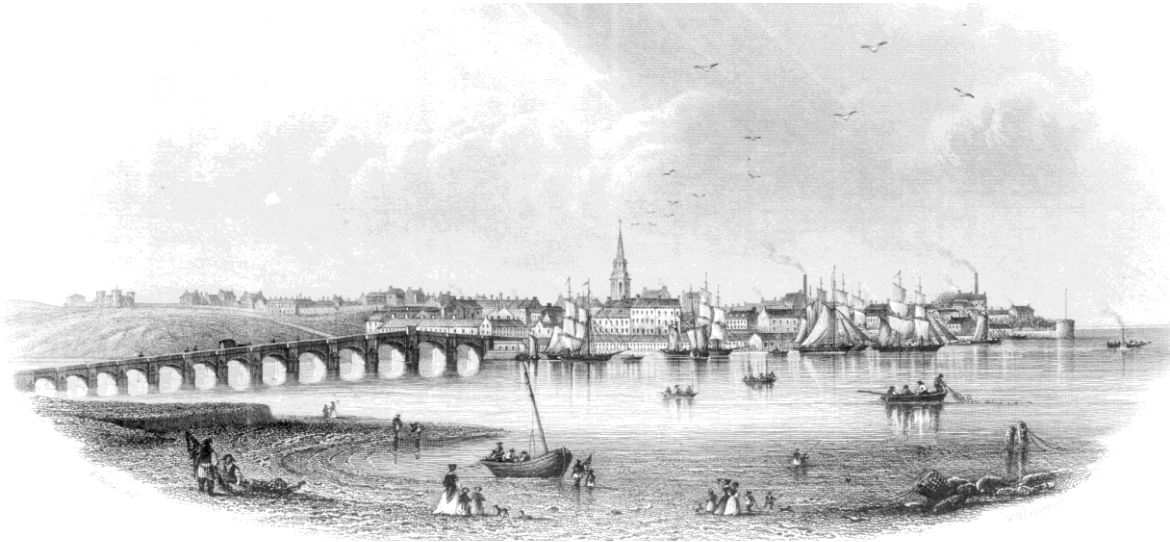


Friends of Berwick & District  
Museum and Archives  
Newsletter



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[Selected articles]

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## 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY RECIPES

*Among the records of the Haggerston Family, there is an 18<sup>th</sup> century book which includes a number of "cures" and culinary recipes. The following are two items found in the book, I've kept the original spelling which is phonetical and typical for the time - there was no such thing as a bad speller in those days! If anyone feels like trying the recipes do let me know what the salmon dish turns out like and whether the "sirip of turneps" works!*

### To Make Sirip of Turneps

*Take turneps and paire them and slice them and put them in a stoon (stone) pot, and Lay a Laire of turneps and a Litle mace, and when the pot is full, then paist it up and sett it in an oven with ry bread. When the bread is drawne, take out the post and powre out the Juice and put to it Isope water, bet Aneseeds and sliced Lickerash. Boyle these a good while together, then straine and put to it either white or browne suger candy. Boyle it to a thine sirip and take three spoonfulls at any time either day or night. This is good for a Consumption or cough of the Lungs.*

### Receait for Baking of Sallmon

*To a good Large sallmon, halfe a pound of ginger, 3 quarters of nutmeggs and a quarter of cloves, a quarter of mace, a quarter peper. The sallmon must be baked within 2 or 3 houres after it is taken out of the watter. Scrap the scales of it, wash it well before it be opened and dry it well with a clean cloath. After it is open'd wash not the inside at all. Scrape the slime and blood of it, dry it well againe with a clean cloath. Lay it a broad upon a table and strow (throw) 1 handful or two of salt upon it to suck out the blood, and Lett it lye till your oven be allmost ready, then scrape the salt clean of it againe and dryed with a cloath. Beat you butter with a Rouleing pine (rolling pin). Your ginger must be scrap'd beat and scleared and your other spices beat and all mix'd together with your ginger, putting there to as much salt as you think fitt. When you put your sallmon into the pott you must Laye the skine side downewards, Laying first a Laire of butter at the bottom of you pott. You must score and stick the sallmon here and there that it may the better receive the seasoning. Then lay a laire of sallmon and a laire of butter till you have fill'd the pott and covered and pasted about. When you bak it, sett It not into over hott an oven. Lett it stand in 3 or 4 houres. When you draw it, sett it to coll till the next day, then clarrifie as much butter as will cover it an Inche of above the sallmon els it will not keep anytime.*

Linda Bankier

## EXHIBIT OF THE MONTH

### **Temporary Bridge Across the Tweed**

*by W. Wilson, Jun.*

Pencil on paper, highlights in white

Signed & Dated: *July, 1850*

BERMG: 1741

This remarkable view shows the enormous timber bridge constructed over the Tweed during the building of the Royal Border Bridge. The artist clearly stationed himself down among the beams

and has caught a small steam train crossing. The Victorian builders seemed to have been just as proud of this wooden edifice as they were of its stone successor as a diagram of it was included in a paper given by George Barclay Bruce to the Institution of Civic Engineers in February, 1851 (Proceedings, v.10, 1850/51). Bruce describes the construction of the stone bridge in great detail, including the results of experiments to see whether steam or manually driven pile-drivers were more effective. Steam won by a clear margin. A discussion followed in which various engineers questioned Robert Stephenson's use of hollow piers of ashlar filled with rubble, as seen in a contemporary working diagram also currently on exhibition. Others responded that bridges usually failed because of the mortar, while Stephenson himself said the rubble was only there to increase the weight and add to the stability. It was also free to settle independently of the facing blocks and the bridge would stand up without any rubble inside. Finally Bruce brought the discussion to a close with figures showing the bridge stones could withstand 195 tons of pressure per square foot before they cracked.

As to our drawing, Emrys Williams, current artist in residence, points out that Wilson has shown considerable skill in use of space and volume, overcoming the challenge of a difficult perspective. Emrys also notes the effectiveness of just the right amount of detail in the more distant parts of the bridge. It may be that this drawing is by the same W. Wilson, Jnr. who exhibited 12 sea pictures in the National Gallery in Edinburgh. W's brothers, John James (1812-75) and William A. (worked 1834-65) were also artists, as was the least known brother W. J. Wilson, who only exhibited one picture, another sea piece, in 1853.

The drawing and other items associated with the Royal Border Bridge have been displayed to coincide with the Museum's *Victorian Days* in which parties of school children, occupy *Window on Berwick* as if it were a town, carrying out Victorian-style domestic activities and act out the arrival of Queen Victoria to open the Bridge.

*Chris Green*

## **CORONERS' INQUISITIONS**

The phrases used on the primary documents recording coroners' inquisitions have gradually changed over the period from 1745 to 1918. The term 'death from natural causes' was, until about 1840, written as 'death from a visitation of God', therefore the following appeared in 1830, "*Mr. Lilly died from a visitation of God near the Flagstaff on His Majesty's fortifications.*" Death through accidents was always recorded as being "*accidentally casually and by misfortune*", as happened to John Windrum who died in a fall from a ladder when "*Thatching the roof of Robert Dodd's house in Hide Hill*", on 13<sup>th</sup> August 1774.

Throughout the eighteenth century if a person was found to have taken their own life the following wording was used; "*By the Instigation of the Devil, at Berwick aforesaid, in and upon himself, then and there, being in the peace of God, and of our said Lord the King, feloniously, voluntarily, and of malice aforethought, made an assault, and that the aforesaid (.....) then and there with a certain (..... knife, cord, razor etc.,)*".

To date, the first recorded inquisition after an industrial injury was on 27<sup>th</sup> November 1758 when Martin Carter was said "*to have died instantly when a Sergeant walking along the Parade, dropped his Halbard, and Carter fell on the sharp end*".

On 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1827, the Jurors actually apportioned blame, writing *"The Jurors are of the opinion that there has been negligence on the part of some person or persons who have the management and care of the Capstans on the Pier"*. This was regarding one *"Robert McRae at work heaving up the Smack "Wellington" when one arm of the capstan broke hitting Mr. McRae and knocking him into the River Tweed."*

The Ramparts are mentioned at periods, from 1765, when George Skinner fell at Middle Mount, through to the 1800's. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century alone there were 7 fatalities through falls from the walls.

The numbers of babies said to have been 'accidentally overlaid' by their mothers made distressing reading, and the lifestyle during the period researched, is reflected by the many babies and children recorded as 'having died from burns, scald, and falling into the River Tweed, and one even into a bowl of porridge.'

The development of railways, and the building of the Royal Border Bridge, caused increases in the Coroner's workload, but the rivers and sea strongly influenced both accidental deaths and the numbers of suicides by drowning.

Executive stress is not a recent trend, as in 1907 the local manager of the National Telephone Co., *"died from a gunshot wound to his brain inflicted by himself during temporary insanity due to overstrain."* One report made me think 'not surprising!!!' when I saw that in 1824 *'Eleanor Renton did drink 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of a quart of whisky and so did kill herself.'*

A walk around the town no longer has me thinking just about the buildings or gardens, but also recalling the facts that 'this is the house where such and such happened' and 'that is the arch of the bridge where a murdered baby was uncovered'. So far documents have been transcribed from 1745 until 1918, but with primary sources from 1851 to 1876 still missing. However, the newspapers of that period show reports of many more inquests, and these are included in the file held by Linda Bankier. So far about 900 inquests have been noted, with Coroner's name; date of inquest; name and age of deceased and, after about 1880, the occupation. The verdicts demonstrate the increase of knowledge of the doctors, changing from *'Visitation of God'*, through 'heart failure' and, toward the end of the 1800's specific findings such as 'ruptured aortic aneurism'.

Although it would appear that this is a very narrow field of research, each inquest gives an insight into the social history of Berwick and district. We are fortunate in holding the earliest Coroner's inquest for the county, as well as the longest running sequence.

*Anne Cook*

## SNIPPETS ABOUT CROOKHAM

### The Three Deaths of Dorothy Forster

One of Crookham's most famous residents was Dorothy Forster, sister of Thomas Forster, the Rebel General in the 1715 Rebellion. Captured and charged with treason, he awaited hanging in Newgate Gaol. Dorothy has been accredited with rescuing him and seeing him escape into exile. Dorothy later married John Armstrong, a retired farmer and lived many years, until her death, in Crookham.

She was well known in her lifetime and later regained popularity as a Victorian melodrama heroine in Walter Besant's novel "Dorothy Forster".

However in my research I have found her death reported at three different times. In Besant's novel, she dies on 24 February 1739 at the age of 50 - giving her a birth date of 1689. The Bamburgh register lists her death as May 1767 at 81 - her birth date as 1686/7. The Newcastle newspaper gave her obituary and death on May 1771.

Just to prove what Linda is always advocating - always cross check your references!

## **BERWICK ADVERTISER 14 JULY 1832**

### **W A R N I N G**

*"I, John Davidson, Carter, Wark, Northumberland having obstructed Mr Robert Brown, Sheriff's Officer, Wooler, in the execution of his duty on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> July, do hereby acknowledge and return thanks to Mr Robert Brown for withdrawing the prosecution brought against me for the aforesaid assault. I have paid all costs incurred on this occasion and agree that this be public in the Berwick Advertiser designed chiefly as a warning to others."*

John Davidson

*"Witness: Robert Davidson, schoolmaster, Crookham July 11<sup>th</sup> 1832."*

Lindy Tindley

## **TRADES DESCRIPTION - 19<sup>th</sup> Century**

The Berwick Advertiser and other newspapers of around the period 1810 carried advertisements for various miracle cures for all ills. Typical remedies, all making equally outrageous claims including attribution to 'Divine Providence', are given hereunder:-

*"Mr J. Reid, Bookseller has received a fresh supply of the following excellent and celebrated medicines:*

***THE CORDIAL BALM OF GILEA***, so universally resorted to for its extraordinary superiority in removing all Complaints of the Stomach, Relaxation of the Solids, Nervous Weakness, the deleterious effects of hot climates, and particularly the ill consequences of intemperance. In short in every case where the constitution has been reduced by disease or irregularity, the good effects of the CORDIAL BALM OF GILEAD are unequalled.

*Also, the ANTI-IMPETIGINES, or SOLOMON'S DROPS, the most powerful alternative, purifier and sweetener of the blood ever yet discovered, and may be confidently relied on as to the most safe and certain remedy; For the SCURVY, Scrofula, King's Evil, Scorbutic Eruptions, Leprosy and other disorders arising from an impure or impaired state of the blood and lymph.*