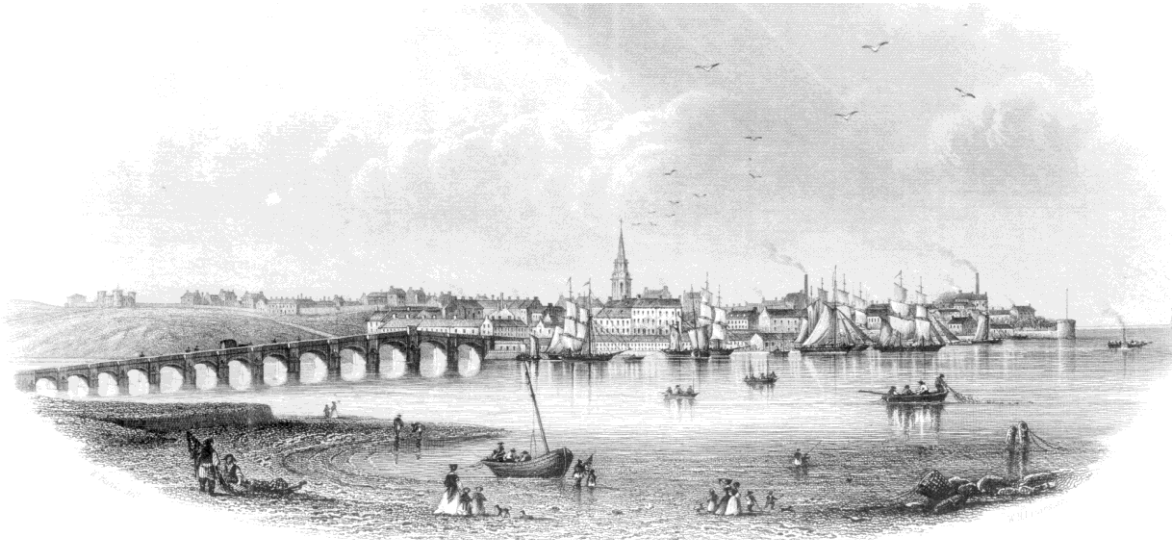


**Friends of Berwick & District
Museum and Archives
Newsletter**



NUMBER 15 – JUNE 1997

[Selected articles]

1997 June

SNIPPETS FROM THE BERWICK ADVERTISER, 21 FEBRUARY 1852

The Ramparts Walks

We congratulate the inhabitants of this town on the decision come to by the Local Board of Health at its meeting on Wednesday when a resolution to repair these walks was agreed unanimously. As the Committee have now got full power to execute the work we hope they will do it efficiently, and prove that the inhabitants themselves appreciate the advantage of the walks, which are the admiration of every stranger that visits the town. The suggestion made by the Mayor to employ some old man to walk round the walks once twice a week to mend any slight injuries and report any trespasses, is worthy of adoption. We would also suggest that a strong paling be passed across the opening at the head of Wallace's Green and other like places, to prevent the trespass of hawkers' horses and other cattle.

Borough Petty Sessions - Feb 19

Present, the Mayor and G.K. Nicholson, Esq. - Sarah Mills and Jess Brownlee were charged with stealing a purse containing six sovereigns from the persons of two men, who, however, did not appear against them, and they were consequently discharged.

The license of the Commercial Inn, Spittal, was transferred from Henry Pickles to Robert Storar.

Affecting Instance of Canine Attachment

Our readers will recollect that the man Knox, who was lately drowned in the Tweed, met his death from having gone into the water after a bird which he had shot, his dog refusing to do so and that that animal was found sitting by his clothes when they were discovered. Since that time the dog, which is a little brown mongrel of some sort, has been seen running along the edge of the water where its master was drowned, gazing anxiously into it, apparently in the expectation of his return. Even on Monday last, more than a month after Knox's death, the poor animal was found at its post, near the place of the accident, seemingly having grown half wild, either from grief or from its voluntary renunciation of society - and affording a striking proof of the strong affection these animals are capable of forming for their human protectors and masters.

Marriages

At Lamberton Toll, on the 7th inst., James Christle, Doddington Redstead, to Ann Murdy, of the same place; on the 14th James Hamilton to Mary Higgins, both of this town. At the Starch-House-Toll, on the 4th inst., George Hunter, Causeway-bank, hind, to Isabella Weatherston, Harelaw.

Deaths

At Ratcliffe Place, Edinburgh, on the 8th inst., Mr Thomas Stoddart, aged 68, late sergeant in the Scots Greys. Serjeant Stoddart was present with his regiment at the Battle of Waterloo and took part in the brilliant charge when the Greys dashed through the second line of the French column, and captured two of their eagles. After encountering and overcoming a French officer in single combat, he was surrounded by the enemy and fell covered with wounds. He was found next day among the dead and dying, but he nevertheless survived that memorable event nearly thirty seven years.

In London, on the 17th inst., aged 75, Mary Anne widow of Henry Collingwood, Esq. Lilburn Towers and Cornhill House, Northumberland.

Advertisements

TO LET

With entry on the 12th May 1852

That old established and well frequented INN called THE BERWICK ARMS situated in High Street, and presently occupied by Mr George Strother. Application to be made to the Tweed Brewery Office, Palace Green.

HOUSE TO LET

That large and commodious HOUSE in SPITTAL known by the name of SEAFIELD HOUSE well adapted for parties wishing to keep Lodgers during the bathing Season.

Entry at 12th May next.

SALTPANHOW LIME WORKS

The winning and burning of LIME at the shore Works for this Season to be let.

For further particulars apply to Mr S. Scott, Scremerston Colliery.

TO LET

For such a term of years as may be agreed on and to be entered to on the 12th day of May next.

That old established and well frequented INN and POSTING HOUSE called THE BLUE BELL INN as situated at Belford.

Also a FARM of LAND containing 171 acres or thereabouts of very superior land.

The above inn and farm will be let together or separately. For further particulars apply to Mr James Robertson at Easington who will receive offers for the same.

Belford 28th January 1852.

Linda Bankier

MUSEUM NEWS

Exhibit of the Month

Model of Chinese lady's bound foot and pair of boots she wore.

The Chinese custom of binding the feet of their young girls so that they would remain small seems particularly repulsive in the present day. Notions of beauty in Imperial China were very different from standards in the West and small was generally considered attractive. Large feet were considered particularly repulsive and likely to damage a young lady's marriage prospects, so that many girls in respectable families were subjected to this unpleasant custom. From a young age a girl's feet were bound tightly with cloth to restrict their size, unfortunately this had the effect of deforming the feet so badly that she could barely walk. Tiny feet necessitated tiny shoes, and the boots on display would seem more suited to a very young child rather than the adult they were made for. The practice of binding the feet only ended in this century with the downfall of the Emperor and the rise of Communism.

The pair of boots and the cast of the foot were given to the Museum by Commander Francis Norman. He had served in the Navy in various stations around the world including a tour in China aboard HMS Tribune from 1857-58. The ship was involved in various skirmishes with Chinese war junks, but when not actually fighting Commander Norman, then a lowly Lieutenant, was a keen observer of China and the Chinese. He visited villages, pagodas and the vacated homes of Mandarin officials noting details of agricultural practice, customs and anything that attracted his enquiring mind. He found the tradition of binding women's feet distasteful, but still brought home in his collection of souvenirs the boots and a model of the foot that wore them.

Shortly after his return from China he retired from the Navy because of ill-health. He eventually settled in Berwick, becoming an influential and active citizen, well-known in the town and district. Among his contributions to the town he presented the elaborate drinking fountain outside the walls by the Scotsgate to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. He wrote of his experiences in China and of the voyage via Japan and S. America in his second volume of memoirs, *Martello Tower in China*. He was a keen supporter of the Museum and the boots and the cast of the bound foot were among the gifts he gave in his later years.

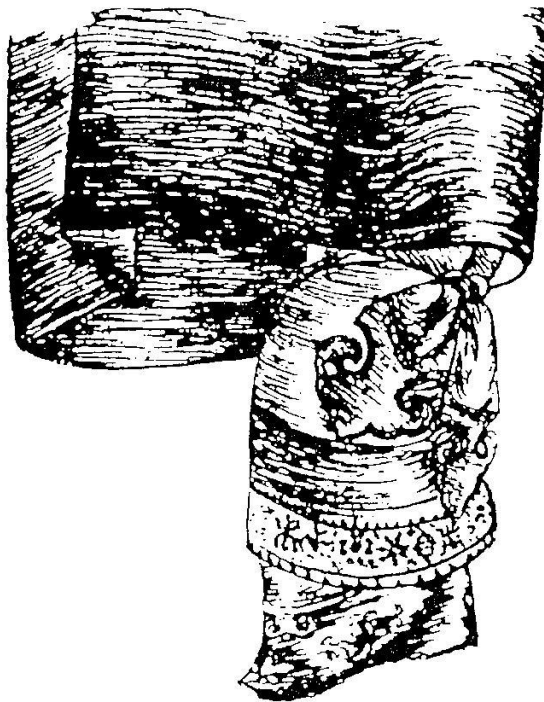
Chris Green

[See illustration on next page.]



CHINESE FEMALE FEET

From Life



THE SAME, IN SHOE

Taken from the First Book of Enrolment of Berwick-upon-Tweed

Date: 14th June 1637

A true copy of the Submission and Satisfaction by George Moore of Berwick upon Tweed,
Burgess to James Lawson

Apology:

Mr Lawson, I doo protest before God and this company that I am heartily sorrye from the bottome of my hart that I did offend you and especiallye dooing you so great a wrong and which I must confes was a verie base and knavish part in mee, And here I doo verie earnestly upon my knees begg pardon and favour at your hands to remitt and fogive this my vilest offence and will never give you cause of distaste hereafter and in witness of my repentance and your satisfaction I do give you this staff out of my hand to beat me at your pleasure and that this satisfaction is truly and really donne. I sett my name the 14th day of June, 1637.

Signed in the presence of

William Orde

Nicholas Forster

John Lawson

Lindy Tindley

Dennis Nicholson

Editor