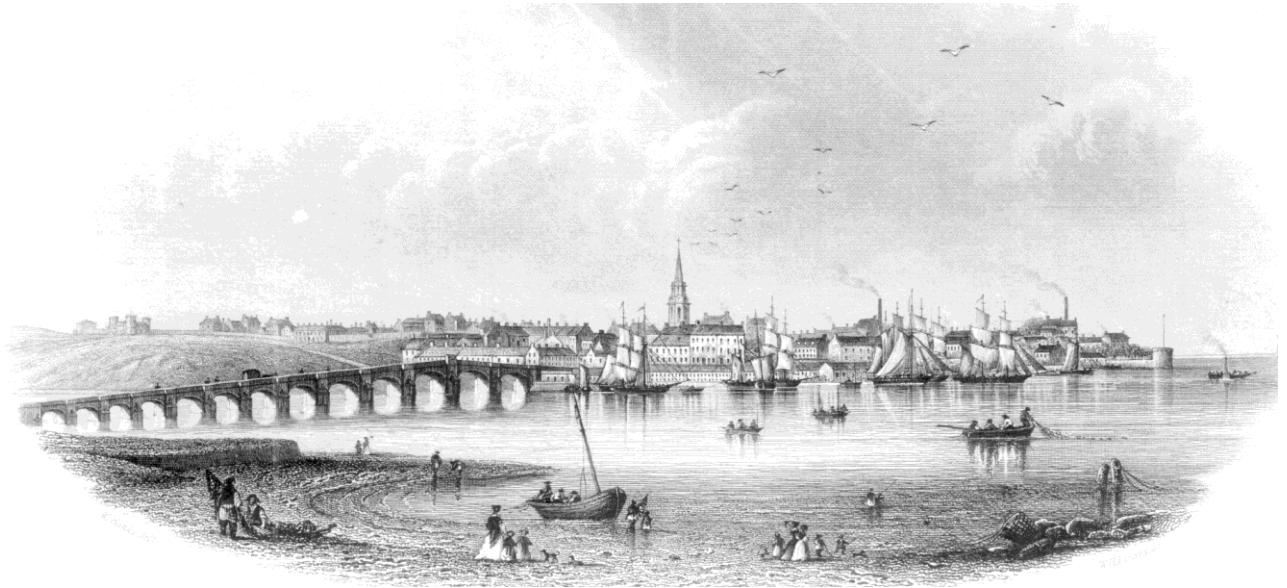


Friends of Berwick & District Museum and Archives Newsletter



NUMBER 88—FEBRUARY 2016

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 12th March 2016

Peregrini Volunteer Day at Bell View,
Belford 10-3pm with presentations.

Friday 18th March 2016

Friends AGM at 7pm in the Parish Centre
followed by a talk "Kelt Fishcakes and Giles:
Net Fishing on the Tweed by Martha
Andrews and Jim Gibson.

Saturday 16th April 2016

Berwick 900 Our Families - Family History
Day in the Guildhall Hall, Berwick, 10am -
4pm see article.

OTHER SOCIETIES' LECTURES

AYTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Ayton Community Hall

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday 29th March

A.G.M followed by-From the Borders to the
"Bough" – the story of a pottery painting
family: Heather Jack

Tuesday 26th April

Visit to Eyemouth Fort

BELFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Meeting Room, Belford Community Centre.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 30th March

The Lindisfarne Gospels: Ross Wilkinson

Wednesday 27th April

Taxi Buses in Northumberland and the
Borders: John D Wylde

Wednesday 25th May

The Kings Shilling British Army 1812: Pete
Cryer

BERWICK CIVIC SOCIETY

Venue: Berwick Parish Centre.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 9th March

Richard Duke of Gloucester 1482 invasion:
Sandra Pendlington

Wednesday 13th April

AGM starts at 7pm

BERWICK HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 16th March

The Battle of Carham 1018: Clive Hallam-Baker

Wednesday 20th April

A Journey through fact, fiction & fairytales in the Scottish Borders': Fred Kennington

BORDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Monday 7th March

Early Bronze Age Burial Practices in NE England and SE Scotland: Dr Chris Fowler

Monday 4th April

AGM followed by An Engraved landscape: rock carvings from the "Central Sahara": Dr Tertia Batnett

BORDERS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Corn Exchange, Melrose

Time: 2.30pm

Sunday 27th March

How to get the best out of Family Research and Family Tree: Karen Allen

Sunday 24th April

Social meeting members' Short talks and Questions and Answers

Sunday 29th May

AGM followed by Ken the Horse-Hawick's 1514 Memorial: Ian Landells

BOWSDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Bowsden Village Hall

Time: 7.30pm

Monday 7th March

Black Diamonds: Coal Mining in North
Northumberland: Harry Wilson

Monday 4th April

God's Shock Troops; the Lowick Primitive
Methodist Circuit in the mid 19th century:
Paul Richards

CHIRNSIDE HISTORY GROUP

Venue: Community Centre

Time: 7.30pm

Monday 21st March

Stuarts of Traquair: Margaret Fox &
Catherine Maxwell Stuart

Monday 18th April

The Fern Hoose Lang Syne: Jim Morton

Monday 16th May

The Gypsies: Tom Tokely

June Outing to be confirmed

COLDSTREAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Eildon Centre, Coldstream.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Thursday 3rd March

AGM followed by, The Lamps Went Out-Sir
Edward Grey and "the war to end all wars":
Mike Fraser

Thursday 7th April

The Battle of Halidon Hill: Jim Herbert

Thursday 5th May

Field Trip to be announced

Thursday 2nd June

Field trip to Norham Church- leave
Henderson Park at 8pm

DUNSE HISTORY SOCIETY

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

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 30th March

A runaway slave in Dunse: David McLean

GLENDALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Cheviot Centre, Padgepool Place, Wooler.

Time: 7.30pm

Wednesday 9th March

Chillingham and other 15th century tombs
in Northern England: Derek Cutts

Wednesday 13th April

Ancient Crafts-how to lay a hedge: Michael
Wade: Followed by AGM.

Wednesday 20th April

Outing to Trinity House, Newcastle, details
to be confirmed.

NORTH SUNDERLAND & SEAHOUSES LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: St Paul's Church Hall, North Sunderland

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 23rd March

The John Black Diary 1863-the story of a
19th century entrepreneurial family: David
Lockie

Wednesday 27th April

Musings of a Country Joiner and
Undertaker: Tom Tokely

Wednesday 25th May

Community Oral History based on
Craster: Colin Bott

June

June trip to Ford and Etal including a talk
at the Lady Waterford Hall date to be
confirmed

NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND BRANCH

Venue: Bell View Resource Centre, 33 West Street, Belford **Time: 10.00am**

Saturday 19 th March	Tips for recording Family History: Members' Forum
Saturday 16 th April	Northumbrian Jacobites: Liz Finch
Saturday 21 st May	Members' Forum and AGM

TILL VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Venue: Crookham Village Hall **Time: 7.30pm**

Wednesday 2 nd March	The Vikings in the North Atlantic: Kristian Pederson
Wednesday 6 th April	AGM- speaker to be announced
Wednesday 4 th May	Whaling in the North East: Tony Barrow
Wednesday 1 st June	Tantallon Castle; Adrian Cox

ARCHIVE NEWS

We're well into the New Year and it's newsletter time again – it comes around very quickly.

Although it is only about 10 weeks since the last one, a lot has been happening in the Record Office. Firstly, the Record Office accommodation is still taking up a lot of my time. If all goes to plan, we should move into the Library in June 2016, assuming all the alterations in the building are completed. This will mean that we will have been out of our original accommodation for a year. The positive note on the horizon is the Feasibility Study for a Heritage Hub on the Barracks site. This will be completed by the end of March and will help us establish whether it is a feasible future home for the archives.

Despite all this, the Record Office continues to deliver a service to the people of North Northumberland through its public service and projects. The First World War project has now come to an end for the volunteers but Carole has been busy working away in the background collating the information and preparing it for the public. Some of the work has been uploaded into CALM, the Northumberland Archives electronic catalogue, whilst some databases are being placed in the Projects section of the Woodhorn website – see later article. We have found a lot of information which would not have been unearthed without the volunteers hard work.

Believe it or not, it is now the final year of the Flodden Project and Jane Miller and I are busy working with the volunteers on writing up some of our findings for inclusion in a Flodden publication. The Documentary Research Project has actually thrown up a lot of fascinating information and questions about the Battle which we will attempt to answer. It has been a wonderful project to work on. I have learnt so much and we now have a set of volunteers who are happy to tackle reading old documents, a skill which can be transferred to other projects.

Although Berwick 900 is now over, the Heritage Lottery funded Our Families project still continues. Volunteers have received more training and we have continued to research local families. Now we are starting to collate all the information together. Our study of Greenses families has shown us how intertwined many Berwick families are and has complimented our work on the Burgon family. We have found some fascinating information and a lot of this will be used to provide working examples for our publication on tracing Berwick, Tweedmouth and Spittal families. All our progress on this work will be showcased at the Family History Day we will be holding on **Saturday 16th April** in the Guildhall, Berwick from 10 to 4. Please do come along and support us.

As some projects finish, other ones come along. Over the years, I have mentioned the Peregrini Project which is based around Holy Island and its coastal hinterland. The Berwick Record Office has been contracted to deliver the Community Archive element of the project during 2016 and 2017. The Record Office has been working with the Community Archive Group on Holy Island looking at the topic of lifeboats. At the beginning of February, we held a very successful coffee morning on the island showing locals what we had found and encouraging people to bring along their own photos. We will continue to gather information on Holy Island lifeboats – if you have anything, do let me know. The Peregrini Project also extends to the mainland and as an initial research topic, the Archive, Archaeology and Geology

sections are going to work on a joint project to investigate the history of the area at Cocklawburn – people who lived there; the limekilns and the small settlements related to this. If you are interested in helping, please get in touch or come along to the Peregrini Project day on **Saturday 12th March** at Bell View in Belford to find out more. This should be a very interesting project and a chance to find out more about this overlooked area on the coast which attracts people to its beach but what is known about its past ?!

That's all for now. There is so much going on at the moment in the Record Office – never a dull moment for Carole or I !!

Linda Bankier

THE GREENSES PROJECT

As part of the Our Families Project, we have been looking at the families living in the Greenses area of Berwick with the view of producing an online resource linking people with the properties there. Whilst undertaking the research, we have found the following snippets relating to the Manuel, Cowe and Burgon families in the local newspapers. The project is ongoing but the finished work will be mounted on the Friends website :

COWE FAMILY

Berwick Advertiser, 5 March 1936

(Part of the obituary of Peter Cowe who died on the evening of his Golden Wedding):

GOLDEN WEDDING

Friday, 28th February, saw the golden wedding of ex Alderman Peter Cowe and his wife who were married at Bankhill Church, Berwick on 28th February 1886, the officiating ministers being the Rev. R. Scott, minister of Bankhill, and the Rev J. Murrell, of the Baptist Church. Mrs Cowe was, before her marriages, Miss Agnes Burgon, daughter of Mr Peter Burgon, Low Greens, Berwick, and sister of the late Mr Wm. Burgon, for some years coxswain of Berwick lifeboat. There are two sons and three daughters of the marriage. The elder son, Mr R.M. Cowe is in business in Marygate, and the younger son, Mr P.L. Cowe, is a solicitor's clerk with Mr J Gray,

solicitor, Berwick. The eldest daughter, Miss C. Cowe, is at home; the second daughter, Mrs Jack, died some years ago; and the youngest daughter, Mrs Corvi, lives in Railway Street, where her husband conducts business. The late Mr Peter Cowe was a brother of Mr J.C. Cowe, fishmonger, Marygate, and of Mr H Cowe, Low Greens.

BURGON FAMILY

Berwick Advertiser, 19 June 1947

GAVE UP FISHING FOR RAILWAY. Berwick man retires after 40 years.

A Berwick man who was forced, through "hard times" to give up his fishing career and seek other employment, has just retired after serving 40 years as relayer with the LNER.

A member of an old fishing family, Mr Alexander Burgon, Low Greens, Berwick, left school at the age of 13 and assisted his father at the herring.

It was in 1907 that the industry declined to such an extent that Mr Burgon left it to take up employment with the Railway Company. In those days, he recalled, it was difficult for the fishermen to make a living. Codlings were sold for only 1s 6d a box, and haddocks for 6s or 7s.

Starting work with the LNER, at the age of 26, Mr Burgon's wages at that time were only 19s per week.

One of his most vivid memories during his railway service was in 1941. Working on the line with a gang at Innerwick, a German aircraft machine-gunner the workmen, killing one and injuring six. Fortunately Mr Burgon escaped uninjured.

A son, Mr Alex Burgon, is employed as a hairdresser. Andrew, another son was killed during the war while serving with the Army in the Middle East.

MANUEL FAMILY

Berwickshire News, 13 July 1948

BERWICK MAN HOME FROM KENYA – Mr George Manuel, well known farmer and inventor

Home from Kenya where he went 21 years ago is Mr George Manuel, son of Mrs and the late George Manuel of 27 Low Greens, Berwick.

Mr Manuel, now a well known inventor and farmer in Kenya, knew nothing about farming when he first went to the Colony, but he now owns 800 acres near Nakura, and has 3000 acres under contract

Mr Manuel is in partnership with his brother-in-law, who belongs to Leeds. Before going to Kenya, Mr Manuel served his apprenticeship as fitter and turner with Messers Elder, agricultural implement makers, Berwick. He is married and has a family of three children.

He invented, along with another man, a machine for taking datura stramonium out of wheat .

The machine which is of very simple construction, eradicates many other foreign bodies in addition to datura stramonium.

It is now used throughout Kenya and has saved the lives of many natives, whose old fashioned methods often failed to detect the weed, 23 grains of which can kill a man. Built on a steel foundation, it is powered by a 1 1/3 hp engine with a belt drive to the actuating mechanism which moves a screen of stramonium wire in a backwards and forwards motion.

**OUR FAMILIES FAMILY
HISTORY DAY
SATURDAY 16TH APRIL 2016**

On Saturday 16th April we are holding a Family History day in the Guildhall, Berwick. There will be a number of organisations there who can help you with your family history including Northumberland Archives; Northumberland & Durham Family History Society; North East War Memorials Project; Berwick Freemasons; Borders Family History Society and East Lothian archives. In addition, there will be a series of talks and some displays about the Our Families Project – come along and see our work on the Greenses and the Burgon family. If you are researching your family history and have got stuck, you can book a 20 minute slot with an expert (English or Scottish) to see if we can help. This must be done in advance – e-mail berwickfamilies@gmail.com. There will be family activities upstairs in the Goal area and the Youth Theatre will also perform a playlet. There's something for everyone and so, if you are free on the day, do pop into the Guildhall anytime between 10 and 4. Hope to see you there !

Linda Bankier

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The Record Office has a number of projects at the moment which need volunteers.

PEREGRINI PROJECT – this is a new project and over the next two years, there are various small projects within it on which I will need help. Initially I am looking for volunteers who would be interested in doing some research on the Cocklawburn area to find out about the lime industry and the people who lived there. Therefore, if you want to do research, help transcribe census returns or look at online resources for this project, please get in touch. I will give you training. We will also be doing projects on Holy Island as well and so, if you know anything about Holy Island lifeboats, I would be very interested.

OUR FAMILIES PROJECT

Although the Our Families Project is coming to the end, there is still some work that you could help with. In particular, I am looking for volunteers who would be willing to type up some of the information – census returns and newspaper articles - and data inputting for the Freemen database. This can be done at home or in the Record Office.

If you are willing to help, please e-mail me on berwickarchives@woodhorn.org.uk

Linda Bankier

FIRST WORLD WAR PROJECT

As part of the First World War Project, we have catalogued various resources in the Record Office and created some databases from records. Some of the catalogued entries can be found on CALM (Northumberland Archives electronic catalogue - <http://www.experiencewoodhorn.com/catalogue>) and World War 1 finding aids - <http://www.experiencewoodhorn.com/finding-aids> . At the moment we have a list of military tribunals for 1916 which were reported in the Berwick Advertiser available as a finding aid. This index covers both sides of the border. In the next month, we should be uploading some additional finding aids, including Arrivals and Removals

from Berwick ; Berwick and Glendale Petty Sessions registers; Berwick Honorary Freedom index.

BERWICK BUILDING REGISTERS AND PLANS PART 1

One of the few positive outcomes of the recent County Council office moves in Berwick, is that, thanks to the quick thinking of Linda, the Berwick Archivist, the former Berwick Borough building plans and registers from the 1870s to 1974 (when Berwick Borough ended) have been retained in the Berwick Record Office, unlike the post 1974 plans for Berwick District which have gone down to Bedlington.

There are a number of Registers covering the period from 1877 – 1973, the first (1), entitled **Deposited Plan Register, Sanitary Authority, covers 1877 – 1936** .This should be used in conjunction with a list made in 1990, (BRO 159, LB/1) of 162 plans dating from 1877 – 1905, which Linda acquired in 1990 from the Council's Environmental Services. While there are many duplications in the two lists, there is often more detail in the 1990 list. For example, in describing houses being built in 1889 in Featherbed Lane (Brucegate), the list records that these are to built on the site of a Bonemill. However, the **Deposited Register** usually gives the owner (and developer) of the property described , which is often missing in the 1990 list. This early **Register** makes reference to a parcel of plans for 1846, deposited by the North British Railway, concerning a bridge over the Tappee, showing the mill in Tommy the Millers Field. Unfortunately this collection of plans does not seem to have survived.

The following registers cover the period 1937 – 1973

2) **Deposited Plan Register 1937 – 1947** - which is laid out in columns of date, subject of plan, address and owners', plus architect's, names.

3) **Register of Deposited Plans and Interim Development Permissions 1947 – 1961**- Both of these Registers contain alphabetical indices at their fronts, and pencilled notes indicating in which numbered box the plans are held in the Record Office. This also applies to the first Register, 1877 -1936, but not all plans in this first Register have later pencilled notes (while some of the early plans have an original reference or parcel number) , and so the Archivist needs to be consulted for help in the matter of location of these plans.

The 1947 - 1961 Register combines in one sequence, both building plans and planning permissions, in consequence of the Town and Country Planning Act 1947. As a result, the layout of this Register is very detailed, including the estimated cost of buildings and details of the granting of planning permissions. This Register, also includes, at the back of the volume, a list of Temporary Approvals for 1949 to 1965, usually of garden sheds and the like.

- 4) **Register of Deposited Plans 1962 -1971.** This is similar to the previous Register – combining planning permissions and building control decisions (separately referenced) and comprising name and address of the owner, situation of the property concerned, architect, in one chronological sequence. It includes occasional major developments, such as the 1969 extension of the Highcliffe estate, a supermarket at 54/58 Marygate, and the restoration of the Buttermarket in 1965.
- 5) **Register of Applications for Planning Permission 1964 – 1966.** This consists only of planning applications, one page per application and while duplicating 4) above, gives much more detailed information of conditions, especially if it is a temporary or outline application
- 6) **Register of Applications for Planning Permission 1966 – 1967** As above, with , at the end, applications for permission to display advertisements in Berwick and an alphabetical place index to the same.
- 7) **Register of Applications for Planning Permission 1968 – 1973,** as above, plus an alphabetical street index to the applications at the front.

Apart from the routine applications, the register lists, in 1968, applications for the erection of Prior Park Primary School, a Chinese restaurant on the first floor of 35 Marygate, sheds for Lords Mount Mill and a non alcoholic bar in the Youth Club in the cellar of 61 Bridge Street (Berwick's answer to Liverpool's Cavern ?)

Please note that volumes 5 – 7 comprise heavy loose leaf binders

As a note of caution, it should be remembered that not all mentions in Plan Registers, nor the existence of deposited plans, mean that the buildings or developments described actually happened.

Bob Steward

BAD SIXPENCES

In 1816, Berwick Quarter Sessions dealt with a case of counterfeiting of coinage. Among the documents in Berwick Record Office is an "Information and Complaint" which first brought the matter to light; it was sworn before the Mayor by Ann Wilson, wife of a dealer in spirits, on 9 February 1816. She told how a girl had come to her with a tea-cup and asked for whiskey, which she paid for with a sixpence. Shortly afterwards a boy arrived with the same tea-cup and asked for more whiskey, proffering another sixpence in payment. Ann Wilson then inspected both of the coins received and decided that they were fakes.

Later in the day William White, a plasterer, looked through the window of a lodging house in Walkergate and saw five people engaged in the process of making the counterfeit coins, by dipping small circles of metal into a cup of some colouring substance. White then followed one of the people to a shop in Castlegate and observed two of the 'sixpences' being used to purchase groceries. The constables were summoned to arrest the suspected counterfeiters.

The five people arrested were Barnard Duffey and his wife Margaret, James Moen and his wife Mary, and Maria Courtney. Most or all of them were originally from Ireland and they had arrived in Berwick a few days earlier, without giving any sign of having a trade or seeking one. Barnard Duffey initially evaded arrest by escaping through a back window of the lodging house and making his way to Hexham; but there he was arrested for an assault and was eventually sent back to Berwick. The Record Office holds the "Examinations" of the prisoners when they appeared before the local Justices of the Peace in April, and all denied the charge of colouring pieces of base metal "to appear silver, resembling a sixpence". Each of the five signed their statements with a mark.

When they were brought before the Quarter Sessions in July 1816, the charges had assumed a more serious character. The indictment was one of High Treason, because forging the legal currency of the land was treated as an offence against the Sovereign. Ten witnesses were called, including two representatives of the Mint, and the evidence was overwhelming. The accused offered no defence, and all of them were found guilty. This was immediately followed by the pronouncement of mandatory sentences of death, to be carried out four weeks later. The Justices did however make a recommendation for mercy to the Prince Regent, and a week

before the appointed day of execution a royal reprieve arrived. The sentences were subsequently commuted to transportation for life.

The two men were transported to New South Wales in December 1816 on the *Shiplay*. The three women followed on the *Friendship* in June 1817, accompanied by their various children. Mary Moen had given birth to a son while she was in Berwick gaol under sentence of death. The subsequent fates of some of them can be traced in the Australian *Convict Records* database and other genealogical sites: Barnard Duffey died in NSW in 1838, at the age of 67, having been reprieved from a second death sentence given for robbery in 1823.

Sources:

Informations, 1816. (Berwick Record Office, BQS/D2).

Berwick Advertiser, 27 July 1816.

J.W. Bainbridge. *Transportations from Berwick*. pp.152-159. Unpublished. (Berwick Record Office).

Two other original documents relating to the case now hang in the Old Gaol on the second floor of the Town Hall. A letter from the Home Secretary, Viscount Sidmouth (Henry Addington), in August 1816 conveys the Prince Regent's decision that the sentence of execution should be "respited", pending His Majesty's pleasure. In October 1816, a letter from the Mayor of Berwick William Pattison instructed the Gaoler that the prisoners were to be made ready to be sent to London, prior to their transportation.

In September 2005 the Maltings Youth Theatre working with Berwick Record Office presented a re-enactment of the case, as part of the Doors Open / Eve of Trafalgar weekend. Scenes were staged in and around the Town Hall and on the Quayside (as reported in the *Newsletter*, no.48, October 2005, pp.6 & 13).

John Spiers

ROSAMOND MARY LEATHER

On 29 January 1959, the *Berwick Advertiser* contained the death notice for Rosamond Leather, who, at the good age of 83, had passed away in the Berwick Infirmary, having for the last years of her life lived at Longridge.

Rosamond was the seventh of 10 children of Frederick and Gertrude Leather, of Tickhill Yorkshire and Middleton Hall, Belford. All six Leather sons were career soldiers, and came unscathed through the Boer War. Although by the outbreak of the Great War, they were, with the exception of the youngest, Christopher, men well into middle age, they again signed up. This time they were not so lucky. Christopher was killed in October 1914, and two older brothers, Edmund and Edward died later in the war - all three being commemorated on Belford's War Memorial, although by then, only Christopher had strong Northumberland connections. He and Rosamond were living together at Ingram.

It was perhaps the loss of her brother which pushed Rosamond into contributing practically to the War effort. By 1915/16 she was running the Canteen at the Marlborough Detail Camp on the edge of Boulogne. Details of her work can be found in Chapter 15 of a fascinating memoir '*A Padre in France*' by George A. Birmingham (the *nom de plume* of James Urwin Hannay, an Irish cleric who for a time was the Padre at the camp). Marlborough camp was a transit camp for soldiers, discharged from hospital, before it was decided where they were to be sent. From Birmingham's description it was an unsatisfactory billet - only one senior officer, who spent most of his time out of the camp, while the soldiers, knowing they were moving on, had little reason to improve their surroundings. The one saving grace was the Canteen run by Miss Leather, her ladies and her dog called Detail. The Canteen was an inconvenient building, generally too small and crowded, the space behind the counter 'narrow, gloomy and ill ventilated' - Rosamond solved the last problem by opening the outside door to let in the 'fresh air', not a solution favoured by Birmingham who considered suffocation as the pleasanter alternative! The kitchen, too, was problematic - small, low, gloomy, with an uneven floor - and it leaked. In the summer it overheated. Nevertheless Rosamond Leather made it work. Hot suppers were cooked, puddings and stewed fruit prepared, a constant supply of tea and coffee provided, and all the washing up done by hand in one small sink. She dealt with power cuts by having a seemingly inexhaustible supply of candles in tin mugs so that service could continue.

She removed the bleakness by creating a garden, and one of the soldiers, a Northumberland Miner, spelled out the camp's name in white stones on a bank behind the canteen. She appealed for gramophone records from home to provide music in the canteen. She organised concerts for the men, taking over the Dining Hall, improvising a stage and lighting, moving the piano from the Canteen and persuading the various concert parties to perform in these rather haphazard surroundings. She was clearly a formidable lady, but she gave the men in the camp the sense that they mattered. Birmingham concludes his account by saying that, once gone, her place could never quite be filled, and quoting *Proverbs: Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.*

A Padre in France can be downloaded from Internet Archive and is an interesting read.

Jane Bowen

LETTER FROM A NORHAM LAD IN EGYPT

Berwick Advertiser, Friday 31 March 1916 - page 6

I am now writing to you from Egypt, our camp is just on the outskirts of Alexandria, we have been here nearly a week now, and I am enjoying the change very much it is a treat to be back amongst civilisation again. When we had disembarked, and got fairly into the town "we had to pass through the town to reach the camp," it was just like getting into a new world, we have so accustomed to the wilds, that to be marching into a real city was enough to make one as happy as a boy with a new toy. There are plenty of Europeans in Alexandria, and the buildings are very imposing, the principal streets are just the same as the towns at home, and there is an excellent car service. The tram lines run right out to our camp, also a railway, so that it is an easy matter to get into town, provided you can get a pass, as the town is out of bounds. There are several canteens in the camp area run by Egyptians, and so we are able to get a few tasties once more, such as eggs, which are very cheap here, cakes, tea, fruit, etc., so you can bet we are enjoying the change, only cash is rather scarce. The weather is lovely, not too hot, we are practically on the desert, nothing but sand and a few palm trees, it is just like the old story books when you see the camels swinging along, and they can carry a load too. It is amusing sometimes when buying anything from the natives. We got pretty well used to Greek

money, now we have another sort, it is all piasters here, piaster is equal to 2½d in English money, and there are 2, 5, 10, and 20 piastre-pieces, etc., so they take a bit reckoning up at first. They are cute rogues too, one has to watch them. I could tell you dozens of tales, but have not space, I shall have a lot to tell you when I get home again.

I got a pass and went into town last night, and spent a very good evening, it was the first time I had been into any town on my own since leaving England, so you may guess that I was feeling rather pleased. Among other sights I was in a real cinema theatre again and saw a film of good old "Charlie Chaplin." Nearly all the writing on the pictures was in French, but we enjoyed it for all that. Our time was rather limited, however, but I enjoyed what time we did spend in Alexandria.

Jan Ward

SNIPPETS FROM THE BERWICK ADVERTISER

Berwick Advertiser, 7 July 1871

PILFERING FLOWERS IN TWEEDMOUTH CEMETERY

A respectable-looking woman named Adeline Burn, residing in Tweedmouth, was charged, at the instance of James Scott, keeper of Tweedmouth Cemetery, at the Borough Petty sessions yesterday, with having stolen four antirrhinums, two stocks, and one rose, and also destroying two Irish yews, in the Cemetery on Monday evening last. The defendant and another woman were observed by the keeper walking through the cemetery about half-past six o'clock on Monday night, and he saw defendant pluck a quantity of flowers from off several graves. On challenging her with stealing the flowers she drew forth a rose and some other flowers from under her shawl. In reply to the charge, the defendant said she pulled the flowers with no evil or malicious intention, and thought she had done no harm to pull a flower or two from off a friend's grave. She was on a visit to the Cemetery at the time to see the grave of her little baby.- The bench inflicted a fine of 1s and 9s expenses, with the alternative of seven days imprisonment.

Berwick Advertiser, 7 July 1871

THE FORTHCOMING REGATTA-THE LADIES' PRIZE

With honour let it be said that the ladies of Berwick have taken the initiative to present a cup to be rowed for at the approaching Regatta. On Wednesday a meeting of ladies, convened at the instance of the Mayoress (Mrs A. Thompson), and Mrs Henderson, the wife of the Sheriff, was held in the Council Committee Room of the Townhall. There was a goodly number of ladies present, and the Mayor presided. It was unanimously resolved to provide a silver cup, to be called the Ladies' Prize, to be rowed for at the regatta, and the ladies present formed themselves into a committee of canvassers to collect subscriptions. Starting with themselves a sum of £7 10s was collected on the spot, and we have not the slightest doubt that the required sum, so as to enable the fair donors to present a handsome prize to the Regatta Committee for competition, will be speedily made up. The prize will, we understand, be rowed for by the juniors in fine boats. Since the ladies have so commendably set about to contribute towards furnishing a prize, the gentlemen, the merchants we refer to more particularly, are in a manner bound, by all that is honourable and gallant, to follow the good example set by the gentler sex, and we will certainly be much surprised if a valuable prize, to be called the Borough Plate, for open competition, be not forthcoming at the hands of our townsmen. Arrangements for the Regatta are proceeding very satisfactorily, and it is hopefully anticipated that this year's aquatic *fete*, will be the best that has taken place on the Tweed.

Berwick Advertiser, 7 July 1871

THE WEATHER AND CROPS

"Dripping June," at its close, was pleasant and summer-like, but "sultry July" brought with it heavy showers, hailstorms, and loud peals of thunder. On Saturday rain fell in torrents, and occasionally thunder was heard in the distance. Sunday and Monday were comparatively fair days, but on Tuesday a severe thunder shower fell over the town and neighbourhood, and on Wednesday the weather was very changeable, until evening when the temperature materially improved, and the air was cool. Yesterday morning rain again fell, and continued to fall at intervals during the day. The rain, and a higher temperature, have been very beneficial to the growing of crops, which have stretched out considerably since our last. Hay cutting has commenced; the portion cut is found far from bulky, and somewhat injured by the

rain. Grass becomes daily more plentiful for all kinds of stock; and turnips are growing rapidly, and giving promise of better results than expected a week or two ago. Potatoes also are greatly improved. Barley, we believe, will be the best of the cereals; in some fields it is too bulky, being laid by the heavy rains; and, curiously enough, the latest sown is the most promising. Beans have a fine appearance-blooming profusely in all quarters. Our advices about wheat are not yet very satisfactory, and oats, on the whole, are deficient, being light in colour, and stunted in their growth owing to so much cold in June. In Berwickshire, the crops for the most part are a week to ten days behind. In our late, and what are called poor localities, we have this season again the best prospects; there are numerous fields of wheat, as well as oats, in the coal and iron districts that will stand comparison with anything in the north or east. The weather during the next fortnight will be the turning point of the corn trade; and we need scarcely say that the barometer will be watched for a time- far and near- with the most intense interest.

Berwick Advertiser, 14 July 1871

SPITTAL-HALF-A-CENTURY IN THE SERVICE OF A FIRM

A correspondent writes to us as follows:- "A workman named Edward Cuthbert, in the employment of Messrs Thos. Black & Sons, spade and shovel manufacturers, Sea View Works, Spittal, completed on the 10th of June last the 50th year service under the firm, he having entered as an apprentice on the 10th of June 1821, under the late John Black, founder of the firm. He has witnessed the steady rise of the firm (during the last half-century) from a small beginning at Ford Forge to their present extensive works now carried on in Spittal, and although he is in the 70th year of his age he is still at work, under the third generation of employers." "When it is considered," adds our correspondent, "that we live in an age of combinations and strikes amongst workmen, it is to be hoped that such a long term of service will be rewarded in a tangible form."

Carole Pringle