

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



NUMBER 19 – JUNE 1998

[Selected articles]

1998 June

GARRISON ORDER BOOK, 1797 - 1798

Several years ago the late Col. Ward lent me an Order Book for the Garrison of the Barracks. I made some notes on the volume and the following are some extracts for the year 1797 which give an insight into life there at the time.

20 May 1797

The Men for Guard will be very exact in being on the parade for inspection at half past nine. The Drums will in future Beat off the Troop at quarter before Ten and the Guards march off exactly at Ten. The Retreat will beat in future at 6 O'Clock in the Evening.

21 May 1797

Lieut. Col. Peter informs the Men who compose the Garrison of Berwick that no complaints from them will be attended to unless they come through a proper Channel which is from a Serjeant to the Commanding Officer of this Company who will lay them before the Commanding Officer of his Regiment.

28 May 1797

In future one of the Serjeant Major's or Acting Serjeant Majors is to attend the Town Major every day a little before 12 o'clock to receive the orders of the day, which He is to take to the Garrison Orderly room, and be answerable they are given out to the several Corps in Garrison. This done he is to return the Book to the Town Major or leave it at his house.

2 June 1797

Such men of the Invalids as are indulged with leave to sleep out of the Barracks, will leave their arms and accoutrements in some Room which their Commanding Officer will fix upon for that purpose, and on no account take them to their Quarters.

6 June 1797

The Ordnance storekeeper will be pleased to have the spare sentry boxes now behind the Mounts taken into the Ordnance Yard; that over the Cowport is to be removed to the Hospital.

8 June 1797

The sentries on the Governor's House are to be discontinued in the daytime. They are to be posted at 10 at night and taken off again at four in the morning.

6 July 1797

Joseph Thomson of Dawson's Company, try'd by a Garrison Court Martial for being absent from his Guard, is found guilty of the Crime laid to his Charge and Sentenced to receive one hundred Lashes; but in consequence of some favourable circumstances, Lt. Col. Peter pardons him, and orders him to be released. At the same time he assures the Men of the Garrison that this is the last time he will pardon the same Crime.

17 July 1797

As it is found the Guard House at the Barrack Guard is too small for 21 Men Lt. Col. Evelegh thinks proper to reduce the Guard to 18 and for this purpose orders that only One Sentry be posted at the door of the Ordnance House.

22 July 1797

The Main Guard to be immediately reinforced with Six Men to furnish a Sentry on the French Prisoners.

28 July 1797

It is Lieut. Col. Evelegh's Orders that a Party consisting of 1 Serjeant 1 Corporal and 12 privates of the 8th Fencibles to parade tomorrow morning at 5 o'clock and ? from the jail here Twenty One French Prisoners and escort them to Dunbar and deliver them to the Commanding Officer there. This service being performed, the party are to return to Berwick without delay. The party to be furnished with 12 Rounds of Ball Cartridges and two good flints for each man - The Serjeant is to bring back a receipt for the Prisoners from Dunbar....

The Six Men that reinforced the Main Guard are to be discontinued and the Sentries taken off as soon as the French Prisoners are marched away.

6 Aug. 1797

When it does not Rain, every Window in the Men's Barracks and passages is to be fix'd open at 6 o'clock in the morning and remain so all the day; the Serjeant of the Barrack Guard to be answerable that this order is observed.

Every morning (when the ground is dry) the whole Bedding in use is to be taken to the ground on the East side of the Barracks and spread out from Eight O'clock till Ten. Two men from each Corps on Fatigue must be appointed to watch it and a Serjeant from each Corps to be ordered daily to see this is done.

An orderly affair from each Corps will see the whole of the foregoing orders complied with and before the bedding is brought in at Ten O'clock, He will go round every room and see that they are clean swept particularly under the Beds, and everything hung up properly.

The Commanding Officer of the Garrison will sometimes go round the Rooms and he will expect the Orderly Officer to be answerable to him that they are in good order.

No washing is to be allowed in the Rooms or passages. The water may be heated in the Rooms but all Washing must be done at the back of the Barracks and the women are to be careful not to throw the water about the yard but to put it in the places appointed for it.

The prisoners of the Garrison will go on with cleaning the Barrack yards according to a former order.

13 Aug. 1797

When any Officer from Sickness or Lameness is rendered Unfit for duty it is to be reported in writing by the Surgeon or acting Surgeon to the Corps he belongs that such Affair may be overlaid in the Garrison.

24 Aug. 1797

It is Lieut. Col. Peter's orders that Alder the Drummer and Hanley the Fifer of the Invalids be struck off duty for the present as they are employed in teaching some boys for the Voluntary.

1 Sept. 1797

As the Lanterns will be put up in the Barrack Galleries this day. It is Lieut. Col. Peter's Orders that no one do meddle with them by taking out the Candles, taking them off the Nails or otherwise.

14 Sept. 1797

120 private men of the 8th Fencibles and 62 of the Invalids will have leave to work at the Harvest till further orders, but are not to be permitted to go farther from the Garrison than such distance as they can be call'd in at an Hour's notice. The men allowed to work are to have passes signed by the Officer Commanding the Corps to which they belong, and none but such as have passes are to be allowed to quit the Garrison. Officers Commanding Corps will be so good as to fix upon the Men to work and give in their names to the Town Major.

After the indulgence of men being Allowed to work at the Harvest Col. Peter assures the Garrison that if any one of them is found working on the outside of the walls without a pass they may depend on being brought to a Court Martial.

The men allowed to work must inform the Serjeants of their Companies where they are to be found.

27 Sept. 1797

By Field Marshal the Duke of York's Command

His Majestie's order for the disuse of Hair powder has been repeated to Lieut. General Musgrave, and the General directs it may be most strictly adhered to by the Troops in this district.

8 Oct. 1797

A Corporal and four privates will be added to the Main, and the like number to the Barrack Guard at retreat beating every Evening for the purpose of Patrolling the streets.

The patrols will go every hour from dark till 12 o'clock and every 2 hours afterwards till daylight, and take up all Soldiers found out of their Barracks without a pass, and confine them in the Guard to which the patrol belongs.

The patrol from the Main Guard will go along the Main Street down Hyde Hill, and along Bridge Street and return the same way. That belonging the Barrack Guard will go down the back way along the Wool Market and up Church Street.

The Barrack Gate to be locked at dark and a Serjeant from the Fencibles stationed on the inside, who is to have the Key, and is to be answerable that no Man is permitted to go out without a Pass; if a Servant, from his Master, and if not, from the Commanding Officer residing in the Barracks; Three Serjeants to be appointed for this purpose, as a duty of Fatigue who will parade with the ?Piequet every Evening at Retreat beating, and will relieve each other every hour till 12 when they will deliver the Key of the Gate to the Serjeant of the Guard who must be answerable that after that hour the Gates are not opened till daylight, unless for the Patroles or by an order delivered in person by an officer which is to be mentioned in the Report of the Guard.

The patroles will return to their Barracks at Daylight, and the Serjeants or Fatigue at the Gate at 12 o'clock.

12 Oct. 1797

Head Quarters, Newcastle Oct. 13 1797

The Dutch Fleet being at Sea, the Troops are to hold themselves in readiness to move at the shortest notice, and the Commanding Officers of Corps are to give orders for the working Man to join their respective Regiments immediately.

Signed Charles W. Este

G. A. O.

Officers Commanding Corps will Immediately call in all Men Absent from the Garrison and no Man is to be permitted to go on the outside of the Walls till further orders; and must be Answerable that their Men are ready to March on the shortest notice.

20 Oct. 1797

The Commanding Officer of the Garrison is given to understand that notwithstanding orders were given a few days ago that all women and Children of the Invalids should forthwith quit the Barracks yet that order is not in any manner attended to. He therefore informs the Garrison that the Barracks must at all times and in all respects be occupied according to the King's Warrant for the Regulation of Barracks; and all furniture not belonging the Rooms must forthwith be taken out of them nor any issues be made but to such men who actually reside in the Barracks.

24 Nov. 1797

The Tenant of the Fields betwixt the Cow Gate and the Sea Shore who complain'd last year of the trespasses of the Soldiers of the Garrison playing at Knotty, destroying his Fences and otherwise hurting his Property has again Complained to the Commanding Officer, and threatens to prosecute without further notice at Civil Law the first offender that he can lay hold of. The Commanding Officer therefore cautions the Garrison accordingly.

25 Nov. 1797

Complaint having been made to Col. Rae that the Candles are frequently taken out of the Lanterns in the Gallery's of the private Rooms almost as soon as they are Lighted. He therefore acquaints the Garrison that any Man found guilty of such a shameful practice, shall on conviction most assuredly be punished. And to prevent the like being done by Idle Women or others, the Sentry in the Barrack Yard is not to suffer any person except such as belong the Barracks to go into the Entries after night Fall and the Sentry at the Gate is not to suffer any such people to enter the Barrack Yard either by day or night.

All deficiencies at the Guard Houses are by the Standing orders of the Garrison to be reported to the Town Major.

10 Dec. 1797

The Two Statements of the Subalterns of Invalids have been transmitted to Lt. Gen. Musgrave by Lieut. Col. Rae. The General does not Chose to alter the Command at Holy Island but he wishes to make it as Comfortable as can be done for the party that are stationed there.

The Command will be relieved every three months in future and as the Barrack Master has Certified that the Officer cannot be properly accommodated, Lodging Money is to be allowed to him.

Linda Bankier

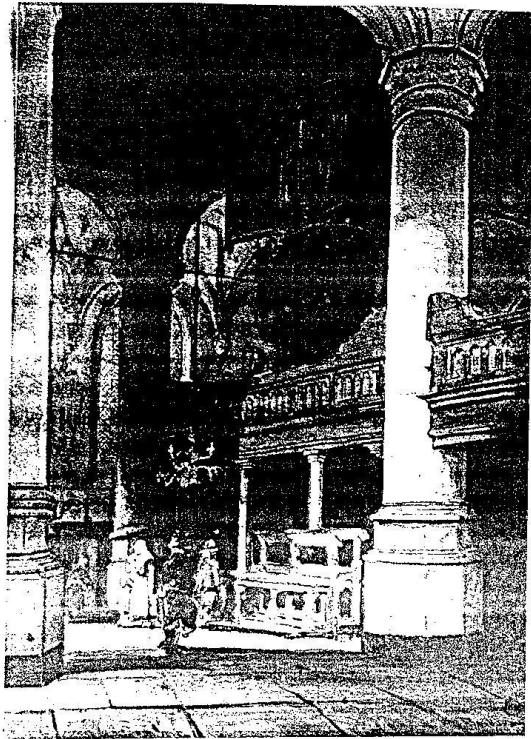
EXHIBIT OF THE MONTH

An Old Courtyard Doorway
by Johannes Bosboom (1817-1891)
Dutch, Hague School
Burrell Collection: BERMG: 1422

Of the 46 pictures comprising the Burrell Collection in Berwick presented to the town in 1949 by Sir William and Lady Burrell of Hutton Castle, ten are by artists of the Hague School. Two of these ten pictures are by Johannes Bosboom, an early leader of the school founded about 1870.

The innovative aim of the Hague School artists was to depict the everyday lives and hardiness of the Dutch peasants and fishing community and the harshness of the grey northern landscapes and skies in contrast with the golden glow of the Italianate landscapes of an earlier era. They were influenced by the Barbizon School of the mid 19th Century, whose aim was to paint landscapes and genre scenes exactly as they saw them. An example in the Berwick collection is Daubigny's seascape "Cap Gris Nez". The Impressionists encouraged them to paint from nature out-of-doors, although the Hague School artists always completed their work in the studio. Sir William Burrell (1861-1958) was a contemporary of these artists and an enthusiastic collector of their works. His Purchase Book of 1948 records that in February he bought five pictures through L. J. Brown & Co. (Dowell's) of which four were probably always destined for Berwick, the entry noting at the time "given to Berwick A. G." Three of these were by Hague School artists:- Artz, Bosboom and Ter Meulen. The fourth was by the American "impressionist" Muhrman.

The picture by Joannes Bosboom is listed under the title "An Old Courtyard Doorway". It is of particular interest in that it is typical of the works of the Hague School painters in its choice of everyday peasant life as subject, in its simplicity of composition, in the naturalism of its subdued northern sunlight, in its tendency to an impressionistic style and in its use of watercolour.



The title given in the Berwick Art Gallery catalogue (c.1977), and on the picture frame, is simply "Courtyard" but the original title is of interest and, a study of the picture suggests, more apt. In the picture the doorway is the dominating feature, the eye being led primarily to it by the perspectival lines of the cobbles lining the roadway, and by the direction in which the group of figures is moving as indicated by the young woman's shadow falling towards it.

Bosboom began a successful career as a painter of church interiors, the style of which changed from highly detailed works in oil, in warm colours with carefully drawn perspective, to more impressionistic watercolours in muted colour, with freer brushwork, and space suggested by the play of light and shade and aerial perspective. "Church Interior" dated 1881, also in the Berwick collection, is an example of this later style. "Courtyard", a less common subject for Bosboom to paint, has something of the same atmosphere of the church interiors of his later years. The church interiors, due to the influence on Bosboom as on the other Hague School painters of the 17th Century artists, were peopled by figures in 17th Century costume: this is true of Berwick's "Church Interior" in contrast with the figures in "Courtyard" which wear contemporary 19th Century dress.

"Courtyard" can probably be dated to the 1880s, since it certainly belongs to the "grey period" after 1870, and a tendency to impressionistic effects, as in his "Church Interior" is increasingly evident after 1880. Bosboom also painted more watercolours than oils in his later years.

In this "grey period", from about 1870-1885, the Hague School painters adopted the minimum palette, muted tones and grey-green colouration demonstrated also in the pictures in the collection by Maris ("Washing Day") and Mauve ("The Milking Hour"), and which is also typical of the paintings of Corot, one of the Barbizon artists. Watercolour painting was at this time, as a result of Turner's work, becoming recognised as an independent art form and the Hague School artists contributed greatly to its appreciation in Holland. Early Mondriaan landscape watercolours owe much in subject matter and technique during the 1890's to the Hague School and Van Gogh was also much influenced by them, especially by his relative Mauve, and was encouraged to work from life and nature.

The works of the Hague School artists were much sought after during their lifetimes and saleroom prices were high almost up to the eve of the First World War. The rise to fashion of the Impressionists caused a fall in value of their works up until the 1960s after which interest revived and was maintained into the 1980s with a major international exhibition devoted to their work held at the Royal Academy in London in 1983, and into the 1990s with the exhibition "The Age of Van Gogh, 1880-1885" organised by the Glasgow Museum and Art Galleries and the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam in 1991.

Nora Thompson

BAYLIVES COURT 28TH FEBRUARY 1572

And ffor the weighte and meassures we fynde that Mr Mayor and the Baylives dothe not their dewtie in that they have not putt in true executinge of the same accordinge to the Quene's Majesty which is 16th to the stone and 16 ounce to every pound.

We ffinde that the stynte of the cattle as hereafter is expressed to be our ancient custome and not otherwise viz.

Ffirse four dykers are allowed for every of them 20 yewes grasse for makinge upp the dyke and brininge watter to the stwicke.

Item their oughte to be but 2 pounders and everye of the finde 2 pounders to have 20 yewes grasse.

The comon nowtehirde oughte to have allowed him 20 yewes grasse for the kepinge of yonge cattle.

The Clarke Kepper oughte to have allowed him 20 yewes.

For every ffreeman of this towne oughte to have allowed him 3 kyn andd one marte.

Item everye soldier of the olde retynewe is allowed 3 kyn and a marte.

Every stallonger is allowed 3 kyn and a marte.

Item we presente and fynde that such as have yewes allowed in the towne ffielde shall not bye lams to pute in the ffielde after they have solde their lams which the said yewes have lamed in the fields.

Item he that kepithe the pavement or cawsey at St Marryegate outghte to have 20 yewes grasse and he to amende the pavement every yere once and whatsoever is over and besides is manyfeste wronge and contrarie the anciente orders affore maide.

Wee ffinde and present the abuse of the noltehyrde to the greate hynderance of the comons of this towne in takinge to feast mens cattell of the country contrarie all good orders heretofore provided and that neither foundes, Noltehirde (?) other officer oughte to have any cattell goinge in the norse pasture from ellyus day untill Michelmas.

Also we presente the greate wronge of them who hate lysence for their sheepe in Scotland grounde under coulloer whereof the pastures are eaten upp to the greate hurte of the comons of this towne.

Also for the comon bakers of this towne we fynde they oughte to take forever of meale bakinge 6d and not above, and 3 pece of baken meat for 1d.

And ffurther we ffinde that Mr Mayor and his officers dothe neglect the officers to the great hurte of the inhabitance of this towne in that they do execute and provide measure for ayle and beere according to the Quene's Majesty and ancient orders provided for the same. Also for the dewe weighte and breade accordnglie a place appoynted for the kepinge of the said measurers and weighte and other officers to be appoynted for the execution of these grete abuses aforesaide and ffurther the balives oughte to make severall searches that the same ayle brewers be good and honest householders and no intysers of men's servantes nor resettingte anye mens goods nor by anye other dishonest means.

And for the greate hynderance to the comons of this towne for wante of the 3 comon bulls we ffinde that John Godderson oughte to fynde one bull or ellse to paye that 26d which was delivered unto him by the comons and for the ffurnishings of the other 2 bulls everye inhabitante

that hath a cove to paye for everye cove 1d and the medowe to be appoynted for them to hathe the saide bulls as the accustomed order hathe bene heretofore.

We presente John Ffraunce soldier under Captain Reade to be one of the greatest evill member that belongeth aboute the hole bounde bothe for encrotchinge of the comons and also for diverse and sundrie abuses in taking Scotte cattell to pasture and hynderinge the comons contrarie all good orders.

And more we present and ffynde that whereas in the tyme of Sir Richard Strother then being Captain of the towne and castell an order was made for the comon well of this towne for and confirminge the dewe measure of cooles that whereas it was ordered by the saide Captain and Mr Lawson the boule of cooles was inhanced from 1d to 2d on this condition that the dewe measure shoulde be always delivered as well to the poore as riche. We ffynde as afforesaide that the great pryce dothe still contynue and the dewe measure laide assyde contrarie order to the greater hurte of the comon goode of this towne and that the bushell on this towne's behalf oughte to remaine in the onstoder of Mr Mayor and his brethren in the towlebooth or other a convenyent place.

We ffynde that William Wilson is one that reseaveth butchers and the saide butchers bothe buye suche beaves, mutton and swyne and hydes is salted in the saide Wilson's house so that in all these greate disorders the saide William Wilson dothe not present the same accordinge to his dewtie. Also the like disorders is in Walter Taylor's house and the syne whereof we riffer to Mr. Mayor's discession.

And more we fynde and present uppon the complainte of sundrie artificers as carpenters, joyners, massons, wallers, thatchers and others that hathe bene broughte upp in and aboute this towne they fynde themselves greved and not able to live by reason of Scotte borne persons that comes and other strangers in takinge their woorke which they shoulde live uppon. The refformation thereof we refer to Mr Mayor and his brethren's discretion.

We also presente that the Madlen Fields, the Snowke, Gameflowe, the Grande Berne, Chapmans, Chester and the Catt Cragge and all other medowes, pastures, comons and brome within the bounds of this towne, the medowes afresaide reserved and excepted do belonge and aperteyn onelie to the comontie of this towne generall and indifferentlie alyke.

Item whereas the fields are overlayde and eaten so bare in the wynter season with the greate multytude of sheepe and cattells which a fewe number of persons dwellinge in the saide towne do kepe that it is longe or ever the grasse can arest and growe which is a grete empoverishinge to the comon welfare of the said towne.

Linda Tindley

Dennis Nicholson

Hon. Editor