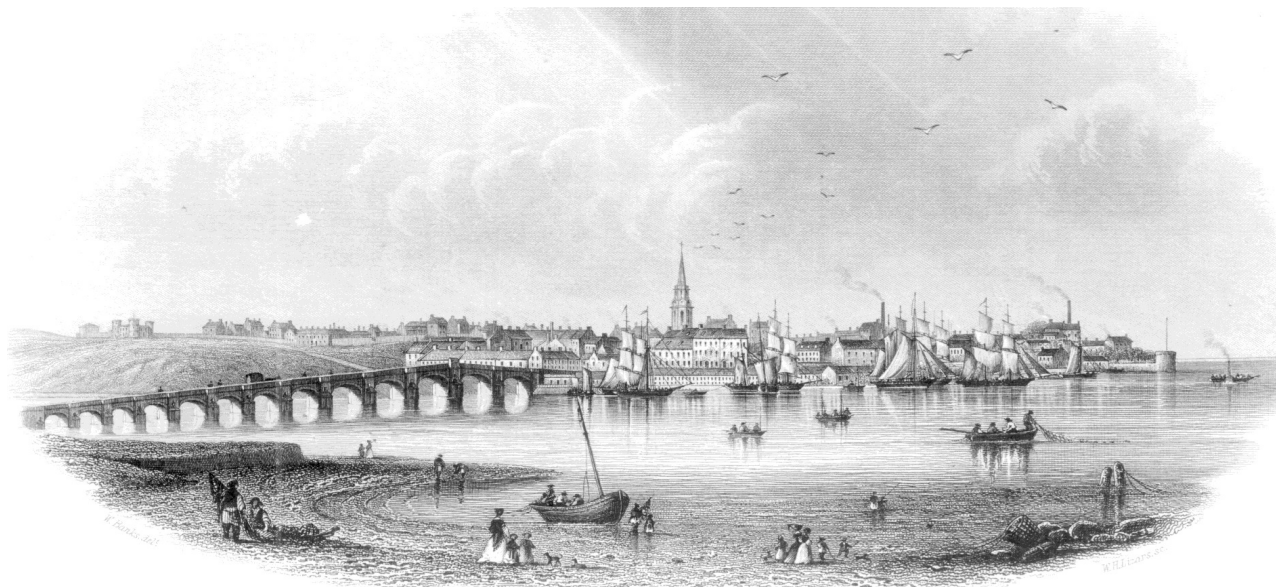


Friends of Berwick & District Museum and Archives Newsletter



NUMBER 69—FEBRUARY 2011

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 11th March 2011

AGM followed by a talk by Dr Paul Carter :
The Lessons of the Workhouse Project.
AGM : 7pm, Talk : 7.30 pm at the Parish
Centre

Friday 18th March 2011

Archive Film Night in the Maltings: 7pm -
admission charge – see BRO 30 article

Saturday 26th March 2011

Photographic Workshop : Jim Walker at the
Parish Centre, 10 – 12.30

OTHER SOCIETIES' LECTURES

AYTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Ayton Community Hall

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday 29th March 2011

AGM followed by The First Railway across
the Border : Tom Thorburn

Tuesday 26th April 2011

Visit to Gunsgreen House, Eyemouth

BELFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Meeting Room, Belford Community Centre.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 23rd March 2011

From Ditch to Bastion : Jim Herbert

Wednesday 27th April 2011

Drove Roads: Dr Ian Roberts

Wednesday 25th May 2011

Postal History: Mike Mapleton

BERWICK HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 16th March 2011

Border Murders: Norrie McLeish

Wednesday 13th April 2011

AGM: 7pm followed by speaker

BORDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Monday 7th March 2011

TBA: Jeremy Paterson

Monday 4th April 2011

AGM & Talk: Professor Maria Chester

Monday 2nd May 2011

Conwy: Professor Peter Roly

BORDERS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Corn Exchange, Melrose

Time: 2.30pm

Sunday 27th March 2011

Field Trip: visit to Clapperton
Studio(Robert D Clapperton
Photographic Trust) 28 Scotts Place,
Selkirk. There will be admission fee of £1
each collected on the day.

Sunday 24th April 2011

Dr J Leyden: Marjorie Gavin, **Denholm**

Sunday 29th May 2011

Village Hall, Denholm, TD9 8LZ

AGM: followed by talk: Granny's

Bawbees and Other Coins: Peter Munro

COLDSTREAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Eildon Centre, Coldstream.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Thursday 3rd March 2011

Society AGM 7pm prompt followed by
Ford Estate at the time of Lady

Thursday 7th April 2011

Waterford : Linda Bankier

Thursday 5th May 2011

Winfield: Mr Heywood

Great Unknown Sir Walter Scott and the
writing of the Waverly Novels: Dr J Milne

Thursday 2nd June

Field Trip: visit to Guns Greenhouse

DUNSE HISTORY SOCIETY

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

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 30th March 2011

The Coldstream Guards and the
Restoration of the Monarchy : Andrew
Tulloch

GLENDALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: The Cheviot Centre, Padgepool Place, Wooler.

Time: 7.30pm

Wednesday 9th March 2011

The Last Feudal County, Estates &
Estates Management in 19th century

	Northumberland: Ian Roberts. This talk will be followed by the exploration of a specific Estate
Wednesday 13 th April 2011	AGM and Social gathering with refreshments.
Saturday 16 th April 2011	'College Valley Estate: a History'. A talk and lunch at the Cuddystone Hall, followed by a tour of the College valley. Bookings for lunch are necessary.

NORHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Norham Village Hall

Time : 7.30 pm

Monday 14 th March 2011	Archaeological survey of the lower Tweed Valley and coastline around Berwick: Clive Waddington
Monday 11 th April 2011	Chillingham Wild Cattle: Peter Deakin
Monday 9 th May 2011	Pest & Pestilence & perception of History: Isobel Gordon

NORTH SUNDERLAND & SEAHOUSES LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: St Paul's Church Hall, North Sunderland

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 23 rd March 2011	Spare the Rod-schooling 1850-1950: Alan Fendley
Wednesday 27 th April 2011	A Nineteenth Century Diary from Outchester: Joan Wright
Wednesday 25 th May 2011	The Regeneration of Cragside: Andrew Sawyer

NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND BRANCH

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

Time: 10.00am

Saturday 19 th March 2011	Monkey Business at a medieval Abbey:
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Saturday 16th April 2011
Saturday 21st May 2011

Barry Mead
The Life of Josephine Butler: Anne Dawson
AGM

BRO 30 EVENTS

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

There are a number of BRO 30 events coming up which you may wish to come to :

11th March at the Parish Centre – AGM and Talk by Dr Paul Carter “The Lessons of the Workhouse Project”.

This should be an excellent talk. Paul is a very good speaker and is very knowledgeable on the post 1834 Poor Law.

18th March at the Maltings – Archive Film Night starting at 7pm.

We will be showing some films which you will never seen before, including the oldest surviving film of Berwick, taken in 1911 which has recently come to light and some of Fred Stott's cine, mainly taken in the 1960s. Please do come along and support this event and have a trip down memory lane. There is a charge of £5.00 per ticket.

26th March at the Parish Centre – Photographic Workshop at the Parish Centre (10 – 12.30) by Jim Walker

Jim will talk about how to look after old photographs; how to date them;and early photographers in Berwick

Free workshop but you should register in advance (Tel : 01289 301865 or e-mail lbankier@woodhorn.org.uk)

9th and 10th April at the Maltings – Education Weekend (10 – 4 on Saturday and 12 – 4 on Sunday)

Come along and see the artwork which has been created by local school children as part of the BRO 30 celebrations and also information about some of the education projects that the Record Office has been involved in.

15th April at the Parish Centre – Talk by Dr Tony Barrow – Collingwood's Northumbrians

This is the rescheduled date for Tony's talk which was cancelled because of the weather

14th and 15th May at the Guildhall – Byegone Borderlands – Local and Family History Displays and Talks (10 – 4 on Saturday; 11 – 4 on Sunday)

We held a similar weekend a number of years ago which was very successful. Organisations from both sides of the Border will exhibit displays about their own area and there will be a series of talks. We are looking for stewards to help man the event and help with the refreshments. If you want to help, please contact Linda at the Record Office.

ARCHIVE NEWS

It isn't very long since I last wrote something for the Newsletter but a lot has been happening in that short space of time to keep us on our toes.

I think we were all relieved to come back in January and see the end of the snow which had caused so much disruption before Christmas. Many things had been postponed and so it was catch up time !

In my last newsletter, I mentioned I was involved with a Changemakers Project which is working with a Town Planning student, the town's Conservation Officer and a Year 5 class in Berwick Middle School. The children are looking at Bridge Street "Past, Present and Future" and at the beginning of term, I spent an afternoon in the classroom with them looking at old photographs, census returns and directories about the street in the past. In addition, we also took the children down to Bridge Street to do some survey work and find out what it is like now. They really enjoyed that. Some of the work they are creating will be displayed in the newly opened Granary Building in April and will also be featured in our Education Weekend Display.

This term, I have also done some work with Year 4 in Berwick, Holy Trinity First School on a project called "Take One". This has involved using one photograph which was chosen by teachers in the North East and for the Class to take it as inspiration for a range of activities. The photograph was an enigmatic photo of people watching a boat come to shore and from that, the children created beautiful collages; poems; boats and did some drama. It was very impressive to see how it captured their imagination and the range and quality of work they produced. The collages have been on display in the Library for the past month along with their other work and they have been really well received by the public.

Education wise, I have also been continuing my work with the Early Years Unit in St Mary's school and we have now, just about created our resource boxes. These will be available for schools next term and we are showcasing them at the Northumberland Early Years Conference next week.

Other than education, I have been continuing our work on the Berwick Time Detective Back Pack which is aimed at local families and visitors. We trialled the walk which is mainly round the walls in late January. It was a freezing day but the children seemed to enjoy it. We hope to have that available by Easter.

This Term I have also been doing a joint project with Berwick Library on “Turn Back Time : High Street” which has been promoted by the BBC. At the beginning of January, we ran two morning events in the Library about Berwick High Street and businesses and how it has all changed. These were very successful and we have followed it up with a Family Project where 10 families have been given disposable cameras and have been asked to take photographs of the shops they like today so that we have a contemporary record as well. The families have enjoyed taking the photos and we hope to display them in the Library before placing them in the Archives as a permanent record of the project.

Finally, I have given a couple of talks in the last couple of months – Lowick Heritage Group; Glendale and Till Rotary Club and the U3A Writers Group.

That's all for now. There are loads of other things happening but they can wait for another newsletter !

Linda Bankier

LIFEBOAT RESCUE OF THE REDHAND

As part of their work on the “Take One” Project, children in Class 4 of Berwick, Holy Trinity looked at a local lifeboat rescue which is recorded in the Berwick Advertiser and also in a Lifeboat Journal. Both articles are written differently but paint an excellent picture of a sea rescue – the children particularly liked the idea of people jumping from one boat to another!

BERWICK ADVERTISER, 12 NOVEMBER 1915

MOTOR BOAT IN DIFFICULTIES

Bravery of Berwick Lifeboat Scratch Crew

In response to signals of distress the Berwick lifeboat put top sea about 5am on Wednesday morning to assist the motor boat “Redhand” which was dragging her anchors. The “Redhand” arrived in Berwick Bay on Tuesday morning where she anchored to have a slight defect in her engine repaired. The strong easterly gale which sprung up during the night was blowing her towards Goswick sands and signals of distress were immediately sent out. The lifeboat was not long in getting alongside her but owing to the heavy sea, it was not until 8.30 that the crew of six were taken off the vessel and safely brought into Berwick harbour. During Wednesday the abandoned vessel did not appear to have drifted much.

BRAVERY OF LIFEBOAT CREW

In an interview with an “Advertiser” representative-, The Captain of the vessel said “I would like you to make known the remarkable bravery the crew of the Berwick lifeboat displayed in coming out to save us. From what I have heard the lifeboat was manned by a scratch crew, only three of the regular crew being present. With the absence of all coast lights it was wonderful that they found us. With the strong north easterly gale the waves were of a tremendous height. The lifeboat got alongside my vessel about 5.30 am. She stood alongside my vessel to try to take us off but the heavy seas made it impossible. One moment the lifeboat was high on the crest of a wave above my vessel and as she went down into the trough of the waves the

“Redhead” rose high above her. I thought every time we came down we would smash the lifeboat to bits. She stuck to us for some time but lost us. At 7.30 the lifeboat came up under our quarter and we decided to abandon the “Redhead”. We (the crew) had our life belts on and as our ship dived level with the lifeboat the crew took turns at jumping into the lifeboat where they were caught by the lifeboat men. My steward, who is rather an old man, could not jump, and we had to throw him into the lifeboat but he is none the worse of that. As I had to get the ship’s papers I was last to leave. The worst was to come. I had heard of Berwick Bar but I never knew what it was like until this morning. Over the ebb tide there was a terrific sea breaking. I thought we would never get it, but the coxswain of the lifeboat showed admirable seamanship and took us into harbour safely. Dr Fraser who came out in the lifeboat and attended to us, is a perfect brick and to him and the lifeboat men I wish you, on my behalf and my crew to thank them for coming out against such odds to save us from certain death. When telephoning to my headquarters this morning at Newcastle I mentioned their brave act.

The strong gale which had raged during Tuesday and Wednesday had abated considerable early on Thursday morning. The vessel, which had dragged her anchor a considerable distance, was still riding safely on Thursday at midday.

BERWICK ADVERTISER, 19 NOVEMBER 1916

Letters to the Editor

THE HEROIC LIFEBOAT RESCUE AT VERWICK

Sir – I wish through the medium of your columns to make public the deep sense of gratitude the crew of the Lifeboat feel towards their comrades in Spittal who so gallantly came to their assistance last Wednesday morning. Four or five times had the Lifeboat tried to make the harbour, both under sails and oar, and each time was she washed out by the spate on to the Bar. The men were spent with fatigue, cold and wet to the skin and had little strength left. When the ferry boat was seen to leave Spittal, a last effort was made, this time under double banked oars to get closer to the pier. The Spittal men laid their plans with skill and acted with daring that one could only admire and inwardly applaud. They were determined to get a line to the Lifeboat at the risk of their own lives. And they did it. All honour to them ! I have reported their brave conduct to the proper quarters, and do not doubt they will be suitably rewarded. The names of the men who were in the ferry boat are as

follows – Prideaux Emery; John Patterson; Barty Lough; Robert Laidlaw; John Wilkie (“Laffan”) and Thomas Johnston. On the Pier, Johnston Crombie and William Emery – Believe me, yours truly

C.L. Fraser, Hon Sec

The incident was also mentioned in the Lifeboat Journal of February 1916 and as a result of the rescue James Jamieson, the acting coxswain was awarded a Silver Medal.

Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland – In response to signals of distress the Berwick-upon-Tweed lifeboat “Matthew Simpson” put to sea shortly after 4am on the 10th November, to assist a motor boat which was dragging her anchors. The motor boat had anchored in Berwick Bay the previous day for the purpose of repairing a slight defect in her engine. A strong northerly gale sprang up during the night, and the vessel commenced to drive into danger. The coastguard observed her distress signals and telephoned to the Honorary Secretary, Lieut. – Col C.L. Fraser, V.D., R.A.M.C (T), who at once ordered the lifeboat to be launched. The whole of the regular crew were not available, and Dr Fraser, a soldier belonging to the King’s Own Scottish Borderers, two coastguard men and a fisherman volunteered to go afloat under the leadership of James Jamieson, the second coxswain. The boat proceeded on the direction of the flares and in spite of the darkness succeeded in finding the vessel. When passing under her stern the lifeboat hailed the men on board, and they replied, but neither heard the other on account of the gale. An attempt was made to keep close to the steamer, but this was found to be impossible, and the lifeboat drove to leeward. Tremendous seas were running, and it was obvious that in the darkness it would be highly dangerous if not impossible to rescue those on board. It was, therefore, resolved to stand by until daylight, and then make an attempt to save the men. As soon as day broke the lifeboat made for the motor-boat, and it was not until two attempts had been made that she succeeded in effecting communication. A line was secured, but it parted at the critical moment. The boat was again manoeuvred until she succeeded in getting alongside. The crew of six hands were found with their life-belts already adjusted to leave their vessel in case of disaster, and as the lifeboat rose and fell on the tremendous waves the men waited their opportunity and jumped into the boat. The boat then put into the north east in order to secure a good position, to make the harbour, and this operation is described as being one of the bitterest experiences any man in the boat had ever endured. The cold was intense, the wind cut like a knife, and the spindrift was like showers of needles on the face. By the time the boat

reached the Bar the men were well nigh exhausted, and to add to their difficult task, the ebb tide, with the river in spate, made it impossible for the boat to gain the shelter of the pier. Attempts were made under both sails and oars, and for over an hour the men struggled valiantly to attain the shelter they so badly needed. The boat's position was absolutely critical, for on being swept seawards she frequently went broadside to the breakers and was almost upset. Seeing their difficulties, six men very bravely put off in a boat from Spittal. When they were seen approaching, a desperate effort was made by the lifeboat's crew under double banked oars to reach the pier, but this effort would equally have failed had not the Spittal fishermen very gallantly ventured themselves into the broken water. By very skilful seamanship they reached the lifeboat, and the line, which they had brought out with them, was attached to the boat. The other end was in the hands of the people on the pier, and no time was lost in hauling the boat into safety.

When they landed the condition of every man was pitiable to see. In the hurry to get away only one man had put on oilskins, there were only two sou'westers in the boat, some of the men's caps were blown away, and every one was soaked to the skin. To add to their suffering the motion of the boat when afloat was so violent that it was not possible for them to use any of the provisions which were carried on board, and it was fully realised by the crew that if the boat had not been of the finest construction she would have been split by the terrific blows when falling into the troughs of the waves.

The rescued men expressed the greatest gratitude for their timely deliverance, and the captain of the vessel was loud in his praise for the lifeboat men's great bravery in going out to save them. He considered that it was wonderful, in the absence of all the coast lights, that the lifeboat ever found them; and he further expressed his admiration of the seamanship displayed when the boat was being taken across the Bar.

In recognition of this fine service the Committee awarded the Thanks of the Institution and a Silver Medal to the Acting Coxswain, James Jamieson, and presented the Thanks of the Institution inscribed on vellum to Lieut. Col. C.L. Fraser. In addition, they gave each of the other members of the crew an extra monetary grant, and rewarded the Spittal fishermen for their timely and useful help.

Linda Bankier

MUSEUM NEWS

It has been a long winter, but plenty of work has been going on behind the scenes at the Clock Block, with several projects ongoing over at the windswept and snowy Barracks!

The great news that the museum has been awarded the coveted and long awaited Accredited status was confirmed in writing in December – the certificate will be displayed proudly in the new season.

The Curator has been working on a programme funded by the Museums, Libraries & Archives Council called “Effective Collections”, which aims to improve access to collections. The emphasis has been on an appraisal of Berwick’s social history material, particularly those parts of it in storage. Christine Stevens, who was formerly the Head of Collections at Beamish, has added her special expertise to the project, and a report is in preparation giving lots of useful advice and suggestions for the better use of the collections, such as improving storage areas as well as enhancing the displays in the “Window on Berwick” room, and making more of the archaeological artefacts in the museum. We have found lots of unexpected and interesting items while sorting out the stores - such as an ostrich feather fan hidden under some gardening equipment, half a human skull in a tupperware box, and a milkmaid’s yoke from the west country. Lots of hidden gems have been uncovered, though none so strange as the dodo skeleton found among a box of crocodile bones at another museum carrying out a similar programme this winter! The next part of the programme will entail working on the recommendations of the report, and applying for more grant money to carry out some of the more adventurous ideas we have had for exhibiting our holdings.

We have also received funding from the “Renaissance in the Regions” programme to improve the storage of the costume collections. The conservation supplies have just arrived, and are awaiting unpacking.

An additional and very interesting donation has been received from Berwick Floral Art Club. This is a set of large pictures of the four evangelists, made completely from a cornucopia of different seeds.

Ruth Scrase, one of Berwick's "Young Advocates" in the Changemakers Programme has been working at the museum over the winter months. The programme is a nationwide charity which aims to encourage young people with leadership potential to manage projects. Ruth is in her second year as a history student at Newcastle University, and has worked in several museums as a volunteer. Other Young Advocates for Berwick have been involved with the Film Festival, the Berwick Youth Project, the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and with the region's Conservation Officer. Ruth has inspired an entire school – Tweedmouth Middle - to produce a "Quintet" for the 21st century, and the resulting artwork, photography and creative writing will be displayed at the museum as part of our opening exhibition. Art Teacher Sabine Maule must be awarded special thanks for her enthusiasm, help and support.

As I write this, the opening exhibition is in preparation and will be a celebration of the paintings and drawings of James & Andrew Wallace. This will include a rare outing for a selection of the "Quintet" volumes. Those Friends who are unaware of these books are in for a real treat: the thirteen volumes contain the collected letters, drawings and photographs of five Berwick school friends who kept in touch when they went their separate ways in adulthood. Every month in rotation, one of the five would edit a newsletter, each with a frontispiece specially painted by James Wallace.

It is James' centenary this year, so it is especially fitting to show the work of this under appreciated artist who died so tragically young. An exceptional selection of his brother Andrew's painting will be shown publically for the first time, following a bequest of over one hundred pieces by him, donated last year from the estate of Mrs Elsie Clark. Mrs Clark and her sister Grace Wallace gave other paintings and family memorabilia to Berwick Museum in their lifetimes. Andrew Wallace's drawings and watercolours show a strong eye for architectural detail, as one might expect from someone in that profession, but are at the same time beautifully decorative. We are still doing our best to identify many of the locations shown; many are easily identifiable as York, Edinburgh, Cambridge, while others show what must have been professional drawings for new buildings in Canada, where Andrew worked for some time.

Interest in James Wallace has also been expressed by the Barber Institute Gallery of Birmingham University. The Barber is producing a tennis-themed exhibition in late spring, and will be borrowing the volume of the "Quintet" which contains James Wallace's splendid watercolour of "A game of tennis in Battersea Park". The sport

became very popular at the turn of the 19th century, and James Wallace seems to have been something of a fan, as there is another drawing by him in the “Quintet” volume of 1900.

We will be holding a special preview of the exhibition, provisionally entitled “Wallace 100” on the evening of Thursday 31st March at 6pm. We hope to see you there!

Anne Moore (Museums Officer North, Woodhorn Trust)

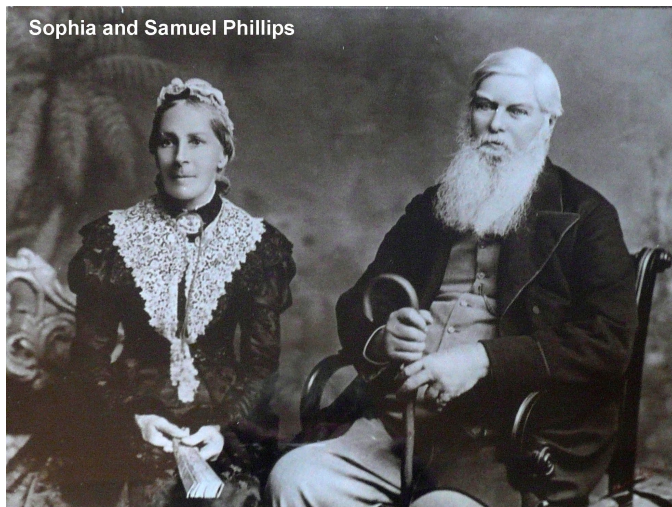
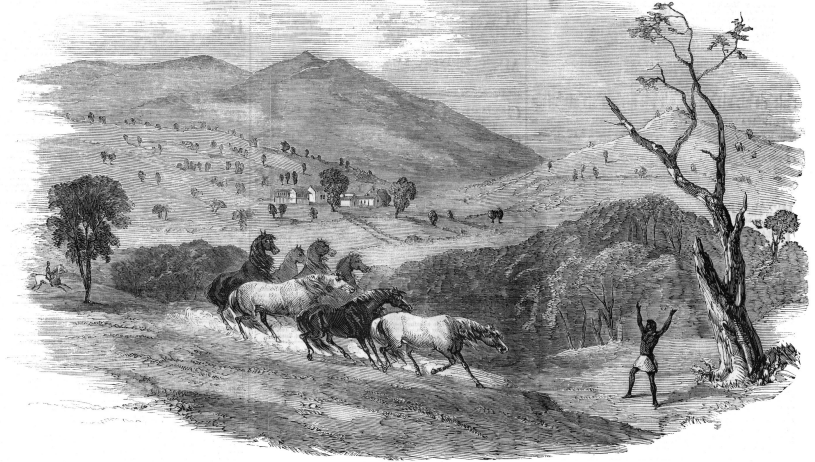
HENRY RICHARDSON

THE KANGAROO HUNT

In 1859, Dr. Henry Richardson M.D. R.N. (the son of the founder of the Berwick Advertiser) sailed to Western Australia as Surgeon Superintendent on board the convict ship, Sultana, arriving in mid August. Among the passengers on the ship was Captain Grain R.E., going out to take charge of the Engineers stationed at Perth. The Royal Engineers were in charge of convict working parties used to build roads and bridges across Western Australia, so opening up the land to settlers. Henry spent the six months after his arrival, in Perth and Fremantle, and also on expeditions into the hinterland, and along the south west coast. A transcript of his journal from this period is in the Berwick Archives, the original being in the collections of the Batty Library, Perth W.A. This autumn, I was lucky enough to be able to spend three weeks in the area, and used part of that time to follow in Henry’s footsteps, which allowed me to flesh out the sometimes terse statements in the Journal. One of Henry’s most interesting adventures was his participation in a kangaroo hunt, at Culham, some fifty miles north east of Perth.

About a week after Henry had arrived, and while he was staying with the Army Medical Officer in Perth, he was invited to join Captain Grain and a junior officer, Lieutenant Thorold, on a tour of inspection of the Convict Depots and engineering works in the Swan and Avon valleys north east of Perth. Henry hired a horse in Fremantle, and five days later they found themselves in Toodyay, at the home of the minister, the Reverend Charles Harper, whose wife was Thorold's sister-in-law. Here the party split for a couple of days, Henry staying on with the Harpers, while Thorold and Grain went off to stay with Thorold's in-laws at their homestead. When they returned, they brought with them an invitation to stay with Samuel Phillips and his wife Sophia at their farm at Culham, some 10 miles away.

Culham Farm is in the middle distance



Sophia and Samuel Phillips

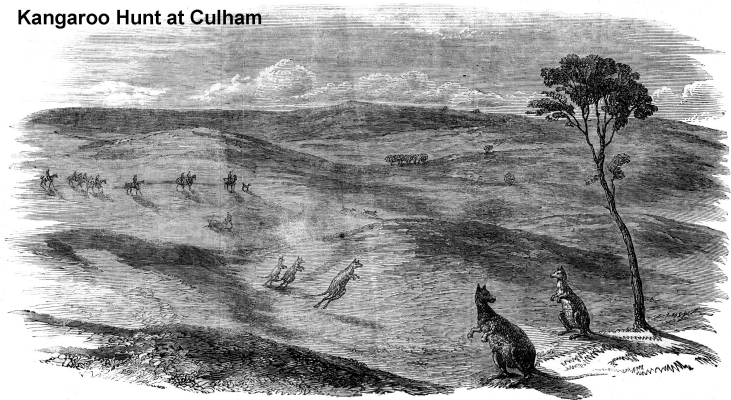
An invitation to stay at Culham was quite a coup. Samuel Phillips was a successful horse-breeder and cattle rancher. He was known locally as the Squire of Toodyay, and had succeeded in establishing the old English deference society in the heart of Western Australia – no small achievement. His employees pulled their forelocks to him, and took pride if their daughters obtained a place at the 'big house'. In 1857, after a meeting with the

Governor, he was nominated to the Colony's Legislative Council, from which position he strongly promoted his own and Toodyay's interests. Also, in 1857, the *Illustrated London News* featured Culham and his activities in one of its issues. The Governor apart, Henry and his companions were now moving in the highest ranks of Western Australian society. The hospitality of Culham was well known, but their invitation probably also owed something to Phillips' passion for hunting, and whatever Henry's skills or lack of them may have been, Phillips could have confidence that two Royal Engineers would acquit themselves well on the hunting field.

Culham house had only recently been enlarged, and after a visit to England in 1855, the Phillipses saw that their new residence was fully equipped to the highest English standards - oil cloth for floors, wallpaper for walls and even a piano for the parlour. Henry records that they *were most sumptuously entertained*. The main event of the stay, however, was the kangaroo hunt organised by Phillips. *The Illustrated London News* gave an atmospheric account of one of Phillips' hunts.

This exhilarating sport commences before sunrise, and the sense of freedom and enjoyment which one experiences, mounted on a good horse, in the early freshness of an Australian morning, on the boundless plains gemmed with the richest flowers, must be felt to be appreciated. The kangaroos, tall as grenadiers, with heads like rabbits, and tails like bedposts, afford an unlimited quantity of hard galloping... The prospect did not fill Henry's heart with joy, he had never ridden to hounds, and, having been thrown from his horse while staying with the Harpers, he feared he would end up looking stupid. In the event however, it was not Henry who came to grief, but Captain Grain.

Kangaroo Hunt at Culham



In the first drive when, after a long ride, they put up and chased a kangaroo, *He and his horse differed in opinion as to which side of a tree they should take and the consequence was that they ran right up against it – to the great detriment of the Captain's beauty as he got a severe blow to the face which damaged his nose very materially.*

Henry had to dismount to attend to Grain, and so missed the kill, something which does not seem to have troubled him greatly. A second herd was put up, but the doe which Henry and others chose to follow well outran Henry's horse. He found the whole affair rather an anticlimax, but it brought home to him the limitations of his horsemanship.

I continued to keep my saddle but the sudden jerks and turns that the horse gave in galloping through the bush sometimes rather imperilled my seat and rendered me sensible that I was by no means a first-rate rider.

That conclusion was one which seems to have been reached also by his Royal Engineer companions, as they continued their inspection tour alone, leaving Henry at Culham. It was Phillips who drove Henry back to Perth, using both his own and

Henry's horse to pull the carriage. They drove along the side of the Avon, on the comparatively good road that Phillips had been instrumental in getting built.

He is a first rate whip and I never saw anyone drive with such skill and boldness. The manner in which he avoided the ruts in the roads by turning the horses into the bush and doubling round trees quite surprised me.

Phillips was indeed an outstandingly skilled driver and horseman. Later, in 1865, in Adelaide, he was to be presented with an engraved silver claret cup, and a silver medal from the Royal Humane Society in recognition for his bravery in riding his horse into the boiling surf to rescue two seamen thrown overboard when an emigrant ship foundered in a storm. His best known driving achievement, possibly for a bet, was when in Perth, he drove his carriage at top speed along a tree-lined terrace. At the carriage hub height, small pieces of paper had been pinned to the trunks of all the trees, and he succeeded in removing them all with the wheels without damaging a single tree!

Jane Bowen

FRIENDS OF BERWICK AND DISTRICT MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

A condensed history of the Friends of Berwick and District Museum and Archives - FBDMA

In 1993 Berwick Borough Council suggested that a Friends' Group should be formed to support and promote the work of the Archives and the Museum. A public meeting was held on 25th November 1993 in the Guildhall. It was chaired by the Mayor and from that meeting arose the Steering Group, chaired by Lady Rose Crossman and with Anne Cook as Secretary.

The Steering Group met frequently and thrashed out a Constitution, invited Lord Joicey to be the President, chose the official name – FBDMA, and adopted a splendid logo dreamed up by Jim Walker. The Charities' Commission granted charity status in September 1994. An Inaugural Meeting was held on March 25th 1994 and the Chairman and Committee were nominated and approved. The Guest Speaker was Vivien Hamilton from The Burrell in Glasgow. She talked on Burrell the man and on his wonderful collection of artefacts.

The Friends work had begun in earnest!

The big question was – what can FBDMA do? The answer is – anything – as much or as little as the individual wishes to do; in fact, anything which will promote and support the work of the Archives, the Museum and the Art Gallery.

Since 1994 the Friends and other volunteers have helped with Oral Histories, Transcriptions, Indexing, Cataloguing and the creation of a roll of Freemen, 1800 - 1899.

One of the activities which I have enjoyed being involved in is the Graveyard Surveys. Such fun! Yes really! We'd spend a whole day in a churchyard, crawling amongst overgrown tombs, trying to decipher half- obliterated inscriptions. It made for instant camaraderie! My task was logistics. Where was the nearest loo and where was the water for the tea? It's always good to be useful. In the first few surveys I also got someone to organise a country walk for friends and family. We went to Kirknewton in 1994 and from then we "did" Bamburgh, Chatton, Lowick, Kyloe, Ellingham and Carham. Each one was a little jewel containing wonderful glimpses into the past.

We have always tried to have an Autumn Lecture and have covered many interesting subjects, both in Berwick and further afield. We went to Paxton House, and to Lady Waterford Hall where I remember a village cat sitting in the refreshments box during Stafford Linsley's talk on Ford in the 18th Century. As well as lectures we have also tried to incorporate a Summer Outing in our diary of events. Norham Station Museum, The Museum of Farming Life at North Charlton, Chillingham Barns and Alnwick Garden have all played host to groups of Friends.

Without the Friends acting as supervisors, invigilators and stewards none of the fascinating panoply of exhibitions could take place. Not only do we have to have a watchful eye on exhibits but we can share our knowledge with the public who come in droves to learn or to re-visit former days. We glean a lot of information from reminiscences! From the many events and exhibitions we are able to recruit more members of the public to join us in our multitude of tasks. Membership has remained fairly constant over the years. The quarterly Newsletter is a bargain (and you might like to enter your own work for the delectation of others.) The Friends also receive invitations to exhibitions and talks.

We are not a fund-raising body but we have managed to attract sufficient money to buy some equipment for both the Museum and for the Record Office. The Charities Commission keeps a beady eye on all we make and spend. Because we have Charity Status we have been able to play the lead body to help fund grand events such as The Union of the Crowns and projects such as The Ports of Berwick. One particular fund-raising event was very successful because it appealed to the Berwick Public, and that was the purchase of the Berwick Roll. We had to find £30,000 – and we did.

Other ways in which the Friends help is in the promotion of all things Film and Photograph. Many people do not know that the Record Office stores all sorts of documentation and that local life is recorded on film and in photographs which are frequently being added to and shown at exhibitions and film evenings. If you don't know what to do with your collection consider giving it in to be conserved for posterity.

This year celebrates 30 years of the Berwick Record Office and there are so many events that even the most cynical of folk should find something to interest them. Coming up is the culmination of a Schools' Competitions which have been run over the last few months. Older pupils were asked to write a "Who do you think you are?" project, and younger pupils were asked to come together to look at Berwick in the last 30 years and produce a collage. Later in the year the results of these two competitions will be known and yet another educational project will have hooked young and old alike.

I have written quite a lot about the Friends but, we must remember that all activities come from the enormous amount of work being generated within the Museum and Archives. If it weren't for the boundless energy of the professionals there would be little for the volunteers to do. If the initial, innovative ideas, springing from the cramped spaces in Wallace Green and the Barracks, were not forthcoming then volunteers would not flock to help spread the word about the excellent service offered in Berwick. Thank you all the "Backroom Boys" who have enriched our lives!

Not all of the volunteering is specifically historically bound. There is still a great need for those of a practical frame of mind to offer help with tea-making, running raffles, setting up events and advertising talks and visits. You can be a member of the public coming to a talk or some event. You can always start by making a cuppa and perhaps you'll be drawn into doing your own research. Why not try it and see?

Barbara Herdman.

CHILD LABOUR

In the recently discovered Belford National School Log Books I came across this unusual version of child labour:

Monday 7th June 1869:

‘Eight of my scholars have been absent now for several weeks, gathering a species of bivalve known here by the name of “cockles”. In most instances the usual excuse is given for the necessity of this step, viz:- the parents are poor, & a little – a very little money – is to be made; & therefore go the children must. The gathering however is very trying work, as I know from the experience of adults who put their hands occasionally to this same work. What then must it be to boys and girls – some of them far from strong – when they are day after day, irrespective of weather, engaged in this work? I have represented the matter to the minister, & he has kindly promised to have a little talk with the parents of the said scholars, when an opportunity occurs.’

Clearly the word with the minister had some success as the entry on June 14 reports that 3 of the children had returned to school.

Janet Ward

AN ODD MARRIAGE

Married, January 3rd 1820 in the centre of the River Tweed opposite Paxton House in a boat fronting the Borders. This is to certify that John Allan of Tweedmouth and Mary Turner of Horncliffe in the parish of Norham were this day lawfully married together by me, John Forster , before these witnesses as below: witness John Forster , witness John Allan. I the aforesaid John Allan and Mary Turner have allowed the above marriage at the aforesaid place, the

River Tweed opposite Paxton House. Given under my hand, John Allan and Mary Turner.

From "The Story of Lamberton Toll" by Alexander Steven.

This unusual marriage venue clearly led to a long marriage as John Allan and Mary Turner can be found on the 1861 census living in Tweedmouth with their children.

Val Glass

SNIPPETS FROM THE BERWICK ADVERTISER

Berwick Advertiser, 26th November 1869

THE STEAM BARGE AT OUR COASTALTRADE

For some time past, steam barges which are in common use at other ports on the coast, and in a short time will probably prove very formidable rivals to the ordinary coasting or sailing vessels, have now and again put into this harbour. This week one of these barges has discharged a cargo of linseed cake, brought from the Hull for Messrs Crossman & Paulin. That enterprising firm besides loading another vessel in the harbour with barley for a port in the English Channel, have loaded the barge referred to also with barley for Gainsborough.

Berwick Advertiser, 3rd December 1869

THE SCOTCH PULPIT

In Our report of the proceedings at laying of the foundation-stone of Mordington Church in May last year, we gave the names of some of the ministers who had held the iving(sic), and stated that one of them, the Rev. Thos. Ramsay, had been commemorated in the book published in 1738 entitled "Scotch Presbyterian Eloquence Displayed; or, the Folly of their Teaching discovered from their Books, Sermons, and Prayers." Here is the testimony of Mr Ramsay, who was minister between the Restoration and Revolution, in regard to preaching, given in that book: _
"There are two sorts of preaching, sirs; there is a gentlemanny preaching, and a

commonmanny preaching. There are three sorts of men that despise the latter. 1- the politician; 2- the gallant; 3- the ignorant man. The politician will go twenty miles to hear a gentlemanny sermon; what cares he for commonmanny preaching? As for the gallant, give him a glass of wine and a lady to kiss, and what cares he for preaching? As for the ignorant man, give him a cogful of brose and a pair of breeches, and what cares he for preaching? Commonmanny preaching, sirs, is like milk porridge; it will make you bonny, fat, and lusty in your journey heavenward. But the gentlemanny preachers will feed you up with penny whistles and nick-nack bonnywallies (children's toys)."

Berwick Advertiser, 10th December 1869

EXCITING SCENE

On Friday, carts and horses of all descriptions and conditions were voluntarily engaged in loading ice from the river for Berwick Shipping Company. It made no difference from what part of the river the ice was got, 2s 6d a load was paid for it. So eager were some of the carters in the work that during the night-time the ice which floated down the river was secured and carted beyond high water mark, and ready to be conveyed away as soon as the ice-house was opened on the following morning. From the mud "slakes" at Yarrow Haugh a large quantity of ice was got, but at this Friday, some excitement was caused by several horses narrowly escaped being drowned as the tide rose, and it was only after considerable difficulty that the horses were saved. The carts had to be left. Some of them floated with the rising tide, but all were afterwards recovered.

Berwick Advertiser, 17th December 1869

METEORS

On Sunday night a brilliant meteoric display took place here. About ten minutes past six o'clock a pale but fiery meteor, which appeared to be no great distance from the earth, shot across the sky, leaving behind it a bright scarlet trail. When it was first observed it was of a light blue colour, this however changed to red, and was especially bright in its descent. It emitted a shower of sparks and then disappeared. Until about half past ten o'clock the meteors continued occasionally to appear. About fifteen minutes to nine o'clock a meteor of extraordinary size and light shot

across the heavens. It seemed to start from the vicinity of the Plough and proceeded in a southern direction, disappearing in a shower of blue sparks. It left a brilliant trail behind it. The night being clear and cloudless, these meteors were easily seen.

Berwick Advertiser, 17th December 1869

CHRISTMAS PRESENTATION

The pupils of the Ravensdowne Boys' National School presented their master, Mr Stainburn, as a token of their affectionate regard, a couple of Ducks for Christmas dinner, a quantity of shortbread for his little daughter, and the following important addition to his library;- Macaulay's prose works, consisting of History of England, 4 vols, critical and historical essays, 2 vols, miscellaneous writings, 1 vol, together with Trollop's commentary on the liturgy of the Church of England. On Thursday before Christmas, the scholars attending Miss Lambert's school, Spittal, presented her with a purse of money as a Christmas gift.

Carole Pringle

Berwick Advertiser, 4th February 1870

SINGULAR MARRIAGE

A marriage of an unusual description took place at the Register Office on Wednesday, and created some excitement. On Friday the 21st, a wedding party arrived in Berwick from Wooler, and took up their quarters at the Black Bull Inn, Silver Street, where a gay display of flags and banners was made and much conviviality took place. They, accompanied by other three couples, proceeded to the Register Office, where the marriage was to take place by license, which it was ascertained that the bridegroom's residence in the parish had been too brief in the eye of the law, for the ceremony then to be gone through. It was also found that the notice which had been given was informal, in so far as the lady's age had been stated as twenty-one, while herself admitted that she would not be twenty-one till May next. It had been further stated that the gentleman's age was fifty. He afterwards admitted he was sixty. The party considerably chagrined at the aspect which affairs had assumed, were obliged to return to the inn and console themselves as best they could under the circumstances. The event, however, came off, as we have said, on Wednesday. The party again took up their quarters at the Black Bull Inn, and were followed to the Register Office by a crowd, which increased while the interesting ceremony was being performed. The police had to escort the bride and bridegroom and their attendants, who were dressed in a manner befitting the occasion, in coming and returning from the Black Bull Inn, where they remained till after mid-day, at which time they left the town.

Carole Pringle