesday last, a poor woman in Tweedmouth, set fire to her clothes by some means not satisfactorily accounted for; living alone, they continued burning till her cries alarmed some of the neighbours, who, seeing her through the window rolling on the floor, enveloped in flames, lost no time in rendering her assistance – too late, however, to prevent her being scorched in a manner too shocking for description. Both of them were alive on Wednesday evening, but without the slightest hope of recovery;.

Caledonian Mercury Monday 26th November, 1804.

On the evening of Wednesday se'ennight, as a country man belonging to Eyemouth, whose wife had died the day before, was returning home from Berwick upon Tweed, where he had been receiving the usual allowance from a Benefit Society of which he is a member, he was attacked about half a mile from the latter place by two men in sailors jackets, who robbed him of 48 shillings in money, together with the cake, and other necessaries which he had provided for the funeral. They were closely pursued

into the town, and narrowly escaped. A few evenings before, a farmer who had that day received a considerable sum in Berwick, was also robbed near Spital, (sic) and cruelly beaten by two men answering the above description. The bulk of his property he had fortunately concealed so carefully as to elude their attempts to discover it. The same night the office of Mr Todd, shipbuilder, in Tweedmouth, was broken into, but as it contained nothing of great value, the plunder was but trifling. Several other petty depredations have lately been attempted, and frequently with success in that neighbourhood. There having been no press gang at Berwick for some years, the number of disorderly persons to be met with in an evening at every corner has long been a subject of well-grounded complaint, and it is much to be wished that some means were adopted not only to protect the inhabitants from insult, and their property from depredation, but also to secure to the public the services of many active, and, on their proper element, useful members of society.

Janet Ward

SNIPPETS FROM THE BERWICK ADVERTISER

Berwick Advertiser, 26th March 1869

THE CARR ROCK

The operations in connection with blasting the projection at the Carr Rock, are still going on. A considerable part of the rock has been removed by the action of the gunpowder which has been brought to bear upon it once, and occasionally twice each day; but the top of the projection has yet to be removed. Nothing has been done as regards lifting of the blasted rock, but it is intended to do something in this direction on Saturday. A considerable number have been attracted to the Carr Rock to watch the modus operandi of the diver; and those on the Rock, and even at a greater distance off, when the fuse was set to work have felt the ground vibrate.

Berwick Advertiser, 14th May 1869

DANGEROUS TOYS

The practice of using by boys in the streets here of catapults has become prevalent of late. On Sunday morning last Dr Wilson was surprised by a stone thrown against his surgery window. He at once secured the lads, and took from them the weapons, handing them over to the police. On Monday, Dr Wilson, complained to the magistrates, who had once ordered the constable to see to the matter. It is supposed that many of the street lamps are destroyed by these dangerous instruments. Several accidents both to person and property, have lately occurred through the use of them.

Berwick Advertiser, 28th May 1869

THE FAIR

As usual on the recurrence of our annual fair, which commences today, the shops and other premises of the various tradesmen in the town, have undergone a thorough cleansing, white-washing and painting, and the several marts are stored in anticipation of increased business expected at this season. Within the last day or two, vendors of china, earthenware, hardware, and various other articles have secured stances in the High Street for the purpose of the fair, which, it is hoped, will also be a brisk one as regards stock, although the weather does not hold out a bright prospect.

Berwick Advertiser, 2nd July 1869

THE QUEEN'S CORONATION

The anniversary of Her Majesty's Coronation was observed in this town on Monday. The bells in the spire of the Townhall were rung at intervals, and flags were displayed at the Townhall, the Flagstaff, the Coastguard Battery, and the Customs Watch House. The gunboat Rainbow, lying in the river, showed a profusion of flags from stem to stern in honour of the occasion.

Berwick Advertiser, 20 August 1869

BERWICK MUSEUM

The Committee beg to acknowledge the following contributions to the Museum:- 2 papers from Mr Hall, Walkergate Lane. A piece of Petrified Moss from Mr Stuart, Tweedmouth. A pair of Seal Skin Trousers made by Esquimaux, and a piece of Ship's Keel eaten by the ship worm. Barnacles from a ship in Leith docks, and a Fossil Ammonite from James Muir, Carpenter, Berwick. A fine Otter from Mr Elliott, Molesmains, Berwckshire. The John Dory, and the Weaver fish from Rev. T Procter, Tweedmouth. The Committee have added the Lamp fish, a fine badger, two magpies, and a golden crested Wren.

Carole Pringle