

**Friends of Berwick & District
Museum and Archives
Newsletter**

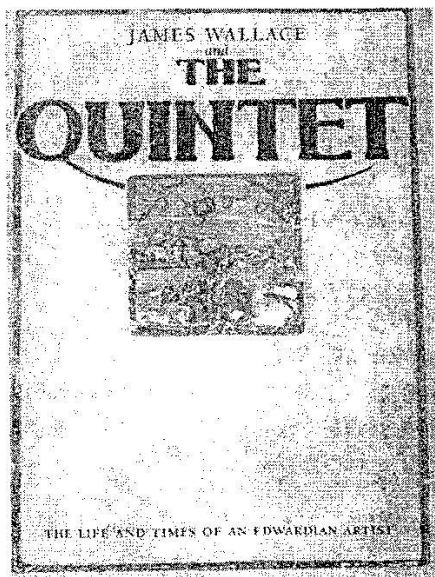


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[Selected articles]

EXHIBIT OF THE MONTH

'THE QUINTET'



The Quintet volumes on display in the "James Wallace & The Quintet" exhibition are a tribute to the friendship between six young men who grew up in Berwick-upon-Tweed. Their varied careers took them away from the town but they remained in contact with each other by letter and occasional meetings. In late 1899 it was suggested that they correspond on a regular basis and **The Quintet** was born. The correspondence was circulated on a monthly basis and at the end of each year it was bound into a single volume. There are thirteen volumes in all as The Quintet ceased after the death of James Wallace in 1911.

James Wallace was the most important contributor to the Quintet. His illustrations, frontispieces for each month and stories of his travels and activities bring the volumes to life. His own career as an artist was showing great promise when he died and the paintings on show in the exhibition will give

some impression of his talent. His style was very varied - from quick sketches done for the Quintet or as preliminary studies for larger paintings, to highly finished works destined for major exhibitions.

He was also a capable commercial artist designing posters, adverts and items such as the inn signs for the Old Bridge Tavern. Much of his work still remains in private hands, though a substantial body of work, including the Quintet, is now owned by the Museum.



Chris Green

THE CASE OF MARGARET DRYDON AT BERWICK QUARTER SESSIONS

As part of its privileges under King James I's Charter of 1604, the Borough of Berwick-upon-Tweed was granted the right to hold its own Quarter Sessions Court separate from Northumberland and Durham. The Court, originally presided over by the Justices of the Peace (the Mayor and other members of the Freeman's Guild) had jurisdiction to deal with criminal cases committed within the town and its liberties.

MARGARET DRYDON

Margaret Drydon, formerly English married her husband Henry, a flaxdresser on 1 December 1757. He had two daughters, Rachel aged 13 and Jane aged 11 by a previous marriage. The family lived above a bakehouse in Marygate and according to neighbours, Margaret appeared to be pregnant at the end of January 1758. On 1 February 1758, James Simpson, a labourer, was digging manure from the midden at the top of the bakehouse lane when he found the body of a recently born female child. A neighbour, Isabel Bell, the wife of Adam Bell, butcher who lived in a room below the Drydons, heard that a dead child had been discovered and went to see what had happened. She removed the child, washed it and gave it to one of the Mayor's Sergeants at Mace for further examination and post mortem. In the meantime Isabel Bell and Ann Jameson, another neighbour maintained that on the previous day Margaret Drydon had looked pregnant but no longer. A midwife, Sarah Main was called to the scene and according to her statement, she examined Margaret and confirmed that she had recently borne a child. She also was ordered to search the house for Margaret's clothes and discovered a petticoat and shift locked in a chest and a gown at the bottom of the bed all stained with blood. The top of the petticoat was very badly stained and "That it had the Appearance of Infant's Blood".

Despite denying the crime Margaret was arrested and on the same day an inquest was held by the Coroner William Procter and a jury on the body of the female child. In the court it was said that the child was born between Saturday 28 January and 1 February and it was concluded "that they believe that the said female Infant was morder'd by her the said Margaret Drydon after the birth of the said female Infant and that the said Margaret Drydon concealed the birth of the said female Infant". Although no reference is made to it in the Coroner's official verdict, it appears from a draft letter of 14 March 1758 that the jury based their verdict of "murder" on the evidence of surgeons in the town. They examined the child and removed its lungs to carry out a medical experiment. They placed the lungs in water to see whether they would float to the surface or sink. If they floated the child had been born alive whilst if they sunk, the child had been stillborn. The lungs floated to the surface.

Thus Margaret was accused of murder and placed in prison in the Guildhall. Whilst in prison, she was attended by Jane Hills, a midwife who on the 1 April 1758 made a sworn statement (Information) that on 2 February 1758 "the said Margaret Drydon then confessed to her this Informant that she had born a female child on Monday the thirtieth day of January last past and that she had laid it in the Midden on Tuesday the Thirty first day of the Same Month before Day light, and being asked by this Informant whither the Child had life when it was Born, the said Margaret Drydon answered no". Interestingly no further reference is made to this statement in the records implying perhaps that it was discounted.

Margaret's case eventually came to Court on 1 May 1758 when a Court of Gaol Delivery (normally for more serious offences) was held before the Mayor Henry Hodgson, William Compton, the Recorder and a sworn jury. Margaret pleaded not guilty to the charge brought against her that she had borne alive a female child which she had then murdered by cutting its throat with a knife (value 6d). This is the only official reference to the child's throat being cut although it is referred to in the draft letter of 14 March 1758 "The Throat of it appeared to have been Cut with a Ragged Instrument, and upon Searching the House of the said Draydon a large Ragged Knife was found...". After hearing the evidence and considering the case, the jury found Margaret guilty of the charge and said "that she be carried from hence to the place from whence She came from thence that she be

carried to the place of Execution where she shall be hanged by the Neck until her Body be dead". However instead of carrying out the sentence that day, it was to take place on 3 May 1758.

Among the Corporation's accounts, a bill of expenses has survived which confirms that the execution took place on the specified day. Margaret was taken by cart to Gallow's Knowe (at the bottom of Castle Terrace), where all executions took place and there the sentence was carried out by the hangman George Lindsey who was paid 12s 6d for his services. He also obtained new shoes, stockings and wig for the occasion. In total the expenses for the hanging amounted to £2-00-06.

The Corporation's Charges expended about the Execution of Margaret Dryden who received Sentence of Death at the last General Gaol Delivery.

To a pair of Shoes for George Lindsey Hangman	0: 4: 6
To a pair of Stockings for Do	0: 2: 6
To a Wig for Do	0: 2: 0
To George Lindsey's Shoes	0: 12: 6
To the Beadles Attendance	0: 5: 0
To the Sergeants at Arms Attendance	0: 8: 0
To a Rope	0: 1: 0
To a Cart	0: 5: 0
<hr/>	
To pay to George Mitchellson Sergeant at Arms	£ 9: 0: 6
for the Use of the above persons the above bill of Two pounds and six pence	£ 2: 0: 6

To Mr. Comptroler
 J. Rodyson Mayor

Unfortunately insufficient documentation has survived for us to evaluate whether Margaret Dryden's child was stillborn or murdered, however it is an interesting case which illustrates justice at that time.

Linda Bankier

SMALLPOX IN THE BERWICK UNION

This proved to be the 'mixture as before'. Days when expected sources revealed little of interest until, boxes of material which I started to search through with little hope, came up with primary documents which were, to me, miraculous finds.

The work covered the period 1840-1916. Very few cases of smallpox were recorded, and the outbreaks were sporadic. The role of vaccination in the control of the disease was well documented, and came to be the bulk of the archive material found.

The Union was divided into three - Berwick, Islandshire and Norhamshire. The vaccinations for the Islandshire district were performed at Mr Morison's residence in Tweedmouth, and at Unthank Colliery, Cheswick New Inn, the Lamb Inn, Fenwick, and 'at Holy Island at such an hour as the state of the tide could permit'. The Poor Law Commissioners found the latter hard to accept, and much correspondence on the subject followed. The 'outdoor poor' who fell victim to the virus were given certificates showing their name, address, sometimes age, and the type of nourishment to be issued to them, usually bread, tea, mutton and, occasionally, porter. The certificates were copied into the Minute Books of the Board of Guardians and show that the main outbreaks were in 1855 and 1864, mainly around Chapel Street and Spittal. 1870 saw smallpox in Greenses.

The paperwork the Doctors were required to complete, and the contracts of the Doctors are also to be found, along with many letters from the medical men complaining of the rates of payment. Dr **** was in conflict with the Board quite often, one dispute was about his lack of returns, and his reply is transcribed thus:-

"On referring to my book I see that I vaccinated 5 cases in Lady Day quarter, and afterwards lost my supply of virus. I obtained fresh virus and vaccinated one child with it, two or three days later scarlatina broke out in the family and spread rapidly in the village and I have consequently desisted from vaccinations until the fever abated. I have now obtained a good supply of virus and am going on so that this quarter I will have a very large number of cases".

However, letters went back and forth over the next 3 years, culminating in a final statement that Dr **** was not fit to practise medicine in the Union and his contract was terminated. The Jenner Institute & Museum who asked Chris Green for information are delighted with the amount of material held at our Record Office, and I took the opportunity to also make a file to be held locally and, within this, I included a little information about Dr. Jenner, vaccination, signs and symptoms of the illness and an article from the National Geographic Magazine which covers the work done by the World Health Organisation in eradicating the disease.

Sometime I hope to cover the smallpox threats of 1940/50 and, if any Friends have relevant information, I would be most grateful if you could contact me through the Record Office.

Anne Cook

TOLL ROADS AND CHARGES

The Record Office has in its possession a copy of the Act of Parliament "Victoria Reginae - Cap. lix." of June 1861 entitled "The Berwick, Norham and Islandshire Turnpike Trust Act 1861", and also the Minutes of The Trustees of the Berwick Turnpikes appointed by Act 59 Geo. 3 -cap. 1viii from July 1819 to 17 January 1846.

Roads in the Middle Ages were only tracks of earth or, in wet weather of mud and the only known methods of making the highways more or less passable were to scrape off the mud and to fill-in the worst of the holes with either brushwood or stones. Responsibilities for these early roads lay with the lords of the manors; with the Monasteries or with the King. In 1855 an Act of Parliament made road maintenance the responsibility of individual parishes. It obliged parishioners to spend, in each year, four consecutive days (later increased to six) working on the roads; they had to bring their own picks and shovels and, those who were lucky enough to own a team of horses, had to provide that together with cart and driver. The first Turnpike Act was in 1663 and in that year the first turnpike road was established on the Great North Post Road. In the years between 1663 and the 1880's, at which time the majority of the turnpikes had disappeared, there were more than 3,700 separate Turnpike Trusts controlling some 20,000 miles of highway. The demise of the turnpikes came after a series of Public Health Acts had set up local governing bodies capable of maintaining roads themselves.

The aforementioned Parliamentary Act together with the Trustees' Minutes referred to give full details of all the requirements for setting up the turnpikes and with all the problems of maintaining the road structures, procurement of stone and the difficulties of transportation of stone and other materials from quarries etc.

Hereafter follow details of the roads encompassed within the Act of June 1861 and, also some typical charges for usage of the roads referred to:-

BELFORD TURNPIKE ROAD	-	Berwick to Buckton Burn
WOOLER TURNPIKE ROAD	-	Scremerston through Ancroft to Bowsden Burn
ETAL TURNPIKE ROAD	-	From Tweedmouth through Duddo to the Horn Burn
CORNHILL TURNPIKE ROAD	-	From Tweedmouth through East Ord, Twizel and Cornhill to Coldstream
EDINBURGH TURNPIKE ROAD	-	From Berwick to Lamberton thence to Edinburgh
DUNSE TURNPIKE ROAD	-	The high road from Berwick to Dunse via the south side of Hallidown Hill to the bound road at Mordington
PAXTON TURNPIKE ROAD	-	The road branching from the last mentioned road at the Alder Bush and leading across the river Whiteadder to the Paxton toll bar

The road leading from the Cornhill Turnpike Road by Grindon to the Etal Turnpike at Felkington. The road from the River Tweed at the Union Bridge to the Cornhill Turnpike

road near Longridge, thence to the Etal Turnpike near Murton thence by Murton and Unthank Moor to the Wooler Turnpike Road near the Oxford Lime Kilns.

The road from Cleekim Inn Corner leading to the Cornhill Turnpike Road near Velvet Hall Bridge and by Thornton to the Etal Turnpike at the Folly.

The Union Bridge near Horncliffe; the Twizel Bridge and the Haggerston North and South Bridges.

The platform and roadway of the River Whiteadder Bridge at Gainslaw.

TOLLS to be taken at Toll gates except those in the parish of Berwick and at the Union Bridge:-

For every Horse, Mule or other Beast whatsoever, drawing any Coach, Landau, Chariot, Barouche, Berlin, Chaise, Hearse, Calash, Chair, taxed Cart, or other such Carriage, Sevenpence.

For every Horse, Mule or other Beast whatsoever, other than an Ass, drawing any Cart or other such Carriage with Two Wheels, Fourpence Halfpenny.

For every Horse, Mule, Ox, or other Beast whatsoever, other than an Ass, drawing any Waggon or other such Carriage with Four Wheels, the Soles or Bottoms of the Fiellies of which wheels shall be of the Breadth of Four inches and a half at least, Fourpence Halfpenny.

For every Ass drawing any Waggon, Wain, Cart or other such Carriage, Two pence.

For every Horse, Mule or Beast of Burden other than an Ass, laden or unladen, and not drawing, Threepence.

For every score of Oxen, Cows or Neat Cattle, or young Horses unshod, One shilling and Eightpence per score, and so in proportion for any greater or less number.

For every score of Calves, Swine, Sheep, Lambs, Goats or Kids, Fivepence per score, and so in proportion for any greater or lesser number.

Steam, Machinery or any other power, than animal power, Toll charged of One shilling per wheel.

Tolls to be paid in respect of all Horses or other Beasts drawing any Omnibus, Caravan, Cart, Stage Coach or other such vehicle, or any other Carriage, plying for hire or reward. The tolls shall be paid every time of passing, returning or repassing along the said roads.

The Parish of Berwick Tolls were less than those quoted above whilst those for crossing the Union Bridge were greater and with the addition of One Penny for every Foot Passenger.

Comment These are only some of the categories and charge variations imposed by the toll system making the assessment and collection of the toll charges an extremely hard and difficult task for the collectors manning the toll houses.

Educational Literature 1800's Styles

NEW ELEMENTARY WORKS ON EDUCATION sold by J. Reid Berwick

1. THE ACCIDENCE; or First Rudiments of English Grammar Designed for the use of young Ladies. By ELLEN DEVIS; fifteenth edition, price 1s. 6d. bound.
2. A SCHOOL DICTIONARY; or Entick's English Dictionary; abridged and adapted for the use of Schools: containing only the roots of words, and those of importance or utility, and omitting derivatives, obsolete, vulgar and unusual words. By the Revd. David Blair.
3. A short and easy introduction to the Science of GEOGRAPHY, containing an accurate description of the situation, extent, boundaries, divisions, Chief Cities &c., of the several Empires, Kingdoms, States and Countries in the known World - To which is added an Abstract of Ancient Geography, with the nature and use of maps.
4. GEOGRAPHY and HISTORY; selected by a Lady, for the use of her own Children. The tenth Edition, carefully revised, the new Political Arrangements introduced, and a Plate and Epitome of the Solar System, with the outlines of Astronomy and Ancient Geography added, with Maps.
5. The TURO's and SCHOLAR'S ASSISTANT in ARITHMETIC; containing a large Collection of Original Questions, with notes at the foot of the page to exemplify and illustrate the Rules.
6. The ELEMENTS OF READING; being Select and Easy Lessons in Prose and Verse, for young readers of both sexes.
7. A NEW HISTORY OF GREAT BRITAIN, from the invasion of Julius Caesar to the present time. With Wood cuts.
8. The ROMAN HISTORY, from the foundations of Rome to the subversion of the Eastern Empire, and the taking of Constantinople by the Turks in the year of our Saviour 1453; including the antiquities, manners and customs, as well as the jurisprudence and military establishments of the Romans; in seven books.
9. The SPIRIT of GENERAL HISTORY, in a series of Lectures, from the eight to the eighteenth century, wherein is given a view of the progress of Society, in manners and legislation, during that period.
10. COMPLETE PRACTICAL ARITHMETICIAN; containing several new and useful improvements, adapted to the use of Schools and Private Tuition.
11. INTRODUCTION TO LATIN READING. Taken from the most Approved Authors, arranged in progressive Lessons from the more easy to the more difficult rules in Syntax, according to the Eton Latin Grammar, and Ruddiman's Rudiments, adapted to the weakest capacity by a Preparative of all the Lessons in Quantity, Etymology and Syntax, and intended as a Book of Latin Reading, as soon as the Pupil has committed to memory the first declension of Nouns.

Dennis Nicholson