



# Friends of Berwick & District Museum and Archives Newsletter



NUMBER 85—FEBRUARY 2015

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2015

Talk: Dr Colm O'Brien: "Yeaving and the origins of Northumbrian Kingship" at 7pm in the Parish Centre, Berwick followed by AGM. at 8.15pm

Weds to Sundays until 4<sup>th</sup> May

Burrell at the Granary. Come and see part of the Burrell collection in a different setting. Free entry.

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April

Berwick 900: First World War weekend

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

Bygone Borderlands: local and family history in the Guildhall, Berwick 11am-4pm

## **OTHER SOCIETIES' LECTURES**

### **AYTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Ayton Community Hall**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February

The Fermhoose Lang Syne: Jim Morton.

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March

AGM. followed by a talk: The Foul Death of the English: Mary Craig.

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April

Memories of Ayton: a guided walk round the village with Raymond Allan and Irvine Inglis

### **BELFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Meeting Room, Belford Community Centre.**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February

Fishing in the 1800s in Seahouses: Geoff Stewart

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March

The Flodden Project: Linda Bankier and Volunteers

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April

Experiments in Public Transport operation: John D Wylde

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May

Ninian Home and Grenada: Martha Andrews

### **BERWICK CIVIC SOCIETY**

**Venue: Berwick Parish Centre.**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March

The Air Command and Control Systems Force Presentation Team from RAF Boulmer

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April

AGM. followed by a talk by Captain James Evans, the Chairman of the Guild of Freemen of Berwick: **7.00pm**

## **BERWICK HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick.**

**Time:7.30 p.m.**

Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Rev. Dr. John Cairns: Rev. Dr. Adam Hood
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	A.G.M. held at <b>6.45pm</b> followed by: ' The World of Thomas Rugg', Berwick 1560-1600: Catherine Kent
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	For King & Country, Berwick During WW1: Harry Scott

## **BORDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Eyewitness to Disaster: Pliny and the destruction of Pompeii and Herculaneum: Dr Jeremy Paterson
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	The Archaeology of sugar a view from southern Jordan: Dr Richard Jones
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	The care of Rock Art in the UK and Ireland: Myra Giesen and Aron Mazel
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Routes to Flodden in 1513: David Caldwell

## **BORDERS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Corn Exchange, Melrose**

**Time: 2.30pm**

Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2015	Treasure and a Coldstream lad, John Hamilton Hall: Peter Munro
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Lt.General Babington-a Remarkable Man and His Interesting Ancestors: Maggie Babington

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April

High Court Trials and Criminals:

Margaret Fox

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May

Hatches, Matches and Dispatches:

Marjorie Gavin

### **BOWSDEN HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Bowsden Village Hall**

**Time: 7.30pm**

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

Mineral railways of North

Northumberland: Roger Jermy

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April

AGM. followed by a light hearted history Quiz

### **CHIRNSIDE HISTORY GROUP**

**Venue: Community Centre**

**Time: 7.30pm**

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March

1940s Remembered: Naomi Kenny

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April

Tales from Lammermoor's Norrie McLeish

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May

Customs & Manners: Julie Molan

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June

Outing

### **COLDSTREAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Eildon Centre, Coldstream.**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March

AGM followed by "The Wakatipu Bason, Otago and Leet Street : David Lockie.

Starts **at 7.00pm**

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

Eyemouth Fort: speaker TBA

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May

Baa Green, Grieves law, Dry Tweed and  
Scotch Haugh: David Welsh

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June

Site Visit; Eyemouth Museum and Fort-  
leave from Henderson Car Park

### **DUNSE HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Duns Social Club, 41 Newton St, Duns.**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February

The farm servants of South-east Scotland  
1750-1914: David Mclean

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March

War, Empire and Cricket-the story of James  
Logan of Reston: Dr Dean Allen

### **GLENDALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Cheviot Centre, Padgepool Place, Wooler.**

**Time: 7.30pm**

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March

History of Football: Professor Martin  
Kitching

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April

Street names of old Newcastle: Neil  
Munro. Followed by a short AGM.

### **LOWICK HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: Lowick Village Hall**

**Time: 7.30pm**

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February

The Buildings of Lowick: John Grundy

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March

Berwick 900: Derek Sharman

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April

Lowick Remembers-Pubs

## **NORTH SUNDERLAND & SEAHOUSES LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Venue: St Paul's Church Hall, North Sunderland**

**Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	The Flodden Project: Linda Bankier
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Paxton: Martha Andrews
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Archive Films of Seahouses: John Dixon
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	Regenerating Cragside: Andrew Sawyer

## **NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY** **NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND BRANCH**

**Venue: Bell View Resource Centre, 33 West Street, Belford**

**Time: 10.00am**

Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	"The Lamps went out"; Sir Edward Grey-a Northumbrian.....: Mike Fraser
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Members' Forum
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	Local War Memorials: Janet Brown
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	AGM. and Members' Forum

## **TILL VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**Venue: Crookham Village Hall**

**Time: 7.30pm**

Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Uncovering an early Wooden Waggonway on Tyneside: Richard Carlton
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	AGM. followed by talk by Chris Burgess: A Tale of Two Castles.
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Landscapes of Northumberland: Sam Turner

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

Excavations at Low Hauxley: Clive  
Waddington

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July

Killing Kings, James I and Richard III: Mark  
Hall

## ARCHIVE NEWS

It isn't that long since I wrote the last newsletter but it has certainly been a very busy period. I don't think I have stopped since Christmas. The main reason for this has been the launch of a number of projects relating to Berwick 900. Just before Christmas, we received the good news that our bid to Heritage Lottery Fund for the "Our Families " project had been successful. This is a great project for the Record Office and a big boost for Berwick 900, highlighting the part that ordinary people have played in Berwick's history.- see later article. It will be the common strand throughout the festival. Other parts of Berwick 900 are also taking shape. We have launched our Berwick 900 First World War Project as well which has a number of volunteers working on it. So far, we have visited the Kings Own Scottish Borderers Museum to see their wonderful archives which include the regimental diaries and photographs of Gallipoli and undertaken some research. Did you know there was a riot in Berwick in 1915 following the sinking of the Lusitania and an attack on the shops of two naturalised German pork butchers ? The volunteers' research will help create the exhibition in April.

Our own First World War Project – Northumberland at War - continues with some interesting finds in our records we didn't know we had. For example, in the Simpson Papers, there is an account of Captain Humphrey Simpson's role at the Battle of Jutland. We are also producing the 100 years ago section for the Berwick Advertiser and have started a weekly blog – This week in the War – with other extracts from the Advertiser in 1915. You can find it on [www.northumberlandarchives.com](http://www.northumberlandarchives.com) . Do have a look as it covers other aspects of Northumberland Archives work as well.

Getting back to Berwick 900, I am also involved in two other projects which dovetail into it. Firstly, there is a Music Heritage Project which is also supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. This projects aims to find out about the Town Waites (musicians) and traditional songs relating to the area as well as more about the

KOSB band and their music that we hold. This is a totally new area for me but I'm willing to learn ! It will be interesting to see what we find out about music and the town in the past.

In addition, there is also a Project called "The Great Performing Rope" which is aiming to stage a finale type event for the Berwick 900 Festival at the end of October 2015. We held a very successful day in the Guildhall at the end of January showing old films, having displays of old photographs, many not seen before and collecting people's memories. It was a freezing day but it was lovely to see so many people interested and recalling events and shops from the past.

As well as these projects involving Berwick, I'm also working with the rest of the former Borough as well. The Peregrini Project on Holy Island and its hinterland has finally been given the go ahead which means that I can continue my work with the Community Archive group on the Island. One of our first tasks will be to research the lifeboats. This is a three year project which will certainly keep me busy!

It has been a very packed 8 weeks and the rest of the year will also be the same. However, is that anything new for the Record Office ?!

*Linda Bankier*

## **OUR FAMILIES PROJECT**

The "Our Families" Project is a Heritage Lottery funded project which is aiming to collect stories and research families connected with Berwick, Tweedmouth and Spittal. This information will be used to interpret some of the Berwick 900 themes – First World War; Guilds; Maritime; Fishing; Second World War; Food and Drink and Buildings. To make the project a success, I'm looking for volunteers and so if you are an experienced Family Historian who would like to find out more about local families or are an absolute beginner, then this project may interest you. Training will be given on sources and we will research some typical Berwick names – Borthwick; Crombie – and other more unusual ones. All the information will be used to create



displays and provide information for other groups working on Berwick 900. For example, Berwick Youth Theatre is going to produce some street theatre and the initial production will be based on the First World War Military tribunals and will form part of the First World War weekend on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> April..

If you would like to help the project in anyway by either volunteering to do research or providing us with some information on Berwick families, please do get in touch with me on [berwickarchives@woodhorn.org.uk](mailto:berwickarchives@woodhorn.org.uk) or telephone (01289) 301865.

BYGONE BORDERLANDS – 2<sup>ND</sup> and 3<sup>RD</sup> MAY 2015

On 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> May, the Friends and the Berwick Record Office will hold a Bygone Borderlands weekend in the Guildhall as part of Berwick 900. We have held these events in the past and they have been very successful, highlighting the history of different communities in North Northumberland and the Scottish borders. As well as the displays which will be created by local groups, there will be a series of local history talks and also family activities led by Flodden 500. The event will take place on Saturday, 11.00 to 4.30 and on Sunday from 11 to 4. The Friends will have a display at the event and will also be helping to steward and so, if you can spare anytime over that weekend to help out, please contact me.

*Linda Bankier*

## **QUARTER SESSIONS INFORMATIONS**

As part of its privileges granted by its royal charters, the Borough of Berwick was able to hold its own Quarter Sessions Court separate from Northumberland. The court could hear criminal cases and even had the right of life and death as it was exempt from sending serious cases to the Assize. The town of Berwick continued to have its own Quarter Sessions Court right up until 1951.

As part of the court procedure, evidence had to be taken from witnesses and also the accused. These are known as Examinations (accused) and Informations (witnesses). They survive amongst the Borough Archives from about 1700 and provide us with a wonderful insight into life in the town and some of the things which

were happening. Below are some summaries of these documents for the period 1740 to 1745 :

WALTER ROWLAND (Information ) : He states that on Wednesday August 6<sup>th</sup> he went to the church to look at the windows. Upon approaching the church he heard a noise and found JAMES WAITE, Burgess and Glazier, working on one of the eastern windows. He was attempting to remove an iron bar from the window. He found three more bars that appeared to have been recently removed. JAMES WAITE confessed to having removed them. Statement given on 7 August 1740

MARGARET FARGUSON : She states that last Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, she had put £2 15s 6d into a glove which she had left on a table in the parlour of her house and went to bed. On Sunday, between seven and eight o'clock in the morning, JOHN HACKQUITH, burgess and butcher, called for a pint of beer which the informant's daughter gave to him as her parents were still in bed. Having paid for the beer JOHN HACKQUITH left and the informant subsequently found that the money was missing. She went to JOHN HACKQUITH'S house, where she found him drunk and accused him of the theft. He returned the glove and £2 7s 0d but refused to give her the remainder. The informant threatened to take him before the Mayor and JOHN HACKQUITH then sent WILLIAM SUDDISS, Burgess and Butcher, with the money. Statement given 24<sup>th</sup> September 1743

GEORGE ALEXANDER : He states that on 25<sup>th</sup> January at about 3 or 4 in the morning THOMAS PARKER told him that his shop window was open. The informant found JOSEPH SAXEY there. He jumped out of the window but was caught by THOMAS PARKER who passed him to the authorities. The informant asked JOSEPH SAXEY whether or not he had any of his goods. He produced about two and a half pounds of soap and several silk handkerchiefs. Statement given 27<sup>th</sup> January 1745

THOMAS PARKER : He states that last Saturday 25<sup>TH</sup> January, between 3 and 4 in the morning, he went to GEORGE ALEXANDER'S house in MARYGATE where his master, ROBERT HUME was, in order to get the key to GEORGE ALEXANDER'S shop. He found that someone had broken into the shop and called out to GEORGE ALEXANDER who came and found JOSEPH SAXEY, a soldier in Colonel LEES Regiment, behind the counter. He jumped out of the window when he saw GEORGE ALEXANDER but the informant overcame him and SAXEY was taken into custody. Statement given 27<sup>th</sup> January 1745

ELIZABETH FENTON : She states that on Wednesday February 5<sup>TH</sup> she went to get some money to pay MR JOSEPH NEALSON for meat. She opened a chest and found that her purse and money had gone. She thinks that there were ten guineas, a Portugal piece to the value of one pound and sixteen shillings and three pounds two shillings in silver and a bad half – guinea. She suspected MARTHA PRINCE whom she had recently turned out of service whilst the informant's husband was obtaining a warrant for her arrest, MARTHA PRINCE came in the house with THOMAS GOULP and JOHN FARMER, soldiers in Colonel LEES regiment. MARTHA PRINCE wanted to leave but JOHN CLARK prevented her. JOSEPH BOLTON told the informant that he had seen MARTHA PRINCE give a packet to JOHN FARMER, who then left the house. Upon his return JOSEPH BOLTON accused him of hiding the packet and went with the constable JOHN CLARK and ROBERT HUME to a dunghill at the shambles and found the packet with a leather purse in it, which they brought back. It contained the bad half – guinea, a Portugal gold piece, value one pound sixteen shillings and two pounds ten shillings and sixpence in silver which she thinks is her money. Statement given 6<sup>th</sup> February 1745

JOHN FARMER : He states that on 5<sup>TH</sup> February he was in the company of MARTHA PRINCE, THOMAS GOULD and JOSEPH BOLTON in THOMAS FENTON'S house. MARTHA PRINCE was sitting next to the informant and went to leave when JOHN CLARK, constable, prevented her from doing so saying that she was his prisoner. MARTHA PRINCE sat down by the informant and put something into his pocket which he, later, threw onto the dunghill. Subsequently, THOMAS GOULD and the constable went to the dunghill and found the leather purse which contained a bad half –guinea, ten guineas, a Portugal gold piece, value one pound sixteen shillings and two pounds ten shilling and sixpence in silver. Statement given 6<sup>th</sup> February 1745.

JOSEPH BOLTON : He states that on Wednesday February 5<sup>TH</sup> he was with MARTHA PRINCE, THOMAS GOULD and JOHN FARMER in THOMAS FENTON'S house. He saw MARTHA PRINCE pass a packet to JOHN FARMER who put it in his pocket. About five minutes earlier JOHN CLARK had taken MARTHA PRINCE a prisoner but had neglected to guard her. JOHN FARMER admitted that he had received the packet and a leather purse was found which contained a half-guinea, ten guineas, a Portugal gold piece value one pound sixteen shillings and ten shillings and sixpence in silver. Statement taken 6<sup>th</sup> February 1745

*Linda Bankier*

## MUSEUM NEWS

Friends will be delighted to hear that our special exhibition of the Burrell Collection is now underway. The exhibition at the Granary Gallery opened for a special preview on Friday 6th February 2015, and opened to the public the following day. The opening weekend had a good turnout of visitors, and already we have had some very complimentary remarks in the comments book –

*‘Lovely to come along to a regional gallery and see international work’*

*‘Excellent presentation, having visited the Glasgow collection, this was an essential trip’*

*‘Learned more in the last 5 minutes, than in the last 22 years about William Burrell, we have lived in Hutton and regularly pass Hutton Castle every day’*

We plan to keep the exhibition going until 4th May, so with luck we will catch the Easter and Bank Holiday visitors to town.

We are very grateful for the funding received from the Heritage Lottery Fund because it has allowed us to carry out work on the collections which would have been otherwise unfeasible for the museum.

We have been able to commission conservation work to be carried out on some of the exhibits. Some of the watercolours in particular are looking much better for being presented with new frames and mounts by conservator Vincent Lomenech, while Karen Barker has painstakingly cleaned the Persian tiles and vases on display. One of the good things about inspecting pictures which have not been out of their frames for almost a century is that we have acquired additional information about the works – sometimes an old exhibition label, sometimes a hitherto unsuspected inscription on the back of a picture.

The small group of volunteer researchers who came forward to help with the project have delved into the archives at Berwick Record Office, and much of the new information they have discovered has been included in the exhibition. Some of the volunteers have interviewed people who have memories of Sir William Burrell as well as people who can remember the museum in the 1940s, 50s and 60s. Some very interesting material has been found, which will be included in edited form on the

new mobile app and stored in full for posterity in Berwick Record Office. We hope that we might find other interviewees while the exhibition is running, so please do get in touch if you have any interesting memories of visiting the museum in those days – we would love to hear from you.

Our new educational resource pack and our app will become available over the next few weeks. Additionally, we will be hosting education workshops on the exhibition over the span of the exhibition.

Some of our colleagues at the Burrell Collection in Glasgow will be visiting us over the next few months. Dr Yupin Chung, Curator of East Asian Collections, and John Rattenbury, expert on Islamic art, will be coming to give advice on our collections, as well as delivering public lectures on aspects of Burrell's collections.

*Anne Moore - Museums Officer, North Northumberland.*

## **CROSSING BUDLE SANDS**

*Extract from 'Ramble in Northumberland and on the Scottish Border' written by Stephen Oliver in 1835 explaining a Gentleman's troubles in crossing from Bamburgh to Holy Island*

From Bambrough, by way of Budle Sands, to the Law, a sandy knoll to the south of Holy Island, the distance is four miles, and the channel between the Law and the island is about a mile across. Budle Sands are dry at low water, except where they are intersected by the Waren, a small stream which here enters the sea. The deepest of the channels of the Waren may be crossed by a pedestrian, except at the time of a fresh, without being above the knees; but a tourist who is unaccustomed to wade may hire a fisherman for sixpence to carry him across on his back. It is very convenient for a pedestrian tourist, or an angler, who may occasionally have to wade, to wear socks in summer, which can be taken off in a moment, while a gentleman who wears long stockings up to his very fork, and who garters above the knee, has to untruss his points, and generally spends a quarter of an hour before he can uncase his legs.

*Jan Ward*

## BUGLASS THE BOOKBINDER

### From Buglass the bookbinder to Simpson the baker

An article by David Brenchley in the FBDMA *Newsletter* no.31, June 2001 ("Berwick's Place in the U.S. Book Trade", pp.18-20), traced the history of Caleb Buglass (1738-1797), a Berwick freeman who traded as a bookseller and bookbinder in the 1760s. When his Berwick business went bankrupt, Buglass emigrated, firstly to the West Indies where he acquired some property, and then in 1774 to Philadelphia where he again set up in business as a bookbinder. In this venture he achieved some distinction and he was chosen to be the binder of "The book of Common Prayer ... as revised and proposed to the use of the Protestant Episcopal Church" (Philadelphia: 1786). This was a highly significant publication, appearing as America was seeking to establish its independence from Britain. Buglass remarried and had a second family in Philadelphia, though in his will it was his surviving Berwick family who were named as his primary heirs.

Some further research by Eric Herbert has traced the history of Caleb Buglass's family who remained behind in Berwick. By his first wife Rachel, Buglass had two sons, Caleb (b. 1763), James (b. 1769), and two daughters, Margaret and Grace. Young Caleb became a successful watchmaker in Berwick. He married Barbara Marshall (b. 1768), at St. Ninian's near Stirling, and they had three children - Barbara (b. 1797), Thomas (b. 1799), and Jane (b. 1801). According to the Holy Trinity burial register Caleb died of a fever in 1803 at the age of 40.

Barbara, the eldest daughter of Caleb the watchmaker, married John Archibald Simpson, a baker who in 1852 established *Simpson's*, the baker's shop in West Street in Berwick. The business was subsequently taken over by his nephew, Stuart Edington Simpson, whose bread, cake, and biscuits won widespread approval: as well as taking prizes in international exhibitions, they prompted a letter from Princess Christian (daughter of Queen Victoria) from Windsor Castle in 1886, expressing "her very great satisfaction with the malt bread, biscuits, and rusks provided to her. Her Royal Highness considers them all very excellent."

According to the 1861 Census, Barbara Buglass (widow of Caleb the watchmaker) and her daughter Barbara Simpson (widow of John Archibald Simpson) were then living at the same address in Eastern Lane in Berwick.

S.E. Simpson retired from business in 1919, but the shop in West Street continued as a bakery, under the ownership of the Scott family, until the 1960s. By 1970 the premises had a new purpose, as home to the *Government Surplus Stores*. In 2015 however the shop has resumed some of its more traditional associations as the French patisserie *Mielle* has moved its business to that address.

A detailed account of the Philadelphia bookbindings of Caleb Buglass is given in: Hannah D. French. "Caleb Buglass, Binder of the Proposed Book of Common Prayer, Philadelphia, 1786", in *Winterthur Portfolio*, Vol. 6 (1970), pp. 15-32.

A description of S.E. Simpson's bakery in West Street appears in *Berwick-on-Tweed illustrated, 1894 - 1994*; [edited by] Linda Bankier. Berwick-upon-Tweed Borough Council, 1995. p.45.

*Eric Herbert and John Spiers*

## **CANADIAN SOLDIER WITH BELFORD CONNECTIONS**

This report appeared in the Berwick Advertiser of 23 April, 1915 under the BELFORD column:

The following appeared in 'The Morning Albertan' Calgary, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 1915 – Dr Michael Clark of Red Deer, is probably today's proudest parliamentarian. This afternoon he received through the militia department from the officer who commanded the squad of 50 members of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry in their historic charge and the capture of the German trenches in Belgium, a message warmly congratulating him upon the 'gallant and soldierly conduct' of his son James Albert Clark, who participated in the achievement. .... This morning

Dr Clark received a letter from the boy himself. In it he writes modestly of the celebrated charge as follows:-

“Since last writing you we have had our first bayonet charge. The Germans had a trench rather close to ours so we had to take it. There were 50 in the charge, including myself. To say the least it was a very warm corner. We crawled out of our trenches and were within a few yards of the Germans before they noticed us, then, so to speak, hell broke loose. Two machine guns and volley of rifle fire made quite a noise, but we stuck with them and put them on the run. It was rather exciting, but I guess we will have quite a time of it before long.”

Young Clark was one of the fortunate Canadians who came through the charge uninjured.

James Albert Clark was born on 12 June 1889 at Belford. He was the third son of Dr Michael Clark whose brother, James, held a prominent position in Belford and for many years traded there. Michael practised medicine in Belford for several years before going to Newcastle to continue his practice. The whole family emigrated to Canada in 1901 where Dr Clark gave up medicine and started ranching near Red Deer, Alberta. He had had an interest in politics in England and retained this interest in Canada becoming the MP for Red Deer.

At the outbreak of WWI James Albert joined the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry as a Private in August 1914, but by September 1915 he had been promoted to a Lieutenant in the 12<sup>th</sup> Battery. Clearly his luck held as records in the 1920s show him as a farmer on his father's farm.

*Jan Ward*

## **IN DEBT TO THE DEBTOR**

A petition of 1822 presented to the Berwick Guild throws light both upon the measures taken to oblige putative fathers to support their illegitimate children at that time and on the treatment of (at least some) prisoners in the town gaol. (However nothing further is stated about the circumstances of the illegitimate child in question, nor about the rationale for giving payments to gaoled Burgesses.)

The Humble Petition of William Rowland Junior Sheweth

That your Petitioner was on the 15th day of February last past committed ... to the Gaol of this Borough for the sum of £1.17.0 debt due to the Parish of Berwick



incurred by reason of the maintenance of [an] illegitimate Child sworn against your Petitioner under which commitment he remained in prison for the period of eleven weeks during all which time your Petitioner apprehends that he was entitled to the allowance of nine pence per day under the standing order of Guild for regulating the allowance to Prisoners in Gaol which now directs that the allowances to Burgesses should in future be nine pence per day. That your Petitioner was paid nine pence per day for the two first days of his Imprisonment and during the remainder of his said Imprisonment he was paid only at the rate of six pence per day.

That your Petitioner on the fourth of July last was again committed ... for a debt of £1.19 ... incurred by the subsequent maintenance of the said child and continued in Prison for 12 weeks during which said time your Petitioner was only paid at the rate of sixpence per day instead of nine pence as aforesaid.

[Rowland then calculates that he was owed an additional £1 19s 3d for his time spent in gaol.]

Your Petitioner therefore humbly prays ... that this worshipful Guild will be pleased [to] order their Treasurer to pay him the said sum of £1 19s 3d so due and in arrear to your Petitioner....

Wm. Rowland Junr.  
Berwick, 21st October 1822.

Berwick Record Office: BA/B13/6

*John Spiers*

## **WORLD WAR 1 LETTERS FROM THE FRONT**

### **Berwick Advertiser, 5 January 1915**

#### **A Wooler Territorial in Egypt.**

A Wooler Territorial in Egypt writing from Alexandria on January 10<sup>th</sup> to his parents at Wooler, says:- Six of us went over to Aboukir and had a look over the place. There is not much to see except the old forts. All the guns are still there; they are chiefly 9 inch and 10 inch, and were all made at Elswick Works. There was also an old Mortar similar to those now being used by the Germans in the present war. We are leaving for Cairo in seven days' time for divisional training; I hear we are

going to the desert for three days. We shall bivouac at nights, which will be a new experience for us. On the 20<sup>th</sup>, he writes from Cairo, saying we were up with the lark on Tuesday morning preparing to leave for Cairo. We travelled 3<sup>rd</sup> class (some (sic) as the natives travel) the day was lovely for travelling and the journey occupied about five hours. There was nothing interesting or beautiful in the scenery the whole of the country we passed through being perfectly flat. We crossed two of the Niles and passed through two fairly large towns, Damanhus and Banna, I have not had an opportunity of going into the city yet, but it appears to be a much better place than Alexandria from what we saw in passing. We are in the old Barracks. Our room is about 35 yards by 15 yards, and there are about 50 of us in it. These are large barracks being capable of holding two battalions. I have not yet had time to see the pyramids, but I hope to do so soon. I enclose cutting from a local newspaper so you will see the people in Alexandria were very good to us. Extracts from an article in the Egyptian Gazette.

Many of us Britishers have had the company of some of the brave lads at our Christmas dinners, and a real pleasure it has been to hosts and guests, making us all feel at "home" especially the lads, many of whom are away from their hearths and home for the first time. We who are debarred from being comrades have found out what noble, brave, and fearless hearts are hidden under their unassuming and peaceful exterior, and how keenly interested they are in their training and impatient to take their part in their fight for freedom. They have brightened our Christmas circle, and our hearts will go out with them into the fight. Christmas is past, but we Anglo-Egyptians have yet opportunities of passing a pleasant hour with the lads and rendering their stay here less monotonous by welcoming them on Sundays or any other day to tea. They are delighted to come and we are equally delighted with their company and feel all the better for it. Let those who have not tried this now do so and there is pleasure in store for them.

*Janet Ward*

## SNIPPETS FROM THE BERWICK ADVERTISER

**Berwick Advertiser, 5th May 1871**

### SILK DEPARTMENT

E & W, Paxton beg to draw special attention to their stock of silks being new in a position to Offer a very large choice of the best makes, all carefully selected. Most of the qualities above 5/ are guaranteed by the Manufacturers to give satisfaction in the wear. COLOURED SILK DRESSES, 44/6 to 120. IRISH POPLINS, 72/6 to 105. BLACK SILK VELVETS, 6/8, 8/6, 10/6, 14/6, 19/6.

**Berwick Advertiser, 5th May 1871**

### GOMPERTZ'S SPECTROSCOPE

During the week M. Gompertz's newly invented and wondrous Spectroscope has been exhibited in the Corn Exchange, but has not succeeded in drawing very large audiences. The entertainment commenced with an entire new original spectral drama, entitled "The Lamp of Truth", and in which the characters were well impersonated, although the agility of the "old philosopher" was hardly consistent with his apparent gravity. The singing of Mr Swales was very good, and the manner in which Mr. Burles extricated himself from, and imprisoned himself in "La Boite Enchantee," was something wonderful. The performances concluded with the new and original spectral farce entitled "Muddlehead in a fix, or the Official Phantom", the performance of which produced much mirth amongst the audience. The manner in which the different spectres appeared and disappeared was certainly very amazing and seemed to afford much delight to those present. Since Wednesday night the programme has been changed.

**Berwick Advertiser, 12th May 1871**

### THE LONDON COASTING TRADE

We understand the steamer built for the Berwick and London Steam Shipping Company, was successfully launched at Port Glasgow on Tuesday, and was at once towed to Greenock where her engines and boilers are ready to be fitted. The vessel, which is highly spoken of by those who have seen her, was, in compliment to a

Galashiels firm interested in the Company, called "The Gala". The vessel, which is fitted with all the modern improvements, is in all respects adapted to the trade for which she is intended. She is able to take in water ballast, is provided with one steam crane on deck, worked by donkey engines, and has accommodation in the fore-hold for the meat trade. Her engines, unlike those of most other screw steamers,, are amidship; she is capable of carrying a cargo of 300 tons besides coals in a moderate draft water, and with a moderate consumption of coals will be guaranteed to make the passage between Berwick and London and vice versa at a quick rate. At present it is not the intention of the company to carry passengers; but the poop aft is so constructed, that should it at any time be decided to introduce the passenger trade, it can easily be provided with the necessary furnishings.

**Berwick Advertiser, 2 June 1871**

SPITTAL SPA WELL

We regret to find that this well, the medical properties of which are highly esteemed by many who frequent the village at the bathing season, has again got out of order, and no water flows from the fountain. A very little trouble and a very trifling cost would put it all right again, and we hope before the season is much further advanced that the lodging-house keepers will set about the work.

*Carole Pringle*

**NOTICE FOR FRIENDS : We often send information to Friends via e-mail between the newsletters about forthcoming events in the area which may be of interest. If you don't receive your newsletter by e-mail but would like us to update you in this way, please contact Carole Pringle on : [capringle@woodhorn.org.uk](mailto:capringle@woodhorn.org.uk) to be included in this contact list.**