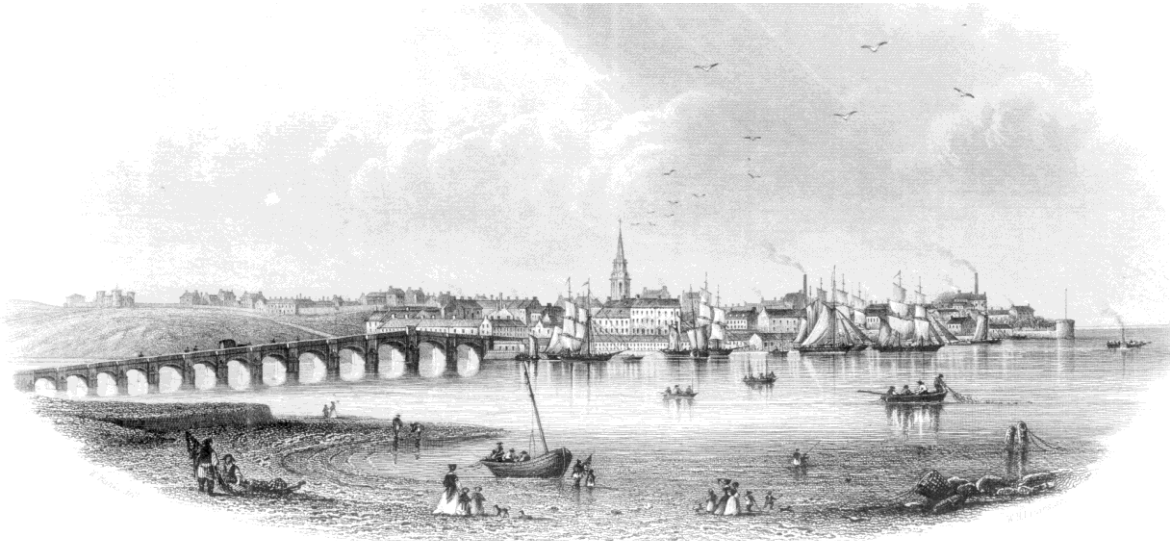


Friends of Berwick & District Museum and Archives Newsletter



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[Selected articles]

1996 September

FORD SCHOOL LOGBOOK, 1863 - 1872

In 1860, the present Lady Waterford Hall was built as Ford School by Louisa, Marchioness of Waterford. The first schoolmaster was Mr Todd who taught 100 pupils with the help of his wife and one, sometimes two pupil teachers. Mr Todd was the schoolmaster for 41 years. This logbook tells us about some of the things which happened during part of his service.

- 20 April 1863: Lady Waterford visits the school and proposes to admit children under 7 at 1d each.
- 12 Aug. 1863: The third picture finished by Lady Waterford and fixed in its place in the Evening.
- 14 Aug. 1863: Lady Waterford visits the school at 11a.m. and retouches the picture of "Esau and Jacob".
- 19 Aug. 1863: Lady Waterford, Lady Stuart and Mr Ruskin (painter) visit the school at noon and examine the pictures.
- 20 Jan. 1864: Hours 9.10 - 12.30 1.30 - 4.45 Morning dull and many late. Lessons according to Time Table and progress as usual. Several families from Slainsfield are leaving the neighbourhood this week, there being no work at the pit.
- 19 May 1864: The 4th picture placed upon the walls of the Schoolroom. Lady Waterford paints in school from 11.50 to 12.45 and from 3.45 - 4.00. School work according to Time Table.
- 9 Nov. 1864: A few of the elder boys ask holiday for tomorrow morning as Lady Waterford's gardener is to be married in the church here - the holiday refused but a promise made that they shall be let out sooner to see it.
- 10 Nov. 1864: H. Trotter's wedding celebrated at Ford Church today and the children are dismissed at 10.40 to see it. A few absent themselves in the afternoon also in consequence of the above.
- 9 Dec. 1864: Lady Waterford has promised to present dresses this ensuing Xmas to all the girls attending the school; and the school was dismissed at 11.45 to allow them to go to the Cottage for the material - on our way word was brought that we were not to go till tomorrow. Her Ladyship visited the school at 4.
- 20 Dec. 1864: Day wet and dark. Lessons according to Time Table. Lady Waterford visits the school and gives orders with respect to the School treat. Tomorrow and Thursday the School cannot meet to allow preparations to be made. A Tea and Christmas Tree are to be provided for all the School children and Village Choir on Thursday Evening to be held in the School room. Friday will be devoted to "Cleaning Up".
- 1 May 1865: Another picture placed in the Schoolroom (Moses in the bulrushes) this morning. Lady Waterford and Lady Ruthven visit the school at 11.30 - 11.50.

The children ask holiday being "May Day" and are allowed to leave sooner.
Admitted 3.

- 30 Oct. 1865: The numbers in attendance today reached 102. Admitted 3 new scholars and many old ones returned. Lady Waterford and Lady E. de Vesci visited the school in the afternoon. Lady Waterford signified her intention to bestow a suit of new clothes on each boy attending school at Xmas.
- 21 Nov. 1865: The tailors appointed to make the clothes to be given by Lady Waterford to all the boys attending the School at Xmas - attended at the School this morning and measured the boys - Lady Waterford visited the school this afternoon. A south wind caused the school to be so full of smoke that one of the fires had to be put out and so delayed work.
- 1 March 1866: A heavy fall of snow has prevented many little ones who live at a distance from attending school today.
- 29 May 1866: A new painting (Samuel and his parents) has been put into the school this afternoon - Lady Waterford visited the School at 4.
- 28 April - 2 May: Lady Waterford granted this week as an extra holiday in consequence of the illness of the master's son of typhoid fever.
- 21 Oct. 1867: Several more old scholars have returned today but the higher classes are still very small, so many of the older children having left altogether. Fever is still prevalent in the village and neighbourhood.
- 24 Dec. 1867: Those children who have made over 300 attendances during the year received cloaks from Lady Waterford in addition to the gifts of last week - they attended at the Castle this morning for that purpose. The school met this afternoon but only for a short time and it will not be marked as an attendance in the registers.
- 29 Jan. 1868: The work has been conducted today as usual. A new picture, subject "David the Shepherd" has been placed in the school this afternoon.
- 5 Feb. 1868: A heavy gale has been blowing all day from the west which has knocked down the upper part of the fountain in the village erected as a memorial of her late husband by the present Marchioness of Waterford. Some few of the younger children have been unable to attend.
- 27 Nov. 1868: Lady Waterford visited the school this afternoon and stated her intention of giving presents of books at Christmas to the children according to their attendance at school. Her Ladyship also ordered that all the girls wear white hair nets when in school which are to be made at home, her Ladyship finding the material.
- 29 Dec. 1868: Lady Waterford visited the school this afternoon and fixed Tuesday next for the children's treat. It is her Ladyship's intention to give a tea, Xmas tree and Magic Lantern. Part of the Xmas holiday will therefore probably be taken at the beginning of next week and the remainder after the Inspection so as to interrupt the work as little as possible.

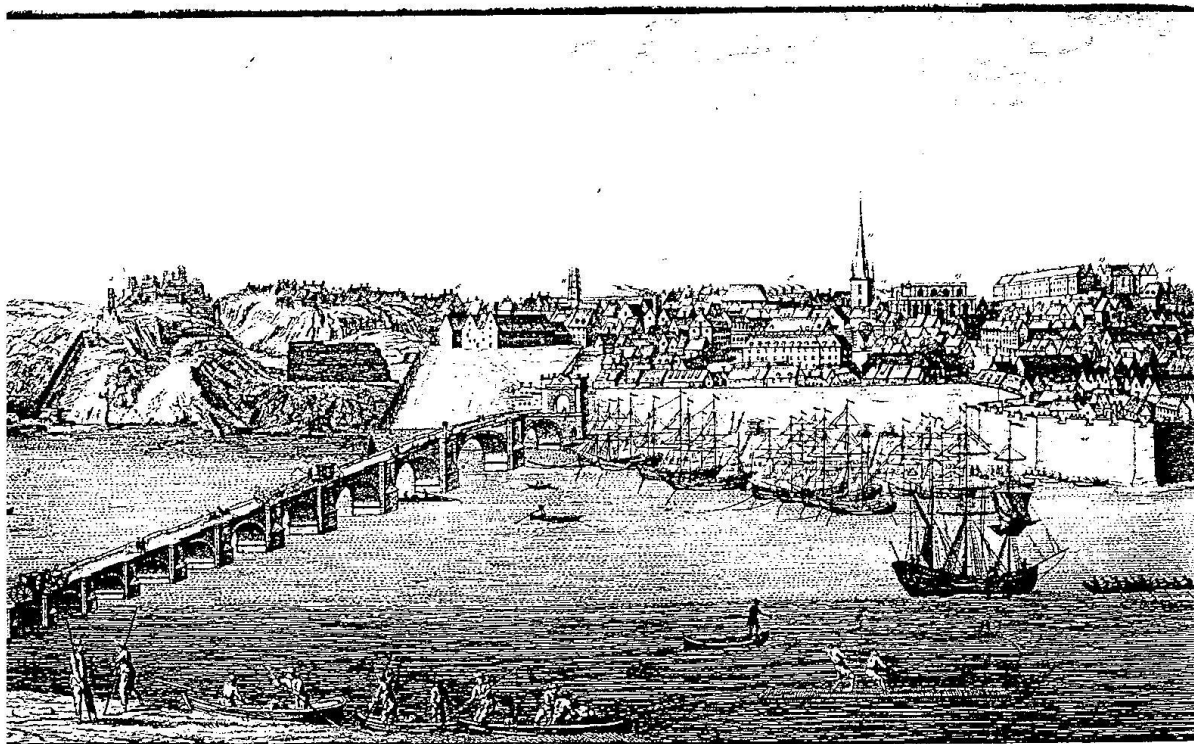
- 29 Jan. 1870: Received today the Government Report of the School for last year which was as follows:-
 "The order in this school is good. The Religious Knowledge satisfactory and the standard of attainments, generally reflects credit upon the Master's work. The needlework is very fair".
 You were informed last year that if the average attendance during the Current School Year exceeded 90, a deduction would be made from the Grant. The average attendance having been 94 the Grant is reduced by £10 under article 52(b).
 Andrew Hunter has been accepted as a pupil teacher by the Committee of Council, his apprenticeship to date from the 1st January 1870.
- 10 May 1870: and just before school was dismissed by Lady Waterford who arranged the Free Scholars for the year - gave orders that the girls need not wear white hair nets but were not to be allowed to wear their hair long except when confined in a net or braided.
- 22 Dec. 1870: The children assembled for tea at 3.30 after which various games with dancing were carried on until about 6p.m. when prizes were distributed to each child who has attended school during the year by Lady Waterford. About 7.30 the children received each an orange and a piece of cake and were dismissed. Lady Fitzclarence, the Rev. T. Knight and the Rev. F. H. and Mrs Good were present during the evening.
- 16 March 1871: At noon today part of the picture of "Christ blessing little Children" was temporarily fixed in the school and was examined by Lady Waterford in the afternoon. "The Time Table Conscience Clause" was hung up in the School room today.
- 23 March 1871: Lady Waterford visited the school this afternoon previous to leaving Ford for the Summer, and made enquiries respecting the working of the "Conscience Clause".
- 30 March 1871: Mr --- visited the school this afternoon for the purpose of photographing (in two groups) children attending school, the attendance being thereby increased for the afternoon. The schoolwork was delayed about three quarters of an hour.
- 6 May 1871: Scarlet Fever has broken out at "the Moss" and children from that "stead" (row) have been forbidden to attend. The same applies to Watchlaw.
- 9 June 1871: The continuance of Scarlet Fever in the neighbourhood, at Ford Moss, Ford Hill and Ford Westfield causes a comparatively small attendance.
- 13 Oct. 1871: The attendance has been very small during the week owing partly to children from Ford Moss being forbidden to attend (see last week) and also in consequence of children being kept at home to assist in getting up potatoes. A few of the elder ones have also been employed "to beat" for the shooting of guests at the Castle.

- 16 Dec. 1871: On Monday morning the Pupil Teacher was unable through sickness to attend school - on Tuesday the doctor pronounced it scarlet fever. Two other cases of school children suffering from the same illness were reported by the doctor on Wednesday evening, who recommended that the School should be closed for a short time. The Rector having sanctioned the recommendation, the children were dismissed on Thursday morning for a fortnight.
- 14 Dec. 1871: The school continued closed during the interval in consequence of the outbreak of fever in the village. There has also been a case of Small pox at Ford Common during the time. The School having been fumigated and thoroughly cleansed it was intended to commence work again in it on the 15th instant - but a fresh case of Small pox having occurred in the house next the school, Lady Waterford advised that the children had better not be brought into the village, but gave the use of the Kitchen at Ford Cottage as temporary school rooms - Only the four higher classes can be accommodated, the remaining classes are still therefore without schooling.
- 19 Jan. 1872: Commenced work with the four highest classes in Ford Cottage on Tuesday. Several of the children having been absent from school for 8 months or more, and many for 5 months the work is very Backward - The Pupil Teacher has not yet commenced duty after his illness.
- 26 Jan. 1872: The attendance has been increased this week, and the kitchens have been crowded. The work is pursued under great disadvantages, the rooms being unsuitable for school work - one is damp, and both very close. Pupil Teacher still absent.
- 23 March 1872: First day back in their own Schoolroom.
- 6 April 1872: On Thursday, the Reverend T. Knight, the late Rector of Ford for upwards of 50 years was buried in Ford Churchyard and school did not meet on that day.
- 3 May 1872: The attendance at school has been poorer than last week - Measles have spread to Ford Common and to the Village. Elder children are leaving for Summer Work and others are employed in planting gardens.
- 12 Oct. 1872: The school was opened on Monday Morning with 40 children in attendance. The harvest was far from completed which explains the small numbers.
- 1 Nov. 1872: Tuesday 9 - 11.30; 1.50 - 4.20 On this day H.M. the Queen of the Netherlands visited the School, accompanied by the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland, the Marchioness of Waterford, the Countess Grey, Sir Maxwell Stirling, Sir William Armstrong, General Stuart and the Members of her Majesty's Suite. The difference in the hours was caused by the Necessary preparations for the visit. Her Majesty heard some of the Children read, saw their writing from dictation, heard them questioned in Geography and saw them work arithmetic.

Linda Bankier

EXHIBIT OF THE MONTH

THE SOUTH PROSPECT OF BERWICK



Le Port de Berwick, vu du cote du sud
Drawn by Thomas Milton (1743 - 1827), after
Samuel & Nathaniel Buck
Engraved by Antoine [?] Suntach, 1788
BERMG: 1996.16.5 (Dudgeon Bequest)

This recent acquisition shows how influential the famous Buck brothers view of Berwick was at the end of the 18th. Century. The original drawing of Berwick by the Bucks, now in the Yale Centre for British Art, was done between 1743 and the publication of the Principal Series of Town prospects in 1745. The original views were sold in sets of 6 at 15 shillings a set, and were very popular. They also had an enormous influence with Buck derived views turning up in a stack of travel books and atlases, all probably, in an age before copyright, without permission.

By the time this view was published in 1788 in an, as yet unidentified, French Book, Samuel had long since sold the original plates to Robert Sayer who reissued the set in 1786. This was the year that Thomas Milton came to London from Dublin. He was then undertaking a series of views of Irish country houses that are his best known work. His version of Berwick is identical in every respect to the Buck view, save for a couple of tiny ships out to sea. He makes no attempt to update the view to include the new Town Hall, and the list of identified features are simple French translations of those on the Buck view. Apart from the small scale, the only difference in the view is the sky. The sky in most of the Buck Town Prospects is mainly overcast with just one or two fluffy bits of cloud. Thomas Milton's sky is full of banks of cumulus cloud, dramatically lit, populated by at least 22 birds. As Milton also engraved 'The Deluge' by De Louthembourg, who had come to England to paint back-drops from Covent Garden Theatre, it is tempting to see this sky as influenced by De Louthembourg's dramatic style.

The engraver and possibly publishers of the view, Antoine and Johann Suntach were in partnership in London in the late 18th. Century but clearly had European connections as this view was intended for a French audience.

** The print is currently on show in the first Burrell Gallery.

Chris Green

BERWICK TUGBOATS

The earliest tugs were built on the Tyne for the express purpose of getting the sailing colliers clear of the river and into the sea in the face of foul or adverse winds. It should be noted that these colliers, which ran into hundreds, in the event of foul winds along the North East coast would not only cause a coal famine in London but would congest the Tyne until serious hardships resulted.

The earlier tugs were mostly two-engined paddle propelled vessels for which the basic advantages were that no matter how much the tug tilted there was always one paddle wheel in the water maintaining propulsive effort and also that, by putting one paddle ahead and the other one in the astern mode, by use of the two independent engines, greater manoeuvrability and rapid turning ability were achieved.

In December 1847, after a memorial received from several Berwick shipowners, it was agreed by the Berwick Harbour Commissioners (BHC) that there was a need for a steam tug service for rendering the harbour more safe and for improving the navigation therein. The average number of in and out ship movements per month, excluding fishing boats, was in the region of 80 which, together with a large number of local fishing boats, had to be towed in and out of Berwick harbour in the face of adverse winds and tidal currents. The fishing boats were towed, several at a time, out of the harbour and towards their fishing grounds.

After the December BHC meeting, which agreed that the hiring of a steam tug for 6 or 12 months would be expedient, a note was put in the North British Advertiser, the National Advertiser and in various Newcastle newspapers, asking for proposals for the hire of a steam tug of from 25 to 30 h.p. to be employed in towing vessels in and out of Berwick harbour for 6 or 12 months. The Commissioners to furnish the coals but the crew and everything besides to be furnished by the proposer.

In January 1848, after a satisfactory report by the Berwick Harbour Master and Commissioner, Mr Gilchrist, the hire of the steam tug "Ayrshire", of Newcastle, owned by Mr Flinn of Shields, was agreed at hiring rate of £40 per lunar month for 12 months, with an option to buy. The Charges for the tug use at the commencement of the service were:-

- For every vessel 20 tons and upwards, in and out - 4d per ton
- For every vessel 20 tons and upwards, when in or out only - 3d per ton
- For every vessel under 20 tons, in and out - 6/8d
- For every vessel under 20 tons when in or out only - 5/-

The contract with Mr Flinn for the "Ayrshire" continued until December 1854 when the Harbour Master reported on the inadequacy of the hired tug to cope with the increasing size of vessels now using the harbour. The Harbour Master was then instructed by the BHC to ascertain, from

shipbuilders on the Tyne, as to the cost of a replacement tug of from 35 to 45 h.p. which could be bought or hired.

In June 1855 the Harbour Master reported that, regarding the tug size proposed at the December meeting, nothing suitable was available in Glasgow and that the price of a new or even second-hand tug which could be got from the Tyne would be £1750 and £1450. No further action was therefore taken at this time.

In December 1858, after the appointment of a committee to investigate obtaining a tug of their own, a meeting with Mr Hepple, boatbuilder of North Shields, took place at which the BHC specified their requirements basically as 70' length of keel and 30 inches in the cylinder. Mr Hepple asked £1350 for the new vessel, which price was accepted, delivery to Berwick being made on 7 June 1859 at which date the "Ayrshire" was paid off. The naming of the new tug as "The Tweed" could be lent out for pleasure trips during the summer months, the operating limits being the Farne Islands in the south and Fast Castle in the north. The tug could also be hired out as a towing boat in the case of a wreck, within the limits of the Tyne in the south and Leith in the north.

In June 1878, after the BHC decided that a more powerful tug than the "Tweed" would be needed to cope with the increasing size of vessels using the port, A B Gowan, the Berwick shipbuilder, was asked to quote for building a replacement, based on a tug called "Admiral" of Shields and which had been using Berwick port. A quotation of £3600 after an offset allowance of £520 for "Tweed" was received from Gowan. This was rejected after difficulties in financing the purchase were encountered.

It was then decided that the most economic option was to hire tug services, subsidised where necessary, for the port. Accordingly advertisements were placed in various newspapers in Hull, Shields, Newcastle etc., asking for quotations for the supply of tug services. One quotation by R H Whitfield of Shields in August 1879 was considered satisfactory and his tug "John Bewick" commenced operations at Berwick shortly afterwards.

The refurbished "Tweed" was then disposed of for £370 in October 1879.

At the start of the new tug service the proposed rate for towage not extending beyond one mile from the Pier head was 2d/Register ton.

From the inception on the 1879 "John Bewick" service, subsidised hiring, instead of tug-owning, became the order of the day.

After the termination of the Whitfield contract in around 1879, due to various disagreements and inabilities to provide tugs of requisite power, subsequent contractors, amongst others, were the Grangemouth & Forth Towing Company, A Mackinnon of Leith and William Taylor of Grangemouth. Amongst the tugs subsequently based at Berwick, or on-call from other ports, were the "William Fenwick", "Earl of Windsor", "Jupiter" and "Blue Bonnet".

Dennis Nicholson
Editor