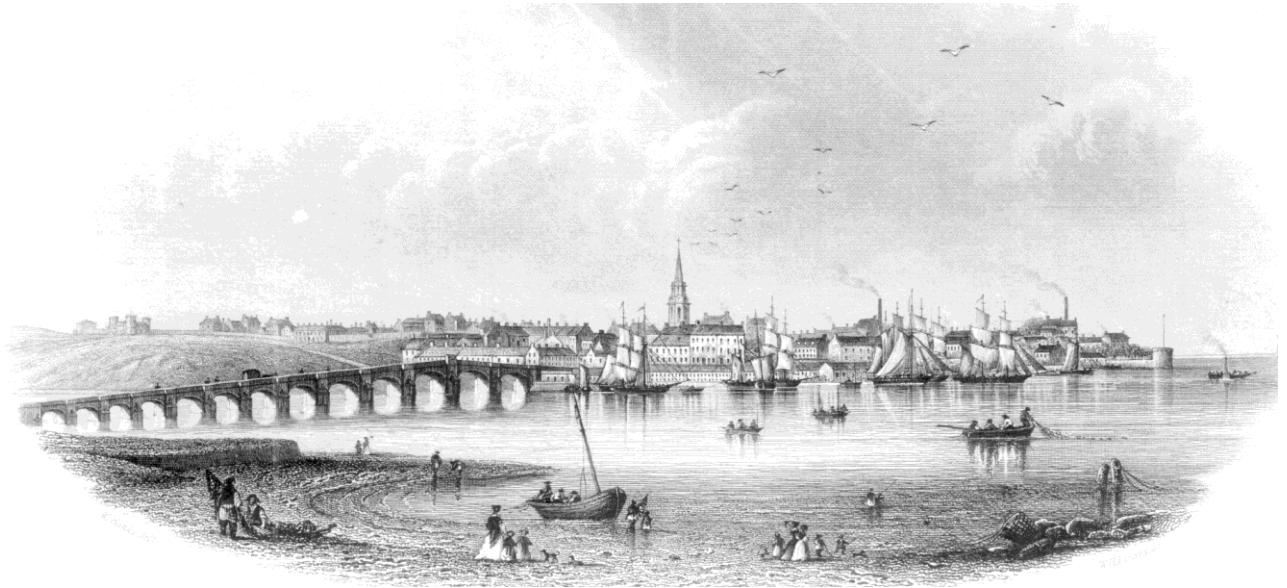


Friends of Berwick & District Museum and Archives Newsletter



NUMBER 92–JUNE 2017

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday & Sunday 17th & 18th June

Peregrini Heritage Festival on Holy Island – displays walks and demonstrations of heritage skills. At the Village Hall and other parts of the Island.

Saturday 24th June

Armed Forces Day. Including an exhibition in the Guildhall on Berwick in 1917, 10 to 2pm. Free entry.

OTHER SOCIETIES' LECTURES

As most societies do not meet in the summer months, we have only listed those who will have meetings prior to mid-September.

BERWICK CIVIC SOCIETY

Venue: Berwick Parish Centre.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 14th June

What we owe the Romans:- Language, Culture and Politics: Dr Peter Jones

Wednesday 12th July

A presentation on The Maltings Arts Centre given by the Chief Executive and Artistic Director, Matthew Rooke and the Chairman of The Maltings Trust, Graham Brown.

NO LECTURES IN AUGUST

Saturday and Sunday,
9th /10th September 2017

Heritage Open Days

BORDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Monday 5th June

The Needle's Eye Enclosure: salt production in the late Iron Age: Jenny Proctor.

NO LECTURES IN JULY AND AUGUST

Monday 4th September

Northumberland's Geology and How It Shaped History: Ian Kille

TILL VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Venue: Crookham Village Hall

Wednesday 7th June

Time: 7.30pm

Durham and Dunbar: Identifying Scottish Soldiers at Palace Green: Richard Annis, Durham University.

NO LECTURES IN JULY AND AUGUST

Wednesday 6th September

Following the Coca Shrub Throughout the Americas- Archaeological Evidence for Cocaine use: Professor Maria Chester

ARCHIVE NEWS

Life in the archives is as busy as ever with lots happening and keeping us on our toes. Over the past couple of months, we have done the following:

The Peregrini Project relating to Holy Island and the coastal mainland is in full swing at the moment with many different strands. Work on the interpretation panels for the Old Lifeboat House is almost finished and it is hoped that the panels will go up in June. They tell the story of the Lifeboat Service on the Island and the information there is only the tip of the iceberg. There is lots more which will go in the archive. In conjunction with the Archaeology and Geology strands, we have also been researching some buildings on the Island and the mainland. This has included a trip to Woodhorn to look at some maps and volunteers undertaking some of their own research in the archives. It is interesting what can be unearthed. Work is still continuing on the Professor Sheddick database. Our initial challenge is to read his handwriting which is small and spidery – I think some people would prefer to be reading a 16th century hand! – and work out what his reference numbers mean. However, we are getting there and have entered and checked over 300 cards now. There are still plenty to do! Otherwise, we are still collecting information on Cocklawburn. The Young Archaeologists Club came to the office in May to look at some archive material relating to the area and then they had a small dig there last

week. Typically it rained when we were there – it did the same last year, very heavily !

Following on from the success of our Fifties in Focus book, a small group has now started work on a Sixties publication which will be ready for Christmas. We are gathering the images at the moment which is proving interesting – not much royalty but lots of politicians and pop groups! We'll provide an update in the next newsletter. We continue to do Education work as and when we can. I did some work with A level Geography students at Longridge and we have also held a meeting with teachers about our First World War Resource packs which are being produced with the Museum for local First and Middle Schools. We are hoping to trial one in September and have them ready by November.

We are now well settled into our space in the Library and continue to make improvements. We have purchased some lockers for researchers to put their bags in and have also bought some lockable cupboards for the transcripts. Now that the service has also been transferred back into Northumberland County Council, we have also decided along with the Northumberland Archives to become part of the CARN scheme. This is a national scheme for the registration of archive users. Users will need to bring identification with them to complete the form but thereafter it is valid for 4 years and can be used in other archives throughout the country.

Finally, I have given a couple of talks in the past couple of months – the Community Archive to the Peregrini Volunteer Conference; Our Families to Berwick History Society and part of the talk on Cross Border crime at the Friends AGM.

That's just a quick resume of what has been happening. The next few months will be very busy for us !

Linda Bankier

100 YEARS AGO

What was happening in this area 100 years?. Here are some extracts from the Berwick Advertiser in May and June 1917 :

18 May 1917

FORMER GRAMMAR SCHOOL PUPIL WOUNDED

Information has been received by Mr Henry Buglass, fish merchant, Berwick that his son, Lance Corporal James Buglass, Royal Scots had been wounded in the right leg. He is 19 years of age and was educated at Berwick Grammar School and enlisted in September last year, going to the front three months later. Lance Corporal Buglass says in his letter that after being wounded he lay for 18 ½ hours in a shell hole near the German lines and at nightfall managed to make his way back to safety.

BERWICK OFFICER DIES OF WOUNDS

Mr A L Miller, J P, has received information that his youngest son, Lieutenant A Lorimer Miller, Australians, was wounded on Saturday. The information was conveyed in a letter from the Chaplain. Lieut. Miller was educated at the Grammar School, and before emigrating was a well known member of Berwick Cricket Club. He was in New Caledonia when the war broke out and immediately went to Australia to join the army. He has seen considerable service in both Egypt and France. While in Egypt he was presented with a flag which a number of his platoon had received from the ladies of Broken Hill, New South Wales. Lieut. Miller is married to a sister of Miss Daisy Kennedy, the famous violinist. A later message states that the gallant young officer died of his wounds on Tuesday 8th inst. He was 26 years of age.

BERWICK PETTY SESSIONS

GOLDEN FLEECE INN, SPITTAL - Mr Wm Scott, Golden Fleece Inn, Spittal, was granted a protection order for this license held by Mr Peter H Carnegie. The Chief Constable explained that Mrs Carnegie had been taken ill and that the license was one of those which came up for compensation at the approaching Court at Newcastle.

1 JUNE 1917

The Scremerston brass band and the Boy Scouts Pipe band gave open air concerts at the Town Hall on Saturday afternoon, on the occasion of the Berwick Fair, when special collections were made on behalf of the Funds of Berwick Infirmary, the

collection amounting to £5 2s 6d. This valuable help is much appreciated by the Committee of the Infirmary and the public were also glad to have an opportunity of hearing the Scremerston band once more, an experience which it is hoped will be enjoyed again before long.

APPEAL TRIBUNAL AT BERWICK

THRESHING MACHINE DRIVER

James Black, (27), Greenlawalls, Norham, threshing machine driver was appealed for by Mr John Black, his father, threshing mill proprietor.

Mr Wade, solicitor, Alnwick stated that the father owned four threshing machines and five steam engines. There was only sufficient staff to carry on four machines. Previous to the war they had 12 men, now they had only seven. This man had three or four years practical experience and it required four years to make an efficient driver. Mr Black had advertised for a substitute but had no offers. He would be pleased with a suitable substitute if this could be found.

Mr Rea pointed out that there would be great urgency after the harvest for fully equipped men. As there would be a shortage of food, threshing would be wanted as early as possible. As Mr Black was shorthanded he hoped the Tribunal would give this case their full consideration.

The appeal was dismissed and Major Cross intimated that he would put Mr Black in communication with a first class substitute.

WOOLER

Food Economy – On Friday evening last a meeting was held in the Archbold Small Hall in connection with the campaign for food economy. Mrs Rea of Doddington was in the chair. The attendance was not large. An address was delivered by Miss Howman who pointed out the need for economy in our food supplies.

Whitsuntide – If the weather was bad at Easter the second of the great holidays has been favoured with exceptionally fine weather, the sun shining with great power in fact it was more like what we are accustomed to in the month of August. A considerable number of visitors arrived on Friday and Saturday, all the principal hotels being booked up. Some went fishing others patronised the golf course which was found to be in excellent order while many contented themselves by visiting the Happy Valley, Cheviots and other places of interest in the vicinity.

Linda Bankier

GREENSES FISHERMEN SHOT BY GUNBOAT

Whilst cataloguing the Berwick Board of Guardians minute book, I was alerted by a routine entry which looked as though it contained an interesting story.

On 5 January 1873 two men, James Jamieson and William Patterson, both fishermen who lived in the Greenses, qualified for help, having medical certificates that they were unable to work. They were described as severely disabled. The reason for both was gunshot wounds, Jamieson in his neck and Patterson in his ankle. Both received necessaries and 2 lbs linseed meal. They continued to receive on a weekly basis 1 ½ lbs beef and 2 lbs rice.

Linda thought a likely cause was a confrontation connected with poaching and this was confirmed in the very full account in the Berwick Advertiser of January 3 1873.

Early on the previous Saturday two fishermen, whilst illegally salmon fishing, had been shot. There was a long history of salmon fishing during the close season by men from the Greenses and the water bailiffs had been unable to contain this. The authorities had agreed to station a gunboat, the Bullfrog, on the Tweed to protect the fishery. On the late evening of Friday 27th December, Inspector Russell of the water bailiffs had noticed poaching activity but because a gale was blowing had not then taken action. At 4am on Saturday he had gone to the Carr Rock and enlisted the help of the Bullfrog, which was under the command of the Chief Gunner, the Captain being absent. It sailed with a crew of five armed with rifles. The two versions of events were conflicting. The 'Officials' version was that a little north of Meadow Haven they found several hang nets and the bailiffs started to haul them in. A fishing boat came from the direction of Greenses Harbour followed by other boats. They apparently did not notice the gunboat and four boats approached the bailiffs' boat and threw stones at it. Russell warned them against using violence, pointed to the gunboat and said it would fire if necessary. One of the boats pulled alongside and one man aimed a blow at Russell with the tiller. He dodged the blow and his nose was grazed. The bailiffs grabbed the tiller which had the initials C J on it. The fishermen attacked with oars, the bailiffs retaliated but were almost surrounded by boats. The gunboat fired blanks; one crew threw stones at it, one man being struck

rather severely. Russell's arm was injured by a large stone. He ordered the gunboat to fire and five bullets were discharged. James Jamieson was shot in the neck and William Patterson in the right ankle. The fishermen made for Greenses Harbour; the Bullfrog pursued them but was unable to catch them though put a shot through the sail of one. Eleven nets were hauled in, containing three salmon. The authorities did not at this stage realise two fishermen had been wounded.

The fishermen said they had been lawfully deep sea fishing when pounced on by the bailiffs, who attacked them violently with oars and they defended themselves. They did not throw stones and did not have any. A collision occurred between one of their boats and the bailiffs' and the gunboat fired on them. Realising that two were wounded they backed off. They said the bailiffs and the Bullfrog crew were drunk. On returning to the Greenses, medical men were called. A bullet went through Jamieson's neck, narrowly missing his spine. Patterson's ankle was penetrated by a bullet which had first gone through the side of the boat and his boot.

There was a considerable commotion when the Bullfrog returned to the Carr Rock. A large number of fishermen had congregated. A fresh crew armed with guns was put on board the gunboat and there was no molestation. Groups of fishermen were in the town looking for their assailants.

It was reported on 5th January that Jamieson was out of danger and would probably soon recover. Patterson was still suffering intensely and serious results were feared. Both men were married with large families. They are destitute and are receiving "some small relief from the parish," presumably the assistance from the Board of Guardians. The fishermen had decided to contribute weekly to assist them. James Jamieson continued to receive weekly assistance from the Poor Law until 3rd March 1873 and William Patterson until 23rd June.

On 14 January one man appeared before the Petty Sessions as a result of the incident. Peter Burgon, pilot of the Greenses, was charged with illegally fishing for salmon on 27 December 1872. This charge was dismissed but he was convicted of assaulting James Russell, water bailiff and fined £3 2s 3d with costs of £1 17s 9d.; if in default 1 month imprisonment.

On 14th March at the Petty Sessions he appealed against his conviction and provided sureties of £25. He was now described as a fisherman. Possibly he had lost his job as pilot as the result of the conviction, hence the Appeal. The Appeal

was heard at the Quarter Sessions on 4 April and reported in the Berwick Advertiser on 11th April. It was unsuccessful. Evidence was led on his behalf that he had not left his house until after the fishermen had returned to the Greenses and was not out at sea at the time of the incident. The details of the incident were fully covered. According to the comment in the Berwick Advertiser the court room was packed. The general opinion in the town was that Burgon was not present at the time of the assault. They described the evidence brought on his behalf as “very unsatisfactory and defective” and queried why it had not been brought before the magistrates. If it had they considered that Burgon would have been given the benefit of the doubt.

Erica Bamford

THE ISOLATION HOSPITALS OF NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND

Rural District Council Minutes provide fascinating details on housing, the inadequacy of water supplies and sewage disposal systems, and health. Names of landowners and tenants are frequently included and long running disputes over ownership and responsibility for sewers and such like, are well recorded. Norham and Islandshire Minutes are no exception. While summarising entries relating to the coastal area, as part of the Peregrini Project, the following Report by the County Medical Officer on the condition of the local Isolation Hospitals, was discovered clipped to the minutes dated 5th February 1917. The content was discussed at the meeting and the suggestion that one new hospital should be built to replace the four small ones in Berwick, Belford; Haughhead, Wooler and at Oxford, was rejected.

‘4. - HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION FOR PATIENTS SUFFERING FROM SMALL-POX IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE COUNTY.

On November 15th the Local Government Board drew attention to the exceedingly unsatisfactory provision for such patients in the Borough of Berwick-on-Tweed and suggested that the Town Council of Berwick should approach the Northumberland County Council with a view to securing the provision by the latter body of a Small-pox hospital for Berwick-on-Tweed and other districts in combination. In the year

1903 the county medical officer issued a circular to district councils in the county in which he indicated that if sanitary authorities would combine for the isolation of Small-pox patients five or six hospitals would serve the whole county, and that under such a scheme not only would every sanitary authority be enabled to *at once* isolate any person found to be suffering from Small-pox, but that a great saving would be effected in the cost of sites, road-making, drainage, water supplies, ambulance, disinfectors and administrative expenses. The urban and rural district councils of Alnwick combined to provide a Small-pox hospital for their joint district but otherwise nothing came of the suggestions and the present provision for Small-pox cases in the northern part of the county is as follows: -

Districts.	Civil Population 1915.	No. of	beds.
		Small- pox only.	Small-pox or other infectious diseases.
Borough. Berwick-on-Tweed	11,731	-	14
Rural districts			
Belford	4,621	8	-
Glendale	8,089	-	4
Norham and Islandshires	5,466	-	8
		8	26

In the scheme it was suggested that one Small-pox hospital placed south of Berwick, probably just south of the southern boundary of the Norham and Islandshires rural district, should serve the borough of Berwick-on-Tweed and the rural districts of Norham and Islandshires, Glendale and Belford. The hospital would serve a population of about 30,000 and would be approximately 10 miles from Berwick (population 11,800), 10 miles from Wooler (population 1,400), 15 miles from North Sunderland (population 1,070) and not more than 17 miles from any part of the area served.

In the year 1902 a small hospital for Small-pox patients was put up at Scremerston for the Norham and Islandshires district and four cottages at Wooler were combined for use as a Small-pox hospital for Glendale rural district. In 1903 eight beds were provided at Belford, for the Belford rural district.

Berwick-on-Tweed. – The Berwick isolation hospital consists of two blocks (each or both of which could be used for Small-pox cases) capable of receiving fourteen patients. There is also a third detached block intended for the use of a resident doctor, if one were considered necessary, and a servant. All three blocks are built of wood and, having been erected many years, are in a more or less dilapidated

condition and two of the wards are very damp. In the first block are two four bed wards between which is a small room about 15 feet by 10 feet, used as a nurses' sitting room, visitors' room and doctor's room, also a bathroom with cold water only laid on and a small kitchen (used also as a pantry) in which there is a sink and gas oven. A portion of this is curtained off to form a bedroom for the nurse. At the end of each ward is a w.c., there being no passage with cross ventilation between it and the ward, and a bath with only cold water laid on. Detached from one end of this block is a small wooden building divided into two parts, one of which contains a copper and two fireclay sludges, the other being used as a mortuary, drying room, and disinfecting chamber. As this room is anything but airtight, no satisfactory disinfection is possible. In the second block is a ward for two beds and a cot and one for three beds. One w.c. and bathroom are provided between the entrance and the wards without any passage with cross ventilation. A w.c. is also provided for each ward, separated from the latter by a door only. A small store cupboard is provided and a bedroom about 9 feet square for a nurse. Opening out of the latter is a small pantry and sink and in the pantry an observation window giving a view of one of the wards. There is no storage for linen. Both wards are very damp, and the heating arrangements for one and for the nurses' room are very unsatisfactory. The gas oven mentioned in the first block is the only provision for cooking for both blocks, and all hot water required for baths and all other purposes for both blocks must be heated either on the gas oven or over the fire in the nurses' combined sitting and bed room. The hospital is within a short distance of a considerable population and within fifty yards of the nearest house. For this reason alone the provision made for dealing with Small-pox patients is most unsatisfactory. The fence on one side is useless as such and is about 18 feet from the hospital. No telephonic communication is provided between the hospital and the Medical Officer of Health's house and no communication of any kind between any of the wards and the nurses' room.'

'Belford Rural. – A hospital for isolation of Small-pox cases was erected in 1903 and has never been used. It is situate in a field about three-quarters of a mile south of Belford Village and consists of a galvanized iron building on concrete foundations with two wards, each having an approximate cubical capacity of 4,800 feet and suitable for four patients, and a detached pavilion for staff, consisting of a kitchen, small bedroom and pantry. The hospital is practically devoid of furniture and the stock of necessary utensils is very inadequate. Although the structure is maintained in a good condition there is a singular absence of that preparedness which is so essential in hospitals for infectious diseases. Other unsatisfactory features are as follows: - No attempt has been made to provide a drainage system; the water supply is an open runner quite unprotected and about 100 yards distant from the hospital. There is no hot water supply, bath, laundry accommodation, nor any provision for disinfection. The ambulance is an old cab said to be unfit for use. There is no separate sanitary accommodation for the staff. The access from the main road is across a turnip field and a grass field, no attempt at road making, having been made.

Glendale Rural – The rural council in 1902 acquired a block of four single room cottages, near Haughhead. One of the cottages is used as an ambulance shed, and the other three have been connected by doors made in the party walls, thus forming three rooms, two for use as wards and one for kitchen. In 1914 a detached pavilion was provided, having sitting room and bedroom accommodation for two nurses. The combined floor area of the wards is about 600 square feet, but as the ceiling is very low the total accommodation, for Small-pox patients, is only sufficient for four beds. For an old building, the hospital is kept in a very satisfactory condition, but the following features are objectionable: - The kitchen in which food is prepared and stored, and which also serves as a sleeping room for the servant, has direct air connection with the wards. The pantry is a dark, unventilated cupboard. There is no laundry and infected clothing is carried to the caretaker's house – 600 yards away – to be washed. The drainage and sanitary accommodation are both unsatisfactory, the former being connected to a water-course and the latter consists of two pail closets, one for the staff and one for the patients. There is no observation room for the nurse, who would therefore be unable to supervise the wards except by being continually in them. There is neither a bath nor hot water supply. There is no provision at the hospital for effectually dealing with infected bedding, though a steam disinfector is available at Wooler, one-and-a-half miles distant. The ambulance – an old cab – is quite unsuitable for any patient unable to sit up.

Norham and Islandshires Rural. - A hospital was provided in 1902 for the isolation of Small-pox cases and since its erection has only been used on one occasion, two years ago, for a patient suffering from Enteric fever. The hospital is situated a short distance from the main road and four miles south of Berwick. It is a galvanised iron building, on brick foundations, lined internally with match-boarding. The floor area is about 800 square feet and the interior is divided into two wards by a wooden partition reaching to the eaves, but open above. There is thus accommodation for eight Small-pox cases and six beds are provided. A detached pavilion of two rooms accommodates the staff. In one of the rooms is a good cooking stove and a portion is partitioned off for use as a pantry; the other room (13' 6" x 9' 6") is a nurses' bedroom. The hospital is fairly well furnished and could be utilised without delay. The nearest drinking water supply is nearly two miles distant and it is necessary to cart the water from this point to the hospital. Water for washing purposes can be procured from a lime – stone quarry immediately in front of the hospital. The only sanitary convenience is a corrugated iron pail closet, for both staff and patients. Neither bath nor hot water supply is provided, and there is no provision for drainage other than for roof water. The caretaker is a roadman who resides 4 miles away. There is no nurses' observation room, so the nurse can only exercise supervision over the wards by remaining in them. There is no provision for a servant nor for laundry work. The access from the main road needs improving in the vicinity of the hospital. A steam disinfector at Berwick workhouse is the only means of disinfectant available. The ambulance is an old cab which is now unusable.

Although the above-named provision has been made for isolating cases of Small-pox three only of the hospitals can be said to be ready for immediate occupation, as unless (as in the case of Berwick, Glendale and Norham and Islandshires) methods

are adopted for ensuring that the hospital and bedding, etc., are constantly aired no patient can be immediately admitted and in no hospital is the bedroom accommodation for two nurses and a servant at all adequate.

Small-pox being exceedingly infectious and there being an annually increasing number of persons unprotected by vaccination, it is most important that every sanitary authority should be prepared to isolate any case discovered and the immediate contacts at a few hours' notice and that the necessary staff should also be available. This is hardly ever the case in rural districts and is only practicable when a hospital serves a large area and a considerable population. If such a hospital were provided for the four districts above-named, with a resident caretaker, a servant and one (or two) nurses to begin with (to be increased as occasion arises) not only would the hospital be ready for occupation at the shortest notice but it could be most advantageously used, in the absence of Small-pox, for the reception of Pulmonary Tuberculosis for whom the necessary isolation and nursing are not available at their own homes.

There appears to be no reason to alter the suggestion made in 1903 that one hospital should be provided for the borough of Berwick-on-Tweed and the rural districts of Norham and Islandshires, Glendale and Belford. The existing hospitals for the above area could, with the necessary alterations, be utilised for infectious diseases (including Tuberculosis) other than Small-pox, or the buildings provided by Norham and Islandshires and Belford rural district councils could be removed and made use of in building the larger hospital common to all four authorities in making the necessary accommodation for detached bedrooms, kitchen, pantry, laundry, mortuary etc.'

It was agreed that no action be taken as it was considered that the existing accommodation was quite adequate for the district.

Norham and Islandshire Rural District Council Minutes – LN 1/7, page 295, 5 February 1917.

Julie Gibbs

DYING IN HARNESS

As part of the Peregrini Project, a group from Belford have been looking at the Greenwich Hospital Papers at the National Archives, since the Spindleston estate belonged to the Hospital between 1715 and 1872, having been confiscated from the Earl of Derwentwater after the 1715 Rebellion. We have found a wealth of material, which is going to take a lot of digesting. This account comes from the Diary of John Grey of Dilston (ADM 80/830, who, in the mid nineteenth century, was the Receiver, the man responsible for the management of the Hospital's Estates in the North.

9 February 1848

.....*Heard from Charles that he had not been able to complete his measurement at Spindleston on Saturday in consequence of rain and that a shocking occurrence had happened to him on Monday morning while engaged in measuring the plantation at Glororum - An elderly man to whom I gave £5 a year for keeping the fences round the young plantations, was assisting him along with a boy whom he had engaged in leading the chain and carrying poles - Without any warning the poor man fell on his hands and knees - never spoke but gasped for breath - Charles took off his neckcloth (sic) & hat - sent the boy to Mr Nairn's for help - but the poor man died in a few minutes while Charles supported him in an upright position in his arms - A Doctor was soon had from Bamburgh, but it was of no avail - Charles got another hand and finished his work in the day, but would be detained another day to attend on the inquest.*

12 February 1848

.....*The son of the poor man whose sudden death has been noticed at Spindleston has written to ask me to allow him to continue the work which his father had in hands which I have authorised him to do, until I shall be there to judge of his performance - He says that he was working with his father at the new fences inclosing the small angular pieces of ground planted by the new road to the Railway in Outchester farm.*

A little more information is available from a report in the **Newcastle Courant** for 18 February 1848:

On the 8th inst., an inquest was held at Outchester, in the parish of Bamburgh, before Thos. Adams Russell, Esq., coroner for North Northumberland, on the body of Robert Rogerson, husbandman, aged 60, who on the morning of the preceding day, went out to lead a surveying chain, and when in a field at Waren Mills dropped down on his hands and knees, and immediately expired. Verdict - "Died by the visitation of God."

Jane Bowen & Janet Ward

THE BAILIFF'S COURT BOOK

PUNISHMENTS FOR MINOR CRIMES ORDERED BY THE GOVERNER, MAYOR & COUNCIL

Penalty

1593 Crimes

3 days imprisonment	Removing stones from the Town walls
3 half days to remove the rubbish	Throwing ash, dung or other rubbish over the walls
4d each infringement and one day's punishment (half to go to the informant and the other to the poor)	Dumping dung, ash, rubbish
1 farthing per sheep, 1d per horse or cattle	Keeping cattle, sheep, horses on the Ramparts
2 days imprisonment	Threatening those employed to guard the walls/ramparts
6d (half to go to the informant and the other to the poor)	Not removing their weekly rubbish/filth from their doorways, or for sweeping it onto their neighbours' frontage
First offence 3 days punishment in " <i>Haddocks hole</i> " Second offence banishment from the town	Stealing " <i>poles</i> " set up on the ramparts
14 days imprisonment plus 5s for every offence	Fishing from the bridge, or any part of the river, before the end of May (in order to conserve salmon numbers)

Penalty

1594 Crimes

Bringer/seller 20s plus 20 days imprisonment. Buyer/eater 40s plus 40 days	Killing, dressing or eating meat on Fish days during Lent
2s 6d each beast; those not removed to be sold and money given to the poor – owners to have 14 days imprisonment	Keeping un-licensed sheep, cattle and horses in the fields or town boundary and not cleared within 14 days
Wares to be forfeited and 8 days	No shop/stall to trade on the Sabbath on the

imprisonment

feast of the Blessed Trinity

Penalty

1596 Crimes

Before 1st June 10s plus 10 days imprisonment for the renters. Then after 1st June 20s plus 20 days imprisonment

Harbouring of any Scots by persons other than Cumburgesses

Hay mown to be forfeited and 10 days imprisonment *“for their disobedience and contempt”*

Mowing in unauthorised places

Penalty

1597 Crimes

First offence 10s. Second offence 20s. Third offence to lose wages, restrain from brewing and lose their freedom

Unlicensed brewers/sellers of ale/beer

Penalty

1598 Crimes

Severely punished for the first offence and for the second banished from the town

Unofficial pawn brokers (*wed layers*)

First offence punished according to the Statutes laid down. Second offence completely banned from trading/brewing/baking

Low weights and measurements of ale or bread by the traders

Penalty

1600 Crimes

Imprisonment until full payment has been made (to take his body into ward there to Remyne until the said payment then to be made be fully satisfied)

Non-payment of debt as ordered by the Council

Notes:

Modern (2005) values of 16th century money:

4d = £2.09

5s = £31.32

6d = £3.13

10s = £62.65

20s = £125.29

40s = £250.58

Wendy & Alan Urwin

PARISH REGISTER SNIPPETS

From Belford Parish Registers

4 August 1792 There were riots at Berwick for some days past on account of several surgeons and others stealing several dead bodies out of the churchyard. One of the surgeons was imprisoned, a second gave bail and a third ran off. Their names were Nesbit, Miller and Yellowly. Several dead bodies were found in Nesmith's house.

From Ford Parish Registers

1801- William Dover , Crookham, died Dec 2, buried 4, aged 38 . The "person" who died "from wounds given by a Party of the Cheviot Legion" mentioned in records.

3 Sept 1802 – note that Crookham township had neglected to send for the coroner after the above incident and that a fine might be levied.

NB This is believed to be an incident of "Friendly Fire"

16 Jan 1808 – By reducing the number of dinner bills at General Meeting to one only, the money saved was used to inoculate the children of the labouring poor in the parish with the Cowpox

The vicar recorded examining the registers and discovering a gravestone in the churchyard stating : " Anthony Unthank of Crookham died 14 March 1722 aged 110years ." If this be true he must have lived in the reigns of nine sovereigns and the commonwealth under the two Cromwells.

From Ancroft Parish Register

Ancroft 1 April 1826 Handsome snuff box be bought for use of parish meeting with suitable inscription to be handed down to posterity and preserved for use of Parish.

Does anyone know if the snuff box is still in use?

Valerie Glass

SNIPPETS FROM THE BERWICK ADVERTISER

Berwick Advertiser, 6 October 1871

EXTRAORDINARY VEHICLE TAX PROSECUTION

At the Glendale Petty Sessions, Anthony Barer, Esq., of Weetwood, was charged by Mr Counsell, the supervisor of Alnwick district, for keeping more horses and carriages than he was licensed for. The case created considerable interest, as the point to be decided was the vexed question of the chargeability of a farm horse and farm cart used for other purposes than farm work. Evidence was given by Mr Turner, proving that he had seen the defendant's farm cart and a farm horse being used on Sunday, the 28th May last, conveying Miss Barber to Tower Martin. – Mr Barber said that this was true, and the only defence he had to make was that the roads being so bad he was obliged to use the horse and cart in question, for which he did not consider he was liable to pay licence duty. – The Bench observed that it was quite clear that in the present state of the law licenses must be taken out for such horses and carts. They imposed the mitigated penalty of £5, at the same time recommending that the Board of Excise should further reduce the fine. – The Supervisor said that he would forward the recommendation, but that the proper licenses should be taken out, which we believe was done immediately.

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STACKYARD FIRE AT FENHAM MOOR

Between two and three o'clock on Monday afternoon the stackyard at Fenham Moor was observed to be on fire. The fire originated at the haystack which was very soon totally enveloped in flames. Fifteen corn stacks, which were on the same side of the

stackyard, were also very soon all on a blaze. Mr Forster the occupier of the farm was not at home at the time. The neighbouring farmers, and the coastguard-men, and fishermen at Holy Island were soon on the spot. Mr Leather's fire engine was sent for and arrived about five o'clock, and there being plenty willing hands, and a good supply of water, the fire was confined to that part of the stackyard where it originated. Mr Lavender, chief officer of the coastguard, with his men, did good service with the fire engine. Great praise is due to them and the fishermen for the manner in which they exerted themselves. Mr Leather, of Middleton Hall, was very kind; he not only sent the fire engine but also plenty of refreshments and willing hands to work. The fire was got out about half-past nine, but not before the haystack containing about forty-five tons and fifteen corn stacks were destroyed. The cause of the fire has not been clearly ascertained. It is supposed by some people to have been caused by a spark from the chimney of Mr Forster's house; but by others it is thought to have been done by children with Lucifer matches. Soon after the fire was observed, three policemen arrived at the place and kept order, and also maintained a watch during the night for fear of a fresh outbreak. The crop we are informed was not insured.

Berwick Advertiser, 13 October 1871

MILITARY FUNERAL

On Wednesday the remains of Sergeant-Major Stevenson were interred in the churchyard at Wooler with military honours. The deceased was 18 years in the army in the service of his country, when on his retirement from the same, he was appointed, five years ago, drill instructor to the Percy Volunteer Artillery Corps here, an office which he efficiently discharged, and in which he was highly esteemed and respected. The funeral cortege, comprising the Chatton and Wooler sections of No.6 Battery, under the command of Colonel Sandford and Captain Maddison, as well as a considerable number of the members of the 4th Northumberland Rifles, under the command of Sergeant-Major Treble, was witnessed by eager yet respectful groups of civilians.

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NUISANCE AT TWEEDMOUTH

On the Mayor taking his seat at the Petty Sessions yesterday he asked Mr R. B. Weatherhead, as steward of the manor of Tweedmouth, if he (Mr Weatherhead)

could exercise any power in regard to the piece of waste ground on the shore side of the "Lazy Dyke," close by the pinfold, as persons resident in the immediate locality of the "dyke" were in the habit of using that ground for emptying their ashes and night soil upon. Mr Weatherhead said he had no power to interfere with the ground in question. He had memorialised the lords of the manor about the same piece of ground on account of the nuisance created on it, but they could do nothing with it. The Mayor remarked that the stench arising from the nuisance was dreadful. Some of the people who made use of the place did not take the trouble to empty the night soil over the wall, but left it on the tops of the wall. There were also two open sewers in a very bad state. Mr Weatherhead observed that some tenants in the immediate vicinity of the wall were not furnished with privy accommodation, and consequently used this piece of ground. The Mayor said the inhabitant's asserted that they had a right to the use of the ground; but Mr Weatherhead doubted that they had. After some further discussion, the subject dropped.

Carole Pringle

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends,

I have recently taken over as Editor of the Newsletter and would greatly appreciate any interesting snippets or articles, ranging from half an A4 page to one and a half pages, relating to Berwick or the surrounding area. Longer articles can be split over two newsletters. Please forward copy to me at newsletter@berwickfriends.org.uk. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes
Julie Gibbs